



The Andover Historical Society is raising funds to repurpose the Gordon-Lull House in Potter Place into offices and meeting rooms for the Society, as well as to add space to serve as an archive for documents, records, photos, and treasures. Photo: Shelley Geoghegan

Andover Historical Society Builds Momentum for Lull House's Future

Many precious stories of life in Andover to preserve

Chris Norris

Andover Historical Society

Gordon and Dorothy Lull's former house on Depot Street in Potter Place has belonged to the Andover Historical Society for many years, and now plans are in place for its future use. Under its new name, the Gordon-Lull House (GLH) will become offices and meeting rooms for the Historical Society. Most importantly, the GLH will sprout a new addition to serve as an archive for documents, records, photos, and treasures. This ends an impasse that had existed with the Andover Historical Society trying to decide whether to reclaim the building or to tear it down and rebuild.

In 2018, a committee was formed and a report and history were prepared by Susan E. Schnare, DPhil. The Lull's former house was found to have been built in 1876 by William and Augusta Gordon, and Augusta and Dotty were both postmistresses. This establishes the house as an original and valu-

able part of the railroad community. With these findings, the committee determined that the best use for the house was to meet the Historical Society's needs for, most critically, a large climate-controlled space for archival storage, improved space for curatorial work, spaces for display, a bathroom, a small kitchen, and a meeting place. Except for the archive, most of these spaces already exist so most of the changes to the house will be cosmetic and accessibility related.

At that point James Heavey, Master Builder, was hired to complete a thorough structural analysis of the Gordon-Lull House. He determined that the building is well worth saving, both from a structural and a financial perspective. Heavey came to us with acclaim from the folks in Danbury regarding similar work that he completed on the South Danbury Church. The Society then engaged Heavey to prepare architectural plans and an estimate.

Since its beginnings in the 1980s, the Andover Historical Society has com-

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Laurie Hansen, Activities Assistant, pins an Air Force service poppy to a Peabody Home resident veteran in honor of Veterans Day.

Franklin VNA and Hospice Honored Veterans in November

Certificates and hand-made poppies

Press release

Communities and organizations around the country honored their veterans on Monday, November 11, and thanked them for their service. Two such recognitions occurred in Franklin, as veterans at Peabody Home and Mountain Ridge Center received certificates of appreciation for their service and hand-made purple poppy flowers crafted by the residents of Peabody Home. Poppies are symbolic of the sacrifices made in war, and the purple color resonates with both Peabody Home and Franklin VNA and Hospice.

Franklin VNA and Hospice visited both long-term care centers for intimate ceremonies to present the staff and resident veterans the certificates and flowers, thanking and honoring them for their service.

"We felt that joining together with Peabody Home to create these memorial items was just a natural step in the strong relationship that Franklin VNA and Hospice has with them already,"

said Tabitha Dowd, Executive Director for Franklin VNA and Hospice.

"So often recognition and thanks can seem hollow and canned; we really wanted all of our nation's veterans to feel the gratitude we owe them; to thank them for sacrificing time, family, friends, and health in order to serve. Our honored veterans were called to this profession, much like a pastor, a teacher, or a nurse.

"The significance of putting on the uniform reflects the true character of the American spirit. We are grateful for their sacrifice and commitment that they made for all of us."

It was also important to both groups to honor the veterans who are residents of each center as well as those who work in them.

"Veterans are whole people, they can be young or old, they may be retired or working in another field. We wanted to highlight that with our ceremony, to ensure that their recognition was not overlooked or assumed to only honor some and not all veterans," noted Meg Miller, Director at Peabody Home.

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