



# Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

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## America's 250th

*Reflections from the Monadnock Region*

2025 - 2026

### *After Bunker Hill*

By Rebecca Barton, Historical Society Volunteer

In the spring of 1761, Captain Isaac Wyman, his wife Sarah (Wells) Wyman, and their five young children arrived in Keene, New Hampshire to begin a new life. Wyman had been posted at Fort Massachusetts in North Adams, Massachusetts during the French and Indian War and moved into his large Georgian colonial home on south Main Street, complete with a tap room and family spaces.

On April 20, 1775, a rider from the east arrived with the news of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts the previous day. Captain Ephraim Dorman, in charge of the Keene militia, consulted with the veteran soldier and a meeting was held on the town common. Captain Wyman was chosen to command the roughly 29 Keene men who volunteered to march to support the Massachusetts militia.

On June 18, 1775, Keene's newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Wyman and the two hundred volunteers under his command returned to their encampment at Winter Hill, in Medford, after the end of the battle with the British Regulars at Bunker Hill. General John Stark of New Hampshire had decided to use the deserted estate of Loyalist Isaac Royall at Winter Hill as his headquarters.

Back in Keene, nineteen-year-old Isaac Wyman, Jr. had contracted the highly contagious and often deadly smallpox. Fortunately, no one else in

the household caught the disease and young Isaac survived. His father, Isaac Wyman, Sr., arrived in Keene on July 18, and stayed until his son recovered. Lieutenant Colonel Wyman embarked on his return trip to Winter Hill with fellow Keene soldier Hook Gray on August 5, 1775.

On August 13<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Colonel Isaac Wyman was in Cambridge, Massachusetts, prepared to serve on a General Court Martial board with 12 fellow officers. Colonel John Mansfield was accused by three of his officers of "high crimes and misdemeanors," found guilty, and removed from military service. In between training, maintenance of equipment, and soldiering duties, soldiers and their superiors were all held to military laws, and, on occasion, it was deemed necessary to pursue justice in camp.

Colonel James Reed of Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, another veteran from the French and Indian Wars, brought his regiment of volunteers to Winter Hill and together they all waited for their orders. Reed had been born in Woburn, Massachusetts, and moved to Lunenburg, Massachusetts before settling in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire, in 1765. He led a company of Fitzwilliam men to the support of the Massachusetts militia.

At Winter Hill, Lieutenant Colonel Isaac

*Continued on page 2:*

Historical Society  
of Cheshire County



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**After Bunker Hill** (*continued from page 1*):

Wyman and Colonel James Reed, along with their fellow officers, wrote a petition against the militia doctor Benjamin Church. The officers wanted a brigade hospital closer to their location at Winter Hill, and they needed better supplies and medicines for the wounded soldiers. Their request was honored and by November 7, 1775, Dr. Benjamin Church was dismissed from military service.

Near the end of December 1775, the Keene men's enlistments expired. Isaac Wyman, Jeremiah Stiles, and the surviving Keene men made their way home. They had served about eight months and needed to get back to their families and farms.

In June of 1776, the New Hampshire legislature needed 750 militia men to help the patriot withdrawal from Quebec, Canada. On July 20, 1776, Isaac Wyman was appointed the commander of this militia regiment and became Colonel Isaac Wyman. He marched off to a rendezvous in Haverhill, New Hampshire.

On the road to join General James Reed's Brigade at Fort Ticonderoga on August 9th, the plan changed. Wyman's regiment joined the Northern Army for a five-month term. Now they were assigned to Mount Independence across the water from Fort Ticonderoga, in the Third Brigade commanded by Colonel John Stark.

On August 31 Colonel Wyman was "put under arrest by Colo Starks Two Regt of the Bay Men arrived here this day." On September 1, 1776, "A General Court-Martial to sit tomorrow morning, at ten o'clock, at the President's tent, upon Mount Independence, for the trial of Colonel Wyman."

The result of this legal proceeding was posted at Fort Ticonderoga on September 6, 1776, for all to read. Colonel Isaac Wyman was "accused of receiving and clandestinely carrying off the ration money of Colonel Stark and his officers at Cambridge, the last campaign, and for not settling his mess bill." After evidence was given the court found him not guilty "and therefore do acquit him with honor." Wyman was immediately freed and returned to duty.

Colonel Isaac Wyman's six-month term ended on December 1, 1776, when he was officially discharged from the militia. He retired to his family and tavern in Keene, having served the patriot cause twice.

References:

A History of the Town of Keene, by S.G. Griffin, M.A. 1904 reprint

Very Poor and of a Lo Make, Lois Stabler, editor, 1986

"General Orders, 13 August 1775," Founders Online, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/documents/Washington/03-01-01-0201>

"General Orders: Headquarters, Ticonderoga, September 6, 1776" Northern Illinois University Digital Library online <https://digital.lib.niu.edu, v2:473>.

**Modern Minutemen Celebrate  
Keene's 1775 March to  
Lexington and Concord**

Army Sergeant First Class Ortiz (right) and Staff Sergeant Esposito pose at the Wyman Tavern, April 22, 2025, to commemorate the anniversary of the Keene militia's march to Lexington and Concord on April 22, 1775.



# Learn more about life in Cheshire County 250 years ago

## Upcoming Guided Tours

Join Historical Society interpreter Becky Barton as she presents both sides of the American Revolutionary War, Patriot and Loyalist, as experienced by a few Keene men. Becky Barton moved to the area after receiving her MA in Public History at SUNY Albany. She has been researching and learning about Keene and specifically Isaac Wyman, Sr., since she joined the Society in 2013. She is currently working on a book about Isaac Wyman and his family.



## June-October.



### **Guided Tour: *A Patriotic Stroll***

The story of seven Keene men who supported the Lexington and Concord call to arms, and what followed will be discussed as guests stroll down lower Main Street where five of the seven men lived. Walk past the location of the old fort and hear details about a few of the men who lived here in 1775: patriots Eliakim Nims, Luke Metcalf, and Dan Guild. Learn about Ephraim Dorman and Thomas Baker, Jr., good friends who supported the cause but stayed in Keene. The tour will end at the Wyman Tavern, home to father and son patriots Isaac Wyman, Sr. and Isaac Wyman, Jr.



### **Guided Tour: *Loyal Subjects***

Discover the story of steadfast loyal subjects of England who lived on Main Street in Keene, during the 1770s. Coming from different backgrounds were Dr. Josiah Pomeroy, Major Josiah Willard, and Abner Sanger. Why did they support the King? What risks and rewards might they encounter? Meet at the Tavern and come inside to the Tap Room to learn more about why these three men chose not to fight against Mother England.

**Open House at the Wyman Tavern, Saturday, July 5, from 10 am to 2 pm.**  
Free admission.

### **Public Tour Dates**

**Patriotic Stroll:** Friday, July 11, at 1:00 pm  
Thursday, August 14, at 1:00 pm  
Friday, September 5, at 1:00 pm  
Friday, October 10, at 1:00 pm

**Loyal Subjects:** Thursday, June 26, at 1:00 pm  
Saturday, July 26, at 10:00 am  
Saturday, August 30, 10:00 am  
Saturday, September 27, 10:00 am



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CHESHIRE COUNTY

**339 MAIN ST  
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**AUG 2, 2025**

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**TICKET SALES START 7/1/25**

339 MAIN STREET, KEENE NH  
www.hsccnh.org | 603.352.1895



# Current Exhibit and Programs



May 30-September 6, 2025

## Our Story

The art of community connections in the Monadnock Region

Over 35 local artists are participating in the Historical Society of Cheshire County's juried summer art show in the Putnam Exhibit Gallery at 246 Main Street, Keene.

*Our Story* showcases the diverse ways in which individual artists, musicians, and writers interact with, and contribute to, our shared community experience. The exhibit will feature paintings, photography, poetry, film, pottery, and more. Many of the art pieces are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to support the Historical Society's mission to collect, preserve, and communicate local history.

The *Our Story* exhibit is free and will be open to the public during the Historical Society's regular business hours through September 6, 2025.



### Our Story Plein Air Day Monadnock Berries, Troy, NH July 12, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Join artists from the Historical Society's *Our Story* exhibit for an outdoor painting event at Monadnock Berries in Troy, New Hampshire. This event is free and open to the public. For more information and directions to Monadnock Berries, call or email the Historical Society at 603-352-1895 or [hsc@hscnh.org](mailto:hsc@hscnh.org).

WIN AN ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING BY LOCAL ARTIST  
Mary Iselin of Marlborough, NH  
"From the Back Field"



Framed oil painting 30" x 24".  
Winner will be drawn on September 6, 2025.  
Need not be present to win.



TICKETS 1 FOR \$5 OR 5 FOR \$20  
Raffle #RF-2025-019

## Visit our Museum Store



Exhibit Participants featured in the Museum Store

Barbara "Kitty" Mervine  
Richard Whitney  
Medora Hebert  
Mary Iselin

Steve Hooper  
Alicia Drakiotes  
Rodger Martin  
Gary Custer and more

## Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars for June 20 and 21, 2025. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the making of *Jumanji*, there will be a variety of events in downtown Keene.

On June 20, we will be at the Colonial Theatre to introduce the film, “Stories from the Set: Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Jumanji,” which will premiere before the encore showing of *Jumanji*.

On June 21, the Historical Society will participate in this historic anniversary with a mini-exhibit of memorabilia from the film, photographs of local businesses from 30 years ago (located in the downtown businesses), and additional showings of “Stories from the Set,” a short film of interviews with participants involved in the making of *Jumanji*, from extras to make-up artists. The mini-exhibit will be open from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Historical Society’s headquarters at 246 Main Street, Keene.



Remember the statue that was on Central Square? Great team work from our staff getting the head of the statue onto the platform for our display during the Jumanji celebration.

## Walldog Walking Tours

### WALLDOGS MURALS TOUR

Local history storytelling through the magic of public art



If you have family or friends visiting this summer, a Wall Dog tour is a great way for them to get to know the city of Keene and the history of our region. Wall Dog tours are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. The cost is \$10.00/person. Go to the Historical Society website to sign up ([www.hscnh.org](http://www.hscnh.org)).

## Historical Society Summer Camp Schedule

In collaboration with Keene State College’s Kids on Campus summer camp program, the Historical Society will offer two **History Detective Summer Camp** sessions for children going into grades 3 through 5. The first session will be from Monday, July 7 to Friday, July 11, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The second session will be from Monday, August 4 to Friday, August 8, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Registration is through Keene State College.



# Development News



# NH GIVES



**THANK YOU  
FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL HISTORY!**

## Do You Have a DAF?

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are gaining popularity in philanthropy. Over \$250 billion sits in Donor Advised Funds across the country. If you are not familiar with DAFs, they are tax-deductible ways to set funds aside and then recommend grants to nonprofits over time. A sponsoring organization such as Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund or Schwab Fund for Charitable Giving manages the account. The donors get the tax deduction immediately, but they do not need to decide immediately where the donations will be directed.

If you already have a Donor Advised Fund, it can be a great vehicle for setting up a one-time gift or a recurring gift to the Historical Society of Cheshire County. You can request the sponsoring organization to choose the Historical Society of Cheshire County as a grantee. The sponsoring organization will need the following information:

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive grants from DAFs.

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

The Historical Society of Cheshire County's mailing address is P.O. Box 803, Keene, NH 03431. The website is <https://hscenh.org>. The telephone number is 603-352-1895.

You can ask them to provide the Historical Society of Cheshire County with your contact information so we can send an acknowledgment (unless you would prefer to remain anonymous).

You can recommend a grant amount and the frequency if it is a recurring gift.

If you are looking for a way for your DAF to do some good in the community, we hope you will consider recommending that your sponsor organization make a grant to the Historical Society of Cheshire County. You can also ask them to name us as a "remainder beneficiary" with an easy amendment.



Congratulations to Edwin "Smokey" Smith and Sharron Smith -- 2025 Tavern Keepers whose names were drawn for a trip to Lexington, Massachusetts, a stay at the Inn at Hastings Park, and a Footsteps of the Revolution Tour. Happy travels!





Historical Society of Cheshire County  
P.O. Box 803 – 246 Main Street  
Keene, New Hampshire 03431  
603-352-1895 – [www.hscenh.org](http://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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar: Complete list of events and descriptions at [www.hscenh.org](http://www.hscenh.org)

**June 2025**

**Friday and Saturday, June 20 and 21**, Exhibit Hall and Downtown Keene, *Jumanji* 30th Anniversary Festival (see page 6)

**Thursday, June 26, 1:00 pm**, Wyman Tavern, Loyal Subjects Tour (see page 3)

**July 2025**

**Saturday, July 5, 10:00 am**, Downtown Keene, Wall Dogs Tour (see page 6)

**Saturday, July 5, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm**, Wyman Tavern Open House (see page 3)

**Monday –Friday, July 7-11**, Keene State College, History Detective Camp, session I (see page 6)

**Friday, July 11, 1:00 pm**, Main Street, Keene, Patriotic Stroll tour (see page 3)

**Saturday, July 12, 10:00 to 2:00**, Monadnock Berries, Troy, Plein Air Day (see page 5)

**Saturday, July 26, 10:00 am**, Wyman Tavern, Loyal Subjects tour (see page 3)

**August 2025**

**Saturday, August 2, Downtown Keene**, 10:00 am, Wall Dogs Tour (see page 6)

**Saturday, August 2**, Wyman Tavern Brew Fest (see page 4)

**Monday -- Friday, August 4 –8**, Keene State College, History Detective Camp, session II (see page 6)

**Thursday, August 14, 10:00 am**, Main Street, Keene, Patriotic Stroll tour (see page 3)

**Saturday, August 30, 10:00 am**, Wyman Tavern, Loyal Subjects tour (see page 3)

**Feeling stressed lately? So are we!**

Drop in on Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00 am with your yoga mat. Join our staff and volunteers in some gentle yoga to start your day. The sessions are free and open to all levels. No registration is required.

