The Nashua Historical Society

Preserving the Past for the Future

Issue No. 1 - July 2026 www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org



Our 2026 Nashua Historical Society Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship recipient, Eric Picano



Our REV 250 event poster

Greetings, my fellow historians!

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer - or, if you're not a beach lover or sun worshipper, dealing with it while waiting for the cool, brisk offerings the autumn has in store.

So what have we been up to over at 5 Abbot Street? I'm very pleased to report we, the board members, staff, and volunteers, finally seem to be on an upswing, with things beginning to fall our way after more than a year enduring - but most importantly, meeting head-on - a seemingly endless barrage of setbacks involving pretty much every phase of The Society's operations.

High on that list was the process of finding, vetting, interviewing and, finally, welcoming qualified folks to fill three positions. We decided to split the administrative assistant position into two, adding a 7-hours per-week "hybrid" position for which we chose Nicholas Camuso, a young man from Londonderry, whose expertise is in all things digital, social media, familiarity with many platforms, and marketing/promoting events on our website and Facebook and others.

For the administrative assistant job, we hired Angela "Angie" Smith, a Nashua resident with extensive experience as an executive assistant and office manager at the Nashua Public Library.

Earlier, we hired Matt Bull, who happens to be the secretary of our board, as a collection technician. Among his various attributes, Matt required almost no training, and was up to speed the first day.

Aside from our new hires, Beth and Barbara have been busy arranging and following through on summer/fall projects, the biggest of which is applying for an LCHIP grant to help fund necessary repairs and upgrades to the Abbot-Spalding House.

Please visit us often at www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org for upcoming programs and events. If you wish, contact us at nashuahistorical@comcast.net.

See you soon!

Dean Shalhoup

President

Abbot-Spalding House 1 Nashville Street/1 Abbot Square Nashua, NH
Florence H. Speare Museum 5 Abbott Street, Nashua, NH 03064-2119
(603)883-0015, fax (603)889-8515
nashuahistorical@comcast.net

Collection Committee Annual Report 2025 - 2026

A Special thank you goes out to The Nashua Historical Society staff and volunteers for the significant progress on collection projects that were accomplished during this past year. We were fortunate to have achieved all that has occurred.

Total # Records in Past Perfect: 52,553	**Added This Year**
Objects: 6,393	261
Photographs: 27,950	545
Archives: 9,250	502
Library: 1,014	14
Accessions: 4,891	37
Contacts: 3,055	125
Items in Container List: 7,641	8

Individual Contributions to the Collection:

Emma Ahern learned how to catalog photographs in Past Perfect. As a high school student, she completed 47 photographs records.

Chris Allan cataloged 410 photographs on various Nashua residents and photographs from the extensive June Caron Park and Recreation collection.

Barbara Bankeroff fulfilled the management of the Nashua Historical Society's 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 has worked on many photograph and research requests, and has completed 99 catalog records on a variety of photographs eclectic items and documents.

Matthew Bull cataloged 124 catalog records on a variety of materials. He provided archival storage support to a variety of different collections and items found throughout the collection.

Jeremy Frazier continued to provide support to the World War II veterans interview project and documentary.

Janice Fronco, a textile conservator, continued to apply her expertise while providing guidance and hands-on-helpfulness with the Historical Society's extensive Textile Collection. She has assumed all of the accessioning, cataloging storage and care needs for all of the incoming textile donations. Janice has completed 265 catalog records.

Matt, a client of The Plus Company, and **Evan**, an employee of the Plus Company, organized for cataloging numerous paper advertisements from previous Nashua companies. Matt completed 124 catalog records for business receipts. Both the business receipts and the advertisements Matt worked with are from the Frank Mooney collection.

Paula Lochhead is a textile expert who has continued to provide her expertise, guidance, and assistance to The Historical Society's textile collection. He researched specific textiles within The Historical Society collection, created a textile exhibit spanning a variety of eras for the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce's annual Gala.

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 Curators area of focus along with the maintenance of all of the collection support files.

Blair Shewan, an intern from the Nashua Community College, learned how to catalog photographs in Past Perfect and she completed 44 catalog records on Nashua Street scene photographs sheets with descriptions.

Donations and Acceptance:
Each year the Historical Society receives numerous materials for collection acceptance consideration. New to the collection highlights include:

Archives: An 1887, Entertainment Advertisement Poster for Conclave T.B. Crowley who performed at Nashua City Hall, cost of the tickets were 25 cents, Envelope from "The Nash Casino",

Images: A colorized portrait of former Nashua Governor, Francis Purnell Murphy, and a photograph of a c. 1938 Military Parade Moving North to South on Nashua's Main Street.

Artifacts: A 2004, Nashua High School Class Key, A 2007 Nashua High School Class Key, 2 Holman Stadium Seats; numbers 1 and 13, 6 Silver butter knives made by E.E. Cheney, World War I American Expeditionary Forces 19th Field Artillery Unit Flag, silk from 1914-1918, a 1861 United States military dog tag formerly belonging to Thomas Donohue, Co. B., 10th Regiment, Nashua, New Hampshire Volunteer, a 1896 Marshall Field brand pink faille silk with velvet piping, ivory lace, silver beading gown (worn by Florence Runnells Bryant), a circa 1820 Ivory wool home spun blanket with the initials A.H.F., and a man's frock coat from circa 1900.

Respectfully Submitted, Beth McCarthy, Curator, Barbara Bankeroff, Director, Janice Fronco, and Paula Lochhead



1972 Speare Museum dedication picture

Annual Exhibit Report 2025 - 2026

The Nashua Historical Society experienced a year of great learning through the numerous exhibits that were continued, created and shared. Thank you to all of the staff and volunteers who diligently worked on these exhibit goals.

Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum:

The Frank B. Clancy Library Exhibits:
Little Red Riding Hood and Tea Time
Steeped In 1776 – A Reflection of 250

Host Site for An Exhibit Presented By:
The Matthew Thornton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution – Nashua
A descriptive exhibit with a location map to all of the DAR sponsored Monuments located throughout Nashua.

Abbot-Spalding House Museum:
An special exhibit continued featuring 1940's era artifacts, including gowns and uniforms, from the Nashua Historical Society's collection.

Nashua City Hall Exhibit Case:
Nashua's Humane Society

Nashua Public Library:
A new exhibit case purchased by The Friends of the Nashua Public Library has allowed the Historical Society to have rotating exhibits reflecting the collection at the Public Library.

This exhibit case has been shared with The Matthew Thornton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution – Nashua and the Nashua sponsored DAR Monuments with descriptions and a location map are displayed.

Community Exhibit Booths:
Nashua's Sustainability Fair – An interactive display on Natural Fibers
Volunteer Fair – An Introduction to the Nashua Historical Society

Respectfully Submitted, Beth McCarthy, Curator, Paula Lochhead and Barbara Bankeroff

Webpage 2025 - 2026

We continue to use our website and Facebook page to advertise our museums and events. We enlisted the assistance of Pearl Marketing, a marketing consulting agency, to help us with some questions we encountered in updating the Society's website using the website builder Wix.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Bankeroff
Technology Committee Chairperson

The Nashua Historical Society

Research Committee Report for Board Meeting – May, 2026

Research Requests (1505-1535)	Total Requests	31
Number of Requests	Completed	31
NH Requests	Total NH Requests	23
Nashua Requests	Total Nashua Requests	12
Genealogy Requests	Total Genealogy Requests	4
Photographs Requests	Total Photographs Requests	9
Out of State Requests	Total Out of State Requests	8

Respectfully Submitted,
Ralph Sommese, Research Committee Chairperson

Technology Committee Report
May 19, 2026

A booster was added to the Abbot-Spalding House Annex (previously known as the apartment) by our network consultant to provide internet access throughout the annex. This booster is portable so it can be moved to enhance internet access on the patio or on the front lawn of the house for future events. Internet access is required in these areas so that we can sell merchandise and tickets using Square.

A flatbed scanner was purchased for the computer in our library to enhance the capabilities of this workstation.

A computer desk was purchased for the Abbot-Spalding Annex so a computer can be used to catalog artifacts there.

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 IDrive, backup to a portable hard drive, and periodic backup to a flash drive. At this point, 12.8 gigabytes of PastPerfect data are backed up – an increase of 0.8 gigabytes since May 2025.

All files in the shared area on the Server are backed up online by IDrive and to a portable hard drive. At this point, 120 gigabytes of data in the shared area are backed up. The computer in the office is also on the backup schedule and has 36.6 GB of data backed up.

PastPerfect records continue to be added to our online site. There are 164 records online including photographs from the Frank Ingalls Collection, Nashua Fires Collection, Wedding Attire Collection, Baby Clothes Collection, and photos of schools and bridges. These records can be accessed at nashuahistorical.pastperfectonline.com, and by using the link on both our Facebook page and our webpage. More records will be added over time.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bankeroff
Technology Committee Chairperson





Our recent Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

Annual Office Report 2025 - 2026

The Society's administrative assistant retired in December 2025 and Beth McCarthy and Barbara Bankeroff have been temporarily performing these duties. We have advertised the position and are in the interview process.

Newsletters, a variety of program cards, and the annual election materials were sent out this year. Thank you to the mailing committee for preparing these items according to US postal bulk mailing criteria.

The Documents Retention and Shredding Committee is continuing to prune our files according to the policies adopted by the Society.

Respectively submitted,
Beth McCarthy
Barbara Bankeroff

Historic Structures Committee Report 2026

The Historic Structures Committee was established as a vehicle to speed up securing an up to date historic structure report for the Abbot-Spalding House. Once the society has secured a historic structures report, we qualify for a variety of grants that will offset the expenses we anticipate in the future restoration of the house.

The Historic Structures Committee was established in September 2025 and is comprised of members of the Board of the Directors of the Nashua Historical Society, Nashua citizens, and the curator. Dean Shalhoup is the president of the historical society, and Beth McCarthy is the curator and holds an exceptional knowledge of proprietary information about the Abbot-Spalding House and its past restorations. Joe Glajch is a Nashua resident and has experience with the historic structures report process, as well as expertise with securing grants for the First Church Bell Tower Restoration which we hope will transfer to society's needs. Bill Griswold is a retired archeologist from the National Park Service and understands the granting process. Steve Boilard is a local building contractor with an interest in historic buildings. Dennis Parker has been the society's insurance representative for many years. Scott McPhie is a planner within the city and understands the do's and don'ts of permitting. Paula Lochhead is the chair of the committee.

After meeting with LCHP representative, George Born, the committee agreed to seek a historic assessment from New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

On April 9, 2026, NHPA representative, Martha Cummings, came to Nashua, toured the Abbot Spalding House, and the Florence Speare Museum. She encouraged the society to submit an application for a grant from NHPA to partially fund a historic structures report.

The grant application for the funding of the historic structures report is ongoing as of this date: May 19, 2026.

Hopefully, the application will be submitted by the end of the summer and then we can hire a company to create the historic assessment of the Abbot Spalding House.

Submitted by,
Paula Lochhead
Nashua Historical Society Board Member

Visitors Report 2025 - 2026

Florence H. Speare Visitor Total: 686, plus the month of April – Last year was 788.

The Abbot-Spalding House Visitor Total: 94, up from last year's total of 87.

Visitors came from the following states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Virginia.

Visitors from Massachusetts include the towns of Brookline, Exeter, Lawrence, Kingston, Lowell, Norwood, Pepperrell, Tyngsboro, and Woburn.

Visitors from New Hampshire include the towns of Amherst, Bedford, Belmont, Brookline, Concord, Exeter, Francestown, Hudson, Hollis, Kingston, Laconia, Manchester, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, New London, North Conway, and Salem.

Foreign visitors came from France.

Visitors to the Historical Society Booths at the Volunteer and Sustainability Fairs are uncounted.

Old South Burying Ground Cemetery Tour Visitor Total: 197

Membership Field Trip Tours Hills House and Spalding House Lowell Total: 29

Volunteers Report 2025 - 2026

During the past year we have had twenty- six (26) active volunteers working very diligently in different areas of our two museums. Some areas include working on the board of officers and directors, putting data into Past Perfect, taking care of our textiles maintaining our buildings and grounds, keeping our finances in order, doing research requests, guiding the public through our Abbot House, and baking delicious goodies for our programs. We also have had actors from local theatre groups putting on reenactments at local cemeteries. Unfortunately, we have been unable to log in their hours. We have, however, logged in Two Thousand Two Hundred and six (2206) hours. We thank you all for your contributions we would be unable to function without your help.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret G. Garneau

Refreshments Report 2025-2026

Another successful year of providing mouthwatering delicious for all our programs. Several members of the committee assisted in our many mailings.

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Garneau, Patti Graf, Judy Hemenway, Mary Kirkwood, Sue Smith, Lorna Stickney and Jean Wells.





Our Steeped in '76 Tea Party event in March

Membership Report 2025 - 2026

The Nashua Historical Society has 246 Members:

92 Adult Memberships

90 Family Memberships – A Family Membership includes two people

13 Student Memberships

51 Life Memberships

The Nashua Historical Society has 85 museums, libraries and complimentary members

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth McCarthy, Curator, Barbara Bankeroff, Director





Scholarship Recipient Eric Picanco cutting his celebratory cake

Property and Grounds Report 2025 - 2026

The Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum
The Speare Museum was built in the 1970's and as we all know, as everything ages, maintenance becomes increasingly important.

Additional repairs were made to the humidity system for the Museum's furnace and estimates from more than one HVAC company were obtained for determination of who should service the Museum's furnace.

A new commercial dehumidifier was purchased and installed replacing a failed dehumidifier located in the Textile Collection workroom.

The Museum's shutters were removed and taken to a repair person's barn workshop to be repaired and repainted. The plan is for the shutters to be re-hung after the exterior is repainted during the 2026 warm weather season.

The back entranceway to the Museum area was repainted and a main wall within the dining room was repainted using leftover paint acquired for previous projects.

Security and fire protecting systems were upgraded and repaired. All of the carpeting and fabric covered chairs were professionally steam cleaned.

The cracks in the parking lot and walkways were re-sealed. This work was completed in preparation for sealcoating, which has been planned for the warm weather of 2026.

Estimates for the repairs to the granite fence, which was damaged during last winter, are in process.

Susan Lavoice continued to plant and maintain a flower garden located in a back portion of the Historical Society's parking lot.

THE ABBOT-SPALDING HOUSE:

Following up work within the back portion of the Abbot-Spalding House, which had been identified by a home inspection report completed in 2025 by Tri-State Homes Inspections from Bedford/Goffstown occurred.This repair work included extensive plumbing and electrical repairs.

The kitchen stove, clothes, washing machine, and clothes dryer were repaired.

Numerous window repairs were made with plans for more window repairs to be made in the future. The hot water heater was replaced.

Custom made mylar window shades were installed.

Rugs, bookcases, shelving support furniture and support supplies were acquired as the Historical Society repurposes this space.

Security and fire protecting systems were upgraded and repaired. The cracks in the driveway were resealed. This work was completed in preparation for sealcoating which has been planned for the warm weather of 2026.

Complicated repairs to the furnace were completed.

A new basement bulkhead was designed, built, and painted. The door frame at the bottom of the bulkhead stairs was repaired.

All of the permanently installed carpeting was professionally steam cleaned.

Thank you to Jeremy Frazier for the holiday lights as they truly created magical sentiment.

The House Museum's Historic Preservation Committee met numerous times, welcoming a walk-through and site visit by Martha Cummings from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. Learning opportunities for LCHIP, New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Programmeme, the Methuen Festival of Trees, and the Historic Preservation Grant Programmeme opportunities were explored.

The Nashua Garden Club provided the support and maintenance of a backside garden and the front garden of the Abbot-Spalding House.

The Historical Society's lawncare services were continued with St. Laurent lawn care. They coordinate with the company providing fertilization and weed control, southern New Hampshire Lawn Care.

Respectfully Submitted by Committee Members:
Dennis Parker, Stephen Boilard, Director, Dean Shalhoup, President and Barbara Bankeroff, Director and Beth McCarthy, Curator





The Abbot-Spalding House

Education Committee Report May 2026

The Education Committee and the Program Committee have considerable overlap in our volunteer members. It does seem, at times, that our meetings have an eclectic mix of topics and ideas focused on the enrichment of our Nashua Historical Society. This year, much of our focus was formed with the excitement of our country's 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War in mind.

Our efforts to develop museum appeal for children have continued but, we have also strived to broaden our efforts to collaborate with public and private organizations and maintain a steady stream of topics and activities of interest to our members and guests.

At this meeting last year, we were exploring various ways to incorporate a Story Stroll (Walk), featuring children's books in a more permanent way on our property. Since then, we started working with Eagle scout candidate, Aidan Graham, on this very project. You may have noticed the flags from Dig Safe around the Speare Museum. They represent progress that is being made toward installation of the stands. The Nashua Library will be helping with book purchases and laminating. Our first book is ready and waiting installation. We welcome collaboration with both organizations and are looking forward to the completion of the Story Walk this year.

On March 8, 2026, the Education Committee hosted our Steeped in '76 Tea. We welcomed a sold-out library of guests to our colonial inspired tea and fancy this year! Adding to the delicious food choices, fun facts, and games, we invited Penny LaCroix to speak on dying yarns and fabric in traditional ways. This event's final total was over $500 and 4 new memberships!

We are pleased to share with you that our young history detectives visiting the museums have enjoyed the Discovery boxes that were placed last spring. We inventoried the items in each of the Discovery Boxes and will inspect them for changes as needed.

The Committee was asked to support with ideas, people and to organize the Society's presents at two Nashua Fairs. The first was the 2026 Nashua Sustainability Fair that took place on Saturday, April 26th. Our booth presentation focused on natural fibers.

The second event, the Greater Nashua Volunteer Fair, was held on Thursday, May 7, 2026. This helps us to stir volunteer help and even membership at the Society through representation at a broad community event at the Nashua Public Library.

Trips to historical societies beyond Nashua were much enjoyed last year, so we will continue them this year for our members. We have arranged a tour of four historic landmarks in Hollis, the Engine House, the Wheelhouse, the Gould Tavern Museum and, new this year, a recreation of their first settler, Peter Powers, 1730 home on Saturday, July 25th, at 1:00. Next, in August we will travel to the Dracut Historical Society. Their Society and museum are in a barn they had moved through town to its current location. Please watch for a sign-up for each of these history adventures.

The Edmund M. Keefe Scholarship application was put online in the beginning of February. All high school seniors who reside in Nashua and have an interest in history were encouraged to apply before April 28th.

Our field of applicants remained strong this year. Tonight I have the honor of announcing the winner of the Nashua Historical Society's Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship, made possible by the bequest of Pat Thurber in honor of our Society's President, Dean Shalhoup, specifically, for the scholarship fund. Her thoughtfulness to the Society will be forever remembered kindly and is most sincerely appreciated.

So now, I 'd like to share a bit about this young man and then introduce him to you.

Our senior this year comes from Nashua High School South. Eric's school counselor tells us he has not only been consistently successful throughout high school but that he is a "capable young man who is ready to begin his college experience." Eric is a dedicated athlete who has participated with the outdoor track team for four years and the indoor team for three years at the varsity level. Eric has been a member of the Granite State Challenge for the last three years, currently serving as a captain, and he recently joined the ethics club. Eric has also balanced a part time job at the Hunt Community since 2024.

Through Eric's essay, the scholarship committee learned of his rich Portuguese heritage. It was with his family that he started to learn about traditions, language, and customs passed down through generations. Eric continues by writing, "My interest in history grew beyond my home through my participation in Granite State Challenge. Competing required quick thinking, collaboration, and a broad understanding of subjects, including history. Preparing for the competition pushed me to study historical events in greater depth and to connect facts across time and place. Granite State challenge reinforced my belief that learning history is most powerful when it is active, engaging and shared with others."

In the future, Eric wants to become a high school history teacher. As he states, "My heritage and experiences taught me that the past is not distant but lives within us. As an educator, I hope to pass that understanding forward."

At this time, if I could have our Society's President, Dean Shalhoup, and our Curator, Beth McCarthy, join me for the presentation, along with Eric and his parents.

Eric Picanco is the 2026 recipient of The Nashua Historical Society's Edmund M. Keefe Scholarship Award.

I'm pleased to formally announce that you are the winner of this year's Edmund M. Keefe Scholarship Award.
Submitted by the NHS Education Committee / Mary Kirkwood



2026 Nashua Historical Society Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Funded by Patricia M. Thurber in Honor of Dean Shalhoup

We would like to congratulate our 2026 Nashua Historical Society Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Funded by Patricia M. Thurber in Honor of Dean Shalhoup recipient, Eric Picano, on his achievement!

Each year, The Nashua Historical Society awards the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship to one or more graduating high school seniors who reside in Nashua.

Edmund Keefe's 101 years were lived mostly in Nashua. He began a career in education in 1929 by teaching history at the Nashua Senior High School. In 1945, he became principal of the high school and went on to be the Superintendent of Schools for the City of Nashua in 1958. After his retirement in 1973, he served eight terms as a State Representative for the City of Nashua.

Mr. Keefe was an active member at The Nashua Historical Society. His favorite volunteer assignment was to escort elementary school students through the museum and explain the exhibits. He also served on the Board of Directors and at one point as President of the Society. The Society began a scholarship in 1986 and changed its name after Mr. Keefe’s death to honor his commitment to education, to history, and to the society.

Eric now joins our 2025 recipient, Zachary Campbell, and our 2024 recipient, Caitlyn Mamos, in accepting this recognition.

Congratulations, Eric!







Celebrating America 250!

REV250! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us on June 4th at the Nashua Historical Society for our performances of Declaring Independence: Then and Now! We had a wonderful, enthusiastic crowd join us for both our 5 PM and 7 PM shows to celebrate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Our cast did a wonderful job bringing history to life. The performance was a multi-part experience: the actors and actresses provided the background on the meaning of the Declaration of Independence, delivered an annotated reading, and then transitioned into two local historical vignettes:

The New Hampshire Men of Liberty acted out the conversations surrounding the Pine Tree Riot.

The Ladies of Liberty shared the story of the determined women who made up Mrs. David Wright's Guard.

Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this program possible:

The Actresses and Actors: Your time, dedication, and great performances brought these historical moments to life.

Paula Lochhead: As hostess and committee chair, thank you for spearheading this effort and coordinating the program.

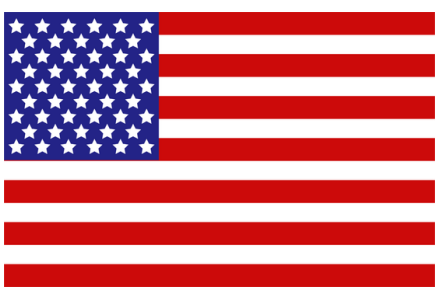
Alicia Gregg: As narrator and moderator, thank you for guiding the audience through the performance and leading the community conversations following both shows.

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area: Thank you for your partnership with the Nashua Historical Society to bring this event to our community, as well as the surrounding communities.

Our Staff and Volunteers: Thank you to all the hands behind the scenes who helped keep things running smoothly.

Mr. Hot Dog: A special thanks for setting up in the Society's parking lot and providing wonderful refreshments for everyone between the performances.

History is alive in our community today. Thank you all for celebrating this historic milestone with us and supporting local history and the arts!



Other Programs March 8, 2026 - August 9, 2026

We've had numerous programs take place since our last newsletter. In addition to our Scholarship event, the Nashua Historical Society has hosted several other engaging events over the past few months. Here are a few highlights from our recent programming:

Steeped in '76 Tea Party

The Nashua Historical Society hosted a special commemorative tea party, celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. The event, titled "Steeped in '76 — With a Splash of Red, White, and Blue," blended historical reflection with a warm, community-focused gathering. Held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, doors opened at 12:30 PM, with tea service beginning at 1:00 PM. Guests enjoyed a themed afternoon inspired by Revolutionary-era traditions, complete with patriotic décor and educational touches highlighting the significance of 1776.

The event offered a welcoming atmosphere, thoughtful programming, and a creative nod to the Boston Tea Party through its tea-centered celebration. It served as both a historical tribute and a community social event, reinforcing the Society's mission to preserve and share local and national history!

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

In April, we were thrilled to host our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch — a relaxed, friendly afternoon where we connected, shared stories, and celebrated the people who make our work possible. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the dedication and generosity that strengthen our mission every day.

We truly couldn't do what we do without our fantastic volunteers. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to every person who has supported us and helped us grow!

Volunteer Fair

On May 7th, the Society recently took part in a local volunteer fair, setting up an informational table to connect with community members and share our mission.

Our display featured historic photographs, museum highlights, and educational materials that showcased the rich history we preserve. We spent the day speaking with attendees, answering questions, and encouraging involvement through membership, volunteering, and upcoming programs.

It was a great opportunity to meet new faces, engage with the community, and spread awareness about the Society's work!

REV250!

The Nashua Historical Society was proud to present our Declaring Independence: Then & Now event, which took place on none other than July 4th.

The Society invited the public to experience a unique and thought-provoking live performance event as part of the nationwide commemoration of America's 250th anniversary.

On Thursday, June 4, the Society hosted two performances of Declaring Independence: Then & Now at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM at the Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum, located at 5 Abbott Street, Nashua, NH.

This free public program brought the dramatic story of the Declaration of Independence to life through historic words, modern reflections, and the voices of the people who lived through extraordinary times. In January1776, New Hampshire became the first colony to adopt its own constitution — a bold act that helped pave the way for the Declaration of Independance just months later. Declaring Independence: Then & Now explored that revolutionary moment through a compelling blend of primary source material, costumed readers, and contemporary commentary, revealing how citizens in New Hampshire and Massachusetts communities debated the risks, hopes, and meaning of independence.

Presented by actors in period dress, the performance combined historical storytelling with an annotated reading of the Declaration itself, inviting audiences to consider both the courage of 1776 and the enduring relevance of the nation's founding ideals today.

The Nashua performances are part of a larger series of 15 community presentations that will take place across the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area during the spring and summer of 2026 in honor of the REV250 commemoration. "We are proud to bring this important program to Nashua," says Paula Lochhead, the committee chairperson. "New Hampshire played a critical role in the movement toward independence, and this performance offers audiences a meaningful opportunity to connect with that history in a vivid and personal way."

Nashua Innovation Exhibit Visit

In June, some of our team visited the Nashua Innovation Exhibit at the Nashua Public Library.

It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the innovators, makers, and ideas that continue to shape Nashua's story.

We're thankful to the Nashua Public Library for hosting us and for showcasing such engaging local history!

July Fundraiser: Give Back Bag Program

This July, the Nashua Historical Society is participating in the Shaw's Give Back Where It Counts Reusable Bag Program. From July 1 through July 31, 2026, every $3.00 reusable *Give Back Bag* purchased at select Shaw's locations will generate a $1 donation to support our mission.

We're grateful to Shaw's for including us in this program and to everyone who chooses to support the Society through their purchase!



Abbot-Spalding House Open House & Tours

On August 9, 2026, from 1:00–3:00 PM, the Nashua Historical Society invites you to the Abbot-Spalding House for an afternoon of tours and scavenger hunts.

This beautiful, Federal revival-style home has been lived in by several prominent Nashua figures over the years, including Daniel Abbot, known as the "Father of Nashua."

A special 1940s-era collection will be featured during the event, offering guests a unique glimpse into mid-century life. Admission is free for NHS members and for active or retired military individuals and their families. For other visitors, a small admission fee will be applied. Please note that the Abbot-Spalding House is not handicapped accessible.

During the same hours, guests are also invited to visit the Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum, which offers additional tours and scavenger hunts. The Speare Museum is fully handicapped accessible and free for all visitors.

Hope to see you all there!

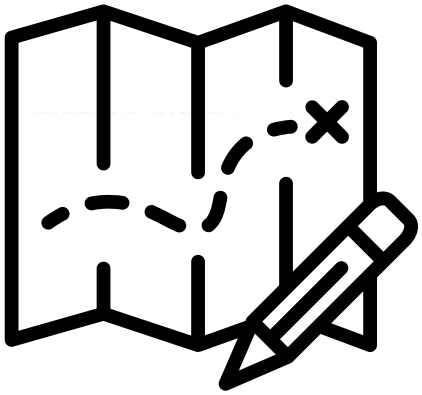




August 9, 2026
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Nashua Historical Society
Abbot-Spalding House
Open House
1 Nashville Street
Open to the public

Tours and Scavenger Hunts
at the Abbot-Spalding House





Nashua Historical Society

5 ABBOTT STREET
NASHUA, NH 03064-2119
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 687
Nashua, NH 03064-2119

Address service requested

Upcoming Programs:	Additional Information and Events Will be Listed on the Website
Sun., Aug 9, 1:00 - 3:00 pm	Abbot-Spalding House and Florence H. Speare Museum Open House
Sat., Aug. 15 10:00 am	Field Trip for Members: Dracut Historical Society Tour
Tues., Sept 8, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Wed., Sept. 16, 7:00 pm	Speaker Night: "In the Spirit of Freindship"
Thurs. Sept. 17, ALL DAY	Red Robin Fundraiser, 20% off Food Sales - Includes Takeout
Sat., Oct 3, 8:45 - 3:00 pm	A-S Museum Arts and History House Open
Tues., Oct 13, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting
Sat., Oct. 17, 8:45 am	9:00-3:00 Round Table Area Historical Society's Event
Tues., Oct. 27, 7:00 pm	Speaker Night: Muriel Dyas Program
Tues., Nov. 10, 7:00 pm	Board Meeting