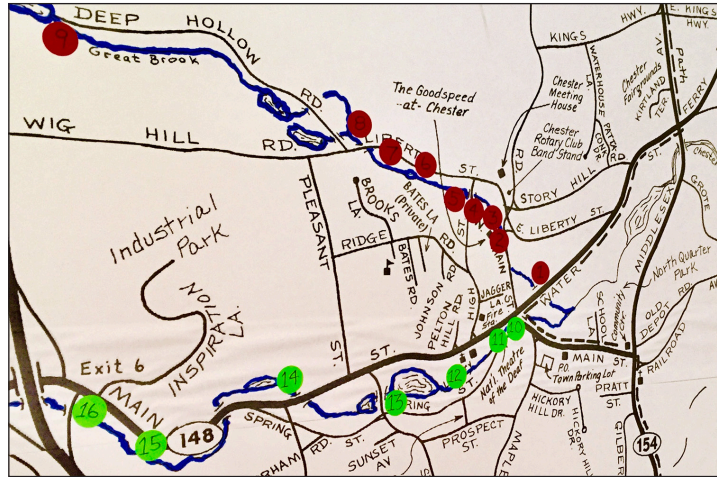




Chester Historical Society



Annual Report 2018 - 2019

President's Message

The Chester Historical Society is now in its 50th year. Beginning with its incorporation in April 1970 and its first Annual Meeting that May, it has been an eventful half-century. Many visitors to our 2019 seasonal exhibit will remember parts of that timeframe—from the Meeting House restoration to the purchase of a former mill site and creation of the award-winning Chester Museum at The Mill.

While a longtime Society member, I have been fortunate to be active for the past 15 years, a time when we raised the final funds to prepare the former Griswold Factory for its role as a museum. We opened the doors in May 2010 and have since presented unique theme-based exhibits each year.

We all have learned a little along the way. From the museum side, we have adapted to dig deeper into Chester's past to create interpretive exhibits and programs to share that history. Visitors have enjoyed Chester-focused exhibits, including Civil War Letters, Transportation, Community Groups, Waterways & Industries, Judge Constance Baker Motley and The Leatherman.

Now, after 10 years in my current role, I am stepping down, but not stepping away. I treasure the experience and our collective journey.

Personal memories that surface include: the positive responses to our capital campaign to convert a mill to museum space; representing the Society in Richmond, VA to receive a national award for excellence in our very first museum year; time spent with Nate Jacobson as my guide, walking through brush to document the hidden dams and waterfalls of Chester; hosting at the museum and hearing visitors say, "This is terrific, I didn't know all this was here."

Our future is bright; our leadership, trustees and numerous volunteers are talented and enthusiastic. Echoing our late founding president Barbara Delaney, "Onward and upward."

Skip Hubbard, President



Chester Historical Society

2018 - 2019

Officers

Skip Hubbard	<i>President</i>
Sandy Senior-Dauer	<i>Vice President</i>
Cary Hull	<i>Vice President</i>
Jenny Kitsen	<i>Vice President</i>
Jo Anne Park	<i>Treasurer</i>
Tammy Eustis	<i>Secretary</i>
Diane Lindsay	<i>Curator</i>
Robert Miceli	<i>Historian</i>
Martin Nadel	<i>Robbie Collomore Music Series</i>

Trustees

<u>May 2019</u>	<u>May 2020</u>	<u>May 2021</u>
Keith Dauer	Marta Daniels	Bob Blair
Ed Meehan	Tom Marshall	Mike Sanders
Joel Severance	Jackie Stack	Nancy Watkins
Bruce Watrous		Ron Woodward
Peter Zanardi		

Our front cover contains images from "Two Streams & Many Industries," our 2018 seasonal exhibit that featured the twin branches of the Pattaconk Brook and the numerous water-powered industries that have been located on its banks.

Clockwise from the top left: (1) A gate on Straits Road once used to control the water flow to downstream industries; (2) A portion of a 5x7-foot map color-coded to industrial sites; (3) Located at the corner of Wig Hill Road and West Main St, the Standard Card Company of Chester printed personalized greeting cards in the 1880s; (4) Turkey Hill Reservoir falls and spillway.

History Preservation

The History Preservation Committee is responsible for the Society's collections, for accessioning new items, as well as cataloging and preserving the collection.

We accepted many donations this year, including Daniel Silliman's top hat, a permanent wave machine from the 1930's and a lap organ played by Jarvis Smith's great-aunt Amie Smith, who lived at the Smith homestead at 29 King's Highway.

Pat Kosky and I continued to work most Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings in the Meeting House Archive Room. We thank Janice Benda for her many years of driving from Andover every week, as she has retired from active participation in our group. We welcome new volunteers who are available either Tuesday afternoons or Friday mornings.

We work with the Exhibit and Refresh Committees, researching records, photographs and artifacts in our collection to put on display. We have researched questions from Society members and other people who have found us online. We have scanned photographs for our collection, especially for our Veterans Celebration last fall with Deep River and Essex Historical Societies. Scanning allows families to retain their original photos.

Diane Lindsay, Curator



Creative works from 45 artists attracted nearly 100 people to our Creative Challenge Silent Auction in April. The challenge to use pieces of red velvet from a former Meeting House curtain as a source material proved popular, resulting in spirited bidding.

Volunteers Welcomed

Museum Hosting: Welcome visitors to our museum, directing them to our exhibits, etc. Visitors take self-guided tours. Shifts are 3 hours. Museum hours are Sat 1-4; Sun 10-4.

Archiving: Work with the curator in cataloguing our collection to computer. Tues. 1-3 p.m. or Fri. 9-12 pm.
Call Diane Lindsay (860) 526-2443 for more info.



Chester: Lost, Found, Remembered became the latest Society publication. Chester natives Rob and Tom Miceli combined to create the 98-page book, which features photos and stories not previously seen or heard.

The book can be purchased at Lark or the Town Clerk's Office or during Museum hours (Sat. 1-4 pm, Sun. 10-4 pm).

Development/Fundraising

This year, the Society was the recipient of a generous unrestricted donation from the Barbara Delaney Estate of approximately \$133,000. A small portion of this donation was used to pay off the remaining member-held notes on the Mill. The organization is now debt free as it begins the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Society.

The Development Committee with the approval of the Trustees invested an additional \$50,000 from the Delaney Estate into our existing investment account at Essex Financial Investment Services. To allow greater future diversity of investment strategies, a similar amount was invested in a new account at Wells Fargo. As of May 2019 the Society had an investment portfolio of \$135,000.

The Building and Development Committees identified the replacement of a furnace/HVAC system and removal of several trees as priority items. Both projects were completed this past year. Replacement of the deck floor and some neighboring clapboards are next in line. The two committees are coordinating the costs of these and future improvements with current revenue liquidity and seeking other grant funding sources.

The Society is indebted to Art Christianson and Ed Meehan for their combined efforts and ideas to maintain and improve our building and grounds.

Three very successful fundraising activities contributed to a positive bottom line for operations. In the fall, we were given enough items from the Barbara and Edmund Delaney house to be able to host an Estate Sale at St. Joseph's Parish Center, netting almost \$5,500. Our year-end Annual Appeal topped \$12,000, setting yet another new high.

Our Red Velvet Creative Challenge silent auction in April brought in \$6,000, thanks to the craftsmanship of 45 artists creating artworks from scraps of old red velvet Meeting House stage curtains. Nearly 100 people attended the event at the Meeting House.

Development Committee: Jenny Kitsen (chair), Cary Hull, Jo Anne Park, Sandy Prisloe, Bruce Watrous. Building Committee: Ed Meehan, Art Christianson, Rick Schreiber, Rick Holloway

Programs and Exhibits

Our 2018 seasonal exhibit, “Two Streams & Many Industries,” was well received by the community and other visitors.

In June the second graders from Chester Elementary toured the museum and enjoyed a picnic on the back deck. Two new second grade classes will visit this June. Rob Miceli, Nancy Watkins, and Keith and I will welcome them this year.

In the winter of 2018, the Society lost Barbara Delaney, our founding president, wise counselor and generous patron. A committee of Jan and Peter Good, Sosse Baker, Lois and Martin Nadel, and Keith and I planned a celebration of her life, held at the Meeting House on June 16.

Collaborations with Essex and Deep River historical societies resulted in two events, the ever-popular Vintage Baseball game at Devitt Field in September, and a patriotic salute to veterans in November. A slide show of photos of 225 tri-town veterans, accompanied by patriotic songs by the Corinthian Jazz Band led by Leslie Strauss, played to a packed auditorium at the Deep River Town Hall.

Two other programs attracted standing room only audiences to the Meeting House. In February, authors Rob and Tom Miceli showed slides and discussed aspects of their new book, *Chester: Lost, Found, Remembered*. In March, a full house was treated to Chester films from 1930s to the 1950s. The films were the result of a grant from the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, shared with the Deep River Historical Society. Cary Hull worked with Jon Claude Haines to convert and edit the vintage films, which now can be viewed on our website. Audience participation was a highlight of both programs.

A big thank you to the Chester Rotary for handling refreshments for the baseball game, and to our generous members who brought goodies to all the other programs.

A new exhibit, celebrating our upcoming 50th anniversary, opens in June. The exhibit is also a tribute to Jan and Peter Good who have generously created posters, logos and more for the Historical Society and the town for the past fifty years.

On June 21, members are invited to the Annual Meeting and potluck picnic at the Meeting House. Moving Target will provide music for the event.

Sandy and Keith Dauer, Education Co-chairs



Our “Streams of Change” exhibit on our second floor was “refreshed” with this reproduction of the soda fountain from Chester Pharmacy and a then-and-now depiction of Main Street buildings.



Society Vice President Sandy Senior-Dauer was one of the speakers who shared memories at a Celebration of the Life of Barbara Delaney at a packed Meeting House in June.



Christine Palm selected her pitch when the Chester Squirrels played teams from Deep River and Essex in baseball games played by 1857 rules. It was the 5th year the tri-town historical society-sponsored teams have taken the field.

Finances

Revenues for the annual operations of the Society are generated from three primary sources: membership dues, donations (Annual Appeal, museum visitor box, other) and fundraising events. Principal expenses for general operations include utilities, insurance and accounting, general maintenance, preservation and cataloging of archives, and exhibit expenses.

Our Annual Appeal response continues to set new highs, this year again topping \$12,000 with a 50% participation rate from membership. The Society was a beneficiary in the Barbara Delaney estate distribution. A small portion of the proceeds was used to help retire the final \$17,500 of membership notes that replaced a prior mortgage on our museum. The balance has been added to our investment accounts.

The strong initial book sales of *Chester: Lost, Found, Remembered* contributed to a healthy balance of more than \$6,100 in funds available for future publications.

Essex Savings Bank customers voting for the Chester Historical Society as a favorite charity resulted in \$381 for the Society. We also received a \$500 corporate grant from Essex Savings Bank / Essex Financial Services to offset the postage of mailing newsletters and annual reports.

Jo Anne Park, Treasurer

Operations Summary Fiscal YTD 6/1/18 - 5/30/19

The unaudited summary below reflects the YTD Operations Budget of the Society, which is apart from the Robbie Collomore Music Series. At press time, the fiscal year had not yet been closed. Final financials will be available when completed. After redemption of notes in April, we had zero liabilities.

Working Balance 6/1/18	\$8,767
Revenues	
Membership Dues	7,970
Annual Appeal / Donations	13,294
Museum Visitor Donations	736
Fundraising Events	13,921
Grants	500
Museum Sales	117
Other	2,436
Total Operating Revenues	38,974
Expenses	
Building Utilities	7,108
Maintenance & Operations	13,970
Fundraising Costs	1,965
Communications	610
Programs & Exhibits/Grants	2,700
Training	0
Museum Store Purchases	144
Interest on Notes	1,115
Transfer to Notes Retirement	830
Transfer to Maintenance Reserve	10,000
Total Operating Expenses	37,442
Net Operating Balance	1,553
Working Balance 5/31/19	10,300

Membership

As of May 2019 the Society has 239 current memberships (see back page). We welcomed 26 new memberships to our rolls and processed three upgrades, including two to Life. By level, we currently have 42 Individual memberships (8 added), 86 Family (11 added), 25 Benefactor (4 added) and 86 Life (6 added).

A vital membership is the foundation of any successful non-profit organization. A goal set in our Strategic Plan is to identify ways to bring more people into our annual membership program as well as increase interest in volunteer opportunities. Members can help by setting a goal to interest a friend in membership this year.

We encourage all members as well as non-members to stay current by signing up for our informative monthly e-newsletter. Other than the Society-associated Robbie Collomore Music Series, we do not share any email lists with other organizations. We are on Facebook (Facebook.com/chesterhistoricalsociety). Our website is chesterhistoricalsociety.org

Robbie Collomore Music Series

The 44th season of the Robbie Collomore Music Series was both an artistic and financial success. The All in the Fall grouping of concerts again proved to be popular with a record attendance.

The first concert of the season was our annual Barbara and Edmund Delaney Young Artist Concert, featuring violinist Stella Chen and pianist Tomer Gewirtzman. This concert continued our association with Juilliard.

The second concert featured Grammy-nominated jazz vocalist Rene Marie and her trio. Her own works chronicled the profound turning points that make up an individual life with music's capacity to heal and inspire.

In November we again featured an extraordinary Juilliard artist, pianist Salome Jordania, who played Mussorgsky's daunting "Pictures at an Exhibition." The final concert was a repeat appearance by popular demand of the Andean world music group, Andes Manta. The infectious spontaneity of the group playing on 32 homemade native instruments was just plain fun.

The Cornwall Trust has shown steady continued growth and we maintain a somewhat more defensive posture due to market volatility while still taking advantage of the market's growth. Given the complexity of learning how our series functions, our new manager's first year was a great success.

Collomore Music Committee: Randy Allinson, Ray Archambault, Karin Badger, James Baker, Ann Drinan (manager), Anne Easton, Karli Gilbertson, Rick Holloway, Martin Nadel (chairperson), James Paisley, Bettie Perreault, Sue Saltus, Michael Sanders, Jacqueline Stack and John Williams

Chester Historical Society

Membership as of June 2019

Individual

Sosie Baker
Robert Bandzes
Frances Bertelli
Tom Brelsford
Margaret Breslin
Jane Deuse Cable
Tim Carlson*
Samuel Chorches
Elizabeth M. D'Amato
Alma Carini Doak
Robert Dona
Lauren Gister*
Jane Gordon
Jon Claude Haines*
MarieAnne Heft
Martin L. Heft
Paulette Heft*
Charley Hnilicka
Patricia Kosky
Mitchell Koslawy*
Dorothy Lavezzoli
Edward Leffingwell Jr.
Tedd Levy
Diane Lindsay
Tom Marshall
David Nelson*
Carl Nilsson
Dawn Parker*
Betsy Watrous Pasinella
Bettie Perreault
Charles Priest
H. Peter Satagaj
Judith Lynde Schondorf
Sharon Soja
Elizabeth Watrous Stopa
Ruth Thayer
Louise R. VanHaverbeke
Patti Anne Vassia*
Veronica Villafang*
Nancy Watkins
Daisy Watrous
Anne Winslow

Family

Eric & Ginny Anderson
James & Marian Bairstow
Paul & Wendie Barbarino
Bonnie & John Bennet
Dale Bernardoni
Robert Blair & Kris Pollock
Mark Borton & Francine Cornaglia
Donna & Rick Carlson, Jr.
Ernie & Pam Cartier
Edward & Gail Castelli
James & Diana Castelli
Ted & JoAnna Chapin
Sherry & Herb Clark
Alan & Ginny Cuneo*
Emelia DeMusis
& Stephen DeBenedet
Kristen DiErrico & Hans Lohse
Lol & Charlene Fearon
Richard Fensky & Elaine LaFlair

Dan & Jean Fitzgerald*
Joseph & Constance Forst*
Christopher & Sarah Fryxell
Ivey Gianetti & John Williams
Mario & Dorothy Gioco
Cynthia Glacken
& Fritz Jellinghaus*
Roger & Elizabeth Goodnow
Edward Grzybowski
Coe & Carol Hawkins
William & Amanda Hofmeister*
Richard & Patricia Holloway
Robert & Mary Humpage
Geoffrey & Carol Jacobson
Joel & Susan Jacobson
Erik & Constance Johannessen*
Laurel & Scott Johnson
Harold & Linda Jones, Jr.
Randy, Beth & Emily Judd
John & Wendy King
David & Diane Kukta
Kenneth Maxwell & Arlene Tunney
Pam & Doug McAvay
Allan Mehlberg & Spruce Roden
Steven & Kathryn Merola
Madaline Meyer
Ann Monaghan & Family
Gil & Susan Morong
Richard & Lorraine Morrow
Russ & Deb Munson
Charles & Susan Murphy
Arthur H. Napier III
& Barbara-Jan Wilson
The Lance Parker Family*
Brandon & Elizabeth Pearce
Don & Kristen Perreault
Kim & Kathy Price
John & Jennifer Rannestad
Jim & Marie Ready
Cookie & Fred Robertson
Ray & Jeanne Roussel
Charles & Denise Schiller*
John & Lisa Schroeder
Richard & Carol Anne Seaman
Joan Sepessy
Richard & Elaine Sevigny
The Shortz Family*
James B. Silliman
Kelley & Scott Smith*
Laird & Toni Smith
Tom & Renee Smith
Suzanne Spires
Jacqueline Stack & Mark Riggio
Alex & Barbara Standke
Alex & MaryAnn Stein
Richard & Leslie Strauss
Jan & Ted Taigen*
Melody & Philip Tierney
Peter & Sally Tiezzi, Jr.
Gordon & Claudia Van Nes
Gilbert & Patricia Veconi
Dave & Margo Viggiano
Skip & Margaret Weisenburger

Tom & Diane Wetmore*
Ronald & Lois Wickson
George & Patty Winter
Sue & Bob Wisner*
Peter & Jane Zanardi
Burgi & Leo Zavatone
Bill & Agneta Ziegler

Benefactor

John & Janice Benda
Joyce Christy Birtcher
Edward & Debra Calamari
Geraldine Carini-Garcia**
Arthur Christianson
Jewel Christy
Audrey Conrad
Dan David*
Andrew Drabkin & Brian Hodges
Tammy & Weymouth Eustis
Barbara & Bob Fraser
Helene & Ned Johnson
Kim Kellogg & Ric Hosley*
Ed & Peg Meehan
Jean Mulford
Charles & Jo Anne Park
Michael & Susan Peck
Joan & Craig Phillips*
Sandy & Deedee Prisloe
Paul & Dawn Radicchi
Mark Rohlf
Hila & Saul Rosen
Laura Straub
Yenowich Sisters
Theresa Zwart-Ludeman

Life

Randy & Chris Allinson
Ray & Liz Archambault
Thomas & Kathleen Archambault
Albert Armington
Gil & Anne Bartlett
Phyllis Bevington
Thomas & Marianne Bladek
Robert Blair
Lary Bloom
Bill Bonfanti & Madeleine Winans
Dominick & Stacy Bosco
David Brooks
Gregory Cook
Michael & Felise Cressman
John W. Dalton
Marta Daniels**
Keith Dauer & Sandy Senior-Dauer
Deb Dembo
Elise Piquet-Doll
Gerry & Cynthia Dubey
Shirley Feldmann
Henry & Britt Flanagan
Mary & Bryant Frank**
Jill Gladding
Peter & Jan Good
Robert & Lynda Gorman
Alva G. Greenberg

Mark & Cheri Ferrari Habersang
Donald & Monique Hanson
Karen & Jamie Hart
Kurt & Marion Watrous Henstorf
Leni Herschman
Elizabeth Hubbard*
Skip & Karen Hubbard
Tom & Cheri Hubbard*
Cary Hull & Al Malpa
Mrs. Edward C. Hull
Nathan & Geraldine Jacobson
Kathryn Watrous Jones
Jon & Doreen Joslow
Pauline Kaplan
Mrs. Jenny Kitsen
Steve & Ann Kitteredge
Jules & Kathleen Kranich
Pam Larson
Robert & Stacey Lewis
Carol LeWitt
D. Leonard Lieberman
Lorraine Lieberman
Margaret Lieberman
Donald MacDermid
Jess Maghan & Peter Walker
Robert Miceli
Christopher Moore
Deborah Morrow
Joel Motley III
William Myers
Martin & Lois Nadel
Jil Nelson
Charles G. Nessler, Jr
Michael Oppenheimer
& Donna Tuths*
Matt & Eileen Ouelette*
Sandra Davis Owen
Donald & Katherine Paulson
Jo-Ann & Michael Price
Robert Radicchi
Glenn & Peg Reyer
Jeff & Holly Ridgway
Michael & Sally Sanders
Arthur & Judith Schaller
Rick & Terry Schreiber
Dr. Kim Senay
Joel & Adrienne Severance
John & Kimberly Stack
Justine Tobis
William Vollers
BJ & Corry Watrous
Bruce & Beverly Watrous
Christopher & Kelly Watrous
Lynn Weymer
Whitelaw & Margaret Wilson
Virginia Winans
Victoria Winterer
Ron & Suzie Woodward
James Zanardi
Richard & Joan Ziemann

*New Members

**New Membership Level