



Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

VOL. 37, NO. 5

FEBRUARY 2022

Keene's Jennie B. Powers to be Subject of Documentary

**Sunday, December 30, 1917
Boston Sunday Post**

*Woman Deputy Sheriff, Armed with .44
Revolver, Says "Just Let Them Try It."*

Keene, NH. Dec. 29-- Mrs. Jennie B. Powers, deputy sheriff of Cheshire County, widely known as "The Woman Who Dares" because of her daring work in making arrests, has been threatened with death.

"You have got to the end of your rope. Beware of your life," are the words written in a bold hand in one anonymous letter. Another says, "I will kill you. This is from the devil," written in a very scrawly hand with the words badly misspelled.

NOW GOES ARMED

Yet Mrs. Powers labors on cheerfully and says she is not worrying, but friends have prevailed upon her to go armed, and almost any day now she can be seen riding about the country or walking the streets with a .44 caliber revolver strapped to her side. At night she sleeps with the gun under her pillow.

"I am armed and ready for them if they want to start anything," declared Mrs. Powers today. "It's simply a case of who gets in the first shot, and I have been taught how to handle a gun since girlhood," said she smilingly, as she patted the revolver strapped to her side.

Jennie B. Powers was once known across the country as *The Woman Who Dares*, cited by the Boston Post newspaper as having arrested more men than any other woman in the country by 1906. She was born Jennie Belle Carter in 1864 in Brattleboro, VT. In her youth, Powers developed a love of the



natural world, often collecting specimens of insects, reptiles, and small animals. As she grew into her teenage years, she learned to shoot. By the time she reached adulthood and married, Powers had become very involved in preventing cruelty to animals.

In 1903, the Keene Humane Society hired Jennie Powers as its first female agent. Soon she was investigating and working to prosecute hundreds of cases of abuse each year. Within a couple of years, Powers was deputized by the county sheriff, making it easier for her to arrest accused abusers. She continued to work as the humane society agent in this region until her death in 1936.

Jennie Powers' legacy is remembered in many ways. In 1967, for instance, the Keene Humane Society named their 250 acre site the Jennie B. Powers Memorial Shelter in her honor. Today the Monadnock Humane Society continues her legacy of honoring and respecting the relationship between humans and animals.

As anyone who has driven up Main Street towards Central Square knows, Jennie B. Powers' image greets passersby on a daily basis. Her like-

(Continued on Page 2)

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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ness was captured in a larger-than-life mural by Walldogs artists Elaine Wallis and Noella Cotman of Cornwall, Ontario, in June 2019. Details painted throughout the mural chronicle Powers' work in the region.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County now lends primary source materials related to Jennie Powers to middle and high school educators for free. A small booklet, *Caring for Pets*, introduces Jennie Powers and the role that citizens play in caring for animals to kindergarten to third grade students. Director of Education Jennifer Carroll has become a humanities-to-go presenter for the NH Humanities, sharing Jennie B. Powers with residents across the state.

The story of Jennie B. Powers and the work of humane societies in the early 20th century will now be the subject of a short documentary, set to be released in March 2022. Keene's Emmy-award winning production company, SALT Project, is collaborating with the Historical Society of Cheshire County to transform Carroll's NH Humanities-to-go program *The Woman Who Dares* into a short film. Historical Society archival materials and photographs, along with shadow puppets designed by Stringpullers Puppet Company of New York, combine to bring Powers' story to life.

The public is invited to the premiere of the documentary, *Jennie B. Powers: The Woman Who Dares*, on Sunday, March 13, 2022, at 4pm at the Colonial Theatre's Showroom. SALT Project president Liz Myer Boulton and Historical Society director of education Jennifer Carroll will speak following the film (see page 3 for more information.).

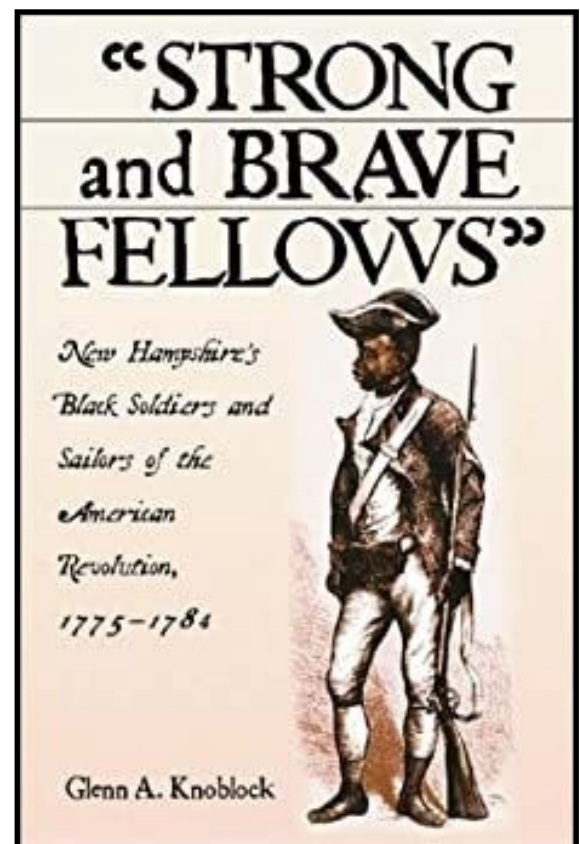
African American Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire During the American Revolution

February 23, 2022. Zoom. 7:00 pm

Register online: www.hsccnh.org

One of the most interesting aspects of the American Revolution is the role played by African Americans in the fight for independence. Both free African Americans and those who were enslaved were key in manning state militias and Continental Army units, as well as serving on the high seas in the Navy and on privately armed ships. Indeed, their service to the colonies was crucial in a conflict that lasted nearly seven years. Prohibited from serving in military units and largely considered "undesirable elements," how is it that these African American soldiers came to fight for the cause of liberty, even when their own personal liberty was not guaranteed?

Glenn Knoblock examines the history of African American soldiers' service during the war, including how and why they enlisted, their interaction with white soldiers, service on the battlefields, how they were perceived by the enemy and by the officers under whom they served, and their treatment after the war.



Jennie B. Powers: The Woman Who Dares

Sunday, March 13, 2022. 4:00 pm.
Colonial Performing Arts Center's Showroom. \$5 admission.



Jennie B. Powers: The Woman Who Dares tells the story of a Progressive Era woman who became a Humane Society agent and one of the first female deputy sheriffs in the country, with jurisdiction in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Armed with both a camera and a revolver, she was said to have arrested more men than any other woman in the United States, rescued thousands of animals, and protected countless women and children from domestic violence.

A co-production of the Historical Society of Cheshire County and SALT Project, this short documentary explores

Powers' life and legacy, inspiring a hope born of courage in the face of suffering and injustice. A discussion with the filmmaker Liz Myer Boulton and Historical Society education director Jennifer Carroll will follow the film. This production was made possible thanks to the support of New Hampshire Humanities, the Putnam Foundation, the Kingsbury Fund, and Arts Alive. Admission is \$5. Tickets may be purchased through the Colonial Theatre's website. Please note The Colonial's COVID-19 guidelines, which can also be viewed on their website: <https://tickets.thecolonial.org/>.



Workshop: Your Old House With Becky Barton

March 19, 2022.
10:00 am.

Historical Society of Cheshire County

Limited seating.
Register online: www.hscnhd.org

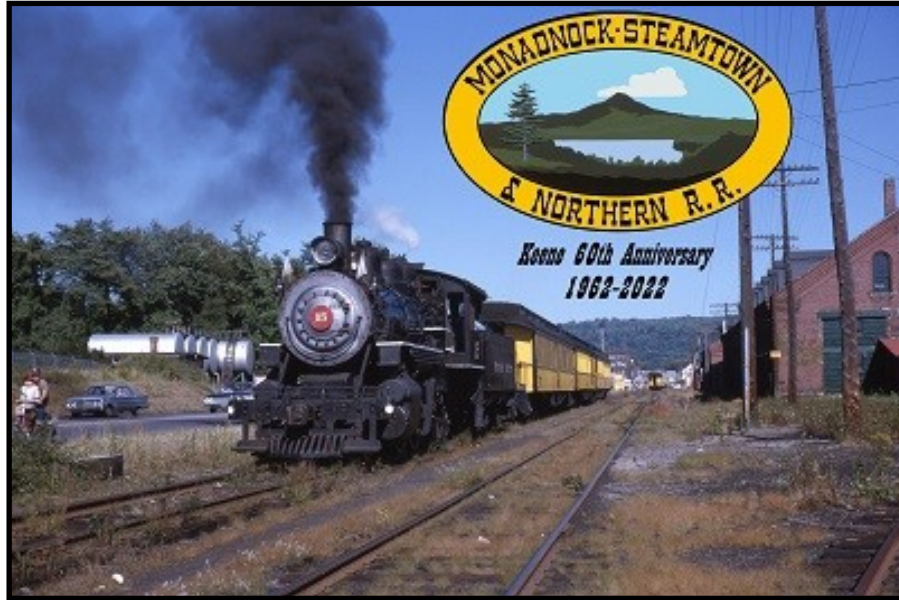
Are you interested in learning more about your old home? Historical Society of Cheshire County volunteer Becky Barton will introduce some of the resources available at the Historical Society of Cheshire County and elsewhere in the region. Attendees should prepare for this free informational session by documenting what they know about their old house. **First:** write down everything you know about your house and where the information came from. Things like name of last owner, house number, close by landmarks, ponds, brooks, old cemeteries etc. **Second:** come to the workshop for more local resources including Historical Society resources, the Registry of Deeds, Ancestry.com and more. **Third:** bring a pencil and paper for notes. There will also be a resource list handout!

Historical Society of Cheshire County 95th Annual Meeting and Steamtown USA Presentation

April 6, 2022. 7:00 pm.

Location TBD

Register online at www.hsccnh.org



Sixty years ago, in 1962, F. Nelson Blount's Monadnock, Steamtown & Northern Railroad thundered out of Keene on the Boston & Maine Railroad's Cheshire Branch, briefly returning the Elm City to the nostalgic era of steam railroading. Meanwhile, plans for the largest steam railroading museum in the United States, Steamtown U.S.A., bubbled to the brink of possibility for Keene only to be extinguished by red tape and political delays. In a dynamic presentation, Rick Kfoury, author of *Steam Trains of Yesteryear: The Monadnock, Steamtown & Northern Story*, will examine Keene's last chance for railroad prominence with never-before-seen photographs, documents, 8mm film and in-person accounts.

New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State



*Early Snow on the Presidential Range, by Fletcher Manley,
October 26, 2018*

Exhibit open until April 2022

For more than two years, fifty-five accomplished photographers from around NH photographed all aspects of the state and contemporary life here – the natural environment, built environment, unfolding events, and people going about their daily lives. See the results of their work in the Historical Society's current exhibit *New Hampshire Now*. A publication by the same name is available for sale in the Historical Society's Museum Store.

Other participating institutions in this state wide exhibition are the Belknap Mill Society, Davidow Center of Art and Design at Colby-Sawyer College, Millyard Museum, Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University, New Hampshire Historical Society, Portsmouth Historical Society and Tillotson Center.

Members and Supporters Make Local History Stories Happen

In 2021, over 700 members and hundreds of additional donors made it possible for the Historical Society of Cheshire County to connect thousands of people with their own local history. Moreover, our programs were offered at little or no charge to the public. We believe the wide participation of our members shows that local history is a way to reunite our communities.

The Society has been doing important work for years with a small staff and a culture of frugality, but the time has come to budget for our true needs and impact. We are convinced that leadership gifts will play an important role in the growth of our programs and our audience. To this end, we are creating a **leadership circle** to recognize the supporters who make significant gifts to the organization. The criteria for our leadership circle will be annual giving of \$1,000 or more excluding membership dues. Donors who commit to leadership circle giving will not continue to receive multiple solicitations for annual fund gifts, and their leadership gifts will have a notable impact on the growth of the organization.

A **life membership** supports the Historical Society in perpetuity. The membership fees go into a restricted fund and the income from the fund is dedicated to operations. The income from the fund in effect covers your membership dues in perpetuity. Life memberships are \$1,000 for individuals or \$1,500 for couples.

Each year many of our supporters become **Tavern Keepers** in support of the Historical Society's most important artifact, the Wyman Tavern (1762), one of Cheshire County's most important historic buildings. The Tavern Keepers contribute \$300 towards the operation and stewardship of the Wyman Tavern.

And, of course, **donations to the annual fund** and **membership dues** are important at whatever level our supporters decide to contribute. We are deeply grateful for the support of the community to "help people find their place in history."



The Historical Society is seeking photos of summer camp in the Monadnock Region for use in an upcoming exhibit. Contact Jennifer Carroll at dired@hscenh.org for more information.

**Monadnock Historical Societies
Roundtable Forum**
February 17, 2022. Zoom.
9:30-11:30am.

Contact Jennifer Carroll, Education Director, at dired@hscenh.org to receive Zoom link.

MUSEUM STORE



SAVE UP TO 60% OFF
SELECTED ITEMS.
BOOKS, CANDLES AND MORE
(PRICES AS MARKED)

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNT OF
10% OFF FOR SOCIETY
MEMBERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Life Members

Life members are supporting the Historical Society in perpetuity. Life memberships are \$1,000 for individuals or \$1,500 for couples. We are honored to recognize the following life members.

Anonymous	Jacqueline Lyon
Eleanor Ball	Daniel and Michal Mariaschin
Juliana Bergeron and Arto Leino	Tim and Ann McCann
Jay and Lisa Blanchard	John and Susan McGinnis
Chris J. Booras and Mary J. Booras	Bruce and Elizabeth O'Brien
Peter and Maria Bradshaw	Paula and Lee Page
Linda Cates and Tom Murray	Judith Palmer
Margot Close	Joan Pappas
Richard and Patricia Dugger	Dominic Perkins and Deirdre Chretien
Dayton Duncan	Anne Piper
Robert and Jeananna Farrar	Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Barry and Carol Faulkner	Thomas and Barbara Putnam
Charles Felix	Mike Remy
Sue Foster/Twin Flower Farm	Marie Royce Ruffle
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau Frechette	Rowland Russell
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle	Lynne Rust
Phyllis Gove and Steve Casad	Valerie and Lawrence Santilli
Glenn and Judy Guyette	Eileen and Michael Sarson
Bridget and Peter Hansel	Lael Stabler Schwabe
Roger and Nancy Hansen	Ralph Sexton
Betsey Harris	Dr. Arthur and Lynn Simington
June Houghton	Katherine Snow
Carl and Ruth Jacobs	Rosanne Snow
Rebecca Jacobs	Jane and David Stabler
Peter, Cornelia, and Cathy Jenness	Jeanie Sy
Harry H. Johnson, Jr.	Georgia Tasoulas
Richard and Judith Kalich	Henry Taves
Marcia Kayser	Kim and Maria Temple
Lewis Kibler	Robert and Lianne Therrien
Megan Burke Kidder	Anthony and Barbara Tremblay
Claire Kluskens	Raette Trombly
James L. Koontz	Ernest Vose
Howard and Elaine Lane	Robert and Susan Wellwood
Jane Lane	Julie White
Denise Lindgren	John and Loren Wright
Carolyn A. Loos	Martha and Peter Wright
Bob and Karen Lyle	Susan Wright

Leadership Circle

The following individuals made gifts to the Historical Society of Cheshire County of \$1000 or more in 2021 or 2022.

We deeply appreciate their support.

Robert and Deborah Aliber	Thomas and Anne Havill
Edward Bergeron	Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Jay and Lisa Blanchard	Neil Jenness
John Cooney	Walter Lacey
Richard and Patricia Dugger	Jane Lane
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau Frechette	Robert and Judith Perry
	Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
	Jim and Judy Putnam
	James and Sharon Rousmaniere
	Josephine and JC Russell
	Nelson and Dorothy Saks
	Katherine Snow and Paul Ledell
	David and Jane Stabler
	Rob Therrien
	Anthony and Barbara Tremblay

Tavern Keepers

The Tavern Keepers are supporting the Historical Society's most important artifact, the Wyman Tavern (1762). Tavern Keepers contribute \$300 specifically towards the operation and stewardship of the Wyman Tavern. With gratitude we list below the Tavern Keepers from 2021 and those who have already become Tavern Keepers in 2022.

Thomas and Susan Abert 2021, 2022	Steven and Jane Larmon 2021
Carol and Lewis Barnes 2021	Daniel and Michal Mariaschin 2021, 2022
Wayne and Becky Barton 2021, 2022	Brian and Lois Merry 2021, 2022
Rusty Bastedo 2021	Monadnock Garden Club 2021
Catherine Behrens 2021	Susan and Gary Murata 2021, 2022
Larry and Tammy Benaquist 2021	Andrew and Leatrice Oram 2021
Robert Bermudes 2021	Lee and Paula Page 2021, 2022
Jay and Lisa Blanchard/Keene Monument 2021, 2022	Norma and Adrian Pinney 2021
Chris J. Booras and Mary J. Booras 2021	Chris and Gaynelle Pratt 2021
Mike and Betty Christiansen 2022	Thomas and Barbara Putnam 2022
John Cooney 2021	June Rawlings 2021
Dick and Pat Dugger 2021, 2022	Dr. and Mrs. R. Winfield Raynor 2021
Sybil Dupuis 2021	Brian and Reinette Reilly 2021
Tom Durnford and Lisa Clouet 2021	Michael Remy 2021, 2022
Bill and Lisa Edwards 2021	Carolyn Rieth 2021
Robert and Alfrieda Englund 2021	Marilyn Wyman Riley 2021, 2022
Fenton Family Dealerships 2021	Rotary Club of Keene 2021
Russ and Kathy Fleming 2021	Jim and Sharon Rousmaniere 2021, 2022
Joslin Kimball Frank	Marie Royce Ruffle 2021
David Frechette and	Josephine and JC Russell 2021
Sydney (CeeCee) Croteau Frechette 2021, 2022	Gary and Jane Shapiro 2021
Henry Frechette 2021	Art and Lynn Simington 2021, 2022
Marilyn Gemmell 2021	Edwin "Smokey" and Sharron Smith 2021, 2022
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle 2022	Katherine Snow and Paul Ledell 2021
Elke and Tom Hanna 2021	David and Jane Stabler 2021
Bridget and Peter Hansel 2021	Robert Stephenson 2021, 2022
Roger and Nancy Hansen 2021	Jon Sundstrom and Betsy Ruffle 2021
Donall and Joyce Healy 2021	Richard Talbot 2021, 2022
J. Robert and Joanne Hof 2022	Kimball and Maria Temple 2021, 2022
John and Jean Hoffman 2021	Rob and Lianne Therrien 2021
John and Lynda Hunt 2022	Anthony and Barbara Tremblay 2021
Martha Hunt 2022	Ken and Pam Walton 2021, 2022
Carl and Ruth Jacobs 2021, 2022	Phil and Janet Warren 2021, 2022
Peter, Cornelia and Catherine Jenness 2021	Jan Weekes 2021
Jane and Gregory Johnson 2022	David R. Weir 2021
John and Ruth Joslin 2021	Rebecca and Wayne Whippie 2021
Paul and Suzanne Krautmann 2021	Jeanne Williams 2021
Walter and Barbara Lacey 2021	Peter and Martha Wright 2021, 2022
Susan Landers Gilbert and Sarah Handford 2021, 2022	Robert and Lisa Wyman 2021
Molly and Kendall Lane 2021	Gretchen Ziegler 2021



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 - 8 pm; First and Third
Saturday, 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 www.hsccnh.org

What's Happening at the Historical Society?

Thursday, February 17, 2022, Via Zoom, 9:30 am,
Monadnock Historical Societies Roundtable Forum
(see page 5)

Wednesday, February 23, 2022, Via Zoom, 7:00
pm, African American Soldiers and Sailors of New
Hampshire During the American Revolution (See
page 2)

Sunday, March 13, 2022, Colonial Performing Arts
Center, 4:00 pm, Premier of documentary film,
Jennie B. Powers: The Woman Who Dares
(See page 3)

Saturday, March 19, 2022, Exhibit Hall, 10:00 am,
Workshop: Your Old House (see page 3)

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, Location to be deter-
mined, 7:00 pm, Historical Society Annual Meeting
and Steamtown USA Presentation (see page 4)

Now through early April 2022, Exhibit Hall, *New
Hampshire Now* Photography Exhibit (see page 4)

Coming Soon

**May 6-14, 2022: Historical Society Used
Book Sale.** We will be accepting donations
from April 19 through April 29, 2022

**June 3– September 2, 2022: Nature and
Humanity in the Monadnock Region Art
Exhibit.** Now accepting applications from
participating artists. Applications are
available at the Historical Society or on the
Historical Society's website.
[www.hsccnh.org/man-and-nature-art-
exhibition-2022](http://www.hsccnh.org/man-and-nature-art-exhibition-2022)

Wanted: Photographs of summer camp in
the Monadnock Region for an upcoming
exhibit. Contact Jennifer Carroll, Education
Director, at dired@hsccnh.org for more
information.