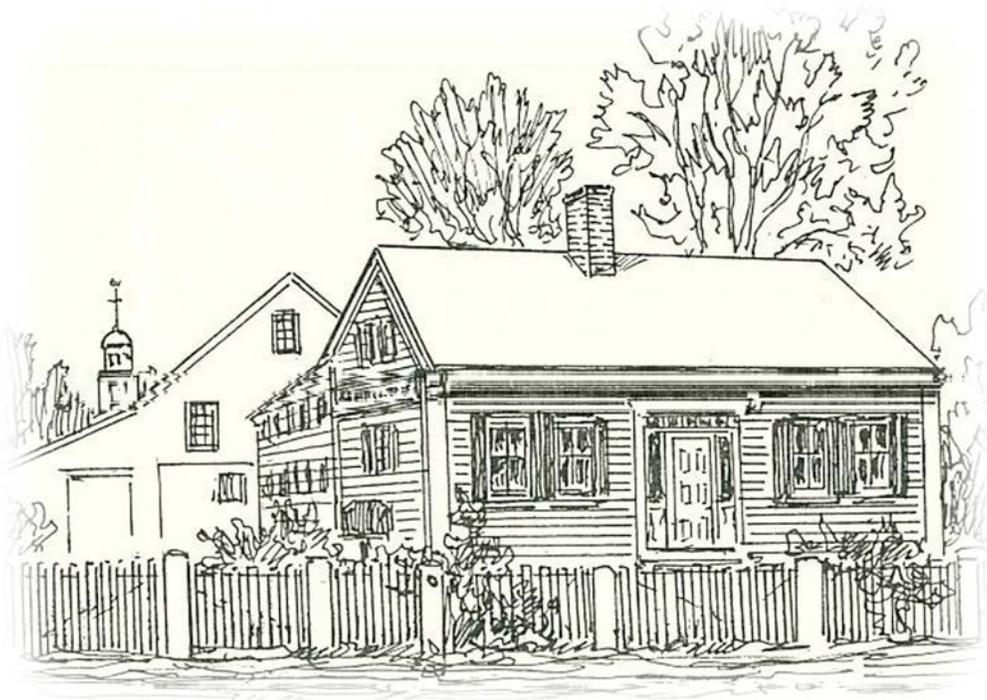


SANDWICH
SOCIETY
HISTORICAL



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
❧
**NOVEMBER 7,
2018**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA.....	2
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2017.....	3
TREASURER’S REPORTS.....	6
2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF LIST.....	9
2018 COMMITTEES.....	10
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE.....	11
COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBIT COMMITTEE.....	12
FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.....	13
PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE.....	14
EDUCATION AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE.....	15
FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE.....	17
DIRECTOR’S REPORT.....	17

The mission of the Sandwich Historical Society is to collect and preserve the material culture and historical record of the town of Sandwich and to use these resources in service to the public through educational experiences and outreach to the community.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- 6:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner
- 6:45 p.m. Annual Meeting
- Call to Order
- Welcome to Members
Geoff Burrows, President
- Reading and Approval of Minutes
Barbara Pries, Secretary
- Financial Reports
Jon Taylor, Assistant Treasurer
- Nominating Committee
David Patridge, Chair
- Vote on Slate of Officers and Trustees
- 7:30 p.m. Program by Plymouth resident Doug McLane
“An Amateur Archaeologist’s Perspective on NH Prehistory”
- 8:15 p.m. Closing Remarks and Adjournment
Abby Hambrook, Director

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Geoff Burrows welcomed the group with the message at the end of the minutes, then continued with the business meeting.

Call to Order: With a reminder that the 2016 annual meeting minutes, and each committee's report, were in the booklet handed out, discussion or approval of the minutes was requested. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and approved.

Financial Report: Jon Taylor pointed out balance sheet numbers for the endowment, which we continue to preserve. The \$373,000 original endowment number has grown to over a million. We take out 4 ½ % every year for operations. We cover 50-60% of expenses from that 4 ½ %. Jon explained where the money came from to purchase the Heard Barn. For major maintenance we try to get grants. We're doing well. If anyone is interested in serving on the financial committee, they'd be welcome. Thank you, Jon, for your time and expertise.

Nominating Committee: There were three openings for trustee members to be filled. Ben Bullard and David Patridge presented the slate, including new trustees Helen Ingalls, Franz Nicolay, and Denise Read. Moved and approved to accept the new slate of trustees.

End of Business meeting. Abby Hambrook introduced program on genealogy with Mike and Kate Lancor.

Welcome Message from the President: I want to welcome all of you guys, and I really appreciate your support, and the fact that you've come out after four or five days of no electricity, possibly. I always like to talk about Professor Cornelius Weygandt, as I did at the picnic for Old Home Week. In 1924, he spoke at the Old Home Week picnic, and his talk was about 'A Goodly Heritage' and the appreciation that he felt for what had been left to the people of 1924. That's how I feel about my situation in 2017. A Goodly Heritage has been left to us in this generation - a gift that has been given to us. How are we taking care of that gift, and how will we be leaving it for the next generation?

Over the last ten years we've accomplished quite a bit, and we're not finished yet. One of the core tenets of our efforts is putting energy into certain problems that come down the road. We'll discuss a problem and discuss it, and sometimes hit the wall, but we never quit. One of the core issues over and over again throughout the history of the society (Jon Taylor and I read most of the minutes from SHS from back in 1927) was the issue of storage. This year, with the great efforts of the Facilities and Development committees, we think we've solved it with the purchase of the Heard Barn in the

Village, so our next task is to repair the barn. We've already put a roof on the right-hand side; we're putting some new windows in; we're putting electricity into it; and we'll paint it in the spring time. So, we're taking on another project, but it's part of that Goodly Heritage – what we're going to pass on to the next generation, and the next generation is going to be far better off than us in 2017.

2017 was another good year. We had a great number of programs, and all kinds of events going on. 2017 was our 100th celebration - we have a commemorative book up front. We also have an Excursion Bulletin which I think is one of the better ones that I've been involved with, and it has a lot of good reading material. Read the annual report for more information on the great things that we did this year. This year happened because of the commitment of a great Board of Trustees - I thank all our trustees - by our great director, Abby Hambrook, by our staff, Lauren Hansen, Judy Stoehr and Jenny Vierus. Our volunteers are so important to us, including the Barn Boys – which is the Quimby Barn staff -Tom Whyte, Ray Elliot, Lew Vittum and Bruce Burrows and of course we can't forget Joan Cook. But above all, the strength of the Sandwich Historical Society is its membership. So I thank everyone that is a member. For 2017 I have to identify a couple of changes that have happened. Ellen Karnan stepped down as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and Barbara Pries stepped in as Interim Secretary. Jenny Vierus has stepped down as Administrative Assistant, although she is still our bookkeeper, and Jennifer Wright has shifted from trustee to Administrative Assistant. We also said goodbye to Amy Brown from the board, who left for personal reasons. I want to thank all of you who have been willing to make the commitment. Commitment is an important term in the historic preservation circles. The concept of a sense of place is important. I am chairman of the Historic District Commission, so I'm always discussing the Village and the buildings and the antique windows and the new and better windows, and all that, but the concept of the sense of place – I found this quote – “it's a unique collection of qualities and characteristics, visual, cultural, social and environmental that provide meaning to the location.” A sense of place is what makes one city or town different from another, but the sense of place is also what makes our surroundings worth caring about. And I think that's the essence of why all of us have put all the effort into the Sandwich Historical Society. What we do is worth caring about, this town is worth caring about, this historical society is worth caring about.

Finally, last month Joe McQuaid, who wrote a book called Cog Days came to Sandwich and talked about his book. It was a nice little event, and a couple of weeks ago, in McQuaid's column he discussed a sense of place that he discovered in Hancock, NH. He said “the secret sauce to vibrant communities was a commitment to the place by many of the residents therein”. Sounds simple, but it requires work and persistence,

and we have that in this room, and we have that in this Board of Trustees, and that's why we've accomplished so much in the last ten years.

Finally, going back to Professor Weygandt in 1924, and the Goodly Heritage left to his generation. He thought of the appreciation he felt for that, but also recognized that the Goodly Heritage is what we will leave to the next generation. We're working on that right now.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Sandwich Historical Society is on a calendar year basis for financial reporting, and this report covers the final results of operations for the year ending December 31, 2017 along with a summary of results for the first nine months of 2018.

Since our last Annual Meeting, the audit of 2016 was completed by the firm of Vachon Clukay & Company PC, with only one adjustment, the capitalization of electrical work done at the Quimby Barn. Our policy is to have a complete independent audit done every five years.

We ended 2017 with operating revenue of \$110,572 and operating expenses of \$115,192, which includes depreciation expense of \$17,777, for a net operating loss of \$4,620. We began with year with \$14,490 restricted for special projects and received \$38,858 during the year, and of those funds, we spent \$27,837 for rebuilding the rear doorway, porch and steps of the Marston House; added a roof over the entrance to the Quimby Transportation Museum; and put a new roof on the west side of the Heard Barn. At year end, we had \$26,511 in restricted funds for continuing projects.

The year 2017 was the celebration of 100 years since the founding of the Sandwich Historical Society, and the special programs for the year raised \$12,722 in funds above our normal operating budget, which were applied toward the cost of the special programs.

The market value of our endowment, managed by Charter Trust Company of Concord, NH, started 2017 at \$1,468,202. We withdrew \$65,530 for normal operations and \$20,000 toward the purchase of the Heard Barn, and ended the year with a market value of \$1,602,613. In order to preserve our endowment, we continue our policy of using no more than 4.5% of the prior four-year average value of the fund for the each year's normal operations. The endowment provided 59.3% of our normal operating revenues in 2017, with the balance provided by membership fees, admissions, shop sales, and contributions.

Through September 30, 2018, we have total operating revenues of \$82,166 and operating expenses before depreciation of \$73,854, and expect to provide for the Capital Reserve fund as budgeted at \$6,000. In 2018 we have spent \$10,764 on repairs to the Heard Barn, and at present have \$16,096 in restricted funds available for special projects. Present estimates indicate we will end the year about on budget covering \$11,000 of our \$17,800 depreciation expense, which is in line with our budget. Our endowment at September 30, 2018 had a market value of \$1,631,931 after withdrawing \$50,067 for the current year's operations, with a market gain to date of 5.11%.

Ken Smith, Treasurer Jon Taylor, Asst. Treasurer

Balance Sheet as of September 30, 2018 and December 31, 2017		
ASSETS	<u>9/30/2018</u>	<u>12/31/2017</u>
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 19,890	\$ 32,191
Prepaid Expenses	1,550	3,722
Total Current Assets:	21,440	35,913
Investments	1,631,931	1,602,613
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	18,238	18,238
Antiques and Documents	38,155	38,155
Property and Equipment, net	646,088	646,088
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,355,852</u>	<u>\$ 2,341,007</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 216	\$ 346
Accrued Expenses	5,205	3,505
Deferred Revenue	10,550	10,125
Total Liabilities	15,971	13,976
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	2,305,717	2,282,282
Temporarily Restricted	34,164	44,749
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>2,339,881</u>	<u>2,327,031</u>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,355,852</u>	<u>\$ 2,341,007</u>

Sandwich Historical Society

Summary Statement of Revenue and Expense

For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018 Compared with September 30, 2017

	Nine Months Ending September 30, 2018			Nine Months Ending September 30, 2017		
	General Operations	Restricted Funds	Total	General Operations	Restricted Funds	Total
Contribution Income	\$ 13,379	\$ 97	\$ 13,476	\$ 25,136	\$ 43	\$ 25,179
Restricted Income (3)	1,000	3,391	4,391	5,750	31,991	37,741
Museum Sales	2,165	116	2,281	2,025	140	2,165
Other Income	232	-	232	133	-	133
Use of Endowment	50,070	-	50,070	49,122	20,000	69,122
Total Revenue	66,846	3,604	70,450	82,166	52,174	134,340
Facilities Expense	10,790	2,999	13,789	9,791	14,152	23,943
Museum Operations	25,318	1,070	26,388	20,883	2,157	23,040
Office Expenses	5,537	-	5,537	7,335	-	7,335
Personnel Expenses	30,916	-	30,916	33,026	-	33,026
Other Expenses	1,290	-	1,290	2,819	-	2,819
Special Projects	155	10,120	10,275	-	20,000	20,000
Total Expenses	74,006	14,189	88,195	73,854	36,309	110,163
Net Profit (Loss) before Capital Reserve Expense	(7,160)	(10,585)	(17,745)	8,312	15,865	24,177
Provision for Capital Reserve	(4,500)	-	(4,500)	(4,500)	-	(4,500)
Budget Basis, Net	(11,660)	(10,585)	(22,245)	3,812	15,865	19,677
Provision for Depreciation (1)	(8,890)	-	(8,890)	(8,250)	-	(8,250)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (20,550)	\$ (10,585)	\$ (31,135)	\$ (4,438)	\$ 15,865	\$ 11,427

Notes: (1) The required Depreciation Expense is the sum of the Provision for Capital Reserve and Provision for Depreciation.

2018 BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND STAFF LIST

OFFICERS

Geoffrey Burrows
President

David Patridge
Vice President

Capt. Kenneth A. Smith, Jr.
Treasurer

Jonathan Taylor
Asst. Treasurer

Barbara Pries
Secretary

TRUSTEES

H. Benjamin Bullard

Linn Maxwell

David Croy

Bob Michael

Susan Davies

Jim Mykland

Sue Greene

Franz Nicolay

Nancy Hansen

Denise Read

Helen Ingalls

Dan Reidy

NOMINEES FOR NEW TRUSTEES/OFFICERS

To be announced at the Annual Meeting

STAFF

Abby Hambrook

Director

Lauren Hansen

Museum and Collections Coordinator

Judy Stoehr

Summer Tour Guide

Jenny Vierus

Bookkeeper

Jennifer Wright

Office and Research Coordinator

2018 COMMITTEES

Collections and Exhibits: Susan Davies, *Chair*, Joan Cook, Nancy Hansen, Sue Greene, Helen Ingalls, Barbara Kerr, Linn Maxwell, Bob Michael, Joanne Moser, Franz Nicolay, Barbara Pries, Denise Read, Dan Reidy, and Jon Taylor

Education and Programs: Barbara Pries, *Chair* (partial year), Jim Mykland, *Chair* (partial year), David Crory, Susan Davies, Sue Greene, Helen Ingalls, Ellen Karman, Linn Maxwell, Denise Read, and Dan Reidy

Executive Board: Geoff Burrows, Ben Bullard, Susan Davies, Bob Michael, David Patridge, Barbara Pries, Ken Smith, and Jon Taylor

Facilities and Maintenance: David Patridge, *Chair*, Ben Bullard, Geoff Burrows, David Crory, Susan Davies, Bob Michael, Jim Mykland, and Jon Taylor

Finance and Development: Ben Bullard, *Co-Chair*, Jon Taylor, *Co-Chair*, Geoff Burrows, and Ken Smith

Publications and Research: Geoff Burrows, *Chair*, Susan Bryant Kimball, Joan Cook, Susan Davies, Bruce Montgomery, Jim Mykland, Barbara Pries, Jon Taylor, and Debbie Wilson

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank-you membership! You are the strength of the Sandwich Historical Society! A supportive membership of approximately 340, a part-time staff to oversee day-to-day operations, volunteers, and an active board of trustees to oversee the business make the Sandwich Historical Society a success. What we have serves as a model for all small-town historical societies. There is some pride in this reality! There is pride when I hear members of historical societies from neighboring towns say, "We wish we had what you do!"

The people who make the Sandwich Historical Society a success are our staff: Abby Hambrook, Director; Lauren Hansen, Archivist; and Jennifer Wright, Administrative Assistant. All of the trustees contribute; all of the trustees are appreciated. A special thanks to Jon Taylor, Susan Davies and David Patridge, and a special thanks to Barbara Pries, who served as Secretary the past two years and is stepping down this year.

The theme and exhibit for the summer season was "Sandwich on Stage". Photos of actors from throughout the generations of plays at Town Hall, playbills, even video from the 1980s Sandwich Players productions were on display. Lauren and Susan and their team did a great job!

The Old Home Week Annual Picnic was held at the Mt. Israel Grange Hall because of rain. Ben Bullard, actor and director, Caroline Nesbitt, founder of Advice To The Players, and Jim Mykland, actor, reminisced about their experiences.

The Quimby Barn Transportation Museum was open every Saturday in July, August and September as well as four days of Old Home Week and Saturday and Sunday of The Sandwich Fair.

The Lower Corner Schoolhouse (LCSH) hosted students from Sandwich Central, and the LCSH Alumni picnic was held during Old Home Week. Joan Cook and Janet Bickford, who "saved" the School and made it the very nice facility it is, have stepped back a little from their stewardship. They deserve a very big "Thank-you!" Fortunately, Denise Read and Linn Maxwell stepped up to be the next caretakers.

Sandwich Historical Society continues to have inquires and visits from researchers. Work on Heard Barn is on-going. We had a booth and a float in this year's Sandwich Fair, winning "Best in Theme" and first place in our division. The year is not over! The Annual Meeting will be November 7, and a special dedication of the Pvt. Arthur Skinner tree is being planned for November 11. With the passing of our dear friend, Bunny Michael, the Society will be presenting the Sandwich Cane to the oldest resident of Sandwich; plans to be formed.

Finally, a special meeting was called during the Old Home Week Annual Picnic where membership voted to remove the by-law for term limits for the Board of Trustees. Term limits were enacted in 1988, so thirty years provided material to make a judgement that term limits did not serve the business of the Sandwich Historical Society in 2018. The by-law can be re-instated by membership.

Many times I have written of the note Fred Goldthwaite, 90 years of age, cane holder, wrote to me in 1973 when I first became a member of the Sandwich Historical Society "... we need young blood, especially native blood, interested in perpetuating Sandwich history and its traditions." It is time for a commitment from the younger generation to the mission of the Sandwich Historical Society. A new generation of stewards are needed to support the good efforts made over the past 100 years! Membership is strength!

Geoff Burrows, President

COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBIT COMMITTEE

Collections met bi-monthly to accession new donations, and the full committee met regularly to plan the 2018 seasonal exhibit, *Sandwich on Stage: A revue of theater through the year*. The exhibit, which was the brainchild of our own Lauren Hansen, featured productions through the decades from groups including Sandwich Players, Girl Scouts, PTA, Chautauqua, Advice To The Players, Gilbert and Sullivan, and more! From our collection and recent generous community donations, we presented weekly screenings of Sandwich Players, Gilbert and Sullivan and Advice To The Players past shows plus photos, remembrances, costumes, posters and ephemera. Thanks to Lauren's inspired and untiring leadership, community member's generous donations of time, talent and loans of costumes and the enthusiastic hard work of all our trustee exhibit team, Lauren Abby Hambrook and Jennifer Wright, the Society presented another outstanding seasonal exhibit.

Throughout last fall and winter, the Collections Committee used the off-season for processing our collection. Our textile team of Nancy Hansen, Barbara Pries, Linn Maxwell and Susan Davies continued cataloging our costume collection. Recent additions to our clothing and accessories were our 2017-2018 focus. New research and catalogue team members Bob Michael, Barbara Pries and Laurie Norman, completed on-line PastPerfect training and are able to catalog our library and object collections. We are very fortunate for the skillful and steady work of Lauren Hansen as she continues to catalogue our important archives and photo collections.

Two special projects were the highlights of our collection efforts this year. During the winter, our Wentworth Library was transformed into an inviting and user-friendly space. One of our more recent docents and professional librarian, Laurie Norman, immediately saw our need and volunteered to provide the vision and expertise to make the Library Project a reality. The project team expanded to include Jim Norman and Collection's members Bob Michael and Barbara Pries, and together they managed a complete physical reorganization. They built a wall of new shelving and properly cleaned and assigned a new location for every book/library item. Laurie continues the important work of cataloging each book so that it is easily located both on the shelves and in our database. Once that is complete, we will have the ability to provide basic access to our library collection on-line as an added tool to researchers.

The second project was the award of a national 2018 CAP Grant which culminated in a two-day August site visit to assess and advise the Society on our collections and buildings. Trustee Helen Ingalls and Director Abby Hambrook shepherded this prestigious project from the application through its many phases and deadlines. This fall, our expert consult team has been working with us to present the Society with a detailed written evaluation that will serve as a blueprint for the "best practices" long-term care of our buildings and collections. CAP's evaluation also provides the basis for valuable future grants and is quite a feather in our cap!

As always, a sincere thank you to all whose donations continues to add to the Society's collection, and the story of our town. We look forward to your contributions!

With gratitude to the committee: Lauren Hansen (staff) Joan Cook, Nancy Hansen, Helen Ingalls, Barbara Kerr, Sue Greene, Linn Maxwell, Bob Michael, Joanne Moser, Franz Nicolay, Barbara Pries, Denise Read and Jon Taylor and sadness as our team and the Society sorely miss the dedication and expertise of Betsy Leiper and Millie Kopperl, who have moved from Sandwich,

Susan Davies, Chair

FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

This year the committee concentrated on continued funding for our facilities maintenance program, renovation of the Heard Barn, and the sale of 18 Wentworth Hill Road. Purchased two years ago, this property was envisioned as a solution to our storage needs, which was made unnecessary by the purchase of the Heard Barn. The

proceeds from the sale will be split between our endowment and funding major renovations on the Heard Barn. However, we still depend on your contributions to the Society, and we appreciate all the financial help received, past and future!

The Strategic Plan is now approximately six (6) years old and the Development Committee will be periodically updating it. In conjunction with the Facilities and Maintenance Committee, the Ten-Year Maintenance Plan will also be updated. An updated plan enables us to anticipate the funds needed for routine maintenance on all of our facilities.

Thank you to all the trustees, members, paid staff, and volunteers who together make the Sandwich Historical Society far and away the most active and respected small town historical society in New Hampshire. Please consider donating and know that your contributions will continue to enhance our community and preserve our historical records.

Ben Bullard, Chair

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The 2018 Sandwich Historical Society *Bulletin*, popularly called *The Excursion*, was issue number 99! Sandwich Historical Society published the first *Bulletin* in 1920 at the suggestion of Rev. Stacy to provide a historical record of the Society's trip into Sandwich Notch. The trip into the Notch was so successful that it was determined to visit another part of town on Old Home Day 1921; thus the beginning of "excursions."

Thereafter, a *Bulletin* was published each year to record the history of a "section" of town visited on the annual Old Home Week "excursions." The early booklets were basic narratives of the houses and people who lived there. A valuable addition to the narrative was reminiscences of the old timers. Later editions evolved to a certain scholarly aspect from the efforts of W. Leroy White and Doris Benz, among others. World War II halted the physical excursions, but the issues of that time provided the history of our schools and churches, an "excursion" of the mind. The excursions did not restart as a traveling show after WWII, but a picnic was experienced at some location in town. The *Bulletin* continued to be published as the years passed to the present where, in 2019, Sandwich Historical Society will publish its 100th edition! What a record of local history!

The Sandwich Historical Society publishes the *Excursion*, two *Newsletters* and an e-newsletter. Also, Barbara Pries has continued a tradition carried back to the days of Matt Powers and continued by Joan Beach Little of writing a column of interesting historical items from the *Sandwich Reporter* that is published in relation to the weekly Sandwich column. It was fun for me to see that in recent issues of the *Meredith News* the editor has introduced a “Days Gone By” column that mirrors our column.

Sandwich Historical Society encourages material that would be appropriate to publish in our newsletters and *Bulletin*. Material must relate to Sandwich, require certain academic standards and be accepted by the committee. Oral Histories are always sought; photos as well. A core of dedicated researchers and authors contribute faithfully to this committee. New authors are solicited! Thanks to Dr. D. Bruce Montgomery for years of devotion to the Publications and Research committee; also to Jon Taylor for his consistent research and storytelling!

I had a difficult year in 2018. For big periods of time personal issues tore my attention away from all that I am interested in but my situation. For this committee, Jennifer Wright and Abby Hambrook did so much to make our publications a success. I thank them so much for all they do!

Geoff Burrows, Chair

EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

After the excitement of the Town’s 250th celebration and the 100th Anniversary of the Sandwich Historical Society (SHS), both occurring in the last few years, a sense of letdown was inevitable in the Program and Education division of the Society. And yet, anchored by a fascinating summer exhibition curated by staff member Lauren Hansen, we had a great year promoting the mission of the Society while having a fun time.

In March we had another popular night with pictures from the SHS collection shared with townsfolk and visitors in the Town Hall. These are always enjoyable, and subtly educational, glimpses into Sandwich’s past with input encouraged from the audience.

June had the Society participating as part of the Sandwich Business Group’s program promoting everything Sandwich. And of course June also brought opening day for the Society with all of our buildings open to the public along with our historical hot dogs. This year’s exhibition “Sandwich on Stage” was a great hit with many compliments

from visitors, with many visitors returning more than once to see the exhibit again with friends and a different show on VHS transfer from *The Sandwich Players* and *Advice To The Players*.

On one of the hottest days of July, we led a very well attended "Walk Around Lower Corner." We learned about the history of the oldest settled part of Sandwich and the houses and homes we passed; all while desperately seeking any available shade to stand in.

In August we participated in Old Home Week and all of our buildings were open to visitors. We had another "Walk Around the Ring" in the Center, and the next day was the Annual Picnic. Due to inclement weather in the morning, the venue was changed at the last minute to the Grange Hall. Thanks to our Director and her crew for this successful if stressful operation. The Grange Hall proved a great location for socializing and remanences of former days on stage in Town.

Fair weekend in October brought forth another fantastic effort to get our float ready for the parade. The Society won "Best in Theme" and first in their category for the float and a tremendous thank you is due to the small crew who did all that work. We also had a booth in the Craft building staffed by volunteers. This booth is important as it raises much-needed cash for our operations during the year. Thanks to all who gave a few hours to help us out.

In November (2017) we held our Annual Meeting at the Doris L. Benz Community Center replete with a potluck dinner, meeting, and a program. Following another delicious potluck dinner, local genealogists, Kate and Mike Lancor, presented "Chasing" Your Ancestors: Family Surprises and Secrets Uncovered.

Christmas in the Village 2017 was held the first weekend in December and is another important fundraiser for the Society. We had our gift shop displayed in the Wentworth Room along with beautiful handmade items from four other crafters.

So you see, there was more going on than I remembered happening this year! The Society is only as good as the effort put forth by its volunteers and staff, and a tremendous and heartfelt "Thank You" to each of you who give so much.

Jim Mykland, Chair

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

MARSTON HOUSE: The sump pump in the Wentworth wing cellar failed and flooded the cellar with 14" of water. Trustees helped to clean-out the contents which were two truckloads of leftover building materials, which we had to take to the Sandwich dump. Luckily, the furnace was spared and nothing of value was lost. ServPro came and pressure washed the floor and walls, cut out and discarded the damaged sheetrock in the furnace room and dried out the cellar with dehumidifiers. David Rodgers hung a new insulated door in the cellar stairwell as well as insulated the outside wall floor joists and installed new sheetrock in the furnace room. Jon Taylor (Asst. Treasurer), worked with our insurance company who covered the costs. ~ Three new energy-efficient air conditioners were purchased for the Marston House.

QUIMBY BARN: A rain gutter and downspout was installed in October over the "Dennison R. Slade Room" (formerly known as the coach room) door to eliminate splash from rain hitting the granite threshold and damaging the door.

HEARD BARN: With the help of many board members and staff, the large quantity of ancient, loose hay was removed from the second floor scaffold. Items of no value were removed and the building was broom swept. Mike Canfield replaced the sash in five windows to weather-proof the barn. He also replaced the sill, sheathing and clapboards on the lower right side. Tom Canfield cut brush and cleared the back side of the barn to the boundary wall.

We are now six years into our ten-year maintenance program, and we plan to update it over the next year to take us another ten years out.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, trustees, and staff for their help over the past year.

David Patridge, Chair

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the final curtain closes on this year's "Sandwich on Stage" exhibit I cannot help but reflect upon the motto, "the show must go on." This year has been marked by change. In the winter our SHS family was touched by a number of health issues which caused staffing challenges and changes. We adjusted. Volunteers, board and staff members stepped up, and so "the show went on."

A Collections Assessment Program (CAP) grant was secured by Trustees Helen Ingalls and Susan Davies, which allowed us the time, guidance, and experts to help us reflect on the state of our collections and our buildings. The good news is that we are doing a whole lot right and well! The other news is that we now have a list of recommendations for future changes, because “the show must go on.” It is often a very good thing to have what you are doing validated by experts and to have objective suggestions for what to do next.

Summer at SHS is always busy and thanks to many trustees and volunteers “the show went on” at the Elisha Marston House. We had visitors from all over the United States, and the seasonal exhibit received rave reviews. Many locals returned several times to watch the various weekly shows playing in the exhibit!

Another change was long-time Lower Corner School House keepers Jan Bickford and Joan Cook decided to pass the torch. We thank them for their amazing stewardship and accept the challenge of maintaining the high standards they set for the care, maintenance and educational opportunities they provided. We can only hope to adequately fill those very large shoes!

Our Sandwich Fair float, “Salute to Our Sandwich Troops of the Past” featured pictures of 34 deceased Sandwich veterans starting with the War of 1812 and continuing up through Vietnam, as well as nine the veterans representing almost all of the services rode in the float. Our efforts were rewarded with first place and “Best in Theme” awards! Many people inquired as to how we assembled that many veterans’ photos so quickly. The simple answer is we have these and many more in our collection. In addition, Joan Cook has binders full of photos-for-every-occasion! We appreciate donations of photos either for us to keep or to scan and return!

The “show goes on” all winter at the Historical Society. We are open for research (by appointment), and we are kept busy with cataloguing newly accessioned donations. Soon we will also be planning and preparing for next season’s exhibit and programs!

Abigail Hambrook, Director