A Puzzling Addition to the Website

For one of her Girl Scout badges, Heather McPhie wanted to contribute something to the NHS website that would be of interest to children and youth. Recently, she completed this portion of her badge requirement by having ten puzzles added to the website as well as the answers. We are grateful to Heather for the work she put into creating these puzzles and sharing them with us. These puzzles are really for people of all ages. Please enjoy the sample puzzle below.

NASHUA PEOPLE AND PLACES

Unscramble each of the clue words.
Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number.

DUBNESLAT  6
MAOLHN TAMSIDI  10
CEALNTEINIR RPKA
DINLEA BTBOA  1
LEEEYRG KARP  11
GELREAN REOFST  5
VISLALNEH
HENSSECDE LOVA  7
LUPA BEIOR  9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

To see more of what Heather created please go to https://www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org/puzzles.html

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Nashua Historical Society members,

Please mark your calendars for this year’s 149th Annual Meeting on May 21, 2019. This is the evening that the ballots are counted and the Annual Reports of the Committees are shared. It’s an opportunity to hear the accomplishments of our various committees and staff, all of whom work very hard to move the Society forward in its mission to preserve the past of Nashua history.

Our staff trains and gives ongoing assistance to our volunteers who work on a variety of projects. When we have volunteers who are looking for a project, Curator Beth McCarthy and volunteer Chairperson, Margaret Garneau, speak with them and set them up with a project of interest to them. If you have no preference, we have a large variety of projects in need of workers.

The Nominating Committee will soon be seeking candidates for this year’s vacancies on the Board of Directors which consists of Officers and Directors. The Board members meet in September, October, November, take a break and start up again in March, April and May. The Board meetings are at 7 pm at the Society each of those months.

Best wishes for a wonderful spring season. Drop by if you have a chance. We are open to the public from 10 to 3, Tuesday through Thursday. Office hours are 9 to 4 those days.

President,
Joanne Ouellette

~ In Remembrance ~

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Shirley Hart. Shirley was a longtime volunteer, and she regularly attended our programs. Most recently, she served on our Refreshment Committee. Shirley always shared a smile and kindness. She will be truly missed.

STÜPPED? Answer to this puzzle on page 8

Heather with proud Mom, Beth McCarthy, Curator at the Society. Heather explains to the membership why she chose creating puzzles to complete her Girl Scout badge requirements.
**Windsor Chair Donation by the Nashua Public Library**

The Friends of the Nashua Public Library presented two of four fully restored Windsor chairs to The Nashua Historical Society at the Library Friends Group Annual Meeting held on Thursday, November 15, 2018. Two sets of male and female Windsor chairs were restored by Chuck Mower. One set of Windsor chairs will remain in the Chandler Wing of the Nashua Public Library and the other set was gifted to The Nashua Historical Society. The Friends of the Nashua Public Library raised the funds for the restoration work and oversaw the completion of the project. We are grateful to the Library Friends Group for this generous donation.

**Donation**

The Nashua Historical Society recently received an unexpected, generous donation from Millyard Bike Paddle Run. This organization sponsors a fun but challenging race each year that goes from Nashua to Hollis and back to Nashua. One of their supporters received a scholarship from NHS several years ago, and Millyard Bike Paddle Run gave the donation in his honor.

**What treasure is in your attic?**

Recently, NHS received a telephone call asking if we were familiar with a 1930’s movie called Movie Queens-Nashua. This was new to us. It turns out that in the 1930s filmmakers would drive around New England and focus on one town and tell its story.

According to Karin Carlson-Snider, the vault manager at Northeast Historic Film, “the films were the work of a production company out of Boston, the Amateur Film Company that sent a filmmaker to towns all over New England, with a basic script and a pitch to the town.”

“They’d show up in a town, and they’d go around to businesses and get them to be in the film, and they’d pick the movie queen — which was a teenage girl or a little older, who would be the heroine of the movie,” said Carlson-Snider.

Many of the films have survived. Unfortunately, a copy of the movie about Nashua has not been found. People frequently find hidden treasures in their homes. Is it possible that maybe a copy of the Nashua movie is in your attic or basement?

**Volunteer Profile**

It was a sad day for the city of Lowell when the Textile Museum closed, however, a happy day for The Nashua Historical Society. Two charming ladies Paula and Janice turned up at our door and plunged into our textile collection to advise us on preservation and conservation. Both ladies are retired educators and have a wealth of wisdom, expertise and are full of ideas for exhibiting some of our hidden treasures. We are lucky to have them on our volunteer team.

We are always looking for help in our museums. See the list below and contact us if something tickles your fancy!

Salt and Pepper Shaker Exhibit in the Speare Museum Lobby

The current exhibit in the display case in the NHS lobby is salt and pepper shakers that have been loaned to us by Sue Smith. Sue’s mother-in-law started the collection, and Sue has added to her collection.

The salt and pepper shakers are all unique and very fun to look at. The collection includes animal shakers, holiday shakers, souvenir shakers and more. Please stop by to look at this fun exhibit.

Exhibit in the Library

The Nashua Manufacturing Exhibit is still on display. The exhibit gives an overview of the history of manufacturing in Nashua through photographs, architectural drawings, spools, shuttles, milled fabric, blankets and more. It also provides histories of the Indian Head Mills and Joseph Baldwin’s Bobbin Shop.

City Hall Exhibit

The current exhibit at City Hall is the history of the Pheasant Lane Mall. We invite you to stop by to see the exhibit.
Annual Member Luncheon

January 26 was a beautiful day for the Annual Member Luncheon. As always, our members provided us with many tasty dishes to enjoy.

The Silver Linings, a choral group from the Nashua Senior Center, entertained us with songs from the recent past. Members were invited to join in to sing some of the songs.

Bob Bates, who is a NHS board member as well as a member of the Silver Linings, sang lead on some of the songs.

2019 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Edmund M. Keefe Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is open to any high school senior who is a resident of Nashua. If you know someone who qualifies, please share the link to our website with them https://www.nashuahistoricalsociety.org/scholarships.html

Salt and Pepper Shakers Exhibit con’t

Answer to Puzzle Nashua People and Places:

Dunstable - Holman Stadium - Bicentennial Park - Daniel Abbot - Greeley Park
General Foster – Nashville - Deschenes Oval - Paul Boire

THE GATE CITY
Futures Committee

Like many organizations NHS is always looking for new members and volunteers as well as new ways to move the museums forward. To create that new vision the Futures Committee was formed. Their Mission Statement is: The purpose of the NHS Community Relations and Futures Committee is to improve the health and longevity of the NHS institution by increasing both its membership and volunteer rolls; improving its community outreach and communication efforts; while simultaneously seeing to improve the quality of experience held by those included within it ranks.

The committee will be sending out a Member Survey to obtain opinions from our current membership to learn how we are doing and what they would like to see in the future. If you have any thoughts you would like to share with the committee in addition to the survey, please contact the office.

What am I?

Recently, one of our volunteers found this item in a box, and we are hoping that someone can tell us what it is. The ribbon is 20” around and it is adjustable. The center section is 1.5” wide and 1.75” high. Any thoughts on what this item is or how it was used would be greatly appreciated.

Ye Olde Home Town
by Louise E. Desclos
October 22, 2014

Nashua, N.H. was a quiet, friendly, picturesque, and quaint town with tree lined streets back in the 1940’s. Most were single family and duplex homes, with a mixture of taller tenement houses in some neighborhoods, all well-kept. Our population was about 20,000. We knew all our neighbors not just those next door as people did more walking back then, so we saw them as they walked by and they would stop and chat. Mom and Pop grocery stores, cobbler, tailor, barber and beauty shops and restaurants were scattered in the mixed and ethnic neighborhoods. This was before the big stores came to town.

We lived near the south end of Chestnut Street and, yes, there were chestnut trees. Within two blocks of home was the high school, the grade school, the French School and church, two grocery stores, the grain store with the Boston and Maine railroad tracks and boxcars parked at the loading dock (which we loved to play on and in), the fire station that we often visited, a drug store complete with soda fountain; a bakery, shoe shop, and trolley cars operating on Lake street. Chestnut and Lake Streets were paved with cobble stones.

I remember the rag man coming up the street ever so slowly with his aged horse clopping on the cobble stones. He called out “Rags, rags” as they came by. We could give him rags without his having to stop.

The swimming hole in my neighborhood was Fields Grove at Salmon Brook at the end of our street. We learned to swim by holding on to the bubbling chlorine pipe, kicking as instructed. The swimming hole was not officially opened until it was warm enough in the season and beyond the time period for contracting polio. We had several other swimming holes in the south end of town; Man’s Hole, Women’s Hole, and the Suds, all along the Salmon Brook.

Right in front of our house and behind the high school was the South Common, the playground for our neighborhood. We had unlimited use of the swings, slide, sandbox, see-saw, ball field, and tennis court. We used wax paper on the metal slide to make it slippery, and that it was. The tennis court made a good roller skating area. Neighborhood kids would actually play together. My father made his own box kites and flew them in the playground. It was a simpler time. Each one of these is a story in itself.

During the summer days, the playground was staffed; the big green box was unlocked and out came the badminton sets, volleyball and baseball equipment, checkers, board games, bean bag and jar-ring toss and so many other wonderful toys.

In the winter the ball field was flooded. In those days winter came early. By Thanksgiving we were ice skating, the ground was frozen, the snow plowed to form a rink and Lee, the owner of Lee’s Variety across the street, flooded the rink at night. Sometimes I would go out there to help him (so I thought).

continued on next page
He used a fire hose attached to the fire hydrant. I could not handle that hose, the power was too much for me. I learned that the water had to be applied evenly. The air was so cold on some nights that the water would freeze as soon as it hit the ground and made ripples and ridges on the ice. The next day I could tell if the air had been super cold when he flooded. Those ridges were treacherous. It was an achievement to lay down smooth ice.

There were loud speakers on the light poles, Lee would play music for our skating pleasure, and he turned the lights on at dusk. I loved skating with my father to the Skater’s Waltz. Lee sharpened our skates and allowed us to warm up in the back room of his little store, or I could just walk home with my skates on, as the house was across the street.

Next door to us was the Cabana Sausage Company. The aroma in the area was wonderful between the sausage store and the grain store just beyond Cabana’s. The houses and barns were close together with an alley here and there which was super for playing cowboys and Indians. We ran behind the houses, hopefully undetected, as we were really not supposed to be doing that. That didn’t stop us. Through the alley and over the fence we would go, around and around. I had a double holster!

St. Louis Church’s bells would ring on the hour, so we knew when to be home for lunch, supper and Ma’s curfew time. Life was easy, pleasant, and carefree. A few blocks away and, off Lake Street was Sandy Pond, where the city sponsored fishing derby’s for us. Poles were made of branches, fish line and a hook. We had to put the worm on. Yuk! The pond had been stocked and prizes were given. Win or not it was fun.

In the winter, ice was cut from Sandy Pond. The Balcom Ice Company was situated on its shore. Men worked cutting big blocks of ice to put in the ice house. Many of the homes, including ours had an ice box. One thing you don’t want to do is to forget to empty the ice box drip pan.

When the circus came to town via train, they got off on West Hollis Street and paraded to Labine’s Race Track, which was our fairgrounds and is now the Fairground School area.

We lived about three blocks from downtown Main Street. I walked downtown every week to pay the utilities, insurance, etc. The two department stores, Woolworth and J. J. Newbury were fun to cruise, upstairs and down. Montgomery Ward was on Main Street; I paid the bill upstairs which overlooked the sales floor below. That always intrigued me. Marsh Parson’s on Main Street had the coin trolley running up and across the ceiling to the office.

The radio and the local movie houses were the entertainment. This was prior to TV in most homes. It was even a time prior to phones in most homes. How sweet it was. Peaceful.

It was a good time to grow up in Nashua, a friendly neighborhood and town. We did not lock our doors, ever. We had no fear or threat from crime or terrorists. It was truly a wonderfully idyllic era, a time lost, a time never to be regained, a time today’s children will never know.

We thank Louise for sharing these lovely memories of Nashua with us. We would love it if you would also share your memories of Nashua. Please contact Eileen to submit an article or if you would like help in writing about your memories for a future newsletter.