

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership is available to adults who wish to support the Mission of the society. Dues are \$10 per year, for up to two adults living at the same mailing address.

***Volunteers are always welcome. Please let us know what interests you.***

If you would like to join us, or make a donation, please complete the following & mail it with your check to:

Ashland Historical Society, Inc.  
P.O. Box 145, Ashland, MA 01721

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, send my newsletter by email.

Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Deductible in accordance with current tax law. They help us provide programming & research, as well as maintain records & collections.

We are an all-volunteer, non-profit, educational charity operating under the IRS code 501 (C) 3.

2015 JL

## PRESIDENT'S DESK



STAINED GLASS  
WINDOW IN THE  
ASHLAND TOWN  
HALL

For over 100 years the Society's members have volunteered their time & knowledge to preserve Ashland's history and provide information to those who seek it.

We are very fortunate to have as our home The Ocean House, built in 1748 by one of our earliest settlers.

We invite you to join us at our upcoming events, read the stories written in the *Ashland Directions*, but most importantly, to contact us.

We welcome inquiries about the town's past. We have extensive information on Ashland's genealogy, businesses, and buildings. We also welcome your pictures & stories & participation.

Enjoy,

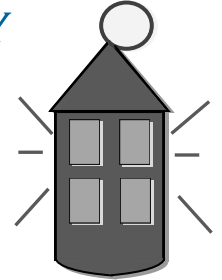
**Ashland Historical Society**

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## ASHLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**“To Preserve & Present The  
History Of The Town Of  
Ashland, Massachusetts”**



2 Myrtle Street Ashland, MA



## A MOMENT IN TIME



VIEW OF ASHLAND  
LOOKING OVER WEST

1633 travelers from Wampanoag followed the Connecticut river in search of land to settle on. The Native American

trail that they followed was known as the Bay Path or the Old Connecticut Path. This remote location was not ideal for colonization but it was along the path.

1666 John Eliot founded a Praying Indians missionary on Magunko Hill. The group was eventually diminished due to the King Philip's War.

The Indian town of Magunko was an artificial development. Prior to 1659/60, there was no Indian village at this place, but in that year Eliot gathered natives from various quarters and organized them into a civil community, after the model of the Indian plantation at Natick. Each family had its own wigwams, granaries and cattle, and caught and cured its own fish.

### First Settlers

Colonel William Crowne was granted 500 acres of land in 1662. 25 years later this land was sold to Savil Simpson— Ashland's first settler! This area that would eventually become known as Ashland was meeting point of 3 towns— Framingham, Holliston,

and Hopkinton.

Unionville became a mill town and grew in size. In 1837, leading citizen, James Jackson, pushed to incorporate the town.

### Why Ashland?

Jackson was an admirer of Henry Clay, an American Politian, whose home estate in Kentucky was called, Ashland.

### The Rail Road

John Stone built the Rail Road House in 1834 as a result of the Boston Worcester RR coming through the town. The train was Ashland's connection to not only Boston but the rest of the US.

### Reservoir

In 1872 the City of Boston foresaw the need for more water, so they came to Ashland with a proposal: divert part of the Sudbury River and Cold Spring Brook then build dams to form water basins. The disastrous consequences of this proposal were not realized until it was too late. The formation of the Reservoirs in Ashland caused a huge downfall in the advancement of Ashland's booming economy and mill businesses. In



MARATHON, 1899,  
MAIN STREET ASHLAND

1893 when Boston came back for more water, the inhabitants protested!

### The Marathon

In 1896 members of the

Boston Athletic Association went to the marathon revival Olympics in Athens Greece, they were so impressed that they wanted to bring it back here. So on Monday, April 19, 1897, starting at Medcalf mill on Pleasant Street, The first Boston Marathon took place.

The 1924 Boston Marathon was extended to Hopkinton in order to meet the standardized 26.2 miles set in 1908.

### Clocks

Henry E. Warren, an inventor, moved to Ashland in 1907. He founded the *Warren Telechron Company* in 1912, and is credited with the invention of the first synchronous electric clock which kept time from the oscillations of the electric power grid in 1918. Millions of clocks were produced and sold from the Ashland Factory.



WELCOME TO ASHLAND

### Still a New England Town

Today, Ashland is still a close knit community, filled with tradition. It is not unusual to see the locals in their favorite spots in town— and get a bit of town gossip while there. Ashland Day, The Farmers Market, and a sports rivalry with Hopkinton dating back to 1846; Ashland is a great place!