



 AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE MUSEUM

2019  
ANNUAL REPORT









The development of this annual report was underway when COVID-19 temporarily closed our offices and museum. We still wish to share our 2019 year with you and look forward to welcoming you all back to our campus as soon as it is safe to do so.



Dear Museum Family,

A casual observer might mistake your American Independence Museum for a small historic house museum in a small historic New England town, but thanks to your support we know our impact is already much larger than that and growing! In 2019, our treasured Dunlap Broadside traveled to the New Hampshire State House to be reunited on display with an 1823 printing of the Declaration of Independence and an original copy of the Bill of Rights and seen by over 3,000 visitors and schoolchildren. Our Traveling Trunks visited schoolkids in California, Florida, Idaho and many more states and this program is now expanding to retirement communities. We are also currently innovating other new ways to inspire a larger national audience!

Likewise, while many of us bend to the quarterly corporate time clock in much of our lives, the Museum reminds and inspires us to think – like our founding fathers did – in centuries. Thanks to the amazing LCHIP program and generous matching donors, 2019 saw our 1721 Ladd-Gilman House get a refurbished foundation, drainage system, entrance landscaping and new campus pathways. Thank you for helping us preserve our buildings and collections for many generations to come.

In these Annual Report pages please enjoy reflecting on what you have created, and by all means stop by in 2020... the Museum for a tour, Folsom Tavern for an event, our grounds as you meander through town. A radiant slice of the American Revolution happened right here, and it is not to be missed!

As always, thank you so much for your fresh ideas, your encouraging words, your bold actions, your generous financial gifts, your curious visits and your most interesting questions. Your Board of Governors, Ambassadors, Staff and Volunteers are deeply appreciative of your engagement with the Museum. You make our work a joy!

Ozzie Ayscue  
President, Board of Governors



*This Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Edward F. Woods, Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire member who was instrumental in the founding of this museum in 1991.*



## Note

The museum's mission and vision were updated in 2020. Listed here are the mission and vision from 2019.



Visitors wait in line to enter the Ladd Gilman House during Festival.

## Our Mission

The American Independence Museum promotes awareness, increases understanding and celebrates the freedoms of American Independence so as to recognize the many facets of the founding of our Nation, and to encourage and inspire civic engagement today.



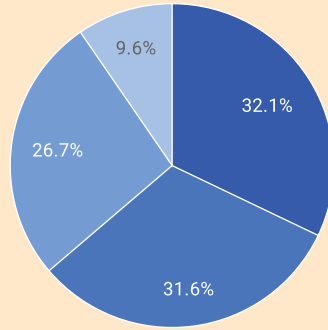
Gilman Bedroom in the Ladd-Gilman House

photo by Jason Baker

## Our Vision

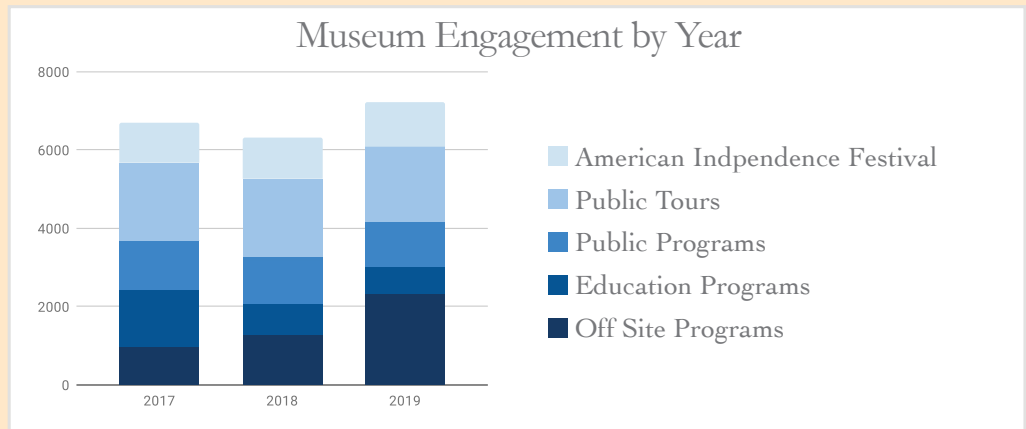
The American Independence Museum will be a premier center for education, study and celebration of events, people, places and ideas that played a role in the struggle for American Independence and the founding of our Nation. History is living, exciting, relevant and fun and should be enjoyed by all.

# Year in Review



2019 Museum Engagement

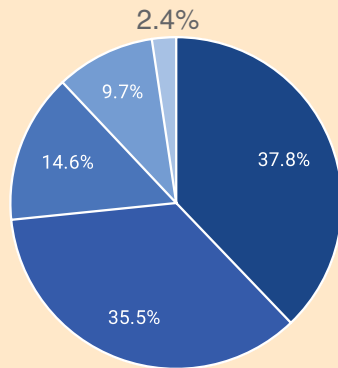
- Off-Site Programs
- Public Programs
- Public Tours
- School Groups



Museum Engagement by Year

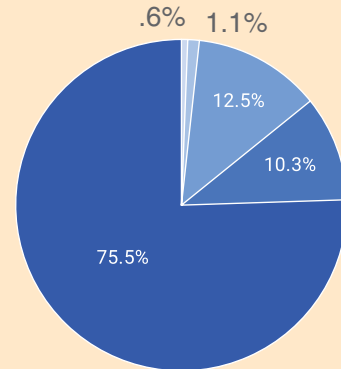
- American Independence Festival
- Public Tours
- Public Programs
- Education Programs
- Off Site Programs

2019 Income by Category



- Foundation & Non-Profit Support
- Individual Support
- Corporate Support
- Endowment
- Programs

2019 Expense by Category



- Museum Operations
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Programs

All numbers are from the museum's most recent fiscal year  
(January 1 - December 31)



# 2019 | Year in Review

## EDUCATION

Our Education department is increasing its reach through off site and lifelong learning programs. The Traveling Trunk continues its travels across the country, reaching over 2,000 students this year, and is fully booked through 2021. Thanks to the support of Service Credit Union, this resource is free for teachers. We launched a new program in conjunction with Exeter High School and the Rockingham County Courts that uses our drafts of the US Constitution as an exploration of the 4th Amendment. We welcomed Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and brought our trunk and colonial craft projects off-site to older adults at the Exeter Housing Authority. Re-envisioned Huzzah! Family Workshops focused on colonial foodways and allowed families a chance to prepare food together. Our reach to students continues to grow, through increased programming designed specifically for homeschool families who are hungry for targeted programming.



Exeter High School students hold a Constitutional Convention in Folsom Tavern to rewrite the 4th amendment, presided by Judge William Delker.

## COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS



Governor Chirs Sununu admires the museum's Dunlap Broadside on view in Concord to celebrate the Bicentennial of the State House.

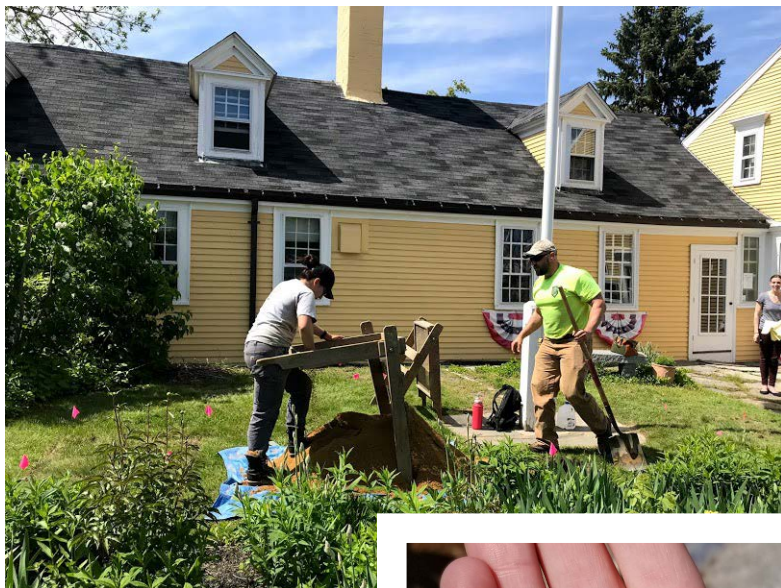
Our seasonal exhibition focused on civic engagement and featured items from the collection of the NH Institute of Politics at St. Anslem's College in Manchester. Exhibits Visioning work continued in the Treasury Room this year, thanks to support from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati.

New hands-on and digital interactives are in the final stages of development and will be launched in select exhibition spaces during the 2020 season. Thanks to generous grant funders, we have four new archival-quality cases for rare and delicate museum objects. Oral history interviews with Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire members continued as we work to capture the current faces and stories of Society members. Most notably, our Dunlap Broadside traveled to the State House in Concord where it was unveiled by the Governor as part of the State House's bicentennial celebration.



Society of the Cincinnati New Hampshire eagle insignia, ca. 1915.





## BUILDING STEWARDSHIP

We kicked off extensive building preservation work, funded by the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and a number of grant funders and private donors. This \$180,000 project addressed drainage around the Ladd-Gilman House through regrading, repointing, drainage systems, and sill restoration. We secured the foundation in a way that will keep moisture out of the basements and help to regulate the climate in the museum. Archaeology was undertaken as part of this work and yielded some interesting finds, such as medicinal bottles from the early 20th century and pre-contact Native American artifacts. A historic hillside retaining wall was rebuilt and the beginnings of a pathway to connect Ladd-Gilman House to Folsom Tavern was built. Work will continue in 2020.





## VISIBILITY

The visibility of the museum continues to grow as we expand our social media presence and increase the number of press releases submitted to local and regional papers. We appeared in local, national and international programs including NEWTV (Newton, MA) Museum Open House segment, a radio interview with BBC Devon, a radio interview with Jack Heath's New Hampshire Today and countless appearances on Exeter's own EXTV station. We have presented to the Great Bay Rotary Club, Exeter Mills and the Pierce Manse in Concord. We continued our work with Rev250, a Boston-based group looking ahead to the 250th anniversary of pivotal moments throughout the Revolutionary War, presented at numerous museum conferences, and visited Anderson House in Washington, DC along with Society of the Cincinnati members. Museum staff visited the Tufts University Museum Education class in the spring and welcomed UNH Museum Studies students in the fall.



Filming the Museum Open House segment at NEWTV in Newton, MA



Senior residents at the Exeter Housing Authority make lavender sachets in an off-site program presented by the museum and Exeter Parks and Recreation.

## PROGRAMS

This year's programmatic theme was civic engagement, a central component of our mission. We partnered with state and local agencies to discuss what it means to be an American and understanding community from a historic perspective. The annual American Independence Festival welcomed thousands of visitors and promoted the museum widely. This year's Festival engaged over 1,100 visitors on museum grounds and raised over \$10,000 for the museum. Our Genealogy Workshop Series, offered in partnership with New England Historic Genealogical Society, has seen increased interest in its second season with attendees coming from Maine, Vermont, and Connecticut. Beer for History expanded to five events this season, featuring different local breweries, and received a multi-year sponsorship from DTC Lawyers. Ghosts of Winter Street Cemetery explored Exeter's Revolutionary residents and was a sold out program. We ended the season with Exeter's "Ring in the Season" events in historic Folsom Tavern.



Colonial holiday teas in Folsom Tavern.



John Taylor Gilman, portrayed by descendant Greg Gilman, reads the Declaration of Independence to a crowd gathered on Water Street during the American Independence Festival.



# The People | Who make it possible

## American Independence Center Trustees

Dr. Hollis Merrick III, *Chairman*

James Benenson III  
David Burnham

Stephen B. Jeffries  
Paul Marcus

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## Board of Governors

Ozzie Ayscue  
*President*

Paul Staller  
*Vice President*

Robert A. Casassa  
*Secretary*

Brian Lortie  
*Treasurer*

Rebecca B. Dunham

Julie D. Gilman

William Jordan

Kathleen Mahoney

Paul Marcus

Diane Devine Mizusawa

Hugh L. Robinson II

Catherine V. Salterio

Terence Waldron

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## Museum Staff

Emma Stratton  
*Executive Director*

Sara Castallez  
*Bookkeeper*

Everett Law  
*Interim Saturday Coordinator*

Rob Levey  
*Marketing & Advancement Consultant*

Sarah Jaworski  
*Interim Education Manager*

Rachel Passannante,  
*Collections Manager & Curator*

Abigail Pietrantonio  
*Education Manager*

Victoria Su  
*Public Programs & Engagement Manager*



Museum staff and intern visit New Hampshire Historical Society for a research trip.

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## Ambassadors

Linda Biagini  
Ronald C. Brown Jr.  
Susan Y. Desjardins  
Rebecca Dillman  
M. Jacqueline Eastwood  
Charles Goss  
Jessica Hammond  
Dave Hobson

Julie LaNigra  
Peter Lennon  
Eric MacDonald  
Sean Mahoney  
Karen McDonnell  
Amy McLaughlin  
Bruce Montville  
Agostinho N. Nunes

Fran Parker  
Renée Plummer  
Russell Prescott, Sr.  
Florence Ruffner  
Sally Brown Russ  
Joseph Taggart  
Charlie Tarbell  
Mike Wilson



# The Volunteers | Who make it happen

Our volunteers are at the heart of our work. They assist with collections, tours, gift shop sales, the American Independence Festival, public programs, mailings and more. Investing countless hours into museum operations, our volunteers are a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for us all. In addition to our governance members and interns, our 2019 volunteers were:



Douglas Aykroyd  
Elizabeth Aykroyd  
Sharon Beals  
Emily Belanger  
Tricia Berger  
Greg Bisson  
Bernadette Blake  
Chuck Blake  
Geoff Brackett  
Don Briselden  
Bill Bringham  
Sally Brown Russ  
Donna Buxton  
Mary Ann Cappiello  
Jennifer Carr  
Bob Carolan  
Anthony J. DelVecchio  
Susan Desjardins

Rebecca Dillman  
Patrick Driscoll  
Beth Dupell  
Dot Fisher  
Sharon Fontaine  
Greg Gilman  
Nick Grey  
Christy Slavik Hamilton  
Konrad Hodgman  
Dana Holleran  
Ella Horvath  
Dawn Jelley  
Bill Jennison  
John Kane  
Mary Ann Kane  
Rebecca Karo  
Peter Lennon  
Lisa Lortie

Jessica Martin  
Gretchen McBride  
Mary McEvoy-Barrett  
Robin Millward  
Bob Mitchell  
Greg Morin  
Peter Morrissey  
Fran Parker  
Sumner Parker  
Kathy Passerini  
Neil Pietrantonio  
Ron Raiselis  
Barbara Rimkunas  
Jennifer Roy  
Darlene P. Santerre  
Pam Schwotzer  
Wendy Stanley Jones  
Penny Stratton

Richard Stratton  
Barrett Su  
Chuck Su  
Charles Tarbell  
Paul Timmerman  
Barbara Tosiano  
Sarah Tremblay  
Janet Tucker  
Bobbi Vandenbulcke  
Dave Vaught  
Sally Watkins  
David Welch  
Mike Welch  
Jennifer Wheeler  
Nancy Wike  
Mike Wilson

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## Interns

Kylee Babcock  
Hannah Deschenes  
Kira Nash  
Sofia Thornblad  
Paul Van Buskirk



Summer interns perform research at Exeter Historical Society.



Winter Interns



# Ongoing Support

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our donors, members and benefactors in 2019. Their gifts support the growth and preservation of the American Independence Museum.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

*Gifts for special initiatives -- from our Master Landscape Plan to our Collections Fund, and more.*

### Ladd-Gilman House Rehabilitation Work

Lewis Family Foundation  
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire  
William W. Treat Foundation

### \$1,500 Governors Lane Steps

Mark Buckles  
Stephen Jeffries  
Hugh and Liz Robinson  
Oliver and Ana Schwab  
Smoot-McDonnell Family  
Michael Studley

### \$1,000 and more

*In memory of Philip J. and  
Janice A. Burne  
Mr. Todd A. Burne*

### Up to \$1,000

Robin and David Millward  
*In memory of Bradbury P. Foss  
Bennett Wethered*



*Gilman Bedroom Photo credit Jason Baker*

## GENERAL OPERATIONS

*Support of general operations through membership and gifts to our 1776 Annual Fund*

### \$5,000 or more

Randall Hammond and Andy Thomas  
Dan and Linda Jones

### Lt. Col. Henry Dearborn- \$2,500 - \$5,000

Ozzie Ayscue and Kathleen Mahoney  
Susan Desjardins and Peter Lennon  
Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Merrick III

### Capt. Ebenezer Sullivan- \$1,000 - \$2,449

David Burnham  
M. Jacqueline Eastwood and  
Michael E. McClurken  
Roger and Patricia Hindman  
Sean Mahoney  
John and Catherine V. Salterio  
Paul Staller and Deidre O'Byrne  
Julie and Joel Williams  
Franklin Wyman III

### Col. Joseph Cilley- \$500 - \$999

Douglas and Evelyn Chamberlain  
Alexander Gaston  
Thomas Hagen  
Bill Jennison  
Paul Marcus and Moying Li  
Alfred L. Shapleigh III  
Joseph and Wendy Taggart  
Roger and Vail Tyler  
Mr. Sam Smoot and  
Ms. Karen McDonnell  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Studley  
Roger B. and Vail C. Tyler



*Preservation partners in front of the restored stone wall at Ladd-Gilman House.*



## **Capt. Jonathan Cass- \$250 - \$499**

Don and Mary Jo Briselden  
Sally Crawford and Peter Wells  
Robert A. Casassa and Sara McCarthy  
Casassa  
Dr. Louis F. Clarizio  
Bob Davidson  
N. William Delker and Annmarie Timmins  
Donald Denning, Jr.  
William and Rebecca Dunham  
Eaton Vance  
David and Barbara Fittro  
David Ford, Sr.  
Bill and Ivy Fredericks  
Peter and Roberta Garrison  
Chuck Goss  
John A. Grieco, Jr. / The Making of  
America  
William Greer and Margaret Jewett  
Nathan and Helen Hazen  
Frederick and Diane Kollmorgen  
Peter Ladd  
Brian and Lisa Lortie  
Phillip Lovejoy  
Christopher Matteson  
Ben and Amy McLaughlin  
Frances and Sumner Parker  
Samuel D. Perry  
Justin Porter  
Rudolph Rauch III  
Michael Rounds  
Richard Spain  
Gerry Weidema and Joseph Simeone  
Eric Whittall and Marybeth Marx  
Douglas Wood  
William Wood

## **Revolutionary \$125 - \$249**

Justin Abelow  
LTC Douglas Aykroyd and Elizabeth  
Aykroyd  
Richard Batchelder  
J.D. Bernardy  
Jonathan Bitting  
Peter W. Boardman  
Marc and Janet Bono  
Edward and Cindy Bush  
Edward and Virginia Carmody  
Thomas Crosby Chadwick  
Douglas Chalmers, Jr.  
Wayne Chatfield-Taylor II  
Jonathan and Lori Cilley  
Edward Cochrane, Jr.  
Dan and Anita Conlin  
Heidi Dunham  
Jason Faria  
Henry Ferrell III and Gwendolyn English  
Allison Field  
Elizabeth Field  
Folsom Family Association

John Frye III  
Alexander Gagnet  
Mark and Cathy Gilman  
Edward Guild, Jr.  
Sally Hollaman  
Sean Heuvel  
Stephen Isaacson  
Wendy Stanley Jones  
William Jordan  
John and MaryAnn Kane  
Mark Kington  
Helen and Richard Kruppa  
Frederic Little  
Warren Little  
Edward Lloyd  
Dr. Susan Reid MacLennan and  
Douglas A. MacLennan  
Rev. Brian Marsh  
Gretchen McBride  
Christopher McClary  
Sean McCoy  
Willis Merrill, Jr.  
Diane Devine Mizusawa  
Michael and Gloria Morison  
John Munkhoff  
Robert Naud  
Frederick Ordway, IV  
Christopher Peabody  
William Ford Peck  
Thomas Pike, Jr.  
Martin and Pamela Poulin  
John Powers  
Erskine Ramsay II  
Grahame Richards, Jr.

Michael Rounds  
Edward Rutledge  
Richard Sage  
Doug and Stella Scamman  
William Spalding  
Robert and Susan Spofford  
Charles Stebbins  
Richard and Penelope Stratton  
Alexis Studley  
Lois Swick  
David Vaught and Anita Kydd  
Michael and Diane Veprauskas  
William Weeks  
Brian White  
Arthur Whitcomb  
Edward Woods, Jr.  
Capt. Richard T. Wright, USN (Ret)  
Chris and Jolie Yonker

## **Up to \$125**

Anonymous  
Peg and Rich Aaronian  
J. Aubry  
Paul and Mary Avery  
Kristin Bahny  
Brenda Baker and Steve Baum  
William Bartlett

Kevin Baum and  
Alyson Eberhardt  
Jennifer Bazell  
Len and Rita Benjamin  
Marja Bergsman van der Linden  
Joe Berwanger  
David and Barbara Bohn  
Karen Boodey  
Phillip and Cynthia Boyle  
Bozenski Family  
Karl Brommer and  
Constance Kuzmier  
Sarah Brown Russ  
William Callahan  
William and Anne Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C.  
Child  
Stephen Connelly  
Nancy County  
Richard Cutter  
Dana Davis  
Rebecca Dillman  
David Dominianni  
Cindy Domwiguez  
Peter and Susan Dow  
Jenny Duncan  
David Eaton  
Bob Ekey  
James Ekstrom  
Judith Farrell  
Chris Farrell  
Dot Fisher  
Silvana Frappier  
Jeffrey Garstka  
James and Donna-Belle Garvin  
Michael Gatto  
Steve and Deborah Geiger  
Quentin Gilman  
Tom and Tamara Grant  
Stephen Green  
Kathy Growney  
David and Hedy Hall  
Harry and Margaret Hampton  
Terrie Harman  
John and Leslie Haslam  
Charlie Hawes  
Andrew Hertig  
Jeffrey Hill  
Heather Hills  
Ruth Hooten  
Lawrence Howard and  
Edith Howard  
Albert Howes  
Rebecca Howland  
Stan and Irina Hultin  
Brian & Heather Inyart  
Dawn Jelley  
Dorothea and David Jensen  
Russ and Ellen Kelly  
Lesley Kimball  
Kandace Knowtoon



## Up to \$125

Mary Kremer  
Mark Lavoie  
Paul Lynskey  
Steven Machala  
Rick and Linda Mahoney  
Philip Mallinson  
Patricia Mann  
Edda and Sandy Martin  
Tammy Medanich  
April Melo  
John Menefee  
Robin and David Millward  
James Moore  
Joseph and Nancy Mulqueen  
Jeremy and Heather Nadeau  
Sherri Nixon  
Frederick Ordway  
Lt. Col. Scott Papp and  
Ms. Joy Papp

Michael and Patricia  
Passannante  
Kathy Passerini  
Thomas and Alice Pickering  
John Pierce  
Rob Pratt  
Maureen Quilliam  
Mary Remensnyder  
Judith and Ed Rowan  
Bradford Rowell  
Susan Scannell and Kevin Fleming  
Pamela Schwotzer  
Herb and Ann Sears  
Brian Smalley  
Jean Smith  
Stacy Smith  
Rick Smurdon  
Richard Smurdon, Jr.  
Donald Spalding  
Jim and Barbara Stratton

Patricia and Charlie Thayer  
Jo Ellen Thomas  
Jeff and Corky Thomson  
Paul Timmerman  
Barbara Tosiano  
Mike Toth  
John Trever IV  
Janet Tucker  
Bruce and Penny Turner  
Terence Waldron  
Paula Walsh  
Lowry Watkins  
Bruce Webb  
John Weeks, Jr.  
David Welch and  
Sharon Beals  
Bennett Wethered  
Brian D. White  
Mary Willis  
Laurie and Anthony Zwaan

# 2019 | Business Partners

## \$10,000

Service Credit Union

## \$5,000

Newburyport Savings Bank

## \$2,500 - \$5,000

Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC  
Chinburg Builders, Inc.  
RiverWoods Exeter  
Exeter Hospital  
Foy Insurance Group

## \$1,500

People's United Bank  
Ruffner Real Estate

## \$1,000

Terrie Harman, Attorney at Law

## \$500 - \$999

Historic Motor Sports  
Karin Behrens-Bouvier - Edward Jones  
Investments  
Kennebunk Savings  
Mitchell and Monti International, LLC  
The Provident Bank

## \$250

First Seacoast Bank  
Proulx Oil and Propane Service



Service Credit Union presents their gift of support to the museum for the Traveling Trunk.



Newburyport Bank was the presenting sponsor of the American Independence Festival.



# 2019 | Foundations & Non-Profits

## \$25,000 or more

Society of the Cincinnati in the State  
of New Hampshire  
Vesper Foundation

## \$10,000 - \$25,000

Eventide Foundation  
Massachusetts Society of the  
Cincinnati

## \$1,000 - \$9,999

Bauman Family Foundation  
Cogswell Benevolent Trust  
MacDonald Family Foundation  
New Hampshire State Council  
on the Arts  
William W. Treat  
Foundation

## Under \$1,000

Exeter Chapter DAR  
Exeter Rotary Club  
New Hampshire  
Humanities Council

## Library Members

Chester Public Library  
Durham Public Library  
East Kingston Library  
Exeter Public Library  
George Holmes Bixby Memorial  
Public Library  
Griffin Free Public Library  
Hampton Falls Free Library  
Kelley Library  
Wiggin Memorial Library



We greatly appreciate all supporters of the museum and we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify us of any inaccuracies or omissions by e-mailing [peter@independencemuseum.org](mailto:peter@independencemuseum.org). The museum regrets any errors.

# 2019 | In-Kind Support

2 River Road Inn and Cottages  
Ozzie Ayscue and  
Kathleen Mahoney  
Bad Lab Beer Co.  
The Bungalow Club  
Cisco Brewery  
The Exeter Inn  
Exeter Parks and Recreation  
Tom Heinsohn

Inn by the Bandstand  
Julie LaNigra  
Eric and Deanna MacDonald  
NH Boat Museum  
NH Made  
New England Historic  
Genealogical Society  
Catherine and John Salterio  
Sea Dog Brewing

Joe and Sue Stagnone  
Penny Stratton  
Throwback Brewery  
Tilton Brothers Brewing  
Trapp Family Lodge  
von Trapp Brewing  
Terence Waldron  
Sally Watkins  
Mike Wilson



Festival volunteers



Sponsor, brewers and museum staff celebrate the 2019 season of Beer for History outside Folsom Tavern. Photo by Paul Royal / Art & Science Photography.



# 2019 | By the Numbers

## PROGRAMS

**25,986**

**number of miles**

(round trip)  
traveled by both  
Traveling Trunks



**1,150**

guests who visited the  
museum during the  
American Independence  
Festival

**282**

veterans, active military  
and families members who  
visited the museum for free

**188**

guests brought Folsom  
Tavern to life during our fall  
Beer for History Series

**11**

colonial Exeter residents  
and 1 Victorian spiritualist  
highlighted during Ghosts  
of Folsom Tavern & Winter  
Street Cemetery program

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**911**

up 167%



**3,443**

up 9%



**846**

up 13%

## VISIBILITY

**19,393**

website visitors

**57**

press releases  
distributed

**2**

radio show  
features

## OPERATIONS

**4**

new volunteer docents

**3**

new Ambassadors

**2**

graduate student  
winter interns

## COLLECTIONS

**3,208**

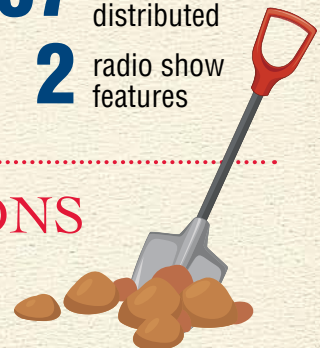
items found in  
archaeological dig

**3,000**

people viewed our Dunlap Broadside  
while on loan at the State House

**4**

new high-quality display cases added  
to exhibition spaces



## FINANCIAL

**\$105,000**

raised for LCHIP grant match

**222**

first time donors

**220**

active members



One Governors Lane, Exeter, NH 03833  
603.772.2622 • [info@independencemuseum.org](mailto:info@independencemuseum.org)  
[www.independencemuseum.org](http://www.independencemuseum.org)