



NORWICH  
Historical Society  
and Community Center

# Norwich Historical Society

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## LOOKING BACK, AND FORWARD, AT NHS

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### HOURS

By Appointment Only  
during Covid

277 Main Street • PO Box 1680  
Norwich, VT 05055  
802.649.0124  
info@norwichhistory.org  
www.norwichhistory.org



This has been quite a year. All of us have been challenged, but so much good has also happened, and we're grateful to all who have supported us in our work to assist those sheltering-in-place, learning at home, and just coping with the world.

Our Board of Trustees has met throughout the year to work on all sorts of projects designed to ensure the stability and financial health of NHS during COVID. They have also mowed the lawn, led walking tours, kept a table at the Farmer's Market, painted circles, led school programs, created exhibits, and cataloged collections.

This spring we launched three driving tour podcasts, funded by a grant from the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation through the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission. The Norwich Lions Club funded an accompanying Early Settlement comic book, drawn by Emily Zea. The Norwich Women's Club has funded a Rivers and Mills comic book. The podcasts have been downloaded over 4,000 times and many Norwich school children participated while studying at home. This fall, Vermont Historical Society presented NHS with an award of excellence for this project.

As fall approached and Covid wore on, we launched the Circles Project as a way to stop and reflect upon what has supported our families, neighbors, and community through the months. Over 200 residents painted reflections onto canvas circles which we then mounted as a mural on an exterior wall at Dan & Whit's. The beautiful mural (pictured above) stands as a testimony to the strength of community. You can't imagine how many hours Wendy Thompson, Tracy Smith, Cheri Mather, Carla Vincent, Nancy Cressman,

and Scott Miller spent preparing the canvas for the project and assembling and mounting the mural. Many thanks to Nick and Gail Sanders through the Hypertherm Hope Foundation, the Norwich Public Library, and Dan & Whit's for sponsoring this project.

We are a membership-led organization and members are at the root of all we do and we thank you. Many members renewed their membership early this spring, which greatly helped us when we lost our major House & Garden fundraiser.

Thankfully, with just a few adjustments, we were able to hold our annual Norwich Antiques Show. It was one of our most successful shows to date. Many thanks to Gail Torkelson for all she did to ensure that the show went smoothly.

2021 will bring much of the same. This winter's "Discovering Norwich" program series offers talks and workshops for Norwich residents to learn more about our town's history, discover Norwich's winter landscape, and meet their neighbors. It benefits Norwich's restaurants and The Haven with the registration fee being a take-out meal. This spring's House & Garden Tour will be a collaborative program with Norwich Recreation Department to benefit NHS and Norwich's working farms. Participants will visit the farms and gather local ingredients for a meal. Pop-up exhibits and a podcast will accompany the tour. Of course, the Antiques Show will go on (with all fingers crossed) this September.

- Sarah Rooker, NHS Director



Women finally won the right to vote on August 18, 1920. NHS Board member Carolyn Clinton was among many who turned out to celebrate the centennial of this milestone on Main Street.

# MEMBERSHIP

*New members are starred \**

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**Nancy Osgood**  
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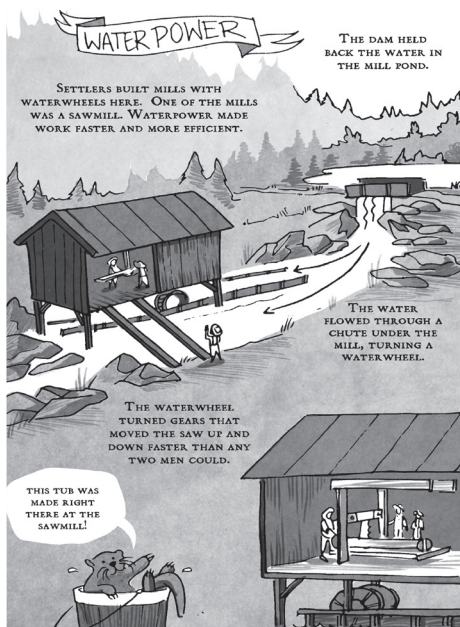


## CONNECTING THE PAST TO THE PRESENT



### NHS PODCASTS WIN HISTORY PRIZE

The Vermont Historical Society awarded NHS a Local History Achievement Award for its podcast driving tours released in 2020. The award recognizes the exceptional work being done by individuals and community heritage organizations throughout the state to collect, preserve and share Vermont's rich history. Covid prevented a celebration of this distinctive recognition. The three podcasts – Norwich Schoolhouses, Early Settlement, and Rivers and Mills – offer a fun and easy way to safely explore Norwich history while we shelter in place. All are downloadable for free on-line at our website along with maps, narrative and a comic book for kids to color. Watch for a new podcast this year featuring Mills and Rivers - a sneak peak at the artwork for the comic book created by **Emily Zea** is below.



2020 brought so many opportunities to consider how the past informs the present. Our exhibit, **Norwich Women Crafting the Future: 200 Years of Women's Activism**, examined the many issues Norwich women took up through the years, including abolition, temperance, suffrage, and climate change. We also looked at the many ways Norwich women supported the community through war and epidemics, such as raising funds for refugees, supporting troops with letters, and making bandages. This exhibit may be viewed on-line at [www.norwichhistory.org](http://www.norwichhistory.org).

2020's racial reckonings as propelled by the Black Lives Matter movement prompted us to consider how we have told the stories of people of color in Norwich, an issue the Board is taking up.

We also began collecting Covid-related objects, signs, photographs, and reflections. There is very little in our collection related to the 1918 flu pandemic and we wish to leave more documentation for the future. Thank you to the many people who took photographs and contributed their reflections to the archive, including the Marion Cross School 4th grade.

**Demo Sofronos** has been particularly helpful with his "About Norwich" documentation of the community this year.

We're so grateful to the youth who have volunteered throughout the year. **Kevin Hybels**, **Hank Trimble**, **Lauren Pidgeon**, and **James Eiler** have all worked at home and in person at NHS to bring you history content, create educational materials, and catalog collections.

**Board comings and goings:** We wish to thank **Annette Brown** and **Jonathan Streeter** for their hard work and dedication for six years as Board Members. Annette was a lead coordinator of the House & Garden Tour and coordinated publicity. Jonathan helped with school programs, led walking tours, and helped to maintain the Lewis House and grounds. You will both be missed! We welcome **Anna Adachi-Mejia**, **Wendy Thompson** and **JoAnne Withington** to the Board in 2021.

### NHS Financial Statement for 2020 Annual Report

#### Condensed Balance Sheet as of :

##### Assets

Cash & Equivalent	\$70,041.48	\$79,947.61
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$521,905.47	\$500,209.47
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$591,946.95</b>	<b>\$580,157.08</b>

##### Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities	\$943.92	\$1,621.16
Retained Earnings	\$532,818.72	\$532,824.49
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	\$39,655.50	\$32,225.42
Restricted Funds	\$25,958.89	\$25,953.12
Net Income	-\$7,430.08	-\$12,467.11
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</b>	<b>\$591,946.95</b>	<b>\$580,157.08</b>

#### Condensed Operating Profit & Loss Statement (without depreciation) for Years Ending:

##### Revenue

Annual Campaign	\$20,982.09	\$22,987.07
Membership	\$11,605.00	\$16,600.00
Business Donors	\$5,750.00	\$2,150.00
Town Appropriation	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Special Events	\$7,105.00	\$4,936.00
PPP Loan Forgiven		\$4,000.00
Restricted Funds	\$19,715.00	\$12,066.08
Other	\$3,418.14	\$6,477.98
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$76,575.23</b>	<b>\$77,217.13</b>

##### Expenses

Office Operations	\$40,460.15	\$43,789.70
Building & Grounds	\$9,343.09	\$6,646.12
Restricted Funds	\$8,226.92	\$13,367.32
Other	\$4,279.15	\$4,180.57
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$62,309.31</b>	<b>\$67,983.71</b>

<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$14,265.92</b>	<b>\$9,233.42</b>
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Roger Zaenglein  
Phil and Betsy Zea

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The Norwich Inn  
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### Supporter Level (\$100-249)

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HP Roofing  
Norwich Bookstore

## FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Barrette Family Fund  
Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation  
Hypertherm Hope Foundation  
Norwich Lions Club  
Norwich Womens Club  
Frank & Brinna Sands Foundation  
Stetteheim Foundation  
Ann H. Symington Foundation  
Town of Norwich  
Network for Good

Covid-19 kept us from holding our annual House & Garden fundraiser in 2020. We are grateful to the following friends who made donations or donated tickets to the cause:

Cinny Benson,  
Rebecca Faill  
Susan Haedrich  
Elizabeth Robbie  
Candace Vandouris  
Susan Voake

## 17th ANNUAL NORWICH ANTIQUES SHOW

**Saturday, September 18, 2021, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Cost: \$5 (12 & under free)

Are you looking for that perfect antique for your home? This wonderful show and sale attracts some of the region's finest dealers, showcasing fine country to formal antiques on the beautiful grounds of the Norwich Historical Society. Like last year, we have spaced dealers' tents to allow social distancing. We'll be holding our annual antiques "Road Show" evaluating the value of your own treasures (photo at right); and a "Doctor is In" tent where experts will be available to look at your antiques and answer your questions about storage, repair, and care. Many thanks to Gail Torkelson for organizing the show.



*Andrew Katz, of Windham Antiques Appraisal Services advising on the origin and value of antiques at last years event.*