

# 2025

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# Annual REPORT



**OLD COLONY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

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## Current Staff

Katie MacDonald  
*Executive Director*

Bronson Michaud  
*Curator of Collections*

Jane Dugan  
*Education & Program Manager*

Laura Hay  
*Development Officer*

Aaron St. Michel  
*Visitor Services*

Michael Curran  
*Caretaker*

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## OUR MISSION

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

## OUR VISION

Our region's future depends upon the shared knowledge of its past. We must be a vibrant cultural hub that preserves and celebrates history while fostering innovation, inclusivity, and community.

By providing meaningful experiences with local history and culture, we envision an active engagement with members and visitors who are increasingly knowledgeable and continually inspired to become better informed participants in the transformation of our community.

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# 2025 At A Glance

## Visitors

**4,807**

Total participation  
(+37% vs 2024)

**154**

Research Appointments  
(-23% vs 2024)

**800**

students on Field Trips  
(+675 vs 2024)

## Programs Hosted

**36**

OCHM programs

**3**

Virtual programs

**4**

Collaborations with  
Old Colony towns

## Publications

**10**

Blog Posts

**7,882**

Reach

## Membership

**75**

First time members

**518**

Total

**13**

Museum Pass Members

## Where People Visited From

**46**

States

**17**

Countries

## Collections

**45**

Objects  
donated

**412**

Library &  
archive  
donations

## Online Collections

**33**

Finding aids  
made  
available

**59.3%**

of our  
collections  
online

## Website Visits

**107,627**

per Google  
Analytics

**4,785**

Catalogit  
searches

## Social performance

**9,415**

followers

**754,479**

views





# From the President



The year 2025 marks the passage of a decade since the Old Colony History Museum embarked on an ambitious policy of growth and greater regional engagement. Despite numerous challenges over those years the organization has developed into a vibrant resource prized for both its collection and outstanding community programming.

Over the past twelve months the OCHM has enjoyed steady growth in a number of different categories. Almost 5,000 visitors have passed through our doors; they came from forty-six states and seventeen countries. Closer to home, we're grateful that in these times distance is more easily overcome, as evidenced by the 800 area students whose classrooms were visited by an OCHM staff member. Each student brought home a Kids Museum Card, entitling them to visit the museum with an adult whose admission was paid for by one of our corporate sponsors.

Ten years after committing to growth, outreach has become less--or perhaps more--challenging thanks to the internet.

In 2025 the OCHM website was visited more than 107,000 times, and our history blog was seen by 7,882 readers. Several of the museum's thirty-six programs were broadcast by the local cable television station and our YouTube channel enjoyed increasing viewership. Finally, almost sixty percent of our collection, not to mention almost 7,500 historic images, are accessible online. We have accepted the challenge presented by advancing technology to reach a wider audience and we look forward to significant growth in the decade ahead.

As president, it is my annual privilege to recognize those who have helped make this possible. We are blessed with an outstanding staff and a generous membership. Donors, some of whom are old friends, others who have never visited, regularly come forward with contributions, large and small, that are gratefully put toward our mission. Much to our delight, what we have developed over the past decade is a community, and we remain dedicated to its continued growth and good cheer.

*William F. Hanna*

# From the Executive Director

2025 marked a milestone for the Old Colony History Museum: ten years since our rebranding, part of an ambitious strategic plan to grow the organization and strengthen its role in the community. In 2015, I told the *Taunton Daily Gazette*, “We’d love to see a stronger community identity, more foot traffic, more community groups and kids visiting the space, and really become more of an asset for the community.” A decade later, we have made that vision a reality: the museum is more vibrant, more accessible, and more connected to its audiences than ever.

Looking back over the decade, the change is striking:

- Our staff has grown by 41%.
- Annual visitors have increased by 96%.
- Annual giving to the museum has grown by 381%.
- In 2025 alone, we welcomed visitors from 46 states and 17 countries, and continue to grow our annual engagement both in person and online.



THE NEW OLD COLONY: Taunton's history museum gets a reboot. Published October 2015

2025 also brought changes to our team. We extend our best wishes and sincere thanks to Laura Rankin, who welcomed her daughter in July. Lyn Lawrence and Ana Rodrigues supported Visitor Services until we welcomed Aaron St. Michel, a dedicated volunteer in recent years, in October.

Bronson Michaud has long been our steady force behind the scenes and on the front lines, managing countless essential tasks that keep the museum running smoothly. For much of 2025, he took on even more to keep us afloat, and we are deeply grateful for his dedication and excellence.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be another landmark year as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country. It will also mark 100 years in our historic home on Church Green. We anticipate a historic year for the museum, with special programs, exhibits, and community initiatives planned to honor both milestones.

In closing, I want to thank you for being part of the Old Colony History Museum. Your support, engagement, and enthusiasm make all of this possible, and we look forward to continuing to share the story of our community—past, present, and future—together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Katie'.



# Community Impact

**The OCHM strives to be a place of discovery and learning, using the study of local history to better understand and appreciate our everyday lives.**

Our dedicated team provides multiple ways for our community to connect—through tours, lectures, member events, children’s programming, in-person experiences, virtual offerings, and of course, our annual celebration of Taunton’s colonial past during each October. The generosity of our donors and members allows us to keep these programs accessible while maintaining the exceptional standard that defines the OCHM.

In addition, we regularly respond to requests from community partners to provide programming at libraries, senior centers, assisted living facilities, and other events throughout our community—bringing local history directly to new audiences and expanding our impact beyond the museum walls.

As we continue to grow through new partnerships and collaborative efforts, we remain committed to sharing local history as widely and meaningfully as possible. We thank each and every person who joined us in this mission in 2025.

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

36

OCHM Programs

5

Members Events

1,549

Attendance at  
OCHM programs  
and events

## KIDS MUSEUM CARD

Thanks to the generous support of the Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, every student who visits the museum on a field trip receives a Kids Museum Card. This card provides free admission for one accompanying adult, ensuring that students can return to the museum with their families and continue exploring. By removing barriers to access, this program extends the impact of each visit beyond a single day and helps foster lasting connections between young learners, their families, and local history.



In addition to the OCHM programming we host throughout the year, a primary objective of our team is to serve as an essential educational resource for our community by expanding field trips and creating meaningful learning opportunities for students of all ages.

By connecting classroom learning with hands-on experiences in local history, we aim to inspire curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper sense of place.

800

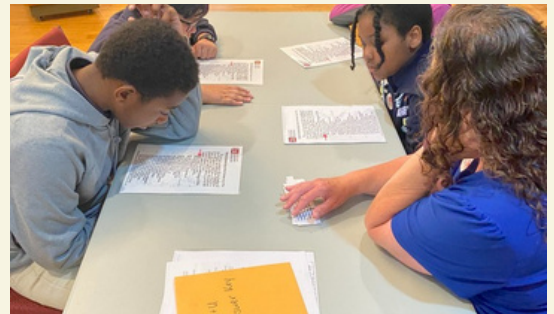
Students served

3

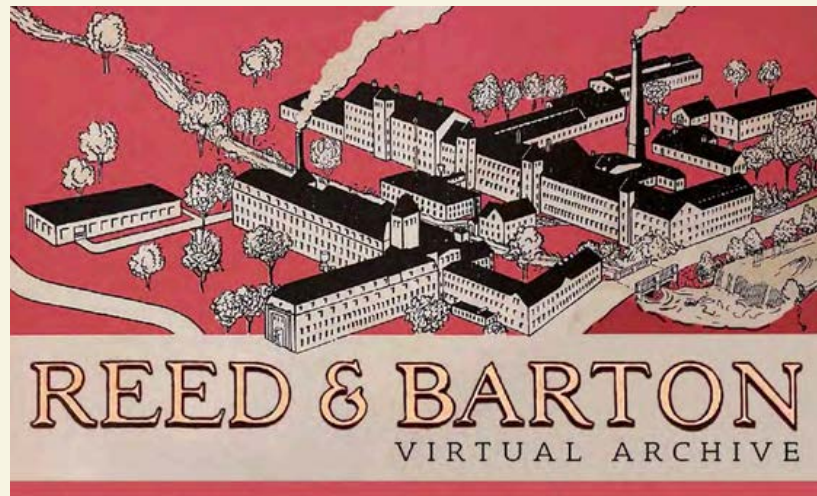
Communities engaged

4

Field trips offered



# Collections & Exhibitions



## EXPANDING ACCESS THROUGH DIGITAL INITIATIVES

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the **Reed & Barton Virtual Archive**, a significant step forward in making one of our most important industrial collections accessible beyond the museum walls. With immense thanks to Mass Humanities, which allowed us to hire the monumentally talented Matthew Bird, who created the archive, this digital resource allows users to explore objects, records, and stories connected to Taunton’s internationally recognized silver manufacturer, opening new opportunities for research, education, and public engagement.

Complementing this effort was the implementation of **CatalogIt**, our new online collections management system. This platform has transformed how we document, organize, and share our holdings. With improved cataloging workflows and the ability to make records publicly accessible online, we are laying the groundwork for long-term transparency and discoverability. For researchers and community members alike, this represents a meaningful shift toward a more open and connected collection.

### IMPACT SNAPSHOT

4

Special Exhibitions

2

Objects on loan to  
the National  
Museum of the  
United States Army

7,442

Historic images online

Exhibitions in 2025 played a vital role in presenting the museum’s collections in new and engaging ways, encouraging visitors to see familiar objects through fresh perspectives.

*The Power of Perspective: Object Stories from Every Angle* invited audiences to consider how a single object can tell multiple stories. Later, *Reed & Barton: Building the Silver City* explored Taunton’s industrial legacy with a focus on innovation and craftsmanship. In October, an exhibition on the Marquis de Lafayette connected local history to broader national narratives, highlighting Taunton’s place in the story of the American Revolution. The year ended with our holiday train display, which delighted visitors of all ages as it combined nostalgia with beloved seasonal traditions. Throughout 2025, these special exhibitions created dynamic, unique experiences that kept the galleries vibrant and responsive to diverse audiences.

Complementing the temporary and seasonal exhibitions, we also installed an entirely new permanent display. Entitled *Second Hand Stories*, it features clocks and watches from the museum’s collection. Finally, and with eyes looking beyond 2025, we continued our regular schedule of collection maintenance, thus ensuring that objects entrusted to our care, but now resting in storage, remain safe, secure and perhaps ready for a future exhibition.



# Thank you, Volunteers

The Old Colony History Museum thrives because of the dedication, passion, and generosity of our volunteers. Your time and talents help bring history to life for our community every day. We are deeply grateful for your support and proud to recognize the individuals who make our work possible.

- Jackson Andrews
- Donna Benoit
- Josh Brocato
- Monique Cardinal
- Denise Cole
- Theresa DaSilva
- Kylie Dion
- Andrea Elias
- Stella Fernandes
- Scott Grigoreas
- Andrew Howland
- Meghan Lafferty
- Lori Kleinan
- Carol Martin
- Renata Palladino
- Aaron St. Michel
- Michael Travaglione

Volunteer Hours  
**950**



*A special thank you to the volunteer readers who bring our live reading of "A Christmas Carol" to life each holiday season.*

**Donna Benoit \* Dexter Baylies-Grigoreas \* Sherry Costa Hanlon \*  
Ryan Daniels \* Stephen DelSignore \* Scott Grigoreas \* John Hanlon \*  
Michael Lepage \* David McCrae \* Kristine Moore \* Brianna Mondiere  
\* Dan O'Connell \* Aaron St. Michel**



# Financials FY2025

## Revenue & Support

Endowment	
<i>Annual draw</i>	\$234,000
Earned	
<i>Membership</i>	\$22,983
<i>Admissions</i>	\$16,947
<i>Gift Shop</i>	\$8,612
<i>Library Services</i>	\$1,137
Contributed	
<i>Donations</i>	\$107,621
<i>Grants</i>	\$16,250
<i>Corporate Support</i>	\$12,425

## Operating Expenses

Staff & Related	\$263,941
Operations	\$74,721
Utilities	\$20,360
Insurance	\$19,639
Repairs & Maintenance	\$8,435
Museum Programs	\$8,354
Development	\$5,162

## Financial Position

Current Assets	
<i>Cash</i>	\$399,106
<i>Inventory</i>	\$113,235
<i>Investments</i>	\$5,826,989
Fixed Assets	
<i>Property &amp; Equipment, net</i>	\$249,120
Total Assets	\$6,589,025
Liabilities	\$841
Equity	
<i>Unrestricted</i>	\$126,497
<i>Temporarily Restricted</i>	\$4,484,160
<i>Restricted</i>	\$1,978,368

## Total Operating Revenue & Support

**\$419,975**

## Total Operating Expenses

**\$400,612**

## Total Liabilities & Net Assets

**\$6,589,025**



# The OCHM Fund: Annual Giving

Donor support is essential to connecting our community with the stories of our region. These gifts help preserve our historic building and grounds, support engaging and accessible programs for all ages, and bring local history to life through exhibits, events, and outreach. Unrestricted annual contributions are especially valuable, allowing us to expand programs and exhibitions that inspire thoughtful engagement with our shared past. Donations of \$250 or more are recognized in bold.

Anonymous  
Linda C. Abrams  
John Adams  
Priscilla Almquist-Olsen  
Gilbert Amaral, Jr.  
Frederick L Ames  
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**Jane Harris Ash**  
Carolyn & Frank Basler  
Robert Bates  
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Joseph & Barbara Betz  
Matthew Bird  
Peter M. Blackford  
Estele Borges  
Debra Botellio  
**Elaine S. Briggs &  
Carol A. Sheehan**  
**Kay Elaine Britton &  
Dr. Abid Khan**  
Karen Britton  
Rita Brown  
**Catherine Bryant**  
Barbara Bryant  
Kevin & Cynthia Butler  
Rita Camara  
Philip F. Carey &  
Ellen M. Chiocca Carey

Karyn & Dana Clancy  
Nancy Clark  
David & Judy Cleathero  
Keith Clemens  
Manny & Gail Coelho  
**Donivan Cook**  
**Daniel Cook**  
Jennifer Cooke  
John Hanlon &  
Sherry Costa-Hanlon  
Robert Costello  
Thomas & Kristine Coute  
Cmdr. Frank G. Coyle, U.S.N.  
(Ret.)  
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Tracie Fagan  
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**William & Carol Hanna**  
Laura & Alex Hay  
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Eden V. Jones  
Melissa & Keith  
Jones-McClay  
Susan King  
Lori & Patrick Kleinen  
Denise Kravitz  
Jane Kudcey

# The OCHM Fund: Annual Giving

2025 donors, continued.

**Richard Hunt Jr. &  
Lisa LaFrance**

Joseph Landers  
Melissa LaValle  
Ronald Lawrence  
Jack & Maura Leddy  
Ted & Eve Lippold

**Shauna Liverotti**

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Steven A. Lombardi &  
Renee M. Vitale

**Michael Lucas**

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MacAlpine

**Bruce & Mary MacDonald**

James Gordon MacDonald  
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**Michael McClellan**

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Margie McNally

**Dr. Robert & Alexandra  
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Pamela Melendy

**Jay Merwin**

Mark & Susan Miller

Chaz Moore

Elyse Moore

Timothy & Rebecca More  
David & Rosemary Moreau  
Barry Moss

**Kathleen Mulhern**

David Mulligan

Patty Myers

William & Jane Napolitano  
Sippican Historical Society  
Joseph M. O'Donnell  
Paine-Dupont & Dupont  
Household

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M Jane Pereira

Christopher Perra

Steve Perry and Chuck

Berthelette

Valerie Pimenta

Wilma Pirozzi

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Shafer Family

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Peter Thomson

Anne Vantran

Sally Vaun

Viens Household

Vincent Household

Kristen Von Malder

Candyce Moore-Walters &

Gary Walters

Amy & Jason Wilmot

Sally Wood

# Corporate Support

Our local business community remains a vital part of the region's rich and evolving story. We sincerely appreciate their continued commitment to supporting and sustaining local history.

## Presenting Sponsors:



## Additional thanks to:





OC HM OLD COLONY HISTORY MUSEUM

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Explore Local History OUTFRONT

Summer Spotlight

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Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future.



# A Century on Church Green.

1926 ————— 2026



2026 ...

