



Swansea Historical Society Newsletter

The Preservationist

Founded

1941

SWANSEA, MASSACHUSETTS

swanseahistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2025

The Boston Post Cane Swansea

The Boston Post Cane was established in 1909 by the Boston Post Newspaper owner Edwin Grozier as a promotional aid. A special cane was presented to the Board of Selectmen in 431 towns in New England to be presented to each town's eldest resident. The recipient held the honor as long as he/she lived. Upon his or her death the cane would be awarded to the next eldest resident.

The only Swansea town recipients of the Boston Post Cane that we have documentation on are Henry August Gardner at the age of 95 in 1931, Charles Feeley was given the honor June 29, 1964 and Ruth Doodson in July of 2013 at the age of 100.

140 towns and cities in Massachusetts still participate in the Boston Post Cane tradition. In most towns and cities the cane is no longer given. There were problems getting the cane returned after the passing of recipients. Now the canes are on display in the Town Clerk's offices or Town Administrator offices through our Massachusetts.

If the Swansea Board of Selectmen choose to restart the tradition guidelines will need to be established. We have put together preliminary guidelines using the guidelines from several area towns. There are rules that will need to be established.



Example the age range, years as a Town resident etc... Since the original canes are no longer given out, a different item will need to be chosen to take the cane's place. Area towns use plaques, framed certificates or a piece of jewelry such as a pin. A framed certificate is the most cost effective.

Pearse's Wharf

For several years now access to Pearse's Wharf also known as Pearse's Landing or Town landing has been in question.

In the 1800s the Wharf was owned by William Pearse Senior, Mr Pearse owned over 100 acres of land that started at Luther's corner straight down Pearse Road to the water. This land was in the Pearse family from the early 1800s to 1894.

William Pearse Senior allowed family and friends to have family gatherings, clambakes, go swimming and shellfishing from this area. William Pierce Jr kept the tradition going, he too allowed family and friends to use the area and he opened it up to commercial fishing boats.

From the late 1800s to the early 1900s Swansea Farmers shipped there produce and vegetables from Pierce's Wharf onto Providence and beyond.

In 1894 William Pierce Jr willed the wharf and adjacent Beach to the Town of Swansea and it remains Town owned property and a piece of Swansea history until this day.

SHS Membership Drive



The Swansea Historical Society is currently running a membership drive.

We need your help to preserve and share Swansea history. You can also help us with the maintenance and repair costs to save the Luther Store for future generations.

Helen Pierce Collection

The SHS has a collection of local family files compiled by Helen Pierce. Some families have numerous pages; others have only one or two; some just have correspondences; some have family trees. We may or may not have what you are looking for but we would be happy to check for you. These are the family names we have available:

*AMEY- AMES- AMESWILL- ANGELL- ANTHONY- ARNALD

*BABBITT- BAKER- BARNABY - BARNEY- BRIGGS-BOWEN- BOWERS- BOND- BROWN

*CARPENTER- CASE- CHACE/CHASE- CHURCH- COGGSHELL- COLBY- COLE- COOK- CUTTER

*DIXWELL

*FIELDS

*GARDNER- GIBBS- GREENE

Helen Pierce Collection *cont'd*

*HAMMOND- HATHAWAY- HAYWARD-HICKS/HIX- HILL- HOLT

*INGALLS

*JAY- JENKS-JONES

*LANE- LAWTON- LEE- LEONARD- LUTHER

*MARBLE- MANCHESTER- MARTIN- MASON- MILLER- MITCHELL-MILES AND MISC.

*NEWCOMB- NICHOLS-

*PALMER- PARKER- PERRY - PETERSHAM-

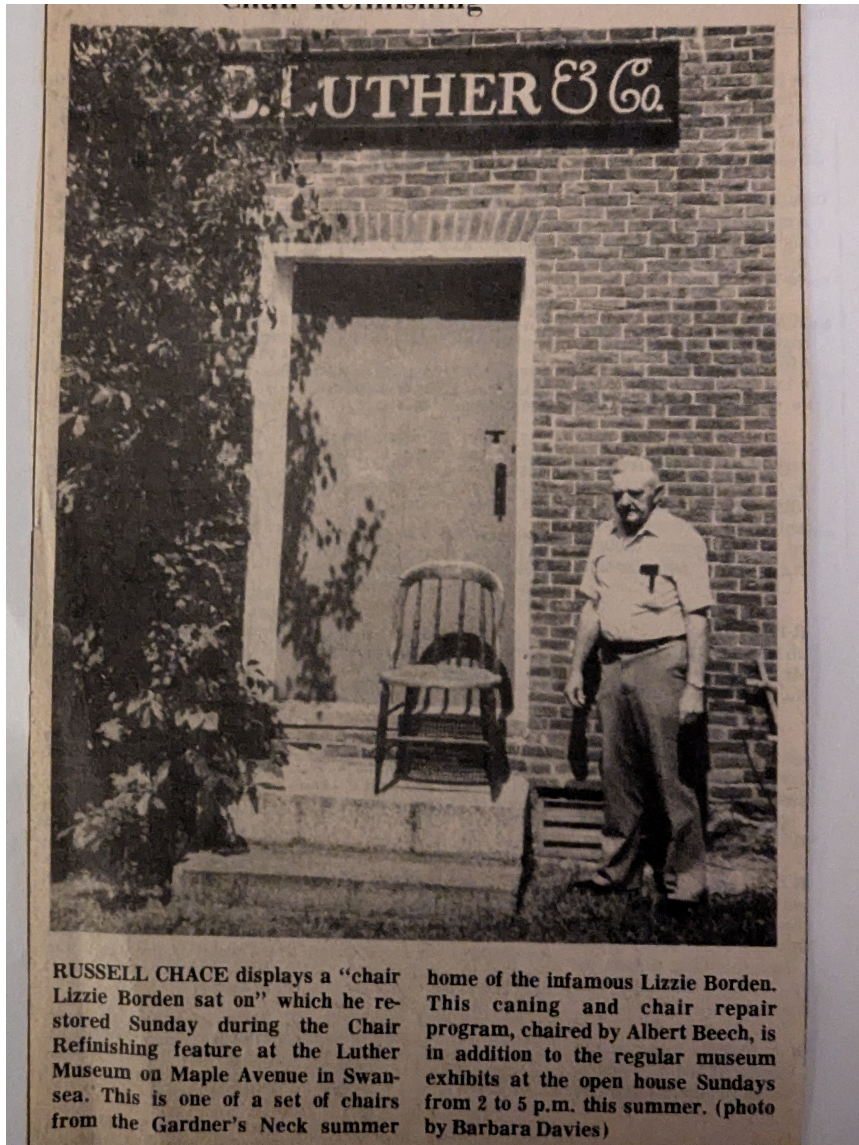
*RATHBUN- RICHMOND- ROGERS- ROUNDS

*SALISBURY- SHERMAN- SHORT- SLADE- SMITH- SPENCER- SNOW- SPRAGUE

*TABOR- THURBER- TRIPP

*WARREN- WASILIK- WHEATON- WILBUR/WILBOR- WILCOX- WILLIAMS- WILLET- WINSLOW -WOOD-WOODREFF

Lizzie Borden Sat Here



Please visit our website at swanseahistoricalsociety.org and click on the "Store" link to see our available items for purchase – mugs, wind spinners, rope bowls and many other items!.

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Monetary Donations are always accepted! Donations will be used for restoration and repairs only, not for operating funds.



Upcoming Events

April 6th, 2025
Poetry Reading &
Photography Display
by James Bronson
Swansea Community Center

June 19th, 2025
History Through Music
Jon Waterman
Swansea Community Center

September 2025
SHS Annual Meeting

October 2025
Pumpkin Patch Event
Pumpkin & Apple Pie Baking Contest
Pumpkin Decorating Contest

October 2025
Abram's Rock Walk

Pumpkin Judges Needed

We will need judges this fall for our pie baking and pumpkin decoration contests. If you would like to volunteer to be a judge, please contact Cheryl Bogle.

SHS Officers & Board

President - Carl Becker,
Vice President - Cheryl Bogle
Treasurer - Robbie Alford
Secretary - OPEN

Paul Cote
Patricia Redfearn
Karen Bowen

Diane Luther Silvia
Carol Gafford
Kathleen LeBlanc

Luther Store Update

The next step in the restoration /repair of the Luther Store was to take down the 1st floor plaster ceiling and inspect & repair the 2nd floor joists that have been damaged from Powder Post Beetles. The ceiling is not original to the building and the SHS will decide in the future if it should be replaced.

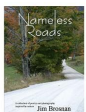
The ceiling was added by J.G. Luther, Jr. to brighten the space and help his store better compete with the the new Eddy Store. The Eddy Store was bright and white inside.

Celebrate National Poetry Month
with

**Sunday
April 6th
2:00 p.m.**
Jim Brosnan
at the Swansea Community Center
260 Ocean Grove Avenue



Admission
is FREE



Light
refreshments
will be served

Appropriate for ALL ages

Join local poet, university professor, writer, and photographer Jim Brosnan as he reads selections from "Long Distance Driving" and "Nameless Road." He will also be sharing samples of his framed photography.

No registration required.
Additional information visit swanseahistoricalsociety.org