



Washington Historical Society Newsletter

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FALL 2022 EDITION

Washington Historical Society Officers

President:	Phil Barker
Vice President:	Steve Yusko
Treasurer:	Elaine Crandall
Secretary:	Marian Baker
Archivist:	Gwen Gaskell Ellen Hofford
Board of Directors:	Patricia Martin Bert Bodnar Ellen Hofford
Webmaster:	Bill Mulcahy
Barn Committee:	Phil Barker Volunteers needed
Museum Committee:	Gwen Gaskell Volunteers needed
Newsletter Committee:	Barbara Gaskell Gwen Gaskell Contributors welcome
Program Committee:	Steve Yusko

President's Message

Here I am for the fifth time in our 40 year span of time. It has happened every 10 years and I am proud of the accomplishments of our dedicated staff over the years.

We have progressed from out of pocket and borrowed funds to a healthy bank account.

Our collection has come out of the dark Town archives into a museum of our own; we have added the Dist. #5 schoolhouse as an authentic 1939 era museum; and more recently acquired the Bruen Barn next door to the museum for a third museum to house our larger artifacts. It's a big barn and it's full in case you have not visited.

This past summer we enjoyed a larger than usual number of visitors in part due to the Burwash exhibit.

For our October program Gwen and I (being Washington natives) did a recap year by year of the happenings of the Society. The group numbering about 40, learned a lot about what goes on within and behind the scenes.

After the disruption caused by covid we are going to once again start meeting at the Camp Morgan Lodge in 2023, with our traditional potluck suppers at 5:30-6:30, WHS members meeting 6:30-7:15, program 7:15- end. (subject to modification)

We are now using PayPal for your added convenience for purchases and dues/donations.

Have a safe and healthy winter and I hope to see many of you next year

Phil Barker

Burwash Exhibit and Supporting Events Were Well Received!

The Washington Historical Society's exhibit featuring watercolors and wood sculptures by local Depression-era W.P.A. artist Nathaniel C. Burwash (1906-2000) received over 250 visits across its season-long run! Two supporting events also enjoyed success, with over 50 people touring the Burwash cabin and studio site on July 23rd and August 20th, and 45 people attending an informal gathering at the WHS Museum on the evening of August 19 to hear several people who knew Burwash reminisce about his life and work.

The exhibit wouldn't have been possible without the help of the following: State Librarian Michael York and the New Hampshire State Library for the loan of original W.P.A. watercolors; Alan Jay Rom and the New Dawn Trust for the loan of original sculptures; Barbara (Rothman) Bergeron for sharing personal period photographs taken by her late father, Sam Rothman; property owners Beth and Joe Lampron and family for putting together the wonderful tours of the Burwash cabin and studio site (special thanks to Isaac Roller for portraying a young Nat Burwash painting in his studio), as well as for their generous donations of an unfinished Burwash sculpture and original materials from his Washington studio; Alan Jay Rom, Barbara Bergeron, Audrey Sylvester, and Tod Cohen for generously sharing their stories and other treasures at the August 19th special evening event; and Bill Mulcahy who was curator for the exhibit – conducting research, borrowing items for display, arranging and assembling the exhibits, and answering visitors' questions.

Finally, a heartfelt "Thank You" to the wonderful people who once again volunteered many of their Summer Saturdays so that we could welcome you throughout the 2022 season: Ellen Hofford and Patricia Martin welcomed visitors to the Museum, while Phil Barker, Bert & Jan Bodnar, and Steve Yusko did the same for the Barn. Marian Baker and Elaine Crandall hosted visits to the East Washington Schoolhouse. Elaine and Jim Crandall and Bert and Jan Bodnar kept the WHS "open air" gift shop at the Farmer's Market going, helping to bring in much welcome additional revenue by selling the popular notecards and matted prints of Nat's watercolors. We couldn't do it without any of you!!

Remembering Our Members

We cannot name all the members we lose every year, but it does seem appropriate to spend a few minutes remembering two of our very long time and important members who have recently passed on to a greater reward.

Tom Talpey was a very active member and the Historical Society treasurer for many years. He researched and wrote many interesting articles for our newsletters and through some of his research he got involved and was very helpful in the work of the Manahan photo collection in Hillsboro. Tom passed on September 30, 2022.

Jim Gaskell was a founding member of the Historical Society and served as vice President and program coordinator for several terms in the early years of the Society and later as a board member. He was always a major fund raiser working at anything from Flea Markets, Wool Arts Tour food booth, chairing a three-day weekend food kitchen at the Hopkinton Fair grounds for the spring Sheep and Wool Festival multiple times.

He often made suggestions for fund raising to create work for the women also, like making the Barn Quilt which raised over Four Thousand dollars toward the restoration of the barn which he was a main force in the acquisition of and a devoted worker during its restoration along with Phil Barker and Richard Crane. Jim passed on June 5, 2022.

Museum Report

Gwen's situation has cleared up and she is back as Archivist once again, with Ellen as her assistant. We are catching up on overdue work – acquisitions and such. Provided we do not get snowed out of the museum building too soon, we hope to get the Stephen Crain collections acquisitioned and ready for display next spring. We will also have a display to commemorate the forty-year life of the Historical Society and its activities.

In reviewing our newsletters, we discovered that we have been reporting on much present town activity. The Meeting House/Town Hall is fully functional on both floors again, with a movie projector, large screen and sound system, air conditioning, restrooms on both floors and an elevator. This summer the Meeting House/Town Hall tower was repaired and repainted, along with work around the windows.

The old Center School House/Police Station has been getting interior attention with electric work, heating and cooling systems, generator and new plumbing as well as walls and ceiling replacements nearing completion. The old window sashes were replaced and storm windows installed. It is getting ready for the Police Department to move back in.

It is pleasant to watch homes around the center of town being refurbished and there has been a noticeable amount of new construction since the start of Covid.

Wishing you a healthy winter and a happy, blessed holiday season.

Respectfully submitted
Gwen Gaskell

WASHINGTON NH HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 ZOOM PROGRAMS

JANUARY 9, 2023: New Hampshire on Skis - Presenter: E. John Allen

Take Scandinavian and Austrian immigrants, the Dartmouth Outing Club, the Cannon Mountain Tramway, the muscular Christian, amateur tinkerers, and Professor E. John B. Allen. Cover it with snow and shake, and you have all the makings of a unique New Hampshire history.

Professor Emeritus of History at Plymouth State University, John Allen was awarded the International Skiing History Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. He serves as historian for the New England Ski Museum in Franconia, and is the author of several books.

FEBRUARY 13, 2023: Abolitionists of Noyes Academy - Presenter: Dan Billin

In 1835, abolitionists opened one of the nation's first integrated schools in Canaan, NH, attracting eager African-American students from as far away as Boston, Providence, and New York City. Outraged community leaders responded by raising a mob that dragged the academy building off its foundation and ran the African-American students out of town. New Hampshire's first experiment in educational equality was brief, but it helped launch the public careers of a trio of extraordinary African-American leaders: Henry Highland Garnet, Alexander Crummell, and Thomas Sipkins Sidney. Dan Billin plumbs the depths of anti-abolitionist sentiment in early nineteenth-century New England, and the courage of three young friends destined for greatness.

MARCH 13, 2023: Rosie's Mom: Forgotten Women of the First World War - Presenter: Carrie Brown

One hundred years ago, a full generation before Rosie the Riveter, American women rolled up their sleeves and entered war industries where they had never been welcome before. They ran powerful machinery, learned new skills, and faced the sullen hostility of the men in the shops. In this illustrated lecture, historian Carrie Brown reveals their courage and their hard work, asks what impact "the Great War" had on their lives, and explores how these women helped shape the work that their more famous daughters would do in the next World War.

APRIL 10, 2023: Hurd Family Members Revisited and Re-Imagined - Live Presenter: Gwen Gaskell

Last seen in 2011, the family of Clara May Hurd returns via the person of Gwen Gaskell, recreating family and town life as seen through sets of diaries of the Hurd generations.

Washington Historical Society
PO Box 90
Washington, NH 03280

ANNUAL MEMEBERSHIP LEVELS are changing. If you are already a member, you will be receiving a notice to renew in the mail or via email. If you would like to join, you can join on-line and pay by credit card, or visit the museum.

Donations can be made online using a credit card or by check to WNHHS, PO Box 90, Washington, NH 03280

PLEASE NOTE: As a non-profit historical society, we qualify with many companies for matching grants provided the company you work for, or are retired from, supports such benefits.

Please accept my donation of \$ _____ to help WNHHS continue its work.

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