



Peterborough Town Library

2 Concord Street, Peterborough, NH 03458-1511 ■ (603) 924-8040 ■ PeterboroughTownLibrary.org

Mission Statement

The purpose of the local history collection is to preserve the materials that document the history of Peterborough, and to a lesser extent, the surrounding Monadnock Region. Our local history collection educates community members by collecting, preserving, and providing access to materials that document the government, industry, commerce, organizations, civics, cultural life, religious life, and environment of our town and its inhabitants. Materials related to the general history of New Hampshire will also be maintained as space allows. All materials will be maintained and kept readily available to researchers and the public.

Collection Overview

The Local History Collection is located in closed stacks at the Peterborough Town Library. A catalog of our holdings is available online and the items are freely available to the public. The items do not circulate. Current strengths of the collection include the history of settlement and early history of Peterborough, local newspapers available in print, microfilm, and online, school yearbooks, records that document the military service of Peterborough residents, the history of select churches, and the history of the Peterborough Town Library. The majority of our items are secondary sources and published books.

Primary areas of collecting include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Materials that record the history, development, and current state of affairs of the Town of Peterborough.
- Personal manuscripts and other materials that record the history, experiences, and ancestry of Peterborough individuals and families.
- Published records or materials that chronicle the history of Peterborough organizations and institutions.
- Materials that record the social and cultural heritage of past and present, including religious organizations and service groups.
- Materials that contribute to a better understanding of the area's geography, environment, demographics, and architecture.
- Materials that record and provide context for understanding the lives of historically significant figures or events associated with the Town of Peterborough.
- Materials that provide instruction in the practice of genealogy, local history, preservation, oral history, and similar topics.

Selection Criteria

Consideration for inclusion will be based on the overall merit of the material and in its usefulness in understanding Peterborough's history.



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Other factors include:

- Relevance to the history of Peterborough and surrounding areas.
- Suitability of the subject to the Local History Collection.
- Available space in the Library to house materials.
- Non-duplication of material within the collection or readily available online in resources such as Internet Archive.
- Authenticity and completeness of record.
- Quality of the physical form of material.
- Ease of use for patrons.
- Ability to store, display, or otherwise care for the item properly.
- Cost to preserve, store, and process.
- Security requirements to store and/or display.
- Lack of restrictions by donor. A signed deed of gift is required for donations.

Discarding Materials

The library reserves the right to the deaccession of materials no longer appropriate to the collection.

Criteria for Deaccession

The collections housed in the local historical collection have more permanent historic and cultural value and require separate special criteria to guide deaccession decisions. Physical space limitations, changing technology, and advances in preservation and digitization efforts require periodic reevaluation of the collection.

The following items should be permanently retained:

- First editions of local histories, biographies and fictional works by Peterborough authors.
- Original documents, pamphlets, brochures, other materials and maps created by organizations, businesses, and local groups to the Peterborough area.

This policy will be revisited when the library capital improvement project is complete. The Library Director will address issues of actively collecting items and ongoing effort to digitize primary materials.

April 3, 2018

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