



Historical Society of Cheshire County

Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

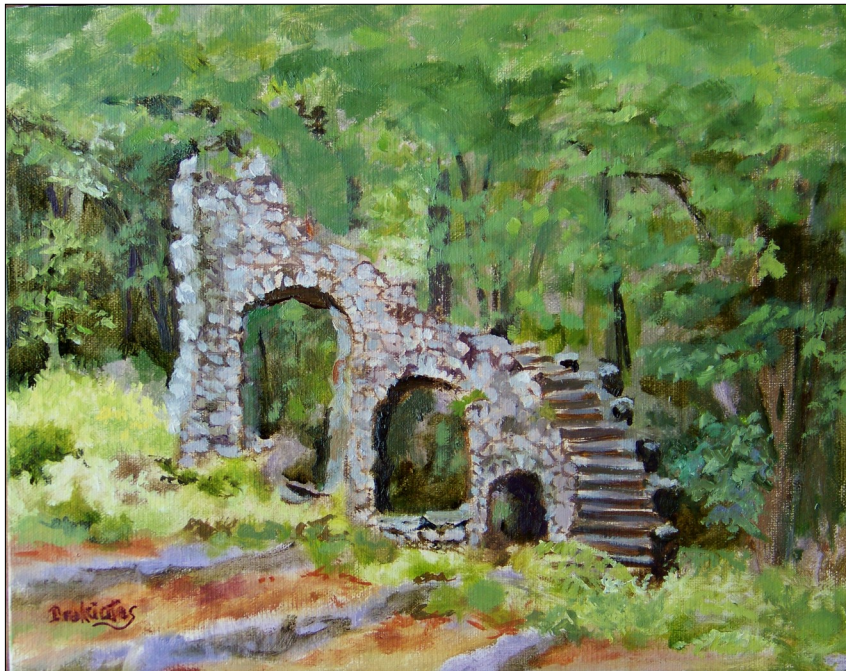
Newsletter and 2021 Annual Report

VOL. 38, NO. 1

APRIL 2022

Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region

Subject of Summer Art Exhibit



Castle Stairs Summer by Alicia Drakiotes



New Hampshire
State Council on the Arts

George Wheelock probably did more than any other individual to conserve land in Keene for recreational and educational purposes. His untiring effort to conserve natural space for public use is an example of the interaction between humanity and nature in the Monadnock region.

“Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region” will be the topic of the Historical Society’s feature exhibit during the summer of 2022. Dozens of local artists are preparing work based on the theme of the interaction between people and nature throughout the region. The exhibit will be held at Historical Society headquarters in Keene from the beginning of June through the beginning of September.

Keene native George Wheelock attended local schools and graduated from Harvard College in the 1830s. He chose the field of law as his career and entered the law office of his brother-in-law, John

Henry Elliot, upon his return to Keene. He seemed destined for a successful career as a lawyer.

Young Wheelock soon realized that the work of an attorney did not fit his personal needs or desires. He longed to be in the great outdoors and soon became Keene’s leading naturalist. He was a founding member of the Forest Tree Society in 1840, an organization formed to beautify and improve the town by planting trees along the streets. From that beginning he went on to enhance the muddy common by setting out trees and enclosing what became the park at Central Square. Wheelock was a founder of the Keene Natural History Society and a leader in the movement to develop the Woodland Cemetery, Keene’s first “garden” cemetery.

It was in the 1880s and 1890s, however, that George Wheelock began a movement of land conservation in the city that continues to the present day. He purchased the old Agricultural Fair

Continued on page 2:

Historical Society of Cheshire County



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Nature and Humanity (cont. from page 1):

Grounds in West Keene and donated the land to the city for use as a public park. He followed this donation with a gift of 95 acres on Beech Hill that became Robin Hood Forest.

Wheelock laid out trails, planted trees, and named natural features in the parks. He was chosen as Keene's first Park Commissioner in 1888 and held the post until his death. In that position, he developed a tradition of land conservation in the city and implemented procedures for the care of public parklands.

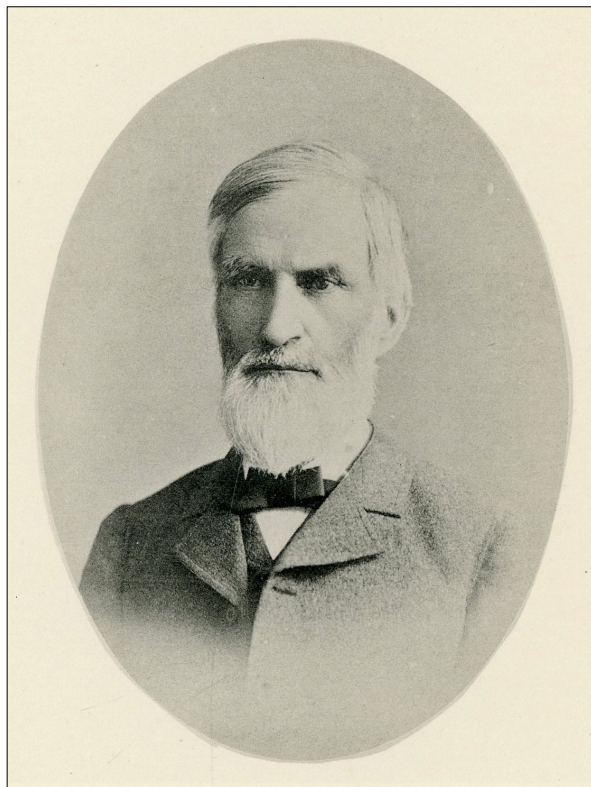
The parklands that resulted from George Wheelock's desire to use nature to improve the quality of life in the city are only one example of how people have interacted with nature in southwest New Hampshire. Humans have

impacted and interacted with nature throughout the history of the Monadnock region. In turn, nature has impacted, and continues to impact, the life of people in the area. The region's farms, industries, forest use, transportation infrastructure, land conservation, outdoor sports, and recreation offer a wide variety of artistic opportunities. Artists have been encouraged to create works that illustrate the interactions people have with nature and how this affects their own lives.

The "Nature and Humanity" exhibit will be in place at the Historical Society from June 3 through September 3, 2022. The exhibit will open with a reception on June 3rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Artwork will be for sale. A variety of related programs will be scheduled through the summer, including plein air days, a nature hike, gallery tours led by artists, and more. Check the Historical Society's website, email and social media for additional details.

"Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region" is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Patron sponsors: Price Chopper's Golub Foundation and RiverMead Lifecare Community.

The Historical Society is still seeking artists to participate in the exhibit. Interested artists may contact the Historical Society at 603-352-1895 or hsc@hscnh.org to receive an application to participate. The form is also available on the Historical Society website, www.hscnh.org. The deadline for entries is April 8th.

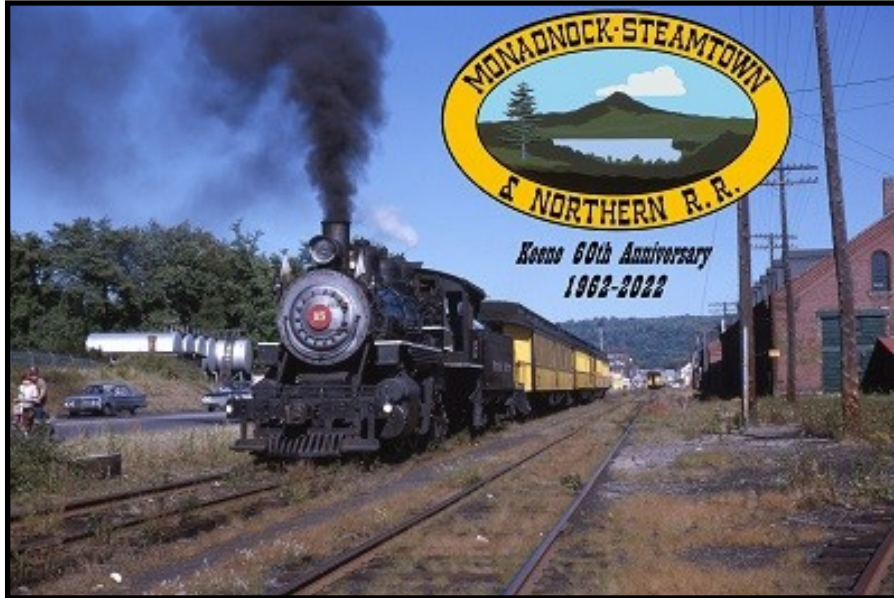


George Wheelock



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

April 6, 2022. 7:00 pm.
Historical Society Exhibit Hall
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.

SEEKING JUNIOR HISTORY DETECTIVES



Train with Museum Professionals
Investigate a case from the 1860s
Follow leads around town
JULY 25-JULY 29, 2022

Register through Keene State College,
Kids on Campus Program

**A NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY
3RD-5TH GRADE SUMMER CAMP**

WE HAVE STARTED PLANNING
SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 6, 2022
© THE WYMAN TAVERN
339 MAIN STREET KEENE NH
WWW.HSCCNH.ORG | 603.352.1895

Presented by:

MONADNOCK
Broadcasting Group

CHESHIRE COUNTY
New Hampshire

AMOSKEAG
BEVERAGES

WYMAN TAVERN BREW FEST

2021 Annual Report of the Historical Society of Cheshire County

President's Report

Many see the Historical Society of Cheshire County as the caretaker of local artifacts and history, but preservation is only part of our mission. Our mission is to also communicate that history. A quick visit to our website or Facebook page shows the depth and breadth of our work keeping our history alive and relevant. Our exhibits, educational programs, and events are varied and well received by our community and beyond.

Two years ago I was elected to serve as board chair for the Historical Society. I was honored and excited to be asked to take on this role. These past two years of pandemic have certainly not been what I expected to face during my time as chair. Fortunately the Historical Society of Cheshire County is a strong and vibrant non-profit with talented staff and committed volunteers who not only carried on but excelled in adapting to these challenges. The support of our members and donors has been steadfast, allowing our programming, events, and daily work to continue and grow.

A year ago I talked about looking forward to a return to some normalcy in our everyday lives. While wondering about the optimism of wishing it again for this coming year, what I am sure of is 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, Board President

Katherine Snow, President of the Board of Trustees

2021 Business Partners

Major sponsors

Amoskeag Beverages
Bergeron Construction
C&S Wholesale Grocers
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Harrisville Designs
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The Melanson Company
Monadnock Broadcasting Group
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Patron Sponsors

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Sponsors

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Monadnock Food Co-op
Monadnock Garden Club
Norton & Abert, P.C.
RiverMead Lifecare Community

Business members

Benson Woodworking Co.
Carbone Rentals
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GFA Credit Union
Moore Nanotechnology Systems
Oster and Wheeler

Toy City

True North Networks

Supporters

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Cox Woodworking
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KCS Architects
Kristin's Bistro & Bakery
Main Street America
William Marconi Italian Club
Prime Roast Coffee Company
Daniel V. Scully Architects

Steve's Equipment Repair
Streeter's Treasure Hunting
Thai Garden Restaurant
The Toadstool Bookshop
Weller & Michal Architects
Yankee Publishing

2021 Annual Report

Director's Message

We have lived through a historic 24-month period since the Historical Society of Cheshire County first closed its doors due to the emerging coronavirus pandemic in March of 2020. We have experienced stay at home orders, variants, quarantines, masking, testing, vaccines, supply shortages, and much more. Today, in March of 2022, there is growing optimism in the country as we now understand COVID-19 more clearly and public health initiatives have had a positive impact.



Photo by Medora Hebert

The Historical Society has fully reopened to the public. Programming requests have increased dramatically, including in-person programming, and exhibits have been well attended. We are moving toward more “normal” operations and scheduling of events. Despite the challenges of the last two years, the Historical Society of Cheshire County has learned a great deal about sharing its programming with a wider and more distant audience during the past months.

With a stay-at-home order in place we were compelled to find ways to offer programs in new formats to stay in contact with our audience and to remain relevant in the community. Social media and online programming became essential to our ongoing success. We quickly discovered that online programs could attract 200 to 250 people whereas the same program presented in our facility might have drawn 100 attendees at most. Even more importantly, many of the online attendees would not have been able to attend in person for a variety of reasons. Furthermore, when these programs were recorded, they could be offered to the public long after the events took place; our reach had expanded by accident.

Testimonials began to arrive by mail and email. The following quote from a letter received in February of 2021 sums up the impact of virtual programming. “Without the pandemic I would not have found you, and would not have driven to Keene to join the CALL classes or your presentations at the Historical Society. Something very wonderful came from the pandemic! I would love it if post-pandemic you might still make your programs available online.”

We have taken the lessons of pandemic programming to heart. The Society has undertaken a fundraising effort to support the acquisition and use of state-of-the-art technology to enhance and extend both in-house and hybrid programming. We hope that much of that technology will be in place by the end of 2022.

The Society reopened to the public in mid-2021 with the exhibit “The Ghost Army: Combat Con Artists of WWII.” This proved to be one of the most popular exhibits we have ever mounted. The Society also hosted “NH Now,” one of eight concurrent exhibits of recent professional photography from across the state. Other collaborations included the publication of archaeologist Robert Goodby’s book *A Deep Presence; 13,000 Years of Native American History* and a continuation of the regional project “Recovering Black History in NH.”

Historical Society Facts 2021

Members: 700
93 live programs (both in person and online)
2,980 visitors to our buildings
36 outdoor programs (festivals and walking tours)
12,639 people served
1,332 youth served
67,482 website views
3,326 Facebook followers

We are pleased that the Historical Society was able to present 93 live programs and 36 outdoor programs during 2021, despite being closed for several months. We enter our 95th anniversary year with renewed optimism and with more methods at our disposal for sharing local history than the founders of the organization could have imagined in 1927.

Financial Information as of Dec 31, 2021

Operating Budget

Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	\$501,950
Expense	<u>\$469,161</u>
Net Ordinary Income	\$32,789

Other Income

Publication Fund	\$6,155
Special Purpose Contributions	\$106,550
Dividend Income	\$84,498
Capital Gains/Losses	\$184,729
Unrealized Gains/Losses	<u>\$249,692</u>
Total Other Income	\$631,624

Other Expense

Fiduciary Fees	\$26,007
Endowment Fund	\$180,156
Transfer Out	
Publication Expense	\$6,174
Special Purpose Expenditures	<u>\$81,290</u>
Total Other Expense	\$293,627

Net Other Income	\$337,997
Net Income	\$370,786

Balance Sheet

Dec. 31, 2021

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	\$4,776,033
Other Current Assets	<u>-\$49,087</u>
Total Current Assets	\$4,726,946

Fixed Assets

Property & Equipment	\$3,036,153
Artifacts	\$100,000
Land	\$85,000
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-\$1,046,283</u>
Total Fixed Assets	\$2,174,870

Total Assets	\$6,901,816
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Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities	\$10,108
Equity	
Special Purpose Funds	\$169,635
Net Assets—Unrestricted	\$4,657,305
Net Assets—Perm Restricted	\$1,033,231
Net Assets—Temp Restricted	\$238,858
Fund balance—Unallocated	\$252,257
Net Income	<u>\$370,786</u>
Total Equity	\$6,722,072
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$6,732,180

Many thanks to our 2021 Leadership Circle

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

Robert and Deborah Aliber
Edward Bergeron
John Cooney
Richard and Patricia Dugger
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau Frechette
Thomas and Anne Havill
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Neil Jenness
Jane Lane
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

Thank you to the following grant funders for 2021

Frances R. Dewing Foundation
Kingsbury Fund
LCHIP
National Endowment for the Arts
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
The Thomas P. Wright Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
New Hampshire Humanities
Putnam Foundation
U.S. Small Business Administration

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

2021 Tavern Keepers

Tavern Keepers make a \$300 contribution to ensure that the Historical Society can be a good steward of its most important artifact, the Wyman Tavern.

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



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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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?

Wednesday, April 6, 7:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
Annual Meeting and Steamtown USA Presentation
(See Page 3)

Saturday, April 16, Exhibit Hall,
NH Now Exhibit Closes

Friday, May 6, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
Used Book Sale Opens (Paid Admission-see ad on
this page)

**Saturday, May 7, and Tuesday through Friday,
May 10-13**, Exhibit Hall, Used Book Sale
(Free Admission)

Friday, June 3, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, Exhibit Hall,
Nature and Humanity in the Monadnock Region
Art Exhibit Opening

June 3 through September 3, Exhibit Hall, *Nature
and Humanity in the Monadnock Region*
Art Exhibit (See Pages 1 and 2)

22nd Annual Used Book Sale

Our annual book sale will be held
May 6th - 13th

We will be accepting book donations April 19th - 29th
(no textbooks, older fiction, encyclopedias, magazines
or mass market paperbacks)

**MAY 6 TH – ENTRY FEES FOR TIMED ENTRY*
LIMITED ENTRY -12 PEOPLE PER TIME SLOT**

***TICKETS GO ON SALE APRIL 8, 2022 @ 12:00 PM
WWW.HSCCNH.ORG**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	\$30.00 PER PERSON
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	\$20.00 PER PERSON
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	\$10.00 PER PERSON
2:30 - 4:00 PM	\$5.00 PER PERSON

MAY 7 (9 AM -12 PM)

MAY 10 - 12 TH (10 AM - 3 PM)

MOST BOOKS \$1.00

ALSO A SPECIAL SELECTION OF HIGHER PRICED BOOKS AVAILABLE
FREE ACCESS

MAY 13 TH (10 AM - 3 PM)

FILL A BAG FOR \$1.00



Historical Society of Cheshire County
246 Main Street, Keene NH 03431
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