



# Nashua Historical Society

Issue No.3

Summer 2018

www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org

## 2018 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Award

The Nashua Historical Society's scholarship for 2018 was awarded to Angela Beatrice.



Thank you to Rose Markiewicz, Awilda Muniz and Ralph Sommese who not only served on the scholarship committee but also have worked as educators.



President Joanne Ouellette looks on as committee member Ralph Sommese presents Angela with their award.



Proud parents John and Donna Beatrice and her sister, Gianna.

Angela is a 2018 graduate of Nashua High School North. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as that group's coordinator for the Memorial Day Flag ceremony. She also served as Vice President of the Spanish Honor Society.

Angela's favorite class in high school was Advanced Placement US History. She wrote that she found it to be one of the most challenging and interesting classes she had ever taken. She gave credit to her teacher who loved the subject and encouraged her to pursue history in college.

Angela has volunteered for three years at the Hunt Community. Every Saturday, she reads to a woman who is blind and shares her love for history. Angela taught religious education for both third and sixth grade and, for ten years, has been an altar server at daily Mass.

As for the future, Angela plans to attend Rivier University and study history and environmental science.

see more images on page 12

### NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2020 OFFICERS

Joanne Ouellette	President
William Ross	1st Vice President
Joe Comer	2nd Vice President
Rose Markiewicz	Treasurer
Suzanne Smith	Ass't Treasurer
Alice Fisher	Secretary
Jennifer Pizzi	Ass't Treasurer

#### DIRECTORS 2018

- Barbara Bankeroff
- Bob Bates
- Marie Fisher
- Roland Fisher
- Margaret Garneau
- Robert Garneau
- Ed Jean
- Ken Mayo
- Penny Pardoe
- Dennis Parker
- Kathy Peterson
- Dean Shalhoup
- Peter Vincent

#### Staff

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### 148th NHS Annual Meeting on May 15, 2018

The committee reports tell of the accomplishments and challenges that the Society has experienced this year. Some highlights include our Nominating Committee's persistent search to find excellent candidates for the Board of Directors continued financial stability thanks to the Finance Committee, the stock market and the staff making wise expense choices continued and professional care of our Collection, buildings and grounds thanks to staff and volunteer chairpersons members who support our museums and preservation of Nashua history volunteers who enjoy working on Society projects and others who enjoy helping with special events or tasks.

You are always welcome to drop by the Society. We are open from 10 to 3, Tuesday through Thursday.

### Volunteer Recognition

The Society is very fortunate to have many wonderful volunteers. Some are with us for a short time and some remain with us for many years. Two of our longtime volunteers have recently moved on to other opportunities – JoAnne St. John and Paul Friday. JoAnne served as the chairperson of the Research Committee and served on the Society Board of Directors for a number of years. Her contributions to the Society were immeasurable. Paul was a longtime volunteer researcher. His methodical work found answers for even the most difficult research request. The Society truly appreciates the time and the talents that JoAnne and Paul shared with us. They will be missed.

## Tulip Tree Dedication - May 19, 2018



Arborist Kevin Fredette gave the Tulip Tree Dedication in honor of Frank H. and Marvis J. Mellen



Society President Joanne Ouellette with Kevin Fredette



Nashua Garden Club also held their annual plant sale.

## Board Reports from the Annual Meeting that was held on May 15, 2018

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 148th 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: our Nominating Committee's persistent search to find excellent candidates for the Board of Directors continued financial stability thanks to the Finance Committee, the stock market and the staff making wise expense choices continued and professional care of our Collection, buildings and grounds thanks to staff and volunteer chairpersons volunteers who come in regularly to work on Society projects and others who are on call for special events and tasks.

What is the dollar value of Volunteer Time per hour? In the middle of April, *Independent Sector* announced that the latest value of a volunteer hour is \$24.69 – up 2.2 percent from last year. That figure, estimated from data collected in 2017, shows the incredible contributions that some 63 million volunteers made to our communities and our country. They donated approximately 8 billion hours of their time and talent which amounts to an estimated \$197.5 billion to our nation.

### Finance Committee:

Another successful year goes into the books. We budgeted for an expense budget of \$204,000 in 2017-2018, knowing that there was a possibility of an additional expense of approximately \$26,000 for the replacement of the Abbot-Spalding roof. The roof was replaced, and we ended the year about \$9,000 over budget.

The operating budget for the current year is \$239,954 which takes into account the expense for the replacement of the Florence Speare roof.

All of our investments weathered the sharp but brief stumble in the financial markets earlier this year and are providing the necessary funds for the Society to fulfill its mission.

We advised our investment bankers to slightly increase the percentage of our portfolio into fixed funds.

We are **very** grateful for a very generous \$10,000 donation from an anonymous member.

Our financial position is sound, and we have no debt!

### Treasurer's Report:

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Annual budget was \$204,000.00

Total expenses were \$240,733.08

Difference \$36,733.08

The increase in insurance costs, but most was for maintenance, e.g., roof on the Abbot Spalding House and other repairs as needed.

### Buildings Report:

New roof on the Abbot-Spalding House

Leaking window wells on both Abbot and Speare buildings were addressed

Several new platforms with wheels were built to facilitate movement of heavy items

Several interior areas at the Speare were painted

A free energy audit by Liberty Utilities yielded no suggestions for improvements

Various minor issues were addressed as needed

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### Collection Committee:

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

Total Number of Records In PastPerfect	Additional Records 04/18/2017-05/07/2018
Collection Records 35,644	6,004
Objects 3,047	492
Photographs 25,132	1,544
Archives 6,579	409
Library 886	78
Items In Container List: 3,863	210
Accessions: 4,197	165
Accession Records Scanned: 0	3,789
Contacts: 2,578	55

### Collection Records:

Sandra Axton created 28 collection records, Barbara Bankeroff created 309 collection records, Ron Burgess created 2 collection records, Kara Cardinal created 220 collection records, Eastman Chandler, Intern created 45 collection records, Barbara Comer, Collection Technician created 567 collection records, Susan Fineman created 18 collection records, Paul Friday created 318 collection records, Janice Fronco created 45 collection records, Bryan Herring created 27 collection records, Eileen Herring created 418 collection records, Daisy Jacquez created 41 collection records, Sarah Jauris created 14 collection records, Mary Claire Martin created 18 collection records, Cecile Renzi created 119 collection records, Gay Smith created 5 collection records, Patrick and Matt/Rick Walker created 194 collection records.

### Accession Records:

Barbara Comer, Collection Technician, created 11 accession records, Margaret Garneau created 93 accession records and Beth McCarthy, Curator created 55 accession records.

Numerous materials belonging with many of the existing accession records have been added to the records.

### 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 been researching and identifying Nashua High School graduates within the large panoramic photographs of classmates from various school years.

She has worked on the organization required for the pre-cataloging of the many images belonging to the “Kids Into Drama” collection. She has worked on all preliminary aspects of an open to the public photograph identification day designed to support several different photograph collections.

**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 throughout 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 which includes being an active participant with the Scrap Book Project.

**Ron Burgess** has cataloged objects from the Society’s Military Collection.

**Kara Cardinal**, a high school student, has learned how to catalog photographs, and she completed the catalog records on Nashua School student photographs.

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

**Barbara Comer, Collection Technician**, 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 materials.

**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 with the Florence Hyde Speare Museum. He has cataloged a large number of photographs under different topics from within the Historical Society’s general collection.

**Janice Fronco**, a 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 an active participant with the Scrapbook Collection.

**Matt**, a client, and **Rick Walker**, an employee of The Plus Company, have edited and cataloged numerous matchbook PastPerfect records for Frank Mooney’s Matchbook Collection.

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

**Eileen Herring** completed container list catalog records on portions of the genealogy files. She has completed the scanning of the majority of the support papers for all of the Historical Society’s accession records.

**Sarah Jarvis** completed the catalog records for the “Mike Shalhoup Photograph and Negative Collection.” Mike Shalhoup was a long time photographer for the Nashua Telegraph Newspaper. Sarah has been cataloging a portion of the Nashua Corporation Photograph Collection. She learned how to safely repair and bind books conservation style.

**Daisy Jacquez**, a high school student, has learned how to catalog photographs, and she has cataloged numerous Nashua School student photographs.

**Ed Jean** has worked on all preliminary aspects of an open to the public photograph identification day designed to support several different photograph collections.

**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.

**Rose Markiewicz** has researched and cataloged Nashua Manufacturing Company Mill Photographs.

**Mary Claire Martin**, a high school student, completed cataloging photographs from the Davis Photograph Collection.

**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. 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: “Truth & Trust: Museums and Social Action.”

**Joanne Ouellette** has worked with the deaccession items. Numerous gifts were made to other historical societies and other museums. Some deaccession items have been identified as items that will be auctioned with the proceeds returning to other areas of collection need.

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

## Volunteer Luncheon

The annual Volunteer Luncheon was held in March at the Crowne Plaza Hotel off Somerset Parkway in Nashua.



sweet ending to a great meal.



Beautiful  
Fresh  
floral  
arrangements  
decorated  
each  
table



Everyone who attended had a great time

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**Cecile Renzi** has completed cataloging all of the Historical Society's postcards within its postcard collection.

**Gay Smith** learned how to catalog and created PastPerfect records.

**Olivia Soucy**, a high school student, has sorted large archival collections preparing these collections for their future accessioning and cataloging.

### 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. A new commercial level dehumidifier was purchased and installed within the Textile Room of the Florence Speare Museum's basement.

### Significant Collection Projects:

**Artifact Storage:** A large metal, secure cabinet was purchased to house the most precious and delicate artifacts.

**Professional Advice:** A review and improvement project on The Nashua Historical Society's Collection Based Policies and Procedures was undertaken. Currently we are working with two intellectual property lawyers from the McLane Middleton Professional Association. They have provided the Society with a better understanding of the laws that govern the collection's material ownership especially in the area of copyright. Some of the Historical Society policies and procedures have been re-written, approved and adopted as a result of this project. More of the Historical Society's policies and procedures will advance as a result of this project as it moves forward.

### Donations and Acceptance:

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

### Books/Booklets/Archives:

The Mayoral Archives from Mayor Donald Davidson's tenure as Mayor

Archive materials from the beginning of Daniel Webster College

Maps showing "Dunstable, Massachusetts from 1673 to 1722"

An author's draft and printers proof of the book "The Nashua Experience in Law"

Two promotion pamphlets and a product blueprint for the "Lewis Master Ironing Board" (invented by George W. Lewis of Nashua and manufactured by Gregg and Son of Nashua)

A book "Searching for Barton Carter: The Story of a Young American Hero"

### Objects:

A wooden crate from the "Anis Flour and Grain Company"

A hair clipper from The American Shearer Manufacturing Company

An oversize sign "Nashua Textile Co., Inc., Main Office and Mill End Store"

An ironing board prototype called the "Lewis Master Ironing Board" (invented by George W. Lewis of Nashua and manufactured by Gregg and Son of Nashua)

A hankie holder, made by 12 year old Annette Guerette at Nashua's Temple Street Elementary School, c. 1900

### Photographs:

Fifty-three Nashua Police photographs used in the publishing of the book "The Nashua Experience in Law"

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**Education Committee:**

**Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship:**

Megan Pardoe was the recipient of the 2017 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship. A reception was held in her honor on June 20. Megan and her family were very appreciative of the scholarship and the recognition. Megan was presented with a framed certificate and a check for \$1,000. Megan will be attending the Nashua Community College. Once again, the Refreshment Committee did a wonderful job providing the food for the reception.

**School Program:**

In February, volunteers Ralph Sommese and Joanne Ouellette presented a program at Fairgrounds Middle School for 8th grade teachers regarding teaching New Hampshire history by teaching Nashua’s history. There were teachers present from both Fairgrounds and Elm Street middle schools. Ralph and Joanne shared program ideas that they had designed and used with their students when visiting The Nashua Historical Society. As a follow-up to that session, several teachers came over to the Society on an early release day on April 21 to tour the Speare building and exhibits.

**Grounds Committee:**

2018 will be a great year for outside projects in spite of tough and long winter!  
We are waiting for estimates on laying concrete blocks under fence on Abbott Street side. Also for Bob Leary to paint and repair fencing where necessary, no estimate yet.  
In April we set plaque and stone monument in ground near donated tulip tree (Mellen recognition).  
Annual plant sale was successful despite minor fender bender.  
The sprinkler and lawn care service is in full swing and the property looks great. Dube Landscape promised to do some weeding in front of museum that had some invasive vines.  
The sheet metal cowlings installed last year around basement window appears to be working and solved water leakage into basement storage area.  
Future projects- always looking for direction and help with fountain and the repairs needed to retention basin.

**Membership Report:**

Number of new members (5-1-2017- 4-30-2018):  
12 Current Memberships  
Adult 53  
Family 29  
Student 0  
Life 49  
Museums, Libraries and Complimentary 55  
Total Number of Memberships 186  
Sadly 4 members died during the year

**Office Report:**

Last year a PayPal account was set up so the Society could take credit card payments for new or renewing memberships or purchasing items from the gift shop. That account has worked really well. We can also accept Research Requests through the website. Two newsletters were mailed out in the past year. One was mailed in the fall of 2017 and the second one was mailed in the spring of 2018

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**PayPal**

We would like remind you 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.

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**Programs Report:**

Five 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 September 21, 2017 and March 20, 2018.  
September 21, 2017 – The Capital Crime of Witchcraft: What the Primary Sources Tell Us  
October 17, 2017 – Wrecks of Winnepesaukee  
November 12, 2017 – Motivating the WWI Home Front via Magazine and Radio Advertising  
March 20, 2018 – New England Lighthouses and the People Who Kept Them  
April 17, 2018 – Searching for Barton Carter

**Refreshment Committee:**

Another outstanding year for the Refreshment Committee...one thing for certain...chefs like to experiment and folks like to eat. The committee planned food and drinks for five (5) programs, one (1) scholarship reception and today’s annual general meeting. Also did the set up for the membership party in the New Year and once again assisted the office with five (5) mailings to membership. We would like to add appreciation to all members who gave helping hands to the committee. No doubt about it this is the place for the most delicious food!

**Research Request Committee:**

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

**Technology Committee:**

A projector was purchased that can be attached to the laptop computer, thus enabling presentations in digital format to be projected onto the projection screen. This gives better readability for the audience.  
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 MozyPro 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 13.9 gigabytes of data are being backed up – 9.5 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 4.4 gigabytes of data in the shared area. This is an increase of 1 gigabyte of PastPerfect data and 0.1 gigabyte of shared data on the Server over last year.

**Visitors Report:**

The Abbot Spalding House had 264 visitors this past year. The house was open for the Art Walk in October and for the New Hampshire Symphony house tour in December, 2017. We are fortunate to have wonderful volunteers to act as docents.

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The Speare Museum had 383 visitors. Local visitors to both museums came from Nashua, Manchester, Gilsum, Amherst, Woodsville, Milford, Hudson, Merrimack, Jaffrey, Portsmouth, Meredith, Litchfield, Hollis, Warner, and Londonderry all in New Hampshire. Visitors from Massachusetts came from Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro, Methuen, Lawrence, Sudbury, Attleboro, Ulster and West Townsend.

In addition, we had visitors from Arizona, Utah, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, California, Wisconsin, Virginia, New York, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Illinois, Washington, Iowa, Ohio and Puerto Rico.

**Volunteer Report:**

The Nashua Historical Society has forever been blessed with the finest, hardworking volunteers of any non-profit organization in New Hampshire. This year is no exception. Our current President, Board of Officers and Directors have rolled up their sleeves to take on many tasks, internal and external and many thanks to them for jobs well done. The Society has had thirty (30) volunteers throughout this past year as well as two (2) college interns and five (5) high school students working on different projects within our collections. Total recorded hours was 4,801.85. Without all these work-a-bees the organization would be at a great loss. Many, many thanks to all of our energetic and terrific volunteers for giving their time to our Society and making another great year!

End of Report

**Rotating City Hall Exhibit**

The current rotating exhibit in Nashua City Hall is a history of long-term Amherst Street businesses and pictures of the present and the past. Shortly, that exhibit will be changed to The Pheasant Lane Mall...now and then. Please stop by City Hall to check out the exhibit.

**Speare Museum Exhibits**

The Nashua Manufacturing Exhibit that was featured in the spring 2018 newsletter continues to be on display and the aprons of Society member David Pinet's mother are on display as well.



**What memories do you have of Nashua?**

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](mailto:nashuahistorical@comcast.net).

If, like many people, you lack confidence in your writing ability, call Eileen at the Society and set up a time to meet with her, and you can write it together.

**More Angela Beatrice Scholarship images**



**We're on Facebook**

Also, The Nashua Historical Society now has a Facebook account. Please "like" us to keep up with the latest NHS events, programs and news at <https://www.facebook.com/NashuaHistoricalSociety/>