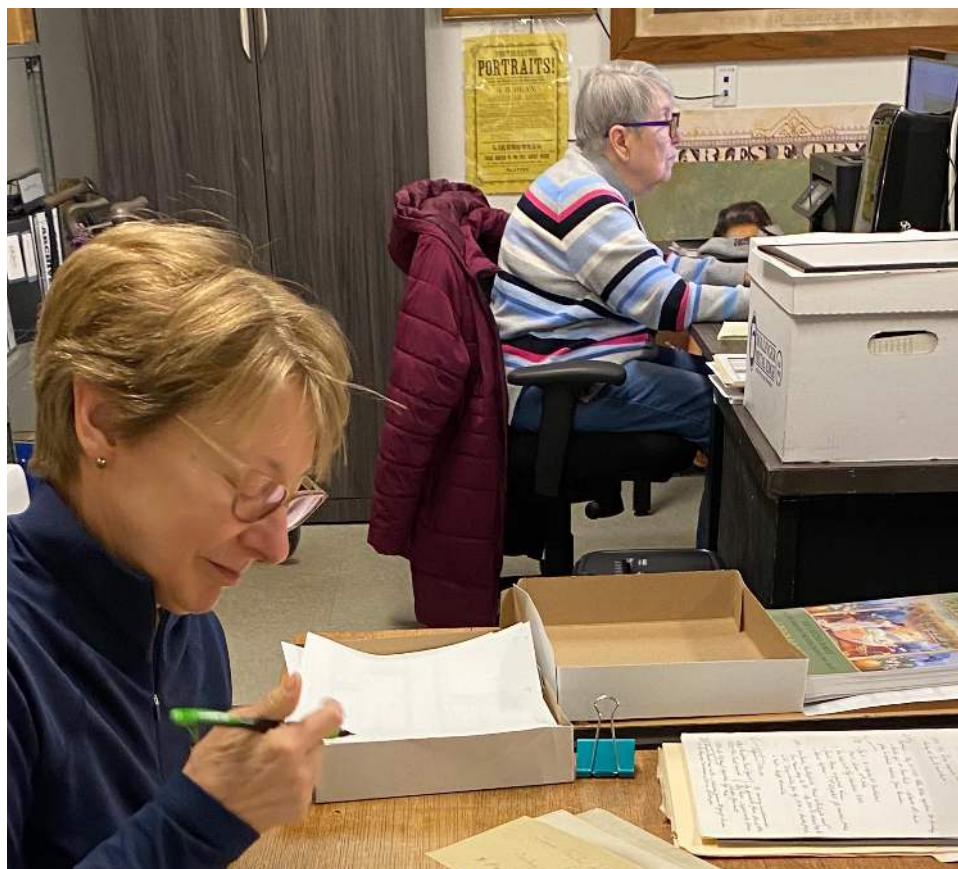


PRESERVATION STARTS HERE:

Cataloguing the Collection



AN ONGOING TASK OF OUR FRIDAY VOLUNTEERS is to carefully describe the items we have received in the collection and enter detailed information about each one into our PastPerfect database. To date, we have entered over 800 photographs, objects and documents and the work goes on. Flo Ewasko (seen here at her desk) is our Friday volunteer who enters the data supplied to her on the worksheets filled out by other volunteers.



Board member Sarah McClintock

has been working for the last three months on the glass plate negatives we found in the collection from the studios of James D. Way and Henry S. Allen.

A few years ago, Terry Tyler went through the collection, placed the glass plates into archival sleeves, and transcribed the information from the original paper sleeves that had deteriorated over the decades. This was an enormous help to us. Sarah has been checking each one before preparing an accession sheet with information on whatever is known about the subjects. These are mainly portraits from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. Curator Shawn Harrington has digitized many of these photographs.

(continued next page)

Cataloguing (continued)

Most of the negatives in the collection came from Manchester photographers Henry S. Allen (1848-1925), James D. Way (1863-1898), and Albert Smith (1878-1958), capturing Manchester people and scenes from the early 1870s through the 1950s. They all worked out of the same photo studio and the negatives were a gift from Grace Wilcox. We also have several hundred from David L. Bulkley and Lester Farnum taken of the Farnum family. All these photographers had studios in Manchester at one time.



YOUR SUPPORT

has made it possible
for us to purchase
a new computer and set
up a second workstation
for our PastPerfect software.
This enables us to double
our capacity to enter our
collection into the database.

NEW TO THE COLLECTION

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Curator Shawn Harrington was able to purchase previously unknown personal “snapshot” photographs of the Charles Isham family and Robert Todd Lincoln taken in Manchester from 1905-1930. Shawn found them in the digital archives of the Chicago History Museum. He spends hours combing the digital repositories in institutions all around the country for traces of Manchester’s history. “It is amazing to come across photos and artifacts that have found their way into these larger collections,” he said. “They are often mislabeled, unlabeled, or their significance to Manchester is unknown to the institutions preserving them. Another great example of the importance of saving our history, even if you’re not sure what you have!”

1897 LEGACY SOCIETY

Be remembered for what you value most.

A simple bequest of whatever size that you include in your will is one of the most everlasting gifts you can make. A bequest to the Manchester Historical Society reflects your love of history and the importance you place on the preservation of the past and education for the future.

We are so grateful to the lovers of history and supporters of MHS who have included us in their estate plans.

Michael Heinel
Sharron and Frank Kropa
Lyman Orton and Janice Izzi
Barbara and Mike Powers
Ruth Stewart
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or find it on your desktop at
<https://www.manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org/walking-tour>

250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Planning is underway for local events commemorating the capture of Fort Ticonderoga later this spring, the founding of the United States, which will take place in 2026, and the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, in 2027. Curator Shawn Harrington is a member of Vermont's 250th Commission. Their website <https://anniversary250.vermont.gov/get-involved> includes information about events and how to get involved.

In our future newsletters we will be introducing you to some very interesting men and women from Vermont who contributed to the successful outcome of the War for Independence.

Spotlight on: Soldiers Monument

Chartered in 1761, Manchester was a thinly settled frontier town when the War for Independence began almost fifteen years later. Its geographic position, however, made it an important player during the war, especially in 1775 and 1777 when the Green Mountain Boys passed through on their way to Fort Ticonderoga and both Seth Warner's and John Stark's armies camped here on the eve of the Battle of Bennington. This battle helped turn the tide for the Americans and ensured their victory at Saratoga.

First conceived in 1895, the Soldiers Monument, now prominently in place on the green in Manchester Village, is a tribute to the men of Manchester who served in military conflicts from the American Revolution to the Spanish American War. The tablets contain 123 names for those who served from 1775-1783. The base was set in 1897 and stood without a sentry for another seven years, partially due to the death in 1900 of Franklin Orvis, who championed the idea and funded most of its cost as well as a lack of consensus about who should be placed on top. Originally, the figure of a Civil War standard bearer was proposed. However, in 1904, W.H. Fullerton of Manchester Depot, who built the base, was awarded the contract for \$1,550 (over \$55,000 in today's dollars) for a granite statue in the likeness of Ethan Allen. The monument was dedicated on July 4, 1905, with hundreds present including Governor Bell of Vermont and U.S. Senator Redfield Proctor. It is a lasting testament to the gratitude felt by the Manchester community for the service and sacrifice of those who served their country.

When the statue was being set, it is said that a passerby suggested facing him west, toward the "Yorkers," because Ethan Allen had tirelessly struggled on behalf of the early Vermont settlers against New York's claims to Vermont's territory.



The Manchester Historical Society, located in the lower level of the Manchester Community Library, is open Fridays 1-3 pm and by appointment.

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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.

IN MEMORIAM



Helen Gawlik, our much-loved volunteer, died on March 5, 2025, after a short illness. Helen was a regular Friday volunteer cataloguer for MHS from 2016 until this past summer. She catalogued hundreds, probably thousands, of items in the collection. She told us the best part of being a Friday volunteer was meeting the people who dropped in seeking their family histories or to donate items. "Every Friday brings a new adventure!" she said. Helen will be a much-cherished memory for us, and we are

so grateful for all the hours she gave to MHS, and most especially for her good humor and merry laugh.

Ruth Stone Fowler 1926-2024

Ruth was born in East Dorset. After graduating from Burr and Burton in 1944, she married Bob Fowler and they raised their family in Manchester. Bob and Ruth were involved with MHS for many years. Bob was president during the 1950s. After Bob's death in 2018, Ruth went to live with her son Roger in North Carolina. The committal service for both Ruth and Bob will be at the South Village Cemetery in East Dorset on Friday, April 25, 2025, at 11 am. A gathering for a light lunch will follow directly after the service at the United Church of Dorset and East Rupert, Church Street, in Dorset.

You can always find more interesting history and up-to-the-minute MHS happenings on social media. Ask us a question about local history and we'll do our best to find an answer.



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