



“DISCOVERING NEW HAMPSHIRE” EXHIBITION OPENS

Designed to explore key aspects of New Hampshire’s history and identity, the new exhibition on view at the Society’s Park Street headquarters showcases objects, photographs, and documents essential to understanding New Hampshire’s story. Organized around five themes, the exhibition uses objects, from the ordinary to the extraordinary, to illustrate how material items link us with the past.

Some of the themes build an understanding of how daily life has evolved in our state, as is true for the furniture, housewares, and images grouped together in the section called “Ties That Bind.” Visitors may find their own family memories mirrored in the vivid red-and-white quilt made by Nancy Kaime, in collaboration with her husband. Other items, like samplers and examples of early furniture, are remnants of past eras.

As the country enters another presidential election cycle, the campaign buttons and other memorabilia grouped under the theme “All Politics Is Local” are particularly interesting. Mementos of past campaigns remind us of New Hampshire’s role at key decision points in our nation’s history. For a visitor reviewing the issues that were at stake in these contests, the items displayed may raise questions of “what if?” that can never be answered. They may also encourage a deeper interest in engaging personally with our state’s special role in presidential politics.

Other sections of the exhibition prompt visitors to consider broader historical questions of identity and place. “Second Nature” acknowledges the impact of New Hampshire’s natural landscape, which is central to our state’s character. Our unique landscape drew new settlers, triggered disputes over ownership, spawned tourist and recreation industries, and inspired in many a commitment to forest and land conservation. Items grouped under the theme “Citizen Soldiers” illustrate the thread of conflict that has affected New Hampshire families, shaping our sense of identity. Individual experiences of conflict, from the Revolutionary period through the Civil War and World War II, prompt the viewer to question how best to balance the needs of an individual against the needs of a community.

Although the organization of artifacts by five themes provides a helpful guide for understanding New Hampshire’s identity, a strength of the exhibition is that repeated exploration reveals even more. True to its name, *Discovering New Hampshire* encourages visitors to uncover more than they may see at first glance. It is possible to explore many more themes than the five that the exhibition’s organization offers. For example, several of these groupings share items related to Native Americans; taken as a whole, they

continued on page 6

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

30 Park Street
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

603-228-6688

nhhistory.org

Newsletter

Volume 52, No. 3
 Fall 2015

President

William H. Dunlap

Editor

Judith B. Solberg

Contributors

Wesley G. Balla
 Douglas R. Copeley
 Joan E. Desmarais
 Elizabeth Dubrulle
 Brenda L. French
 Sarah E. Galligan
 Donna-Belle Garvin
 Kenneth J. Hamilton Photography

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With the completion of major renovations to our facilities and the launch of our digitization initiative, 2015 will go down as a notable year in the Society's long, distinguished history. Over the past several years we have been focused on these projects and on capital fundraising to pay for them. Now, following the successful completion of these efforts, we will be turning our attention to the future—in particular, how best to share New Hampshire history with ever greater numbers of people.

To fulfill the “sharing” part of our mission (which is to “save, preserve and share New Hampshire history”), we will be expanding activities in several areas. First, on the digital front: we have digitized tens of thousands of records, from museum objects to entire manuscript collections, and have made these publicly accessible on our new website. Adding to this rich content are contributions from local historical societies and other collecting institutions, making it possible to connect historical resources from across the state via the New Hampshire History Network. A new searchable, illustrated Timeline of New Hampshire History establishes a framework for exploring events from the 1600s to the present and will appeal to all those who love our state. I invite you to visit our website at nhhistory.org to see for yourself.

Now, following the successful completion of these efforts, we will be turning our attention to the future—in particular, how best to share New Hampshire history with ever greater numbers of people.

Next, as part of the re-launch of our historic headquarters building as our primary public venue, we have opened two new exhibitions. The first, *Discovering New Hampshire*, is on view in our second-floor gallery. You can learn more about this exhibition on page one of this newsletter. The second, *Remembrance and Reality: Landscape Paintings of New Hampshire*, installed in the rotunda, auditorium, and hallways of the building, features many fine examples from our collection of 19th-century paintings of the White Mountains and other regions of the state. Please visit and take these in—and bring a friend!

The Society's schedule of lectures, workshops, and book signings will expand in the coming months. During the past couple of years public programs have been necessarily somewhat curtailed to accommodate building renovations and staff time spent on the new projects. With these successfully completed, we once again return to a full schedule of programs of interest to our members, as well as new audiences.

Finally, a significant transition is about to take place at the end of this year, as Donna-Belle (D-B) Garvin retires after a 40-year-career at the Society and gives up the editorship of *Historical New Hampshire*. D-B has ably steered this flagship Society publication since 1997. Those who know D-B will not be surprised to hear that it will take three persons to replace her. Responsibilities for the publication will be allocated on a part-time basis among Rob Bermudes, serving as editor; Joan Desmarais, as illustrations coordinator; and Elizabeth Dubrulle, as editorial coordinator.

D-B has spent almost her entire working career at the Society, beginning in 1975. Before her *Historical New Hampshire* editorship, she was curator and museum cataloger. Over her tenure she has been involved with almost every aspect of our collections and interpretation programming. Although D-B has announced her retirement, she will be staying on here as a full-time volunteer and consulting editor, working on a number of projects that have been on her to-do list. We'll have a full tribute article to D-B and her many contributions to the Society in the next issue of this newsletter.

As always, thank you for supporting the Society.



Bill Dunlap
President



From an Abenaki dugout canoe to an early snowmobile, the Society's new exhibition *Discovering New Hampshire* shares the history of New Hampshire's people, places, and events through objects, photographs, and documents you can't see anywhere else. See story on page one.

Board of Trustees

Chair

Joel J. Bedor
Littleton

Vice Chair

David H. Souter
Hopkinton

Treasurer

Kurt M. Swenson
Hopkinton

Secretary

Kathleen A. Belko
New London

Q. David Bowers
Wolfeboro

James L. Garvin
Pembroke

Margaret Marshall
Conway

Barbara A. Pitsch
Bedford

Paul C. Remus
Bedford

Michael R. Reopel
Hillsborough

Edward E. Shumaker
Concord

Susan P. Sloan
Boston, MA & Hopkinton

Marilyn Goodwin Soper
Newbury

David M. Sundman
Littleton

Pamela D. VanArsdale
Bedford

William P. Veillette
Amherst

Bert R. Whittemore
Concord

Phil Zea
Norwich, VT

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

On the evening of November 4, the Society's historic Park Street building filled with trustees, staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who gathered to mark the success of the capital campaign. The tangible results of those fundraising efforts were on full display all around, and it was a unique opportunity for guests to explore with staff the context for each of the initiatives being celebrated.

Campaign co-chairs Bill Veillette and Kurt Swenson began the evening by acknowledging the gifts of the many individuals, organizations, and foundations that provided significant financial support to the campaign. Also acknowledging the efforts of staff members during the two-year period of transition and disruption, Society President Bill Dunlap spoke about their individual contributions to the collective success of the campaign's initiatives.

"The past couple of years have been very hectic as we have worked to complete these projects," said Bill. "A great deal has been asked of our staff. Each and every one has responded in a way I can only say is above and beyond the call of duty."

The auditorium then filled with anticipation as Society Vice President Joan Desmarais and Library Director Sarah Galligan presented the Society's new online digital resources. There were audible exclamations when Sarah demonstrated the power of the search capability, the zoom feature for digitized images, and facing-page transcriptions. As one guest laughingly remarked during the presentation, "This is better than the Kardashians!"

When the website demonstration ended, guests made the most of their opportunity to explore the campaign accomplishments first-hand. The two new exhibitions, *Discovering New Hampshire* and *Remembrance and Reality*, attracted a large audience. Director of Collections and Exhibitions Wes Balla and Museum Registrar Doug Copeley pointed out highlights and answered questions from guests, who were delighted to get a sneak peek before the public exhibition opening on November 6.

Tom Chase, who manages facilities and security for the Society, was on hand to acknowledge this major milestone for the organization and its historic Park



Street building. While the "greening" of the collection storage, research, and exhibition spaces did present significant challenges, Tom could attest to the success of each associated initiative. Interested guests joined him for a tour of some of the least-seen spaces of the building, where Tom led a lively discussion about air exchanges, humidity regulation, LED fixtures, the excavation of steam pipes, and myriad other details about which he is now an expert.

After this brief pause to acknowledge the accomplishments of the past two years, the staff has already turned its focus to the future: digitization projects, reaching out to new partners for the New Hampshire History Network, developing new public programs, and all of the other ongoing work in service to the Society's mission. For one night, however, we rested on our laurels and joined our supporters in toasting how far we have already come.



Tom Chase (right), the Society's facilities and security manager, and Steve Caulfield of the H.L. Turner Group, engineers for the new heating and cooling upgrades at Park Street, admired the boilers that are a part of the Society's new state-of-the-art climate control system.

DIGITAL RESOURCES EXPAND ACCESSIBILITY OF COLLECTIONS

In November, along with the unveiling of new exhibitions, the Society launched several extensions to the digital resources provided to members and to the public. At the heart of each digital initiative is the desire to increase accessibility of the collections.

One component of the Society's digital resources is the New Hampshire History Network, now available online at network.nhhistory.org. The Network is designed to support and extend the work done by local historical organizations—long a priority of the Society. Over the past year, Society staff partnered with ten pilot organizations from around the state, connecting portions of their digitized collections via the Network website. The resulting collections catalog showcases items from around New Hampshire. This new offering raises awareness of the holdings of local historical organizations both large and small, providing greater opportunity for students, researchers, and everyone interested in New Hampshire to discover resources and information about our state's history.

At the same time, the Society's own website at nhhistory.org has undergone a transformation. Previously separate online museum and library collections catalogs are now integrated, allowing researchers to find what they need through a single search. In addition, the digitization of thousands of documents, photographs, and objects means that collection items are available not only via catalog records but also through images of the originals, making the new catalog a valuable research and educational tool. Society members enjoy added site functionality, including access to transcriptions of selected documents and the ability to save searches.

Another new resource for everyone interested in learning more about the state is the Timeline of New Hampshire History, the heart of the new website's interpretative content. The timeline is an interactive tool that enables users to connect to the events and people that have shaped New Hampshire. Whether browsing through key events or searching by date range, topic, region, or keyword, users can discover history in ways

that are personally meaningful. With each entry illustrated with one or more images from the Society's collection and the collections of other institutions, the Timeline presents New Hampshire history in ways that make effective use of the digital realm and its tools.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the Society's new digital offerings is that they will continue to deepen and broaden with time. As participating organizations add to the Network catalog, and as new partners join in the effort, the Network will strengthen connections among collections from every part of New Hampshire. It remains a top commitment for the Society to extend the Network and Timeline of New Hampshire History through a series of ongoing digitization initiatives. While the physical collections will always offer unique resources to members and the public who are able to visit the Society in person, as each collection item is made available online, the Society comes closer to sharing New Hampshire history with all who wish to discover it.

Silvertech, an award-winning marketing technology company headquartered in Manchester, is the Society's partner in the design, development, and implementation of the new website and the New Hampshire History Network.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the New Hampshire Historical Society website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'JOIN & SUPPORT', 'DONATE NOW', 'SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER', 'CONTACT US', and 'STORE'. To the right of these links is a search bar and a 'My Cart' icon. Below the navigation bar is a red header with the text 'NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'. The main content area is divided into two sections: a large image of a river scene with a horse and rider, and a dark overlay with the text 'New Hampshire Historical Society' and 'The independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history.' A yellow button labeled 'Explore Our Collections' is positioned below the text. At the bottom, there are three columns of featured content: 'TIMELINE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY', 'NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY NETWORK', and 'MEMBERSHIP'.

PERSONNEL NEWS

With the installation of new gallery exhibitions at Park Street and the launch of expanded digital resources, the Society is at an exciting turning point in its history. New Director of Education and Public Programs Elizabeth Dubrulle is part of a convergence of energy, bringing a fresh eye to Society efforts to educate students and the public.

“I’m looking forward to sharing our new school program with student visitors,” says Elizabeth. “Their enthusiasm is contagious and reminds us just how wonderful it is to learn something new. The Society is also looking to expand its public programming for all ages, which means more lectures, author talks, workshops, classes, and conferences exploring New Hampshire history and the work we do to preserve and share it.”

Having worked as a museum teacher herself before becoming education director in September, Elizabeth knows the Society and its mission well. She brings an impressive background to the position, with a master’s degree in public history from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and experience as both an adjunct professor of history at St. Anselm College and an associate editor for the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, where she will continue to co-edit a four-volume series of the correspondence of Massachusetts colonial governor Thomas Hutchinson.



Judith Solberg (left) of Hanover and Elizabeth Dubrulle of Goffstown are new members of the Society’s senior management team.

In October the Society welcomed a second new staff member, Judith Solberg, as director of membership and annual giving. A graduate of Harvard University, Judith has deep roots in New Hampshire and has been a member of the Society since 2006. She brings a wealth of experience from the fields of education, technology, and strategic consulting to the Society, most recently having run advancement and stewardship initiatives at Holderness School.

Judith’s background makes her particularly suited to advocating for the Society’s programs. During her first decade at Holderness School, she established and managed its archives, working with faculty and staff to build connections between items in the collection and current curriculum and program strategy. As part of that work, she studied in Washington, DC, at the Modern Archives Institute (organized by the National Archives and Records Administration) and wrote a history of the school.

“I’m thrilled to join the staff of the Society, because I am a huge believer in its work,” she says. “Building a better understanding of our past enables us to shape a better future. And, as I know first-hand, there is nothing more exciting than watching a student find a personal connection with a piece of history for the first time.” Judith will make it easier for more researchers and students to do just that, by helping to spread the word about the Society and its programs throughout the state and beyond.

EXHIBITION OPENS continued from page 1

raise broad questions of culture and identity. Visitors may also find that the exhibition provides a lens for examining women’s impact on communities over time. *Discovering New Hampshire* is an example of the Society’s mission in action: sharing our state’s history in ways that invite and inspire further exploration and discovery.

Discovering New Hampshire is made possible through the support of Merrimack County Savings Bank, the Concord Group Insurance Companies, and Cogswell Benevolent Trust.

The Society is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

NEW TRUSTEES

James L. Garvin of Pembroke, Michael R. Reopel of Hillsborough, and Philip Zea of Norwich, Vermont, are the newest members of the Society's board of trustees.

Jim Garvin served for 24 years as state architectural historian with the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. Prior to joining state service, he spent 11 years at Strawbery Banke Museum, where he restored several houses and became the museum's first curator, and then served as curator here at the Society from 1976 to 1987. Jim has degrees in architectural engineering from Wentworth Institute of Technology, art history from the University of New Hampshire, early American culture from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program, and a doctorate in American and New England Studies from Boston University. He has received numerous awards for his contributions to New Hampshire history and historic preservation, most recently two regional and national book awards for *A Building History of Northern New England*; the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance award for leadership in historic preservation; and, with his wife Donna-Belle, the Granite State Award from the University of New Hampshire. Jim has a long history of public service on several boards and commissions, including the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Canterbury Shaker Village, and the New Hampshire Humanities Council. In addition to his public service, Jim serves as an adjunct faculty member at Plymouth State University.



Mike Reopel holds a BS in engineering from the United States Military Academy and a master's degree from Harvard University. He is a decorated U.S. Army officer, serving 13 years on active duty and 8 years in the reserves from 1974 to 1995. Before joining the private sector, Mike taught economics and government at West Point and served as a White House Fellow during the Reagan administration. He then worked as a management consultant, becoming a partner at both McKinsey and AT Kearney, and more recently at the Boston office of Deloitte Consulting.

At Deloitte Mike served as the co-leader of the firm's Global Strategy and Operations Practice serving manufacturing clients. During his 28 years as a consultant, Mike worked primarily with large industrial, aerospace, and high-tech clients. As a member of the board of the New England Council, Mike authored three reports addressing economic development in New England. He has served as a member of the New England Board of Higher Education and as president of the Hillsborough Historical Society. Mike has an avid interest in history and collects Dunlap furniture and White Mountain art.



Philip Zea is president of Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, Massachusetts, a position he has held since 2003. Prior to this he served as vice president for museums and collections at the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, as curator of furniture at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and as deputy director and chief curator at Historic Deerfield. He also worked as assistant curator of the New Hampshire Historical Society and a consultant to



museums on the topics of early furniture, clocks, and historical interpretation. A New Hampshire native, Phil holds degrees from Wesleyan University and the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. He has lectured and

written widely, including *Clock Making in New England, 1725–1825: An Interpretation of the Old Sturbridge Village Collection*; *The Dunlap Cabinetmakers: A Tradition in Craftsmanship* (co-authored with Donald A. Dunlap); and “*Useful Improvements, Innumerable Temptations*”: *Pursuing Refinement in Rural New England, 1750–1850*.

As always, we are grateful to all of the Society's trustees for their commitment and for their willingness to share their time and talents with the Society.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301-6384
nhhistory.org

Nonprofit
Organization
US POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, NH
PERMIT #280

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



A key part of the Society's energy efficiency project, successfully completed in November, involved the building's 11 skylights covering 40 percent of the roof area. The objectives were to eliminate light that is damaging to the collections, better manage temperature levels (also to benefit the collections), and reduce heating and air conditioning expense. To achieve these benefits, a barrier that is invisible from the exterior and interior of the building was constructed within each skylight. New LED lighting, installed in each skylight, mimics natural light. In addition, new track lighting was installed in the second-floor gallery. Other creative lighting improvements, like those made to the grand stair, were designed to allow for the restoration of the building's original fixtures, while showcasing objects on exhibition. All of the building's original fixtures were designed by its architect Guy Lowell (1870–1927). Firms who worked on the Society's renovations include the H.L. Turner Group, Milestone Engineering and Construction, Granite State Plumbing and Heating, and R&T Electric.