

# Manchester HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL APPRECIATION REPORT 2023–2024



Curator Shawn Harrington leads the annual Fall Friends of Hildene walk through Manchester's historic Dellwood Cemetery.



# Your support makes our work possible.

*We thank you most sincerely for*  
**your generosity and interest** in sustaining our efforts to preserve  
Manchester's history and share it with diverse audiences.



## MHS IN THE COMMUNITY

While our faithful volunteers continued the work of cataloging the items in our collection every week, MHS gave numerous presentations throughout the community this past year.

Board member Courtney Callo gave a very well-attended talk on what it was like growing up on Equinox Mountain (photo above).



On September 22 MHS invited the community to gather at Dellwood Cemetery for a Victorian-style picnic and an introduction to some of the illustrious people buried there. A barber shop quartet provided the entertainment.



## MHS also partnered with local schools and nonprofits to share the stories of Manchester's history.

Our collaboration with Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning continued this past year with several programs on local history. The videos of these talks can be viewed on our website [www.manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org](http://www.manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org) under Videos/GMALL.

At Burr and Burton Academy, learning about local history in Mr. Vincent's Photography class took the form of digitally coloring vintage photographs of the Equinox, supplied by MHS. The students' work was on display at the Equinox Resort throughout the spring and summer.

At the invitation of Social Studies teacher John Graf, Shawn gave a presentation on the *Women of Burr and Burton and Manchester* for Women's History Month in March.





Long Trail School invited Shawn to their all-school morning meeting three times for a flash history lesson on various topics including the Green Mountain Boys of the Northshire and an introduction to the MHS TravelStories app, the audio-visual tour of Manchester available online and on smartphones.

Shawn was invited to give anniversary addresses this year for three local and historic organizations. In July, he presented an historical perspective of the Manchester Music festival at its 50th anniversary gala held at the Manchester Community Library. In August and September, he gave a presentation to members of Ekwanok Country Club on the history of the club as part of the 125th anniversary celebration of its founding. Also in September, he was the keynote speaker at the Manchester Community Library's 10th anniversary celebration, giving a wide-ranging presentation on the founding of the Mark Skinner Library and how the library has evolved.



A great turnout for our walk through the Cottage Street neighborhood led by Board member Courtney Callo.

Walks are always popular and this year we joined up with former residents of Cottage Street for a walk down memory lane.

A favorite of the Hildene staff is the walk through Dellwood which MHS gives every fall (photo seen on cover).

MHS was honored to partner with Vermont Folklife and the Manchester Community Library for a listening party in November followed by a two-day workshop held at Burr and Burton on how to conduct oral histories that drew a good audience. The purpose of the listening party was to bring people together to share the experience of listening deeply by sharing voices, music, and sounds from the archive at Vermont Folklife.



MHS has been actively engaged in plans for the 250th celebration of our nation's founding which will be celebrated across the country in 2026-2028. Shawn is a member of the Vermont 250th Committee, which has been meeting regularly. On August 17, MHS participated in a 250th Anniversary fund-raising gala held at the Equinox on Battle Day weekend, which was very successful and great fun.



MHS was deeply honored to be a co-presenter last summer of Lyman Orton's "For the Love of Vermont" art exhibit with the Manchester Community Library. The show ran from June 14-September 7 and included 70 exceptional works of art reflecting aspects of Vermont life by numerous artists, many of them native to Vermont. Hundreds of visitors had the pleasure of viewing a part of Orton's collection not seen before.





**Thanks to all our generous supporters, we were able to upgrade two important areas of our work, one practical and the other technical.**

For the first time in ten years, we have been able to replace our aging office equipment and temporary worktables with new permanent tables and comfortable office chairs. Thanks to Charlie O'Neil, owner of **Charlie's Office Furniture**, for helping us come up with a much more comfortable workspace for our dedicated volunteers.



Our new and improved website came online this past spring, and we hope you will find it interesting and easy to navigate. We are continuing to update the collection photos and the videos. We worked with Jon from **JEG Design** to make sure we included all that would be important to visitors and to keep our website technically updated. You can sign up for our monthly newsletter right on the home page.

Also, it's easy to make a gift online. Just click on Support. Send us an email and let us know what you think: [info@manchester-historicalsocietyvt.org](mailto:info@manchester-historicalsocietyvt.org)



**On** the 110th anniversary of her death, Mary Orvis Marbury, daughter of Charles Orvis, founder of the Orvis Company in 1856, will finally receive a fitting tribute. Though she was an important member of the family and the author of the first treatise on fly tying, Mary does not have stone marking her grave in Dellwood. In Summer 2025, a new headstone, a gift from the Perkins family, the current owners of Orvis, will be placed in Dellwood to honor her life and accomplishments. A special thanks to Burr and Burton teacher Jon Wilson for his role in making this happen.

# ANNUAL GIVING LIST 2023-2024

October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

The Manchester Historical Society is very grateful to all our supporters who helped us exceed our Annual Giving goal in our last fiscal year. Thanks to you, our loyal and generous supporters, we raised \$116, 213.

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Mike Dooley looking at the display of his late brother Jim Dooley's Vietnam War flight jacket now on display in the Manchester Community Library.

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October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024

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## **GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION**

*Our thanks to all who presented gifts to  
the collection this year.*

Rebecca Atwood  
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Don Dufresne  
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Shawn Harrington  
Joe and Lynn Magdol  
Town of Manchester  
Dana McNair  
Scott Palmer  
Mike Powers  
Tim Stevenson

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our annual report. Errors do happen, however, so do let us know if there are any mistakes or omissions by calling us at 802.549.5482 or by email: [info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org](mailto:info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org).

## **1897 LEGACY SOCIETY**

The 1897 Legacy Society honors the generous donors who have made a planned gift to MHS. We are so grateful to them for sharing our love of Manchester history and our commitment to making sure our community's stories are available to future generations.

Michael Heinel  
Sharron and Frank Kropa  
Lyman Orton and Janice Izzi  
Barbara and Mike Powers  
Ruth Stewart  
Frederica and Mark Templeton

When you support the Manchester Historical Society with a gift from your estate, you become a member of a special group of individuals who recognize the ongoing value of MHS and the importance of its place in our community's future. If you would like to know more about how to make a legacy gift, please contact Frederica Templeton by email [info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org](mailto:info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org) or by telephone 802.549.4582.



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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.

We are incredibly grateful to all our community collaborators who help us bring the stories of Manchester's history to a wide audience.



Thank you to our 2023-2024 CORPORATE SPONSORS for their interest in Manchester's history and their generous support.

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## 1897 SOCIETY



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