"50 Years of Preserving Local History"



JUNE 2015

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



A Message From the President

by Dennis Gleeson

On May 3rd we held our fundraiser called "Elegant Tea". It was a great success. One hundred sixty five tickets were sold. We want to thank the

volunteers and local businesses that contributed their time and efforts on our behalf.

Currently the Woodbridge Barn appeal is still underway. We look forward to starting the actual restoration work soon. Donations to the Annual Appeal are still coming in. Endowments and memorial donations are always appreciated.

The Old Manchester Museum on Cedar Street reopened this month until mid-December. The new hours are the second Sunday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. to coincide with the Cheney Homestead. If anyone would like a tour of either location at a different time please call the History Center @ 860-647-9983 to make reservations. A donation of \$5 per person is suggested.

Volunteers are the backbone of our society and are needed for both the History Center at 175 Pine Street during week days and the Old Manchester Museum at 126 Cedar Street on Mondays.

Once again we are hosting a summer intern, Corrine Gabriele. She is a student at SUNY, Potsdam, NY and is an Archaeology Major. Corrine is studying Museum Studies and minoring in History.

A Ruddell Grant was awarded to us in April. With this grant we have installed large screen monitors in the lobby of the History Center and in the Loom Room for the 3rd grade tours and all visitors.

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions to keep the Society active and successful. Please stop by and visit the History Center during the week 9-2 p.m.

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.

One Hundred Years Ago **Manchester Man Survives Lusitania Sinking**

Vol. 50, No. 3

by Dave Smith

On May 7, 1915 the Cunard liner RMS Lusitania was torpedoed off the Irish coast by the German submarine U-20. The ship sailed from New York heading for Liverpool, England with 1,960 passengers and crew. Of those 1,197 died and only 763 survived. The United States would not enter World War I until 1917, although the sinking of the Lusitania with many Americans aboard resulted in a change in attitude toward Germany and increased sympathy for its adversaries, England and France.

John Moore of Manchester Green was aboard on that voyage and was one of the lucky survivors. He had come to Manchester in 1911 from Belfast, Ireland where he was born. For several years he worked for John Alvord in the store at Manchester Green and was returning to Ireland to visit his parents and sister who remained there. He booked passage in the Second Cabin (second class), one of 601 in that class. Of those, only 229 survived.

When John returned to Manchester he worked for the Manchester Division of the Connecticut Power Co. until his death in 1946. He left his wife, the former Clara Schmalz. He was reported to have been proficient with a movie camera and had a large number of films of local events and sports events.

Volunteers

In our last issue of The Courier we inadvertently omitted the names of some of our valued volunteers who helped us in 2014. We thank you for your help.

> Nancy Chirico ~ Cynthia Barlow Bob Gauthier ~ Jill Gelinas Dick Jenkins ~ Carol O'Neill



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

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We encourage our members to patronize the companies that have helped us in many ways and are Corporate Members of the Society.

Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
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Genealogy Group News

The Genealogy Group consists of Society members interested in researching their own family history. Historical Society members may attend for free, nonmembers are asked for a \$3 contribution. All are welcome: beginning and advanced genealogists. We learn from each other. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the History Center, 175 Pine Street in Manchester unless otherwise specified. Program Coordinator is Dianne Bordeaux Lenti a longtime member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogical Council. Upcoming meeting places and programs are listed on the upcoming events page at www.manchesterhistory.org. If you have questions call Kris Miller at 860-528-3122.

- **June 9** Crawford Westbrook will speak on "Behind the Scenes at CT State Library".
- **July 14** Probably an offsite visit. Check website for details in June.
- **Aug 11** Sue Way will speak on the Buckland Area of Manchester. She authored a newspaper on this rich historic area for many years.
- **Sept 8** Jennifer Zinck will speak on DNA. This is the cutting edge in genealogy today.

Museum Schedules for 2015

We would like to draw your attention to the new schedules for the open times for our two museums Old Manchester Museum of local history and the Cheney Homestead museum. Throughout the year 2015 both museums will be open the second Sunday of each month during the hours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

As always, if you would like to visit either of the museums at a different time, please call us at 860-647-9983 to arrange a tour. Also, to use our research facility at the Old Manchester Museum you can arrange an appointment by calling 860-647-9742 or 860-647-9983.

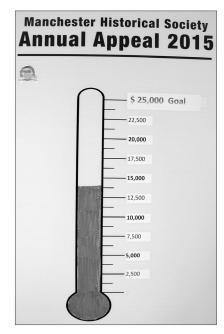
We Will Miss

Anne Miller was a long-time supporter and member of the Society. She was very active in many organizations in town and helped us in many ways, including sponsoring events and providing space in her store window for displays promoting the Society.

Lorraine Peterman was a member of the Society for many years. She was an active volunteer at the Old Manchester Museum where she worked with our textiles and other collections.

Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal campaign for 2015 has been underway for seven months. The goal for this year has been increased to \$25,000. So far, we have raised about \$13,000 and we still have four months left in the current fiscal year. If you have not yet sent in your donation for this year, we still need your help. Donations to the Annual Appeal help us pay for the day to day operation of the Society, including covering the costs of insurance, heat and light, maintenance and displays.





Civil War Notes 1865 and Beyond

By Ron Schack

Some Gave All

At wars end, Manchester had 44 soldiers who gave their lives for their country. The following list identifies those who were killed in action, mortally wounded, or died from disease, etc.

Frederick M. Barber George Knox Deloss Bidwell Chauncey Loomis Solomon Bidwell Levi F. Lyman Hobart D. Bishop Dennis Mahoney George Brookman George Marble James H. Brookman Frederick W. Millard Thomas Callaghan Frederick Munsell William H. Chadwick Patrick O'Conner James B. Chapman James Perry Thomas Connor Ezekiel L. Post John H. Couch Charles Robinson Watson C. Salter Orrin J. Cushman George Dynes John W. Shaw Charles Eynstrom John Smith Henry T. Gray Thomas Stanbrook **Julius Sweetland** Daniel Haverty Rufus N. Hubbard Lucius Talcott Peter Johnson George B. Walbridge Amandor C. Keeney Lucius Wheeler William Whitney James R. Keeney James M. Keith Julius C. Wilsey Samuel W. King Francis H. Wright

Note: Stillman Keith is listed in his family's written history that he died at Fredericksburg, Virginia during the war. (not confirmed)

There were other soldiers from surrounding towns who signed up in Manchester for the bonuses offered by the town. Some of these men also gave their lives for their country. Still others known only to God may have given their lives to preserve the Union.

Monuments

Colonel Frank W. Cheney acquired land on the battlefield at Antietam (Sharpsburg, Maryland), to have a monument erected in memory of the soldiers from the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He gave the dedication speech when the monument was completed. He was also instrumental in having a monument for soldiers that were prisoners of war at Andersonville prison, Georgia. A replica of the Andersonville Soldier Boy statue was made for Colonel Cheney, at his own expense, and given to the state. It is currently on the grounds of the State capital at Hartford, Connecticut.

On September 17, 1877, the unveiling of the Soldier's Monument at Center Memorial Park, Manchester, occurred in honor of Manchester's heroes who died during the Civil War. This ceremony took place 15 years to the day, when the battle of Antietam was fought.

The Hartford Daily Courant dated September 18, 1877 gave a storied account of the occasion. An excerpt of that story states: "The names of the deceased soldiers of the town are to be inserted on a bronze tablet, as soon as a complete list is prepared." It never happened.

The list has been updated. Upon the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the end of this great struggle, the towns commitment to recognize Manchester soldiers who gave their lives to preserve the Union should be fulfilled with a tablet or plaque showing their names.

Returning Home

Many soldiers had physical and/or emotional scars for life from the horrors of war. Some handled it better than other, some were highly successful, some died poor, and others lived their lives as near to normal as possible. Veteran's organizations were formed to help returning soldiers in any way they could. Grand Army of the Republic

In 1866, northern Civil War veterans organized the Grand Army of the Republic to fight for veteran's pensions and other benefits. The society also provided food and clothing for needy widows and orphans.

The fourth G.A.R. post to be organized in Connecticut was Manchester's Drake Post number 4. It was named after Colonel Albert W. Drake of South Windsor, who helped organize, and was 2nd Lieutenant of, the 10th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He distinguished himself at the 1st battle of Bull Run, and at the Battle of Newbern. In poor health, he died while on leave on June 5, 1862.

The Post's members included veterans from Manchester and surrounding towns. The first meeting in which there is a written record occurred in Cheney Hall on October 8, 1875. During its existence, the Post enrolled over 200 members. The Post contributed in the development of a number of projects for soldier's monuments and memorials. Its members carried on social activities as well as taking care of their own, such as lectures, dances, plays, etc. held at Cheney Hall, and open to the public.

Membership grew smaller over the years. At the close of 1935, five Connecticut posts had finished their work, including Drake Post number 4 which failed to make a report in 1936. Corodon M. Beebe was the last member of Drake Post No. 4, G.A.R. He participated with Elmore I. Hotchkiss, in the last Memorial Day exercises in Manchester that included Civil War veterans. That was on May 30, 1936.

After attending the Manchester Green School, he joined Company H, 65th New York Volunteer Regiment. Corodon was severely wounded in the Battle of Malvern Hill, Virginia. He returned to Manchester and married Caroline E. Abbey of East Windsor. The couple had nine children. Corodon worked 36 years at Case Brothers and Rogers Paper Manufacturing Companys. After that he operated a farm, and built several cottages on Coventry Lake. Corodon was the last Civil War veteran born in Manchester. He died on February 23, 1937 at the age of 94.

Philip W. Hudson returned to Manchester and organized Company G, 1st Infantry, Connecticut National Guard, and was the first captain of the company. He was promoted to colonel of the regiment and credited with being the best soldier in the state.

Manufacturing

Colonel Frank W. Cheney had to retire from military service due to the injury he received at the Battle of Antietam. He married Mary Bushnell. The couple had 12 children. Frank traveled in Europe, China, and Japan, studying the silk industries of those countries. He became treasurer of Cheney Brothers Silk Mills.

George W. Cheney spent the greater part of his life involved in the silk manufacturing business. He left Cheney's and moved to Tarrytown, New York, where he made car stoves until the decline of the business compelled him to give it up. George bought a home on Travis Point (also known as Point Comfort), overlooking the Hudson River, in the suburbs of Peekskill, New York. He retired there until his death in 1899.

Oliver Miner came back to Manchester to work the 'mills'. He was employed at Cheney's as a mule spinner, and became foreman of the department. When mule spinning discontinued, Oliver was placed in charge of ring spinning. He retired after 35 year of service. George Schieldge worked in Cheney's for many years. Frederick Waldo also worked in Cheney's as a skilled millwright.

Maro S. Chapman became interested in the Plimpton Manufacturing Company in Hartford. He became superintendent of the United States Stamped Envelope Works in 1874. The company merged into the Hartford Manufacturing Company in 1898 with Mr. Chapman as its general manager. A position he held until the time of his death.

To Manchester people Mr. Chapman's connection with the Hartford, Manchester, and Rockville Tramway will be best remembered. With his own resources he organized, built, equipped, and turned over to the stockholders, the tramway line from Burnside to Manchester, and became president of the company.

Orion B. Treat came to Manchester after the war and joined the Lydall and Foulds Paper Company where he remained until 1895. He then organized the O.B. Treat Needle Company at the Manchester Green. Aquilla E. Small moved to Manchester and worked at the factory as a needle maker.

Henry W. Barrows worked for the Oakland Paper Company for 35 years. He left the company and went into the grain and feed business until he retired. George D. Keith was a paper maker by trade. After the war he joined Rogers Paper Company. Some years later he was employed by Case Brothers Paper Manufacturing Co. at Highland Park.

Aaron Cook, Jr. learned the machinist trade and was employed by the Hartford Electric Company, Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company, Asa Cook Company, and the Mather Electric Company in Manchester. After retirement he became a surveyor, and for several years he was a justice of the peace. Aaron was also clerk of the Second School District for 25 years.

Andrew Dean married Josephine Parker and was employed by the Joseph Parker Mill. Gilbert B. Norton opened a machine shop business on Hudson St. in 1888. He operated the business until his death in 1903.

Other Occupations

After the war, Maranthon H. Keeney returned to Manchester and engaged in farming. He married Susan F. Belnap. The couple had nine children. At the age of 83, Henry was attempting to get his cows into the barn due to an approaching thunderstorm. One of the cows bumped against him, throwing him to the concrete floor, fracturing his right hip. Maranthon died from complications due to the accident. Henry B. Annis also worked in farming in South Windsor, as did Frank Bragg. Timothy H. Blish worked on his father's farm in Glastonbury, and took over the business when his father died.

Captain William Berry was employed by Aetna Life Insurance Company. He was a selectman in Hartford. Henry Haling came to Manchester in 1880 and secured employment at Hale & Day's store as a clerk. He remained there through three ownerships, except for a three month period when he was in business with his brother. Henry B. Bragg was widely known in Manchester and Bolton as the gate tender for many years at the Bolton Notch railroad crossing. Charles H. McKee was a guard at the state prison. He was stationed over the quarter that contained the most hardened criminals. His family was so concerned for his safety that Charles resigned after two years. He then worked as a farmer, milk dealer, at Cheney Mills, and for an electrical contractor. George E. Perkins ran a grocery store on Hackmatack Street for many years.

There were other veterans who returned to Manchester to work in various occupations. They all helped heal the country's wounds after the Civil War, and move it forward into a new era of growth and prosperity.

Calendar of Events

Lectures and events usually take place at the Manchester History Center at 175 Pine St. Parking is available along Pleasant St. and in the lot 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 cost for most lectures and walking tours is\$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Free for children under 16. The second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4, both the Cheney Homestead at 106 Hartford Rd. and the Old Manchester Museum of local history at 126 Cedar St. are open to visitors. The research facility is available all year by appointment. Please call 860-647-9742.

- •Saturday, June 6 to Sunday, June 13 Pride in Manchester Week, with 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 (June 13).
- •Tuesday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m., the Historical Society's Genealogy Group will meet at the History Center. Crawford Westbrook, an experienced researcher, will talk about little-known resources at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. He knows research avenues within the State Archives and the History and Genealogy Unit that are not part of the usual references. This program is for both amateur and more experienced genealogists. The Genealogy Group consists of Historical Society members, but non-members are also welcome, \$3.00 fee. The group usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at the History Center.
- •Saturday, June 13, Heritage Day open houses from 11 to 3 at the History Center, Cheney Homestead & Keeney Schoolhouse, Old Manchester Museum, guided tours at 11:00 and 1:00 at the Woodbridge Farmstead at 495 Middle Turnpike East at Manchester Green, and the Pitkin Glass Works at the corner of Parker and Putnam Streets, where there will be exhibits and commentary by glass historians. Free. Donations accepted. Opening ceremony and music start at 10:00 a.m. at Cheney Hall. Booth displays, arts, music, dance, tai chi from 11 to 3. Great Lawn walking tour starting at 12 noon at the Historical Society's loom exhibit, 199 Forest Street, near the intersection of Elm Street. This free walk is part of Heritage Day and Pride in Manchester week.
- Sunday, June 14 and the second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4, Cheney Homestead and Old Manchester Museum open to visitors. Suggested donation for admission is \$5.00; free for members and for those under age 16
- •Tuesday, July 14 at 10:00 a.m., the Historical Society's **Genealogy Group** a meeting for both amateur and more experienced genealogists at the Manchester History Center.
- **Sunday, July 12 and the second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4**, Cheney Homestead and Old Manchester Museum open to visitors.
- •Saturday, August 8, Hidden Gems walking tour starting at 1:00 p.m. on the front steps of the Town Hall, 41 Center Street. Visit some special historic treats of Manchester, usually not seen when driving by in a car -- the Revolutionary War fountain in Center Memorial Park, a former parsonage, buildings on the National Register, and the Tiffany stained glass windows at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Takes about 1-1/2 hours. Rain or shine, but extreme weather cancels. Please bring bottled water if the weather is especially hot. No dogs, please. Cost is \$5 for Historical Society members, \$7 for non-members, and free to children under 16 years of age.
- Sunday, August 9 and the second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4, Cheney Homestead and Old Manchester Museum open to visitors.
- •Saturday, September 12, North End walking tour starting at 1:00 p.m. at the parking lot of the Eighth Utilities District offices, corner of Hilliard and Main Streets. Stroll to the former Mather Electric/Bon Ami building, and view the location of the former Depot Square as well as many historic buildings still in existence. The walk takes about one and a half hours. No dogs, please. Cost is \$5 for Historical Society members, \$7 for non-members, and free to children under 16 years of age.
- Sunday, September 13 and the second Sunday of each month, from 1 to 4, Cheney Homestead and Old Manchester Museum open to visitors.
- •Tentative: Saturday, October 3, 2015, Annual Dinner at the Manchester Country Club, celebrating our 50th anniversary.

Donors

In addition to the donors listed in our last issue of The Courier we wish to recognize and thank the following for their donations to the 2014 Gala Event:

Up to \$99

Dorothy Brindamour Jean Kelsey Pati Lewis Mariola's Hair Salon

\$100 to \$499

Harry Bissell Eugene and Leslie Riccio

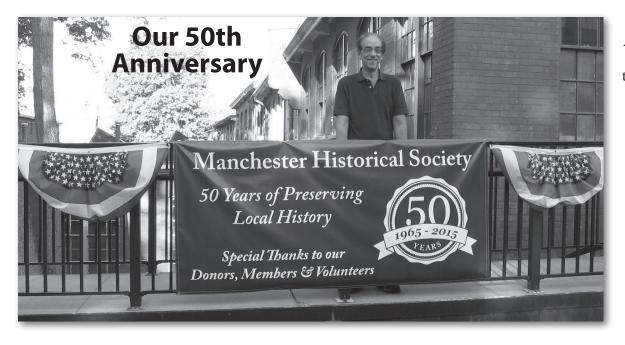
\$1,000 and Over

Paula and Anthony Viscogliosi First Niagara Bank Foundation



Heritage Day, Saturday June 13

This year all our museums will be open again on this special day celebrating Manchester's rich heritage. The Manchester Museum, Cheney Homestead and the Loom Room at the History Center will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our Woodbridge Farmstead will be available for tours of the grounds and the eighteenth century barn at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. In addition, the Pitkin Glass Works site will be open and visitors will be able to see the ruins close up. There will be displays by the Pitkin group and by the Daughters of the American Revolution.



As we celebrate our 50th anniversary this year, there have been and will be several events tied to this milestone. A large banner has been installed at the entrance to the History Center. The banner was a donation from Mike Agostinelli, one of our regular volunteers. Thank you, Mike.

World War 1 Exhibit

As the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry in World War I approaches, next year we will mount an exhibit of Manchester's participation in The Great War. Our own collections include a good number of artifacts from that period. However we would like to augment our display with items and stories of Manchester's men who went off to fight and the men and women who remained at home and supported the war effort.

If you have, or know of, items and stories that would be appropriate for our display please consider loaning them to us for the exhibit. We would like to include pictures of individuals as well as pictures of their experiences in Europe and in Manchester. We can make copies for the exhibit and return the originals to you.

Please contact Curator Dave Smith at 860-647-9742.





School Tours Now Underway

The annual third grade tours of our museums have begun and will continue through early June. Each year all the third grade students in town spend a good part of the day visiting our three sites plus Cheney Hall and this year for the first time, the Fuss & O'Neill building on Hartford Rd.

This year the Fire Museum is not available because of ongoing, and much needed restoration work. We often hear such comments as "awesome" and "I never knew this was here." Each elementary school is assigned its own day for the tours and the students are often accompanied by parents. These tours are completely organized by our volunteers and the sites are staffed by our members and devoted volunteers. Without our volunteers these tours could not take place.

We now have a large screen monitor to show a video of the looms in operation. This was made possible by a grant from the Ruddell Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Below, is a photo of third graders at our Loom Room listening to president Dennis Gleeson explain the making of silk cloth.



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!

Woodbridge Barn Restoration Project

The eighteenth century barn at the Woodbridge Farmstead is getting closer to the day when the restoration project will begin. Although temporary stabilization work was carried out several years ago to prevent loss of the barn due to heavy snow loads, there is still a pressing need to carry out a complete restoration of the structure to ensure its survival for another century or more. The barn was originally built over 200 years ago and has withstood the ravages of time and weather for all of these years. Now it requires some major help to preserve it as an historic structure and as a farm museum representing Manchester's agricultural past. When completed we will be able to display many farm implements and tools that were used not only on the Woodbridge farm, but also on other farms in Manchester which we have collected over the years.

Manchester's economy was for many years based on agriculture, before industry was developed in Manchester and the paper and textile mills were built. We will be able show that early history and also how the Woodbridge Farm operated as a dairy.

Your help is needed in this restoration effort. The total project cost will be over \$200,000 and so far we have received a grant of \$78,000 and raised additional funds of over \$20,000. The total raised to date is slightly over \$100,000. Please consider making a donation to the Barn Project. If you prefer, you can make a pledge for monthly donations over the next year. Please contact our Executive Director, Eileen Sweeney (860-647-9983) for directions for pledging.





The Manchester Historical Society 175 Pine Street Manchester, Connecticut 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Your Membership Expires on:

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 Street, Manchester, CT 06040

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Address:							
City/State/Zip:							
Home Phone: ()_			Email:				
Type of Membership	☐ Individual	\$15	☐ Family	\$25	☐ Contributing Individ	dual	\$45
	Student (under age 18)	\$5	☐ Corporate	\$250	☐ Contributing Family		\$75
	☐ Life Individual	\$250	☐ Life Couple	\$400			
I would like to make a	an additional contribution	for					
☐ Manchester Historical Society Building Fund		\$	Woodbridge Farmstead Endowment			\$	
☐ Manchester Historical Society Endowment Fund		d \$	☐ Woodbridge Barn Restoration			\$	
☐ Cheney Homestead Endowment		\$	Keeney Schoolhouse Fund			\$	
☐ Unrestricted		\$					
☐ I have enclosed a m	natching gift form		Make o	hecks pay	ble to: Manchester Histo	orical S	Society