



*Members of the Class of 1967*



*Class of 2022*

In Old Deerfield...

# One Summer Lasts a Lifetime

A Campaign to Endow Historic Deerfield's  
Summer Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture



**Historic Deerfield®**  
*Opening Doorways To The Past.™*



# Summer Fellowship Program

Material Culture, Museum Studies, and Regional History



**Imagine it's summer in Deerfield, and you're a college undergraduate living on Old Main Street.** The heat of summer, the scent inside old houses, and the sight of cows in the Meadows captivate you as you walk through the village. You're filled with the excitement of uncovering a new thread of history and the camaraderie you share with fellow scholars. You pass by the Wells-Thorn House on your way to the Flynt Center of Early New England Life, buzzing with the anticipation of handling centuries-old artifacts and discovering the stories they hold.

"My summer in Deerfield exposed me to so many facets of the museum world and allowed me to imagine myself in so many different roles. I made amazing friends and connections during my summer, whom I continuously call on as I develop my career in museums. I wouldn't trade that summer for anything!"

— Mary Orms '22, Participatory Exhibit Designer at Yosemite National Park

These experiences are the heart of what makes the Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program so special. It has shaped careers and lives in profound ways that extend far beyond one memorable summer.

## A Legacy of Excellence

The Historic Deerfield Summer Fellowship Program is a remarkable, immersive educational experience for college undergraduates. Ever since Helen and Henry Flynt established the program in 1956, with Peter Spang joining them a few years later, it has stood as the pre-eminent program of its kind for college undergraduates, providing an unparalleled journey into early American history and material culture.





## An Unmatched Learning Environment

Students experience the unique setting of Deerfield, where the town itself becomes a living classroom. From the expansive museum and historic buildings to the picturesque fields and ridgelines, participants delve into history at every turn. Whether exploring the historic houses or visiting important sites and museums around New England and beyond, the program offers a comprehensive and deeply personal understanding of America's past.

## Rigorous and Immersive Experience

The nine-week program is rigorous — equivalent to a semester's worth of learning packed into a summer! Participants engage in hands-on training across all museum departments: interpretation, archives, curatorial, preservation, development, and education. They work with extraordinary collections and outstanding mentors, conduct meticulous research, and contribute to rich documentation.

## Fostering Intellectual Exchange and Community

Students experience the fertile exchange of ideas with Fellows from diverse backgrounds, passionate staff members, and visiting scholars. This collaborative environment not only broadens their perspectives but also forges lasting connections and friendships. More than 450 program alumni are now valued members of the Historic Deerfield family.

## An Outsized Impact on Careers and Beyond

The program has had a powerful impact, with many graduates making their marks as curators, conservators, educators, preservationists, fundraisers, and directors. The program has also impacted fields in the worlds of academia and the marketplace in art and antiques, not to mention design, law, writing — and much, much more. Whether students enter these professions or choose a different path, the program equips them with essential tools that hone analytical and critical thinking and empowers them to personally contribute to the cultural fabric of America. The insights and conversations they have at Deerfield resonate for years to come, providing a foundation for meaningful dialogue in a rapidly changing and often divided world. These skills are more crucial than ever.

“Developing transferable professional skills while diving into subjects I loved was an extraordinary opportunity I am grateful for to this day.”

— Eleanor Byrne '84, Information Security Business Operations and Compliance at Kyruus Health



*Class of 2018*

## Planning for the Future

Historic Deerfield is committed to ensuring the program's longevity and accessibility. The Summer Fellowship Program is entirely cost-free for participants, including room and board. However, financial fluctuations have at times limited the program's reach, affecting the number of fellows, the scope of field trips, and the amount of additional financial aid. Currently the program is largely covered by Historic Deerfield's operating budget and must compete against other institutional priorities. Your support will ensure that money is never an obstacle, allowing all deserving students to attend, including those who rely on income normally earned from a summer job.

## Our Objective: \$3 Million Endowment

A Summer Fellowship Program reunion in 2023 sparked a renewed commitment to secure the program's future. A group of dedicated alumni has spearheaded this initiative, driven by a shared love of history, decorative arts, and material culture — and a deep belief in Deerfield's enduring importance.

To endow the program in perpetuity, the group aims to raise \$3 million. This endowment will guarantee the program's sustainability, ensuring that future generations benefit from the same rich experiences that shaped the careers and lives of nearly 500 past participants. Your contribution will make a significant difference. Gifts of all amounts are most welcome and appreciated — every donation brings the initiative closer to success, and there are several attractive naming opportunities for major gifts. Individual donations that honor alumni and those who have had a deep impact on the program, as well as personal gifts that memorialize a spouse or other loved one, are strongly encouraged.

## Join Us in Shaping the Future of the Summer Fellowship Program

Like Historic Deerfield itself, the Summer Fellowship Program creates dynamic encounters with the stories, cultures, and material worlds of those who have made New England home. It helps make meaningful connections to the past that deepen our understanding of the present. And it values rigorous scholarship and learning, embracing the thinking that has come before while taking part in the constant interpretive renewal that is fundamental to research in the arts and humanities.

Will you help to reach the \$3 million goal to endow the program and ensure its longevity? By joining this cause, you're not just supporting a program — you're contributing to a community bound by shared passions. Give today, and join in building a future that embraces history and the humanities, and draws on the lessons of the past, in order to better understand and respond to the challenges of today.





# Naming and Recognition Opportunities

*Recognition may be customized to reflect your interests and legacy.  
Historic Deerfield invites you to discuss various ways to structure your contribution.  
To learn more about making a transformative gift, please contact us directly at (413) 775-7177.*

MAJOR NAMING AND RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES		AMOUNT & AVAILABILITY*
DIRECTOR POSITION — PERMANENTLY NAMED FUND		\$1 Million
TUTOR POSITION — PERMANENTLY NAMED FUND		FUNDED
INDIVIDUAL STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS — PERMANENTLY NAMED FUNDS		\$200,000 (5 of 7 FUNDED)
<b>CHAMPNEY HOUSE RECOGNITION</b> The Champney House, where the Summer Fellows live and study during their time in Deerfield, offers numerous opportunities for prominent placement of plaques that recognize major campaign support, including:		
DINING ROOM	\$100,000	PORCH \$75,000
LIVING ROOM	FUNDED	BEDROOMS 2 out of 8 rooms FUNDED \$50,000
INGLENOOK	FUNDED	SOUTH VESTIBULE All who contribute \$10,000 or more will be listed on a plaque \$10,000+
<b>OTHER RECOGNITION</b> All donors will be recognized in the Annual Report and in various Summer Fellowship Program communications.		
<b>GIFTS IN HONOR OF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM LUMINARIES</b> In addition to the above, donations may be made in honor or memory of loved ones, alumni, and individuals who have had a profound and lasting impact on the program and the field at-large.		

*\*as of November 17, 2025*



# Ways to Give

There are several ways to deepen your impact.

## Cash Gifts

Writing a check or paying by credit card to Historic Deerfield is the simplest and most direct way to make a donation. Cash donations have an immediate impact on our mission and may entitle you to a current-year income tax deduction.

## Pledges

In order to have the greatest possible impact, consider stretching your donation out over several months or years. We would be happy to work with you to arrange a payment schedule that best suits your individual needs.

## Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Making a gift of appreciated securities can be more advantageous than giving cash. By making a gift of securities you may be able to eliminate related capital gains tax; you may receive a charitable income tax deduction; and your contribution will be put to use in furthering our mission today.

## Bequests and Other Planned Gifts

Including a provision for Historic Deerfield in your will is a popular way for donors to make a significant, lasting gift on a scale that might not otherwise be possible. Other options, such as naming the museum as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or brokerage account, are techniques regularly utilized by donors to Historic Deerfield.



*Members of the Class of 1974*



***For more information on ways to give in support of the Summer Fellowship Program, contact us today.***

*Leanne Harris '03*





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# Campaign Committee

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Alexandra Deutsch '92

Ritchie Garrison, Director of Education 1977-1985

Lynda McCurdy Hotra '73

Thomas Jayne '80

Marla Miller '87; Tutor '91 and '92

Ellen Snyder-Grenier '80



*Champney House, where the Summer Fellows now live  
and study during their time in Deerfield*





Historic Deerfield®  
*Opening Doorways To The Past.™*

We are forever grateful to the many individuals who have had a deep and lasting impact on generations of Summer Fellows.



Top Row: Joseph Peter Spang III, Donald Friary, Ritchie Garrison, Philip Zea '73.  
Bottom Row: Kevin Sweeney '71, Joshua Lane '84, Barbara Mathews, Ken Hafertepe.

