



The Associate

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE

June 2003

The Sugar Hill Historical Society will host the June 28 meeting of the Association.

The agenda for the meeting follows:

- 9:30 am Coffee and pastries, sign in
- 10:00 Welcoming remarks by Fred Foley, AHSNH President and Winnie Harwood, Executive Director, Sugar Hill Historical Society
- 10:15 Program- 'Wild Flowers and Other Friends'- Dr. Arthur 'Dick' March
- 11:15 AHSNH business meeting
- 12:00 Lunch (bring your own- beverage and dessert will be provided)
(Roll call of Societies and their upcoming events during lunch)
- 1:00 Tour of the Sugar Hill Historical Museum

The Sugar Hill Historical Society is located on Rt 117 in Sugar Hill. Directions: North on I93 to exit 38 (Franconia), left at stop sign, right at lights, go ½ mile through town, left on Rt. 117 to Sugar Hill. Meeting House is approximately 2 ½ miles on the right.

Editor and reporters needed

The next *Associate* will be mailed in mid July. This mailing will be a postcard to remind members of the Association meeting on August 23 at the Unity Historical Society. We need volunteers to assist in the creation of future editions of the *Associate*, if you would like to be involved please contact Jim Romer, secretary at 603-542-6124 or by email at romer@cyberportal.net

Minutes of the April 26, 2003 meeting

Treasurer Ben Moore opened the meeting at 10 am, and in his capacity as President of the Hampton Historical Society he welcomed the 30 in attendance. Apologies had been received from President Fred Foley and Secretary Jim Romer.

Ben introduced the speaker, Betty Moore, the Executive Director of the Tuck Museum, which is operated by the Hampton Society. Betty's presentation was on effective and low cost methods to use for the preservation and care of items in our museum collections. (A summary of her remarks is contained in this edition of the *Associate*.)

Ben then presented a brief summary of the results of the survey that had been mailed to member Societies in March. A summary of the survey results will be published in the *Associate*.

The roll call of Societies present was conducted during the lunch break, 12 societies were present.

Ben read the minutes of the October 26, 2002 AHSNH annual meeting and presented the Treasurers report for the AHSNH- \$8,441 cash in checking account, income of \$1,922 and expenses of \$342 for the seven months ending April 30.

Betty Moore had obtained three sets of sample archival materials from the Hollinger Company as part of her presentation and these were given out as door prizes.

At 1:15 the meeting ended and most of the attendees toured the buildings of the Hampton Society before heading home in a rather steady rain.

Ben Moore, Acting Secretary

Updating the Directory of New Hampshire Historical Societies: Volunteer Assistance Needed

At its May meeting the Association's Board set in motion a process for updating the Directory and publishing a new edition. The information will be saved in a format suitable both for the publication of the printed edition and for its eventual appearance on a web site.

About June 15th requests for updates and corrections will be sent to all organizations currently listed and to others that we know exist or think may exist. Everyone is urged to make sure that replies get back to us by the end of July.

In August a group of volunteers, coordinated by Recording Secretary Jim Romer, will follow up by contacting societies from whom no response has been received. Board members have come forward to do this work in five of the ten New Hampshire counties, but we still have the following five available:

Rockingham
Strafford
Merrimack
Hillsborough
Cheshire

Please contact Jim Romer at 542-6124 or romer@cyberportal.net to volunteer.

Notes from the Presentation by Betty Moore at the April 26 meeting of the Association

Preventative Conservation

All of us here, no matter how large or small our museums or collections, have been entrusted with their care and conservation. It is our responsibility to treat those possessions properly. Today we'll cover some basics of care that are simple, easy and that can be done by organizations of any size or budget.

We will discuss the different "enemies" of our collections- light, temperature and humidity, atmospheric dirt and pollution, insects and pests, poor handling, and incorrect methods of display. These factors have been referred to as "agents of deterioration". In some cases, simple lack of knowledge, or unwitting neglect has caused damage and deterioration that could have been avoided.

Tips will be discussed to protect and preserve materials like wood, fabrics, paper, and ceramics. Modern technology has made many advances like powdered metal technology for shelving and storage and "barrier products" like GorTex™ and Tyvek™, but some old fashioned techniques are still the best. There are many good books available on this subject.

Clarification of terms

Preservation-The activities associated with maintaining library, archival, or museum materials for use, either in original form or some other format.

Conservation- The treatment of library or archive materials, works of art, or museum objects to stabilize them physically, sustaining their survival as long as possible in their original form. A conservator makes sure that all work is reversible.

Restoration- The treatment of an object to regain original appearance and condition. A restorer may need to make changes to an object (inpainting, etc) that alters the original object.

THE ENEMIES

LIGHT- Effects textiles, paper, photographs. Can be very damaging.

- Windows, cover with shades, curtains or other light filtering devices (film, UV layer).
- Cover display cases, furniture with sheets when the building is not being used.
- Display textiles for only a limited amount of time-rotate collection.
- More money? Purchase a fading strip to put in a case to measure the effect of light (\$8/each).
- Still more money? Use a photographers light meter to measure the amount of light present.
- Keep lights off in rooms that aren't in use. Turn them on as visitors arrive.

TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY- Hardest to control within a budget, but very damaging to collections.

Conservators have established specific guidelines for paper, textiles, etc. But the rule of thumb is that if you are

comfortable, the collection is OK. Excess heat can dry things out and make them brittle. Excess moisture causes mold and mildew. Concerning mold and mildew -PREVENTION IS EASIER THAN REMOVAL.

- Don't subject the collection to wide fluctuations of temperature.
- Dehumidifiers help in the summer. Important that they be emptied.
- Humidifiers put moisture back in dry air in the winter.
- Keep storage areas ventilated, dry and clean. Grease and dirt are a breeding place for mold spores
- Use Lysol Spray™ (not Lysol in liquid form) in damp areas to kill mold and mildew.
- Paracrystals and paraformaldehyde inhibit mildew use. There is health concerns associated with them and they must be used properly.
- If mildew is present on an item, brush or vacuum **outdoors** to keep spores from spreading.

ATMOSPHERIC DIRT/POLLUTION-Dust and dirt can build up quickly attracting pests. Other problems include rusting of metals, effect on paint and varnish, breakdown of plastic and paper based items.

- Do not place vulnerable object near windows that are opened.
- Keep small delicate objects in glass or Plexiglas™ cases.
- Prevention the best form of care
- Vacuum floors, furniture and large textiles to remove dust. Sometimes netting should be placed over the end of the nozzle, or screening should be placed over an object to protect the item being cleaned.
- No liquid spray or wax - ENDUST™ is an approved product-spray onto the cloth then use.
- Air conditioning is an ideal solution, but expensive. Perhaps one or two rooms could be air-conditioned.

INSECTS AND PESTS- Feed on cellulose, starch and fiber. Woodworm, carpet beetles, larvae of moths lay eggs and feed on textiles (more \$\$ damage each year than fire).

- Find evidence of insects? First thing- isolate the infested piece, wrap item in plastic sheeting to avoid scattering eggs, larvae or insects.
- Regular inspection - twice a year furniture, every few months- clothes, books etc.
- Carpet beetles do more damage than moths. Other insects soil clothes and leave stains even if they don't eat the fabric.
- Insect damage - small holes in the wood called "flight holes". This is where the larvae has pupated and beetle has emerged. If on examination the wood looks freshly exposed the presence of a pest is evident. Light colored dust or "frass" may be evidence of the larvae. If the holes are dark, and house dust or evidence of wax is present, the damage is old.
- Rodents can do quick work- gnaw and shred objects to make a nest.
- Fumigation best handled professionally, but to go back to the same environment that caused problem does no good.

POOR HANDLING-Man-made problems due to improper storage or handling.

- Learn to move items properly- pick up boxes from the bottom.
- Unwrap items carefully over a padded surface.
- Don't push or drag furniture, it should be lifted. Lift using the lowest strongest structural member.
- Two or more people to move an item. Tie a drop-leaf table around the leaves before moving. Doors should be tied shut.
- Carry fragile items in padded tray, basket, or cart.
- If transporting an item make sure it is well padded and wrapped.

INCORRECT METHODS OF DISPLAY - For museums and historical societies this is very important

- Books - Conditions too dry paper turns brittle. Moisture invites mold, loosens the adhesives around the bookbinding.
- Metal shelving the best. Wood shelves can be sealed with a barrier like white shellac or covered with Mylar. Provide airflow behind books and behind the bookcase if on an outside wall. Glass doors hard to ventilate - leave open a crack.

More specific information by category

TEXTILES

This group very sensitive to agents of deterioration. Once damage has occurred little can be done to restore it. This group includes tapestries, samplers, hats, shoes, and costumes. Materials can be natural or synthetic. Textiles can be in combinations with other materials like feathers, bone, fur and additional care must be taken.

Light- One of the leading causes of damage. Light causes colors to fade and fibers to become brittle.

- Display textiles in low light, for only short period of time. Store in the dark.

Temperature and humidity

- Heat can dry things out and make them brittle.
- Dampness encourages the growth of mold, may be impossible to remove, colors may run.

Atmospheric dirt and pollution- Can build up quickly.

- Don't store soiled articles.

• Drycleaners for non-washable fabric, others consult good reference. May be able to launder in hot sudsy water (Ivory Flakes™ or Fels Naptha™). Rinsing very important, then dry in the sun.

- Large textiles should be vacuumed periodically.

Insects and pests

- The use of chemicals isn't an ideal solution. A clean environment is the best protection.
- Best preservation is to inspect textiles periodically.
- Do not carpet closet floors or storage area.
- Care with use of chemicals DDVP-no pest strip, PDP-crystals. May cause cancer. Naphthalene (moth balls) not acceptable.
- If larvae are present dampen a cloth with water and clean all surfaces. Throw the cloth out after use.
- Find out moth season and be vigilant.

Handling- periodic examination is the best preservation

- Nothing stored in plastic.

• Clothing stored in muslin or GorTex bags™. GoreTex™ is a barrier product, acid free, breathable.

- Store large pieces like quilts rolled.

- Don't place heavy items on top of each other.

- Padded hangars-distribute weight and stress of items stored hanging.

- Archival boxes - for small items and things stored flat.

Wrap or stuff with acid free tissue.

Don't pack tightly- fabric can crease and discolor along the folds.

- Do not use potpourri or sachets in storage.

Display

- Display textiles in a frame, box, or case.

WOOD

Carefully examine wood pieces when coming into the collection and as part of an ongoing care process. Look for evidence of insect damage, loose joints, and loose veneer. Rough handling can cause structural damage.

Light

- Sunlight can cause bleaching. Protect items stored next to windows.

Temperature and humidity

- Fluctuating conditions promote splitting, warping of veneers.

Atmospheric dirt and pollution-Dust is a problem with wood pieces.

Insects and pests -Infestation of pests such as woodworm can weaken furniture.

Handling tips-surface treatments are cosmetic does not replace lost moisture

- Use a lint free hemmed duster. Don't use feather duster. They can't be washed and feathers can break and scratch the surface.

• Endust™ is approved for dust control- spray on the cloth then dust. Don't use liquid or spray polish if silicon or acrylic resin is present.

• Murphy's Oil Soap™- (vegetable oil and glycerin) removes dirt while preserving the finish.

• Renaissance Wax™ cleans and polishes, but it should be used sparingly.

• Vacuum wood with screening over the hose when cleaning furniture with loose veneers.

• Vacuuming the surface gets rid of dust that attracts moths, carpet beetles and other pests.

• Cover the end with netting to keep small items from being vacuumed up.

• Upholstery- vacuum regularly.

• Don't cover or store an item in plastic. Moisture can migrate to wood.

• Do not attempt repairs with metal brackets, nails, screws, or staples.

Display tips

- Display out of harsh light.

PAINTINGS- Inspect regularly

Light

- Direct sunlight is harmful. Paintings can take a general light level higher than works of art on paper.

Temperature and humidity- Correct environments conditions are very important.

• Paintings on cold external walls can form condensation.

• Mold is difficult to remove from oil paintings, do not store in damp areas.

Atmospheric dirt and pollution

- Never hang over a working fireplace as item can be damaged by smoke, dust and heat.

Insects and pests

- Wooden stretchers and frames should be inspected for damage.

Handling and care

- Don't place paintings above heat sources.
- Humidifiers add moisture to the air during the heating season.
- Don't store on the floor leaning against one another.
- Wear gloves and hold pictures only by the edges of the frames-care must be taken with moldings.
- Canvas - don't dust with a regular cloth, use photographers brush, sable brush, or silk cloth.
- Cleaning should only be done by a conservator.

Display tips

- Display in the correct light levels.

WORKS ON PAPER -Books, manuscripts, prints, drawings, photographs, ephemera

Background- Wood pulp used in papermaking from 1850-1950 was very acidic. Alum in the newsprint breaks down into acids and eats the fibers holding the wood pulp together. It is such a large problem that books printed in this time period are disintegrating. Soon 25% of all regular books and up to 40% of all research library books will be too fragile to touch. Massive deacidification programs are going on in the US and Canada. But it is expensive. Cost is about \$200/book.

- Acid free paper - alum free pulp fibers of cotton and high alpha cellulose.
- Buffered with alkali against contaminants (present and future)-Buffered paper can last 300 years.
- Archival papers-lignin free (lignin binds cellulose, but emits peroxides and acids-also makes paper exposed to light photosensitive).

Light-should be kept to a minimum. Causes images to fade.

- Ultraviolet light (fluorescent) is the most damaging.
- Don't use lights in display cases, heat builds up in small enclosed area.

Temperature and Humidity

- Heat can dehydrate and embrittle paper fibers. Heat and moisture foster mold and rot.
- Storage area should not be damp. Above 65% humidity causes mold, and "foxing" small brown marks found on paper. Sizing agents, and pigments attract moisture. Books subject to leather rot and photographs curl.

Atmospheric dirt and pollution- Paper's worst enemy. Examples of pollution are: acid rain, automobile emissions and sulfur dioxide.

Insects and Pests- Lots of problems

- Effected by woodworms, book lice, beetles, rodents, and silverfish.
- These items are easily manhandled- stored in places too hot, too cold, poor quality mounting, and acidic boards.

Handling and care

- Store away from direct heat.
- Remove paperclips, staples, and turn back pages that have been folded in, on any type of paper document.
- Do not use adhesive tape-leaves a dark stain over time. Rubber cement is also harmful.
- Do not store in attic or basement space.
- Store in proper box or folder.

Books-Keep books in cabinets, dusted regularly. Use a soft brush and dust away from the spine.

- Grip spine and push books back on each side. Don't let books lean at an angle-use bookends.
- Metal book edges should be separated by acid free board to prevent damage to neighboring books.
- Metal shelving, place acid free board between edge and books to prevent damage.
- Loose books should be tied with cotton tape not rubber bands or string.
- Books that have come apart wrap in acid free paper.
- Valuable books should be stored in archival slipcases.
- Leather rot caused by high humidity treat with-Talis Leather Protector™ or Talis Leather Dressing™.

Framed Don't spray cleaner directly on glass, it can seep underneath and migrate upward. Spray on cloth first.

Photographs and photograph albums- Remove pictures from sticky back albums.

- Black paper on old album is also highly acidic-gives off a gas. Cover photographs with Mylar, polyethylene, polypropylene, Tyvek™. Do not use glassine or craft paper.
- Write on the back of photos with a #2 pencil.

Display tips

- Works of art should be able to move freely in their mounts holding the work away from the glass.
- Seek professional assistance for correct mounting and framing-use museum quality mount and mats.
- Use ultraviolet barriers - windows, frames, blinds- display in the lowest light available.

METALS

We think of silver and metals as durable, but they scratch, pit tarnish.

Light - Not affected by light.

Temperature and humidity - Not a problem.

Atmospheric Dirt and pollution

- Silver oxidizes when pollutants like chloride salts and sulfur compounds are present.

Insects and pests-Not affected.

Handling and care

- Use Polish removes a small amount of metal each time.
- Metal polishes must be wiped off-use very soft cloth-linen dishtowel is too abrasive.
What works- "Handi-wipes, recycled flannel nightgowns, diapers, t-shirts.
- Goddard™s is recommended as a silver polish. Dip cleaners and all-purpose polishes are too harsh.
- Anti-tarnish strips can be as long as they don't come in contact with silver. Don't wrap silver in felt of chamois.
- For storage-wrap in polyethylene or acid free tissue. Don't wrap in plastic (moisture can form inside).
- Don't wrap silver plate in newspaper the hydrogen sulfide will remove the plating.

CERAMICS

Problems with ceramics are mainly because of improper handling. They are very durable and stable but still can develop problems.

Light- Do not react to light.

Temperature and humidity -Relatively stable.

- Sudden and severe changes in temperature or prolonged heat or dampness may cause cloudy appearance.

Atmospheric dirt and pollution

Insects and pests- Not affected.

Handling and care

- Examine carefully to make sure that there have been no restorations.
- Hands should be clean and dry. Perspiration contains oils that can cause discoloration on some types of ceramics and act as a trap for dust.
- This is one case where gloves may not be useful, as they may be slippery or something can snag on them. .
- Examine and object before moving it. Don't pick it up by the weakest part. If there is a lid remove it. Cradle the base when carrying the item.
- If an item is to be transported room-to-room put it in a container or shallow box that is padded with foam, old mattress pad. Longer distances more care would need to be taken.
- Stack only the same size plates together, interleaf with felt pads, thickly folded tissue or bubble wrap.
- Store glasses upright, rims are the weakest point.
- Unglazed ceramics should only be dusted, low fired, soft and hybrid past porcelains should not be immersed in water.
- Don't immerse objects with repairs, gold or silver decoration. Wash all valuable pieces by hand-lukewarm and mild detergent-no ammonia, scouring pads, strong detergents, or soap.
- Clean with mild detergent, not soap, slip into water sideways. Containers dried organic material fill with water, detergent.
- Wash using a plastic bowl with a towel placed in the bottom for cushioning. Line the drain board with a towel to provide additional protection. Dry thoroughly. Those items that are delicate or have complicated shapes should be left to air dry naturally.
- Simple breaks wrap in acid free tissue and pack in a box. Smashed- try it retrieve all the pieces, place on a tray sweep the whole floor to make sure all the pieces have been found (place crumbs and slivers in a small container). Lay the pieces out and wrap individually, do not try to fit the pieces together yourself.

Display tips

- Display the item properly- use the proper type of stand and shelves used are properly supported.

All things have a lifespan and will suffer from deterioration. Our job is to slow down that deterioration.

References

AASLH (American Association for State and Local History) Technical Leaflets, Special Reports and Videos. Technical information on a variety of subjects -reasonably priced 615-320-3203 •Web address www.publications@aaslh.org

Ogden, Sheryl Ed. *Preservation of Library & Archival Materials*. Northeast Document Conservation Center, Andover, Massachusetts 1992

Consists of 46 technical leaflets. Covers collection care and prevention of deterioration. Cost \$40. For information call 508-470-1010 • Web address: www.nedecc.org

Levenstein, Mary Kerney, and Biddle, Cordelia Frances. *Caring for your Cherished Possessions*. New York. Crown Trade Paperbacks, 1989

A simple 'how to' book with a list of sources, conservation supplies, product sources and bibliography.

Simson, Mette Tang, and Michael Huntley, *Sotheby's Caring for Antiques*, New York, Simon and Schuster
Guide to handling, cleaning display and restoration. Great photographs, professional advice. Discusses when conservators or restorers should be used and what to expect.

Sources for supplies

The Hollander Corporation - for catalog call -1-800-634-0491 • Web address: www.hollingercorp.com

Gaylord - for catalog call- 1-800-272-3212 • Web address: www.Gaylord.com

University Products - for catalog call 1-800-628-1912 • Web address www.universityproducts.com

NH State Historical Society Museum Store - 603-856-0625 • Web address www.nhhistory.org

Member Societies Upcoming Events

June

- 6th- NH Preservation Alliance Annual Achievement Awards- St.Paul's School 2:30 call 224-2281 for info.
- 7th- HS of Cheshire County- 'Railroads in Cheshire County'- 10am, leaving from HSCC, call 352-1895 for info.
- 7th- Londonderry HS- Historic House and Garden Tour- 10 am to 3pm call 432-2886 for tickets and info.
- 11th-13th- Raymond Town Fair
- 10th- Rollingford- Walking Tour of the Salmon Falls Village- call 436-3205 to register
- 10th- Conway HS- 'Solo: Celebrating 25 Years'- Barbara Pullan at the Satyards Museum
- 11th- Henniker HS- Annual Meeting- 'Going Home'- Wallace Pineault, Professor at NEC.
- 21st- Nashua HS- Crafters' Day (10AM-3PM); Abbot-Spalding House open same hours
- 21st-The New Hampshire Antiquarian Society, Hopkinton, NH, Stanley Tavern Tour - 2 - 4 p.m.
- 24th- Durham HS- Annual Picnic- call Sandy Amell for info 868-2387
- 24th- Hampton HS- Cemetery walk- call Betty Moore at 926-2543 for info.
- 24th- Gilmanton HS- 'Railroads that served Gilmanton'- Richard Sanborn 7:30 pm at the Old Town Hall
- 28th- AHSNH meeting, hosted by the Sugar Hill HS 10 am
- 29th- Claremont HS- Open House and 40th Anniversary of the museum call 542-2727 for info.

July

- 1st- Meredith HS-7: 30 pm 'Daniel Webster-His Life and Times' Prof. Kenneth Shewmaker
- 2nd- Sanbornton HS- 'Way out there-Chemung and the West End of Meredith' Esther Wyatt, call 286-7227 for info.
- 4th- Independence Day celebration at the Peterborough HS, Temple Band, antique auto show and more
- 5th- Nashua's Sesquicentennial Parade 10:30 am
- 8th- Conway HS- 'Chasing Rainbows' Peter Samuelson, author at the Satyards Museum
- 8th- Nashua HS- Opening of the Post Office display at the Speare Museum 1-4 pm
- 9th- Historic Hebron Village House Tour- to benefit the Newfound Audubon Center- tickets& info: 603-899-6890
- 12th- Hill HS- Open House- Town Meeting House- Hill Center, 10am to 2 pm
- 13th- Hampton HS- Wine and Cheese Open House at Tuck Museum, call 929-0781 for info.
- 11th-13th- Old Home Days- Warren NH
- 17th- Ashland HS- 7pm- Booster Clubhouse- 'History of the Beach and Campground'- David and Mary Ruell and Sandra Ray
- 19th- Ashland HS- 4 pm- Pauline Glidden Toy Museum- 'Young Ladies Tea'

August

- 2nd- Plymouth Senior Center- 10 am to 4 pm Pemi Valley Model Railroad Show
- 4th- Wolfeboro HS- 7:30 pm 'Antique Jewelry-Historical Highlights and Show & Tell'- Dallas Davenport
- 8th- 12 noon- Quarterly roundtable- NHHS- Bedor Room- Tuck Library
- 11th- Washington HS- 'New England' presentation by Judson Hale, editor in chief- *Yankee Magazine* 7pm
- 12th- Jaffrey HS Annual Meeting- "An American Nurse at War"- Steve Hooper
- 13th- Sanbornton HS- Walking Tour of the Belknap Mill, Laconia- 7:00 pm call 286-7227 for info.
- 17th- Ashland HS- Lobster and Clambake- 5 pm- Memorial Park
- 17th- Sutton, NH Old Home Day
- 23rd- AHSNH meeting 10 am hosted by the Unity HS

Future dates:

New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Nov. 6 2003, info at www.rootesweb.com/~manergc

Past Activities

The Bridgewater HS presented a program by Jeayn Fahey, author of *Mustered! Foot Soldiers of the 12th* on April 17th.
The Bedford Historical Society has created an exhibit in their town library- 'Bedford: People and Places'
The Chesterfield HS joined in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Chesterfield School on May 17th.
The Greenland HS improves its community by participating in the Adopt a Highway cleanup on Breakfast Hill Road.
The Hancock HS held a Plant & Bake Sale on May 17.
The Hill HS is working on a project in conjunction with the Hill Public Library to allow electronic access to some of their archives.
The Laconia HS staged a two-part program on the Great Lakeport Fire of 1903 on May 12 and 26.

The Milford HS Annual Meeting was held on May 21.
The museum of the Mont Vernon HS opened on May 17th for the summer season.
Congratulations to the New Hampton HS on their receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Lakes Region Charitable Foundation.

Member Survey March 2003

The Directors of the Association undertook a survey of the member Societies in late March to determine what direction the Association should take in meeting the needs of its member organizations. 42 of the members (22%) responded to the survey.

The 'average' Society replying was 49 years old, had 176 members at a dues rate of \$10 for an individual and reported that 28% of its members were active in the organization. 74% of the replies reported that they operated a Museum and 32% of those Museums were open year round. Slightly less than 25% of the organizations replying had paid staff. Around 50% had email and web sites for their organizations. 25% were members of the AASLH, 75% were members of the NHHS and only 15% were members of the NEMA.

The dues charged by the organizations had a rather large range, going from \$2 at the low end of the scale to \$25 for an individual. 25% of the Societies had categories for dues above the normal 'individual' rate, (Patron, Sponsor, Donor, etc. levels). 15% had a business member category with a dues rate 3 to 10 times higher than the individual rate.

66% of the replies indicated that they found the Directory of Societies helpful and most wanted the Association to continue to produce a printed version, even if a Web version was also available. Just over 50% found the newsletter helpful. 75% indicated that the Association should establish a web site, with the Directory and other information (how to articles, events, etc.) being available on line.

The needs of the member organizations are very similar and come as no surprise to those of us involved in our local Societies: attracting more members (younger and active), involving more members as active volunteers, fundraising and organizing programs and educational themes for local history tours for schools were the issues most frequently mentioned.

Low attendance at the Association meetings has been a concern of the directors and the survey indicated that there were a number of reasons why members could not or would not attend. The time commitment and the travel involved were chief among the reasons mentioned. The day of the week (Saturday) was also cited. The Directors will consider these issues as they plan for the future of the organization. If you would like to be active in the discussions of the future direction of the Association please contact Fred Foley at 603-522-8567 or by email to FredFoley@netzero.net

ASSOCIATION OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**C/O Ben Moore
107 Locke Rd
Hampton, NH 03842**



