

*Durham Historical Society's Intent of Use  
for the Union Church*



*Provided to the Durham Selectboard on  
January 11, 2024*



April 6, 2024

To the residents of Durham:

As the Chair of the Durham Historical Society, I would like to take a moment to explain to you the 3 warrant items relevant to the Historical Society that you will be voting on today. If the warrants are passed, the Durham Historical Society will have the opportunity to take ownership of the Union Church built in 1835. It has been the home of the Historical Museum since 1988, as well as the home of the Durham Historical Society. Currently, the Town of Durham owns the church and therefore is the current steward of the building.

On March 3rd of 1979, the Town of Durham created the Union Church Restoration Fund, by appropriating \$2,000 into an account to be designated for the restoration of the Union Church. Since then, the town has voted consistently to add money into this account for the use of restoration, bringing the total to nearly \$70,000. Currently, this account sits at approximately \$21,000.

For nearly 25 years, the historical society has been requesting that the building receive the much-needed repairs to the back corner of the church, which currently has severe rot as well as foundation issues. Even though there was money set aside in a restoration fund for this building, the Selectboard, over the course of 25 years, has deferred these repairs, causing the deterioration to worsen.

Today, I am here to explain to you the importance of receiving your yes vote on all 3 of the following warrant items:

Article #17 is to transfer the \$9,543 that was voted at last year's town meeting to be used toward the Union Church renovations. After several requests from the Historical Society to use these funds for renovations, the money was never approved for use by the Selectboard. Therefore, you are voting to transfer these funds into the Union Church restoration fund.

Article #27 is for you to vote to transfer the deed ownership of the Union church over to the Durham Historical Society. This includes the stipulation that the building will remain for historical society use only, and if it isn't used as such, the ownership will revert back to the Town of Durham.

The last Article, #28 will be to approve the Durham Historical Society's access to the Union Church Restoration fund, in order to spend the allocated funds towards the renovation of the church, giving them the control to hire historic renovation contractors. If you vote to transfer the \$9,543 into this fund from Article #17, it will bring the remaining balance of the renovation fund to \$31,175. These funds will be held at the town and released upon approval by the Select Board with the proof of invoice for the renovations. I would also like to make a note that these funds will only cover a portion of the renovation costs. We currently have estimates ranging from \$50,000-\$200,000 which would include the rotted sills, foundation, siding, windows, and parking area. The historical society will be responsible for raising the remaining amount needed for these repairs.

If you vote yes to all three of these items, you will be granting the Historical Society permission to proceed with the much-needed repairs to the Union Church and take ownership of their home. By voting yes, you will be part of this monumental step in preserving Durham's history. The Historical Society volunteers are dedicated and willing to take on this extremely important task, and would be honored to dedicate our time to preserving this historical landmark.

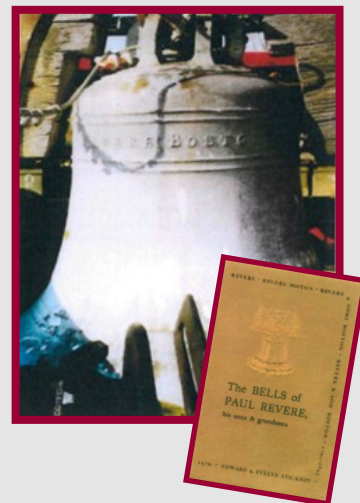
Sincerely,

Tia Wilson

Chair of the Durham Historical Society

The Durham Historical Society is committed to the continued use of the Union Church as a Historical Museum and research facility, as it has been since 1988.

In April of 1988, during the Annual Town Meeting, Article 91 was motioned by C. Foster and seconded by J. Moran to turn the responsibility for the operation and use of the Old Town Hall/ Union Church over to the Durham Historical Society. Since then, members of the society have worked tirelessly to help restore and renovate the historic church, including restoring the bell tower and Revere Bell. Historical artifacts and documents were then moved from Mae Parker's house to the Union Church, which started the Durham Historical Society Museum. Today, you can still view relics such as:



*Original copies of Everett Stackpole's book, "The History of Durham", 1899*

*Original maps of Royalsborough and Durham dated 1795 and 1833*

*Historical property deeds*

*Vintage school desks from Durham's one-room schoolhouses*

*The red velvet chairs that were saved from the "Little Brown Church" as it burned to the ground.*

*Victorian clothing from the Bliss Farm  
And much, much more!*



Prior to residing in the Union Church, Historical Society meetings would be held in former members' homes and Durham's historic artifacts sat in boxes. When the society was first formed in October of 1976, a report by Margaret Wentworth stated that there were a total of 47 members. Today, we have a total of 9 very active members and a handful of supporting members, who are dedicated to preserving the town's history all through their continued efforts of volunteering.

November 15, 1976

The Durham Historical Society met November 15, 1976 at the Durham Elementary School. The President called the meeting to order. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. A report from Margaret Wentworth was read. We now have 35 regular members, 7 junior members, and 5 sustaining members for a total of 47.

*Left: an excerpt from the Durham Historical Society's minutes from November 15, 1976.*

Since the society was first formed, members have continuously raised money for the restoration of the Union Church, which were funded solely from local donations. On March 3rd, 1979, the Town of Durham created the Union Church Restoration fund by appropriating \$2,000 into an account to be designated for the restoration of the Union Church. Since then, the town has voted consistently to add money into this account for the use of restoration, bringing the total amount nearly to \$70,000.

**Durham, Saturday, Sept. 29: 19th and 20th Century Maine Quilt Exhibit, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Old Town Hall, 144 Royals Road (Route 136). Historic Landmark with Historical Society**

**Society speaker**  
 DURHAM — The Durham Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, at Union Church (old town hall), Route 136. The speaker, Dennis Stires of Livermore, authored "Pines and Livernore and Livernore" and co-edited "Androscoggin and co-edited be "Pines and Livernore". All are welcome who desire their books for purchase. For more information contact Maxine Herling at 353-8190.

**Open house is last for season**  
 DURHAM — The Durham Historical Society will hold its last open day for the summer at the Town Hall/Town Office from 1 to 3 p.m. Aug. 17. The Durham Historical Society will hold a book and bake sale for the restoration fund for the Union Church, Sept. 30, at the Baptist Church, 744 Royalsborough Road, Route 136. A large selection of books and baked goods will be available. A flea market will be held if weather permits. Tables are available for \$5 each. Contact Rita Merrill at 353-2223 (week nights after 3:30 p.m.) if interested in a table.

**Community art show, bake sale**  
 DURHAM — The Durham Historical Society will hold a Community Art Show and Bake Sale to benefit the Restoration Fund for the Union Church, Sept. 30, at the Baptist Church, 744 Royalsborough Road, Route 136. A large selection of books and baked goods will be available. A flea market will be held if weather permits. Tables are available for \$5 each. Contact Rita Merrill at 353-2223 (week nights after 3:30 p.m.) if interested in a table.

**Tables for rent**  
 DURHAM — The Durham Historical Society will hold a book and bake sale for the restoration fund for the Union Church, Sept. 30, at the Baptist Church, 744 Royalsborough Road, Route 136. A large selection of books and baked goods will be available. A flea market will be held if weather permits. Tables are available for \$5 each. Contact Rita Merrill at 353-2223 (week nights after 3:30 p.m.) if interested in a table.

During the years as tenants of the church, the society has hosted hundreds of events to entertain the town. From art and quilt shows, to bake sales, the doors of the church have always been open to the public so they can learn and enjoy history. Open houses have taken place in the church every 3rd Saturday during the warm spring, summer and fall months. Prior to the church being shuttered in 2023, These open houses occurred and will continue to occur for the public. Upon request, we will open outside of our normal operating hours.



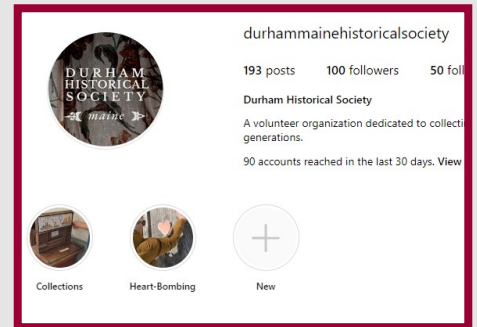
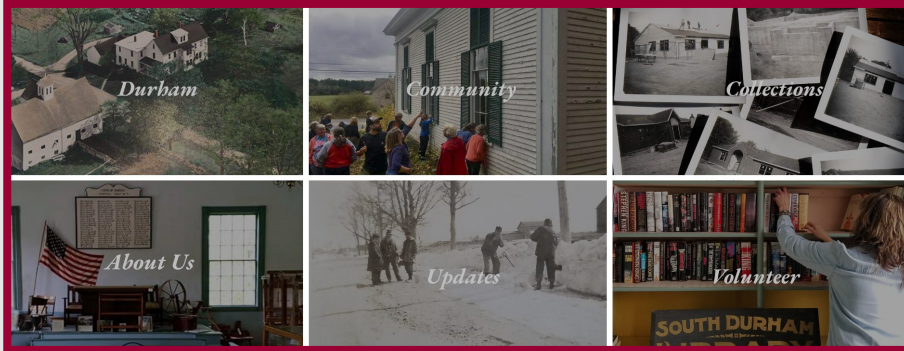
*Pictures from the Annual Fundraiser, March 1996*



*Pictures from our 1st Annual Silent Auction, September 2023*



In 2014, a Facebook page was created to help keep the town of Durham and surrounding areas informed of Durham's vast history. For 10 years, posts have been shared daily with the community. In 2023 we launched an official webpage ([www.durhamhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.durhamhistoricalsociety.com)) and our first Instagram page.



As of 2023 we have a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Archivist. We also have an event planning committee, which is in charge of fundraising events.



Society Members: Chair: Tia Wilson, Secretary: Lois Kilby-Chesley, Treasurer: Tyler Hutchison, Archivist: Emily Alexander

Participating Members: Candy DeCsipkes, Paula Purdy-Erdmann, Sandra Hilton, Natasha Skelton & Greg Wilson

Supporting Members: Erica Burke, Jesse Coplon, Christopher Staples & Darlene Spier-Bellefleur

On behalf of the entire Durham Historical Society, we are extremely excited to make this historic location our official home. We are prepared to raise funds through grant writing and fundraising, to ensure the building remains standing for the next 200 years longer. We are excited to continue to offer programs to the local schools and community to further educate them on the vast history Durham has to offer .



Above 3rd grade class from DCS on a historical bus trip through Durham where they did grave rubbings in 2023. Right: At the Methodist Church during our first historic bus tour of 2017



We believe, just as our founders did and just as the Durham residents believed long before the Historical Society existed, that our town's history belongs to the people.



# *A Look Inside the Durham Historical Society*



*A view looking down into the museum from the above loft.*







*Left: Small Queen Anne-style square window with colored glass, which is located within the one-hole outhouse at the front of the church. This is one of the only indoor church outhouse in the State of Maine.*

*Right: Post office box which was located in the Merrill Store at Methodist Corner in West Durham. The small water cooler was previously housed at the Eureka Grange #7.*





*Left: Junior Cider Mill (circa late 1800's), donated by the estate of Ruth Sylvester Benjamin*

*Right: Antique wooden hand crank washing machine (circa 1908) donated by John & Betsey Talbot from Bowie Hill Farms*





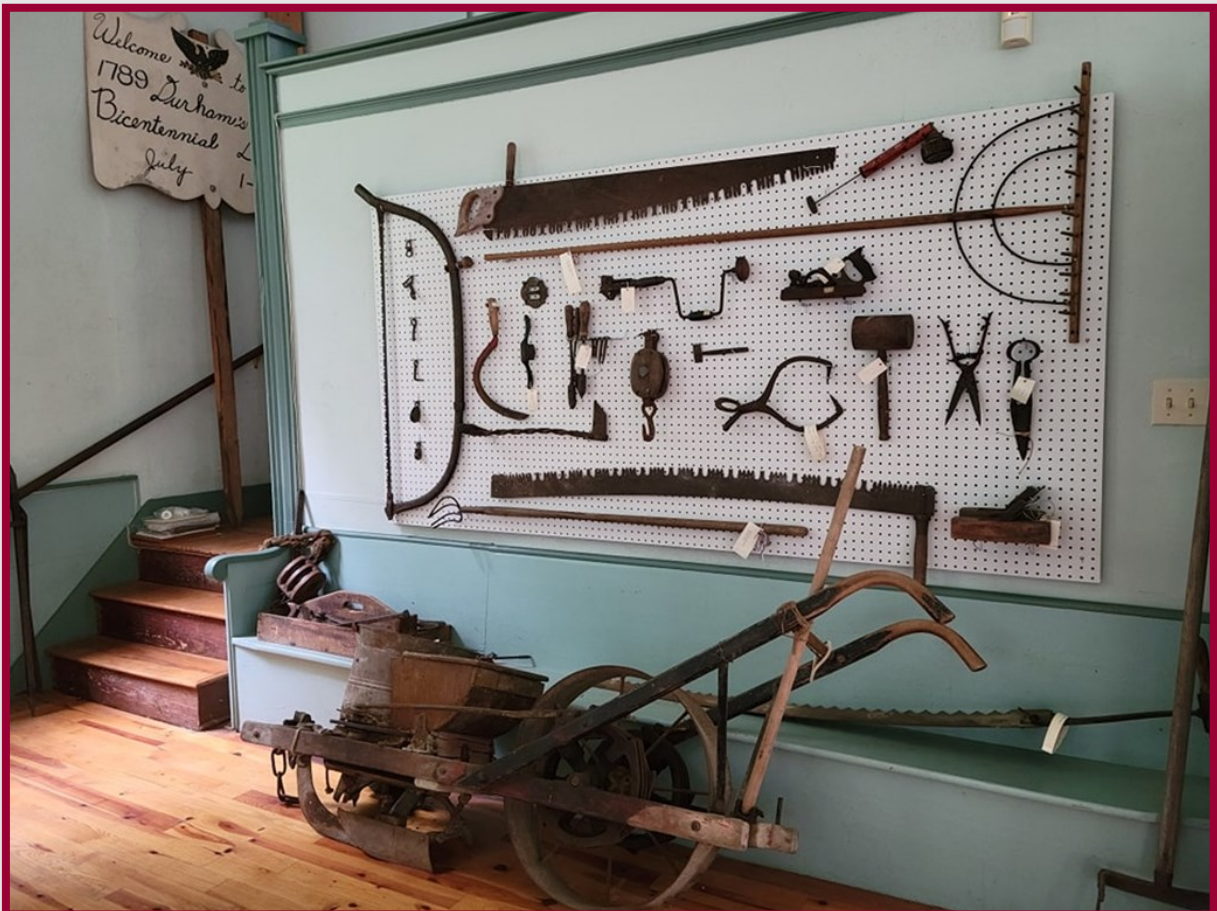
*Left: Veteran's Honor Roll Sign listing names of Veteran's in Durham. Dress was donated from the estate of Emma Bliss. Velvet chair rescued from the Little Brown Church that burned to the ground*

*Right: Two velvet chair rescued from the Little Brown Church that burned to the ground and donated by the Congregational Church of Durham.*





*Top: Name plaques of the cows that were milked at Bowie Hill Farm, as well as an old Shoe Cobbler bench from the mid 1800's. Below: Vintage tools and farm implements.*



# Durham Historical Society



## Member Profiles

## Tia Wilson—*Chair*

We will kick off our member profiles, with our incredible Chair, Tia Wilson. During her time with the Historical Society, membership dropped to an all-time low, leaving her to run the society by herself for several years. Through her passion and determination, she continued the legacy of the founding members in a time when no one else could or would. We say this with a grateful heart, she is the reason we still have a historical society today!

### **Historical Society Work:**

Tia has been a member since 2008, she currently serves as the society's chair and in the past has served as the treasurer and secretary. In 2014, she created the Durham Historical Society Facebook page, hoping to engage members of the community around Durham's vast history. By doing this, she brought awareness to the group again and was able to gain more members to help the society grow.

She organized the first-ever Durham Historical Bus Tour in 2017, where she narrated a mobile tour through the town's historical locations. She has also given several historical presentations to the town, helping educate them with Durham's history.

In 2023, Tia was asked to give this tour to the Durham Community School's 3rd graders. Working with the local schools has been a dream of hers since joining in 2008. Without the younger generations gaining the knowledge of our current volunteers, we will have no one to follow in our footsteps.

She also volunteers her time as the Chair of the Durham Cemetery Committee, where she has been a member since 2010. During her time on the committee, she has spent several years documenting and photographing every grave in town. Cemetery and Genealogy research play huge roles in her life, and she loves helping others find their ancestral paths. If she could start all over again, she would get her degree in Genealogical Studies.

### **Background:**

Tia Wilson was born and raised in the Old Town, Maine area and moved to Durham in 1998. She studied at Beal College and received her associate degree in Travel and Tourism. Though she never pursued a career in travel and tourism, she started work in Special Education Administration at the Yarmouth School Department and became the Business and Operations Manager at Baxter Academy for Technology and Science. Tia is currently working at Avesta Housing, which improves lives and strengthens communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. At Avesta, she specializes in procurement and contracts, with expertise in Request for Proposal writing (RFPs) and vendor relations.

Today, Tia and her husband Greg live in Topsham but have made it their mission to continue to provide Durham's History to everyone willing to listen and learn. Durham will always hold a place in their hearts and will always feel like home to their blended family.

Tia feels lucky that her path brought her to Durham. It is where she raised her two children, who are now grown, and both still live in town. It is also where she met and fell in love with her husband Greg, who has 2 children of his own.



# Lois Kilby-Chesley—Secretary

Our next profile is about Lois Kilby-Chesley. She is our resident expert on government, a professional grant writer and activist. Lois works tirelessly as an advocate in and around Durham. She volunteers as the chair of Durham Historic District Commission and the chair of the Friends of the West Durham Methodist Church. She is definitely someone you want on your team and we are grateful to have her.

## Historical Society

On the non-profit Durham Historical Society (DHS) she presently serves as secretary as we work toward ownership, protection and renovation of the Union Church on Rt. 136 / Royalsborough Rd. The Durham Museum of important artifacts donated to the DHS over decades, is something that our small band of members is striving to re-open as an historical resource for all Durham residents.

## Background

The Converse family originally settled during the 1790's, in a house near where the Durham River Park sits. Dr. John Converse (1772-1815) and his wife, Sally (Hanson) Converse (1774-1832) raised their family here and are now buried in Sawyer Cemetery. Their daughter, Minerva (Converse) Kendall moved what seemed like miles away to Freeport. Thus began the connection of Lois Kilby-Chesley, the Converse's 4th great-granddaughter to Durham.

Lois moved permanently to Durham in 1988 when she moved a house from Yarmouth to Davis Rd. More than 25 years ago she moved to a historic home on Runaround Pond Rd. where she has been living happily with a pack of rescue dogs, Poppy the Cat, a 12 year old goldfish, and six hens.

Lois attended Freeport Schools, the University of Maine, and graduate programs at New Mexico State University and the University of Southern Maine studying both early childhood special education and educational administration.

During her 40 years in education, she taught in Colorado, New Mexico and 26 years in Freeport/RSU 5. As an active Union leader locally, she became Treasurer, VP, and was elected the state President of the Maine Education Association. She now serves as chair of the Durham Democrats.

Never one to sit on the sidelines, Lois has been active in a range of opportunities from volunteering for the Sanctuary Movement in NM, to fostering abandoned dogs sent north from the South, to giving time to various Durham committees and running for state office.

After retirement Lois took up another passion - historical buildings. Living next to the West Durham Methodist Church and watching it deteriorate over time, she began the Friends of the West Durham Methodist Church and took ownership of the building from the Town in 2020. Since then renovations have been slow but sure.

Finishing the renovations to the West Durham Methodist Church, which celebrates its 220th birthday in 2024, remains one of Lois' goals as she continues to search out grants and funding.

As current chair of the town appointed Durham Historic District Commission, Lois and her team work to protect Durham's historic buildings and resources following Durham's Land Use Ordinances and the charges outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

Lois is proud of two fantastic adult sons, two amazing daughter-in-laws and five brilliant grandchildren. Lois looks forward to continuing her activism into the future, adopting the words of Alice Walker as her mantra - "Activism is my rent for living on the planet."



## Tyler Hutchison—*Treasurer*

Our next profile features our tech support extraordinaire and numbers guy, Tyler Hutchison. He is one of the newest members of the Historical Society but has already made a huge impact by coding and launching the Durham Historical Society's website, which was a long-time goal of our chair, Tia Wilson.

### Historical Society

Tyler joined the Durham Historical Society in 2021 after moving into a historic home in Durham. He currently serves as treasurer for the Durham Historical Society and informal webmaster for the Historical Society's new website. Or really, any tech support that the DHS needs, he's ready and willing to help as needed whether it's apps for DHS events or LED wiring for display cases.

He is a member of the Historical Society's Events Committee, but his involvement in Durham doesn't stop with the Historical Society. Tyler has also served as a member of Durham's Planning Board and as a member of the Union Church Committee.

### Background

Tyler grew up in Portland, Maine, and attended Portland High School where he was valedictorian. Afterward, he moved to the Boston area to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for a bachelor's and master's in electrical engineering. After several years in applications and integrated circuit design, he met fellow DHS member Emily Alexander. They moved to Germany for a couple of years to start a company in micro power harvesting with a friend in Bochum. While spending a great deal of time traveling for business and fun, before returning to work, Tyler and Emily hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2017.

He returned to electrical engineering in Boston (after a brief stint back in Maine) when Emily attended North Bennet Street School. Her love of traditional building techniques, architecture, and historic buildings was infectious. He was reminded of friends' homes in downtown Portland with wide boards, door frames out of square, and just an immense collection of love and history.

During the pandemic and a couple of decades of collecting electrical test equipment, Tyler was able to continue to work primarily remotely for a Boston-based company. Moving back home to Maine was a breath of literal fresh air when Emily and Tyler were lucky enough to have an offer accepted for a beautiful 1796 farmhouse in Durham. Starting with research on their own home, Tyler and Emily quickly started branching out into the history of Durham through reading the Stackpole book.





# Emily Alexander—*Archivist*

For our next profile we have Emily Alexander, one of our newest members. Emily wears a lot of hats for us. She designed our website, set up our Instagram account and manages our social media. She is a committee member on our Events Committee.

## Historical Society

Emily joined the Historical Society along with her husband Tyler Hutchison in 2021. Seeing a need, she took on the role as the Historical Society's first ever archivist. Slowly, she is scanning, photographing, cataloging and digitizing items in the Historical Society's Collections. She estimates, to date, 70% of the items have been digitized. After finishing that phase, the files will be added to the collections section on our website. It is a huge undertaking but she understands the importance of the project and what it will mean to future generations. You can view the start of her work here: <https://www.durhamhistoricalsociety.com/collections-1>

She also volunteers her time as secretary for the Durham Historic District Commission.

## Background

Emily Alexander harkens all the way over from the west coast, specifically Sacramento, California. She attended Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she earned a BFA in Fine Art Photography with an emphasis on traditional analog processes and darkroom practices. After finishing her degree she moved east and landed in Boston.

It was here that she met her husband and fellow Durham Historical Society member, Tyler Hutchison. The two lived and worked in Boston for nearly a decade before moving to live in Germany for two years while Tyler helped establish an energy harvesting start-up. After Germany, they didn't want the adventure to stop, so together they hiked the Appalachian Trail in 2017, completing the journey from Georgia to Maine in 5.5 months.

The two took their sore legs back to Boston to pick their life back up. Emily attended North Bennet Street School (the oldest trade school in America) where she studied preservation carpentry. She has worked on several historic projects including window restoration on a 1700s joiner shop, timber frame barn repairs and a replica of John Hancock's front door surround.

After finishing the program, she landed a position as a preservation craftsperson at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. There she worked on resetting monuments, plaster repairs for Isabella Stewart Gardner's tomb, and mapping and cataloging the cemetery's plots.

Emily served as a Young Advisor for the Boston Preservation Alliance a nonprofit organization that protects and improves the quality of Boston's architectural heritage. It was with that wonderful group she learned the power of advocacy, turning passion into action, and connecting with local like-minded people and then... the pandemic hit.

Emily and Tyler, now both working from home, decided to move to Maine.

Truth be told, she didn't pick Durham. Durham picked her. Emily and Tyler were looking for a house, any house, in Maine and they fell in love with an old home located in Durham. She reached out to the town's Historical Society Chair wanting to know more about her home and that was that.

She is so happy that a town with 24 cemeteries, Stephen King connections, an existing historical society and the former home of a mystery author chose her. She is grateful that the Yankees have accepted her and Durham has embraced her.



## Sandra Hilton—*Event Committee*

Sandra Hilton has always been a crucial participant in any community she finds herself. Durham is lucky to have this dedicated member in their town. She spent 14 years teaching at the Durham Community School and 35 years teaching at schools within the RSU5 district. Currently, she volunteers with the Durham Historical Society, the Friends of the West Durham Methodist Church, and most recently, joined the Durham Historic District Commission. She is a parent Navigator for the Maine Parent Federation. Sandra is also the caretaker and the reason there is Little Free Library in front of the Union Church. Sandra is good at most things, but she isn't exactly good at being retired...

### Historical Society

She joined the Durham Historical Society about 4 years ago because she wasn't able to completely stop pushing forward and retire.

She signed on with the Durham Historical Society and got involved with the Durham Historic District Commission in order to fulfill her desire to know more about Durham's past. In her time in Durham, she has witnessed many old buildings slowly deteriorate and watched as they were torn down or fell down! Seeing the Parker School follow the fate of many other beautiful and historic buildings prompted her to sign up, roll up her sleeves, and help with the battle to save what little history we have left here.

She is also a committee member of the Historical Society's Events Committee. She was integral to making the Silent Auction, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, and Treasure Hunters event happen. Partnering with Tash Skelton, she designed and constructed the Historical Society Museum's Domestic Life and School Days exhibits.

### Background

Life for Sandra began at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington Maine. At 4 she moved to Camden, Maine where she graduated from Camden-Rockport High School.

She decided when she was quite young that working with children would be her goal in life. After high school, she went on to the University of Maine-Farmington and studied in a dual major of Elementary Education and Special Education.

After graduating and spending all sorts of money, she promptly moved to California! Doing research in the car on her way she discovered that you must have 5 years of college to teach in the land of the fruits and nuts....sigh! Upon arrival in Carmel, she got a job working in a children's boutique! Oh yes.....Clint Eastwood, Doris Day...she met them all! Two years was enough of the crazy life of California and there was a flight back home to Maine!

Her first job was at Spurwink School which started in Falmouth and then eventually moved to Cottage Road in South Portland. After two years she was offered a job at Morse Street school in Freeport where she taught pre-school to 5th grade. In amongst all of this, she married a young man from Freeport, they moved to Durham and had two children.

Living in Durham and wanting to teach in her own town, she started work at Durham Elementary School (DCS) and taught there for 14 years. Her own children grew during this time and moved out....and back in...and finally OUT! She was offered a position at Freeport High School. She retired from FHS at the end of 35 years of teaching at schools within the RSU5 district. But even in retirement, she wanted to continue working with special needs children so she became a parent Navigator for the Maine Parent Federation, substitutes at FHS, and is a member of the Collaborating Partners Advisory group for the state of Maine.

After living here half her adult life, She calls Durham home.



## Natasha Skelton—*Event Committee*

Our next Historical Society member profile features our youngest member, Natasha Skelton. She has incredible initiative and is ready and willing to jump in wherever and whenever required. When we need something crafted with care, she is our person.

### Historical Society

Natasha decided to connect with the Durham Historical Society in an effort to get a deeper look into the town's history. In 2017, her friend Tia Wilson invited her to join the Historical Society and the rest is history! She has a deep desire to spread the word about the town's great past to the young and the old alike.

Natasha is a committee member on the Durham Historical Society's Events Committee and has helped bring to fruition 2023's Silent Auction, Thanksgiving Pie Sale, and 2024's Treasure Hunters and Heart Bombing events. She has designed and set up some of the large displays in our museum, specifically the Domestic Life and School Days sections.

Throughout the year you will see her in the local cemeteries as she is also a member of the Durham Cemetery Committee!

### Background

Natasha was born and raised in the great town of Durham. Natasha is currently working at Sky-Hy Adult Day Center. At the center, she spends her days helping the clients with everyday tasks, including Friday bingo! She currently lives in Durham with her husband Noel.

In her spare time, she truly enjoys a good road trip to explore antique shops. Most days, you will find her crocheting, she always has a ball of yarn with her!

Tasha is hoping to meet more of the community members through the upcoming Historical Society events. She enjoys hearing a good story from the town's past! She says you can never forget about the past, it's what brought us to our present day.



## Greg Wilson—*Volunteer*

Our next Historical Society member profile features the endlessly talented Greg Wilson. Greg does it all. He aids on just about anything required. Whether something needs to be fabricated, moved, constructed, designed, logistically handled, cleaned, or hauled away, he practically has it done before we can finish asking.

### Historical Society

Greg has been a member of the Durham Historical Society (DHS) since 2018. He joined during a time when the DHS was extremely low on members and his wife, Tia Wilson, really needed the help around the Union Church and wanted to increase the number of members who cared about the town's history as much as she did.

Also, for the past 4 years, Greg has served on the town's Cemetery Committee as the "Crypt Keeper". During this time, he has been a part of numerous clean-up projects and flag placements for Memorial Day to honor our town's veterans. Greg is also a member of Durham's Amvets Post 13.

### Background

Greg Wilson was born and raised in Maryland. He joined the US Navy in 1996 where he served 4 years stationed in Jacksonville, Florida attached to a Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) squadron HS-15. He was then stationed at NAS Brunswick Maine in 2000 where he was eventually medically retired in 2005.

During Greg's time in NAS Brunswick, he was trained as a certified Aeronautical Welder, Aviation Structural Mechanic, Sheet Metal Fabricator, and Quality Assurance for Aeronautical Airframes, Power plants, Corrosions Control, Tire & Wheel, and Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) departments.

After Greg left the military, he took a job working at Harbor Technologies, LLC in Brunswick, Maine as a Composite Manufacturing Technician, building composite docks and pilings for the marine industry and working on the newly introduced composite bridge beam projects. It was during this time he found a new passion in Occupational Safety and Health. While working, Greg attended Columbia Southern University and completed his associate and bachelor's degrees in occupational safety and health. He then transitioned to the company's Safety Manager where he held that position for over 7 years.

Greg then took a job working with the concrete company N.S. Giles Foundations, located in Bangor, Maine as their Safety Director. During this time, he learned a great deal about construction as well as construction safety. Despite this being an amazing company to work for, when an opening came available with the US Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), he could not pass it up. Currently, Greg is the senior Federal Occupational Safety and Health Compliance Officer with OSHA, specializing in construction-related activities.

Greg has a multitude of hobbies and holds many specialized skill sets. Some of his hobbies include fishing, hunting, exploring, world traveling, cooking, distilling, winemaking, Nascar, bourbon collecting (and drinking), and many others, not to mention doing all of these with his awesome wife Tia. Greg also has a variety of skill sets including metalsmithing, woodworking, general construction, and an amazing knowledge of obscure trivia facts that people don't believe are real (ask Tia).

Greg is not a born and bred Durham resident, but he did live in town for over 16 years and raised both of his children here. So, Durham does hold a very special place in his heart, and is very passionate about seeing its history and historical places exist for future generations to love as much as we all do.



## Candace (Candy) DeCsipkes—*Volunteer*

Our last profile feature spotlights Candace (Candy) deCsipkes who has served the Durham community and been a staple of the town for decades. She raised her daughter in Durham and Candy's lovely historic home sits right in the middle of Durham's Historic District. This drew her to join both the Historical Society and Durham Historic District Commission.

### Historical Society

Candy has been a member of the Historical Society for numerous years seeing it through bountiful times and lean times. She is the Vice-Chair of the Durham Historic District Commission. She became a member of both of these important committees because of her interest in Durham's History, especially after moving into her historic house next to the Church.

Candy moved to Durham in 1978, where she raised one daughter who attended the Durham school system. After moving to Durham, she purchased her home, located next to the Union Church, which was built in 1789 according to the tax records. Candy spent many years renovating her beautiful historic home, into what it is today.

### Background

Candy attended college in both Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, where she received her Masters and PhD in Education and Child Development. In the late 1970's, both her and Paula Erdmann-Purdy, the Vice President of the Historical Society, started the special education program in the Durham School. During this time, she taught grades 5 and 6, as well as special education. She was also a part of the school administration. Throughout her teaching career, she also worked in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maine as a consultant about the early childhood education programming that was available for schools. Candy has also been a member on Durham's school board for many years.

Candy enjoys keeping busy with vintage craft work, such as crewel, theorem painting, calligraphy and cross stitching. She loves to cook and enjoys putting together cookbooks with her great friends' recipes to share with others.

Candy is a strong believer that preservation helps us understand where we are today and that it is very important to help younger generations learn about our town's history.



## *Mission Statement, Durham Historical Society 24 March 1976*



*The purpose of the Durham Historical Society is to bring together those people interested in the history of our community.*

*The society will collect material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the town: its settlement and development; its progress in population, education, agriculture, science and the arts. It will collect printed material such as histories, genealogies, biography, directories, pamphlets, programs, posters and circulars; manuscript material such as letters, diaries, journals, charts, surveys; and museum material such as pictures, photographs, paintings, portraits, and material objects illustrative of life, conditions, events and activities of past or the present.*

*The society will provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study it; cooperate with officials in ensuring the preservation and accessibility of the records and archives of the town and insure the preservation of historic buildings, monuments and markers.*

*The society will disseminate historical information by holding meetings with addresses, lectures, papers, and discussion; by marking historic buildings, sites, and trails; and by using the media of radio and the newspapers to awaken public interest.*

*The society will cooperate with the state historical society to collect and preserve materials of state-wide significance so that these materials can be made available to students and scholars.*