



Newsletter

Friends of the Truro Meeting House

Dedicated to the Preservation of this Historic Truro Landmark

2024: A Season of Significant Improvements

New Gathering Space:

The recently completed gathering space improvements that were funded with Truro’s Community Preservation Act revenues proved to be a great success this past summer. By opening the former schoolroom to the aisle space at the rear of the meeting hall, people are now getting together after Meeting House events for conversation and light refreshments.

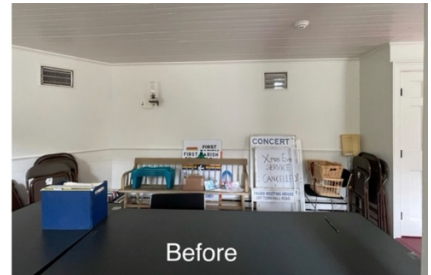
At this time of national uncertainty, it appears even more important to have local community spaces for reflection and renewal, and to recognize the need of people to gather as friends and neighbors.

HVAC System and Insulation:

Before the 2024 season began, the First Congregational Parish, owner of the Meeting House, received a grant from the Cape Light Compact to fully air condition, heat, and insulate the historic structure. The project’s \$137,000 cost was funded by the grant. As we faced one of the hottest summers on record, the newly installed air conditioning was greatly appreciated by the attendees to our Meeting House events and activities.

Updated Fire Alarm Panel:

During the spring construction process it was determined that the Fire Alarm Panel was dated and needed to be replaced with a state-of-the-art system. Contributions from the Friends enabled us to share the expense with the Truro Parish.



The above photos show “Before” and “After” views from the main Meeting Hall and from inside the restored gathering space.

CPA Application to Restore the South Façade

Re-shingling the South Façade is overdue but was delayed due to inflated supply chain costs for materials following Covid. We are now requesting CPA funding to do this much needed restoration work.

The work is proposed to be done in conjunction with efforts supported by donations to the Friends for repainting areas that do not need re-shingling, considered regular maintenance and not supported by CPA funding.



TPRTA Grant Responds to Requirements of our Historic Preservation Restriction

The Friends express our thanks and appreciation for a grant from the Truro Part-Time Resident Tax Payers' Association (TPRTA) to fund the screening of the outdoor HVAC equipment as required by the Historic Preservation Restriction held by the Truro Historical Commission.

Transitions

We honor and recognize the supporters of the Meeting House who have recently passed away. **Jim Kyed** died at age 86 on November 30, 2023. Jim served as a trustee for the Truro Public Library and attended many events at the Meeting House. His estate left a generous contribution to the Friends of the Truro Meeting House. **Deborah McCutcheon** died at age 78 on March 18, 2024. Deborah served on many Truro committees and was chair of the Community

Preservation Committee during the period of our major preservation grants.

Maureen Cronin died at age 85 on May 7, 2024. Maureen also served on the Community Preservation Committee and was active in her support of the Meeting House preservation.

Irma Ruchstuhl died at age 93 on June 23, 2024. Irma was an antiques expert, gift shop owner, and historian, who served on many boards, and contributed generously to the Friends.

Steve Sollog died at age 72 on July 5, 2024. Steve served as Chair of the Planning Board and was actively involved in preserving Truro's rural character. He was a naturally talented musician and played piano all of his life, including many times at the Meeting House. Music was a lifelong passion for him, which was clear to anyone who heard him play.

Summer 2024 Events

Since the founding of the Friends in 2012, the Friends has presented more than 85 talks, musical performances and special events. An estimated 3,000 people have attended. This summer, our newly air-conditioned building and after-event gathering space featured:

Charles "Stormy" Mayo, Ph.D. Saving Right Whales at the Edge of Extinction.



Hyannis Sound. Summer's popular college student a cappella group. **Peter McMahon, "Preserving the Marcel Breuer House."** Founder of the Cape Cod Modern House Trust (CCMHT) latest endeavour.



Ellyn Weiss, "The Human Flood" Co-sponsored by Truro Center for the Arts at Castle Hill and Edgewood. Talk on the artist's exhibit illustrating disrupted lives climate change-induced migration has caused in the third world.



Local Journalism Project 2024 Summer Fellows of the Provincetown Independent.

A discussion with the Summer Fellows to share their views on today's key local issues.



Jazz Night at the Meeting House with Ken Field, John Lee & Dave Wilson.

A unique mix of New Orleans repertoire, jazz standards, and Field's originals, featured saxophonist Ken Field, pianist Jeongweon "John" Lee, and saxophonist Dave Wilson.

David Corn, Co-sponsored by the Truro Public Library. David discussed the political campaigns leading up to the 2024 election.

HISTORIANS CORNER
Slavery and the Civil War

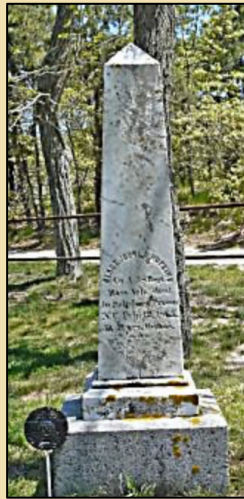
In less than a week after the fall of Fort Sumter on April 13, 1861, Richard T. Lombard, a young law student in Boston, enlisted in the 16th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, becoming the first Truro native to enter the Civil War, according to Shebna Rich’s research for the chapter he titled “War of the Rebellion,” in his 1883 encyclopedic history of Truro.

Following Abraham Lincoln’s election in 1860 after a decade of rancor and division between the North and South, the Confederate attack on the federal fort in Charleston harbor was the fuse that lit the first “total” war in modern history, foreshadowing World Wars I and II in the next century. The war saw the mustering of some 124 Truro men into the Army and Navy and included descendants of the seven Truro families who had owned slaves less than 100 years earlier.

Where he could, Rich offered snapshots of several Truro soldiers including one for John L. D. Hopkins who is commemorated by an obelisk in the churchyard. Hopkins died a prisoner of war in North Carolina just shy of his 22nd birthday, after having fought and been promoted to sergeant for his valor at the battle of St. Petersburg. Graves of 22 other Truro civil war veterans lie elsewhere in Truro cemeteries.

Following the surrender of Fort Sumpter and the call for troops, patriot fever that had been spreading in large towns finally caught hold of Truro when a Liberty Pole was erected in south Truro. This was followed by a much taller staff near the center of town measuring 100 and 1/2 feet tall fashioned by Issac

Collins of Provincetown, which was given a cannon salute and was the occasion of numerous speeches.



Monument honoring Sergt. John L.D. Hopkins, Co.A.58 Regt. Mass. Vols. Died in Salisbury Prison, N.C. Feb 12, 1865, Age 21yrs., 11 mos.

The rallying cry at the War’s beginning was “preserve the Union.” It was only later that freedom for the slaves became the war’s sustaining issue although slavery was the cause of the South’s secession.

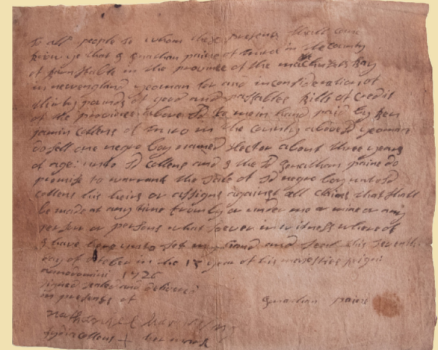
Slavery ended in Massachusetts in 1783 after the state’s highest court ruled that it was incompatible with the “rights and liberties” that had been granted by the state’s recently adopted constitution before the end of the Revolutionary War. It was shocking to Rich as he pondered on the Civil War in 1880 and as it is to us today that the enslavement of blacks and Indians was an accepted norm in northern society. Sadly, the august first minister of Truro’s Congregational Church, Rev. William Avery, himself owned seven slaves, including two of whom were Indians, who were



Shebna Rich’s illustration of Hector, an enslaved person, plowing Truro fields.

disposed to his wife and children in his will. His son was a slave trader in Boston.

Several slaves were baptized in the church and became members. Truro’s blemished history of slave ownership ended when a man named Hector, a black slave since birth, died a free man in Truro at age 83 on February 1, 1807. The grave site is unknown. He had been separated from his mother and sold at the age of three on October 7, 1723, by Jonathan Paine to Benjamin Collins for 30 pounds. The original bill of sale written on a brown piece of parchment in flowing script from a quill pen had been passed down the Philbrick family from Provincetown until a current descendent donated this remarkable document to the Truro Historical Society last summer.



So it is that a scrap of paper over 300 years old and burial markers in the Congregational, Old North, Methodist, and Snow cemeteries join ghostly hands to immortalize the pathos, cruelty, and bravery of a nation’s dark past in a place Thoreau thought one could put all of America behind him.

John C. Marksbury

Sources: Shebna Rich, “Truro–Cape Cod, or, Land Marks and Sea Marks,” 1883; Richard F. Whalen, “Truro–The Story of a Cape Cod Town,” 2002; Truro Historical Society Newsletter, August 19, 2024.

Friends of the Truro Meeting House, Inc.

A charitable non-profit 501(c)(3) organization

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To make a donation or contact us:

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11/26/2024

Treasurer’s Report

Since our outset in 2012, the 314 members of the Friends of the Truro Meeting House have contributed \$213,646 in addition to the Community Preservation Act revenue grants of \$871,268 for a total of \$1,084,914.

With the unexpected bequest from the estate of Jim Kyed and anticipated year-end contributions from members, we project a \$10,000 transfer in 2024 from our checking account to our reserve for future projects.

This year we received and closed out on budget the CPA grant of \$32,493 for the improved gathering space at the front of the Meeting House. The CPA Grant of \$25,273 for the cemetery and roadway restoration has a remaining balance of \$2,253 for continued restoration work. On November 1st, we submitted a CPA grant request for

next year to restore and re-shingle the south façade and other damaged portions of the Meeting House. For consistency, this request for \$39,657 is shown in our budget for 2025. We have budgeted an additional \$2,500 for painting other areas considered to be maintenance and for possible overruns that would not be covered by the grant.

Our year-end 2024 projections include our share of building maintenance expenses, insurance, program expenses and income, the new Fire Alarm Panel, emergency repairs, and CPA income and expenses (as a wash), with a projected ending balance of \$20,828 in checking and \$48,959 in reserve.

Treasurer’s Report - November 15, 2024			
	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2025 Budget
Summary			
<i>Begin. Checking</i>	\$ 17,608	\$ 24,829	\$ 20,828
INCOME	35,109	61,238	62,677
EXPENSE	27,889	55,239	58,075
GAIN/(LOSS)	7,220	5,999	4,603
Transfer from/(to) Reserve	-	(10,000)	-
Ending Balance	\$ 24,829	\$ 20,828	\$ 25,430
Ending Balances			
Checking	24,829	20,828	25,430
Reserve	38,920	48,959	48,998
TOTAL	\$ 63,749	\$ 69,787	\$ 74,429
Expense Type(%)			
Preservation	66.5%	80.6%	78.6%
Operations	21.3%	12.2%	13.6%
Outreach	7.4%	4.8%	4.9%
Event Expense	1.8%	0.7%	1.5%
Fees	2.9%	1.7%	1.5%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%