

Millbury Bicentennial News

The party starts June 11th, 2012 and ends July 4th, 2013

A message from the Bicentennial Committee

Our New Website is Ready to Roll

Greetings and welcome to our Millbury Bicentennial eNewsletter. Here, you will find stories about the history of Millbury written by local townspeople, updates and information on what is happening with the Millbury Bicentennial project and also ways to get involved in this historic event. This issue, we would like to announce our new and improved website, www.Millbury2013.com which was created and is hosted by Cyndi Papia of Office To-Go in Millbury. More of Cyndi's work can be found on her website, at www.officeto-go.com. Thanks Cyndi!

Enjoy our newsletter and stay warm this winter.

Historical Highlights

by Frank Gagliardi, President of the Millbury Historical Society

Millbury or Moscow? Had it not been for the persistence of one of our town's most prominent citizens, today we might be living in a community known by the latter name. In 1813, after nearly 70 years of petitioning and persuasion, both Houses of the Legislature had approved of the separation of the North Parish of Sutton into its own town. All that remained was the selection of a suitable name.

That year, after ravaging all of Europe, Napoleon's army had been finally stopped at the battle of Moscow. There was much jubilation throughout the world, and in growing America many new cities and towns were being named in honor of that event.

So, when the committee charged with selecting a proper name for the State's newest town met, there was much sentiment for "Moscow." Caleb Burbank, one of the wealthiest and most influential persons of the North Parish, and a member of the committee, listened impatiently and then took the floor. He had amassed his fortune from his papermaking mill, which was located on the Singletary stream near the present day Village Knoll Variety store. A prominent member of the Congregational Church, he was much respected in the community.

Caleb began his oratory with a memory from his boyhood. During that time, it happened that his father purchased a cow from a farmer known as "Old Morse." Caleb recalled that the critter was the most ornery he had ever encountered and it would often deliver a vicious kick to anyone who wasn't careful about approaching.

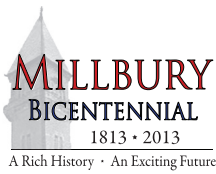
The cow was hereafter derisively referred to as "Old Morse's Cow," and Caleb thundered "he would be deviled if every time he heard mentioned his town as 'Moscow' he would be reminded of 'Old Morse's Cow!'"

Caleb then offered as an alternative name "Millbury," being as the town had so many shops operating on the Singletary, Ramshorn and Dorothy Pond streams and along the banks of the Blackstone River. It was unanimously adopted.

Is it any wonder that today we reverently refer to Caleb Burbank as "Millbury's Godfather?"



Get your official Millbury Bicentennial commemorative items and apparel at the Millbury Bicentennial store inside Ray's True Value on Howe Ave in Millbury.



Check us out online at www.Millbury2013.com



Some Interesting Millbury History

The History of the Millbury Youth Camp

by Brian Ashmankas

Known to most of the residents of Millbury as the “other” cut through from 146 to South Main Street (besides Sycamore Street), Herricks Lane is also home to one of Millbury’s most historic gems. Tucked away inside the mostly residential neighborhood is the entrance to the thirteen and a half acre Millbury Youth Camp. This camp was established in 1939, 126 years into Millbury’s rich history. The thirteen and a half acres was donated by Clarence Fenner for use by the youths of town.

Since that time, the camp has seen many changes. A pavilion was constructed shortly into its existence and in 1958 a fireplace was constructed along with a separate restroom building with connected septic system and artesian well. Then in 1989, the process was begun to combine and renovate the buildings and to add a furnace, furniture, kitchen, and second floor. Currently, they are working on finishing the kitchen and constructing an outdoor pavilion, the first having been converted to the main hall during the renovation.

The camp is perhaps most known for its annual haunted hayride, called Spooky Acres. Each October, residents of Millbury and the surrounding towns are invited to have their wits scared out of them as they ride through the camp grounds, populated by spooks, ghouls, and monsters of all types, played of course by the youth and their parents who benefit so much from the camp.

The camp also organizes an annual Easter Egg hunt for children ages 3 through 11. Often as many as 80 children will participate in this event each year. Throughout the year, the camp has also been home to many scouting events, most notably the annual fireside night for cub scouts and their parents. This past year, Camp Fire used the camp to celebrate its 100th anniversary and rich history in Millbury. The grounds have even been used for cook-outs, fundraisers, anniversaries, baby showers, and celebrations of all types, including birthday, Christmas, and graduation parties.

At Millbury’s bicentennial in 2013, the youth camp will be 74 years old. In all this time, it has remained true to its original mission. The wooded area is one of the few places in our suburban town where youths can enjoy and explore the outdoors. It has always and will continue to be available to youth organizations free of charge, relying instead on the generous donations of Millbury’s residents and businesses in order to remain the integral part of Millbury’s unique history and character that it has become.

Origins of the Seal of Millbury

by Sandy Quattro-Bowles

Fittingly enough, the seal of the Town of Millbury, Massachusetts depicts a working mill. Nearly 300 years later, the mill continues to hum. On the site where a grist mill was built around 1720, workers at S&D Spinning Mill create the stitching for baseballs used in major league stadiums.

They enhance America’s pasttime on one of the oldest mill sites in continuous operation in the United States.

The Mission of the Millbury Bicentennial Committee

The Millbury Bicentennial Committee, as formed in 2008, will coordinate the historic significance of the town over the past 200 years through a yearlong celebration for all residents.

This celebration will commence in 2012 and culminate in 2013 and will commemorate the town’s heritage, celebrate the town’s history and enhance community pride.

Beginning June 11, 2012 and ending on July 4, 2013, Millbury, Massachusetts, will be commemorating its 200th anniversary with many celebratory events and activities. Residents, organizations and businesses are encouraged to participate in events and/or donate to the cause.

This special anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate Millbury’s history and heritage and to foster a sense of pride in our community. Join us as we celebrate the rich history and the amazing contributions of the individuals and organizations that have made Millbury what it is today.

2013 is our year to promote and celebrate. We look forward to celebrating Millbury’s 200th birthday with you!

How to Participate

Currently the Millbury Bicentennial Committee is gathering names of persons and organizations that would like to participate in the planning and execution of the Millbury Bicentennial Celebration.

Please provide the following information and as events are determined we will be contacting those that have offered their time and expertise.

Name _____
Organization _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
E-Mail _____
Phone _____

Please indicate the sub committee(s) you would like to volunteer for:

- ◇ Media ◇ Events ◇ History ◇ Fund Raising

Please return this card to:
Office of the Town Manager
Millbury Bicentennial Committee
127 Elm Street
Millbury, MA 01527



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