



Historically Speaking

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CELEBRATING DECORATION/MEMORIAL DAY IN WADDINGTON

In addition to Mother’s Day, the holiday we think most about in May is Memorial Day. In this quarterly issue we will share some history about the holiday and Waddington’s participation in it over the years. Let’s talk a little about where it started. The following description of this holiday was found on the history.com website:

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, the first Commander-in-Chief of the Great Army of the Republic (GAR), called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle. Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to pay tribute to all their war casualties, missing-in-action, and deceased veterans including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

The following article from the May 24, 1894 Waddington Recorder shows us what the local GAR Post organized for a typical Memorial Day event.

MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES

At a meeting of Wm. Dalzell Post; 530, Grand Army of the Republic, held May 7, 1894, it was resolved that the Post meet on

Memorial Day, May 30, at 10 a.m., at the residence of Comrade Myers and there form in line and march to the cemetery and decorate the graves of our fallen comrades, also resolved to invite the scholars of our public schools to help us in procuring flowers and to accompany us in our march to the cemetery, also, that the ladies of the several churches be requested to send us flowers to be used in decorating the graves of those who offered up their lives that our flag and country might be preserved. All patriotic and liberty loving citizens are cordially invited to our cemeteries and take part with us in the memorial services on that day. It is earnestly desired by the Post that a liberal display of flags be made on that day, as there is nothing that gladdens the heart of an old soldier more than to see the old flag flying in the breeze. The graves to be decorated in our town are as follows: Union cemetery, village, 24; Catholic cemetery, 12; Sucker Creek cemetery, 12; Scotch cemetery, 1; Chase Mills cemetery, 2; Chamberlain Corners cemetery, 2; total 48. The Post as a body will only visit the two village cemeteries. Comrades have been detailed to visit and decorate the other cemeteries before 10 a.m. The quartermaster will see that comrades residing at a distance be requested to be on hand promptly at 10 a.m., May 30.

All who wish to contribute flowers will please send them to the residence of Comrade Myers as soon as 9 a.m. Memorial Day. By order of the Commander



DECORATION DAY - MAY 30, 1890 **Waddington Town Hall**
WM. DALZELL POST 530, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Front Row: Standing - Wm. Jardine, Sitting: George Wright, John Ryan, Jenkin Williams, Al Parlow, Sam Doran, Wm. Myers, ? Russeau, ? Stone. 2nd Row: Major Brown, ? Abernathy, Henry Parlow, Jose Lavier, James Kayes, C.E. Clark, Wm. Boland, Wm. Murphy, Frank Lavier. Top Row: Standing- Unknown, Sitting: Charles Plank, Unknown, James Lately, Richard Clark, Nelson White, Unknown, Unknown, Standing: Rev. Phelps, Gordon Bradlev.

MORE ABOUT THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC

Following the end of the American Civil War, various state and local organizations were formed for veterans to network and maintain connections with each other. Many of the veterans used their shared experiences as a basis for fellowship. Groups of men began joining, first for camaraderie and later for political power. Emerging as most influential among the various organizations during the first post-war years was the Grand Army of the Republic, founded on April 6, 1866, on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty," in Springfield, Illinois, by Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson and the first GAR Post was established in Decatur, Illinois. Membership was limited to honorably discharged veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marine Corps or the Revenue Cutter Service who had severed between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865. The community level organization was called a "Post" and each was numbered consecutively within each department. Most posts also had a name and the rules for naming included the requirement that the honored person be deceased and that no two Posts within the same Department could have the same name. The Departments generally consisted of the Posts within a state and, at the national level, the organization was operated by the elected "Commandery-in-Chief".

Waddington's GAR Post No. 530 was named for William Dalzell. He was born in 1824 in Ireland to James Dalzell and moved to Massachusetts first and then after his marriage to Elizabeth (Lizzie) Caroline Stone in 1844 they moved to Waddington. The couple had three children, William, Ella, and Frankie. He enlisted at Ogdensburg the age of 38 to serve three years in Company C, 142nd New York Infantry. He was mustered in as a first lieutenant on September 29, 1862 but died of disease on August 24, 1863 on Folly Island, South Carolina. He is buried in the Beaufort National Cemetery, Section 4, Grave No. 166. There is also a stone for him in Brookside Cemetery in Waddington. A special note of interest: Dalzell wrote 52 letters during his time in service, all of which have been preserved and archived. *The photo below shows the envelope of one of the letters that was delivered to Lizzie in Waddington before William died.*



Special note of interest: A total of 189 Waddington soldiers served in the Civil War and 16 soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice.

Post Wm. Dalzell, No. 530 was chartered in 1888 and met regularly in Boland's Hall (the Keystone Building on Main Street, present location of liquor store and chiropractic office). While we couldn't find the officers that were elected that year from the December 30, 1889 Norwood News:

Post Wm. Dalzell, 530, G.A.R. Waddington, elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Wm. C. Jardine, commander; Nelson W. White, S.V. (Senior Vice Commander); Thomas Keenan, J.V. (Junior Vice Commander); A.B. Parlor, Q.M. (Quartermaster); Geo. R. Wright, chaplain; Gordon Bradley, O.D.; Issac Johnson, O.G.; Dr. H.T. Hammond, surgeon; Samuel B. Doran, Adjutant; Henry Brow, Q.M.S. (Quartermaster Striker); Relief committee, John Ryan, A. Simpson, James Hatley. Rev. T. D. Phelps was elected delegate to the state encampment and Geo. R. Wright, delegate to the national encampment.

An 1891 article stated Post Dalzell had a membership of 34 veterans and a roll call showed that three members had passed away that year. Another article from 1896 listed the Post membership at 36. It continued to be active until 1915. A January 3, 1916 Ogdensburg Journal article stated: "During the year (1915) the William Dalzell Post No. 530, of Waddington, surrendered its charter and disbanded." At that time there were 11 posts and 320 members left in St. Lawrence County.

A SPECIAL DECORATION/MEMORIAL DAY

Since those first Memorial Day observances in the 1890's, Waddington has continued to honor their deceased veterans each year. The typical observance included a marching formation that would start at an agreed upon site which became the Legion Post once that was established in the early 1920's. The parade route changed over time and in later years would stop at the Waddington School auditorium for the memorial service and then continue to the cemeteries to decorate the graves of the deceased veterans. Eventually enough money was raised for the present day "War Memorial" that was dedicated during a May 1954 ceremony.

The following article and photo appeared in the June 1 and June 2, 1954 editions of the Ogdensburg Journal:

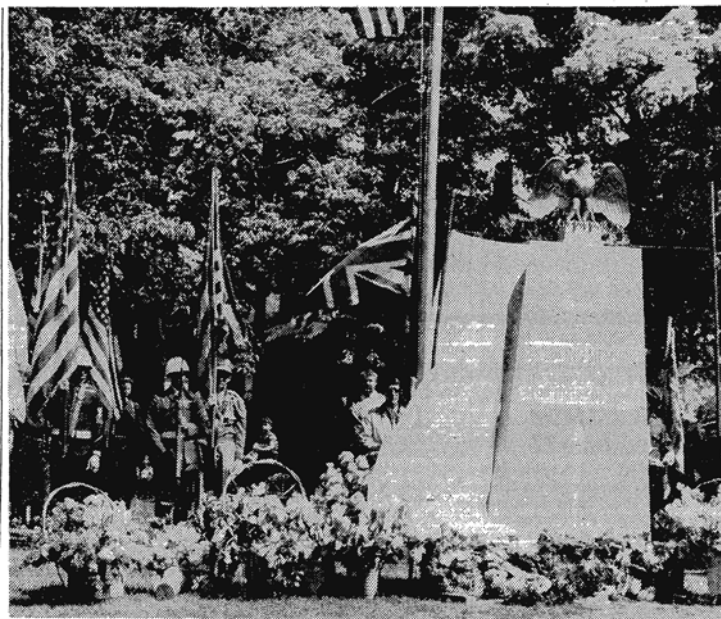


PHOTO CAPTION: Memorial Dedicated - Massed colors and floral tributes make a brilliant display as the War Memorial is dedicated at Waddington on Sunday. The memorial was built with funds raised throughout the village. Dean Joseph Romoda of St. Lawrence was the main speaker at the dedication ceremony.

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1200 ATTEND MEMORIAL DAY DEDICATION

One of the finest expressions of devotion and remembrance of a community was evidenced Sunday when more than 1200 persons gathered at Memorial Park, Waddington to be present at the War Memorial unveiling and dedication, "in memory of those who gave their lives that we may live". Marching in the parade which proceeded the dedication were members of the Madrid Legion Post and Firemen, Massena Post VFW and Firemen, Morrisburg, Ontario Post and Auxiliary, Waddington Post and Auxiliary and Firemen, Spanish-American War Veterans, Montgomery Post Drum and Bugle Corps, Ottawa, Ontario, Waddington High School Band, Waddington Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, and Cub Scouts, Fulton Chapter OES, Waddington Grange. The groups at the Park were the Waddington Study Club, Woman's Improvement Society, and Waddington Garden Club. The Garden Club enhanced the beauty of the Memorial with a basket of flowers.

Post Commander D.B. Hanson was in charge of the program. The invocation was made by the Rev. C. Ward Courtney, as was also the benediction. Dr. Joseph J. Romoda, Dean of St. Lawrence University was the guest speaker. Parade marshall was Staff Sgt. Hilarion J. Mayette; Chaplain, J. Mark Hanna; bugler, Miss Sally Rudkoff, WHS Band.

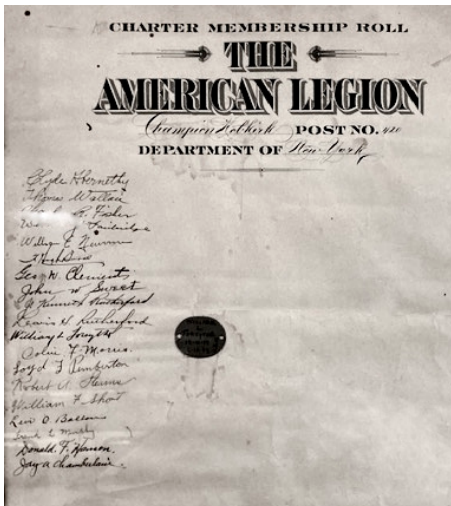


Members of the American Legion Post 420 and Waddington Fire Department marching from Brookside Cemetery on Memorial Day

**WADDINGTON AMERICAN LEGION POST 420
CELEBRATES 100th ANNIVERSARY**

The American Legion was established on March 15, 1919 by delegates from combat and service unites of the American Expeditionary Force. It was granted a national charter by Congress on September 16, 1919; the charter was later amended to admit veterans of World War II (1942), the Korean War (1950), the Vietnam War (1966), the Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama hostilities (1990), and Operation Desert Shield/Storm (1991). The organization is nonpolitical and nonsectarian with a membership requirement of honorable service and an honorable discharge. The Legion focuses on service to veterans, service members and communities and evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts.

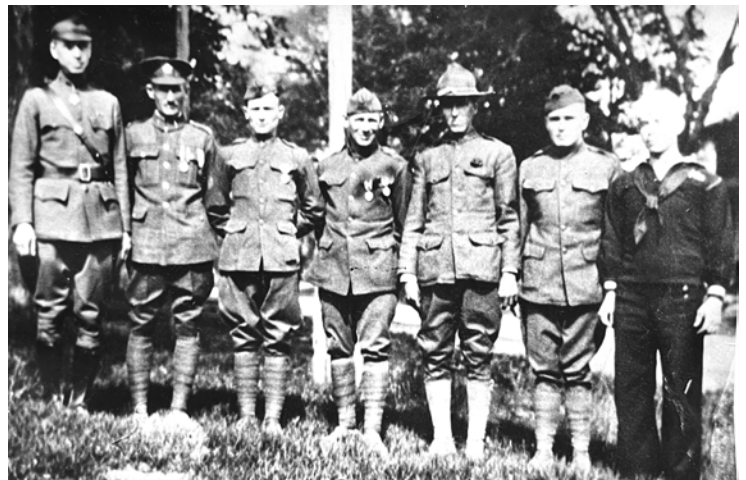
The following information about Waddington's Champion-Hobkirk Post No. 420 was found in a Jan. 17, 1962 Ogdensburg Journal article that was celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Post:



The Champion-Hobkirk Post 420 of Waddington was chartered on January 18, 1922, with 20 veterans of World War I listed on the original Charter. They were: Simone M. Fanfarillo, Frank J. Murphy, John F. Lee, Hilarion J. Nugent, Alvin T. Prashaw, Howard Jardine, William A. Spurbach, Bert E. Carr, William E. Newvine, Donald F. Hanson, William John Fairbridge, John S. Curruthers, John C. Hoeffler, M.D., John P. LaPalme, F. Lyle McCormick, F. Hugh Burns, Len E. Murphy, Hector Valois, Thomas Wallace, Howard J. Newvine.

The photo to the left is the Charter Membership Roll that contains all of these names.

The title or rather name of Post was derived by combining the last name of the two servicemen from Waddington who were killed in action in France during World War I. Henry J. Champion, a son of



World War I Veterans who helped to organize American Legion Champion-Hobkirk Post 420: Left to Right: Dr. John Hoeffler, William Newvine, Michael Fanfarillo, William (Jack) Fairbridge, Jim Duvall, Lloyd Pemberton, and Alvin Prashaw

Joseph H. and Margaret Reddick Champion, of Waddington Village, was with an ambulance Corp and died from shrapnel wounds; Ross Hobkirk, a son of Thomas and Agnes Marshall Hobkirk, farmers on the Pine Grove-Madrid Road, Town of Waddington, was felled by a mine explosion in France.

The remains of both servicemen were returned to Waddington and were interred in Brookside Cemetery. According to information received, these two soldiers were the only ones from Waddington, in World War I who made the supreme sacrifice. Hence the Post gave to the two men the same honor by combining their names, Champion-Hobkirk Post 420 of Waddington, N.Y.

TO OUR MEMBERS...

We look forward to communicating with you via this quarterly publication. It's our way of sharing historical and current information with those of you who have purchased annual memberships. In addition to the quarterly newsletters, members also receive early notice of upcoming events and an invitation to the Annual Meeting/Social in November.

WHA'S MISSION: "TO BE THE CARETAKERS OF OUR COMMUNITY'S HISTORY FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS"

EMAIL:

info@waddingtonhistory.com

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www.waddingtonhistory.com

PHONE:

315-388-3041 (Leave message)

FACEBOOK PAGE:

The Waddington Museum and the

WHA share a Facebook Page.

Page Editor: Mary Hamilton

Page Administrators: Kathy Putney

and Mary Hamilton

[https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/WaddingtonMuseumandWHA)

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EMAIL:waddhistorian@gmail.com

WHA BOARD MEMBERS:

Mary (Badlam) Hamilton, President

MaryAnne Martin, Vice-President

Mary Brady, Secretary

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Sue (Hunter) Parisian, Katelyn

(Bernard) Osoway, James Miller

WHA COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bobbie Davis, Patty VanPatten, Ashlee

Dumas, Mary Loomis, Morgan

Carmody, Sean Tiernan, April Sharlow,

Tracey Putney, Cheryl LaBarge

WHA MEETINGS: 4th Tuesdays

7 PM - Old Town Hall Upstairs Room

MESSAGE FROM THE WHA PRESIDENT

Mary (Badlam) Hamilton



The WHA is continuing to work on achieving non-profit 501c3 status and are hoping to have the process completed within the next month. We are looking forward to the benefits that designation will bring now the Village has acquired the St. Paul's Church property. We can apply for grant money to help with maintenance projects that will be needed to enhance its appearance as well as help raise funds for a new museum at a later date.

We are currently in need of volunteers to help on a committee to determine which projects need to be done at the Church, apply for funding and see them through to completion. We are also looking for people who would like to help organize a Quilt Show at the Church on Homecoming Saturday. Anyone interested, please email us at: info@waddingtonhistory.com or call our message phone at 315:388-3041.

Since the last newsletter we used the winter months to plan our 2022 Calendar of Events. We started Spring with a very successful **EASTER EGG HUNT** for local families on April 9 at the Waddington Arena. It was attended by over 75 children of all sizes who visited with the Easter Bunny and collected lots of eggs filled with treats and golden eggs. Anyone finding a golden egg was entered into a drawing for a Family Membership to the WHA with one drawn from each of three age levels. Winners were: Connor Ruddy, Maverick McNally and Carson Dunkelberg. We were lucky to have the help of the following volunteers: Patty VanPatten, Kay-C Hayes, Katelyn Osoway, Ashlee Dumas, MaryAnne Martin, Dawn and Cheryl Jensen, Mayor Zag, Nancy Badlam, and MW National Honor Society students: Lane Ruddy, Lacey Sullivan, Alexis Cole, and Molly Bogart (who is also on the Museum Board). Thanks to the Rescue Squad Auxiliary for supplies for the Egg Hunt.

A **MOTHER'S DAY PAINT 'N SIP** was held on May 7 in the Town Hall Upstairs Community Room. We collaborated with "The Friends of the Library" who held a Mother's Day Tea prior to the class. Artist Patty VanPatten lead the class and showed budding artists how talented they are. A special Thanks to Patty for her donation of all proceeds to the WHA.

The WHA is working with Historian Kathy Putney, Tracey Putney and the American Legion Post 420 to bring more attention to Memorial Day and the history behind it. To help with this, we are sponsoring a **REVOLUTIONARY WAR HEROES CEMETERY TOUR** on Saturday, May 28 from 10 -11:30 AM at the Old Brookside Cemetery on Linden Street. Bobbie Davis, WHA Educational Committee Chairperson, will lead the tour and provide info about Revolution and Civil War veterans buried there.

We are helping to revive one of the Memorial/Decoration Day rituals of a procession to place flowers on the graves of veterans buried in the cemeteries. On **MEMORIAL/DECORATION DAY (MAY 30)** we are asking any interested residents to join us as we carry flowers in the annual parade that begins at the Legion Hall at 10:30 AM and ends at the Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Route 37 and LaGrasse Street. Immediately following the 11 AM Memorial Day ceremony and Dedication of the Hometown Heroes Banner Project, those with flowers are asked to proceed to the Old Brookside Cemetery and place them on the graves of the veterans.

WHA members will also be helping the Historian with the displays near the "**VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL**" located along the sidewalk at St. Paul's Church. The Church will be open to the public from 12-2 PM.

On Saturday, June 25, WHA members will be helping the Historian revive the **VILLAGE HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS**. Check our Facebook page for more information on tour times. On Sunday, June 26, we are hosting the first **CONCERT AT THE CHURCH** on Lincoln Avenue. It will start at 2 PM and will feature the John Gale Marklove pipe organ that was built in 1858.

Future events include: an **OUTDOOR PAINT 'N SIP IN JULY, A HOMECOMING QUILT SHOW IN THE CHURCH, AN AUGUST TRIVIA NIGHT, AND A SEPTEMBER CITIZENS BALL**. Stay tuned for more details. Be sure to Visit/Like/Follow our Facebook Page "Waddington Museum and Historical Association" for details and updates. For questions or more information, Call 315-388-3041 leave message or email: info@waddingtonhistory.com.

THE HISTORIAN'S CORNER...

With Kathy Putney

Since the last Quarterly, there is more info to share from the Museum and Historian's Office. As I reported earlier, the collections and artifacts had been moved from the Moore Museum and now we are happy to say there is a buyer. Thomas Daley, a MWCS graduate, is in the process of purchasing the home from the Village and will be bringing it back to life. That is great news as it will add so much to that part of Main Street. The home comes with a rich history, being built in 1860 by R. S. Dalzell and having had several owners throughout the years including the Weavers and the last owners, Larry and Patricia Reynolds. It is also part of the Waddington Historical District.

I am also happy to announce St. Paul's Church on Lincoln Avenue has been deeded to the village of Waddington, along with the attached manse and the rectory on Fenton Street. Besides being the oldest church building North of the Mohawk River, much of Waddington's early history is tied to this property and its preservation is important to our community. David Ogden, one of Waddington's Founding Fathers, made application to Trinity Church in New York City to construct the historic church that was started in 1816 and finished in 1818. It was designed after the Trinity Church in New York City of which the Ogden Family had attended and whose membership donated much of the money needed to complete the project. Under the purview of the Waddington Historical Association (WHA), the Church building will be used as a venue for events such as concerts, lectures, and community activities that are conducive to the layout of the building. With their non-profit designation, the WHA can apply for grants to help with special restoration



St. Paul's Church, Waddington, N. Y.

projects needed to maintain the building. Because the church lacks adequate heating and air quality control for the preservation of historical materials, it will not be used to house the present Museum's collections. The manse that is connected to the Church on the west side has been deemed unsafe by the engineering firm hired by the village and will be demolished. The rectory that is located on Fenton Street is being sold by the Village and the proceeds from that along with the sale of the Moore Museum will be used to begin construction on a new museum next to the church. A strategic planning committee has been formed and will begin meeting next month to start the process necessary to accomplish this project. We are excited about the possibility of Waddington finally having a public museum building that

can appropriately and proudly display pieces of our community's rich history.

Memorial Day is May 30 and we are currently working on a special project with Tracey Putney and the American Legion to bring attention to what was historically known as Decoration Day. We would like to see some of the old customs brought back to honor our deceased veterans. One such custom saw community residents marching in the parade carrying flowers and then taking them to the cemeteries to place on the graves of deceased veterans. If you're interested in helping us revive this custom, please meet at the Legion Hall on Fenton Street at 10:15 am on Memorial Day to walk or ride in the 10:30 am parade carrying flowers that will be provided to later take to the Old Brookside Cemetery.

The Museum is also planning displays of veterans



memorabilia including a 32 foot-long "Veterans Memorial Wall" containing the names of all Waddington veterans who served in conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the Vietnam War. It was discovered in the garage of the Moore Museum and will be erected on the sidewalk in front of the Church for public viewing during the Memorial/Decoration Day festivities. St. Paul's Church will also be open that day from 12 - 2 PM for public viewing.

Starting Saturday, June 25 we will be bringing back the Village Historical Walking Tour that was done in years past. Weekend Tours will start from the Town Hall and will include many houses and buildings in the Village including the historical district. We are also planning a Wagon Ride Historical Tour for those who are unable to walk the distance. Make sure to check our Facebook page for the schedule.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

We would love to hear your stories about growing up and living in Waddington! The WHA in conjunction with the Town Historian has started an ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. A format has been developed for former and current residents of Waddington to share their memories of living in this amazing community. Sue Hunter Parisian is leading the project and will work respectfully with family members to develop the best plan to document their stories.

Anyone interested in participating, is asked to please send Sue an email at info@waddingtonhistory.com or leave a message at 315-388-3041

**THE WADDINGTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (WHA)
OUR VISION:**

**We aspire to bring our community's history to the forefront and to become a regional leader
in historical preservation with the goal of national recognition.**

CANDID PHOTOS FROM OUR SPRING EVENTS



**Thank you to all who have purchased WHA memberships, volunteered
for the board or committees, worked at events or cleanup days.
We are so grateful for your help and support.**