

Durham Historical Society
P.O. Box 345
Durham, CT 06422

December 2, 2018

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends. We are kicking off our membership drive for the 2019 cycle.

The historical society has had an exciting year, which has seen the completion of our biggest need to date: an HVAC system. We now have a furnace and air conditioning! We have two groups to thank for this, which include the Coe Family who donated funds several years ago with the understanding that they be put towards our heating project, and an anonymous donor. We are very grateful to both donors. Our collection can now be housed in a better climate-controlled environment and we can now have events year-round.

We have also relaunched a historical society webpage, fully controlled and owned by the historical society, that we will be able to update more often. It's still under construction, but please visit us at www.durhamhistoryct.org.

We hosted two guest speakers in November of this year, Sal Tarantino and Marty Podskoch. Sal gave a presentation on the life of a cavalry man in the Revolutionary War and represented his group the 2nd Continental Light Dragoons Sheldon's Horse. This group was begun by George Washington and they were reinstated as an outfit on our town green in 1978. We would love to have Sheldon's Horse come back to the Durham Town Green with the full outfit, including their group of rescued horses, for demonstrations. Please visit their website to learn more about them: www.dragoons.info. Marty Podskoch came to speak about his latest book: *Connecticut 169 Club*, a passport to all 169 Connecticut towns that provides information on local interests and things to see and do in each town. Please visit www.martinpodskoch.com for more information. Upcoming programs include a talk by Bob Bascom on abandoned roads in Durham and another presentation by Marty Podskoch about the Connecticut Civilian Conservation Corps. We hope to see you at one of these events. (Dates TBD)

We hope to have the historical society open again for regular monthly weekend hours starting in April. These weekends are fully staffed by our member volunteers and if you're interested in volunteering to help us open (even if it's just for an hour), we'd love to have you. Docent information would be provided to you on the buildings and exhibits.

Now that we have a secure, heated building with a bathroom, we still need your help to maintain these resources and to offer events. Our next big project is repainting the building and we hope that the paint will last longer now with a heated building. We are a 501(C)3 not for profit organization, so any contribution is tax deductible and greatly appreciated.

Please reach out to me at 860-716-5497 or durhamhistoryct@gmail.com with any questions, suggestions for programming, or interest in volunteering.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season and new year,

Sarah Atwell
President