

Nashua Historical Society

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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TERRY ROMANO ELECTED PRESIDENT AT THE 142ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Outgoing President Bill Ross passing the gavel.

It is with great pleasure to announce that on May 15, 2012 at the 142nd Annual Meeting of the Nashua Historical Society, Terry Romano was elected our 16th president

Terry is a prominent social and community leader here in Nashua and is a member, Board of Director and Trustee for many of our non profit community organizations including the Nashua Boys & Girls Club Foundation, Home Health and Hospice Care, the Humane Society of Greater Nashua and the Hunt Memorial Building Restoration Committee.

Terry is a retired educator and School Administrator. She brings a wealth of experience in her new position as president of the Nashua Historical Society. Please join us in welcoming her.



New Officers - left to right: Joanne Ouellette-Clerk, Anita Vassar-Assistant Treasurer, Terry Romano- President, Cecile Renzi-Treasurer. Not shown: Jim Cunningham-1st Vice President, and Prudence Maloon-Assistant Treasurer.



New Board of Directors - left to right: Bill Ross, Robert Valade and James Hogan. Not shown: Jerry Deschamps.

Nashua Historical Society Fall Program 2012

Tuesday, September 18, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

Birth of an American Institution - the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Albert W. Savage, **PER, PSP, PDD, HLM**, a 61 year and senior member of the 750-member Nashua Lodge of Elks #720, chartered in 1901, will deliver a talk on the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks. Do you know how the American Flag became the cornerstone of the Order of the Elks? How this 1,000,000 member organization evolved after the Civil War from a social organization of actors? Or how they have supported all veterans since World War I? Come and learn about this legacy.

Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, October 16, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear **Adventures in Preservation** from Bill Veillette, the Executive Director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center. This program marks the formal kickoff of the Society's Adopt-an-Artifact campaign - a collection of Nashua gems.

Free and Open to the Public

Tuesday, November 13, 2012 - 7:30 p.m.

Susan B. Anthony. Sally Matson as Susan B. Anthony - the Invincible! Anthony's life (1820 - 1906) is revealed decade by decade, paralleling social development and major movements in the U.S. We hear of the panic of 1837, the Dred Scott case, the Anti-Slavery Society, the Civil War, the 14th and 15th amendments, She recounts her journeys across the country as she established a network of lieutenants working for women's suffrage in Wyoming, California, Oregon and the Washington Territory. Miss Anthony believed in equal rights for all and she was willing to devote her life to that cause. Sally Matson, an actor and teacher, has been bringing Susan B. Anthony to life for many years. This is sure to be an inspiring presentation. The Nashua Historical Society is proud to be partnering with the NH Humanities Council to present this evening's program.

Free and Open to the Public

**NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2012-2014 OFFICERS**

Terry Romano President
Jim Cunningham 1st Vice President
Joe Comer 2nd Vice President
Cecile Renzi Treasurer
Prudence Maloon Assistant Treasurer
Joanne Ouellette Clerk
Anne Louise Vassar Assistant Clerk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012 - 2013

Ricardo Azocar
Alan Cohen
Awilda Muniz
Denise Newman
Andrew Piela

2011- 2014

Mary Coe Foran
Judith Jones
Dennis Parker
Catherine Poulin
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2012-2015

Jerry Deschamps
James Hogan
Bill Ross
Robert Valade

Staff

Beth McCarthy Curator
Margaret Garneau Admin-Assistant
Barbara Comer Collection Technician
Jackie Walker Collection Technician

LETTER TO THE MEMBERS



I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to the Board of Directors of the Nashua Historical Society, to its wonderful members, its dedicated staff and its many selfless volunteers for supporting and electing me the Society's 16th president. I am honored to serve as your President and vow to work diligently in my role.

First, I would like to extend my thanks to William Ross for his dedication to the Society during his 14 years of tenure. I would also like to thank the Society's staff for their support and help during my first two months as President. The transition has been very smooth because of your cooperation.

I am looking forward to many exciting happenings for us. Among my many goals, three I am very passionate about are: increasing our Society's membership roll, developing a legacy program and the successful launch of "Adopt-An-Artifact" program.

During my college years, I majored in History which has always continued to be dear to my heart ~ "Preserving The Past For The Future" as the Society's motto states. My utmost concern is to preserve our beautiful structures and all the treasures they hold.

I look forward to meeting many of the members in person at our opening program in the fall as well as during the upcoming year at all of our functions that are in the planning process now.

Best wishes and warmest regards,
Terry

**Mother/Daughter Tea Party
Sunday, April 22, 2012**

The Education Committee hosted the third Mother/Daughter Tea. Members were invited to bring a daughter, grand-daughter, grand-niece, or guest to an afternoon of tea, dainty sandwiches, cakes, and simple crafts. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, as shown in the following photographs.



Barbara Bankeroff enjoys a cup of tea with grand-daughter, Brenna Rose.



Sorayah Ortiz was the happy recipient of the doll and tea set.



Sandra Axton and Joanne Ouellette prepare a tasty dessert.



Back row-left to right: Mauve Murphy, Brenna Rose, and Nayellie Ortiz.
Front row-left to right: Sorayah Ortiz, Heather McPhie, and Kendall Hamilton.

BARABY TAXI SERVICE

The Nashua Historical Society recently received a Baraby Taxi cab light found at 33 Bridge St., in Nashua. The address was familiar to me as it was the home of Michael and Fanny Akstin (Axton) and his daughter, Fannie Akstin (Axton), both longtime Nashua residents and acquaintances of my family. Because of this connection, I jumped at the chance to research Baraby Tax service.

According to the city directories, John J. Baraby lived in Nashua from 1910 to 1931. He operated Baraby Taxi from around 1921 to 1928, first from 24 Howard St. and later from 33 Bridge St. John is listed from 1912 to 1917 as a boarder at both addresses, and, in October 1917, he and Fannie were married. Michael Akstin owned the Bridge Street property and lived at that address with his daughter and her husband.

In July of 1962, Mr. Fred Dobens wrote a piece for the *Nashua Telegraph* mentioning how he liked to look in old papers to see how Nashua has changed in the past 45 years. He wrote that sometime in the late 1910s, "John Baraby had just opened an auto service, having bought a seven passenger Cadillac and was willing to take parties on long or short trips." This was the start of Barnaby's taxi service.

Another article appearing in the *Nashua Telegraph*, dated June 5, 1930, reported that John Baraby was arrested at his home at 33 Bridge Street, where police "seized more than 346 alleged bottles of beer and nearly 200 empty bottles, about 60 gallons of malt and other equipment . . . [it] required two trips of the patrol wagon to transport all taken . . . [it was] the largest seizure in the city . . ."

Michael Akstin died in 1938. Listed among his survivors was a daughter, Fannie (Axton) Baraby. Interestingly, there was no mention of John J. Baraby in the obituary. Further research in the city directories and online yielded no further information about the Baraby Taxi service.

Sandra M. Axton



Annual Report Summaries – Full Reports on File 142nd Annual Meeting – Nashua Historical Society - May 15, 2012

President's Report – Bill Ross

We have had another year filled with progress towards our goal of "preserving the past for the future." Some of the notable areas are forty new memberships, adequate income to support activities, increase in voluntary contributions, staff successfully managing expenses to meet our expense plan, and transformation of a basement storage room into a functional work area, thanks to the efforts of the staff and husbands.

Regarding his leaving the presidency this year, Bill said the following. "I am honored to have been your President for the past fourteen years. I feel I gained more than I contributed. I made good friends and regrettably lost several, learned a lot about Nashua history and the technology of museums, and felt that I was giving back to the community. The Society is a great place that seems to grow on you, at least it did for me. The nominating committee did an exemplary job in selecting the Officers and Board candidates for the new term, and our forward progress will continue if not accelerate."

Treasurer's Report – Cecile Renzi

The Society had another successful budget year with a budgeted balance of \$9,394.51 as of April 30, 2012. Income received was from donations, dues, grants and bequests, rental income, sale of merchandise/research/miscellaneous and net receipts from "Nashua People and Places."

Financial Report - Bill Ross

Our endowment investments have weathered the financial downdraft remarkably well, in large part due to the relatively conservative nature of our investments. We enjoyed an increase in voluntary contributions this year and saw a \$7000 profit from the sale of "Nashua People and Places." Our financial position is sound with no debt and no impediment to funding our activities in the upcoming fiscal year.

The Society is looking for a tenant for our apartment. A vacant apartment constitutes a \$5000 annual exposure to the budget. Any potential tenant must be able to pass some rigorous interviewing.

Buildings Report – Bill Ross

The Abbot-Spalding House survived the winter in fine shape. Storms took their toll on the fence on the east side of the House and several trees on the campus. Gutters on the Florence Speare building had to be repaired or replaced. Ice did some damage to the roof above the area that infrequently causes a leak in the basement.

To support the increased volunteer workload, we have added two new complete work stations with a wi-fi connection. The plan to reorganize the basement into more usable space continues to be implemented. All ongoing maintenance activities were carried out.

Grounds – Vinnie Renzi

Vinnie Renzi volunteered to take over the grounds' care in January, and Anita Vassar has volunteered to take charge of the historic flowers/plantings. Flags and lighting have been replaced or repaired. Two trees came down over the fall and winter, and those areas have been reseeded. A water seeping problem at the Abbot House has been fixed. Vinnie would like to be notified when anyone sees a problem occurring on the grounds. He regularly checks the property and cleans up trash left by people after hours.

Collection Committee – Beth McCarthy, Curator

The Society has added 5,498 new records. Among the categories are objects, photographs, archives, library, accessions, contacts and items in container list. Two Hobos, devices that measure temperature and humidity, were used in both museums. Data is being maintained in graph-style reports.

Two significant projects have been undertaken. The first was the publication of a pictorial genealogy book titled, "Nashua People and Places." Society member Meri Goyette donated \$10,000 to fund the publication. Of the 730 printed, approximately 320 have sold. Barbara Bankeroff, Cynthia Kyriax Burney, Timothy Glenday and Cal Knickerbocker were the authors, graphic designers and marketers. Proceeds will fund a portion of a compressed storage rack system for the Speare Museum.

The second project involves the development of the Library Annex. We have a plan to preserve the Telegraph newspapers so that they can be used for research. Two work parties were held. Tasks included taking apart the old storage carts, cleaning and painting the areas, moving items, preparing the Telegraphs for storage, and placing them into the shelves of twelve custom built cabinets. Joe Comer built the cabinets from the wood of the old carts.

Individual Contributions to the Collection

Sandra Axton has been identifying and organizing photograph records of the contents of the Abbot-Spalding House. She has been cataloging the Park and Recreation Sweeney Collection of photographs.

Barbara Bankeroff fulfilled the management of the Historical Society's computer network and the collection management software, Past Perfect. Backups were performed periodically to an external hard-drive. Mozy Pro, an on-line backup service, was utilized as part of our standard data retention procedure.

Barbara also has cataloged numerous Research Requests. She has reorganized a significant portion of our photographs. Barbara has trained new Past Perfect users and has been the computer support person to all of the Past Perfect staff. She assisted with the acquisition and setup for the newly acquired computer equipment. This includes two computers, one printer, one scanner and five flat screen monitors.

Barbara Comer organized, inventoried, cataloged and re-housed the general newspaper collection. She organized the collection of framed artifacts and has completed catalog records on many of them. Barbara has maintained the various collection support binders. She has cataloged numerous recently acquired eclectic artifacts and has also completed several research requests.

Barbara Bankeroff and Barbara Comer attended genealogy workshops. Barbara Comer attended a box making and book conservation workshop. A tour of the Northeast Document Conservation Center was well attended by our collection committee members. A furniture conservator was visited seeking an estimate on the restoration needs of General Foster's chair.

Susan Fineman has cataloged photographs. She assisted with the cataloging of all of the framed items by taking digital images of them. She assisted with the moving of all the framed items numerous times.

Paul Friday has continued to catalog numerous photographs representing a wide range of Library of Congress Classifications.

Patrick Gallant, a student from the Plus Company and Isabelle, his counselor, completed the cataloging of the June Caron Park and Recreation Collection. They have started to catalog a large business card collection.

Sarah Jauris cataloged photographs from the MAPP collection and she is now cataloging post cards.

Judith Jones sorted through a large collection of assorted older newspapers. This assisted all of us with deciding which were to remain within our collection. She re-organized the Society's past board minutes.

Barbara Keirstead organized and readied for cataloging a large collection from the Community Concert organization.

Prudence Maloon has completed the cataloging of the MAPP collection of photographs. She has re-organized the contents of numerous scrapbooks and she has designed these scrapbooks.

Katie MacFarlane, a student pursuing her Masters degree in Library Science, has learned how to catalog Topicals.

Beth McCarthy, Curator provided support and guidance to nineteen individuals who worked/volunteered on the following standing committees: Collection, Exhibits, and Research and Records. Support was provided as needed to all other individuals working on a variety of committees as needed. Current accessioning practices and past accessioning maintenance was the Curators area of focus along with the maintenance of all of the other collection support files.

Report Summeries continued-

The Spring Tea was attended by four members and their six guests. The welcome talk included the role of the Historical Society in the community, a bit of Nashua history and the Abbot-Spalding House history. Young guests enjoyed the refreshments, a visit to the Abbot-Spalding House and craft activities. They took home gift bags and a special memento, their bone china tea cups.

Research Committee – JoAnne St. John

There were 136 research requests this year, and 128 have been completed. Total since 2003 is 862. Thanks go to all Committee members and other members who have assisted us.

Refreshment Committee – Margaret G. Garneau

The Committee met four times this year to plan for the five general meetings, scholarship lunch and the holiday party. Members handle the setup and cleanup for events. Thanks to all who brought delicious dishes to our special events.

Visitors and Volunteers – Margaret G. Garneau

This year brought us 104 visitors, hailing from sixteen states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, Germany and Ireland.

We regularly host two groups, a RISE bridge group on Thursday afternoons and the Opera Circle once a month. We hosted a scholastic fair for school librarians last fall. In lieu of payment, books were donated to the Mt. Pleasant School in the Society's name.

We have **forty-six dedicated volunteers** working in the two museums, on outside exhibits and special offsite events, such as the six book signings. We value each and every one.

Total volunteer hours tallied were 2,948 this year.

Membership – Margaret G. Garneau

The Society has 240 memberships, including adults, families, life members, a museum member, a student and twenty-six courtesy memberships to NH libraries and museums. Four deceased members will be greatly missed. Complimentary memberships were given to store owners of Crosby's Bakery, Great Harvest Bread Company, Jeannotte's Market, Liamos Market, Persian Rug Gallery, and Scentsas for selling our book, "Nashua People and Places." We generated five membership mailings this year thanks to our mailing crew.

Program Report – Mary Kirkwood

The Society hosted five outstanding programs for the Greater Nashua Community. Titles included "Dunstable, Dunstable, Dunstable" with Scott McPhie, historian and Society member, "Front Row Seat on the New Hampshire Primary" with Mike Pride, editor emeritus of the Concord Monitor and author of "Yankee Humor and the New England Storytelling Tradition" along with Rebecca Rule, humorist - sponsored in part by a grant from the NH Humanities Council, "The Story of the Nashua Telegraph" with Terry Williams, publisher, and Dean Shalhoup, writer and Society member, and "Lake Winnepesaukee – What Lies Beneath" with Hans Hug, Jr., diver and explorer. All were well advertised and enjoyed audiences at or near capacity.

This fall's first program – Tuesday, September 18, 2012, 7:30 pm – "Birth of an American Institution – the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks" with Albert Savage.

Adopt-an-Artifact Ad Hoc Committee – Mary Coe Foran

The Committee formed in September, 2011. Our purpose is to design opportunities for member and community participation in the conservation of the Society's artifacts. Ultimately eleven artifacts will be open for adoption along with a 12th item made up of many years of *The Telegraph*. Levels of participation range from forty dollars to several thousand dollars. Sponsorships of three items – General Foster's chair, the Tremont House ledger, and the Telegraph issues – became available as of the April membership meeting. The unveiling of the other nine items will be at the membership meeting in October when our guest speaker will be Bill Veillette, the director of the Northeast Document Conservation Center.

George Bankeroff

A native of Roseville, Michigan, George was an Evans Scholar at Michigan State University, from which he graduated. The Evans Scholars Foundation of which he was part is a charitable trust that provides full, four-year tuition and housing scholarships to aspiring golf caddies.

Before George and Barbara moved to Amherst several years ago, they lived in Hollis for about 20 years. George's engineering career spanned 40 years and four top software giants- Honeywell, Digital, Cabletron and HP. Not only was he good at playing bridge, George was a formidable poker player and never said no to a good chess game. George served on the Society's Board of Directors in the position of Assistant Treasurer. He was a member of the Nashua Historical Society Finance Committee and helped maintain the Society's computer network.

Dot Frost

The widow of well-known local craftsman and woodworker Bill Frost, Dorothy Turner Frost was a lifelong Historical Society member who was also active in the King's Daughters Benevolent Association.

She was just 16 when she graduated from Nashua High School, where she played tennis, was involved with the senior play and served as editor in chief of NHS' quarterly, The Tattler. Dot also finished in the upper quarter of the Class of 1936, number 22 from the top, to be precise. She was a classmate of well-known Nashuans "Web" Whitney, Ted Marshall, Ray Marcoux, Bill Makarawicz, Tommy Leonard Jr., George Law, John Lafazanis, Niles Jensen, Les Fulling, Julius Chaplick and Stan Bogdan, the man of Bogdan fishing reel fame. Dot also graduated from Nashua Business College, and before working at Sears, worked at Nashua High for a time.

What is it?



Does anyone know what this item is and what it was used for? Wood finish with two round removable "embellished holders" on the stationary arms. Dimensions: (approx) 16" w x 17-1/2" h We would appreciate your help in solving this mystery.

Frank Mooney has worked with the de-accession items. Numerous gifts were made to other Historical Societies and Museums. A large number of items were sent out to the Brookline Auction Gallery of New Hampshire. One poster/print was sent to Skinners for auction. Frank has greatly assisted others with the identification of specific places seen in photographs.

Joanne Ouellette has completed the assigning of Library of Congress approved Subject Headings for each of the Topical Files. She has started to enter these Topical files into Past Perfect.

Jeannine Richards corrected and edited numerous Post Card records. The Post Card Collection was the first group of artifacts to be entered into Past Perfect and through using it we have learned more about the specifics of how the software works.

Peter Vincent has started to inventory the crystal, china, and all breakable items in the collection.

Jackie Walker, a Collection Technician, has cataloged images from the Frank M. Ingalls Collection. She has diligently worked on cross referencing the contact prints and 35mm negatives for the Frank M. Ingalls Collection. She has assisted with the processing of the majority of the photograph reproduction requests and she has completed several research requests.

Accepted Donations – Beth McCarthy, Curator

An accession can include one item or thousands of items. The Society accepted 102 donations, an increase of thirty over last year. Among the unique materials acquired were: **books** - "A Geographic History of Old Dunstable, Massachusetts and Nashua, New Hampshire 1673-1975"; "Nashua Directory 1857-1858" and "Nashua Area Men and Women in WWII"; **two tax ledgers**, "1850 and 1852 for Nashville, New Hampshire"; **objects** - a drawer knife, made by Benjamin Smith of Dunstable, New Hampshire; an 1861 bevel made by Leonard O. Fairbanks; an 1871 City of Nashua Sanford and Events Map; a pie basket signed "J.E.Runnels – 33 Main Street"; a "Jackson Mills" rolling cart and a "Bar & Co., Nashua" corn chopper; an "A. Fisher" submersible pump; a World War II poster featuring three Nashua servicemen – Apanovich, Mandravelis, and Watkins.

Exhibit Committee – Beth McCarthy, Curator and Barbara Keirstead, City Hall Cabinet Researcher/Designer

Members' collections displayed within the Florence H. Speare Museum foyer exhibit cabinet included "Ideal Dairy" collectables belonging to Mr. Lozeau and Frank Mooney, Gail Pinet's "Antiquarian Cookbooks", and a portion of Pauline Mooney's "Early Children's Shoes."

The Abbot-Spalding House Museum experienced a change in the arrangements of its framed materials, particularly noticeable on the Family Wall in the guest bedroom.

Items added to the Florence H. Speare Museum's exhibits included new "Post Office" materials, "Gaby Hats" and a "School Desk."

City Hall cabinets exhibits included "Nashua Street Cars and Free Postal Delivery Service", "Early Nashua Letterheads", "Early Christmas Cards", "Trains in Nashua", and "May 4, 1930 – the Crown Hill Fire."

Education – Sandra Axton

The 2011-2012 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 was awarded to Joshua M. Emmett from Nashua High School North. Joshua also received the Ce Ce Romano Memorial Scholarship given by Board member Terry Romano, in memory of her sister.

The Society received a Gold Circle award for our Partnership-at-Large with the Nashua Public Schools. Area students and Scouts visited to do research and badge work.

"Make New Friends...But Keep The Old! One Is Silver And The Other Is Gold!"

On an April afternoon, members of Girl Scout Troop 10661 visited the Nashua Historical Society as they pursued learning about the early history of Girl Scouting in Nashua. The visit was prompted by New Hampshire's version of the 100th Anniversary Patch Program. The years spanning 1912-2012 mark the 100th anniversary of Girls Scouting in the United States. "Make New Friends...But Keep the Old!" The patch requirements covered during their visit included a trip down memory lane through artifacts in the Historical Society's collection which represent the earliest years of Girl Scouting in Nashua. Several Historical Society adult Girl Scouts presented their fondest personal Girl Scout memories and encouraged the girls from Troop 10661 to ask them questions. These personal accounts were written into paragraphs and the girls have included them into a "Girl Scout 100th Anniversary Memory Book".

Described below are two of the Historical Society's treasured Girl Scout artifacts. Feedback from both the moms and the girls in Girl Scout Troop 10661 showed great enthusiasm towards the Historical Society's adult Girl Scouts and Girl Scout collection. It has been reported that two of the moms and three of the Girl Scouts sang some of their moms favorite Girl Scout songs on their way home from their Historical Society visit.

Did you know that the Historical Society has a 1917 Girl Scout uniform? It was worn by Troop leader Mrs. Ogillivie. She was the first leader of the first Troop from the Crown Hill neighborhood of Nashua. The Troop had a floral crest and they were known as "The Wild Rose Troop".



Helen Painter was a leader and, as an Adult Girl Scout in Nashua during the 1980's and the 1990's, she received a Girl Scout medal the "Saint Anne Award". The medal was presented to her in recognition of outstanding service to the spiritual development of Catholic Youth.

A Memorial Tribute to Three Special People

Remembering Bea Cadwell, George Bankeroff and Dot Frost

Admired for everything from her "dark, sparkling eyes", and lively personality to her penchant for reading and putting schoolwork ahead of having fun. Beatrice Michaud was a few months shy of her 18th birthday when her photograph appeared in the 1930 edition of Nashua High School's "Tusitala" under the phrase "Work first, and then rest".

Those of us lucky enough to have known Bea, who became Bea Cadwell upon her 1939 marriage to well-known industrialist William Dexter Cadwell, certainly agreed with the words her classmates used way back more than 80 years ago. And through the years those who knew her accumulated plenty more superlatives.

Bea was one of three longtime Historical Society friends we lost over two months during the 2011-12 holiday season, casting a bit of sadness over a normally fun and hectic time. Bea was nine months from becoming a centenarian when she passed on Wednesday, Jan. 4 at the Hunt Community, where she'd lived for years. We got news of Bea's passing while we were still mourning the loss of popular members and gracious volunteers George Bankeroff and Dot Frost, who died on Nov. 8 and Dec. 8, respectively.

George, 72, was an avid bridge player, which drew him to the Speare House on plenty of Thursdays for years. He was there plenty of other days too, helping Barbara with one project or another, where his expertise, especially in computers was always welcome and appreciated.

Dorothy, who was 92 when she died at Greenbriar, was well-known not only to a generation of Historical Society members and staff but to years of customers at Nashua's Sears store, especially when it was on Main Street in the pre-mall days.

Bea Cadwell

To the many who knew Bea, her patience, friendliness and willingness to help were lifelong traits honed early in life. Though most of America was watching the dark clouds of the Great Depression gather on the horizon, Bea decided to further her education by enrolling in the then-Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, at that time a four-year course of study from which she graduated as class valedictorian. Not only did Bea go on to a full, productive nursing career, she later became a Red Cross/Blood Bank volunteer and remained active there, as well as at both Nashua hospitals, for over 60 years.

Bea liked to travel, but still found plenty of time for the Nashua Symphony and, of course, our historical society. She attended symphony concerts and continued tending the Speare House Museum desk a day or two a week up until weeks before her passing.

When her eyesight failed to the point she couldn't read any longer, several volunteers-including former Senior Center director Pat Francis and several of our staff and members-read to her. Unfortunately, Bea wasn't yet 50 when she was widowed after just 23 years of marriage. Dexter, who was about 16 years her senior, was 65 when he died in 1962.

Just three months before Bea passed, she and her family suffered a harsh blow when her grandson, Peter D. Cadwell II, passed unexpectedly while vacationing in California. He was just 40.

In 2008, Bea's home, Nashua's Hunt Community, featured her in its fall newsletter. Describing her as "an incredibly active individual with a long list of accomplishments and talents," the story highlights Bea's artistic ability, personal commendations and awards, love of travel and her volunteer service with some 10 different organizations.

Among her travels, according to the story, Bea even visited Vietnam- landing with a plane full of Army recruits in the midst of the war-torn land at the height of hostilities in the 1960s.

When the writer asked Bea what advice she'd give to younger generations, she replied, "Stay busy, don't waste time, and enjoy everything life has to offer."