



First Federated Church

Meetings

**Last Tuesday of
September to November,
& January to April**

We meet in the First Federated Church Hall on Central Street at 7:30 PM on the dates above, except in April (6:30). Programs include presentations on the History of Hudson institutions, local businesses, historical figures, and way of life. Occasionally, we visit a historic home or museum.

The April meeting is the Annual Meeting, includes election of officers, annual reports, and a special dinner (extra fee applies).

We are present at Hudson events (Holiday Stroll, Hudson Fest, Pumpkin Fest).



Historical Society Museum

Museum

The Hudson Historical Society Museum is located in the Broad Street Mill Business Complex, 4th floor. It showcases items from Hudson's history, including books, yearbooks, photographs, artifacts, and temporary exhibits. Extensive files contain articles on all topics related to Hudson History.

The Museum is open 2-4 PM on Tuesdays, and 10 AM to 12 N the first Saturday of each month.



Museum Address

43 Broad Street, C402
Hudson, MA 01749

978-562-2130

HudsonHistoricalSociety.org

Hudson Historical Society



**Hudson,
Massachusetts**



Broad Street Mill
43 Broad Street
Hudson, MA 01749

A Brief History of Hudson

Q&A

Hudson, a South Middlesex County town of more than 18,000 residents situated on the second waterfall of the Assabet River, became a town in 1866. In 1698, John Barnes, a settler, was granted an acre of the Indian Plantation recently added to Marlborough's acreage. There, on the north bank of the Assabet River, he built a grist mill. Later he added a saw mill and bridged the river so that the road might continue to Lancaster. At that time, Lancaster reached almost to Wood Square.

The next 125 years brought slow, steady growth to this section of Marlborough, known as The Mills. Several small industries huddled close to the mill area, while a number of large farms stretched to the north and east. In the early years, relations with the Indians were very good, but as settlers took more and more land from them, they tried to drive out the settlers and take it back.

In June, 1743, Samuel Witt, John Hapgood, and others living in the old Indian Plantation petitioned the General Court to have their land set off as a distinct parish or town, claiming that "It is vastly fatiguing to attend meeting." The Court refused. Samuel Witt later served as a member of the Committees of Correspondence during the Revolution.

On April 19, 1775 when word came of the British march to Concord and Lexington, several men from the Hudson area joined their Minute Men companies and marched to Cambridge to contain the British soldiers after their retreat.

By the mid-1800's, the little community now called itself Feltonville, after its wealthiest and most popular merchant. It boasted a post office and hotel, and was linked to Boston via stage coach routes that went by way of Cox Street to Sudbury, then east to the city.

The 1850's brought the mixed blessings of steam power and railroads to town, and factories popped up everywhere. By 1860 there were 17 shoe or shoe-related industries. Immigrants from Ireland and French Canada were joining descendants of the early settlers working at the 975 jobs in local plants.

When the call to arms came in 1861, Feltonville citizens were ready, for they were ardent abolitionists. Several local homes were stations on the Underground Railway, including the Goodale Home on Chestnut Street, and the Curley Home (then called the Rice Farm) on Brigham Street. Many young men went away to fight, and 25 died for the Union Cause.

How much are the dues?

Dues are \$15/person, or \$25 /couple.

When are dues paid?

Our year runs from May 1 to April 30; dues are collected at the April meeting.

How can I join?

Complete the form below and mail to Hudson Historical Society, Hudson Mill Business Complex, Hudson, MA 01749.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Indicate if cell () Landline ()

Email: _____

Would you like to volunteer? _____

What is your specialty? _____