



# Nashua Historical Society

Issue No.1

Fall 2015

www.nashuahistoricalociety.org

During the winter months the Abbot-Spalding House experienced water intrusion within the dining room and butler's pantry.



After considerable time spent, we are now proud to say the Abbot-Spalding House Museum is once again fully available for visitation.



before painted



after painted



A fresh coat of paint

Last winter the Board of Directors voted to close to the public the Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum for the purpose of focusing on reorganizing the different rooms/areas of the Museum whose spaces provide support to the various needs of the Society's eclectic collection.

Considerable progress was made with this reorganization effort as detailed by these before and after photographs.



Abbot-Spalding House 1 Nashville St. Nashua, NH 03064

Florence H. Speare Museum 5 Abbott St. Nashua, NH 03064 (603)883-0015, (603)889-8515 fax

## NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015-2016 OFFICERS

Joanne Ouellette President  
Dennis Parker 1st Vice President  
Joe Comer 2nd Vice President  
Peter Vincent Treasurer  
Claire Young Secretary  
Jack Clark Assistant Treasurer  
Anita Vassar Assistant Secretary

Terry Romano  
President Emeritus through 2016

### DIRECTORS

Barbara Bankeroff  
David Duprat  
Laura Eanes  
Robert Garneau  
Rose Markiewicz  
Ken Mayo  
Awilda Muniz  
Kathryn Peterson  
Andrew Piela  
Cecile Renzi  
Vincent Renzi  
Robert Sampson  
JoAnne St. John  
Alice Sheridan

### Staff

Beth McCarthy Curator  
Margaret Garneau Admin-Assistant  
Barbara Comer Collection Technician

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,  
The Society remains a very busy place at which to work and volunteer. A few examples include  
A Lydia Reed-Nashua Historical Society Memorial Fund is now established primarily for the maintenance of the Abbot-Spalding House.  
Member Steve Mandela is metal detecting on our grounds. He found what both he and Curator Beth McCarthy believe is a Civil War uniform button.  
The Abbot garage will be getting a new roof soon.  
We will replace the Hawthorne Tree which was on the west lawn of Abbot.  
Chinook dog, Tug, was a big hit at the September program. While his master Bob Cottrell presented an excellent program, Tug circulated and enjoyed as many pets from attendees as possible.  
We hosted the Latino Hispanic Networking meeting in August. Director Awilda Muniz arranged the visit. Sandy Axton and Bill Ross served as Abbot docents on a very hot day. Abbot House and the Florence Hyde Speare Memorial Museum were both open for the ArtWalk. The beautiful day brought quite a few visitors.  
We would like to have the Speare open once a month on a Saturday. To do that, we would need 2-3 volunteers to be on hand as observers. If you might be able to help out with this, please call the office at 883-0015.  
Most importantly, thank you for your continued support and donations of all kinds.

Joanne Ouellette  
President

## ~In Remembrance of our Deceased Members 2014 - 2015~

**Jerry Deschamps** - Past Director  
**Robert J. Goldsack** - Past Officer and Ass't. Treasurer  
**Paul Lipnick** - Life Member  
**Prudence (Sullivan) Maloon** - Past Officer and Ass't. Treasurer  
**Frank Mellen** - Past President and 1st Vice President  
**Susan Woodbury Misk**



"Tug"

The Chinook is the New Hampshire State Dog

## Annual Report Summaries - Full Reports on File

Annual Meeting of the Nashua Historical Society - May 19, 2015

President Joanne Ouellette called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and welcomed the members to the 145th Annual Meeting.

A quorum was declared, (at least 25 society members were present).

**Treasurer's Report - Peter Vincent:** Fiscal 2015 was not very exciting as there were no major surprises. The original expense budget was \$200,000 for the year.

We realized a year ago the four Florence Speare furnaces needed to be replaced. An additional \$70,000 was added to the budget to cover the cost. We ended up spending \$268,00 or 99.3%.

Utilities, maintenance, and taxes expenses were over budget and were offset by the lower spending on the furnaces.

We will continue having higher maintenance expense in FY2016, however the budget will be reduced from \$270,000 to \$253,000 in FY 2016 (a reduction of \$17,000).

Painting, chimney repairs and roof repairs have been budgeted for the Abbot Spalding House.

In FY 2015 we were able to strengthen the Society's Bylaws, which reduces potential future financial risk.

Also we strengthened the documentation and audit trail on all monetary transactions. This was done by creating and documenting all procedures for the current and future Treasurers.

Another accomplishment, the creation of a separate checking account to capture the funds the Society is required to spend on maintenance and repairs on the Florence Speare Museum. This new account will help track the source and use of those funds.

**Financial Report - Bill Ross:** The last fiscal year was excellent for the Society. On average our investment accounts rose at about 3% after taking distribution of approximately \$170,000.

The Society once again demonstrated financial discipline and managed our business within our budget guidelines. The committee chairs and the Society Treasurer are to be commended for their dedication.

We expect the next few years annual budgets to slightly decline as we finish some expensive maintenance on our campus (i.e. Abbot Spalding House painting, fence repair, finishing the new HV/AC payments).

We were the beneficiary of a distribution of about \$32,000 from the Will of a past member, Lydia Reed. We have expectations of a similar distribution from the same source in the near future. The finance committee will be considering opening a separate investment account under the name of Lydia Reed for the sole purpose of using the proceeds to support maintenance activities at the Abbot Spalding House.

However, there are some potential financial "storm clouds" in the future.

Our current distribution of 4% from the combined investment account (except the memorial account fund 5%) is slowly falling short of our growing spend rate due to the increased fixed costs.

The Society maintains a relatively defensive investment strategy but a sharp long decline in the equity market would result in diminishing quarterly distributions and as the experts say "The current bull market is long in the tooth".

The Finance Committee is looking forward to another very successful year.

**Collection and Exhibit - Beth McCarthy, Curator:** We were fortunate this past year to have made significant progress with the collection.

Total Number of Records in Past Perfect	Additional Records 04/17/2015 - 04/22/2015
Collection Records 26, 223	1,749
Objects 1,792	418
Photographs 19,509	449
Archives 3,783	872
Library 691	18
Items in Container List 1,180	80
Accessions 3,734	232
Contacts 2,391	300



Wellman Homestead circa 1887

## The Butcher and the Bottle by Barbara Comer



House on Wellman Avenue, September 2012

Searching for a way to ease the psychic impact of having to write an article for our newsletter, I naturally gravitated to the most effective way of evading the responsibility: putting it off. That just made it worse. The item that caused this mental turmoil is nothing more than a pint sized clear glass milk bottle, embossed with the words "Producer's Dairy System, Inc., Nashua, N.H." It's probably best if I start at the beginning.

A few years ago the Society unveiled an exhibit featuring the work of Nashua photographer Frank M. Ingalls. In preparation for this event, numerous photographs had to be identified and given a brief description. I happened to be handed one that pictured an old house, large barn and some out-buildings with men, women and children, horses and wagons, and a sliver of a name barely visible on the side of one wagon: "Wellman".

Researching the "Wellman" name produced some interesting results, and my curiosity grew as I delved deeper into the back story of the man and his life and work in Nashua. Wondering if the house still existed, I drove to Wellman Avenue and was pleased to find it was still erect and had undergone a few changes. Although the other buildings were gone you could still see the foundation stones for the barn and the imprint of earlier sheds and ells. Woods and grassland still surrounded the house but the building itself appeared to be vacant.

In searching the Nashua City Directories, "William B. Wellman" was first listed in 1880, living in the area of Broad Street, then Amherst Street, and eventually moving to Wellman Avenue in 1887. He was a dealer in "Provisions" and a butcher by trade who also owned Milford Market, a meat and grocery store located on the ground floor of the Greeley Block at 21 Main Street in Railroad Square. The Hunt Memorial (Library) Building now occupies that site.

By 1901, the Wellman family had moved south across the river to Kinsley Street where, in addition to his store, he also established a grocery co-operative that carried up to 130 paying members. Known as a respected businessman, he was encouraged to enter the Nashua mayoral election race in 1904 and reluctantly became a candidate running on the Socialist ticket. One of the demands in his platform was to provide free milk for children which, since he obviously didn't win the election, was carried out a few years later by the Nashua Manufacturing Company. Wait!...what was that? ...free milk for children? Aha, there's a connection to the milk bottle!

The story about the life of Mr. Wellman was reawakened this summer by a bottle that appeared at the Society by way of a father-son team of weekend explorers who were searching the site of a recently demolished house on Wellman Avenue. They brought in this pint sized milk bottle in great condition with its milk cap still readable and wondered if we would like to have it for our collection and did we have any information about the old house? Certainly you realize whose house this used to belong to so now let's move on to the part about the milk bottle.

This small bottle came from Producers Dairy, which was a collaboration of several area dairy farms that incorporated on February 16, 1921 in order to profitably continue milk production and delivery in the region. The surface is marked "Producers Dairy System Incorporated, Nashua, N.H., Safe Milk, One Pint Liquid". The bottle itself was patented on November 22nd, 1927, and this particular embossed style was used for bottling the dairy's milk until 1930. With the increase and convenience of new supermarkets, Producers dairy decided to stop providing area milk deliveries in the mid-1970s, thus ending 5 decades of farm to home service. Their well-made bottles are still turning up on new construction sites throughout Nashua. I'm glad this one found a good home.



### Volunteer Luncheon April 14, 2015



This year's Volunteer Luncheon was held at the Marriott in Nashua. Kudos to Joanne Ouellette and Margaret Garneau for making this event a success.

And as you can see, the dessert was especially delicious!



...butcher and bottle



Wellman's Market, ground floor in the Greeley Building, 1895



To be truthful, I really did enjoy the chance to shed some light on the butcher and the bottle connection, as tenuous as that connection may be. Writing this piece provided the opportunity to share with you the story of William B. Wellman, late of Nashua, who died November 28, 1920 at 70 years, husband, father, butcher and grocer by trade. His labors helped feed a growing city and his home on Wellman Avenue gave families shelter for over 130 years. It's good to remember the contributions made by those who have gone before us, not only by William but by that person who left behind the Producer's Dairy bottle on the Wellman property and who, by doing so, unknowingly made this article a reality.

annual report con't

**Collection Records:** Sandra Axton created 183, Barbara Bankeroff created 222, Barbara Comer, Collection Technician created 391, Susan Fineman created 2, Paul Fridayy created 1, Sarah and Hannah Juris created 106, Cecile Renzi created 166, Rose Markiewicz created 20, Beth McCarthy, Curator created 52, Namratha Sajeev created 11, Patrick and Matt/Rick Walker created 596.

**Accession Records:** Sandra Axton created 3, Barbara Bankeroff created 7, Barbara Comer, Collection Technician created 2, Margaret Garneau created 150, Joanne Ouellette created 2, Beth McCarthy, Curator, created 60.

**The Museums Environment:** Two Hobos, devices designated to measure temperature and humidity, were used in both the Museums. The results of the Hobo devices have been maintained.

**Individual Contributions to the Collection:** Sandra Axton has continued to research a variety of history related aspects relative to the Abbot-Spalding House. She assisted with the extensive packing up needs of the contents of the Dining Room, Butler's Pantry and Sylvia's Bedroom. She completed cataloging the Park and Recreation Sweeney Collection of photographs and objects. She has completed the research, and has matched up accession sources to the contents of the Society's collection of children's, adult shoes, and she created shoe accession records when needed.

She has tagged and stored the shoes according to archival standards. She is working on source research, accession match, accession record creation and the archival tagging and storage of the Society's hat collection. She has continued to photograph and catalog views of Nashua that meet the requirements for inclusion within the Historical Society's MAPP project. (Millennium Archival Photograph Project).

**Significant Collection Project:** The Society being closed during the past winter's months, gave the Collection Committee members a chance to focus on identifying, reorganizing and transforming the collection storage rooms in the Speare Museum's basement. Although not complete the task entailed looking at every item stored in this space. It also included moving many items to other places within the Museum, requiring space adjustment to accommodate the collection. The space was cleaned and the walls painted. On several occasions Eaton Berube Insurance employees offered assistance by moving heavy racks throughout the Museums.

**Display Case at Nashua City Hall:** The Committee was successful maintaining it's goal of exhibit changes during the year. April through Fall 2014 "Nashua Athletics" The Nashua Community has always been a strong Supporter of Sports. Fall through March "Remembering When - "Downtown Restaurants" March - ongoing "Nashua High Schools Through the Years".

**On Exhibit Within:** The Frank B. Clancy Esquire Library (The Historical Society's Library) "The Everyday As Extraordinary: Interviews About Nashua's Tree Streets". This community traveling exhibit was researched and assembled by the staff at Nashua's Community Development Department who worked in partnership with the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources.

**Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum;** First Floor: Members Exhibits displayed within the foyer exhibit cabinet. The willingness of our members as collectors to share their treasures with the visitors of the Historical Society determines the frequency and the subjects displayed within this exhibit cabinet. Peter Vincent has shared his **collection of unique paperweights** that were made in Nashua. Rose Markiewicz shared her **collection of Fairy Lamps**. These vaseline glass pieces are also known as Fairy Lights, Candle Lamps and Widowed Shade Candle Lights. Within this exhibit Rose has also shared her collection of Staffordshire dogs which include a pair of poodles and a number of King Charles Spaniels.

The most extensive exhibit changes during this past year occurred within the Florence H. Speare Museum's basement space. Basement Level: Agriculture; A new exhibit titled "**Settling Old Dunstable: Farm and Agriculture in the Early Days of Nashua**" opened to the public on the evening of Thursday, July 17th. It included an opening discussion and concluded with an ice cream social.

"**Settling Old Dunstable: Farms in Early Dunstable**" has been an extensive project of focus for the Committee members, with considerable time researching the variety of farms previously in Nashua. Research included personal interviews of current and former residents. The Society's collection of farming implements was well researched as part of this exhibit project and assisted the furthering of these items catalog records. Researched hand drawn maps have been created, along with pictorial descriptive text.

## 2015 Scholarship Recipient



Christopher Barry being presented the Edmund M. Keefe Scholarship by President Joanne Ouellette and Sandra Axton, Chair of the Education Committee



Christopher also received the Ce Ce Romano Memorial Scholarship presented by Terry Romano, President Emeritus

The Society hosted the Scholarship award ceremony on July 30 in the evening, followed by an ice cream, (and cake of course), "social".

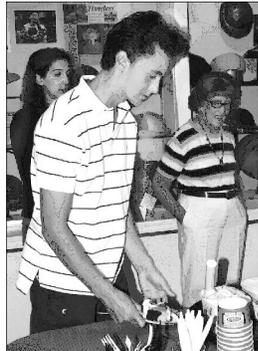
This years recipient, Christopher Barry is a graduate of Nashua High North and plans on attending the University of British Columbia.

Christopher with his parents Maria and Michael Barry, his siblings and cousins.



Enjoying the cake and ice cream

**The Nashua Garden Club** sent a note to the members of the Historical Society letting us know it was another successful year for their annual plant sale. They also "thanked" us for allowing them to use our beautiful grounds once again



annual report con't

**Second Floor:** Preparatory work occurred within the space. In the future it will support the Society's Adopt an Artifact program. Titled "**Preserving Nashua's Past for the Future**" upon completion this exhibit will showcase the results of conservation treatments on a variety of different treasures within the collection. Additional small changes occurred throughout the Speare Museums Exhibit spaces as new items entered the collection, and/or someone rediscovered something old.

**Abbot-Spalding House Museum:** As the seasons changed so did the floral accent arrangements within the House Museum until the end of summer. Unfortunately, the House was closed to visitation at the end of August as it experienced water intrusions from more than one source. The contents of several affected rooms were packed up. These spaces included the Butler's Pantry, and Dining Room.

As a result of cracking and wear on the second floor, the contents of Sylvia Spalding's bedroom were packed up and this room repainted. Exterior and interior restoration/repair has moved along, although the progress is not completed enough to support the House Museum being open.

**Acceptance Donations: Books/Booklets/Archives:** Genealogy Journal "Swart and Roby Family" The first genealogy record entered into this journal was for year 1512 and the last record entered was for year 1930. Document "GAR Almon B. White Post #55 at Nashua on June 26, 1880." Daniel Webster Titus, a Civil War veteran is listed on the document and through his family the Society received this gift.

**Objects:** Bottle of Whiskey "Old Reserve Whiskey Blended", Bottled by John D. Sullivan with the Gibson's Son & Co., bottler. An early Nashua "Jury Box". Cigar Box, "The Nashua Cigar." Codfish Box "Daisy Brand Selected Georges Codfish, packed for Merrill Whitney Company." 1996 Nashua High School Band Uniform. Wall Clock from the "W.T. Grants Department Store" Main Street location.

**Images:** Watercolor, "Early Morning Light"

**Research Committee:** Committee Chair: JoAnne St. John. **Members:** Sandi Axton, Barbara Bankeroff, Barbara Comer, Paul Friday, Margaret Garneau, Robert Garneau, Rose Markiewicz, Beth McCarthy, Scott McPhie, Frank Mooney.

**By the Numbers:** Total Research Requests - 72, Requests Completed - 68, NH Requests - 53, Nashua - 30, Photo Requests - 21, Genealogy - 10, History - 38, Misc Requests - 4, Ref Out - 5, Total since 2003 - 1104.

**Grounds Report - Dennis Parker:** Bids went out last fall for landscaping and snow plow contract to 2 others besides our current vendor. Dube's Landscape won the bid for one year beginning November 2014 through this November. The bid was \$200 less per month, a savings of \$2400. They did a good job considering winter storms. In April I viewed the parking lot and noticed 3-4 pot holes and several cracks in pavement and walkways. We contacted R&K of Nashua. Kevin came, viewed pavement and also estimated the driveway in front of garage which is long overdue for resurfacing. His estimate for all work, including Parking lines and Handicap lanes was \$3300. We accepted his bid. I expect the work to start in next few weeks. Thomas Mickey, Master Gardener from Portsmouth, was over in April to help us with landscape design and plantings around Abbot House. His design and CD disc is available in office for review. He suggested 2 Fothergilla plants and 2 Inkberry shrubs. I purchased material at Countryside Nurseries, Hudson, and had shrubs planted by local handyman.

The entire landscape and beds around the Abbot House were weeded, mesh barrier added and bark mulches last week.

**Long Term Project:** Determine problem and leak in fountain, estimate repairs. Budget for costs in 2016. Volunteers needed or contractor that would be able to repair water system and brick retention pond.

**Properties Report - Joe Comer:** New Furnaces, AC. Add backflow preventor on water pipe per Pennichuck requirement. New map file cabinet for \$100 (12 drawer). New camera security system inside and outside. Painted walls in Textile room (still have floor to do). Chimney painted at Abbot Spalding House. Interior painted at Abbot Spalding House. Repaired leak in flat roof over diningroom. Painting of Abbot Spalding House this summer.

**Education - Sandra Axton:** The 2014-2015 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Michael Pappas, a graduate of Nashua High School North. His parents are Cheryl and Stephen Pappas. Michael intends to major in International Relations at St. Michael's College in Vermont. The Society hosted a members' luncheon and award ceremony on August 2, where Michael also received the Ce Ce Romano Memorial Scholarship. Boy Scout, Greg Cowan, who had petitioned the Board of Directors last year to involve the Society in his Eagle Scout project notified Barbara Bankeroff that he decided not to pursue his Eagle Scout project.

annual report con't

This year a group of 4th graders from Amherst St. School toured the Speare Museum, as did the Cub Scouts. Special "thank you" to Margaret Garneau, Cal Knickerbocker, Frank Mooney and Joanne Ouellette who assisted with those tours.

Two teachers from Elm St. Middle School, JoAnne DelGreco and Steve Largy, visited the Historical Society during February vacation, preparing for a visit by a group of their students to the Society. Students were to research various topics related to Nashua for a writing project.

On March 12, 2015, 28 eighth graders, accompanied by their teachers walked from Elm St. Middle School to the Historical Society. The walks purpose; identify sites along the way from a scavenger hunt prepared by Largy. In our library they viewed a slide show depicting the various things and places from scavenger hunt list. Afterward, they got to work on their research, using materials set out by Ms DelGreco and Mr. Largy from their previous visit. The students shared material with each other with teachers giving assistance when needed. They also toured the Speare Museum.

Special thanks to Sandi Axton, Susan Fineman, Rose Markiewicz, Joanne Ouellette and Anita Vassar for participation during this event.

**Membership Report - Margaret Garneau:** Three new members have joined since our annual meeting, Tuesday, May 20, 2014. There have been 29 memberships that were not renewed in October 2014. Our Membership as of April 30, 2015 is 101 single adult, 54 family, 56 life, and 23 complimentary. A total of 234.

Sadly, we have 4 deceased members.

**Guides, Office, Visitors and Volunteers - Margaret Garneau:** The office is less cluttered since Director Peter Vincent obtained 2 new filing cabinets and we put the book trolley in the basement collection room. Good progress was made while we were closed this winter. Even had time to assist Secretary Claire Young get the Spring Program Guide out and start polishing the silver set in the diningroom.

6 Mailings went out to members this past year. Our mailing team Mary Dulski, Judy Hemenway, Vinnie Renzi and Jean Wells have done another tremendous job.

In April we hosted a tour of 11 members from the Nashua Baptist Church, again, many thanks to Cal Knickerbocker, Rose Markiewicz and Joanne Ouellette for hosting the group.

We have 36 volunteers and 2 junior volunteers who helped within the museums this past year. The society would not be in the great shape it is in without the hard work and hours these wonderful volunteers have given.

**Refreshment Report - Marv Dulski, Margaret Garneau, Shirley Hart, Judy Hemenway, Denise Newman and Jean Wells:** The refreshment committee has done an outstanding job of providing food and drink for 5 programs and the annual meeting. Also the scholarship lunch last August was delicious.

There was no annual holiday party this year due to the society being closed for collection reorganization from Thanksgiving to March 3, 2015, and the annual volunteer lunch was held off site.

**Programs Report - Margaret Garneau, Joanne Ouellette:** The Society hosted 5 well attended educational events. They were Weaving Traditions of the Abenaki Nation by Liz Charlebois, an Abenaki basket maker. The River that Runs Through Our Gate City by Lauri Johnson, a member of the River Shed Association. Reliving the Civil War by Bob Duffy, a uniformed presenter. Roland Fisher from Reliance Autocare. And, Two New England Towns do Battle over an American icon, by Susan Fineman.

We also had 4 sessions of Colonial Art classes conducted by talented teacher Kathy Daansan, where autumn table candle decorations were made by the attendees, also Christmas ornaments, cloth books, quilling, and now cloth mats and wall hangings.

**Technology Report - Barbara Bankeroff:** The computer network has been running very well. This year software was purchased that creates PDF files. It was used to create the By-Laws in PDF for general viewing.

The PastPerfect database, residing on the Server, continues to be backed up several ways: online backup by MozyPro, each time a database backup file changes, and a periodic manual backup to a portable drive and computer other than the Server.

Also all files in a shared area on the Server are backed up. This assures in case of a catastrophic Server issue the database will not be lost. 7.1 gigabytes of PastPerfect data and 3.3 gigabytes of data in the shared area are being backed up.

**Adopt an Artifact Report - Beth McCarthy, Curator:** In Fall 2011 the Adopt an Artifact program was established, that featured artifacts in need of conservation. Given the details people are more responsive to preserving these collections for future generations. Each piece chosen has a significant link to Nashua history. These are one of a kind and can never be duplicated. All tell a story that has shaped us as a community.

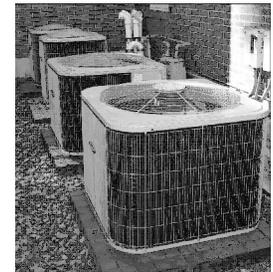
During this past year the Adopt an Artifact program moved to its next phase, which will be an Exhibit titled "Preserving Nashua's Past for the Future". Prep work for the exhibit was completed within one of the Speare Museum's spaces.

This program has remained on the Historical Society's webpage as well as presented within literature found throughout the Florence Speare Museum. The Committee thanks all who supported this program, as this program represents the Society's commitment to remain a strong presence in the care and preservation of Nashua's history.

The Board of Directors voted to replace both the 1971, original furnaces and air conditioning units at the Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum.



Shown: The new furnace and air conditioning units



## 2015 Volunteers

Barbara Bankeroff fulfilled the management of the Nashua Historical Society's computer network and the collection management software, Past Perfect. Barbara trained new Past Perfect users and has been the computer support person to all the Past Perfect staff.

Barbara also worked on numerous photograph Research Requests. She created a book of all previously edited photographs to assist patrons seeking usage. She researched and furthered the catalog records of a portion of the large eclectic collection of farming artifacts. She completed the catalog records on the coat hanger collection. She worked on the pre-cataloging tasks with the World War I, II and War Bond posters. She furthered the catalog records of numerous, recently acquired artifacts. Barbara assisted with planning for and purchase of several collection storage cabinets in use within the basement of the Speare. She was instrumental in this winter's re-organization project focused within the Society's collection storage room.

2015 volunteers con't

Barbara Comer, Collection Technician, continued to further the catalog records of a portion of the large eclectic collection of farming artifacts. Barbara assisted with cataloging numerous recently acquired eclectic artifacts. She researched and completely cataloged the Society collection of parasols, canes and umbrellas. She worked on the precataloging tasks with the World War I, II and War Bond Posters.

Susan Fineman continued to research the backgrounds of all the schools in Nashua. She has continued to further the catalog records of Nashua schools photographs. She inventoried five collection clothing racks.

Paul Friday assisted with the organization and the moving of a large section of the Society's books and bound archives including the City Directories and Annual Reports. These items moved within the Speare Museum from either the large basement textile room, the collection work room or from the Frank B. Clancy Esquire Library. These volumes now reside either on bookcases or in newly purchased lockable cabinets in the Speare Museum Library Annex.

Patrick and Matt, students from the Plus Company, and their counselors have been cataloging the Pickering Collection of Nashua business cards.

Sarah and Hannah Jarvis have created numerous object catalog records. They cataloged significant portions of the Society's bottles, canes and tool collections.

Rose Markiewicz re-shelved numerous books and bound archives that were moved onto the shelves/locked cabinets, currently located in the Speare Annex. The volumes were moved from the large textile collection storage room, the collection workroom and the Frank B. Clancy Esq. Library.

Rose researched and matched accession sources to all of the hand fans in our collection. She started the Past Perfect cataloging process on the hand fans.

Beth McCarthy, Curator provided support and guidance to all the individuals who worked/volunteered on the following committees: Collection, Exhibit and Research and Records Committees. Current accessioning practices and past accessioning maintenance along with furthering the preservation of numerous aspects of the Historical Society's eclectic collections care were the Curator's area of focus along with the maintenance of all of the collection support files.

Beth, Joanne and Cecile attended a staff development workshop titled "The Law, Small Museums and Historic Houses" Conference.

Frank Mooney has worked with the de-accession items. Numerous gifts were made to other Historical Societies and Museums. Some de-accessioned items were sold through the Brookline Auction Gallery.

Joanne Ouellette has also worked with the de-accession items. Numerous gifts were made to other Historical Societies and Museums. Joanne worked with the inventory, sorting and the cataloging process of the Topical Collection.

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

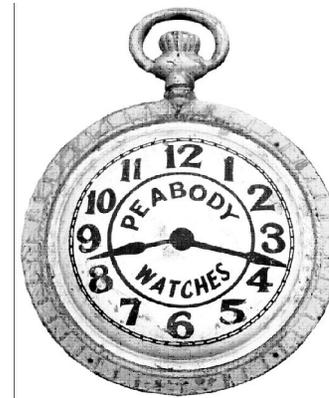
Gail Pinet repaired five large linen textile covers and sewed numerous ties into these textile covers.

Alice Sheridan continued to organize the Society's paper collection of current news topics. She is in the finishing stages of sorting over one thousand letters written by Nashua School Children. These letters are a part of the City wide "Letters to Nashua 1853-2153" exhibit project.

Cecile Renzi completed the Past Perfect portion of the cataloging of the Society's Quilt collection. A significant portion of this information was acquired during Phase I and Phase II of the New Hampshire Quilt Documentation Days hosted by the Society. The purpose of the Quilt Documentation's project was to record and preserve information about the physical aspects of quilts made prior to 1976.

Cecile also has been working with the Society's Post Card collection. She has been creating new Post Card catalog records and updating existing Post Card records.

Anita Vassar has worked on the pre-cataloging tasks with the World War I, II, and the War Bond posters.



## "Peabody Watch Sign"

During the summer, the Historical Society received a metal, pocket watchshaped exterior sign which reads "PEABODY WATCHES". A card which came in with this donation reads, "Erin C. Peabody, Watch & Clock Repairing, 6 1/2 Tyler Street, Nashua, N.H." Researching who Erin C. Peabody was shows that he was born about 1867 in Maine, lived in both, Middleton, Essex, Massachusetts as well as having lived in Nashua. He was married, had a daughter, became a widower and lived to be seventy three years old. In Nashua's 1920 City Directory Erin C.

Peabody is listed as being a toolmaker, in Nashua's 1928 City Directory as a hardener, and in 1940 as a mechanic. Throughout these years his residential address is listed as 288 Main Street, the same address from 1926-1935 that his brother-in-law William F. McCarthy is listed as residing at along with his sister in-law Lizzie McCarthy Margaret Peabody, Erin's daughter and other McCarthy family members. Between the years 1918-1935, Nashua's City directories, show William F. McCarthy working in different occupations including as an asbestos worker, a foundryman and most prominently at his 228 Main Street residence as a representative for Indian Motorcycles. Was Erin C. Peabody ever employed in Watch & Clock Repairing at 6 1-2 Tyler Street in Nashua? Probably not!