

PEASE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PLYMOUTH NH

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Plymouth Pandemic Newspaper Collection, 2020

Collection Summary:

Repository: Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH

Call Number: ARCHIVES 100 RECORD

Title: Plymouth Pandemic Newspaper Collection

Dates: March-July 2020

Extent: 19 newspapers in 1 newspaper box

Creators: Salmon Press and Berube, Brendon, Executive Editor

Languages: English

Organizational History

The public library in Plymouth, New Hampshire dates from 1873 when fourteen young ladies organized the Young Ladies Circulating Library. They conducted many fundraising events and in 1874 established their library on Main Street in a second floor room supplied by John Langdon over his express office. Within three years the collection and patronage had increased so rapidly that larger accommodations became necessary. In 1876 Colonel Henry W. Blair purchased the old courthouse, restored it, moved it to a new location on Court Street, and presented it to the Young Ladies Library Association.

In 1896 the Town of Plymouth elected its first library trustees. One year later the town voted to accept the Trustees' and Young Ladies Library Association's (YLLA) proposal that the library operates as a free public library. The town assumed most of the financial obligation; while overseeing the financial affairs of the Plymouth Free Library, the trustees turned these funds over to the YLLA who continued to assume the responsibility for operating the library. This arrangement continued until 1958 when, at the YLLA's request, the Library Trustees became responsible for everyday library operations. The YLLA became the owners and maintainers of the library building, while continuing their support for the library in numerous other ways.

By the 1960s it had outgrown its facility, and a small workroom and bathroom were added. In November of 1982, Charlotte Pease, a longtime member of the Young Ladies Library Association, left a bequest to the organization. It was prudently invested during the 1980s, and in 1987 a Library Development Committee was formed to oversee the building of a new facility.

In January of 1991, Pease Public Library opened its doors at the foot of the Common in downtown Plymouth. The library name honors the Pease Family, both Charlotte whose generosity enabled its construction, and her brother Capt. Harl Pease, Jr., an Air Force pilot who died in WWII, and for whom Pease Air Force Base was named. The library was constructed on the site of the Pease home. The upstairs houses the library collection, and the downstairs the Rachel P. Keniston Community Room, named in honor of one of Plymouth's outstanding citizens.

Administration Information:

Preferred Citation: [Item title and date], Pandemic Newspaper Collection, Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH.

Acquisition Information: The newspapers were acquired by the Pease Public Library as part of our weekly subscription.

Processing Information: Finding aid written by Rebecca White, 2020.

Access Rights: Collection is open for research.

Physical Access Restrictions: There are no restrictions on this collection.

Copyright: The copyright and related rights status of this Item has been reviewed by the organization that has made the Item available, but the organization was unable to make a conclusive determination as to the copyright status of the Item. Please refer to the organization that has made the Item available for more information. You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use.

Conservation notes: Each newspaper was put into individual plastic sleeves.

Related Archival Materials: REF/NH 974.2091 VERTICAL, Series 1, Subseries 1.7. COVID-19 Pandemic.

Subjects: COVID 19 (Disease)—Grafton County—New Hampshire
Newspapers—Plymouth, N.H.
Plymouth (N.H.: Town)

Scope and Content:

Biographical / Historical Note: In December 2019, the coronavirus (COVID-19) made its first appearance in China. It quickly spread across the globe, causing the World Health Organization to declare it a pandemic. COVID-19 first reached the United States in January 2020 and reached New Hampshire in early March. On March 26th, Governor Sununu issued a stay-at-home order that lasted until June 15th. All non-essential workers were asked to stay home, and students of both primary and secondary schools switched to remote learning. Some were able to work from home, but others had to claim unemployment. By April 1st, NH had 476 total cases, which jumped to 2,389 by May 1st. By August 2020, NH had over 7,000 total cases.

Most stores required masks to be worn at all times for both staff and customers to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Many cities and towns have issued mask ordinances, some facing backlash over personal liberty violations. Plymouth's Board of Selectmen approved a town-wide mask ordinance on August 10, 2020. The COVID-19 Pandemic is still on going and has placed the United States in a financial crisis.

Collection Description: This collection contains local newspapers from Plymouth, New Hampshire during a peak time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Processing Note: There was no original order. The processor arranged the newspapers in chronological order from oldest to latest.

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Plymouth Record Enterprise, 2020

Description	Date(s)	Box
Plymouth Record Enterprise	March 19, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	March 26, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	April 2, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	April 9, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	April 16, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	April 23, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	April 30, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	May 7, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	May 14, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	May 21, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	May 28, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	June 4, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	June 11, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	June 18, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	July 2, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	July 9, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	July 16, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	July 23, 2020	1
Plymouth Record Enterprise	July 30, 2020	1