

# Dublin Historical Society

Dublin, New Hampshire 03444 • Founded 1920

Newsletter No. 37 – November, 1996

## OPENING OF THE ARCHIVES BUILDING

Over a hundred people were present on Saturday, September 21st, for the official opening of the new archives building. After welcoming remarks by Moderator Bruce McClellan, Bruce Fox spoke briefly on behalf of the Selectmen, followed by John Harris on behalf of the Historical Society. Dick Hammond, the building's designer, described the principles of construction by which the white-shingled, hip-roofed exterior conceals a fire-proof masonry building which is climate-controlled for the better preservation of historical records.

The high point of the proceedings was the return to the Town, now that it has a safe repository, of a number of its early records. John Frisbee, Director of the New Hampshire Historical Society, presented the Town's original 1771 charter to Selectman Bruce Fox. Dr. Frank Mevers, State Archivist, who had planned to be present, was kept away by a family illness. His deputy, Brian Nelson Burford, came in his place, and turned over to Town Archivist Nancy Campbell several hundred 18th and 19th century documents which had been stored for safe-keeping in the State archives.

After the speeches, the sign at the entrance to the building was unveiled by Nancy Campbell, representing the Town, and Ann Walsh on behalf of the Society. Thereafter the new building was opened for inspection, while the Nelson Town Band gave a concert under the tent. Refreshments were provided by Ruth Hammond and Joyce Nelson, assisted by Linda Abram, Nancy Campbell, Christy Greene and Nancy Handy.

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*Bruce Fox receives the Town charter from John Frisbee to applause from Nancy Campbell and Bruce McClellan.*

*Photograph by Bob McElroy. Courtesy of the Peterborough Transcript.*



*Brian Nelson Burford presents early Town Records to Archivist Nancy Campbell. Bruce McClellan and Bruce Fox watch at right.*

*Photograph by Sharron Monaghan.*



*Ann Walsh & Nancy Campbell unveil the sign.  
Photograph by Bob McElroy. Courtesy of the Peterborough Transcript.*

## OPENING OF THE ARCHIVES BUILDING

*continued from one*

We are particularly grateful to the **Dublin Fire Company**, which provided the tent, and the men to set it up and take it down, without making their usual charge. The cost of the Nelson Town Band was underwritten by the building's contractor, **Bergeron Construction Co.**, and by sub-contractors Arnold Bailey, Inc., High Standard, J.A. Jubb and Pinney Plumbing and Heating. A granite post for the entrance was donated by the Keene Monument Co.



*Society members at the opening. L-R: Clint, Joan & Grace Yeomans, Ginny & Bob Niles. Photograph by Sharron Monaghan.*



*Society members at the opening. L-R: Jane F. Hawkins, Dorothy Worcester & Mary Cuddibee. Photograph by Betsey Harris.*

## 1997 DUES

Enclosed with this newsletter are cards and envelopes for 1997 dues. (Those of you who are not current members should interpret this as a cordial invitation to join.)

For the first time in a decade, and after a great deal of soul-searching, the Trustees have voted to raise minimum annual dues to \$20. There are two basic reasons for this. The first, of course, is that costs have risen since our dues were set in 1986. Postage, for example, was then 22 cents and is now 32, a 45% increase. Printing and paper costs have gone up as well.

The second is that the Society's mission is expanding. Maintaining the 150-year-old schoolhouse involves considerable expense. And while structural maintenance of the archives building is a Town responsibility, the Society pays its way by sharing the operating expense, which means principally electricity, telephone, and the propane gas which fuels the climate control system.

The Trustees also voted to abolish the former distinction between 'individual' and 'family' memberships. It costs the Society the same to send a newsletter to one address, no matter how many people read it once it gets there.

## WRAP-UP ON THE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The final total raised was \$28,770, a very heartening sum, since the campaign goal was \$15,000. Another triumph for campaign chair Nancy Perkins.

**Thanks to...** Edward & Justine Auchincloss, Kitty Carleton, Norman Davis, Justine Eaton, Robert Forbes, Marian & Richard Latti, Tudi von Stade and Tom & Story Wright for generous contributions since the last report.

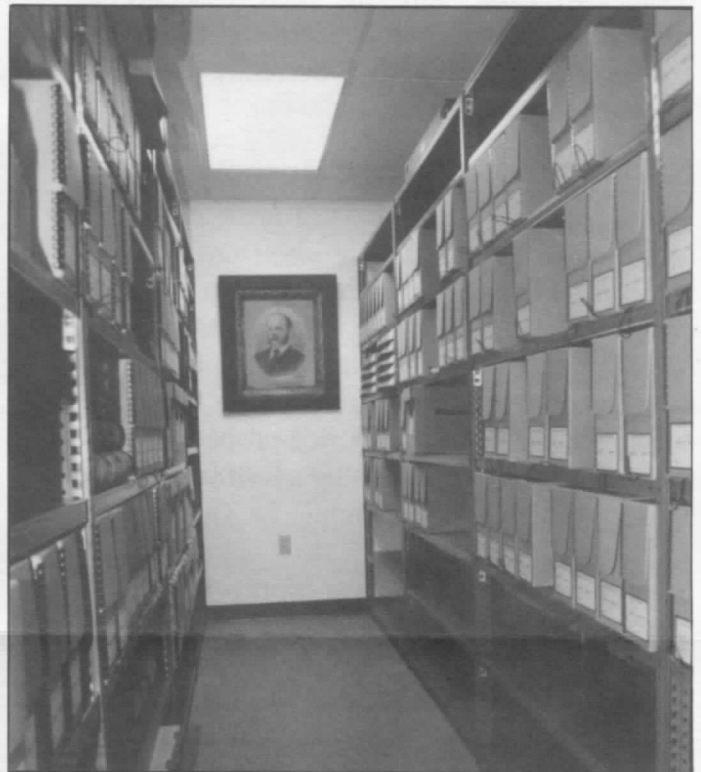
**and grovelling apologies to...** Larry Foy, whose name was inadvertently omitted from the scroll of donors, and Mary McKee, who somehow got left off the list of campaign committee members in the opening day program. Well, even Homer nodded... but not twice.



*Inspecting the archives. L-R: Clarissa Silitch, Ginny & Bob Niles.  
Photograph by Sbarron Monaghan.*



*L-R: Nancy Perkins, Jim Sovik & Robert Hall, President of the Troy Historical Society. Photograph by William Bauhan.*



*Stacks in the archives building. j1  
Photograph by Bob McElroy. Courtesy of the Peterborough Transcript.*

We are grateful to our County Society for the following resolution, sent to us by its President, Richard Scaramelli:

**“Resolved,** that the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Cheshire County send greetings and congratulations to the Dublin Historical Society and to the Town of Dublin for the successful collaboration between public and private entities in creating an archives building dedicated to a purpose in which we all share interest and commitment: the preservation of the historical record.”

**The winter meeting** will be the traditional pot-luck supper in the Church Vestry on Friday, February 14. Snow date: February 21.

Bill Bauhan will give a talk, illustrated by slides, on some of the architecturally important Dublin houses.

## Society News

### Report on the Annual Meeting

The Society's annual meeting took place over breakfast in the Town Hall on Saturday, September 21st. The twenty-seven members present amended the by-laws to adopt a fiscal year ending September 30, and change the date of the annual meeting from September to August.

In recognition of all their long, arduous – and finally fruitful – work on the archives building, Dick and Ruth Hammond were elected honorary members of the Society. John Nelson was presented with a copy of the Town history, by way of thanks for his expert service as clerk of the works.

The following were elected as Officers: John Harris, President, John Nelson, Vice-President, and Tony Anthony, Treasurer. Trustees elected for three-year terms were: Tony Anthony, Rusty Bastedo, William Bauhan, John Harris and Thea Sabine. The Trustees later re-elected Nancy Handy as Secretary, Marney Bean as Curator and John Harris as Archivist.

### From the Schoolhouse Museum . . .

Laura Scott has finished the cataloguing of 339 artifacts. Some of these bore labels saying "loaned by" someone long dead, and many bore no labels at all. In order to forestall any questions about ownership of these items, we are taking advantage of a recently enacted state statute under which museums may acquire clear title to abandoned property by following prescribed rules for notice by advertisement. Our ads appeared in the Keene Sentinel for October 17th and 24th. Any article not claimed by March 1, 1997, will become the Society's absolute property.

Jim Pritchard, who executed the elegant sign for the new building, has made us a present of a new sign for the schoolhouse. This replaces the old one, which had become rust-streaked from the metal bracket on which it hung. There is also a new bracket, so that the new sign should last even longer than the old one, which was given ten years ago by Mary McKee.

### From the Archives . . .

Removal of the Archives to new and more spacious quarters has been accompanied by an encouraging number of gifts of historical documents and photographs. **Nancy Shook Bender** has sent a wealth of material about the Allison family, including letters to her grandfather, Henry D. Allison, from Thomas



*The archives building: an exterior view. Photograph by Sbarron Monaghan.*

Wentworth Higginson and John Greenleaf Whittier, among other luminaries; Hildreth Allison's Dartmouth diploma; a number of books and many photographs.

**Jane F. Hawkins** and **Emily McFarland** have added to their previous gifts.

**Louisa Spencer** followed her wonderful talk in August with a gift of 25 letters from George W. Gleason to her grandfather, Daniel Dwight, about renovations to "Outlet Farm" in 1885 and 1886, along with other interesting documents from the same period. **Lorna Trowbridge** has given us several books by Dublin writers, including a number inscribed by their authors to her parents, Robb and Trix Sagendorph.

Other welcome gifts have come from **Nancy Aldrich**, **the Amos Fortune Forum**, **Mary G. Doyle**, **John and Betsey Harris**, **Marian Latti**, **Nancy Perkins**, **Francis Phillips** (of Wolfeboro), and **Nancy Powell**. To all of them our most grateful thanks.

Thanks also to **Gordon Hayes**, who responded generously to our plea in the last two newsletters with the gift of his father's Harvard chair for the use of archives researchers. As many of you know, the late Harvey Hayes, who summered in the red house at Bond's corner, was a distinguished physicist and the inventor of SONAR. To make a matching pair, **Ned Whitney** has very kindly given us *his* Harvard chair.

We could use one or two more such chairs. They needn't be Harvard: Princeton, B.U. – even Yale – would do fine.

## C R E D I T S

This issue of the Dublin Historical Society  
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