



Historical Society of Cheshire County

Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

VOL. 34, NO. 4

NOVEMBER 2018

Local Students learn about the Blizzard of 1888 using Primary Source Research



A fifth grade student from Nelson School. She used this photograph as inspiration for her story about the Blizzard of 1888.

Fourth and fifth grade students from Emilia Whippie Prior's class at Nelson School traveled to the Historical Society this year to research how the Blizzard of 1888 impacted local people. Students used primary source documents, such as newspapers from 1888, photographs of the aftermath, and even two diaries written by local people that mentioned the storm to learn about different experiences people had during this natural disaster. Students then brought these stories to life, by writing their own historical fiction narrative based on the information and images they researched.

Prior to their field trip to the Historical Society, students read a non-fiction book by Jim Murphy, entitled *Blizzard*, about this natural disaster. The author used his own research with rich details and historic background knowledge to bring alive the stories of people who experienced the blizzard. Students used this book as inspiration for crafting their own writing pieces about the storm's impact. The storm itself presents great storytelling elements and the Historical Society has such a wealth of resources to share.

Director of Education Jenna Carroll collected all

the newspaper articles, photos, artifacts, diaries, and other materials ahead of time so that when students arrived at the Historical Society they could get right to work. At first students were out of their element without a computer search engine at their fingertips but they soon caught on to the technique of skimming through documents to get ideas. They had to dig in and read through articles until they found a story that sparked their interest. Some students were inspired by local stories and others were inspired by stories from other places impacted by this calamitous blizzard. This riveting piece from a New York newspaper clipping was too good for 4th grader, Dahlia, to pass up. Read the newspaper text and then an excerpt from Dahlia's 4 page story below.

Albert Livingston, the New York milkman who disappeared on Monday, was found yesterday. His horse walked into his yard almost exhausted. In the wagon, seated bolt upright, was the dead man's body, one hand clutching a roll of money he had collected, the other the reins.

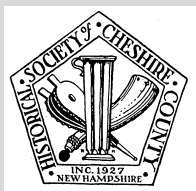
When he woke up from his rest one hour later he looked outside and saw Oliver, the horse, trudging into the yard exhausted, still pulling the carriage behind him.

"Yes! Albert's home at last. He is safe!" yelled Henry as he glanced out the window.

Henry saw that, sitting bolt upright with a roll of money in one hand and seizing the reins in the other hand, was his older brother Albert. Henry limped outside to see his brother, but when he got there he realized that his brother was dead. Frozen. Gone. He soon assumed that Albert had frozen to death. ~Dahlia Yeager, 4th grade student

(Continued on Page 7)

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Cheshire County**



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**“Regenerating Fragments”
Quilt Exhibit by Anne Francisco
November and December 2018**



“Family Redemption”

The Historical Society of Cheshire County presents the work of fiber artist Anne Francisco, in an exhibit called “Regenerating Fragments.” The exhibit opens on Friday, November 2, with a reception from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

The exhibit will be on display from November 2nd through December 2018. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular Historical Society hours.

Basket Identification Day

Saturday, November 3,
10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Basket-making experts Liz Charlebois, Lynn Murphy and Linda Hartman, will be on hand to tell you more about your baskets and share with you the historical and cultural value of your baskets. Participants can bring up to three baskets. No monetary appraisal will be given. RSVPs required.

At 4:00 pm, Lynn Clark, museum professional and anthropologist, and Lynn Keating Murphy, Abenaki Indian and master basket maker, will talk about Native American baskets in the Monadnock Region and New Hampshire.

This program is sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council and co-hosted by the Colonial Theatre and Keene State College’s Common Ground Multicultural Club.



*Northeast Baskets: Photo courtesy of Mount
Kearsarge Indian Museum*

**Electronic Version of Newsletter
Now Available**

To date, over 50 members have taken advantage of the opportunity to receive the Historical Society of Cheshire County newsletter via email as opposed to the current print version. If you are interested in receiving the **newsletter electronically**, please **email** the Historical Society at hsc@hscnh.org or **call** 603-352-1895.

**“Black Angel”
Film
Wednesday, November 7, 2018.
7:00 pm.
Keene Public library**

The Historical Society of Cheshire County in partnership with the Keene Public Library will show a film starring Keene’s film star June Vincent. Dorothy June Smith (1920-2008) moved to Keene when she was eleven years old and her father became the minister of the First Congregational Church. Popular at Keene High School, she was an accomplished pianist and member of the Dramatic Club. Following school Vincent worked as a fashion model in New York City while studying acting, and became June Vincent. She began her career at Universal Studios in 1943, making over two dozen films in her career.

In the 1946 cult film noir *Black Angel*, Vincent plays Catherine Bennett where she morphs from a docile housewife into a street-smart survivor. This film co-stars Dan Duryea and Peter Lorre. The film is shown free and open to the public.



**Deep Water: The Murder of William K. Dean
Wednesday, November 28, at 7 pm
Historical Society of Cheshire County**

On the night of August 13, 1918, at the height of WWI, William K. Dean of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, was brutally murdered. Was it his wife? His friend, the banker? A German spy?

One hundred years later, the crime remains unsolved and has been turned into a play, which debuted at the Jaffrey Meetinghouse on August 13, 2018. ***Deep Water – The Murder of William K. Dean***, written and performed by Ken Sheldon, is based on actual transcripts of the Grand Jury investigation, FBI interviews, newspaper accounts, and other historic documents. It features hundreds of historic images, video footage, and

voiceover actors, some portraying their own ancestors, witnesses in the Dean Murder investigation.

On Wednesday, November 28 at 7 pm, Ken Sheldon will bring a performance of *Deep Water* to the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Tickets are \$15 or \$12 for members of the Historical Society. Tickets are available online at www.hscn.org or by calling the Historical Society at 603-352-1895.

Ken Sheldon is known throughout the Monadnock region and beyond for his portrayals of Fred Marples, a character from the fictional town of Frost Heaves. He has also written suspense novels, children’s books, and pieces for *Yankee Magazine*.

Deep Water has been called “outstanding,” “amazing,” and “a spectacular presentation!” The play was commissioned by the Jaffrey Historical Society and produced by Robert Stephenson with support from the Bean Foundation.

Reserve your seats now for the Keene premiere of this intriguing murder mystery.



The busy Elmwood railroad station in Hancock, c.1905

Railroads of Hancock and Harrisville

Friday, November 16

7:00 pm

Harris Center for Conservation Education,
Hancock, NH

Join Historical Society of Cheshire County Director and historian Alan Rumrill for a fascinating trip using old photos and other documentation that brings the railroad history of Hancock and Harrisville to life. See what the Alcott Trestle looked like, find out who footed the bill, and discover why Harrisville was one of the last New Hampshire towns to be incorporated. The program will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Harris Center. Co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and the Historical Society of Cheshire County.



Photo by Medora Hebert

Celebration to Honor Alan F. Rumrill for 35 Years of Service to the Historical Society of Cheshire County

On Friday, November 9, 2018, at 5:00 pm at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, trustees, staff, members and friends of the Historical Society will gather to mark this significant milestone.

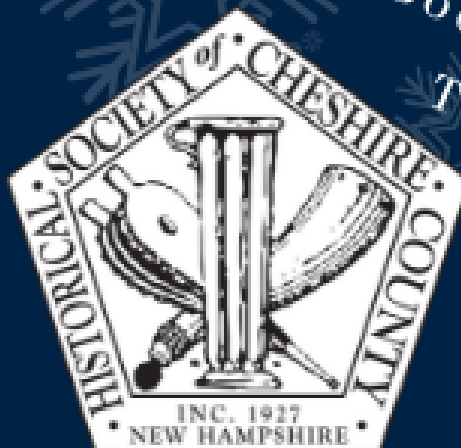
Light refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to (603) 352-1895 or hsc@hscnh.org by November 6, 2018.

MEMBER SALE

NOV. 9th-

DEC 22nd

Members receive
20% off purchase,
10% off for the
general public



Shop Local
Books, Maps, Art,
Toys & more

Museum Store

at the

Historical Society of Cheshire County

246 Main Street | Keene, NH

603.352.1895 | www.hsccnh.org

Hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9-4, Wednesday 9-9

1st & 3rd Saturday of the month



This fall has certainly provided us with an opportunity to celebrate the mosaic of cultures that make up Cheshire County through music, dance, exhibits, discussions, and family-friendly activities.



Photos clockwise from top left: Lilian Poulin at FinnFunn 2018, Dancers at Keene International Festival, Participants in "Hear and Now" Pop Up Exhibit, Berklee School of Music Indian Ensemble



These programs reached over 1000 people from all over New England.

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

**Susan and Thomas Abert
Lewis and Carol Barnes
Phillip Russell Bastedo
Larry Benaquist
Chris and Mary Booras
Betsey and Richard Church
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau-Frechette
Richard and Patricia Dugger
Sybil Dupuis
Robert and Alfrieda Englund
Mark and Alice Funk
Sarah Handford
Tom and Elke Hanna
Elizabeth and Peter Hansel
H. Roger and Nancy Hansen
Jeff Ingram
Carl B. and Ruth Jacobs
Peter, Cornelia, and Cathy Jenness
Barbara Jones
Klaus and Harriet Knappe
Margaret Langford**

**Monadnock Garden Club
Susan and Gary Murata
Outlaw Brewing Company
Paula and Lee Page
Norma Jean Pinney
Jim and Judy Putnam
Thomas Putnam
June Rawlings
Marilyn Wyman Riley
Jim and Sharon Rousmaniere
Marie Royce Ruffle
Arthur and Lynn Simington
Rob Stephenson
Rotary Club of Keene
Richard Talbot
Kimball and Maria Temple
Robert and Lianne Therrien
Dilly and Bob Trebilcock
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay
Bob and Jan Weekes
Jeanne Williams
Bob and Lisa Wyman
Margaret Ziegler**

Have you renewed your membership to the Historical Society of Cheshire County?

Membership is one of the most important ways you can support the work of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. We produce 150 programs per year to help people “find their place in history.”

According to program evaluations, our programs have had impacts for people of all ages in many ways:

- Relevance to today (41% of those surveyed)
- A new perspective on an issue (40%)
- A sense of place (36%)
- An authentic experience (32%).

Impacts such as these can develop civic engagement, or inspire a person to make the community a better place, or transform a person’s life.

We hope you will consider renewing your membership for 2019 and be part of something special. To renew online, go to <https://hscenh.org/support/membership>.

Retirement Assets can be a Great Way to Give

You can designate the Historical Society of Cheshire County as a beneficiary of a percentage of your IRA (Individual Retirement Account). It’s easy and free. You just need to get a beneficiary form from your IRA. Also, you can give directly from an IRA and avoid federal income tax on the withdrawal of the asset.

If you are over 70 ½, a charitable IRA gift may also count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD). To do so, you can instruct your IRA investment advisor to send some of the money from your IRA directly to the Historical Society of Cheshire County without first taking it as income.

For more information, contact Development Director Rick Swanson, 603-352-1895, devdir@hscenh.org.

Blizzard of 1888 (Continued from Page 1):

Coincidentally, this storm hit 130 years ago this past March on Monday the 12th, 1888 and it happened to snow the day these students came to do research at the Historical Society. It should also be noted that the Historical Society of Cheshire County awarded Ms. Whippie Prior's class with a "Communicating the Past" award in 2016 for the students' Blizzard of 1888 projects.

By Emilia Whippie-Prior, teacher at Nelson Elementary School

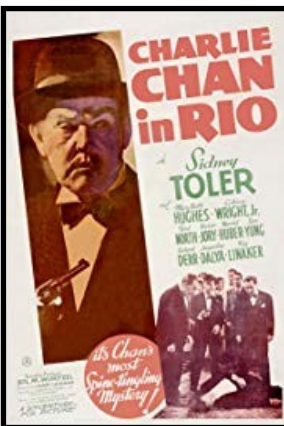


Men with their oxen teams in snow removal after the Blizzard of 1888. The workmen had cut through a 10 foot snow drift by making an archway and decorated it with the year 1888.

The Historical Society has conducted many projects similar to the one that Nelson school experienced this year. As part of its educational mission, the Society endeavors to connect students to local primary documents, photographs, and artifacts as a way to expose them to different research methods and engage them in local history where they can make their own discoveries about the past. These activities help them connect to the experiences of others, building historical empathy.

To see more examples of how the Historical Society works with regional students on local history projects visit the *Kids Making History* page under the Education tab on the Society's website: www.hscn.org.

Other Films in the NH Film Series

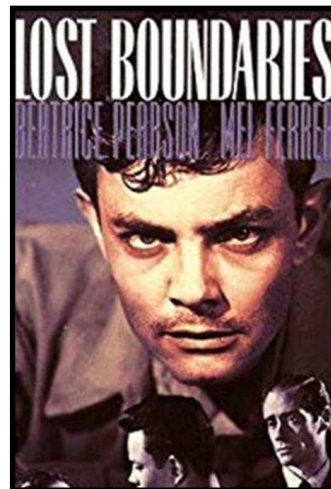


Charlie Chan in Rio

Wed., December 5,
7:00 pm

Keene Public Library

On the trail of a singer who killed the man she loved in Honolulu, Charlie finds her stabbed to death when he ultimately catches up to her in Rio. Free admission.



Lost Boundaries: A 70th Anniversary Screening

Sunday, January 27,
2019 • 2:00 pm.

The Colonial Theatre
95 Main Street, Keene
FREE

The Hunchback of Notre Dame

Tuesday, January 29,
2019, 7:00 pm
The Colonial Theatre

The Hunchback of Notre Dame was the first movie shown at the Colonial Theatre when it opened in 1924.

Admission to the film will be the same amount that it was in 1924: **35 cents!**



Produced by Louis de Rochemont, this film is a shocking story based on real events in Keene, NH. Dr. Albert Johnston and his family, a black family passed for white in order to work while living in Keene, NH, in the 1930s and 1940s. This film won the 1949 Cannes Film Festival award for Best Screenplay. There will be a display of related Mason Library de Rochemont Special Collection materials in the lobby.

Post film discussion on systemic racism with Dottie Morris, Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Keene State College



Historical Society of Cheshire County
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – 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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

November 2018

Friday, November 2, Exhibit Hall, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, “Regenerating Fragments” Quilt Exhibit Opening Reception

Saturday, November 3, Exhibit Hall, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Basket Identification Day and Talk

Wednesday, November 7, Keene Public Library, 7:00 pm, Film and Discussion: *Black Angel*

Friday, November 9, Exhibit Hall, 5:00 pm, Celebration Honoring Alan Rumrill’s 35 Years of Service at The Historical Society

Friday, November 16, Harris Center, Hancock, 7:00 pm, Railroads of Harrisville and Hancock

Wednesday, November 28, Exhibit Hall, 7:00 pm, *Deep Water: The Murder of William K. Dean*

Thursday, November 22 through Saturday, November 24, Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 30, Exhibit Hall, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm., Monadnock Garden Club Greens Sale

December 2018

Saturday, December 1, Exhibit Hall, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monadnock Garden Club Greens Sale

Wednesday, December 5, Keene Public Library, 7:00 pm, Film and Discussion: *Charlie Chan in Rio*

January 2019

Sunday, January 27, The Colonial Theatre, 7:00 pm, Film and Discussion: *Lost Boundaries*

Sunday, January 29, The Colonial Theatre, 7:00 pm, Film and Discussion, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*

Buy A Brick Campaign Continues

There is still time to Buy A Brick for the brick walkway at the Cultural Heritage Center. You can have any message or name engraved on a brick with a \$100 or \$200 donation. Contact the Historical Society at devdir@hsccnh.org or 603-352-1895, for more information, or drop by to pick up a pamphlet.