

Hartshorne House Association
41 Church Street
Wakefield, MA 01880
www.hartshornehouse.org

***The Colonel James
Hartshorne House Association
Upcoming Event:***

***Ice Cream Social
Thursday, August 4th
6-8 p.m.***

***Make your own sundae! \$4.00
Face Painting ... Raffles & Prizes
Thanks to Meletharb's of Wakefield
for their support!
(Raindate August 11th)***

Col. James Hartshorne House Association News



Summer 2022

Happy 246th birthday to James Hartshorne!

Because our House bears his name, people often believe James Hartshorne was actually the first owner and occupant of the house. But the fact is that the house was already over 100 years old when James Hartshorne was born on August 13, 1776! When the nation celebrates its semiquincentennial (or 'USA 250'), we'll also be celebrating the 250th anniversary of James Hartshorne's birth!

James had grown up on the present day Elm Street and most of his family lived nearby. The house he purchased had recently been completely rehabilitated, enlarged and generally spruced up by the locally famous Revolutionary War veteran, Dr. John Hart.

John Hart was born in Ipswich, and served throughout the Revolution as a surgeon and doctor; throughout his life he advocated for veteran's rights. He served in the Continental army for over 9 years. After making his home in this town, where he had strong family roots, John Hart became a significant property owner. He enlarged the old house by 33%, and established it as an inn called the Lafayette House, as well as a meeting place for the local Masonic lodge.

Dr. Hart was a working doctor, as well as being a real estate investor. He also carried out a political career, serving on many town boards and as a representative to the General Court in Boston. He was also one of the founders of the Middlesex Medical Association and, just after his purchase of the property on Church Street, an emergency arose when an Irish vessel brought smallpox to Boston. Within a few days, almost the entire population of Boston was inoculated against the disease. Dr. Hart was one of those responsible for the inoculations, and for bringing them also to our town and vicinity, protecting the population from a devastating disease that had been responsible for 60,000,000 deaths in Europe between 1700 and 1800.



After rehabilitating the Church St. house, Hart sold it on to other investors but the sleepy town could not support an inn, and the house was soon up for sale again.

It may not have been successful as an inn, but it was perfect as a family home! In 1803, it was purchased by a 27-year old shoemaker, James Hartshorne. Soon after his marriage, he brought his young bride Abigail to live in the house. It would be owned by the Hartshorne family until 1890.

So much history lives here! The story of this house is interconnected with the history of the town, and the nation! Your **membership donations** help to preserve this, our heritage property.



*Col. James Hartshorne
House
Association
Officers*

*President - Jen Greene
Vice-President - Faith Hodgkins
Treasurer - Kathy DeCosta
Secretary - Aimee Forsythe
Historian - Nancy Bertrand*

**Early notice: the 2022 Christmas Tea
is scheduled for December 4th!
(Mark your calendars!)*

*Congratulations &
best wishes!*



And many, many thanks to Merry Eldridge on her retirement from the Hartshorne House Board of Directors after a record-breaking 38 years!

The Hartshorne House Association has been blessed, over the years, to have been supported by Directors who are dedicated, hard working and inspired, but no one better epitomizes that role than Merry, who has consistently been one of the hardest working members of the board. And, as a bonus, we have received the incredible support of her husband Bob who has been a mainstay in helping to care for the physical structure of the House ... so much so that we made him an Honorary director!

We'll miss you at the meetings, Merry! You can even find Merry helping out in the Warrior Give Back Day photo on the previous page ... but thought we'd reach into our archives for some photos from the more distant past!



Warrior Give Back Day



Many thanks to the WHS students who pitched in to help with the gardens as part of Warrior Give Back Day!



We will soon be sending out an emailed version of the newsletter, as well as event notices. If you'd like to be sure to receive these emails, send us a note at hartshornehouseassociation@gmail.com.

