



“50 YEARS OF PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY”

The Courier

MARCH 2019

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Letter from the President

by Jack Prior, President

I personally want to thank all our society members for being the keepers of Manchester’s history. Through your membership, donations of time and or money, we preserve and educate the public about the rich heritage of our town. Your support has helped to make us a great organization.

We recently held our Membership meeting for the fiscal year 2017-2018. To help our members plan ahead, the Board is establishing the third Sunday of September of every year as the Society’s Annual Membership meeting. Therefore, our next Annual Membership meeting will be at 1:00 pm, September 22, 2019. It will be held at the History Center located at 175 Pine Street, Manchester.

During our February 3rd meeting, Society members spoke candidly about how they feel about the Board and Society’s performance. The Board will continue to strive to be the best Board it can be. Listening to comments from the members the Board will be instituting several major changes. We will establish a Nominating Sub-committee consisting of Board and non-board members. The purpose of the sub-committee will be to provide a slate of candidates for Board of Directors and officers to be voted upon at each Annual Membership meeting.

Members expressed the desire to have financial information on a more regular basis. For the past two years the financial reports provided to members were of audited high-level results. These results have shown that the society is in good financial shape. They do not however, show much detail of the Society and its properties. The Finance Committee will change this by providing additional detailed accounting information. The Society has always had the policy that any member can request an appointment to view the finances and committee meeting minutes. For questions and concerns, members may

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The Role of Institutional Advancement

by Mya Bowen

Institutional Advancement is typically used in the environment of higher education, however, for the purpose of understanding how it can be applied to the Manchester Historical Society (hereafter referred to as MHS), we must look at its primary elements and how they connect to the vision and mission of MHS. The Society is a non-profit organization in Manchester, CT that seeks to fulfill its vision and mission through institutional advancement by connecting with the communities that it serves. By looking at MHS’s Vision and Mission through the lens of institutional advancement, we believe that we can better communicate our processes in building a culture that contributes to the sustainability of the organization for generations to come.

Institutional advancement is defined as a process that involves a “strategic, integrated method of managing relationships and support among an [...] institution’s key constituents...” (Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), https://www.case.org/About_CASE/About_Advancement.html). In other words, it is the development of relationships between the organization, MHS, and the community that it serves. Through institutional advancement, MHS seeks to develop awareness and support from current and potential

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Save the Date!

**Volunteer Meeting Saturday, Mar. 23, 2019
10am-Noon at the History Center.**

PAR AVION
AIR MAIL
CORREO AEREO

Remember our Annual Fund!



Drop Us A Line...

You can contact Society President
Jack Prior at
president@manchesterhistory.org

The Courier

*A newsletter of the
Manchester Historical Society*

Online at: www.manchesterhistory.org

E-mail: info@manchesterhistory.org

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Corporate Members of the Society.

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The Manchester Historical Society welcomes you to our e-news!

To sign up for our free e-newsletter that comes directly to your e-mail inbox, go to our Home page www.manchesterhistory.org and click on the red rectangle that says Sign up for free e-news. You can unsubscribe at any time.



Support the Manchester Historical Society by Shopping on Amazon!

Just by using the link below, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the Manchester Historical Society.

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We Will Miss

Phil Susag was a Life Member of the Society for nearly 20 years. He was an active person in the community and his church. Phil served the town in many capacities including the Board of Education, the Agenda for Tomorrow, and president of the Manchester Community Services Council. As a representative of his church he traveled to Africa, Asia and Europe. He also was a strong supporter of the Society and arranged for the donations of a number of artifacts.

We Will Miss

Phyllis Plocharczyk was a life member of the Society. She was born in Manchester in 1924 and worked for W. G. Glenney Co. and The Steak Club. She retired to Maine. Phyllis was a lifelong communicant of St. John's Polish National Catholic Church.

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.

Letter from the President *Continued from pg.1*

contact the Society by calling or through the Society's emails listed on the "Contact Us" webpage on our website www.manchesterhistory.org

A topic that has been addressed at several Board meetings is the revision of the current Society's bylaws. The Board's intent is to revise the bylaws to be more succinct, concise and understandable. At the Membership meeting on February 3, several members expressed the same sentiments. A sub-committee has been established by the Board to rewrite the bylaws. This sub-committee consists of Board and non-board members.

During the meeting two topics concerning the Woodbridge Farmstead were discussed, the establishment of the property as a museum and the rental of the apartment on the top floor of the house. The eighteenth-century barn has been restored and is open as the beginning of our farming museum, displaying early farming tools and other items belonging to the family. As to incorporating part of the house as a museum, the Woodbridge Sub-Committee will be exploring possible options this year. Concerning the rental of the apartment, we reviewed both Mrs. Woodbridge's will and deed. Upon review of each document, nothing was stipulated that the apartment cannot be rented. The deed stipulated that Mrs. Woodbridge would have life use of the premises and house and any rent and profits would be hers until her passing.

The Woodbridge Farmstead, as well as the Cheney Homestead, will continue to have tenants. An outside source will be engaged to help us acquire the best tenants for our properties. Background checks will continue to be done and reviewed to assess each applicant's qualifications for their worthiness to live in our historical properties, being respectful and appreciative of what we have. We want the tenants to have a sense of ownership and pride in our history just as our members do.

I would like to thank the membership for re-affirming the current Board through an overwhelming vote of confidence. Through renewed enthusiasm and open communication by all, I look forward to the continued growth of the Society. If you have any questions or concerns about the management of the Society, please feel free to call me (860-647-9983) or email me (president@manchesterhistory.org) with your specific questions.

In conclusion I ask of you, how are you going to make us a destination, make us more professional, and how are you going to help educate our community about our wonderful properties and heritage of Manchester? Get involved, that's how. It is easy to sit back and say, "We should have". Remember this is your society, be active by attending our wonderful events, volunteer in the many actives available, get involved to see and better understand the workings of the Society. Help make a difference.

Our Mission...

The Manchester Historical Society educates the public about the history of Manchester, Connecticut; collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits information and artifacts about the town and its diverse population, and advocates for the preservation of significant historic resources.

The Role of Institutional Advancement *Continued from pg.1*

supporters. Institutional advancement also consists of programs that are of interest by its supporters.

The core elements of institutional advancement are Public Relations, Publications, Membership Relations, Development, and the Annual Fund. These elements are connected to the endeavors of MHS in the following ways. Public Relations is one of the elements of institutional advancement that involves communication. It is the goal of MHS to provide to the community messages that promote upcoming events and historically relevant information regarding the Town of Manchester. Additionally, it is a method of cultivating and managing the organization's relationships with its membership and other interested individuals and groups.

Publications is another element of institutional advancement that conveys information to the membership and the public through printed materials such as the quarterly newsletter (The Courier), and online sources such as the E-newsletter, Facebook, etc.

Membership Relations is also an element of institutional advancement. The role of Membership Relations is to communicate events and meetings specifically for the members of MHS.

The role of the Development element of institutional advancement involves fundraising. Fundraising is a process that can involve many types of activities and special events, such as The Tea Gala, book readings, Sunday lectures, and historic walks. Through development, the goal of MHS is to convey an understanding of the organization's mission to the public as well as acquiring financial support for its programs.

The institutional advancement element, Annual Fund, consists of asking members of MHS for donations that are given on a yearly basis. MHS solicits these gifts by telephone, but mainly through the mail. MHS values the Annual Fund element because it is the method in which it members and other interested parties contribute to the annual operating dollars for the organization's budget.

In conclusion, as MHS pursues institutional advancement endeavors, we want to encourage YOU to become aware of who we are and what we do, and we invite YOU to join us in the process.



The Manchester Historical Society

Celebrating our volunteers!

Saturday, March 23

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

At the History Center, 175 Pine Street, Manchester CT 06040

Continental breakfast meeting.

All welcome -- past, present, and future volunteers.

RSVP to Terry Parla, 860-643-1823 or ternardo@snet.net

Find out more about the volunteer work needed at the Society -- ranging from research and administrative to building and grounds maintenance! Meet new people and be a part of preserving Manchester's history. Light breakfast served. Meet the Historical Society board members.

Sample opportunities –

Reception desk greeters	School tour guides & helpers	Researchers
Events planners & greeters	Exhibit builders & receptionists	Building & grounds work

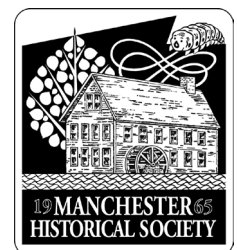
The Manchester Historical Society

History Center open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday except holidays. Administrative office phone 860-647-9983

Website: www.manchesterhistory.org

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety>



Calendar of Events –

- ▶ **The Old Manchester Museum** at 126 Cedar Street, open the first Saturday of the month, from noon to 2:00 p.m. depending on the weather. Also open by appointment -- phone 860-647-9983.
- ▶ **The History Center and museum store** at 175 Pine St. at the corner of Forest St. are open Monday to Friday 10:00 to 2:00, You can purchase local-history items including books, copies of vintage maps, Kage company plastic decorations, Manchester Herald cookbooks, t-shirts with historic scenes of Manchester, copies of high school yearbooks, vintage business directories, mugs, notecards, and limited-edition ceramic tree ornaments with images of Cheney Homestead and other landmarks. For further information please call the office at 860-647-9983.
- ▶ **Cheney Homestead and Keeney Schoolhouse** at 106 Hartford Rd. open the second Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. For special events hours may be longer.
- ▶ **Woodbridge Barn and house** (ground floor only, not wheelchair accessible) at 495 Middle Tpk East, open the second and fourth Sundays of the month from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. (May through October.) For special events hours may be longer.

Board of Directors Meetings every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Members are welcome to attend and may make comments at the beginning of each meeting. Most meetings will be held at the history center, but please call ahead to confirm location.

Sunday, March 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Weaving and Songs for all ages at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road. Try your hand at weaving and spinning -- experienced artisans will show you how. Bring colorful, clean used cloth and help us start our next community rag-rug project to be displayed at Hartford Public Library in June. Enjoy weaving/spinning work songs from Early America and India. Visit this early American home, including the recently opened Homestead Art Gallery and be inspired by Manchester's rich history in art. Tour the 1785 Homestead which was donated to the Manchester Historical Society by the Cheney family in 1968 for use as a house museum. Guided tours include the 1751 Keeney Schoolhouse, history of the Homestead and its contents, and of the family who lived there.

Friday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m., Manchester in the Movies, 175 Pine Street. Last of our series of three vintage movie nights with a Manchester connection! These movies have featured actress Astrid Allwyn (1905-1978), born in South Manchester, who had supporting roles in over a dozen movies in the 1930s and 1940s. The March 22 movie will (as were the first two in our

wintertime series) be from the 1930s, a great movie night featuring Shirley Temple -- the movie Dimples. Hosted by Society director Peter Millet; historic commentary by author David Garnes. Donation requested: \$2 per person, \$5 per family. Refreshments available for purchase. Come enjoy some wonderful old movie favorites with our community, and celebrate our own Manchester actress!

Saturday, March 23 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, "Celebrating Volunteerism" continental breakfast meeting at The History Center, 175 Pine Street. All welcome -- past, present, and future volunteers. If you would like to attend, please call Terry Parla, 860-643-1823. Find out more about the volunteer work needed at the Society -- ranging from research and administration to building and grounds maintenance! We need lots of volunteers for the tours we conduct for Manchester school children from 9:00 to 1:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays in May. At our various properties, we need greeters and tour guides, exhibit planners and designers, receptionists at events at the History Center, such as book talks and Sunday lectures. Light breakfast fare will be served.

Saturday, March 30 at 1:00 p.m., History Hike of Highland Park starting at the small parking lot on Spring Street near the historic bridge and waterfall, not far from the intersection of Spring Street and Glen Road, Manchester (GPS 670 Spring St.). We'll start with commentary on the Case Brothers National Historic District and then visit the paper mill and mansion areas. Those who want a short history walk may end their walk at the dam at Case Pond near Spring Street. For those who want a more strenuous event, we will continue uphill to the summit of Lookout Mountain. Steep, bumpy, and rocky terrain, but worth the effort, especially on a clear day, when the Heublein Tower is visible to the west. FREE. Please wear sturdy sneakers or hiking boots, and bring water. No dogs, please. Extreme weather cancels.

Sunday, March 31 at 2:00 p.m. at the History Center, The Board of Directors will present a Financial Overview of the Society. All members welcome.

Continued on Next page

Introducing Gerry Gallo

Our new part-time Administrative Assistant.

Gerry also serves as facilities person for the History Center building. He joined us in late January and has helped reorganize our office and reduce much of the clutter that had accumulated over the past several years.

Gerry had been employed at an elderly housing complex in Rockville in a 150 year old former mill building, where he was responsible for maintenance and operations. He has also been a long time member of the Manchester Elks Lodge and is currently their treasurer and serves as its Veterans Service Chairman.

Calendar of Events (Cont.)

Sunday, April 7 at 1:00 p.m., Book Talk, 175 Pine Street. Author Christopher Wigren presents an illustrated talk about his book, "Connecticut Architecture: Stories of 100 Places." Christopher Wigren is an architectural historian and Deputy Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. His articles and essays have appeared in the Hartford Courant, the New Haven Register, and Connecticut Explored magazine. The book is a project of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and reflects over 30 years of fieldwork and research in statewide architectural surveys and National Register of Historic Places programs. The author says, "Connecticut boasts some of the oldest and most distinctive architecture in New England, from Colonial churches and Modernist houses to refurbished nineteenth-century factories. The state's history includes landscapes of small farmsteads, country churches, urban streets, tobacco sheds, maritime villages, and town greens, as well as more recent suburbs and corporate headquarters." The book introduces readers to 100 places across the state. Written for travelers and residents alike, the book features buildings visible from the road, and features 200 illustrations. The event is free, donations to the Historical Society welcome.

Sunday, April 14 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Open House at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road. Visit this early American home, including the recently opened

Homestead Art Gallery and be inspired by Manchester's rich history in art.

Friday, May 3 beginning 5:30 p.m., Annual Dinner at Manchester Country Club, Invitations will be sent out about mid-March.

Sunday, May 12 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Open House at Woodbridge Barn and house, 495 Middle Tpk. East. The barn and house will be open the second and fourth Sundays each month through October. Special events will be held on many Sundays. Today on Mothers Day, there will be a planting event for kids and mothers. Sunflower seeds and planters will be available.

Sunday, May 12 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Open House at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road.

Sunday, June 9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Open House at the Cheney Homestead, 106 Hartford Road.

Sunday, September 22 at 1:00 p.m., annual member meeting of the Manchester Historical Society at The History Center, 175 Pine Street. Reports will be presented on the past year's activities and plans for the upcoming year, the financial report and membership vote on proposed slates of officers and directors.

Cheney Homestead - "Art, Ingenuity & Early American Life"

by Peter Millett

2018 Recap: We had a wonderful year where we welcomed over 700 visitors, plus hundreds more on the annual school tours.

- Black History month, February presented a fiery speech given by Doug Edwards dressed as Frederick Douglass, who was an acquaintance of Ednah Dow Cheney and abolition speaker here in Manchester (covered live on Channel 8 TV)
- Dedicated the Homestead Art Gallery to John, Seth, Margaret Swan and Ednah Dow Cheney.
- Battled the elements and animals in our expanded, second-year History Garden
- Finished our first "Community Rag Rug" project, with visitor help, on a loom in Electa's room
- Demonstrated the heritage craft of blacksmithing/ferriering with a horse that was shod on site at the Homestead Harvest
- Presented Friday Night Campfire stories during four nights in October, with over 110 visitors
- Read Dicken's "A Christmas Carol" by the fireside in December, with the Homestead beautifully decorated by the Manchester Garden Club

2019 Plans: We will be using storytelling to make the visitor experience and history more personal in the Homestead and Keeney Schoolhouse. In addition we are considering formal art and heritage craft instruction. We are also exploring the important and unique stories of women at the Homestead. Importantly, in 2019 the committee is reviewing and updating the Cheney Homestead/Keeney Schoolhouse Master Plan, with input encouraged from the membership.



Cheney Homestead, South Manchester, Conn.

Meet Our New Directors



Chris Malone grew up in Manchester where his parents (John and Beverly) loved the town and its rich history. He is a graduate of East Catholic High School and Salve Regina University with a degree in Business Management. He ran operations for two local natural gas utilities for over 30 years.

Currently Chris teaches woodworking to adults with intellectual disabilities at OWC in Rockville. He also serves on the Groton Long Point Board of Directors and is charged with facilities. Other local organizations he is involved with include Manchester ELKs lodge and the CENCAP credit union.

Chris and his wife Kim have two grown children. Yes, there are places that he and Kim want to visit and explore, but Manchester is the place they plan to always call home.



Bob Kilpatrick is a Security Manager with the State of CT Judicial Branch where he has been employed since 1989.

A life-long resident of Manchester, he has been involved in various civic and volunteer organizations in town for many years, including coaching at all levels of Manchester Youth Sports programs, serving on the Highland Park School PTA, and as a past president of the Manchester Little League.

Currently, Bob serves as Secretary on the Town's Advisory Recreation & Park Commission, as Chairperson of the Land Acquisition and Historic Property Investment Committee, and as a Board Member at the Manchester Country Club. He and his family also serve as a host family for elite runners invited from around the world to participate in the famed Thanksgiving Day Manchester Road Race!

Possessing a very keen interest in history in general, Bob looks forward to increasing his knowledge and appreciation of Manchester's history while serving with the Historical Society. He is excited at the prospects of helping to foster the same interest in others to both learn about and help preserve Manchester's rich historic legacy.

Bob and his wife Patty reside in Manchester, and are the proud parents of four grown children; Bobby, Ryan, Colin, and Erin.

Historical Society Membership

by Kris Miller

According to our bylaws, any person interested in the objectives of the Society may become a member by filling out a membership form and paying to the Society such dues as may be payable for the membership level selected. Membership dues are payable once a year unless you are a Life Member in which case dues are paid once and are good for life.

Every year, the month before your anniversary, a letter is mailed to you requesting that you pay your dues for the following year. If your dues are not received within a month then a second reminder letter is sent, asking once again that you pay your dues. If we still don't receive anything from you then two months after your anniversary month, we will deactivate your membership. Remember that this process is done by volunteers and is not always exact. We have sent out requests for dues to be paid in people's anniversary month rather than the month

before. And, second notices have gone out a month later than intended at times. We're sorry for any mix ups and confusion that we may have caused. If you ever have any questions about your membership please send me an email at membership@manchesterhistory.org or give me a call at 860-647-9983. I am usually at the History Center on Thursdays between 10 AM and 2 PM. Thank you for your patience.

Oh, and while I have your attention, please note that membership cards are no longer sent out to members. We determined that we have never asked to see a membership card and that most people when asked to show their card often don't have it with them. We usually check a current list of paid up members if we need to determine if a person is an active member or not. So, we decided to discontinue the practice of sending out membership cards to members.



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"/> Keeney Schoolhouse Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheney Homestead Endowment	\$ _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Appeal	\$ _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> I have enclosed a matching gift form			

Make checks payable to: Manchester Historical Society