

BIDDEFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear supporters of BHS,

I wish to thank you for your enthusiastic attendance these past few months of 2022. Our events have been very well attended and much appreciated. Our team of board members have tried to offer the best presentations with historical connections to our city that are in line with our Mission Statement. Special thanks to Karen Casey, our programs director. She has worked tirelessly to put together great programs this past year. She deserves much credit for our success and increased support.

NEWS IN THE ARCHIVES

Work in the archives is moving along thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities Sustaining the Humanities through the American Rescue Plan (SHARP) grant that BHS received this past year. BHS was able to hire Sam Bunker to process and add data into the new collections database. BHS was also able to provide a paid internship to two Biddeford High School students, Helena Gabryszewski and Rudy Nguyen. They both worked at scanning photographs and entering them into the database. The new searchable database will be available to the public by the end of the year, but the task of adding everything to the database will be an ongoing task.



Upcoming Events

October 12

7 pm BHS and McArthur Library screening of Dawnland at Banded Brewery.

November 12

1 pm Veterans Day Celebration at the Meetinghouse

May 1

Annual Meeting and Lecture

Meetinghouse News

Installing a heating system at the Meetinghouse will begin this fall thanks to our friend Tim Goulet. The electric furnace will replace the ancient and potentially unsafe wood stove.

Cemetery Committee News

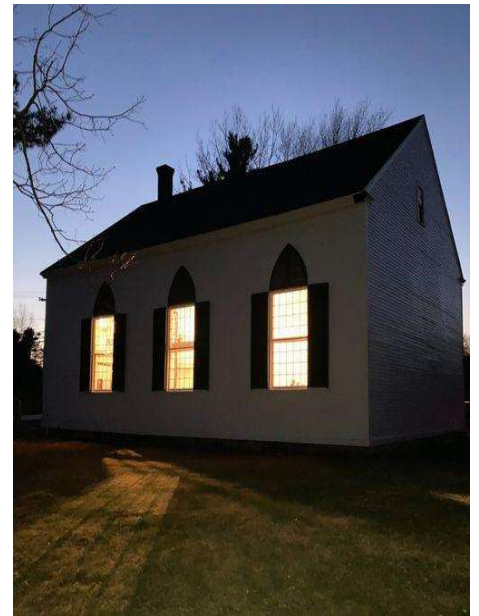
The Biddeford Historical Society (BHS) Cemetery Committee recently put out a very successful 'call for volunteers' to clean and restore the Evans Cemetery in Biddeford Pool. They have been working on the cemetery, unearthing old headstones, leveling, cleaning the stones and wondering who these people were, what were their stories?

That caught the attention of Portland Press Herald Staff Writer Gillian Graham and Ben McCanna, Staff Photographer who visited the cemetery and spoke with the Committee Chair, Dana Peck and volunteers.

There has been great interest in the story with many asking about the families buried in the nine cemeteries along the Pool Road and Biddeford Pool.

The Committee will put out another call for volunteers to research those buried in the nine cemeteries, to 'adopt a stone'. If you're interested in local history, enjoy researching and want to contribute to this project, contact Dana Peck, danap67@gmail.com. You will be part of a larger group that will be researching and compiling information about the early settlers of Biddeford. There are stories to be told!

Many thanks to our current volunteers: Spiros Droggitis, Dave Thomson, Dick Parsons, Amy Roberson, Dotty Mathes, Deb Peck, Bonnie Tallagnon, Eve McPheeters, Peter McPheeters, Karen Casey and Chair, Dana Peck.



Volunteer Spotlight

Helena Gabryszewski is a senior at Biddeford High School. She enjoys traveling, hiking and other outdoor activities. She is interested in pursuing English in college next year and possibly philosophy and history. Helena is applying to universities in the states as well as in the UK.