



# The Courier

MAY 2014

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

## Grames Printing and *The Courier*

The year was 1965, and Ohio-born Howard Grames was struck with an idea of how to make extra money to pay for college. He bought a 5-by-8 inch hand-operated printing press and began selling envelopes out of his home in Canton.

After several years working for Interstate Department Stores, he was transferred to Connecticut. He was still printing on the side, and the little press came with him.

In 1976, Howard left his job in retail and started a full-time printing business. At first he worked from the basement of his home in Manchester, but before long there wasn't enough room and he moved into a second floor space on corner of East Middle Turnpike and Woodbridge Street. Within a few months Mark joined his father and learned to run the presses. The business continued to grow.

In 1979 they moved to a larger space on Purnell Place and four years later to an even larger location on Hartford Road. By this time, several other family members and some full and part-time employees were working in the business. Mark's wife Cathy joined them in 1986.

From Hartford Road, they relocated to Woodland Street and with each move the business continued to grow and their loyal customers followed them.

After leasing spaces for twenty years, their long-term

goal of owning their own location became a reality. They purchased the former Pinewood Furniture building at the corner of East Center and Parker Streets.

In its early days, Grames Printing utilized a dark room, light tables and a typesetter to get the job done. Digital printing, high-end graphic design, computers networked to copiers and electronic file sharing have now taken the place of the old-fashioned equipment.

Grames Printing has been producing our *Courier* newsletter for nearly 30 years!

For 38 years, Mark and Cathy were fortunate to have had many wonderful clients who they thoroughly enjoyed working with. But now they are moving on to new opportunities in New York State where they started a new business with their daughter.

Grames Printing has been turned over to Joel and Amy Steinman, owners of Manchester Printing and Minuteman Press. Joel and Amy are a husband and wife team who are experienced, well-established business owners with three other print shops in the area. They offer all the same work as well as many exciting new products and services. Their goal is to provide the same level of service and will continue to print *The Courier* for us.

This issue of *The Courier* is sponsored by:



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## Drop Us A Line...

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

## The Courier

*A newsletter of the  
Manchester Historical Society*

Online at: [www.manchesterhistory.org](http://www.manchesterhistory.org)

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Design & Printing by Minuteman Press.

## A Message from the President

*by Dennis Gleeson*



This spring has been a very busy time for the Society. Repairs to our buildings have been started and will continue through the summer. The Keeney Schoolhouse was sorely in need of repainting and that has been started, weather permitting. The cool and wet spring has not helped to get it done quickly. The Cheney Homestead roof developed some leaks this winter and requires repairs, including to the

ceiling of Electa's bedroom on the lower floor. That work has been contracted to be done this summer.

At the History Center we have been cleaning and painting the walls in Room Four, which, as you may recall, had the floor refinished last year. Already many compliments have been received about the impressive improvement that work has made. The Manchester Historical Society has received notice of Urban Act and Special Act awards of funding in the amount of \$287,430 with the support of Manchester's Legislative Delegation, the State Bond Commission, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and Governor Dannel P. Malloy, to design and install an HVAC (Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning) system throughout the top floor of the History Center and also in the Loom Room and public spaces on the ground floor. Completion of this project will allow us to use the building year round, so that our programming will be able to expand and serve more of our audience. Special thanks are in order to Rep. Joe Diminico for spearheading that effort.

The restoration of the Woodbridge Barn is being planned and a major fundraising campaign will soon get underway to help us cover the cost of that work. We have already been awarded a Historic Restoration Fund grant of \$78,000 from the CT Department of Economic and Community Development to carry out the restoration work. However we will need to raise an additional \$120,000 to fully pay for the work. Other work at the Woodbridge Farmstead has included the creation of a new demonstration garden and the planting of several varieties of fruit trees. Society members, volunteers, and staff look forward to the time that the property will be able to accommodate visitors to the grounds and view the 18th century barn.

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## Cheney District Preservation Awards

The Cheney Brothers National Historic District Commission will present the fourteenth annual historic preservation awards on Wednesday, May 28 at 5:00 p.m. in the Hearing Room at Lincoln Center. The awards celebrate Manchester property owners who have improved their historic house or business building "in a manner that preserves its historic values and character." Light refreshments will be served. Questions about the awards may be directed to Commission member Leslie Frey at 860-647-0659

# Woodbridge Farm Garden

by Barbara Bawwab

As we finally begin to enjoy spring, thoughts turn to gardening and what the Woodbridge Farmstead was like some 100 years ago. I bought a book on how to start a garden. The book was by Frederick Fry Rockwell, who was a native of Massachusetts in the early 1900s. Mr. Rockwell described how he started his garden, and how it was planned through the months of the year for fruit, vegetables and berries. In the 1900s Mr. Rockwell stated that for a dollar he could get all the seeds, plants, berries, potatoes and other things he needed to start his garden. At that time a dollar was a lot of money, there would be enough food to last the whole year from that dollar.

I was thrilled to find out how he outlined step-by-step the garden planning, and in the morning I was going to look on the property to see where I could plant this garden. My son, Yusuf, walked along the stream which runs through the back yard and something fluttering in the water caught his eye. My gosh, it was the dollar, the dollar to start my garden. Hum, I wonder if Mr. Woodbridge sent that dollar down the stream to get the garden started. Well, I hope to have a garden as good as Mr. Woodbridge would've liked it.



The Woodbridge back yard in the Spring

Photo by Yusuf Bawwab



School Mistress Connie Walker welcomes students to the one-room Keeney School House on the grounds of the Cheney Homestead. School mistress in training Jamie Donahue (not shown) is helping this year after making her own period clothing. Photo by Dave Smith

## Third Grade Tours Underway

Our town's history comes alive in May for all the third graders in Manchester. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the streets in the Cheney District are busy with many school children walking between the several museums and Cheney Hall. They also see first-hand the looms that were key to the success of the Cheney Brothers Silk Co. The Cheney Homestead, Old Manchester Museum, Fire Museum, and the History Center's Loom Room are where our past can be experienced. Many questions are asked, such as last year's "stumper" about how many fires were in the Cheney mills. After researching the answer, Curator Dave Smith visited the Washington School class of the student who asked the question and explained our findings. The student was presented with a reward for stumping the experts.

## How Can We Help You?

*by Dave Smith*

One of the many ways the Society can be of service to its members and the public came to fruition a few days ago. We received an email from someone hoping to reconnect to her childhood friend and asking if we could help.

Barbara Perrotti had lost contact with her friend Judy Barnard soon after they graduated from high school many years ago. Barbara contacted the person now living in the house on Center St. in Manchester where her friend used to live, but the current occupant was not able to help. After trying several other possibilities, Barbara sent us a request for help.

We exchanged several emails and determined that Judy graduated from Manchester High School in 1959. Then it was a simple matter to check the Manchester High School Alumni Directory, hoping that Judy had responded back in 1997 to include her information in the directory. Her address was listed as living in Nevada, and included her phone number. That information was relayed to Barbara on Saturday afternoon, the day before Mother's Day.

The next morning Barbara emailed us again saying that she had spent an hour on the phone with her friend, reconnecting after all those years. She thanked us profusely stating "What a happy Mother's Day this is for me."

## Seeking Research Materials

We need your help.

**CHENEY CLOCKS AND TRAVELS:** We have engaged in separate long term research projects regarding John and Seth Cheney's time spent in Philadelphia, as well as Benjamin and Timothy Cheney's clock-making enterprise. We are in need of access to any letters, accounts, or any other documentation concerning the travels of John and Seth Cheney. Also anything relating to their work or other time spent in Philadelphia. We are also in need of access to any clocks made by Benjamin or Timothy as well as any of their account books, personal correspondence, business records and any related documentation.

**MACHINISTS TOOLS, ETC:** We are in the process of planning and completing our exhibit about the Cheney Machine Shop, which we now call home. We would like to see and copy photographs of employees who worked in the Machine Shop and other interior views of it. We are seeking donations of vintage machinists tools, tool chests, benches, and other machinery associated with a machine shop.

If you can help, please contact Society Curator Dave Smith at 860-647-9742 or by email at [info@manchesterhistory.org](mailto:info@manchesterhistory.org)

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## The Velvet, The Wool, The Gingham...The Fabric of our Volunteer Staff: Getting to Know Them!

Yes, I'm BIAS, but did you know Marles Deveau is a graduate of Ledyard High School, Mitchell Junior College, and Central Connecticut State University...and she also attended Manchester Community College and University of Hartford? Well...she did!

And, did you know Marles once owned an antique business called PastTymes Antiques? Well, she did!

And, did you know Marles used to work for several area auctioneers and traveled the flea market and auction circuit hereabouts?

Oh, yes, and did you know Marles and her family and friends were antique collectors and auction-goers...well, they were!

All this said, it only makes sense that once retired from a market research firm, Marles would become a volunteer at the Manchester Historical Society!

For those of you with similar backgrounds and/or interests, the Society provides the perfect opportunity to satisfy your inner passion for exploring the past, while contributing to our future. Whether surveying membership on the phone, or scheduling volunteers like Marles does, if you get the NOTION, come join the fun. Become part of the FABRIC of our volunteer staff! There are many THREADS woven together to form the TAPESTRY that we call the Manchester Historical Society!

# Will You Leave a Legacy for Future Generations?

June is Leave A Legacy month, and it reminds us to think about how we can benefit future generations and help them to learn about and appreciate our history.

Help preserve our town's past by  
Including a bequest to the Manchester Historical  
Society – When  
Thinking  
Of your Last Will and Testament  
Remember to include us in  
Your estate plan!

The language in your will may be a plain as: “I give, devise and bequeath to the Manchester Historical Society, a nonprofit corporation in the State of Connecticut, Town of Manchester, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_” OR “\_\_\_\_\_ shares of stock in \_\_\_\_\_ company.”

Please consult with your estate planner/attorney.

The size of the legacy you wish to pass on to future generations is not as important as is the desire to do something that will have a positive impact.

The current and future members and friends of the Manchester Historical Society thank you for your support!

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## The Manchester Historical Society wants to hear from you...

### What does the Society not do now that you would like to see it do?

Please share your idea, suggestion, or concern in one of the following ways –

Send a note ~ Call ~ Email ~ Stop by

1. Mail\* – Manchester Historical Society  
175 Pine Street  
Manchester, CT 06040  
\*Name/contact information is optional
2. Phone – (860) 647-9983 Manchester History Center
3. Email – [president@manchesterhistory.org](mailto:president@manchesterhistory.org)
4. Stop by – Manchester History Center  
175 Pine Street (corner of Pine and Forest Streets)

Your thoughts:

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Thank you!



## Civil War Notes

*by Ron Schack*

### MANCHESTER'S BATTLES AND CASUALTIES

May 1864 through July 1864

May 1864

#### Grant's Overland Campaign

The opening battle of Grant's Overland Campaign occurred at **the Wilderness** in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, May 5 - 7, 1864. The results were inconclusive as both sides attempted to maneuver in the dense woods. The **14th** and **30th** Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiments were involved in the battle. **Thomas Hannah** and **Charles C. Sullivan**, from Manchester, were members of the 14th at the time of this battle.

**The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House** began on May 8, 1864, when General Lee's Confederate Army stalled the Union Army in General Grant's advance to Richmond. This battle was also inconclusive as Grant disengaged and continued on toward Richmond. Connecticut's **14th** Volunteer Infantry Regiment was in this battle.

The **2nd Battle of Cold Harbor** was fought from the end of May to June 12, 1864, in Hanover County, Virginia. General Sheridan's cavalry seized the vital crossroads of Old Cold Harbor. His troops relied on their new repeating rifles to repel a Confederate infantry attack. The tide turned however, when Confederate reinforcements arrived from Richmond. Manchester soldiers involved in this battle included **Nathaniel Taylor** from the **8th** Connecticut Infantry Regiment; and **Adolph Durand** and **Patrick Foley** from the **11th** Connecticut Infantry Regiment. Other Manchester participants from the **1st** Connecticut Volunteer Cavalry Regiment: included: **Hobart D. Bishop**, **John Bloom**, **Orrin J. Cushman**, **Dennis K. Griswold**, **Henry W. Robertson**, **Robert Sherman**, and **Daniel Wright**.

#### General Sherman's Atlanta Campaign

**The Battle of Resaca** took place on May 13 - 15, 1864 in Gordon County, Georgia. It was a stalemate until Sherman sent troops across the Oostanaula River using pontoon bridges.

The Confederates were forced to retreat. Connecticut's **5th** and **20th** Volunteer Infantry Regiments actively participated in this battle. Manchester soldiers from the 5th included: **Frank Cowan**, **James P. King**, **William Pickering**, **David Ray**, **Daniel Rose**, **Gilbert Saunders**, and **Frank M. Winchester**; and from the 20th: **Charles Eynstrom**, **Thomas Farrell**, **Albert H. Hurd**, and **Thomas Stanbrook**.

Manchester lost a number of soldiers in May 1864. **Peter Johnson**, a musician with the **29th** Volunteer Infantry Regiment, died on April 30 or May 1, 1864 (conflicting reports), in the service of his country, at

Beaufort, South Carolina. He is listed on the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, DC. **William Whitney**, **1st** Connecticut Volunteer Artillery Regiment, died of small pox on May 7, 1864 in Alexandria, Virginia. **Frederick Milliard**, a volunteer with a Wisconsin Regiment, died on May 11, 1864. **George Buell**, 22nd Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment, was discharged on July 7, 1863 and died on May 13, 1864.

#### June 1864

On June 8, 1864, **Abraham Lincoln** was nominated for the presidency by the National Union Convention at Baltimore, Maryland. **Andrew Johnson** was nominated as vice-president over the incumbent **Hannibal Hamlin**. Lincoln accepts the nomination on June 19, 1864.

On June 19, 1864 the **CSS Alabama**, under the command of **Captain Raphael Semmes** sailed out to sea near Cherbourg, France to meet the **USS Kearsarge**, under the command of **Captain John A. Winslow**. A fierce battle ensued, crippling the Alabama. She limped towards shore and sank. Survivors, including Captain Semmes, were picked up by a British yacht and escaped to neutral England.

#### July 1864

In July 1864, Manchester lost several more soldiers. **George Marble** of the **1st** Connecticut Light Battery was promoted to full colonel during his service. George died on July 24, 1864 at B'way Lodge, Virginia. **George Wallbridge** enlisted with Company H, **16th** Connecticut Volunteer Regiment and, reenlisted with Company B, **10th** Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He died of disease on July 28, 1864 at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

**Charles Eystrom** of Company H, **20th** Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment was captured on June 6, 1864, and sent to the Confederate Prison at Florence, South Carolina. He died there on July 6, 1864. **Adolph Durand** was captured on July 30, 1864.

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Sources include: Manchester Historical Society Civil War data; Wikipedia website, Hartford Courant Archives

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Lectures usually take place at the Manchester History Center at 175 Pine St. Parking is available along Pleasant St and along the Forest St. side of the building. Parking for people with disabilities is available in the small lot next to the History Center. The building is accessible. The costs for most lectures and walking tours are \$2 for members and \$4 for nonmembers and free for children under 16.*

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### **OLD MANCHESTER MUSEUM at 126 Cedar Street**

Open Saturdays 10 to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m., except holidays, from May through mid-December. Admission by donation. The research facility is available year round; to make an appointment please phone 860-647-9742.

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### **CHENEY HOMESTEAD at 106 Hartford Road**

Open year-round, second Sunday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Admission and tour by donation.

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### **Saturday, June 7 to Sunday, June 15 Pride Week**

Activities for young and old throughout the Historic Districts in Manchester's South End, including the Concert in the Park, Imagine Main Street, a Senior Dance, and Heritage Day. This year, we also celebrate the 100th anniversary of Homeland Day on Saturday, June 14.

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**Saturday, June 7, 1:00 p.m., Free**

### **HISTORY HIKE AT UNION POND WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details

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**Sunday, June 8, 1:00 p.m., Free**

### **HISTORY HIKE AT CENTER SPRINGS POND WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details

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**Monday, June 9, 5:30 p.m., Free**

### **CEMETERY WALK WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details

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**Tuesday, June 10, 10:00 a.m. -**

### **FIELD TRIP TO THE STATE LIBRARY**

We will have a personally guided tour by Caroline Picciano and other library staff members. The library closes at 5:00 p.m., leaving time for your personal research. Participants may bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch nearby. You will need picture identification, such as a driver's license, for access to certain areas of the library. The State Library is considered a gold mine of information for genealogists! The Genealogy Group consists of Historical Society members, both amateurs and experts, with an interest in genealogical research and in researching their own family history. Non-members are also welcome for a \$3.00 fee. We usually meet at the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street, Manchester, on the second Tuesday of the month at the History Center.

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**Saturday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

### **HERITAGE/HOMELAND DAY**

Free activities for young and old in the "Great Lawn" area of the Historic District in Manchester's South End. Opening ceremonies at Cheney Hall at 10:30, and then open and free activities with bagpipes, artists, performers, and exhibits all in a 1914 motif. Bring a picnic and a blanket, or visit the food vendors. Part of Pride in Manchester Week, and a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Homeland Day, a day set aside by the Cheney Brothers to celebrate the diversity of the countries from which their employees came. Cheney Homestead, Old Manchester Museum and Manchester History Center open.

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**Saturday, June 14, Noon**

### **GREAT LAWN WALKING TOUR WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details.

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**Saturday, June 28, 1:00 p.m. Free**

### **CHENEY RAILROAD HISTORY WALK WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details

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**Tuesday, July 8, 10:00 a.m.,**

### **FIELD TRIP TO THE FRENCH CANADIAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY IN TOLLAND, CT**

Left off Exit 68, I-84 East. Find out about resources for research on Canadian family information.

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**Sunday, July 13, 1:00 p.m., \$2 for members, \$4 for non-members, free for children under 16.**

### **"LAKEVIEW" WALKING TOUR WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details.

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**Saturday, August 2, 1:00 p.m.**

### **HIDDEN GEMS WALKING TOUR WITH COMMENTARY**

See website for details.

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**Tuesday, August 12, 10:00 a.m. Free**

### **FIELD TRIP TO MARY CHENEY LIBRARY**

The Historical Society's Genealogy Group will host a tour of genealogical and historic resources. Rob Nankin, Reference Librarian, will lead a tour of the genealogical resources held at Mary Cheney Library, and will explain online programs available to the public, plus many informative books, newspapers on microfilm, city directories and more.

## A Message About Volunteering

How would you like the opportunity to share your time with the Manchester Historical Society as one of our valued volunteers? We would like to have you join our team to help keep history alive in Manchester. Some of the benefits you enjoy as a volunteer include meeting and working with other volunteers who share the same interests and helping us to educate others about the history of our town. Duties might involve working as a docent or helper for the Old Manchester Museum, the Cheney Homestead, or the History Center building on Pine St. Volunteers are also involved in helping with special events, maintenance, archiving, and clerical work. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated.

Please stop by the History Center at 175 Pine St. to sign on, or call the office at 860-647-9983.

We look forward to hearing from you and getting you involved with our volunteers.

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## Did You Know?

**EVERY ADDRESS LABEL TELLS A STORY.** Just a reminder that by checking the address label on the back of the newsletter, you can easily see when your membership expires. The date that appears on the address label tells you when it is time for you to renew.

**YOU CAN NOW FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.** The Historical Society is on Facebook and we currently have over 500 friends. You can follow us at: [www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterHistoricalSociety).



The Manchester Historical Society  
 175 Pine Street  
 Manchester, Connecticut 06040

## MANCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

**The Manchester Historical Society, 175 Pine St., Manchester, CT 06040**

Name: (Mr.) (Mrs.) (Miss) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Membership:	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Individual	\$45
	<input type="checkbox"/> Student (under age 18)	\$5	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Family	\$75
	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Individual	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Couple	\$400		

**I would like to make an additional contribution for**

<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Building Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Farmstead Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Manchester Historical Society Endowment Fund	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbridge Endowment Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Cheney Homestead Endowment	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Keeney Schoolhouse Endowment Fund	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	\$ _____		

I have enclosed a matching gift form

***Make checks payable to: Manchester Historical Society***

***Membership Dues and Donations to the Society are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.***