



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Members October 7, 2020

The 104th Annual Meeting of the Cheney Cemetery Association was held Wednesday, October 7, 2020, via Zoom video conference on-line. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

Those who registered for the meeting are below. We were unable to verify attendance because attendees' names did not appear on the screen. If you were with us "in spirit" and want to see what happened, the Annual Meeting Zoom call was recorded and may be found at https://youtu.be/OydUMet7_cQ Please scroll to minute 13.

Kate Cheney Chappell—Kennebunk, ME
Amy Jane Cheney—Oakland, CA
Carol Lispenard Cheney—Hamden, CT
Knight Dexter Cheney IV—Hamden, CT
Nathaniel Cheney—Bloomfield, NJ
Richard Otis Cheney IV—Somers, CT
Timothy Dexter Cheney—Arnold, MD
Margaret Callender Dennis—Irvine, CA
John Fiske—Bloomfield, CT
Nancy Woodward Greene—San Luis Obispo, CA
Susan Cheney Ham—Indianapolis, IN
Jane Hamilton Humpstone—Washington, DC
Andrea Learned—Santa Rosa, CA
John (Sandy) A. Marshall—Ladue, MO
Kristin Merrill—Easton, CT
Thomas Edwin Myers—Jericho, VT
Christopher Neville—Baldwinsville, NY
Thomas A. (Alec) Neville—Dallas, TX
Dave L. Newbold—West Roxbury, MA
Arthur Platt—New York, NY
Sophie Platt Pollok—Frankfurt, Germany
Austin Cheney Smith—Eastham, MA
Timothy Nathaniel Smith—San Francisco, CA
Clarissa Howell Cheney Street—Charlottesville, VA
Phebe Thorne—Ketchum, ID, Ponte Verde, FL
Penelope Pelham West—Belfast, ME
Byard Owen Williams—Ellicott City, MD

In addition, 19 members were represented by proxy; making a legal quorum.

Anne Alexander—Pisgah Forest, NC
John Roberts Bockstoce—South Dartmouth, MA
Peter B. Brawley—Culpepper, VA
Laura Elizabeth Buening—Indianapolis, IN
George Platt Cheney—
Sarah Bissell Cheney—Dallas, TX
Dexter Woodbridge Cheney—Collinsville, CT

Mary Bushnell Goodman—Washington, DC
Charles Cheney Humpstone—South Woodstock, VT
Katherine Cheney Humpstone—New York
Alison Cheney Marcello—Manahawkin, NJ
Barbara McGhie—Rye, Brook, NY
Wendy Jefferson Rovelli—Concord, MA
Hope J. Weinman—Marshfield, MA
Robert Owen Williams
Timothy Cheney Williams

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carol Cheney welcomed the members of the Association and introduced the current board of directors: Carol L. Cheney, Richard O. Cheney IV, John Fiske, K. Dexter Cheney IV, Thomas Myers, Austin C. Smith, Kate Cheney Chappell, Andrea Learned, and Kristin Merrill. *[A video of the cemetery grounds played.]*

BENEDICTION The Rev. K. Dexter Cheney IV read a benediction in the Cheney Cemetery in Manchester, CT.

APPRECIATION FROM THE TOWN OF MANCHESTER

Susan Barlow, Manchester Town Historian and active member of the Manchester Historical Society, gave a tribute to the Cheney Family and its profound influence on the growth of the Town via an armchair tour of the Cheney Historic Landmark District and related areas. *[Slides and video clips played and The Manchester Troubadour emeritus sang verses from the song about the Cheney's Dancing Bear Statue.]* This was recorded and may be found at <https://youtu.be/3HKfEW67eDM>

HONORING CHENEY BROTHERS

Cheney Brothers silk manufacturing business was inducted into the American Manufacturing Hall of Fame in 2018, and the history of the Cheney Brothers was presented, featuring many of their inventions.

Visit <https://vimeo.com/292707191> and enter password CheneyAMHOF

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHENEY COLLECTION AT THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Director of Collections, Andrea Rapacz, gave an introduction to the collections and genealogical materials relating to the Cheney Family at the Museum. She provided information on how to access information on the family and the museum's digitizing of the museum's large holdings of "Cheneyana." *[video]*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Kristin Merrill presented the treasurer's report, a copy of which accompanies these minutes. The Cemetery Association has two income accounts. Expenses for the maintenance of the cemetery and CCA administration come from the interest accumulated by a Bank of America investment account. Of particular interest in looking back, the balance of this account in 1960 was \$80,000. At the end of 2019 the account balance was \$1,829,000. This account fluctuates but in general for the last five years has remained unchanged. Our expenses for 2019 were \$71,378, down \$10,000 from 2018.

The second account is The Cheney Family Fund, a donor-advised fund administered by the Hartford Foundation. This account is the source for the annual donations the Cemetery Association makes to local nonprofits.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Austin Smith reported that he had reviewed the Association's financial records and the Treasurer's Report and found the report to accurately reflect the financial condition of the Association.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Jerry Fiske reported for the Investment Committee. Please see the attached report.

GROUNDS

Rick Cheney reported on the Grounds of the Cheney Cemetery. Please see the attached report.

DONATIONS

Carol Cheney reported for the Donations Committee. The Directors approved recommendations of donations for 2020. The total amount in the Cheney Family Fund for distribution in 2020 is \$21,347. The current market value fund is \$591,051. Please see the attached report.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Carol Cheney summarized events and activities of the past year. Her goals for the coming year are to build a website for the Cheney Family with access to a password-protected genealogical database and to interest younger members of the family to get involved in the association. Carol bid farewell to members whose passing was reported to us during the year. Please see the attached report.

The Zoom meeting then became live, [with 23 members](#) for Q & A and to catch up. We hope to schedule other Zoom meetings in the coming months.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was VOTED to accept the prior year minutes.

Upon motion made and seconded, it was VOTED to accept all of the reports presented by video.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Merrill, Secretary
Cheney Cemetery Association
855 Ridge Road, Hamden, CT 06517
203-589-6995
kmerrill@cheneyandco.com



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The 104th Annual Meeting of the Members of The Cheney Cemetery Association, Inc.

The 104th Annual Meeting of the Members of The Cheney Cemetery Association, Inc. will be held virtually through Zoom on October 7, 2020 at 2 p.m. to hear and take action on:

- Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on June 8, 2019. (Please review these prior to the Zoom call)
- Report of the President for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Treasurer for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Auditors for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Investment Committee for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Grounds Committee for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Membership Committee for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Report of the Nominating Committee: Election of Directors and Officers for the ensuing year
- Report of the Donations Committee for the year ended December 31, 2019
- Any other business proper to come before the meeting

- 1:50-2:00 Chat time
- 2:00–2:10 Welcome and Introductions—Carol Cheney, President
- 2:10–2:12 Benediction—The Rev. K. Dexter Cheney IV
- 2:12-2:20 Appreciation from the Town of Manchester—Susan Barlow, Manchester Town Historian
Manchester Troubadour emeritus, Dancing Bears song clip
- 2:20–2:25 Honoring Cheney Brothers—video from American Manufacturing Hall of Fame induction event
- 2:25-2:30 Connecticut Historical Society Cheney collection video clip—Andrea Rapacz, Director of Collections
- 2:30–2:45 Reports
- Finance—Kristin Merrill, Treasurer/Secretary
- Audit—Austin Smith, Chair of Investment Committee
- Investment—Jerry Fiske, Chair of Investment Committee
- Grounds—Rick Cheney, Chair of Grounds Committee
- President’s Report and Donations Report—Carol Cheney, Chair of Donations, Nominating and Membership Committee
- 2:45–3:00 Adjourn for open Q and A



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

THE CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2019



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

**2019
INCOME AND EXPENSE**

<u>Operating Income</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Dividends	\$34,616	\$31,554
Interest – bonds	8,681	9,549
Interest – cash equivalents	365	0
Membership dues	<u>0</u>	<u>30</u>
Total income	\$43,662	\$41,133
Operating expense		
Care of grounds	\$53,593	\$62,311
Administration	17,785	19,453
Total expense	<u>\$71,378</u>	<u>\$81,764</u>
Deficit	(\$27,716)	(\$40,631)

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Current

Cash equivalents	\$ 43,336	\$ 7,523
Securities at cost	<u>\$793,591</u>	<u>\$819,033</u>
	\$836,927	\$826,556

Fixed

Real estate	\$15,665	\$15,665
Fixtures	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	\$15,669	\$15,669

Total assets \$852,596 \$842,225

Liabilities, Fund Balances

Surplus \$852,596 \$842,22

Detail of Expenses 2019

Expense		
Administration		
Bank Fee		3,426
Cheney & Company		
Database Management	500	
Financial Management	2,525	
Professional Service	2,655	
Website / Creative Services		
Total Cheney & Company		5,305
CNA / QBE Insurance		
General Liability	1,754	
Total CNA / QBE Insurance		1,754
Computers and Internet		147
Donation		250
Dues and Subscriptions		140
Meals & Entertainment		
Miscellaneous Expense		563
Payroll Company		497
Payroll Taxes		306
Postage and Delivery		172
Printing		
Probate Fee		25
Payroll		
C.L. Cheney	1,500	
R.O. Cheney	2,500	
Total Payroll		4,000
Rent		1,200
Total Administration		17,785
Care Of Cemetery		
Trees & Shrubs		
Mountain Tree Service		
Feeding	9,679	
Pest Control	8,569	
Pruning/Tree Removal	3,250	
Storm Damage	2,600	
Total Mountain Tree Service		24,098
Total Trees & Shrubs		24,098
Lawn		
Green Carpet –		
Feeding/Herbicide		4,239
Irrigation		1,401
Town of Manchester		
Mow, Leaf & Snow Removal	6,183	
Water	782	
Total Town of Manchester		6,965
Executive Lawn Service		
Mulch, Top Dressing	4,175	
Spring / Fall Cleanup	3,235	
Weed, Prune Shrubs	2,760	
Weekly Maintenance	3,720	
Total Executive Lawn Service		13,890
Total Lawn		26,495
Willard Flowers Consulting		3,000
Total Care Of Cemetery		53,593
Total Expense		71,378



**2019
PRINCIPAL TRANSACTIONS**

<u>Sold</u>	Proceeds	Cost	Gain
1,871 Units Vanguard Short Term	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,038	\$ (38)
Anadarko Pete Corp	50,811	15,561	32,250
return of principal	\$ 70,811	\$ 35,599	\$ 32,212
Capital gains distributions – long term	3,221		
short term	<u>0</u>		
	\$ 3,221		

**2019
SUMMARY OF FUNDS**

Tree Replacement Fund		
Balance 12/31/18		\$25,850
No transactions in 2019		<u>0</u>
	Balance 12/31/18	\$25,850
Capital Improvement Fund		
Balance 12/31/18		\$11,355
No transactions in 2019		<u>0</u>
	Balance 12/31/19	\$11,355
Operating Fund		
Total Cash and securities at market		\$1,829,029



Audit Committee Report

2019 Fiscal Year

We have examined the financial records of the Cheney Cemetery Association for the year ending December 31, 2019 as submitted to the Audit Committee by Kristin Merrill, Secretary/Treasurer. This examination includes all payments from the checking account backed by invoices and authorized by John Fiske or Richard Cheney. Also examined were all security transactions authorized by John Fiske and executed by BankAmerica. Income receipts related to the investment portfolio held by BankAmerica were not examined.

We have found the Treasurer's report to be substantially correct.

Austin C. Smith
September 30, 2020



CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Investment Committee Report 2019

The investment committee continues to take a long-term approach. We don't pay attention to the short-term swings in the market. What is important is if the economy grows long term. With companies making more money year after year sooner or later the market will grow. We try to keep up with the expenses for the cemetery. We focus on the best quality securities, the blue chips. We may miss an occasional high-flier but also miss a few disasters.

Please see Kristin Merrill's Treasurer's report Principal Transactions and Summary of Funds for more information.

---John Fiske, Chair, Investment committee

CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

October 7, 2020

This past year, 2019, was certainly a busy year for a cemetery and not necessarily for good reasons. We had several storms that required extensive cleanups keeping both Barry and Kevin very busy. We incurred storm related damages in August, September, and November. Alice Willard made two inspections throughout the year highlighting various areas requiring attention. I hope Alice doesn't mind, but I refer to her as our auditor. She has tremendous horticultural knowledge and keeps us pointed in the right direction.

We have lost several trees throughout the years and although we have replaced many of them there are still several locations where it would be appropriate to plant new trees. I will be working with Carol, Dexter, Alice and Barry on developing a comprehensive plan to identify these areas for replanting, selecting the best specimens, the right size, and other criteria's the committee deems relevant. We will use funds in the 2020 budget and we have also added funds in the 2021 budget for this work.

We will also need to continue our work with Ruth Shapleigh-Brown on cleaning and maintaining the various headstones/monuments as nature's elements will ensure her job security. Funds have been allocated for this work in the 2021 budget. We continued our work on the lawn by having Green Carpet Lawn Service over seed and aerate the lawn. Now we need to eliminate some pesky moles!

I like to extend my thanks and appreciation to fellow Grounds Committee members, Dexter Cheney (Vice Chair) and Carol Cheney. I'd also like to thank Alice Willard for her horticultural expertise and the guidance she has provided. Additionally, I'd like to extend our appreciation to Barry Dolby from Mountain Tree Service; Kevin Regan from Executive Lawn Services; Town of Manchester – East Cemetery Ground's Crew; Green Carpet Lawn Service; and Frank's Landscaping for all their hard work and dedication making the cemetery grounds look great.

In conclusion, I am very pleased to report that the state of the cemetery remains in great condition, a little battered, but well cared for! Please take time to walk around and if you see anything of concern, please feel free to give me a call. I can be reached at (860)810-3249 or at rick@rickcheney.com.
Enjoy!

A budget for fiscal year 2021 has been prepared and is available for review.

Submitted by:

Richard O. Cheney, IV

Grounds Committee Chairman

CHENEY CEMETERY ASSOCIATION - GROUNDS COMMITTEE
2019 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL
1/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

	2019	BUDGET	2019	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
OPERATING EXPENSES:					
Consulting:					
Willard Flowers		\$3,000.00		<u>\$3,000.00</u>	\$3,000.00 \$0.00
Care of Trees:					
Mountain Tree:					
Pruning: Trees & Shrubs		\$6,000.00		\$3,250.00	
Fertilizing		\$9,500.00		\$10,762.00	
Pest Control		\$9,500.00		\$7,486.00	
Cabling		<u>\$500.00</u>		<u>\$0.00</u>	
		\$25,500.00		\$21,498.00	-\$4,002.00
Emergency Tree Removal (Storm damage)		\$3,000.00		\$2,600.00	-\$400.00
Tree Replacement		\$2,500.00		<u>\$0.00</u>	-\$2,500.00
Total - Mountain Tree		\$31,000.00		\$24,098.00	-\$6,902.00
Care of Lawn, Shrubs & Beds:					
Town of Manchester: Mowing; Leaf & Snow Removal		\$5,500.00		\$6,183.00	
Town of Manchester - Water Department		\$600.00		\$782.00	
Executive Lawn Services		\$10,000.00		\$13,890.00	
Franks Landscaping - Irrigation Maintenance		\$1,100.00		\$1,401.00	
Green Carpet - Lawn Fertilization		\$1,750.00		\$4,239.00	
Misc.		<u>\$250.00</u>		<u> </u>	
		\$19,200.00		\$26,495.00	\$7,295.00
Capital Improvements:					
Gravestone Cleaning		\$5,000.00			-\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:		<u>\$58,200.00</u>		<u>\$53,593.00</u>	<u>-\$11,509.00</u> -\$4,607.00

Report on Cheney Family Fund Donations for 2020

We continue to work with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving to make grants in Manchester and the Hartford area in keeping with the Cheney Cemetery Association's philosophy of supporting education and the arts in a way that supports education and the arts and the perpetuation of the Cheney legacy in its physical and programmatic presence. Covid has devastated nonprofit budgets. Notes from the grantees written during the request phase are included here to give you more information about the recipients. —Carol Cheney

\$21,347 **Total in the Cheney Family Fund for distribution in 2020 (market value of fund \$591,051.23)**

\$1,000 **Hartford Artisans Weaving Center**

Thanks very much for your recommendation of a \$1,000 gift to the Weaving Center from The Cheney Family Fund. It has been a difficult year for all, but we are fine. Your grant in 2019, and one this year, would again support the weaving program for visually impaired individuals and seniors. As part of the strategic plan, the Center entered into a two-year lease with the Manchester Historical Society at the Cheney Machine Shop to expand programming for floor loom weaving classes and to bring together Hartford and Manchester weavers for a Show and Tell event of finished work. We are going ahead with our classes in Manchester at the Manchester Historical Society and former Cheney Mills. The first class starts on Thursday, Sept 17. With your \$1,000 gift, we would use the money to pay the rent for the Manchester space, and compensate the Manchester weaving teacher. — *Claudia Spaulding, Treasurer, Hartford Artisans Weaving Center*

\$3,500 **Mary Cheney Library**

The first Cheney donation supported our Adult Summer Reading program, which has exponentially grown, becoming a mainstay in our programming. Services for adults have a positive impact on our community. With libraries being one of the few places where people can come free of charge, no questions asked, our mission to educate and entertain becomes even more crucial. We had great plans for this year, but alas, like everything else, we had to modify and slim down our plans...For your statistical purposes, we had 449 participants, 3121 total books read, with *28 Summers*, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, *Hideaway*, *Big Summer*, and *The Other Mrs.* being our top books. While being smaller, with your continued support we are able to offer programs and services to our population that we would not be able to otherwise. We are looking forward to planning a special Winter Adult Reading Program, called "Book Blizzard," as well as our continued plans to offer a "One Book One Town" program when we are able to gather in large crowds again. We would really appreciate your continued support of our Adult Summer Reading program and adult services. — *Jenn Bartlett, Librarian 2, Head of Reference*

\$2,000

Howell Cheney Technical High School (PAID)

We established the Spirit of Innovation Awards in 2017 in memory of Howell Cheney. The awards go to two deserving students selected by the faculty and carry a \$1,000 cash prize each, the amount voted on by the CCA board last year. “This year’s recipients are Caitlin Coonan and Sasha Martinez. Caitlin has chosen the Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology trade. She is a quiet leader but does a lot for the school and her community at the public library. Caitlin is also the recipient of the Excellence in Senior Trade Portfolio for displaying attributes of excellence in achievement which will facilitate future success and the Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer award for outstanding support of the blood drives. Sasha has chosen the Culinary Arts trade. She has volunteered for every evening activity that Culinary has put forth at Cheney. She has worked at school as a Red Cross Blood Drive Volunteer and is a recipient of that award. She is also the recipient of a Culinary Art award for most outstanding culinary student and Verplanck Mentor award in recognition of service as a literacy mentor to the Verplanck Elementary students. In her community, Sasha has grown out her hair and donated it to Hair We Share, and so doing has helped children to maintain dignity affected by hair loss.”—*Bonnie Bell, Cheney Tech*

Prize Day was cancelled this year due to Covid. I was very disappointed not to attend, but sent the young women their framed citations, and arranged for them to receive their cash awards from the HFPG. Caitlin and Sasha both sent notes of gratitude.

5,000

Manchester Community College

This year it is especially important to support the Cheney Family Scholarships in honor of John and Linda Sutherland at Manchester Community College. Covid has wreaked havoc with institutional budgets and individuals’ ability to pay for tuition and expenses. Our gift matters. I am assured that our scholarships mean a lot to those selected by the college to receive them. For last year’s donation, Deon Doran wrote, “...Without your generosity it would not be possible for me to continue with my schooling, and for that I owe a debt of gratitude. It is an honor to receive your assistance, and the inherent responsibility that accompanies such a gift is one I do not take lightly...Your investment will not only help me, but it will help my family, my local community, and even the national economy. Cheney Family Scholarships provide a great public service by subsidizing the educational costs of students in need; helping to lift the boot off their throats.” And Denise Harned wrote, “Thank you once again for the merit scholarship that was awarded to me for the fall semester. It was put to great use paying for books, online access codes, and fees. My current grade is a 4.0 for this semester. I am planning on continuing my studies in the spring and can now see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

2,500

Connecticut Historical Society

“Last year we submitted a proposal to digitize and upload digital records relating to George Cheney’s World War 1 material. Due to the shutdown for Covid, the construction of our digitization lab was put on hold. Construction should be complete in a few weeks, and we anticipate being up and running by Thanksgiving. CHS would like to continue the work proposed last year, to digitize and make available on the Connecticut Digital Archive, previously cataloged material in the Cheney Family Collection. A high priority is digitizing photographs in the collections created by Philip Cheney and Horace Bushnell Cheney. There are thousands of photographs in these collections, so we would work on these items until the funds are expended. A \$2500 grant would support approximately 130 hours of work.”—Andrea Rapacz, Director of Collections

3,000

Manchester Historical Society

Peter Millett is the chairman of the Homestead Committee, which oversees the upkeep, exhibits, and building, along with open houses, tours, special events and other programming, including the heritage gardens. A large number of volunteers have contributed dozens of hours of time. I asked Peter what some of the priorities are identified by his committee that we might support.

“GARDENS: We have three gardens—Electa's herb garden (within the curved stone wall), the 1818 Homestead Kitchen garden, and a new planting of roses honoring the flowers and art of our last resident, Dorothy Cheney. These gardens also focus on women of the Homestead, their lives and activities, including the role of Native American women in our "Three Sisters" section of the kitchen garden and their contribution to early American survival. There are always needs in the gardens involving a financial outlay.

“SHADES: We want to replace 20 shades throughout museum (not apartment),s the current shades are getting old and are of medium quality. In addition, there is more sunlight on the south side due to the tree being removed last September. We're hoping to get higher quality, light reducing and insulating shades. We can install them ourselves.

“SIGNAGE: We would like to install exterior signage for self-guided tours of the Homestead gardens and buildings, possibly also in braille. The cost would be +/- \$1,500 for 3-5 professionally produced signs and post mounting materials. This would allow visitors the ability to have independent outside tours, and possibly make the history more handicapped accessible.

“Two additional signs with introductory information by the entrance to the Keeney Schoolhouse and Homestead would be useful.

The signs would provide visitors the fundamental information, and docents and interior signs/info will provide more in-depth history. With Covid, we are limiting our direct contact, and this would assist us in continuing to promote our interesting history.”—*Peter Millett*

A side note to this grant recommendation: I made a personal \$15,000 grant to MHS earlier in the year for the rebuild of the organization’s website using a professional designer and my pro bono time as project manager. It became apparent in our Discovery meetings that MHS had work to do in clarifying its mission and programs as well as instituting policies and guidelines to protect its assets and to operate as efficiently as possible. This would be necessary before we can pinpoint the site plan and creative elements of the site. They have undertaken this work, and we will move forward when they have things pulled together. The MHS also continues to receive a \$25,000 annual gift from the Alexandra and John Preston Foundation.

2,500

Wadsworth Atheneum

Casey Mallinckrodt is the Objects Conservator at the Wadsworth Atheneum, where she oversees care of the museum’s highly varied object collections and collections care issues. She wrote, “As you know, conservation responsibilities vary widely depending on whether the task is evaluation of an incoming loan, creating stable housing for fragile materials or—the core of our work—carrying out the extensive examination, technical analysis and documentation that precedes and is a part of treatment.

“The Wadsworth conservation studio lacks a high-quality stereomicroscope mounted on a flexible arm stand for close examination, documentation, and treatment of objects. We had previously identified this as a high priority designated for object conservation and available for the examining paintings and other media if needed. The acquisition of a stereomicroscope would facilitate examination of textiles and garments that have been underserved in recent years, of special interest to the Cheney Family.

Leica microscopes are widely used in museum conservation labs and—if we later add a camera—have developed photographic software well suited to our needs. Floor models of the type we want can be acquired at 15% to 20% discount. Retail cost for scope and arm stand +/- \$3,500. Thank you for your consideration and your ongoing support.”

1,500

Manchester Little Theatre

Dwayne Harris, Director of the Manchester Little Theatre at Cheney Hall writes: COVID-19 abruptly halted all Little Theatre of Manchester’s programming in March. Since then, we have worked diligently to ensure the organization would

not sustain an irrecoverable financial loss this year. The choices we were forced to make were difficult and painful, but we mitigated nearly all the potentially devastating loss.

As we shift from survival to recovery planning, we are still faced with incredibly difficult decisions about when to return to programming, how to do it safely, and what steps will ensure we don't waste our all-the-more-valuable resources, especially that of our human capital—LTM's nearly 150 active volunteers.

At this time, it is highly infeasible for us to present any indoor programming, so we have decided to shift toward attempting outdoor events this fall, starting with a concert series in our parking lot. We plan to present 3–4 evenings of intimate concerts that require little to no amplification and can serve about 60–75 patrons, all while maintaining the federal and state mandates and suggestions for keeping our guests, volunteers, and artists safe.

There are three goals of this concert series program:

1. To present high quality entertainment to our primary audience. Our patrons are generally age 65 or older and have little-to-no access to the arts outside of the Greater Manchester area—for many, we are their primary cultural interaction each year.
2. To utilize the proceeds from these concerts to help secure our 2021 season. The realistic scenario forecasts no programming for half a year, so it is critical that we find ways to mitigate that resulting deficit.
3. To engage with the general public. We will remind our community that LTM is still around, relevant, and has plans to welcome them all back to Cheney Hall soon.

As part of this program, the general public will utilize and have access to our chairs and tables and the inside of our building (for restroom access). The proper sanitation of our space and our equipment is an area we have little expertise.

With the Cheney Family Fund's support LTM will be able to hire an outside firm to develop, to provide equipment and products for, and to train our staff on a proper cleaning and sanitation regimen. The benefits of this expertise will last well beyond this planned concert series, but it is critical that we have it in place before moving forward with the program.”

21,000 TOTAL

Respectfully submitted, Carol Cheney

2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PASSAGES

When I retired and closed my business of 37 years on June 30, CCA treasurer Kristin Merrill and I packed up all of the Cheney Cemetery records and papers, which we had been collecting from various sources and storing in my office, and transported them to my new house. This seismic change has offered the opportunity to further organize records of the history of the association and the Cheney Family, making it much easier to find things. Family has never been more important and we have much to be proud of. We have an extraordinary story to tell.

Relying on paper is also a reminder that there are things that just can't be done without technology. We are now in the 15th and 16th generations of the Cheney Family. The family tree, last edited—manually— in 2002, has just partial information in the 13th generation. We must build a Cheney Family website with access to a password-protected genealogical database so that cousins can bring their information up to date and also communicate with each other. We got started on such a project 5 years ago but it didn't get traction. I note with regret it has come up on the to-do list each year since. My goal going forward puts this as one of two key priorities.

The second urgent priority is finding a way to interest younger members of the family to get involved. Is there interest out there? Our membership remains static around 120 mailable addresses. We need to have a succession plan in place to assure the future of the association and to help us directors with our committee work before we age out of the picture. I'll just say please step up to the plate! We would love to hear from you. My interaction with family members, the cemetery caretakers and the organizations we support is ever rewarding. And now it is my sad duty to report on deaths in the extended family since our last meeting in June 2019.

SAYING FAREWELL

On April 8, 2019, Anne Suydam Cheney Jones, Dexter Cheney's and my mother, died at age 97 in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. We celebrated her life in June including a graveside service with my brother Dexter officiating. On May 24, 2019, the family and friends of Frank Platt gathered at the Cheney Cemetery for a celebration of his life at a graveside service officiated also by Rev. Dexter Cheney. This was followed by lunch at the Cheney Homestead. I was reminded how peaceful and comforting the cemetery is and how fortunate we are to make a final resting place among generations of the family. We mourn the passing of April Blackburn Hill, the daughter of Alexander Lambert Blackburn, on October 29, 2019. Sadly, April's husband, physicist Robert Matteson Hill, died three months later on January 29, 2020. Revered architect and artist, Charles Adams Platt died on August 18, 2020. We extend our sympathy to CCA director Jerry Fiske and his daughter Amy on the passing of wife and mother Linda W. Fiske on September 21, 2020. We may have lost other members of the family since our last meeting that have gone unreported. My heartfelt condolences to all.

DONATIONS REPORT

A full report on the grants recommended for 2020 is in your packet along with some in-depth information about the importance of these grants to our recipients. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving reviews our choices and not once has turned down an idea from our committee. It is a source of tremendous pride that I report the Cheney Family Fund has given \$462,460 since its inception in 1989.

THANKS

Many thanks are owed to the Cheney Cemetery Association board of directors, who oversee the association finances and Cheney Family Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. I am especially grateful to Rick Cheney and Jerry Fiske for their ongoing involvement. And a salute to the whole board—Dexter Cheney, Tom Myers, Kate Cheney Chappell, Andrea Learned, and Austin Smith. And we could not function as an organization without the help of Kristin Merrill, who assumed responsibility for managing our finances and other administrative details of the organization.

Be safe, be well.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Cheney