



The Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Outreach through Technology




The Evolution of our Digitization Project



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Digital Collection

- Currently we have nearly 1500 digital images consisting of historic photos, historical records and artifacts
- Over 700 of our historic photos are searchable on our Web site






Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Early Beginnings 2002

Stereoview Card Collection

- Museum visitors were allowed to handle and view the cards with stereoptic viewers
- We realized the cards were irreplaceable, but they were a popular draw particularly amongst school children
- Member, Bill Veillette, scanned the card collection using his personal equipment and made copies for patrons to view






Historical Society of Amherst, NH

The Next Driving Force

- In 2003, published author and unofficial town historian, Bob Rowe, had an idea for a book to benefit our Society
- Collaborating with Bill Veillette, they began looking for fresh photos to accompany their compilation of historic Amherst vignettes

Amherst Historical Moments






Historical Society of Amherst, NH

The Next Driving Force

- Scoured thru Society's collection and solicited images from the public
- Bill Veillette began to scan images
- Initial objective: Scan selected photos at high enough resolution for publication

Amherst Historical Moments





Historical Society of Amherst, NH

The Next Driving Force

- Expanded objective: Preservation of the Society's collection
- Soon amassed over 700 digital images – well beyond the number included in this publication

Amherst Historical Moments





Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Organization and Access

- Concurrent to the book project, I was taking digital photos of our of our museum collection and cataloging items in a crude Microsoft Access program
- In order to effectively manage our growing collection, we purchased PastPerfect, along with their Digital Imaging module



PastPerfect Software



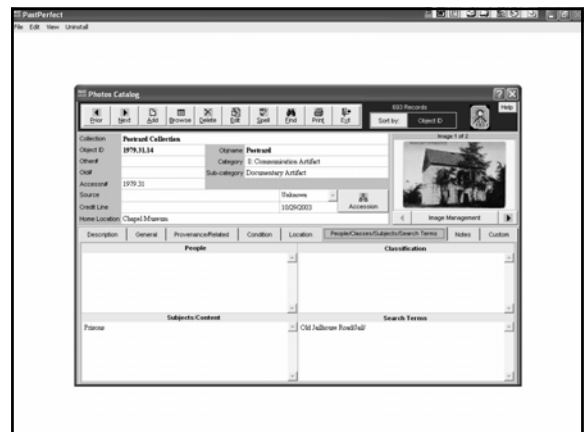
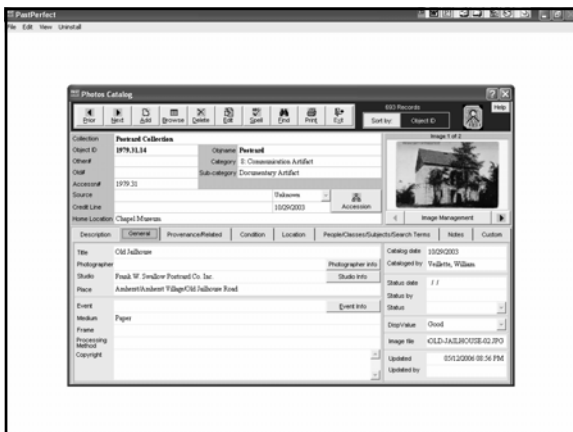
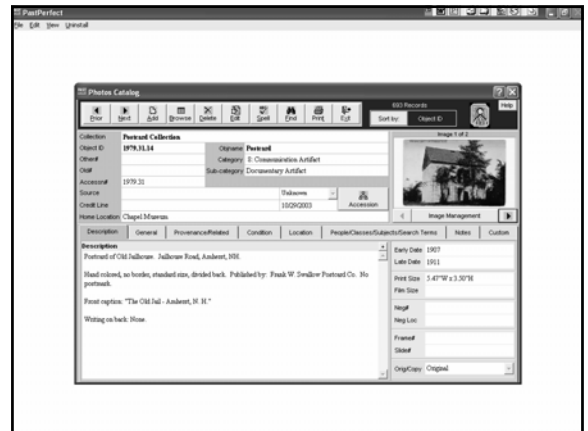
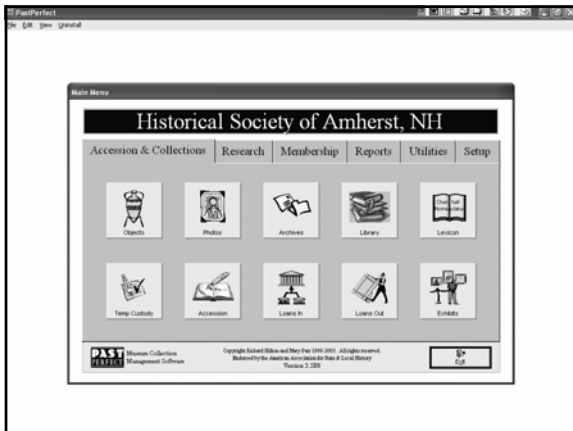
Historical Society of Amherst, NH

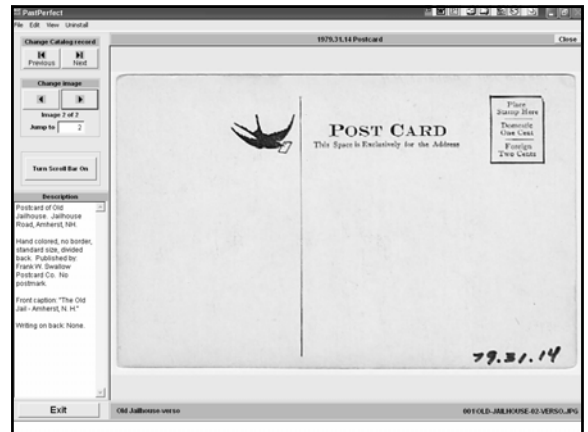
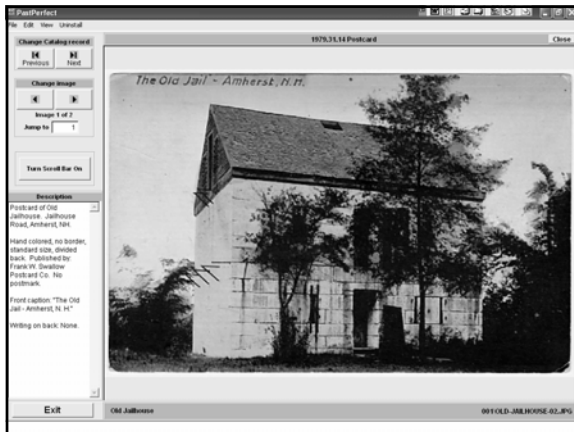
Organization and Access


- Bill set to work creating records for each scanned photo



PastPerfect Software









Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Our Web Site

www.hsanh.org

- By the beginning of 2005, we had hundreds of images scanned and cataloged and we wanted to share them with the public
- The time was right for a Web presence
- Purchased the Virtual Exhibit component of PastPerfect in order to attach the Photo Catalog to our Web site



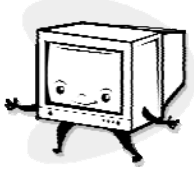


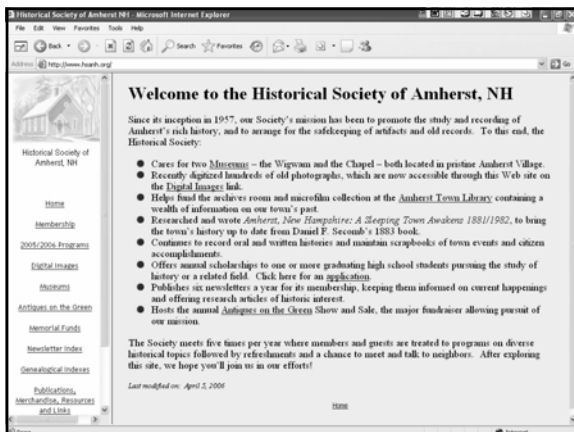
Historical Society of Amherst, NH

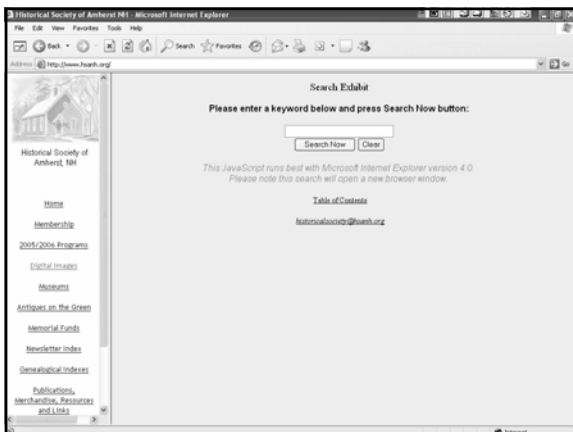
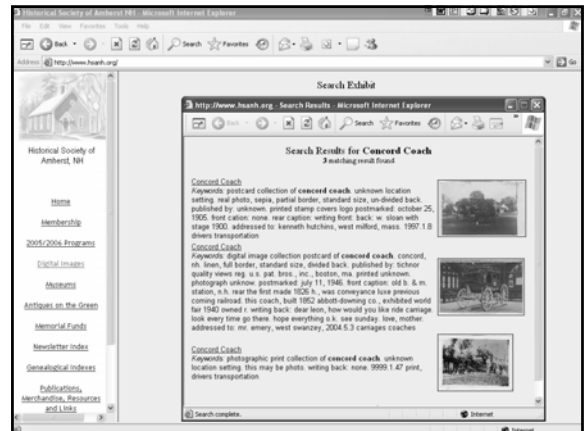
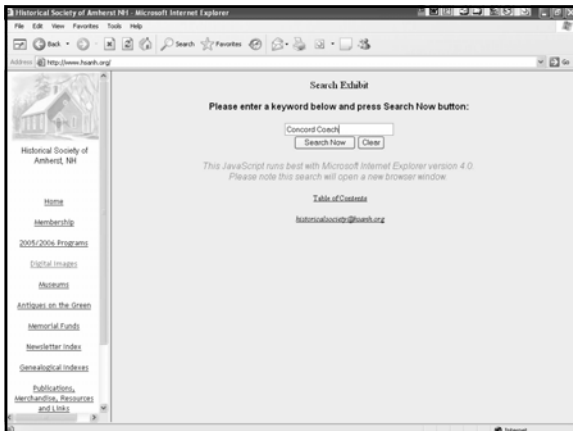
Our Web Site

www.hsanh.org

- Considerations for development:
 - Virtual Exhibit component to blend seamlessly
 - Easy navigation







Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Protecting our Images

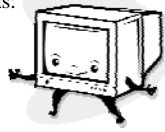
- Image Collection and Sales Policy
 - Provides for safeguards to help ensure our images are not reproduced by others for profit
 - Those purchasing high resolution files (\$25 per image) must sign a statement affirming that they understand our policy
 - For a fee the purchaser may publish the image (unless the Society does not own the original)



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Benefits to having a Web site

- Perfect venue for sharing information about our Society and the work so many of our members have done, such as:
 - Genealogical Indexes



Welcome to the Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Since its inception in 1917, our Society's mission has been to promote the study and recording of Amherst's rich history, and to arrange for the safekeeping of artifacts and old records. To this end, the Historical Society:

- Cares for two Memorials – the Wigwam and the Chapel – both located in pristine Amherst Village.
- Recently digitized hundreds of old photographs, which are now accessible through this Web site on the [Digital Images](#) link.
- Helps fund the archives room and microfilm collection at the [Amherst Town Library](#) containing a wealth of information on our town's past.
- Researched and wrote *Amherst, New Hampshire: A Sleeping Town Awakens 1881/1982*, to bring the town's history up to date from Daniel F. Secomb's 1883 book.
- Continues to record oral and written histories and maintain scrapbooks of town events and citizen accomplishments.
- Offers annual scholarships to one or more graduating high school students pursuing the study of history or a related field. [Click here for an application.](#)
- Publishes six newsletters a year for its membership, keeping them informed on current happenings and offering research articles of historic interest.
- Hosts the annual [Antiques on the Green Show and Sale](#), the major fundraiser allowing pursuit of our mission.

The Society meets five times per year where members and guests are treated to programs on diverse historical topics followed by refreshments and a chance to meet and talk to neighbors. After exploring this site, we hope you'll join us in our efforts!

Last modified on April 1, 2006

Genealogical Indexes

Our town genealogist, Jackie Marshall, has spent countless hours transcribing data from various sources and compiling indexes that we're sure will prove tremendously useful to those doing genealogical research.

We're happy to make her [Vital Records](#) and [Baptism Indexes](#) available on this Web site.

- [About Index to Amherst Vital Records](#)
 - Births (1884 - 1930)
 - Marriages (1884 - 1930)
 - Deaths - Registered in Amherst (1884 - 1984)
 - Deaths - Recount from [www](#). & listed in Amherst (1884 - 1984)
- [About the Baptism Index](#)
 - 29 Sep. 1741 - 13 Feb. 1780
 - 16 Apr. 1780 - 21 Nov. 1790

If you have any questions pertaining to these indexes or to Amherst genealogy in general, please contact Jackie at jmarshall@hscnh.org

Amherst, Hillsborough Co., New Hampshire Index of Births from Amherst Town Reports 1884 - 1930

Historical Society of Amherst, Jackie Marshall, Genealogy Chair, 28 Feb 2003

Please see [About Index to Vital Records](#) for more details about specific data by year.

A - I **M - Z**

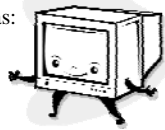
Person	Parents	Date of Birth
Abbott, Albans Matilda	Napoleon & Julia L. (Currier) Abbott	1908 Sep 17
Adams, (male)	Clifton & Martha J. Adams	1887 Jul 2
Adams, (male)	Clifton F. & Martha J. (Sheffield) Adams	1899 Feb 11
Adams, Ethel Viola	Clifton F. & Martha J. (Sheffield) Adams	1902 Feb 14
Adams, Elwood Herbert	Ernest H. & M. Helen Adams	1902 Mar 1
Adams, Lester Chasncy	Ernest H. & Mary H. (Polk) Adams	1899 Jan 19
Adams, Mabel Elizabeth	Ernest & Mary H. (Hob) Adams	1900 Feb 19
Adams, Ruth Adlen	Harry C. & Gertrude B. (Hewson) Adams	1905 May 25
Alexander, Emma Adelaide	William E. & Emma F. Alexander	1884 May 29
Alexander, Helen Keith	William E. & Emma F. Alexander	1886 Jul 11



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Benefits to having a Web site

- Perfect venue for sharing information about our Society and the work so many of our members have done, such as:
 - Genealogical Indexes
 - A host of forms available in .pdf



Historical Society of Amherst, NH
Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

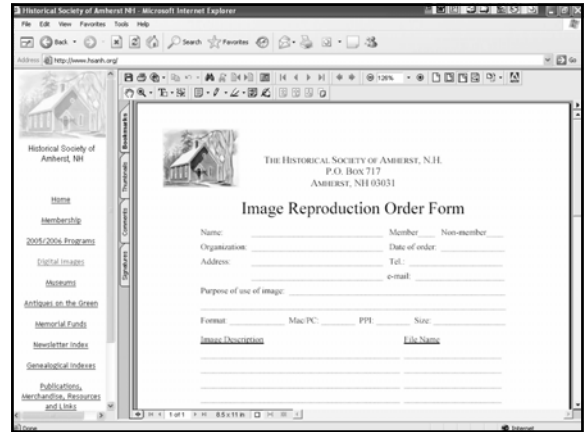
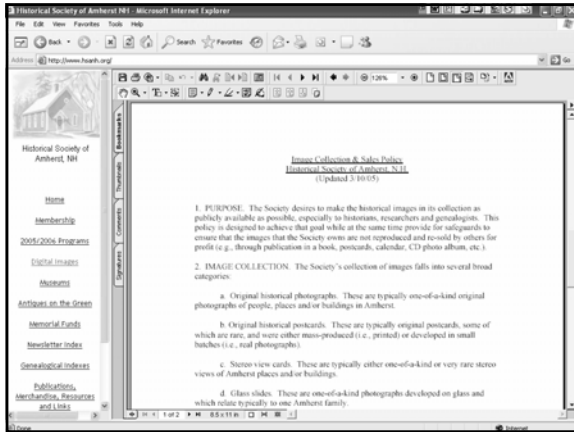

Membership

Regular Annual Membership

\$15.00 per adult

\$25.00 per family

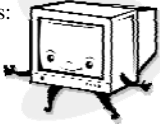

\$5.00 per student

Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Benefits to having a Web site

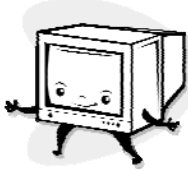

- Perfect venue for sharing information about our Society and the work so many of our members have done, such as:
 - Genealogical Indexes
 - A host of forms available in .pdf
- Saves volunteer time
- Creates higher visibility for our Society which will hopefully translate to increased membership/donations

Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Benefits to Making Images Available on the Web


- Several people have provided more information on images
- A few high resolution images have been sold
- Facilitates research and, once again, saves volunteer time

Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Other Benefits to Digitization

- Exhibit Labels



This filing cabinet once belonged to **John Farmer** (1789-1838) – preminent 19th century historian and founder of the New Hampshire Historical Society. His signature can be seen on the hinged drop front.

Mr. Farmer lived and taught school in Amherst in the early 1800s. He also wrote the first history of our town, [Historical Sketch of Amherst.](#)



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Other Benefits to Digitization

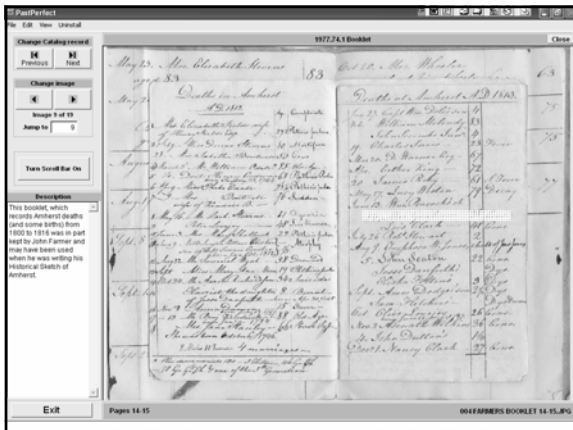
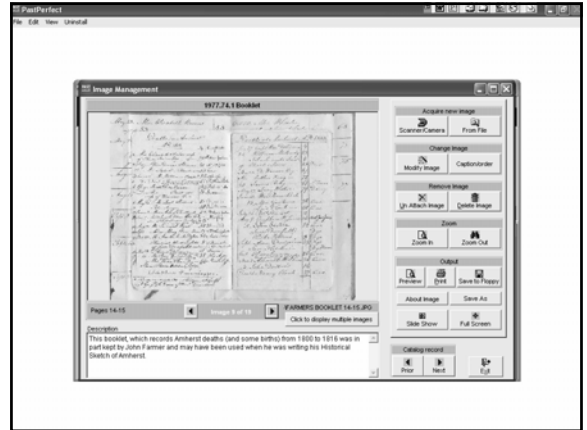
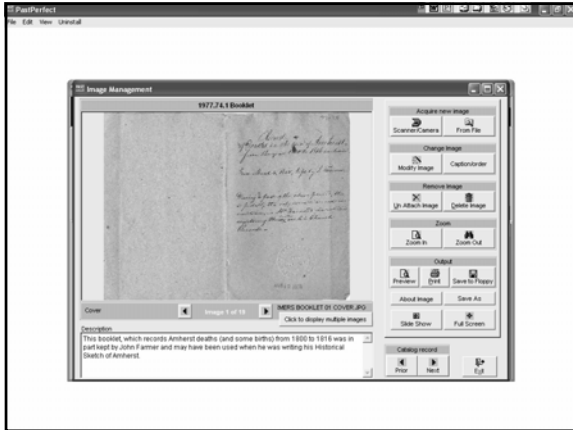
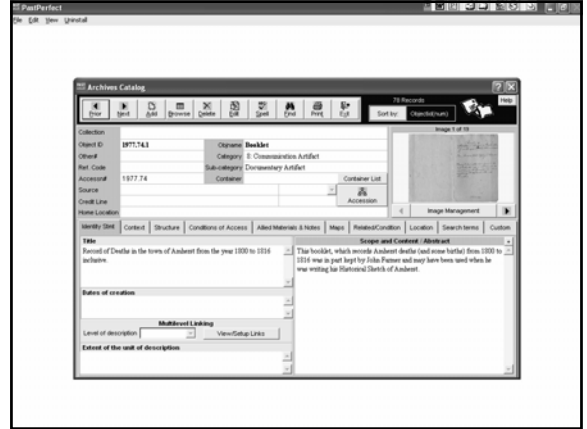
- Exhibit Labels
- Easily access images for newsletter



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Where Are We Now

- We continue to scan and have added considerably to our Archives and Objects Catalogs



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Where Are We Now

- We continue to scan and have added considerably to our Archives Catalog
- We plan to update our Web site this summer with many more digital images and some records from our Archives Catalog
- We hope to install PastPerfect at our local library to make it more accessible to researchers





Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Standards for Scanning

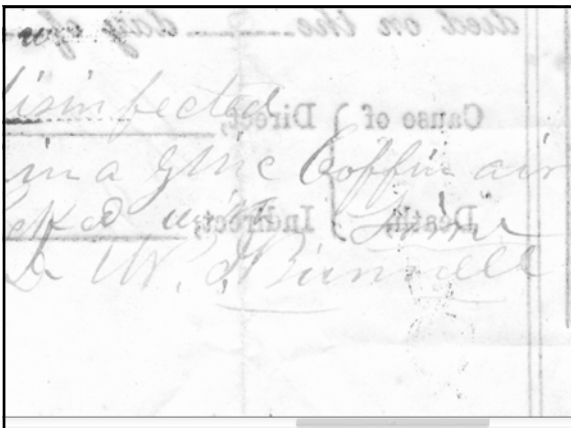
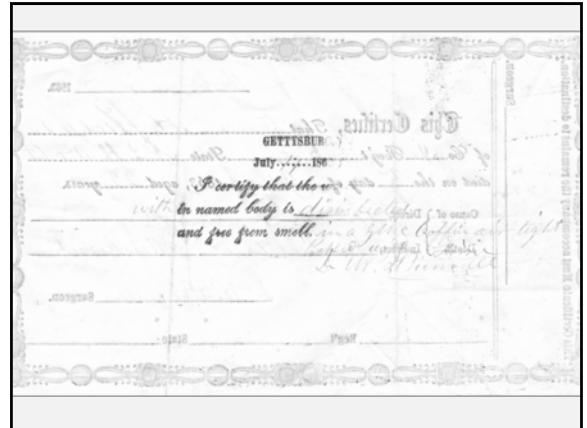
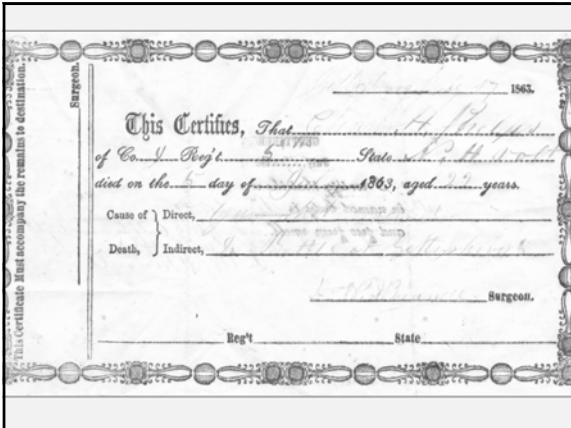
- In order to facilitate volunteer involvement, we're developing a set of standards for the scanning and data entry process
- Photos
 - 300 dpi
 - 10" wide output
 - .tif format
 - convert to .jpg (roughly 100K) for attachment to PastPerfect



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Standards for Scanning

- Historical Records (Archives Catalog)
 - As low of a resolution that maintains readability (around 200K)



Historical Society of Amherst, NH

Standards for Scanning

- Historical Records (Archives Catalog)
 - As low of a resolution that maintains readability (around 200K)
- Object Catalog
 - Low resolution .jpg images (around 100K)





Historical Society of
Amherst, NH

Associated Costs

- Entirely a volunteer effort
- Cost to purchase software:
 - PastPerfect, Digital Imaging, Network upgrade, Scatter/Gather, Virtual Exhibit
- Cost for Web hosting service
- Cost for archival sleeves for those providing photographs



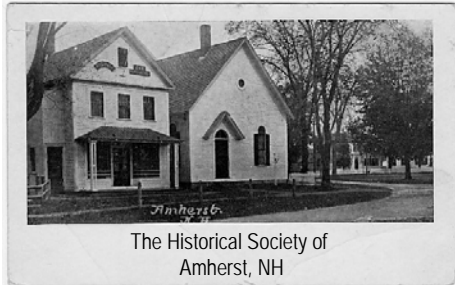
Historical Society of
Amherst, NH

Summary

1. Create digital images through scanning and digital photography
2. Software to assist with cataloging and serve as a finding aid
3. Web site development



Outreach through Technology



The Evolution of our Digitization Project