

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

November 21, 2019

Dear Members and Friends,

Each year I review the prior year's membership letter to review what our small, dedicated group has accomplished and what our goals were. Last year was very exciting as it marked the first time our headquarters had a heating system (beyond a fireplace) since it was built in 1775. This has allowed us to hold events in the building during months that were previously impossible. We are now fully equipped with a bathroom and a heating system, making it much easier for our volunteers to work on the grounds or in the building with our collection and while giving tours to local groups. We have also been able to offer our space to the Durham Fair Foundation for some of their 2019 meetings. The Durham Fair Foundation has been a long-time supporter of ours, most recently awarding us a grant to purchase 18th century reproduction door handles and latches for the schoolhouse this year.

We are also a year out from having re-launched our webpage. It is our 2020 goal to have more photos of interest up on the website, including select items from our collection. Please visit us at www.durhamhistoryct.org. You can also find us on Facebook, which has been the best way to disseminate information and advertisements for upcoming programming to the public. Compared to the days of expensive mass mailings and attempts to have events listed in local newspapers, social media has been the cheapest and easiest way to connect, with far better results.

We had two very successful lectures this year and we are looking forward to hosting two more lectures in 2020. We were joined by Bob Bascom in March when he discussed the town's early layout and abandoned roads. We were at seating capacity during this program and are grateful to Bob for providing such an informative and interesting presentation. We were joined by an educator from the Connecticut Historical Society in October for a presentation titled *Witches in Connecticut* where we were only 4 seats away from being at capacity. Currently, we have a seating limit of 50 on the 2nd floor of our building and we don't reserve seats for events. We hope to have the Connecticut Historical Society back for a presentation in 2020.

We are still looking for volunteers to act as docents so our headquarters can be open to the public once a month from April to October. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know.

Now that we have a secure, heated building with a bathroom, we still need your help to maintain these resources and to offer events. 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. I will be out on maternity leave from early February to late April but will still be available by email or phone. You can leave me a voice message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

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

Sarah Atwell
President