

October 15, 2020

DEEP RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
246 Main Street
PO Box 151
Deep River, CT. 06417

The Deep River Historical Society, incorporated on August 30th, 1946 under the statutes of the State of Connecticut, accepted the charitable gift from Ada Southworth Munson of the Stone House its properties and funds for its maintenance. The society is a Tax-Exempt Charitable organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has been since 1948. The Deep River Historical Society envisions itself as an integral partner in a community that embraces its heritage.

Article I of the society's By-Laws states:

"The Deep River Historical Society shall maintain and preserve The Deep River Stone House and grounds, promote general interest in the history of Deep River and collect and preserve the historical artifacts and records of Deep River and its environs"

And our mission:

"Our mission is to interact with our community in the collection, preservation and interpretation of Deep River's place in American history through exhibits, programs, research, collections and publications to inspire current and future generations"

The Deep River Historical Society is managed by a board of trustees who are responsible for ensuring the society meets the objectives of its benefactor, Ada Munson.

The Society has on exhibit some of the Connecticut River Valley's most extensive collections of local historic items including Niland Glass once made in Deep River, local merchant memorabilia, the Deep River Lace Factory collection, the Pratt Read collection including the WWII glider collection, Marine collection, Denison plane collection, other local factories collections and many more items of local interest. The Museum is furnished with fine art and period items, with many items that once belonged to the Munson family. We have a new rotating exhibit room that runs special exhibits periodically. Our ever-growing collection of artifacts reflect the stories and history of the people of Deep River as a place to live, play, work and worship. We feel strongly that knowing where you come from helps shape the future, quality of life and wellbeing of our community. Our programs are free, and so allow all members of our society no matter their economic status to enjoy all our programs and exhibits.

During 2020 the pandemic put on hold much of our activities and outreach to the community including our educational programs, however, our volunteers continued to be busy with society work behind the scenes. We are busy planning for when it will be safe to open our doors again.

- Our planned 2020 Suffragette exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment and women's right to vote which is also highlighting important women of Deep River will likely open to the public sometime in 2021.
- This was recently highlighted in an article in the Valley Courier.
- We continue with our STEPs program in conjunction with the Ct. State Historical Society that supports and develops "best in class" practices for historical societies. This has involved significant preservation upgrades and projects to ensure we manage our collections well.
- We continue working on our Wharf to Waterfall exhibit that will reconfigure our upstairs into a new exhibit hall.
- We are hoping to have a "contact free" version of our festival of trees program this holiday season.
- We hope to continue in 2021 or shortly thereafter with our normal annual programs such as our Tea, Strawberry Social, Family Day activities, educational programs with the elementary, junior high and high school, Festival of Trees, programs with other local museums and our own community programs.

Funds received from the Essex Savings Bank Community Investment Fund have and will continue to be used to support the work of the Society and make it's programs and exhibits accessible to all members of our community.