



Manchester HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



THANK YOU! Your support makes our existence possible. We are sincerely grateful for your generosity and interest in sustaining our efforts to preserve Manchester's history and share it with our community.



The 250th Commemorations

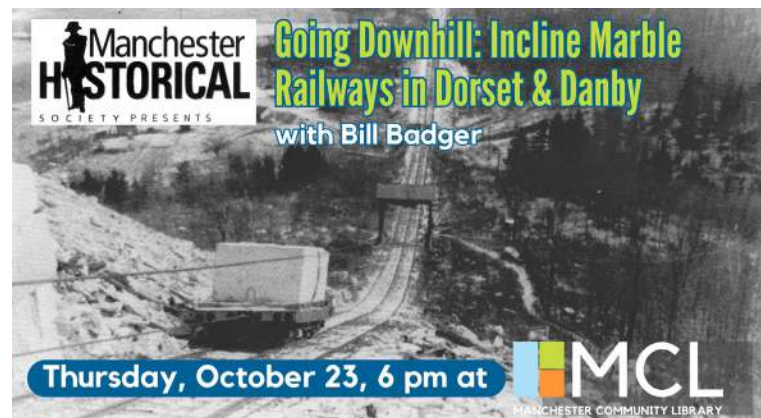
This past year we enjoyed bringing public programs to our community in collaboration with the Manchester Community Library (MCL). In May we participated in a multi-day, multi-state event commemorating the 250th anniversary of Ethan Allen's expedition to Fort Ticonderoga with events at Dellwood Cemetery and the Equinox Resort, complete with colonial militia musket salutes. At MCL, numerous speakers enlightened us about life during the late 1700s on a variety of topics including the Battle of Bennington, pension records, battlefield medicine, and what farms and gardens were producing to feed the early settlers. Jay Craven's film "The Lost Nation" drew a large audience. More events will be taking place next year around the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and in 2027 we will be focusing on the battles of Saratoga, Hubbardton, Bennington and Vermont declaring itself an independent republic.

Do you know where the word "buck" comes from to describe a dollar? A buckskin (a deer hide) was a widely accepted form of barter in the days before currency was regulated in America.



Our curator, Shawn Harrington,

was also busy this year giving numerous talks around the community. In June he gave a very well-attended presentation in Hildene's new Lincoln Hall on the 120th anniversary of Lincoln family moving into Hildene. His annual walk through Dellwood Cemetery with the Friends of Hildene and staff was another well-attended event in the fall. He also gave presentations on Manchester's history at Ekwanok Country Club, Equinox Terrace, and Bromley Manor.



Board member Bill Badger

shared his passion for railroads with presentations on the "Stations of the Bennington Rutland Railroad" and the "Incline Marble Railways in Dorset and Danby."

Manchester Historical Society Announces New President



The MHS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the election of Andy Shaw as the new president following the retirement of Frederica Templeton. Andy had been secretary of the board for several years. Born

in Manchester and a graduate of Burr and Burton, he was a principal of W.H. Shaw Insurance Agency, a family business that became part of the Richards Group in 2023.

“The Manchester Historical Society has benefited tremendously under Freddie Templeton’s twelve plus years as our president. We will continue working toward our mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and present the story of Manchester.”

Also elected officers were Kim Rizio, vice president, Sarah McClintock, secretary, and Robyn Harrington, treasurer.

Manchester Historical Society Welcomes Collections Manager



The Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Bethany Marsfelder has joined the staff in the new position of collections manager. She will be working with longtime curator Shawn Harrington overseeing

the archives, the care of the objects in the collection and assist the curator with exhibitions. Bethany is a graduate of Long Trail School and graduated summa cum laude from Syracuse University with a BA in English and Textual Studies.

“We are thrilled to welcome Bethany Marsfelder as the Manchester Historical Society’s new collections manager,” said Curator Shawn Harrington. “She is the first person dedicated full-time to cataloging and overseeing our collection which was established in 1897. Her enthusiasm for this important work will bring fresh energy to our mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and share the story of Manchester, Vermont, with our community and beyond.”



2025 Exceptional Service Awards

The MHS Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the recipients of the 2025 Exceptional Service Awards are Mike Powers and Eric Severance. The awards were presented at their annual meeting in September. The awards are given annually to individuals who have contributed to the society with generosity and dedication over many years. Eric “We are incredibly grateful to Mike and Eric for their support of MHS in so many ways,” said outgoing President Frederica Templeton. “We have accomplished so much over the last ten years, and we could not have achieved such growth without their skills and generosity.” Mike is a member of the Finance Committee, and his wise counsel is equaled in value only by his incredible memory of people and places in Manchester. Eric is a former board member who continues to watch over Rocking Stone Cottage and Little Eli, the society’s 19th century fire engine.

Our collaboration with **Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning** and the **Manchester Community Library** continued this year to appreciative audiences and we thank them for their partnership.



At long last, Mary Orvis Marbury (1856–1914)—matriarch of the C.F. Orvis Company, accomplished author, pioneering fly-tyer, mother, and daughter now has a proper headstone at Dellwood Cemetery. For more than a century, her grave was marked only by a stone foundation with no monument. Thanks to Burr and Burton teacher Jon Wilson, who attended a talk by curator Shawn Harrington and learned of this oversight, he helped connect the Historical Society with the Perkins family, who generously designed and funded a new granite monument, which has now been crafted and installed.

In Memoriam

We honor these wonderful supporters of MHS who sadly left us this past year. We will always be grateful for their many contributions.

Winifred Aboff 1935-2025

Helen Gawlik 1939-2025

Ted Hopkins 1933-2025

Dana Foster McNair 1956-2025

Jerilyn Witt 1945-2025



MHS President Frederica Templeton and former Manchester Fire Department Chief Ted Hopkins at the opening of the Manchester Community Library in November 2014. For the celebration, the Historical Society showcased our restored 19th-century hand pumper, Little Eli, a project in which Ted played a pivotal role. Throughout the day, he captivated visitors with stories and history connected to this treasured piece of Manchester's past.



For 45-plus years, artist Beriah Wall has been creating his distinctive ceramic tokens, first in his Manchester studio, then in Brooklyn, NY. Now back in the area, he continues to craft these small works of art that fit in the palm of your hand, and have found their way into millions of hands around the world. Beriah recently donated a sampling of his collection, including his very first token, created as his wedding announcement in 1977.

Gifts to the Collection

Mary Ellen Donnelly

Susan Fowler Fournier

Wendy Gawlik

Erich Gutbier

Shawn Harrington

James Harrison

Derry Lang

Dana McNair

Kim Rizio

Marjorie Scieszka

Andrew Shaw

Tim Stevenson

Town of Manchester

Terry Tyler

Mary Tetrault Waddington

Beriah Wall

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

Mike and Barbara Powers

Ruth Stewart

Frederica and Mark

Templeton

ANNUAL GIVING LIST 2024-2025

October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025

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 \$95,457.

GOVERNOR RICHARD SKINNER COUNCIL \$15,000+

Lyman Orton and Janice Izzi

EDWARD S. ISHAM CLUB \$5,000-\$9,999

Sally and Robert Arthur
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Peter and Claudia Kinder
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SARAH GIVEN LARSON CIRCLE \$2,500- \$4,999

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LOVELAND MUNSON SOCIETY \$1,000- \$2,499

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*In memory of John and Hedwig
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Orland and Hoa Campbell
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Shawn Harrington
Juliette and Stallworth Larson
Judith and Steve McPhail
Andrew and Jen Shaw
Robin Smith
In memory of Helen Gawlik
Frederic Taylor
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LOUISE SIMONDS ORVIS CIRCLE \$500-\$999

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Michael Kilburn
Fredricka V. Kimball
Hilary LaForge and Kevin Duffy
Paul and Ursula Lowerre
Rocco Maggiotto and Kathleen Fisher
T.D. and Judi McCormick
Arthur and Connie Page

WALTER HARD CLUB \$250-\$499

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Norene G. Peck
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Wilbur Rice
Machelle Robbins
In memory of Helen Gawlik
Stanley Stroup
Bob Ford and MB Thompson
Nancy Truettner

SARAH CLEGHORN ASSOCIATES \$100-\$249

Keld and Mary Alstrup
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Florence Ewasko
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Ted and Lois Hopkins
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Doug and Cynthia Kilburn
Derry Lang
Nora G. Larsen
In memory of Doris Bowen Ibbetson
David and Roberta Lawrence
Larry and Mary Lee
Rebecca Loose
Ellen McCort
Marion C. Mueller

ANNUAL GIVING LIST 2024-2025

SARAH CLEGHORN ASSOCIATES

\$100-\$249 (continued)

Linda Mulcahy

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Judy Paris

In memory of Ted Hopkins

Dave Quesnel

In honor of Shawn Harrington

James and Susan Ramsey

Wilbur Rice

In memory of Ted Hopkins

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Bob and Alison Stannard

Ruth Stewart

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Bob Treat

Patricia Dooley Tym

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UP TO \$99

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Kyle Ingrid Johnson

Arden Kahlo and Stanley Okin

In memory of Ted Hopkins

Frank and Sharron Kropa

Darrell LeBlanc

In memory of Helen Gawlik

Dolores K. Mahlmann

In memory of Helen Gawlik

Bradley Myerson

Melissa Oliva

Fran and Sandi Paquette

David Pardo

Phil and Carol Peterson

Susan C. Picotte

Mike and Barbara Powers



The Howard Coffin presentation at MCL.

In memory of Helen Gawlik

Margi and Andy Putney

Jackie Bell Sargood

Marjorie and Greg Scieszka

In memory of Helen Gawlik

Eric Severance

Frederick Snocker

Cornelia Tuttle

In memory of John and

Emy LaVecchia

Jerilyn Witt

FIVE YEAR + SUPPORTERS

We are especially grateful to the following donors who have supported MHS for five or more years. Thank you for your loyalty to MHS!

Winifred Aboff*

Keld and Mary Alstrup

Sally and Robert Arthur

Bill and Pam Badger

Anne Brett

Donald and Gail Brodie

Courtney Callo

Ed Campbell

Orland and Hoa Campbell

Deborah and John Cave

Chip and Kit Chamberlain

Jane Childs

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Mary and Alec Gerster

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Robyn Harrington

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Charlotte Harris

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Michael Heinel

Tricia Heinel

Ted* and Lois Hopkins

Susan Hunter and Doug Watson

Kyle Ingrid Johnson

Arden Kahlo and Stanley Okin

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Roberta and David Lawrence, Jr.

Larry and Mary Lee

Pat Lee

Paul and Ursula Lowerre

Donald Luke and Anne Lian

Rocco Maggiotto and

Kathleen Fisher

Dolores K. Mahlmann

Judi and T.D. McCormick

Ellen McCort



The Mattison block (later called the Hanley block) was built in 1894, next to the former bank building on Main Street. When it was torn down in the 1970s, Bob Mattison tried to save the engraved granite window header, but the workers dropped it during demolition and it broke in half. He kept the pieces in his garage on Highland Avenue, and after he and his wife Cora died, their son donated it to MHS.

When the new entrance to Riverwalk was nearing completion, our curator Shawn Harrington asked Bill Drunisc if the granite pieces could be placed where the building once stood. He agreed and they were positioned not in the sidewalk (to prevent further damage during snow removal), but right along the edge. Make sure to check it out next time you're walking along Main Street.

Brenda McDonald
 Linda and Andrew McKeever
 Brad Myerson
 Wilda and Lowell Northrop
 Jeff Nyweide
 Lyman Orton and Janice Izzi
 Phil and Koshka Pabst
 Arthur and Connie Page
 Judy Paris
 Fran and Sandi Paquette
 Dave Pardo
 Norene G. Peck
 Susan C. Picotte
 Mike and Barbara Powers
 Craig and Donna Powers
 Dave and Paula Quesnel
 Susan and James Ramsey
 Elise Redmond
 Kim Rizio
 Eric Severance
 Andrew and Jennifer Shaw
 Alison and Bob Stannard
 Stanley Stroup
 Frederic Taylor
 Frederica and Mark Templeton
 Bob Treat

Cornelia Tuttle
 Patricia Tym
 Robin and Amy Verner
 Constance West

*Deceased

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Our thanks to the following for their generous collaboration and support:

Manchester Community Library
 GNAT-TV
 Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning
 Irene Cole Design
 Ted Hopkins and Son
 Eric Severance

FRIDAY ARCHIVES VOLUNTEERS

Flo Ewasko
 Caroline Jopling
 Sarah McClintock
 Mike diMonda



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MANCHESTER'S HISTORY

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Short podcast-style audio and visual tour of Manchester Village, Manchester Center, and Manchester Depot.

- Stories play automatically using your phone's GPS, no network needed.
- Download the TravelStorysGPS app to your phone and search for Manchester, Vermont.
- The tour works on both iPhone and Android systems. To begin, click on the white triangle within the green circle at the bottom right of the screen.
- The App includes information on 20 Historic Sites.
- You can also enjoy TravelStorys GPS on your desktop or laptop in the comfort of your home at <https://www.manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org/walking-tour>



Focus your camera on the QR code and then click the link.

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.

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

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.



Find us on Facebook



@MHSVermont

Thank you to our 2024-2025 CORPORATE SPONSORS for their interest in Manchester's history and their generous support

1897 SOCIETY



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