



Nashua Historical Society

Issue No.2

Summer 2017

www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org

2017 Scholarship Recipient

The Nashua Historical Society carried on the tradition of awarding the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship to an outstanding high school student who resides in Nashua and attends a Nashua high school.

On Tuesday, June 20, NHS held a reception to honor this year's recipient, Megan Pardoe. Megan recently graduated from Nashua High School South. As well as being an excellent student, she also volunteers at Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and works part time at Market Basket.



Megan with her proud parents Debra and Magnus Pardoe.



Megan will be attending Nashua Community College where she plans to major in History and Political Science.

see more photos on page 11

President's Message

You will find our Annual Meeting reports in this edition of the newsletter. Among them is the Volunteer Report. The fact that fifty-two volunteers put in a combined total of 4916 hours doing the Society's work is AMAZING, so amazing that it might lead one to believe that all of our needs for assistance are met. **That is not the case!**

An unwritten and very wise policy of Curator Beth McCarthy and Volunteer Chairperson Margaret Garneau is that they focus on finding projects that are of interest to each volunteer. Some folks are open to any project that needs attention, or perhaps they already have a skillset that they would like to use. We provide any training needed.

Active committees include not only Collection but also a number of others including, but not limited to, Research & Records, Exhibit, Newsletter, Office, Refreshments & Kitchen, Grounds & Properties, Programs and Finance.

With this varied menu of committees, we always have projects, chores and needs just waiting for a volunteer to "adopt." We will ask you to come in and meet with us so that we can explore the possibilities with you. Some of our volunteers have a particular day or times when they wish to come in while others like to be flexible. We do our best to accommodate.

The bottom line is that the Nashua Historical Society welcomes you as a volunteer!

Joanne Ouellette, President

NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

What Stories Do You Have to Share?

We are always looking for ideas for newsletter articles. Our members have some great stories and memories of Nashua. We would love for you to share them with us so we can include them in the newsletter. Please write up one of your Nashua memories and email it to: nashuahistorical@comcast.net. If, like many people, you think you do not have a talent for writing, call Eileen at the Society and set up a time to meet with her, and you can write it together.

Board Reports from the Annual Meeting that was held on May 16, 2017

All board reports were respectfully submitted by the committee chair people and the members of each committee. The original reports are on file at The Nashua Historical Society.

President's Report:

Welcome to the 147th Annual Meeting of the Nashua Historical Society. Tonight our committee reports will tell of the accomplishments and challenges that the Society has experienced this year. Some highlights include continued financial stability thanks to the Finance Committee and the staff watching our expenses, continued progress in reorganizing our storage spaces, continued progress, in part, thanks to two new volunteers with background and experience with textiles, volunteers who come in regularly to work on projects and others who are on call for special events, our buildings and grounds being well maintained, our Nominating Committee finding excellent candidates.

Buildings Report:

Speare Museum: Repaired rotted column base in front of building. Repaired cupola. Replaced sump pump in elevator shaft. Replace broken check valve on sump pump in basement Art Room.

Abbot-Spalding House: Painted east side of house. Repaired rotted boards on east side porches.

Both Buildings: Repairing and Replacing shutters (ongoing)

Collection Committee: 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 05/04/2016-04/18/2017

Collection Records 29,640	5,227
Objects 2,638	492
Photographs 23,588	2,736
Archives 6,170	269
Library 808	67

Items in Container List 3,653	1,430
Accessions 4,032	158
Contacts 2,523	66

Collection Records:

Sandra Axton created 252 collection records, Barbara Bankeroff created 377 collection records, Ron Burgess created 3 collection records, Eastman Chandler, Intern created 64 collection records, Barbara Comer, Collection Technician created 799 collection records, Susan Fineman created 25 collection records, Paul Friday created 343 collection records, Janice Fronco created 4 collection records, Bryan Herring created 30 collection records, Eileen Herring created 347 collection records, Sarah Jauris created 741 collection records, Rose Markiewicz created 5 collection records, Mary Claire Martin created 21 collection records, Dorothy Perrucci created 20 collection records, Cecile Renzi created 234 collection records, Brenna Rose created 4 collection records, Ethan Rose created 71 collection records, Pudt Singh created 77 collection records, Patrick and Matt/Rick Walker created 779 collection records, and Sue Young created 200 collection records.

Accession Records:

Barbara Comer, Collection Technician created 8 accession records, Barbara Bankeroff created 8 accession records, Margaret Garneau created 85 accession records and Beth McCarthy, Curator created 57 accession records. Numerous materials belonging to many of the existing accession records have been added to existing accession records.

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The Museum's Environment:

Five Hobo devices designated to measure temperature, humidity and dew point were used within the basement and the attic of the Florence Speare Memorial Museum. The captured results of these Hobos have been maintained and will be applied towards future museum improvements.

Individual Contributions to the Collection:

Sandra Axton has continued to research a variety of history related aspects relative to the Abbot-Spalding House. She has researched and cataloged numerous different collections of various years of Nashua High School Graduation Class Photographs. She has worked on the research required for the identification of different events viewed within the photographs from the June Caron Park and Recreation Collection. This has allowed the cataloging of them to become an easier task. Sandi has worked on the organization required for the pre-cataloging of the many images located within the binders from the "Kids Into Drama" archives donation. She has completed catalog records for many of these "Kids Into Drama" photographs.

Barbara Bankeroff fulfilled the management of The Nashua Historical Society's computer network and the collection management software, Past Perfect. Barbara has trained new Past Perfect users, and she has been the computer support person to all of the Past Perfect 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 though out the collection. She has worked on the pre-cataloging tasks for numerous artifacts, and she has assisted with the cataloging of numerous recently acquired eclectic artifacts. Cataloging glass photograph plates from different collections and various booklets from different collections have been areas of focus for Barbara during this past year. She has been an instrumental participant with all aspects of the ongoing reorganization of the attic project.

Ron Burgess has learned how to catalog objects within Past Perfect. He has cataloged objects from the Historical Society's Military Collection.

Eastman Chandler, a Hollis Brookline School student pursuing an internship at the Historical Society has continued to apply his learned Past Perfect skills, and he has completed numerous photograph catalog records on a Collection of Nashua Tie Plant Photographs.

Barbara Comer, Collection Technician, continued to research and furthered information into the catalog records of different eclectic items. She completed numerous accession records and furthered many more accession records as more materials were successfully linked up to their rightful accession records. She has assisted with all aspects of the ongoing reorganization of the attic project.

Barbara Comer has been the lead person for researching, accessioning and cataloging Frank Mooney's large eclectic collection of Nashua materials.

Barbara Comer has been the lead cataloger of the large "Kids Into Drama" archive donation.

Susan Fineman has continued to catalog photographs that have an emphasis on Nashua schools.

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

Janice Franco, a textile conservator, has been applying her expertise by providing guidance and hands-on helpfulness towards the Historical Society's textile collection.

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Patrick and Matt, students from the Plus Company, and their counselors have completed cataloging the large Collection of Pickering Nashua Business Cards. They have cataloged an assortment of sport and recreation event photographs from Nashua's June Caron Park and Recreation Collection. They have been cataloging Frank Mooney's Matchbook Collection.

Margaret Garneau has been creating accession records for the completed Research and Records requests.

Bryan Herring completed catalog records on many of the Historical Society's bottles.

Eileen Herring completed container list catalog records on portions of our genealogy files. She learned how to catalog photographs and non-container list archival materials into Past Perfect. She completed many archival and photograph records.

Sarah Jauris learned how to catalog and properly store photographs. Then completed many catalog records from the Mike Shalhoup Photograph and Negative Collection. Mike Shalhoup was a long time photographer for the Nashua Telegraph Newspaper.

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.

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 care were the Curator's area of focus; along with the maintenance of all of the collection support files. Oversight, support, participation and assistance with both the Scrapbook and the Textile projects were provided.

Beth attended the NEMA, New England Museum Association, conference as a staff development opportunity titled: Plugin Museums & Social Action.

Joanne Ouellette has worked with the de-accession items. Numerous gifts were made to other historical societies and other museums. Some deaccession items have been identified as items that will be given to the Brookline Auction Gallery. Joanne has been an active participant with the Historical Society Textile project.

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

Dorothy Perrucci learned how to catalog glass plates and she completed catalog records for glass plates within the Frank M. Ingalls Glass Slide Collection.

Brenna Rose learned how to catalog photographs, and she has completed photograph records for the Davis Photograph Collection.

Ethan Rose learned how to catalog objects, and he completed catalog records on various military items.

Alice Sheridan learned how to sew the spines/bindings of archival booklets. She removed the staples and sewed new spines/bindings into all of the Nashaway Woman's Club Yearbooks/Booklets between the years of 1896-1968.

Pudt Singh learned how to catalog photographs, and he completed catalog records on photographs within the Davis Photograph Collection.

Cecile Renzi has been working with the Historical Society's Postcard Collection. She has been creating new Post Card catalog records, and she has been updating existing Post Card records. Cecile has been an active participant with the Scrap Book project.

Sue Young completed catalog records on the Society's shoe collection. She learned how to catalog women's fans and is in the process of doing the cataloging.

Significant Collection Project:

In addition to the exhibit on September 24, 2016 of the archives of the "Kids Into Drama" collection, complete accessioning and a large portion of the cataloging, which is ongoing was completed for this collection. The over three hundred and fifty previously unidentified people were matched up with their own likeness's throughout the hundreds of photographs which incorporate this collection.

Textiles:

During the winter of 2016, members of the Collection Committee undertook a Textile Survey. They met with and worked with two consultants, Kathryn Tarleton, a Textile Conservator and Lynne Bassett, a Textile Historian. Thirteen involved textile tasks were articulated for the Collection Committee members to complete. These textile task recommendations were taken seriously and through the efforts of the Collection Committee members combined with additional assistance from two of our newer members/volunteers, Janice Franco, a retired textile Conservator and Paula Lochhead, a retired individual with extensive textile knowledge, our Collection Committee members became extremely successful with working towards overcoming the recommended thirteen involved textile tasks which were articulated in the Textile Survey.

Donations and Acceptance:

The most unique materials acquired for inclusion within the Historical Society's Collection during this past year were:

Books/Booklets/Archives:

A binder belonging to "Francis J. Sullivan, M.A.I" which contains fifty-four images and information on Nashua buildings that no longer exist

A book "The Early History of New England" by Rev. Henry White, 1841

The archives of "Kids Into Drama", a former successful theatrical troupe who worked out of the former Nashua Arts and Science Building

A Book "The Life of Christina Stanowska, 1890-1979" written by granddaughter, Linda Olsen depicts her family's life in Nashua whose homestead was located on the corner of Pine Street and Nagle Streets.

A Magazine "The Granite State Monthly: New Hampshire State Magazine" which featured "Daniel Webster Highway"

A book "The Genealogy of My House" located at 51 Pine Hill Avenue (1850-2016)

A book "Arnold Palmer: A Personal Journey" (preservation of the history of golf at the Nashua Country Club)

A framed Map showing the "Dunstable/Nashua boundary changes from 1673-1985"

Objects:

Three Indian Head Bank Employee Service Year Pins and a Belt Buckle

A paperweight "Sprague Nashua Credit Union, 1949-1974"

A Lineman's Belt, Tool Holder and Tree Pole Climbing Spikes belonging to Harvey Bellefleur, a career Nashua Public Service employee

A Sabre, Leather Belt, Brass Buckle, Canteen, Spurs, Gaiter and a Brass Coat Button all worn by Nashuan Civil War Captain, James H. Marshall. He served in both the 1st and the 8th Regiments of New Hampshire

Two Powerloom Shuttles manufactured by Nashua's Eaton and Ayer Company

A Register made by Nashua's Union Register Company.

Photographs:

Numerous images of President Jimmy Carter speaking at a Nashua High School event
Several Images of Royden Sanders viewing a computer/printer
An early photograph of the “Junction of Lake and Main Streets”

Education Committee:

Scholarship Recipient: Shane LeGraw was the 2016 recipient of the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship. Twenty-four people attended including Shane LeGraw, his parents and brother. It was a lovely evening. Shane was presented with a framed certificate and a check for \$1,150.00. Shane plans to major in Political Science at St. Anselm College. He eventually would like to attend law school and possibly run for State Representative. Thanks to the Refreshment Committee: Margaret Garneau, Judy Hemenway, Jean Wells, Mary Dulski and Susan Young.

Exhibit Committee:

Community Exhibits:

The Display Case at Nashua’s City Hall
May-November “Nashua’s Landmarks and Icons”
November-February “Amherst Street”
February-Ongoing “Nashua’s Hospitals”

The Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum:

Additional small changes occurred throughout all of the Speare Museum’s Exhibit spaces as new items entered the collection, and/or someone rediscovered something old.

First Floor:

A Special Exhibit: “Kids Into Drama”

On September 24, 2016, within the Frank B. Clancy Esquire Library, the Historical Society opened an exhibit on the “Kids Into Drama” archives. “(KID)” was a drama troupe which existed in Nashua between 1981-1988. It included young performers between sixth grade and high school. This Troupe was started by Bob Haven as one of his graduate school projects. Year 2016, marked the 35th Anniversary of the beginnings of “Kids Into Drama” and the alumni in attendance were excited to be reunited and to have a chance to reminisce over the content of this Troupe’s archives. The alumni in attendance were able to identify over three hundred and fifty previously unidentified alumni of the “Kids Into Drama” Troupe.

The Frank B. Clancy Esquire Library:

A small exhibit on Nashua’s Mills was presented within a portion of this Library’s Bookcases.

Rose Markiewicz shared her collection Fair Lamps. These Vaseline glass pieces are also known as Fairy Lights, Candle Lamps and Windowed Shade Candle Lights. Within this exhibit Rose has also shared her collection of Staffordshire Dogs which include a pair of Poodles and numerous King Charles Spaniels.

Member, **Bobbi Knickerbocker** worked with fellow members of the Nashaway Woman’s Club. Together, they presented an exhibit utilizing this group’s archives and heritage items in celebration of the Nashaway Woman’s Clubs 120th Anniversary.

Robert Garneau has shared a portion of his United States of America Postage Stamp Collection. His collection and this exhibit includes “The Penny Black” stamp which was the world’s first postage stamp issued in Great Britain in 1840.

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Second Floor:

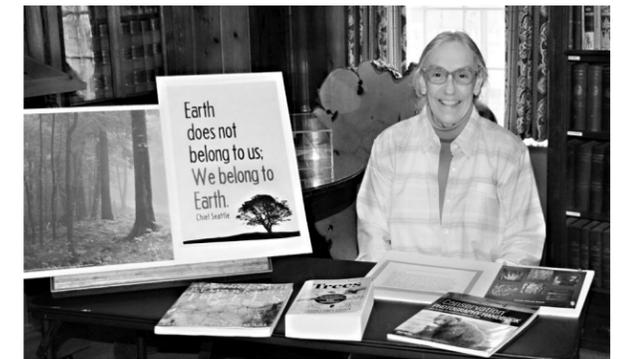
Preparatory work occurred within the space that in the future will support the Historical Society’s Adopt an Artifact Program titled “Preserving Nashua’s Past for the Future.”

The Abbot-Spalding House Museum:

After having been closed for a significant portion of the previous year, due to interior water damage, the Abbot-Spalding House was available for a full year of visitation. As the Seasons changed so did the floral accent arrangements throughout the House Museum.

Refreshment Report:

The refreshment committee would like to report another great year of delicious food. As well as participating at five programs during the year our committee helped organize the scholarship reception, the annual pot luck holiday party and a small bake sale at Earth Day. Our committee also assisted the office committee with sending out five mailings. We look forward to another scrumptious year!



Research Committee Report:

Total Research Requests	64
# Requests Completed	63
Total NH Requests	46
Nashua Requests	29
Genealogy Requests	12
History Requests	27
Misc. Requests	10
Photo	7
Referred out	8
Total Since 2003	1234



Visitors Report:

The Abbot Spalding house had 52 visitors this past year. Docents/Guides included Sandy Axton, Joanne Ouellette, Marti Spalding, Ginny Nedved-Cook, Gail Pinet, Dave Pinet, Alice Sheridan and Beth McCarthy.

The Abbot Spalding house was open for the Kids into Drama Open House on September 24, 2016, the Art Walk on October 15, 2016 and for a combined Arbor Day and Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2017. The house was not open during the summer.

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Visitor's Report, continued

The Speare Museum had 497 visitors. Local visitors to both museums came from Nashua, Hudson, Litchfield, Hillsboro, Merrimack, Pembroke, Derry, Amherst, Hollis, Henniker, Warren, Bedford, Manchester, Londonderry, Plaistow, Dover, Epsom, Concord, and Milford.

In addition, we had visitors from California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Florida, Connecticut, Vermont, and Brazil.

Included in the 497 visitors were several school groups doing research for class projects. More information about these groups are in the Education Committee Report. The volunteers that helped these groups were Joanne Ouellette, Beth McCarthy, Margaret Garneau, Rose Markiewicz and Anita Vassar.

School Tours

Four groups comprised of 80 Elm Street Middle School eighth-grade students visited the Society over two days in early May to explore possible topics and to do research for projects having to do with Nashua. At the Society, they viewed a slide presentation with the answers to their historic buildings and sites "hunt" as they walked from the school to the Society. Steve Largy, a NHS member and teacher, has put together this learning activity. At that point each day, half of the group headed to historic Holman Stadium for a tour while the others began their search for information at NHS. The students were well-prepared and focused on the task at hand. Thanks to NHS volunteers, all of the students were offered the opportunity to see what is currently on display at the Speare. NHS is thankful to Sandra Axton, Margaret Garneau, Rose Markiewicz, Beth McCarthy, and Joanne Ouellette for assisting with the students. Later this month, we expect 120 more Elm Street eighth-graders over two full days.

Robyn Griswold a professor from the Nashua Community College brought ten of her students to talk with Beth McCarthy about historiography and her role as the curator.

A Hudson, New Hampshire, Tiger Cub group accompanied by parents toured the Speare Museum as part of their badge earning activities. NHS guide-volunteers led them through the exhibits. Their leader was very grateful that we were able to accommodate them at a time when we are not open to the public.

Volunteer Report:

The Society is very fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented volunteers to maintain our two museums and document and look after all the artifacts in our care. We have fifty two (52) volunteers, five of whom were students, work a total of four thousand nine hundred and sixteen (4916) hours this fiscal year. Without these volunteers the Society would not be running so smoothly and we would not have been able to have open house special events such as the Nashua Garden Club Plant Sale, the City Art Walk or the Earth Day Celebration. So let us give a big round of applause to all of our wonderful volunteers.

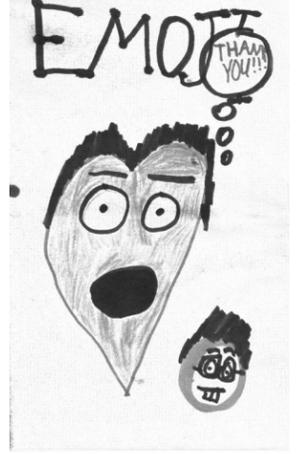
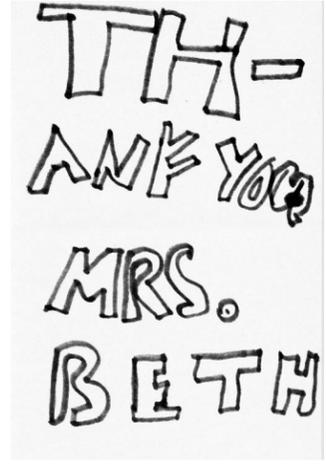
Rotating Exhibit at the Speare Museum

We are very pleased that Robert Garneau is exhibiting a portion of his stamp collection with us. The exhibit is in the front foyer of the Speare Museum. Robert has many interesting and unique stamps, including The Penny Black which was the first postage stamp issued.



School Tours

One of the many fun things we get to do at the Society is to give tours to school groups and scout troops and to assist them in doing projects while they are here. These groups are all ages from elementary school to college. They are diverse groups that we learn as much from them as they learn from us.



Member's 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.



Rose Markiewicz presented Megan with this year's scholarship award



From left to right; Grandmother Susan Pardoe, Sister MacKenzie, Mother Debra, Megan, Father Magnus, and Aunt Penny Pardoe.

Programs

We have some exciting programs planned for the fall. Leading off will be:

The Capital Crime of Witchcraft: What the Primary Sources Tell Us on Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. This program focuses on the Salem witchcraft trials of 1692 and 1693, when nineteen people were hanged and one crushed to death, but also examines a variety of other colonial witchcraft cases in New Hampshire and Connecticut. This program is presented through a grant from Humanities to Go!

On October 17, Hans Hug will be returning to the Society. This time he will present his program on the **Wrecks of Winnepesaukee**. Hans has dived all over Lake Winnepesaukee bringing side scan sonar with him each time. He has located more than 70 wrecks in the lake including large pieces of the original steamer Mt. Washington, captured hundreds of images on side scan sonar and photographed and videotaped many of the wrecks.

Our final program of the fall will compliment Veteran's Day. On Sunday, November 12 at 2 p.m., Cal Knickerbocker will talk about the advertising messages that were designed to inspire participation in the war effort. We will play many radio public service "spots," as well as show and discuss a number of magazine ads which illustrate this concerted effort.

Beginning Quilting Class with Gail Pinet

Periodically, The Nashua Historical Society offers classes on traditional crafts. We are pleased that Gail Pinet is offering a beginner hand quilting class on September 9, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. In this class you will learn how to make one hand-quilted square that you can use to begin a larger project.

The cost of for the class is \$30. You will be given a kit with everything you need except the fabric and scissors. Prior to coming to class, you will need to purchase 1/2 yard of 2 or 3 different fabrics. One piece of fabric should be a dark print. The second piece of fabric should be a light print. The third piece of fabric is optional and can be another print or a solid. The fabric needs to be 100% cotton. Also, please bring a pair of scissors.

Gail Pinet has been quilting for 40 years. She has been a member of the Souhegan Valley Quilters Guild for 18 years. Gail has made hundreds of quilts. A sample of Gail's work is on display at The Nashua Historical Society.

Registration is **required** as the class size is limited to eight participants. The deadline for registering is Tuesday, September 5. You can register and make arrangements for prepayment by calling 603-883-0015 or email Nashuahistorical@comcast.net.

PayPal and Facebook

Did you know that you can now renew your membership, make a donation or purchase an item through our website using PayPal? If you do not have a PayPal account, it is easy to check out as a guest. The Nashua Historical Society now has a Facebook account. Please "like" us to keep up with the latest NHS events, programs and news

Rotating City Hall Exhibit

The Nashua Historical Society has a rotating exhibit at the Nashua City Hall. The next time you are in Nashua, please look at the display case on the first floor by the elevator. The current exhibit is an interesting look at the history of Nashua hospitals from the 19th century until today.