



Dear Members and Friends,

Consider the year 1889. A dozen old white guys got together in the upper rooms of a downtown bank to form a Society to collect mementos and preserve the History of Danvers.

Fast forward 134 years to 2023 and how far we've come. The Society is now the successful owner and guardian of eight important historic buildings on nearly 20 acres, including the arboretum and incredible floral displays of Glen Magna. Our membership has bloomed to almost 300, and our Board of Trustees is comprised of dedicated diverse individuals. A small army of devoted volunteers assists our professional staff in fulfilling our mission to educate and preserve the rich History of Danvers, Salem Village, and this land once known as Naumkeag, and the memories of the many people who have lived amid and loved these hills and valleys for thousands of years.

With this great team of staff, volunteers, members, and donors, we've made many strides in the past year. Funded by grants, very generous personal donations, and our fundraising events, we have:



- Restored the Reaper & Milkmaid to the peak of our National Historic Landmark Derby Summer House with matching grants from MA Historical Commission and our most successful capital campaign, the Ellie's Challenge
- Painted the exterior of Page House, and restored it's conservatory, where Anne Page taught basic botany to children, with matching grants from Essex Heritage and 1772 Foundation
- Restored the exterior of Mrs. Day's 10-footer with a new roof and windows
- Repaired the roof and painted most of the Endicott Mansion - a multi-year project
- Installed an automatic irrigation system and replaced the failing pump in the well at GMF
- Updated restroom facility and added a sewer line at Glen Magna resulting in saving thousands of dollars in pump-out fees
- Collaborated with Vinwood Caterers and our Danvers inspectors to upgrade the cooking arrangement at Glen Magna
- Replaced the entry doors and upgraded electrical panels at Tapley Memorial Hall
- Finalized the Land Swap thanks to the persistence and dedication of Tom Guidi

On the Educational Programming side of operations, we:



- Piloted a partnership with Danvers High School Tomorrow's Teachers to deliver our History Week program to every Danvers 3rd Grader with a grant from Mass Service Alliance
- Continued teaching horticulture, administrative, curatorial and business skills to special needs students in our "Come Grow With Us" program
- Offered monthly Speaker Series (funded in part by Mass Cultural Council grant), film series, and presentations by Mass Archaeological Society speakers, all free to the public
- Created partnerships with Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical High School and local arborists to assist with and teach arboriculture skills

Our Community Outreach Volunteer efforts included:



- Disseminating information on the Community Preservation Act
- Conducting garden tours and Arbor Day programs by staff and volunteers at GMF
- Participating in FalconFest's Downtown Rewind
- Hosting a craft and information table at Salem Merry-Time Festival
- Participating in "Trunk or Treat" event at Texas Roadhouse
- Awarding scholarships to two Danvers High School seniors
- Exhibiting the Berry Tavern sign, on loan, in its home location
- Producing content for YouTube in collaboration with Danvers Community Access Television

We hosted several Community Events throughout the year including:



- Spring Plant Sale to benefit the Lord & Burnham Greenhouse
- Sip, Stroll & Celebrate! to benefit the Reaper & Milkmaid return to Derby Summer House
- Beer Gardens, our ever-popular Summer Music Series, to benefit the Reaper & Milkmaid funded, in part, by a Danvers Cultural Council grant
- New exhibits and tours to bring archaeology, Indigenous, and women's history to the public
- 15th Annual Parade of Trees – our most successful one yet to benefit Tapley Memorial Hall

We are in the process of planning events to commemorate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the War of Independence and to reflect upon the 400th Anniversary of the settling of Salem Village by Governor Endicott while honoring the presence and long history of the Indigenous Peoples who have already inhabited these shores for 10,000 years or more.

All of these accomplishments could not have been made without our dedicated staff. Many thanks go to:

Laura Cilley and **Suanna Crowley**, whose talents and tenacity in winning us grants allowed needed restoration to the buildings in our care and bolstered our programming.

Matthew Martin and his staff for keeping the grounds looking so incredible and welcoming students to our programming

Heather Palm for her expertise in managing the wedding and private events venue.

Kate Perkins for her attention to financial details and bringing our technology into the 21st century.

And yet there is much more to accomplish:



- Bring the Mansion up to code with a handicap accessible bathroom, possibly an elevator and sprinklers so the Society may one day welcome the public inside
- Restore the 1930's Lord and Burnham greenhouse to sustain our historic gardens while expanding our horticultural programming
- Assess our collections to create new exhibits illustrating our heritage and Danvers stories
- Restore the original unique 18th century wallpaper depicting the marriage of Cupid and Psyche in the Mansion dining room where two US presidents dined
- Rebuild the gazebo in the award-winning Historic Gardens of Glen Magna
- Upgrade interior lighting, carpeting, event seating and exhibit cases in Tapley Memorial Hall

How can you help? Be a part of our success by:



- Renewing and upgrading your membership; see our [NEW member benefits](#) on our website at DanversHistory.Org
- Joining the [Preservation Builders Club](#) to make monthly contributions to your Society
- Remembering the Society in your will, Planned Giving and/or Donor Advised Fund
- Attending Society fundraisers and/or [volunteering](#) to assist at Parade of Trees, 3rd Grade History Week or with curatorial research
- Recording your family memories with Jim Russell so the [stories](#) of how Danversites lived, loved, worked and played will be preserved for future generations.

Together we can make the Danvers Historical Society an essential and distinctive organization within our Commonwealth.

-YMHaOS,

David McKenna, *president*