



Kathryn Toomey
Register of Deeds

Hello and welcome to our Newsletter.

We spotlight one community per month and hope to share with the other communities in our district some historical or social significance of the region.

This month we chose Winchendon, MA. Honestly, I thought it was a perfect place to choose for the month of May because they are the home of a Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery. It is located at 111 Glenallen Street. If you have an opportunity to take a car ride on a nice day, it is truly a beautiful and inspiring place.

Winchendon, MA is a beautiful community located on the New Hampshire border. When I was a kid, growing up in Holden, we used to travel to Dennison State Park on warm summer days. My family moved to Holden from the greater Boston area. My parents were true urban souls who embraced the country life. My dad

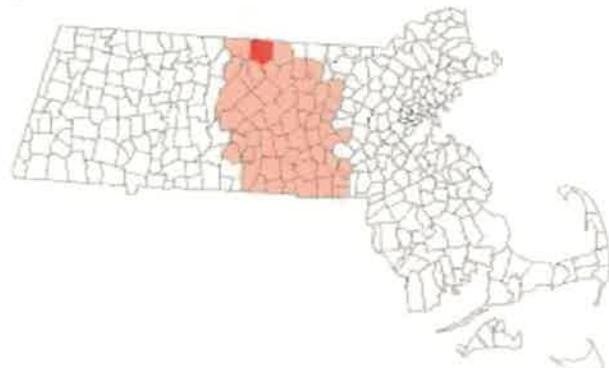
Worcester Registry of Deeds

Newsletter

May 2021 ~ Issue #8 ~ Town of Winchendon

What's Inside?

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Winchendon Toy Town (p.2 & 3)
- ★ **Memorial Day Events & Word Search** (p.3)
- ★ **Quotes in Honor of Memorial Day** (p.4)

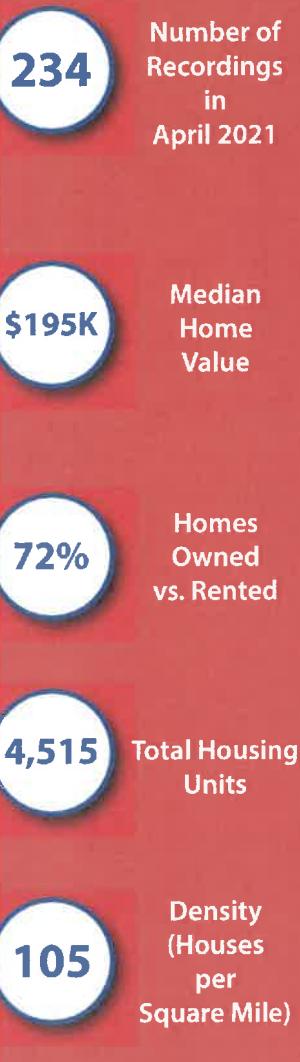


grew up in a triple decker in Porter Square in Cambridge, MA. Going to Dennison State Park was a highlight for him. He was able to tell his colleagues about his experiences with nature. Fast forward to 2021, one sunny Sunday in February I convinced my husband to drive to Dennison State Park so we could go cross-country skiing. I thought it was a safe choice to use the snow mobile trails, you know flat and groomed. Little did I know how big of a park we tackled. I was over confident in

my map skills. We started by the beach area and hoped to traverse about 4 miles of trails. After three or more hours we ended up going to Royalston, MA and covering over 12.5 miles of trails. The park is enormous. I learned my lesson about double checking the map and asking for directions earlier.

I truly enjoy my visits to Winchendon from my past, present and hopefully the not too distant future. I recommend you explore this gem of Worcester County.

Community Statistics





Town Spotlight

Morton Converse “Toy Town”

Winchendon

By Kathleen Meehan-Sullivan

As you travel north on Routes 12, 202 or 140, you may pass through the quiet north Worcester County Town of Winchendon, MA.

You may want to stop for a visit. Winchendon is a town rich with history. First settled in 1735 and known as New Ipswich Canada, the town was later incorporated in 1764 and named Winchendon after Nether Winchendon, a village and civil parish in the Aylesbury Vale District of Buckinghamshire, England.

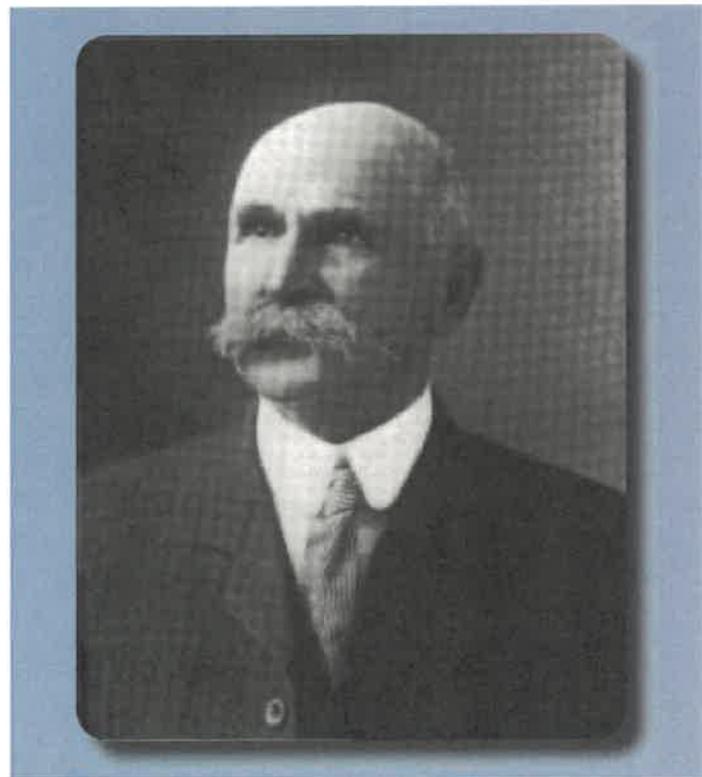
Located near Millers River, Winchendon soon became a town of industry taking full advantage of the source of power harnessed from Millers River. Wood products were among the first to be manufactured and sold. In fact, at one time the production of wood shingles was so successful that the town became known as “Shingletown”. Cotton mills, woodworking and metal working were also a part of the growing manufacturing industry in the town. It goes without saying; however, the toy industry put Winchendon on the map thanks to Morton E. Converse, who resided on Front St. in Winchendon ([Book 1279 page 564, 565](#)). Winchendon soon became known as “Toy Town”.

In 1873, Morton Converse, in partnership with Orlando Mason, opened Mason & Converse to manufacture toys and woodenware. In 1883 the partnership was dissolved. Morton continued the business under the name Converse Toy and Woodenware Company with his uncle Alfred C. Converse.

A new manufacturing facility was purchased at the property

known as Monadnock Mill ([Book 1139 pages 179, 180, 181](#)). The business continued to grow and in 1887 the company was renamed the Morton E. Converse & Company.

Converse made a great variety of toys, including Noah's Arks, doll furniture, kiddie riding racers, drums, building blocks, pianos, trunks, farm houses, musical roller chimes and rocking horses. Due to Mr. Converse's ability to anticipate the toys children wanted, he was able to build the largest toy company in the United States. At the World's Fair in Chicago



in 1893, he received the highest awards for exhibiting the finest toys in the world. In 1912, Morton Converse built the original Giant Rocking Horse made from nine pine trees. The 12 foot hobby horse was named Clyde. In 1914, Clyde entered the local parade to celebrate the Winchendon's 150th anniversary. Clyde was on display at the railroad station for 20 years and then in 1934, moved to the Toy Town Tavern for 30 years and then sent into storage due to disrepair. A replica of Clyde was sculpted by Winchendon native Sherman LaBarge in 1988 using the original as a model. Clyde II is now on display in a covered pavilion on Front St in Winchendon for kids of all ages to see.



Memorial Day Events

Hope Cemetery Flagging

Saturday May 22 10a.m. – 3 P.M.

Hope Cemetery
119 Webster Street
Worcester, MA

21ways To Harmony

Lost But Not Forgotten

Monday, May 31 6:30 – 7 P.M.
Pakachog Music School
10 Irving Street
Worcester, MA

Outdoor Memorial Day Paint & Sip

Broken Creek Vineyard And Winery
Thursday, May 20th 6 – 8 P.M.
614 South Street
Shrewsbury, MA

Massachusetts Veterans' Services

600 Washington Street, 7th Floor
Boston, MA
617-210-5480

JUMBLE

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FLAGS

SOLDIERS

VETERANS

MONUMENT

HONOR

COMMEMORATE

MILITARY

VIETNAM WAR

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REMEMBRANCE

HEROES

PARADES

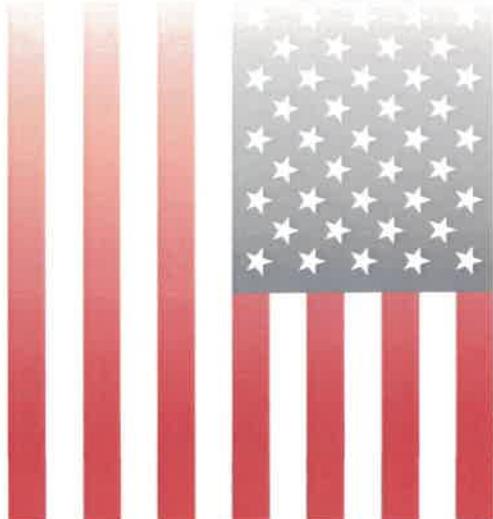
RESPECT

KOREAN WAR



MEMORIAL DAY

Remember and Honor



On Monday, May 31st Americans across the country will remember the brave men and women who gave their lives for our country. Whether you plan to observe the holiday with a parade, a service, or a moment of silence, we've gathered up the most honorable, dignified and from some of our nation's greatest figures as a way to remember those who have sacrificed themselves for our freedom. Here are our choices of the best quotes about Memorial Day:

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation."

– *General Douglas MacArthur*

"Heroism doesn't always happen in a burst of glory. Sometimes small triumphs and large hearts change the course of history."

– *Mary Roach*

"Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

– *Adlai Stevenson*

"Patriotism is when love of your own people comes first; nationalism, when hate for people other than your own comes first."

– *Charles de Gaulle*

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

– *Joseph Campbell*

"In the End, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

– *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

– *Nathan Hale*

"I love America more than any other country in the world, and exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

– *James A. Baldwin*

"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it."

– *Mark Twain*

"You will never do anything in this world without courage."

– *Aristotle*

"Heroism is not only in the man, but in the occasion."

– *Calvin Coolidge*

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom."

– *Bob Dylan*

"Freedom makes a huge requirement of every human being. With freedom comes responsibility."

– *Eleanor Roosevelt*