

Lull House *from page 16*

pletely outgrown what is now a grossly inadequate archival (storage) space, currently jammed into a 400 square foot attic area on the second floor of the museum. In addition to being much too small a space for storage, it is hard to get to, dangerous to carry stuff to, impossible to work in, and devoid of climate control.

Over the past 40 years the Society has acquired over 6,000 items of historic significance, all of which have been recorded and either exhibited or stored. In order to rotate relics in storage, the Society offers yearly exhibits in the museum, and at the Town Office, as well as “pop-up displays” in The Hub. It has for years been recording and collecting oral histories from townspeople. Since 1983, the Historical Society has greatly increased its collections and holdings.

Why is it so important to upgrade the archival space? It has been said that small town museums bring together citizens to tell the story of their community, to connect them to each other and to their past. It emotionally grounds them to something larger than themselves. In short, a well-run museum touches upon

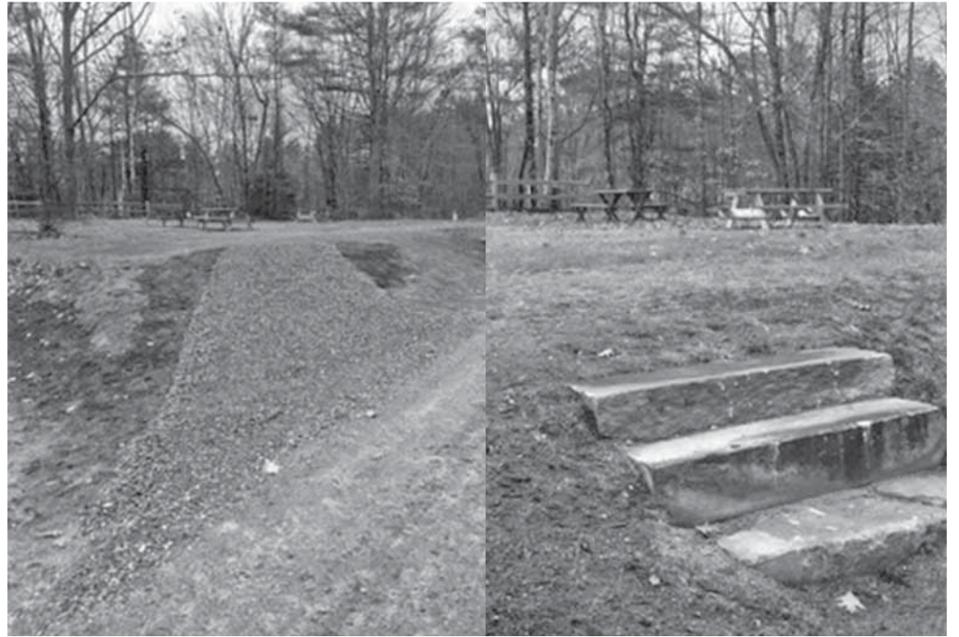
a spiritual dimension and echoes the soul of the community.

Curator Luan Clark, when I interviewed her for this article, shared with me a little story from Bob Peters that touched her. Bob’s grandfather Fred (who lived in a large house next to the tracks just northwest of the Gordon-Lull House) claimed he never had to buy his morning paper. It turns out that the engineer of the morning train from Boston would read the paper on his trip north and, as the train steamed by the Peters’ house, he would toss it out for Grandpa Fred. No one knows how this got started, but it apparently continued for years without any verbal exchanges.

This simple tale of silent connections is just one of many precious stories of life here in Andover that needs to be preserved. It is the archives that provide that capability.

We have momentum. Now we need to capitalize on that momentum.

The next critical stage is to begin raising the necessary funds. Our hope is this article will be the first step in presenting a compelling case for both foundation support and private donations.



On the left, a beautiful new blue-stone path provides easier access up the southeast side of the former Richard Potter homestead’s lawn. Nearby, recovered and repositioned original granite steps leading to the lawn add to the timeless ambiance of Potter Place. Photos: Susie Norris

Donated Improvements to Potter Place’s Popular Rail Trail Stop-Off

Thompsons ease approach to Potter lawn

Susie Norris
Andover Historical Society

The Andover Historical Society owes a huge “Thank you!” to Mark and John Thompson of Thompson Excavating.

They have generously donated time and materials to build a beautiful blue-stone access path up the southeast side of the former Richard Potter homestead lawn, making the approach from that direction much easier. They also recovered and repositioned the original granite steps leading to the Potter lawn,

which were missing. What a difference these changes make, both visually and in terms of accessibility!

More people stop on the Potter lawn to rest or picnic than anywhere else on the rail trail. Plus, the Andover Historical Society hosts numerous events there. Getting up that sharp incline is suddenly 100 percent easier!

Come take a look and a walkup next spring when the snow is gone. Besides being much easier on the legs, the new path and granite steps pull together that section of the village – tracks, caboose, and station – in a visually compelling way.



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The Andover Historical Society (AHS) has received an “Award of Merit” from Printing Industries of New England (PINE, a regional trade association) for AHS’ 32-page, four-color catalogue describing the lives and showing the works of two prominent Andover artists and longtime friends, Winslow Eaves (1922-2003) and Annaleida van’t Hoff (1909-1997). The catalogue, entitled “A Retrospective,” accompanied a major AHS exhibition and gala featuring the two artists’ work, held in the Andover Community Hub in late 2018. AHS President Gail Richards, “Retrospective” curator Patty Eaves, and volunteer Edibeth Farrington designed the catalogue, and AHS board member Charlie Darling oversaw its production. Printing was by Echo Communications of New London. Photo and caption: Larry Chase

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