



*Winchester Archival Center*  
*Town Hall, 71 Mount Vernon Street*  
*Winchester, MA 01890*  
781-721-7146 [archives@winchester.us](mailto:archives@winchester.us)

TO: The Select Board  
FROM: Ellen Knight, Reference Archivist  
DATE: May 29, 2019  
RE: Winchester History Online

In October 2016, the Board of Selectmen accepted a grant from the Cummings Foundation for the development of Web pages devoted to Winchester History Online. The Archival Center Advisory Committee and I are pleased to report that the project is up and available to everyone interested in the history of the town.

On June 3, I as principal author of the site, accompanied by Town Clerk MaryEllen Lannon who has had oversight of the project, will be present at the Select Board's meeting to introduce the project to the Board.

For more information, attached in a press release and a copy of the Board's letter accepting the grant.

As a Web-based project, Winchester History Online is capable of growth and enhancement. Suggestions from the Board are, therefore, welcome.

## PRESS RELEASE – WINCHESTER HISTORY ONLINE

WINCHESTER – A new resource for students and members of the (world-wide) public interested in the history of the town is now available online at the Town of Winchester's official Web site ([www.winchester.us](http://www.winchester.us)), linked to the Archival Center's home page.

Funded by a grant from the Cummings Foundation, the project, known as Winchester History Online, has collected a wealth of articles written over the past three decades by local historian Ellen Knight and organized them into a cohesive and accessible form.

The goals of the project are to

- help residents become familiar with the history and heritage of the town and; with the ever increasing diversity in the national origins of students, help educate newcomers about what the town was like, how it has changed, and how it continues to change.
- give researchers with similar interests access to written histories
- help fill a void in local history materials to complement middle- and senior-high American history studies.

The project's main page presents three options for readers: a timeline of key dates in Winchester history for a quick overview, a selection of several broad subjects, and a subject index to locate articles by topic.

The broad subject areas include *People of Winchester, From a Village to a Town, Agriculture, Industry, Arts, Education, Religion, Sports, Women, War, and Notable People*. For each subject there is an overview history which includes links to specific articles.

For example, the section on *People of Winchester* presents an overview of the arrival of the colonists, waves of immigrations, societies, and social strata and has links to articles with more detailed information on such subjects as the African-American Community, the first known Jewish residents, and the debate over industry (a class contest).

The in-depth articles may also be found, if readers arrive at the site with specific interests or questions such as is there anything about the En Ka Fair or about baseball players, through the subject index. The articles are illustrated from the collections of the Archival Center and Winchester Historical Society.

The overarching theme of the site is *Shaping Winchester's Future by Understanding its Past*. More historical studies may be posted online as more is written.

In addition to Winchester History Online, the Archival Center's web pages also include information about its own collections, a link to its online catalog of photographs and documents, guides to resources for researching family history and house history, a link to the WWII 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary page, and more links and resources.



# Town of Winchester

Lance R. Grenzeback, Chairman  
E. James Whitehead, Vice Chairman  
Stephen L. Powers  
Michael Bettencourt  
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October 18, 2016

Joel B. Swets, J.D., LL.M,  
Executive Director  
Cummings Foundation, Inc.  
200 West Cummings Park  
Woburn, MA 01801

Dear Mr. Swets:

The members of the Board of Selectmen would like to thank the Cummings Foundation and its Board of Directors for the very generous grant disbursement to the Winchester Archival Center for its project "*Shaping Winchester's Future by Understanding its Past*". Without donations like this from concerned residents and organizations, expansion and development of research pertaining to the Town's history could not be accomplished. In this instance, topics will be prioritized by a committee that includes members from the School Department, Historical Society, Library, Multicultural Network and Archives Advisory Committee, all under the supervision of the Town Clerk.

The Board of Selectmen sincerely thanks the Cummings Foundation and its Board of Directors for its continual display of pride and commitment to the Town of Winchester.

Sincerely,

Lance R. Grenzeback,  
Chairman

/pcm

cc: MaryEllen Lannon, Town Clerk  
S. Ward, Comptroller  
J. Vyriotes