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(603) 536-2337

Post Office Box 603

Plymouth, NH 03264

Museum & Memory House

In the Old Webster Courthouse

Court Street

(behind Town Hall)

Open Saturdays

10:00 AM–2:00 PM May–October

10:00 AM–1:00 PM November–April

and by appointment

On Exhibit — Lost Plymouth

Landmarks Lost to Time: Part I—East Main Street

Wander up and down Plymouth's Main Street and you'll notice buildings of all shapes, sizes and styles. What is the story of these buildings? How long have they stood in their current locations? And what came before?

We know the first store opened in Plymouth in 1790, twenty-six years after the first settlers arrived. The store was nestled among the houses already standing. Half a century later, by the mid 1850s, the village, as it was then called, had a thriving downtown area. Taverns and hotels, churches, small industries and private homes provided a variety of structures, a few of which have been captured in photographs. Most have long since disappeared.

By the 1880s the Main Street had taken on a significantly changed appearance: nearly all the private homes were gone, replaced by a few large brick structures providing space for a variety of businesses, and a host of smaller buildings. What did it look like? What were some of the buildings that were "here today, gone tomorrow?"

"Lost Plymouth" shows dramatic images of downtown Plymouth in the late 1800s, with narratives creating



A display on the second Pemigewasset House hotel, the grandest of the lost landmarks.

the story of the time. Part I features structures on the east side of Main Street; names such as the Mason & Weeks Block, the Kidder Block, Railroad Square and the second Pemigewasset House Hotel will be familiar. Part II will feature buildings from the west side of Main Street.

Today's Main Street hosts entirely different buildings, reminding us that change is a constant and fifty years from now Main Street will once again have a radically different appearance. The Historical Society has begun to document today's Main Street and we welcome artifacts and photos you would like to donate or share.

We invite you to visit **Lost Plymouth**, an exhibit created by Lisa Lundari, with research contributed by Mary Baldwin, Betty Batchelder, Kathy Hillier and Stacey Yap.

The Historical Museum is open every Saturday, 10:00–2:00 through October, and 10:00–1:00 from November through April.

The "IO-Footers" were a series of small wooden structures that housed many of Plymouth's early businesses, as well as the post office and the Young Ladies' first library. Some buildings were moved, others torn down and replaced.



A Look at the Year That Was...

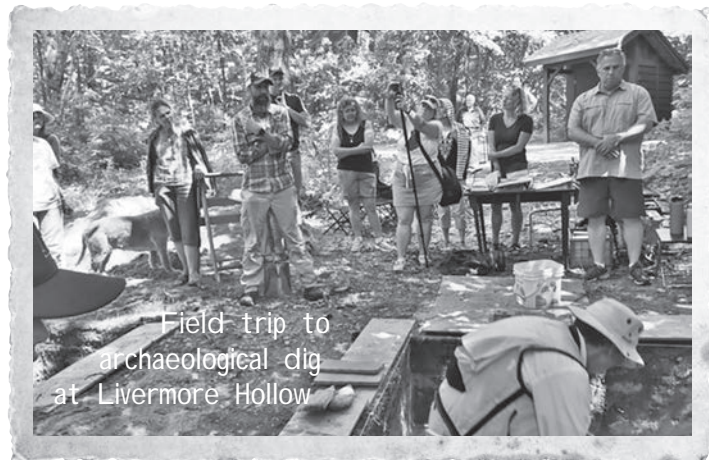


Drs. John Richards & Doug McVicar's presentation on the history of healthcare in Plymouth

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

An excellent program on **Digging Into Native History**, presented by Robert Goodby, made possible by a grant from the NH Humanities, kicked off our season. Subsequent presentations included: **Hauntings on the PSU Campus—Hearing is Believing** by Plymouth State students Clay Harbert and Sam Pappas; **Female Tavern Keepers and NH Colonial Government** by Marcia Schmidt Blaine; and to round out 2018, **On Call: A Look Back at Healthcare in Plymouth** by Drs. John Richards and Doug McVicar.

After a brief break in January, we started 2019 with another program funded by a NH Humanities grant, **Discovering New England Stone Walls**, by Kevin Gardner. Kevin built a miniature table-top stone wall while he presented! The 2019 schedule continued with a presentation on **Early Waterville Valley History** by charter members of the newly founded Waterville Valley Historical Society, Brenda and Preston Conklin, sharing their in-depth research. To entice a different audience Lee Hansche presented on rock climbing at **Rumney Rocks**, a world-famous portion of Rattlesnake Mountain (right in our own backyard)! This was followed by local author—and former State Senator—Wayne King of Rumney who spoke on his book **Sacred Trust**, a fictional look at the Northern Pass debate based on actual people and events. Given the ongoing interest in historical research, our June talk was timely as Andrew Cushing of the NH Preservation Alliance focused on **Researching Your Old House**. Following last year's popular field trip to Trinity Cemetery in Holderness, the PHS Program Committee arranged a field trip to see the ongoing



Field trip to archaeological dig at Livermore Hollow

Livermore Hollow Archeological Dig, also in Holderness. This was well attended, with 45 folks of all ages fascinated by their tour of the site alongside the Pemigewasset River.

The other highlight of the summer was a presentation by Plymouth's own Dr. Manuel Marquéz-Sterling based on his new book, **Clio's Songs: History as Opera**. This event brought 65 supporters to our museum, and folks were able to purchase signed copies of "Manny's" book. Our lecture season ended in September with Dan Heyduk, local historian from Meredith, who presented a lively program based on excerpts from his upcoming book on the history of New Hampshire's Lakes Region & Pemigewasset Valley.



PHS President Louise McCormack, in period costume, presents to PES 3rd Graders.

ENGAGING STUDENTS

Welcoming Plymouth's public school students to the historic Old Webster Courthouse has been an on-going focus of the Historical Society. Our long-term goal is to provide enrichment materials to all grade level instruction, using primary documents and authentic historical events that illustrate the importance of our collection as a memory house, a museum, and a research library. This is our way of fostering ownership of our storied past.

Last year we enjoyed returning visits from both the first and third grades that included short lessons on the histories of our Town Common, the Town Hall, and the Historical Society. Our year-long Farm Exhibit was especially entertaining with old photographs, farm implements, books, and maps to illustrate the time-line of Plymouth's agricultural history.

Rondi Gannon (formerly Pike), School Committee member and former teacher at Plymouth Elementary School, finds it particularly gratifying to recognize her former students, now visiting as chaperones of their own children.

Members of the School Committee are Rondi Gannon, Judy Floyd, and Louise McCormack.

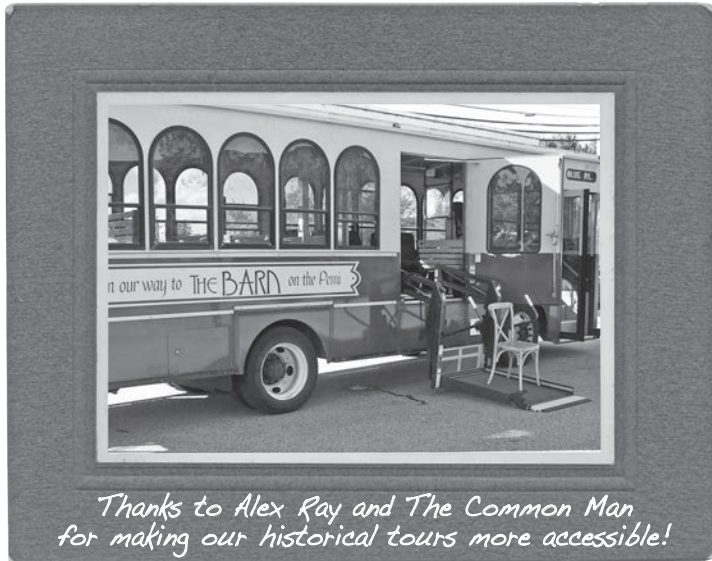
Your annual membership contributions to the Plymouth Historical Society are key to our success!



Many thanks to the following 2018–2019 donors:

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Margaret Avery
Amev & Scott Bailey
Mary & Gunnar Baldwin
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Pam Boiros
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Helen & Francis Boule
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Joyce Weston & Sally Widerstrom
Marilyn & Eldwin Wixson
Christopher Woods & Claire Ekert
Stacey G. Yap



SHARING HISTORY— Historical Trolley Tour

The Plymouth Historical Society partnered with Alex Ray to put The Common Man trolley to a new use—a time machine! At the end of September, PHS president Louise McCormack (in period costume) stepped on board and proceeded to take the riders on a tour through time over the Main Street and back roads of downtown Plymouth. This pilot event allowed the attendees to visit landmarks and learn bits of the amazing history our town holds.

The historical society has provided walking tours of downtown Plymouth over the past few years, but with the addition of the trolley a larger area can be covered, allowing us to share even more of Plymouth's past. In addition, folks who may not be up to a walking tour are able to take part. (The trolley even includes a lift to aid in getting on and off [see photo above].) Stops occur to share extended histories, but there is no disembarking during the tour. The maximum number of “time travelers” per tour is set at twenty-eight, the capacity of the trolley.

This one hour, autumnal tour answered such questions as: Which businesses have come and gone? Where were the homes and hotels built on Main Street as the town grew? Where did some of the town's entrepreneurs live? Did they walk to work? Where was our first bank located? Our first post office? And more.

We hope special individuals from our past will be joining us as future trolley guides to share our history. Will it be David Webster, an original charter member when Plymouth became incorporated as a town? Or perhaps Catherine Holme Balch of Holderness, who lead the organization of our first hospital and named it after her mother, Emily Balch? Only time will tell. Future guides, born here in the 1800s, started families, businesses and organizations that benefited the town and surrounding areas. Descendants of some of these individuals continue with the same vision, entrepreneurial spirit and civic mindedness today.

Learning the history of our community allows us to gain an appreciation of our past, an understanding of our present, and a vision for our future. Whether you consider yourself a ‘townie’ or a tourist visiting for only a day, the trolley tour will provide an interesting glimpse into Plymouth's past.

Place us on your “to do” list for next summer and fall. Period costumes are strongly suggested and appreciated! Trolley tours will be an hour and begin at 10:00 AM or 4:00 PM, depending on the day, and will begin and end at The Common Man Inn/Foster's Boiler Room on Foster Street, just off north Main Street (Route 3 North or Exit 26 off I-93). Seats are limited, so arrive early. Admission is free but donations are appreciated and will be used for archival projects.

A special thanks to Alex Ray and The Common Man for making the Historical Trolley Tour possible. We look forward to future tours.

Watch for future dates. We use multiple means to advertise our events, programs and projects—our website (PlymouthNHhistory.com), our Facebook page (Plymouth Historical Society, Plymouth, NH), e-mails (join our list via our website to get updates in your “in” box) and look for flyers posted at the businesses along Main Street and in surrounding areas.

If you have questions, drop by the museum and memory house (Saturdays, November–April 10:00–1:00, May–October 10:00–2:00), call us (603-536-2337), and/or email (Louise McCormack [louisem@plymouth.edu]).

BOARD of DIRECTORS



Lisa Lundari has served on the board of the Plymouth Historical Society for eleven years, bringing her considerable talent and love and knowledge of Plymouth's history to enrich the organization. She served as the PHS Vice President for a year, and President for five years. She spearheaded the creation of our most recent history book *Five More Decades in Plymouth, NH* and was the co-organizer with Steve Rand of Plymouth's 250th Celebration in 2013.

While Lisa is stepping down from the Board of Directors, she will continue to be involved with the Historical Society.

Do you believe in preserving local history? Are you a history nerd?

*Consider becoming a member or volunteer, and
please tell others about our presentations and our work.*

“...out of shared telling and remembering
grow identity, connection and pride,
binding people to a place and to one another.
These ties form the basis of community life.”

—Thomas Rankin
Documentary Folklorist

ACCESSIONING AND CATALOGING

We are so grateful for the artifacts that continue to find their way to the Historical Society. A few items received this year include:

- A cast iron plaque found in the Pemigewasset River near the Cross River Bridge in Thornton by Ray Sullivan who was scuba diving in the area. We are looking for more information about the circular item that states 'Scenic Hub of New Hampshire' on the outer rim and 'Plymouth' on the inner rim
- A Tufts Pharmacy glass medicine bottle
- A 1903 train schedule
- A framed collection of Plymouth State College and Plymouth postcards
- A large collection of photographs and newspaper articles. One 1975 article from Plymouth State College's *The Clock* gave a detailed account of the process of glove making in Plymouth, a major industry in the 19th and early 20th centuries
- A book of ration stamps from World War II, and a handwritten note describing rationing
- A framed copy of a stylized painting of the second Pemigewasset Hotel, created by Arch MacDonald

And this is just a small sample of donations that continue to explain Plymouth's story. Thank you for your donations, and an additional thank you to Linda Barlick, Susan Grillo, Calla Jae Jones, and Marcia Rundle who help document and appropriately store these items.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Many thanks for your support and interest! We count on your membership dues and donations which are a significant part of our budget. Please take a minute and use the enclosed form and envelope to renew your membership for 2019–2020. If you know someone willing to support our work, we would appreciate your referral.

FUNDRAISING

Our fundraising projects help balance the budget—your support for our plant sale (June), yard sale (September), and wreath making workshop (December) are all important sources of income. The quality of items donated for our yard sale helped increase our profit by 50%!

We also offer many retail items (post cards, books, DVDs, etc.) to generate additional monies. They make great gifts, especially for folks who no longer live in the area. Thanks to all who donated plants and items, the shoppers who bought them, and the wreath makers!

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018–2019

10/1/18–9/30/19

Income

Membership Dues.....	\$1,850
Membership Donations.....	2,755
Other Donations and Grants.....	2,317
Retail Sales.....	612
Fundraising.....	2,675
TOTAL.....	\$10,209

Expenditures

Programs/Publicity.....	\$1,761
Operating Expenses.....	1,475
Utilities.....	4,607
Storage.....	420
Dues & Fees.....	285
TOTAL.....	\$8,548

The Year Ahead...

We hope you will join us for some of these upcoming programs and consider being a part of the fun by volunteering as a docent or working on a project. Here's a peek...

CURRENT EXHIBIT—THROUGH MAY 2020

LOST PLYMOUTH—LANDMARKS LOST TO TIME

PART I—East Main Street through December

PART II—West Main Street January through May

UPCOMING EXHIBIT—JUNE 2020 –MAY 2021

PLYMOUTH'S PART IN THE FIGHT FOR WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE

While Plymouth was never on the front lines—or in the headlines—of the movement it did have some surprising connections. This exhibit coincides with the centennial of women getting the right to vote and will also include some of the notable women and women's groups in Plymouth's history.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Our evening programs are offered nearly every month. The Program Committee (Linda Barlick, Dick Flanders, John Richards, and Mary Anne Hyde Saul) are planning for 2020 and welcome your suggestions!

WED • OCT 16 • 7:00 PM

The Mystery of the Young Ladies Library Association

Presented by Stephanie Osborne, President, YLLA

Organized in 1873, the YLLA is nearly 150 years old. The initiative that germinated its formation—creating and running the public library—made clear its mission and activities. Now that the Library is run by the Town, and the Young Ladies are not so young (and include men) it is not always so clear what their modern role is. This non-profit group was instrumental in the building of the current Pease Library and continues to support the community in a number of initiatives. Find out what they are up to!

WED • NOV 13 • 7:00 PM

African American

Soldiers and Sailors

Presented by Glenn Knoblock



Made possible by a grant from

NEW HAMPSHIRE

humanities

One of the most interesting aspects of the American Revolution is the role of African Americans in the fight for independence. Both free African Americans and those that were enslaved were key elements in manning state militias and Continental Army units, as well as serving on the high seas in the Navy and on privately armed ships. This program is sponsored by NH Humanities.

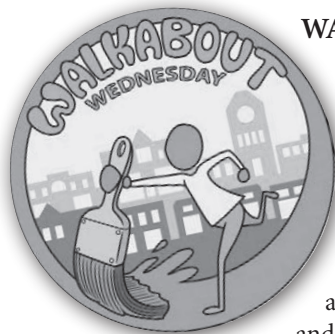
ACTIVITIES

SAT • DEC 7 • 9:00 AM–Noon

Wreath Making Workshop

Hosted by Dick & Kathie Flanders at their home—

320 Fairgrounds Road, Plymouth. \$5/frame; BYOD—bring your own decorations.



WALKABOUT WEDNESDAYS

Walkabout Wednesday, typically held on the first Wednesday of every month from 4:00–6:00 PM, is a chance for Plymouth businesses, organizations and PSU to showcase local artists' creative talents. It is a wonderful chance to enjoy the artwork, chat with the artists themselves and perhaps enjoy a refreshment.

We at the Plymouth Historical Society enjoy hosting the WAW artists, as it is also a time for community fellowship and an opportunity to welcome new visitors to the Old Webster Courthouse. Over this past year we have been fortunate to host **Helen Downing, Irene Marocco, Marcia Santore, Barb Zimmer** and **Eric D'Aleo**. We are always on the lookout for new artists.

Organized by Mary Baldwin and Judy Floyd.

THE FUTURE OF HISTORY CAMPAIGN NEARS THE END OF PHASE I

If you've seen the scaffolding, boarded up windows and backhoe at the museum and wondered what was going on, it's called progress! After years of planning and fundraising, all that hard work is paying off. The efforts of the Old Webster Courthouse committee—members of the Plymouth Historical Society (who uses the building), the Young Ladies Library Association (who owns the building), and community members (who see the value in preserving this historic gem)—resulted in the plans and matching funds that garnered the project a LCHIP grant. The monies from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, combined with the monies raised from our own community have been used to: replace the roof; replace rotted boards; paint the building; restore the original windows and pair them with new storm windows; install a new heating and cooling system; remove an old buried oil tank; repoint the chimney; fix gaps in the original stone foundation; turn the brick walk into an ADA-compliant ramp; and will refinish of with some interior painting, electrical work and refinishing the floors. This work is addressing structural, environmental, preservation and cosmetic concerns, which will allow the Old Webster Courthouse to continue to serve our town well into the future.



BIG happenings at the Old Webster Courthouse.

PLYMOUTH MEMORIES—SEASON 3



MEMORIES of PLYMOUTH, a project spearheaded by Louise McCormack, has completed its third year of showcasing, preserving and honoring the stories of local people who have lived here for many decades. We view this project as a video time capsule, creating first-person accounts of individual stories as well as participants' memories of Plymouth. To date, 33 individuals have been videotaped. All *Memories of Plymouth* interviews are aired on Pemi-Baker TV, and the historical society's website (PlymouthNHhistory.com), and the historical society's Facebook page.

This year's interviews began in late March 2019 with **Rose Avery Zimmer** of Holderness. We lured the Carter sisters, **Judie Carter Chary** and **Janet Carter Broker** back to share their childhood experiences as well as their memories of living in a house that was once the Emily Balch Hospital, located on the corner of Highland and Langdon Streets. **Guy Kenneson** reminisced about his experiences of Plymouth as a child and adult along with his several occupations (teacher, principal, Chamber of Commerce representative, logger). It was a treat to hear the **Minickiellos**—brothers **Peter** and **David** and cousin **Tom**—join us to reminisce about their youth in Plymouth as well as chatting about their father's occupations – **Tony's Flying A's** gasoline station located at north Main Street and **Fausty's Restaurant**, a favorite hangout for kids and adults alike. Former banker, **Phyllis Holbrook**, chatted about the two town banks shared one building, first at what is now Wolfson Jewelers and then at what is now Northway Bank. As we go to press, **Patsy Conway Neads**, will be visiting Plymouth as she does each fall. Currently living in South Carolina, Plymouth continues to be home.

At this writing, we are preparing for our spring 2020 interviews. If you are interested or know someone who would enjoy sharing their memories, please contact Louise Samaha McCormack at louisem@plymouth.edu, or leave a message at the museum (603) 536-2337. Your children, grandchildren and friends will appreciate your willingness to participate in sharing your "Memories of Plymouth." *MEMORIES of PLYMOUTH* interviews are video recorded and aired on Pemi-Baker TV (Public Access CH 1302) on Spectrum Cable (Ashland, Campton, Dorchester, Ellsworth, Groton, Holderness, Plymouth, Rumney, Thornton, and Wentworth). For those no longer living in the area, interviews may also be viewed—and shared—via a play list on the Plymouth Historical Society YouTube channel, most easily accessed via a link on the PHS website (PlymouthNHhistory.com.) We hope you will enjoy watching—and sharing—them.