



Manchester HISTORICAL SOCIETY



APPRECIATION REPORT 2021-2022

WE LOVE TO SHARE
Manchester's history
with the community



AND THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY

last year MHS launched a free, GPS-based audio walking tour of Manchester, offered programs for all ages, and collected new treasures and preserved existing ones.



COMMUNICATIONS We took our communications program to a whole new level this past year, thanks to your generous support. In partnership with the nationally known app developer *TravelStories*, we are now able to bring the history of 20 places in Manchester to a worldwide audience.



Whether you view it on your cellphone or on your computer, you can enjoy the photos and narration by our curator Shawn Harrington and Board member Katie McNabb. We were fortunate to have the assistance

of Burr and Burton Academy's music teacher Neil Freebern who made it possible for us to record the narratives in a professional setting.



LEFT: The history of the Rail Trail drew an enthusiastic group of walkers.

BELOW TOP: Shawn Harrington astonished the students at Long Trail School with a local tale of American folklore.

BELOW BOTTOM: The history of Burr and Burton Academy was the fall program with Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning.

PROGRAMS We were once again thrilled to partner with several local nonprofits to bring you some fascinating programs this past year. In collaboration with the Green Mountain Academy for Lifelong Learning, we presented programs on the Rich Lumber Company, the Stone Gardens of Manchester, and the Equinox and the Worthy Inn and their place in the history of Manchester as a destination resort.



Our collaboration with the Vermont Folklife Center resulted in a permanent marker outside Factory Point Cemetery tying an early tale of a

young woman's death to the folklore tradition in New England about vampires. We are grateful to GNAT-TV for providing our videos on their website gnat-tv.org.

Our curator Shawn Harrington presented programs for Equinox Village, Long Trail School, and Manchester Elementary Middle School.

TOGETHER, we are preserving our community's HISTORY



PRESERVATION Thanks to you, we have the means to preserve every item added to the collection in archival-quality boxes and envelopes to ensure their survival. The work of entering the information about these items into PastPerfect continues, thanks in large part to our volunteers Flo Ewasko and Helen Gawlik. The number of hours they have spent is truly heroic.

Twenty-six new gifts arrived in the collection this past year as we continue to receive gifts from near and far. We are so grateful to all those who have entrusted their family treasures to us.





Award of Excellence for the MHS TravelStorys App

In October the Vermont Historical Society and the League of Local History Societies and Museums honored the Manchester Historical Society and Curator Shawn Harrington with an Award for Excellence for our TravelStorys app. The award was presented to Shawn by the Vermont Historical Society's Executive Director Steve Perkins at their annual meeting held in Manchester.

1897 LEGACY SOCIETY

The 1897 Legacy Society honors the generous donors who have made a planned gift to MHS. We are so grateful to them for sharing our love of Manchester history and our commitment to making sure our community's stories are available to future generations.

**Barbara and Mike Powers
Ruth Stewart**

When you support the Manchester Historical Society with a gift from your estate, you become a member of special group of individuals who recognize the ongoing value of MHS and the importance of its place in our community's future. If you would like to know more about how to make a planned gift, please contact Frederica Templeton

by email info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org
or by telephone 802.549.4582.



SERVICE AWARDS

The MHS Board of Directors awarded the **2022 Exceptional Service Awards** to Lisa Wessner of Manchester and the late Nancy H. Otis and Edwin L. Bigelow. Lisa was honored for her many invaluable contributions to MHS. As executor of her uncle Herb Wessner's estate, she worked closely with curator Shawn Harrington to bring the most valuable items in his collection to MHS. Lisa's expertise in information technology was critical to helping the society set up and maintain the computers and software necessary to fulfill its mission. She also served as secretary of the Board of Directors from 2016-2021. A 1990 graduate of Burr and Burton Seminary (now Academy), Lisa is the IT manager at r.k. Miles in Manchester.

Nancy H. Otis and Edwin L. Bigelow were honored for their long and dedicated service to the growth of the Manchester Historical Society during the 1950s and 60s and their authorship of the first complete history of Manchester. Conceived in February 1960, *Manchester Vermont 1761-1961 A Pleasant Land Among the Mountains* is the definitive history of Manchester up to 1961, the year it was published by the Town of Manchester.

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 \$88,683.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and completeness of our annual report. Errors do happen, however, so do let us know if there are any mistakes or omissions by calling us at 802.549.5482 or by email: info@manchesterhistoricalsocietyvt.org.



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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.

Your Contributions Last Year Made It Possible for MHS to

GIVE this lovely 19th century dress a proper home where it will be preserved for future generations to admire.



PUT the history of Manchester in the hands of an unlimited audience



WE THANK YOU!

INSPIRE students to learn about what lies behind the buildings in our community

Thank you to our 2021-2022 CORPORATE SPONSORS for their interest in Manchester's history and their generous support.

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