



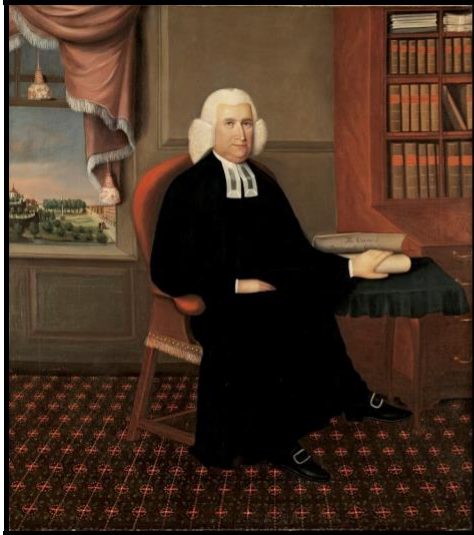
# Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

**VOL. 36, NO. 3**

**SEPTEMBER 2020**

## **Dartmouth College History Was Created 250 Years Ago at the Wyman Tavern**



*Portrait of the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock (1711-1779)  
by Joseph Steward – Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College.*



*Table on which the charter for Dartmouth College was signed.  
Collection of the Historical Society of Cheshire County  
at the Wyman Tavern.*

Two hundred fifty years ago, on October 22, 1770, the Wyman Tavern played an important role in Dartmouth College's history. The Dartmouth Trustees held their first meeting in the parlor of the Wyman Tavern. Six of the trustees at the meeting in 1770 traveled to Keene from Connecticut and one of the trustees traveled from Exeter. At their first meeting, the trustees authorized the Reverend Eleazar Wheelock to run the college, and they approved a land exchange resulting in a 400 acre donation for the college in Hanover, New Hampshire.

The minutes from that first meeting are reported to have been written on a table that is now part of the Historical Society's collection. The table was donated to the Historical Society by Dartmouth College and is on display in the parlor of the Wyman Tavern.

The seed money for Dartmouth College came in large part from a group of Englishmen who were interested in supporting the education of Native Americans. The English Trust contributed a sum of £12,000 which today would equate to \$2 million.

It should be noted that Wheelock's purpose had

a great deal to do with the assimilation of Native Americans into European culture and their conversion to Christianity, as well as the education of white missionaries. The Charter of Dartmouth as drafted by Wheelock stated the purpose as follows: "for the education and instruction of Youth of the Indian Tribes in this Land in reading, writing & all parts of Learning which shall appear necessary and expedient for civilizing and Christianizing Children of Pagans as well as in all liberal Arts and Sciences; and also of English Youth and any others."

American culture and society have changed since that time and over the next 250 years, Dartmouth has had a complicated relationship with Native Americans. In 1971, the college's thirteenth president, John G. Kemeny rededicated Dartmouth to the education of Native American youth.

By the fall of 1770, Hanover had been chosen as the site for the college. When the first meeting of the trustees was called, Wheelock's wife was already on her way from Connecticut to Hanover with about thirty students.

But why did Reverend Wheelock choose Keene as the location for the first meeting? Jere R. Daniell,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Historical Society of Cheshire County



### Board of Trustees

Katherine Snow  
*President*

Dominic Perkins  
*Vice President*

Jane Lane  
*Treasurer*

Ed Bergeron Steve  
Brackett Ritu  
Budakoti Kelly Budd  
Kathy Halverson  
Bridget Hansel John  
Harris Carl Jacobs  
Barbara Leatherman  
Chris Pratt Jim  
Rousmaniere  
Rowland Russell  
Anthony Tremblay

### Staff

Alan F. Rumrill  
*Executive Director*

Richard Swanson  
*Development Director*

Katharine Schillemat  
*Administrative  
Assistant*

Jennifer Carroll  
*Education Director*

Andrea Cheeney  
*Marketing & Museum  
Store Coordinator*

Jennifer Rumrill  
*Events Coordinator*

Mary Jensen Jonathan  
Daniels Center  
*Project Manager*

## Dartmouth College (Cont. from page 1):

Professor Emeritus of History at Dartmouth, has suggested that the Keene location was one of several shrewd maneuvers by Wheelock to set up the college in a way that suited his purposes.

First, several of the original trustees were Connecticut clergymen from the same Congregationalist sect as Reverend Wheelock – an evangelical movement called New Light. The English funders were Anglicans, and Wheelock wanted to load the board with as many New Light members as he could.

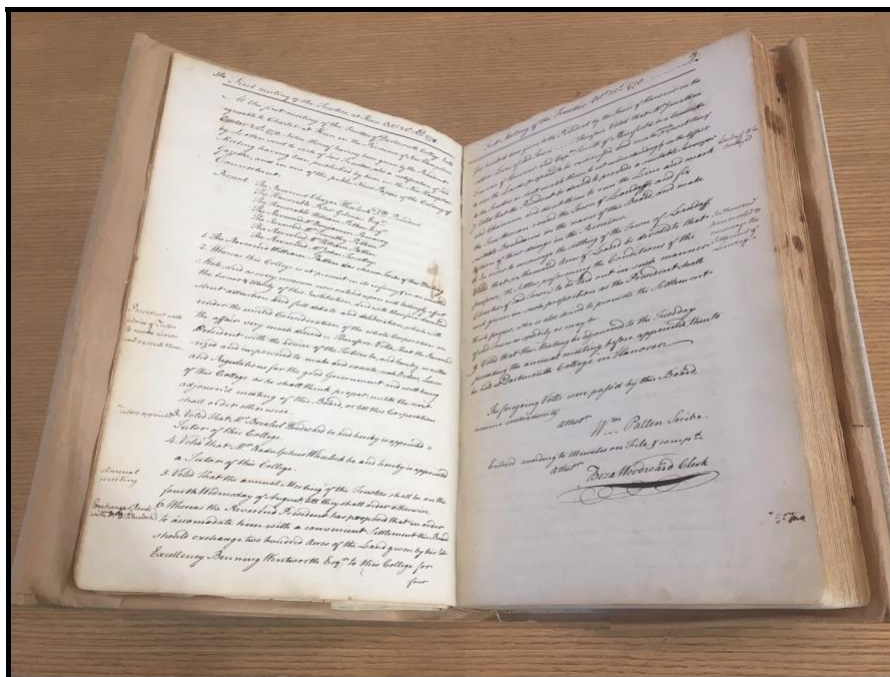
Second, Wheelock persuaded John Wentworth, the governor of New Hampshire, to establish the charter of the college in New Hampshire. Wentworth was eager to have the college located in New Hampshire because it would bring economic development and a civilizing influence to the remote western region of the province. The English Trust was led to believe that the charter would allow for good management of its finances without giving the Trust legal responsibility for the school. A charter in America meant that the English funders would not have control over the decision making.

As a concession to Governor Wentworth, Reverend Wheelock agreed that several of the trustees would be from New Hampshire. The board was to include the Governor and several leading Portsmouth citizens. To this day, the Governor of New Hampshire has a seat on the Dartmouth College board of trustees.

On October 11, 1770, a notice appeared in the *Hartford Courant* announcing that a meeting of the Dartmouth Trustees would be held at the house of Isaac Wyman, inn holder in Keene, on October 22. In the notice, Eleazar Wheelock acknowledged that an advertisement for the meeting had been sent to the *New Hampshire Gazette* in Portsmouth, but it had “miscarried.”

The first meeting of the board had been called on very short notice in such a way that it was much easier for the trustees from Connecticut to get there than it was for the trustees from Portsmouth. When the first meeting was convened at the Wyman Tavern, there were six trustees from Connecticut in attendance and there was one trustee from New Hampshire in attendance.

Nonetheless, it was enough to make up a quorum, and the business of the Dartmouth Trustees that October day at the Wyman Tavern turned out favorably for Reverend Wheelock.



*The minutes from the first meeting of the Dartmouth Trustees, October 22, 1770  
(Dartmouth College Archives, Rauner Special Collections Library, Hanover,  
NH).*



## News from the Education Department

The Education Department has been working offsite to answer requests and to create new content. YouTube videos on various topics are now available to schools, families, and the general public. Many of these were created in lieu of onsite Colonial era activities at the Wyman Tavern.

Research is ongoing for the Empowered Women of Cheshire County webpage, funded in part by NH Humanities, the Putnam Foundation and donations by individuals. Three college interns have been researching and writing biographies on women from around the Monadnock region and providing links to additional information specific to those women's stories. Stories of empowered women can be found under the education section of the website.

The Society has been researching and writing a script for the *Bad Ass Women of Keene* walking tour. The plan in the first year is to share what we've learned about the history of women's suffrage. Subsequent tours can focus other topics such as women's role in the history of local politics, welfare reform, education reform, etc. This project is funded in part by the Putnam Foundation and NH Humanities as well as donations from the public. The Society hopes to offer a limited number of walking tours this fall.

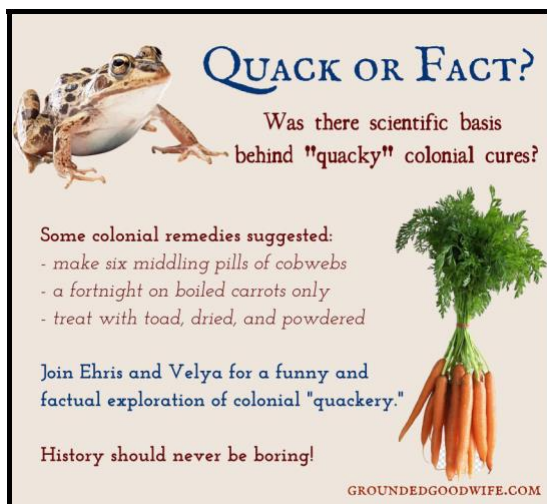
Second to sixth grade curriculum related to the Wall Dogs murals is another grant-funded education department project. The goal is to create two lesson plans that incorporate all of the murals (one tied to NH social studies curriculum standards and one tied to NH visual arts curriculum standards). In addition, the Society is working on a framework for incorporating three of the murals into curriculums at schools throughout the Monadnock region: the Abenaki people, the Ashuelot River, and the Railroad. These lessons should be available by December. The Society hopes to apply for additional funds to work on curriculum related to three more murals and/or preschool-1st grade and 7th -12th grade lessons.

The Historical Society has found it necessary to cancel about 75 programs this year. Luckily our grant-funded and corporate-sponsored programming has been able to move online or postpone to 2021. This fall, the department will coordinate an 8 -week online class for Keene State College's CALL program. Staff and volunteers will lead some Wall Dogs tours in the upcoming months.

Goals for the fall and the winter of 2020-2021 include the completion of the women's history website and Wall Dogs mural-related lessons. In addition, the Society will be proactive in allying with teachers and parents looking for remote learning content for our region's students.

The desire for local history content is center stage in Cheshire County right now, thanks in part to the Wall Dogs murals and to the pandemic. The Historical Society of Cheshire County hopes to continue to act as a state leader in creating and supplying resources in this regard.

## Quack or Fact Program on Wednesday, September 2



Was there scientific basis behind “quacky” colonial cures? The history of medicine is filled with stories of strange tonics, outlandish remedies, and curious “cures.” Toads, snails, mashed potatoes, mandrake, and bear grease were commonly prescribed. While some of these ingredients sound crazy, there’s logic behind many of them! For instance, snake oil hasn’t always been just a euphemism for quack medical treatments. For centuries, oil from the Chinese water snake was an actual treatment used in traditional Chinese medicine to relieve joint pain. Today, we know that snakes are a rich source of eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA), an omega-3 fatty acid containing anti-inflammatory properties.

On **Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm** the Historical Society of Cheshire County will host an online presentation by the Grounded Goodwives, Ehris Urban and Velya Jancz-Urban. Register for free to catch this funny and factual exploration of colonial “quackery” on Zoom. Click on the link below to register and receive a Zoom link. History should never be boring!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/quack-or-fact-tickets-112851209004?aff=ebdssbeac>

## A Monadnock Moment of Thanks

On March 17, 2020, the Historical Society of Cheshire County closed its doors to the public in response to the Governor's stay-at-home orders. This marked the end of the "before times." Immediately, the staff began planning for changes that would need to happen if we were going to remain relevant and useful to the public.

During the months that have followed, one thing has remained certain -- uncertainty. Although there has never been any doubt that the Historical Society is in it for the long haul, the financial health of the organization has been an area of great concern.

We are deeply grateful to the community for supporting the Historical Society and so many other organizations. We are happy to report that our membership has continued to grow during these months, and we have more "Tavern Keepers" (donors at a \$300 level) than ever before. We are very encouraged that our constituents are sending the message that it is important for the Historical Society to sustain itself. Lead gifts have come from generous donors such as **Bradford Blodget, John Cooney, David Frechette and CeeCee Croteau-Frechette, John and Jean Hoffman, Richard and Judith Kalich, Hayden McClure, Chris and Gaynelle Pratt, Tim Robertson, Dilly and Bob Trebilcock, and Francis Williams**. And **NH Gives** wildly exceeded our expectations on June 9th and 10th.

A few shout-outs are in order too for local businesses. **Savings Bank of Walpole** helped the Historical Society of Cheshire County and many other businesses apply for the Paycheck Protection Program. **Bulldog Design's** Great Gray Tee Project helped over 300 businesses raise funds. **Hannah Grimes Marketplace** and **Orchard Hill Breadworks** donated a portion of their proceeds to us and other organizations. Seventeen businesses stepped up to sponsor the **Wyman Tavern Brew Tour** when we were unable to hold the Wyman Tavern Brew Fest in person. Over 40 businesses have supported the Historical Society in 2020.

The **Elm City Challenge** included us in their scavenger hunt event. **New Hampshire Humanities**, the **NH State Council on the Arts**, and the **Putnam Foundation** have been there for us while we postponed, cancelled, or made virtual our educational programs. We have received a grant award from the **Governor's Non-Profit Emergency Relief Fund**.


With your help, we are able to continue our mission and "help people find their place in history."

## Monthly Giving

One of the Historical Society's donors recently signed up for monthly giving, and he shared a couple reasons why he did it. First, it is a way to support the Historical Society throughout the entire year. And equally important, it is a way to stay connected to the organization.

It is easy to sign up for monthly giving on our website: [hscenh.org](http://hscenh.org). Under the Support heading, click on Annual Fund, and then click on Donate. You will have the option to make it a monthly gift. A PayPal account will be necessary.

For more information, contact Rick Swanson at 603-352-1895 or [devdir@hscenh.org](mailto:devdir@hscenh.org).



**Poodiack  
Wealth Management  
Group**

Liana M. Poodiack CFP®  
Managing Director  
Wealth Manager


Travis J. Poodiack  
Vice President  
Wealth Manager


*~Finding the balance between your life and your wealth~*

[www.poodiackwealth.stewardpartners.com](http://www.poodiackwealth.stewardpartners.com)  
34 West Street Keene, NH 03431  
Phone: 603.827.4068 Fax: 603.338.0200


Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC and Poodiack Wealth Management Group maintain a separate professional business relationship with, and our professionals offer securities through, Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC.

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





community  
cswg.com



C&S Wholesale  
Grocers

## Auction of Historic Proportions Moves Online for 2020

For fourteen years, the **Auction of Historic Proportions** has been the signature fundraising event for the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Bidders have come to expect an evening of music, food, wine, and a few laughs in the Historical Society's exhibit hall while supporting the Society's programs. However, this year, for safety reasons, the Historical Society will not be holding the auction in person.

We surveyed attendees from past years, and found that very few people would feel comfortable attending a large indoor event during these times of COVID-19 risk. The Auction Committee looked at a few alternatives, and decided to move ahead with an online auction. Brandt Onorato of Moggies Auction Services graciously volunteered to serve as the live online auctioneer.

Over 100 items large and small have been donated:

A fifteen-foot canoe with spruce gunwales and ash decks restored by the Boat Builders group of the Guild of NH Woodworkers.

100 gallons of premium home heating oil from Davis Oil Company.

A tour for four people of Chase's Mill in Alstead, one of the last functioning century-old water powered mills in Cheshire County.

A horse-drawn sleigh or wagon ride for eight people.

Two days of labor by an electrician from Hamblett Electric.

Four limited edition art prints of Cheshire County scenes by Howard Hill.

Gift baskets, special opportunities, antiques, and much more.

Online bidding begins in September. Interested bidders can preview the auction items at the Historical Society's headquarters, 246 Main Street in Keene. There is a link on the Historical Society's website for people to register to bid – [hsccnh.org](http://hsccnh.org). Bidding will take place online throughout the month of September until live online bidding takes place on Friday, September 25 at 7 pm.

Or, in lieu of attending the auction, you might consider sending a check to the Historical Society of Cheshire County in an amount you would have spent if you had attended in person.

Proceeds from the auction benefit the programs of the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

## Lifetime Memberships Now Available at the Historical Society of Cheshire County

If you would like to support the Historical Society of Cheshire County in perpetuity, a lifetime membership can make that happen. Lifetime memberships are now available at a price of \$1,000 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples. The tax-deductible contribution will go into an endowment fund that is permanently restricted for operations. The endowment fund will generate income at about 4.5% per year, or \$45 per individual membership (\$67.50 per couple). The income in effect will cover your membership dues every year in perpetuity.

Lifetime members receive all the benefits of annual memberships:

Free admission to the Wyman Tavern

10% discount in the Museum Shop and exclusive member

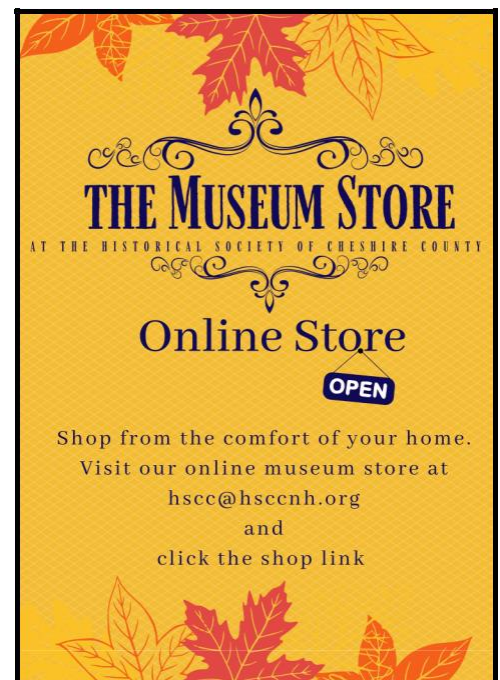
sales Subscription to the Historical Society's Newsletter

Invitations to exhibit openings and member-only events

Discounts on facility rentals, summer camps

The satisfaction of being part of a great organization

To become a lifetime member, contact Rick Swanson, Development Director, 603-352-1895, [devdir@hsccnh.org](mailto:devdir@hsccnh.org).







## Jonathan Daniels Center

for Social Responsibility  
at the Historical Society of Cheshire County

### Jonathan Daniels Center Wish List

The Jonathan Daniels Center museum is looking for:

2 wing chairs  
1 6x9 oriental style rug  
1 small bookcase  
2 reading lamps

246 Main Street, Keene, NH 603.352.1895  
[jdcenter@hscn.org](mailto:jdcenter@hscn.org) [jonathandanielscenter.org](http://jonathandanielscenter.org)

All items should be in fair to good condition.  
If you are interested in donating these items,  
please contact Mary Jensen at  
[jdcenter@hscn.org](mailto:jdcenter@hscn.org). Many thanks!

### *Many Thanks to our 2020 Wyman Tavern Keepers*

Thomas and Susan Abert  
Robert and Deborah Aliber  
Larry Benaquist and Tammy Armstrong  
Rebecca and Wayne Barton  
Phillip "Rusty" Bastedo  
Jay and Lisa Blanchard  
Brad Blodget  
Joseph Bohan  
Chris J. and Mary J. Booras  
Steven and Pauline Brackett  
Richard and Betsey Church  
John Cooney  
Tom Durnford and Lisa Clouet  
Richard and Patricia Dugger  
Sybil Dupuis  
Robert and Alfrieda Englund  
Anne Faulkner and Robert King  
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau  
Frechette  
Henry Frechette  
Mark and Alice Funk  
Pat Gallup  
Sarah Handford and Susan Landers-Gilbert  
Thomas and Elke Hanna  
Bridget and Peter Hansel  
H. Roger and Nancy Hansen  
John and Jean Hoffman  
John and Lynda Hunt  
Martha Hunt  
Jeff and Lori-Ann Ingram  
Ruth and Carl Jacobs, Jr.  
Richard and Judith Kalich  
Harriet and Claus Knappe  
Kurtz Family Foundation

Kendall and Molly Lane  
Charles and Carolyn Loos  
Daniel and Michel Mariaschin  
John and Susan McGinnis  
Brian and Lois Merry  
Susan and Gary Murata  
Brandt Onorato  
Lee and Paula Page  
Jennifer and Victor Pepin  
Pinney Plumbing & Heating & AC  
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt  
Jim and Judy Putnam  
Marilyn Wyman Riley  
James and Sharon Rousmaniere  
Savings Bank of Walpole  
Richard Scaramelli  
Greg and Patti Seymour  
Arthur and Lynn Simington  
Edwin and Sharron Smith  
Katherine Snow and Paul Ledell  
Jeanie Sy  
Richard Talbot  
Kimball and Maria Temple  
Robert and Lianne Therrien  
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay  
Jan Weekes  
Robert Wellwood  
Rebecca and Wayne Whippie  
Francis Williams  
Jeanne Williams  
Peter and Martha Wright  
Robert and Lisa Wyman  
Margaret Ziegler

## Jonathan Daniels Center Interns

We have AMAZING interns working with the Jonathan Daniels Center. Puja Thapa, a Keene State College senior from Nepal, has been putting together three walking tours. One tour focuses on Jonathan Daniels' life in Keene and one is focused on the history of the Civil Rights movement, and voting rights in particular. The third is a tour of the far-flung homages to Jonathan Daniels, including the Civil Rights Porch at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC and the *Garden of Gethsemane* sculpture in Kentucky. Puja is also helping to design the Jonathan Daniels Center at the HSCC. All of this is in addition to her studies and her work as the Executive Editor of the *Equinox*, the KSC student newspaper, and on several campus committees.



Samantha French



Puja Thapa

Samantha French, from Nelson, NH, graduated in May from Keene State College. She is helping to collect visual art, photos and videos from regional college students, focused on their summer experiences with civil rights actions wherever they have been. Samantha has also been busily interviewing for fall work while she takes on-line graduate courses.

We are lucky to have these capable and engaged interns.

### *In Grateful Recognition of our 2020 Business Supporters and Granting Organizations — Thank you!*

**Major sponsors:** C&S Wholesale Grocers, Harrisville Designs, Main Street America, Mascoma Bank, The Melanson Company, A Tecta America Company, Monadnock Broadcasting Group, Poodiack Wealth Management Group, Savings Bank of Walpole, Yankee Bottle Club

**Patron sponsors:** Amoskeag Beverages, Bergeron Construction, John G. Burk and Associates, Keene Eye Care, The Keene Sentinel, Monadnock Food Co-op, Price Chopper

**Sponsors:** Aloha Keene, Brewers of Nye Hill Farm, Bulldog Design, Clark-Mortenson Insurance and Financial Services, Filtrine Manufacturing Company, Frazier and Son Furniture, Granite Roots Brewing, Hamblet Electric, Hannah Grimes Marketplace, Ingram Construction Corporation, Keene Monument, Moggies Auction Services, Norton and Abert PC, Orchard Hill Breadworks, Pinney Plumbing and Heating, Prime Roast, Coffee Company, Silver Direct

**Members:** Carlisle Wide Plank Floors, Clear Solutions, Colony House Bed and Breakfast, Creative Encounters, Davis Oil, The Douglas Company, Fenton Family Dealerships, KCS Architects, Keene Lions Club, Moore Nanotechnology Systems, Oster and Wheeler, Whitney Brothers

**Supporters:** Airport Storage, Carbone's Windows and Awnings, Green Energy Options, Greenwald Realty, Hamshaw Lumber, Hogancamp and Associates, Inkberry, Craig McBeth, MD, Thai Garden, Toadstool Bookshops, True North Net-

works, William Marconi Italian Club

#### **Thanks to the following granting organizations:**

Faulkner Family Fund  
Frances R. Dewing Foundation  
Historic New England  
Kingsbury Fund LCHIP  
National Endowment for the Arts.  
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts  
New Hampshire Humanities  
Putnam Foundation Madelaine  
G. von Weber Trust  
State of NH Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery  
U.S. Small Business Administration

#### **Thanks to the following companies who donated labor or materials for our capital projects:**

Bensonwood  
Carlisle Wide Plank Floors  
Eastern Architectural Representatives  
Firestone Building Products  
Hamblet Electric  
Ingram Construction Corporation  
Frank Lucius Construction  
The Melanson Company, A Tecta America Company  
S&S Painting  
Daniel V. Scully Architects  
Barney Sherwin Trucking Service

Historical Society of Cheshire County  
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street  
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  
By Appointment Only



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
KEENE, NH  
PERMIT NO. 102

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

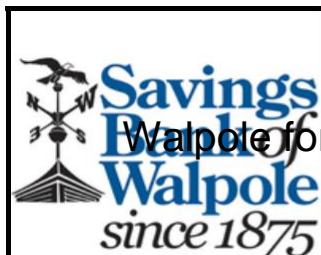
**All in person events subject to change or cancellation based on current health concerns. Check the Historical Society's website for additional events and for programming updates related to COVID-19.**

**September 1 through 25, 2020. Online Auction of Historic Proportions** (See page 5)

**September 2, 2020. 7:00 pm Online Presentation**  
*Quack or Fact?* (See page 3)

**September 9, 2020. 7:00 pm Online Presentation**  
*Sister Societies: Women's Antislavery Organizations in Antebellum America.*

**September 17, 6:00 pm; September 27, 1:00 pm;  
October 8, 5:00 pm; October 17, 1:00 pm. Wall Dogs  
Tours. For more information and to register, go to  
website: [www.hsccnh.org](http://www.hsccnh.org)**



Thank you to  
Savings Bank of  
Walpole for all you do for the community!

	<p>Historical Society of Cheshire County</p> <p>Zoom presentation with historian Beth Salerno</p> <p><i>Sister Societies:</i>  Women's Antislavery Organizations in Antebellum America</p> <p>9 Sept 2020. 7pm.</p> <p>Register for Zoom link at <a href="http://www.HSCCNH.org">www.HSCCNH.org</a></p> <p> New Hampshire Humanities Putnam Foundation</p>
--	--