

frhs

FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report
FY2017-2018

On the cover: Robert Knight Remington residence, 1870s, corner of Rock and Maple Streets.
Now the home of the Fall River Historical Society Museum.

Sincere thanks to the following for donating professional services that made it possible to produce this report.
Design: Stefani Koorey. Photography: Bill & Sue Crombie, Swan Imaging; Dean Diogo Photography; Ewing Galloway Photographic Illustrations; First United Church of Waterloo; HERITAGE Auctions; Stefani Koorey; Liz Waring, Waring Portrait Art.

GRANITE, GRIT, AND GRACE 14

AN EXPLORATION OF THE FASCINATING SIDE STREETS
OF FALL RIVER'S HISTORY

WILLIAM A. MONIZ



REPORTS

This Annual Report highlights many exciting and successful programs and illustrates how the FRHS remains focused on its primary goal of preserving the history of the city, while continuing to serve the community as a center for historical, educational, and cultural events.

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OUR TEAM

Due to the efforts of many people – volunteers, directors, and staff – the museum remains increasingly visible in the community, and is an important historical and cultural resource. This serves to make new audiences aware of the organization and its work.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends:

This Annual Report highlights many exciting and successful programs and illustrates how the Fall River Historical Society (FRHS) remains focused on its primary goal of preserving the history of the city, while continuing to serve the community as a center for historical, educational, and cultural events.

As is detailed in this report, the museum and archival collections have been enhanced over the past year through the acquisition of important material in various collecting categories. Great progress has been made in their cataloguing, thereby making them more easily available to the public.

The FRHS to date has accomplished much on very little income. As we approach the organization's 100th Anniversary, our ability to

enlarge and preserve the extensive collections, and provide a changing audience with the enriching experience they deserve, will require the museum to have financial stability – something that it is seriously lacking today. The challenge is great, but has to be confronted head-on.

We have now formed a committee that is in the early stages of forming a larger, stronger group to address building an endowment of sufficient size to sustain the museum in the future. We will certainly keep you informed of our progress. As an initial step, we hope to substantially increase the amount of last year's Annual Appeal.

With this Annual Report, I hope that you, the members and loyal supporters of this institution, will be proud of the accomplishments your historical society museum has

achieved, but also that you will more fully understand the challenges we face.

Enclosed with this report is our FY2018-2019 Annual Appeal form; the appeal provides unrestricted funds to augment income for operating expenses. Raising funds now to meet challenges across all areas of our operations is an urgent goal.

Your support of the Annual Appeal is more important than ever.

It is my hope that after reading this report you will share in our enthusiasm, engage with us as we confront the challenges ahead, and help to ensure the future of the FRHS with your financial support.



Jay J. Lambert
President

FROM THE CURATOR



96TH ANNUAL MEETING

The past fiscal year was a very productive one for the FRHS, with many positives on several levels. Due to the efforts of many people – volunteers, directors, and staff – the museum remains increasingly visible in the community, and is an important historical and cultural resource. This serves to make new audiences aware of the organization and its work.

The goal of this increased public awareness is to target and engage an ever-expanding audience and thus is a vital marketing and financial tool. Ideally, these efforts will result in new memberships, contributions, and museum shop sales, all of which are necessary for positive growth and a more sustainable future.

The FRHS strives to maintain its position as an important cultural resource in the greater Fall River area by offering a wide range of public events for adults and children, among them: lectures on history, on-site and on-line exhibits, concerts, theatrical performances, book signings, and holiday-themed events. The concept is to bring innovative cultural programming, on a level seen in larger cities, to a Fall River and greater Fall River audience. Indeed, the FRHS has emerged as a leading provider of cultural events for the community.

Membership in the organization is on the increase and, as of year-end, there were 845 members: 131 individuals hold life memberships, and 714 are annual dues paying members. This figure represents a growth in membership of 9% since September 2016.

The Annual Appeal is an extremely important finan-

cial resource, and is absolutely necessary to ensure that the organization continues to function, with all funds raised providing unrestricted operating support. During the FY2017-18 Annual Appeal, a total of \$40,285 was contributed by 254 members. However, income and donor support has not kept pace with annual operating costs, which continue to rise despite stringent cuts in all areas. If the FRHS is to remain operating at its current level, Annual Appeal revenue – indeed, all revenue – must be increased.

Museum Shop sales are also an important source of income. The shop is at its busiest during the holiday season and the FRHS has built a loyal customer base. In fact, it is the proceeds from sales generated during Christmas that sustains the organization through the winter months.

The FRHS endeavors to fund as much as possible through grants and donations as it is impossible to engage in any projects outside general day-to-day operations without specifically designated contributions. Learn about several recently awarded grants in GRANT FUNDING on page eleven.

Another method of raising funds was a trip abroad. In September 2017, and as part of our *Grand Tour Travel Program*, a group organized by the FRHS travelled to Sicily with Alan Amaral of Italian Wine Services. The island features magnificent scenery, a fascinating history, and delicious cuisine – a good time was had by all. *Grand Tour Travel* features travel opportunities with profes-

845

MEMBERS AS OF THIS REPORT

131

LIFE MEMBERS

714

ANNUAL DUES PAYING MEMBERS

sional guides, FRHS personnel, and like-minded people with similar interests.

In our continuous endeavors to engage the online community (see page 10), several additions to the FRHS website were designed and implemented.

The website was enhanced with a new online exhibit:

When the Circus Came to Town documents the history of the circus in the city of Fall River. Based on a lecture of the same name by noted circus historian Robert Kitchen, who also narrated the video, it is profusely illustrated with rare photographic images, contemporaneous to the period covered.

Black History Month 2018 was recognized with two on-line exhibits:

Black Service Workers on the Old Fall River Line, celebrates the strength and character of steamship company service workers, without whom the “Glory That Was” of the Old Fall River Line would not have been possible. The exhibit includes photographs, ephemera, and rare manuscripts from the FRHS collections.

And a second exhibit:

Anti-Slavery Days in Fall River and the Operation of the Underground Railroad, based on a manuscript by Edward S. Adams (1856-1948), whose family was actively involved in the anti-slavery movement.

In addition, four new feature sections were designed for the website: *Recent Acquisitions*; the *Florence Cook Brigham Award*; the *Fall River Historical Society Press*; and a blog, *From the Curator*.

Recent Acquisitions highlights material in various collecting categories acquired by the museum, including a narrative about each piece and detailed provenance. This serves to provide information about the scope of the ever-growing collections, and the manner in which pieces are acquired.

The Florence Cook Brigham Award provides contextual information about the award and its namesake, our beloved third curator and noted Fall River historian. Also included is biographical information and photographs of each of the recipients, who are recognized for their outstanding service to the FRHS or the greater Fall River community through (or in areas of) historic preservation, the arts, published works, and/or volunteerism. See page 27.

The Fall River Historical Society Press highlights the various publications produced by the FRHS and offers visitors the ability to purchase books via the website. See: A MAJOR ESTABLISHMENT on page 14 for information about this important venture.

From the Curator, is a blog designed to provide public awareness by keeping visitors informed about all aspects of the museum and its work; the FRHS is a living, breathing entity, and the intent is to showcase it.

Feedback thus far has been very encouraging, with a positive number of unique users – that is, different individuals – visiting and reading content written in a chatty, informal manner.

The FRHS collections contain important material representative of the city’s diverse multi-cultural community; it is imperative that these artifacts be properly interpreted via exhibitions and publications, and made available for research purposes. Fall River history, as represented in the FRHS holdings, is *inclusive*, not *exclusive* and the museum strives to preserve the rich and diverse tapestry of all the people of Fall River.

As such, the FRHS is continuously working to document various aspects of the city’s history. During the past fiscal year, this included the inception of an oral history project documenting the story of the *R. A. McWhirr Company*, Fall River’s iconic department store that closed in 1975. The intent is to mount on-site and on-line exhibitions, and publish a companion book, illustrated with artifacts and photographs from the FRHS’s extensive collection, and those held in private collections.

The diverse collections of the FRHS continue to grow

in all categories, thanks to the generosity of various donors, and significant items were added to the collections during the year. Read about several recently donated items in COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS on page twelve.

It was previously necessary to rely on donations as the only means of enlarging the FRHS collections, due to the lack of an acquisitions fund; as a result, historically significant or culturally important items were often lost to the museum.

By utilizing other avenues for making acquisitions, the FRHS has secured funds through various individuals and philanthropic trusts to purchase items for the collection, and has established a small acquisition fund, consisting of monies donated and restricted for the purpose of enlarging museum holdings.

As a result, the organization was able to acquire, among several other items:

A diminutive, oil-on-panel landscape, *Autumn at Medway*, painted in 1885 by Robert Spear Dunning (1829-1905); consigned to auction from a private collection, the painting survived in untouched condition, housed in its original gilt frame.

Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation.

Isabella, or the Pot of Basil is a gem-like study by Fall River native Mary Lizzie Macomber (1861-1916), done in 1908 when the artist was conceptualizing the final version of her painting of the same name; the finished work hangs in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The first Macomber to enter the FRHS collections, it was acquired from a dealer in London, England, who purchased it at a Connecticut auction sale in the early 1990s.

Donors to the Acquisition Fund.

Isle of Man, a 1912 landscape painted by the noted Fall River artist Bryant Chapin (1859-1927) during a trip to the British Isles. The museum collection also contains two additional landscape paintings from Chapin’s 1912 *Isle of Man* series.

In Memory of William F. Nuttall (1935- 2017).

The FRHS maintains the largest collection extant of

photographic material pertaining to Fall River, with images dating from the dawn of the medium. Several 20th century images were acquired including:

A group of production photos, Firestone Industrial Products, Division of Firestone Tire & Rubber Company, Fall River, Massachusetts, 1950.

Donors to the Acquisition Fund.

A set of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Theatre Photograph and Report Cards, 1941; surprisingly rare, they are mounted with snap-shot images of Fall River theatres.

Donors to the Acquisition Fund.

The FRHS is both an historic house museum and a local history museum, and it is imperative that the organization strike a balance between period room settings and exhibits pertaining to the history of the city and its multi-cultural people. This is not an easy proposition: One must be sympathetic to the remarkably well-preserved interior of the building, at the same time presenting various displays in more gallery-like settings.

In order to achieve this, exhibition areas must be re-designed to meet the changing needs of the collections and audience; it is crucial that the FRHS obtain the funds to pursue this endeavor. Plans are to start with the second floor of the museum building.

For example: The design phase is underway for an exhibit documenting the history of the most iconic 19th century structure still standing in the city - BMC Durfee High School.

The small west room on the second floor of the museum building has been prepared for installation of this exhibit, with all work thus far being grant funded. Before the exhibit can be installed, funds must be secured for design and fabrication of an interpretative wall-mounted display panel, and a display case specifically designed for the area.

Plans are also underway to convert the small east room into a gallery for the presentation of "mini exhibits" that can be changed frequently. The space is ideally suited for this purpose.

A minor amount of construction will be required, including the installation of a wall panel intended to cover a door, thus providing the necessary wall space for ex-

hibit purposes. This is a prime example of the steps necessary to remain sympathetic to the historical integrity of the structure; the panel will visually remove the door and will blend in with the existing wall, yet can easily be dismantled without any adverse effect if the area is interpreted in a different manner in the future.

A flat screen will be installed, allowing for the presentation of brief, narrative, and interactive videos pertaining to the exhibits on display. For example: An exhibition about the disastrous 1928 Fire that ravaged the heart of the city could be accompanied by rare film footage of the conflagration and its aftermath, which is contained in the FRHS collections.

The need for a gallery of this type is great and the possibilities are limitless, yet the sum required to implement it is not particularly large. Still, it is necessary to secure funding for this area as it is impossible to bring it to fruition otherwise.

The holiday season continues to be the busiest time of the year at the FRHS, and, during a six-week period in 2017, several thousand people visited the museum, tea-room, and shop. Indeed, *Deck the Halls!* has emerged as one of the premier historic house museum holiday displays in Southeastern Massachusetts.

The building looks its best during the Christmas season, resplendent in holiday finery, and visiting at that time of year has become a time-honored multi-generational tradition with many people in the greater Fall River area. Press coverage in all forms of media was excellent, including broadcasting on the award-winning television show *Chronicle*, after which there is always a significant spike in visitors.

As we have seen, the past fiscal year garnered a great many positives. The FRHS has forged a remarkable list of achievements on a variety of levels, has amassed one of the most impressive historical society museum and archival collections in the region, and is a model of what historic preservation is, and should be.

This is an extraordinary feat; one need only look at the financial report to realize that these accomplishments have been attained despite a nearly crippling lack of revenue.

Surprisingly, the FRHS's impressive building and collections, the level at which they are maintained, and the high-quality programming offered by the museum have

proved a double-edged-sword, creating the illusion of wealth and financial security.

But the exact opposite is the case.

The paradigm in which the FRHS currently operates is one of great financial need; it is a constant struggle to secure the funds to remain open to the public and a viable historical and cultural resource for the community.

The harsh reality of the situation is that the organization is in a precarious financial state due to the lack of a sufficient endowment to support the museum and secure its future.

This is not sustainable, nor is it the result of fiduciary negligence.

In fact, never in its long history has the FRHS ever undertaken a concerted effort to build a financial endowment sufficient for its needs.

As the FRHS approaches the centennial of its 1921 founding in 2021, it is imperative – indeed, critical – that an endowment be established to ensure the survival of the museum.

Ours is an organization that has accomplished a great deal on very little – the possibilities for the future are endless.

The nemesis: a lack of financial security.

Despite its long-held position as a Fall River landmark, the FRHS – the oldest and most esteemed historical institution in the city – is in a precarious financial state. One need only look at the closing of the venerable Adams House to realize that nothing can be taken for granted. That which seems invulnerable exists, in reality, on an unstable footing: For the FRHS, the wolves are at the gates; the future must be secured.

It is my fervent hope that the FRHS can continue to operate at its current level while building and securing a new-future for the museum.



Michael Martins
Curator



**OURS IS AN
ORGANIZATION
THAT HAS**

**ACCOMPLISHED
A GREAT DEAL
ON VERY LITTLE**

**– THE
POSSIBILITIES
FOR THE
FUTURE ARE
ENDLESS.**

**THE NEMESIS: A
LACK OF FINANCIAL
SECURITY.**



FRHS ONLINE

10

1,748,899

VISITS TO FALLRIVERHISTORICAL.ORG SINCE REDESIGN

467,078

VISITS IN THE PAST 365 DAYS

8,982

VISITS AVERAGE PER WEEK

1,283

VISITS AVERAGE PER DAY

GRANT FUNDING

A grant request of \$52,700 from **City of Fall River Community Preservation Committee** was fully awarded. The funds will allow for the much-needed exterior refurbishment of the entire east wing of the museum building, including restoration and/or re-fabrication of all wood architectural components; conservation of the original slate on the Mansard roof, and painting in a period-appropriate color scheme. This work will be accomplished during FY2018-2019.

The Earle P. Charlton Jr. Charity Fund awarded a grant of \$50,000, providing funds for the expansion of the library and archive into the west room on the basement level, which was completely redesigned; the room measures 10' x 56'. To ensure a proper environment for sensitive archival materials, the climate-control equipment installed in the area was allowed to operate for one year before the room was utilized.

In February 2018, the FRHS was able to begin safely using the area; nineteen shelving units totaling 270 linear feet were installed. Thus began the lengthy process of shelving material from the extensive collections of business records, including the largest collection of Fall River textile industry related material extant, totaling several thousand volumes. Much of this material was previously relegated to storage due to lack of space.

A grant of \$10,000 was awarded by the **Thomas A. Rodgers Jr. Family Foundation** for interior work on the first and second floors of the east wing of the museum building, repairing damaged caused by a

previous roof leak; the roof had since been replaced, also grant funded. In addition, two galleries on the second floor were repainted.

The Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation awarded \$2,000 to assist in underwriting FRHS events.

An extremely generous grant of \$100,000 from an **Anonymous Donor** provided funds for considerable work with museum collections, buildings, and grounds; several safety issues were also addressed. Funds were directed toward various much-needed repairs, projects, and general operating expenses.

Among the undertakings: The installation of an asphalt driveway, replacing the difficult-to-traverse gravel; resetting in concrete several large areas of uneven bluestone walkways; upgrading electrical and IT equipment; the conservation of several items in the museum collection; and funding a membership subscription in SAILS Library Network.

The impact of this donor's generosity cannot be overstated: None of these undertakings would have been possible without the aid of this funding.

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

The Adams House donated a selection of porcelain painted by the Fall River artist and educator, Harriet “Hattie” Bence Silvia (1878-1971). The artist was a noted china painter and a first-generation descendent of the first Azorean family to settle in Fall River. [1]

A still-life painting of fruit by the little-known Fall River artist Nellie Smith (Hathaway) Strobridge (1860-1947), circa 1890; a student of Robert Spear Dunning (1829-1905), her work is extremely rare. The painting was donated by Elizabeth Wells Denning, a FRHS member, supporter, former director, and past president. [2]

An 1859 Springfield percussion rifle, presented to Hon. Edward Purington Buffinton (1814-1871), a former Fall River mayor, on August 1, 1865, “as a token of respect.” The rifle directly descended in his family and was presented to the museum by long-time FRHS member Mabel Hathaway. [3]

An 1891 still-life painting of fruit by Robert Spear Dunning (1829-1905), the founder of the Fall River School; the artist is recognized as one of the country’s leading still-life painters of the period. This was acquired at auction by Bernard A.G. and Martha Mullen Taradash, FRHS members and benefactors, specifically for donation to the museum. [4]

RARE BORDEN FAMILY DOCUMENTS

The FRHS maintains a unique position at the forefront of acquiring and exhibiting material pertaining to the Borden case and the life of Lizzie A. Borden (1860-1927), and is recognized, world-wide, as the central repository for artifacts pertaining to this sensitive subject. It is, therefore, imperative that the society increase its holdings by continuing to uncover and secure the most significant material extant.

During the last fiscal year, two highly-important Borden related documents were acquired:

A power of attorney document signed by Lizzie A. Borden on August 12, 1892, eight days after the horrific event that garnered her place in history, granting her sister, Emma Lenora Borden (1851-1927), permission to act on her behalf in all financial matters. [5]

This is, undoubtedly, the most important Borden document to have appeared in the market in recent years.

The second manuscript, also a power of attorney, signed by Emma L. Borden in 1917, granted her lawyer, Andrew Jackson Jennings (1849-1923), permission to act on her behalf in all matters. [6]

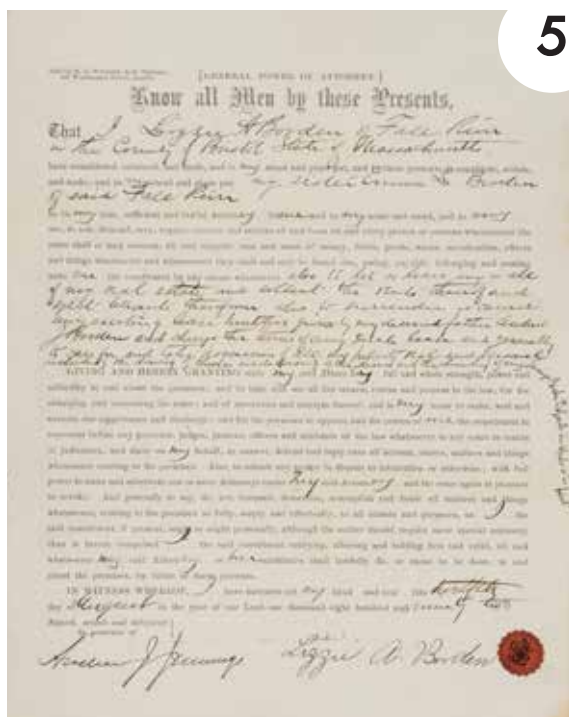
The documents were purchased at auction for donation to the museum by Cara Warschaw Robinson, a FRHS member and benefactor, and join other important Borden-related material gifted by this donor.



1



2



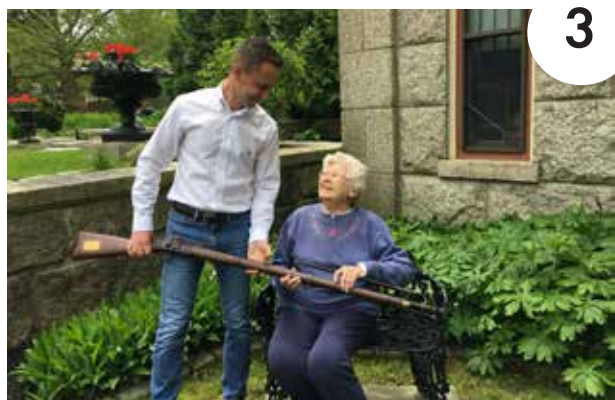
5



6



4



3

A MAJOR ESTABLISHMENT

Fall River Historical Society Press

14

“Providing the reader with compelling, informative works ... and great reads!”

A major introduction during the last fiscal year was the establishment of the *Fall River Historical Society Press*, dedicated to advancing the knowledge of the history of Fall River, its multicultural people, and its environs through the publication of original works, previously unpublished manuscripts, or reprints of out-of-print titles.

This venture has the potential of becoming a significant source of revenue for the FRHS as the proceeds from the sale of all publications directly benefit the museum. Results, thus far, have been very positive.

During FY2017-2018, three books were published and all have sold well:

Women at Work: An Oral History of Working-Class Women in Fall River, Massachusetts, 1920-1970, Dennis A. Binette, Michael Martins, & Joyce B. Rodrigues, Editors. This is the companion book for the Massachusetts Humanities-funded online exhibit of the same name, celebrating the lives of Fall River women employed in the city’s textile and garment industry.

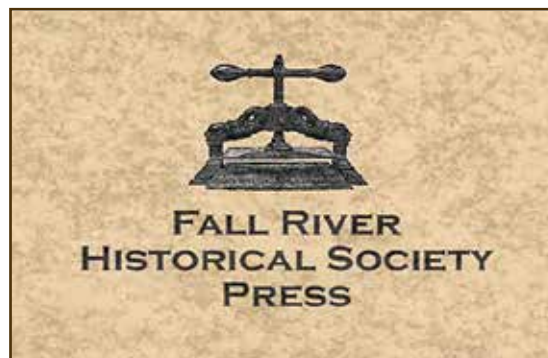
Anti-Slavery Days in Fall River and the Operation of the Underground Railroad, by Edward Stowe Adams (1856-1948), was originally presented as an historical address to members of the FRHS in

1938. The book is an expanded version of Adams’ previously unpublished manuscript, and is the first volume in the *Discourses on History* series, based on rare, previously unpublished manuscripts in the FRHS collections.

Granite, Grit, and Grace: An Exploration of the Fascinating Side Streets of Fall River’s History, by William A. Moniz, is a brilliant collection of articles on various aspects of Fall River history, profusely illustrated with images from the FRHS and private collections.

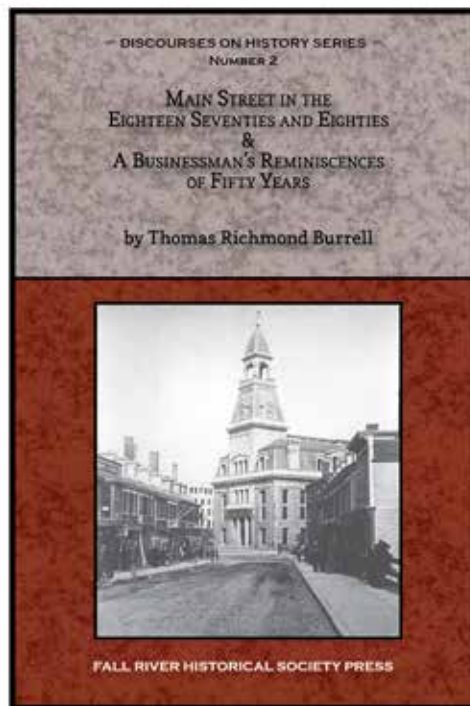
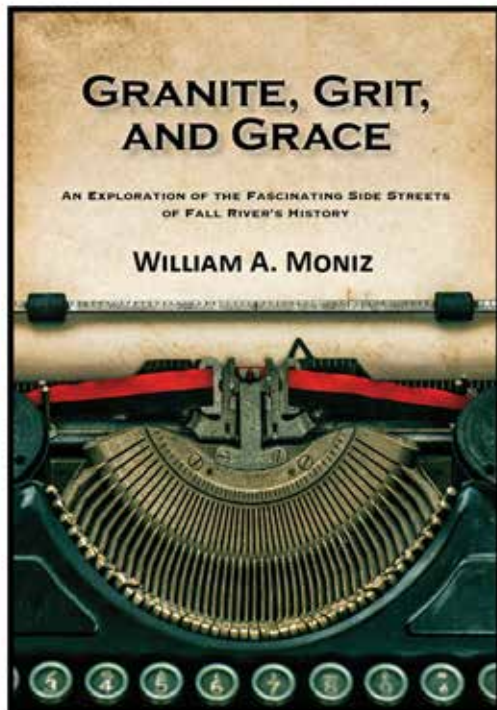
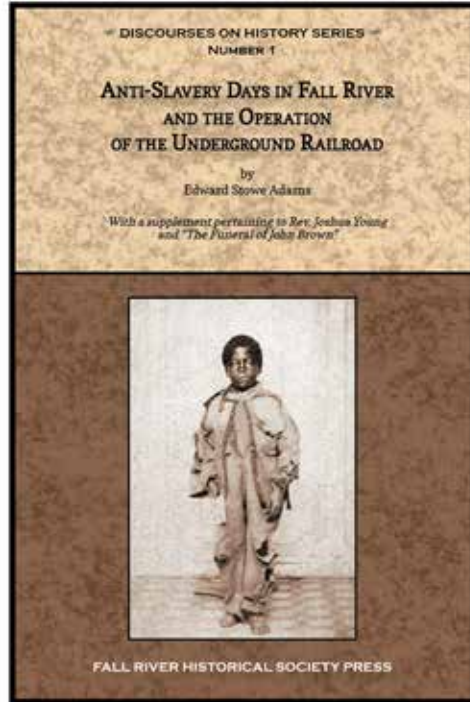
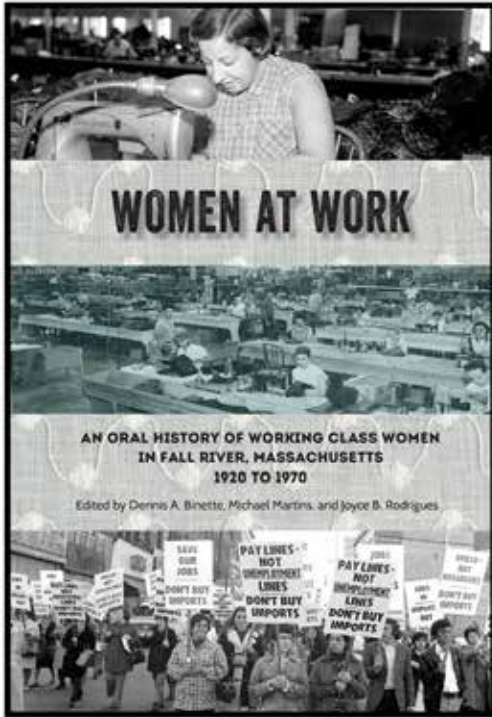
Bill, a FRHS board member who heads the press, very generously donated his copyright to the work, thus all proceeds generated from its sale benefit the organization.

As of this writing, an additional volume is in production:



Main Street in the 1870s and 1880s and A Businessman’s Reminiscences of Fifty Years, by Thomas Richmond Burrell (1861-1953). Originally presented as historical addresses to members of the FRHS in 1936 and 1933, respectively, this book is an expanded version of Burrell’s previously unpublished manuscripts. The author vividly recounts his memories of downtown Fall River in its heyday by conjuring up “a flood of memories ... out of the distant past ... about those persons who carried on business” in the center of the city’s thriving business district.

It is being released as Volume II in the *Discourses on History* series.





PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



THE ARTS

Shakespeare in the Park:

The Henriad

Two performances presented by
Striving Artists Theatre Company

Saturday Evening Serenades Concert Series:

The Nightlife Orchestra
Monica Ambroziak
Jumpin' Juba
The Morons Band

BOOK SIGNINGS

Women at Work: An Oral History of Working Class Women in Fall River, Massachusetts, 1920-1970.

Dennis A. Binette, Michael Martins, Joyce B. Rodrigues,
Editors

Murder, Manslaughter, and Mayhem on the SouthCoast

Volume One: 1800 to 1969

John B. Cummings Jr. with Stefani Koorey, Ph.D.

Point Road

Michael Thomas Brimbau

Granite, Grit, and Grace: An Exploration of the Fascinating Side Streets of Fall River's History

William A. Moniz

EXHIBITS

Anti-Slavery Days in Fall River and the Operation of the Underground Railroad

Black Service Workers on the Old Fall River Line

Echoes of Lizzie: A Special Exhibition and Tour

When the Circus Came to Town

FOOD AND TRAVEL

Grand Tour Travel Program:

The Splendors of Eastern Sicily: Taormina, Siracusa, Ortygia, Noto, Mt. Etna, Catania, Messina, Savoca, and Forza d'Agro.

Bi-Annual Clamboil

GRIMSHAW-GUDEWICZ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

In the Good Old Summertime

Robert Kitchen

After the Great Lajoie: Fall River's Professional Baseballists from 1879 to World War II

Philip T. Silvia Jr., Ph.D.

The Quasiquicentennial of the Borden Murders

Stefani Koorey, Ph.D.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Deck the Halls! Annual Open House

Palette Pictures IX: An Exhibition and Sale of Donated Works by Regional Artists

Tea with Mrs. Claus

A Visit with Santa

Members' Open House

Meet and Greet Santa and Mrs. Claus

OTHER EVENTS

Members' Annual Meeting

FRHS Annual Volunteer Luncheon

The Second Annual Florence Cook Brigham Awards Dinner

OPTIONS FOR GIVING

All donations to the Fall River Historical Society, a 501c3 non-profit organization, are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Acquisition Fund

Gifts to the Acquisition Fund provide the means for the FRHS to broaden the scope of its collections through the purchase of historically significant material.

Annual Fund

The Annual Fund provides unrestricted funds for operating costs and programs. Gifts may be designated as either honorary or memorial contributions.

Building and Grounds Fund

This fund provides for the maintenance and restoration of our two buildings, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and their grounds.

Conservation Fund

Contributions to this fund ensure the physical and aesthetic integrity of objects in the FRHS collections, and greatly enhance public access to the Society's holdings.

Endowment Fund

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to secure the long-term future of the FRHS by providing reliable annual investment income to support the organization in perpetuity. While all gifts to the FRHS are welcome, our current priority is to increase the size of the Endowment, which is underfunded.

Gifts of Objects and Archival Materials

Gifts of material that either has a connection to the history of the city of Fall River, belonged to a city resident, upgrades existing collections, or fills a particular need.

Library/Archive Fund

Donate funds to purchase or rebind books, or to conserve or digitize fragile or damaged materials. Gifts may be designated as either honorary or memorial contributions.

Membership

Memberships range from \$35 for individuals to \$1,000 for lifetime memberships. Please visit our website for further details and application forms.

PROFILE IN PLANNED GIVING

Mary Elizabeth Davol Snider
(1925-2015)



Mary Elizabeth Davol Snider spent the majority of her life away from her native soil, yet the city of Fall River always remained home to her. She was immensely proud of her New England heritage, and her ancestry was deeply-rooted in the annals of Fall River's history; in her veins flowed the blood of its earliest settlers and prominent industrialists.

A long-time FRHS member and supporter of the organization, she was the daughter of Bradford Durfee Davol (1883-1960) and Sylvia Durfee (Buffinton) Davol (1883-1950); her father was one of the original incorporators of the FRHS in 1921, and served as an officer and director for many years. His interest in family history and the FRHS was instilled in his daughter.

Born and raised in Fall River, Mary was educated in her native city and was a 1943 graduate from B.M.C. Durfee High School; she attended Boston University, graduating with her B.A. in 1946. She was active in the civic and social affairs of her native city; among her many interests were the Junior League of Fall River and the Little Theatre of Fall River.

In 1951, Mary married Donald Ross Irving Snider (1927-2016), a 1950 graduate of the University of Toronto and founding partner of Snider Reichard & March, a prominent architectural firm in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. Following her marriage, she moved to Canada.

Mary's interest in civic and social affairs found a ready outlet in her new city: she was a volunteer with the Kitchner-Waterloo Hospital Women's Auxiliary; was a patron of the internationally-recognized Stratford Festival Theatre from its inception in 1953; was active in her local Little Theatre; and was an Adherent to the First United Church of Canada. Travel, especially to Europe, was a passion.

Mary was keenly interested in the work of the FRHS and was the enthusiastic recipient of Fall River related reading material, be it newsletters, clippings, or articles. In a letter to the curator, she once wrote:

"I have many happy memories of Fall River and am interested in reading about it. It was a lovely place to grow up."

When making her estate plan, Mary remembered the FRHS with a bequest of \$15,000, standing as testament to her life-long personal and familial connection to the museum.

The FRHS encourages others to follow Mary's example by including the organization in their estate plan, creating a lasting legacy to ensure the financial security of the FRHS and benefit future generations.

annual appeal

\$2,000 and up

John & Marilyn Pelto
 Cara W. Robertson
 Betty M. Welch

\$1,000 to \$1,999

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- In honor of Stacey Charlton
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FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OUR TEAM



WE

could not operate without the assistance and dedication of our team.

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Michael Martins

ASSISTANT CURATOR

Dennis A. Binette

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR/ MUSEUM ASSISTANT

Kathryn S. Croan

PART-TIME/SEASONAL STAFF

Caroline Aubin

Claudette Aubin

Cindy Harrington

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The curators are also non-voting members of the above committees, except for Nominating.



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the mainstay of the Fall River Historical Society

26

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Caroline Aubin
Claudette Aubin
Doug Bang
Marlene Beaulieu
Timothy Belt
Liz Bentley
Joe Borges
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Constance C. Mendes

A long-time member of the Fall River Historical Society, Constance C. Mendes is a strong supporter of our organization and, without doubt, one of our most dedicated and talented volunteers. A former member of the board of directors, she also served, for many years, as an officer, in the capacity of secretary. It may well be said that Fall River history, and the Historical Society, is a family tradition: Connie's father, Horace Capstack (1900-1989), was also a long-time member and director of the organization.



Connie started her volunteer work with the Society in 1990 as a docent, and quickly expressed an interest in research and archival work, in which capacity she has concentrated her efforts for over two decades. An experienced genealogist with superior research skills, she is the Society's in-house research assistant for patrons using the Charlton Library of Fall River History, and has enthusiastically assisted countless individuals, world-wide, with ancestral queries directed to the Society via mail and the internet. As a result of her work, extensive files of genealogical and biographical material have been assembled, providing an important resource.

She has also explored and provided the answers to general history questions in myriad subjects, using superior sleuthing skills honed through years of experience researching her personal ancestry in libraries, archives, and churches in the United States and abroad.

Connie has researched and catalogued several museum collections, most notably ephemera, including: seventeenth- to nineteenth-century manuscripts, and postcards; Fall River Line memorabilia, of which she is highly-knowledgeable; and decorative arts, including nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery, porcelain, and glass.

2017 FLORENCE COOK BRIGHAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dr. Philip T. Silvia Jr.

Dr. Philip T. Silvia Jr. is an Emeritus Professor of History at Bridgewater State University where he spent his forty-two year teaching career. Beginning with his doctoral dissertation at Fordham University, he has scrutinized the history of his native city, Fall River. He is the editor of three volumes of Fall River history, *Victorian Vistas as Viewed Through Its Newspaper Accounts*, which have become desirable collectors' items. He has also edited the interesting booklet on the local history of baseball, "Greater Fall River Baseball."

Phil's expertise as a Fall River historian led to many opportunities for community service, which he embraced. He was a member of the St. Anne's Hospital Board of Directors for twenty-nine years and enjoyed a long tenure on the board of the Fall River Historical Society. He has also been affiliated with the Fall River Public Library, the Friends of the Public Library, and the Fall River Library Foundation. He has served on the Arts Lottery Council, the Fall River Historical Commission, the Preservation Society of Fall River, the Fall River Scholarship Committee, and the Iwo Jima Monument Committee.

Phil and his wife, Gerry, served for several years as Youth Group Parental Advisors at the Holy Name Parish. As a member of the Parish Council, he collaborated on "A Seventy-fifth Year History of the Church of the Holy Name," published in 1999. He has also been involved with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Bishop George W. Coleman's Diocesan Pastoral Council, and the Sacred Heart Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen.

Phil was the recipient of the Bridgewater State University "Lifetime Faculty Research Award" in 2008 and of the UMass Dartmouth "Richard Fontera Social Justice Award." In 2004, he cherished the experience of being the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Frank M. Silvia School, named in memory of his grandfather, the nation's first Portuguese-American judge.



BALANCE SHEET

FYE APRIL 30, 2018

ASSETS

Cash	\$38,188
Receivables	130
Inventory	136,932
Prepaid Expenses	0
Investments	389,270
Property and Equipment, Net	361,598
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust*	<u>271,878</u>

Total Assets **\$1,197,996**

*Restricted to 1/3 income, which was \$ 5,669

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$4,776
Accrued Payroll	0
Line of Credit	225,000
Tenant Security Deposit	<u>750</u>

Total Liabilities **\$230,526**

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$359,219
Temporarily Restricted	32,644
Permanently Restricted	<u>575,607</u>

Total Net Assets **\$967,470**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$1,197,996**

OPERATING STATEMENT

FYE APRIL 30, 2018

OPERATING INCOME

Contributions (restricted, temporarily restricted and unrestricted)	\$206,250
Dues	26,593
Admissions	6,529
Sales to Public (less cost of goods sold)	51,523
Rent	15,870
Other Income	5,955
Investment return/appreciation in endowment	31,074
Investment income from beneficial interest Perpetual Trust**	14,459
Special Events	<u>41,691</u>

Total Support/Revenue **\$399,944**

**Restricted to income only, which was \$6,895

OPERATING EXPENSES

Gross Payroll	\$139,146
Payroll Taxes	10,622
Advertising	9,341
Insurance	41,220
Utilities	14,683
Supplies, Postage, Telephone	25,928
Bank and Credit Card Charges	10,693
Interest Expense	9,494
Repairs/Maintenance	21,173
Professional Fees	4,500
Archive Expense	31,336
Other Expenses	21,938
Special Events	19,238
Easton House Expenses	19,600
Yard Expence	7,625
Depreciation	29,910
Other Taxes	<u>371</u>

Total Expenses **\$416,818**

Change in Net Assets **\$- 16,874**

Net Assets, Beginning of Year 984,344

Net Assets, End of Year **\$967,470**

the fall river historical society

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The Fall River Historical Society (FRHS) is an important resource for scholars, researchers, other museums and historical societies, and the local community. Since its founding in 1921, the FRHS has been actively acquiring material pertaining to the history of the city of Fall River, Massachusetts, and has amassed a vast collection, most of which is accompanied by detailed provenance. We are dedicated to preserving this material and sharing it with the public. In addition, we are a leading provider of innovative cultural programming including exhibits, lectures, theatrical performances, concerts, and holiday events.

The museum is housed in a French Second Empire mansion that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and features magnificent period interiors and beautiful grounds with Victorian gardens that provide a memorable venue for functions such as weddings and cocktail parties. Our exhibits include the world's largest collection of artifacts pertaining to the life and trial of Lizzie Borden, and the FRHS curators are recognized as leading Borden case authorities. Our distinctions also include The Charlton Library of Fall River History, a first-rate Museum Shop & Boutique, our annual Holiday Open House, and Easton Tea Room, a popular spot for social events and meetings.

451 Rock Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02720
508-679-1071
www.fallriverhistorical.org

I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I AM ENJOYING THE CURATOR'S CORNER ARTICLES. IT'S FUNNY HOW ONE TRAVELS ALL OVER THE WORLD VISITING MUSEUMS, BUT CAN STILL LEARN SO MUCH FROM ONE'S OWN HOMETOWN FACILITY.

--- Linda Stafford Harrop

Today was awesome!! Tea first with some old and new friends and then a tour of this beautifully decorated home. The gift shop was great and took home some unique goodies! Definitely a must stop for holidays. I will be back.

--- Eileen Murphy Cookson

Amazing. The history that has been preserved by the Historical Society is so important. It deserves recognition.

--- Norma Deston

The hidden gem of the south coast is The Fall River Historical Society.

--- *The Boston Globe*

WHY THE FRHS? I ACQUIRE BORDEN MATERIAL FOR THE FRHS BECAUSE I KNOW THAT THE MUSEUM WILL PRESERVE AND DISPLAY THE ARTIFACTS IN CONTEXT. IN THE COURSE OF MY RESEARCH, I HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE KNOWLEDGE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE CURATOR AND THE ASSISTANT CURATOR. I AM PLEASED TO PLAY A SMALL ROLE IN PRESERVING IMPORTANT FALL RIVER HISTORY FOR FUTURE RESEARCHERS.

--- Cara Warschaw Robertson, Independent Scholar, Author

The Fall River Historical Society doesn't let history die. It's their business to keep it alive.

--- *Fall River Herald News*

The positive growth I have seen over the years is amazing! You are truly missing something if you have not taken at least some small piece of the knowledge stored within [the FRHS] walls.

--- Gail Slade

The ... archive is the only place these mill records exist and contains information not found anywhere else in the world. What an important collection!

--- An independent researcher

I was so pleased to give Roger's yearbooks to the FRHS. I know they will be cared for as I did all these years.

--- Geri Fortier

Thank you for a wonderful time – we learned so much, and the house and grounds are absolutely stunning!

--- Tamira Beth Stephens