



“50 YEARS OF PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY”

The Courier

JUNE 2017

VOL. 52, No. 3

A quarterly publication of the Manchester Historical Society, Inc. • 175 Pine Street • Manchester, Connecticut 06040 • 860-647-9983



President's Corner

by Jack Prior

I wish to personally reach out to each of you, requesting your assistance in promoting Manchester's history and heritage. Please join your friends and neighbors today, by supporting the Historical Society's

museum and educational programs, as well as its precious historic properties. With your help, we can continue to have a positive impact on our community and visitors alike.

For decades, the Society has played a unique role in supporting and enhancing Manchester's elementary school history curriculum. We provide experiential tours to third grade students each spring. My adult daughter remembers her own third grade tour, led by none other than Mrs. Woodbridge herself, and she can still recall that George Washington stopped at the Woodbridge Tavern not once but twice! It is time for us to expand our engagement with the school system, deepening our young citizens' knowledge of the historical significance of the town, its industries and buildings, and its people. Your financial assistance will allow us to support educators interested in creating hands-on history experiences for their students, as well as continue to support our broader educational mission.

For our children and adult learners, it's time to bring weaving back to the "Silk City." We are excited to announce a partnership with the Hartford Artisans Weaving Center. The Center is dedicated to "teaching the ancient art of hand weaving enhancing the artisans' self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. Weavers, novice through advanced, produce beautiful handwoven scarves, throws, wall hangings, and more!" This spring, the Center has begun offering all-level, floor loom evening classes in our History Center. This exciting partnership is a perfect example how we are experiencing the town's history through the rediscovery of fiber arts.

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Cheney Clock Comes Home

We recently received the donation of a beautiful grandfather clock made by Timothy Cheney. Over the years the clock had found its way to the west coast. Several months ago we received a phone call from Seattle asking if we would like to add to our collections a tall case clock (another name for a grandfather clock) made by a Cheney of Hartford. Of course our immediate response was YES!

The clock was made by Timothy Cheney during the period 1750 and 1783 when we were still part of Hartford. It stands eight feet tall and the clockworks are of brass. It is beautifully decorated with an inlaid star at the top of the bonnet and fluted columns flanking the dial. It appears that some repairs were made to it over the years, but do not detract from its overall appearance.

It seems the clock has been in the Huntington family for many generations. A paper label inside notes that it was part of the Connecticut Tercentenary Exhibition of 1935, and the catalog of that exhibition shows this clock. It was owned at the time by Sara Huntington.

The clock is now on display at the History Center next to another item that was made in Manchester about 150 years ago and which found its way far from home and recently returned. That is the Landfear pump organ reported in the Courier of September 2016.

Timothy Cheney clock with hour, minute and second hands and date.





Drop Us A Line...

You can contact Society President
Jack Prior at
president@manchesterhistory.org,
or our Executive Director
Eileen Sweeney at
executivedirector@manchesterhistory.org

The Courier

*A newsletter of the
Manchester Historical Society*

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We encourage our members to support the
Corporate Members of the Society.

Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Highland Park Market
Manchester Road Race Committee
Royal Ice Cream Company
Lofts at the Mills

We Will Miss

Jean and Louis Kocsis were long time members of the Society.

Jean was an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Pitkin Glass Works Council, and the Republican Women's Club, and several other organizations.

Lou served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In Manchester Lou was the owner of Lincoln Business Services. He was a member of several organizations besides the Historical Society, including the Beethoven Chorus, the Republican Town Committee and Masonic Lodge #73.

Robert Harrison was a lifelong resident of Manchester, a longtime member of the Society and a source of knowledge about antiques. He worked for the Town of Manchester for many years and owned several antique shops. Bob often helped us identify very old objects in the Society collections.

Frances Forde lived in Manchester for most of her long life in the family home on Main St. Franny was a very active person and a longtime member of the Society. She taught at Nathan Hale School for many years and retired 34 years ago. She enjoyed the beach and summered every year at Grove Beach in Westbrook.

What Will Be Your Legacy?

How will we be remembered after we are gone? One of the ways we can influence future generations is by leaving a legacy for others to build on and utilize.

June is *Leave A Legacy* month, a time for us to think how we can help others after we are not around to provide in-person support. If you love history, including your own family's history and our shared town history, you can do no better than leaving a gift to our Manchester Historical Society in your will. Your gift will provide meaningful support and help ensure that our Society will continue to prosper and to educate future generations about our heritage.

If you have questions, please call us at 860-647-9983. We can suggest ways for you to provide a legacy for the future.

Genealogy Group Meeting

On Tuesday, June 13, the Genealogy Group of the Manchester Historical Society will meet at 10:00 am at the Manchester History Center. The program will follow a Genealogy Road Show format. Members of the group who are experienced researchers will be available to meet individually with persons seeking to solve roadblocks and needing help in planning their ancestry search strategies. The Genealogy Group consists of Historical Society members with an interest in researching their own family history. The general public is welcome to attend genealogical meetings with a suggested donation of \$3.00. Future meetings are listed on the events page at www.manchesterhistory.org.

To Our Readers

If there is something you would like us to write about, please contact Dave at 860-647-9742 or at info@manchesterhistory.org.

Third Graders Tour Our Museums

Our museums hosted hundreds of third graders and their teachers and parents throughout the month of May. Nearly 600 students plus 165 parents and teachers visited the museums in the Cheney Brothers National Historic District over four weeks. The tours were arranged and hosted by many volunteers who spent hours showing and explaining some of the interesting parts of our town's history. George Washington's stop at the Woodbridge Tavern, the role of the silk worm in providing employment for a quarter of Manchester's population, fire protection for the mill buildings, and voting as a right for all citizens were explained and demonstrated. Although we did not have a presidential election this year, the students were again able to use our vintage voting machine to vote for their favorite ice cream flavor (cookie dough was the overwhelming choice).



Volunteer John Bereuter explains the importance of the invention of the Spencer Repeating Rifle

Woodbridge Barn Open To Public

Beginning Saturday, June 10 Open House Day and again Sunday June 11, our newly restored barn will be open to the public twice a month. It will be open on the second and fourth Sunday each month through October between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. In addition there will be special events in the fall when the barn will be open on other days as well. An official grand opening will be held in the fall and a special donor's only event is also being planned.

The public will be able to see the barn and its contents as we develop displays of farm tools and equipment. It is a work in progress and the items on display will be changing as we progress throughout the summer and fall.

Although the restoration is nearly complete, additional support is still needed as we make it into a showcase of our town's farming history. You can help by contacting us at 860-647-9983. The restoration has been a partnership with the CT State Historic Preservation Office and the SBM Foundation and individual donors.

Parking is available on the street in front of the house, and on the street in front of the old mill building next to the house. Enter using the grass driveway between the house and Woodbridge Pizza.

President's Corner

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While our artisan friends will be using modern looms to weave, our historic Cheney looms could use a bit of love and care. The ribbon loom is working, although it still needs a few refinements to ensure its continued, proper running. The other weaving looms remain to be set up. Restoration of the looms requires your financial support. When they are up and running, we can demonstrate to visitors the making of silk fabric as produced in the Cheney Brothers mills.

Your contribution matters! Without your support, small or large, the Manchester Historical Society and its many positive endeavors would not be possible. I ask that you make a monetary donation to underscore your commitment to this important work. In the spirit of this annual fundraising drive, the Board of Directors have pledged over \$7,000 above and beyond their required contributions, averaging more than \$580 per board member. I challenge you to contribute generously. Make a difference in your community by helping to build a strong Historical Society in Manchester.

The Manchester Historical Society, our town's premier cultural heritage institution, needs you now. Please make your tax-deductible gift today to our Annual Fund.

I thank you for your continued support.

Statement of Financial Position

For year ended September 30, 2016

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Current Assets | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 88,385 |
| Grants and contributions receivable | 94,831 |
| Other | <u>18,727</u> |
| Total current assets | 201,943 |
| Investments | 1,225,567 |
| Fixed Assets | |
| (real estate, buildings & equipment net of depreciation) | <u>1,261,391</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 2,688,901 |
| Current Liabilities | 7,038 |
| Net Assets | |
| Unrestricted: | |
| Operating and board designated | 383,649 |
| Fixed assets | <u>1,261,391</u> |
| | 1,645,040 |
| Temporarily restricted | <u>1,036,823</u> |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | 2,681,863 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | 2,688,901 |

Volunteers Make Our World Go Round

Since we depend so much on our volunteers to make the Society work and for the events and tours to take place, we wish to acknowledge those who are the key to our success. They serve on committees, keep our properties maintained, plan events and programs, host the many school tours, receive and catalog artifacts, operate the museum stores and greet visitors to the museum and history center. Thank you for all you do. The following persons volunteered during the year 2016. If you volunteered last year and your name does not appear here please let us know and we will acknowledge your participation in the next issue of The Courier.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Gail Adams | Gordon Howard | Laura and Jon Reichelt | Robin Starkel |
| Mike Agostinelli | Grace Jaworski | Genevieve Robb | Eileen Sweeney |
| Susan Allely | Dick Jenkins | Aylin Saydam | Irene Swenson |
| Cynthia Barlow | Jeanine Johnson | Walter Scadden | Dorothy Tomlinson |
| Malcolm and Susan Barlow | William Johnson | Ronald Schack | Kryste Tougas |
| Adam Bawwab | Marilu Joslin | Audrey and Earl Schaefer | Mara Upenieks |
| Barbara Bawwab | Caillin Keeler | Edith Schoell | Carole Walden |
| Yusuf Bawwab | Ann Kibbie | Dale and Tom Schuetz | Jim Wallin |
| George Beauregard | Jean Lamenzo | Kent Schwendy | Anna Watson |
| Ginny Bennett | Theresa Lasnier | Dave Smith | Kathryn Wilson |
| John Bereuter | Fred Lea | Lynn Sottile | Phyllis Wilson |
| Rita and Dick Borden | Eileen Leahy | James St. Pierre | Daitlin Wright |
| Mya Bowen | Sydney Ledoux | Claire and Richard Spiess | Mary Wynn |
| Ruth Shapleigh-Brown | Clair Leighton | Deborah Starkel | Robert Young |
| Diane Sheehan-Burns | Diane Bordeaux-Lenti | | Jane and Rudy Zadnik |
| Jean Burr | Beverly and Al Logan | | |
| Alicia Calabrese | John Long | | |
| Kamryn Carter | Cayle Love | | |
| Carol Cheney | Ann Lucente | | |
| Pat and Andrea Clancy | Susan Lyons | | |
| John Cooney | Thomas Matrick | | |
| Noreen Cullen | Kim Mauro | | |
| Natalie Dahl | Faith and Tim McCann | | |
| Alex Delgado | Nancy McHugh | | |
| Marles Deveau | Rita McParland | | |
| Doti Dienst | William Menasian | | |
| Jamie Donohue | Kristine Miller | | |
| Aysa Dunne | Peter Millett | | |
| Annlinda Dustin-Bray | Elaine Mistretta | | |
| Kathy Dyer | Geoffrey Naab | | |
| Marilyn Eastwood | Neal Narkon | | |
| Kevin Ferrigno | Virginia Narkon | | |
| Ed Firestone | Elaine Neubelt | | |
| John Fletcher | Peg Newton | | |
| Andrew Fogarty | Liz Nyser | | |
| Lori Fogg | Chris O'Brien | | |
| Jeane Fogg | William O'Brien | | |
| Dave Frost | Armando Orsorio | | |
| Linda Gates | Mary and Sandy Ostrinsky | | |
| Robert Gauthier | Xiomara Padilla | | |
| Jill Gelinas | Debbie Palmer | | |
| Dennis Gleeson | Len and Terry Parla | | |
| Danielle Godi | Emma Perlitz | | |
| Robert Gorman | Andrew Pryce | | |
| James Guillette | Janet and Jack Prior | | |
| James Hall | Carole and Tom Quish | | |
| Ruth Herbele | Dovile Regulus | | |
| Pat and Bob Hetzel | | | |
| Maureen Hevey | | | |
| Julie Hinkly | | | |
| John Hovey | | | |

Thank You

Financial Report

Statement of Activities for year ended September 30, 2016

Change in Unrestricted Net Assets

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Operating revenues, gains, and other support: | |
| Contributions and grants | \$ 82,688 |
| Fundraising events | 19,121 |
| Memberships | 12,730 |
| Rental income and reimbursements | 40,503 |
| Other | 5,151 |
| Interest and dividend income | 29,083 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | <u>233,869</u> |
| Total operating revenues, gains, etc. | 423,145 |

Operating expenses:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Program services | 201,657 |
| Supporting services | 48,614 |
| Fundraising services | <u>13,403</u> |
| Total operating expenses | 263,674 |

Income from operations: 159,471

Other changes in unrestricted net assets

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Net realized and unrealized gains/(losses) | (6,241) |
| Depreciation | <u>(58,803)</u> |
| Change in unrestricted net assets | 94,427 |

Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Contributions and grants | 50,981 |
| Net realized and unrealized gains | 83,295 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | <u>(233,869)</u> |
| Change in temporarily restricted net assets | (99,593) |

TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (5,166)

Calendar of Events

- ▶ **The Old Manchester Museum** at 126 Cedar Street, open by appointment -- phone 860-647-9983. The research facility is available all year by appointment -- phone 860-647-9883.
- ▶ **The History Center and museum store** are generally open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 175 Pine Street at the corner of Forest Street -- where you can purchase local history items such as books, copies of vintage maps, Manchester Herald cookbooks, t-shirts with historic scenes of Manchester, old high school yearbooks, vintage business directories, mugs, notecards, and limited-edition ceramic tree ornaments with images of Cheney Homestead and other landmarks. There is also a study area where visitors can conduct research by browsing through old Manchester directories, surveys, high school yearbooks, and booklets. There is an exhibit of the Russell barber shop, with barber pole, and vintage barbering tools and furniture, as well as a standing exhibit about Cheney silks. Please check to make sure the building is open before coming! 860-647-9983.
- ▶ **The Cheney Homestead** at 106 Hartford Rd is open the second Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

“The Mystique of Silk” exhibit at the History Center, open during regular hours, weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., but please phone 860-647-9983 to double-check if open. This exhibit was created by the Cheney Cemetery Association’s President, Carol Cheney, great-granddaughter of Knight Dexter Cheney, President of Cheney Brothers from 1894 to 1907. Carol describes the exhibit as commemorating “the 100th anniversary of the Cheney Cemetery Association in 2016, and the enduring Cheney Family legacy of innovation and good will. The family expresses deep gratitude to the generations of Cheney Brothers employees whose dedicated service helped build the Town of Manchester.” Design, advertising, and sales of Cheney silks were handled at the company’s New York offices. Much can be learned about the Cheney Brothers brand from their advertisements in high-end magazines of the day. These ads emphasized life style and corporate image over product details. The framed ads in the exhibit are from Carol Cheney’s collection.

Saturday, June 10, 2017, Museum Open House Day, open 11 to 3: • Cheney Homestead and the Keeney Schoolhouse at 106 Hartford Rd. • Old Manchester Museum, 126 Cedar Street • Loom Room exhibit, enter via 175 Pine Street • Woodbridge Farmstead barn and grounds, at 495 Middle Turnpike East (enter between house and Woodbridge Pizza). Also, the Pitkin Glass Works, located at the intersection of Parker and Putnam Streets in the Manchester Green section of town will be open.

Sunday, June 11, Tea and Textiles at the History Center, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., featuring a textile exhibit, door prizes, silent auction, and guest speaker Carol Cheney, who will talk about Cheney Brothers silk empire, and provide a glimpse into the family that founded America’s largest silk mills. Learn about the role of advertising and about the Cheney legacy of philanthropy in Manchester and Hartford. Carol is the great granddaughter of one of the founders of Cheney Brothers. Enjoy an abundant tea with a large variety of treats, both savory and sweet, along with hot tea in china cups. All welcome to this entertaining and elegant afternoon -- bring a friend and neighbor. \$30 per person.

Tuesday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m., the Historical Society’s Genealogy Group -- a meeting at the History Center for both amateur and more experienced genealogists. A genealogy “road show” format -- members of the Genealogy Group will be available to meet with any attendee who has questions or needs help regarding their research.

Saturday June 17, at 1:00 p.m. History Walk featuring the “Great Lawn” starting at the Cheney Homestead. Park at Fuss & O’Neill, 146 Hartford Road. This one-and-a-quarter-hour walk will proceed along streets and lawn to view historic mansions, schools, and a church, with a visit to the nine acres purchased by the Town in 2005 for open space and historic preservation. Historical Society members Tom Ferguson and Susan Barlow will comment on the historic landscape and buildings. There is some steep and uneven ground, so participants should wear sturdy shoes or boots. The South United Methodist Church will open one of its mansions for our participants -- the former home of Mary Cheney, for whom the library was named. Extreme weather cancels, but the walk will be held in light rain, so please bring an umbrella. \$10 for non-members, \$7 for members, and free for children under age 16.

Sunday, September 17, “Dancing with the Celebrities” 1:00 p.m. at Cheney Hall, 177 Hartford Road. Featuring ten local celebrities, presenting a special dance with their partners. Instructors courtesy of Arthur Murray Dance Studios of Glastonbury and Vernon. There will also be a silent auction. Admission \$15 for ages 13 to adult, and \$5 for ages 12 and under. Details to follow! Save the date!

Sunday, October 1, Hilliard Mills walk and tour, 1:00 p.m.: Meet at 642 Hilliard Street for a walking tour and commentary about the historic buildings in the Hilliardville section of Manchester, including the country’s oldest woolen mill. This section of town is named for the Hilliard family, but it was the Pitkin family that started the mills in the eighteenth century. Owner Peter Bonzani and Society volunteer Susan Barlow will present information and stories. We will tour building interiors and also walk outside about a half mile, encountering uneven and possibly wet terrain. Rain or shine, so please bring an umbrella if weather is wet. \$7 for non-members, \$5 for members, free for children under 16.



The Manchester Historical Society
175 Pine Street
Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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Your Membership Expires on:

MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form, and mail it with your check to:

The Manchester Historical Society, 175 Pine Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Name: (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss) _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Email: _____

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-------|--------------------------------------|---------|--|-------|
| Type of Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Individual | \$60 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Individual (65+) | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple | \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Family | \$100 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (under age 18) | \$5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Couple | \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | \$500 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Individual | \$500 | | | | |

I would like to make an additional contribution for

| | | | |
|---|----------|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Building Fund | \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Farmstead Endowment | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Endowment Fund | \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Barn Restoration | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheney Homestead Endowment | \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Keeney Schoolhouse Fund | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Appeal | \$ _____ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have enclosed a matching gift form | | | |

Make checks payable to: Manchester Historical Society