Wenham Museum

Organizational Overview

Preserving history and connecting generations

Wenham Museum celebrates childhood, interprets history, and explores culture for the enrichment of all generations on the greater North Shore and beyond. For more than 100 years, the Museum has connected visitors with the past through collections, exhibitions, and experiences that invite curiosity, discovery, and conversation.

Located in Wenham, Massachusetts, the Museum explores everyday life, with particular attention to children, families, women, caregivers, and the communities they help shape.

Collections and historic property

The Museum cares for a diverse collection of objects and archival materials documenting childhood, domestic life, and local history. Its collections include dolls and toys, textiles and clothing, photographs, documents, and model trains.

The Museum campus includes the seventeenth-century Claflin-Gerrish-Richards House, which provides a setting for exploring New England home life and the experiences of earlier generations.

Exhibitions and community programs

Wenham Museum welcomes children, adults, families, school groups, and lifelong learners. Its exhibitions and programs bring history and culture into conversation with visitors' own lives through:

- Changing exhibitions and hands-on learning experiences.
- School and group visits.
- Family activities, workshops, and lectures.
- Free First Wednesday cultural heritage festivals.
- Seasonal events and opportunities for community participation.

Stewardship and partnerships

The Museum's work includes preserving the collections entrusted to its care and developing partnerships that support their interpretation and use. Its partnership with the Patton Foundation reflects this commitment to long-term stewardship.

Under the court-authorized transfer of designated Patton Family Archives materials, Wenham Museum will retain selected objects connected to childhood, family life, and North Shore

history. The Foundation will assume stewardship of the remaining materials, including those focused on military service and leadership.

Leadership and organization

Wenham Museum is operated by the Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Inc., a nonprofit organization governed by a Board of Trustees. Sarah Sosa-Acevedo has served as Executive Director since February 2025.

Visit and contact

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