



Historical Society of Cheshire County

*Collecting, Preserving, and
Communicating the History of Cheshire County since 1927*

VOL. 40 NO. 5

February 2025

"Antioch University in the Monadnock Region: Celebrating 60 Years of Service" Exhibit Opens in February



This year marks the 60th anniversary of Antioch University's New England campus. Over that time, countless contributions of Antioch students, faculty, staff, and alumni have won important victories for the Monadnock Region. The Historical Society of Cheshire County's latest exhibit will highlight the profound ways in which the University has left its mark. These include:

- Working through Antioch New England Institute, a team of students and staff collaborated with the City of Keene and Pathways for Keene to research and complete the first phase of the Cheshire Rail Trail in 1994.
- One of the most successful companies in the region, Badger Balm, was co-founded in 1995 by MA Education graduate Katie Schwerin ('93).
- For their 2007 masters project, Environmental Studies Masters students Bonnie Hudspeth and Katie Stoner developed the business plan for the Monadnock Food Co-op.
- Georgia Cassimatis focused her 2014 Internship on founding Friends of Public Art, and later joined the Walldogs in Keene executive

committee (which also included ES PhD alumnus Rowland Russell) to put on the 2019 Magical History Tour Mural Festival.

"Antioch University in the Monadnock Region: Celebrating 60 Years of Service," opens Friday, February 21st at the Historical Society of Cheshire County's Putnam Exhibit Hall. This exhibit celebrates those accomplishments, highlighting the role Antiochians have played in founding and leading organizations, teaching our children, protecting our wildlife and ecosystems, facilitating change, and lifting the arts. Guest curator Rowland Russell, an AUNE alumnus and Historical Society board member, is excited to share these stories. "Ingenuity and compassion are at the heart of what Antioch folks have always contributed here, which can't help but make this a better place."

Other events associated with the exhibit will include a Founders Circle, a panel of central figures in the launch of the New England campus and some of its signature programs; as well as walks exploring the history of development of Horatio Colony Preserve; The Cheshire Rail Trail; and the Rachel Marshall Outdoor Center at Ashuelot Park; all of which were fostered in

Continued on page 2:

**Historical Society
of Cheshire County**



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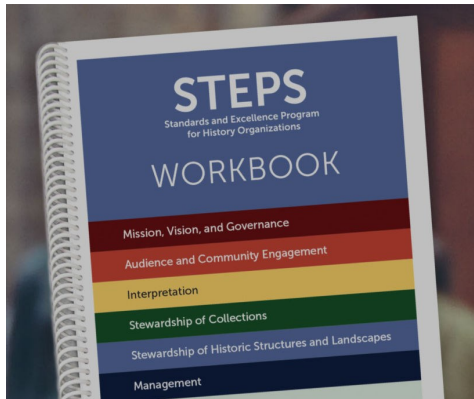
Peter Kelleher
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Antioch University (*continued from page 1*):

collaboration with Antioch University. Dates and details are to be announced.

"Antioch University in the Monadnock Region: Celebrating 60 Years of Service," runs from February 21, 2025 to May 3, 2025. The Historical Society's exhibit gallery is free and open to the public on Tuesday, 10:00am-4:00pm; Wednesday, 10:00am-6:00pm; Thursday, 10:00am-4:00pm; Friday, 10:00am-4:00pm; and the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, 9:00am-12:00pm. For more information, visit www.hscenh.org or call 603-352-1895.

STEP-ping into the Future



Exciting News! The Historical Society of Cheshire County is now one of over 1,100 museums using the "Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations" (STEPS). STEPS is a self-paced assessment program offered by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). This groundbreaking program offers recommendations for how history museums, historic houses, historic sites, and other organizations can improve daily management and work toward national standards.

The timing of this initiative is strategic. The Historical Society will use it as an opportunity to work through the organization's transition into new leadership. Explained Executive Director Jennifer Carroll, "I have used this program at a former museum and found it to be extremely rewarding. An organizational transition is the perfect time for us to assess our current needs, celebrate our successes, identify future possibilities, and broaden our relationships within the Cheshire County community. This work is especially important for museums in order to remain relevant and meaningful in a post-pandemic era."

Throughout the upcoming year, the Society will identify opportunities for improvement, plan for the future of the organization, and work toward meeting national museum standards of excellence. Using the STEPS workbook and companion online resources, the staff and board of trustees will assess its policies and practices.

Dividing the program into manageable sections, the Society will assess areas of: mission, vision, and governance; audience and community engagement; historical interpretation; stewardship of collections; stewardship of historic structures and landscapes; and museum management. The organization will earn bronze, silver and gold progress certificates along the way. It is the hope of the Historical Society that, through this STEPS program, the organization will develop a new strategic plan and move closer to meeting museum standards of excellence. "We will celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2027," remarked Carroll. "The work we do now has the potential to sustain the Historical Society of Cheshire County for the next 100 years or more."

Summer Exhibition 2025

Our Story:

The art of community connections in the Monadnock Region



CALL for ENTRIES

JURIED REGIONAL EXHIBIT 2025

May 30-September 6, 2025

Our Story

The art of community connections in the Monadnock Region



HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY
www.hsccnh.org | 603.352.1895



“Our Story” is the Historical Society of Cheshire County’s featured exhibit in the summer of 2025. Artists are invited to submit works of art that are personal, touching upon their own connection to the Monadnock Region.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County, New Hampshire, is excited to announce a juried art show exploring the theme of community connections. Join us in celebrating the vibrant connections that make our community unique!

We invite artists to submit one or two works that reflect and celebrate the ways in which they connect with their community. This can encompass a wide range of interpretations and genres, from literal depictions of local events or landmarks to abstract representations of community bonds. Poetry, short stories, essays, short films, fiber arts, woodworking, pottery, and traditional artwork of all genres are welcomed and encouraged.

Collectively, the exhibit will showcase the diverse ways in which individuals interact with, and contribute to, our shared community experience.

Monadnock Historical Societies Forum Roundtable Meeting

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 9:15 am
Historical Society of Cheshire County

The next roundtable meeting of the Monadnock Historical Societies Forum will be held at the **Historical Society of Cheshire County!** This gathering is a great opportunity to share upcoming events and successes and to seek advice on any difficulties you are facing within your organization.

Schedule:

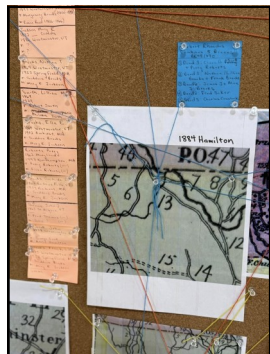
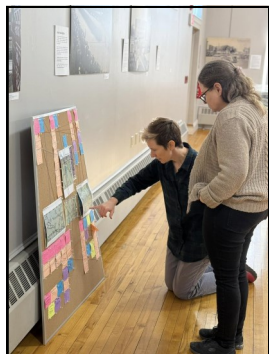
9:15-9:30: Refreshments

9:30-10:30: Roundtable discussion

10:30-11:15: Mini workshops

- Marketing on a nonprofit budget with Andrea Cheeney, Historical Society of Cheshire County Marketing Coordinator
- Introduction to BIPOCMonadnock.org with Jennifer Carroll, Historical Society of Cheshire County Executive Director

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is located at 246 Main Street, Keene. Parking is available behind the Historical Society building and the entrance is in the back of the building, adjacent to the parking lot.



February is Black History Month

Celebrate by visiting the BIPOCMonadnock website to learn more about Black History in the Monadnock region.

On January 10th, Gail Golec of Walpole, stopped by to share her research on the Recovering Black History project. As one of our citizen archivists, she had been busy connecting families from Cheshire County, New Hampshire, Westminster, Vermont, and beyond. Learn more about the Recovering Black History project on our website: www.hsccnh.org or

www.bipocmonadnock.org

Gail Golec discusses her research with Jennifer Carroll, Historical Society Executive Director.

Collect

Preserve

Communicate

Check out
our YouTube
Channel







New Videos Available on Historical Society's YouTube Channel

Three new history-related videos are available on the Historical Society's YouTube channel: "A Conversation with Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan," "Curating Curiosity Beyond Campus Walls," and "A History of the Town of Stoddard, NH 1768-2024."



Yankee Spy! Stoddard's Jonathan Hale in the Civil War Saturday, February 8, 2025, at 2:00 pm The Cathedral of the Pines 10 Hale Hill Road, Rindge, NH

Cheshire County native Jonathan Davis Hale left New Hampshire to seek his fortune in the mid-1800s. He gained wealth in his adopted state of Tennessee, only to lose it all when the Civil War began because he supported the Union. His amazing life story is a tale of wealth, happiness, patriotism, danger, loss, and finally, heartbreak and poverty.

Alan Rumrill, Senior Historian of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, will share the fascinating story of his ancestor, Jonathan Davis Hale. Alan has written hundreds of articles and ten books on historical subjects and made over 1000 local history presentations. He is a native of Stoddard where his family has lived since 1770.

This is a joint program between the Historical Society of Cheshire County and the Cathedral of the Pines. For more information or to register to attend, visit the Cathedral of the Pines website at www.cathedralofthepines.org.



Finnish Mama's 2nd Annual Winter Coffee Table

Saturday, February 15, 2025
2:30-4:30pm

Historical Society of Cheshire County
Exhibit Hall

The Historical Society of Cheshire County will host the **Finnish Mama's 2nd Annual Winter Coffee Table** on Saturday, February 15th, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

We hope you'll be able to join us for coffee and Finnish-inspired sweet treats. It's a wonderful time to slow down and connect with others in a safe and welcoming environment. And since it falls just a day shy of Valentine's Day, you will most likely see some festive treats & decor to mark the special day.



A Special Request from a Well-Known Local Author

For a story about the building of the Cheshire Railroad in the 1840s, the writer **Howard Mansfield** would like to hear from any families whose ancestors built the railroad. The laborers were Irish immigrants from County Cork, and the northern counties. Please contact Howard Mansfield by email: howard@authorwire.com, or write to him: P.O. Box 127, Hancock, N.H. 03449.

Newsletter available online and by email

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please contact Kathy Schillemat at hsccl@hscclnh.org. Current and past newsletters can also be viewed on the Historical Society's website, www.hscclnh.org.



THE MUSEUM STORE Cabin Fever Sale

Clearance Sale 45-100% off items.

Yes, you read that right: 100% off!

There are lots of freebies.

Museum Store Hours

Tuesday - Friday 10 - 4 pm

Open late on Wednesday until 6 pm

First and Third Saturday of the month 9 - 12 pm

246 Main Street, Keene NH | free parking behind the building



Shop local history!



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We are deeply grateful to Chris J. Booras for his bequest to the Historical Society of Cheshire County

Chris J. Booras gave consistently to the Historical Society during his lifetime, including a leadership capital campaign contribution that he and his sister Mary Booras made in 2018 in memory of their father, John A. Booras, for the Visitor Center at the Bruder House. It is fitting that his bequest will be dedicated to the maintenance and upkeep of the John A. Booras Visitor Center at the Bruder House.

Today the Historical Society of Cheshire County stands on a solid foundation that has been built in part by legacy gifts. The David R. Proper Legacy Society honors those, such as Chris J. Booras, who had the generosity and foresight to include the Society in their estate plans.

Here is an example of typical bequest language you could add to a will: *I bequeath \$ _____ or ___% of my estate to the Historical Society of Cheshire County, a nonprofit organization located at 246 Main Street in Keene, New Hampshire (mailing address P.O. Box 803, Keene, NH 03431).*

Legacy gifts can also take the form of beneficiary designations for IRAs or life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities, or other forms of planned gifts.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County's tax identification number is 02-6007201.

We encourage you to consult with your financial advisor, accountant, or attorney to help you pursue your philanthropic goals. For more information contact Rick Swanson, Development Director at rswanson@hscenh.org or 603-352-1895.



Historical Society of Cheshire County
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431
603-352-1895 – www.hscenh.org
New hours:
Tues., Thurs., & Fri.: 10 am - 4 pm
Wed.: 10 am - 6 pm;
First and Third Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm



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Calendar: Complete list of events and descriptions at www.hscenh.org

February 2025

Saturday, February 8, 2:00 pm. Cathedral of the Pines, Rindge NH. “Civil War Spy” presentation with Alan Rumrill (see page 4)

Thursday, February 13, 9:15 am. Historical Society Putnam Exhibit Hall, Monadnock Historical Societies Forum Meeting (see page 3)

Saturday, February 15, 2:30-4:30 pm. Exhibit Hall. Finnish Mama’s 2nd Annual Winter Coffee Table (see page 5)

Friday, February 21, 4:30-6:00 pm. Putnam Exhibit Hall, Exhibit opening: *Antioch University in the Monadnock Region: Celebrating 60 Years of Service*. Exhibit open from February 21 to May 3, 2025 (see pages 1-2)

Save the Dates:

Friday, May 30, 4:30 pm, Putnam Exhibit Hall, “*Our Story*” Exhibit opening

Saturday, August 2, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest

Think Spring!

We may be enduring frigid temperatures and snowy days, but spring is less than two months away. And with spring comes **Tour Season** at the Historical Society. While the schedule for tours has not been finalized, the Historical Society staff and volunteers would like to remind you of the many opportunities to learn more about the history and culture of our region through walking tours and guided tours of the Wyman Tavern.

Tours are available in the spring, summer and early fall months on the following subjects:

- Wyman Tavern Tour for Adults
- Loyal Subjects
- Patriotic Stroll
- Railroad History
- Walldog Murals

Check the Historical Society website for descriptions. Regularly scheduled tour dates and times will be available by May 2025. If you have family and/or friends coming into town, you can call the Historical Society at 603-352-1895 to schedule a private tour at a mutually convenient time.