



The Nashua Historical Society

Preserving the Past for the Future

Issue No. 2 Summer 2023

www.nashuahistoricalociety.org

President's Message

The general health of the Society is good. This issue of our spring newsletter includes the reports from the annual meeting on May 16, 2023. Feel free to peruse them at your leisure. If you have any questions on the reports, please feel free to contact the office staff.

This is an exciting time at the Society as programs are being held once again. The Nashua Bridal Fashion Exhibit in the Abbot-Spalding House has been very well received. The opening in April featured a talk by Astrida Schaeffer from Schaeffer Arts. In May, Linda Welters from the University of Rhode Island was the featured speaker. Both are well-known textile experts. The final opening of the bridal fashion exhibit will be Saturday, June 24 from noon to 4 p.m. The speaker on this day will be Elaine Isaak. She is a young adult author who creates her own fantasy costumes.

In June, there will be a StoryWalk on the grounds of the Society. Families can enjoy the story *Juneteenth for Mazie*, by Floyd Cooper, while spending time outdoors. Also, in the works is a World War II exhibit. Details on both events will be available soon.

We appreciate the continuing support of our members and volunteers. You are the backbone of our Society. If you would like to take an active role in the Society, we will be happy to talk with you about how you can become involved. And, of course, we always look forward to welcoming new members and volunteers.

Sincerely,
Dean Shalhoup, President



Abbot-Spalding House 1 Nashville Street/1 Abbot Square Nashua, NH 03064
Florence H. Speare Museum 5 Abbott Street, Nashua, NH 03064-2119
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nashuahistorical@comcast.net

**Officers and Board of Directors
2023-2024**

Officers

Dean Shalhoup	President
Roland Fisher	1 st Vice President
Peter Vincent	2 nd Vice President
Jeannine T. Levesque	Treasurer
Suzanne Smith	Assistant Treasurer
Mary Jauris	Secretary
Alice Fisher	Assistant Secretary

Directors

Pam Anderson	Roger Lochhead
Barbara Blake	Scott McPhie
Deborah Carl	Magnus Pardoe
Margaret Garneau	Megan Pardoe
Maggie Harper	Penny Pardoe
Bryan Herring	William Ross
Mary Kirkwood	John Sadd
Paula Lochhead	

Staff

Beth McCarthy	Curator
Eileen Herring	Administrative Assistant
Sarah Jauris	Collection Technician

**Nashua Historical Society Annual
Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Time covered May 2022 to April 2023
Membership Report**

Number of new members (5-1-2022- 4-30-2023): 15; 3 life, 8 adult, 4 family

Current Memberships

Adult	40
Family	30
Student	0
Life	54
Museums, Libraries and Complimentary	75

Total Number of Memberships 199

Sadly, Ken Mayo and Mildred Z. Giles, both long-time members, passed away.

Membership Outreach

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring

**Personnel Committee Report
Annual Meeting
May 16, 2023**

The task for the Personnel Committee this past year was to develop a handbook that contained policies and procedures for employees and volunteers of the Society. A draft was created and submitted to the law firm of Sheehan & Gordon for review. Comments and suggestions were incorporated and the final version was submitted to the Society's Board of Directors in May. The Board voted to table a decision on the handbook in order to consider additional comments from the Directors. Comments are due by August 1, 2023 and will be resolved by the Personnel Committee with the goal of finalizing the handbook so it can be presented for approval at the Board's September meeting.

Respectively submitted,
Barbara Bankeroff, Beth McCarthy, Dean Shalhoup
Personnel Committee

Collection Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

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 Number of Records in Past Perfect		Additional Records 04/02/2022-04/05/2023
Collection Records	40,941	519
Objects	5,523	191
Photograph's	26,018	213
Archives	8,096	113
Library	976	2
Items in Container List	7,169	229
Accession	4,684	54
Accession Records Scanned	0	0
Contacts	2,858	61

Individual Contributions to the Collection:

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 has worked on numerous photograph Research Requests. She has completed numerous accession records, she has worked on the pre-catalog tasks for numerous artifacts and she has furthered the catalog records for various eclectic artifacts. Barbara has been the leader of book club, the group responsible for the organization and co-mingling of the Historical Society's book collection.

Ashley Chung, has learned how to catalog photographs in Past Perfect. She has completed numerous Nashua Manufacturing Company photograph catalog records.

Jeremy Frazer, has learned how to catalog photographs in Past Perfect and he has completed numerous catalog photograph records. Jeremy, has worked on editing the audio content on several oral history and memories previously recorded which were recently transferred into mp3 format utilizing funds received through the Sharp Grant. Jeremy has been involved in all of the support functions required for interviewing veterans and the individuals related to veterans. Veteran interviews have been completed.

Janice Fronko, a textile conservator, has continued to apply her expertise while providing guidance and hands-on-helpfulness with the Historical Society's extensive Textile Collection.

Matt, a client, and Rick Walker, an employee of The Plus Company, have edited and cataloged in Past Perfect numerous calendars, dance cards and business receipts from Frank Mooney's extensive Nashua Collection.

Eileen Herring continued to organize, prepare and container list catalog World War II newspaper clippings and genealogy files.

Sarah Jauris, Collection Technician, has continued to learn more about organizing, preparing and accessioning eclectic collection materials. Sarah has continued to learn about the proper care of various collection materials. Sarah, has participated in different collection project moves. She has been a support person to the de-accession process. Sarah has assisted volunteers with their collection questions and concerns including Past Perfect assistance.

Paula Lochhead, is a textile expert who has continued to provide her expertise, guidance and assistance to the Historical Society's textile collection.

Sylvia Lund has learned how to catalog in Past Perfect, she has completed catalog records on numerous sewing implements and sewing related items. She has applied her textile background towards cataloging the Historical Society's petty coat 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 accessing 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.

Cathy Prevost, has learned how to catalog photographs in Past Perfect and she has completed several medical instrument catalog records.

Donations and Acceptance:

The most unique materials acquired for inclusion into The Nashua Historical Society's Collection during this past year are:

Books and Booklets:

"Immaculate Conception Church 1857-1909", a Church History
Nashua "Football 100 Years: The Building of a Tradition, 1895-1996"

Archives:

A blueprint of "Plant WM Highton and Sons of Nashua, New Hampshire: Manufacturers of Warm Air Registers and Ventilators"

Objects:

1955 Nashua High School Graduation Cup, owned by classmate Carol Blais
Signed Topps Baseball Card of Nashua Native, "Colts QB Landry"
Hand Sewn Wedding Dress worn by several members of the Trombly family
Plaque from "Sears, Roebuck and Company, 1886-1986, 100 Sears, Nashua, New Hampshire – 3003"

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth McCarthy, Curator, Sarah Jauris, Collection Technician and Barbara Bankeroff, Director and Collection Committee Co-Chair

Nashua Historical Society Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Time Period Covered May 2022 to April 2023

Programs

And the Bride Wore...A Showcase of 150 Years of Nashua Bridal Fashion was the first exhibit opening that the Society held since the beginning of pandemic. Paula Lochhead and Janice Fronko curated the exhibit. The exhibit was very well received by the public.

The exhibit had a soft opening in August for members. It was then open to the public on September 10 and 11 and again on October 8 and 9, 2022. After being closed for the winter, the exhibit reopened on April 15 and 16, 2023. On April 15, Astrida Schaeffer of Schaeffer Arts spoke prior the exhibit opening. Her topic was how bridal fashion colors had changed over the years.

The exhibit will be open again in May and June.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring

Technology Committee Report

Annual Meeting

May 16, 2023

A tablet was purchased and SQUARE software loaded on it to allow visitors to purchase items using a credit card. The tablet was used for the Bridal Show held in the Fall of 2022 and the Spring of 2023.

A new computer and computer table were purchased for the Speare Library to provide better Zoom capability for Society meetings.

The remaining funds of the SHARP Grant from the New Hampshire Humanities (SHARP= Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan) were used in the following ways:

- Our Zoom subscription was renewed when our current one expired.
- Eight film reels, 38 video tapes and five DVDs were converted to MP4 files so they can be added to our YouTube channel.

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 33.9 gigabytes of data are backed up – 12.2 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 21.7 gigabytes of data in the shared area. This is an increase of 1.2 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 7.9 gigabytes of shared data on the Server since May 2022, the last reported increase.

The computer in the office has been added to the Carbonite backup schedule because it is the main computer for the Society and handles most of the email. As of this month, 17.5 gigabytes of data are backed up. This is an increase of 1.2 gigabytes of data since May 2022, the last reported increase.

We have continued to add records of our collection to our online site. At this point there are 127 records online, including photographs from the Frank Ingalls Collection, Nashua Fires Collection, Wedding Attire Collection, and Baby Clothes Collection. These can be accessed at nashuahistorical.pastperfectonline.com, and by using the link on both our Facebook page and our Web page. More records will be added over time.

Respectively submitted,

Barbara Bankeroff
Technology Committee Chairperson

Nashua Historical Society Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Time Period Covered May 2022 to April 2023

Office Report

The Society received a check for \$24 as the recipient of the Hannaford Community Bag Program. We also received a check for \$72 as the recipient of the Hannaford Bloomin' 4 Good Program.

The Society opened an account with Square so we are able to accept debit and credit payments for special events.

New Hampshire PBS was looking for Nashua residents who were willing to be interviewed to share their stories about growing up and living in Nashua. We were able to provide names of people for them to contact. The first interviews took place at the Nashua Public Library. The second round of interviews were filmed in the Library at the Society. The program will be aired on New Hampshire PBS on June 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring



The Nashua Historical Society

“Preserving the Past for the Future”

Research Committee Report for Board Meeting – April, 2023

December 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023

Research Requests (1488-1500)	Total Requests	13
Number of Requests	Completed	13
NH Requests	Total NH Requests	6
Nashua Requests	Total Nashua Requests	3
Genealogy Requests	Total Genealogy Requests	8
Photographs Requests	Total Photographs Requests	1
Out of State Requests	Total Out of State Requests	7

Respectfully Submitted, Ralph Sommese

Nashua Historical Society Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Time Covered May 2022 to April 2023

Education Report

The Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two graduating high school seniors. They were Kaitlyn West and Sabrin Astol. Both students were graduates of Nashua High School South. Each recipient received a \$1,000 award to be used for their education.

At the October board meeting, the board approved granting Head Social Studies teachers at the local high schools complimentary memberships. Only one teacher has accepted the offer.

In January, St. Kathryn’s Homeschool Group toured the Speare Museum. We are planning to reach out to more members of the homeschool community.

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring



**The Nashua Historical Society Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Refreshment and Volunteer Report**

May we say that it is refreshing to be able to bring homemade goodies back into the society. Our committee Mary Dulski, Judy Hemenway, Sue Smith, Lorna Stickney, Jean Wells and yours truly have been joined by Mary Kirkwood, and Mary and Sarah Jauris. Refreshments were provided for our first in-house program Saturday, May 6 and the committee looks forward to future programs being planned this coming summer and fall.

We have thirty-six (36) adult volunteers and three (3) junior volunteers who have diligently worked on our many projects in collections, taking care of buildings and grounds, and guiding for our bridal exhibit openings. We would like to thank Sandy Axton, Barbara Bankeroff, Barbara Blake, Deborah Carl, Ashley Chung, Marie, Roland and Alice Fisher, Susan Fineman, Jeremy Frazier, Janice Fronco, Margaret and Robert Garneau, Maggie Harper, Judith Hemenway, Bryan Herring, Mary Kirkwood, Jeannine Levesque, Paula and Roger Lochhead, Sylvia Lund, Scott and Heather McPhie, Rose Markiewicz, Magnus and Megan Pardoe, Dennis Parker, Georgia Power, Dean Shalhoup, Sue Smith, Marti Spaulding, Peter Vincent, Rick Walker and Matt, and Jean Wells. Our volunteers have worked a total of two thousand fifteen (2,015) hours.

Respectively yours,
Margaret Gay Garneau

Nashua Historical Society Annual Financial Report 2022-23

The Nashua Historical Society's finances continue on a sound footing in what has been, overall, a successful year despite inflation, volatile financial markets, and a number of unanticipated expenses at our buildings.

Our investments have continued to provide us with ample operating funds despite the market downturn of 2022, as the disbursements to us are based on the average of three-years' earnings. The great growth in our investments in 2020 and 2021 more than adequately made up for the lesser returns of calendar 2022, so that disbursements this past year, Fiscal Year 2023, were the highest in our history.

Our investment advisers, at a meeting during the winter, were somewhat split on their attitude toward the market and economy for the rest of this year, with our TD Bank rep showing more cautious optimism than the one for Bank of America. Neither, however, was completely negative, and both advised staying the course with our current mix of stock and bond holdings. Utilities have been and will continue to be our biggest expenditure affected by inflation, though our Capital Improvement projects and even maintenance have also been affected to a degree.

The Society experienced several water issues during the past year that necessitated unanticipated expenditures, most of which have already been addressed. Other difficulties have arisen, however, and we continue to address them in as timely a manner as possible. Also, the Capital Improvement projects to add roofs over the handicapped access ramp and over the HVAC system, both at the rear of the Florence Speare building, have not yet begun due to delays in plans, permitting, supply chains and inflation. Dennis Parker may have more to say about this in his Grounds and Buildings report.

At last year's annual meeting, I reported that the Society was the beneficiary of more than \$75,700 from the late Nashua High School history teacher Paul L. Tringoson. In accordance with the vote of the Board of Directors, these funds – with additional interest – have been added to the Stearns Endowment Trust held at TD Bank, from which we receive quarterly payments.

Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee
Jeannine T. Levesque,
Chair

Nashua Historical Society Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023 **Time Period Covered May 2022 to April 2023** **Programs**

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Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring

Annual report from Property Management committee for 2022-23

AS house

For the past two years we have been seeing the wood shutters deteriorate and lose their slats, Roland has been collecting and repairing the same. Along those lines Roland helped us out on the lock and handle on the basement door that needed repair. Big thanks to Roland.

Last fall we repaired the back window framing on apartment. This was a direct result of our landscape contractor hitting the window AC unit with ride on lawnmower. After several calls and follow-ups, the Landscaper finally reimbursed Society for all window damage and AC unit owned by Alice.

After the landscaper damage we decided to go out bid after four years with same company. Last fall we selected St. Laurent Landscape and snow plowing as our summer/winter vendor. We were pleased with the snow removal this winter and awarded the Landscape contract as well starting April 2023. The pricing on both contracts were similar to what we paid P&L and I negotiated weeding as part of normal work.

Museum

For the past two years we have been applying to the city for permits. This was for adding on the shed roof over the HVAC equipment, plus the Handicap roof over ramp on back door. Two years ago, Parkhurst Construction gave us a bid to do both for

approximately 42k but we needed a building permit. Once we started to work with the city building dept. we learned a second dept was involved because Museum is in the Historical district. I started the process and developed rough plans on both structures to present.

At the first historical meeting I was told we needed an architect for proper drawings and design had to fit in with existing bldg./ neighborhood.

I quickly spoke to a local architect and asked if he could do the drawings and keep the design cost down being a nonprofit. The design and plans took about four months, then we could go back to the committee and get approval. We got both dept.'s blessing last fall, got the drawings to Contractor and Parkhurst had two design changes and snow load on shed had to be increased. When new pricing came back to us with material increases, Covid factor and added changes the bid almost doubled.

We have decided to move forward with Handicapped roof over ramp and work will start next week. Parkhurst will tear down the existing roof over back door and extend the roof line. We are doing a time and material cost with contractor because we only have the 40 thousand approved.

Cupola Mystery Solved

The past several years we have experienced interior water damage on ceiling of central hallway to 2nd floor. Water would drip and stain the ceiling and then stop. We had 2-3 contractors examine the Cupola and even tried blocking open louvers on inside thinking it was wind driven rain. Last November I was in the parking lot after a rainstorm and looked up and saw water dripping from the spire above the Cupola.

December/January I contacted Viking roofing and told them our suspicions. I told them to secure 3-4 story lift and examine roof and fix the problem while up there. They built a small copper cap to go over spire where it goes into the wood post and now water runs off.

Recently we replaced heating elements in hot water tank that services the two main bathrooms.



Projects and required maintenance for 2023-24

AS house

Painting and repairs to wood siding at from entrance including some columns
The four chimneys in dire need of restoration, one is causing leaks into two bedrooms on 2nd floor
Paint stain kill ceiling in two bedrooms
Fountain issue, Roland and Bob Garneau to investigate water usage and plumbing under ground
Back patio needs TLC with columns and supports
Gable end on Abbott St has wire barricade to prevent critters from entering, this spring while reviewing roof we noticed wire has been opened and bare wood is being chewed.
Minor damage to fencing on Abbott Street side, broken balusters from vandalism.

Museum

Elevator repairs – Sump pump/oil minder is malfunctioning, appears to be 30-year-old pump and check valve is broken. Pump company out to check repair or

replacement. All work must be coordinated with Stanley elevator company to access pit. Involves our electrical to update/replace any wiring.

Construction to start on the Handicap ramp roof next week.

Crisp Contracting out to investigate water in basement below library. Two theories: First they will explore catch basin pipes from parking lot to Abbott St for any blockage. If no blockage or broken pipes they propose to re-grade south wall of Library with pitch away from building with water barrier beneath. (currently we have negative pitch back to building)
After finding leak on Cupola, photos from roofer displayed severe neglect of maintenance on wood structure. Scraping, caulking, priming and painting all four sides is needed ASAP.

Parking lot repairs: we have four large holes that need attention, and we are securing bids to repair with patchwork to extend life a few more years.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Park

Nashua Historical Society Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Time covered May 2022 to April 2023

Visitors Report

The Abbot-Spalding house had 296 visitors during this time frame. Of this number 265 visitor for the Nashua bridal fashion exhibit.

The Speare Museum had 211 visitors during this time. Members of the Hunt Community toured the Speare Museum in April.

Visitors from New Hampshire includes: Dover, Hudson, Nashua, Manchester, Merrimack, Mont Vernon and Portsmouth.

Visitors from other states: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Washington, DC.

Visitors from countries: India, Italy, Japan, Sweden and United Kingdom

Respectfully submitted by Eileen Herring

Nominating Committee Report for March 14, 2023 Board Meeting

Members of the Committee: Beth McCarthy, Paula Lochhead, Magnus Pardoe and Margaret Garneau

Nominees for the 5 open Director Terms for 2023 through 2026 are

Roger Lochhead, Penny Pardoe, John Sadd, Deborah Carl and Pam Anderson

We would for the board to vote in favor of this slate of nominated directors.



This early voting box was once used by residents of Ward 5 to cast their ballots. Today Ward 5 residents vote at the Main Dunstable Elementary School at 20 Whitford Road.

StoryWalk® at The Nashua Historical Society

Swing by the grounds of the Historical Society during the month of June to enjoy a StoryWalk®! Families can enjoy the story *Juneteenth for Mazie*, by Floyd Cooper, while spending time outdoors!

Follow the beautifully illustrated story about a little girl named Mazie as she learns about the history behind the Juneteenth holiday. The pages of the story are placed throughout The Nashua Historical Society grounds, beginning outside the front door of the Speare Museum, circling the Abbot-Spalding House, and ending at the manhole cover exhibit.

All are welcome!



The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.



Nashua Historical Society

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Discount Admission Opportunities

If you are planning to travel, a reminder that one of the benefits of being a member of The Nashua Historical Society is access to the [Time Travelers](#) program and to the [New Hampshire Historical Society](#).

The Time Travelers program includes over 400 organizations in more than 45 states across the country. Members of these organizations can receive a variety of exclusive benefits and privileges, such as free admission, gift shop discounts, and much, much more.

Most museums will require you to show your Nashua Historical Society membership card. Please contact the Society before your trip if you do not have a membership card.