

Happy New Year to You All!

As Vice President of the Danvers Historical Society I have recently assumed the responsibilities of President of the Society due to the recent illness and resignation of the former President Mr. Wayne Eisenhauer. The good news is that Wayne is on the mend and is slowly improving; our best wishes go out to him and his family.

I am writing this letter to you today both as an introduction and as a statement of my goals and objectives as your new President. My reasons for this are twofold; my experience in the military and business, and experience as an educator have proven that we seldom succeed without the help and collaboration of others. This will be the first in a series on short narratives with the intent of keeping everyone informed, and at times, to solicit your advice.

I am a descendant of Colonel Jeremiah Page who in the summer of 1722 journeyed from his home in Medford to Old Salem Village to begin his career as a brick maker. His grandfather and grandmother, John and Phoebe Page were among those many courageous souls who fled England in 1630 with the fleet of Governor John Winthrop.

I attended Northeastern University majoring in political science with a minor in Philosophy. I left Northeastern to serve in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era. Upon completion of this tour of duty I attended Salem State University on the GI Bill where I was awarded a Bachelor's Degree in History and Philosophy graduating Cum Laude. I later received a Master's Degree in Non-Western History where I was selected for membership in the Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society. For my support of veteran's affairs at Salem State University, I was awarded the honor of being listed in the National Jaycee's Who's Who in Small College America.

I started my business career in the emerging computer industry by being the founder of Greater Boston Trading Corporation, a technology import/export company. I finished my business career as CEO of TCW Inc. a New England based company providing local and wide area network computer services to Fortune 1000 companies.

For the past 15 years, I served as an adjunct Professor teaching World History and World Religion at Salem State University and North Shore Community College. I currently serve on the Salem State University Alumni Association Board of Directors; Student Veteran's Committee, Strategic Planning Committee and the Multi Faith Council.

Present Reality and Short Term Strategy

In the 21st century, as is the case of many historical societies in New England, we are experiencing a sociological tsunami where the concerns for the preservation of our community history are in peril. Since the American economy is strongly futuristic driven; concerns for the past are often considered an unproductive nostalgic preoccupation. America's social indifference to its historical heritage is disturbing.

This apathetic tendency is apparent when it comes to the financial support of historical societies across the country; the Danvers Historical Society (DHS) is just one example in this trend. DHS, established in 1889, as a community driven society is mainly dependent upon contributions from individuals, families, and local business. For the past ten years the Society has been struggling to overcome financial

shortfalls at a rate of over \$100,000 per year. These significant shortages over the years have had a disabling effect on our ability to repair, restore, and protect our buildings from destructive decay and deterioration. In so many cases these conditions are in their critical stages.

My first mission as President of the Danvers Historical Society will be to personally visit with other public and private organizations, select business and financial leaders, and academic institutions. I know that our current Board of Trustee members are very enthusiastic to begin this campaign of awareness. This campaign for increased awareness will cultivate and renew the sense of innate pride the Danvers citizenry possesses for its extraordinary contribution to the birth of our nation.

This pride is exemplified by the W. Keith Butler and Joan C. Butler Fund presented to the Danvers Historical in January of 2011 and again in September of 2015. The Butler family bequeathed a total of \$100,000 in the form of an Irrevocable Trust.

Additionally, by Peoples United Bank for their recent \$10,000 donation to support our program of “Come Grow With Us: Cultivating Unique Horticultural Opportunities for Youth With Disabilities” This project provides for the renovation of the lower greenhouse at Glen Magna Farms to start this very innovative program. We are indebted to Kevin Noyes and Patrick Sullivan of the Peoples United Community Foundation of Eastern Massachusetts.

The entire Board of Trustees is very grateful to the Butler Family and the leadership at Peoples United Bank for their help in allowing the Danvers Historical Society (DHS) to meet its primary mission of ‘education’ and ‘preservation’. These funds provided by the Butler Family and Peoples United Bank are what is referred to as restricted funds; this restriction prohibits their use for daily operations of the Society. For over 125 years, the daily operations of the Society have relied upon the generosity and the devotion of its membership; this is our primary challenge.

Now, in 2016, we are at a crossroad and we need your help! I and my fellow Trustees will begin this process of awareness; to initiate dialogue of exchange with current membership and community leaders to encourage their participation in preserving their historical heritage.

Please Join Us!

Thomas M. Page
President, Danvers Historical Society