

Grantham Historical Society

2008 was a pretty good year for the Grantham Historical Society. We received a \$124,000 bequest from Jeremy Brown which we regard as an endowment. We have invested most of it and plan to use only the interest and dividends for expenses.

Notwithstanding our endowment money, dues are due in January 2009 (individual - \$10.00, family - \$25.00). We depend on dues to pay normal recurring expenses to supplement our interest and dividends income.

So many members have worked and contributed in so many ways that it is difficult to note and thank everybody, so please understand if your particular contribution is not fully described here. I will list only a few names: Town Archivist Lea Frey, Executive Board members Bob Champagne and Kathi Osgood, Christina McKahan for her oral history work, Renee Gustafson and Dick Hocker for garden planning and work and Renee’s contribution as a Board member and exhibit organizer; Diane Shagoury, Barbara Mutney, Bob Osgood, Ken Story for his services as vice-president, his walking tours and the application for historic designation of our building; the Grantham Garden Club, Grantham Chamber of Commerce, Roger Woodworth, Barbara Rodgers, Phyllis Forest (GHS treasurer) and Pat Andrews for her untiring work as secretary and general factotum. Also special thanks to the town of Grantham for funding the painting of walls and refinishing the wood floors and thanks to all who lent books, magazines, photos and artifacts, especially Joey Holmes, Hap Reney and Geraldine Moulton; Richard Sachs and others, including LauraJean Whitcomb who has done so much for us.

At present we have new window shades, new doors, new window boxes and we have carpenter Craig Muir working on new shelves and cabinets for the back hall to give us more convenient storage. We have plenty of office supplies, we have a new rug to be laid down, a tiny kitchen area in the back hall, a new projection screen for lectures and new digital recording equipment for oral histories.

And thanks to Tina Stearns and the Select Board for their never-ending kindness and funding for our little organization.

The Historical Society is open to visitors every Friday afternoon from 1PM to 4PM. Come on in and examine the place! We are dedicated to preserving the history of Grantham as it changes and it is changing rather rapidly. Now we have trouble and strife all over the world – economic, political, military, overpopulation, unusual weather and power outages. The Historical Society cannot do much about big problems but we can record the effect of these things on one small New Hampshire town.

“History is bunk.” Who said that? Henry Ford. This from a person who did as much or more to change history in the 20th century. First Mr. Ford put the world on wheels which led to the amazing growth of the oil business and now to the proliferation of motor vehicles which is a main factor in global warming. And all of us are to blame – we must have our cars and snowmobiles and lawn tractors, etc. – not to mention generators for power outages.

Anyway, happy 2009 to all the Historical Society members and thanks to all for their contributions and labor. Remember: January is dues-paying month!

With hope for the future,

Allen W. Walker
President



Town Archivist

Grantham Town Archives: 34 Dunbar Hill Road

The Town Archives has expanded this past year allowing more room for storage of the Town Records and Documents. In addition, there is elbow room for family researchers to peruse the early Town Records and the Grantham Historical Society Photographs and Archives.

Increased shelving improves the availability of early town records including the 1776 Proprietors Book, Town Ledgers from 1790 – 1982. Vital Statistics from 1777-1895, early Town Clerk Inventories, cash record books and many other early Town Clerk's books and financial records.

A new computer generously donated by Kristina Burgard is available for viewing a database of Grantham names, materials, and can display Grantham photographs with the "Ken Burns" effect. The original village school floors have been beautifully restored.

Records from the 1950's –1980's are presently being sorted and placed in Archival Boxes.

The Town Archives is open to the public on Fridays from 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment: Our telephone number is 863-9701.

Respectfully submitted,

Lea Frey, Town Archivist



(Photo of Ira Walker's Store & Post Office 1908
At the corner of Route 10 and Route 114
Photo by A. S. Currier
Courtesy of Grantham Historical Society)