

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

## **NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

**CONTACT:** Stephanie Skenyon at 603-856-0611 or Brenda French at 603-856-0607

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS HISTORY COURSE ON STATE'S POLITICAL HISTORY**

CONCORD, NH — As the political season heats up, the New Hampshire Historical Society is offering a history course on New Hampshire's favorite pastime—politics. The six-part course, *Putting People first: Politics and the history of New Hampshire's favorite pastime*, will be held October 7 through November 10, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at the New Hampshire Historical Society's library, 30 Park Street, Concord. The registration fee is \$70 for New Hampshire Historical Society members and \$110 for non-members. To register by telephone with a credit card, call Education Services Coordinator Chris MacLeod at 603/856-0604 during morning hours Monday through Friday. The course form may also be downloaded at <http://www.nhhistory.org/pdfs/Politics%202010.pdf>

Attendees will learn about how New Hampshire's home-grown political consciousness developed through the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, how New Hampshire and its political leaders stole the spotlight on the national stage in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and how New Hampshire Governor John Winant represented and executed Progressive ideas in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The series will culminate with a panel discussion featuring an insider's look at New Hampshire politics from the 1950s through the 1970s.

#### **Complete course list**

#### **Putting People First: Politics and the history of New Hampshire's favorite pastime**

A six-part history course, October 7 — November 10, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

New Hampshire Historical Society Library, 30 Park Street, Concord, NH

**October 7 — New Hampshire in Political Crisis, 1680-85: The Leadership of the Reverend Joshua Moodey, the "Pope" of the Piscataqua**

Dr. Gary Lord, the Dana Professor of History at Norwich University, will focus on the political crosscurrents of the early years of New Hampshire as a royal colony and the involvement of local leader, Reverend Joshua Moody.

**October 14 — Politics in Colonial and Revolutionary New Hampshire**

Dr. Jere Daniell, Professor Emeritus from Dartmouth College, will describe the pre-national origins of political life in New Hampshire, focusing on governing institutions and how the ambitious gained office within those institutions. By 1788, the basic structure of government we enjoy today had been created, and Dr. Daniell's lecture will explain how.

**October 21 — Governor in Exile: New Hampshire and the Dorr Rebellion**

Erik J. Chaput, Ph.D. candidate, researcher, and book reviewer from Rhode Island, will explore the connections between Thomas Wilson Dorr, enfranchisement activist from Rhode Island, and New Hampshire radicals. Dorr led an armed insurrection in Rhode Island against limitations on voting rights in 1841, and he moved to New Hampshire where he found sympathy for his cause among New Hampshire Democrats.

**October 28 — Franklin Pierce: New Hampshire Democratic Party Leader**

Dr. Peter Wallner, the Society's Library Director and author of a two-volume biography on U.S. President Franklin Pierce, will discuss the so-called "failed" President's 40-year career in politics in New Hampshire. For more than 20 years, Pierce was the acknowledged leader, even boss, of the state Democratic party, and Dr. Wallner will highlight Pierce's philosophy, motives, and actions as party leader.

**November 4 — John G. Winant, Progressive Politician**

Mike Pride, author and retired editor of the *Concord Monitor*, will discuss the career of two-time governor and Progressive New Hampshire statesman John Winant, with a focus on his political career spanning from World War I to the New Deal.

**November 10\*\* — Panel Discussion: Politics in New Hampshire after WWII**

An "insider's" perspective will be provided by the speakers at this panel discussion, including James J. Kiepper (author of *Styles Bridges: Yankee Senator*), William W. Upton (son of Richard F. Upton), and Dick Osborne (WKXL radio), as they address New Hampshire politics and its development after World War II. Dean Dexter, former state representative and journalist, will moderate the event, asking panelists questions about New Hampshire and its place on the political spectrum from the 1950s through the 1970s.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** As the Society will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, the last session of the history course will be held on Wednesday, November 10.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, library, educational programs, publications, and outreach programs. For more information, visit [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org) or call 603-228-6688.

**###**