

FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Museum and So Much More

Annual Report FY2015 – 2016

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OPTIONS FOR GIVING

Special thanks to the following donors for their significant support during FY2015-2016:

City of Fall River Community Preservation Committee
Foley Family Trust
Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation
Barbara Adams Kelley
Cara W. Robertson
Rodgers Family Foundation
Twenty-Seven Foundation
Vaillancourt Family Trust
Betty M. Welch

Dear Friends,

This has been another successful year we can all be proud of thanks to the dedication and hard work of our staff, officers, directors, volunteers, and, not to be overlooked, our members – all of whom contributed to make it happen. A special thanks goes to our curator, Michael Martins, and our assistant curator, Dennis Binette, for their outstanding efforts, as usual.

The Historical Society remains focused on the goal of preserving the story of our city and its people, sharing it with the public, and saving it for future generations. We continue to grow as an educational, cultural, and social center for the whole community, whether it's the open house for the holiday season, the clam boils, the lecture series, exhibits, tea with Mrs. Claus, the book signings, Shakespeare in the Park, summer concerts, research in the Charlton Library of Fall River History, or browsing in the museum shop for the perfect gift. I hope you will agree that we have achieved an appropriate balance of history, entertainment, and art.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please feel free to share them with any one of us. We know the input of our members and friends will only make the Historical Society a better organization.

Thank you for your loyal support.

Jay J. Lambert

Jay Combest

President

Curator's Report



Marine scene with fishing boats, Carder Hazard Durfee (1917-2003), c. 1950; oil on masonite.

Acquired for the FRHS by a private New England foundation.

May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016

The diverse collections of the FRHS continue to grow in all categories, thanks to the generosity of various donors, and several interesting pieces were acquired during the year, including a highly important collection of over 1,000 photographs dating from the 1930s to the 1970s by the Fall River photographer George Wellington Potts, who was an employee of the Fall River *Herald News*.

Over the past year we also secured funds from various individuals and philanthropic trusts to purchase significant items for the collections. As a result, we acquired noteworthy works by three Fall River artists: a group of three European landscape paintings by Bryant Chapin; an important floral painting by the little-known Louise Mumford Angell; and a mid-20th century painting by the noted Carder Hazard Durfee.

The closing weeks of the year saw negotiations for the temporary loan of **an important note written by Lizzie Borden**, together with an accompanying photograph of equal import. This loan is being made to the FRHS through a private family collection, with the understanding that the items may eventually be acquired for the permanent collection of the museum.

In September, as part of our Grand Tour Travel Program, the FRHS journeyed to Italy and visited beautiful Sorrento and Rome with **Alan Amaral** of Italian Wine Services. Due to extremely positive feedback, we were able to fill a second tour, to the Azores, which took place in May, 2016.

The FRHS continues to serve as an important cultural resource, bringing **innovative programming on a level seen in larger cities** to the greater Fall River area. This strategy has been very successful, resulting in increased awareness of the Society and its work, new members, and revenue from Museum Shop sales, raffles, and sale of refreshments at events.

We offer our members and the public opportunities for personal enrichment ranging from lectures and exhibits to musical and theatrical performances, but we are now especially known for two signature events that garner outstanding feedback: the Holiday Open House and our summer concert series.







Counterclockwise from upper left: George Wellington Potts (1915-1991) photographs of unidentified children at Columbus Park, 1939, and the east side of Second Street between Market and Pocasset Streets, circa 1928, with the old Custom House at the far left; a painting of peonies by Louise Mumford Angell (1858-1949).

The 2015 holiday season was the busiest ever in our history, with a dramatic increase in attendance at the Open House over the previous year due to strategic marketing, including a feature on the television series *Chronicle*, a piece in the AAA travel magazine, a major article in the *Boston Globe*, and excellent coverage in publications including the *Patriot Ledger* and the Fall River *Herald News*.

Several thousand New Englanders came to the museum, the shop, and Easton Tea Room over a six-week period, making it clear that **we are now a regional as well as a local holiday destination**. Grant-funded solo musical performances on Sunday afternoons added greatly to the ambiance for visitors, and despite inclement weather over 1,000 children and adults enjoyed *Sights & Sounds of the Season*, our holiday festival presented with Greater Fall River RE-CREATION.

Saturday Evening Serenades, our outdoor concert series featuring music in different genres on four consecutive Saturdays in the summer, is now **one of Fall River's most anticipated events**. Held on our grounds with additional seating on the street, the concerts draw large crowds and rave reviews, and give attendees a delightful way to connect with Fall River's past by spending time at one of the city's most beautiful historic properties.

On the home front we had a change in staff; **Diane Boutin**, our Volunteer Coordinator, relinquished her seasonal position to pursue full-time work. **Kathy Croan**, known to many of you through her work in the garden and tea room and for her holiday decorating skills, accepted the position, for which we are pleased.

Despite the many positive aspects of the year, the Society is still facing serious budgetary shortfalls as we contend with ever-increasing operating expenses and the on-going need to maintain our two buildings. Accordingly, **the Annual Fund is our financial lifeblood** -- a critical source of revenue to cover day-to-day costs and enable the FRHS to sustain its programs and stay on the cutting edge.

Last year, the Annual Appeal generated a total of \$51,645 in donations and pledges. Many thanks to the members and supporters who contributed! We look forward to your continued help as we work to preserve Fall River's rich history.

Michael Martins

Mutul Marly

Curator

Highlights of 2015



To provide an exciting new benefit to our members, the FRHS became affiliated with **North American Reciprocal Museum Association** (NARM), one of the world's largest reciprocal membership programs. As a result, FRHS members who qualify can enjoy free admission and museum shop discounts at 880 arts, cultural, and historical organizations world-wide.

Thanks to a generous contribution from the **Rodgers Family Foundation**, a new roof was installed on the FRHS Annex Building. Exterior restoration of the building and its original wood fence is being funded by a \$63,064 grant from the **Fall River Community Preservation Committee**.

Our Nomenclature for Museum Cataloguing was upgraded to the latest 4.0 version with funds donated in memory of **Alfred D. Binette**, a FRHS member who passed away in 2014, greatly enhancing our ability to record vital details about the objects entrusted to our care.



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

Due to the generosity of a **Private Family Foundation**, the flat roof on the ell, or east wing, of the museum building was replaced.



A grant of \$2,800 from the Fall River Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, funded, among other things, music by noted cellist Stacey Benben during the Open House.

The entire **Point of Sale** (POS) system in the Museum Shop was replaced, including a merchant processing machine that can read chip-enabled credit/debit cards, providing heightened efficiency and fraud protection for the FRHS and our patrons.

The FRHS upgraded its **PastPerfect Museum Software** to the most recent version, allowing for state-of-the-art administration of membership records and advanced procedures for organizing collections and recording detailed provenance.



Events









FRHS member Frank Grace, Trig Photography, captured the beauty of the 2015 Open House décor. Clockwise from top left: The Carnival in Venice tree was inspired by the annual festival of the Carnevale in Venice, Italy; fine handcrafted Venetian masks accented the tree; the Revelry in Red and Gold tree was decorated in rich colors and textures in the style of the Baroque period.









Clockwise from upper left: The dining room as it might have looked during preparations for a 19^{th} century social event. Pearls and a glistening swag adorned the sideboard. The Lady de Winter tree featured hundreds of individually applied fabric leaves, steel-blue poinsettias, silver leaf sprays, pearls, and a gossamer overskirt.

Last year we offered more than 500 hours of arts, education, and entertainment, along with two tours abroad, to our members and to the community.

THE ARTS

Saturday Evening Serenades
Concert Series
The Night Life Orchestra
Monica Ambroziak
Gary Farias
The Morons Band

Shakespeare in the Park: Romeo and Juliet
Two performances presented by
Striving Artists Theatre Company

FOOD, WINE, AND TRAVEL

Bi-Annual Clam Boil, October Grand Tour Travel Sorrento and Rome Witches & Warlocks on Wheels Bi-Annual Clam Boil, April

BOOK SIGNINGS

Lizzie Borden on Trial Joseph A. Conforti This Once-Only World Ada Jill Schneider

HOLIDAY EVENTS

Museum Shop Holiday Preview Deck the Halls! Annual Open House Palette Pictures VII: An Exhibition and Sale of Donated Works by Regional Artists Palette Pictures VII – Artists' Reception
Sights & Sounds of the Season IV:
A Holiday Festival in the Historic
Highlands
Holiday Bake Sale
Members Holiday Reception
Tea with Mrs. Claus
Meet and Greet Santa and Mrs. Claus
Music Room Holiday Entertainment
Stacey Benben, cellist
Multiple Performances

GRIMSHAW-GUDEWICZ CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FALL RIVER HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

Glory Days and the "Big Frenchman": Fall River's Professional Base Ballists of the Mid-1890s
Philip T. Silvia, Jr. Ph.D.

OTHER EVENTS

Annual Members Business Meeting
FRHS Volunteer Brunch
Echoes of Lizzie: A Special Exhibition and Tour
Yard Sale Fundraiser







Clockwise from upper left: Two views of The Nightlife Orchestra delighting the crowd with big band swing at Saturday Evening Serenades; Striving Artists Theatre Company performed an engaging, contemporary version of Romeo and Juliet on our grounds; Witches & Warlocks on Wheels left everyone smiling; the FRHS journey to Italy was a resounding success and will long be remembered.

Volunteers

ARCHIVE

Cecilia Chan

Marilyn A. Lynch-Cornell Barbara Jaryna

Marilyn T. Farias

Connie Mendes

David Oliveira

Stephanie O'Rourke

Marilyn Pelto

Dave Roseberry

Cynthia Tobojka

CLAM BOIL

Tim Belt

Ray DeMello

Cathy Gagnon

Angie Gastall

Mark Gendreau

Cindy Harrington

Janice Nolen

David Oliveira

Polly Phenix

Rick Pray

Betty Prescott

Pam Prescott

Patricia Rebello

Ann Rockett-Sperling

Kathy Rockett

Denise Sherman

Pat Taylor

Nancy Teasdale

DOCENT

Bill Aubin

Claudette Aubin

Chris Costello

Matt Dion

Maryann Goulart

Bill Griffiths

Bob Kitchen

Jay Lambert

Mark Lomastro

Bob Marchand

Linda McHugh

Connie Mendes

Kathy Oldrid

Albertina Pacheco

John Pelto

Marilyn Pelto

Sue Pieroni

Ken Raposo

Joan Rosario

Dave Roseberry Emma Ternes

Monica Sousa

Donald Wood

EVENTS

Bill Aubin

Claudette Aubin

Tim Belt

Monique Campeau

Ashley Clarke

Bill Claus

Jayne Darcy

Ray DeMello

Betsy Denning

Donna Dunn

Marilyn T. Farias

Cathy Gagnon

Mark Gendreau

Fernando Goulart

Maryann Goulart

Cindy Harrington

Bob Kitchen

Cathy Kitchen

Susan Lavoie

Bill Mello

Jane Mello

Connie Mendes

Cathy Messier

Deb Moore

Mike Neronha

Janice Neville

Janice Nolen

Carolyn Novo

Judy Perreault

Polly Phenix

Sue Pieroni

Rick Pray

Betty Prescott

Fran Rachlin

Patricia Rebello

Ann Rockett-Sperling

Kathy Rockett

Dave Roseberry

Chris Roy

Jeannine Ruggeiro

Denise Sherman

Jim Smith

Joan Smith

Pat Taylor

Nancy Teasdale

M. Fatima Vierra

Betty Welch

GARDEN

Rose Grant

John Pelto Marilyn Pelto

Betty Prescott

Nancy Teasdale

MUSEUM SHOP

Marlene Beaulieu

Marilyn T. Farias

Irene Fernandes

Claire Guy

Cathy Kitchen

Linda McHugh

Pam McMahon

Marilyn Martins

Jane Mello

Janice Neville

Marilyn Pelto

Judy Perreault

Fran Rachlin

Jackie Rogers

Nancy Teasdale

PHOTOGRAPHY

Bill Crombie

Sue Crombie

Jayne Darcy

Stefani Koorey Debra Manning

Betty Prescott

TEA ROOM

Caroline Aubin

Irene Fernandes

Angie Gastall

Marilyn Martins

Cathy Messier

Janice Neville

Judy Perreault Polly Phenix

Penny Phillips

Rick Pray

Fran Rachlin

Ann Rockett-Sperling

Pat Taylor

Nancy Teasdale

Our Team

STAFF
CURATOR
Michael Martins

ASSISTANT CURATOR

Dennis A. Binette

PART-TIME/SEASONAL STAFF

Caroline Aubin Kathryn Croan Cindy Harrington

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Jay J. Lambert, President
Mark Gendreau, Vice President
Kathy Rockett, Secretary
Betty M. Welch, Treasurer
Joseph Borges, Assistant Treasurer

DIRECTORS

C. Bennett Brown
Margot Cottrell
Jayne Darcy
Dr. Jason J. Diogo
Donna S. Dunn
Angie Gastall
Bob Kitchen
Susan Lavoie

Marilyn Pelto

Betty Prescott

Denise Sherman

PAST PRESIDENTS

J. Thomas Cottrell, Jr. Elizabeth Wells Denning



COMMITTEES

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Dr. Jason J. Diogo, Chair

EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING

Bob Kitchen, Chair Margot Cottrell

FINANCE

Joseph Borges, Chair
C. Bennett Brown
Mark Gendreau
Jay J. Lambert
Betty M. Welch

FINANCIAL ADVISORY

Daniel E. Bogan Nicholas M. Christ William R. Eccles, Jr. George Oliveira Bernard A.G. Taradash

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Kathy Rockett, *Chair*Tim Belt
Maryann Goulart
Cindy Harrington
Judy Perreault

Polly Phenix Sue Pieroni Ann Rockett-Sperling Pat Taylor

MARKETING

Jayne Darcy, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

Marilyn Pelto, *Chair*Marilyn Farias
Marilyn Martins
Connie Mendes

NOMINATING

Angie Gastall, *Chair* Betty Prescott Denise Sherman

Curators Michael
Martins and Dennis
Binette are also
members of the
above committees,
except for Financial
Advisory.

Annual Appeal Donors

\$20,000

Rodgers Family Foundation

\$5,000 and up

Barbara Adams Kelley

\$2,000 and up

Mr. & Mrs. J. Thomas Cottrell

Cara W. Robertson

Betty M. Welch

\$1,000 and up

Douglas H. Borden, Jr. & Joan L. Borden

- In memory of Douglas H. Borden

Marilyn A. Lynch-Cornell

- In memory of Mark Lynch

Dale A. Ferris

Barbara & Jay Lambert

John & Marilyn Pelto

Charles Davol Test

Elizabeth A. Waring

 In memory of Sumner James Waring, Jr. and David, Muriel & Ray Westgate

\$500 to \$999

An Anonymous Friend

Dr. Kathryn M. Golden

Carol B. Goolsbee

Betty Marsden

Loris M. Masterton

In memory of Bill Masterton

\$250 to \$499

Bill & Carroll Brown

Charles & Paula Cullen

Mrs. Donna Dunn

- In memory of Paul P. Dunn M.D. &

Mr. & Mrs. Donald R. Gray

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel T. Harington

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kitchen

Bill & Viv Moniz

Iain & Gerardina Pelto

- In honor of John & Marilyn Pelto

Betty Prescott

Anne & Kendrick Snyder

- The Phillip Snyder Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. D. Bradford Wetherell, Jr.

\$100 TO \$249

An Anonymous Friend

- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. John W. Manning

An Anonymous Friend

- In memory of Michele & Giovanna Sofia

Marlene Beaulieu

Mark N. Belanger

Dennis Binette

- In memory of Earle P. "Chuck" Charlton II

Dan & Jean Bogan

Bob & Betsy Bogle

Belle Johnson Bohn

Joseph & Donna Borges

Beatrice Bowker

Zelma & August Braga

Holly J. Bronhard

Cottrell Bros. - Jonathan Cottrell

Anthony R.M. Caprio

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Christ

Michael R. Corcoran

Carl & Paula Dansereau

Jonathan J. Davol

In memory of Mary Davol Snider

Nancy M. Dawson

Charlene & Eli Dondis

In memory of Timothy C. Devitt

Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Dyer

Louis F. Fayan, Jr.

Carole A. Fiola

Susan Gimblet

Mary Ann Harrison

Linda (Stafford) Harrop

- In memory of the Flint & Stafford Families

Joshua Hetzler

Anne Hopkins

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- In memory of Jane D. Howland

Barbara N. Jarabeck

Karam Financial Group, Inc.

Foster Kay

Jay & Laurie Kay

- In memory of Jean K. Kay

James E. Kennedy, Jr. & Joseph N. Joaquin

Susan Lavoie

Dr. & Mrs. Amine B. Maalouf

Atty. Robert & Peg Marchand

Michael Martins

- In memory of Earle P. "Chuck" Charlton II

Wilkinson Marvel

Johanna McKenzie

- In honor of Kathy Rockett

Joan Medeiros

John Moriarty

- In honor of Michael Martins

Robert & Janice Neville

Walter & Dorothy Nicolau

Jody Oliveira

Janice & Rick Partridge

Barbara A. Pauls

- In memory of Walter J. Mitchell, Jr.

Ann Petrella

Pamela W. Prescott

Trish Rebello

- In memory of Charles & Amy Rebello

Joseph & Mary Reilly

Colin & Marlene Robinson

Joyce B. Rodrigues

- In memory of John & Phoebe Rodrigues

St. Anne's Credit Union

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Olga L. Scanlon

- In memory of John T. Scanlon

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Dale & Donna Souza

Jim Souza

Lorraine M. Souza

- In memory of John & Helen Souza

Law Offices of Jane E. Sullivan

Hon. & Mrs. C. Samuel Sutter

Pat Taylor

Joan Twaddle

Barbara Wong

- In memory of Albert Wong

Donald & Diane Worthen

In memory of Louise Worthen

Stephen H. & Laurie B. Yoken

Up to \$99

Charlotte Alves

An Anonymous Friend

An Anonymous Friend

Beverly Arruda

Deborah Athearn

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Donna Berg

Carol Bonnar

- In memory of Frances, Robert, & Jay Bonnar

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Peter Buffington

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In memory of Victoria Camara

Monique Campeau

Tom & Mary Carroll

Mary T. Carvalho

- In memory of Dr. Joseph Carvalho

Jean & Doug Chapman

Katherine Davison

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June Kingston

Dale L. Whitty Lavoie

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In memory of Jemail LePage

Donald & Cynthia Levesque

John R. Manso

Marilyn L. Martins

Frederick & Susan McDonald

Pamela McMahon

Jane & Bill Mello

Connie Mendes

Carol Morin

Douglas Moylan

- In memory of Anna Champion Moylan

Douglas Moylan

- In memory of Clarence E. Maloney

William F. Nuttall

Kathy Oldrid

Barbara E. Parker

Judy Perreault

George H. Petrin

- In memory of Alfred Binette

Sue Pieroni

Patricia A. Placona

Alan E. Pontes

Joseph Powers

Richard Pray

Fran Rachlin

Anne Reed

David J. Roseberry

Agatha St. Amour

Ellen Shea

- In memory of John & Frances Shea

Denise Sherman

Mary L. Silvia

Richard & Linda Silvia

Bob & Sue Sousa

Millie Stavros

Patricia A. Sullivan

Jeanne Swiszcz

- In memory of Norman Michaud

Patricia Texeira

Doris M. Thornton

Robin A. Tripp

Janice Warren

Fall River Historical Society



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, plays, concerts, and festivals.

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.

Financial Statements

BALANCE SHEET

FYE April 30, 2016

Assets

Cash	\$33,845
Receivables	3,066
Inventory	151,271
Prepaid Expenses	1,311
Investments	379,183
Property and Equipment, Net	399,755
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust*	248,236
Total Assets	\$1,216,667
*Restricted to 1/3 of income, which was \$5,944.	
Liabilities	

Accounts Payable	\$14,010
Line of Credit	204,000
Tenant Security Deposit	750
Notes Payable	0
Total Liabilities	\$218,760

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$426,902
Temporarily Restricted	19,040
Permanently Restricted	551,965
Total Net Assets	\$997,907

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$1,216,667

OPERATING STATEMENT

FYE April 30, 2016

Operating Income

Contributions (restricted, temporarily restricted, and unrestricted)	\$139,408
Dues	22,711
Admissions	9,205
Sales to Public (less cost of goods sold)	49,404
Rent	16,050
Investment Return/Appreciation in Endowment	5,904
Investment Income from Beneficial Interest Perpetual Trust**	4,330
Net Assets from Restrictions	0
Special Events	30,303
Total Support/Revenue	\$277,315
*Postuisted to income only which was \$6.905	

^{*}Restricted to income only, which was \$6,895.

Operating Expenses

Gross Payroll	\$122,763
Payroll Taxes	9,630
Advertising	11,057
Insurance	34,988
Utilities	19,594
Supplies/Printing and Postage	23,585
Bank and Credit Card Charges	5,129
Interest Expense	8,047
Repairs/Maintenance	14,146
Professional Fees	4,000
Archive Expense	23,622
Other Expenses	15,622
Special Events	15,333
Easton House Expenses	33,853
Depreciation	35,818
Other Taxes	414
Total Expenses	\$377,601
Change in Net Assets	-\$100,286
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,098,193
Net Assets, End of Year	\$997,907

Options for Giving

All donations to 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 collection 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 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 Material

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 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.

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