

Historical Sub-committee report – June 2017 AGM

There has been comparatively slow progress since the 2016 report. However, a large part of the work is behind us, and our activities are now focussed on:

- collection of class and other photos, and associated names (this will be ongoing)
- adding information (photos, newspaper articles, obituaries) to the website
- working with Emma Newey from the Museum to put the 10 oral histories already completed into the Caesar Smith Collection, and to progress the additional 10 approved for funding

The importance of the website is becoming increasingly obvious, especially when the site was recently down for an extended period (the domain name expired). Steps are being taken to ensure that this will not happen again. The web master (Greg Kentish) has been moving towards a remodelling of the site, using a database structure. With all websites, as they develop to provide additional capabilities, and as the needs of the organisations relying on them change, major changes in software and structure are required from time to time. Our site is currently at that point. There are a number of additional site features that could be added, such as purchasing tickets to dinners, purchasing ties etc, sending notices to members, in addition to the search capability offered by a database structure. We need to establish a small group that can interact with Greg on this next step into cyberspace.

The collection of class and other photos for the three schools is continuing, and Dick Sanders has stockpiled significant additional photos for the website, with other photos indexed and awaiting processing (adding titles and names in standard format). As noted previously, for anyone supplying photos by email, please digitise to at least 500kb to ensure a quality image (or just send the photos to Dick by mail, and they will be returned after digitisation). Dick's job is made easier if names are given in row order, with any unnamed students clearly shown (please see the photos on the nbhsoba.net web site for examples). Some of the year reunions have supplied a comprehensive set of excellent photos with names – we would like to see more of this.

Interaction with the Museum continues, with the cataloguing of additional items for the Caesar Smith Collection requiring additional effort from time to time – the majority of the work has been completed and the rate of accumulation is now low. Access to the Caesar Smith Collection will be included as part of the website changes mentioned previously.

Work on the additional 10 Oral Histories mentioned in previous reports has not commenced, but will start in the coming year. These will be for students at NBHS and NGHS after 1950, so the time delay should not be a problem.

The efforts of Greg Kentish in maintaining and enhancing the website are again gratefully acknowledged..

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

22 June 2016