2021 ANNUAL REPORT
Dear Museum Family,

As with the American Revolution, evidence of big changes ahead is often hidden below the surface, largely undetected until good change becomes a suddenly obvious and unstoppable force. We like to think your American Independence Museum is on such a sneaky and intentional and not-always-easy path as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026!

We often hear your Museum described as a ‘hidden gem’ in Exeter, and there is something nice about the intimacy that phrase represents. If you attended the live American Independence Festival in July, necessarily scaled down to fit within the boundaries of our physical campus and yet tripled in days, you understand what an enduring treasure this place and its people are.

As we celebrated the 300th birthday of the Ladd-Gilman House and the 30th Anniversary of your Museum in the fall of 2021, perhaps driving by you noticed a bulldozer pushing around dirt to level the main lawn, or on your Powder House walk across the river spied the tip of a festive white sailcloth tent on that lawn, or one evening not only caught snappy jazz drifting up Water Street but also made your way inside that big tent for one of our live celebrations!

While Covid eases up and 2026 approaches, we plan to celebrate more and more, and rest assured these years of forced distancing have nevertheless been productive ones. Your Museum team is doing what it can do – unearth new stories to bring out the full experience of the Revolution, create new tours and events that highlight the richness of our grounds and collection, produce dozens of new videos for online and on-site education, and pose well-crafted questions that in the pondering inspire us all to think beyond ourselves and our time.

We appreciate every ounce of your help. As always, thank you so much for your fresh ideas, your encouraging words, your bold actions, your generous financial gifts, your curious visits and your most interesting questions. Your Board of Governors, Ambassadors, Staff and Volunteers are deeply appreciative of your engagement with the Museum.

You make our work a joy!

Ozzie Ayscue
President, Board of Governors
MISSION
To engage, educate and excite people of all ages to understand and celebrate the American struggle for freedom and self-governance, and to preserve and share our buildings, grounds and collection so they will be an inspiration for generations to come.

VALUES
• Inclusiveness
• Discovery
• Innovation
• Accountability
• Integrity

VISION
All people inspired to civic engagement.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES
TO STIR AND STRENGTHEN...

Our Collective Imagination
Stimulate imagination by sharing diverse, vivid, unique stories of the local people, places, events and artifacts of the Revolutionary era in honest, relevant, compassionate and unexpected ways.

Our Conversations
Inspire all people to come to our forum to learn about and wrestle with the big questions of the American Revolution that are still alive and informative today, such as who we are as Americans and how we want to be governed.

Individual Civic Engagement
Motivate and help people to participate directly and constructively by providing a home base for learning and an interface with civic leaders and active participants, both political and non-political.

Our Place in Exeter • The Seacoast
Create the ambulatory center of Exeter, an open, inviting and spirited whole campus that is provocative, enriching and enjoyable for all.

Our Broader Impact
Transcend our borders by working with mission-aligned partners and using the full range of available physical and digital media.

Our Core Capabilities
Cultivate a sustainable and resilient institution that can stay light on its feet, try new things and compete tenaciously for the peoples’ attention beyond our own lifetimes.

Theo Martey and the Akwaaba Ensemble perform at the American Independence Festival

Horton Medal
2021
YEAR IN REVIEW

We welcomed you for the return of in-person programs including Beer for History and family-friendly events like Our Waterways and Power of Words.

Three weeks of the American Independence Festival welcomed over 1,000 guests and asked attendees what independence means to them.

Our campus lawn was regraded and now includes a pathway to connect our two buildings.

New tour experiences in Ladd-Gilman House and Folsom Tavern featuring immersive experiences and new perspectives on the American Revolution.
THE PEOPLE
WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE

American Independence Center Trustees

Dr. Hollis Merrick III, Chairman
James Benenson III
David Burnham
Stephen B. Jeffries
Paul Marcus

Board of Governors

Ozzie Ayscue, President
Hugh Robinson, Vice President
Robert A. Casassa, Secretary
Brian Lortie, Treasurer
Rebecca B. Dunham
William Jordan
Mark Leighton
Paul Marcus
Diane Devine Mizusawa
Niko Papakonstantis
Judy Rowan
Catherine V. Salterio
Paul Staller
Barbara Wilson
Mike Wilson

Museum Ambassadors

Linda Biagini
Matthew Breen
Ronald C. Brown Jr.
Susan Y. Desjardins
Rebecca Dillman
M. Jacqueline Eastwood
Julie Gilman
Charles Goss
Jessica Hammond
Sean Heuvel
Dave Hobson
Julie LaNigra
Peter Lennon
Eric MacDonald
Sean Mahoney
Karen McDonnell
Amy McLaughlin
Agostinho N. Nunes
Fran Parker
Renée Plummer
Russell Prescott Sr.
Florence Ruffner
Sally Brown Russ
Joseph Taggart
Charlie Tarbell

2021 Museum Staff

Emma Stratton
Executive Director

Jen Carr
Collections Manager
and Curator

Sara Castallez
Bookkeeper

Sabina Ion
Content and Marketing Manager

Sarah Jaworski
Program Manager

JoAnn Keeler
Development Manager

Rob Levey
Consultant, Grant Writer
and Webmaster

Interns

Sarah Aznive
Katie Galvin
Charlotte Goodwin

THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our volunteers are at the heart of our work. They give tours, serve on our committees, and help in all aspects of our work. Thank you to those who worked alongside us.

Douglas Aykroyd
Elizabeth Aykroyd
Brian Beck
Greg Bisson
Elizabeth Blanchard
Matthew Breen
Mary Ann Cappiello
Don Clark
Bob Davidson
Hon. William Delker
Susan Desjardins
Tony DelVecchio
Geno DiFiore
Maris DiTolla
Dot Fisher
Melissa Foy
Katie Galvin
Bob Glowacky
Greg Gilman
Julie Gilman
Lindsay Gross
Christy Slavik Hamilton
Randy Hammond
Eli Huebner
Dave Hobson
Dana Holleran
Ella Horvath
Sarah Jauris
Dawn Jelley
Tony Kelly
Adam Krauss
Peter Lennon
Lisa Lortie
Gretchen McBride
Robin Millward
Bob Mitchell
Mercedes Monaco
Justin Morelli
Heather O’Brien
Abby Pagan-Allis
Fran Parker
Ron Raiselis
Melissa Roy
Heather Saluto
Mike Schwotzer
Pam Schwotzer
Janet Tucker
Bobbi Vandenbulcke
Dave Vaught
Mike Welch
Angela Welch

Museum staff in gift shop

Museum volunteers at 300th anniversary party
SPECIAL PROJECTS
Gifts for special initiatives – from our Master Landscape Plan to our Collections Fund, and more

$1,500 Governors Lane Steps
In Honor of Horace Morison Jr., Michael M. Morison, and Andrew W. Morison
– Michael and Gloria Morison*
– Andrew W. Morison
– Mr. Todd A. Burne*
In memory of Philip J. and Janice A. Burne
– Michael and Gloria Morison*
– Andrew W. Morison
– Mr. Todd A. Burne*

$1,000 and above
In memory of Bill Jennison
– Gussie Wilson
– Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Child *
– Douglas and Evelyn Chamberlain *
– David Burnham *
– Mark Buckles *
– Paul Staller and Deirdre O’Byrne
– J. Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
– John Rando *
– Hollis Merrick and Mary Smith *
– Paul Marcus and Moying Li *
– Dan and Linda Jones
– Paul and Molving Li *
– Hollis Merrick and Mary Smith *
– John Rando *
– J. Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
– Paul Staller and Deirdre O’Byrne

$251-500
– Jonathan Bitting *
– Bob and Sara Casassa
– Jonathan and Lori Cleary *
– Louis Clarizio
– Stephen Connelly *
– Roger and Vail Tyler *
– LCDR and Mrs. Ryan B. Weddle, USN *
– Sally Crawford and Peter Wells
– David and Barb Fittro
– Newell and Kate Flather *
– Charles Goss and Beth Carroll *
– Capt. Thomas Bailey Hagen, USN (Ret) *
– Randall Hammond and Andrew Thomas *
– Roger and Patricia Hindman
– Howard Hodgson Jr. *
– Edward Lloyd
– Sean Mahoney
– Niko Papakonstantis
– Frances Parker
– Justin Porter *
– Russell Prescott
– Rudolph Rauch III *
– Judy and Ed Rowan
– William Spalding *
– Robert and Susan Spofford *
– Joseph and Wendy Taggart *
– Roger and Vail Tyler *
– LCDR and Mrs. Ryan B. Weddle, USN *

$101-$250
– Justin Abelov *
– William Arnold
– Leonel and Dino Atsalis
– Mary Avery
– Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd
– Matthew Bak *
– William Bartlett
– Richard Batchelder *
– J. D. Bernardy
– Kenneth Bitting, III *
– Elizabeth Blanchard
– John and Kathleen Bleakie *
– Peter Boardman *
– Robert Board *
– Matthew Breen *
– Don and Mary Jo Briselden
– Karl Brommer and Connie Kuzmier
– Kathleen Brown
– Beverly Bruce
– Charles Buckles Jr. *
– Ed and Cindy Bush *
– Anonymous
– Edward and Virginia Carmody
– Tracey Carrier
– Thomas Chadwick *
– Gilman Conant *
– John Converse *
– Kathy and Rob Corson
– William and Prudence Crozier *
– Thomas Davies *
– John Powers *
– Erskine Ramsay II *
– Hugh and Elizabeth Robinson *
– Mike and Pam Ryan
– Catherine and John Salterio
– Oliver and Ana Schwab *
– Herb and Ann Sears
– Richard Spain *
– William Spaulding *
– Charles Stebbins *
– Robert Stevens *
– Alexis Studley *
– Julie and Joel Williams,
  In honor of Bill Jennison
– Gussie Wilson

Thank you to the following individuals who supported the preservation and growth of the American Independence Museum in 2021.

SUPPORT

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

$5,001 and above
Barbara and Ed Wilson

$1,000-$5,000
Ozzie Ayscue and Kathleen Mahoney
Elizabeth Bauman and Luke Gullick
John Bristol
Todd Burne *
Maris DiTolla
Stephen and Kimberly Jeffries *
Dan and Linda Jones
Paul Marcus and Mowing Li *
Hollis Merrick and Mary Smith *
John Rando *
J. Samuel Smoot and Karen McDonnell
Paul Staller and Deirdre O’Byrne

$501-$1,000
Mark Buckles *
David Burnham *
Douglas and Evelyn Chamberlain *
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher C. Child *
Walter Daniel *
Bob Davidson

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American Independence Museum

* Indicates donor is a member of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire.
In-Kind Support

Ozzie Ayscue and Kathleen Mahoney **
Burnt Timber Tavern **
Cisco Brewery
Czar’s Brewery
Exeter Parks and Recreation **
Exeter TV
Gundalow Company **
Bill Jennison
Morning Star Aerial **
New Hampshire Boat Museum **
Pipe Dream Brewing
ReVision Energy **
River House Restaurant **
Catherine and John Salterio **
Trapp Family Lodge **
The Oaks and Candia Woods
Golf Links **
UNH Brew Lab

** Denotes 300th Anniversary support
BUSINESS PARTNERS
Supporting our special programs and initiatives ranging from our American Independence Festival to our Traveling Trunk

$5,000
Service Credit Union

$3,000
Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC

$1,500
Exeter Hospital*
Foss Motors**

$1,000
Kennebunk Savings
Maris & James DiTolla, DDS**
Newburyport Bank
Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Plaistow Oral Surgery**
RiverWoods Exeter

$Up to $500
Bottomline Technologies**
Cambridge Trust**
Digital Prospectors**
ReVision Energy**
The Bungalow Club at Exeter**
TMS Architects**
Unitil**

** Denotes 300th Anniversary support

BUSINESS SUPPORT
Additional support is provided through matching gifts and direct donations

$501-$1,000
Liberty Mutual

$100 - $500
Eaton Vance
Emanuel Engineering, Inc.
Exeter Jewelers

Up to $100
Guidehouse
Microsoft

FOUNDATION AND NON-PROFIT SUPPORT

$25,000 and over
Society of the Cincinnati
in the State of New Hampshire

$10,000 – $24,999
Cogswell Benevolent Trust
Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Humanities Council
William W. Treat Foundation

$1,000 - $9,999
Bauman Family Foundation
Eventide Foundation
Fullwood Foundation
New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
Saul O. Sidore Memorial Foundation
- In Memory of Linda Cohen Sidore

Under $1,000
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut

Institutional Members
Chester Public Library
East Kingston Public Library
Exeter Chapter DAR
Exeter Public Library
Griffin Free Public Library
Hampton Falls Free Library
Kelley Library
New Durham Public Library
North Hampton Public Library
Smyth Public Library
Wiggin Memorial Library

2021 MARKED THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LADD-GILMAN HOUSE
We would like to thank all those who supported our 300th Anniversary event through ticket sales, auction purchases and donations:

Reny Allen
Abigail Pagan Allis
Carol Walker Aten and Kelsey O’Ciardha
Douglas and Elizabeth Aykroyd
Ozzie Ayscue and Kathleen Mahoney
Elizabeth Bauman and Luke Gullick
Alice and Nick Bentley
J. D. Bernardy
Don and Mary Jo Briselden
Karl and Connie Brommer
Kathleen and David Brown
Beverly Brown
Bob and Mary Casassa
David Cunningham
Richard Cutter
Susan Desjardins and Peter Lennnon
Maris DiTolla
Leslie Donahue
Morgan Dudley
William and Rebecca Dunham
Heidi Dunham
M. Jacqueline Eastwood and Michael E. McClurken
Rachael Ela, Cambridge Trust
Elizabeth Field
Dot Fisher
Charles Folsom, Folsom Family Association of America
Jeff and Melissa Foy
Mark and Cathy Gilman
Randall Hammond and Andrew Thomas
Terrie Harman and Tom McCaren
Holly Hedeman
Michael and Celesta Henry
Vaughn Hiller
Roger and Patricia Hindman
Stephen and Kimberlea Jeffries
Dawn Jelley

Dan Jones
John and MaryAnn Kane
Gloria Kent
Dick Kilbourne
Frederick and Diane Kollmorgen
Peter Ladd
Brian and Lisa Lortie
Vicki Lukas
Susan Martore-Baker and Stephen Baker
Bruce McColl
Emily Meehan
Niko Papakonstantis
Frances and Sumner Parker
Philip S. Perham
Renee Plummer
Ryan Pope, Cambridge Trust
Susan Riley and Murray Movitz
Jonathan and Phyllis Ring
Suzanne Roberge
Judy and Ed Rowan
Florence Ruffner
Catherine and John Salterio
Herb and Ann Sears
Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire
Paul Staller and Deirdre O’Byrne
Michael and Diane Veprauskas
Sally Crawford and Peter Wells
Julie and Joel Williams
Barbara and Ed Wilson
Mike and Lisa Wilson
Chris and Jolie Yonker

Guests and museum Board Members at the 300th Anniversary party.
2021 by the Numbers

**PROGRAMS**

18,356 number of miles traveled by the Traveling Trunk, across seven states and serving 518 students

2,000 people experienced our on-site, off-site and virtual programs

3 Festival weekends

**VISIBILITY**

14,500 views on our first Instagram reel

170 Instagram posts

793 hours of YouTube videos watched

36 new videos posted on YouTube

**FINANCIAL**

270 museum members

320 new donors

$22,950 raised during the Ladd-Gilman House’s 300th anniversary party in September

**OPERATIONS**

1 new cloud-based collections management database

3 new staff members

4 new volunteers

**COLLECTIONS & BUILDING**

1 new digital exhibit

3 new tours developed

1 new pathway connecting our campus

17 tons of dirt moved to regrade our lawn

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

3,878 | up 4%

1,256 | up 14%

846 | up 0%

16,976 | up 300%

2,316 | NEW!

**CONNECT WITH US!**

@americanindependencemuseum

@aimuseum

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