Keene Bureau Returns Home

Early in 2021 Tom Dayton was driving home to Uxbridge, Massachusetts from a visit to Boston. He spotted a bureau beside the road in Upton with a “FREE” sign posted on it. Tom noticed the fancy drawer pulls on the piece and stopped to look at them. Thinking that he might be able to use the handles, he took the bureau home to his garage and workshop in Uxbridge.

Tom explored the piece more closely when he got home, discovering that the drawer pulls were original, that each drawer had a lock, and that the original key was inside the top drawer. Intrigued, he searched further. He removed the drawers and noticed that there was writing inside the bureau. There, in pencil, were the words “Keene Furniture Company, Keene, N.H. July 30th, 1892.”

Tom explained: “It was as if this 5-drawer bureau was talking to me and it was telling me ‘I need to get home.’ I knew right then this was a special piece of furniture to have survived over 129 years with all its original parts plus working locks and the skeleton key. This was incredible.”

Tom searched the internet for several days and could not learn anything about the Keene Furniture Company. Consequently, he contacted the Historical Society to ask for guidance. A correspondence began between Tom and the Society’s executive director. We shared that the Keene Furniture Company opened in 1868 and soon moved to the new Beaver Mills industrial complex on Railroad Street. The firm was quite successful, despite a disastrous fire in 1889 and a boiler explosion in 1893. Keene Furniture was known for the ornate bedroom sets that were manufactured in its 35,000 square foot factory building. The company closed its doors in 1898.

After sharing information and photos with Tom, he asked if the organization would be willing to accept the bureau as a gift for its collections. We readily agreed. This bureau represents an important period of transition from the small shops of skilled cabinetmakers who worked by hand to large woodenware factories that employed a large number of workers using large scale woodworking machines. A sizeable percentage of this machinery was invented and manufactured in Keene.

Tom might well have said that it was incredible that this bureau, which was in excellent original condition, was found sitting beside the road in Massachusetts by the one person who cared enough to save it and return it to Keene. On April 26, 2021 Tom Dayton and his friend Allan Pinkand Jr. delivered the piece of (Continued on Page 2)
Bureau Comes Home (Cont. from page 1):

Perhaps one of these Keene Furniture Company employees assembled the 1892 bureau.

New Local Titles will Make Great Holiday Gifts

The Historical Society’s Museum Store offers a wide variety of books and gifts for holiday giving. Three new books might be ideal choices for the history enthusiast on your gift list. *New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State* is the companion volume to the Society’s current photography exhibit of the same name. *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History*, by Robert Goodby, shares a history of Native Americans in the Monadnock region. *Chasing Eden: A Book of Seekers* is the latest offering from Hancock author Howard Mansfield. Shop the Museum Store and take advantage of our annual holiday sale, beginning November 17.

Historical Society Holiday Closings

The Historical Society will be closed on November 11th for Veterans’ Day, November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday, and December 24th for the Christmas Holiday. The Historical Society will also be closed from January 3rd to January 14th for the yearly Staff Organization days.
Museum Store Holiday Sale
begins November 17, 2021*

THE MUSEUM STORE
AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHeshire COUNTY
246 Main Street Keene NH online at hscenh.org

*Society Members receive 20% off entire purchase &
Not yet Members will receive 10% off entire purchase
The Jonathan Daniels Center Welcomes Executive Director

The Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility (JDC), a program of the Historical Society of Cheshire County (HSCC), continues its commitment to serving the legacy and work of Civil Rights martyr Jonathan Daniels. Through a process of discernment and in consideration of the current issues in society today, the JDC Committee is taking steps to create a non-profit organization independent from the Historical Society. This autonomy will empower the JDC to take a more activist role in issues of social responsibility in ways that reflect the values that guided Jonathan Daniels in his work.

A significant step in preparation for this next phase is the hiring of Executive Director, Heidi Schwieger. An experienced non-profit professional, advocate, educator and Fulbright Scholar, Schwieger is poised to guide the JDC through this transition with a view to engaging the center as a champion of human rights and social responsibility through action, education, collaboration and expression. In addition to helping envision the future role of the JDC, Schwieger will sustain the important stewardship of the history surrounding Daniels, offer programming and events as well as finalize an on-site exhibit housed at the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene, New Hampshire. The exhibit will be open to the public.

Join the David R. Proper Society by Committing to Make a Legacy Gift.

A legacy gift can take many forms:

- **A gift of appreciated stock.** A donation of appreciated stock can be deductible at its current market value, regardless of its original cost.
- **Remembering the Historical Society of Cheshire County in Your Will or Trust.** Many people include provisions in their wills for charitable organizations as well as their heirs. The Historical Society can provide sample language to set aside a specific amount or a percentage for a bequest, for a residuary bequest, or a contingent bequest.
- **A Donation of Retirement Assets.** You can designate the Historical Society as a beneficiary of a percentage of your IRA. It’s easy and free. You just need to get a beneficiary form from your IRA. Also, you can give directly from an IRA and avoid federal income tax on the withdrawal of the asset.
- **A Charitable Gift Annuity.** When you establish a charitable gift annuity, usually with a gift of $10,000 or more, you will receive guaranteed fixed income for life for up to two beneficiaries.

For more information, contact:

Rick Swanson, Development Director
603-352-1895, devdir@hsccnh.org

David R. Proper was a school-teacher, librarian, historian, author, and a member of the Historical Society of Cheshire County for 65 years.
Chasing Eden
Howard Mansfield Book Event

Monday, November 8, 2021. 6:00 pm

Howard Mansfield is guest author at the Historical Society of Cheshire County on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 6pm. He will read from his new book Chasing Eden (released October 12) and discuss its connection to local history. Tickets for this free in-person event are limited to 50 attendees, socially distanced. The event will also be available to view and participate via Zoom. For tickets to attend in person or virtually, visit www.hsccnh.org.

Chasing Eden is about the seekers all around us, about Americans seeking their Promised Land, their utopia out on the horizon, which by definition, is ever receding before us. In Chasing Eden we meet a gathering of Americans – the Shakers in the twilight of their utopia; the Wampanoags confronting the Pilgrims; the God-besotted landscape painters who taught Americans that in wilderness was Eden; and 40,000 Africans newly freed from slavery granted 40 acres and a mule – only to be swiftly dispossessed. These and other seekers were on the road to find out, all united by their longing to find in America “a revolution of the spirit.”

Howard Mansfield is the author of nine books about preservation, architecture, and history, most recently Summer Over Autumn (Bauhan 2017). He has contributed to the New York Times, the Washington Post, Historic Preservation, and Yankee. He and his wife, writer Sy Montgomery, live in a 130-year-old house in Hancock, New Hampshire.

The Power of Place:
An Evening with Howard Mansfield,
Medora Hebert & Ernie Hebert

Wednesday, November 17, 2021. 6:00 pm.

Authors Ernest Hebert, Howard Mansfield and photographer Medora Hebert will share their thoughts on the power of place and the ways in which the ideas and reality of “place” can resonate in a photograph and in literature. As they discuss their own work in relation to this theme, they will also draw on the works that are included in the Historical Society’s current exhibition, New Hampshire Now.

New Hampshire Now features selections from a statewide project in which 50 photographers documented New Hampshire views and events from 2018-2020. The Historical Society of Cheshire County’s exhibition features a mix of photographs specific to the Monadnock region along with a large selection of images from across the state. A 300-page publication, with an introduction by Mansfield, accompanies the exhibition.

Tickets for this free in-person event are limited to 50 attendees, socially distanced. The event will also be available to view and participate via Zoom. For tickets to attend in person or virtually, visit www.hsccnh.org. This program is made possible thanks to support from New Hampshire Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Savings Bank of Walpole.
Thank you to the 2021 Wyman Tavern Keepers

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

And welcome to the 2022 Tavern Keepers

| Thomas and Susan Abert                  | Carl and Ruth Jacobs                      |
| Thomas and Lewis Barnes                | Paul and Suzanne Krautmann                |
| Wayne and Becky Barton                 | Michael Remy                              |
| Betty and Mike Christansen             | Art and Lynn Simington                    |
| David Frechette and                    | Edwin and Sharron Smith                   |
| Sydney (CeeCee) Croteau Frechette      | To become a 2022 Tavern Keeper, go to     |
| Mike Giacomo and Rachel Eschle         | www.hsccnh.org/support/tavern-keeper.     |
| Susan Landers Gilbert                  |                                          |
| Sarah Handford                         |                                          |
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
Margot Close
Robert and Jeananna Farrar
Barry and Carol Faulkner
Charles Felix
David Frechette and Sydney Croteau Frechette
Michael Giacomo and Rachel Eschle
Phyllis Gove and Steve Casad
Judith and Glenn Guyette
Bridget and Peter Hansel
Roger and Nancy Hansen
Carl and Ruth Jacobs
Richard and Judith Kalich
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
Anne Piper
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt
Thomas and Barbara Putnam
Michael Remy
Valerie and Lawrence Santilli
Arthur and Lynn Simington
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.

In Recognition of our 2021 Business Supporters — Thank you!

We are deeply grateful for the support we have received from about 50 businesses in the Monadnock region. You have been there when we needed you!


Patron sponsors: John G. Burk and Associates, Hamblet Electric, Pinney Plumbing and Heating, Price Chopper, Silver Direct

Sponsors: Aloha Keene, Clark-Mortenson Insurance and Financial Services, Davis Oil Company, Fenton Family Dealerships, Filtrine Manufacturing Company, Frazier & Son Furniture, Ingram Construction Corporation, Keene Monument, Moggies Auction Services, Monadnock Food Co-op, Norton and Abert PC, Prime Roast Coffee Company, Silver Direct

Members: Benson Woodworking Company, Clear Solutions, GFA Federal Credit Union, Moore Nanotechnology Systems, Oster and Wheeler, Toy City, True North Networks

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

Historical Society of Cheshire County
Collecting, Preserving, and Communicating the History of Cheshire County

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

November 2021:

Monday, November 8, 6:00 pm, Exhibit Hall and Virtual, Howard Mansfield Book Launch

Thursday, November 11, Historical Society Closed for Veteran’s Day Holiday

Wednesday, November 17, 6:00 pm, Exhibit Hall and Virtual, NH Now Panel Discussion with Ernest and Medora Hebert and Howard Mansfield

Wednesday, November 17, Museum Store, Holiday Sale begins (20% off for members, 10% off for not yet members)

Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26, Historical Society Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2021:

Thursday, December 23, Museum Store Holiday Sale ends

Friday, December 24, Historical Society Closed.

Friday, December 31, Historical Society Closed

January 2022:

January 3 through 14: Historical Society Closed for Staff Organization days.

Ongoing events: Through April 2022 Exhibit Hall, NH Now Photography Exhibit

A collection of photographs taken over a two-year period capturing the breathtaking scope of everyday and extraordinary life in New Hampshire.