

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2015-2016**

Frederica Templeton
PRESIDENT

Kim Rizio
VICE PRESIDENT

Judy Harwood
SECRETARY

Deborah McPherson
TREASURER

Wes Hill
CURATOR

Bill Badger
Mike DiMonda
Shawn Harrington
Michael Powers
Gail Rice
Eric Severance
Terry Tyler
Lisa Wessner
James West
William West

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.

PROPRIETORS CIRCLE



UNION CLUB



Witten, Woolminton,
Campbell & Bernal, PC
attorneys at law

MHS's Own Shawn Harrington Honored with Town's Unsung Hero Award

Has scanned over 45,000 images from the MHS collection



Shawn receiving his award from Selectman Wayne Bell with Cynthia Kilburn who nominated him and with members of Manchester's Select Board who honor a community member every year with the Unsung Hero award.



Digital archivist and MHS board member Shawn Harrington was named the 2016 recipient of the Unsung Heroes Award, given every year by Manchester's Select Board. Shawn was honored for his work with MHS as a volunteer digital archivist, preserving the history of the town and sharing hundreds of stories and photographs on social media. One of his most popular projects is the "then and now" photographic comparison of different locations around town which can be seen on Facebook and framed in the lobby of the Manchester Community Library. His work has been a "labor of love," said Cynthia Kilburn, who nominated him because she thought he deserved recognition.

The Unsung Hero award was created to honor those, like Harrington, who perform valuable service to the community but who may not always get recognized, said Wayne Bell, vice-chairman of the Select Board. "Somewhere in the busyness of life we need to pause and look around us and appreciate the people in our community who qualify and make a difference," he said.

The MHS board enthusiastically echoes those sentiments and we are all incredibly grateful to Shawn for making such a significant contribution to preserving Manchester's history for a wide audience and future generations.

CONTACT US | website: manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org
email: info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org

Find us on Facebook Manchester Historical Society

Meet Sarah Cleghorn

Author kept the MHS minutes and supplied the Journal with stories in the early 20th century

Sarah Norcliffe Cleghorn served as unofficial secretary and journalist for the Manchester Historical Society and the collection has several scrapbooks she compiled filled with clippings from newspapers of the day. She and her brother Carl lived with their aunts, the Hawley sisters, in the former Pink House in Manchester Village. It was in this house that the first meeting of MHS took place in 1897.

Cleghorn's notebooks kept on behalf of the Manchester Historical Society cover a span of 25 years beginning in late 1897 through the 1920s. Included are handwritten recollections, photographs, news clippings covering local and national events and her observations on the latest fashions of the day (and her disdain for much of it). Her writings could be deeply personal - she wrote across the pages following the recording of her own father's obituary and those of other loved ones. As society changed, the essence of her beliefs and convictions is reflected in her writing about meeting a president (Taft) and a former president (Teddy Roosevelt), women's suffrage, World War I and animal cruelty. These notebooks are not only a treasure for Manchester history, but also for the insights they give to an influential voice of the 20th century.

Sarah was born in Norfolk, Virginia, on February 4, 1876, the daughter of John Dalton and Sarah Chestnut (Hawley) Cleghorn. Her father was a Scottish immigrant and investment broker. She moved to Manchester when she was 9 years old after the death of her mother and graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary in 1895. During her childhood in southern Vermont, Sarah became friends with Dorothy Canfield Fisher, who would also become a noted writer and educator. The two women maintained a close relationship throughout their lives and collaborated on a book of essays, *Fellow Captains* (1916), and *Nothing Ever Happens and How It Does* (1940). Sarah also wrote a dramatization of Fisher's novel for children, *Understood Betsy* (1934).

Her first short story was published in the *Philistine: A Periodical of Protest* just one year after she left Radcliffe College in 1896 due to a lack of funds. In the following years she contributed short stories and poems to the country's most popular magazines, including the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Century*, *Scribner's*, *Harper's Weekly* and *Survey*. She was also a contributing editor of the *World Tomorrow*, a pacifist periodical. She became quite well known for her passionate devotion to Christian socialism, pacifism, experimental education, and the abolition of capital punishment.

1



2

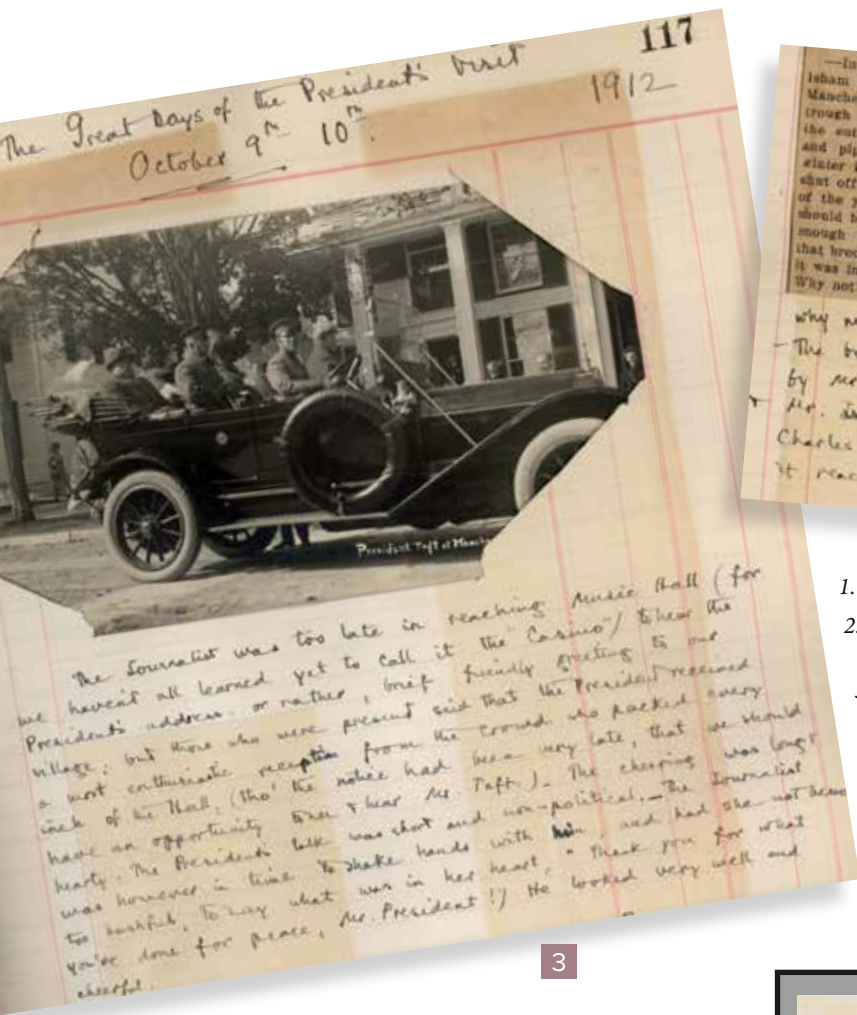


Sarah Cleghorn's success in placing manuscripts waned, however, shortly before the start of World War I in 1914, because of her pacifist beliefs and political views.

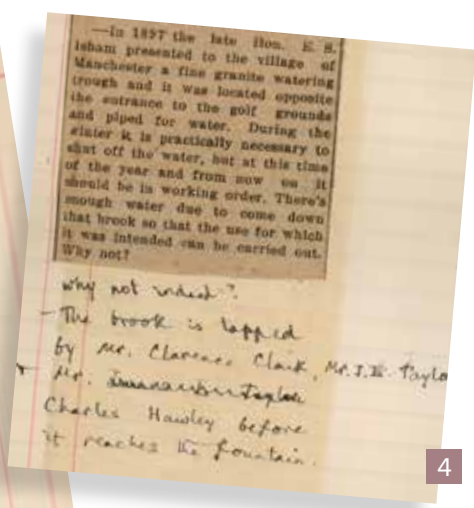
During her years in Manchester she was active with the Manchester Historical Society and with Burr and Burton's Junior Alumni Association. Her spirited leadership contributed greatly to the successful fundraising campaign for the school's gymnasium built in 1913. And she was the author of the pageant performed in 1929 to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the school's founding.

In 1915 Sarah N. Cleghorn began her teaching career, chiefly in schools affiliated with the workers' education movement. She was a proponent of the Dalton and Montessori educational methods, the latter of which was introduced in the United States by her good friend Dorothy Canfield Fisher. In 1920 she joined the staff of the Brookwood Labor School established by William M. Fincke and his wife in Katonah, NY. Two years later, she moved to the Manumit School in Pawling, NY, where she taught English and dramatics until 1929. She became a substitute associate professor of English at Vassar College the following year.

Among the social causes that Sarah N. Cleghorn actively



3



4

1. Sarah Cleghorn as a young woman.
2. A page from her scrapbook with a photograph of the Hawley house south of the village (the former Pink House).
3. "The Great Days of the President's Visit October 9th, 1912" Sarah's note below the photograph of President Taft records that she shook his hand but "was too bashful to say what was in her heart, "Thank you for what you've done for peace Mr. President!"
4. A clipping she included in one of her scrapbooks describing the watering trough presented to the village by Edward Isham with a tart comment below.

supported were full suffrage for women, equal rights for African-Americans, prison reform, packing-house reform, and the abolishment of child labor and vivisection. She was a member of the Vivisection Investigation League, League of Mutual Aid, Fellowship of Reconciliation, American League to Abolish Capital Punishment, War Resisters' League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Her poetry reflects her New England upbringing and concern for the rural life of her youth, as well as her experience as a social reformer and displays a mastery of versification. Her works include the novels *A Turnpike Lady* (1907), and *The Spinster* (1916); a book of poems *Portraits and Protests* (1917); an autobiography with an introduction by Robert Frost, *Threescore* (1936); books of essays *Poems of Peace and Freedom* (1945) and *The Seamless Robe* (1945).

In 1943 Sarah moved to Philadelphia, where she continued her activism, defending peace during the Cold War as "an old Quaker." She died in Philadelphia on April 4, 1959. She left an invaluable legacy to the Manchester Historical Society and we honor her for it.

OOPS! In our Annual Report last fall we left someone out. Special thanks to Pam Badger for her invaluable help last year with our financial record-keeping.



UPCOMING EVENT

May 16 – 6:30 pm at The Library

JOIN US for an interesting look at the role water has played in local history at the Manchester Community Library as a preview to this year's VT History Expo.

"The Power of Water in Vermont History" is the theme for the Expo on June 18-19 at the Tunbridge World Fairgrounds in Tunbridge, Vermont. This joint program with the Dorset Historical Society will present the story of water in the Dorset and Manchester geology and history, including its uses for manufacturing and recreation.

In the Vault Your Donations at Work!

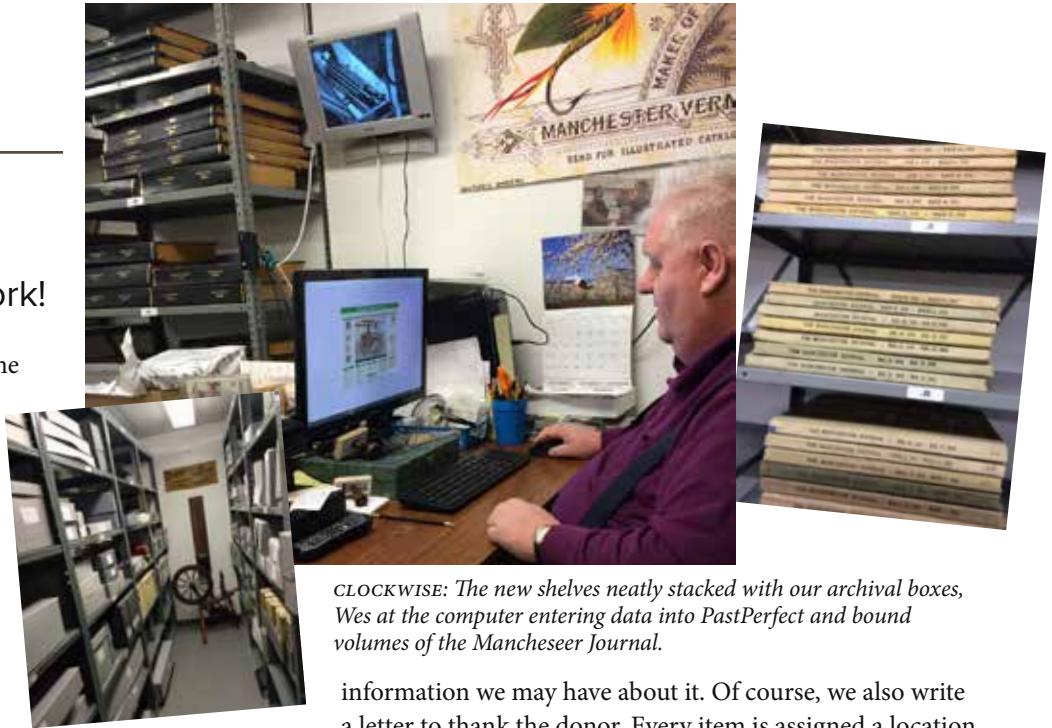
The Vault is our affectionate name for our room in the Manchester Community Library. It's where our collection now lives and where every week Wes Hill, our curator, can be found poring over old photographs and documents and entering the information into the database.

We caught up with Wes recently as he was working away on the new computer we were able to purchase thanks to the support of our many friends.

Wes grew up in Manchester and graduated from Burr and Burton Seminary. After studying set design and theater lighting at Castleton College, he went to work for the Orvis Company as a visual display coordinator in the retail stores 21 years ago. He says he became interested in local history when he was eleven years old after a family relative entertained him with stories of growing up in Barnumville in the early 1900s. His interest led him to offer his services to MHS as a volunteer curator where for the last three years he has been hard at work going through each item in the collection and recording it.

Q: How are you processing the items in the collection?

WES: Every item is given an accession number and ID number and this is entered into the PastPerfect software we are using. There are many fields to be filled in, including the name of the donor if this is known, and



CLOCKWISE: The new shelves neatly stacked with our archival boxes, Wes at the computer entering data into PastPerfect and bound volumes of the Mancheseer Journal.

information we may have about it. Of course, we also write a letter to thank the donor. Every item is assigned a location, placed into archival quality boxes or folders, and placed in the assigned location. It's a long process but it means that the item can easily be found.

Q: What is included in your description?

WES: In the description fields I include what the item looks like, its size, color and shape, and the year of origin if known. I also include its significance and connection to Manchester history. The provenance is also important: where it was found, who it belonged to and any other interesting bits of history known about it.

With his accumulated knowledge about the history of Manchester, Wes is an invaluable resource when it comes to understanding the artifacts and photos that are in the collection. Working together with digital archivist Shawn Harrington, Wes is bringing to light many of the wonderful stories of the people and events that make up the history of Manchester.



We Have Our First-ever Intern!

Bridget Ring, a junior at Burr and Burton Academy, is pursuing her love of history and interest in Manchester by working with us to bring more amazing photographs and stories from our archives to the world. She has set up an Instagram account for MHS that is attracting lots of interest. This social media site is a strong contender for the most popular in the world. Bridget is looking forward to engaging her like-minded friends in some events at school and has started a History Club. We're delighted to have Bridget as part of the team. You can find us on Instagram at MHSvermont.

Keep History Alive You can ensure the long-term strength of the Manchester Historical Society by making a simple bequest in your will. Planned gifts allow you to make meaningful gifts that complement your financial and philanthropic goals and, in turn, help us to continue to fulfill our mission to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester.