

Old Colony History Museum
annual report

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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.

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2019 STAFF

Administration

Katie MacDonald

Executive Director

Elizabeth Bernier

Assistant to the Director

Curatorial

Bronson Michaud

Ruby Winslow Curator of Collections

Education & Programming

Saria Sweeney

Community Programming
Coordinator

Facilities

Michael Curran

Caretaker

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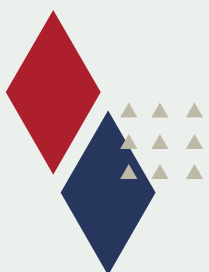
Christopher Scully

Richard L. Shafer

Honorary Directors

Joseph C. Betz

David F. Gouveia



By the numbers...



**PROGRAMS
HOSTED**



**VISITORS
ON BUSIEST
DAY**



**ANNUAL
VISITORS**



**NEW
MEMBERS**



VOLUNTEERS



**OBJECTS
ADDED TO THE
COLLECTION**



**WEBSITE
PAGE
VIEWS**

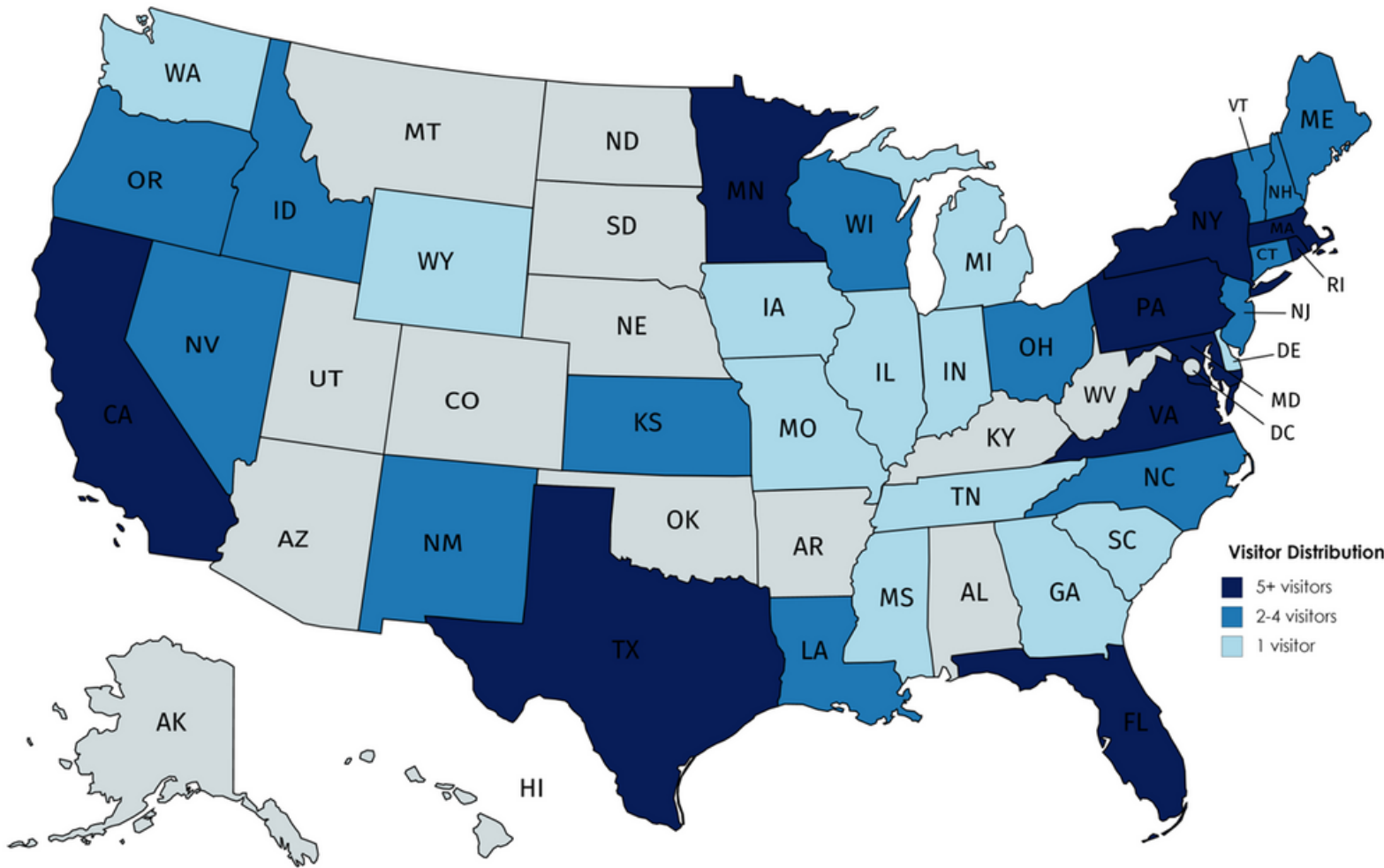


**FACEBOOK
LIKES**



**RESEARCH
BY MAIL
REQUESTS**

Visitors in 2019 came from:



STATES



COUNTRIES

- Australia
- Canada
- England*
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- United States of America
- Wales*

*We know they are both in the UK but 7 is a lucky number!

From the President

As we approach our organization's 167th Annual Meeting, it is my pleasure to report that the Old Colony History Museum has never been more vibrant and optimistic.


The month of April 2020 marks the successful completion of an ambitious, far-reaching strategic plan that has modernized our museum, transformed its programming and established the OCHM as an essential community resource.

The year just ending saw the complete restoration of the upstairs exhibit hall, and that has enabled us to significantly improve the quality of our visitor experience. In accordance with modern museum practice, our tours are now self-guided, and our guests are invited to join in daily Highlight Tours. These are led by our curator, Bronson Michaud, who deserves special credit for the enthusiasm he brings to work each day. The dramatic upstairs renovation effectively complements the first-floor space that was redesigned in 2018, and work on the building's second floor will continue as the Military Room is scheduled for modernization in the coming year.

Offering worthwhile programming is a perpetual challenge for every museum, and the ongoing physical renovation of our building has allowed us to expand both the diversity and the quality of what we are able to present to our members. Over the past year, our hall has featured something for everyone, from scholars presenting their latest historical research to the folk singers and poets who visit for the regular Arts & Humanities programs. We have similarly enjoyed the success of the After Hours events, and this year's February Flicks saw the best attendance yet. Saria Sweeney, the OCHM's community program coordinator, leaves no stone unturned in the search for diverse, interesting events and activities.

Since my last report to the membership, and in addition to Saria's efforts, the museum's outreach program has continued to grow, especially in several areas of student involvement. My favorite memory of the past year is the temporary exhibit on Taunton and D-Day, curated and mounted by the students in the U.S. History Advanced Placement class at Taunton High School. I am happy to report that this relationship will continue, as this year's class plans another temporary exhibit to be opened in June 2020. We encourage this type of creativity and we look forward to more such endeavors in the future.





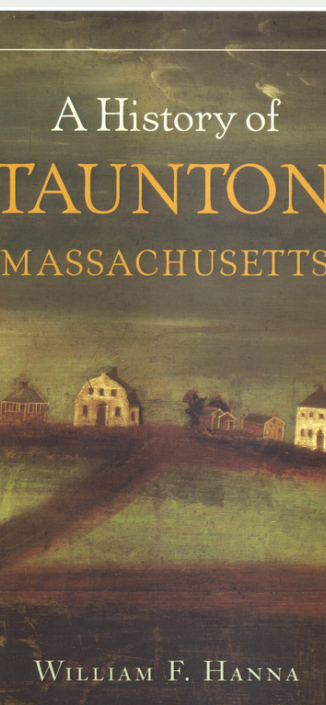
Although the current five-year plan ends in April, we are by no means finished. We will never be finished. Discussions of what comes next are already underway, and thanks to our expanding social media presence we will be able to share those plans with you as they develop. That, of course, is only right, because without your steady generosity and continuing support all of this would be impossible.

Finally, as president, the best part of my job is to give credit to a most remarkable staff. Saria, Bronson, and Elizabeth represent us extremely well, and Mike Curran keeps the place looking great. They have the singular good fortune to be led by Katie MacDonald, a leader by example, who will complete her seventh year as executive director in June. The staff knows, as I know, that the OCHM is not just a building; it's a community, and thanks to their best efforts, we thrive.

Respectfully,

William F. Hanna

William F. Hanna
President





Collections

Bronson Michaud, Curator of Collections

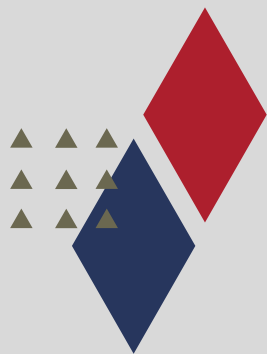
2019 marked another fantastic year filled with exciting challenges and wonderful results. Far and away the biggest project in 2019 was the exhibit hall re-model. A new ceiling, object safe lighting, UV shades, new display cases, large scale graphics and a new interactive now allow visitors to view and engage with the collection in a whole new way.

The main room on the second floor is now broken up into 5 sections covering over 400 years of local history: Settlement, Immigration, Industry, Transportation, and Fashion. Looking ahead, we still have two more rooms to modernize in the exhibit space and I am encouraged by the response to the work we completed this year.

We were also able to bring technology into the museum with interactive labels on both floors. Our talented docents learned a new highlight tour, which we offer daily at noon. In 2020 we have plans to unite all of the spaces in the building, with the development of an audio guide. We'll be sure to keep you updated and look forward to its debut.



Second
Floor
Exhibit
Updates



2019 ACQUISITIONS

Notable additions to the collection in 2019:

- A sign celebrating Hall of Fame baseball player Christy Mathewson
- An 84-piece collection of Reed & Barton's Francis I pattern
- A pewter water pitcher made at Poole Silver
- A framed portrait of Navy Hospital Corpsman Richard David DeWert
- A helmet worn by Joseph V. Chatigny, a medic who served during the Normandy Invasion

We'd like to thank all of the donors who contributed objects and/or books to the collection in 2019. They include: City of Taunton, Dr. John Alley, Winslow Congregational Church (Winslow, ME), Dr. Richard Teixeira, Peter G. Mozzone, Beth S. Miltner, Simone Rebar, Robert Taylor, Robert Nelson, Dr. William F. Hanna, Marty Ittner, Warren Biss, Cynthia Shearstone, Virginia Hyland Young, Emily Boisvert, Paul and Karen Patneau, and R. Wayne and Betty L. Thompson.



2019 CONSERVATION PROJECTS

In 2019 we continued to implement improvements to the building and collections storage based on reports submitted by Image Permanence Institute in 2017 and Conservation Specialist Lisa Goldberg in 2018. We added more LED light fixtures and UV shades to public spaces to improve lighting quality and safety. We replaced all of our small, residential dehumidifiers with a large industrial-grade dehumidifier to regulate humidity in our collection storage, which has already shown a huge improvement. Lastly, we continue to monitor the collection spaces and maintain the pieces as needed.

Looking ahead for 2020, plans are in place to increase the range of fire detection coverage in both public and collection storage areas, install improved access to our attic, modernize our security system, change over our remaining oil boiler to natural gas, and install improved shelving units in our storage areas.

We have been able to take on these projects through generous support of The Ruby W. and LaVon P. Linn Foundation for which we are extremely thankful.

2019 EXHIBITIONS

In our dedicated first-floor exhibition space we opened two new exhibitions this year, which you can see below. This space is a literal white box, and we wanted it to be that way so that each new group that we work with can transform it in their own unique way. Moving forward our staff will curate this space at times, and sometimes it will be a partnership with members of our community. Do you have a great collection you'd like to share for a few months? Call us!



"Taunton to Normandy: 75 Years Later"

Curated by Taunton High School AP History students. Opened June 13, 2019.

"Sharing Local Memories: Photo Scanning Days at the OCHM"

An exhibit showcasing images donated during Photo Scanning Days as well as the artwork of local photographer Evan Francis opened October 17, 2019.





Programs and Education

Saria Sweeney, Community Programming Coordinator

In 2019 we organized 25 unique programs for the community which included participation in national and state-wide initiatives offering free access to arts and culture. We learned new skills in our Wednesday Workshops, made new friends at our pizza tasting competition, and at the Great Taunton Baking Competition--thank you to judges Lyndsey Littlefield (Miss Taunton 2019) and Arthur Battistini of Battistini's Bakery.

We worked with awesome community partners throughout the year who taught our workshops, welcomed us for a tour of Westport Rivers Vineyard, and shared a mobile escape game for our Haunted History After Hours in October. Our biggest day each year is the Liberty & Union Festival and we were thrilled to host our biggest crowds with the most entertainment ever!

We also hosted six lectures in the fall, with topics ranging from the lives of Duxbury's incredible seafaring women to gravestone carvers of the region, and military history from the Civil War to World War II. Most of these lectures, as well as our downtown walking tour were recorded by TCAM so that you can enjoy them from home! I hope you got to join in the fun for one (or more) of these programs, and that we see you again in 2020!

EDUCATION

Education had a major role at the Museum in 2019. In addition to revamping the museum exploration field trip for 7th graders, we were able to expand our reach even further by adding an in-school program for second graders called *Immigration Nation* where students learn about various ethnic groups who have made Taunton home. We begin with the English settlers first arriving in the 1600s and share the struggles and successes of our Irish, Portuguese, Italian, Polish, and Cape Verdean communities through the 1900s. Teachers have repeatedly expressed how happy they were that their students got to learn about our local immigration history and exposure to these cultures in an engaging, fun, and age-appropriate way. We also hosted Boy Scouts from Massachusetts and Rhode Island during Scout Week in April where 30 Scouts were able to earn their American Heritage badge here at the OCHM. We offer our sincere thanks to the charitable foundations of Rockland Trust and Bristol County Savings Banks whose support makes these field trips possible for our local students.

After the end of the academic school year the teachers became the students this past June for a Professional Development workshop focused on Taunton's colonial past. They (and I) gained a tremendous amount of knowledge from Dr. Hanna through presentations within the Museum, getting a peek at some rarely-seen objects and access to primary sources from the collection, as well as walking tours throughout the city. Our goal is to share what we have here at the museum as widely as possible, and hope these workshops help make it easier to bring local history into the classroom. Whether students, teachers, or the general public, we look forward to encouraging a love of history even more in 2020 and beyond!



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

The guiding principal in our programming is the idea of "audience." We have developed an active calendar in which we hope to offer something to everyone in our community. From movie showings and lectures, to hands-on workshops and walking tours we strive to offer you something new to try just as often as we plan an old favorite. The results have shown an increase in our audience year-over-year with 5,031 participating with us in some way in 2019. While we grow, we remain committed to offering quality, informative programs and experiences that connect the public more fully to all that Greater Taunton has to offer.



Clockwise from top: "Portuguese In New England" film showing, "It Belongs in a Museum" archaeological highlights tour, Ric Allendorf performs at Arts & Humanity, herbal reed diffuser-making Wednesday Workshop with the Grounded Goodwife, hands-on pottery demonstration with the Pied Potter Rick Hamelin at the Liberty & Union Festival.

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are critical to the work of any museum and we are honored that so many talented and dedicated people donate their time to the OCHM. In 2019, our volunteers donated 2,092 hours of work to the museum. We want to thank them and recognize them for the important contributions. If you'd like to join our volunteer team, we'd love to have you. Give us a call or check out our current opportunities online at oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org/volunteer/.

VOLUNTEERS IN 2019

- Mary Barrett
- Cynthia Brown Bernard
- Martin Bernier
- Sandy Bisson
- Kelli Bogus-Deegan
- Nathan Buchanan
- James Carey
- Derek DeMello
- Mark Doherty
- Sean Donnelly
- Challyn Fishman
- Ashley Fongeallaz
- Steven Furtado
- Diane Hammond
- Carol Hanna
- William F. Hanna
- Andrew Howland
- Deborah Howland
- Paulette Hurley
- Marina Laboutina
- Tabitha Lequin
- Marlon Loubeau
- Rowan Lowell
- Kristine Moore
- Stephen O'Neill
- Mike Reed
- Cynthia Booth Ricciardi
- Griffin Roberts
- Louise Rose
- Sonya Spongberg
- Arzef Sylaj
- Richard Teixeira
- Terry Trindade

CONTRIBUTIONS

The OCHM depends on the generosity and the people and organizations that support our mission. There are many other types of donations we receive throughout the year, memberships, employer matching gifts, endowment gifts, donations to specific events, and we are grateful for every gift. Names listed below reflect those who donated to our 2019 Annual Fund. Those who have chosen to remain anonymous are listed as such.

DONORS TO THE 2019 ANNUAL FUND

\$1,000+

- Taunton-South Shore Foundation, Inc.
- Charles A. Thayer, M.D.
- William & Carol Hanna
- Mark R. & Colleen C. Karsner

\$101-999

- Steve Perry & Chuck Berthelette
- Caryl A. Booth
- Robert H. Bury
- Bruce & Mary MacDonald
- Michael J. McClellan
- Apryl A. Robinson

\$50-100

- AB A DA BA Surf Club
- Anonymous (4)
- Mac and Beverly Anslow
- Joseph & Barbara Betz
- Biss Lumber, Inc.
- Vickie M. and John J. Danahey, Jr.
- George Wm. Davey
- David R. and Jean E. Dean
- Diane S. Ducey
- Ruth Burt Ekstrom
- Marc S. Emond
- Jean F. Farrell
- Nancy Griswold Flynn
- Ethel Fraga

\$50-100 (cont.)

- Mr. & Mrs. David L. Fuller
- Carol and Robert Funke
- Lt. Greg Galligan
- Shoshanah Garshick
- Jack Gibney
- Mr. and Mrs. William T. Hurley
- Michael & Eileen Kelleher
- Emily Ruth Treano & Eric J. Morrison, Esq.
- Kathy Mulhern
- Danielle N. Paull
- John and Jane Pereira
- Louis L. Peters
- Richard Pober
- Shafer Development Services
- Charles & Jacqueline Smith
- Paul D. Sullivan
- John and Joanne Uva
- Sally S. Vaun
- Elizabeth A. Williams

\$1-49

- Joanna F. Alden
- Anonymous (10)
- Lucille E. Atkinson
- Cherry Fletcher Bamberg
- Robert F. Bates

DONORS TO THE 2019 ANNUAL FUND, CONTINUED

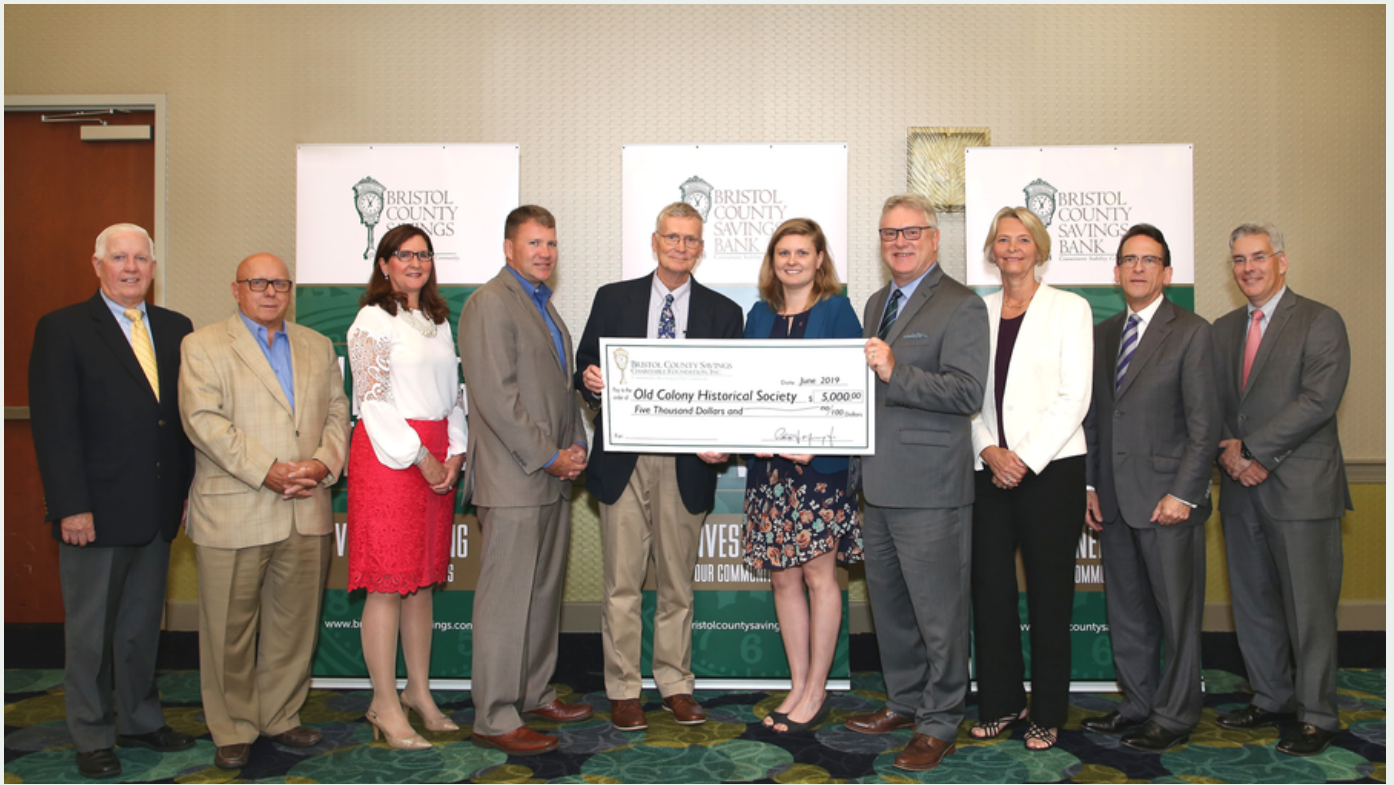
\$1-49 (cont.)

- Gladys Bauman
- David & Lisa Bee
- Rosemarie B. Buote
- Cmdr. Frank G. Coyle, U.S.N. (Ret.)
- Grace Donahue
- Paul & Janet Dooley
- Claire Downing
- James H. Fagan
- Bonnie Frankel
- Elaine Gravel
- Frances N. Guay
- Lawrence Havrylik
- Jeffrey D. Illsley
- Eden Jones
- Mrs. Phyllis Lane
- John R. Laughlin, Jr.
- Elizabeth MacLean
- Norma Pietnik
- Robert Ricketson
- F. Robert Roche
- Don & Diana Shearstone
- Gil & Carol Simmons
- Richard A. Smith



GRANTS

In 2019 we were thrilled to receive support for operations and special projects from the following granting organizations and community partners:



- Berkley Cultural Council
- Bridgewater Savings Bank
- Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
- Dighton Cultural Council
- Highland Street Foundation
- Mansfield Bank
- Mass Cultural Council: Cultural Investment Programs
- Middleboro Cultural Council
- Ruby W. and LaVon P. Linn Foundation
- Southeastern MA Visitors Bureau
- Taunton River Stewardship Council



CORPORATE MEMBERS

- Allan M. Walker Insurance Agency
- Biss Lumber Company, Inc.
- Bristol County Savings Bank
- Bristol Wealth Group
- Rotary Club of Taunton
- Silvia & Quinn, PC
- Taunton Development Corporation
- Taunton Federal Credit Union
- Taunton-South Shore Foundation Inc.
- Trucchi's Supermarkets

GIFTS IN HONOR/MEMORY

The following people were honored by their families, friends, or other donors to the OCHM with a financial gift. Gifts given in honor or memory of someone else are held in a special account to ensure the long-term health of the OCHM and are not used for general operations.

- Elizabeth (Ayers) Compton Bellocchio
- Mary Joan (Manning) Driscoll
- Philip LaFrance and Herb Borden, Treasurers of Distinction
- Maryan L. Nowak
- Edward S. Sikorski
- Megan Smolenyak

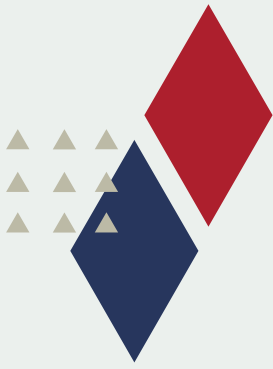
A THANK YOU

A special contribution we would like to honor is the dedication of outgoing board member, Ethel Fraga.

A life member of the OCHM since 1999, Ethel has served on the board of the Old Colony History Museum since 2002. She has been an active contributor and strong voice on numerous committees, including Nominating, Publications, Collections, Community Outreach, and the Bristol Academy Scholarship Committee. A voice for inclusion, positivity, and the arts Ethel envisioned, nurtured, and brought to fruition our Arts & Humanity program which features artists, musicians, poets, and "anyone with a creative spirit" to find a welcoming place to share their work within our walls. Since its inception in June 2017, Art & Humanity has been held 8 times, has featured more than 50 artists, and continues to grow.

Ethel has represented us proudly everywhere she goes with a genuine and deep enthusiasm for the OCHM and the work that we do. She has always had a wide and far-reaching vision for what we can achieve, paired with a warm smile and sound guidance in all things. We will miss her and we thank her for her role in making us the OCHM that we are today.





In Memoriam

CHARLES J. BARTON
Became a member in 1990.

ETHEL M. COTE
Became a member in 1994.

ALICE M. (RICCI) DOOLEY
Became a member in 1989.

JAMES J. DUFFY
Became a member in 1995.

WILLIAM H. DYKSTRA
Became a member in 1990.

JAMES A. FEWLASS
Became a member in 1993.

SHOSHANAH GARSHICK
Became a member in 1977.

HAROLD GOREN, O.D.
Became a member in 1976.

DONALD L. MCKINNON
Became a member in 2006.

EILEEN R. MARTIN
Became a member in 1994.

**ELIZABETH
(AYERS)
COMPTON
BELLOCCHIO**



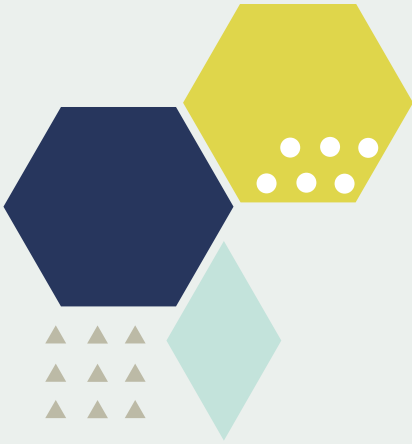
Elizabeth (Ayers) Compton Bellocchio passed away on August 30, 2019 following a brief illness. In 1982 Lisa moved to Taunton MA to become the first professional Director at the Old Colony History Museum, where she remained until 1996. She oversaw the museum's first capital campaign, and during her tenure, the museum successfully obtained many national and local grants. While serving on the Taunton Historic District Commission, she revised and edited the second edition (1986) of *Taunton Architecture: A Reflection of the City's History*. The success the Museum now enjoys stands upon the solid foundation Lisa built, and we will be forever grateful for her efforts. More importantly, she was a good and caring person; a devoted wife and mother, and a dear friend. She will be deeply missed and remembered fondly.

ARTHUR A. SCHROEDER
Became a member in 2002.

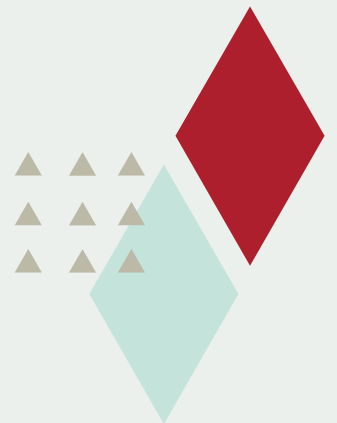
THECKLA HELIDES SNELL
Became a member in 2007.

FREDERICK WARREN WHITE
Became a member in 1989.

MADELINE (CARREIRO) WOJCIK
Became a member in 1987.



2019 Financial Summary



"Sustainability and growth are the hallmarks of what we strive to achieve. All while sharing the importance of our local history with as many people as possible."

Detailed in the following pages is the financial position of the Old Colony History Museum for the year ended December 31, 2019. It remains our pleasure to report to you a successful year as well as optimism for the future as we implemented new opportunities for growth throughout 2019.

The figures show that in 2019 we spent much of the cash we had been holding for the remodel of our second floor. We view this as an investment in the building itself as well as the organization,

which is shown in the increase Building Improvements figure. The main reason for the increase in our overall position is a strong return on our invested assets, which are managed by Rockland Trust. One note for readers of past annual reports, we have reclassified a few accounts to be "permanently restricted," slightly adjusting previously reported figures for 2017 and 2018.

The endowment funds nearly the entire expense of maintaining our staff, but as you can see that means that all other sources of income must be earned to allow for maintenance of building, programming, new exhibits, as well as the basics of heating and lighting our building. We must continue to grow in the areas of admissions, rentals, research, grant funds, memberships, and gift shop sales in order to ensure our continued growth.

As always, accounting standards do not permit us to record the value of our collection, but it is our most important "asset." In addition to our annual budget, in 2019 we were fortunate enough to receive a \$125,000 grant from the Ruby W. and LaVon P. Linn Foundation. These funds are restricted for capital improvements to our historic building and will be expended in the coming year. Finally, it should be noted that figures from 2017 and 2018 are from our accountants' reporting, but figures from 2019 are, as of yet, unaudited.



ASSETS

	2019	2018	2017
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 455,973	529,215	587,177
Inventory	10,500	8,295	8,135
Total current assets	466,473	537,510	595,312
PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT			
Land	5,000	5,000	5,000
Building	17,029	17,029	17,029
Building Improvements	960,853	848,047	798,997
Furniture and fixtures	92,524	92,524	92,524
Total	1,075,406	962,600	913,550
Less accumulated depreciation	(732,187)	(697,567)	(662,947)
Net property and equipment	343,219	265,033	250,603
INVESTED FUNDS, at fair market value	4,044,956	3,518,806	3,920,415
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,868,378	4,321,349	4,766,330

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Sales tax payable	\$ 23	51	15
Net assets			
Unrestricted net assets	2,846,483	2,424,426	2,869,443
Temporarily restricted net assets	166,500	41,500	41,500
Permanently restricted net assets	1,855,372	1,855,372	1,855,315
Total Net assets	4,868,378	4,321,298	4,766,315

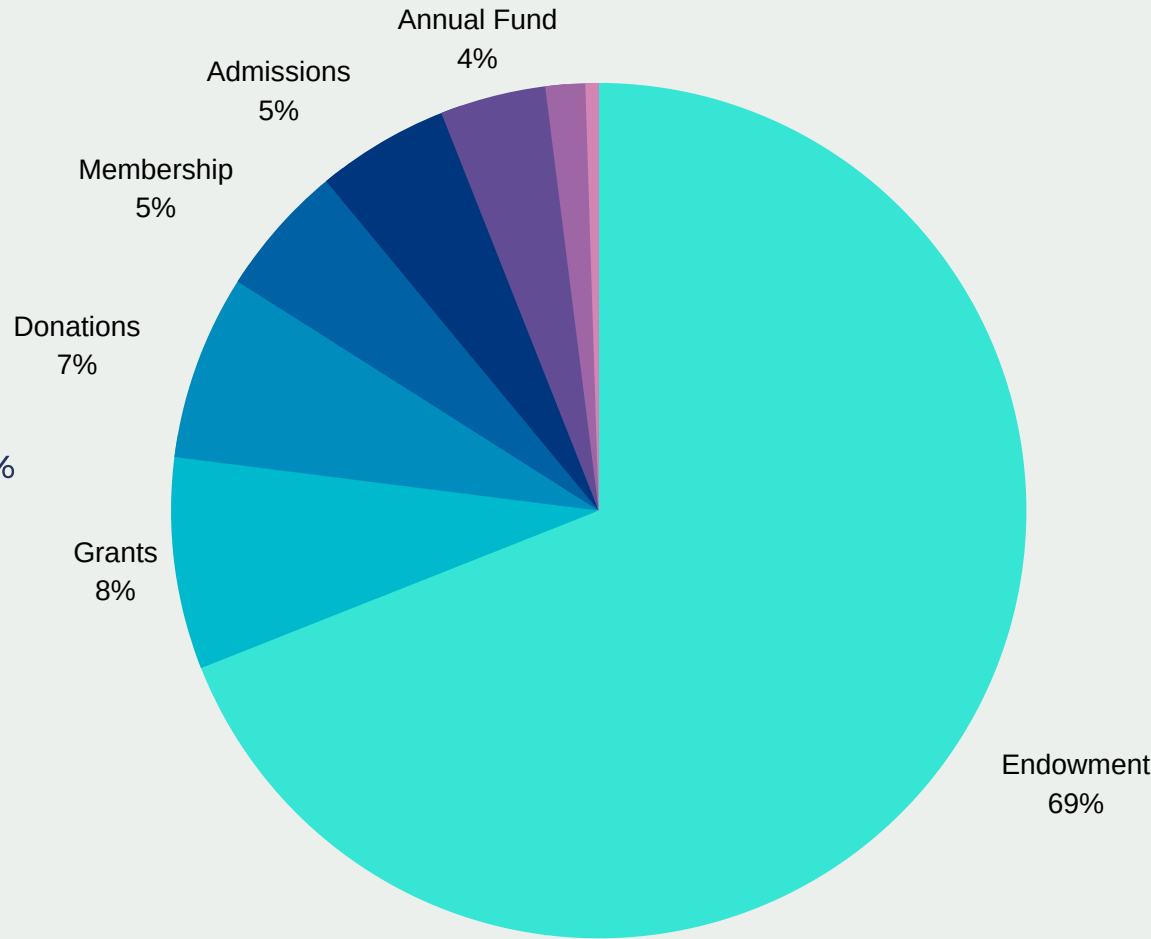
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

	\$4,868,355	4,321,349	4,766,330
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REVENUE

Total: \$272, 498

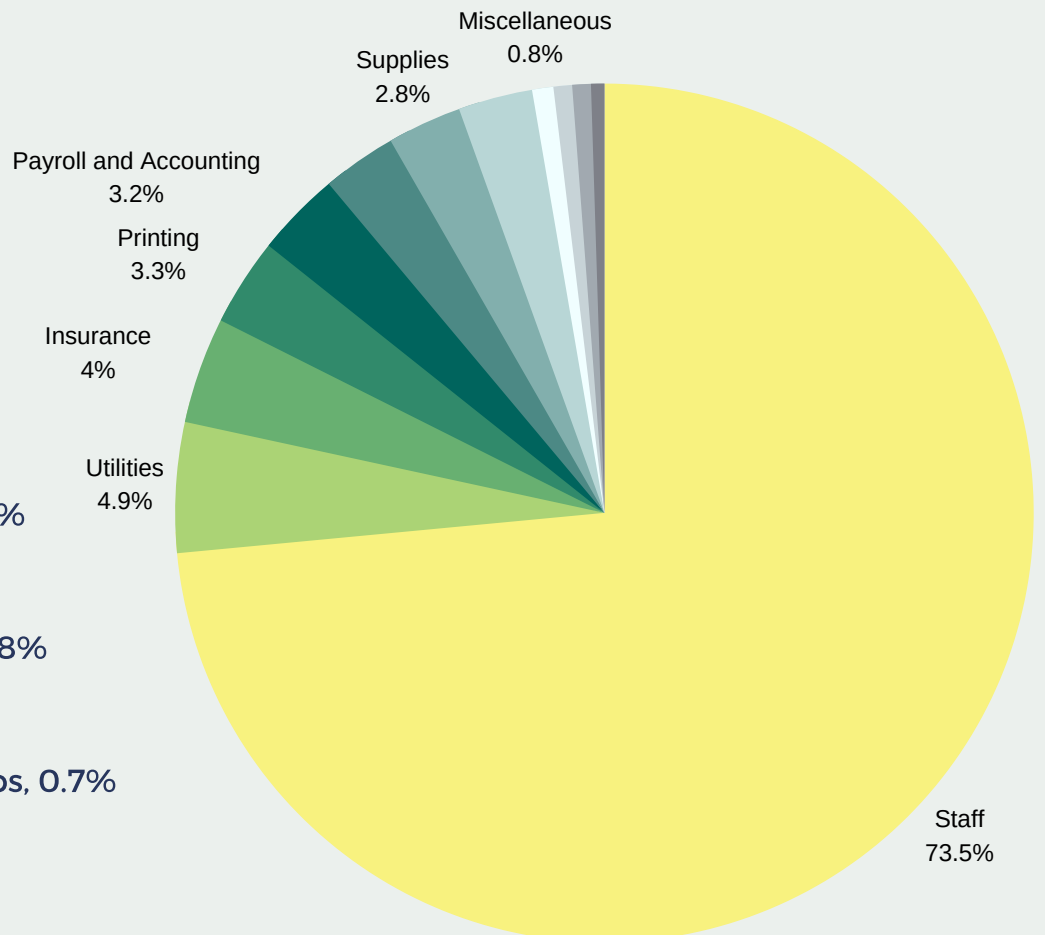
- Endowment, 69%
- Grants, 8%
- Donations, 7%
- Memberships, 5%
- Admissions, 5%
- Annual Fund, 4%
- Gift Shop, 1%
- Research By Mail, 0.5%
- Miscellaneous, 0.1%



EXPENSES

Total: \$274, 907

- Staff, 73.5%
- Utilities, 4.9%
- Insurance, 4%
- Printing, 3.3%
- Payroll & Accounting, 3.2%
- Programs, 2.8%
- Supplies, 2.8%
- Building Maintenance, 2.8%
- Miscellaneous, 0.8%
- Advertising, 0.7%
- Institutional Memberships, 0.7%
- Technology, 0.5%





Hidden Hollow Alpacas at the Liberty and Union Festival



From the Director

This message comes to you at an uncertain time, but I want to offer my assurances that the OCHM has never been stronger or more able to respond to challenges.

You have read so far in this report the many accomplishments of our talented staff, and I hope you will see fit to offer, along with mine, your own congratulations to them, our dedicated board of directors, our tireless volunteers, and thanks to our generous donors and members.

In 2019 we put forth our very best face, with a beautiful exhibit space, a variety of programs for all types of learners, and educational content for students, teachers, and the public alike. These are signs of an invigorated, active, dynamic organization and a reflection of those who support it, donate to it, and work towards our ambitious goals.

Some of my favorite moments were the installation of our Old Colony puzzle map on the first floor, the opening of our student-curated exhibit on D-Day, and always, the enthusiasm and happiness that descends on Church Green during the Liberty & Union Festival. I would like to add here my personal thanks to G. Lopes Construction. Our accessible ramp has been steadily sinking for several years now, and this summer had come to a point where it was no longer safe for someone who would need to use it. It was fixed for us, and we quite literally, wouldn't have been able to do this on our own. Thank you, most sincerely, for the safety and security you gave us.

Our strategic plan finishes just about the time you'll be reading these words. Rest assured another ambitious, forward-thinking, important plan will be developed. We'll need your input and support, and I look forward to taking that journey with you.

Ratie





MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed major holidays, and if a holiday falls on a Monday, the Saturday preceding the holiday.

Admission Adults \$5; Seniors and Students \$3; Kids (12 and under) and Members are free.

Tours Guided highlight tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday at noon. For group tours call 508-822-1622.

Membership Membership is a major source of support and comes with great benefits. Call us to learn more at 508-822-1622.

Stay Connected Find us on Facebook and Instagram @oldcolonyhistory; on Twitter @OCHM1853, and read our blog on Medium @OCHM.

Access Located in a historic school house built in 1852, the OCHM is accessible to the first floor. Please note that the majority of the exhibitions and the library are on the second floor. We are committed to enhancing accessibility for all visitors and appreciate those who support us in these efforts.

OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA, 02780 (508) 822-1622

info@oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org

oldcolonyhistorymuseum.org