

Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc.  
PO Box 2755  
Duxbury, MA 02331

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See inside for:

- Manure Storage Facility
- Our New Calf Twinkie
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Photo Gallery Farm Day & 4H

Join Us for Farm Day 2015  
~ Saturday, September 19, 2015 ~

2015 Annual Fund Is Underway

This year's Historic O'Neil Farm's Annual Fund is dedicated to hiring the farm's first part time Education Coordinator. Developing curriculum; overseeing the farm's Junior Friends summer program; coordinating with educators at Bay Farm Montessori Academy and overseeing the spring program for 7th and 8th graders; developing new farm outreach programs with area preschools and applying for education grants are among the tasks to be performed. The targeted amount to begin the hiring process has nearly been reached. Won't you consider a donation to Historic O'Neil Farm's 2015 Annual Fund and help make this next education goal a reality? Using the adjacent form, donations may be mailed to **PO Box 2755, Duxbury, MA 02331** or you can make an online donation at [www.historiconeilfarm.org/donate](http://www.historiconeilfarm.org/donate).

Thank you



✂

YES, I am committed to helping Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. move into the future.

Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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THANK YOU!

Newsletter updates donated by Cherry Bishop Design  
Visit my website: [www.cherrybishopdesign.com](http://www.cherrybishopdesign.com)



Gleanings from Early Duxbury Town Reports  
Lisa Whalen, Volunteer Farm Researcher

In the process of researching the local history of dairying, I have spent hours perusing the early 20th-century Duxbury Town Reports, in particular those of the Board of Health. Admittedly not the most riveting of reading but definitely worth the time for a glimpse into Duxbury of 100 years ago.

For example, the following passage from the Board of Health's 1914 year-end report. (In that year, the Massachusetts Legislature had passed a law requiring local Boards of Health to inspect and issue permits to milk producers and dealers.)

...some will say it [the new milk law] is "Much ado about nothing," but listen, we have a purely residential town; we have a fine class of summer residents; we want to keep them and we want more like them. How are we to do it? By offering a greater inducement to them than other towns. Now it is a fact that many of the best families [looking to relocate] ... go to the State Department of Health and something like this is heard: Is \_\_\_ a healthy town? ... Are they enforcing this new milk law so that we may know that all milk is clean and safe for children? If the answers are satisfactory they go to that town for the summer and finding the conditions as represented, the probability is that they buy a plot of ground and build thereon thereby becoming a source of income to the town, but if the conditions are not as represented they go elsewhere. Will Duxbury lead or follow?

In his 1922 report the Duxbury Dairy Inspector offered another interesting peek into the past. The Inspector took up what was then a hot topic among national public health officials, social activists and reformers – the safety of the milk supply especially for infants and children.

It is a well established fact the world over, that the mortality of the bottle-fed infant is frightfully in excess of that of the breast-fed infant and this excess of mortality is in great measure ... caused by contaminated or infected milk. The health and cleanliness of the cow is of first importance and the health and cleanliness of the person or persons caring for the cow is of almost equal import. ... A volume could easily be written on the method and results of the same, but it is enough to say that if we expect to save the bottle-fed infant, it must have clean and safe milk.

The Inspector closed his report by "Thanking all [Duxbury dairymen] who so willingly co-operated in the producing of clean and safe milk for babies."

In 1928, the Duxbury Board of Health reported:  
The milk and dairy conditions while not perfect are better than for some time, and as we compare them with some we found in Plymouth County ... we felt that Duxbury was not so bad ... we realize that clean and safe milk is only had by constant vigilance.

Pasteurization, which was not yet legally mandated, was understood to prevent many milk-borne illnesses, although the Duxbury report correctly noted that, "Pasteurized milk is not immune to lax methods of handling, bottles, caps or utensils."  
After about 1930, the Board of Health reports are a less fruitful source of information on local dairying. They tend to lose their narrative flavor to become lists of permits issued or denied. And by mid-century, dairy inspections were no longer the purview of local boards, but came under state jurisdiction – another whole area for future investigation.



The Historic O'Neil Farm, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation committed to maintaining the 145-acre farm in agriculture in perpetuity, preserving and protecting the historic landscape and natural habitat, providing educational programs, and offering public access to the farm.

- Board of Directors*
- Susan Schortmann, President
  - Pat Loring, Treasurer
  - Douglas Muir, Esq., Clerk
  - Sam Butcher
  - Kimberly Glattstein
  - Jerry Ingersoll
  - Marie King
  - Carl O'Neil
  - Prudence Pease

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email:  
[info@historiconeilfarm.org](mailto:info@historiconeilfarm.org)  
website: [historiconeilfarm.org](http://historiconeilfarm.org)

The Autumn Avenue trailhead parking lot is open dawn to dusk.



## Twinkie, a Special 2015 Calf

Farmer, Carl O'Neil and Board President and farmer, Sue Schortmann are especially excited about Twinkie, who was born at O'Neil Farm on February 10, 2015. Twinkie is the newest heifer in a long line of O'Neil farm Guernseys. When Sue began working at O'Neil Farm as a teenager, she had four favorite cows, one of which was Patsy, a beautiful dark colored full Guernsey. In January 1999, Patsy produced a beautiful calf which looked just like her. The calf's registered name was Patuxet Patsy's Butter. (Patuxet is the Native American tribe who inhabited the area that is now O'Neil Farm). In September 2002, Buttercup, the next generation was born. Buttercup was a lighter more traditional Guernsey color. As Sue reports, this line of Guernseys all "had an attitude" and were great milkers. In April 2008, Butterfinger was born on the farm. Carl O'Neil and O'Neil Farm then became actively engaged in the 4-H program. Butterfinger became a show calf and then a show heifer. Now Twinkie has arrived, a fourth generation Guernsey to live at O'Neil Farm. Twinkie looks just like her mother, Butterfinger, and is sure to be a 4-H show calf. Look for her at the Marshfield Fair this year!



Twinkie

## Manure Storage Facility Update

Work on the 50 x 80 foot manure storage shed is very close to completion. McEachern Contracting and the concrete subcontractor completed the storage basin in December, working under difficult weather conditions. Moore Carpentry completed the roof structure and corrugated metal roofing early in January. Final details, such as gutters and downspouts, final grading and seeding will be finished as soon as the winter weather moderates. This extensive project, funded by a USDA grant, has been overseen from beginning to end by architect and volunteer board member, Jerry Ingersoll. Our special thanks go to Jerry for an incredible job well done.



## Highlighting Our Dedicated Volunteers

For the past five years, volunteer, Cherry Bishop, a freelance graphic designer, has been organizing the Historic O'Neil Farm Newsletter, originally designed by Lois Wood. She has stayed true to the original design vision while adding a few of her own design touches.

Because Cherry has a small "farmette" of her own, she loves working on these "real" farm projects (the HOF newsletters, as well as the annual fund mailers, the road side sign and the table top display).



Cody's Sand Pile

Cherry continues to support the farm's historic dairy operations and its educational programs, so young people can discover the satisfaction of learning to care for and "hang out" with large farm animals.

Cherry's own little farm and design studio, here in Duxbury, has ten chickens, two goats, a rabbit, a German Shepherd and Cody, a Tennessee Walking Horse. Her illustration and graphic design work can be seen on her website: [www.cherrybishopdesign.com](http://www.cherrybishopdesign.com).

We wish to thank Cherry for her years of dedication to Historic O'Neil Farm by volunteering her professional graphic design skills to our semi-annual newsletter and other outreach projects.



The Farm's Manure Storage Facility Nearing Completion

## Photo Gallery 2014 Farm Day Fun



## Farmtastic 4-H Winter Activities



The Farmtastic 4-H Club with Their Animals at Marshfield's 2014 Live Nativity. Each Year, the Club Brings Animals for the Nativity Scene.



Farmtastic 4-H Members at Their Holiday Party