

Keeping Warm the Old-Fashioned Way



Original fireplace in the MHS Rocking Stone cottage

With the freezing cold temperatures here in Vermont this month, we looked through our archives to see how our community kept warm in winters long ago, when it was even colder than it is today.

Many people here continue to use wood-burning stoves by choice, but they were a necessity before the days of electricity and central heating. Wood and eventually coal were the only fuel sources available to heat homes and businesses. Fireplaces were part of every early dwelling, and many remain intact in the old houses of Manchester, including our own house, Rocking Stone Cottage, which we believe dates from the late 18th century.

Thanks to the growth of American coal and iron mining in the 1820s, cast iron became readily available for use in manufacturing cooking and heating stoves. Cast iron,

which could withstand the repeated temperature swings of heating and cooling, proved to be an ideal material for casting into complex, prefabricated parts, as well as for decorative surface ornamentation. By the 1840s a number of basic stove types were manufactured widely in America. After the Civil War, coal became a more widely used fuel source and many stoves were designed to use either wood or coal. The cylinder stove, very popular during the Victorian era, was an early model and came in several sizes depending on the size of the space to be heated, from a small bedroom to a large ballroom.

When Dr. Wickham arrived at Burr Seminary in 1838 to become the young school's second principal, Mrs. Wickham was very pleased to find their new brick home next to the main school building enjoyed the luxury of

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heating stoves, as indeed did all the students' rooms. "All were furnished with strong box stoves so that there was no lack of comfort," she wrote in a letter soon after her arrival.

Keeping warm during the winter in unheated churches required a personal heating source. This foot stove from the mid-1800s is part of our Hubbel Lathrop Collection. It was used by Pamela Hill Lathrop in the old brick Congregational Church, which from 1829-1871 occupied the space next to the Village courthouse. The bottom is solid tin, forming a floor to hold a small oblong-shaped pan that contained the hot embers from a wood fire. The top and sides are pierced to allow the heat to escape.



In 1884 John Davis established J. Davis and Son in Manchester Depot, building a fine store with local materials that sold stoves and many other necessities.



"Built in 1884 by John Davis, after J. Davis and Son. The lumber was drawn from near the Green Mountain House by Frank Smith and was sawed at Dean's Mill. Henry Lawrence was head carpenter. The ornamental fence on roof was sawed out of wood by Maynard Reynolds." — *Written on the back of this photo of the J. Davis & Son store which became a movie theater before it was destroyed by fire in 1955. Today it is a parking lot.*



The hot air furnaces mentioned in this advertisement shows the existence of steam heat in Manchester in the late 1880s. This type of indoor heating first appeared in the 1850s but gained popularity in the 1880s. It was another form of

coal heating, as coal was required to heat the water, thus producing the steam that was then circulated through ducts in a building. Fancy plumbing must have been required too!



Doug Cain, retired from Cain's Greenhouses, opened his Antique Tin and Stove Museum in the barn where the Inn at Willow Pond was located on Route 7A north in the 1970s. This ornate stove was part of his collection. When he died in 1979, the contents of the museum were sold.



IRA Charitable Distribution Gifts

Did you know you can make a gift to MHS and save on taxes? If you have an IRA, and are over 70 ½ years of age, you can make a gift directly from your IRA before you take your Required Minimum Distribution, thereby reducing the amount of tax you must pay. The transfer generates neither taxable income, nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.

Transfers are made directly from your IRA administrator to MHS. Since your gift does not count as income, this is a great way to support MHS while reducing your annual income total. To learn more about this, contact your financial advisor, or call MHS President Frederica Templeton at 802.549.4582.

We Have An App for That

We are very excited to announce that MHS has signed up with TravelStorysGPS to bring a walking tour of Manchester's history to your phone and computer. Based in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, TravelStorys has many years of experience partnering with nonprofit organizations to create free, self-guided audio tours for travelers and virtual travelers.

Our audio tour will feature sites in the Village, the Center, and the Depot- 20 in all! At each site you will hear a short narrative describing the story behind the place. The tour is flexible and can be started at any site. The GPS technology allows the audio tour to launch automatically as the listener approaches each site - no cell service or Wi-Fi needed. Our tour will be available remotely through the TravelStorys website www.travelstorys.com. We are currently in the process of writing the narratives and plan to have the app ready for Summer 2022.



New to Our Collection

Our curator, Shawn Harrington, was delighted to receive these beautiful, embroidered linen pillowcases from the descendants of Martin Slocum's second wife, Betsey Moseley Slocum, this month. One was sewn and embroidered by her mother, Rachel Moseley, who was born in 1779; the other by Betsey, who died in Manchester in 1843, age 42, and is buried in Factory Point Cemetery. Slocum was an early settler in Manchester Center who outlived all four of his wives before joining them in Factory Point Cemetery. Our thanks to Bruce and Jane Werner for sending them to us.

U P C O M I N G WINTER PROGRAMS

MHS is partnering with Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning for two more Zoom programs this winter. To register, go to www.greenmtnacademy.org/events. These programs will also be available on the GNAT-TV YouTube channel at a later date.

The Stone Gardens of Manchester

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022, 5:30-7 PM

The foundation of our shared history is set into the marble and granite markers within Manchester's burying grounds. Though many individuals from our past are remembered in stories passed down through the generations, through the written word, photos, artifacts, and recordings, for some the only trace they were here are dates on a stone. Join Manchester Historical Society Curator Shawn Harrington as he remembers some of the people and their stories memorialized in Dellwood Cemetery, Factory Point Cemetery, and smaller family cemeteries in Manchester.

Worthy of a Destination

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022, 5:30-7 PM

Manchester's promotion as a destination resort for visitors from crowded metropolitan areas began in earnest in 1853 when Franklin Orvis opened the Equinox House, adjacent to Vanderlip's Hotel in the Village. After Orvis purchased Vanderlip's in 1880, the combined buildings became the largest hotel in the area. The summer colony of annual visitors was well established by the late Victorian era and this would continue into the 20th century with the opening of several other boarding houses and hotels that catered to tourists. The next large hotel to open was Orchard Park in 1907, which later became the Worthy Inn, the first hotel in the Village to remain open during the winter, accommodating a new class of visitors: skiers. MHS Curator Shawn Harrington and Board member Bill Badger will look back on the development of these two iconic properties, why they were popular, and the marketing efforts they made to attract visitors.



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The mission of the Manchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester through the research collection, exhibitions, programs, and publications.

New Members of Our Board of Directors

Andy Shaw, president of the historic firm of W.H. Shaw Insurance Agency in Manchester, and Peter D. Kinder, a retired business executive, graciously accepted our invitation to join the Board of Directors in December. “Both Andy and Peter have a deep love of history,” said MHS President Frederica Templeton. “With their professional skills and interest in preserving local history, they are very welcome additions to our Board of Directors.”

1897 LEGACY SOCIETY

Planned gifts allow you to impact the future of the Manchester Historical Society without affecting your current financial situation. The 1897 Legacy Society honors those who make a planned gift to MHS, who share our love of Manchester history and our commitment to making sure our community’s stories are available to future generations.

Because MHS is a charitable organization, gifts transferred at the end of your life - including cash, securities, real estate, or tangible personal property - are not counted as part of your estate and are, therefore, tax exempt for your heirs.

The simplest way to plan a legacy gift is by including a bequest in your will. Barbara and Mike Powers have stepped up to be our first members of our new society. “Barbara and I feel very strongly about making this commitment to help MHS continue to serve the community for many years to come,” said Mike. “We are very pleased to include MHS in our estate plans and hope others will join us.”

If you would like to know more about how to support MHS through a legacy gift, please speak to your lawyer, financial planner, or call MHS President Frederica Templeton directly at 802.681.6662.

Thank you to our 2020-2021 CORPORATE SPONSORS for their interest in Manchester’s history and their generous support.

If you’d like to become a corporate sponsor and see your logo here, please call us at 802.549.4582

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