



This study for a mural that appears at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., was given to the Society by the artist, Barry Faulkner (1881–1966). Titled *The Constitution of the United States*, it shows early American founders ranged around George Washington.

PRESIDENTS DAY PROMPTS INTEREST IN COLLECTION ITEMS

Presidents Day presents an opportunity to focus on presidential items in the Society’s collection, which include an assortment of books, documents, images, and objects. Abraham Lincoln alone is the subject of nearly 100 books in our library, two of which have a special significance to the Society.

Abraham Lincoln in New Hampshire provides an account of Lincoln’s trip to New Hampshire, part of a New England tour that followed his famous 1860 Cooper Union speech in New York City. Lincoln made speeches in Concord, Manchester, Dover, and Exeter (where he also visited his son Robert, then in attendance at Phillips Academy). Elwin L. Page wrote the first edition of this book in 1929, but Mike Pride’s 2009 update incorporates images drawn from the Society’s collections. The second volume of note, *Political Debates in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*, is special because it was inscribed to the Society by Lincoln himself. Society librarian William F. Goodwin wrote to Lincoln to request the book on August 9, 1860. John G. Nicolay, a close associate and later private secretary of Lincoln, had the book inscribed and sent to the Society.

There are numerous likenesses of Lincoln in the Society’s collections, including engravings,

daguerreotypes, lithographs, campaign ribbons, and even a beverage bottle from the 2009 bicentennial celebration of Lincoln’s birth that was held at the Woodman Institute in Dover. Only one likeness, however, was autographed by Lincoln; it reads “Yours truly / A. Lincoln.” Lincoln presented the signed portrait to lawyer Benjamin F. Prescott while in Exeter on March 3 and 4, 1860. At the time, Prescott, whose papers are also housed at the Society, was living in Epping and serving as the secretary of the Republican State Committee. He would go on to become governor of New Hampshire from 1877 to 1879 and vice president of the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Sometimes objects are compelling because of their provenance. Mrs. Lincoln gave several personal items to Lincoln’s footman and messenger, Charles Forbes, when she left the White House. Among these was a penknife engraved with Lincoln’s name, which Lincoln had carried with him on the night of the assassination. Forbes, who witnessed the assassination, presented the penknife to Charles E. Crecy of the Treasury Department in 1866. Crecy, in turn, gifted the knife to New Hampshire Senator William E. Chandler, who donated it to the Society in 1880. Other

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Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The gratifications of living in New Hampshire are many. Among them are the state's intimate, personal scale and the palpable sense of history that is all around us, all the time. I was once again reminded of this after reading *American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age*, by Kevin Flynn. An entertaining read, this book tells the story of the inception of the New Hampshire Lottery in the 1960s.

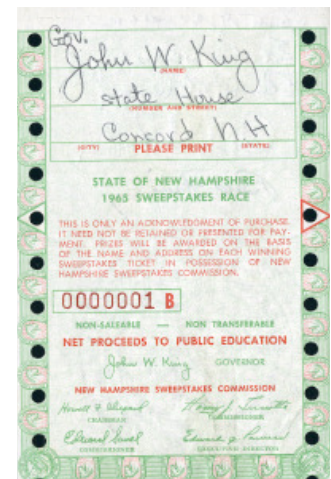
(Mr. Flynn will be at the Society on February 27 at 2 p.m. for an author talk and book signing. I hope you'll join us.)

The story is rather dramatic, with twists, turns, and memorable characters. Among them are the Runyonesque State Representative Larry Pickett, the dogged early proponent of a state lottery; Governor John King, the Harvard-educated son of a shoe factory worker and the first Democratic governor in 40 years; former G-man Edward Powers, the first director of the New Hampshire Lottery, whose appointment was personally blessed by J. Edgar Hoover himself; and the diminutive and brilliant lawyer Joe Millimet, who shuttled between New Hampshire and Washington to negotiate approvals with Bobby Kennedy's Justice Department and even advocate for the lottery before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Events unfolded in State House legislative chambers and in smoke-filled rooms, churches, and town meetings throughout New Hampshire. Interwoven into the narrative are the events unfolding on the national stage: the Cuban Missile Crisis, the assassination of President Kennedy, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and the race riots of the 1960s.

American Sweepstakes has particular resonance for me because my late father, Philip Dunlap, was state senate president at the time of the lottery's enactment in 1963. (He was opposed, as the book notes.) Even though at the time I was barely a teenager I took a keen interest in the issue. The names in the book are ones I heard mentioned at the dinner table half a century ago.

Here in New Hampshire we are all spectators of, and sometimes participants in, the making of history on a human scale, even when we do not have a family member involved. Unlike in much larger places, where policies are promulgated and trickle down from afar, in New Hampshire we usually know—or know someone who



New Hampshire Sweepstakes Race ticket issued to Governor John W. King, 1965. Gift of the Anna M. King Trust.

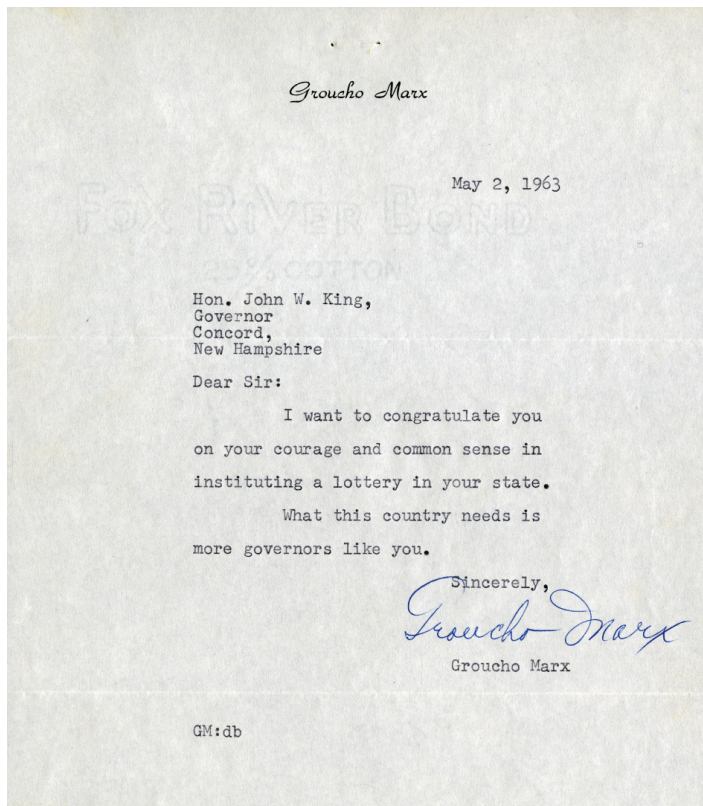
knows—the protagonists involved. History is all around us, and we are witnesses to the history made in our own lifetimes as well. This reinforces our sense of place and connectedness to our community. We are lucky to have it this way.

Our sister organization, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (the steward of our state's physical landscape just as our Society is steward of its historical and cultural landscape), recently had as its annual meeting speaker Mel Allen, the editor of *Yankee Magazine*. He commented on “the preservation of landscape, the sense of deep roots, the power of place... we are connected through a shared love of place. [This is] a region so compact, so woven with landscape and history and ancestry and tradition that the sense of place burrows more deeply here than anywhere else.”

This is why we choose to live here, and why we work to save, preserve, and share New Hampshire history.



Bill Dunlap
President



While some Americans feared that state-sanctioned sweepstakes would usher in an era of mob influence, this letter to New Hampshire Governor John King from Groucho Marx illustrates that others held a different opinion. Gift of the Anna M. King Trust.

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DONNA-BELLE GARVIN NAMED EDITOR EMERITA

When Director of Publications Donna-Belle (D-B) Garvin retired on January 1, 2016, after a 40-year career at the New Hampshire Historical Society, the board of trustees honored her with the title of editor emerita of *Historical New Hampshire*.

D-B plans to continue working at the Society for the foreseeable future, however, as a full-time volunteer. After completing her final issue of *Historical New Hampshire*, she will serve as consulting editor on various projects, such as overseeing further development of the online Timeline of New Hampshire History. She also is joining *Historical New Hampshire*'s editorial advisory board and hopes to find time to focus on a number of personal research projects.

Throughout her tenure, D-B has been involved with almost every aspect of the Society's collections and interpretation programming, and Society staff and journal contributors have come to rely heavily on

her insight and guidance. As Bill Dunlap noted at D-B's retirement celebration: "She has over the years served as counselor, sounding board, touchstone, psychologist, fact-checker, and oracle for her colleagues."

A native of Cranston, Rhode Island, D-B graduated from Wellesley in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in history and earned a master's degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware, where she met her future husband Jim Garvin. The pair married in 1969, and D-B joined Jim in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There she served as acting librarian at Strawberry Banke Museum, a pioneering historic preservation effort that developed from an urban renewal project. Three years later, she began work toward a master's in library and information science from the University of Rhode Island, which she received in 1980.

In 1975 D-B accepted a grant-funded position at the New Hampshire Historical Society as a museum cataloger. Committed to professionalizing the Society's cataloging procedures, she learned the collection inside and out during her first decades at the Society, eventually becoming curator.

D-B's focus shifted in 1997, when she became editor of the Society's flagship publication, *Historical New Hampshire*. Under her tutelage, the journal gained prominence for its high-quality articles and outstanding illustrations. D-B's experience with the collections allowed her to craft issues that drew in new and unusual illustrations, sometimes showcasing obscure items that had seldom been displayed to the public. In her nearly two decades at the helm of *Historical New Hampshire*, she supported and mentored hundreds of authors and historians in their explorations of the heritage of New Hampshire and northern New England.

D-B played a pivotal role in uncovering new aspects of New Hampshire in her own research. Of all her work, she is most proud of having helped—through the study of artifacts and documents—to resurrect the life stories and surviving work of several otherwise forgotten men and women of past centuries. These include Chester gravestone carver Stephen Webster, Hancock silhouettist James Hosley Whitcomb,



D-B Garvin (left) in September 1984, along with fellow Society staff members Jim Garvin (center) and Doug Copeley, unpacking a shipping crate containing the Centennial Shield. Made for the New Hampshire Building at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, the shield had been on loan to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History for display in its exhibition, "1876: A Centennial Exhibition."

Portsmouth silversmith John William Abbott, Henniker joiner/cabinetmaker Joel Joslyn, Farmington weaver Hannah Leathers Wilson, Candia family record artist George Melvill, and Newport wood engraver Henry E. Baldwin.

D-B's writings about these individuals and other subjects contributed to several articles in *Historical New Hampshire* and elsewhere. She also co-authored Society exhibition catalogs featuring documented New Hampshire furniture, White Mountain artists Frank H. Shapleigh and Benjamin Champney, and New Hampshire hand tools and their makers, and edited several books for the Society, including *Soldiers, Sailors, Slaves, and Ships: The Civil War Photographs of Henry P. Moore* (1999); *The Years of the Life of Samuel Lane, 1718–1806: A New Hampshire Man and His World* (2000); and *Consuming Views: Art & Tourism in the White Mountains, 1850–1900* (2006). D-B and her husband Jim also co-authored the book *On the Road North of Boston: New Hampshire Taverns and Turnpikes* (1988) and 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.” The Garvins have quietly supported nearly every major



D-B, along with husband and architectural historian Jim Garvin, is an icon in the field of New Hampshire history.

historical and preservation effort in the state for the past several decades.

We celebrate D-B as a remarkable scholar and as a remarkable person. The Society—and individuals at the Society—have been shaped for the better by her contributions. It is with great affection and respect that we wish D-B the best for this new chapter in her professional life.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH EVENTS AT THE SOCIETY (full details at nhhistory.org)

Guided Gallery Tours (On the second Saturday of each month, at 2 p.m.)

Learn about the Society's historic Park Street building and our latest exhibitions from a member of the Society's education or volunteer docent staff. *Admission is free for members or included in the price of paid admission.*

Honoring Presidents Day with George Washington and Abe Lincoln (Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 2 p.m.)

In this Society collection highlights talk, Library Director Sarah Galligan will share some of the more unusual collection items related to Washington and Lincoln. *Admission is free for members or included in the price of paid admission.*

Author Talk and Book Signing: *American Sweepstakes: How One Small State Bucked the Church, the Feds, and the Mob to Usher in the Lottery Age*, by Kevin Flynn (Saturday, February 27, 2016, at 2 p.m.)

Join author and Emmy Award-winning former television journalist Kevin Flynn for a discussion of his new book, which describes how New Hampshire helped to usher in the lottery age in America. *Admission is free.*

AP U.S. History Conference (Saturday, March 5, 2016, or Sunday, March 6, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) *Note: This event is for students taking the AP U.S. History exam.* Keynote Speaker: Christopher Capozzola, MIT history professor and member of the AP U.S. History Development Committee. Sponsored by EDvestinU and Saint Anselm College. *Registration is on an individual basis and costs \$25 per student.*



Workshop: Getting Started in Genealogy (Three-course series held on consecutive Saturdays: March 12, March 19, and March 26, 2016, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

Offered in conjunction with the New England Historic Genealogical Society. *Required registration is \$50 for members of the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and \$75 for nonmembers.*

SOCIETY INCREASES SUPPORT FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

A growing number of Society patrons are pursuing research into family history, following a trend that can be observed across the country and the globe. The abundance of information now available can be a mixed blessing, leaving some researchers feeling overwhelmed and underequipped to sort through materials to find facts that are meaningful to them. Society staff members are working to meet that challenge, offering a suite of resources for interested genealogists with a range of abilities.

For those just embarking on discovering their family history, the Society offers an introductory workshop called “Getting Started in Genealogy” in conjunction with the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS). Held on three consecutive Saturday afternoons in March, this workshop introduces basic concepts in genealogy, tools for organizing research, standard records for genealogists, and hints for conducting research online. The workshop is designed to explain and demonstrate best practices under the guidance of instructors from New England’s premier genealogical institution.

Genealogical researchers with a more specific interest in one of New Hampshire’s largest ethnic groups will



Detail of a chromolithograph, circa 1850, taken from genealogical materials preserved by the New Hampshire Historical Society. The two-page document records dates for births, marriages, and deaths in the Colby family. Gift of Paul J. and Marie-Louise Fredyma.

benefit from “Researching Your French-Canadian Ancestors,” offered on June 25. This workshop, intended for experienced genealogists, focuses on the records of this specific group of New Hampshire residents. The Society once again offers this workshop in conjunction with the experts at NEHGS.

The Society library also offers new resources for independent genealogical research this year. Our collections of records and printed materials—from the reference volumes on the library shelves to the manuscripts and books that constitute the formal collections—have long been a treasure trove for genealogists. Increasingly, though, digital databases have become an important complementary resource to the Society’s print materials. The Society now offers on-site library patrons free access to a selection of subscription-only digital databases via the library’s public access computers.

The first of these offerings is EBSCO’s database “America: History and Life™ with Full Text.” Researchers can use this database to search more than a thousand journals and retrieve full-text articles related to the history of the United States and Canada (including all articles published in the Society’s own journal, *Historical New Hampshire*). For patrons focused on genealogy, two other databases available in the library will likely become a staple of their research. Ancestry.com can be used to build family trees and access millions of genealogical resources. The American Ancestors databases, powered by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, contain millions of genealogical records with a particular focus on New England, as well as data from genealogy-based journals and other publications.

We encourage members and patrons to explore the Society’s genealogical resources to discover new aspects of their family history. Resources for genealogists and other patrons are always available during regular business hours at the Society library. Please note, however, that space will be limited for both workshops, and registration is required. For pricing information or to register for a workshop, visit nhhistory.org or call Member and Visitor Services Coordinator Wendy Olcott at 603-856-0621 to register by phone using a credit card.

EISENHOWER AND A PRESIDENTIAL BEAUTY CONTEST

The current exhibition *Discovering New Hampshire* displays objects related to the origins of the New Hampshire presidential primary. While 2016 marks the primary's 100th anniversary, some propose another centennial in 2052. The timing of the anniversary lies in the eye of the beholder, depending on whether one defines a primary process as incorporating direct popular participation in democratic selection. Although New Hampshire's first primary was held in 1916, at that time the public voted for delegates who would attend the National Convention rather than the actual presidential candidates.

It was not until 1952 that New Hampshire voters were able to directly select the candidate of their preference. This was due to efforts to increase voter participation; in the New Hampshire state legislative session of 1949, Speaker Richard Upton worked to make the presidential primary "more interesting and meaningful... so there would be a greater turnout at the polls." The state accordingly permitted voters to declare their own preferences for presidential and vice presidential selections. Fifty supportive petitions from each of the two congressional districts were required to enter a candidate's name on the ballot, and it remained there unless the candidate requested his name be withdrawn.

As the new selection process was informational only, with no legal effect on the ultimate election, it was called "the beauty contest" and immediately caught the attention of the press. Delegates who received prior approval from their candidate filed as "pledged;" a new filing designation of "favorable" did not require the candidate's consent.

In New Hampshire's initial "beauty contest" of 1952, Republican delegate and New Hampshire Governor Sherman Adams filed for candidacy on behalf of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who at the time was still serving in the European theater and had not yet publicly agreed to participate in the political process. When Eisenhower refrained from withdrawing his name within ten days, however, he officially joined the ballot. Adams led a coalition of prominent New Hampshire personalities who hotly campaigned for Eisenhower, and their efforts were not hampered by Eisenhower's distance. He went on to defeat Senator Robert Taft on the Republican ballot, 46,661 to 35,838.



Former New Hampshire Governor Sherman Adams (left) joins President Dwight D. Eisenhower as he is welcomed to New Hampshire by Governor Hugh Gregg. Photograph by Whitman Levensaler; gift of Dorothy E. Levensaler.

In New Hampshire, this turning point in the political process emphasized the importance of a candidate's popular appeal. New Hampshire's "first in the nation" status, held since 1920, could also be an early and important testing ground of a candidate's electability. Direct democratic selection thus shifted from the "smoke-filled rooms" at conventions to the sunlight of public process, and candidates could now be conceived of and consecrated by grass-roots campaigns. If the spirit of the primary process is rooted in democracy, then New Hampshire might justifiably celebrate another 100th anniversary in 2052.

PRESIDENTS DAY continued from page 1

items fascinate us simply because of their relationship to historic moments or icons. The Society possesses several such objects, which include a piece of fence rail split by Lincoln and a fragment of the coat he was wearing when assassinated.

These items are a small sampling of the Society's presidential material. Library Director Sarah Galligan will share some of the more unusual items related to Abraham Lincoln and George Washington in a collection highlights talk at the Society on Saturday, February 20, at 2 p.m. (see page 5 for details). Additional images and information are available via the Society's online catalog at nhhistory.org.

The independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history.



As the sign on the nearby car attests, presidential candidate Senator Robert Taft (center) battled a wave of public support for General Dwight D. Eisenhower during his campaign. This image was taken at a rally held in Concord, c. 1952. See related story on page 7. Photograph by Whitman Levensaler; gift of Dorothy E. Levensaler.