



# Historical Society of Cheshire County

*Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the  
History of Cheshire County*

VOL. 35, NO. 1

APRIL 2019

## *Grand Opening Historical Society of Cheshire County's Bruder House*



miles  
away.  
About  
sixty

Early on the afternoon of July 17, 1897 a Fitchburg Railroad freight train approached Keene from the northwest. The freight consisted of two engines, 23 cars of live hogs, and the buggy. At about 1:00 p.m. as the train arrived at Pemberton's Crossing, about a half mile from Bradford Road in West Keene, both engines and five cars of hogs were derailed. The engineer on the first engine, Milan Curtis, was killed instantly. The cause of this wreck may have been a track bolt that someone placed upon the rail where the lead engine's wheels first left the tracks. A wreck train was sent out from Fitchburg and the track was cleared by midnight.

About 450-500 hogs escaped from the cars and ran about the countryside, some as far as two

injured hogs were immediately put down. Most of the remaining hogs were eventually rounded up, placed in a makeshift corral, and reloaded onto freight cars. There were rumors, however, that some West Keene farm families enjoyed bountiful pig roasts that autumn.

The tale of the hog train wreck is one of hundreds of rail stories included in the Historical Society's upcoming two-volume history of the railroads of the Monadnock Region. Railroad historians Bradford G. Blodget and Richard R. Richards, Jr. have been working on their railroad book, *Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region* for seven years in collaboration with the Historical Society. Blodget and Richards have meticulously

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Historical Society of Cheshire County



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researched the history of the railroads in the Monadnock Region from the years 1847 to 2017 and the relationships with the communities they served. The authors have collected over 750 photographs of historical significance, and the book will contain detailed maps and tables of the rail lines of the Monadnock Region in New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

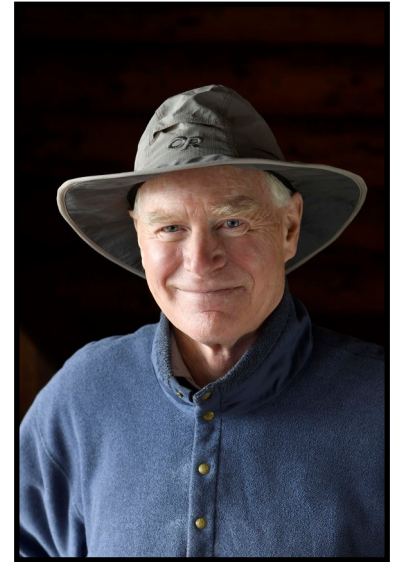
The two-volume set is expected to be available in October for \$49.95 or \$29.95 for each individual volume. Pre-sales of the



*Author Richard "Dick" R. Richards, Jr.*

books can be reserved this summer for a discounted rate of \$40. People who would like to receive email updates about the book can add their names to a list on the Historical Society's website at [www.hscn.org](http://www.hscn.org).

The *Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region* project grew out of a widely acclaimed book written by Blodget and published by the Historical Society in 2011 -- *Marium Foster's Boston and Maine Railroad*. Marium Foster worked



*Author Bradford Blodget*

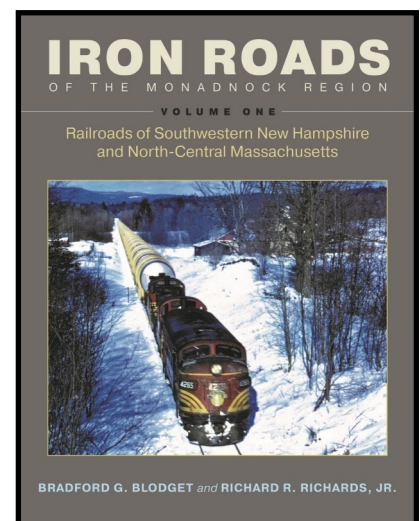
for the B&M Railroad from 1917 until her retirement in 1958. For three decades she also served as a correspondent to the B&M Railroad Employees Magazine. She took hundreds of photos to illustrate her columns. Brad Blodget's railroad knowledge and research bring Marium Foster's photos to life; his book relates the fascinating story of a railroad culture that has now all but disappeared from New England.

One of the people in the cover photo (1945) of the Marium Foster book was Richard R ("3 R's") Richards, trainman. His son, Richard R. Richards, Jr., grew up around the railroad, worked for the railroad for some years, and continues to be a railroad enthusiast and historian today. The Historical Society connected Richards with Blodget to help with the research, and the project took off from there.

Brad Blodget noticed that there had been relatively little coverage in books about the Monadnock Region's railroad history. Blodget says, "It was important to me to document the history of the railroads of the Monadnock Region so that someday we would have this history preserved in writing and pictures as a permanent record. We set out to make a book that is not just a picture book, but also a detailed historical treatment of the railroads of the Monadnock Region. For any rail fan who is curious about that type of thing, this will be an essential book to have on the shelf."

Dick Richards says, "We feel that this book will appeal to a wide group of individuals. Certainly the first group will be railroad enthusiasts, but it will also appeal to people that are casual railroad enthusiasts and model railroadists, and people who are interested in local history."

*Iron Roads of the Monadnock Region* brings to life the story of now largely forgotten railroads that once operated in the region, shining new light on the roads' stories from their beginnings to the present. The authors have compiled a little-known history of the roads, tracing the high and low points in the







*Mount Kearsarge with young forest in foreground.  
Photo by Thomas Brightman*

## **The Dynamic History of Young Forests in Southwest New Hampshire**

### **Historical Society of Cheshire County Annual Meeting & Presentation**

**Tuesday, April 23, 2019. 6:30pm.  
246 Main Street, Keene**

The forested landscape of New Hampshire has changed through time, and current land-use practices often don't meet the habitat needs of the myriad wildlife species that require young forest habitats. Hear the fascinating history of our young forests and associated wildlife, and the stewardship programs available to help landowners create and restore these important landscapes.

Following a brief business meeting of the Historical Society, Steve Roberge, Natural Resource Field Specialist, will speak on "New Hampshire's Forests Through Time and the Disturbances that Shape Them," and Matt Tarr, Wildlife State Specialist, of the UNH Cooperative Extension, will speak on "Wildlife of Young Forests and Their Habitat Needs." The evening will conclude with a question and answer session with the speakers and representatives from NH Fish & Game, The Monadnock Conservancy & the Harris Center. This informative event is sponsored by New Hampshire Fish & Game, The Monadnock Conservancy, The Harris Center for Conservation Education, The Historical Society of Cheshire County, and UNH Cooperative Extension. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

There is no charge for the program, but seating is limited. We ask that participants register through Eventbrite on the Historical Society website: [www.hscnh.org](http://www.hscnh.org). For questions about the program, contact Tom Brightman, Wildlife Habitat Specialist, NH Fish and Game, at [thomas.brightman@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:thomas.brightman@wildlife.nh.gov) or 603-271-5860.



*The J.P. Rust Factory on Water Street in Keene*



*The Lancaster Shoe Company located between Water and Dunbar Streets in Keene*

## **Keene's Industrial Heritage Walking Tour**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019. 9:15 am.**

Join the Cheshire Walkers and hike leader Alan Rumrill to learn about the impact that the railroad had on Keene after its arrival in 1848 and about the many industrial firms that were located along the tracks in the downtown area. We will walk from Water Street to Island Street along the rail trail. The tour will be about 2 miles roundtrip. Participants are asked to meet at the Historical Society of Cheshire County (246 Main Street) parking lot at about 9:15 am. Parking is available behind the Society.

## Planning Giving for the Historical Society of Cheshire County There are a number of ways to give.

One of our generous donors let us know that she would be making a planned gift to the Historical Society of Cheshire County. She said, "I want to provide resources to a cause I care about far into the future. I feel that it is important to preserve our history, and my plan is to provide for the Historical Society by arranging that a percentage of my IRA balance will transfer to the organization." She is designating the Historical Society as a beneficiary. It is easy to do and it doesn't cost anything to do it.

The Historical Society stands on a financial foundation that was built in part by legacy gifts. For example, a \$1.2 million bequest in 1994 by Marion Wood became the capstone gift for a campaign that made it possible for the Society to move into the building that is its headquarters today. In 2014, legacy gifts by David Proper and Chloe Curtiss-Cherkassky combined to contribute a total of \$1 million to the Historical Society. Ann Faulkner Jacobs, a former President of the Board of Trustees made a legacy gift as did her husband Carl B. Jacobs. A bequest by John W. Harris in 2015 helped ensure the long-term health of the organization. These and other planned gifts will benefit generations to come.

You don't need to have a huge fortune to make a planned gift. Planned gifts can take many forms such as remembering the Historical Society of Cheshire County in your will or trust, a gift of appreciated stock, a charitable gift annuity, or a donation of retirement assets. We encourage you to consult with your wealth management advisor, accountant, or attorney to help you pursue your philanthropic goals. For more information, contact our development director Rick Swanson at 603-352-1895, [devdir@hscenh.org](mailto:devdir@hscenh.org).



*The hearth cooking area*

## Bruder House is Taking Shape

The Historical Society's newest facility, the Bruder House, is expected to open to the public on June 1, 2019. About a year ago, the Historical Society acquired the brick building, built in 1839, adjacent to the Wyman Tavern. The acquisition was part of a \$2.4 million capital campaign to expand and improve the facilities of the Historical Society. The Bruder House will function alongside the Wyman Tavern as a welcome center and a venue for programs. Daniel V. Scully Architects designed an extensive renovation project to add a meeting room and classroom space, handicap accessibility, parking, a hearth cooking area, and a covered porch overlooking the grounds of the Wyman Tavern. A brick walkway will connect the Bruder House to the Wyman Tavern. For the past ten months, Ingram Construction has been making the renovations.

**Mark your calendars for a ribbon cutting and grand opening on Saturday, June 1, from 1:00 to 3:00pm.**

*Many thanks to the volunteers who helped move items to their new home at the Bruder House on March 11. Pictured from left to right are: James Brice and Trevor Rhoades from Ingram Construction; Ernie Carson from the Melanson Company; Samantha Corliss, Anthony Ruffo, Danielle Ruffo, and Scott LaFreniere from Savings Bank of Walpole; and Jenna Carroll, Alan Rumrill, and James Rousmaniere from the Historical Society.*



*Historical Society members Neil Jenness and Anne Havill recently joined Alan Rumrill for a sneak preview of the covered porch.*



## Film Series 2019: "Sound Comes to Keene"

### All Films Shown at Keene Public Library

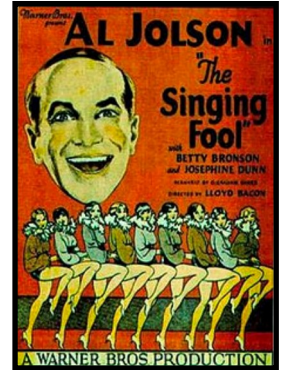
Four of the first sound films shown in Keene in 1929. Following each film, Larry Benaquist will provide insight into the introduction of "talkies" in Keene theatres and the history of the film.

#### **The Singing Fool**

**Wednesday, April 10**

**7:00 pm**

Warner Brothers released *The Singing Fool* starring Al Jolson, on September 19, 1928. It was shown at the Colonial Theatre in Keene that year. This film, the follow-up film to *The Jazz Singer*, was even more successful than its predecessor. *The Singing Fool* has all of Jolson's songs in synchronized sound, as well as many of the dialogue sequences and the music track.



#### **The Trespasser**

**Wednesday, April 17**

**7:00 pm**



Released in November 1929, *The Trespasser* screened at the Scenic Theatre in Keene on December 17th and 18th, 1929. Ninety minutes in length, this was Gloria Swanson's first talking film and it was a tremendous success. *The Trespasser* is a melodrama in which Gloria is a secretary who marries a wealthy but weak-willed young man whose father forces his son to annul the marriage; however, she has a son, and gossip starts that she is a "kept woman."

#### **The Broadway Melody**

**Wednesday, May 15**

**7:00 pm**

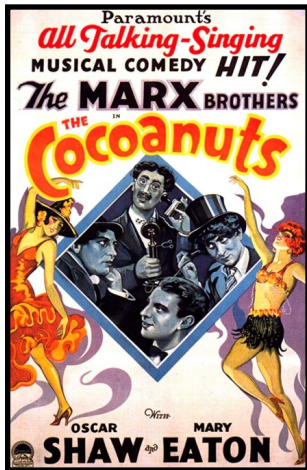
*The Broadway Melody* premiered in Keene in May 1929 at the Colonial Theatre, one month prior to its general release nation-wide. It was the first musical to have music made just for the film. It was also the first film to pre-record the music before playing it back to the actors who lip-synced while the cameras were running, a technique called post-synchronization. Bessie Love, in her first sound film, plays one of two sisters vying for the affections of the same man. 100 minutes.



#### **The Cocoanuts**

**Wednesday, May 22**

**7:00 pm**



Keene's Scenic Theatre first premiered this Marx Brothers comedy film in August 1929. It was an instant hit with local audiences, and the theatre brought *The Cocoanuts* back on two more occasions that year. In the film, the Marx Brothers reenact many vaudeville routines from their Broadway show to create a film about a Florida land boom, a hotel, and a jewel robbery. While watching the film, the audience should note that the film crew had trouble following the Marx Brothers around with microphones to catch their dialogue. The grips, out of desperation, resorted to hanging microphones from fishing poles to create mobile mics.

This series is produced in partnership with the Keene Public Library. **All films will be shown at the Keene Public Library.**

## Electronic Version of Newsletter Now Available

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter electronically, please email the Historical Society at [hsc@hscnh.org](mailto:hsc@hscnh.org) or call 603-352-1895.



*Wattle fencing built in 2017 surrounds the herb garden in Nelson, NH. Photo by Val van Meier.*

### **Wattle Fence Workshop** **Thursday, May 2** **3:00 to 5:00 pm** **Wyman Tavern Grounds** **339 Main Street, Keene**

Come to the Wyman Tavern Museum for this workshop to learn how people in the 18<sup>th</sup> century made fencing for animals and gardens as a spring activity. Participants will construct a wattle fence around a raised bed garden behind the Tavern and learn the techniques needed to construct their own fence at home. Suggested tools: gloves, clippers and loppers. All fence building material will be supplied. This workshop is free, but registration is required. Please sign up on the Historical Society website: [www.hscn.org](http://www.hscn.org).

### **Planting the Kitchen Garden at the Wyman Tavern**

**Saturday, May 18**  
**9:00 to 11:00 am**  
**Wyman Tavern**

Ready the kitchen garden for the season at the Wyman Tavern on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Get your hands dirty by helping to plant herbs and vegetables while learning about foods that would have been found in Keene during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The herbs and veggies will be used during cooking demonstrations this season. This is a family-friendly community event, led by Emilia Whippie Prior. You will even be able to plant a few seeds of your own to take home with you.



*Emilia Whippie Prior with raised beds at her home.*

### **Family Activities** **At the Wyman Tavern and Bruder House** **This Summer and Fall**

There's a lot to see and do at the Wyman Tavern and the Bruder House this summer season. Tour guides will invite you into the tavern to discuss early settlement in Keene in the 1760s and how the Wyman family fits into that story. In our *Colonial Myths: Busted!* tour we invite you to guess which stories of the Colonial Days are true or false.

Eighteenth century activities for families abound this season with our annual **Wyman Tavern Festival on June 15<sup>th</sup>**, visits from 1770s characters Abner Sanger and friends, sewing workshops, a gardening workshop, pottery-making and spinning demonstrations, a candlelight Colonial games night, storytelling, and cooking demonstrations in our new open hearth fireplace and bake oven. Visit our website ([www.hscn.org](http://www.hscn.org)) for a full list of offerings.



*Susan Murata at the 2017  
Wyman Tavern Festival*



**Calling All Bakers!**  
**Third Annual Great Finnish Bread Bake-off**

**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. Become a contestant in the Historical Society of Cheshire County's **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Great Finnish Bread Bake-off** to be held on **Saturday, May 18th** from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Troy Elementary School in Troy, NH.

Registration forms and bake-off rules are now available online at [www.hscenh.org](http://www.hscenh.org) or at the Historical Society, 246 Main Street, Keene, NH. Don't bake but love to eat? Come out for this family-friendly event. For more information contact: Jennifer Carroll, Director of Education, at 603/352-1895 or [dired@hscenh.org](mailto:dired@hscenh.org).



**3RD  
ANNUAL**

# **THE GREAT FINNISH BREAD BAKEOFF**

**MAY 18, 2019. 1PM-3PM**

Troy Elementary School, 44 School Street, Troy, NH  
Entrance fee: \$10 includes unlimited tastings,  
drinks, and voting card

**TICKETS SOLD ONLINE AT [HSCCNH.ORG](http://HSCCNH.ORG)  
AND THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

The Third Annual Great Finnish Bread Bake-off is sponsored in part by the Finnish Heritage Society-Sovittaja, Hamblet Electric and Seppala Construction Company, Inc.  
Thank you!



# **Used Book Sale**

***Friday, May 10, 2019***

10 am to 6 pm

***Saturday, May 11, 2019***

9 am to 1 pm

***At the Historical Society of  
Cheshire County***

***246 Main Street***

***Keene, NH***



For information call 603.352.1895  
or

email: [hsccl@hscclnh.org](mailto:hsccl@hscclnh.org)

[www.hscclnh.org](http://www.hscclnh.org)





*Egg Workshop  
with the Elegant Hatchery  
Wednesday, April 17 2019  
4:30-8 pm*

*To reserve a spot in the class, contact  
Doreen Monahan at  
[elegant hatchery@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elegant hatchery@sbcglobal.net) or  
530-933-3432.*



***Save The Date:  
June 1, 2018***

***Wyman Tavern Opens  
for the Season.  
Free Admission all day.  
11:00 am to 4:00 pm***

***Open House and  
Grand Opening  
for the  
Bruder House:  
1:00 to 3:00 pm.***

***More information on these  
events on our website:  
[Www.hscn.org](http://www.hscn.org)***

# MUSEUM STORE SALE

**SPRING RENOVATION CLEARANCE**

**May 1 - 11, 2019**

**\*Excludes original  
art pieces, can not be  
combined with other  
sales or member  
discount**

**20% OFF  
ENTIRE  
PURCHASE\***

## Volunteer News



*Lois Goodhue (center left) with some of the "Cookie Ladies,"  
April 2012*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of our valued volunteers, Lois Goodhue, on March 2, 2019. She was very much a "behind the scenes" volunteer, organizing her cadre of "Cookie Ladies" to bring refreshments to member meetings, annual meetings, exhibit openings, the Wyman Tavern Festival and the Auction of Historic Proportions for over nine years. One call or email to Lois and the task would be done. Before the start of events, one might catch a glimpse of Lois placing the refreshments in a pleasing arrangement on plates and dishes.

Now we are in the unenviable position of trying to find someone to fill her shoes. If you are interested in this important volunteer position or simply would like to help provide refreshments for

events, please contact Kathy Schillemat, [hscch@hscch.org](mailto:hscch@hscch.org), or Kathy Halverson, volunteer coordinator, [kathkayaker21@yahoo.com](mailto:kathkayaker21@yahoo.com).

Other volunteer opportunities include: tour guides for the Walldog Mural Project (The Magical History Tour), welcome desk volunteers, mailings, yard work and gardening, and special event helpers.

**We are so grateful to all of our dedicated volunteers.**

### *The Historical Society thanks the 2019 Wyman Tavern Keepers*

**Susan and Thomas Abert  
Chris and Mary Booras  
Betty and Mike Christiansen  
Richard and Betsey Church  
Robert and Alfrieda Englund  
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau-Frechette  
Henry Frechette and Judy Hodge  
Tom and Elke Hanna  
Megan Burke Kidder  
Margaret Langford  
Paula and Lee Page  
June Rawlings  
Marie Royce Ruffle  
Arthur and Lynn Simington  
Edwin "Smokey" and Sharron Smith  
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay  
Peter and Martha Wright  
Bob and Lisa Wyman**

If you would like to become a 2019 Wyman Tavern Keeper, please contact the Historical Society for more information. A \$300 donation helps to pay expenses at the Wyman Tavern and the Bruder House for one week and designates the donor as a Tavern Keeper. For more information, call the Historical Society at 603-352-1895, or visit the website at [www.hscch.org](http://www.hscch.org).



*In Grateful Recognition of our 2019 Sponsors and Business Members  
Thank you!*

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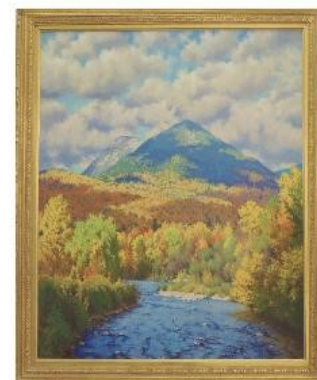
[www.poodiackwealth.stewardpartners.com](http://www.poodiackwealth.stewardpartners.com)

34 West Street Keene, NH 03431

Phone: 603.827.4068 Fax: 603.338.0200

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*We are proud to support the  
Historical Society of Cheshire County.*





Historical Society of Cheshire County  
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Keene, New Hampshire 03431  
603-352-1895 – [www.hsccnh.org](http://www.hsccnh.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*

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**Calendar: Complete List of Events at Historical Society Website: [www.hsccnh.org](http://www.hsccnh.org)**

**April 2019**

**Saturday, April 6, 1:00 pm**, KSC Mabel Brown Room, Student Union Center, Hindu Festival of Color-Holi

**Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 pm**, Keene Public Library, *The Singing Fool*: Film and Discussion with Larry Benaquist

**Wednesday, April 17, 9:15 am**, Historical Society, Rail Trail Walking Tour

**Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm**, Keene Public Library, *The Trespasser*: Film and Discussion with Larry Benaquist

**Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 pm**, Exhibit Hall, Annual Meeting and Presentation

**May 2019**

**Thursday, May 2, 3:00 to 5:00 pm**, Wyman Tavern Museum, Wattle Fence Workshop

**Friday and Saturday, May 10 and 11**, Exhibit Hall, Book Sale

**Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 pm**, Keene Public Library, *The Broadway Melody*: Film and Discussion with Larry Benaquist

**Saturday, May 18, 9:00 am**, Wyman Tavern, Planting the Kitchen Garden

**Saturday, May 18, 1:00 pm**, Finnish Bread Bake - Off at the Troy Elementary School

**Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 pm**, Keene Public Library, *The Cocoanuts*: Film and Discussion with Larry Benaquist

**Save The Date for these upcoming events:**

**Saturday, June 1, 11:00 am**, Wyman Tavern Opens for the Season, free admission day.

**Saturday, June 1, 1:00 to 3:00 pm**, Bruder House Open House and Grand Opening

**Saturday, June 15, 10:00 am**, Wyman Tavern Grounds and Bruder House, Wyman Tavern Festival

**Monday through Friday, July 22-26**, Wyman Tavern Grounds, 18th Century Kids Camp

**Saturday, August 3**, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

**Friday, September 27**, Historical Society Main Building, Auction of Historic Proportions

**Friday, October 4**, Wyman Tavern Candlelight Open House