



# Historical Society of Cheshire County

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

VOL. 41 NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2025



**Fall Exhibit:**  
**Revolution,  
Reaction,  
& Reform in  
Cheshire County**

By Michelle Walker, Director of Education

This fall, the Historical Society of Cheshire County will introduce its latest exhibit, ***“Revolution, Reaction, & Reform in Cheshire County”***, which will run from November 14, 2025 through February 21, 2026 in the Putnam Exhibit Hall. This exhibit is based on the 2026 National History Day theme, *Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History*.

National History Day (NHD) is a renowned program which has been in existence for 51 years. NHD has affiliate programs in all 50 states, as well as U.S. territories, Defense Department schools, and foreign schools serving American students. The seat of New Hampshire’s affiliate, National History Day in New Hampshire, is located at Plymouth State University. By highlighting the NHD theme in our new exhibit the Historical Society, in partnership with NHD in NH, hopes to increase student and teacher participation in this program throughout Cheshire County.

NHD engages youth in grades 6-12 to research a historical topic of their choosing that relates to the annual theme. Students then create projects to demonstrate their research and build connections between their topic and the theme. Students can create an exhibit, documentary, website, historical paper, or a performance which argues for and proves that connection. This program encourages

collaboration between students, teachers, and local research and historical organizations. NHD promotes critical thinking, research skills, historical argumentation, collaboration, and public speaking skills. Most students who participate do so as part of a classroom project. Some schools may also hold school contests, where those who place in the top tier are sent to compete in the state competition held in the spring at Plymouth State University. Students who place in the top two of their division and category qualify to then represent our state at the National Contest held during the second week of June at the University of Maryland, College Park. There, students have opportunities to interact with youth from around the world, meet professionals in the history field, and participate in field trips to our nation’s capital. At each stage of development, from the school to national levels, student projects are evaluated by teachers and volunteer judges who provide valuable feedback to students to foster their academic growth. If you are interested in learning more about how to serve as a judge, please visit the [National History Day in New Hampshire](#) website.

Our new exhibit will include not only items from the Historical Society’s own collection, but those from historical societies and libraries from

*Continued on page 2:*

Historical Society  
of Cheshire County



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**Revolution** (continued from page 1):

throughout Cheshire County. All items in the exhibit will relate to one or more elements of the theme.

**Revolution** can be defined as “the forcible overthrow of a government or social order, in favor of a new system,” or “a dramatic and wide-reaching change in the way something works, is organized, or in people’s ideas.” The most apparent example of such a topic is the American Revolution, as we are approaching the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. While that is an extremely broad topic, many specific instances fed into that larger event, such as the gathering of soldiers responding to the Battles of Lexington and Concord at the Wyman Tavern in Keene, New Hampshire or the Battle of Bennington in Vermont.

**Reaction** can be described as an “action performed or feeling experienced in response to a situation or event.” Reactions could include speeches or writings, protest movements, or labor strikes. Focusing on specific events can illuminate the theme’s connection to local history, such as the Association Tests administered in New Hampshire at the time of the American Revolution that determined who was a Loyalist or a Patriot, or Breed Batchelder, a Loyalist who wrote extensively of his opposition to the American Revolution and hid in a cave for months to avoid persecution.

**Reform** can be “the effort to change to a better state or form; to improve by alteration, substitution, abolition.” Specific reform movements in history have included temperance, suffrage, labor, immigration, and civil rights. Local examples abound such as Jennie Powers, a humane society agent who worked to improve the rights of women, children and animals, or the tragic story of the execution of the Barnum & London Circus’s Albert the Elephant, whose mistreatment caused an uproar that led to changes in animal welfare in the industry.

The Historical Society of Cheshire County is excited to welcome local educational institutions and members of our community to visit this exhibit and contemplate how Cheshire County’s history has exemplified the ideas of *Revolution, Reaction, and Reform* and what we can take from past events as lessons for our collective future.

References:

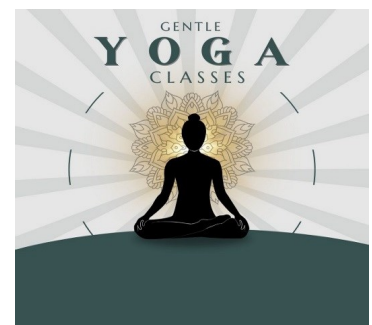
[Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History: National History Day Theme Book](#), Jamie Holifield and Kathryn Kennedy, editors, 2025.

[https://nhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NHD\\_2026\\_ThemeBook\\_online\\_052225.pdf](https://nhd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/NHD_2026_ThemeBook_online_052225.pdf)

[National History Day in New Hampshire](https://nhdnh.weebly.com/) <https://nhdnh.weebly.com/>



**Free Gentle Yoga Class**  
**Every Thursday at 9:00 am**  
**Exhibit Hall**  
**Bring your own mat and props.**



# Guided Tours: A Walk into Cheshire County History

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.



## September-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.

## Public Tour Dates

**Patriotic Stroll:** Friday, September 5th, at 1:00 pm  
Friday, October 10th, at 1:00 pm

**Loyal Subjects:** Saturday, September 27th, 10:00 am



## Walldogs and Railroad Walking Tours



If you have family or friends visiting this fall, a Walldogs tour is a great way for them to get to know the city of Keene and the history of our region. Walldogs tours are scheduled for the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 am. A Railroad Tour led by Alan Rumrill, will take place on Saturday, September 20, at 10:00 am. The cost for each tour is \$10.00/person. Go to the Historical Society website to sign up ([www.hscenh.org](http://www.hscenh.org)).

**For more information or to schedule a private tour, visit [www.hscenh.org](http://www.hscenh.org) or call 603-352-1895.**

# Upcoming Programs



## Voices of Pride

Share your story with the Historical Society of Cheshire County as we work to bring visibility to, and honor, the LGBTQIA+ community as active participants in our region's history.

**9/16/25 Informational table at the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies event** - Enemies of the state: the Nazi persecution of LGBTQ+ people. 6:00 PM. registration is required through the Cohen Center

**9/21/25 Keene Pride 12-7PM** - Downtown Keene NH

**9/23/2025 5:30-6:30 PM** - LGBTQ+ Youth Collage, Zine, and Craftivism Workshop @ Keene Public Library

**9/30/2025 6-7:30 PM** LGBTQ+ Writing and Storytelling Workshop @ Keene Public Library

**October, November, December, and January sound studio recording sessions begin! Check our website for updates and information.**

PUTNAM  
FOUNDATION



## Wyman Tavern Candlelight Open House Friday, October 10th 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Experience the ambiance of the 1770s by candlelight on Friday, October 10th. Between 6:00 and 9:00 pm, the Historical Society of Cheshire County's Wyman Tavern will be aglow with lanterns. Re-enactors from the Hinsdale Garrison will be on hand to play games of chance, offer cooking demonstrations, and fill the air with music. No tickets required.

The Wyman Tavern Museum is located at 339 Main Street, Keene. Parking is available in the first 9 spaces along Bruder Street as well as along Main Street.

### **Pop-Up Exhibit: 80's vs. 90's, October 1, 6:00 –7:30 pm**

Everyone has nostalgia for the time they grew up. Are you a member of Generation X or a Millennial? Join us at the Historical Society of Cheshire County on Wednesday **October 1st from 6:00-7:30pm** for a Pop-Up "Show and Tell" of the 1980s and 1990s! Bring your artifacts of these time periods to share with the community and to have as part of our temporary exhibit if you so choose. Come prove how rad or fly the days of your youth really were!

### **Teacher Workshop: Teaching Local History for Rev War 250, October 15, 4:00-5:30 pm**

The 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence is fast approaching in the Summer of 2026. National, state, and local organizations are busy planning events to commemorate this milestone in American History. Join us at the Historical Society of Cheshire County on **October 15th from 4:00-5:30pm** for a FREE Educator Workshop on the role of Cheshire County in the American Revolution and how you can incorporate these themes into your class curriculum. 1 1/2 hours of CEU credit and ready to use lesson plans will be provided. Light refreshments will be served.

### **Cheshire Railroad History Talk, Wednesday, October 29, 6:30 –7:30 pm**

Trains have rolled through portions of Cheshire County since 1847. The three main roads that were based in Cheshire County were the Ashuelot, Cheshire, and Manchester & Keene Railroads. Several other peripheral roads touched corners of the county. An illustrated presentation by Senior Historian, Alan Rumrill, will help you learn about the history of these railroads and their impact on the people, businesses, industries, and landscape of southwest New Hampshire.

HSCC Staff

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



**Wondering what our staff is up to?**

**12-3 pm** *Kathy and Michelle* are competing in the Amazing Race fundraiser to support the Hundred Night's Shelter. Go Team "The Hysterical Society" More information: <https://givebutter.com/AmazingRace2025/the-hysterical-society/> The Historical Society will also be participating as host site for one of the race tasks, *Jenna* will be greeting the participants.

**10-3 pm** *Andrea* will be at the Langdon Fall Festival, she and her team of community volunteers will be hosting this annual event.

**10 am** *Alan* will be presenting a Railroad History walking tour - more info [hscnh.org](http://hscnh.org)

**SEPT 20**



## Introducing Michael McCarthy, the Historical Society's New Custodian and Groundskeeper

The Historical Society welcomes Michael McCarthy of Swanzey, as the newest member of the staff. Michael is a New England native and lover of its four seasons. He has a relationship with the Historical Society going back to the days of David Proper. He is happy to join our staff and is looking forward to the challenging, yet rewarding job of helping to maintain the Society's buildings and grounds.

## We are deeply grateful to our Leadership Circle of 2025

Leadership circle members have donated \$1,000 or more in addition to dues in the current year.

Julianna Bergeron and Arto Leino  
 Jay and Lisa Blanchard  
 Pat and John "Chick" Colony  
 John Cooney  
 In memory of Richard Dugger  
 Rachel Eschle and Mike Giacomo  
 David Frechette and CeeCee Frechette  
 Henry M. Frechette Memorial Fund  
 Patricia Gallup  
 Thomas and Anne Havill  
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 Daniel and Michal Mariaschin  
 Anne McCune  
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Chris and Gaynelle Pratt  
 Thomas and Barbara Putnam  
 Carolyn Rieth  
 Marsha Rooney and Edward Fix  
 Judy and John Rogers  
 Wendy and John Scully  
 Edwin "Smokey" and Sharron Smith  
 Katherine Snow and Paul Ledell  
 David and Jane Stabler  
 Kurt Steelman  
 Jeanie Sy  
 David and Lisa Therrien  
 Robert and Lianne Therrien  
 Anthony and Barbara Tremblay

# SEPTEMBER SALE

# VISIT OUR MUSEUM STORE

**10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE\***  
**YES, IT CAN BE COMBINED WITH YOUR MEMBER DISCOUNT**

Valid Until 09/30/2025  
 246 Main Street, Keene NH  
 Some exclusions apply\*

# Wyman Tavern Brew Fest 2025



## Good Things Are Brewing at the Wyman Tavern

Every so often, nature provides a perfect day in August, and this year delivered just such a day for the Wyman Tavern Brew Fest -- 75 degrees and sunny. About 375 people attended the brew fest and sampled craft beers, ciders, spirits, and mocktails on the grounds of the Wyman Tavern. Over its eleven-year history the brew fest has become known for its backyard feel, opportunity to see friends, and support of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. This year's event raised about \$14,000.

Special thanks go to our presenting partners: The Melanson Company, Mascoma Bank, Ingram Construction Corporation, Steelman Production Services, and Beeze Tees Screen Printing. And to our major sponsors: Edward Jones (Alan Stroshine, Scot Ward, David Therrien, and Ely Thayer), Keene Eye Care, and Prime Roast Coffee Company. And to our sponsors: Dog Days Craft Beer Store, Fieldstone Land Consultants, Hamblet Electric, Hamshaw Lumber, Hogancamp PC, Indian King Framery, The Insurance Source, Keene Publishing, Keene Signworx, Lehen Industrial Services, Lesser's 4 Season Services, Monadnock Food Co-op, NNE Digital, Norton, Abert, and Jordan PC, Paragon Digital, and Savings Bank of Walpole.

We appreciate the help of our brewers and distillers; Keene State Dining Services, Campus Safety, and Grounds; Hannaford Supermarket; U.S. Cellular; Fireworks Restaurant, Birdies, Yellow Bell Café, 21 Bar and Grill, Saxy Chef, and Keene International Market.

Thanks to the dunk tank "dunkees" for being good sports: Shana Stack Davis, Tom Eaton, Dominic Perkins, Judy Rogers, Danielle Ruffo, David Therrien, and Beth Wood

Shout-outs to the following community individuals and volunteers: Tom Amarosa, Laura Barrett, Becky Barton, Sharon Beaty, Leigh Berry, Jill Bouchillon, Peter Bradshaw, Joe Britton, Matt Brunelle, Christopher Buckley, Bruce, Greg, and Benton Cheeney, Linda Daniel, Mary Delisle, Albert Diemand, Bill Dow, Alicia Drakiotes, Alix Dumont, Katie Gallagher, Jeff Gaouette, Dean Gervin, Andy Harris, Nancy Hickox, Jessica Holmes, Jeff and Lori Ingram, Michael Jasmin, Peter Kelleher, Jane Lane, Karen and Rob Lyle, Pat Mack, Meghan Manke, Chuda Mishra, David Morrill, Susan Murray, Mike Nachajski, Chelsea North, Tina Perkins, Tim Pipp, Josh and Jason Rehmer, Reinette Reilly, Sylvie Rice, Kathleen Richards, John Rogers, Alan and Kim Rumrill, Brian Smith, Dave Stabler, Matt Therrien, Rob Therrien and his cadre of volunteers, Michelle and Tom Walker, Richard Wood, and all the set-up, security, bar backs, merchandise, check-in, raffle, dunk tank, and clean-up volunteers.

We applaud the hard work of our Brew Fest Committee: Jenna Carroll, Andrea Cheeney, Mary Delisle, Bill Dow, Karen Lyle, Susan Murray, Julie Pearson, Tim Pipp, Reinette Reilly, Judy Rogers, Rowland Russell, Sue Silver, Rick Swanson, David Therrien, and Rob Therrien. We couldn't have done it without you!

# Development News

## Donor Advised Funds Can Make a Difference for the Historical Society of Cheshire County

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) are gaining popularity in philanthropy. Over \$250 million 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.

### You can recommend a grant from your Donor Advised Fund to support the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

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. Your Donor Advised Fund 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://hsccnh.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.

## Huzzah for the 2025 Wyman Tavern Keepers

Tavern Keepers make a \$350 donation to support the upkeep and programming at the Wyman Tavern and other facilities of the Historical Society of Cheshire County.

Susan and Tom Abert  
Joan Ames  
Eleanor Ball  
Carol and Lewis Barnes  
Laura and Matthew Barrett  
Becky and Wayne Barton  
Larry and Tammy Benaquist  
Juliana Bergeron and Arto Leino  
Jay and Lisa Blanchard  
Chris and Mary Booras  
Peter and Maria Bradshaw  
Rick and Betsey Church  
John Cooney  
Linda Daniel  
Mary Delisle and George Foskett  
Dayton and Dianne Duncan  
Robert and Alfrieda Englund  
Rachel Eschle and Mike Giacomo  
Barry and Carol Faulkner  
Rhonda and Luke Fowler  
David and CeeCee Frechette  
Henry Frechette and Judy Hodge  
Mark and Alice Funk  
Joshua and Katie Gallagher  
Phyllis Gove and Steven Casad  
Elizabeth and Peter Hansel

Don and Joyce Healy  
Richard High and Abigail Terrones  
Martha Hunt  
Carl and Ruth Jacobs  
Neil Jenness  
Harry Johnson, Jr.  
Ruth Joslin  
Connie Joyce  
Jay and Cheryl Kahn  
Jane Kennedy  
Megan Burke Kidder  
Claire Kluskens  
Gregory Knouff  
Walter and Barbara Lacey  
Jane Lane  
Kendall and Molly Lane  
Steve and Jane Larmon  
Daniel and Michal Mariaschin  
Susan and John McGinnis  
Kitty and Mark Mervine  
Monadnock Garden Club  
Susan and Gary Murata  
Margaret Murtha  
Lee and Paula Page  
Dominic Perkins and Deirdre Chretien  
Chris and Gaynelle Pratt

Jay and Jean Hoffman Prior  
Win and Joan Raynor  
Reinette and Brian Reilly  
Marilyn Wyman Riley  
Judy and John Rogers  
Marie Royce Ruffle  
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Art and Lynn Simington  
Smokey and Sharron Smith  
Katherine Snow and Paul Ledell  
David and Jane Stabler  
Robert Stephenson  
Jeannie Sy  
Richard Talbot  
Georgia Tasoulas  
Kimball and Maria Temple  
Rob and Lianne Therrien  
Tony and Barbara Tremblay  
Raette Trombly  
Pam and Ken Walton  
Phil and Janet Warren  
Jeanne Williams  
Lisa and Bob Wyman  
Louise Zerba



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)**

**September 2025**

**Tuesday, September 16**, 5:30 to 7:45 pm, The Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Holocaust Memorial Lecture and Voices of Pride Information Table. (see page 4)

**Saturday, September 20**, 10:00 to 11:30 am, Water Street Parking Area, Keene Railroad Walking Tour (see page 3)

**Saturday, September 20**, 12:00 to 3:00 pm, Downtown Keene, 100 Nights Amazing Race Fundraiser (see page 5)

**Sunday, September 21**, 12:00 to 7:00 pm, Downtown Keene, Historical Society Voices of Pride Table at Keene Pride Festival. (see page 4)

**Tuesday, September 23**, 5:30 to 6:30 pm, Keene Public Library, Voices of Pride Youth Collage Zine and Craftivism Workshop (see page 4)

**Saturday, September 27**, 10:00 to 11:30 am, Loyal Subjects Walking Tour (see page 3)

**Tuesday, September 30**, Keene Public Library, Voices of Pride Adult Writing and Storytelling Workshop (see page 3)

**October 2025**

**Wednesday, October 1**, Exhibit Hall, 6:00 pm, 1980s and 1990s Pop-Up Exhibit opening (see pg. 4)

**Saturday, October 4**, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Downtown Keene, Walldogs Mural Walking Tour (see page 3)

**Friday, October 10**, 1:00 to 2:30 pm, Patriotic Stroll Walking Tour (see page 3)

**Friday, October 10**, 6:00 pm, Wyman Tavern, Candlelight Open House (See page 4)

**Wednesday, October 15**, 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Exhibit Hall, Teacher Workshop, “Teaching Local History for Rev War 250” (see page 4)

**Wednesday, October 29**, 6:30 pm, Exhibit Hall, Cheshire County Railroad History talk with Alan Rumrill (see page 4)

**Ongoing:** Thursdays at 9:00 pm, Exhibit Hall, Gentle Yoga Class, Drop-ins Welcome (see page 2)