

LUCIONI IN MANCHESTER: AN ARTIST'S LIFE Opens July 28 at the Southern Vermont Arts Center



When MHS members Sharron and Frank Kropa decided to donate some items related to the artist Luigi Lucioni, we realized we had the material for a fascinating show. Thanks to the Southern Vermont Arts Center, we will be sharing the story of this much-loved local artist's life in Manchester in the Arkell Gallery of Yester House. The Kropas were good friends of Lucioni and when they bought his Manchester home, they inherited many personal items left by their friend when he returned to New York just before he died. The Kropas have graciously donated many of these items and they will be on display for the first time along with other works loaned to us by their generous owners.

There have been many artists who have come to Manchester drawn by the beauty of the area but none perhaps have been so embraced and recognized by the Manchester community as Lucioni was during his lifetime and after. There are many who remember seeing him by the side of the road, easel set up, paint brush in hand, his familiar Woody station wagon parked nearby. We are very proud to present this exhibit which will reflect his works and his life in Manchester including a collection of etchings Lucioni sent to friends as Christmas cards.



Lucioni painting in Manchester, c. 1950.

Please join us for the opening reception!

All are invited to the opening reception on July 28 from 4-6 p.m. on the Southern Vermont Arts Center's campus. The exhibit runs from July 28 to September 9, 2018.

This exhibit is made possible by the underwriting support of Art Licensing International, and by the generosity of our corporate sponsors and our members.



Lest We Forget: Commemorating the Centennial of World War I

The commemoration of the centenary of the First World War (1914-1918) has been underway this year on national and local levels. According to the Otis and Bigelow history of Manchester there were 134 men from the Manchester area who served in the war. Among them were several Burr and Burton graduates including Alice Holt '01, Chauncey Shaw '04, Andrew Holt '08, Robert Edgerton '11 and George Bennett '11.

In 1919 an honor roll was erected on Main Street between the Howe and Hanley blocks (where the Berkshire Bank branch building is today) listing the names of those who served in the war to end all wars. Its ultimate fate is unknown. A second

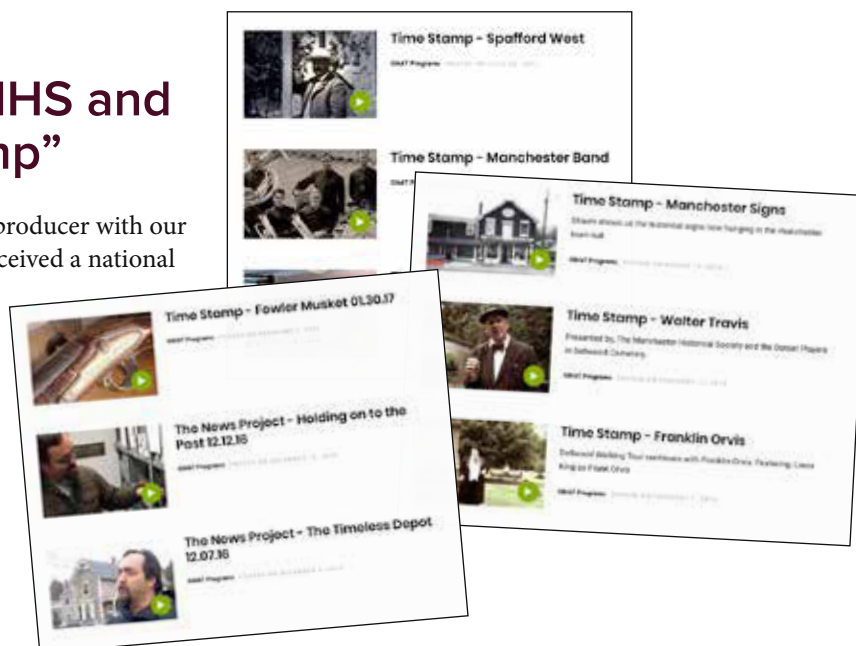
honor roll was established in 1942 in front of the Baptist Church and lasted till the 1950s when it was removed to the front of Landmark House, fell into disrepair and was never replaced. The Hanley block was demolished in 1977. Anyone with memories of the plaque is invited to let us know on Facebook, Instagram or by email info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org or by phone 802.549.4582.

For a look at the U.S. commemoration, visit: WWI Centennial Network <http://www.ww1-centennial.org/> and the United States World War One Centennial Commission www.worldwar1centennial.org.

National Media Award for MHS and GNAT-TV Series "Time Stamp"

MHS curator Shawn Harrington and Hoss Wuerslin, a producer with our local public access television station GNAT-TV, recently received a national award for their show "Time Stamp," a series of short videos about Manchester's history. The 2018 Hometown Media Awards are given annually by the Alliance for Community Media, a national organization that promotes civic engagement through community media.

You can view the winning videos online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aniS3dVE8kg&feature=youtu.be>



Sharing History in the Age of Social Media

SHAWN HARRINGTON, CURATOR

In 2013 when I presented the idea of creating a Manchester Historical Society page on Facebook to our board of directors, my suggestion was met with some serious skepticism. A few board members did not use social media and did not particularly like the idea. Others who were familiar with Facebook wondered if it was the right place for us to be publishing. In the end, we agreed to launch what is called a “closed group page,” which would allow us to focus on Manchester and the Mountains while keeping away any “trolls” and unwanted solicitors. Seven thousand plus posts and tens of thousands of comments later, the MHS group page has nearly 2,000 members, checking in from Manchester to Alaska and all across America, as well as around the globe from Canada, Germany and even Australia!

The conversation is fun and enlightening...and incredibly valuable to recording the history of Manchester.

In the group format, it's a person who appears vs. the organization, which makes the experience more personal and more approachable. Administrating the page takes a lot of time, patience, and planning with much trial and error. Constant monitoring is required to answer questions, as well as add to the conversations that can sometimes veer onto topics far removed from the original post!

The historical narrative remains the focus, and through the page we have united with old friends, made new ones, and most important, recorded scores of memories. Members on the page range from teenagers to great grandparents, those new to the area, and others from families who have roots back to the earliest days of Manchester.

A book, magazine article, or oral recording could never capture such wide-ranging anecdotes and the page has become a searchable repository on subjects dating as far back as the American Revolution to stories about favorite eateries (The Blue Bird Diner especially). To date, the most popular post, hands down, was about Phil Squires, longtime custodian at Manchester Elementary School, whose image brought out the sweetest memories and praise.

Facebook has been getting a bad rap recently but we have found social media to be a powerful medium in our mission to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester, Vermont. We hope you will join the group if you have not already and if you are a member, let us hear some stories from you. Many thanks to all those who have posted. The conversation is fun and enlightening...and incredibly valuable to recording the history of Manchester. You can find us on Facebook at Manchester Vermont Historical Society. We are also on Instagram (mhsvermont) and Twitter (@VTMHS). And please let us know what you would like to see more of on our social media.

Thanks to all
our members & our
Corporate Sponsors
for your support
this year.

Your gifts make
our work possible.

We'd Love to See You This Summer. Join Us!

Manchester Street Fest

Friday, June 15 and Friday, July 16 from 6-9 p.m.

Manchester's outdoor celebration of the summer on Main Street. Look for our booth!

Depot Days

Thursday, June 28 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Join us as we listen to members of some well-known local families describe what it was like to grow up in Manchester's Depot neighborhood. Refreshments will follow.

Neighborhood Walk

Thursday, July 5th from 6-7 p.m.

Walk on Bonnet Street with Mike Powers who grew up in this neighborhood and will lead the tour.

VHS at MHS: Traveling Treasures

Thursday, July 12 from 7-8 p.m.

Come hear Vermont Historical Society Executive Director, Steve Perkins, describe historical events through a selection of VHS treasures. Our curator Shawn Harrington will bring out a few of our own treasures as well.

Lucioni in Manchester: An Artists Life

Saturday, July 28 from 4-6 p.m.

Opening reception of exhibit at the Southern Vermont Arts Center, Arkell Gallery, Yester House.



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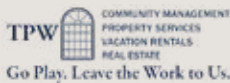
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The mission of the Manchester Historical Society is to collect, preserve, interpret and present the story of Manchester through the research collection, exhibitions, programs, and publications.

1897 SOCIETY



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Rescued Mural To Be Restored This Summer

There were many of them around Manchester and now there's only one. The large mural painted by Fritz Dillmann in the 1950s was rescued from destruction by local contractor Brent Herrmann several years ago when he was demolishing the old Abbot and Staples gas station building on Main Street. Brent has been kindly storing it for us ever since.

This summer we are bringing it out of storage and sending it to be restored in preparation to displaying it permanently. Painted on plaster and lathe, the mural is in relatively good shape but has cracked in several places. The cracks will be filled in and the painting restored by Richard Farley and his team at Wood and Signs.



“Fritz Dillmann has been painting an extremely interesting and novel mural map on the upper part of one of the walls in the new Johnson Shell service station. The map depicts U.S. Route 7 through this area and the various connecting routes. The map is embellished with characteristic Dillmann sketches.”

— Clipping from the *Manchester Journal*, January 18, 1951, shared with us by his daughter Kathe

PLANNING A GIFT FOR THE FUTURE



You have no doubt heard it before: including your favorite nonprofit in your will is a simple way to ensure that what you care about most will endure into the future. Many people who feel they cannot give significantly to their favorite charity find this a very appealing way to make a gift in the future. A planned gift allows you to contribute to the long-term health of MHS

with a gift small or large. Providing MHS with support through your will reflects your generous spirit into the future while giving you complete flexibility to adjust your gift if necessary. Bequests can be made through a specific cash amount or a percentage of your estate. If you would like to know more about how a bequest works, please contact MHS at 802.549.4582 or consult your lawyer.

IF YOU HAVE artifacts, documents, or memorabilia related to the history of Manchester, our curator, Shawn Harrington, would be very interested to speak to you. You can contact him at info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org or through private message on Facebook.