On March 21, 1799, John Prentiss celebrated his 21st birthday by setting the type for the first issue of his new newspaper the New Hampshire Sentinel. That first issue came off the press two days later and was distributed to 70 subscribers, each of whom paid $1.50 for a one-year subscription to Keene’s new weekly paper. Prentiss’ four-page periodical offered news of the world, national news, local news, and numerous advertisements.

Four other newspapers had preceded the Sentinel in Keene. None of them survived longer than three years and all had failed before young John Prentiss opened the doors of his print shop. Unlike its predecessors, this new undertaking did not fail. The number of subscribers increased from 70 to 250 after six months. Within two years the number of subscribers increased to 500; the New Hampshire Sentinel was a success and continued to grow along with the community.

That first edition appeared 222 years ago and the Sentinel is still being published today. The newspaper added a daily edition in 1890. It now publishes six issues each week as The Keene Sentinel. It is one of the oldest continuously published newspapers in the United States.

The newspaper represents 222 years of local history. For more than a century historians have embraced the Sentinel as a treasure trove of historical information. It offers a continuous record of our community and much of the information contained in the paper cannot be found in any other source. There is one serious disadvantage, however, to using the periodical for historical research. It contains an immense amount of information, but there is no index to the newspaper, making it almost impossible to find the information you want unless you know the date that it appeared in the paper.

The Historical Society has now partnered with three other organizations to try to remove that obstacle. The Society, the Keene Public Library, the New Hampshire State Library, and the Sentinel itself have partnered on a project to digitize much of the newspaper. The digital version will be searchable by keyword and will be available online for anyone to use. The digital website will be hosted by the New Hampshire State Library, with a direct link on the Historical Society website.

The partners raised more than $25,000 to digitize the Sentinel from 1799 through 1945. We wish to thank all of the donors who supported this project. This resource will be a boon to researchers, historians, students, and scholars locally and across the country. (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

**Used Book Sale**
**April 23 - May 7, 2021**

**Exclusive Preview opportunity on**
Friday, April 23rd – Entry fees for timed entry
Limited entry - 12 people per time slot

Tickets go on sale April 9, 2021 at 12:00 pm.
Find ticket link & information at www.hsccnh.org

- 10:00-11:30 am: $25.00 Per Person
- 11:30 am - 1:00 pm: $15.00 Per Person
- 1:00 - 2:30 pm: $5.00 Per Person

**Safety is our top priority!!!!!**
Face masks will be required.
Gloves will be provided to shoppers.
No more than 12 shoppers will be allowed in the hall at any one time.
Social Distancing rules will apply.

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.

- April 27-30 ~ 10 am - 2 pm
- May 4-7 ~ 10 am - 2 pm

**Documentary Film**
**“The Ghost Army”**
**May 26-27, 2021**

In anticipation of the Historical Society of Cheshire County's feature summer exhibit, we invite you to view the 2013 documentary film, The Ghost Army, on May 26-27, 2021. The public is invited to register on the Society's website to receive a link to the film.
Behind the Scenes
With the Education Department

The Education Department has been busy creating and coordinating online presentations as well as providing educators with local history resources they need for use in their classrooms. Student interns are currently working with Jennifer Carroll to contextualize and provide access to local history. Keene State College English major Catherine Rondeau is examining the link between America’s fascination with the natural world and literature in the 19th century using the Society’s archival collections. KSC’s journalism major Benajil Rai continues to work with staff to produce videos for the Society’s YouTube channel. Grace Phippard of Smith College continues to research and write stories about empowered women of Cheshire County for the Society’s website. And Veronika Sokol, Monadnock Regional High School student, is helping to create a Walldogs Kids webpage with grade school-friendly text and images.

Fourteen new volunteers from around New Hampshire (and New York!) join the Society in its efforts to recover black history in Cheshire County. This is a year-long citizen archivist project conducted in partnership with the Monadnock Center for History and Culture, the Warner Historical Society (NH), and the Black Heritage Trail of NH.

Staff and volunteers are working to coordinate summer programming that is in keeping with COVID-19 guidelines.

Written by Jennika Mullens, Keene State College student intern.

Jonathan Daniels was a remarkable member of the Civil Rights movement. Until his death in 1965 he continued to fight for social justice and equality. Though he lived over 50 years ago, in the wake of movements such as Black Lives Matter, the values for which he worked hard are still crucial to our society today. We have a generation of people standing up determinedly against injustice, just as Jonathan Daniels did. His contributions to civil rights and his early death protecting a young African American girl, Ruby Sales, stand as models of the people we should aspire to become. As younger members of society, we are desperate to make our mark and create change; we are filled with hope and visions of building a better society. Our goals for equality and social responsibility mirror those of Jonathan Daniels and his fellow activists over half a century ago. His dedication to the civil rights movement, his refusal to leave behind the rest of the imprisoned civil rights supporters in the Hayneville jail, and his defense of seventeen year old Ruby Sales should inspire us. They should make us want to work harder, to do more and to get involved in our communities to achieve social equality.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote, the Historical Society of Cheshire County spent the past 15 months researching local empowered women. Since then, the Historical Society of Cheshire County has profiled about 47 women, together covering over 270 years of history. Historical Society Intern Grace Phipppard has researched 37 of those women since she began working on the project last June. In all, she has spent over 200 hours working on this project.

Grace was born and raised in Cheshire County, living most of her life in Spofford. From a young age, she showed an interest in history, but it wasn’t until high school that Grace truly discovered her calling. In the spring of 2018, Grace began researching the history of Keene High School as part of a larger project to construct a timeline of Keene High’s history. She enjoyed it so much that she asked to take it on as a senior project. She soon became a regular in the school library, often surrounded by yearbooks and Board of Education Reports. By the end of the year, Grace had spent over 600 hours researching Keene High’s history and built a model timeline of the 20th century.

Grace started working as an intern for the Historical Society of Cheshire County in June and has worked on the Empowered Women project since then. As a lover of local history and a self-described feminist, Grace was eager to learn more about local women and was honored to be able to tell their stories. Grace is a student at Smith College, where she plans to major in History and minor in the Study of Women and Gender, with a concentration in Archives. Grace took this year off but will return to Smith in the fall as a sophomore. After college, she plans to go to graduate school to become an archivist.

This project was made possible by a Community Project Grant from New Hampshire Humanities and the support of the Putnam Foundation. You can read more about the empowered women of Cheshire County on the Historical Society website.
2020 Annual Report
Director’s Message

As I write this report on March 17, 2021, exactly one year has passed since the Historical Society closed its doors to the public. A few days after that closure the governor announced his stay-at-home order, effectively closing all non-essential businesses, including museums and historical societies.

There was some fear and a good deal of uncertainty associated with these decisions, not only for the health of our staff, families, members, and friends, but for the Historical Society itself. None of us had ever experienced a situation like this. How long would the lockdown continue? How would a nonprofit organization that relies on public programming and the day-to-day work and interaction of staff be able to survive being closed to the public and to the employees?

It is probably not a surprise that we began by looking to history for guidance. Using what we knew and understood about a previous pandemic of this scale, the Spanish flu epidemic of 1918, we thought we might be closed for perhaps six to eight weeks. It soon became obvious that this pandemic was on a much slower timetable.

The Historical Society quickly had to cancel 75 public programs. Exhibits were suspended, the museum store closed, and facility rentals ended. The staff was not defeated, however. Working from home, they soon developed a plan to combine history and modern technology to keep the Society’s audience engaged and to remain relevant, even during a pandemic.

We shared stories of past local and national emergencies, comparing them with the current emergency, in an attempt to ease the anxiety of our readers. Realizing that we were living through a historic event, we collected local news reports and asked people to share stories of their own pandemic experiences so that future generations might have a clearer understanding of this difficult time.

We also moved much of our programming online, producing videos and virtual presentations that could be shared with our members and, in fact, with larger and more distant audiences than before. We also expanded our use of social media to remain connected with the public. By the time 2020 finally drew to a close we had been able to offer more than 120 programs, the majority of them virtual.

In short, the staff and the trustees of the Historical Society adapted to a difficult situation and remained resilient in the face of numerous obstacles. By combining history and technology the organization was able to communicate and remain relevant while also learning ways to improve its programming long after the pandemic ends.

Historical Society Facts 2020

- Members: 640
- 86 programs cancelled due to pandemic
- 76 live programs offered onsite, off site, or via Zoom
- 47 pre-recorded programs for Vimeo and You Tube
- 8,000 people served (80% online)
- 400 students served with resources sent to schools and remote-learning families
- 20 “Viral Stories: Tales for a Pandemic”

This review is unlike any director’s report I have ever written, and hopefully unlike any future report I will write. The Society weathered the barriers and the uncertainty of the past 12 months with the support of the staff, the board, and the many generous supporters of our activities. The Historical Society of Cheshire County endured a difficult year in local history, and came through the experience as a stronger organization.
Financial Information as of Dec 31, 2020

Operating Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense
Income $435,061
Expense $402,349
Net Ordinary Income $32,712

Other Income
Publication Fund $12,106
Special Purpose Contributions $81,568
Special Purpose Interest $1,313
Dividend Income $92,251
Capital Gains/Losses $93,805
Unrealized Gains/Losses $274,937
Total Other Income $555,980

Other Expense
Fiduciary Fees $24,112
Foreign Tax Paid $41
Endowment Fund $184,857
Transfer Out $1,471
Publication Expense $60,614
Special Purpose Expenditures $60,614
Total Other Expense $271,095
Net Other Income $284,885

Net Income $317,597

Balance Sheet Dec. 31, 2020
Current Assets
Checking/Savings $4,368,043
Other Current Assets $16,663
Total Current Assets $4,351,380

Fixed Assets
Deposit on Bruder House $811,122
Property & Equipment $1,490,085
Artifacts $100,000
Land $85,000
Accumulated Depreciation -$913,951
Total Fixed Assets $1,572,258

Total Assets $5,923,638

Liabilities & Equity
Liabilities $13,439
Equity
Special Purpose Funds $304,475
Net Assets— Unrestricted $3,472,624
Net Assets—Perm Restricted $1,033,231
Net Income $1,099,868
Total Equity $5,910,198
Total Liabilities & Equity $5,923,637

Many Thanks to our Generous Donors

Founders $5,000+
Robert & Deborah Aliber
David & Sydney Frechette
Peter & Eleanor Frechette
Chris & Gaynelle Pratt
Robert Stephenson

Historians $1,000-$4,999
David Allen
Edward Bergeron, Jr.
Juliana Bergeron & Arto Leino
Jay & Lisa Blanchard
Bradford Blodget
Peter & Maria Brashaw
John Cooney
Richard & Patricia Dugger
Bob & Jeananna Farrar
Carlotte & Charles Faulkner II
Elizabeth & Peter Hansel
Dr. & Mrs. H. Roger Hansen
John & Jean Hoffman
Richard & Judy Kalich
Jane Lane
Kendall & Molly Lane
Denise Lindgren
Bob & Karen Lyle
Jacqueline Lyon
Daniel & Michal Mariaschin
Susan & Gary Murata
Bruce & Elizabeth O’Brien
Lee & Paula Page
Adrian & Norma Jeanne Pinney
Jim & Judy Putnam
Thomas & Barbara Putnam
Tim Robertson
Valerie & Lawrence Santilli
Richard Scaramelli
Christopher & Lael Schwabe
Greg & Patti Seymour
Dr. Arthur & Lynn Simington
Katherine Snow & Paul Ledell
Rosanne Snow
David & Jane Stabler
Georgia Tasoulas
Robert & Lianne Therrien
Dilly and Bob Trebilcock
Anthony & Barbara Tremblay
Robert Welwood
Francis Williams
John & Loren Wright
Peter & Martha Wright

Archivists $250-$499
Rebecca L Barton
Phillip Russell Bastedo
Charles and Nancy Butterfield
John & Lynda Hunt
Anne Faulkner & Robert King
George & Lisa Foote
Joslin Kimball Frank
Jeff & Lori-Anne Ingram
John & Susan McGinnis
Brandt Onorato
June Rawlings
Brian and Reinetie Reilly
Marilyn Jewett Wyman
Riley
Edwin & Sharron Smith
Jeanie Sy
Jan Van Den Beemt
Mary Wright
Bob & Lisa Wyman
Margaret Ziegler

Curators $500-$999
Thomas and Susan Abert
Carol & Lewis Barnes
Larry & Tammy Benaquast
Joseph & Maury Bohan
Chris J. Booras
Mary J. Booras
Stephen & Pauline Brackett

For a complete set of donors, please go to our website:
www.hsccnh.org
### 2020 Tavern Keepers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thomas and Susan Abert</th>
<th>David Frechette and Sydney Croteau</th>
<th>Kurtz Family Foundation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert and Deborah Aliber</td>
<td>Henry Frechette</td>
<td>Kendall and Molly Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis and Carol Barnes</td>
<td>Mark and Alice Funk</td>
<td>Margaret Langford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca and Wayne Barton</td>
<td>Pat Gallup</td>
<td>Charles and Carolyn Loos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phillip “Rusty” Bastedo</td>
<td>Michael Giacomo and Rachel Eschle</td>
<td>Daniel and Michel Mariaschin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larry Benaquist and Tammy Armstrong</td>
<td>Sarah Handford and Susan Landers-Gilbert</td>
<td>Hayden McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay and Lisa Blanchard</td>
<td>Thomas and Elke Hanna</td>
<td>John and Susan McGinnis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brad Blodget</td>
<td>Bridget and Peter Hansel</td>
<td>Brian and Lois Merry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Bohan</td>
<td>Roger and Nancy Hansen</td>
<td>Susan and Gary Murata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris J. and Mary J. Booras</td>
<td>Gordon Harper</td>
<td>Brandt Onorato</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven and Pauline Brackett</td>
<td>Donall and Joyce Healy</td>
<td>Lee and Paula Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam and Lucy Bradley</td>
<td>John and Jean Hoffman</td>
<td>Jennifer and Victor Pepin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard and Betsey Church</td>
<td>John and Lynda Hunt</td>
<td>Pinney Plumbing &amp; Heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Cooney</td>
<td>Martha Hunt</td>
<td>Chris and Gaynelle Pratt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard and Patricia Dugger</td>
<td>Jeff and Lori-Ann Ingram</td>
<td>Jim and Judy Putnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sybil Dupuis</td>
<td>Ruth and Carl Jacobs, Jr.</td>
<td>Tom and Barbara Putnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Durnford and Lisa Clouet</td>
<td>Richard and Judith Kalich</td>
<td>Marilyn Wyman Riley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert and Alfrieda Englund</td>
<td>Harriet and Clark Knappe</td>
<td>James and Sharon Roumaniere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles and Charlotte Faulkner</td>
<td>Paul and Sue Krautmann</td>
<td>Savings Bank of Walpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Faulkner and Robert King</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Scaramelli</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2020 Business Partners

- Aloha Keene
- Amoskeag Beverages
- Bergeron Construction
- Brewers of Nye Hill Farm
- Bulldog Design
- John G. Burk and Associates
- C&S Wholesale Grocers
- Carbone's Windows & Awnings
- Carlisle Wide Plank Floors
- Clark-Mortenson Agency
- Clear Solutions
- Colony House Bed & Breakfast
- Copper Cannon Distillery
- Creative Encounters
- Daniel V. Scully Architects

- Davis Oil
- Fenton Family Dealerships
- Filtrine Manufacturing Company
- Furlone LLC.
- Frazier & Son Furniture
- Granite Roots Brewing
- Green Energy Options
- Greenland Realty Associates
- Fred H. Hamblet Electric
- Hamshaw Lumber
- Hannah Grimes Marketplace
- Harrisville Designs
- Hogancamp & Associates
- Ingram Construction
- KCS Architects

- Keene Eye Care
- Keene Lions Club
- Keene Monument
- The Keene Sentinel
- Main Street America
- Mascoma Bank
- Craig McBeth, MD
- The Melanson Company
- Moggie’s Auction Service
- Monadnock Broadcasting Group
- Monadnock Food Co-op
- Monadnock Garden Club
- Moore Nanotechnology Systems
- Norton & Abert, P.C.
- Orchard Hill Breads

### “Bricking” News!

Our next installment of bricks in the Wyman Tavern “Walk of Fame” will take place in May. Orders need to be made by May 1.

[https://www.bricksrus.com/order/historicalsocietyofcheshirecounty/](https://www.bricksrus.com/order/historicalsocietyofcheshirecounty/)
President’s Report

A year ago I was elected to serve as board chair for the Historical Society of Cheshire County. I was honored to have been asked and felt safe in saying yes since I was confident that we were fiscally solid, well respected, and well run. Needless to say, this last year was not what I expected. In navigating this past year, I now feel these things even more strongly.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is fortunate to have a strong executive director, talented staff members, and a solid contingent of committed volunteers who have shoul-dered and solved the intricacies of business during a pandemic. We have learned how to adapt our programming, events, and daily work in a way that may have actually enhanced our reach and reputation. Our members and supporters have been steadfast in helping us accomplish this.

As I head into year two, I am excited to see how we will use these lessons to grow even more. This pandemic made us think differently about how to continue our mission. As we began providing programs to people who were staying safe at home, we were also reaching those who don't drive in the evenings, or live across the country or world, or are always homebound. This coming year the Society will be adding tools that will allow us to provide enhanced programming and events for those who can't visit our facilities, bringing the availability of the history of Cheshire Country to everyone.

As we look forward to the coming months and returning to some normalcy in our everyday lives, I am sure that the Historical Society of Cheshire County will only prove more adept and valuable as the Cheshire County community continues to create history and we move forward together.

Katherine Snow, President of the Board of Trustees

Welcome to the 2020-21 Life Members of the Historical Society of Cheshire County

Eleanor Ball
Juliana Bergeron and Arto Leino
Jay and Lisa Blanchard
Chris J. Booras
Mary J. Booras
Peter and Maria Bradshaw
Megan Burke Kidder
Robert and Jeananna Farrar
Charles Felix
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau Frechette
Michael Giacomo and Rachel Eschle
Judith and Glenn Guyette
Bridget and Peter Hansel
Roger and Nancy Hansen
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Claire Kluskens
Howard and Elaine Lane
Jane Lane
Denise Lindgren
Bob and Karen Lyle
Jacqueline Lyon
Daniel and Michal Mariaschin
John and Susan McGinnis
Bruce and Elizabeth O’Brien
Paula and Lee Page
Dominic Perkins and Deirdre Chretien
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Thomas and Barbara Putnam
Valerie and Lawrence Santilli
Lael Stabler Schwabe
Katherine Snow
Rosanne Snow
Jane and David Stabler
Jeanie Sy
Georgia Tasoulas
Kimball and Maria Temple
Robert and Lianne Therrien
Anthony and Barbara Tremblay
Robert and Susan Wellwood
Julie White
John and Loren Wright
Martha and Peter Wright
Susan M. Wright
Anonymous

A life membership supports the Historical Society in perpetuity. The tax-deductible contribution goes into an endowment fund that is permanently restricted for operations. The income from the fund in effect covers your membership dues in perpetuity. Life members receive a lapel pin and an invitation to an exclusive event each year. Life memberships are $1,000 for individuals and $1,500 for couples. To become a life member, go to hsccnh.org/support/memberships.
Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar: Complete List of Events at www.hscchnh.org

April 2021

Friday, April 23, 6:00 pm, via Zoom, Historical Society Annual Meeting and program

Friday, April 23rd through Friday, May 7, Exhibit Hall, Annual Used Book Sale (details on page 2) and Museum Store Sale

May 2021

Saturday, May 22nd, 11:30 am, Wyman Tavern Grounds, Woodworking Demonstrations. Registration information will be on the website.

May 26-27, 2021

In anticipation of the Historical Society of Cheshire County's feature summer exhibit, we invite you to view the 2013 documentary film, The Ghost Army, on May 26-27, 2021. The public is invited to register on the Society's website to receive a link to the film.