

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historical Lecture: Hopkinton's Civil War Service

HOPKINTON, MA (February 5, 2015) - The Hopkinton 300th Anniversary Celebration committee in conjunction with the Hopkinton Historical Society presents a lecture and book discussion by Civil War historian Tom Ellis, Jr. as he talks about his latest book, Hopkinton's Civil War Service at the Hopkinton Historical Society on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Alden "Tom" Ellis is an independent Civil War historian. Upon his discharge from the United States Army in 1965, he attended Northeastern and Towson State University. He was a board member on Framingham's Flag Day Celebration Committee for many years. He served veterans at a local outreach center. He served on numerous boards of local service organizations. He spent much time at the Massachusetts Military Archives when it was located in Natick, and was accessible to researchers.

After his son at a young age expressed an interest in Civil War re-enacting, Ellis soon reckoned he would be camped out with his son on weekends all summer long. He couldn't pass up that opportunity. He would also have the ability to question Civil War re-enactors on their vast knowledge of the war. Mr. Ellis eventually became the Adjutant General of the Union and Confederate Volunteers of New England. In that position, he assisted in organizing re-enactments and living history venues. He also was responsible for safety issues during those events. He was engaged in the production of the Civil War movie, *"Lady in Black"*, as a consultant and advisor regarding authenticity.

Through his research, he learned that the Massachusetts Andrew Sharpshooters' Civil War history had never been written. Traveling throughout New England, he gleaned all the information he could from local histories. He walked many battlefields in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia to further understand the soldiers' plight, and he wrote their history. The book was published by McFarland Publishers: *"The Massachusetts Andrew Sharpshooters – A History and Roster."*

Now retired, he finds towns with little history written about their detailed Civil War sacrifices. He commits more than a year of his time researching and writing that town's history. He is positive it is an incredible resource for that community now and in the future. It allows the descendants of these brave veterans to gain an understanding of what their forefathers went through. He searches their parents' names, and mother's maiden name whenever possible. By citing the sources, there is a path available for deeper exploration by the family. He and his wife Pam reside in Medway, Massachusetts. His two adult children also live in the area.

What: Historical Lecture: Hopkinton's Civil War Service

When: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7PM

Where: Hopkinton Historical Society, 98 Hayden Rowe St, Hopkinton, Massachusetts 01748

Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Commemorative gifts available for sale by the Friends of Hopkinton Anniversary Celebrations.

For more information about upcoming activities, visit the Hopkinton 300th Anniversary Celebration website at www.hopkintonma300.com. Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Hopkinton300 for easy updates, and for any and all questions about the 300th Celebration, please email us at 300@hopkintonma.gov.

To purchase, or for information about commemorative gifts, please visit The Friends of Hopkinton's Anniversary Celebrations website at <http://friendsofhopkinton.org/>.

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ABOUT HOPKINTON'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE - The 300th Anniversary Celebration Committee is charged with planning, coordinating, preparing and recommending to the Board of Selectmen a program of celebrations to commemorate Hopkinton's 300th anniversary in 2015, and to implement recommendations approved by the Board of Selectmen.

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF HOPKINTON'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - Friends of Hopkinton Anniversary Celebrations is an independent and autonomous organization dedicated to fundraising efforts for this and future anniversaries. The money we raise will be donated directly to the town's committee.

HOPKINTON'S 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SPONSORS: EMC Corporation, Phipps Insurance Agency, PerkinElmer, Faith Community Church, Scott's Landscaping, Gorman Richardson Lewis Architects, The Hopkinton Independent, Legacy Farms, Mirick O'Connell Attorneys at Law, Middlesex Savings Bank, The Richmond Group, Weston Nurseries, Webster First Federal Credit Union, MetroWest YMCA Family Outdoor Center and Carbone's Restaurant.