Keene was a small town with about 2600 residents in 1839. As the county seat it had numerous stores, professional offices, and a few mills turning out products such as textiles, furniture and lumber for the local market. Keene was chiefly a farming community, however, with hundreds of farms supporting local families.

It was during that year that James B. Elliot built a new home on a plot of land he purchased on lower Main Street. Elliot’s stylish 2½ story Greek Revival-style brick farmhouse at 349 Main Street allowed him to operate a farm on the land behind the house, stretching to the Ashuelot River to the west, but it was only a five-minute walk from the shops and businesses of Keene’s growing downtown.

Immediately to the north of the Elliot family home stood the parsonage of Congregational minister Zedekiah Barstow. The Barstow family had converted the old Wyman Tavern into their family home upon their arrival in Keene 20 years earlier.

The Elliot home was sold to Jonathan and Emeline Ellis of Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1854. The farm remained in the Ellis family for the next 45 years. By 1860 Daniel Ellis lived in the house with his family. He had one cow, one horse, one pig, and one sheep on the small farm. The family made 100 pounds of butter and the land near Main Street produced rye, corn, peas, buckwheat, oats, potatoes, and 12 tons of hay. Daniel Ellis passed away in 1892; he was the last resident of the house to list his occupation as “farmer.”

Daniel’s family sold the house to Alexander Bruder in 1899. Alex Bruder was a Hungarian immigrant who had arrived in the United States 11 years earlier. He came to Keene with his wife Lena, their two young daughters, Lena’s parents, and her five siblings, all of whom lived in the house on Main Street.

Alex and Lena’s family soon grew to five children. Alex Bruder was a baker. He bought a business block on Main Street near Central Square where he operated a successful bakery, restaurant,
and ice cream parlor. In 1910 he built a new block there for his businesses; it is still known as Bruder Block today. Alex Bruder died in 1939 and the house was sold to Henry Bernard in 1949. He lived there with his family for 30 years.

The home was then owned by multiple families and was eventually used as an apartment building and real estate office. Keene State College purchased the property in 2009 and continued its use as housing and for storage. The Historical Society purchased the historic house from Keene State in 2018. The Society has transformed Bruder House into a modern education, presentation and visitor center. The newly renovated property will be coupled with the organization’s Wyman Tavern next door to create a campus where history and culture can be shared with local residents and visitors to the region.

From Tree to Boards to Floor: A True Story of Local Sourcing

A large black walnut tree was removed for the construction at the Bruder House, cut to log lengths and milled on the Wyman Tavern property by A.J. Dupere, his assistant, Cory Keffe, and volunteers. The boards were kiln-dried at Woodell & Daughters Forest Products of Langdon, and finished at Carlisle Wide Plank Floors in Stoddard. Now the beautiful boards grace the floor inside the renovated building.
Mark your calendars for this opportunity to tour the newly renovated **Bruder House at 349 Main Street**, the Historical Society of Cheshire County’s newest building. All are welcome to the Grand Opening and Open House from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Saturday, June 1, 2019. We hope to see you there!

**GRAND OPENING SCHEDULE**

**Saturday June 1, 2019**

11:00 am to 4:00 pm  Free admission to the Wyman Tavern. Learn about the role of taverns in 18th Century Keene.

12:45 to 1:30 pm  Jack in the Green and Firebird Morris Dance Teams perform on the Wyman Tavern grounds.

1:30 to 2:30 pm  Meet 18th Century characters Abner Sanger and his sister Mary Stiles who lived on Keene’s Main Street during the 1770s.

1:00 to 3:00 pm  Open house at the Bruder House. Tour the new facility. Learn about how it will be used.

2:30 pm  Remarks and Ribbon cutting at the Bruder House
THE PAVILION:
HELP US GET IT COVERED

ADDITIONAL FUNDS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE BRUDER HOUSE PROJECT

The Historical Society of Cheshire County raised $2.5 million dollars in the capital campaign to improve and expand its facilities, but our work is not yet complete. The Society needs to raise an additional $42,000 to fund the construction of a timber-frame pavilion as part of its cultural heritage center campus. The pavilion will be a place for about 25 people to gather, outside but sheltered from the elements.

The pavilion will connect to the Bruder House on one side and it will connect to the hearth cooking area on another side. It will face out onto the grounds of the Wyman Tavern. The pavilion will be designed by Bensonwood – a company based in Walpole, New Hampshire that is reviving the ancient craft of timber framing for contemporary homes using modern tools and methods.

The pavilion will support events and programs of the Historical Society of Cheshire County where people can learn about the region’s heritage and be surrounded by its history. For example, programs about 18th century cooking will use the hearth for demonstrations of cooking breads and soups, and 18th century summer camps will use the space for activities.

To learn more or to donate to the Pavilion Project, contact Rick Swanson, development director, at 352-1895, or devdir@hscenhh.org.
The project to transform Bruder House began in the spring of 2018, soon after the Historical Society of Cheshire County purchased the building from Keene State College. The 1839 structure is an important element in the architectural character displayed by the numerous historic houses that line the southern gateway to Keene’s Main Street. Consequently, the Society worked to preserve the historical appearance of the building exterior. The heavily altered interior of the house, however, allowed the Society to reconfigure the space for optimal use.

In a fine example of adaptive reuse, the former dwelling was outfitted with a lecture and event space, a kitchen, bathrooms, storage, a porch looking out on the Wyman Tavern and an outdoor brick oven. To create the educational event space inside the structure, walls were removed, steel beams added in the ceiling, and the floor on the first level was completely removed and a new floor built one foot below the original. The removal of the walls also allowed for the construction of a visitor center, warming kitchen and restrooms. All of the public spaces in the building are completely accessible for all audiences.

A rear ell on the building, which had originally served as a carriage barn, could not be saved. It was removed and a new west wall was built on the house. The extensive work done inside the building allowed the installation of all new mechanical and electrical systems, plumbing, windows, insulation, and security systems. The project required considerable masonry work and the masons diligently matched the original 1839 brickwork. Jerrod Lepisto of Lepisto’s Masonry said, “Every aspect of the job was a challenge. We know every joint personally. We washed it, we ground it, we pointed it, and we washed it again.”

The new porch on the north side of the building will encourage outdoor activities and integrates nicely with the Wyman Tavern. The historically designed hearth cooking space creates a special place to learn about the role of food in our history.

The black walnut flooring on the ground level was the result of creativity and collaboration. The wood was harvested from a large black walnut that was removed for the construction project. It was milled on site by a crew of volunteers and then dried and finished here in the region. The elegant flooring was then installed in the renovated building, approximately 20 feet from where the large tree had stood just a few months earlier.

The resulting facility is a showplace for history and culture, and an ideal setting to share the region’s unique stories. Come to the Bruder House Grand Opening on Saturday, June 1st, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, to see for yourself.

“The big story about the Bruder House isn’t what the building’s made of or how the Society came to own it. The big story is the new line of thinking that its acquisition represents. The new thinking is that the Society isn’t about buildings; it’s mainly about what happens in and around them….The priority, increasingly, is on interpretative programs and story-telling and participatory experiences that engage all the senses. Call it history that lives and breathes. The Bruder House is playing a key role in the change.”

Jim Rousmaniere
President, Board of Trustees
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY’S

WYMAN TAVERN FESTIVAL 2019

LET YOUR 18TH CENTURY IMAGINATION RUN WILD!

A family-friendly 18th century event with demonstrations, music, dance, performances, games and crafts.

JUNE 15, 2019
10AM-3PM
$10 ADULTS
KIDS UNDER 18 FREE

Wyman Tavern Museum
339 Main Street, Keene, NH
www.hscnh.org
603.352.1895

The Wyman Tavern Festival is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Thank you also to C&S Wholesale Grocers, the Carriage Barn B&B, and John Newcombe for being sponsors.
2019 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

JUNE
1 • Grand Opening Celebration • see page 3
8 • Book Launch - "Water Connections" with James Rousmaniere • 1pm
15 • Wyman Tavern Festival • 10-3 pm • Tickets required for entry
28 • Kids Craft at the Wyman Tavern: Pincushion/Ornament • 10:30am
29 • Meet 18th Century Characters: "Desire & Dating in Keene" • 2:30pm

JULY
13 • "Colonial Myths: Busted!" Tour • 2:30 pm
22-26 • 18th Century Kids Camp
24 • Colonial Family Activity Night • 6:30 pm

AUGUST
3 • Wyman Tavern Brew Fest • 12-5 pm • Tickets required for entry
   12-1 VIP admission • 1-5 pm general admission
8 • Kids Craft at the Wyman Tavern: Pincushion/Ornament • 10:30am
15 • Open Hearth Cooking Demo: Colonial Breads • 10:30am
23 • "Colonial Myths: Busted!" Tour • 2:30pm
24 • Meet Abner Sanger & Friend: “The Divided States of America”
   Patriots and Loyalists in Cheshire County • 2:30pm

SEPTEMBER
11 • Sewing an 18th c. Apron 1. 6:30pm
14 • "Colonial Myths: Busted!" Tour • 2:30pm
18 • Sewing an 18th c. Apron 2. 6:30pm
25 • Sewing an 18th c. Apron 3. 6:30pm

OCTOBER
5 • Candle Light Open House • 6:30pm
18 • Ghost Stories with Greg Pratt • 7pm
26 • Open Hearth Cooking Demo: Colonial Soups • 10:30am
Events at the Wyman Tavern and Bruder House
Summer 2019

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from June - August.
Wyman Tavern, 339 Main Street, Keene

Community Connectivity: Tavern life on NH’s western frontier in the late 18th century.
11:00 am and 1:00 pm. $5/person. Historical Society members free.
Imagine living and working as a family in one of the most public houses on Keene’s The Street (Main Street) in the 1760s? Take a guided tour of the Wyman Tavern and learn about life in Keene, the Wyman family, and the role that taverns played in the community during the Colonial era.

Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene
1:00 pm. Free.
"Water Connections -- what fresh water means to us and what we mean to water" by Jim Rousmaniere is a book of stories about our changing ways around inland waters since the early stages of the industrial revolution. The book's general geographic focus is New England with the region's distinctive development history, topography and changing rainfall patterns. About the book: www.waterconnections.net

June 28 and August 8. Kids Crafts at the Wyman Tavern - Sewing an Ornament or Pincushion
Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene.
10:30 am-12:00 pm. $5/participant.
Make a decorative heart ornament or pincushion at this make-and-take craft event for children ages five and up. No sewing experience necessary! Children should be accompanied by an adult. Class is $5 per participant and includes a family-friendly tour of the Wyman Tavern. Register online at www.hsccnh.org.

June 29. "Girlng of It": Desire & Dating in 18th Century Keene~ Abner Sanger’s pursuit of Abigail Washburn & Hepzibah Crossfield.
Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene.
2:30 pm. $5/person.
Meet 18th Century Characters at the Wyman Tavern: In his diary, Abner Sanger documented his interactions with many other residents of Keene, but he gave particular attention to his love interests. Rivalry and competition for affection frame a story that gives insight into Keene’s lively wartime dating scene. A discussion with the audience will follow this 20-minute presentation by JJ Prior and Emilia Whippie Prior. Combine your visit with a guided tour of the Wyman Tavern at 1pm for $10/person and $5/person for Historical Society members.

July 13 and August 23. Colonial Myths: Busted!
Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene.
2:30 pm. $5/person.
A unique tour to discuss all of those falsehoods we learned on historic house museum tours in the past. Take a tour through the historic Wyman Tavern (1762) while debunking common myths that many of us have learned about the 18th century. Think “Well, people were shorter back then.” Combine your visit with a guided tour of the Wyman Tavern at 1pm for $10/person and $5/person for Historical Society members.

Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene.
6:00-7:30 pm. Suggested donation of $5/family.
Meet real Colonial era reenactors Erich and Janice Steinhagen of Griswold, CT. Try 18th century pottery-making, butter making, spinning, weaving, and carding wool. This is a free event with a suggested donation of $5 per family.

(continued on page 9)
The Historical Society of Cheshire County is thrilled to partner with the Wall Dogs in Keene for their upcoming Mural Festival June 19-23, 2019! Come celebrate the rich history of our community, as it is brought to life throughout this four-day mural festival!

Kicking off Thursday morning and growing all weekend, the event will allow visitors to watch as the Walldogs, a group of world-renowned sign painters, transform 16 walls throughout downtown Keene into amazing works of art. Alan Rumrill of the Historical Society will lead guided tours of many of the mural sites at 10:00 am on both Friday, June 21st and Saturday, June 22nd.

Resident experts will be stationed at various murals to talk about the history of topics such as Barry Faulkner, Albert Johnston, Jonathan Daniels, the Railroad, Jennie Powers, and the Wyman Tavern. Learn more about this once in a lifetime event by visiting Wall Dogs in Keene’s Facebook page or website (www.walldogsinkeene.com).

Summer Events (continued from page 8):

Bruder House, 349 Main Street, Keene.
10:30 am. Registration required for this free demonstration.
See how people in the past used bake ovens to make breads and other baked dishes. Learn about foods available in the 18th century and cooking methods that were used.

August 24. Difference of Opinion: “The Divided States of America” Patriots and Loyalists in Cheshire County with Abner Sanger & Mary Stiles
349 Main Street, Keene.
2:30 pm, $5/person.
Meet 18th Century Characters, Abner Sanger and Mary Stiles, adult siblings with opposing views on the American Revolution. Sanger works odd jobs for others in Keene and has little patience for the patriot cause, while his sister supports rebellion as her husband fights the British at Bunker Hill. A discussion with the audience will follow this 20-minute presentation by JJ Prior and Emilia Whippie Prior. Combine your visit with a guided tour of the Wyman Tavern at 1:00 pm for $10/person and $5/person for Historical Society members.
impaired in the exhibit hall, the creation of the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility in the space formerly used for the permanent exhibit, and various energy-saving and security upgrades.

For safety during the renovations, we ask that visitors use the ramp and enter the building from the back parking lot, since much of the work will take place in the hall and the front of the building. The administrative assistant’s office and information desk will be located in the exhibit hall for the duration of construction.

Rental space will be available at the Bruder House and on the Wyman Tavern grounds. Call the Historical Society for rates and availability.

We thank you for your patience as we complete the work for which so many donated generously during the recent Capital Campaign. Celebrate the changes with us in the autumn of 2019.

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The Historical Society thanks the 2019 Wyman Tavern Keepers

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<th>Susan and Thomas Abert</th>
<th>June Rawlings</th>
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<td>Rebecca and Wayne Barton</td>
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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 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.hsccnh.org.
In Grateful Recognition of our 2019 Sponsors and Business Members

Thank you!

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Phone: 603.827.4068 Fax: 603.338.0200

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

Wednesday through Sunday, June 19 to 23, Various locations throughout the city, Magical History Tour Walldogs Mural Festival

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

Saturday, August 3, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

More Summer Events at the Wyman Tavern and the Bruder House are listed in detail on pages 7 through 9 in this newsletter. Visit the website for more information (www.hsccnh.org).

The Historical Society’s main building at 246 Main Street will be open during renovations from June to mid-September, but there will be no exhibits, programs, museum store, or rentals.

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

Five Reasons to Become a Member of the Historical Society of Cheshire County

1. The Historical Society of Cheshire County puts on over 150 programs per year, which reach about 9,000 people. About 22% are youth and teens.

2. The Wyman Tavern preserves one of Cheshire County’s most historic buildings and provides a window into 18th century life. And in 2019, the Bruder House opens next door to the Wyman Tavern as a welcome center and venue for programs.

3. Programs such as the Finnish Bread Bake-off and the Hindu Holi Festival of Color celebrate our diverse cultures.

4. Events such as the Wyman Tavern Festival make Cheshire County a better destination for residents and guests.

5. Your support helps people of all ages “find their place in history.”

Join or Renew Today!