



January 2025

Dear Members and Friends,

This year, the Danvers Historical Society reached a landmark 135 years of dedication to preservation, education, and memories. The Society now stands as the stewards and guardians of eight important historic buildings on nearly 20 acres, including the arboretum and incredible floral displays of Glen Magna Farms (GMF). Our organization has blossomed to almost 400 members led by a committed, diverse Board of Trustees, a talented professional staff and a small army of volunteers, all devoted to fulfilling our mission to educate and preserve the rich history of Danvers, Salem Village, and this land once known as Wahquainesehcok and Wahgnack. The Society works to remain the repository of the memories of the many people who have lived amid and loved these hills and valleys for thousands of years. And thanks to your ongoing support, we can continue the strides we've made in the past year.

Funded by grants, generous personal donations, and our events, we have accomplished:

Capital Improvements

- Added a bathroom to the mansion at Glen Magna Farms to increase the building's accessibility
- Upgraded the flooring at the GMF mansion and Tapley Memorial Hall

Educational Programming

- Expanded our History Week Program, for every 3rd grade student in Danvers public schools, to be facilitated by Danvers High School students
- Mentored 3 college student interns in various aspects of our operations; and continued to teach horticulture, administrative, curatorial and business skills to special needs students in our "Come Grow With Us" program
- Brought authors and historians to our monthly Speaker Series, along with a monthly film series
- Continued partnerships with Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical High School and Danvers High School to create community service opportunities

Community Outreach and Events & Volunteer efforts

- Awarded scholarships to two Danvers High School seniors
- Hosted monthly Porch Swing music gatherings
- Expanded online access to Danvers history in collaboration with Danvers Community Access Television
- Held the annual Spring Plant Sale to benefit the Lord & Burnham Greenhouse
- Hosted the Gathering for the Gazebo! fundraiser to restore the Peabody Gazebo
- Presented our popular Summer Beer Garden Music Series fundraiser
- Welcomed the community to our 16th Annual Parade of Trees to benefit Tapley Memorial Hall
- Unveiled exhibits and tours illustrating archaeology, Indigenous Peoples', REV250 and Women's history

Looking ahead, the Danvers Historical Society is planning new events to commemorate the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the War of Independence while concurrently honoring the presence and long history of the Indigenous Peoples who have already inhabited these shores for 10,000 years or more.

We will continue to:

- Bring the Mansion up to code with an elevator and sprinklers
- Restore the 1930's Lord & Burnham greenhouse to sustain our historic gardens and horticultural programming
- Restore the original unique 18th century wallpaper in the Mansion dining room
- Rebuild the gazebo in the award-winning Historic Gardens at Glen Magna Farms
- Upgrade air conditioning and dehumidification in Tapley Memorial Hall

You can continue to be a partner in our success by:

- Renewing/upgrading your membership; see our expanded member benefits for 2025
- Joining the Preservation Builders Club to make monthly contributions
- Remembering the Society in your will, Planned Giving and/or Donor Advised Fund
- Attending Society fundraisers and volunteering in the areas listed on the application
- Recording your family memories, so the stories of how Danversites lived, loved, worked and played will be preserved for future generations.

**With your membership, you can share in the pride of knowing you have contributed to preserving our heritage and educating our community about our living history. Thank you!**

-Your Most Humble and Obedient Servant,

*David McKenna*, President