



# The Nashua Historical Society

## *Preserving the Past for the Future*

Issue No. 1 Summer/Fall 2020 [www.nashuahistoricalociety.org](http://www.nashuahistoricalociety.org)

Greetings all!

I don't think there are enough adjectives in the English language to accurately, and fully, describe the past few months here at the Historical Society. Of course, we're not alone in dealing with this most bizarre turn of events that, as has been said millions of times, nobody ever imagined, never mind could see, coming.

At any rate, we at the Society fared quite well, all things considered. Thanks to Beth, Eileen, Barbara C. and Barbara B. and the volunteers who were able to chip in and help us navigate this whole process, from sudden implementation to gradual easing of restrictions, and now the beginning of our reopening plans. Please see the article on our Covid-19 policies later in this newsletter.

We were fortunate enough to receive a CARES Act grant through the New Hampshire Humanities, and I thank those who successfully pursued the grant. The description for how the money will be used is also later in this newsletter.

Now, a big thank-you to everyone who renewed their memberships, even at a time when we're unable to offer the programs and events and other perks that come with a membership. For those who have not yet renewed, I'm not here to nag -- rather to remind you to drop a check in the mail when you get a chance.

We want to take a moment to remember Bob Bates, for years an active member of the society. Bob passed in early June after a battle with cancer.

Again, on behalf of my fellow officers and directors, a big thank-you to our staff and volunteers for their flexibility, willingness to take on tasks not in their job descriptions and keeping an upbeat attitude as they lead us through the reopening phase.

Sincerely,  
Dean Shalhoup  
President

### Officers and Board of Directors 2019-2022

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#### Staff

Beth McCarthy	Curator
Eileen Herring	Administrative Assistant
Barbara Comer	Collection Technician

### 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration update

Unfortunately, all the wonderful programs we had scheduled for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Nashua Historical Society have been put on hold until 2021 or whenever it is safe to gather in large groups inside once again. We will tease you by saying that plans are underway to have an outside event in the fall. More details are forthcoming.

## Unexpected Donation

We never know what will appear in the mail. Recently we received a box from Australia which contained a book called *The Poetical Works of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow* published in 1883 and signed J. W. White, Nashua, NH 1883.

The book was found on the street in a suburb of Cremorne, Sydney, Australia. The donor included copies of pages from the History of Nashua N.H. showing that Mr. White and other businessmen provided some capital for Estabrook & Anderson Bros. Mr. White was also Treasurer of the Nashua and Lowell Railroad.

It is fun to speculate how a book from 1883 ended up on a street in Australia. We are grateful that our donor made the effort to send us this mystery.

## Member Luncheon

Before we had to stay home, we were able to enjoy the member luncheon on January 25. As usual, our members provided many tasty dishes. Amy Conley entertained us with her many musical instruments and a great sing-a-long!



## Covid-19 Policies for reopening The Nashua Historical Society

The office for The Nashua Historical Society has reopened with our longstanding hours of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have been in touch with our volunteers and they are returning. Unfortunately, the museum is not open to the public.

The current policy for anyone coming in to work, volunteer or conduct business is that masks must be worn. Disposable masks are available if you do not have a mask. Everyone must have their temperature taken and complete a brief questionnaire. Everyone is asked to stay 6 feet apart. Every morning the areas that are frequently touched are cleaned. Alcohol wipes are available to clean keyboards, mice, etc. We are limiting the number of people in the building to ten. Each floor has a sanitizing station with hand sanitizer, tissues and alcohol wipes.

# Politics: Then and Now

By Donald and Edward Jean

How good are the New Hampshire primaries in picking the candidates who will eventually run for President in November? Let's check on the past 28 years.

In 1988, President Reagan had just finished his 2nd term and couldn't run again. The Republicans voted 58,656 for Vice President George H. W. Bush, 44,361 for Senator Bob Dole, and 19,757 for Congressman Jack Kemp. The Democrats voted 43,350 for Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, 20,697 for Congressman Dick Gephardt, 20,697 for Senator Paul Simon, and 9,580 for Reverend Jesse Jackson. The New Hampshire top picks went head to head in the national election and H.W. Bush, who received the most votes in the New Hampshire primary, became the next President of the United States.

President Bush received 92,271 of the Republican votes in the 1992 New Hampshire primary and Governor Bill Clinton received 41,540 votes from the Democrats. Again, the New Hampshire voters picked the correct candidates to go head to head in the national election, but this time didn't pick the winner -- Clinton defeated Bush.

In the 1996 primary President Clinton received 76,799 of the Democrat votes. The Republicans voted 56,874 for former presidential advisor Pat Buchanan, 54,738 for former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, and 47,148 for former Governor and Secretary of Education Lamar Alexander. The New Hampshire primaries picked Clinton to defeat Buchanan however the national election pitted Clinton against Dole to contest for the presidency. Clinton won a second term.

The year 2000 was an open election. Clinton had served two terms and could not run again. The New Hampshire Democrats selected Vice President Al Gore (76,89) to run against the Republican candidate Senator John McCain (115,600). Also, in the running were Senator Bradley, Dem. (70,502) and Governor George W. Bush, Rep. (72,330). The New Hampshire primaries thought McCain would defeat Gore but after defeats in South Carolina and nine of the thirteen primaries on Super Tuesday, McCain dropped out of the race. Bush became the

Republican nominee and went on to defeat Gore. New Hampshire Democrats rallied behind Senator John Kerry, Dem. (84,377) in 2004. With President Bush receiving 52,962 Republican votes, it looked like Kerry could unseat a sitting president. Not so -- Bush was re-elected.

Bush couldn't run again after eight years in office but Clinton's wife, Senator Hillary Clinton, could and she received 112,404 of the New Hampshire Democrat's votes. McCain ran again and received 88,713 of the Republican votes. Also running in the 2008 primary were Senator Barack Obama, Dem. (104,815) and Governor Mitt Romney, Rep. (79,675). New Hampshire picked H. Clinton to defeat McCain in the general election. It was not to be. Obama won the nomination and went on to defeat McCain. As the sitting president, Obama received only 49,080 Democrat votes to 97,591 Republican votes for Romney in New Hampshire but Obama went on to be re-elected in 2012.

Just when you thought politics made some sense, along came the presidential campaign of 2016. H. Clinton returned and with 95,355 votes, lost the New Hampshire primary to Senator Bernie Sanders, Dem. (152,193). Undeterred Clinton persevered and became the Democratic candidate for the November election against Donald Trump, Rep. (100,735. NH votes). Head to head in November, H. Clinton defeated Trump by 2 million votes.

Game over? Not so fast, the president is not elected by popular vote. Trump was awarded the presidency by 77 Electoral College votes. This was the beginning of fake news, alternate facts, great exaggerations, impeachment and acquittal. All this in Trump's first term. Will he get a second bite of the apple in 2020 or will he be a one-term president?

All in all, the New Hampshire primaries give an insightful view of the political landscape in America.

*The views in articles are those of the writers, The Society remains nonpartisan. The Nashua Historical Society appreciates articles written by our members and friends. If you have a story you would like to tell, we would love to share it. Please contact Eileen at the Society for details or assistance.*

- *it's not just for  
burgers and fries . . . .*

## **Would you like any Ketchup for that?**



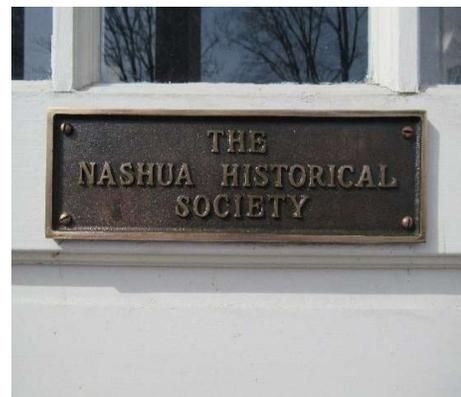
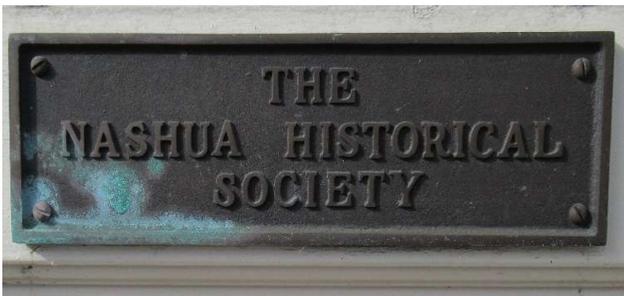
Not that we're tooting our own horn or anything like that, but your staff and volunteers here at The Nashua Historical Society have accomplished some remarkable things these past months

We are caretakers for the many Nashua signs, tablets, and brass plaques that have been donated to us over the years. Most are hung on the racks and walls in our Art Storage Room on the lower level of the Speare Museum. There are a few mixed in with various exhibits spaced throughout the building and, sadly, five of them, four large brass and one marble, have languished downstairs in cold, dark storage. Alone yes, but certainly not forgotten.

Last fall our curator, Beth McCarthy, decided to retrieve them for display. Not only did each weigh over a hundred pounds, but the brass plaques all needed a good refurbishing. Estimates were sought, returned, and considered but, with some metal design and monument companies quoting up to nearly \$1,000 to clean just one, our collective "not going to happen" reply was a no-brainer. We didn't want them to look brand new, just dirt-free and readable. Next step, we turned to the Internet.

Thanks to the wonder of online research, we found some user-friendly advice, purchased two products at local stores, gathered a few micro-fiber cleaning rags, and went to work using plenty of elbow grease. Wow! Wait until you see what a bottle of ketchup (\$1.00<sup>+</sup>), and some mineral oil for luster (\$2.49) can do. We were thrilled with the results!

The finished display has been mounted and hung in the downstairs hallway near the Farming Exhibit. We invite you to come and see what less than \$4.00 can accomplish when you put your mind to it! Kudos (and fries) to everyone involved!



# Manhole Cover Sale

One of the things that gives Nashua a unique place in history is triangular manhole covers. The Nashua area is one of the few places in the United States that used triangular manhole covers.



The triangular covers were invented in 1919 by Walter Ellis. At the time, he was superintendent of the Cooperative Foundry (now known as Nashua Foundries). Mr. Ellis realized that triangular manhole covers were more stable than round covers. Also, there are arrows on the top that show the direction of the downstream flow.

With the change of modern safety standards, Nashua has had to phase out the triangular covers for round ones. As the triangular covers are replaced, periodically, The Nashua Historical Society is the recipient of them. The Society sells the covers to the public to raise funds for the benefit of our two history museums. Those who purchase the covers feature them in their gardens, in their walkways or other creative ways. In August, the

Society received twelve triangular manhole covers to sell. We had a good response from the public. You can see from one of the photos how Paul Shea is using the cover that he purchased.

If you are interested in being added to the waiting list for future manhole covers, please email [nashuahistorical@comcast.net](mailto:nashuahistorical@comcast.net) with your name, address and telephone number. We will contact those on the waiting list when we receive the next group.



## In Memoria

Our hearts broke when we learned of the passing of Bob Bates. Bob lit up every room that he walked into. He and his wife, Sharon, are long time members of the Society. Bob was serving as one of our Board of Directors. He will be missed.

## 2020 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Award

We are pleased to announce that Owen Long is the 2020 recipient of the Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship that The Nashua Historical Society awards every year to a Nashua resident graduating from high school.

Owen Long graduated from Nashua South High School in June 2020. One of his many contributions to Nashua High South was being on a committee that set up an annual social studies bowl which is primarily history based.

In the fall, Owen will be attending the University of California, Berkeley where he will major in math and history.

## If You're Not Following Us On Facebook, You Are Missing Out

Be sure to visit Nashua Historical Society on Facebook where last month we posted links for free genealogy classes and New Hampshire Humanities programs.

We are in the process of putting photos of Nashua online and posted the link. Please check back periodically to see additional photos that are uploaded.



President Theodore Roosevelt speaking to a crowd of people from a platform in front of Nashua City Hall on August 28, 1902.

## CARES Act Grant

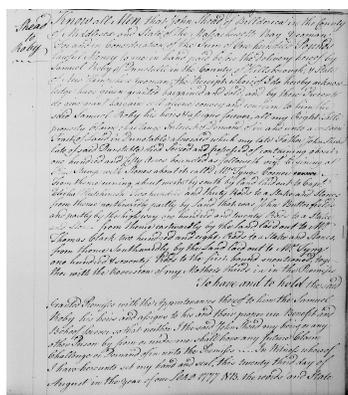
One exciting thing that has occurred recently is that the Society was fortunate to receive a grant through New Hampshire Humanities and the CARES Act. These funds will be used to add audio visual equipment to two of our exhibit rooms. This will allow for more social distancing when we are able to hold programs again. It will also allow for more visitors to attend and participate in programs once the pandemic has passed.

# Researching Your Home's History

By Deborah A. Carl

Are you living in one of the older homes in Nashua? The Nashua Historical Society often receives requests for the history of these houses but the information is easy enough to find. Start by going to the city website, [www.gonashuanh.gov](http://www.gonashuanh.gov), click on Government, click on Assessing Department, click on Property Data and enter the street name. Here you learn the name of the current owner, the person who sold them the property, and a description of the home.

There is an old farmhouse on Freshwater Court that was built around 1910 and renovated in 1995. The basement still has the summer kitchen that was used by the family to can produce which was a long, hot job and working in the coolness of the basement made the job bearable. The entire neighborhood was part of the farm and a few hints remain for those who know what they are looking for -- an apple tree in the front yard and a widening of the stream which was created for the pigs to wallow in. The remains of a chicken coop were across the street in the back yard of one of the new homes but was removed about 20 years ago. The garage that was with the farmhouse was relocated to another of the newly built homes at the end of the street.



So go to the Hillsborough County Register of Deeds website and click on Ava - Public Search, accept the registry disclaimer, click on AVA Search and then type in the last and first name of the seller. You can see the actual deeds and each deed usually ends with a Book and Page. Now you can go back to the search page and instead of typing in the name of the seller, you can type in the Book and Page number.

By following the path of deeds, it leads to a 1930 deed where Robinson and Alvin Heath sell "A certain tract or parcel of land situated in Nashua, in the County of Hillsborough and State of New Hampshire and known and described as one-fifth section of the Robinson Farm, containing 118 acres, more or less.

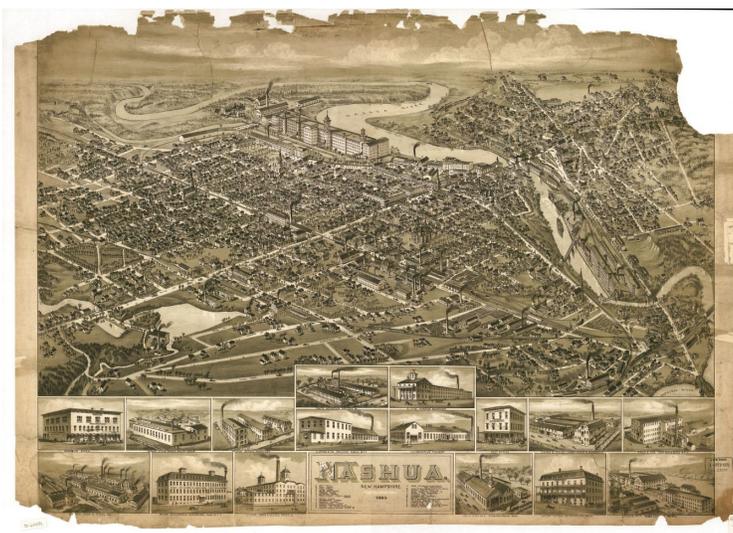
Intending hereby to convey the same real estate which was devised by the will of the late Allen Robinson to Horatio A. Robinson and to our mother, Bertha

L. R. Heath, and which came to us as the only heirs of said Bertha L. R. Heath, whose estate is probated in said Rockingham County Registry of Probate."

There was no Book and Page and further AVA searches didn't turn up anything more on the property so the next stop was the Catalog at FamilySearch.org to look at the Hillsborough County Register of Deeds Index. Allen Robinson bought the property in 1854 which was part of the Leonard Roby farm. It was bounded on the west by Salmon Brook and bordered by various properties belonging to members of the Searles family and Clifton Lund. The Roby Farm was purchased in 1781 by Samuel Roby from John Shed.

As for the farmhouse, Horatio A. Robinson died in 1905 so the house would have been commissioned by his daughter Bertha L. Robinson Heath. However, she was married and living on Kinsley Street in 1910 and after several moves, settled in Rockingham. There is no evidence she ever lived in the house.

*Deborah A. Carl is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and a volunteer researcher at The Nashua Historical Society.*



(1883) *Nashua, New Hampshire*. [N.P] [Map] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/75694696/>.

# **Nashua Historical Society**

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