



Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

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NOVEMBER 2020



CATHARINE FISKE, PIONEER EDUCATOR, EMPOWERED WOMAN

Catharine Fiske is one of numerous local women from Cheshire County history who are receiving recognition during this 100th anniversary year of women receiving the right to vote. Catharine was born in Worcester, Massachusetts on July 30th, 1784. Her father died when she was a few months old. Her family moved frequently, making it difficult for Catharine to receive a consistent education. However, an acquaintance recalled that: “She was uncommonly attached to books, and read a great many hours while other children were at play,” thereby combining her public school education with her own studies.

In 1799, at the age of 15, Catharine began her teaching career in Dover, Vermont. She taught in various district schools before coming to Keene in 1811. It was here that she established Catharine Fiske’s Young Ladies’ Seminary. This private school was originally located south of Central Square on Main Street, but was moved to what is now the Keene State College President’s House in 1824.

The Young Ladies’ Seminary was the first

school in New Hampshire dedicated to higher education for women and is believed to have been the second such school in the country. More than 2,500 young women attended the school during the 31 years that it operated, representing many states across the country, from Maine to Michigan to Florida. The school served as both a boarding school and a day school. Among the classes available to the students were reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, history, geography, music, botany, needlework, painting, drawing, philosophy, astronomy, English, French, Italian, and Latin.

Catharine felt that young women had as much right to a higher education as men. She said that it was their responsibility to educate and guide their children, who would eventually lead the nation, and they would need a proper education to do that. The Seminary catalog outlined her educational philosophy, concluding that “...we expect woman to be qualified to think with candor – act with justice – to council with kindness – and direct with wisdom.”

Miss Fiske passed away on May 20, 1837.

(Continued on page 2)

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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Catharine Fiske (Cont. from page 1):

On the day of her funeral all the stores in Keene closed and the bells rang in her honor. The Seminary continued for another ten years under the direction of Catharine's chief assistant, Eliza P. Withington. Catharine Fiske helped to shape the lives of thousands of students who went out from Keene to teach in public school, private academies, and college classrooms across the country where they helped to shape the lives of succeeding generations of American students.

Catharine Fiske is recognized for her work as a pioneer in the field of education. She is one of numerous local women recognized on the "Empowered Women" page on the Historical Society website, she is included in the "Badass Women of Keene" walking tour, and her life story was one of the 16 historic topics chosen to be included as part of the Walldogs mural project in downtown Keene.

*Fiske House, Main Street,
Keene, NH*



The Connecticut: New England's Great River

November 18, 2020.

7:00 pm. Via Zoom.



The largest river in New England rises in a small beaver pond near the Canadian border and flows over 400 miles through four states, falling 2,670 feet to the sea through America's only watershed-based national fish and wildlife refuge. **Adair Mulligan** leads an armchair tour of this great river of New Hampshire and Vermont, exploring its history and natural

beauty through the seasons and among the communities that have sprung up along its banks. Next, the discussion will shift to how the river has influenced the lives of those who live there, and how they, in turn, have affected the river. Much more than a travelogue, this presentation explores the many issues involved in managing the health of this major river, and how citizens from all walks of life have created a vision for its future.

To register for this Zoom presentation, go to www.HSCCNH.org.



Jonathan Daniels Center

for Social Responsibility
at the Historical Society of Cheshire County

246 Main Street, Keene, NH 603.352.1895
jdcenter@hscen.org jonathandanielscenter.org

What is Gerrymandering and Why Does it Matter?

Thursday, November 19, 2020
7:00 pm
Via Zoom



Drawing by Elkanah Tisdale (1771-1835).
Originally published in the Boston
Centinel, 1812

ger·ry·man·der
/'jerē, mandər/

verb

gerund or present
participle: **gerry-
mander**

1. manipulate the boundaries of (an electoral constituency) so as to favor one party or class.
2. achieve (a result) by manipulating the boundaries of an electoral constituency.

"a total freedom to
gerrymander the
results they want"

From *Oxford Languages*
(Oxford University
Press)

Welcome Aboard to Our Inaugural Historical Society Life Members

With great pride, the Historical Society of Cheshire County welcomes the first five life members of our 2020 membership campaign:

Katherine Snow
Carl Jacobs, Jr. and Ruth Jacobs
Rosanne Snow
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau-Frechette

Life memberships are now available at a price of \$1,000 for individuals and \$1,500 for couples. A life membership can support the Historical Society in perpetuity. The tax-deductible contribution will go into an endowment fund that is permanently restricted for operations. The income in effect will cover your membership dues every year in perpetuity.

Life members receive all the benefits of annual memberships:

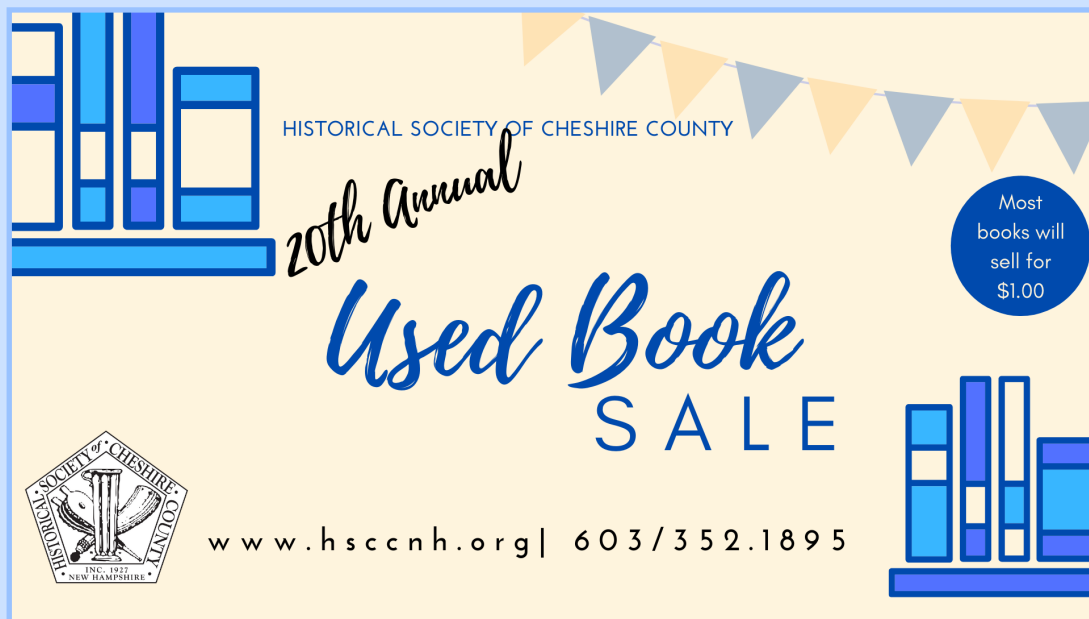
Free admission to the Wyman Tavern
10% discount in the Museum Shop and exclusive member sales
Subscription to the Historical Society's Newsletter
Invitations to exhibit openings and member-only events
Discounts on facility rentals, summer camps
The satisfaction of being part of a great organization

In addition, they receive a lapel pin and an invitation to an annual event.

To become a life member, go to <https://hscen.org/support/membership> or call 603-352-1895.

We have been busy at the Jonathan Daniels Center hosting programs and organizing the Jonathan Daniels Center museum space in the Historical Society's Ball Mansion. We produced a Voting Primer webinar in October with the NH League of NH Women Voters and a book group discussion on *The Book of the Little Ax* with the Keene Public Library. Next up is a webinar discussion: **"What is Gerrymandering and Why Does it Matter"** on Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

If you have wondered how redistricting works, the value of the Census, or the ways in which gerrymandering influences elections and representation, please join us on November 19 at 7:00 pm. More information on registering for this webinar can be found on the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility Facebook page. Please like the Facebook page and share it with your contacts.



Book lovers will be glad to know that the 20th Annual Used Book Sale at the Historical Society of Cheshire County is a go. Although the book sale was delayed for about six months due to the pandemic, the Society has managed to collect 4,500 used books, and the popular fundraising event is scheduled for **Friday, November 5 through Friday, November 20.**

This year's book sale has been modified in several ways to allow for social distancing. The Historical Society's director Alan Rumrill said, "Our top priority is safety. We will limit the number of customers allowed in the sale to eight people at any one time. Facemasks will be required and gloves will be provided for customers. Social distancing rules will be applied."

New this year is a exclusive opportunity on Thursday, November 5. Up to eight people will be able to purchase \$30 tickets for entry from 10:00 am to 11:30 am. An additional eight people can purchase \$20 tickets for entry from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, and eight people can purchase \$10 tickets for entry from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Tickets for exclusive entry can be purchased at www.hsccnh.org

The following times allow free admission, but limited numbers of customers will be allowed in the sale at any one time. Appointments should be made by phone or email to avoid wait times: 603-352-1895 or hsc@hsccnh.org.

- Friday Nov 6 — open 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Saturday Nov 7 — open 10:00 am to 1:00 pm
- November 10, 12, 13 — open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- November 17, 18, 19, \$5 per bag, open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Friday, Nov 20, \$1 per bag, open 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Most books will sell for \$1.00 and the proceeds will support the Historical Society's programs to collect, preserve, and communicate the history of Cheshire County. Books cover topics such as history, biography, antiques, art, architecture, cookbooks, travel, fiction, and children's books. Rumrill observed, "Our members always drop off an eclectic selection of titles. Sometimes I wonder what they enjoy more, cleaning their bookshelves and donating the books, or browsing the book sale to find books to bring home."

Rumrill recalls that the idea for the Historical Society to hold a used book sale came 20 years ago from Charles Felix, the son of Sylvia Felix who owns Eagle Books, at 19 West Street in Keene. The Felixes continue to help with the set-up of the book sale each year.



THE MUSEUM STORE

AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

246 MAIN STREET, KEENE NH



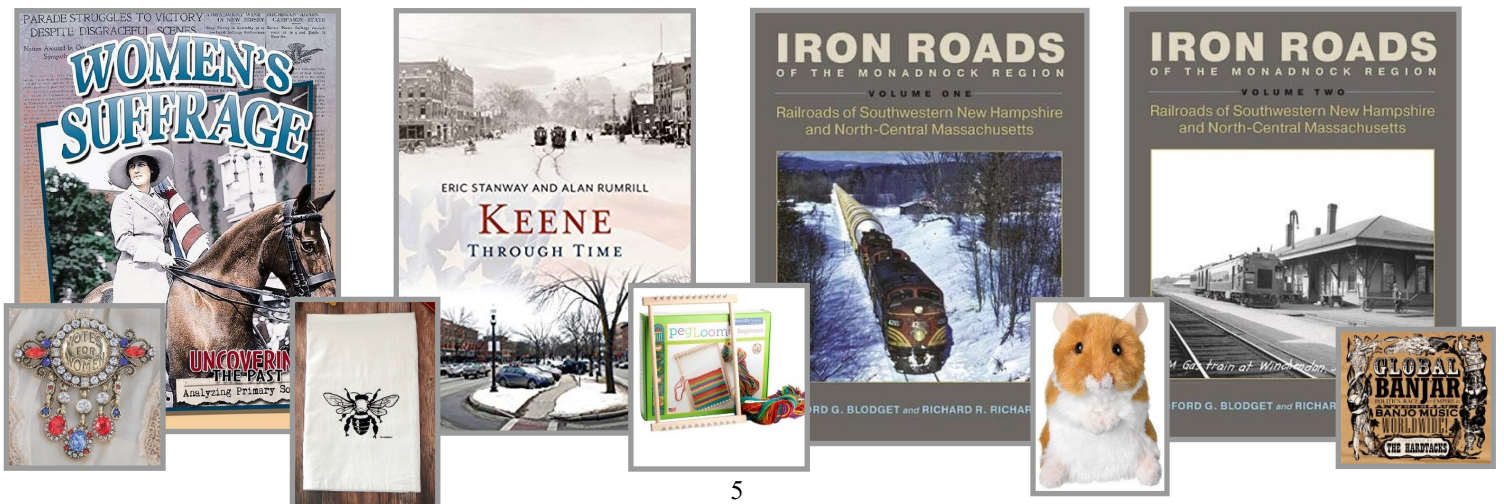
Limited edition Howard Hill prints available for purchase

The Historical Society's Museum Store is offering 20%* discounts for members and 10%** discounts for not-yet members of the Historical Society. The sale begins **November 6th and continues through December 23, 2020.**

The Store is stocked with items for all ages.

- For children we carry a variety of games, books, 18th century toys, plush toys by Douglas Company and hands-on kits by Harrisville Design
- We also carry items for railroad enthusiasts, history buffs, amazing locally crafted items and much more.
- Gift cards to the Museum Store are also available for purchase (discount does not apply)


Items are available in store and online. Visit our website at hscnh.org. *Members please contact us hsc@hscnh.org or 603-352-1895 for promo code for online member discount. **10% not-yet member promo code: **localhistory10**.



Many Thanks to our 2020 Wyman Tavern Keepers

Thomas and Susan Abert
 Robert and Deborah Aliber
 Larry Benaquist and Tammy Armstrong
 Lewis and Carol Barnes
 Rebecca and Wayne Barton
 Phillip "Rusty" Bastedo
 Jay and Lisa Blanchard
 Brad Blodgett
 Joseph Bohan
 Chris J. and Mary J. Booras
 Steven and Pauline Brackett
 Sam and Lucy Bradley
 Richard and Betsey Church
 John Cooney
 Tom Durnford and Lisa Clouet
 Richard and Patricia Dugger
 Sybil Dupuis
 Robert and Alfrieda Englund
 Charles and Charlotte Faulkner
 Anne Faulkner and Robert King
 David Frechette and Sydney Croteau
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 Jeff and Lori-Ann Ingram
 Ruth and Carl Jacobs, Jr.
 Richard and Judith Kalich
 Harriet and Claus Knappe

Paul and Sue Krautmann
 Kurtz Family Foundation
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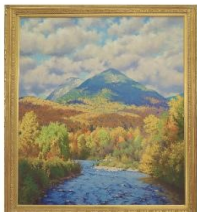
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*We are proud to support the
Historical Society of Cheshire County.*



community.cswwg.com

CARES Act Allows for Expanded Tax Deductions

As the end of 2020 approaches (and we are ready for that!), it is a good time to think about tax deductible charitable contributions, and we hope you will consider the Historical Society of Cheshire County at this time.

Under the CARES Act, if you take the standard deduction on your 2020 tax return (the one that you'll file in 2021), you can claim a brand new "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 for *cash* donations to charity you make this year.

If you itemize deductions, you may be able to reduce your tax bill even further. The 2020 standard deductions are \$12,400 if you are single, \$24,800 if you are married filing jointly, or \$18,650 for head of household. There are a couple of strategies that can bring your deductions above the standard deduction amount. If you donate long-term appreciated assets like bonds, stocks, or real estate to charity, you generally don't have to pay capital gains, and you can take an income tax deduction for the full fair-market value. Or, you can bunch multiple years' worth of charitable giving in one year to surpass the itemization threshold. In off years, you would take the standard deduction.

It is a good idea to get professional advice regarding your federal taxes, but if you are considering charitable deductions, the Historical Society of Cheshire County qualifies as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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
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Kingsbury Fund
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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:

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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
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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
By Appointment Only

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Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

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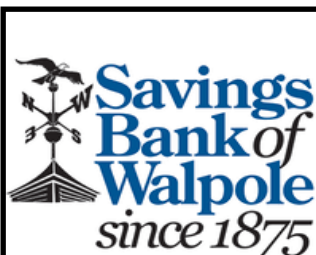
Calendar: Complete List of Events at Historical Society Website: www.hsccnh.org

November 5 through November 20, Historical Society Exhibit Hall, 20th Annual Used Book Sale (see page 4 for details)

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 pm, via Zoom, The Connecticut: New England's Great River (see page 2 for details)

Thursday, November 19, 7:00 pm, via Zoom, What is Gerrymandering and Why Does it Matter? (see page 3 for details)

November 6 through December 23: Museum Store Sale (See page 5 for details)



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

Many thanks to members of the Monadnock Garden Club for doing the autumn care of the “parlor garden” at the Wyman Tavern.

Pictured from left to right are: Marie Royce Ruffle, Barb Evans, Harriet Knapp, Eileen Sarson, and Jane Larmon.