



City of Manchester Archives
One City Hall Plaza
Manchester, NH 03101
603.624.6455 – mintranuovo@manchesternh.gov
www.manchesternh.gov/archives

Collection Summary

Repository: Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Creator: Fire Department. City of Manchester, NH.

Title: Manchester Firefighters' Memorial Collection

Collection Number: 0405.004

Accession Number: 2016.010

Dates: 2003

Volume: 1 box

Languages: Collection materials are in English.

Access: Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number, box and folder numbers when making an appointment. Materials may be accessible online; please reference the digital note below.

Digital Note: The entire collection is available online via the links in this finding aid. [An online gallery of digitized photographs is available.](#)

Conservation Notes: Not applicable.

Finding Aid Prepared by: Mike Intranuovo, 2016.

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Historical Note

The Manchester Firefighters' Memorial is an art-piece located on the Fire Department's headquarters at 100 Merrimack Street. The piece was dedicated on May 29, 2003, and was designed, drawn, and sculpted by artist Christopher Gowell of Eliot, Maine.

The idea for a memorial came largely from a local firefighter and fire history club, The Leather Helmet Society, as well as the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Fire Department itself. The purpose of the memorial was to "recognize and honor members of the Manchester Fire Department who lost their lives in the performance of duty."¹ Fundraising efforts were conducted by the department to raise enough money to commission a professional artist to create the memorial.

The memorial is a bronze relief sculpture of three firefighters manning a hose during a fire, with an angel above them blowing a trumpet. Script above the imagery reads "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life."

The memorial is surrounded by tablets attached to the headquarters building which document the name, rank, company, and date of death of every member of the Manchester Fire Department who lost their life in the performance of duty. At the time of the dedication, there were tablets for the following members²:

Thomas E. Gorman, Lieutenant, Ladder 6, December 30, 1886
Alfred Gustafson, Captain, Hose 4, February 13, 1916
Michael Kelley, Firefighter, Engine 1, March 26, 1919
Arthur Casavant, Firefighter, Engine 4, February 6, 1920
Frank W Tebbets, Firefighter, Engine 7, March 5, 1920
Albert Tucker, Operator, Fire Alarm, January 19, 1922
Louis A Cote, Firefighter, Hose 1, July 30, 1927
Frank H Harvey, Captain, Hose 1, August 23, 1927
Michael Murphy, Firefighter, Engine 10, February 14, 1951
Rosario Doucet, Firefighter, Engine 7, December 6, 1954
John O'Malley, Deputy Chief, Headquarters, July 5, 1960
Frank J Bruton, Lieutenant, Engine 10, October 15, 1962
James T Pidgeon, Firefighter, Engine 9, December 19, 1968
David A Anderson, Firefighter, Engine 11, December 23, 2000

¹ Dedication Ceremony Program, May 29, 2003. Manchester Firefighters' Memorial Collection. Collection 0405.004, accession 2016.010. Box 01, Folder 02. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

² Dedication Ceremony Program, May 29, 2003. Manchester Firefighters' Memorial Collection. Collection 0405.004, accession 2016.010. Box 01, Folder 02. Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

Collection Description

This small collection consists of 10 color photographs of the memorial in artist Christopher Gowell's studio in Eliot, Maine, before the sculpture was affixed to the Fire Department's headquarters in Manchester.

Also included is a template of a thank you card sent out to those who made contributions to the Manchester Firefighters' Memorial Fund and the program from the memorial's dedication ceremony in 2003.

The entire collection is digitized and accessible via the links found in the inventory below.

Inventory

Folder Title	Box Number	Folder Number
Thank You Card, circa 2003	01	01
Dedication Ceremony Program, May 29, 2003	01	02
Memorial Photographs, circa 2003	01	03