

## CLERKS CORNER august 2016

### Accessible history

In the last 100 years, do you know how many people have served as elected officials for the Town of Wenham? Do you know that in 1916 there were almost 50 elected officials in the Town? We all know that there is much to be learned looking back in history and in the Clerk's office we maintain and carefully preserve many of our Town's historical records, some dating back as far as 1642. We are also learning many fun facts as we compile these listings. We loved discovering that since 1916, there have only been 8 Wenham Town Clerks. The average length of term for the Clerk here has been 14 years with Roscoe B. Batchelder topping the scales serving for 35 years from 1918-1953. The office has progressed as far as the early 1900's with this particular project looking back through town reports for this data. Other projects that we have compiled are the spreadsheets with dates of deaths and births from the mid 1850's to present day. The ongoing projects are digitalizing a list of marriages as well as creating a spreadsheet of appointment dates for Town Officials. The records for Wenham have been maintained very well over the years. It is our hope to not only continue to retain and preserve what is here but to make this data more readily accessible.

In more current news, the Massachusetts State Primary is scheduled to be held Thursday, September 8, 2016. In Wenham we vote at Town Hall from 7am to 8pm. Absentee ballots can be requested in the office or by completing the application on Clerk's page of the Town's website, [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov). All requests for absentee ballots must be received by noon on Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Absentee ballots received will be counted with the other ballots at the close of polls. Another important date is Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup> because that is the last day to either register to vote or change your party affiliation. The Clerk's office will be open that day until 5pm for any last minute registrations or changes. There is also a Massachusetts online site for voter registration, [www.registertovotema.com](http://www.registertovotema.com).

Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm is Wenham Day which this year will include many local artisans, food trucks and the Wenham Fire Department Open House. The Hamilton Wenham Schools start the academic year on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Believe it or not, we are just within two months of the 2016 Topsfield Fair! The Fair is scheduled to be open from September 30<sup>th</sup> -October 10<sup>th</sup>. Discount tickets are now available at the fairgrounds and at [www.topsfieldfair.org](http://www.topsfieldfair.org). It is going to be a great Fair with lots of local agricultural and crafting exhibits and demonstrations as well as some awesome entertainment. As Mrs. Essex County, I will look forward to seeing many of you there.

*Dianne Kaplan Bucco was elected the Town Clerk of Wenham in April 2014. More information on the Wenham Town Clerk can be found at [www.wenhamma.gov](http://www.wenhamma.gov) and by following the Wenham Town Clerk on Facebook.*