

# Nashua Historical Society

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
www.nashuahistoricalociety.org

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Above, Cecile Renzi filing the wrapped Telegraphs into the new storage carts. The old stacked Telegraphs before disassembly are shown to the right.

## TRANSFORMATION OF THE BASEMENT AT THE SPEARE MUSEUM.

Margaret Gay Garneau.

Have you ever started to tackle an unruly basement or shaken your head when entering a cluttered attic, shrugged your shoulders, walked away saying “this job is for another day”? Imagine coming to work at the historical society, walking down to a storage space which had been part of exhibit space on farming, the White Mountain Freezer Co., Nashua Manufacturing Company and fire equipment. Not to mention three areas chock full of artifacts, textiles, framed pictures and large volumes of leather bound Telegraphs from 1900 to 1931.

This area has been off-limits to the public for several years because it was becoming a disaster! This was what Beth McCarthy, our Curator, and the collections committee Barbara Bankeroff, Barbara Comer, Margaret Garneau, Prudence Maloon and Jackie Walker were facing. A few years ago a plan was put into action to tackle this mess, make better use of the spaces and create a more suitable environment for storage.

How to move the fire tub from the basement was of some concern as disassembly was the only way. An expert on fire memorabilia in Maine, Andy Swift, was contacted and hired.

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Basement Transformation con't..

Andy and his crew of two worked for a whole day and a half to gently move each piece to the second floor where they reassembled the tub. Visitors to our museum in the last two years have been pleasantly surprised to see the fire tub, weathervane and other fire memorabilia intermingled with the Frank Ingalls photography exhibit on the second floor. The Nashua Manufacturing Co., work whistle and time card clock are now on view in the Frank Clancy, Esq. library on our first floor.

Meanwhile slow progress has been made on buying museum storage racks to accommodate mirrors and framed artwork. For the past year volunteer Susan Fineman has been helping Collections Technician Barbara Comer to bubble wrap, label and document all this artwork. Eventually they will be housed on the new storage racks.

The most daunting task. What to do with the disintegrating leather bound Telegraphs. It was decided to discard the covers and eventually put the Telegraphs in archival boxes. The information in the Telegraphs make a tremendous research addition to our room. Part of the new basement make-over plan is to make a research facility with wifi capability for members and visitors use. As of last week wifi has been installed.

A work day was created this winter.

Volunteers Barbara and Joe Comer, Margaret and Robert Garneau, Gail and Dave Pinet, Cecile and Vinnie Renzi assisted Beth McCarthy in disassembling the old storage racks, moving display cases, relocating the Telegraphs, relocating year books etc. from the back storage room to the library so

Barbara and Joe could paint the walls in the soon to be research room. Several weeks later the crew came back, now joined by Peter Vincent, and laboriously stripped off the leather covers, wrapped each Telegraph volume in glassine, labeled each volume and they are now housed in new carts rebuilt by Joe from the old blue storage shelves.

There is a lot more to be done but great progress has been made.

Come visit the museum and see the transformation in progress for yourselves.

We will be scheduling more Saturday work parties in the near future.

If you are willing to help out we would love to hear from you.



Helping in the basement upgrade are Vinnie Renzi (using the vacuum) and Robert Garneau

## NEW MEMBERS

### 2010

Steven, Suzanne, Spencer & Sydney Rak  
Mary Yannetti - Carrie C. Ballavance

### 2011

Christopher & Joy Barrett - Kenneth A. Brunini  
Sharon Bubar - Cynthia Kyriax Burney  
Fran Combs - Joe & Barbara Comer  
Kim Giovannini - John Hargreaves  
Georgi Hippauf - Judith Jones  
John Koutsos - T. J. Latvis  
John Louis Malkowski - David & Prudence Maloon  
Alex Mowczan - Barbara Pressly  
Pellerin Family - David & Gail Pinet  
Lynn Schultz - Stanley A. Stoncius  
Barbara Strong - Anita Vassar  
Shoko Yoshikawa

### 2012

Glenn Bingham and Family  
Dominique Boutaud  
Gail Cummings and Family  
Dr. Dwight F. Damen & family  
Roland & Marie Fisher  
Robyn Griswold  
Jeremy St.Hiliare and Family  
Olga Katsoupis and Family  
Sy Mahfuz and Family  
Philip Scontsas and Family  
Nick Shepherd  
Rebekah Shulz & Matthew Tingler  
Robert E. Valade  
Peter Vincent

We greatly appreciate the generous contributions people have made in;

### 2011 - 2012

#### In Loving Memory:

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen D. Barnes  
William & Judith Cott III  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Frost  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Garneau  
Maurice Gaudette  
Mr. & Mrs. Steven King

Dr. & Mrs. Adrien Levesque  
Beth McCarthy & Scott McPhie  
MedVentive Inc.  
Patricia Pawlukiewicz  
Leila Rosenberg  
Dearborn Wingate.

#### Contributions

Ricardo Azocar  
Barbara Bankeroff  
Howard Barnes  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Clark  
Joe & Barbara Comer  
Roland & Marie Fisher  
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Goyette

David Hutchins  
Barbara Keirstead  
Mike Loré  
Lori McIntosh  
Frank Mooney  
Christopher Moore  
Virginia Nedved Cook  
Denise Newman

Gail Pinet *on behalf of* Arlene Candles  
Terry Romano  
William Ross  
Nancy Sullivan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Thurber  
Peter Vincent  
Leatha Warena

## 2010-2012 OFFICERS OF THE NASHUA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<b>President</b>	<b>William Ross</b>
<b>1st Vice President</b>	David Duprat
<b>2nd Vice President</b>	Jack Clark
<b>Treasurer</b>	Cecile M. Renz
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Robert Goldsack
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	Joanne Ouellette
<b>Assistant Clerk</b>	Catherine Valley

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2009 - 2012

Gailyn Casaday  
James Cunningham  
Barbara Keirstead  
Kenneth Mayo  
Vinnie Renzi

### 2010 - 2013

Ricardo Azocar  
Alan Cohen  
Awilda Muniz  
Denise Newman  
Andrew Piela

### 2011 - 2014

Mary Coe Foran  
Judith A. H. Jones  
Dennis Parker  
Catherine Poulin  
Terry Romano

## Recent Additions to the Nashua Historical Society's Collection

George and Cynthia Short recently traveled from Campton, New Hampshire to donate two treasures to the Nashua Historical Society. A Smith Draw Knife and a L.O. Fairbanks Bevel. Prior to December of 1836, Nashua, New Hampshire was known as Dunstable.

### Dunstable Draw Knife



This Dunstable Draw Knife was made by either Benjamin or Ballard Smith of Dunstable, New Hampshire. Benjamin Smith worked for many years as a blacksmith in Dunstable and his mark (SMITH DUNSTABLE) is recorded on tools as early as 1766. Benjamin's son Ballard, was born in 1774 and he ultimately joined his father's smithy. Benjamin died in 1821, and Ballard continued the family smithy business for many years.

## President's Message

As my term as president comes to a close, I reflect back on my 14 years. I saw the restoration of the Abbot Spalding house, the birth of Heather our curator's daughter, and the introduction of major technology innovations. Regrettably there was some sadness with the passing of some good friends.

My tenure as president was always a pleasure, and I feel honored that I was able to serve. I met very interesting people, made numerous friends, learned a lot and met some challenges, (flooded basements, 3:00 am intrusion alarms).

I'm delighted that the nominating committee saw fit to nominate me for a position on the Board of Directors. So if all goes well I'll still be active here.

Sincerely,

*Bill Ross*



### The Bevel Attachment

The bevel was made by Leonard O. Fairbanks of Nashua, New Hampshire. In 1861 Leonard Fairbanks applied to the United States Patent Office seeking a patent for his Bevel attachment for bench planes. The intent of this bevel attachment was to serve as an adjustable guide to the stocks of bench planes.



Four individuals, Mike Lore, Frank Mooney, Bill Ross and Peter Vincent pooled their resources and purchased an A Fisher Submerged Pump. This pump is stamped PATD., APR L.7 1868. Through research, we have learned that the makers of this pump were in business in Nashua with different business names and at four different locations between the years of 1864 and 1898.

## Nashua People and Places

The Society started with a printing of 730 books and we are happy to report 320 have been sold to date.

Anyone wishing to purchase a copy of **Nashua People and Places** can do so at the Nashua Historical Society.

The book sells for \$24.95



Signing books at the Nashua Public Library are Barbara Bankeroff, Meri Goyette, (center) and Robin Ann Peters, (background).



Sandi Axton, Meri Goyette and Tim Glenday signing books at the Nashua Art Walk

## Children's Shoes Exhibit



There is a new exhibit being created in the members collections cabinet at the Florence H. Speare Museum. Pauline Mooney has been a collector of early children's household items for over fifty years. Early children's items have always attracted her as their wear represents children having fun. She has acquired her treasures through extensive travels throughout the northeast. States in which she focused her collection strategies within include: Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Vermont.

Pauline's various early children's collections include a range of different types of early toys, dishes, tea party/food sets and furniture.

Ranging in years between the early 1800's through to the mid 1900's, a selection of Pauline's collection of young boy and girls children's shoes will be on exhibit at the Nashua Historical Society's Florence H. Speare Memorial Museum from March 1, 2012 - May 31, 2012.

Early children's shoes of various sizes will be shown. Styles include both button and lace up shoes as well as children's shoe accessories including lasts, socks, a sock stretcher, and a variety of button hooks many of these button hooks were utilitarian Nashua business advertising items.

The Speare museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm and by appointment most Saturdays.

## January Holiday Party

L'Eclectique Coterie  
entertained and was enjoyed by all.



## Opera in Nashua's History?

Yes. But you need to have lived here a while to know about it!

When the Nashua Historical Society kindly asked me during the 2003 Sesquicentennial Celebration to make a presentation related to music in Nashua I could not resist the temptation to look for a Nashua-Opera connection.

For a few days it looked hopeless, but those dedicated volunteer archivists at the Nashua Historical Society soon came to the rescue.

So, the capacity audience that attended the presentation a couple of weeks later were delighted to learn that Railroad Square had been the site of the Franklin Opera House (originally known as Franklin Hall), built in 1848 and consumed by fire in 1931.

Used for a number of purposes, the structure was a venue for the Nashua Oratorio Society, founded in the late 1800's by Mr. Eusebius Hood, and which the Boston Herald praised as "comparing favorably with any chorus in Boston or New York".

The society's ambitious programming grew to include concert performances of complete operas, and the first major work to be sung in its entirety, as part of the music festival held at City Hall in 1910, was Charles Gounod's Faust. Opera Circle commemorated the occasion by presenting selections of Faust sung live by soloists from Nashua, Concord and Boston.

A proud moment, indeed.

Ricardo Azocar-Zavala  
Opera Circle Presenter.

Ricardo has been a member in good standing since 2004 and is currently serving on the Board of Directors until 2013.

### OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Society shall be the collection and preservation of historical artifacts, properties, records and documents with a emphasis on those used, produced, related to or in the case of real properties, located in the Nashua area.

### OUR MISSION

It shall be the mission of the Society to display, publish, or make available such artifacts, properties, records, and documents, subject to the regulations prescribed by the Board of Directors, to the Society members and the general public.

## Why I Wrote *The Geographic History of Old Dunstable etc....*

**1 & 3)** There are four chapters in the book, and the reasons that I wrote them differ. Back before **1984**, I did the research on chapters No.1, “Location of Dunstable from 1673 to 1772”; and No. 3, “Dunstable/Nashua, Three Centuries of Change”, because I was curious about the actual locations of the boundaries of Old Dunstable and Nashua, over the ages; and the map in Fox’s History had many errors. When I found all the boundaries, I plotted them on copies of existing maps, framed the maps and hung them on the wall in my office, that of the Nashua City Engineer. Unfortunately, there were few people who saw them there, and, as far as I know, no one ever read or used the information on them.

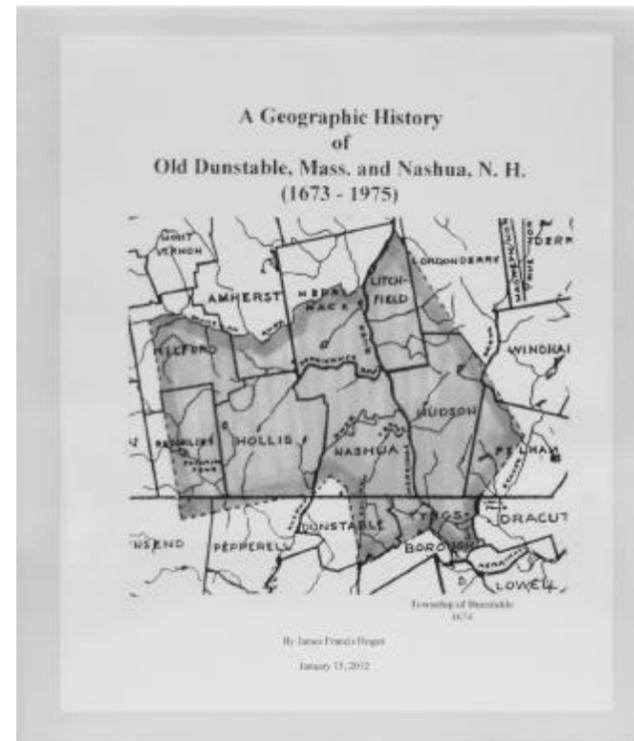
When I retired in 1996, I took the framed maps home and hung them in my basement hallway, where they could be seen by my wife, my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the gas meter reader (42 people, assuming 1 meter-reader), but I doubt that they noticed them. Then in 2011, while discussing what to do with the maps after I went to my eternal reward, my wife and my eldest daughter encouraged me to make them available to those who would appreciate them.

As I saw it, I had two choices: I could get some agency to house and hang the framed maps or I could put them in a book, copies of which could be read at libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies. I selected the latter choice: I chose to write a book.

**2)** Since I was writing a book, I decided to write Chapter No. 2, “The Sheepskin Map of Old Dunstable”, about the map of old Dunstable that was traced by Kimball Webster in 1882 and re-traced by Edward N. Sheffield in 1914. This chapter grew to include comments on Miss Bertha Hayden, Miss Abbie Eastman and the Blanchards of early Dunstable.

**4)** Finally, since I was writing a book for historians to use, I decided to write Chapter No. 4, “Six Maps Depicting Nashua from 1800 to 2000”, to incorporate photos of my 33 inch by 45 inch maps that I made back in about 1975.

Although the photos, which are reduced to 7 inch by 9 inch, show very little of what is on the larger original maps, I hope that if someone sees the photos in this book and is interested in what the larger maps show, they will find where the larger maps are stored and will view them.



In addition to the Nashua Historical Society, I furnished free copies of this book to the New England Historical Genealogical Society, the New Hampshire Historical Society, the New Hampshire State Library, and the public libraries at Amherst, Brookline, Dunstable, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Milford, Nashua, and Tynngsborough.

The only remaining question. Who will house my various loose and framed maps after I am dead and gone?

*James Hogan*

James Francis Hogan

April 5, 2012

### A 99th Birthday Party was given for Bea Cadwell



Bea Cadwell blowing out the candles

Bea sharing the birthday buffet with several other members of the Society, including Jackie Walker and Shirley Hart.



Sadly, Bea has passed away and will be missed by her many friends, members, and volunteers at the Society.