

The Manchester Historical Society, August 1, 2020
Manchester Heralds Free to Browse

The Manchester Historical Society announces the success of the community-supported effort to digitize over 100 years of Manchester Evening Heralds, a local newspaper published from 1881 to 1991. The digitized editions are available free to the public for research, genealogy, or to locate names of family members and ancestors, Town and personal events, and important historic happenings in Manchester, in the country, and in the world. This valuable resource augments the online archives of larger newspapers, such as The Hartford Courant, which is available on the websites of the Manchester Public Library and the Connecticut State Library.

The link to the archive is on the home page of the Manchester Historical Society: www.manchesterhistory.org. – look for the square that says “Manchester Newspapers” near the top. Individual editions can be searched, using your computer’s search box, and some cross-edition searching is available.

The co-leaders of the project, Noreen Palladino Cullen and Susan Barlow said, “We are grateful to all of the donors who made this possible, including the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame; the Herbert and Louise Whitney Fund Community Preservation Grant Program of Historic New England; and Cruisin’ on Main. Individuals, nearly 200 of them, including Historical Society members and many participants in the Grew Up in Manchester Facebook page, donated the bulk of the \$15,000 that we paid to the digitizing service. Major thanks go to Jim Hall, an amazing volunteer, who set up calendars on the website so viewers can find their way through the years, months, and days of the editions. Testers have reviewed the editions for accuracy of dates, and we can’t thank them enough for their help! Dave Smith, the Society’s curator, contributed to this complex, two-year project, by finding and categorizing microfilm, and supporting the project from start to finish.”

We are opening the archive to the public despite some missing editions (particularly 1881-1917) and despite some flaws, such as “dual” editions in one PDF file that may slow down loading time. We are eager to find missing editions (phone the Society at 860-647-9983 with info). We also plan to scan the microfilm of The South Manchester News, and to create a Herald search engine, but for this we need more donations – send checks to the Society at 175 Pine Street, Manchester, CT, with “Herald project” in the memo line. We had hoped to invite the public to a Herald Digitization celebration, with displays and hints on searching, but that will be postponed during social distancing restrictions.

Everyone is welcome to use this archive of the Manchester Evening Herald. It is a resource like no other and a gift both now and for generations to come.