



# Nashua Historical Society

Issue No.2

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www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org

## Frank's Tool Exhibit

Frank R. Mooney is a lifelong resident of Nashua. One of his passions is Nashua memorabilia. Recently, the Society was the fortunate recipient of Frank's vast collection of Underhill tools. These hand tools date from 1850 to 1900. Underhill was a well-known manufacturer of hand tools that was based in Nashua. On Saturday, September 28, an exhibit opening was held.



Frank's collection was the star of the afternoon, but Philip Lowe, the owner and director of the Furniture Institute of Massachusetts, was on hand to talk about and to demonstrate how the tools were/are used. Several people in the audience were given the chance to try their hand at using the tools.



Our thanks go out to Frank and his family for attending the event. Also, to Peter Vincent who took the lead on setting up the exhibit and to Barbara Bankeroff for her assistance in creating the written explanations.



See additional exhibit photos on page 15

## NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2022

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Joe Comer	2nd Vice President
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- Magnus Pardoe
- Megan Pardoe
- Dennis Parker
- Kathy Peterson
- Jeanne Phaneuf
- William Ross
- Peter Vincent

### Staff

- Beth McCarthy Curator
- Eileen Herring Admin. Assistant
- Barbara Comer Collection Technician

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow Nashua Historical Society members:

This message is my first as society president, an office I will faithfully execute to the best of my ability throughout my term.

In the perfect-timing category, I assume office as we begin gearing up for our sesquicentennial – the 150th anniversary of our founding way back in 1870. We've been formulating ideas on ways to celebrate, such as putting together special programs, hosting events that bring in local "celebrities," almost anything, really, that brings the public to us, or things that bring us to the public.

One really neat initiative we've undertaken – kudos to vice president Roland Fisher for taking the lead on this – is working with the state Division of Historical Resources and other entities to install what would be Nashua's very first historic highway marker. You've surely seen these markers in various New Hampshire locations – they're those handsome plaques that commemorate a location, or district, that is distinctive and significant to New Hampshire's residents and visitors. What better location for Nashua's first such marker than our own Abbot-Spalding House? More to come on this.

The Frank Mooney Tool Exhibit opening drew a healthy number of visitors, although not quite a standing-room-only crowd. The most important thing was that Frank was able to join us, along with several members of his family. I'm told his eyes lit up when he entered the exhibit room and saw the well-designed display covering most of the wall space.

As for upcoming events, mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 9, when Civil War historian and documentarian George Morrison presents "Vanished Veterans: New Hampshire's Civil War Monuments and Memorials," a program that explores what motivated New Hampshire townfolk to "honor our local soldiers and sailors of the War of the Rebellion." It starts at 2 p.m. in the Speare Museum.

Dean Shalhoup



### Special Visitor

Recently Priscilla and Roy Januskiewicz stopped in to tour the Speare Museum. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that Priscilla drew the portrait of Daniel Abbot that hangs in our library! Priscilla said that the portrait is a charcoal drawing that she created from a small photo that she was provided. This was the first time she had seen the drawing framed.

### 150th Milestone Celebrations

“Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.” – Nelson Mandela  
The Nashua Historical Society will be celebrating two milestones in the next two years. The Society will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020, and the Speare Museum will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021! As the Society plans for the next 150 years, we hope you will celebrate with us at the special events that are being planned.

### How Did They Keep Food Cold?

On a hot day, we take for granted reaching into the refrigerator for a cold drink and for our food to stay fresh. After all, Frigidaire introduced its first self-contained refrigerator in 1923 and with the introduction of freon, the refrigerator market expanded during the 1930s. However, prior to World War II, many people kept their food in an ice box.

The ice box was a cabinet that was lined with tin or zinc and packed with various insulating materials such as cork, straw or sawdust. A large block of ice was held in a tray or compartment near the top of the box. Cold air circulated down and around storage compartments to the lower section. A drip pan was placed under the box and had to be emptied daily.

From the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, cities and towns had icemen who would make daily rounds delivering ice to people who owned iceboxes. The customer would put a card in the window with the number of pounds of ice he wanted at the top of the card, typically between 25 and 100 pounds.

During the winter, the iceman would cut ice from lakes, take it to the ice house and pack it with straw or sawdust where it would be remain frozen for many months, often until the following winter.

In 1840 Nelson Lane first began cutting ice in Nashua, being the pioneer ice man of the state. In 1864 this business passed to James E. Balcom and then to his son, George Balcom, in 1881. The initial site of their operation was on the shore of Sandy Pond, where Mr. Balcom had an ice house with a capacity of five thousand tons. In 1883, Mr. Balcom purchased the ice house of A.T. Laton at Tarnic Pond in Hudson which had a capacity of 15,000 tons. In 1888 Mr. Balcom started a coal business and he also ran a blacksmith shop.

The ice house in Nashua is long gone. Sandy Pond has an asphalt trail that goes entirely around it. There is a playground located on the pond right off of National Street. The shoreline on the other end of the pond is developed with an elderly housing complex.

Howard Barnes and Ralph Sommese

### Sewing Exhibit

Gail Pinet, who is one of very active volunteers, has loaned us her collection of antique sewing supplies. They are on display in the glass case in the lobby of the Society. Be sure to stop by to see this exhibit.



### Student interns

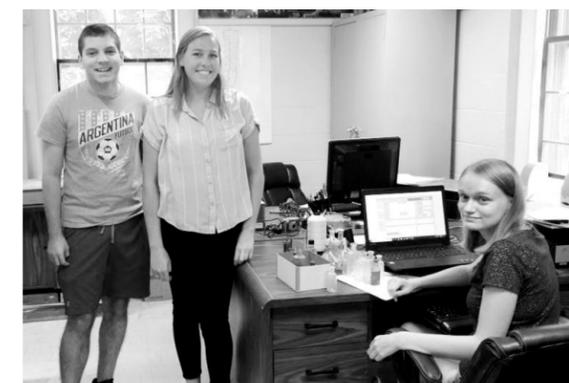
This spring and summer we were very fortunate to have several high school and college students as interns. All of them worked diligently and enthusiastically on the collection. Matt A. (photo not available) is a student at Rivier University. He spent the spring semester working with us. Matt and Rick (photo not available) are from the Plus Company. They have been volunteering with us for several years.



Sarah



Daisey



Madison Logan and Megan

Sarah and Daisey have also volunteered here for several years. Madison, Logan and Megan were volunteering with us for the first time. Megan is now serving on the Society’s Board of Directions. Megan and Sarah are recipients of the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship

### Immediate Volunteer Opportunities

Currently, we have two immediate volunteer needs that we need to fill.

Assistant Treasurer: This person will assist the Treasurer with seeing that bills are paid, that deposits are made and the financial reports are correct. Some interaction with the NHS accountant may be required.

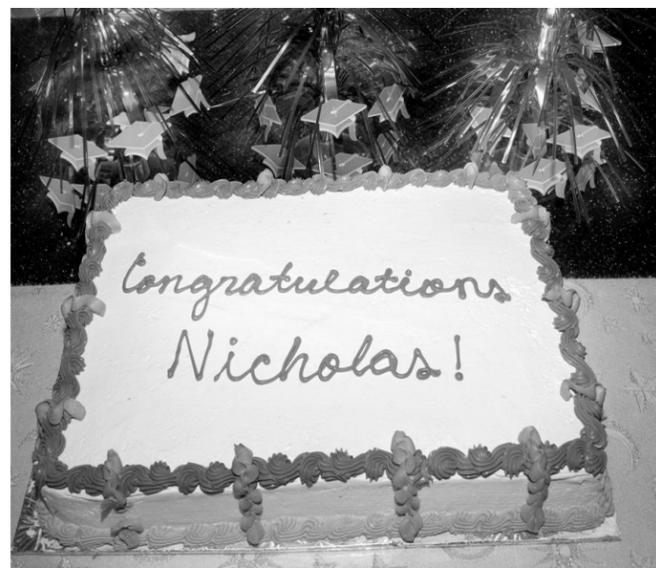
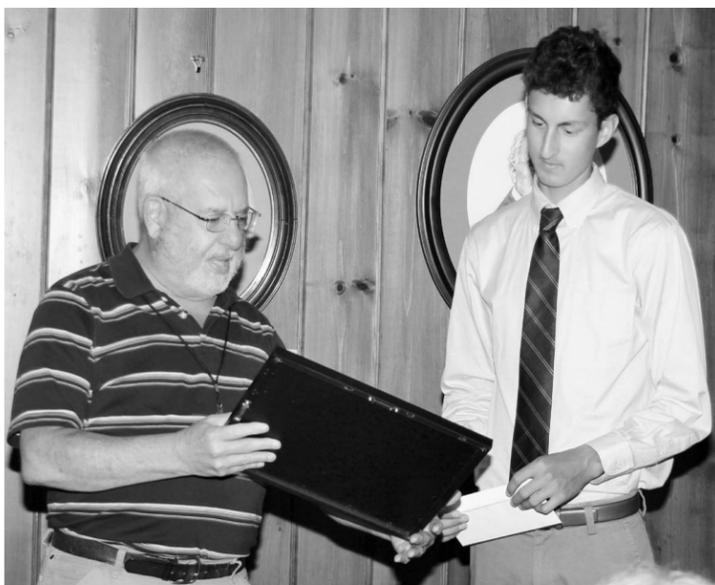
150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: 2020 will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society! We are looking for several people to serve on the committee to help plan a wonderful year of celebrations.

Here are some other volunteer opportunities that you can consider. We would be happy to give you more information about of these opportunities.

- Buildings/Grounds
- Collections
- Education
- Exhibits
- Fundraising
- Mailing Team
- Marketing
- Writer for Grants & Charitable Donations
- Membership/Volunteer
- Newsletter
- Refreshment
- Research
- Special Events
- Technology
- Tour Guide

To volunteer or to request more information, please contact Eileen at NHS office. The telephone number is 603-883-0015 or email [nashuahistorical@comcast.net](mailto:nashuahistorical@comcast.net).

# Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Award – 2019



The Nashua Historical Society's scholarship for 2019 was awarded to Nicholas Kelley at a reception recently held in his honor. Nick's parents Kristen and Christopher and his sisters Sarah and Julia joined in the celebration.

Nick's time at Nashua High School North was spent in various activities including the Student Senate, Junior Air Force ROTC, Cross County, Lacrosse, Diving and Winter Track. He also worked at Jeannotte's Market and worked on projects in the City of Nashua's Community Development Department.

In high school, history was always a favorite class for Nick. To continue that interest, he will be attending St.

Anselm College where he will study Political Science. The Nashua Historical Society wishes Nick much success in college and beyond.



NHS thanks Janice Fronko, Pat Heffernan and Paula Lochhead for giving of their time to serve on the Scholarship Committee.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### 149<sup>TH</sup> NHS Annual Meeting on May 21, 2019

The committee reports tell of the accomplishments and challenges the Society has experienced this year. Some highlights include our Nominating Committee's successful search to find excellent candidates for the Officers and Board of Directors. The Finance Committee has exercised due diligence and worked with our investment partners to make wise expense choices. Our staff have trained and worked with the volunteers in documenting our Collection and caring for it. Buildings and grounds have been maintained with due diligence by updating to cut costs. Thanks to all for supporting our museums, preserving Nashua history and volunteering for projects and special events.

## REPORTS

### Buildings

The Speare Building had a new roof and gutters installed. The light bulbs and light fixtures were upgraded. The upgrade was done through a program offered by Eversource. The garage was rebuilt after the car accident. As part of the restoration, the electric was upgraded. A new garage door and door mechanism were installed. Two walls were replaced and one wall was re-braced.

The base on one of the front pillars was milled and installed.

Exploration work was begun on the basement water leak in the Speare Museum. Estimates for resolving the water issue are being obtained.

Regular yearly repairs and maintenance contracts were completed on both museums.

### Collection

The Nashua Historical Society was fortunate this past year to have made significant progress with the Collection.

Total Number of Records in Past Perfect	Additional Records 05/08/2018 – 04/26/2019
Collection Records 37,169	1,525
Objects 3,660	613
Photographs 25,484	352
Archives 7,136	557
Library 896	10
Items In Container List 4,654	791
Accession 4,392	195
Accession Records Scanned 653	653
Contacts 2,656	78

### Collection Records:

Barbara Bankeroff created 158 collection records, Kara Cardinal created 79 collection records, Barbara Comer created 296 collection records, Susan Fineman created 19 collection records, Paul Friday created 108 collection records, Janice Fronko created 64 collection records, Eileen Herring created 182 collection records, Daisy Jacquez created 224 collection records, Sarah Jauris created 25 collection records, Gigi Jennings created 5 collection records, Beth McCarthy created 1 collection record, Cecile Renzi created 43 collection records, Marissa Romano created 54 collection records, Rick Walker and Matt created 239 collection records, and Allison White created 35 collection records.

### Accession Records:

Barbara Bankeroff created 4 accession records, Barbara Comer created 5 accession records, Margaret Garneau created 140 accession records, and Beth McCarthy created 47 accession records.

### Contact Records:

Barbara Bankeroff created 3 contact records, Barbara Comer created 1 contact record, Eileen Herring created 46 contact records, Beth McCarthy created 28 contact records.

### Individual Contributions to the Collection:

#### Internship:

Matt Atkinson, a Rivier College Student, has completed a formal Museum internship at the Historical Society. His main project was to provide support to the development of a re-launch of the Artifact Adoption Exhibit and Program.

Sandra Axton has continued to research a variety of local history topics. She has continued to work on the organization required for the pre-cataloging of the many images belonging to the “Kids Into Drama” collection and a Spring Street Junior High/Pennichuck Junior High collection. She has worked on all preliminary aspects of an open to the public photograph identification day designed to support several different photograph collections including June Caron’s Park and Recreation Collection.

Barbara Bankeroff fulfilled the management of The Nashua Historical Society’s computer network and the collection management software, PastPerfect. Barbara has trained new PastPerfect users, and she has been the computer support person to all of the PastPerfect staff. Barbara Bankeroff has worked on numerous photograph Research Requests. She has researched and completed accession records. She has researched and furthered the catalog records of various eclectic items within the collection. She has worked on the pre-cataloging tasks for numerous artifacts, and she has cataloged various eclectic artifacts. She has been an instrumental participant with all aspects of the ongoing collection needs.

Kara Cardinal, a high school student, has completed the catalog records on Nashua School student photographs and Nashua area photographs.

Barbara Comer, Collection Technician, has continued to research and further the catalog records of different eclectic items. She completed numerous accession records and furthered many more accession records. She has been an instrumental participant with all aspects of the ongoing collection needs. Barbara Comer has been the lead person for researching, accessioning and cataloging Frank Mooney’s large collection of Nashua schools.

Susan Fineman has continued to catalog photographs that have an emphasis on Nashua schools and the area surrounding Nashua’s down town.

Paul Friday has continued his assistance with the organization and relocation of books within the Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum. He has cataloged a large number of photographs under different topics from within the Historical Society’s general collection.

Janice Fronco, at textile conservator, has been applying her expertise providing guidance and hands-on-helpfulness towards the Historical Society’s Textile Collection.

Margaret Garneau has been creating accession records for the completed Research and Records requests. She has been instrumental participant with many of the ongoing collection needs.

Matt, a client, and Rick Walker, an employee of The Plus Company, have edited and cataloged numerous matchbook and calling cards from Frank Mooney’s matchbook and calling cards Collections.

Eileen Herring completed container list catalog records on portions of the genealogy files. She has organized, prepared and container list cataloged numerous Nashua World War II newspaper clippings.

Sarah Jauris, continued to catalog a portion of the Nashua Corporation Photograph Collection. She has research and cataloged numerous medical instruments used by past Nashua Physicians.

Daisey Jacquez, a high school student, has cataloged numerous Nashua School Student photographs. She has learned how to catalog objects and has cataloged award/celebration ribbons, hair ribbons, Nashua Fire and Nashua Police pins.

Ed Jean has worked on all preliminary aspects of an open to the public photograph identification day designed to support several different photograph collections including June Caron’s Park and Recreation Collection.

Gigi Jennings has learned how to catalog and create PastPerfect records.

Paula Lochhead is a textile expert who has volunteered to provide guidance and assistance towards our Textile Collection. She has been an active participant with the Historical Society’s textile project.

Marissa Romano, a high school student, learned how to catalog and create PastPerfect records. She cataloged photographs from the Nashua Oneil and Trudel families and she cataloged many Army Military patches.

Beth McCarthy, Curator, provided support and guidance to all of the individuals who worked/volunteered on the following Committees: Collection, Exhibit, and Research and Records Committees. Current accessioning practices and past accessioning maintenance along with furthering the preservation of numerous aspects of the Historical Society’s eclectic collections were the Curator’s area of focus along with the maintenance of all of the collection support files.

Penny Pardoe has worked extensively with the various pre-computer cataloging steps required for archival papers within the Historical Society’s Topical Collection.

Cecile Renzi has continued to catalog the Historical Society’s greeting card collection.

Allison White, a high school student, learned how to catalog and create PastPerfect records. She cataloged photographs spanning a range of local disasters including the 1936 Fire, fires at several business’s and scenes of local Nashua during the late 1930’s early 1940’s.

#### **The Museum’s Environment:**

Five Hobo devices designated to measure temperature and humidity were used in the basement and the attic of the Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum. The results of these Hobos have been maintained.

#### **Significant Collection Projects:**

Professional advice on how to significantly improve upon the storage for our collection of books and bound items was sought. A plan was created for archival shelving designed to fit the specific Historical Society’s collection needs. This project was focused upon after the unfortunate event of a large amount of water that entered the basement annex area and the refrigerator, ice cream freezer exhibit rooms.

#### **Donations and Acceptance:**

The most unique materials acquired for inclusion in The Nashua Historical Society’s Collection during this past year were:

#### **Books/Booklets/Archives:**

“Special Nashua Issue, May 1963, New Hampshire Profiles” Magazine

“Pride Inaugural Season 1998”

“Insurance Maps of Nashua New Hampshire” - a fire maps book, published by the Sanborn Map Company, 1912 with a May 1951 most recent addenda/index

“The Nashua And Nashville Directory 1853”, Nashua: Publisher, J.M. Fletcher

A Presentation of the Oldest Elm Tree in Nashua, located at Thoreau’s Landing that passed in 1998 from a disease common to Elm Tree’s

Fifteen Cassette Tapes of performances given between the years of 1980 and 1989 by “The Nashua Symphony Orchestra and The Nashua Choral Society”

#### **Objects:**

China souvenir dish, “First Church Nashua, NH”

Biscuit Crate, with a July 28, 1908 payment receipt “The C.H. Burke Baking Company, Manufacturers of Fine Crackers, Bread, Cake and Pastry” – located at the corners of Elm Street/Factory Street and Mulberry Streets

A “Nashua Fireman’s Badge - #61”

Two Original Windsor Chairs to the 1903 Hunt Memorial Library Building

A Small Girl Pajama Bag from the 1940’s

#### **Photographs:**

A c. 1900 print of the “Gregg and Son Plant”

Winter time photograph of the home located on the corner of Manchester and French Streets built and first owned by the lumberman who owned the “Gregg and Son Plant”

A c. 1810 photograph of “Back Rivers Upper Dam at Mine Falls Park”

#### **Craft Fair**

A committee has been formed for the Society to have a craft fair during Nashua’s 2019 Art Walk. Although Art Walk is a 2-day event, the craft fair will be held on one day Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The committee is in the process of establishing the guidelines for participating in the craft fair and the application that the crafters will need to submit. The committee is also compiling a list of crafters to contact to assess their availability to participate in the craft fair.

## **Education**

A group of Elm Street Middle School students toured the Speare the last day of school. Ralph Sommese, Ed Jean and Joanne Ouellette helped with the scavenger hunt tour which Margaret Garneau and Joanne O. had written.

In June, members of the DAR visited. They were enthralled with the Abbot house in particular.

In December, the Nashua Retired Teachers group and Ralph Sommese invited Joanne O. to their meeting to talk about opportunities for the Society and they to work together on some education programs with Nashua school children. In March, they held their meeting at the Society and then toured the Speare. We encouraged them to come back to see our “gem” Abbot House when they have time.

Also in March, 6 students and 3 adults from RSEC Academy visited the Speare Museum. Heather McPhie attends that school.

Heather McPhie used the resources at the Society to research and create a puzzle and answer key. It is titled NASHUA PEOPLE AND PLACES and was featured on the cover of the Spring 2019 newsletter.

The 2018 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Angela Beatrice. The selection committee is meeting May 22. The Society has received 22 applications this year.

## **Exhibits**

### **Community Exhibits:**

#### **The Display Case At Nashua’s City Hall:**

August-November “Amherst Street Now And Then”

November-Ongoing “The Pheasant Lane Mall”

Currently working on “Nashua’s Different Faiths”

### **Portsmouth Historical Society and the League of New Hampshire Crafters:**

“New Hampshire Folk Art: By The People and For The People” An Exhibition at the Portsmouth Historical Society, from April 5, 2019 through September 29, 2019

An 1840 portrait of Alfred Greeley by artist Zebekiah Belknap is on display as a participant artifact in this exhibition along with other artifacts from the collections of many different libraries, historical society’s and museums throughout New England. This portrait is usually on view within the Sitting Room of the Abbot-Spalding House Museum.

### **Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum:**

#### **First Floor:**

Within the Frank B. Clancy Esquire Library:

A special exhibit activity was displayed during Nashua’s October Art Walk, an exhibit of June Caron’s Park and Recreation Departments Scrap Books and Photographs were presented and available for review. A large percentage of the Park and Recreation Departments collection of photographs were organized for visitors to identify the people and places within them. This special exhibit was displayed for a second time during the month of May at the Nashua Senior Center.

### **Members Exhibits Displayed Within The Foyer Exhibit Cabinet:**

The willingness of our members as collectors to share their treasures with the visitors of The Nashua Historical Society determines the frequency and the subjects displayed within this exhibit space.

Member Dave Pinet shared his mother’s collection of vintage, circa 1940, 1950 aprons and ladies scarves. Titled “Do Our Children Know What An Apron Is?” This exhibit explains the history behind ladies aprons.

Member Suzanne (Sue) Smith shared her “Salt and Pepper Shakers Collection.” This collection started in the early 1960’s. Her husband’s grandmother, Mrs. Albenia Neverett, passed them down to Sue Smith as she was so fascinated with them and the interesting stories behind them. One set is from the 1934 Chicago World’s Fair and another pair is a set of cowboy boots from her husband’s first airplane trip to Texas.

An exhibit featuring the slices from two of The Nashua Historical Society’s Sugar Maple Trees was completed. Titled “Our Sugar Maple Trees: A History.” One tree slice from “The Octopus Tree” traces a Nashua History timeline between the years of 1933-2012. A second tree slice from “The Spalding Tree” traces a United States timeline between the years of 1945-2012.

### **Second Floor:**

Titled, “Preserving Nashua’s Past for the Future,” preparation exhibit work has occurred within the space that in the future will support the Historical Society’s re-launch of its “Adopt An Artifact Program.”

A Nashua made Early Antique Tool Exhibit utilizing tools from Nashua Collector Frank Mooney’s personal collection was almost completed. This exhibits descriptive text and accompanying photographs are with a printer.

### **Basement Level:**

The Historical Societies collection of metal plaques which range in subject, size and shape are in process of being mounted into a plaque exhibit.

### **On The Grounds of The Nashua Historical Society:**

An exhibit was completed that explains the different and unique to Nashua Triangular Manhole Covers. A mailbox post formerly located in front of 31 Haines Street which was used to hold a Doremus “Style B” Letter Box dating from 1922 was also described and exhibited.

### **The Abbot-Spalding House Museum:**

A special Exhibit featuring items of vintage sports and recreation clothing was presented throughout the Abbot-Spalding House Museum as part of Nashua’s October Art Walk.

Changes to maintain an authentic historical period atmosphere occurred as needed throughout the year.

## **Finance**

Fiscal years 2018/19 proved to be another sound financial year for the Society. A number of unexpected but necessary expenses were incurred i.e. Computer failures, lighting replacement, foundation leak problem, etc. which caused us to slightly exceed the 2018/2019 budget. This posed no financial problem, and the over budget items were all issues which would need to be addressed in the future anyway.

The Society’s operating budget for 2019/2020 is \$ 225,766. This is a slight increase over last year’s budget and we feel it is adequate to meet all our operating needs. Additionally, we keep adequate funds available to meet any unexpected emergencies.

As a result of current improvements in the financial markets our investments have grown over 2% this year even after disbursing close to \$180,000 in operating funds.

Our investment strategy continues to be balanced with a tilt to the conservative side. The finance committee meets semi-annually with our investment bankers to review strategies and assess fiscal results.

We anticipate 2019/2020 will be another successful year.

## **Futures Committee**

### **The Committee’s Mission Statement**

The purpose of the Futures Committee is to improve the health and longevity of The Nashua Historical Society by increasing both its membership and volunteer rolls; improving its community outreach and communication efforts; while simultaneously seeking to improve the quality and experience held by those included within its ranks.

The following is a list of some of the specific ideas that the committee members will focus on to benefit the historical society.

A Membership Survey was drafted and mailed out in the spring. Helpful information was obtained which will be applied to future actions and activities of The Nashua Historical Society.

The Membership Survey showed that members would like to volunteer at the historical society, but did not know what areas needed assistance. A description of these areas was drafted and will be distributed in future mailings and will also appear in future newsletters.

Another suggestion from the Membership Survey was for The Nashua Historical Society to collaborate with other Nashua organizations. To date, we have participated at two events at the Nashua Senior Activity Center, and we will be participating in another event with them soon. We are also exploring other ways to partner with local groups.

Members of the Retired Nashua Teacher's Association have met with Nashua Historical Society representatives. They agreed upon a goal of working together to bring Nashua History back into a specific grade level of all Nashua Schools. We are also looking for other ways to collaborate with different types of schools including private schools, colleges and universities.

Not only is the committee looking for ways to increase and create new ways for members of The Nashua Historical Society to engage with the Society, they are also looking to increase and create new activities for members of the public to become involved with the Society. This could include special openings of both museums; have the Abbot-Spalding House open on more occasions; hosting more community openings, etc. Ever present, the society should be looking for more ways to become more welcoming to all.

Activities typically take place at the Society in the evening. The suggestion is to alternate times of the activities to accommodate different schedules, for example, having some activities on a weekend or earlier in the day.

A presentation about the Nashua Historical Society's role within the community was created and presented to one of the Nashua Rotary groups, and it was presented to the Nashua Retired Teachers Association. This program is available to be presented to historical societies located within the surrounding Nashua Communities as well as other interested groups.

Another idea is to introduce theatre into activities. This has proven to work for other historical societies.

Expanding upon how we use Facebook is important. One idea is to introduce a history fun facts program that releases new local history fun facts on a regular basis. The committee is also looking at updating, expanding and adding new features to our website.

As a way of advertising an event, the suggestion was made to provide event information to downtown businesses to help promote the event.

With the historical society approaching its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the committee is planning to assemble a team to develop ideas on how to celebrate this achievement that will engage the community and encourage the involvement and retention of all historical society members.

### **Grounds**

Normal maintenance items:

Grass treatments and lime application completed!

Installing fountain and tweaking pump and water flow

Sprinkler system on and reduced coverage to every other day!

Replaced 3 heads that didn't operate (sprinkler heads)

Long term projects/capital improvements

Explore foundation in front of Museum for leakage into basement

Repair some asphalt spots in walkways/parking lot

Paint fence and repair 4-5 sections of damaged fence posts/rails

Pruning of large limbs/branches ( haven't done in 3 years)

Decide to remove front window wells on Library at repair stage of water source.

### **Membership**

Number of new members (5-1-2018- 4-30-2019): 7

Current Memberships

Adult 40

Family 29

Student 0

Life 47

Museums, Libraries

and Complimentary 60

Total Number of Memberships 176

Sadly 3 members died during the year. They were Shirley Hart, Susan Hackney and Joseph Hogan

### **Office**

We were fortunate enough to be able to replace our photocopier. The new one has been a huge improvement. We were also able to replace our dated telephone system. We continue to learn about the features.

Two newsletters were mailed out in the past year. One was mailed in the fall and one in the spring.

A reception was held for Angela Beatrice who was the 2018 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship recipient. Angela was very appreciative of the award. She graduated from Nashua High School North and will be attending Rivier University where she plans to student history and environmental science.

Hannaford Grocery store made NHS the recipient for their Community bag program. NHS was very appreciative of their donation.

The annual member potluck was held on January 26. Entertainment was provided by the Silver Linings, a singing group from the Nashua Senior Center. Our own Bob Bates had a solo. The Volunteer Luncheon was held at the Courtyard Marriott April 7. The highlight was a trivia game put together by Barbara Comer, Ralph Sommese and Barbara Bankeroff.

Periodically, NHS receives requests for someone to speak to various organizations. Ralph Sommese, who is one of our volunteers and a former teacher, has agreed to fill that role. In February he spoke to the Rotary Club of Nashua about NHS, the museums and volunteer opportunities.

During Art Walk in October, 2018, NHS had photos from the June Caron photo collection on display for guests to help us identify the people in the photographs. To continue with trying to have the people in the photographs identified, NHS also had a table at the Nashua Senior Center in May 7. Progress is being made in identifying the people in the photos.

One of the suggestions of the Futures Committee is to expand the visibility of NHS in the community. To that end, NHS had an information table at the Nashua Senior Center Flea Market and Book Sale in April. We are also planning to have an information table at the Volunteer Fair at the Nashua Library in June and at the Multi-Cultural Festival in September.

### **Programs**

Four programs were presented in the past year. They were all well attended and feedback was positive. We have been fortunate to receive two grants from New Hampshire Humanities, Humanities to Go! Speakers Bureau for the programs on November 10, 2018 and April 30, 2019.

September 18, 2018

October 16, 2018

November 10, 2018

April 30, 2019

Restoration of the American Chestnut Tree

Researching Your French-Canadian Ancestors

That Reminds me of a Story

Putting Human Faces on the Textile Industry: The Workers of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company

### Refreshments

Our refreshments committee met three times this past year to discuss recipes, table decorations and goodies to bring to our four programs. Our March program had to be rescheduled because of technical difficulties. Trying new dishes is part of the fun about being on this committee. At the beginning of this year a few of us decided to reorganize the kitchen and pantry area. We can now find items in a more timely fashion and the areas look great. Once again we assisted the office committee with several mailings.

On a sad note we lost one of our best bakers, Shirley Hart. She is greatly missed. On a happier note we have been joined by Barbara Blake and welcome Lorna Stickney to our group.

### Research

- Total Research Request (1243-1290) 47 Research Requests
- Number of Requests Completed 47 Completed
- Total NH Requests 26 NH Requests
- Nashua Requests 16 Nashua Requests
- Genealogy Requests 16 Genealogy
- History Requests 22 History
- Photographs Requests 15 Photos
- Referred Out 12 Out

### Technology

A new computer was installed on our network. It replaced the Server that no longer booted. Replacement of the 6 other computers on our network running the Windows 7 operating system is planned before January 2020. The new computers will have Windows 10 for the operating system as Microsoft is no longer supporting Windows 7 after January 14, 2020.

The museum software PastPerfect is used for processing artifacts and for membership. This database resides on the Server and is backed up several ways: online backup by Carbonite and a periodic manual backup to a portable hard drive, a flash drive, and a computer other than the Server. Also all files in a shared area on the Server are backed up in this fashion. This ensures that in case of a catastrophic issue with the Server, our database will not be lost. At this point, a total of 16.3 gigabytes of data are being backed up – 10.9 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 5.4 gigabytes of data in the shared area. This is an increase of 1.4 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 1 gigabyte of shared data on the Server over last year.

We upgraded to PastPerfect 5 in the fall of 2018. Version 5 gives us the capability of putting our catalog records on-line for some of our artifacts, thus giving the Society’s collection wider exposure.

### Treasurer’s Report

Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Annual budget was	\$239,984.05
Total expenses were	\$258,289.25
Difference	\$18,305.52*

NHS has updated various areas in the Spere to save on costs going forward.

### Visitors Report

The Abbot Spalding house had 19 visitors this past year. The house was open for the Art Walk in October. Unfortunately, the bad weather kept the attendance low. We are fortunate to continue to have wonderful volunteers to act as docents.

The Spere Museum had 316 visitors.

Visitors from New Hampshire included Amherst, Brookline, Concord, Derry, Dover, Enfield, Greenville, Hanover, Hillsboro, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Lyndeborough, Manchester, Merrimack, Mont Vernon, Nashua and Pelham.

Visitors from Massachusetts included Chelmsford, North Chelmsford and Tewksbury

Several groups were a part of the numbers above including the Matthew Thornton Chapter, DAR; Elm Street Middle School; students from Rivier University and members of the Hunt Community.

### Volunteer Committee

This past fiscal year which runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> we had forty-four (44) volunteers to help us run our museums. Thirty-eight (38) adult volunteers, three (3) college age volunteers and three high school volunteers. Many of our volunteers wear more than one hat and we would be lost without their talents and expertise. Our volunteers work in various areas within the two museums from research requests, textiles, computer accessions, grounds and buildings to refreshments. Again this year we were able to thank our volunteers for their generous time by treating them to lunch during volunteer appreciation week in April.

It is traditional to count up the volunteer hours for this annual report. This year we amassed a total, far surpassing last year, of six thousand, six hundred and eighty-two hours.

As your volunteer coordinator I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your outstanding dedication and for a job well done.

### **END OF REPORT**

## **Nashua, NH: History of the City of Nashua, N.H. aka Parker’s**

Annie L. Goodrich was a dedicated Society volunteer in the 1930’s and 1940’s. One of the many ways that she contributed was to write an index to accompany the book, Nashua, NH: History of the City of Nashua, N.H. This book is commonly referred to as Parker’s as Judge Edward E. Parker was the Editor in Chief.

The original Parker’s was 638 pages with no index. This, obviously, made the book difficult to use. Ms. Goodrich took it upon herself to compile a 164 page index, and NHS was fortunate to receive a copy which we use to this day.

Recently we became aware that Higginson Book Company is selling reprints of Parkers. We were able to partner with them so now the index is included in the book. If you would like to order your own copy of this updated book, please go to [www.HigginsonBooks.com](http://www.HigginsonBooks.com). Search for the key word “Nashua”. (It’s the only title that comes up.) At check out, Nashua Historical Society members may then apply special discount code: **NHS** at checkout in order to receive a 25% discount on the book. (Shipping costs are additional).

### **Annual Volunteer Luncheon**

The Society is fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers that help us in countless ways throughout the year. In April, we were able to celebrate these remarkable people with a luncheon at the Courtyard Marriott.



In addition to comradery and a good meal, the highlight was a Nashua trivia game that Barbara Comer, Ralph Sommese and Barbara Bankeroff created. This game was a fun way to test the knowledge of everyone present.

## Fall Programs for 2019

All programs are presented at *The Nashua Historical Society, 5 Abbott Street, Nashua, New Hampshire*. The programs are free and open to the public. For more information please email: [nashuahistorical@comcast.net](mailto:nashuahistorical@comcast.net), call 603-883-0015 or visit our website: [nashuahistoricalociety.org](http://nashuahistoricalociety.org)

### Saturday, November 9, at 2:00 p.m. Vanished Veterans – NH's Civil War Monuments and Memorials

New Hampshire towns did not erect monuments to prior wars, but the emotional and family toll, unprecedented in American history, drove the decision to honor our local soldiers and sailors of the War of Rebellion. From Seabrook to Colebrook, Berlin to Hinsdale, along Main Streets and 19th-century dirt roads, in city parks and on town greens, in libraries and town halls, and in cemeteries prominent and obscure, **George Morrison** will present how he located, inventoried, and photographed the fascinating variety of New Hampshire's Civil War memorials. This program is **free and open to the public** through a grant from the NH Humanities' Humanities to Go! Speaker's Bureau.

### Art Walk 2019

Art Walk 2019 was a busy weekend for the Society. On Saturday, both the Abbot House and Speare Museum were open for tours, and this year the Society held its first Artisan Craft Fair in the Frank Clancy Library.

Then on Sunday afternoon Marianne O'Connor presented her updated book Haunted Hikes of New Hampshire, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. It made for a busy weekend, but we were thrilled with the turnout and the response from everyone who attended.



A preview of several crafts tables, ready for customers

## City Hall Exhibit

Please visit The Nashua Historical Society's changing exhibit case at Nashua's City Hall. The current exhibit is a history of the Pheasant Lane Mall.



## More Tool Exhibit Photos

