

Natick Historical Society  
Bacon Free Library Building  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Natick Historical Society Hires New Executive Director**

**(Natick, Mass., October 6, 2006)** – The Natick Historical Society is pleased to announce the hiring of its first professional Executive Director. Jennifer H. Hance, an experienced IT Consultant and recent graduate of Tufts University Museum Studies program, took up her duties on October 3, 2006. Anne K. Schaller, long time director of the Society, will remain as Curator.

Jennifer has spent the last 20-plus years in IT Consulting and is making a career change to museum administration. She comes to us directly from the Tufts Museum Studies Program with considerable experience at area institutions such as the Concord Museum, Worcester Art Museum, Fuller Craft Museum and Cambridge Historical Society. “I’m thrilled to have found my dream job so quickly. I was looking for an arts and history environment where I can put my business background to good use,” says Ms. Hance. “And I’m grateful to Anne and Jan for handing off such a well organized place.”

When Anne Schaller was named Director of the Natick Historical Society 30 years ago, there was one file cabinet, no desk, no news letter and no membership cards. The museum that we know today is largely a result of Anne’s efforts. In that time, Anne has arranged the collection into cases, installed lighting, delivered countless programs to school children and provided a stream of interesting speakers. For the last 14 or so years, Jan Prescott has worked with Anne on organizing the archives, conducting research and assisting scholars.

Anne has now decided that her tenure has lapsed and that she would like relief from her administrative duties so that she can focus on curatorial matters. Coincidentally, Jan recently announced her plans to leave the Natick area. Through the expertise of rare book appraiser Roger Casavant, the Natick Historical Society has become able to fund the position of Executive Director.

The Natick Historical Society will take this opportunity to develop a strategic plan designed to broaden its audience and increase its value to the community. Potential activities include digitizing the archives and collections to allow better access by scholars and researchers, partnering with schools and community groups to develop enriched learning experiences, and offering a variety of family programming to stimulate interest in our town's heritage. The museum will also consider an upgrade of its facilities to better preserve the collection, provide space for rotating exhibitions, and reinterpreting the collection. Society President Adams K. Shipman, Jr. remarked, "This is an exciting time at the Society. There are many opportunities open to us and many different directions that we can pursue to become a vital part of the Town of Natick. We've been so fortunate to have the support and talent of Anne and Jan. With Jen on board, we can start preparing the Society for the next generation of leaders. "

### **About the Natick Historical Society**

Founded in 1870, the Natick Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of the history and artifacts that contribute to an understanding of our local heritage. The collection includes artifacts of Archaic, Woodland and Christian Indian cultures of Natick. Among the collections is the Indian Bible of the 17<sup>th</sup> century missionary, John Eliot, founder of the Natick Indian Community. In addition to memorabilia of many of Natick's most distinguished citizens, early maps, photographs, furnishings, tools and costumes, the Society preserves a significant archive of material relating to Natick and surrounding towns, local authors, genealogy and natural history.

The Society is open to the public on Tuesday from 2pm to 8:30pm, Wednesday from 2:00pm to 4:30pm, and Saturday from 10am to 12:30pm. The Museum is located on the lower level of the Bacon Free Library building at 58 Eliot Street in South Natick. The Museum is free and wheelchair accessible. For more information, call 508 647 4841.

An electronic version of this press release is available by sending an email to [info@natickhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@natickhistoricalsociety.org).

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