

Town of Hope Annual Report 2023-2024

Juanita Hunt
President

HOPE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

We work hard to make the Society a vibrant addition to the community; to make a fun and interesting heritage to share and enjoy.

The Society is very thankful to Cindy DellaPenna who wrote a grant for three heat pumps which was approved. We now have three heating and cooling pumps installed hoping to cut our fuel bill. By writing the grants, Cindy saved the Society \$9,000.

Marie Berry is outstanding when it comes to heading up fund raising events. She has many faithful volunteers to assist her in all aspects. We have had five fund raising events this year. We owe many thanks to our members, Hope citizens, and those who donate items as well as purchase them.

June will start the Society's open houses, every Friday from 9 to 1.

Sixteen Civil War letters were brought to us and donated by Mr. and Mrs. Andy Lundberg. Fifteen of the letters were written by Edward Alonzo True, who was born in Hope in 1836, and one by C.F. Fletcher. The breakdown of the 16 letters by Edward True is: 8 to his sister, Rose, 5 to his father, and 2 to his mother, Olive True. These letters were written between November 13, 1862 and March 23, 1863. These letters are a priceless donation for the Society. Many thanks to the Lundberg family. Bunny Gleason transcribed the letters, and they are on file at the Society. All are welcome to come and read them.

Margaret Morse scheduled many interesting programs for us. Some guest speakers include: Carol Brown Jaeger, who was brought up in the house that is now the Historical Society; Survivalist Zachary Fowler, from the TV series "Alone" gave a spirited talk about his experiences; Charles Weidman, a Select person, rode his motor scooter across the United States and gave us an enthusiastic report on his trip. One meeting was "What's in the trunk?" Jane Radcliffe gave an interesting report on the 1822 stenciling on the living room wall of the Society house. We also viewed an interesting movie about Camden, Rockport and the surrounding area. If you would like to know more about the events the Society hosts, come visit us this summer.

Margaret Morse arranged for our tour of Firefly, an antique fire truck restoration facility here in Hope, and Moody's cranberry bog in Lincolnville. There are many very interesting places around us to visit and learn about.

This year many improvements were made to our house: three heat pumps, new gutters, solar lights along the walk, and lights to the parking lot. We also flushed out the cellar drain. Randy Merrifield repaired the old ceiling in the bedroom - quite a task. He also replaced the window casing in the bedroom, and installed window casings in the garage. Most of all, Robbins Lumber donated enough lumber to cover the walls in the garage. Hearing that this was going to be done, Jarvis Johnson met with David and Connor Flannagan from Viking Lumber in Belfast. They donated the insulation for the garage. Jarvis Johnson, Roger Hunt, and I, insulated and boarded all the walls in the garage. It surely brightened up the garage and gives us so much more space to display items. Many thanks to Robbins



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Lumber and Viking for their generous donations. We will be able to arrange our many antique tools, vintage kitchen items, and other donations on the wall and still have room in the middle of the garage for larger items. We have our work cut out for us, come Spring!

The Society is so thankful for the donations throughout the year. A few of these items were: a wonderful handmade baby cradle, a child's school desk, ink well and pen, tatting items, a butter churn, an old Kodak camera, vintage pocket watches, a 1945 Army jacket and two dresses worn by Alice Howe when she attended Castine Normal School in 1906, as well as many other interesting items.

The Society has a booth at Union Fair exhibiting "Childhood from the Past" which received first prize.

The year ended with a plentiful brunch, which was well attended and greatly enjoyed. There are other people who put a lot of time and work into the Society and have not been mentioned. We are so grateful to everyone for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted,
Juanita Hunt, President



Handcrafts – Juanita Hunt

Picture opposite page: award winning booth display at the Union Fair