



Historical Society of Cheshire County

Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

VOL. 34, NO. 1

APRIL 2018

Historical Society of Cheshire County acquires additional space on Main Street



David Drasba, Dan Scully, Architects, Doug Brown, Rob Therrien, Facilities Committee members, Jeff Ingram, General Contractor, and Alan Rumrill, Executive Director

A Cultural Heritage Center is taking shape on Main Street in Keene, and an important milestone has been reached in its development. On February 2, the Historical Society of Cheshire County acquired the Bruder House, a brick dwelling built in 1839 that is located adjacent to the Wyman Tavern. The building will become a welcome center and educational venue for the Historical Society.

The purchase of the Bruder House is the culmination of a process that began five years ago when the Trustees of the Historical Society decided that more space was needed to accommodate our expanded range of educational and cultural programs. Early on there was talk about building an addition at the Wyman Tavern, but it became apparent that an addition might compromise the architectural character of the historic building. Then the Trustees became aware that Keene State College might be willing to sell the Bruder House, which was perfectly situated to integrate with Wyman Tavern in a Cul-

tural Heritage Center Campus.

Extensive renovations will need to take place at the Bruder House in the coming months. The Society is working with Daniel V. Scully Architects of Keene and Ingram Construction Company of Swanzey to finalize plans for the project. The work will include creation of classroom and meeting space, storage space, a covered porch, an outdoor function area, and a walkway connected to the Tavern paved with commemorative bricks.

The purchase of the Bruder House was made with proceeds from the Society's recently completed capital fund campaign -- *Investing in Our History, Enhancing Our Future*. More than 215 individuals, couples, private companies, and foundations contributed to the campaign, as did the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. The capital campaign also raised funds for the historical rehabilitation of the Wyman Tavern in 2016, and improvements to the Society's headquarters the

Continued on Page 2

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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(cont. from page 1): **New Space on Main Street**

Ball Mansion that are expected to be completed in 2019.

The vision for a Cultural Heritage Center Campus is focused on providing diverse activities that will attract more first time and repeat visitors and create the next generation of Cheshire County history students. The Society plans to accomplish this by addressing a well-documented need for educational experiences that provide relevance, sense of place, and civic engagement.

The Cultural Heritage Center will offer opportunities for people of all ages to develop ways of thinking about local history and its relevance to their lives today. They will be able to engage in local history, art, and culture in a way that helps them become full participants within their community. They can use history as a way to address problems that they face in their lives and their communities. Their participation could inspire them to get involved, pursue a new interest, share what they have learned, or preserve and promote community-based cultural heritage. We envision that the number of visitors to the Historical Society could double as a result of the expansions in facilities and programs.

Please join us for a groundbreaking ceremony to launch the rehabilitation project for the Bruder House.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County invites you to join us at the Bruder House, 349 Main Street on **Tuesday, May 15 at 11:30 am** at a groundbreaking ceremony for this exciting construction project. Take a peek at the building and learn more about the construction plans. To RSVP, please call 603-352-1895 or email hscen@hscen.org.

There is still time to buy a commemorative brick for the walkway at the Cultural Heritage Center.

The Bruder House will be connected to the Wyman Tavern by a walkway paved with commemorative bricks. You can buy an engraved brick to be installed in the walkway to honor family or friends. The engraved bricks program will benefit the Historical Society of Cheshire County and your message will be preserved for generations to come.

You can order a 4" x 8" brick with up to three lines of engraving and up to 21 characters per line for \$100.

You can order an 8" x 8" brick with up to six lines of engraving and up to 21 characters per line for \$200.

To become a part of history with a commemorative brick, go to <https://hscen.org/capital-campaign/>.



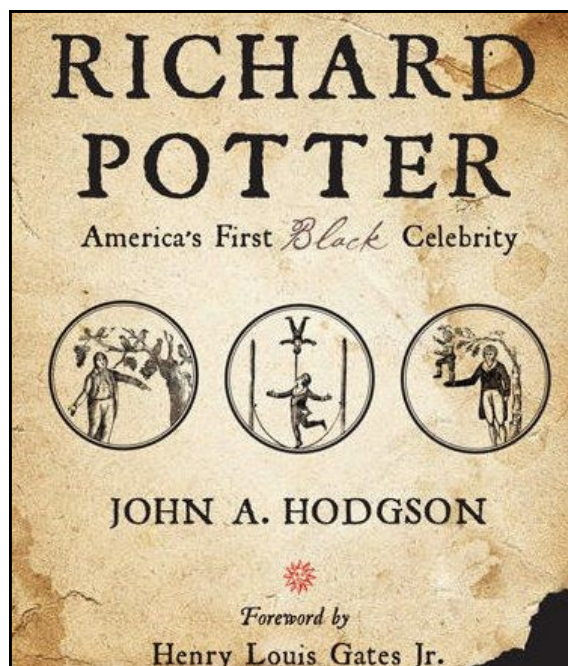
Captain Wyman is Coming to a Store Near You

Rick Horton is brewing a batch of beer that will go by the name of Captain Wyman. He and his wife Sarah are the owners of The Outlaw Brewing Company in Winchester, New Hampshire, and their craft brews have been catching on since they won a

Best Brew Award at the 2017 Wyman Tavern Brew Fest.

Horton is not sharing any of details yet about what variety of beer will carry the Captain Wyman name, but he intends to launch the new brew on the steps of the Wyman Tavern on **April 21**, the day Captain Isaac Wyman led 29 Minutemen on a march from the Wyman Tavern to Lexington and Concord.

The Outlaw Brewing Company will donate \$5 to the Historical Society of Cheshire County for every bottle of Captain Wyman beer sold during this limited run. If Horton's past brews are any indication – his American Blonde Ale, Peach Blonde Ale, English Brown Ale, and recently a SMaSH (single malt and single hop) – we can expect a historic brew.



**Historical Society of Cheshire County
Annual Meeting
with special guest John A. Hodgson
April 23, 2018, at 7:00 pm
Exhibit Hall**

Following a brief business meeting of the Historical Society of Cheshire County membership, the public is invited to attend a presentation by special guest John A. Hodgson, Andover, NH, author of the book *Richard Potter: America's First Black Celebrity* (2017). The son of a slave, Potter became a nationally recognized magician and ventriloquist in the first half of the 19th century. In his later years, he purchased a large farm in Andover, New Hampshire. Hodgson will have copies of his book for sale at the event. This program is sponsored by the Putnam Foundation.

Refreshments will be served following the annual meeting.

THE 2ND GREAT FINNISH BREAD BAKE OFF



**Calling All Bakers and Tasters!
Great Finnish Bread Bake-Off**

**Sunday, April 29
3:00 to 5:00 pm
The Inn at East Hill Farm
460 Monadnock Street, Troy, NH**

**A loaf of fresh baked bread brings
happiness to even devils.
~Finnish Proverb**



Show the world how much you love Finnish bread, whether you call it *nisu* or *pulla*, in one of two ways:

- 1. Become a Contestant!** Registration forms and bake-off rules are available online at www.hscn.org or at the Historical Society, 246 Main Street, Keene, NH. Prizes will be awarded. Completed forms and entry fee must be mailed to the Historical Society at PO Box 803, Keene, NH 03431. **Deadline to enter is April 23, 2018.**
- 2. Attend the Event, Taste-test, and Vote!** Tickets to attend this event are available at the Historical Society of Cheshire County or by calling 603-352-1895 to pay via credit card over the phone. Tickets are \$7.00 for adults, \$3 for children (age 5 to 14) and free for children age 4 and under.

Proceeds from the bake-off support educational programs that celebrate the mosaic of cultures and talents that make up Cheshire County. This event is co-hosted by the Inn at East Hill Farm, and the Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja in Rutland, MA. Thanks to our sponsors: Finlandia Foundation National, Seppala Construction and Park Construction.

2018 Teacher Workshop: The Progressive Era

Thursday, June 28- Friday, June 29, 2018.

9:00 am-3:30 pm.

\$40 registration fee (includes lunch and all handouts)

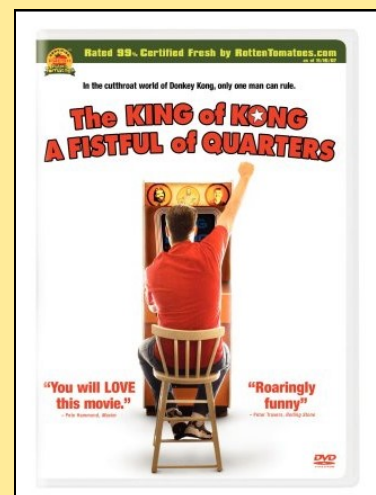
The Historical Society of Cheshire County will host a two-day teacher workshop on *The Progressive Era* on Thursday, June 28 and Friday, June 29, 2018. The workshop will include an overview history of the era and a more in-depth look at specific movements such as women's suffrage, environmental conservation, labor issues, welfare reform, and education reform. Workshop sessions will incorporate both lectures and hands-on activities that involve the use of primary sources in a classroom setting. Teachers will receive 13 credit hours for attending both days. Registration is \$40 per person and includes morning refreshments and lunch each day. Registration forms are available online at hscnh.org.

King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters

Wednesday, March 28, 7:00 pm.

Documentary & Discussion

Robbie Lakeman of Manchester, New Hampshire, is the current world champion of the classic arcade game of Donkey Kong. He will be the special guest speaker at the Historical Society of Cheshire County's viewing of the 2007 documentary *King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters*. The film chronicles the lives of a middle-school science teacher and a hot sauce mogul as they vie for the world record in the early 21st century. With scenes filmed in Laconia, New Hampshire, at Weirs Beach's classic arcade, Funspot, *King of Kong* has become a cult classic to many film-goers and an inspiration to gamers. Lakeman, who grew up in Concord, often visited Funspot as a child and was drawn to the arcade game that has, today, put him in the Guinness Book of World Records.



Lost in Laconia (2010) Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 pm. Documentary & Discussion

During a time when people who were branded and stigmatized as "feeble-minded" and a danger to society, were banished to a life of isolation and total segregation, thousands of children and adults were institutionalized in large state operated institutions throughout the country. In the case of New Hampshire, that place was the Laconia State School.

This documentary traces the history of the institution from its initial beginnings as the New Hampshire School for the Feeble-minded in the early 1900's until its closure in 1991. Using archival footage and current interviews with former residents of the institution, families of former residents, and people who worked at the institution, along with an extensive collection of photos, newspaper articles, and state documents, this documentary examines the social values and cultural ideals of the twentieth century, relative to individuals and families who were labeled "feeble-minded," deficient, or disabled in New Hampshire. Join the Historical Society of Cheshire County on **Wednesday, May 16th at 7:00 pm** for the film and a discussion with one of the film's writers and former employee of the Laconia State School, Gordon Dubois, as well as Keene State College professor Graham Warder who was interviewed in the film.

The NH Film Series is supported by the **Putnam Foundation**.

***Thank You to our
Program Sponsors***

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our program sponsors:

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Putnam Foundation

**Historical Society Receives Bequest
from Isabel L. Lane**

We are deeply grateful to Isabel L. Lane (1920-2017) for remembering the Historical Society of Cheshire County with a \$10,000 bequest. Her generosity and foresight make it possible for the Society to carry on its mission for generations to come.

For information about how to make a legacy gift to the Historical Society of Cheshire County go to hscenh.org/support/planned-giving/ or call Rick Swanson, the development director at 603-352-1895.

**Historical Society of Cheshire County
and Wyman Tavern Wish List**

Last spring, a few generous donors helped the Historical Society purchase a new fly (period tent awning) for use at the Wyman Tavern during the Festival and the 18th Century Camps. This year, we would like to construct folding wooden tables for use at the tavern during camp, the festival and other 18th century activities throughout the year. These reproduction tables would be in the style of furnishings available to the Wyman Family 200 years ago. We would also welcome a donations of a new projector or sound system for our exhibit hall. If you would like to contribute to help with this project, please contact the Historical Society at 603-352-1895, or hscenh@hscenh.org.

**Registration Now Open
18th Century Kids Camp
Session 1: July 9-13, 2018
Session 2: July 23-27, 2018**

Children in grades 3-5 can enter the world of Keene in the 1760s and feel history come alive. Campers will work together to build an outdoor kitchen, make products, barter for goods at market, cook and serve Native American-influenced recipes to families, and work with reenactors.

Choose from one of two sessions available. \$225 per camper includes all activities, supplies, and period clothing rental. Members of the Historical Society of Cheshire County receive a \$25 discount on fees (\$200/camper). More info: www.hscn.org or call 603.352.1895. The 18th Century Camps are sponsored by the Savings Bank of Walpole, Dunkin' Donuts, and the Putnam Foundation.



Become a Tavern Keeper to celebrate the Wyman Tavern's 50th Year as a Museum

In 1968, the Historical Society of Cheshire County began to operate the Wyman Tavern as a period house museum. Fifty years later, Keene's most historic building continues to bring the eighteenth century alive for people of all ages.

We invite you to become a Tavern Keeper for the 2018 season. The Wyman Tavern costs \$300 per week to operate, which covers staffing, electricity, maintenance, insurance, security, and more. You can underwrite a week of operating the Wyman Tavern and become a Tavern Keeper by making a \$300 contribution.

For the Wyman Tavern's 50th year as a museum, **we hope to reach a goal of 50 Tavern Keepers.** Please consider becoming a Tavern Keeper by signing up online at hscn.org/support/tavern-keeper/ or by calling 603-352-1895.

Thank you to the Tavern Keepers who have already signed up for 2018!

**Wyman Tavern Opens for the Season:
Friday, June 1st**



The Wyman Tavern, which is celebrating its 50th year as a period house museum, will open for the season on Friday, June 1st. Guided tours are available at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through August. Admission is \$5.00 or free for Historical Society members and children under age 12.

'Save the Dates' at the Wyman Tavern

Saturday, June 16, 10:00am-3:00pm: Wyman Tavern Festival, 18th century family-friendly festival.

Saturday, June 2 and Thursday, June 7, 1:00 pm: *After the Tavern Closed Series.* Join Wyman Tavern Expert Becky Barton for specialized tours to discuss the families who lived in the house after the Wyman family. June Tours: The Wyman Children

Saturday, August 4, 1:00 to 5:00 pm: Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

Dates TBD: *Live at the Tavern Performances*

***The Historical Society thanks
the 2018 Tavern Keepers***

**Susan and Thomas Abert
Betsey and Richard Church
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau-Frechette
Mark and Alice Funk
Sarah Handford
Tom and Elke Hanna
Elizabeth and Peter Hansel
Carl B. and Ruth Jacobs
Margaret Langford
Susan and Gary Murata
Paula and Lee Page
Jim and Judy Putnam
June Rawlings
Jim and Sharon Rousmaniere
Marie Royce Ruffle
Arthur and Lynn Simington
Robert and Lianne Therrien**



Donations and Buyers Needed for the Historical Society's Annual Used Book Sale

May 11, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
May 12, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

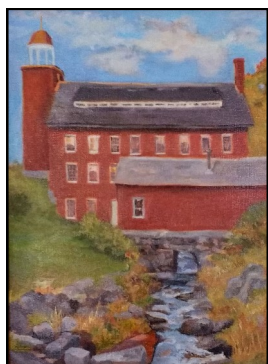
The Historical Society's 18th annual Used Book Sale will be held in the Exhibition Hall of the Society on Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12. History lovers can expect to find hardcover books on topics such as history, biography, and antiques, and any

lover of books should be able to find something of interest – art books, architecture, cookbooks, travel, hardcover fiction, children's books, and much more. In all, there will be about 3,000 titles including some high quality books that might be considered treasures. Numerous New England town histories have been donated for the sale this year, for example. Most books will sell for \$1.00. The proceeds will support the Historical Society's programs to collect, preserve, and communicate the history of Cheshire County.

We need more books and are hopeful that Society members and friends will donate volumes in the above categories for the sale. Please check your shelves to find books that you are willing to donate and share with someone new. We will accept anything except mass-market paperbacks, textbooks, or encyclopedias. Please donate and buy at the Used Book Sale to help support our important programs. For more information, or to arrange to donate books, please call 352-1895.

All Around Monadnock: The Character and Heritage of the Monadnock Region Art Exhibition: June 1 through September 7

**Opening Reception:
Friday, June 1
4:00 to 6:00 pm**



*Downstream Harrisville Designs
By Alicia Drakiotes*

The Monadnock Region means many things to many people. It is recognized for its natural beauty. It is known as the "Currier & Ives Corner" of New Hampshire because of its remarkable intact early New England Historical record and built environment. It is known for its festivals and cultural events. And it is

known for its people, from old-time New England characters to those who have come to love the region's heritage, culture and landscape.

What does the Monadnock Region mean to you? Join the Historical Society at a reception on June 1, at 4:00 pm to visit with the artists, view their work and answer the question for yourself. Refreshments will be served. Wine will be donated by Poocham Hill Winery of Westmoreland and chocolates by Ye Goodie Shoppe of Keene.

The exhibit is sponsored by Monadnock Paper Mills and C&S Wholesale Grocers. Other sponsorship opportunities are available for this exhibit. Contact Rick Swanson at devdir@hscnh.org.

Immigration History Bus Tour to New York City **Sunday, May 6th and Monday, May 7th**



Join the Historical Society and the CALL program at Keene State College for a journey into our nation's immigrant past. This 2-day

bus trip will begin in the garment district of NYC for tours of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, shopping, and food tastings at the Essex Street Marketplace.

On Monday, participants will ferry past the Statue of Liberty to tour Ellis Island before heading back to Keene. Special guest Larry Benaquist, professor of film at Keene State College, will present and discuss films related to US immigration while on the bus. The bus leaves from the Historical Society parking lot at 6:00am on Sunday, May 6th and returns by 6:00pm on Monday, May 7, 2018. The cost per person is \$330 double occupancy and \$390 single occupancy. Fee includes: transportation, admissions to all sites, hotel stay, lunch and dinner on Sunday, and breakfast on Monday. To reserve a space on the bus, call KSC's Heather Jasmin at 603-358-2290 or email continuing-ed@keene.edu.



Historical Society of Cheshire County
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – www.hscnh.org
Hours: Tues., Thurs., & Fri.: 9 am - 4 pm
Wed.: 9 am - 9 pm
First and Third Sat., 9 am– 12 pm

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Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar: Complete List of Events at Historical Society Website: www.hscnh.org

March 2018

Wednesday, March 28, Exhibit Hall, 7:00 pm,
Film and Discussion: “King of Kong: A Fistful of
Quarters”

April 2018

Monday, April 23, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
Historical Society Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 29, 3:00 to 5:00 pm, The Inn at
East Hill Farm, Troy, The 2nd Great Finnish Bread
Bake Off.

May 2018

**Sunday, May 6, 6:00 am to Monday, May 7,
6:00 pm,** Immigration History Bus Trip to NYC

**Friday, May 11, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and
Saturday, May 12, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm,** Exhibit
Hall, 18th Annual Used Book Sale

Tuesday, May 15, 11:30 am, Bruder House,
Groundbreaking Ceremony

Wednesday, May 16, at 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
“Lost in Laconia:” Documentary & Discussion

Saturday, May 19, 9:00 to 11:00 am, Wyman
Tavern, Monadnock Garden Club Plant Sale

June 2018

Friday, June 1, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Exhibit Hall. *All
Around Monadnock* Exhibit Opening Reception

Friday, June 1, 11:00 am, Wyman Tavern opens for
the season.

Saturdays, June 2 and Thursday, June 7, 1:00 pm,
Wyman Tavern, *After the Tavern Closed*: Special
Tours of the Tavern with Becky Barton

Saturday, June 16, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wyman
Tavern, Tavern Festival

Thursday-Friday, June 28-29, Exhibit Hall,
Teacher Workshop: The Progressive Era

Save the Dates:

**July 5, 7, August 2, 11: Wyman Tavern *After the
Tavern Closed*** tour series continued.

July 9-13 and July 23-27,
Wyman Tavern, 18th Century Kids Camp

Saturday, August 4, 1:00 pm, Wyman Tavern,
Brew Fest