Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History

Annual Reports
2020 and 2021
Honoring Our Executive Director

We dedicate this 2020–2021 Annual Report to our Executive Director, Bill Brooks, who led the Henry Sheldon Museum for almost ten years and whose contributions will long be remembered. Bill retired on December 31, 2021, after a lengthy and accomplished tenure at the Museum. Bill went above and beyond expectations, working tirelessly to execute the Sheldon’s vision and enrich its many offerings to our community.

Drawing on his background in folk art, Bill wholeheartedly embraced art as means of sharing stories and history, organizing numerous exhibits showcasing both historical and contemporary Vermont artists. One of the most evocative shows, *Fashion and Fantasy at the Edge of the Forest*, captured the public’s imagination by combining nature-inspired creations by Wendy Copp with historical clothing from the Museum’s collections.

An avid collector himself, Bill approached the Museum’s collection with an eye for the personal. *Doughboys and Flyboys* (2018), which marked the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ended WWI, combined Sheldon materials with pieces from Addison County private collections.

A familiar face around town, Bill was an enthusiastic ambassador for the Sheldon throughout the numerous local businesses he frequented. He nurtured valued partnerships with prominent local organizations like the Middlebury Rotary Club, the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, and of course, Middlebury College.

Despite the shadow cast by Covid over the last two years, the Museum entered 2022 on strong footing financially and programmatically. The fruits of Bill’s longstanding service will be apparent for years to come and his enormous contribution will be recognized with a laudatory fund to be announced in the early months of 2022. We wish Bill all the best in his well-deserved retirement and all future adventures and endeavors.
2020: Working Under COVID Conditions

A Year of Social Distance
While the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Sheldon to close its doors, the Museum did NOT go dark. The creation of a new Museum website in spring 2020 allowed the Sheldon to leap into the virtual world, offering two online exhibits and numerous virtual and socially distanced programs. The Museum was bolstered by PPP funds and an NEH Cares grant administered by the Stewart-Swift Research Center.

A Special Note of Thanks to Our “Regulars”!

Research Center Volunteers
  Joann Langrock
  Nancy and Ron Rucker

Front Desk Volunteers
  Frankie Dunleavy Yeaton
  Ellen Fenn
  Helmut Hietzker
  Pat Zeliff

Suki Fredericks and dog Cordelia discover the East Shoreham Bridge on the 2020 Road Trip Scavenger Hunt.
Summer 2020

**Picnic Basket Raffle**
The Third Annual Picnic Basket Raffle was offered virtually for the first time and brought in record-breaking ticket sales! We raffled seven spectacular picnic baskets painted by local artists: Gayl Braisted, Lillian Kennedy, Warren Kimble, Kathy Mitchell, Danielle Rougeau, Sonny Torrey, and Ashley Wolff.

**A Neighbor Project: The Downtown Middlebury Portrait**
A virtual exhibit by local artist Rebecca Kinkead, *The Downtown Middlebury Portrait* included over a hundred 7 x 5 inch oil portraits of local community members created in the spring of 2020 during twenty-minute portrait sessions throughout the town. In conjunction with the exhibit, the Sheldon offered two live virtual collage workshops with Rebecca Kinkead and produced an interview with her for our website.

July 30, 2020
**Virtual Collage Portrait Workshop** with Rebecca Kinkead

August 8, 2020
**Virtual Kids’ Collage Portrait Workshop** with Rebecca Kinkead

Rebecca Kinkead, photo by Caleb Kenna

Picnic baskets painted by Danielle Rougeau, Warren Kimble, and Sonny Torrey
Summer 2020

**Virtual Drawing on the Past by Miriam Adams**

Through the juxtaposition of natural and man-made objects, Miriam Adams creates images of striking intimacy. Her graphite and watercolor drawings on paper depict a variety of everyday domestic objects. Drawings of her father’s tools, of garments sewn by her mother, of a wedding fan that belonged to her husband’s grandmother are matched with more ephemeral items to suggest family relationships and insights. This virtual exhibit presented Adams’ drawings alongside an array of unique domestic objects from the Sheldon Museum’s collection, exploring how emotion becomes attached to the objects we use.

**Summer 2020 Exhibit Sponsors**

Robert and Rhea Brooks Family Fund, Churchill & Janet Franklin, and Rick & Martie Fritz

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Fall 2020

**Addison County Road Trip Scavenger Hunt** (October)

The Sheldon Museum invited all ages to participate in a Road Trip Scavenger Hunt, traversing Addison County while following clues to 10 landmarks along the route.

**Virtual Annual Meeting** (November) with guest speaker Dorothy Moss, curator of painting and sculpture at the National Portrait Gallery and coordinating curator of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Initiative.

**Miniature Christmas Tree Raffle** (November–December)

The Sheldon’s annual Miniature Christmas Tree Raffle featured, virtually, nine one-of-a-kind miniature trees decorated by talented local artists. Suzanne Douglas, Nancie Dunn (Sweet Cecily), Robin Huestis (Round Robin), Lauren LaBerge Taddeo (Sweet Charity), Sarah Pope, Donna Sargent and Miranda Gero, Sarah Stahl, Ashley Wolff, and a “Secret Santa Artist.”

**An Evening of Carols with Ronnie Romano** (December)

We missed our Holiday Open House this year—a time when visitors delight in the model trains, and listen to carols played on the Sheldon’s Chickering piano—and offered a special virtual holiday concert with Ronnie Romano.
Although the 2020 COVID pandemic cast a dark shadow on many archives across the country, the Stewart-Swift Research Center fared well during this ominous year. While in lockdown in the spring, our staff designed a more user-friendly website, richer in new resources to better accommodate our local and national researchers. We also submitted a successful application for the National Humanities Cares grant for the project, “Archives Alive: Building Primary Source Collections during COVID-19 at the Henry Sheldon Museum, Vermont.” The Sheldon Research Center was one of only 317 applicants funded out of over 2,300 from across the nation.

Throughout the year the RC spearheaded multiple publications authored by its staff and associates—all based on research in our archival holdings. Among them were articles about remarkable Addison County women; Vermonters vacationing in places far and near; dramas and upheavals of historical presidential elections; and an essay on Victorian mourning habits. Despite the many challenges of 2020, we were remarkably successful in sharing our archival resources and expanding outreach beyond the Museum.

**RC Gifts and Acquisitions**

- **Sarah Ashe**—ephemera found in the ceiling of 36 South Street in Middlebury

- **Tad Hoehl**—Charles Swift correspondence and materials related to Grosse Pointe

- **Peggy Peabody**—Fire District #1 records, East Middlebury

- **Dave Potter**—Lake Dunmore photographs

- **William Swett**—Nash, Jewett and Swett family papers

- **Gary S. Shattuck**—a book *By the Wand of Some Magician: Embracing Modernity in Mid-nineteen Century Vermont*

- **Jean Richardson**—a book *A History of the Village of North Ferrisburgh, Vermont, 1762–2019*

- **“T” Tall**—Town Reports, Cornwall, Vermont, 1986–2014
RC Publications
All articles initially published in the *Addison Independent* are now available through our website: [https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/rc-publications](https://www.henrysheldonmuseum.org/rc-publications)

“Connecting with the Past in Today’s Present:”
six essays on Addison County women by RC staff and associates

“The Material World of Victorian Mourning”
by Taylor Rossini

RC Awards
The RC was awarded a 2020 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) CARES grant in the amount of $29,362 for the project “Archives Alive: Building Primary Source Collections during COVID-19 at the Henry Sheldon Museum, Vermont.” The funds supported expanding access to our ephemera, photography, and map collections; further development of social media presence; the implementation of the Research Center’s online quarterly newsletter; and the continuation of the digital preservation project initiated by a previous NEH grant awarded in 2018. It also supported the retention of two staff members and hiring Archives Assistant, Taylor Rossini, a recent graduate of Middlebury College.

RC Facilities
March 2020—Stewart-Swift Research Center archival storage was outfitted with a new, state-of-the art HVAC system to monitor environmental conditions in which paper-based collections are stored. It replaced a thirty-year-old system implemented when the storage facility was originally constructed in 1992.

September 2020—A commemorative plaque and informational sign for Research Center holdings was installed on the Stewart-Swift Research Center’s façade. The plaque and sign were generously donated by the owners of “Mountain Signs,” Ripton.
**RC Contributors**
Polly Darnell  
Ron and Nancy Rucker  
Diane Palmeri

**In-kind Donations**
September 2020—James P. Blair donated an Epson Pro scanner to the Research Center

**Conservation/Preservation**
- Three bird’s-eye view prints of *Middlebury, VT*, by L.R. Burleigh, 1886
- Print, *Vermont Hotel, Larrabee Point, VT*, ca. 1890s

Thank you to Jim Pizzagalli for his generous contribution that allowed us to conserve these prints.

Max Kraus, Jim Blair, and Eva Garelon-Hart

Burleigh print before and after conservation
2020–21 Members

The following list includes the names of people who were Sheldon members in 2020 and/or 2021

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Ann LaFiandra poses with her portrait by Rebecca Kinkead.
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Estate of Karl Neuse

Adèle Eells Pierce (1921–2021)
In 1978, Adèle Pierce began her long association with the Sheldon Museum, as a staff member, volunteer, and trustee. She was responsible for opening and managing the Sheldon’s first museum store in 1983, and in 1992, she was a founding member and chair of the Sheldon’s Pops Concert Committee. Under her leadership, the concert and fireworks grew to be a premier annual event, the most profitable Museum fundraiser for the last three decades. In celebration of Adèle’s Pops Concert leadership, June 28, 2007 was proclaimed “Adèle Pierce Day” by Governor James H. Douglas.
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DPI Distinctive Paint
  and Interiors
Fire & Ice Restaurant
Fyles Brothers, Inc.
Green Peppers Inc.
Hannaford Food & Pharmacy
IPJ Real Estate
Keewaydin Foundation
Laberge Insurance
Langrock, Sperry & Wool
MacIntyre Services, L.L.C.
Malabar
Marsh & Wagner, PC
McKenna and Partners
Middlebury Acting Co.
Middlebury Animal Hospital
Middlebury Cemetery Assoc.
Middlebury College
Middlebury Dental Group
Middlebury Eye Assoc., Inc.
Middlebury Inn
Monument Farms Dairy
National Bank of Middlebury
Omya, Inc.
Residence at Otter Creek
r.k. Miles, Inc.
Rocky Dale Gardens
Salamander Construction, Inc.
Silver Maple Construction, LLC
Telling & Hillman, P.C.
The Richards Group
Two Brothers Tavern
Union Lodge 2 of the
  Masons
Vergennes Animal Hospital
Vermont Field Sports
Vermont Gas Systems, Inc.

Participants on the 2021 “Where’s Henry” Scavenger Hunt
## Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets
- **Checking/Savings**
  - 1000 Operating Checking Account NBM: 113,631.41
  - 1070 Donation Box Money: 30.00
  - 1080 Petty Cash Box: 23.19
  - 1100 NBM Certificate of Deposit: 127,482.42
  - 1250 Shop Cash Drawer: 230.78
  - 1540-02 Special Projects Checking Acct.
    - Salary Compensation: 5,274.80
    - Other: 86,123.40
  - Total 1540-02 Special Projects Checking Acct.: 91,398.20
- **Total Checking/Savings**: 332,796.00
- **Other Current Assets**
  - 1120 Inventory Asset (Inventory Asset): -10.70
  - 1200 Museum Shop Inventory: 1,800.25
  - 1499 Undeposited Funds: -1,899.94
- **Total Other Current Assets**: -110.39
- **Total Current Assets**: 332,685.61

#### Fixed Assets
- 1610-00 Land: 3,000.00
- 1620-00 Buildings: 226,251.00
- 1620-01 Accum. Depreciation - Buildings: -202,657.91
- 1630 Building Improvements: 479,093.04
- 1635 Accum. Depr - Build Improve: -324,061.93
- 1640 Furniture and Equipment: 86,315.54
- 1645 Accum Depr - Furniture & Equipm: -75,885.31
- 1650 Exhibits: 131,279.95
- 1655 Accumulated Depr - Exhibits: -80,940.85
- **Total Fixed Assets**: 242,393.53

### Other Assets
- 1800 Morgan Stanley: 273,196.74
- 1810 WalterCert Endowment Fund: 115,990.04
- 1840 Buildings Preservation Fund: 690,318.76
- 1880 Unrestricted Fund: 132,585.87
- 1890 Research Center Fund: 9,788.03
- 1895-00 Grant Escrow Acct.-SSB: 301,172.91
- **Total 1800 Morgan Stanley**: 1,523,052.35

### TOTAL ASSETS
- **Total Assets**: 2,098,131.49

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities
- **Current Liabilities**
  - Accounts Payable: -770.59
  - Total Accounts Payable: -770.59
  - Payroll Liabilities: -76.76
  - Total Payroll Liabilities: -12.84
  - Direct Deposit Liabilities: 88.00
  - Sales Tax Payable: 111.26
  - Line of Credit: 41,500.00
- **Total Other Current Liabilities**: 45,246.76
- **Total Current Liabilities**: 44,476.17

#### Equity
- **Fund Balance - Unrestricted**: 1,388,231.42
- **Fund Balance Restricted**: 193,301.20
- **Retained Earnings**: 226,199.10
- **Net Income**: 245,923.60
- **Total Equity**: 2,053,655.32

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY
- **Total Liabilities & Equity**: 2,098,131.49
### Ordinary Income/Expense  January–December 2020

#### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>4100-00</td>
<td>Administration/Personnel Income</td>
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<td>4125</td>
<td>Admissions</td>
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<td>4150-00</td>
<td>Exhibit Sponsors</td>
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<tr>
<td>4175</td>
<td>Collections Receipts-JH</td>
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<tr>
<td>4200</td>
<td>Education School Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>4225</td>
<td>Donation</td>
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<td>4250</td>
<td>Memberships</td>
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<td>4251-00</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>4300</td>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>4350</td>
<td>Programs</td>
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<td>4375</td>
<td>Research Center Income</td>
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<td>4400</td>
<td>POPS Concert Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>4450</td>
<td>Grants / Special Account</td>
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<td>4510-00</td>
<td>Stock Litigation Income</td>
<td>99.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>4550</td>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>6,560.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>48000</td>
<td>Museum Gift Shop</td>
<td>1,380.67</td>
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**Total Income** 284,541.77

#### Cost of Goods Sold

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>5500-01</td>
<td>Museum Shop COGS Purchases</td>
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</table>

**Total COGS** 2,005.29

**Gross Profit** 282,536.48

#### Expense

<table>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>5325</td>
<td>Grant / Special Account Expense</td>
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<td>RESEARCH CENTER</td>
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<td>Depreciation Expense</td>
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**Total Expense** 308,188.15

**Net Ordinary Income** -25,651.67

#### Other Income/Expense

#### Other Income

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>7500</td>
<td>In-Kind Donation</td>
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**Total Other Income** 278,916.94

#### Other Expense

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<td>Loan Interest Expense</td>
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<td>9000</td>
<td>Prior Year Adjustment</td>
<td>-23.56</td>
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</table>

**Total Other Expense** 7,341.67

**Net Other Income** 271,575.27

**Net Income** 245,923.60
“… I have spent all my leisure the past year trying to benefit future generations…” wrote Henry in his 1881 diary referring to his extensive collecting of local, regional and national historical materials.”

The year 2021 marked the 200th anniversary of Museum founder Henry L. Sheldon’s birth. Henry at 200 explored our founder Henry L. Sheldon’s life and collecting fervor, which led to the establishment of what has become known as the oldest community-based Museum in the country, and an outstanding archive, the Stewart-Swift Research Center. Henry amassed one of the richest but little known historical collections in all New England, rendering Middlebury perhaps one of the best documented towns in the entire region. The exhibit featured a variety of historical documents, photographs, scrapbooks, autographs, Middlebury imprints, diaries, music ephemera, relics, a lock of Napoleon’s hair, and more.

The Sheldon thanks Ellery Foutch for researching and curating three exhibit cases in the Judd-Harris House highlighting Henry Sheldon’s collections of curiosities, relics, and canes.

Exhibit Organizing Team
Eva Garcelon-Hart
Taylor Rossini
Lucinda Cockrell

Exhibit Installation Team
Eva Garcelon-Hart
Taylor Rossini
Lucinda Cockrell
Ellery Foutch
Silvia Gonzalez
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

**History Happens Here**

Middlebury College Professor Emeritus of History of Art and Architecture Glenn Andres explored Middlebury’s remarkable history of persons and events from Revolutionary times onward that have had more than local, in many cases national and even international, significance.

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

**The Birth and Re-Birth of the Sheldon Museum**

Dressed as Henry Sheldon, historian Dr. David Stameshkin brought the history of Henry and his museum to life.

Sunday, August 15, 2021

**Henry’s 200th Birthday Bash**

We took the Sheldon’s collection to the streets! The Museum celebrated the 200th birthday of founder Henry L. Sheldon with sidewalk art inspired by the Museum collection, face painting, music, and festive treats! Generously supported by David and Colleen Stameshkin.

Thursday, August 19, 2021

**Organ Recital by St. Stephens’ George Matthew, Jr.**

We partnered with St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church to offer an organ recital by George Matthew, Jr.—Henry L. Sheldon’s present-day counterpart as organist.

Middlebury College Choir singers, led by Ronnie Romano, performed selections from Henry’s own concert programs with organ accompaniment by George Matthew.
Boy with a Boat
In May 2021, the Sheldon’s Boy with a Boat was expertly cleaned by Suki Fredericks, a Vermont-based paintings conservator. In addition to surface cleaning, losses in the lower right corner of the painting and flesh tones were retouched. We are delighted to see the painting returned to its original brilliance.

Above: before and after detail of lower right corner.
Conservation partially supported by Marsha Rooney and Barney Fix
2021: Doors Open!

After weathering 2020 with perseverance and creativity, the Museum outdid itself in 2021 with a year of unprecedented vigor and service to our community. 2021 marked the 200th anniversary of Museum founder Henry L. Sheldon’s birth, and when the Museum reopened its doors on July 13, it was with extra festive pomp and circumstance in celebration of Henry and his unique contribution to the Middlebury community.

January–February

Love Lines
You professed your love, wrote romantic verses, and offered thoughtful dedications! Submitted Love Lines were featured in the February 11, 2021 Arts & Leisure section of the Addison Independent.

Folded Love
We offered a virtual origami activity with antique Valentines from the Sheldon archival collection. From puppy loves to long-time companions, we put a new spin on an old-fashioned idea.

Forget Me Not: Memorial Practices in 19th-Century Vermont
Middlebury College Professor Ellery Foutch discussed memorial wreaths and mourning objects created in Vermont in the 1800s. Crafted from hair, fabric, and materials considered precious to the deceased, these artifacts offer a window into the lives and emotions of Vermonters of the past.

April

Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Couple in Early Vermont
Archivist Eva Garcelon-Hart presented the story of two extraordinary women, Charity Bryant and Sylvia Drake, who were accepted in early 19th-century rural Vermont as a married couple. Hosted by the Brownell Library, the talk was one of Vermont Humanities’ most viewed programs of 2021.

Everlasting Flowers: Botanical Models in New England Collections
April showers bring May flowers! Professor Ellery Foutch offered a springtime talk presented by the Henry Sheldon Museum about the study of botany in New England at the turn of the 20th century.
**Faces of Addison County: A Trent Campbell Retrospective**

July 13–December 31, 2021 (opened virtually April 2)

The Sheldon Museum was pleased to honor Trent Campbell in this retrospective exhibit. Campbell, a longtime resident of Middlebury, learned photography at his grandfather’s knee in his home state of Minnesota. He became the *Addison Independent* photographer in 1998 and he took award-winning photos around the county for more than 20 years.

**Exhibit Organizing Team**
Jim Blair, William F. Brooks, Jr., Trent Campbell, Owen Campbell, Kazimir Juvan, Nikki Juvan, Mary Ward Manley, Michael Manley, Taylor Rossini

**Exhibit Installation Team**
Mary Ward Manley, Michael Manley, Taylor Rossini

**Exhibit Sponsors**
Mrs. James P. Blair, Robert and Rhea Brooks Family Fund
William F. Brooks, Jr., Gerald S. Davis, MD
Rick & Martie Fritz
Jack L. Goodman
Carolyn & Willard T. Jackson
Lois & Max Kraus
Patti Cassady Marrinan
Lyman Orton
Rotary Club of Middlebury
Tulgey Wood Foundation

**Gallery Talks: Trent Campbell with Angelo Lynn**
Thursday, August 5, 2021

**with John McCright**
Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

---

**Free Little Art Gallery**

We unveiled a miniature art gallery in the Museum’s garden. Thanks to Michael Manley for his incredible craftsmanship.

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*top: Winston Howe, an apple picker from Jamaica, at Sunshine Orchard, Cornwall, 2003*

*bottom: Kathleen Hescock took Runty the Porker for a walk in Shoreham, 2011*
2021: Exhibits

Kate Pond from the Heart: A Sculptor’s Process
July 13–September 11, 2021
This exhibit featured maquettes (preliminary models) and drawings that reflect the artistic process of internationally exhibited Vermont sculptor Kate Pond. Pond grew up on a hill farm in Montpelier, Vermont and studied art at Skidmore College and in Paris, France. She resides in Burlington and has installed public sculptures in the United States, New Zealand, Canada, Norway, and Japan.

“My sculpture isn’t precious; it invites participation: with people, and with the sun, shadows and alignments at different seasons of the year. The position of the sun, moon and stars creates a structure, as a painter uses a rectangle for a frame of reference.”
—Kate Pond

Exhibit Organizing Team
Bill Brooks, Mary Ward Manley, Kate Pond, Fred Stetson

Exhibit Installation Team
Mary Ward Manley, Taylor Rossini, Silvia Gonzalez, Bill Brooks, Bill Parkhill, Kate Pond

Thursday, July 22, 2021 and Thursday, September 2, 2021

Gallery Talk with Kate Pond
Friday, July 30, 2021

Exhibit Reception

Exhibit Sponsors
Anonymous
Lisa Alther & Ina Danko
Julia Alvarez & Bill Eichner
Brooke Barss & Susan Wehry
William F. Brooks, Jr.
Friends of Kate Pond
Cathleen Gleeson & David Maughan
William L. & Debra Lopez Gottesman/Vermont Community Foundation
Carol Hinson & Bill Parkhill
David & Toni Holmes
Frank & Elaine Ittleman
Madeleine M. Kunin
Northern New England Museum of Contemporary Art
Raymond Pecor, Jr.
Kate Pond and Fred Stetson
Nancy & Peter Richardson
Robert & Rhea Brooks Family Fund
Fred & Phil Sawyer
Pat Robins & Lisa Schamberg
Kate & Bill Schubart
Jim & Lyn Taylor
Michael Colburn & Mary Esther Treat
Carleen Tufo
Marc & Dana Vanderheyden
Sightlines: Picturing the Battell Wilderness

October 5–December 31, 2021

Sightlines featured paintings by Jill Madden and photographs by Caleb Kenna capturing colorful sightlines within the Green Mountains of Vermont, particularly the Bread Loaf and Battell Wilderness areas. Both artists visit the mountains year round and their work records varied seasonal views of the captivating peaks and valleys so central to the recreational and environmental challenges of Vermont. Complementing Caleb and Jill’s work were two wooden topographical models by Treeline Terrains, a recent start up by three Middlebury College 2021 graduates: Jacob Freedman, Nathaniel Klein, and Alex Gemme. The Treeline Terrains models were raffled to benefit the Sheldon Museum.

Exhibit Organizing Team  Bill Brooks, Mary Ward Manley
Exhibit Installation Team  Mary Ward Manley, Michael Manley, Taylor Rossini

Sightlines Sponsors

Anonymous  Carolyn & Willard T. Jackson  Jim & Liz Robinson
Battell Park Trust  Patti Cassady Marrinan  Ben & Nancy Rosenberg
Peggy & Peter Briggs  Lynn & Michael McKenna  Rotary Club of Middlebury
Robert & Rhea Brooks  Heidi & Kevin Naughton  Richard & Barbara Saunders
Family Fund  Ashar Nelson & Amy Sheldon  Jane & Mike Schoenfeld
William F. Brooks, Jr.  Lyman Orton  Abigail Sessions
Paul & Angelina Carrara  Linda Punderson  David & Kathryn Torres
Rick & Martie Fritz  Woody & Ingrid Jackson  Tulgey Wood Foundation

Thursday, October 7, 2021
Gallery Talk with Caleb Kenna and Jill Madden

Friday, October 8, 2021
Exhibit Opening Reception

Forest Meadow, Sucker Brook, 2021, by Jill Madden

Camel’s Hump from Weybridge, VT, 2021, by Caleb Kenna
2021: Exhibits

Monday, October 11, 2021

Bill McKibben: “Bread Loaf as a Vital Center”
Middlebury College Scholar in Residence in Environmental Studies Bill McKibben discussed his wilderness experiences and the environmental and recreational importance of the mountains.

Thursday, October 28, 2021

David Bain: “Joseph Battell: A Life and A Legacy”
Middlebury College Senior Lecturer in English and American Literatures David Bain offered a biographical talk on Joseph Battell (1839–1915), a leading citizen of Middlebury who bequeathed his mountain lands to Middlebury College.

Thursday, November 4, 2021

Will Amidon: “Bread Loaf and Battell Wilderness through the Laser Lens”
Middlebury Geology Professor Will Amidon, discussed a new technique to visualize landscapes using high-resolution topographic images of Earth’s surface—Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR)—which collects data by firing a laser from an aircraft and uses the reflection to estimate land surface elevation.

Thursday, December 2, 2021

3-D Wood-Carved Maps: Connecting to Place in a New Way
Jacob Freedman of Treeline Terrains discussed the group’s business designing custom 3D landscapes connecting everyone to the places they love.
2021: Programs and Events

September 10–20, 2021
**Virtual Armchair Auction**
You supported the Henry Sheldon Museum from the comfort of your favorite armchair! The Sheldon's first ever virtual Armchair Auction featured original art, overnight stays, home goods, and fabulous offerings from local businesses! This brand-new program raised almost $17,000.

Monday, November 8, 2021
**2021 Virtual Annual Meeting**
with guest speaker Alexander Wolff
Cornwall author Alexander Wolff spent a year in Berlin, sifting through family letters and diaries and mining German archives, for his book *Endpapers*. In this presentation, he traced the process of researching and ultimately writing this family saga.

Thursday, December 9, 2021
**2021 Holiday Season at the Sheldon**

**Midd Night Stroll**
The Sheldon stayed open late to participate in the town’s Midd Night Stroll with other local businesses.

**An Evening of Carols at the Sheldon Museum**
Pianist Ronnie Romano and vocalist Wendy Taylor offered an evening of carols at the Sheldon on the historic Chickering piano.

**Miniature Christmas Tree Raffle**
Nine one-of-a-kind miniature trees were decorated by talented local artists. This year’s artists were: Suzanne Douglas, Kelly Hickey, Robin Huestis (Round Robin), Sandy Jackson, Lauren LaBerge Taddeo (Sweet Charity), Sarah Pope, Sarah Stahl, Pat Zeliff, and a “Secret Santa Artist.”

**2021 Holiday Train Exhibit**
2021: Facilities Projects

2021 offered an important opportunity to address much-needed maintenance in both the Museum’s historic and modern structures. The Buildings & Grounds Committee spearheaded efforts to restore the Museum’s historic windows, upgrade HVAC systems, and address unexpected facilities needs, including the failure of the Museum’s only elevator.

Windows are the Eyes to the Soul

We are working with the preservation group Willard Street Traditions to restore the Judd-Harris House’s 29 historic windows.

Window sponsors
Anonymous
Robert Black
Henry Prickitt Family
Peggy Burns & Jim Gish
in honor of Bill Brooks and Mary Manley
Polly Darnell & Willie Jansen
Mike & Beth Davis
Peter DeGraff
John & Janice Haltigan
David & Toni Holmes
Family of Walter Hurd, GAR
Lorraine Muller
Osprey Fund
John & Madeline Tenny
Wende Warren, Sheldon Family Association
Randy & Libby Wilson, Sheldon Family Association
Diane Palmeri & Albert Rossini
Marsha Rooney & Barney Fix
in memory of Millicent J. Rooney
Michael & Nancy Sheldon, Sheldon Family Association
Robert Sheldon, Sheldon Family Association
Stephen Sheldon, Sheldon Family Association
Sheldon Family Association
David & Colleen Stameshkin
Cookie Tager

Elevator

The Museum’s 1992 elevator failed unexpectedly early this fall, rendering the second and third floors of our building inaccessible to folks with mobility issues.

The repair comes with a price tag of $70,000+, but thanks to an anonymous donor’s generous gift of $35,000 as a matching challenge, many others supported the effort and Otis Elevator will begin work in early 2022.

Elevator sponsors
Anonymous
Janetha Boswell
Warner S. Fletcher
Janet and Churchill Franklin
Martie and Rick Fritz
Ginny and Bruce Hiland
Peter T. Hoehl Family Charitable Fund
Elizabeth Howlett
Esther Howlett
Erin Mongeluzi
Osprey Fund
The Fletcher Foundation
VT Community Foundation

Boiler

The Museum is in the midst of a comprehensive HVAC system upgrade. Phase II of the project will replace two
end-of-life oil-fired furnaces with a single gas-fired, energy-efficient replacement. A Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities grant was received for the project.

**2021: Local Partnerships**

Thanks to our town for opportunities to shine and share as partners

**Henry on the Go!**
In celebration of Henry’s 200th, life-size cutouts of our founder popped up around town. Thanks to the National Bank of Middlebury, the Middlebury Inn, Bundle, and the Middlebury town offices for hosting Henry throughout the summer!

**MNFF: Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival**
In August, the Museum played host to the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival for several events in the Museum garden. Thanks to the Festival for providing the tent for outdoor programs.

**Middlebury Garden Club**
The Middlebury Garden Club continues to beautifully maintain and support the Museum garden and provide seasonal decorations for the Judd-Harris House throughout the year.

**Historic New England**
Through our partnership with Historic New England, Sheldon members receive free admission to all of their sites.

**Henry’s Relic Chair at the Vermont Historical Society**
Students in Middlebury College’s American Studies course “Material Culture in Focus” recreated Henry Sheldon’s “relic chair” with materials of contemporary local significance. The chair was displayed alongside Sheldon’s original creation at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier.

**Other Building Improvements**

**Barn door restoration**
Work by Lance Phelps
Sponsored by
Mark & Suzanne Friis
Ron & Nancy Rucker

**Judd-Harris House and Research Center painted**
Paint provided by Distinctive Paint and Interiors; paint work by volunteers Lynn McKenna and Ron Rucker

**New carpet**
Funds contributed by
Alpha Alpha Chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon
Robert & Rhea Brooks
Family Fund
Marsha Rooney & Barney Fix

**New glass in front door**

**Henry’s Relic Chair at the Vermont Historical Society**
Students in Middlebury College’s American Studies course “Material Culture in Focus” recreated Henry Sheldon’s “relic chair” with materials of contemporary local significance. The chair was displayed alongside Sheldon’s original creation at the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier.
In this pivotal year of celebrating Henry L. Sheldon's 200th birth anniversary, the Stewart-Swift Research Center took the lead in curating a commemorative exhibit that included never or rarely displayed documents and artifacts honoring Henry's collecting passions and life story. On view were Sheldon family memorabilia, scrapbooks, diaries, documents, photographs, a 1497 Latin Bible, and more. The exhibit was accompanied by public talks and events and the publication of Henry Who? A Life in Cartoons, an artistic rendition of Henry L. Sheldon’s life.

In February, during Black History Month, we wrote three articles about the historical presence of people of color in Middlebury and Addison County. In March, we celebrated Women’s History Month with an essay on the lives of two progressive heroines with surprising links to our collections. During winter and spring, we supported three virtually taught Middlebury College classes that required substantial research assistance and facilitating of digital access to archival materials. Throughout the year we also made numerous improvements to our Archives website and filed a successful application with Vermont Humanities Council to fund the virtual lecture series, “Elephant in the Room: The Future of Museums.”

**RC Gifts and Acquisitions**
- **Frank Coco**—35mm slides of Middlebury and Addison County, 1980s
- **Lucinda Cockrell**—historical postcards of HSM interiors and collections, election sign “2020 Biden-Harris”
- **Pamela Crosby**—Cabinet card portrait of Karl Isaac Solomon Sterns
- **Jack Dowling**—unpublished paper “Construction of Oppression Through Advertisements.”
- **Hilarie Gade**—Ledger of Grand View Hotel, Addison, Vermont, 1877–1893
- **Anne W. Lawing**—Foot/Halpin family materials and WWI letters and photographs from the Philippines
- **David Munford**—a photo book Middlebury: Images of America by David Munford, Arcadia Publishing, 2020
- **Margaret McBride**—Louise Manning photographs and guest books, 1920s–1958
- **Catherine Nichols**—Partridge family photographs
- **Charlotte Phillips**—correspondence relating to Warner-Phillips family
Elephant in the Room: Exploring the Future of Museums

The RC was awarded a $5,000 Vermont Humanities Project Grant in support of the virtual monthly lecture series “The Elephant in the Room: Exploring the Future of Museums” to convene national museum curators and visionaries between October 2021 and April 2022.

Our ultimate goal is to question the kind of history cultural heritage organizations perpetuate with a critical eye toward race, gender, and class and to provide a framework for how institutions of all sizes and resources can engage in essential conversations about diversity, equity, and inclusion in museum practice.

Elephant Sponsors
Vermont Humanities
Middlebury College
Marble Trail Financial LLC
Dinse P.C.
Diane Palmeri

RC Publications
Black History Month
Three essays by Eva Garcelon-Hart, Amy Mincher, and Bill Hart

Women’s History Month
Two-part essay by Taylor Rossini

- Thomas Hughes—The Topaz, March 21 and March 28, 1842
- Rutland Historical Society—Middlebury postcards, 1960s–70s
- Gary Shattuck—unpublished paper “Dr. Virgil W. Blanchard: The ‘Multifarious’ Physician”
- RC purchase—glass plate negatives by Middlebury photographer A.D. Palmer, 1880s

The New York World

Ink drawing of Sophonisba Breckinridge

A Virtual Lecture Series
Exploring the Future of Museums

Vermont Humanities
Middlebury College
Marble Trail Financial LLC
Dinse P.C.
Diane Palmeri
Middlebury College Classes
We partnered with three Middlebury College courses providing archival materials for students to conduct original research, two January term classes—“Histories of Struggle: Middlebury Town and Gown” (Bill Hart, Black Studies/History) and “Hair-work” (Ellery Foutch, American Studies)—and one spring course, “Vermont Collaborations Public Humanities Lab” (Ellery Foutch, American Studies).

Collections on the Move
RC collections are sought by museums nationwide:

- Three “spirit” drawings by Wella P. Anderson collected by Solomon Jewett are on loan to the Minneapolis Institute of Art as part of a two-year (2021–2022) traveling show, “Supernatural America: The Paranormal in American Art.”

- Double Silhouette of Sylvia Drake and Charity Bryant was loaned to the Bennington Museum of Art for their summer 2021 exhibit, “Love, Marriage and Divorce.”

RC Contributors
Anonymous
Charles Billings
Polly Darnell & Willie Jansen
Ron & Nancy Rucker

The J. Robert Maguire Endowed Fund—established by Travis Beal Jacobs. The fund will direct income to the Stewart-Swift Research Center for the purpose of encouraging and facilitating use of the RC’s valuable collections to further the understanding of our history.

Maguire Fund Contributors
Travis Beal Jacobs
Walter B. Edgar

“The J. Robert Maguire Endowed Fund—established by Travis Beal Jacobs. The fund will direct income to the Stewart-Swift Research Center for the purpose of encouraging and facilitating use of the RC’s valuable collections to further the understanding of our history.

Maguire Fund Contributors
Travis Beal Jacobs
Walter B. Edgar

 “… I have spent all my leisure the past year trying to benefit future generations by preserving the handiwork of the articles representing all the different occupations of the early pioneers which I have called a Museum. May those who many years hence look at these articles take as much pleasure in doing so as I have in collecting them.”

— from Henry Sheldon’s diary, 1881
# Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Operating Checking Account NBM</td>
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<tr>
<td>1070</td>
<td>Donation Box Money</td>
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<tr>
<td>1080</td>
<td>Petty Cash Box</td>
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<tr>
<td>1100</td>
<td>NBM Certificate of Deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1250</td>
<td>Shop Cash Drawer</td>
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<td>1540-02</td>
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<td><strong>Total Checking/Savings</strong></td>
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<td>1150-00</td>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Accounts Receivable</strong></td>
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<td><strong>21.35</strong></td>
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<td>1120</td>
<td>Inventory Asset (Inventory Asset)</td>
<td>-32.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>1200</td>
<td>Museum Shop Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td>1499</td>
<td>Undeposited Funds</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,467.01</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
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### Fixed Assets

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<tr>
<td>1610-00</td>
<td>Land</td>
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<tr>
<td>1620-00</td>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>226,251.00</td>
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<td>1620-01</td>
<td>Accum. Depreciation - Buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>1630</td>
<td>Building Improvements</td>
<td>479,093.04</td>
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<td>1635</td>
<td>Accum. Depre - Build Improve</td>
<td>-335,809.63</td>
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<td>1640</td>
<td>Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>90,172.54</td>
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<td>1645</td>
<td>Accum Depr - Furniture &amp; Equipment</td>
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<tr>
<td>1650</td>
<td>Exhibits</td>
<td>131,279.95</td>
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<td>1655</td>
<td>Accumulated Depr - Exhibits</td>
<td>-84,260.21</td>
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<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>224,837.09</strong></td>
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### Other Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
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<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>Morgan Stanley</td>
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<td>1810</td>
<td>WalterCert Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>Buildings Preservation Fund</td>
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<td>1880</td>
<td>Unrestricted Fund</td>
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<td>1890</td>
<td>Research Center Fund</td>
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<td>1895-00</td>
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<td>1900</td>
<td>Collections Fund</td>
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<td><strong>Total 1800 Morgan Stanley</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities

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<td>2100-03</td>
<td>FUTA Payable</td>
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<td>2100-1</td>
<td>SUTA Payable</td>
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<td>2100</td>
<td>Payroll Liabilities - Other</td>
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<td><strong>Total 2100 Payroll Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>2110</td>
<td>Direct Deposit Liabilities</td>
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<td>2200</td>
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<td>Line of Credit</td>
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### Equity

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<td>3010</td>
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<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2,680,057.32</strong></td>
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## Ordinary Income/Expense  January–December 2021

### Income

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Product Sales/Publications Inc</td>
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<td>4100 Administration/Personnel Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>4125 Admissions</td>
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<td>4150 Exhibit Sponsors</td>
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<tr>
<td>4175 Collections Receipts-JH</td>
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<td>4200 Education School Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>4225 Donation</td>
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<td>4250 Memberships</td>
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<td>4251 Annual Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>4350 Programs</td>
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<td>4375 Research Center Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>4400 POPS Concert Income</td>
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<tr>
<td>4450 Grants / Special Account</td>
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<tr>
<td>4660-00 Special Events</td>
<td>19,485.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>48000 Museum Store</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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### Cost of Goods Sold

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<tr>
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<td>5500-01 Museum Store COGS Purchases</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gross Profit</strong></td>
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### Expense

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<td>5100 Administration</td>
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<td>5325 Grant / Special Account Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td>5360 Research Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>5370 JH Collections</td>
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<td>5400 Membership</td>
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<td>5425 Donation Expense</td>
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<td>5550 Gallery Expenses</td>
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<td>5600 Public Program Expenses</td>
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<td>5660 Special Events (Exp)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5800 POPS Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>6560 Payroll Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>7000 Depreciation Expense</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Ordinary Income</strong></td>
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### Other Income/Expense

#### Other Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4500 Dividend &amp; Interest</td>
<td>27,374.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>4884 Unrealized Gain/Loss</td>
<td>360,467.14</td>
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<td><strong>Total Other Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>387,841.35</strong></td>
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#### Other Expense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6600 Investment Fees</td>
<td>5,978.25</td>
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<td>6700 Loan Interest Expense</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Other Income</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>580,185.05</strong></td>
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</table>
The Museum Store unveiled two new original publications this year.

- An updated edition of Glenn Andres’ *A Walking History of Middlebury, Vermont*, first published in 1975 with a new walking map of town designed by Middlebury College graduate Tenzin Dorjee


Many thanks to volunteer Store Manager Sarah Stahl for sourcing a wide variety of one-of-a-kind goods for the Store.
I am delighted to write to you a positive tale of amazing accomplishments for the Sheldon Museum, realized when perseverance, innovation and hard work were applied by the staff, trustees and community.

The significant challenges and changes that marked 2020 and 2021 prompted new initiatives, creative solutions, and increased support for the Museum. Despite facing temporary closure and lost revenue in 2020, museum staff and trustees challenged themselves to identify inventive and enhanced ways of serving the community, researchers, and families.

Words and pictures throughout this report tell stories of people finding inspiration from art and history when the museum was closed to the public, as well as when it reopened in July 2021. A new and more robust website was launched,literally taking the Sheldon into homes and schools. The installation of six exhibits, over twenty-five programs and events, including a major community birthday bash in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of our founder, Henry L. Sheldon, and successful fundraising initiatives were nothing short of miraculous.

In 2021, we also developed a Strategic Plan structured around four goals to refocus and advance the Sheldon Museum’s mission and help ensure a successful future. Many of these achievements would not have been possible without the commitment and dedication of our patrons, members, donors, volunteers, trustees, and, especially, our amazing staff.

We are heartened by the resilience and renewed purpose these last two years have brought. As more change awaits, we will continue to advance our mission in important and wonderful ways, engage diverse audiences, foster education, and, in the words of our founder Henry L. Sheldon, “benefit future generations.”
One Park Street was filled to the brim for the “enjoyment of all,” as Henry’s last will hoped.