



Norwich Historical Society

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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HOURS

Wednesday and Thursday
 10:00 am – Noon
 Saturday 10:00 am – Noon
 June through October
 and by appointment
 277 Main Street, PO Box 1680
 Norwich, VT 05055
 802.649.0124
info@norwichhistory.org
www.norwichhistory.org



LOOKING FORWARD AT NHS

In 2019 the Norwich Historical Society board of trustees continued discussions around facilities needs and strategic planning.

Thanks to a grant from the Norwich Women's Club, we were able to hire summer intern Kevin Hybels to digitize our collection of oral histories, videos, and other media. This vulnerable collection is now better indexed, stored, and available to the public.

Our 2020 exhibit, programs, and online offerings feature Norwich women. The theme was inspired by the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote and the long suffrage movement that preceded it. For 200 years, Norwich women have advocated for change, taken stands on abolition, temperance, and the right to vote, and contributed to our schools and community. They have sewn, knitted, and quilted. They have marched, petitioned, debated, and raised funds. They have fought for their rights and voices, and while doing so have crafted a better world.

Just after we launched our women's history exhibit, the Covid-19 pandemic struck, forcing us to close the Lewis House. For all of us, it is a challenging time, requiring re-prioritization of programs, budgets, and energies. We have postponed our House & Garden Tour until spring 2021 and are unsure about our fall Antiques Show. These are our two major

fundraising events, which in normal years, combined with our business sponsors, provide a substantial portion of our operating budget. While we had to postpone all our spring in-person programs and events, we were able to add a wide variety of new digital offerings. Since the stay-at-home order began we have seen a huge increase in requests for community assistance. Teachers and families have asked for curriculum materials and activities for children, community members have reached out for projects to occupy their time, middle and high school students have requested homework support, and our volunteers have needed social connections and meaningful work. Much of our work has pivoted to meet these emerging needs. It is an affirmation of our work and we are glad we can meet these needs while working remotely.

The Norwich Historical Society meets its operations budget through memberships, annual gifts, grants, fundraising events, and a town appropriation. We

asked our members to renew a bit early this spring and the support has been tremendous. You are the roots of all we do. Thank you for the many ways you support your community's historical society and history.

Please check out our website or the listserv for further updates. I express my well wishes to all of you in this very challenging time. When this is over, Norwich Historical Society will still be here for all of us.

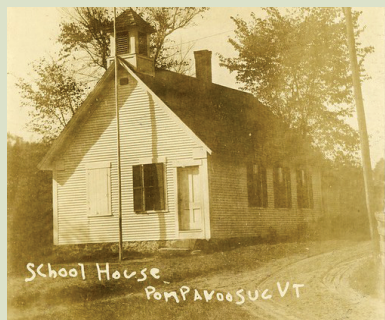
– Sarah Rooker, Director



NHS helped celebrate Memorial Day in 2019 with an exhibit on Norwich veterans in the bandstand.

New! Driving Tour Podcasts

NHS launched three podcast driving tours this spring. Each thematic tour features 8-9 stops in Norwich. These free podcasts are available through the NHS website: www.norwichhistory.org, iTunes, Apple Podcasts, and Google Play Music. Downloadable maps and directions guide you as you head out for a beautiful drive or bicycle ride around Norwich to hear stories and learn some history. And you don't even need to get out of your car to enjoy! See more on page 4.



ANNUAL FUND

January 1 - December 2019

Bill and Betty Ann Aldrich
Jacqueline Allen
Marguerite and Thomas Ames
James and Judith Bernat
Alan Berolzheimer and
Nancy Cressman
Elizabeth Blum and
Nelson Kasfir
Christine Bothe
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Carolyn M. Clinton
Nancy Osgood
Nancy Peabody
Anne Corning Pearson
Merrill Perkins
Beth Perry and Jeff Reed



Marion Cross School students learn their lessons at a one-room schoolhouse recreated for our education exhibit in 2019. Heidi Webster presides as school teacher.

Sue and Bob Pitiger
Barbara Porter
Tom and Misty Porter
Carolyn Purcell
Lindsay Putnam and
Brian Kunz
Julia Rabig and Jeffrey Sharlet
Ned and Cathie Redpath
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David R. Sargent
Sue Schiller
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Babcock
Jonathan Streeter and
Elizabeth McKinstry
Richard and Melinda Stucker
Signe Taylor and
Joel Stettenheim
Marie McAndrew-Taylor and
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Ross and Sandra Virginia
Suzanne and Graham Wallis
John Watanabe and
Deborah Nichols
Donna and Philip Wheeler
Gillian F. White
Marcia and Bruce Williams

FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Barrette Family Fund
Jack and Dorothy Byrne
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Hypertherm Hope Foundation
Norwich Lions Club
Norwich Women's Club
Frank and Brinna Sands
Foundation
Town of Norwich

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William Aldrich
Carolyn Purcell
Jay and Deb Van Arman
Anonymous

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Edith Adams Clark
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Dana and Jerry Ireland
Asoong Elliott
Richard and Robin Brooks
Nick Folley
Gillian F. White
Dan and Bunny Fraser
Daniel Fraser
John Girard
Reeve Williams
Nancy Hoggson
Liz Blum and Nelson Kasfir
Bill Osgood
Richard and Cynthia Chapman
Nancy Osgood
Rosemary Rieser
Len, Tim, and Abby Rieser
Mary Ann Smith
Barry David Smith
Kit Barrett Tillinghurst
Penny Folley Miller
Kimberly King Zea
Molly King
Sarah Rooker,
Roger Zaenglein,
Anonymous (2)

2019 BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Historical Society is grateful to our sponsors
who underwrite our programs and events

Steward Level (\$500+)

Jane and Bill Stetson
Windows and Doors by Brownell
Webster and Donovan Excavating, Inc.

Sustainer Level (\$250+)

Building Energy
Chippers
Clean Yield Asset Management
Design Source
GKS Exterior Designs
G. R. Porter & Sons, Inc.
Ledyard National Bank
Otto and Associates
Riverlight Builders
Stave Puzzles

Supporter Level (\$100+)

Andrea's Hair Studio
Bushway Insurance
Children's Art Studio Norwich
Crossroad Farmstand at Norwich
Dan & Whit's General Store

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Morano Gelato
Norwich Bookstore
The Norwich Inn
Norwich Solar Technologies
Norwich Square Properties
Partridge House
The Richards Group
River Road Veterinary Clinic
Smith & Vansant Architects
Solaflect Energy

In kind:

GIS GPS Mapping
Leahy Press
Spencer-Julian Antiques
W. A. Smith Auctions



An artistic rendering of the NHS
teacher by a first grade visitor
from the Marion Cross School.



Constant maintenance is
required at the historic Lewis
House. Roger Blake tends to the
fence with a fresh coat of paint.



The children aren't the only ones who have fun decorating the NHS for the holidays. Left to right: Sarah Rooker, Carla Vincent and Heidi Webster with decorations made by MCS students.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

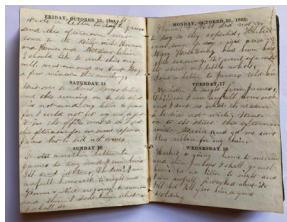
Each year, members of the community offer the Society donations of objects, documents, photos and published material for our permanent collection. Each donation is carefully considered by a Collections Committee for acceptance. Criteria include its relevance to Norwich in the past. Once accepted, the item is photographed, entered into the collections database, and carefully stored using archival materials. Here's a sampling of some items donated in the past year.



Above, a watercolor painting of the Olcott/Johnson/Zea Farm on Maple Hill Road by Susan Beardsley. A gift of the artist.

At left, a whimsical 1974 sculpture by puppeteer Basil Milosoroff, who was known widely for his original puppets and shows for Norwich children. Donated by Peter Keene.

The diary of 15-year-old Mary Slack, written in 1865, provides insight into what life was like for a teenager in Norwich at the time. While the NHS has had the transcript of this diary for some time, the donor, Mary's descendant Jessica Winslow, was inspired to donate the original this past year.



This antique Windsor armchair was donated by Roger and Helen Hutchinson. Roger is a descendant of one of Norwich's first settled families. The chair has been in the family for many generations.

Thank you to all who generously share their family treasures and history with the Norwich Historical Society. If you have special items of historical importance to Norwich, please contact us!

ANTIQUES SHOW 2020? Save the date: Saturday, September 19. We'll have to wait and see, announcement sometime this summer.

2020 EXHIBIT:

Norwich Women Crafting the Future: 200 Years of Activism.

NHS plans to extend this exhibit into next year with the hope we can reopen and invite the public. In the meantime, the exhibit is now online at www.norwichhistory.com. Special thanks go out to Elizabeth Rooker for making this happen!

BOARD COMINGS AND GOINGS:

We thank **Bambi Chapman** and **Gail Sanders** for their hard work and dedication for six years as board members. Bambi Chapman served as Collections Committee chair and Gail Sanders served as President of the board of trustees. You will both be missed! We welcome **Judy Brown** and **Cheri Mather** to the board.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS!



NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Condensed Balance Sheets as of:

	9/30/18	9/30/19
Assets	\$43,373.00	\$43,738.00
Cash & Equivlent	\$55,625.44	\$70,041.48
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$543,601.47	\$521,905.47
Total Assets	\$599,226.91	\$591,946.95
Liabilities & Equity		
Current Liabilities	\$727.00	\$943.92
Retained Earnings	\$544,306.80	\$532,818.72
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	\$57,727.70	\$39,655.50
Restricted Funds	\$14,470.81	\$25,958.89
Net Income	-\$18,005.40	-\$7,430.08
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$599,226.91	\$591,946.95

Condensed Operating Profit & Loss Statement (without Depreciation) for Years ending:

	9/30/18	9/30/19
Revenue		
Annual Campaign	\$15,613.00	\$20,982.09
Membership	\$13,130.00	\$11,605.00
Business Donors	\$7,700.00	\$5,750.00
Town Appropriation	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Special Events	\$10,852.00	\$7,105.00
Other	\$4,467.06	\$3,418.14
Total Revenue	\$59,762.06	\$56,860.23
Expenses		
Office Operations	\$37,649.07	\$40,460.15
Buildings & Grounds	\$8,624.00	\$9,343.09
Other	\$6,645.24	\$4,279.15
Total Expenses	\$52,918.31	\$54,082.39
Net Operating Income	\$6,843.75	\$2,777.84

MEMBERSHIP

Benefactor (\$500+)

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Stuart Close and Kristin Brown
Becky Cook and Natalie Boze
Tom and Robin Davis
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Polly Forcier
Laurie and Jerry Halpern
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Margo Nutt
Judith Pond
Carolyn Purcell
Stan Wallace
Chris Weinmann
Roger and Nancy Zaenglein

Driving Podcasts

Continued from Page One

Norwich Schoolhouse Driving Tour

Narrated by two beloved former Norwich educators, this tour takes you to three old schoolhouses and to the center of town to hear stories about early schooling.

Norwich Early Settlement Driving Tour

This tour explores the old roads and routes of the Abenaki and first English settlers and takes you to some of Norwich's oldest homes. Narrated by Norwich residents who live in the homes and neighborhoods on the tour.



Rivers and Mills Driving Tour



Explore the geology and history of the Connecticut River, Blood Brook, and Ompompanoosuc River. Learn about how the climate and humans have shaped this river valley.

A new series of **comic books** are being developed to connect our younger audiences with these special Norwich places and history: www.norwichhistory.org.

Thanks to Lyssa Papazian, Brian Knight, John and Donna Moody, and Hartgen Archaeological Associates for their research; Jonathan Frishtick for developing our map; Doug Lufkin for designing the accompanying brochure; Wendy Thompson for helping to coordinate the podcasts; and CATV for the use of their recording studio.

The podcasts were produced by Sarah Rooker of the Norwich Historical Society with support from the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission. Special thanks to the National Park Service for its contribution through the Certified Local Government Program, administered by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.



With Lindsay Putnam as School Marm, a one-room schoolhouse float proceeds down Main Street for the Norwich Parade in August 2019.