

NORWICH

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Photograph of the Lewis House by Emma Cottage.



Old-time work and play was the theme for summer camp. Churning butter proved to be a popular and delicious activity. Cora Swenson takes her turn.

Norwich Historical Society

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY IN 2022



We are looking forward to a year of programming focused on how we can work together to build community, whether it be through volunteering, becoming change-makers, or learning to talk and listen.

Our Annual Meeting features Susan Clark, author of *Slow Democracy*, who will talk about the importance of participatory democracy and town meetings in the 21st century. Two new comic books explore how to be a change-maker, providing examples from past and present. Watch the *Norwich Times* for an article about one remarkable woman who dedicated her life to her neighborhood community.

This winter's *Discover Norwich* program is a way for you to meet your neighbors (on Zoom), hear stories about the community, and learn how to get involved. Like last year, we'll be supporting our neighbors through this program, donating to the Norwich Heating Assistance Fund.

Our upcoming exhibit, *The Cut Bible: Mending the Spaces Between*, is a history exhibit with contemporary art. The theme has been chosen in response to an artifact in the collection—a 19th-century church Bible from the Norwich Congregational Church that was vandalized in 1848. After finding it, the church deacon left a note to "all future generations" telling what had happened. His note has led us to develop a project that considers what happens when people

lose their ability to talk and listen to each other. How can we mend the spaces in between so we have a world of civility? Artists will be creating responses to this theme.

Programs to accompany the exhibit are under development. We anticipate a history talk, outdoor art workshops, and a public art piece created by the community.

Two new comic books, created in collaboration with Emily Zea, recount the remarkable commitment to activism and change in Norwich over 200 years and explain how town meetings have allowed (and still allow) us to participate in our own governance. We'll be developing lesson plans to go with the comic book series next.

This fall will bring back the fabulous *Norwich Antiques Show* and a fall foliage *Feast from the Farms*. These are our two big fundraisers.

We wouldn't be able to do our work without the generosity of our members, donors, and business sponsors. Your gifts of money and time, as well as your lovely notes and friendly chats on the street, provide us with the financial means and renewed energies and spirit to do all that we do. Thank you!

- Sarah Rooker, NHS Director

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Above: Norwich Lions Club at the Community Resource Fair. Below: Happy bicyclists on the Feast from the Farms tour.



THE BARSTOW FAMILY COLLECTION

We receive donations to our collections throughout the year. They range from photographs, to clothing, to tools. This past year, Charlotte Metcalf donated a remarkable collection of letters, photographs, farm receipts, and a memoir documenting life on her hillside farm in the first half of the 20th century.

Clinton Barstow arrived at Hillside Farm in 1916. He and his wife Evangeline worked hard on the farm, keeping a small herd of Hereford cows which were well-suited for grazing. Their most important cash crop was maple syrup, tapping around 325 trees.

Henry C. Barstow, their son, wrote: "I have enjoyed many good days...I saw the last of the old days before there was so much motorization... horses were used and corn and hay were much more hard work."



As Clinton and Evangeline aged, it became ever-harder to manage the farm. Towards the end of Evangeline's life, the farm was sold to the Lacey family who continued the tradition of sugaring for many years.

Stay tuned for more Barstow family stories in 2022.

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

2021 was a busy year. We launched Discover Norwich, a lecture series on Zoom as a way to connect us all while isolating and to support Norwich's restaurants and the Haven's food pantry. We raised over \$5,000 for the Haven, enjoyed many meals, and learned about Norwich's past, peoples, and landscape. Over 200 people tuned in.

We were all about town with walking tours, summer camp scavenger hunts, and a family sheep-to-shawl festival. Our new Feast from the Farms fundraiser toured Norwich's working farms and historic hill farms. Bicyclists and drivers listened to a podcast, enjoyed exhibits, and picked up delicious food as they moved from farm to farm. We were delighted to meet so many new people and amazed at how many chose to bicycle Norwich's hills. We culminated the season's programming with a Community Resource Fair with just about all of Norwich's nonprofits gathering on our lawn to share their work and meet new and old residents.

We continued to care for the Lewis House and grounds—this year encouraging the bats in our attic to find new homes. New donations to the collection also found new homes in acid-free boxes. Nancy Osgood scanned hundreds of photographs while Becky Cook cataloged a large collection of letters. Our collections made their way online thanks to Kevin Hybels and Heidi Webster, who have been regularly writing blog posts about Norwich's past.

Board comings and goings: We thank Alan Berolzheimer, David Callaway, and Corb Moister for their hard work and dedication for seven years as Board Members, staying on an extra year during Covid. Alan served four years as NHS President and as chair of our Outreach Committee. Dave has been writing (and will continue to write!) articles for the *Norwich Times*. He also spends many hours tending the lawn at the Lewis House. Corb stewarded our finances for several years and has been on the Executive Committee, guiding all aspects of NHS. You will all be missed! We welcome Terry Appleby, Cameron Cross, and Tammy Heesakker to the Board in 2022.

Condensed Balance Sheet as of :	9/30/20	9/30/21
Assets		
Cash & Equivalent	\$79,947.61	\$79,930.75
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$500,209.47	\$491,319.47
Total Assets	\$580,157.08	\$571,250.22
Liabilities & Equity		
Current Liabilities	\$1,621.16	\$785.99
Retained Earnings	\$532,824.49	\$532,763.77
Unrestricted Retained Earnings	\$32,225.42	\$19,758.31
Restricted Funds	\$25,953.12	\$39,013.84
Net Income	-\$12,467.11	-\$21,071.69
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$580,157.08	\$571,250.22
Condensed Operating Profit & Loss Statement		
(without depreciation) for Years Ending:	9/30/20	9/30/21
Revenue		
Annual Campaign	\$22,987.07	\$20,054.53
Membership	\$16,600.00	\$17,400.00
Business Donors	\$2,150.00	\$5,100.00
Town Appropriation	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Special Events	\$4,936.00	\$8,771.50
PPP Loan Forgiven	\$4,000.00	\$6,000.00
Restriced Funds	\$12,066.08	\$14,994.53
Other	\$6,477.98	\$1,691.22
Total Revenue	\$77,217.13	\$82,011.78
Expenses		
Office Operations	\$43,789.70	\$45,869.12
Building & Grounds	\$6,646.12	\$14,346.28
Restricted Funds	\$13,367.32	\$18,633.81
Other	\$4,180.57	\$2,344.26
Total Expenses	\$67,983.71	\$81,193.47

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18th ANNUAL NORWICH ANTIQUES SHOW Saturday, September 17, 2022, 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. We'll be holding our annual antiques "Road Show" evaluating the value of your own treasures; 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.

Marie McAndrew-Taylor and **Thomas Taylor** Signe Taylor and Joel Stettenheim Wendy Thompson Andrew and Gail Torkelson Martha Valen Jay and Deborah Van Arman Carla Vincent and John Vincent Jonathan and Priscilla Vincent Ross and Sandra Virginia Susan and Ronald Voake Suzanne and Graham Wallis Steven C. Wang Heidi Webster Jack and Elizabeth Weingarten Renee Wells Philip and Donna Wheeler Stuart and Tilda White Gillian F. White

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