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OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM
TAUNTON, MA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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SARIA SWEENEY	COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING
MICHAEL CURRAN	CARETAKER
JEAN LUC	CANINE RELATIONS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For more than 160 years our organization has attended to its mission of collecting, preserving and propagating the history of the old Plymouth Colony. I am pleased to report that the year 2018 was one of the Old Colony History Museum's most successful. During those twelve months, under the enlightened leadership of Executive Director Katie MacDonald, and with the help of a knowledgeable and dedicated staff, the OCHM has managed to maintain and grow its existing programs while simultaneously developing new ones. This was accomplished even while significant improvements were made to our historic building.

The year just ending was the fourth of an ambitious five-year strategic plan adopted in 2015. From its inception, the focus has been on growth and outreach. During the past year, popular activities such as the book group, the baking competition, the "After Hours" events, Liberty & Union walking tours and the Arts and Humanity series continued to flourish. Our goal is always to find something for everybody, and these activities have brought a widely diverse group of new and well-appreciated friends through our doors. Much of the credit for this goes to Saria Sweeney, the museum's community programming coordinator, who joined the staff full-time last summer. Also thanks to Saria, our outreach to the schools has seen steady growth, and this will continue in the months ahead.

To supplement our more familiar activities and events, the staff worked diligently to extend the OCHM's outreach. The Passport to History program enjoyed its second year as ten local museums joined with us throughout the summer in exploring the diverse history of southeastern Massachusetts. Additionally, the OCHM was honored to be chosen by The Highland Street Foundation to participate with approximately 100 other non-profit organizations in "Free Fun Friday," where visitors from across the state and beyond enjoyed no-cost access to museums, concerts, and cultural institutions.

In our own newly renovated downstairs hall, Professor Michele Fazio, of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, served as guest curator of an exhibit on foreign extremism entitled "Neglected Legacies: Reclaiming a Radical Past." And at Christmastime, even with shades of anarchy murmuring in the back of the hall, at the other end of the room amateur thespians—including four from among the OCHM community—performed a version of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* before a large audience. What other museum could claim to have the ghosts of Luigi Galleani and Tiny Tim Cratchit sharing the same room for the holidays?

With the renovation of the downstairs hall completed, we are now well underway with the restoration of the upstairs exhibit space. In addition to new paint, a new ceiling and better lights, the staff is at work on a complete redesign of the way the objects there are displayed. This is labor intensive, and most of the work goes unseen as Bronson Michaud, our curator, works at choosing and labeling the hundreds of artifacts to be displayed in the newly renovated space. This project will be completed in 2019.

So all is well within our walls, but as I conclude my annual message to the membership, I must also say that 2018 was not without its challenges. The OCHM continues a costly fight to maintain the uniquely-historic character of the Church Green neighborhood against overzealous development. We owe this to those who have come before us and whose legacy we now enjoy. We are determined to preserve the beauty of Church Green for those who will come later.

In closing, on behalf of my colleagues on the Board of Directors, let me thank Katie MacDonald, Elizabeth Bernier, Bronson Michaud, Saria Sweeney and Mike Curran for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of the OCHM. Their work and their enduring optimism, coupled with the steadfast generosity of our membership, makes me proud to stand with them in this grand endeavor.

William F. Hanna
PRESIDENT

YEAR IN REVIEW

GROWTH

34%

MORE VISITORS

49%

MORE GRANT DOLLARS

62

PROGRAMS HOSTED

75%

MORE STUDENTS REACHED

	2018	2017	2016
WEEKS OPEN	51	51	51
DAYS OPEN	246	243	248
TOTAL MEMBERS	687	628	670
NEW MEMBERS	59	30	48
NEW LIFE MEMBERS	5	3	1
FULL TIME STAFF	3 Jan-Jun 4 Jul-Dec	3 Jan-Feb 2 Feb-Apr 3 Mar-Dec	2 Jan-Sept 3 Sep-Dec
PART TIME STAFF	2 Jan-Jun 1 Jul-Dec	2	3
VOLUNTEERS	37	40	42
VOLUNTEER HOURS	2,593	3,802	2,705
TOTAL VISITS	8,091	6,053	5,649
MUSEUM VISITS	969	523	501
LIBRARY VISITS	297	246	288
PROGRAM AND GROUP VISITS	3,480	2,096	1,477
VISITORS ON BUSIEST DAY	658	356	204
RESEARCH BY MAIL REQUESTS	15	29	27
GRANTS RECEIVED	8	5	3

FROM THE DIRECTOR

December 2018, saw us closer to the end of our Strategic Plan than the beginning; a fair moment to assess the progress. The answer, to me, is best summed up by the photo on the front cover of this report. What you see is a group of engaged, curious students. They are looking at a collection of portraits, the quality of which holds up to the most prestigious art museums in this country. The room in which they are exploring their local history is modern, visitor-centric, and offers a comfortable space for discovery and contemplation.

What you can't see is all the work to allow this scene to unfold, undertaken by our dedicated staff. Curator Bronson Michaud oversaw the renovations to the first floor. He is to be commended for his commitment to excellence and his ingenious problem-solving skills. Things don't typically come easy in a 166-year old building, but he never lost sight of insisting we tastefully connect old with new. Programming Coordinator Saria Sweeney develops the programs that keep these students engaged, and when we have seen all the 7th graders, she then goes out to see every single 4th grader. She also managed the 62 programs that took place in 2018, many of which take place in this space. I told her it wouldn't be easy. But, I also told her it would be fun. I hope that I was right and that we keep the fun in mind with everything we do. Perhaps the most impressive accomplishment hidden in this picture is that as all of these things are going on, the renovations, field trips, and programs, we never stopped offering our day-to-day services. We kept the tours touring, researchers researching, welcoming members and answering local history questions. That is all thanks to Assistant to the Director Elizabeth Bernier. A less professional professional may have been stymied by the onslaught of teenagers, or the constantly changing schedule of contractors. Never Liz, and her commitment to the quality of every interaction a person has with this organization is unparalleled. In addition to the staff, the OCHM is fortunate to have many talented people who contribute hundreds of hours across a broad spectrum of work and board committees. Too numerous to name here, your efforts and support are what make this place flourish, and I sincerely thank you.

In short, I think 2018 was a gigantic, excellent, amazing success. It was also the warm-up act for what's in store for 2019.

Katie

CONNECTING

BEING SOCIAL

We work hard to connect with our audience in every way that we can. Whether someone stops by in person or follows us through social media, we are here to keep you informed, updated, and invited to all our events and activities. Connect with us @OldColonyHistory!



Get recaps of our most recent activities and previews of our upcoming events with our monthly email newsletter Update. You can sign up on our website using the email icon, and we send the Update right around the first of every month.



New for 2018 we introduced the OCHM blog featuring short articles highlighting interesting people, places, and events throughout the Old Colony. You can find it at: <https://medium.com/@OCHM> or through the link on our website.

MISS A LECTURE?

We've got you covered! TCAM TV regularly films our programs so you can watch from home if you can't make it to the Museum. They can be found on our website oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org.



Author Michael J. Tougas presents on his book, "The Finest Hours." This fascinating presentation goes into detail about Michael's research into two catastrophic seafaring disasters and the members of the US Coast Guard who risked it all to save as many members of the vessels as they could.

THE COLLECTION

2018 was an incredible year for the museum! Things began with the complete remodeling of the first-floor hall. We built a brand new collections storage area, repaired and repainted the plaster walls, and installed art gallery space to showcase our paintings. All of the lights in the first-floor hall have been switched to object-safe LED bulbs, and we installed UV blocking solar shades on all of the windows, which keep the objects safe and look fantastic as they highlight the architecture of our building. We have a dedicated first-floor rotating exhibit space, and guest curator Michele Fazio opened the new space in July with "A Neglected Legacy," an exhibit that looks at a local Italian family's lost history. We appreciate all of her hard work making this exhibit a reality.

The renovated first-floor hall focuses on our visitor's experience with new (and comfortable) chairs and updated technology including a motorized projector screen, ceiling-mounted projector, and a wireless PA system. It's a great new space for events and functions, and as with last year, we were able to welcome Taunton seventh-graders to the museum. We also had a visit from Rep. Joe Kennedy to discuss how technology and the internet help the museum engage with our patrons and allow us to present our history to a wider audience.

As 2018 wrapped up we began renovating the second-floor exhibit hall, starting with a new ceiling and light fixtures throughout all three rooms. Looking ahead to 2019, we will be finishing our remodel of our exhibit spaces and continuing to make improvements to our collection storage. We hope you'll come by and enjoy the updates in the coming year!



Quilt made by a Polish immigrant who worked at Whittenton Mills, donated 2018.



Engraved powder horn unearthed at the Briggs Farm in Berkley in the late 1800s.



Gavel used by Bristol County Rep. Joseph W. Martin as Speaker of the US House of Representatives

OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM, 2018

The focus in the archives and Hurley Library continues to be on the digitization of our collections. As of the end of 2018, we are in the home stretch in scanning our entire photo collection. We also continue to work toward our goal of making a searchable, online database for the library and are continually adding new entries into our finding aid system for our archives. Our goal is to make the collection as user-friendly for researchers as we possibly can.

Photo Scanning Days was a new program for 2018 and takes place on the first Saturday of every month. On a Photo Scanning Day, patrons bring in photos for us to scan and become a part of our digital collection. Allowing visitors to share their local memories via photographs has led to many interesting and personal stories becoming a part of the OCHM collection. In addition to these digital additions, we added a number of interesting pieces to the archives this past year, including: a collection of photographs taken at Camp Myles Standish during WWII by the Signal Corps of the US Army, a 1687 deed from William Paul to his sons John and Edward, and a 1729 deed from Nicholas White of Norton to Joseph Hall of Taunton that was signed and witnessed by Seth Williams and Ebenezer Dean.

None of the work in modernizing our archives and increasing public access would be possible without a fantastic team of volunteers: Rowan Lowell, Ashley Fongeallaz, Kristine Moore, Nathan Buchanan, Kelli Bogus-Deegan, William Hubbard, and Jim Carey.

Bronson Michaud
CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS

DONORS TO THE COLLECTION IN 2018

- City of Taunton
- Stephen Desroches
- Carol Bowen
- Joan Sullivan
- Thomas Douglas Lincoln
- Priscilla Smith
- Dane Rogers
- Cynthia Shearstone
- Warren Biss
- Marjorie Largey
- Timothy White
- Maryan Nowak
- Jeffery Farias
- Mark Lincoln
- William Hanna
- George Bresnick
- Jeffrey Sharp
- David Garcia
- Edward Leonard
- Carolyn Keith Silva
- Betsy Dyer

IN THE COMMUNITY

Programming and Education in 2018 saw some new initiatives and brought back some old favorites. The Book Group continued to meet, had some new friends join us, and we paired summer movie showings with the books. We enjoyed the Liberty & Union Walking Tours and mini golf during the summer months and continued the Passport to History program to promote museum exploration all around the Old Colony. Arts & Humanity continues to bring talented artists to the Museum, and past events are on our website if you'd like to watch! Another regular event is our quarterly After Hours which includes hands-on games or activities as well as snacks and drinks. A special Haunted History After Hours in October was a hit! In May we held the Great Taunton Baking Competition judged by Miss Taunton, Dr. Hanna, and Bronson Michaud. We held a workshop to "dye" for in May for Mother's Day and it was so popular it inspired us to add regular Wednesday Workshops to our programming lineup in 2019. In September we took a field trip to the Whydah Pirate Museum and learned the story of and saw authentic artifacts from a pirate shipwreck off Cape Cod.

We also participated in some larger museum programs: ArtWeek MA, Smithsonian Museum Day, and for the first time, Free Fun Friday, an initiative by the Highland Street Foundation with 100 sites all over Massachusetts! These events brought lots of new faces to the Museum, which we love!



OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM, 2018



We held four lectures in the fall, one of which featured a descendant of Robert Treat Paine, and another, presented by Paul Allison, on the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918. During Liberty & Union Weekend we partnered with the Taunton Area Vietnam Veterans Association to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the memorial fountain on Church Green. It made for a very special morning that was followed by a successful Liberty & Union Festival. We welcomed more vendors than ever before and 425 people entered into the museum during the festival. In December we hosted New England Reptile Shows for Lights On! and had 658 visitors that night! Friends of OCHM performed A Christmas Carol in December to get us into the holiday spirit.

Education was ever-important in 2018. In the spring we brought Let's Map: Taunton! into the elementary schools to teach fourth graders about the history of their city and how it has changed through the years. The WOWs from the students (and teachers) as each 8x8 foot map was unveiled were priceless. The seventh graders returned in October and were in awe of our new portrait gallery. They were tasked with analyzing objects in the Museum, drawing their favorites, and they took a walking tour of downtown. In total, we saw 449 fourth graders and 651 seventh graders. It was quite a busy 2018 and I'm looking forward to all the fun our programs will bring in 2019!

Saria Sweeney

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

SUPPORT

GRANTS RECEIVED

The OCHM received grants from the following organizations to support our work in 2018. We appreciate their partnership and generosity. We were also excited to be approved for a grant by the Taunton River Stewardship Council and look forward to working with them in 2019.

BRISTOL COUNTY SAVINGS BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL: FESTIVALS GRANT

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL: CULTURAL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

MASS CULTURAL COUNCIL: SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE

ROCKLAND TRUST CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

ROTARY CLUB OF TAUNTON

SOUTHEASTERN MASS VISITORS BUREAU

TAUNTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Membership contributions support educational programming, exhibitions, and ongoing operations at the Museum, and are also tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Corporate membership offers a way for your company to partner with the Museum to meet marketing, philanthropic and community engagement goals. Thank you to all of our 2018 Corporate Members:



**Taunton-South
Shore Foundation**



THANKS TO YOU!

DONORS TO THE 2018 ANNUAL FUND

GIFTS OF \$1,000+

- Mr. & Mrs. Mark R. Karsner
- Dr. & Mrs. Charles A. Thayer
- Taunton-South Shore Foundation, Inc.

GIFTS OF \$500-999

- Margaret Frances Crowninshield
- William & Carol Hanna
- Cynthia Booth Ricciardi
- Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Scully

GIFTS OF \$100-499

- Anonymous (2)
- Bonny R. Cook
- Carol Andrews Mills
- David & Ann Fuller
- Dr. David F. & Janice Gouveia
- Ethel M. Fraga
- Gary Kingston
- James J. Duffy
- Jean F. Farrell
- Joseph & Barbara Betz
- Katheryn P. Viens
- Kathie Herron
- Kathleen Mulhern
- Marc S. Emond
- Mrs. Caryl A. Booth
- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce R. MacDonald
- Paul D. Sullivan
- Richard L. Shafer
- Richard Teixeira, M.D.
- Ruth B. Ekstrom

GIFTS OF \$1-99

- Anonymous (15)
- Avis Prior
- Cosmo!
- David R. & Jean E. Dean
- Donald C. Cosgrove
- Donald L. McKinnon
- Elizabeth A. Williams
- Frederic L. Lincoln
- Jack Gibney
- Joel H. Third
- John F. Laughlin, Jr.
- John & Joanne Uva
- Joseph Spencer
- Louise A. Rose
- Marc N. Belanger
- Mr. & Mrs. John Pereira
- Mr. Gordon H. Francis
- Mrs. Phyllis Lane
- Richard Brennan
- Richard R. Mros
- Robert F. Bates Sr.
- Shoshanah Garschick
- Susan King
- Thomas Ballard

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM

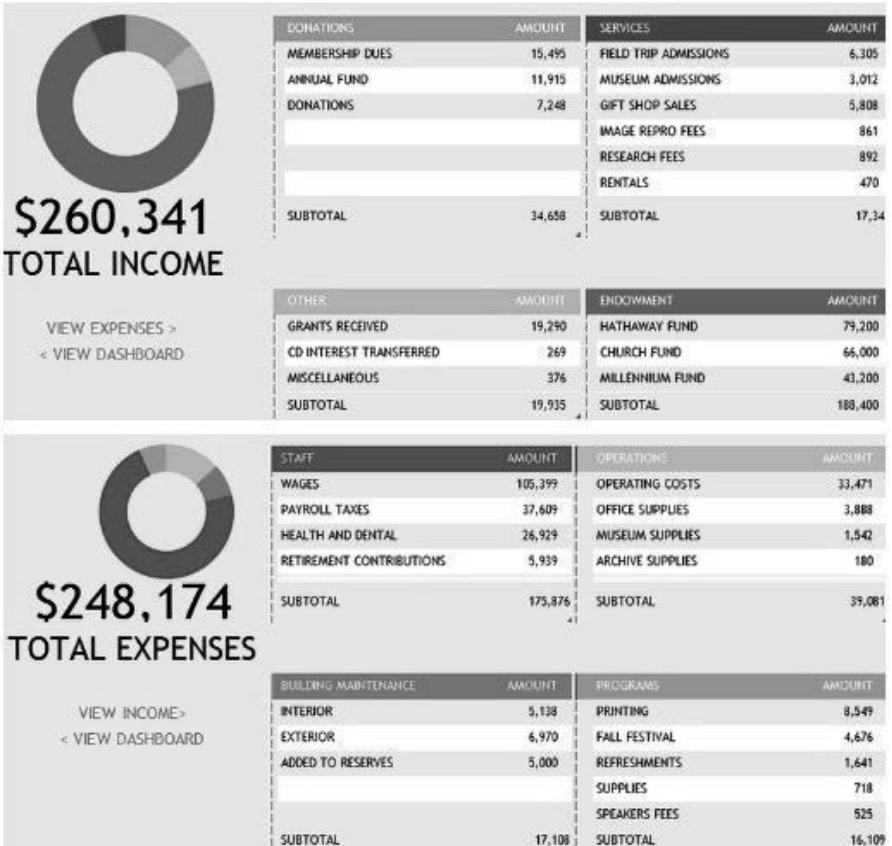
In 2018 financial gifts were made in memory of:

- Maryan L. Nowak
- Trudy Ann Sweeney

FINANCIAL REPORT

It is a pleasure to inform you that for the year ended December 31, 2018, annual revenue once again exceeded expenses. This operating surplus is due to increases in admissions, grant funds, and gift shop sales--all trends which we hope to continue and build on in the coming years.

In addition to our annual operating budget, the Museum maintains several accounts which are not used on a regular basis but afford us the ability to plan well into the future. The generous bequest left to us in 2015 was voted to fund the update of our public space, which began in 2018, as well as our legal expenses regarding the preservation of the historic character of our lot. We view this work as an investment in our long-term viability and remain thankful to Mr. Edward Williams, whose bequest allows us to do this work.



Negative endowment performance in 2018 resulted in an overall decrease in our net worth as of 12/31/18, however, we take a long view of our invested assets. The Finance Committee continues to recommend an endowment draw just under 5% of the 5-year average. This continues to be the largest share of our operating budget. As we grow, we must look to grow other areas of revenue and rely less heavily on the endowment and the inevitable ups and downs of the market.

As always, accounting standards do not permit us to record the value of our collection, but it is our most important “asset.” We continually take measures to preserve our building and the objects, books, and documents within for future generations. These long-term goals are overseen by the dedicated members of the Finance Committee, and we thank them for their guidance and support.

BALANCE SHEET, YEAR END

	2018	2017	2016
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$488,149	\$587,177	\$677,669
Inventory, at cost	<u>9,000</u>	<u>8,135</u>	<u>8,551</u>
Total current assets:	497,149	595,312	686,220
Property and equipment			
Land	5,000	5,000	5,000
Building and improvements	816,026	816,026	816,026
Furniture and fixtures	<u>92,524</u>	<u>92,524</u>	<u>92,524</u>
Subtotal	913,550	913,550	913,550
Less accumulated depreciation	(662,947)	(662,947)	(627,735)
Net, Property and equipment:	<u>250,603</u>	<u>250,603</u>	<u>285,815</u>
Invested funds, at fair market value	3,556,676	3,920,415	3,611,777
Total Assets:	<u>\$4,304,428</u>	<u>\$4,766,330</u>	<u>\$4,583,812</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities, end of year	51	15	13
Net Assets			
Unrestricted net assets	2,407,505	2,869,443	2,713,445
Temporarily restricted net assets	41,500	41,500	37,000
Restricted net assets	<u>1,855,372</u>	<u>1,855,372</u>	<u>1,833,354</u>
Total net assets:	4,304,377	\$4,766,315	\$4,583,799
Total liabilities and net assets:	<u>\$4,304,428</u>	<u>\$4,766,330</u>	<u>\$4,583,812</u>
Please note that reports for 2016 and 2017 have been professionally prepared. The figures for 2018 are, as of yet, unaudited.			

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the happy faces that greet you at the Museum, show you around the exhibits, and answer questions during a public event. They collectively contribute over 3,500 hours of service every year in a variety of capacities. They are an intelligent, enthusiastic, and friendly bunch that enrich the lives of our staff and visitors, and we appreciate all that they do!

- Kimberly Antunes
- Mary Barrett
- Martin Bernier
- Sandy Bisson
- Kelli Bogus-Deegan
- Allison Brooks
- Nathan Buchanan
- James Carey
- Mark Doherty
- Sean Donnelly
- James Duffy
- Jane Emack-Cambra
- Ashley Fongellaz
- Kyle Fraga
- Kasey Green
- William Hanna
- Andrew Howland
- William Hubbard
- Paulette Hurley
- Daria Laboutina
- Marina Laboutina
- Tabitha Lequin
- Brandon Loubeau
- Marlon Loubeau
- Steven M Miller, Jr.
- Rowan Lowell
- Kristine Moore
- Kelsey Murphy
- Perry Rushton Pelkey
- Mike Reed
- Cynthia Booth Ricciardi
- Louise Rose
- Hannah Russell
- Richard Teixeira
- Terry Trindade
- Elena Smith Umland
- McKayla White



NEW AND REJOINED MEMBERS IN 2018

- Kenneth E. Amaral
- Ann Bernacchio
- Kelli Bogus-Deegan
- Melinda Breitmeyer
- Chuck Brown
- Leah Carpentier
- Fred Cornaglia
- Ellen Czahar
- Gregory Czahar
- Andy Daigle
- Judy Daigle
- Richard Williams Deane
- Christine Dever
- Mark Doherty
- Sean Donnelly
- William J. Egan III
- Ashley Fongeallaz
- Louise Glass
- Shirley T. Grant
- Patricia A. Haddad
- Thomas J. Hallal, Jr.
- Steve Johnson
- Shirley Packard Jones
- Marina Laboutina
- Phillip Leonard
- Tabitha Lequin
- Leon Lombardi
- Sara Lombardi
- Gilbert Lopes
- Rowan Lowell
- Ann Lubold
- Louis Lubold
- Ed Maclean
- Karen Maclean
- Anne-Marie Meninno
- Frank T. Meninno
- Peg Mercier
- Tracy Elizabeth Moskal
- Erica Nagy
- Lisa A. Nates
- Jane E. Nixon
- Nancy Pierce
- Virginia Plasse
- Deborah A. Reardon
- John M. Reardon
- Makayla Recine
- Michael Rego
- James B. Rothwell
- Eric J. Ruby
- Terry Ruby
- Katherine St. Pierre
- Jason Sanderson
- Annette Sherry
- Frank Sherry
- Shane Snowdon
- Maureen Taylor
- Jamie Torres
- Taylor J. Torres
- Richard Teixeira
- Jerica Washington
- Martha Werenfels
- Ken Wilbur

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to extend our sincere sympathies to the families and friends of the eight members who passed away in 2018. They will be sorely missed and always remembered.

- Mary Joan (Manning) Driscoll
- Paul A. Kalacznik
- John W. Leonard
- Dorothy A. Newton
- Robert D. Newton
- Maryan L. Nowak
- Edward Nunes
- Lucille A. Peters

ABOUT US

Founded on May 4, 1853, the Old Colony Historical Society is one of New England's oldest historical societies. To fulfill its mission the Society maintains the Old Colony History Museum (OCHM) of regional objects and documents and a research library specializing in local history and genealogy. Located on historic Church Green in Taunton, Mass., the OCHM is open five days a week (Tuesday-Saturday) from 10 am until 4 pm, year round. The OCHM employs four full-time and one part-time staff member (Caretaker). The staff is assisted in their work by approximately 40 dedicated volunteers.



MISSION

The mission of the Old Colony History Museum is twofold: First, to collect, preserve and exhibit the history of the region of southeastern Massachusetts once known as the Old Colony. Second, through a vigorous program of outreach and education, we aspire to interpret the area's history in ways that are accessible, inclusive and meaningful to local residents and visitors.

VISION

This organization is committed to the principle that our region's future depends upon the shared knowledge of its past. Our vision is to fully utilize our collection in order to become a thriving regional center where visitors of all ages and origins develop a lifelong love of learning and an enduring connection to those who came before us.

GOALS 2015-2020

- Catalog, preserve and exhibit the museum collection meeting current professional standards.
- Engage in community outreach and educational programming.
- Name and market the museum as a regional destination.
- Develop long-term resources that support the Museum's mission.
- Align staff and volunteers with the goals of the Strategic Plan.
- Modernize governance in order to fulfill Mission Statement.
- Preserve and maintain our building and grounds, recognizing that they play an essential role in advancing the Museum's mission.

April 18th, 2019!



You are invited to the 166th annual meeting of the
OCHM!

6:00 pm: COCKTAIL HOUR

A chance to reflect on and celebrate 2018!

- Enjoy complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.
 - Socialize with members and friends.
- Get a sneak peek at the new second-floor exhibit gallery.

7:00 pm: ANNUAL MEETING OF OCHM MEMBERSHIP

- Reports will be given updating our past year.
 - Board of Directors appointed.

All OCHM Members are welcome at the Annual Meeting. To be eligible to vote at the meeting, your membership must be valid as of April 1, 2019. Please call our office at 508-822-1622 if you have questions about the status of your membership.



**OLD COLONY
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

66 CHURCH GREEN
TAUNTON, MA 02780

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U.S. POSTAGE

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