



President Bill Dunlap (back row, right) with one of the many school groups that visit the Society each year. The Society's initiative to renew history and civics education in New Hampshire schools is making a real difference for students and educators.

## SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION GETS LEGISLATIVE BACKING

This past spring the New Hampshire Historical Society successfully worked for legislative action that supports statewide social studies education. By partnering with other organizations in the New Hampshire Civic Learning Coalition, the Society brought forward a bill to reaffirm the state's commitment to history and civics instruction in both public and private schools.

The new law, SB 216, reinforced state requirements that both subjects be taught at all grade levels, kindergarten through grade 12, rather than beginning

in eighth grade. In addition, the bill called for more time for social studies instruction at the middle-school level focused on state and national history and civics. These changes place New Hampshire among the more proactive states in supporting social studies education.

Sponsored by Senator Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry), SB 216 received overwhelming bipartisan support from both the State Senate and the House of Representatives. The Society's Director of Education Elizabeth Dubrulle

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
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SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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William H. Dunlap

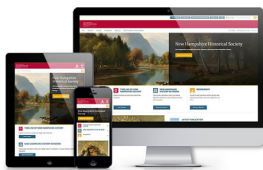
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Bill Dunlap

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With this year being the 200th anniversary of the New Hampshire Historical Society's founding in May 1823, my last newsletter column talked about the events of that spring and the individuals involved. Since it is hard to do full justice to 200 years in just one column, please allow me to make some further observations about the Society's history...there is a lot more to say about it.

The Society was launched by farsighted figures who were not only giants in the life of our institution but also were a veritable "Who's Who" of New Hampshire at the time, including the influential John Farmer; Jacob Bailey Moore, the Society's first librarian; and former governor William Plumer, our first president. Everlasting credit goes to them and their contemporaries for getting things started. But an institution does not become 200 years old without many more contributors along the way.

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**What if we did not have the New Hampshire Historical Society; what if it had never come to be? I think I can say with confidence, we would be diminished—all of us.**

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Where would we be today, for example, without William Cleaves Todd? A modest man, Todd was elected the Society's president in 1898. He was a school teacher and principal who had become wealthy through shrewd investing in, among other things, a newfangled device called the telephone. When Todd assumed the Society's presidency, the organization was experiencing, in the words of a fellow trustee, "a crisis in its affairs," being out of space and nearly out of money. Todd initiated a capital fundraising campaign to finance an addition onto the Society's headquarters, which was at that time on North Main Street in Concord.

This led to one of the most consequential junctures in our history. Todd contacted Edward and Julia Tuck, who were fabulously wealthy American expatriates living in France, to see if they might help by making a donation. In their correspondence over many months one thing led to another, and the upshot was that the Tucks decided to fully underwrite construction of the grand building on Park Street that is our headquarters today.

Working with Todd and the Tucks was another key player, Benjamin Ames Kimball, chair of the Society's building committee. Kimball, who lived from 1833 to 1920, was an industrialist and railroad man, and one of the most influential individuals in New Hampshire public life during the half-century following the Civil War. Known for his dedication,



business sense, and uncompromising standards, Kimball masterfully oversaw the complex building construction process.

Through the vision and efforts of Todd, the Tucks, and Kimball, the Society was put on a firmer foundation, literally.

A few years earlier, in 1880, another noteworthy milestone had been reached, when Amanda Bartlett Harris, an author and literary critic, was elected as the Society's first female member. She was a prolific published writer and a descendent of Josiah Bartlett, one of New Hampshire's signers of the Declaration of Independence. Until then the membership of the Society had been all male, a reflection of the times, but that state of affairs began to be rectified in the year Harris was elected, as five of the fourteen new members elected that year were women.

Our first professional librarian was Edith Shepard Freeman, who began work at the Society in 1906 and continued until her death in 1943. Her knowledge of the collection and vast command of New Hampshire history were legendary among generations of Society members and patrons. When she died the trustees stated, "Among the many blessings the New Hampshire Historical Society has enjoyed in the 120 years it has flourished, Miss Freeman will always rank among the greatest."

Another giant of the 20th century was Otis Hammond, who in 1913 was appointed the Society's first superintendent (a job title later modified to executive director and then president). During his 31-year tenure, Hammond sharpened the Society's focus, increased membership, and added substantially to the collections. He was also a prolific author and editor. Hammond raised the Society's profile immensely.

There have been numerous others—too many to name—over the past 200 years who have made substantial contributions to the Society. A place like this one does not survive, let alone thrive, without the contributions and devotion of many. At the end of the day, despite the importance of the documents and objects we have collected, the essential story of this place is a story of people: their resolve, generosity, and hard work are the reason we exist today. It is humbling to be part of this line. The best way for us to thank and honor them, as well as to serve the generations yet to come, is to leave the Society a little bit better than when we came to it.

I have thought a lot lately about historical societies...what is their value? What if we did not have the New Hampshire Historical Society; what if it had never come to be? I think I can say with confidence, we would be diminished—all of us.

An understanding of the importance of history, among its other attributes, is central to human identity. To truly know who we are, we must have some understanding of the history of the society whence we have come, in all its variety and complexity—and sometimes messiness. While it is safe to assume Society members share that view, unfortunately many in contemporary life do not. In some quarters the value placed on history is being diminished. We must soldier on to counter these trends.

## Board of Trustees

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## SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION (continued from page 1)

testified on behalf of the bill before the Senate Education Committee and the House Education Committee, as did other members of the coalition. Senators and representatives from both parties voiced strong support for history and civics education without letting the discussion veer into divisive arguments about the curriculum. Legislators stayed focused on the importance of ensuring social studies receives instructional time while leaving curricular decisions to local school districts, which has long been the New Hampshire way.

The New Hampshire Historical Society also has a seat at the table on the new Commission on New Hampshire Civics proposed by Governor Chris Sununu. The commission is charged with ensuring educators have high-quality instructional materials to teach civics in their classrooms at all grade levels.

The Society’s new statewide curriculum, called “Moose on the Loose: Social Studies for Granite State Kids,” already provides much of this material for elementary and middle school students, and the Society will be working with the civics commission to ensure the content is embedded in the state’s educational culture and accessible to every child in New Hampshire.

No other state in the nation offers such an extensive resource for elementary and middle school social studies as the “Moose on the Loose.” Educators and students alike continue to enjoy the fun and thought-provoking ways in which the “Moose” helps kids learn more about our state and nation. The state’s educational community has been enthusiastic about bringing the “Moose” into classrooms. It is a balanced curriculum from a trusted source.







Using New Hampshire’s past to educate the future



Moose on the Loose

Social Studies for Granite State Kids  
NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## SOCIETY WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES

At the annual meeting in June, four trustees were elected to the New Hampshire Historical Society's board.

Barbara A. Pitsch of Manchester is no stranger to the Society, having served previously as a trustee and as board chair. Barbara holds a Doctorate in Education from the George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University. She is a consultant to museums, schools, and other educational institutions on teaching and learning strategies. From her earliest involvement in the Society, Barbara has been a leading proponent of expanding the Society's educational mission, and she helped guide the development of the first-ever New Hampshire history curriculum in the 1990s. Barbara's extensive record of service with the Society includes chairing strategic planning and capital fundraising committees, and serving on or chairing almost every other board committee at one time or another.



Roberta (Rob) E. C. Tenney of Concord holds a bachelor's degree in history from the University of New Hampshire and a master's in liberal studies from Dartmouth College. Her experience includes leadership positions in both public and private institutions.

Rob has had a distinguished career in education, notably at St. Paul's School, where she was a history teacher, dean of the faculty, and assistant head of school and vice-rector. Following nearly three decades at St. Paul's, Rob was interim executive director of New Hampshire Humanities, executive director of Leadership New Hampshire, and a senior administrator at the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Bryant F. Tolles Jr. of Concord has deep familiarity with the Society, having served as assistant director and editor of *Historical New Hampshire* early in his professional career, as a trustee (1999–2007), and as a member and past chair of the collections committee. His career includes the executive directorship of the Essex Institute and a long tenure as director of the Museum Studies Program and professor of history and art history at the University of Delaware. Bryant is a prolific author, writing extensively on New England architecture and the history of the White Mountains, including *The Grand Resort Hotels of the White Mountains: A Vanishing Architectural Legacy* and *Architecture and Academe: College Buildings in New England before 1860*. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Yale and a Ph.D. in history from Boston University.



Benjamin H. Wilson of Hopkinton is the director of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer. While Ben was born and raised in Concord, he spent the early part of his career in Charleston, South Carolina, working for the

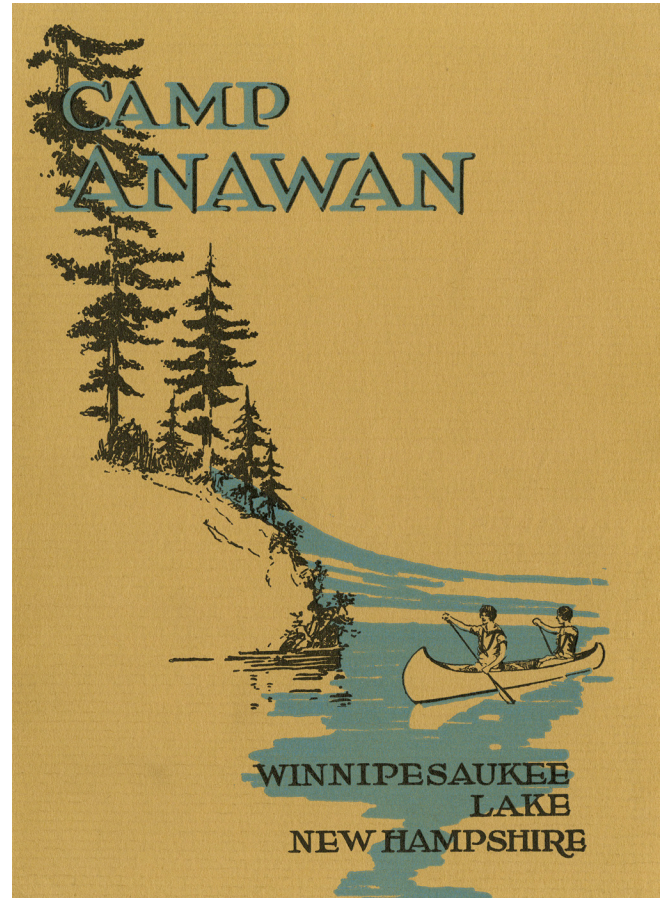
Historic Charleston Foundation and as a preservation building conservator. He next served as a building conservator at Connecticut Landmarks before coming back to his home state in 2008, where he became director of the New Hampshire Bureau of Historic Sites. Ben holds a bachelor's degree in history and African American studies from Syracuse University. He is a graduate of the North Bennet Street School's preservation carpentry program and the University of York, Institute for Advanced Architectural Studies.



## SUMMER CAMP MEMORIES

The Society takes every opportunity to build upon its collections related to New Hampshire's summer camps. A group of photographs, pamphlets, and yearbooks of Camp Anawan on Lake Winnepesaukee in Meredith was recently acquired by purchase. The materials originally belonged to Evelyn Silvester (1894–1991) of Massachusetts, who worked as a counselor at the camp from its founding in 1913 through at least 1933. Camp Anawan closed during World War II when the land was sold to the neighboring St. John's Seminary Camp, which operated through 1967.

The Society also purchased a Camp Greggmere ring. Located on the shores of Gregg Lake in Antrim, Camp Greggmere operated from 1921 to 1932. The camp hosted Jewish girls, aged seven to seventeen, who primarily came from the Northeast and Midwest. The ring descended in the family of Ruth Spritz Greenfield of Cincinnati, Ohio.







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**A WISH**

I wish I were at Anawan,  
 Away up on the hill,  
 A-sleeping in my little tent—  
 All nice and warm and still,  
 I'd pull my skeeter netting down  
 And let the skeeters buzz.  
 I wish, I wish, I wish, I wish,  
 I wish, I wish, I was.

I wish I were at Anawan,  
 A' diving off the float  
 A' paddling in my little canoe,  
 Or rocking in my boat.  
 I'd dive and swim and paddle and row,  
 As everybody does.  
 I wish, I wish, I wish, I wish,  
 I wish, I wish, I was.

I wish I were at Anawan,  
 At any time of day,  
 A' hiking twenty miles an hour  
 And still a-feeling gay.  
 I'd like to be there rain or shine  
 In summer—just becuz—  
 I wish, I wish, I wish, I wish,  
 I wish, I wish, I was.

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**I FOUND A CAMP**

I found a camp, in the heart of N. H.  
 I found a camp, way up on a hill,  
 Where all the girls are as one family  
 Where all the girls are so happy and free,  
 I found a tent, so nice and cosey  
 I found a bed, so comfy and warm  
 Beneath the silvery moon, o'er-looking water so blue.  
 I found a camp—Camp Anawan.



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## MEMBER TOUR: REMEMBERING THE OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, the Society's annual member tour will travel to the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University for an afternoon at the exhibition, "An Enduring Presence: The Old Man of the Mountain." It's been 20 years since the granite rock formation and iconic symbol of New Hampshire fell from its perch on Cannon Mountain, and this exhibition explores the history of the Old Man and all he has meant to the people of the state and beyond. Guest curator Inez McDermott, professor emerita of art history from New England College, will lead a guided tour of the exhibition, and Marcia Schmidt Blaine, professor emerita of American history from Plymouth State University, will speak on the Old Man's history and legacy. Following the museum visit, the member tour continues with a two-hour train ride on the Café Lafayette Dinner Train, where guests will enjoy an elegant dinner while riding through the White Mountains in restored vintage 1950s rail cars. All Society members will receive an invitation and registration information via U.S. mail in August.

The exhibition "An Enduring Presence: The Old Man of the Mountain," at the Museum of the White Mountains through September 16, 2023, includes 17 items on loan from the New Hampshire Historical Society's collection, including this design for a Concord coach door panel painted by Edwin G. Burgum (1858–1948). Edwin Burgum learned the trade of ornamental painting from his father, John Burgum (1826–1907), and worked alongside him for the Abbot-Downing Company in the 1870s and 1880s.

