

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1823

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



The independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Financial report for the fiscal year October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008. Audited financial statements are available at nhhistory.org or by contacting Director of Finance Dorothy Duclos at 603-856-0602.

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Museum

6 Eagle Square Concord, New Hampshire 03301

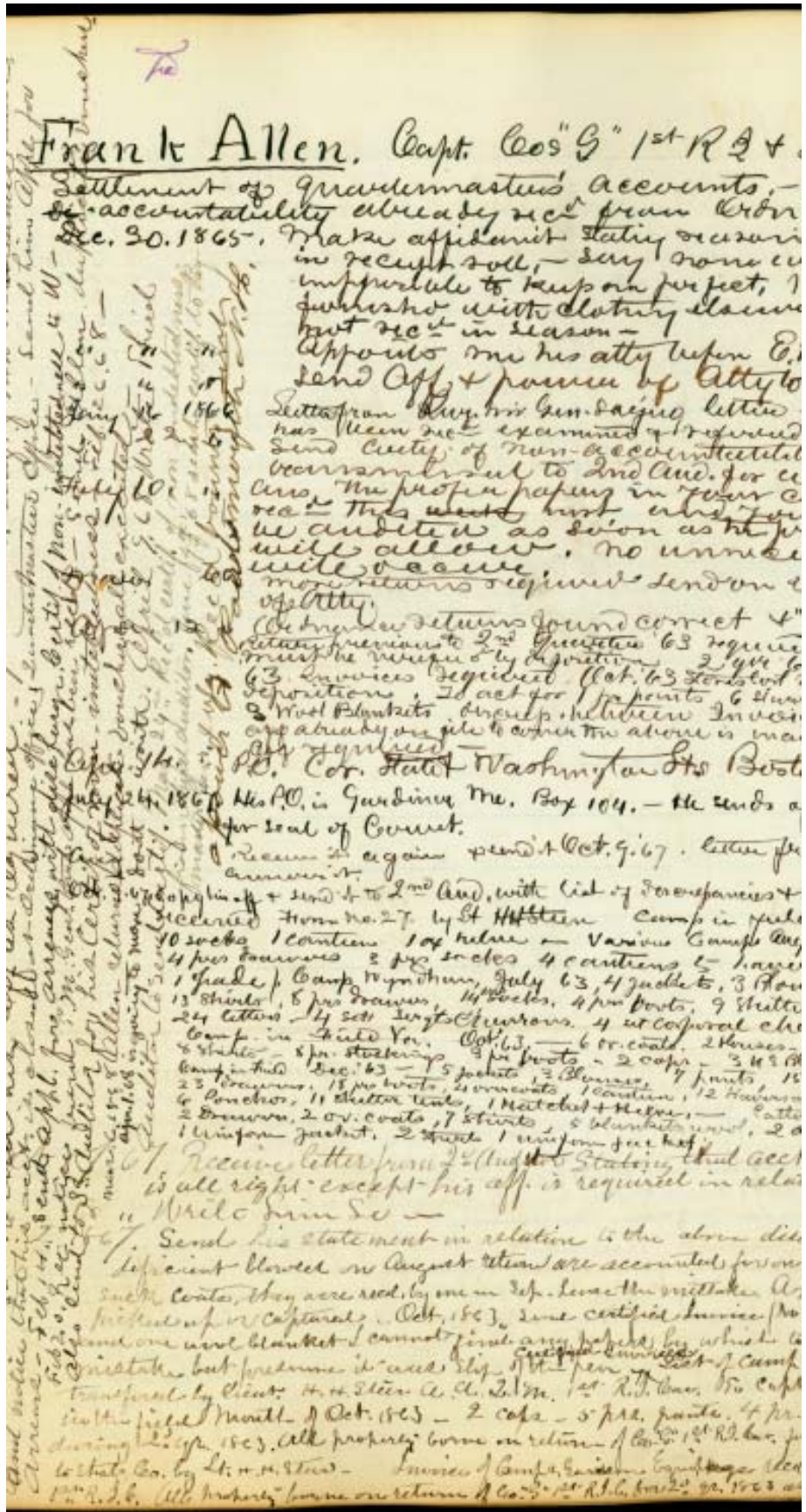
603-228-6688

nhhistory.org

Cover: New Hampshire's Loudon Classic, the oldest motorcycle race in America, marked its 85th anniversary in 2008. As part of the anniversary, the Society offered free museum admission and custom-designed museum store products featuring vintage images from the library collection, such as this 1985 photograph by Peter Blakely.

Right: Endowment funds enable the Society to respond quickly when rare and important collections become available. In 2008 endowment funds made possible the purchase of this legal journal of Henry B. Atherton, a 19th-century lawyer from Nashua. The journal contains over 250 cases of Civil War veterans or widows who were seeking pensions, and includes detailed descriptions of the veterans' wounds, medical care, and post-war lives. The journal is already proving to be an invaluable resource for researchers.

Page 4: The Society's museum.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Society ended its 2008 fiscal year with an unrestricted operating surplus of \$49,853, or 2.9% of unrestricted operating revenue. Unfortunately, this modest surplus was more than outweighed by investment losses of \$1,855,933, or 17% of the endowment. Overall, net assets decreased by \$2,239,286, or 14%.

Investment income is only one of our revenue sources, but it does provide 23% of our cash flow. We draw 5% of the value of our endowment each year based on a 20-quarter average. This policy—a standard practice among endowed organizations—prevents us from spending too much in times of high market returns, but also ensures that we are not starved for cash when markets decline. If the markets recover at a “normal” pace, the impact will be manageable. If they don’t, we will need to redouble our efforts to generate current income to maintain operations. Fortunately, we have sufficient cash to fund our “draw” for 27 months without having to sell stock at depressed levels.

This all begs the question of what the future of our revenue looks like. Not surprisingly, people have been asking me if there is any chance to get federal stimulus money. The answer is basically no. There was an unsuccessful attempt in the U.S. Senate to exclude museums from the stimulus bill. Nonetheless, the only historical societies that appear to be getting “stimulated” are those that lobbied for an earmark.

Private support might dip as people’s incomes and wealth get squeezed during a recession, but it never arbitrarily stops. This is because private donors consider our mission to be essential.

We do pursue federal grants for projects for which we can make a case that there is a benefit to the taxpayers. For example, we just finished a grant-funded project to photograph and further research our entire decorative arts collection, and to transfer the information on it to our electronic catalog from our paper files. This will allow us to soon make the images and data available online for everyone in the United States to enjoy. Other than such deliberately chosen projects, however, we have been careful not to pursue a strategy of depending on grants—public or private—to fund continuing operations.

Another question I’ve been getting is whether we should start lobbying the State of New Hampshire for an appropriation. Naturally, this topic comes up from time-to-time. The Society has never seriously pursued an appropriation, in part because the chances of success in our state would be so low, but also because we are mindful of the experiences of our peers. For example, a fellow historical society in New England had been depending on a sizable government appropriation in return for offering certain free services to the citizens of its state. Without much warning, its appropriation was reduced to a trickle. What looked like a safe bet actually turned out to be risky once political leaders decided this historical society was “nonessential.”



In contrast to this example, our revenue streams are diverse and relatively reliable. We get income from multiple sources: private donations, grants, “earned income” (i.e., museum admissions, etc.), and investment income. There is no risk that any one of these revenue sources would suddenly (or ever) go to zero. Private support might dip as people’s incomes and wealth get squeezed during a recession, but it never arbitrarily stops. This is because private donors

consider our mission to be essential.

Private donations and earned income also serve as a proxy for the value we are creating for the public.

In terms of placing a price on our public benefit, the discounted value of the annual receipts in membership dues, Heritage Fund donations, and earned income is literally our “market capitalization.” As our public benefit goes up, our support and value go up.

Thank you for being a part of that equation and for making us an essential component of your giving.


Bill Veillette, Executive Director



Leaders Circle members recognize their support is vital to preserving New Hampshire's heritage. The Society is very fortunate to have a number of loyal donors who have served as leaders in unrestricted annual giving to the Heritage Fund beginning at \$1,000. Listed below are members in 2008. The asterisk represents continued and new members as of May 31, 2009.

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For more information or to join the Leaders Circle, contact Director of Development Anne Hamilton at 603-856-0608 or ahamilton@nhhistory.org.

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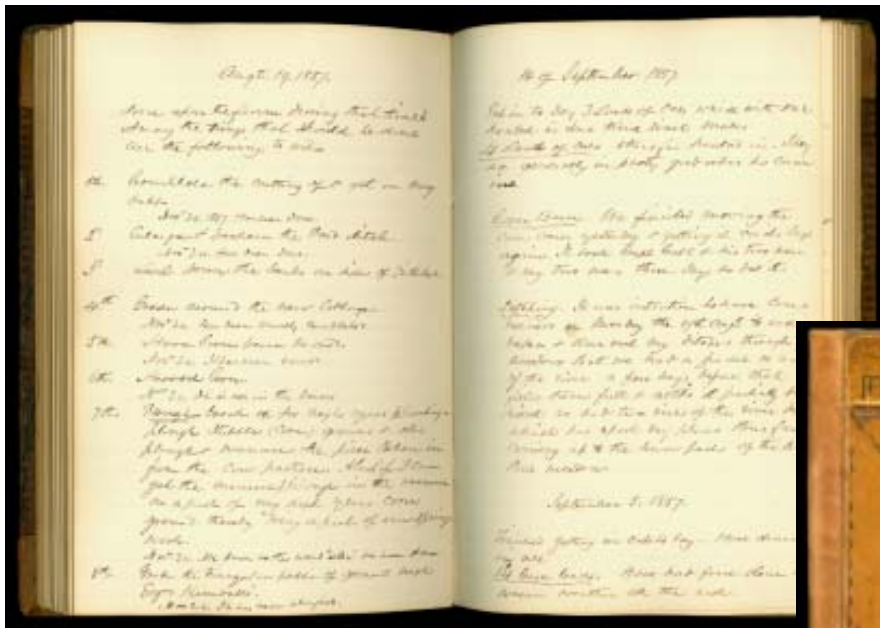
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The Society actively conserves its archives, such as this 1853–61 journal of Joseph B. Walker (1822–1913), a farmer in Concord. The journal was a gift to the Society in 2008 from longtime Trustee and Treasurer Timothy W. Woodman (1928–2009), who also wanted to help conserve it. The Society had the journal cleaned, repaired, re-lined, and re-sewn, and it is now in fine condition and available to researchers.

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to acquire New Hampshire-related artifacts, memorabilia, and similar items

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Josiah Moody (1746–1832) of Epping and Unity received this powder horn during the American Revolution from Ward Thurston, who hailed from the North Country. Like Thurston, Moody was part of the forces gathered in 1775–76 to defend against advancing British forces, including the Battle of Bunker Hill. The powder horn, along with a powder measure and hat, was donated to the Society by the Whitefield Public Library. This extraordinary gift is now part of the Society's extensive collection of powder horns.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	FY2008 Total	FY2007 Total
CONTRIBUTED SUPPORT					
Contributions and memberships	\$ 349,791	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 349,791	\$ 283,762
Grants, gifts, and fundraising	142,400	187,220	93,044	422,664	1,065,501
Contributed goods and services	6,993	-	-	6,993	25,298
Total contributed support	499,184	187,220	93,044	779,448	1,374,561
INVESTMENT AND EARNED INCOME					
Earned income and special events	289,152	-	-	289,152	358,994
Rental income, net of related expenses	347,359	-	-	347,359	383,312
Trusts and other investment income	100,599	-	-	100,599	106,501
Investment return designated for current operations	331,902	-	138,390	470,292	404,616
Transfer of funds in accordance with investment policy	138,390	-	(138,390)	-	-
Total investment and earned income	1,207,402	-	-	1,207,402	1,253,423
NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS	26,000	(26,000)	-	-	-
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES, BEFORE INVESTMENT RETURN IN EXCESS OF AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS	1,732,586	161,220	93,044	1,986,850	2,627,984
EXPENSES					
Museum and exhibitions	353,062	-	-	353,062	388,759
Library	318,544	-	-	318,544	253,719
Education	127,124	-	-	127,124	111,104
Publications	95,144	-	-	95,144	72,732
Museum store and visitor services	149,770	-	-	149,770	183,212
Buildings, grounds, and security	14,204	-	-	14,204	95,839
Membership, development, and public relations	323,212	-	-	323,212	324,460
Administration	247,673	-	-	247,673	297,335
Collections acquired by purchase	97,488	-	-	97,488	77,689
TOTAL EXPENSES AND COLLECTION ITEMS ACQUIRED BY PURCHASE BEFORE ENDOWMENT ADDITIONS AND DEPRECIATION	1,726,221	-	-	1,726,221	1,804,849
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE INVESTMENT RETURN IN EXCESS OF AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS, ENDOWMENT ADDITIONS, AND DEPRECIATION	6,365	161,220	93,044	260,629	823,135
LESS ADDITIONS TO ENDOWMENT	17,750	-	118,915	136,665	920,853
ADD BACK RENTAL DEPRECIATION	61,238	-	-	61,238	61,907
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE INVESTMENT RETURN IN EXCESS OF AMOUNT TRANSFERRED FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS AND DEPRECIATION	\$ 49,853	\$ 161,220	\$ (25,871)	\$ 185,202	\$ (35,811)
INVESTMENT RETURN					
Unrealized investment gain	(1,362,330)	-	(703,605)	(2,065,935)	795,239
Realized investment gains (losses)	(31,195)	-	(20,267)	(51,462)	165,090
Investment expenses	(43,083)	-	(22,309)	(65,392)	(65,278)
Investment income, actual dividends, and interest	220,395	-	106,461	326,856	331,899
Total investment return	(1,216,213)	-	(639,720)	(1,855,933)	1,226,950
Less amount designated for current operations	331,902	-	138,390	470,292	404,616
Total investment return in excess of amount transferred for current operations	(1,548,115)	-	(778,110)	(2,326,225)	822,334
TRANSFERS TO ENDOWMENT	17,750	-	118,915	136,665	920,853
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF SUPPORT AND REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE DEPRECIATION	(1,480,512)	161,220	(685,066)	(2,004,358)	1,707,376
DEPRECIATION	234,928	-	-	234,928	233,214
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(1,715,440)	161,220	(685,066)	(2,239,286)	1,474,162
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 12,375,789	\$ 166,282	\$ 3,688,668	\$ 16,230,739	\$ 14,756,577
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 10,660,349	\$ 327,502	\$ 3,003,602	\$ 13,991,453	\$ 16,230,739

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