





This Annual Report is dedicated to Board of Governors President Emeritus Susan Y. Desjardins in recognition of her leadership, dedication and commitment to this museum.



his past year, 2017, was a banner year for making history come alive! The American Independence Museum reached new audiences, deepened our relationships and impacted in a positive way the communities where we live and serve. We continued to be guided and inspired by our mission of "promoting awareness, increasing understanding and celebrating the achievements of America's Independence and encouraging civic engagement today"!

Led by our new Executive Director, Emma Bray, we launched a comprehensive social media marketing campaign to gain new followers, friends and supporters. We were able to weave history into our everyday lives with our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts, new interactive website and newly "wired," internet-capable Folsom Tavern.

Since education will always be a priority for our Museum, we took our American Independence show "on the road" through the generous support of two businesses, and brought a portable, historical trunk, complete with lesson plans and show and tell items, into our schools. Consequently, we reached a record number of school children in 2017. In addition, we initiated a new preschool Revolutionary Story Time program to reach our youngest historians, which was very successful and fun for all, especially our storytellers.

Our visitors came from near and far this year and this past summer, we welcomed our own New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu home when he visited the Ladd Cilman House, which served as the Governor's mansion at one time in the state's history. The Governor honored us with a Commendation of Service which hangs proudly in our Museum.

We continued to make our entire campus, inside and out, more pleasing, safe, secure and accessible to all. The completion of the Governor's Lane granite steps project offered the opportunity to move to the exciting Phase II of the Master Landscape Plan, and a new roof ensured our precious collections and treasures are protected as we refresh and reorient our exhibitions and tours for 2018.

The Museum's remarkable success in 2017 would not have occurred without the generous, selfless and sustained support of our volunteers, members, donors, staff and visitors. For this, for you, we are exceedingly grateful. Thank you.

In 2018, we are look forward to the adventures ahead for the American Independence Museum as we share our extraordinary revolutionary journey with you!

Susan Y. Desjardins President, Board of Governors



# YEAR IN REVIEW

# **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.



Lincoln Minutemen Fife & Drum at the American Independence Festival.

Photo: Kimberly Davis

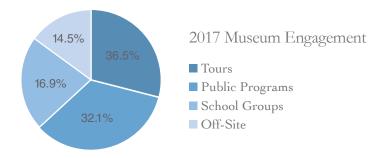
# **VISION**

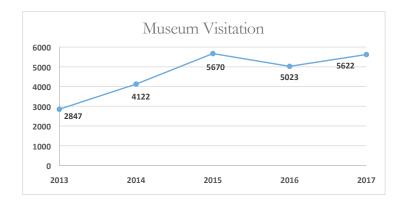
The American Independence Museum will be a premier center for education, study and celebration of events, people, places and ideas that played a role in the struggle for American Independence and the founding of our Nation. History is living, exciting, relevant and fun and should be enjoyed by all.

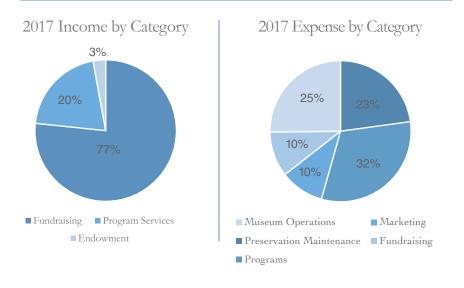


Festival goers muster with re-enactor Jeff Durell.

Photo: Kimberly Davis







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

# YEAR IN REVIEW

#### **EDUCATION**

Our Education department had another full year of school, summer and off-site programs. School field trips brought more than 1,400 schoolchildren and chaperones to our campus. Our off-site work grew through our first after-school program and new Traveling Trunk program. The Trunk visited four schools in its inaugural year. We were grateful to be able to provide this hands-on learning experience to students free of charge, thanks to the support of major corporate partner Service Credit Union, with additional support from Geico.



Students learn about colonial school on a field trip to Folsom Tayern.

#### LANDSCAPE

In May, we completed the restoration of Governors Lane with the installation of granite steps from Spring Street to the Ladd-Gilman House. Donors have "stepped up" to purchase 14 out of 40 steps to raise over \$20,000 for our Master Landscape Plan. With Phase I now complete, we will continue to make security, accessibility and beautification improvements to create a welcoming and community-minded campus.



New granite steps with engravings on Governors Lane.

## **EVENTS**

We welcomed Victoria Su as the new Events and Membership Manager, a position that ushered in great growth in our public events. The American Independence Festival in July brought thousands of visitors to downtown Exeter for a celebration of our nation's independence. Our popular Beer for History series continued for the second year thanks to the generous support of Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley & Roberts, P.A. of Portsmouth. We also launched our first preschool program, Revolutionary Story Time. Our season ended in early December with holiday merriment as guests filled Folsom Tavern during Exeter's "Ring in the Season" events.

# COLLECTIONS & BUILDING

New climate-stable, UV-protected cases enabled us to display rare and delicate artifacts, including letters from George Washington. We also continued our exhibition re-envisioning work with plans to implement a first round of updates in May 2018. The preservation of our two 18th century buildings remains a top priority. We implemented monthly building preservation and pest management checks to ensure our buildings and collections are properly maintained for generations to come. We also addressed the structural integrity of the Ladd-Gilman House with a new roof at the end of 2017.



Roof installation at Ladd-Gilman House.

# CRESTOPHIAT SUNUNU

Board President Susan Desjardins (center) and Executive Director Emma Bray (right) receive the museum's commendation of service from Governor Chris Sununu



Museum staff, volunteers and members march in Exeter's Memorial Day Parade.

# **VISIBILITY**

This year, we worked with community organizations, business partners and media outlets to increase the reach and visibility of our museum. We marched in town parades, participated in local festivals and spoke to organizations in New Hampshire, Maine and Yorktown, Virginia about our important work. August brought a visit from Governor Sununu and the Executive Council, who gifted the museum and Society of the Cincinnati with Certificates of Commendation from the state of New Hampshire. As we look to grow awareness of our museum within our local community and throughout the region, we look outside our walls to build strong partnerships with missionaligned organizations and individuals vear-round.

# American Independence Center Trustees

Dr. Hollis Merrick III

James Benenson III. David Burnham

Stephen B. Jeffries Paul Marcus



# Board of Governors

Susan Y. Desjardins, President Kathleen Mahoney, Vice President Robert A. Casassa, Secretary Geoffrey F. Brackett, Treasurer Ozzie Avscue Douglas P. Dimes

William C. Fredericks Julie D. Gilman William Jordan Ron Kim Hugh L. Robinson II Catherine V. Salterio Paul Staller



# Museum Staff

Emma Stratton Bray Executive Director

Sara Castallez Bookkeeper

Rob Levey Marketing &

Advancement Consultant

Rebecca B. Dunham

Rachel Passannante Curator &

Visitor Services Manager

Abigail Pietrantonio Education Manager

Victoria Su Events &

Membership Manager

Peter Taylor Property Manager



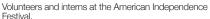
# Museum Ambassadors

Elizabeth Bauman Ronald C. Brown Jr. Sally Brown Russ M. Jacqueline Eastwood Donna Goodspeed Patti Gormley Charles Goss Sally Hollaman

Julie LaNigra Brian Lortie Eric MacDonald Sean Mahoney Karen McDonnell Amy McLaughlin Agostinho N. Nunes Susan W. O'Leary

Renée Plummer Russell Prescott Sr. Florence Ruffner Martha Shepardson Killam Joseph Taggart Charlie A. Tarbell Terence Waldron







Summer Interns outside the Ladd-Gilman House.



# Summer Interns

Kendall Artz **Everett Law**  Serena Soterakopoulos Kaela Sweetland



Our volunteers are at the heart of our work. They assist with collections, tours, gift shop sales, the American Independence Festival, education and public programs, mailings and more. Investing more than 6,000 hours into the operation of AIM, our volunteers are a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for us all. In addition to our governance members and interns, our 2017 volunteers were:

# Volunteers

Douglas Aykroyd Beth Dupell Elizabeth Aykroyd Jeff Durell Dee McClave Raymond Barrett Mike Favreau Sharon Beals Leon Fay Robin Millward Bob Mitchell **Emily Belanger** Dot Fisher Sharon Fontaine Greg Morin Linda Biagini Bernadette Blake Greg Gilman Peter Morrissey Chuck Blake Christy Slavik Hamilton Peter Nelson Phoebe Blake Karen Hayden Frances Parker Edward Bray Liam Heberley Neil Pietrantonio Bill Bringhurst Dana Holleran Ella Horvath Donna Buxton Hunter Putnam Michaela Buxton Richard Hurd Ron Raiselis Beth Cadorette Bill Jennison Michelle Johnson Beth Rohloff Madalyn Caldwell Cate Casassa John Kane Jennifer Roy Cleo Castonguay Mary Ann Kane Jim Shrigley Don Clark Rebecca Karo Ben Smoot Chris Child Amy Kumph Jackson Smoot Todd Deluca Peter Lennon Barb Stratton

Gretchen McBride Mary McEvoy-Barrett Prime Asia Leather Barbara Rimkunas

Jim Stratton Penny Stratton Richard Stratton Arron Sturgis Barrett Su Chuck Su Weston Su **Tangled Strings** The Friday Walking Group Barbara Tosiano Sarah Tremblav Janet Tucker Dave Vaught Sally Watkins David Welch Mike Welch Nancy Wike Tim Wolff

# **SUPPORT**

The American Independence Museum is grateful for the ongoing support of our donors, members and benefactors in 2017. Their gifts support the growth and preservation of the American Independence Museum for generations to come.

# SPECIAL PROJECTS

Gifts for special initiatives — from our Master Landscape Plan to our Collections Fund and more.

#### \$1,500 Governors Lane Steps

Susan Desjardins and Peter Lennon Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Jeffries Jeffrey and Olivia Kepner Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lackey Mr. and Mrs. Eric MacDonald Ms. Kathleen Mahoney and Mr. Ozzie Ayscue

Ben and Amy McLaughlin
Florence and Harry Ruffner
John and Catherine V. Salterio
Paul Staller and Deidre O'Byrne
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Taggart
LT and Mrs. Ryan B. Weddle, USN
Julie Hall Williams and Joel Williams

#### \$1,000 and more

In memory of Philip J. and Janice A. Burne
Mr. Todd A. Burne
Paul Marcus and Moying Li
Mr. Sam Smoot and Ms. Karen McDonnell
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of
New Hampshire

# Up to \$1,000

Peter Ladd

#### **Tribute and Memorial Gifts**

In memory of Jim Hayden
Danvers Alarm List Co., Inc.
Karen Hayden
Rehoboth Minutemen

In memory of Carol Welch Betsy Sanders

# **GENERAL OPERATIONS**

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

#### \$2.500 or more

Elizabeth H. Bauman and Luke Gullick Susan Desjardins and Peter Lennon Mr. and Mrs. Stephen B. Jeffries Ms. Kathleen Mahoney and Mr. Ozzie Ayscue Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Merrick III Mr. and Mrs. William B. Tyler Geoffrey and Anne von Kuhn

#### \$1.000 - \$2.499

Mr. David Burnham

Ms. Sally Crawford and Mr. Peter Wells M. Jacqueline Eastwood and Michael E. McClurken

Mr. and Mrs. William Fredericks
Roger and Patricia Hindman
Dan and Linda Jones
Sean Mahoney
John and Catherine V. Salterio
Paul Staller and Deidre O'Byrne
Mr and Mrs. Joseph L. Taggart
Julie Hall Williams and Joel Williams

#### \$500 - \$999

Charles L. Goss and Beth Carroll Goss Mr. and Mrs. K. Prescott Low Kevin J. and Susan W. O'Leary Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Robinson II Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Schwab Mr. Alfred L. Shapleigh III

#### \$250 - \$499

Dr. Louis F. Clarizio

Mr. William S. Bartlett, Jr.
Marc G. Carbonneau, Georgetown Bank
Robert A. Casassa and Sara McCarthy
Casassa
Doug & Evelyn Chamberlain

#### \$250 - \$499

William G. and Rebecca B. Dunham Allison and Bob Field

Newell Flather

Peter Garrison

John A. Grieco, Jr./ The Making of America Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Kollmorgen

Mr. Peter Ladd

Dr. Thomas McGovern and Helen Crowe

Ben and Amy McLaughlin

Mr. and Mrs. John Merkle

Mr. Samuel D. Perry

The Honorable Thomas R. Pickering

Pam and Mike Ryan

Rebecca Sayed

Mr. Sam Smoot and Ms. Karen McDonnell

Mr. Charles E. Stebbins Roger B. and Vail C. Tyler

Paula and Wayne VanGundy

Unitil

LT and Mrs. Ryan B. Weddle, USN

#### \$100 - \$249

Anonymous

Active Retirement Association

LTC and Mrs. Douglas Aykroyd

Peter W. Boardman

Marc and Janet Bono
Mr. F. Gorham Brigham III

C. Avery Buell and Eileen C. Buell

Mr. Thomas Crosby Chadwick

Mr. and Mrs. William M. Crozier, Jr.

Douglas P. Dimes

Emanuel Engineering
Exeter Jewelers

Ms. Judith C. Farrell

Dr. Henry H. Ferrell and Ms. Gwen English

Mrs. Lee Fisher

Folsom Family Association of America

Mr. and Mrs. Bradbury P. Foss

Vicki Geis

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Hall
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hampton

Mr. Andrew Hertig

Robert Walsh Hickey, MD and Patricia Burke Hickey

Mrs. Sally Hollaman

Dorothea Jensen

Mr. William Jordan

Frederic F. Little, MD and Claudia L. Ordonez

Dr. and Mrs. John B. Little

Mr. and Mrs. George M. Lovejoy, Jr.

Dr. Susan Reid MacLennan and Mr. Douglas

A. MacLennan

Rick and Linda Mahoney

Jaqueline Mahoney

Bob and Bernadette McNichol

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Morison

John Munkhoff

Frances Parker

Sumner Parker

Mr. William Ford Peck

Carl and Nancy Peterson

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Poulin

Deacon John M. Powers, Jr.

Ann and Richard Schieber

Alli allu nicialu Scille

Nancy Sinclair

Stacy and Jesse Smith

Lois Swick

Mr. John L. Thorndike

Mr. John W. Weeks, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Weeks, Esq.

Douglas Wood

Dr. Edward F. Woods, D.M.D.

Capt. Richard T. Wright, USN (Ret)

Paul and Jennifer Young



Ladd-Gilman House

Photo: Kimberly Davis

#### **Under \$100**

Anonymous (2) Peg and Rich Aaronian Dennis Anctil

Steve and Barbara Armstrong Leone and Dino Atsalis

J. Aubry

Mary and Raymond Barrett Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Beniamin

Natalie Berger Linda Biagini The Blake Family

Mr. and Mrs. David C. Bohn

Karen Boodev

Phillip and Cynthia Boyle

Geoffrev Brackett

Mr. and Mrs. Don Briselden

Biarni Brown Paul Brown

The Caldwell Family William Callahan

Anne and Bill Campbell Mr. Cleo Castonguay

Michael Chaput

Mr. Christopher Challender Child Steven Machala

Jim and Sue Cobb Kevin Cochrane Nancy County Elisabeth S. Cross Mr. Richard M. Cutter Todd and Colleen Deluca

Diane Devine Mizusawa Dianne M. Dickson

Destinee DiPrima David Dominianni Mrs. Mary B. Dupré

Robert T. Dwver Mr. David W. Eaton

Erin Edwards

Exeter Chapter DAR

Jason Faria

Dr. and Mrs. Leon Fay

David Fittro

Jameson Fitzpatrick Theresa Fletcher

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Garvin

Steve and Deborah Geiger Mr. and Mrs. Gregory S. Gilman

Kenneth E. Gilman Edward Hale

Ms. Terrie Harman Jill Hartmann Dave Hobson Ruth Hooten Joanna Houde

Brian Invart Mr. Bill Jennison

Stephen and Julie Johnson Mr. and Mrs. John Kane

Russ and Ellen Kellv

Normand and Marianne Boucher Helen and Richard Kruppa

Betty LaBranche

Paul and Kristine LaChapelle

Mr. Douglas A. Ladd Judy and Gary Lamphere

Jessica Lepler L. Chris Linker

Warren and Jean Little Locke Family Association

Brian and Lisa Lortie Paul Lynskey John A. MacLean

Wayne and Sonia Mallar

Patricia Mann

Edda and Sandy Martin James Mazalewski Gretchen McBride

Karen and Henry McFarland Dale McLean

Ms. April Melo Robin and David Millward

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mulgueen Suzanne Newsom

Sherri Nixon

Lt. Col. Scott R. Papp Carole Perryman

Mark and Renée Portu and

Family

David and Tracy Priestley Deborah A. Reed Mary B. Remensynder Mr. Carlton F. Rezendes

Phyllis and Jonathan Ring Florence and Harry Ruffner

Ms. Susan Riley and Mr. Murray

Movitz Ed Rowan and

Judith B. Rowan, Ph.D. Mark and Sally Russ Christie Sarles Nicole Sawyer

Mr. and Mrs. W. Douglas

Scamman, Jr. Ms. Ellen F. Schou Mrs. Jean Van

Schoonhoven Smith Dean and Sheryl Scott Herb and Ann Sears The Jean and David Smith

Family

Penelope and Richard Stratton Jim and Barbara Stratton

Charles and Victoria Su Lynn and Peter Taylor Patricia Thayer

Mr. Jeffrey Thomson Margaret Tilton and Rob Leatherbee Paul Timmerman

Clive and Catherine Tomlinson

Mr. Mike Toth

Mr. and Mrs. Llewellyn M.

Toulmin

Mrs. Janet Tucker Neil Valentino

David Vaught and Anita Kydd Mr. James Amory Sullivan

Walker Nancy Wason

John and Sheila Welch David Welch and Sharon Beals

Bennett B. Wethered David and Leslie (Gilman)

Wheeler David Wilson

Chris and Jolie Yonker Cynthia Young

Laurie and Anthony Zwaan

#### IN-KIND SUPPORT

7th Settlement Brewery **Bungalow Club** Lisa Butler **Buxton Oil** Children's Museum of New Hampshire Susan Y. Desiardins and Peter Lennon

Rebecca Dunham ecm design

Stuart Estev

Earth Eagle Brewings Exeter Area Garden Club Exeter Area YMCA

Exeter Inn and

**EPOCH Restaurant** D. R. Dimes and Company Granite State Growler Tours Jessica Hammond

Jill Hartmann

Dr. Sarah James Wendy Stanley Jones

MaryAnn Kane/Fine

Metal Arts Amy Kumph Laney & Lu

Karen McDonnell Morning Star Ariel, LLC

Kali Moulton

Neighborhood Beer Co.

NH Made ReadyMade Web Catherine V. Salterio Southport Printing Company Sweet Hill Cookies Systems Engineering Taste of the Seacoast TFAM/Exeter Arts Music The Music Hall The Willow

Town of Exeter Trapp Family Lodge Tuscan Kitchen Rvan Waldron Terence Waldron and Waldron Engineering



Volunteer re-enactors during "Ghosts of Winter Street Cemetery" public program.

#### **BUSINESS PARTNERS**

#### \$5,000

Service Credit Union

#### \$3.000

GEICO Local Office, Manchester

#### \$2,500

Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley, & Roberts, P.A. Attorneys at Law

#### \$1,500

Optima Bank & Trust Ruffner Real Estate

# \$1,000

Buxton Oil and Buxton Water Chinburg Builders, Inc. Foy Insurance People's United Bank RiverWoods The Provident Bank

#### \$500 - \$999

Exeter Inn and EPOCH Restaurant Historic Motor Sports Mitchell and Monti International, LLC

#### **Under \$500**

Citizens Bank Exeter Hospital Proulx Oil and Propane Sherman Law

#### FOUNDATION AND NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

# \$10,000 and more

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

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

Cogswell Benevolent Trust
National Society Daughters of the
American Revolution
NH Charitable Foundation
NH State Council on the Arts

# Under \$1,000

Exeter Chapter DAR
Folsom Family Association of America
LCHIP - Land and Community Heritage
Investment Program
NH Humanities Council
Seacoast Rotary Club

# **Library Members**Dudley Tucker Library

**Durham Public Library** East Kingston Public Library Epsom Public Library Exeter Library Hampton Falls Free Library Kelley Library Lee Public Library Mary E. Bartlett Library Newmarket Public Library North Hampton Public Library Paul Memorial Library Pelham Public Library Plaistow Public Library Silsby Free Library Smyth Public Library Tuftonboro Free Library

Wiggin Memorial Library

# **COLLECTIONS ACQUISITIONS**

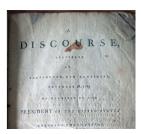
Each year, the Museum is grateful for the support of generous donors who gift rare and unique objects to our collection. Collection acquisition highlights in 2017 include:



# Education Collection: Reproduction Cannon

Gift of Hans Jackson, John Stark Society Children of the American Revolution

A life size 6 lb Revolutionary War cannon made of corrugated board.



Museum Collection: Booklet, "A Discourse, Delivered at Portsmouth, New-Hampshire, November 1st, 1789"

Gift of Peter Smith

A small booklet publishing a speech given by Joseph Buckminster in Portsmouth for the arrival of George Washington on his tour of the northern states.



Letter of Contribution to the Society of the Cincinnati by Edward Tuck, 1917

Gift of Randall Hammond

A letter written by Edward Tuck, from Paris, in response to a request of special contributions to the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire by Lynde Sullivan.



Letter instating Enoch Page as Deputy Sheriff, April 14, 1777

Gift of Richard P. Stifel Jr.

A handwritten letter signed by Enoch Page, Joseph Cilley, and Henry Dearborn electing Enoch Page as Deputy Sheriff of Rockingham County.

# 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

#### **PROGRAMS**

**6,612** Total persons served this year

**872** Visitors for *Ring in the Season* events

Active & retired military, veterans and family members who received free admission

**8** Puzzles and ciphers you had to solve to "Escape the Tavern" at Beer for History



#### VISIBILITY

**3,023** Website page views during Festival

**13,829** Website visitors

#### SOCIAL MEDIA







**256 2.674** 

761

# **COLLECTIONS CARE**

- 1 New roof installed on the ca. 1721 Ladd-Gilman house
- **7** Donations to the museum's permanent collection
- **19** New granite steps installed on Governors Lane
- **45** Pest traps checked each month as part of our new Integrated Pest Management Plan

#### **FINANCIAL**

**336** Individual, organizational and non-profit supporters

**\$5,500** Donated by business partners to support our Traveling Trunk

\$30,710 Raised to support our mission during our year-end Annual Fund Campaign

#### **OPERATIONS**

- 2 New staff positions
- 2 New docents
  - **5** Program committees
  - **78** Total volunteers









@americanindependencemuseum