



Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

VOL. 36, NO. 1

APRIL 2020

NEWSLETTER and ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

The Path to Women's Suffrage was Paved with the "Influence of a Mother's Love": Celebrating 100 Years of the 19th Amendment and the Influence of Women in Cheshire County History

In April 1884, two Keene High School seniors engaged in a healthy school debate on the subject of women's suffrage. Eighteen-year-old Emma Lord outlined three main points in favor of women receiving the right to vote. First that the equality of mankind extended to women as well as men. Second that the statement 'a woman's sphere is in the home' was not an accurate portrayal of women's role in society. And finally she stated:

"Another argument in favor of women's suffrage is her influence. You will all admit that every person, whether rich or poor, high or low, learned or ignorant- possesses and influences; the pastor over his people, the teacher over his pupils, the mother over her child. Of all these a mother is the most abiding... you often hear aged men speak of their mother's influence, and add that they never would have been what they are now, had it not been for the restraining influence of a mother's love. As a woman's judgement is often considered superior to that of man, would not our public offices be filled with better and nobler men were she allowed to vote?"

George Clark's rebuttal was rather short:

"A great many evils would result from women's voting, such as these: suppose a husband and wife should not happen to agree upon the subject under discussion, what then would be the result? The household would become a scene of strife and perhaps the children would participate in the wrangling. And thus a great many women would be left homeless and have to seek their own living. If women were allowed to vote the husband might come home and find his wife over at his neighbor's house talking politics. So I think women are greatly out of their sphere when they go out voting. Therefore, as the man is stronger than woman, and hence by nature destined to rule, and as woman's sphere is at the home, I am persuaded that women should not be allowed to vote.."

The arguments that these two teenagers posed were not new. Already by 1884, the debate about women's suffrage had played out on both a national scale and on a local level. Thirty-six years earlier, Elizabeth Cady Stanton gave her famous "Declaration of Sentiments" speech in Seneca Falls, New York, calling for women's rights in thirteen areas including the right to vote. Stanton's speech sparked a movement that would last decades.

Coincidentally, it would take another thirty-six years after the Keene High School debate for women to gain federal suffrage. One hundred years ago, in June of 1920, the US Congress passed the 19th amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote. To become law, at least 36 states needed to ratify the amendment. On August 18th, Tennessee became the 36th state. The deciding vote came down to 24-year old conservative politician, Harry T. Burn, a known anti-suffragist. Just as young Keene High School student Emma Lord could have predicted, Burn received a letter from his 70-year old mother, Febb E. Burn, imploring him to 'be a good boy' and pass the amendment. Always respectful of his mother's wishes, Burn surprised everyone when he voted to pass the amendment, signing it into law.



(Continued on page 2)

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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(Cont. from page 1): **Influence**

This year the Historical Society of Cheshire County is embarking on an adventure to celebrate the suffrage centennial and to enhance our understanding of local women's history. Thanks to the support of New Hampshire Humanities, the Putnam Foundation, and many individuals throughout the region, the Society has created a women's history program series. In May, *The Not So Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife* presentation will make you laugh or make your skin crawl as Ehris Urban & Velya Jancz-Urban share the history of many taboo female-related topics in our culture's past. On July 8th, Ehris Urban & Velya Jancz-Urban will return with their presentation *Suffragettes in Corselettes* about (you guessed it) the history of underwear at the turn-of-the 20th century.

On August 11, the Historical Society and Keene State College's Women's Studies Department welcomes you to participate in a reading and discussion of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's famous 1848 speech *The Declaration of Sentiments*. On August 12, learn about NH's role in the suffragist movement with Liz Tentarelli's presentation *Votes for Women*.

In the fall, the series continues with Dr. Beth Solerno's presentation, *Sister Societies*, examining 19th century women's organizations and their impact on society. And, film historian Larry Benaquist is working with the Historical Society to showcase a series of films related to famous New Hampshire women in history.

As if that weren't enough, the Historical Society will soon roll out an *Empowered Women in Cheshire County's History* web page. Staff and volunteers have also been researching and developing a *Badass Women of Keene* walking tour that will complement the Society's already popular Walldogs mural walking tours this summer. This 'Humanities on the Go' program will walk visitors through women's suffrage from a local perspective.

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The Not-So-Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 pm
Wyman Tavern Museum

On Wednesday, May 20, at 7:00 pm, Ehris Urban and Velya Jancz-Urban will present a program about women in Colonial America. Life was not all spinning wheels and quilting bees. This program explores the engrossing "taboo" subjects omitted from history. Ehris and Velya's enthusiastic delivery is funny and frank. Laugh, grimace, and honor our fore-mothers' journeys while learning about the little-known issues faced by New England's colonial women. This program is supported in part by the Putnam Foundation.



Springtime Open House at the Wyman Tavern

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 am

Families are encouraged to come and help us plant our kitchen garden for use this summer. Special Colonial-era guest, Hepsizbah Crossfield will make an appearance to show visitors how women cooked by an open hearth in the late 18th Century. The Wyman Tavern will be open for tours. Admission is \$10/adult, \$5/child and include a tour of the tavern, a take-home plant and a sample of the day's meal. Tickets may be purchased online at hscnh.org or by calling 603-847-9785.

2019 Annual Report Director's Message

"Change over time" is a theme that is often employed by the staff of the Historical Society to illustrate the impact of history on our lives and our environment. Such change often goes unnoticed for years or even decades. Some change is more obvious, however, such as the significant changes and ongoing transformation of focus at the Historical Society of Cheshire County over the past year.

The Historical Society was founded in 1927. Over the last 92 years the organization has survived by redefining its focus several times to remain relevant and meaningful to the residents of southwest New Hampshire and to all who are interested in the region's history. That process is ongoing, with the assistance of our members and the general public.

Today people are interested in hands-on, immersive history that they can participate in, rather than static history museums where you look, but don't touch. Consequently, the Historical Society now offers living history, hands-on activities, workshops, and festivals that invite people to take part in the activities that are occurring. Furthermore, the Society continues to expand its focus on cultural heritage, connecting history with the region's rich heritage of music, art, crafts, land conservation, and more.

The organization continued its multi-cultural programming in 2019 with a Finnish bread bakeoff and Finnish marketplace event, the Keene International Festival, and the annual Holi Fest in cooperation with the Keene India Association. 18th century programming was expanded and refined over the last year with specialized tours at the Wyman Tavern, lectures, living history presentations, hands-on activities, kid's camps, hearth cooking demonstrations, and our day-long celebration of 18th century life – the Wyman Tavern Festival.

Keene's "Magical History Tour" Walldogs mural festival was a highlight of the year, for the Society and for the City of Keene. The four-day festival that resulted in 16 historically themed wall murals in downtown Keene took many months to plan and implement. The outcome was a weekend of fun and artistic creativity, with hundreds of sign painters and artists, and thousands of spectators, congregating downtown to share their talents and enthusiasm. The Magical History Tour will continue as the Society expands upon its popular Walldogs walking tour schedule and develops curriculum to use the murals educationally.

2019 was a year of physical change at the Society as well. We now have three facilities on Keene's Main Street. The Bruder House, our new educational facility adjacent to our 1762 Wyman Tavern, was completed and celebrated with a grand opening on June 1st. The renovated 1839 brick Bruder House now offers an attractive educational and event space, visitor center, warming kitchen, modern restrooms, collections storage, farmer's porch, and outdoor fireplace and pavilion for events and hearth cooking activities. 2,500 people attended events at the Wyman Tavern and Bruder House during the year.

The Historical Society headquarters was also the site of facilities renovations for the second half of the calendar year. Renovations to the facility included extensive roof and masonry repairs, exterior and interior painting, window, door and plaster repairs, HVAC installation, and electrical and mechanical systems upgrades. More visible changes included the installation of permanent exhibits in the main lobby, an all-new museum store, and the development of space for the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility.

History and cultural heritage inform our lives every day and the Historical Society strives to create activities that bring history to life for people of all ages. We did that by presenting 174 public programs in 2019, and we encourage you to come to future programs to touch, play, study, interact, and learn at the Historical Society of Cheshire County.



Photo by Medora Hebert

Historical Society Facts 2019

Members: 545
Number of Programs: 174
People served: 13,214
29% of the people served were
children (3,778)
Volunteers: 146
Website visitors: 21,000

Many Thanks to our Generous Donors

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For a complete set of donors,
please go to our website:
www.hscnh.org

In memory of: Lane Brown, Lois Goodhue, Frank Harlow, John W. Harris, Mark P. Hayward, Sr., Rita Kingsbury, Robert Weekes **In honor of:** Beverly Marston, the family of George and Ruth Taafe

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Hearth cooking at the Bruder House Pavilion

Financial Information as of December 31, 2019

Operating Budget

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	\$402,987
Expense	\$402,598
Net Ordinary Income	\$389
Other Income	
Publication Fund	\$25,517
Special Purpose Contributions	\$120,620
Special Purpose Interest	\$5,868
Dividend Income	\$93,640
Capital Gains/Losses	\$102,623
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$395,710
Total Other Income	\$743,978
Other Expense	
Fiduciary Fees	\$25,190
Foreign Tax Paid	\$708
Endowment Fund Transfer Out	\$183,444
Publication Expense	\$32,227
Special Purpose Expenditures	\$740,463
Total Other Expense	\$982,032
Net Other Income	(\$238,054)
Net Income	(\$237,665)

Balance Sheet

Dec. 31, 2019

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	\$4,029,866
Other Current Assets	0
Total Current Assets	\$4,029,866
Fixed Assets	
Deposit on Bruder House	\$811,122
Property & Equipment	\$1,490,086
Artifacts	\$100,000
Land	\$85,000
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$913,951
Total Fixed Assets	\$1,572,257
Total Assets	\$5,602,123
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	\$10,039
Equity	
Special Purpose Funds	\$309,843
Net Assets—Unrestricted	\$3,472,63
Net Assets—Perm Restricted	\$1,033,231
Net Income	\$766,386
Total Equity	\$5,592,084
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$5,602,123

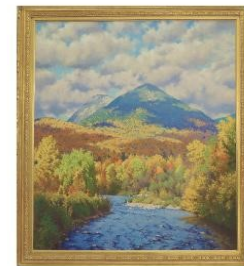


Mission: to collect, preserve, and communicate the history of Cheshire County.



Bruder House Grand Opening Celebration, June 1, 2020

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Jonathan Daniels Center Project Update

The development of the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility is underway. Since starting in early February, a whirlwind review of source materials - as well as the various books, movies, iconography and programs that bear Jonathan Daniels name or include references to his life and death - has been ongoing. Conversations with organizations where collaborative opportunities seem likely, such as St. James Church in Keene, the New Hampshire Black Heritage Trail, and local schools, colleges and universities, have been initiated. These conversations, as well as those with the JDC committee and Historical Society staff, are helping to shape and inform the immediate and long-term programming and funding for the Center.

The coming year will be a busy mix of developing the museum space into an interactive, reflective and forward looking destination, while implementing activities, educational opportunities and projects that embody the legacy of Jonathan Daniels. Please stop by to say hello and ask questions if you are visiting the Historical Society!

Mary Jensen, Project Manager

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Donations and Buyers Needed 20th Annual Used Book Sale

May 8, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
May 9, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

The Historical Society's 20th Annual Used Book Sale will be held in the Exhibit Hall of the Society on Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. 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. Most books will sell for \$1.00. **We need more books but not until after we re-open after April 6th!** For more information, or to arrange to donate books, please call 352-1895. Please donate and buy used books to support the programs of the Historical Society.



18th Century Kids Camp

July 20-July 26
9am-3:30am daily

Camp A: for students entering 3rd-5th grade
Camp B: for students entering 6th-8th grade

Campers become a tradesperson who once lived in Keene, each day learning something new about their character based on real evidence and working with professional tradespersons to make their own products.

Register online— www.HSCCNH.org



Historical Society of Cheshire County
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Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – www.hscenh.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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Calendar: Complete List of Events at Historical Society Website: www.hscenh.org

All events subject to change or cancellation based on current health concerns. Check the Historical Society for additional events and for programming updates related to COVID-19.

May 2020

Friday, May 8, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday, May 9, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Used Book Sale

Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 pm, Wyman Tavern Museum, *The Not So Good Life of the Colonial Goodwife*

Saturday, May 23, 10:00 am, Wyman Tavern Museum and Yard. Open House and Workshop

Save The Date: Events for the Summer

Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wyman Tavern Grounds, Colonial Faire

Monday, June 29, Exhibit Hall, World War I Teacher Workshop

Wednesday, July 8, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, *Suffragettes in Corsellettes*

Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, Wyman Tavern Grounds, 18th Century Kids Camps.

Saturday, August 1, Wyman Tavern Grounds, 12:00 to 5:00 pm, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

Tuesday, August 11, Time and Place TBA, Reading and discussion of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's Speech, *The Declaration of Sentiments*

Wednesday, August 12, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, *Votes for Women* talk and discussion

