



*Eat More Fish, Eggs, Cheese, Poultry / Save the Meat for the Boys at the Front*, poster by the United States Food Administration, artist L. N. Britton, published by Sackett & Wilhelms Corp., New York, about 1917. The Society's collections related to World War I include objects, documents, photographs, and ephemera, including 45 posters. Fifteen of the posters are on display in a new exhibition at the Society, and other World War I collections are available for viewing in the Society's online catalog at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org).

## EXHIBITION COMMEMORATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT WAR

As part of this year's centennial commemoration of America's entry into World War I, the Society continues its exploration of the war's impact on the Granite State with a new exhibition, *Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire*. Featuring 15 posters from the Society's collection, the exhibition examines the use of this popular art form to shape public opinion and mobilize American citizens to fight a distant war.

Europe plunged into World War I on July 28, 1914, when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, pitting Germany and Austria-Hungary against Britain, France, and Russia. Long isolated from the conflicts of Europe, many Americans were not eager to enter the war, and the United States remained neutral until April 6, 1917, when Congress declared war on Germany. Just a week

after the declaration of war, President Woodrow Wilson created the Committee on Public Information with an entire division—the Division of Pictorial Publicity—dedicated to the creation and distribution of poster propaganda.

An inexpensive form of communication possessing both visual appeal and easily decipherable messages, posters worked well to reach a public already accustomed to this method of advertising used to sell products and services. The posters were designed to evoke a range of emotions from patriotism, loyalty, duty, and thrift, to hatred of the enemy. With powerful images and a few well-chosen words, these posters urged the people of New Hampshire and the nation to purchase liberty bonds, conserve food and raw materials, extend aid to those who suffered the war's

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**HISTORICAL**  
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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### Newsletter

Volume 54, No. 3  
Fall 2017

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On a beautiful day in September I joined 50 or so fellow Society members to tour the Lake Sunapee estate of John Hay known as “The Fells.” We walked the grounds, explored the house, had a pleasant lunch on the veranda, and enjoyed a talk by Philip McFarland, author of the new book *John Hay, Friend of Giants*.

Hay, who was both lucky and good, was a consequential figure in American history for more than half a century: a biographer, diplomat, personal secretary of Abraham Lincoln, close friend of both Mark Twain and Henry Adams, and secretary of state to two presidents. At the time of his death Hay was one of the best-known and respected Americans. Said Teddy Roosevelt, “He was the most delightful man to talk to I ever met.” Roosevelt further commented on Hay’s “dignity, his remarkable literary ability, his personal charm, and the respect his high service commanded throughout the country together with his wide acquaintance with foreign statesmen and foreign capitals.”

Hay loved the summer estate he created on the shore of Lake Sunapee. He spent as much time there as he could and died there in 1905. As I walked from room to room during my visit, I thought about how lucky we are to have historic places such as this available for us to see today. There is something evocative in treading the same floorboards, grasping the same banisters, and gazing at the same garden views as Hay and his contemporaries did.

Both McFarland’s book—which I highly recommend—and the historic Fells site got me thinking about the ways we take in history. Books and historic places are two. Another is documentary film. I have been riveted by the recent airing of *The Vietnam War* by the incomparable Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. Powerful and wrenching (at times hard to watch), the series brings us back to that searing chapter in our nation’s life in a way that a printed book would be hard-pressed to do. America was under greater internal stress than at any time since the Civil War. We were being pulled apart by powerful centrifugal forces: assassinations, street protests, race riots, the war itself—and then Watergate.

History reminds us of who we are. It helps us make sense of contemporary life, especially in difficult times. For me, getting to know John Hay better has provided an inspiring reminder of the giants that our nation, at its best, is capable of producing. Giants too, in their own ways, were the thousands of young Americans who fought (and too often died) in Vietnam. *The Vietnam War* series commemorates them and their service but does not sugarcoat the past. In our current year of 2017, another highly polarized time, remembering the Vietnam era helps to remind us that such storms can be weathered. If more people paid attention to history, perhaps the current polarization would not seem so great. ■

## PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM JOINS THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY NETWORK

Launched by the New Hampshire Historical Society in 2015, the New Hampshire History Network is an online resource providing access to the digitized collections of historical organizations throughout the state. The Portsmouth Athenaeum is the most recent addition to its roster of participating organizations. Located in Market Square, the Athenaeum is a membership library with more than 40,000 volumes and an archive of manuscripts, photographs, objects, and ephemera documenting the history of New Hampshire's only major seaport. In addition to operating a research library, it also organizes exhibitions and other educational and cultural programs and is open to the public several days a week. Founded in 1817, the Athenaeum celebrated its bicentennial this year with exhibitions, feature articles published in the *Portsmouth Herald*, and



a book tracing the history of the organization. Through the New Hampshire History Network, the Athenaeum shares selected photographs, documents, and objects showcasing its rich and diverse collection. To see collections of the Athenaeum and other participating organizations, visit the New Hampshire History Network at [network.nhhistory.org](http://network.nhhistory.org). To learn more about the Portsmouth Athenaeum and its complete collection, visit [portsmouthathenaeum.org](http://portsmouthathenaeum.org).



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## NEW ACQUISITIONS DEPICT LOST RURAL LANDSCAPES

The New Hampshire Historical Society recently purchased at auction a pair of landscape paintings documenting the appearance of a New Hampshire farm along with its surroundings. These two paintings by Boston-based landscape painter Frank H. Shapleigh show the Lewis W. Nute farm on Nute's Ridge in Milton and the view to the west from there. The works are relatively rare depictions of a working New Hampshire farm and surrounding countryside by a popular landscape painter of the time.

Shapleigh, best known for his White Mountain scenes, kept studios in Crawford Notch and Jackson, New Hampshire; Boston; and St. Augustine, Florida, during the late 1800s. He often visited the vicinity of Milton, for the adjoining town of West Lebanon, Maine, was his father's birthplace. The two paintings were commissioned by the farm's owner, Lewis Worster Nute, who was born in Milton in 1820. After moving to Boston at the age of 20, Nute found employment as a clerk in a succession of boot and shoe manufacturing firms. By 1853 he had saved enough money to buy an interest in a shoe manufacturing business, succeeding to full ownership in 1863. Eventually he established

factories in Natick, Massachusetts, and Dover, New Hampshire. Although a resident of Boston, Nute maintained a summer home at this Milton farm.

The paintings were formerly in the collection of New Hampshire antiques dealer and collector Peter Carswell. Thirty-five years ago, the Society borrowed the farm portrait for inclusion in its 1982 exhibition *Full of Facts and Sentiment: The Art of Frank H. Shapleigh*.

*Below:* View of the farm of shoe manufacturer and gentleman farmer Lewis Worster Nute (1820–88), on Nute's Ridge in Milton, oil on canvas, signed and dated by Frank H. Shapleigh (1842–1906), 1880. The artist has documented with unusual precision one of the connected farm buildings for which this part of the state is especially known. New Hampshire Historical Society.

*Opposite page:* View from the Lewis W. Nute farm on Nute's Ridge, Milton, oil on canvas, signed and dated by Frank H. Shapleigh (1842–1906), 1880. This view—looking across a field on the Nute farm toward Farmington village and the Blue Hills—is largely lost today due to reforestation. New Hampshire Historical Society purchase, with funds provided by Richard C. and Jane C. Nylander and James L. and Donna-Belle Garvin.



## PORTRAIT OF EARLY FEMALE EDUCATOR AND REFORMER DONATED

A portrait of Nancy Boardman Fletcher of Concord, painted by Chester Harding, was recently added to the Society's growing collection of portraits from the 1700s to the present. The painting was donated by art historian and author Diana Korzenik of Newton Highlands, Massachusetts, in honor of Donna-Belle Garvin, for her exceptional contributions to New Hampshire history scholarship and her many years of service at the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Nancy Boardman Fletcher, the daughter of Amos and Mary (Lewis) Boardman, was born in South Reading, Massachusetts, on February 5, 1788. She married Concord educator and attorney Samuel Fletcher in 1819. Nancy Fletcher achieved distinction as an educator and leader of social reform organizations, serving as treasurer of the New-Hampshire Cent Institution and president of the Concord Female Charitable Society. She also opened a school for girls in Concord in 1833.

*Right:* Portrait of Nancy Boardman Fletcher (1788–1842), oil on canvas, attributed to Chester Harding (1792–1866), c. 1830. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Diana Korzenik, in honor of Donna-Belle Garvin.



## NEW EXHIBITION (continued from page 1)

devastation, and enlist in the army, navy, and Red Cross. The posters were the creations of an army of artists who gave their time and talents to the war effort. The iconic images these artists produced shaped people's views about American ideals and defined a new patriotism that would characterize the American spirit for decades to come.

The exhibition *Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire* is on display at the Society's headquarters, located at 30 Park Street in Concord, through October 2018.



*USA Bonds / Third Liberty Loan Campaign / Weapons for Liberty*, poster by Joseph C. Leyendecker (1874–1951), lithograph by American Lithographic Co., New York, 1918. The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts played active roles in Liberty Loan campaigns, operating under the slogan “Every Scout to Save a Soldier.” In New Hampshire, the third Liberty Loan campaign raised more than \$17 million. The scouts sold 2,328,803 liberty bonds for the war between 1917 and 1918. New Hampshire Historical Society.

## WINTER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**Saturday, January 13, 2018, 2 p.m.**

### **New Hampshire Heritage Lecture: Tradition and Innovation at the Currier Museum of Art**

During the almost 90 years since opening its doors in 1929, the Currier Museum of Art has engaged the community through art and education, inspired by the words of its first benefactor, New Hampshire Governor Moody Currier, who wanted to establish an art museum “for the benefit and advancement of humanity.” Over the years, the Currier adapted its collecting and educational efforts to the needs of an ever-changing world. Yet the public’s fascination with and connection to the European and American masters in its collection remains constant. Join artist Bruce McColl, the Currier’s director of art education, as he shares an insider’s view of New Hampshire’s oldest art museum. The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture series highlights the stories behind the state’s many historic and cultural attractions. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

**Saturday, January 20, 2018, 1 to 4 p.m.**

### **Workshop: Using DNA in Family History Research**

Advances in DNA research have had huge implications for the field of genealogy. Yet, with the growing number of companies and options, it can be difficult to know what test is best for you. In this workshop Tom Dwyer of the New England Historic Genealogical Society will discuss the types of genetic tests available to family historians, the genealogical problems the tests can—and cannot—assist you with, and ultimately how to choose the right one(s) to further your family history research. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of either the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) or call 603-856-0621.

**Saturday, January 27, 2018, 2 p.m.**

### **Curator’s Tour: Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire**

Join Director of Collections and Exhibitions Wes Balla on a guided tour of the Society’s exhibition of World War I posters. Balla will discuss the themes of the exhibition and the stories behind these powerful works of art and propaganda. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

**Saturday, February 10, 2018, 2 p.m.**  
**New Hampshire Heritage Lecture: Triumph and Tragedy at the Castle in the Clouds**

A Lake Winnepesaukee estate of more than 6,000 acres, a state-of-the-art 1914 stone mansion on a mountaintop, a reclusive millionaire and his wife who loved horses, and an unhappy ending—all are chapters in the fascinating story of Tom and Olive Plant and their Castle in the Clouds, located in Moultonborough. Setting the Castle story in a larger context, this presentation by Maggie Stier, the Castle's director of development and engagement, explores the development of summer homes by the rich and famous in the Lakes Region. The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture series highlights the stories behind the state's many historic and cultural attractions. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

**Saturday, February 17, 2018, 2 p.m.**  
**Lecture: The Development of Railroads in New Hampshire, 1825–1860**

Railroads transformed New Hampshire like few other innovations of the 19th century. All across the state, isolated towns and villages became linked by rail to one another and to the larger metropolitan areas in New England, bringing a host of new opportunities for communities large and small. This illustrated talk examines the economic, social, and political forces, both within the state and beyond its borders, that fostered the first generation of railroad development in New Hampshire. The speaker, Frank J. "Jay" Barrett Jr., is a northern New England architect with a deep interest in 19th-century turnpike and railroad transportation whose practice includes historic preservation work. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

**Saturday, March 10, 2018, 1 to 4 p.m.**  
**Workshop: Immigration and Naturalization: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors**

Understanding the context of your ancestors' arrival in the United States and the possible paper trail they left on the path to citizenship can lead to important genealogical discoveries. This workshop, presented by Rhonda McClure of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, will guide attendees through three centuries (1620–1920) of immigration and naturalization in the United States and explain how related records can be used in family history research. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of either the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online at Eventbrite.com or call 603-856-0621.

**Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 2 p.m.**  
**New Hampshire Heritage Lecture: The Company That Built Manchester**

The creation and growth of Manchester, which today is the largest city in Northern New England, is primarily the legacy of one entity: the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. This lecture, presented by Jeffrey Barraclough, director of education at the Manchester Historic Association, will look at the origins of Amoskeag, how it developed, and its lasting legacy, which extended long past the company's closing in 1935. It will also look at the founding of the Manchester Historic Association and how it became a repository for the history of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture series highlights the stories behind the state's many historic and cultural attractions. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

**Guided Gallery Tours**

**Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.: January 13, February 10, and March 10**

**Fridays at noon: January 19, February 16, and March 16**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Society's Park Street building and exhibitions in a 45-minute tour led by a member of the Society's education or volunteer docent staff. Included in the price of admission, the tour is appropriate for visitors of all ages. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis, and tours are capped at 12 people.

*Admission to the New Hampshire Historical Society is \$7 for adults. Children ages 18 and under and members of the New Hampshire Historical Society are admitted free of charge. Full-time students and active military personnel and their families also are admitted free of charge with a valid ID.*

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Museum educator Mary Morris and homeschool learners read Native American stories aloud in the Society's Governor John McLane Gallery. This fall the Society launched a new education program, *Exploring New Hampshire: Granite State History for Homeschoolers*. Fifty-two children from across the state attend monthly sessions where they explore New Hampshire's history through stories, games, crafts, and some of the thousands of images, books, documents, and museum objects in the Society's collections. Each session highlights a different theme in New Hampshire history and related objects on display in the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition.