



# Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

VOL. 38, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2022

### Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then & Now



*John A. Booras*

The year was 1904. At the start of the planting season high in the hills of Arcadia, Greece, a sixteen-year-old boy struggled to plow a field belonging to his family. Within minutes after he began to guide his plow through the parched, rocky earth, his plowshare ran into a rock, then a second and a third.

Exasperated, he cast aside his plow, ran home, and declared, "I'm going to America!" This sixteen-year-old boy was John A. Booras.

Later, he acquired the Bon Ton Restaurant and the Bruder Building in downtown Keene and raised his family here. He was grateful to this country and to the citizens of Keene for his success, and was often heard to say, "God bless America."

John Booras' tale is only one of thousands of immigrant stories from the Monadnock Region over the past two centuries. Many of these people experienced despair, uncertainty and, ultimately, success in their search for better opportunities.

More immigrant stories will be told in the Society's next feature exhibit, "Finding Home in New Hampshire." This is part of a multi-venue photo exhibition featuring the work of New Hampshire photographer Becky Field. For the last 10 years, she has been documenting the lives of immigrants in a body of work entitled "Different Roots, Common Dreams." Her images show the determina-

tion of people to find safety, education, work, and freedom. In addition to her photographs of New Hampshire immigrants, Field also transcribes their memories about life in their home country and the journey to find a new home.

Field's photos can be seen at several venues throughout the region this fall. A major exhibit will be at the Historical Society of Cheshire County, a 'then and now' style display of Field's photography paired with historic photographs from the Manchester Historic Association and a timeline of NH's immigration history over the last 200 years. The Historical Society will showcase many of its own artifacts and archival collections related to Cheshire County's immigrant community including Irish, French-Canadian, Greek, Italian, and Finnish populations.

These exhibitions will bring special attention to cultural diversity in the month of September. Organized by Keene Immigrant and Refugee Partnership (KIRP), Project Home, and the Historical Society of Cheshire County, this celebration will include photographs, stories,

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Historical Society of Cheshire County



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## Finding Home(Continued from Page 1):

presentations, and conversations that will bring understanding and welcome to our new American neighbors. A full list of exhibits and presentations is available at [www.hsccnh.org](http://www.hsccnh.org).

## Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then & Now



## Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then & Now

### Exhibit Opening Reception

Friday, September 9, 2022  
4:00 to 6:00 pm

## Historical Society of Cheshire County

**Finding Home in New Hampshire** at the Historical Society will open with a reception on September 9th, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Becky Field, featured photographer for the exhibit, as well as immigrants who now live in the region will speak at 5:00 pm. Food and drink from many countries will be featured in the refreshments, including Greek baklava, Finnish nisu, French Canadian tourtiere, Indian pakora, Italian canoli, Syrian fattoush, and gluten-free English jaffa cakes. Drinks will be donated by the Keene International Market and the William Marconi Italian Club.

The exhibits in Keene are funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Thomas W. Haas Fund. Support was also received from the Putnam Foundation, C&S Wholesale Grocers, and Covenant Living of Keene, NH. The exhibit at the Historical Society will continue through the month of December.

## Keene International Festival

Saturday, September 24, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Fuller Park and Keene Recreation Center  
312 Washington Street, Keene

On Saturday, September 24th, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, the 3rd Annual Keene International Festival will be held at Fuller Park and the Keene Recreation Center. Food, crafts, activities and performances representing the rich cultural heritage of our region will be featured. The festival is free and open to the public.



**KEENE NH  
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL**

SAT. SEP. 24, 2022  
11AM-3PM  
FREE

FULLER PARK/KEENE REC CENTER, 312 WASHINGTON ST. KEENE, NH



## Wordplay, Music, and Hilarity at “Dances with Words”

**Thursday, October 20, 7:00 pm**  
**Colonial Theatre Showroom**

Bestselling author Richard Lederer and musical comedian Bill Shipper team up on October 20 at the Colonial Theatre’s Showroom to deliver a delightful program of wordplay in music and song. These two verba-holic punsters present memorable musicality, rhythmic rhymes, tons of tonality, and heaps of hilarity, all with gracious grammar and alluring alliteration. Doors open at 6:30 pm and the show begins at 7 pm.

Celebrating the crazy world of the English language with topics such as musical idioms, wordplay, limericks and the circus, their performance **DANCES WITH WORDS** is truly

“edutainment” – learning dressed up to have fun. The event is a co-production of the Historical Society of Cheshire County and the Colonial Theatre. Tickets are \$10 and will be available through the Colonial Theatre. To purchase online, go to the following link: <https://thecolonial.org/event/dances-with-words/>

**Richard Lederer** is the author of more than 50 books about language, history, and humor, including his best-selling *Anguished English* series and his current books, *A Pleasury of Word & Phrase Origins* and *So That’s What It Means*. He has been profiled in magazines such as *The New Yorker*, *People*, and the *National Inquirer* and was founding co-host of “A Way With Words” on Public Radio.

Musical comedian **Bill Shipper** writes songs imbued with words for nerds and lyrical, satirical, quasi-empirical tunes guaranteed to tickle your punny bone. Whether poking fun at foodies or business and technology with favorites such as “Tears on My Spreadsheet,” and “Dirty Data,” Bill Shipper never fails to deliver a hilarious, delightful concert.

## The Power of Education: The Story of a Rural Nepali Girl

**Wednesday, September 28**  
**5:30 Reception**  
**6:30 Presentation**  
**Norma Walker Hall, KSC**



*Usha Acharya*

On Wednesday, September 28, Usha Acharya of Kathmandu, Nepal, and founder of the Little Sisters Fund, will speak about the power of education in the lives of Nepalese girls. This event will be held at Norma Walker Hall, in the Alumni Center of Keene State College.

The Little Sisters Fund is devoted to fighting injustice, human trafficking, and poverty by educating girls and supporting them to become empowered leaders. Keene State College is a partner with the Little Sisters Fund in Nepal, providing young Nepalese women with access to higher education in Keene, NH.

For information on registration, email or call Jenna Carroll, at 603-352-1895 or [jcarroll@hscnh.org](mailto:jcarroll@hscnh.org).

## Mochi Demonstration and Tasting

**October 1, 2022**  
**10:00 am.**  
**Historical Society of Cheshire County**



Visit the Historical Society on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am when Spofford resident Yuko Suzuki Mowatt will demonstrate how to make one of her favorite Japanese sweets, mochi. Mochi is a Japanese rice cake made of mochigome, a short-grain japonica glutinous rice which is pounded into a paste and molded into the desired shape. It has a stretchy, soft, and chewy texture. Mochi can be eaten plain or filled with ingredients such as red bean paste, strawberries, mango, ice cream, nuts and more. Attendees will have a chance to sample this sweet dessert.

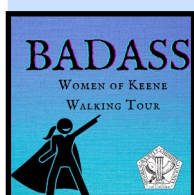
Registration information will be available on the Historical Society website soon.

## Guided Tours Offered by the Historical Society

Get your steps in while learning about Keene History. This fall, the Historical Society offers four guided tours at the Historical Society Exhibit Hall, the Wyman Tavern and in downtown Keene. **Register** for scheduled tours on the Historical Society website at [www.hscen.org](http://www.hscen.org). To book a **private tour**, call the Historical Society at **603-352-1895**. Each guided tour is \$10/person, with a minimum of 5 and maximum of 15 participants (youth under 18 are free.).

### Walldogs Mural- Magical History Tours

In June 2019, over 200 Walldogs artists descended on the city of Keene to paint 16 historically-themed murals across its cityscape in a matter of 4 days. Let our tour guides share the story of that event and the stories behind the murals on this 2 hour walking tour in downtown Keene. Public tours will be held on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am, September and October, or private tours can be arranged by calling the Historical Society.

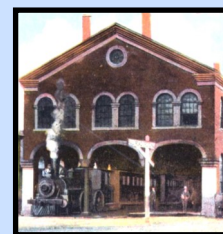


### Badass Women of Keene Walking Tours

Delve into the history of the women's suffrage movement from a local perspective. This history-on-the-streets experience highlights empowered women from the community and shares one city's involvement with a national movement. Tours are 1 1/2 hours. Call to schedule a tour.

### Railroad History Tour

How did the coming of the railroad impact New England communities like Keene? Walk the Cheshire Rail Trail through downtown Keene and learn about the arrival of Keene's first train in 1848. This 2 hour tour visits the sites where many industrial firms found success along the tracks in the downtown area. A public tour is scheduled for September 17th at 10:00 am. Call to schedule a private tour.



### The Wyman Tavern:

The Wyman Tavern was built in 1762. It is the Historical Society's largest artifact and a historical house museum. Book a tour of the Tavern and learn the story of the Isaac Wyman family and the history of taverns in New England in the 18th and 19th centuries. Call to schedule a tour.

The Historical Society website also has information about two self-guided walking tours in Keene: **A Walk Through Keene History**, an audio tour created by Franklin School 3rd graders, and a **Barry Faulkner Tour**, about Keene's own world-renowned muralist. A third self-guided tour has been created about **Jonathan Daniels**. More information about the Jonathan Daniels tour is available on the Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility's website at <https://jonathandanielscenter.org>.



THE MUSEUM STORE  
LOCATED AT  
246 MAIN STREET, KEENE, NH



Open Tues, Thurs & Fri 9-4 and Wed 9-8, and  
the 1st & 3rd Saturday of the month 9-12 pm or online at [www.hscen.org](http://www.hscen.org)



Photo of the famed hog train wreck at Pemberton Crossing, July 1897

## **Historic Walking Tour of the Stonewall Farm Neighborhood**

**October 15, 2022, 10:00 am  
Stonewall Farm**

Join Historical Society of Cheshire County director, Alan Rumrill, to learn about 250 years of history in the neighborhood that includes and surrounds Stonewall Farm. During this two-hour walking tour, Alan will share stories and information about the history of farming, early water-powered mills on local brooks, a spring water company located there, and the impact of the railroad that bisected the neighborhood in the 1840s. He will also share the tale of the famous hog train wreck of 1897.

Meet at Stonewall Farm at 10:00 a.m; rain date Oct. 16 at 10:00 a.m. Sponsored by Stonewall Farm and the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Tickets and more information are available through the Stonewall Farm website: <https://stonewallfarm.org/events/historic-walking-tour/>.

## **Challenges Become Opportunities**



When the Historical Society of Cheshire County closed its doors in March 2019 due to the pandemic, we needed to share our local history stories with people who couldn't visit us in person. Within a few days, we had begun to repackage content as "virtual" programs. Soon, we realized that we could often reach a larger audience online than we might have reached in person. We also realized that "virtual programs" can be a challenge to produce, and "hybrid programs" (combinations of in-person and online programs) are even more of a challenge. The media technology was a steep learning curve, especially with our not-so-new audio visual equipment.

In March 2022, the challenge became an opportunity when we were notified that the Historical Society had received a grant of \$51,000 from the American Historical Association. The grant would provide funding for a media tech consultant, equipment, staff time, and a new half-time position to coordinate events and provide media tech support.

Peter Kelleher, a graduate of Keene State College, has been hired to fill the new grant-funded position. The Historical Society is already very familiar with Peter's talents because he was a former video intern at the Historical Society. Some of his projects can be viewed on the Historical Society of Cheshire County's YouTube channel; for example, a film he did of the Holi Festival of Colors, and video versions of some of Alan Rumrill's Monadnock Moments. Peter says he is looking forward to producing content that educators and residents can use to understand local history. "I believe that recording history is very important," he says, "and the Historical Society does so in a very immersive and exciting way." Kelleher is also working as a video producer/editor for Brattleboro Community Television.

## 2022 Tax Savings for Charitable Contributions

For the past two years, the CARES Act allowed individuals to take a \$300 deduction (\$600 for couples filing jointly) on their tax returns for charitable contributions without itemizing their deductions. This opportunity was especially useful for those taking the standard deduction on their tax returns. The \$300 and \$600 “above-the-line” deductions expired in 2021, and are not available for 2022.

People over 70 ½ years of age may be able to take advantage of a meaningful tax benefit by making an “IRA charitable rollover.” The IRA charitable rollover option allows individuals to donate up to \$100,000 directly from a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA to one or more qualifying nonprofits. Such contributions apply against the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) but are not counted as taxable income when the donations are made. Many people use IRA charitable rollover contributions to avoid being taxed on their RMDs, funds that they must by law withdraw each year from their IRAs once they reach the age of 70 ½, and which are otherwise treated as taxable ordinary income.

Additional tax benefits can come from the donation of appreciated non-cash assets such as stocks, thereby eliminating the capital gains tax that would accrue if the assets were sold first and the proceeds then donated to a charity. Gifts of appreciated non-cash assets may enable donors to make larger gifts to their charities of choice while realizing tax savings not otherwise available.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is a registered nonprofit organization that is eligible to receive “Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)” The Society’s tax id number is 02-6007201. Be sure to consult with your financial advisor to determine what is best for you.



*Luca Paris, Brew Fest Emcee,  
and Rick Horton of The Outlaw  
Brewing Company*

## Outlaw Brewing Company Wins People’s Choice Award at Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

The Outlaw Brewing Company was chosen this year as the People’s Choice winner at the eighth annual Wyman Tavern Brew Fest held in Keene on Saturday, August 6. This was the fifth year that The Outlaw has come away from the Wyman Tavern Brew Fest with the People’s Choice honor. Tying for second place were Branch and Blade Brewing and Modestman Brewing.

The Outlaw’s owner Rick Horton said, “The best brew fest, brews, people, and experience. See y’all next year!” The craft brewers from Winchester, New Hampshire, brought their newly retrofitted 1972 C10 Chevrolet mobile tap pickup truck. During the VIP segment of the event, Bryce Daugherty (formerly of Ashuelot Brewing) and Rick Horton presented a live brewing demonstration for guests to learn about the beer-making process first hand. The beer will be finished in Winchester at the brewery and will

be the centerpiece of an event this fall to benefit the Historical Society.

Keene Town residents Mistress Mary Stiles (Emilia Whippie Prior) and her brother Abner Sanger (JJ Prior) also joined in the festivities at the Wyman Tavern. The pair spent the afternoon mingling with guests and discussing the educational programs offered by the Society.

The Wyman Tavern Brew Fest hosted 18 of the region’s craft brewers and distillers to raise funds for the programs of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. The addition of a gluten-free table was a huge hit among the attendees. Music by Tommy Fakem and Heath Lewis entertained the guests. In addition, the Monadnock Food Co-op brought vendors Jack’s Crackers, Frisky Gelato, and Nuttin’ Ordinary to provide tastings of their locally made products.

The Society would like to thank the more than 400 guests, 50 volunteers, the sponsors, the City of Keene, the Keene Fire Department, musical guests Tommy Fakem, and Heath Lewis, emcee Luca Paris, brewers, distillers, food trucks, and food vendors for braving the 90 degree temperatures on what was one of the hottest days of the summer. A special thank you to Monadnock Broadcasting Group which was one of the presenting sponsors of the 2022 Wyman Tavern Brew Fest. They donated the radio advertising for the Brew Fest at no charge to the Historical Society – a donation which represented a value of over \$30,000.



*Mary Stiles (Emilia Whippie Prior),  
her brother, Abner Sanger (JJ Prior),  
and Dominic Perkins, President of the  
Historical Society Board of Trustees  
at the 2022 Wyman Tavern Brew Fest*

## 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 in 2022.

Thomas and Susan Abert	Marion LeFrancois
Harry and Angeline Ackerman	Karen and Bob Lyle
Eleanor Ball	Daniel and Michal Mariaschin
Carol and Lewis Barnes	John and Susan McGinnis
Wayne and Becky Barton	Brian and Lois Merry
Rusty Bastedo	Monadnock Garden Club
Larry and Tammy Benaquist	Susan and Gary Murata
Jay and Lisa Blanchard/Keene Monument	Lee and Paula Page
Chris J. Booras and Mary J. Booras	Mike Pappas, Pappas Contracting
Megan Burke Kidder	Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Homer and Lucy Bradley	Jay and Jean Prior
Charles and Nancy Butterfield	Thomas and Barbara Putnam
Deirdre Chretien and Dominique Perkins	June Rawlings
Mike and Betty Christiansen	Dr. and Mrs. R. Winfield Raynor
Rick and Betsey Church	Michael Remy
John Cooney	Marilyn Wyman Riley
Irene and David Davis	Jim and Sharon Rousmaniere
Mary Delisle and George Foskett	Marie Royce Ruffle
Dick and Pat Dugger	Art and Lynn Simington
Sybil Dupuis	Edwin "Smokey" and Sharron Smith
Rhonda Fowler	David and Jane Stabler
Joslin Kimball Frank	Robert Stephenson
David Frechette and	Jeanie Sy
Sydney (CeeCee) Croteau Frechette	Richard Talbot
Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle	Kimball and Maria Temple
Roger and Nancy Hansen	Rob and Lianne Therrien
Richard High and Joyce Clark (in memoriam)	Anthony and Barbara Tremblay
J. Robert and Joanne Hof	Paul and Nancy Vincent
John and Lynda Hunt	Ken and Pam Walton
Martha Hunt	Phil and Janet Warren
Jeff and Lori-Anne Ingram	Bob and Joanne Webster
Carl and Ruth Jacobs	Jan Weekes
Cornelia, Peter, and Catherine Jenness	Rebecca and Wayne Whippie
Jane and Gregory Johnson	Francis Williams
Jay and Cheryl Kahn	Jeanne Williams
Claire Kluskens	Peter and Martha Wright
Walter and Barbara Lacey	Robert and Lisa Wyman
Susan Landers Gilbert and Sarah Handford	Margaret (Gretchen) Ziegler
Steven and Jane Larmon	

## In Memoriam 2022

The Historical Society has received a number of gifts in memory of members who have passed away this year. It is with gratitude that we acknowledge their passing and the generosity of their friends and family in giving to the Historical Society in their memory. The following individuals have been remembered through a gift to the Society: Donald Gillis, Pat Haley, Sylvia Clark Ball Chapman, and Harold Kontrovitz.



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 - 8 pm;  
First and Third Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
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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](http://www.hsccnh.org)**

**What's Happening at the Historical Society?  
September and October 2022**

**Saturdays, September 3 and October 1, Downtown Keene, 10:00 am, Walldogs Walking Tour**

**Friday, September 9, Exhibit Hall, 4:00 to 6:00 pm, "Finding Home in New Hampshire: Then and Now" Exhibit Opening Reception**

**Saturday, September 17, Keene, 10:00 am, Railroad History Walking Tour**

**Saturday, September 24, Fuller Park & Keene Rec. Center, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, Keene International Festival, free public event.**

**Wed., September 28, KSC Norma Walker Hall, 5:30 pm, Reception and Presentation: The Power of Education: the Story of a Rural Nepali Girl**

**Saturday, October 1, Exhibit Hall, 10:00 am, Demonstration and tasting of Japanese Mochi**

**Saturday, October 15, Stonewall Farm, 10:00 am, Historic Walking Tour of Stonewall Farm Neighborhood**

**Thursday, October 20, Colonial Theatre Showroom, 7:00 pm, "Dances With Words" with Richard Lederer and Bill Shipper**

**Celebration of the Bruder House Pavilion  
August 21, 2022**

On Thursday, August 21st, a celebration was held at the Bruder House Pavilion to honor all those who contributed to the building of this magnificent structure. Donors and skilled craftspeople who had worked on the design and construction of the pavilion gathered for drinks and s'mores cooked over a fire in the hearth. Alan Rumrill, Executive Director, gave a brief presentation and those in attendance were able to visit in the pavilion and the Bruder House.



*Roasting marshmallows at the hearth.*

*Daniel Scully, Architect (left), Dorothy Lipsky Saks, Robert Aliber, and CeeCee Frechette were among those who attended a celebration of the Bruder House Pavilion on August 21, 2022. (photo by Aaron Lipsky)*