



Battle reenactments were part of the 245th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington held in August 2022 at the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site in Walloomsac, New York. The Society will include film footage of the event in a virtual field trip about New Hampshire's Revolutionary War hero General John Stark.

MASON HITS THE ROAD

Mason the Moose, the lovable mascot of the Society's "Moose on the Loose" social studies resource, spent the summer traveling the state for a series of virtual field trips that will soon be available to New Hampshire kids. Even in a small state like New Hampshire, students often are unable to travel more than an hour for a field trip, making many historical and cultural sites inaccessible to them. A virtual field trip provides students with the opportunity to experience a site when an in-person visit is not possible due to distance or cost.

Each virtual field trip features a 20-minute video followed by a classroom activity. A focus question challenges students with a riddle to solve or query to ponder while they watch the video. In total, a virtual field trip takes about an hour, providing teachers and

students with an engaging and fun way to see the state and venture farther afield than they might be able to do in person.

The Society's film crew consists of staff members Kirsten Hildonen, digital productions coordinator, and narrator Mary Adams, assisted by cinematographer Brenden Nault. Together the crew members traveled all over the state, getting behind-the-scenes tours at many iconic New Hampshire sites. At the Mount Washington Cog Railway, for example, they visited the machine shop, which is normally not open to the public. There they saw how the shop makes every part of the Cog, sometimes using robotics.

The crew also talked with many cultural leaders and museum experts, such as the Elnu Abenaki chief at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, who described how

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Newsletter

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William H. Dunlap

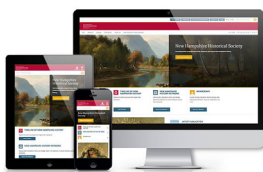
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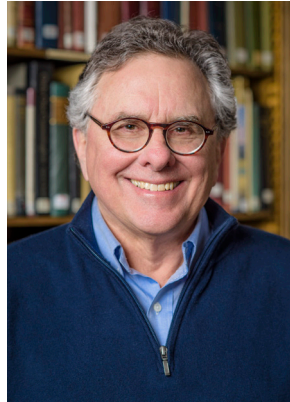
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Bill Dunlap

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Homecoming

Last fall my wife, Sue, and I moved back to our hometown of Hopkinton, where we both spent our growing-up years but left after college. Returning to a place after an absence of several decades is an interesting experience, eliciting a trove of memories that may have lain dormant for a very long time.

It actually is remarkable how much the town is unchanged, in a physical sense. There are some new buildings, of course, but the landscape—both natural and built—is largely the same. There has been more turnover in the human landscape. A few faces are recognizable from before: school mates who grew up here and stayed here. But the vast majority are new. This is how places renew and regenerate, with young families taking over from their predecessors. There is something comforting about seeing the generational evolution of a community play out against a stable and beautiful physical backdrop.

Something the town has done very well has been to create an extensive network of hiking trails. These are mostly on town conservation lands but in some instances traverse private property, a testament to the generosity of the landowners. I have taken to trekking these trails and have found this to be a way of connecting to the past, of anchoring me in a sense of place and history.

All of us who live in New Hampshire, one of our nation's original thirteen colonies, are surrounded by dense history—it is almost in the air we breathe.

A favorite hike is one that begins at Kimball Lake, where the town maintains a rustic cabin available for rent. The trail meanders along the shorefront before angling off through upland woods. It is remarkable to see the stone walls crisscrossing everywhere, evidence of the astonishing industry of earlier residents. After a while the trail intersects with and assumes the route of an abandoned "Class 6" town road. This section is beautiful, as it runs arrow-straight between stone walls lining it on either side, with occasional breaks that mark openings to long-ago houses or barns. Looking down this old road, I can visualize—almost see—the inhabitants of yore on horseback on their way into town.

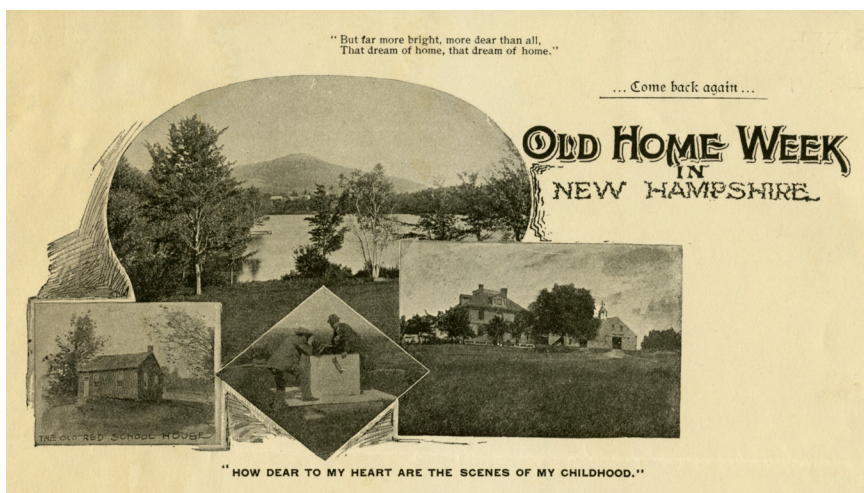
After a quarter of a mile the old road gives onto a newer, paved road—South Road. I walk past the Cape Cod-style house that was my family's home for my first twelve years, before my parents decided to move to a bigger place a mile up the road. The Frog Pond, right across the street,

looks the same. During my childhood winters, hours were spent there playing pond hockey, as my friends and I chose up sides and skated until dark. Sometimes a dad would rig up a spotlight in a tree to illuminate the ice sheet, and we could resume our games after supper, until our parents finally shut things down at bedtime.

The hiking route enters Hopkinton Village at the west end of Main Street. The walk continues past handsome Federal-style houses and an imposing Victorian structure—the Long Memorial—which houses the very active Hopkinton Historical Society. The stately town hall, with its pillared portico, is befitting a town that once aspired to be New Hampshire's state capital when that honor was up for grabs in the early 1800s. Hopkinton, along with a handful of other towns, was elbowed aside by Concord. More than ample compensation for Hopkinton having been passed over is its historic Main Street, unspoiled and beautiful to the present day.

Next to the town hall is a comely colonial-era house and barn that was the residence of a family friend, Mrs. Atherton. Her barn was home to Mrs. Atherton's antique shop, and I will always remember her giving me a Revolutionary-era powder horn for my tenth birthday. That helped get me started in the direction of history. Along the street is a marker commemorating Lafayette's 1825 visit to Hopkinton on his legendary American farewell tour. Down the hill at the end of Main Street and I am back at Kimball Lake, where the trek began.

Walking this route, which I have done many times now, has afforded me a sense of historical connection. The walking pace allows time to study, appreciate, and enjoy one's surroundings in a way that is just not the same from a car moving at 55 miles an hour. All of us who live in New Hampshire, one of our nation's original thirteen colonies, are surrounded by dense history—it is almost in the air we breathe. Wherever you live—town or city—I highly recommend taking the time to walk around your community and take this in.



Old Home Week letterhead, dated 1900, featuring a collage of images intended to inspire a longing for home and the quote, "How dear to my heart are the scenes of my childhood." New Hampshire Historical Society.

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MASON (continued from page 1)

New Hampshire’s indigenous population preserves its traditions and remains a presence in the state. To film a virtual field trip about John Stark, the crew traveled beyond New Hampshire’s borders to the Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site in Walloomsac, New York, where a Redcoat reenactor gave Adams lessons in marching and rifle maneuvers.

Filming each field trip became quite an adventure. While on the road, the group encountered tornado warnings and temperature swings ranging from 51 to 102 degrees. Every field trip required at some point travel on a dirt road, and each day of filming invariably started with a local tradition—a stop at Dunkin’ for coffee and donuts.

For the past several years, even before the pandemic, teachers have been asking for virtual field trips. A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has made possible the creation of eight field trips, and additional funding from the New Hampshire Bar Association is underwriting a ninth. All are aligned with the “Moose on the Loose,” the Society’s comprehensive social studies resource that is available to everyone at no cost online at moose.nhhistory.org. After editing and post-production work, the virtual field trips will launch in early 2023.



Elnu Abenaki chief Roger Longtoe Sheehan speaks with Mary Adams of the Society’s film crew about indigenous peoples living in New Hampshire, both in the past and today.

Virtual Field Trips

- Concord Coaches Crisscross the Country
- The Fort at No. 4
- John Stark: Revolutionary Hero
- Mount Washington: Up, Up, and Away!
- New Hampshire Rocks!
- The New Hampshire Supreme Court
- Wicked Old Farms and Fairs
- Working Mills and Mill Work



Mary Adams



Brenden Nault



Kirsten Hildonen



Work on virtual field trips took the Society's film crew to many historic and cultural sites, including Windyhurst Farm (Westmoreland), Frog Rock (New Boston), the Mount Washington Cog Railway, and the Bennington Battle Monument (Vermont). While at the Mount Washington Auto Road, Society staff member Mary Adams interviewed veteran stage driver Dave Roy.

A LASTING LEGACY

Private philanthropy is the foundation of the New Hampshire Historical Society's long and successful history. As an independent nonprofit organization, the Society thrives today due to the commitment and contributions of many individuals who have come before us and together created an institution of enduring value. Don Dunlap and his wife, Joan, were two such individuals.

Don Dunlap first joined the Society in 1989 and remained a member for 30 years until his death at the age of 84. He was born in Antrim and lived there most of his life. He worked as a manager in the grocery business and then went to his first love—cabinetmaking. Don was descended from the Dunlap family of cabinetmakers. Several of his furniture designs were published in the book, *The Dunlap Cabinetmakers: A Tradition in Craftsmanship*, which he co-authored with Philip Zea.

In 2007 Don built a reproduction of the Society's high chest, made in 1782 by John Dunlap, so that it would be possible to simulate and interpret its early coloring and appearance without altering the original. The two pieces are currently on display together at the Society in the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition.

Don and Joan included the Society in their estate plans, making a generous endowment gift to support the library's maintenance and operations. We are grateful to the Dunlaps for treating the Society as a loved one by making a legacy gift.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Donna-Belle "D-B" Garvin is no stranger to anyone who has been involved with the New Hampshire Historical Society's collections and interpretation programming for the past 47 years. Her career at the Society began in 1975 with the position of museum cataloger. She learned the collection inside and out during her first decades, eventually becoming curator. In 1997 D-B became editor of the Society's flagship publication *Historical New Hampshire*. Under her leadership, the publication gained prominence for its high-quality articles and illustrations. In her time as editor, she supported and mentored hundreds of writers and historians.



D-B Garvin

Although D-B retired from her full-time paid position in 2016, she has generously continued her service to the Society as a full-time volunteer. Since then, she has served as a researcher and consulting editor for various projects, written articles for *Historical New Hampshire*, and served as guest editor for the special issue *A Faithful Student of Nature: The Life and Art of Samuel L. Gerry*. She co-edits the Society's print newsletter and has overseen the development of the online *Timeline of New Hampshire History*, including writing dozens of timeline entries herself.

D-B and her husband, Jim, together received the Granite State Award from the University of New Hampshire for "those who have made exceptional contributions to the state of New Hampshire." And over many years, D-B and Jim have been remarkably generous to the Society through contributions of their time, financial support, and gifts to the collection.

In recognition of D-B's long commitment, it is with great affection and respect that we honor her as the Society's 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

Donald A. Dunlap (1934–2019) in his cabinetmaking shop with the reproduction of the John Dunlap (1746–92) high chest he built for the Society.

A FOND FAREWELL

Last summer marked a transition at the Society with the retirement of longtime Director of Collections and Exhibitions Wes Balla. Wes joined the Society's staff in 2003 and, although not a native of New England, he employed his impressive research skills and scholarship to become expert in New Hampshire history very quickly. With his curiosity and knowledge, he helped build the Society's collections, document and share their stories, and provide assistance to countless researchers over the years. The Society extends its best wishes to Wes in his retirement and sincere thanks for his 19 years of service to the Society, and the saving, preserving, and sharing of New Hampshire history.



Above: Volunteer Jim Dimick (left) and Wes Balla transport the newly conserved 1860 political banner, "Honest Old Abe is Bound to Win," painted by New Hampshire artist Edward L. Custer (1837–81). The banner, suffering from the ravages of time before coming to the Society, was conserved in 2015 at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. It is one of the many museum objects conserved during Wes's nearly two decades as the Society's director of collections and exhibitions.

New staff members (from left to right) Allison Bjorndahl-McCarter, Mylynda Gill, Megan MacNeil, and Jonathan Olly have joined in the Society's work to save, preserve, and share New Hampshire's history.



A WARM WELCOME

The Society recently welcomed four new members to its library and museum collections staff.

Mylynda Gill joined the staff as archivist and librarian. She holds a master's degree in library and information science from Simmons University and comes to the Society from Keene State College, where she held positions in the college's library and archives. Mylynda also held internships at the New Hampshire State Archives and Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College. Allison Bjorndahl-McCarter is the Society's new projects archivist. Allison also holds a master's degree from Simmons University's School of Library and Information Science. She has past experience as a librarian at both special and public libraries and served as archivist at Lasell University.

New to the museum department are Director of Museum Collections Jonathan Olly and Museum Collections Manager Megan MacNeil. Jonathan was most recently curator at the Long Island Museum of American Art, History, and Carriages. He holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Brown University and has previous experience at the Norman Rockwell Museum and New Bedford Whaling Museum, among others. Megan holds a B.A. in history from Gordon College and a certificate in museum studies from Tufts University. Previously she served as associate registrar at the Peabody Essex Museum and registrar at Historic New England.

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Recent additions to the Society's photograph collection include this image of Girl Scouts Brownie Troop 200 from Goffstown visiting Governor Wesley Powell (1915–81) at his State House office in April 1961. The troop presented the governor with a copy of their town's history. Photograph by Bill Finney (1931–2016), gift of Mary Johnson (pictured at far right).