

Dear Members and Friends of the **New Ipswich Historical Society**,

Thank you for your continued support. Due to the ever increasing cost of postage we are emailing to report on our activities and appeal for contributions.

The Board has been active this year. I'd like to thank Daniel Ziarnik-Case, Margaret Lee, Pat Lage, John Poltrack, Carl Toko, Craig Smeeth, Michelle Vestgard, Mitch Gluck, Kim Black, Rick Blanchette, Emari Traffie, and Sharon Rosenfelder for all their work this year. Without them, there would be no Historical Society.

What have we been doing? We have focused on the things we do well and have worked to improve them. Some of our achievements include:

Programs: All of our programs are free and open to the public.

- *New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and Their Impact on American Society* by Paul Wainwright (originally scheduled for Feb. but postponed until April due to weather)
- *Family, Memory, Place: Writing Family Stories* by Maura MacNeil (March)
- *From Drovers to Trail Blazers: The Story of the Creation of the Wapack Trail* by Larry Anderson (June)
- *Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn* by Thomas Hubka (September)
- *The Salem Witchcraft Trials and "Moldy Bread": A Case Study in Fake News* by Margo Burns (October)
- Upcoming Programs: *History of The New Ipswich Grange* by Friedericke Kazo et al. (possibly November) and *FINNS: An Oral History of Finnish-Americans in New Hampshire's Monadnock Region* by Patricia Kansas Ktistes (sometime in early 2024)

Daily Newsletter:

In his daily posts on the NIHS website and Facebook as well as to subscribers on Substack, John Poltrack has featured historic pictures, newspaper clippings, diary entries, and interviews of members of the Finnish community from the 1990s.

Photo Collection:

John Poltrack has scanned many of our photos and made them available to the public.

Website Update:

Emari Traffie and Madison Corriveau, an intern from Franklin Pierce University, have reorganized the website and created interactive content. We will be looking to add interesting NI history content, especially from the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Openings:

We have staffed the building two Saturdays per month June through October and occasionally at other times by appointment, and have welcomed a number of guests.

Cataloging:

Our large collection of documents dating from the 1740s to the present are being cataloged thanks to Kim Black and others.

Maintenance:

We have cared for the building and grounds, improved lighting, paid for electric and insurance bills, and filed required documents with the local, state and federal agencies. Having eliminated paid grounds keeping, Board volunteers now mow the lawn with our “newish” electric lawnmower and take care of fall and spring clean-up, thus saving \$500-\$700 per year.

Oral Histories:

We continue to conduct and transcribe oral histories and plan to improve our technology to make video recordings of future interviews available on our website so that the faces and voices of individuals who have lived in and contributed to our town are preserved.

Community Presence:

Board members staffed a table displaying NI memorabilia at the Autumn Festival at the Memorial Field and at the Children’s Fair.

Strategic Planning:

We have engaged in thoughtful discussion of the future of NIHS in an effort to improve our displays, organize our collection, and better represent New Ipswich’s history in the 20th century. We need to capture the history of immigration, schools, families, churches, and industries that make New Ipswich unique. We have seen interest from the community in capturing this history before it is lost. Achieving this vision may require improvements to our building.

PayPal:

To make contributions easier from friends and members, a PayPal account has been added to the website and linked to our social media.

Investments:

Our small investment funds, which were established in the 1990s, are now professionally managed by Brady Associates Asset Management in Peterborough, NH. We have not drawn upon these funds in recent years, but they provide a safety net should we need emergency repairs or work on the building.

How do we continue?

All of the work of the New Ipswich Historical Society is done by volunteers. Our primary expenses include our annual insurance premium, monthly electric bills, archival supplies, and occasional maintenance bills. Although we use grants to pay for speakers, we usually have to cover their mileage. We are grateful to the New Ipswich Library and to Historic New England for allowing us to use the Barrett House free of charge.

Where do we want to go?

Achieving our goal of representing the history of New Ipswich in the 20th century will require input from the community. Present and future visitors to the Historical Society and to the website should be able learn not only how and by whom our town was settled, but also about how our town has grown and changed, what makes our town unique, and how residents in the 20th and early 21st century shaped the community that we live in today.

How can you help?

Your financial contributions keep the NIHS in existence. Our fixed costs to operate and maintain the building are ever increasing, and although we vigorously pursue grants, we still incur expenses for guest speakers and work related to preserving, cataloguing, and publicizing our collection. We also need your stories, photos, and memorabilia to help flesh out New Ipswich’s story, especially from the mid-1900s to the present. There is always

room for new Board members. If you have the time, special skills or talents, or an interest in preserving our town's history, we need you. Additionally, we welcome volunteers who would like to contribute their time to help out on special projects in keeping with our mission.

Membership Renewal: A contributions of **\$15 or more** will renew your annual membership in the New Ipswich Historical Society.

Higher giving categories include:

\$25 Friend \$35 Family \$50 Patron \$100 Corporate /Patron \$500 Benefactor

Your financial contributions are greatly needed and appreciated.

Contributions can be mailed to the New Ipswich Historical Society, PO Box 422, New Ipswich, NH 03071 or through PayPal:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=RK7BLL5XBSJUL

Thank you all for your support,

John Rosenfelder, President

New Ipswich Historical Society