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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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.

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**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 Shultz - Stanley A. Stoccius
Barbara Strong - Anita Vassar
Shoko Yoshikawa

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 Lore
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 Warenda
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.

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.

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
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).

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.
OUR PURPOSE
The purpose of the Society shall be the collection and preservation of historical artifacts, properties, records and documents with an 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 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 Tyngsborough.

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

James Francis Hogan
April 5, 2012

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

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

Bea Cadwell blowing out the candles

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