

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

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: Wes Balla at 603-856-0605 or Brenda French at 603-856-0607

HOW DO YOU DEFINE NEW HAMPSHIRE?

NEW EXHIBITION SHOWCASES ICONS OF THE STATE'S HISTORY

CONCORD, NH— What comes to mind when you think of New Hampshire? What best symbolizes the state and its people? The New Hampshire Historical Society offers up more than 100 possible answers in the new exhibition *Icons of History: Objects that Define New Hampshire*, on view at the Society's museum, located at 6 Eagle Square in Concord, through December 31, 2011.

Icons of History: Objects that Define New Hampshire is funded by the New Hampshire Antiques Dealers Association, with additional support from the Robert O. Wilson Historical Research Fund, the Una Mason Collins Fund, and the McIninch Foundation.

"We are grateful to the New Hampshire Antique Dealers Association for its generous sponsorship of this exhibition, and for all it does to preserve and promote New Hampshire's history," said the Society's Executive Director Bill Dunlap. "We are delighted to partner with them in sharing these iconic treasures with the public."

For nearly two centuries the New Hampshire Historical Society has collected and preserved thousands of objects, books, documents, and photographs about the state's past, and the treasure trove of items in *Icons of History* reflects the breadth and depth of these collections. Ranging from fine art to hand tools and tea sets to baseballs, each object tells a story about New Hampshire's history, character, and culture.



Museum visitors will rediscover familiar icons of New Hampshire, such as majestic White Mountain paintings, the world-famous Concord coach, and portraits of notables like Franklin Pierce, the only U.S. President from New Hampshire. At the same time, *Icons of History* offers new and unexpected treasures that reveal the richness of New Hampshire's heritage, including handmade furniture, needlework, pottery, and tools crafted by everyday citizens.

Favorites include Daniel Webster's highchair, the "Lady of the Lake," figurehead from an 1849 steamboat built by the Winnepesaukee Steamboat Company, and a dramatic portrait of Nathaniel Hawthorne painted by George P.A. Healy in 1852. The portrait was commissioned by Hawthorne's longtime friend, Franklin Pierce, and hung in the White House during Pierce's administration.

Silver lovers won't want to miss the 72-piece silver service set, expertly made by New Hampshire's Durgin Company and presented to the battleship USS New Hampshire in 1908. Sports lovers will delight in seeing the St. Louis Cardinals baseball shirt worn in the 1990s by New Hampshire major leaguer Bob Tewksbury and the silver medal awarded to Douglas Everett, a member of the U.S. ice hockey team, at the 1932 Winter Olympics held at Lake Placid New York. And everyone marvels at the ingenuity in the original model for the Mount Washington Cog Railway, the first mountain-climbing cog railway in the world.

The museum building itself includes another icon of New Hampshire and its forest history—a re-created fire tower that visitors can climb to see a view of the capital city. The museum's fire tower was chosen as a 2011 Best of New England by the editors of *Yankee* magazine.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5.50 for adults; \$4.50 for seniors; \$3 for children 6-18, with a family maximum of \$17. Children under 6 and members of the New Hampshire Historical Society are admitted free. The Society also offers active duty military personnel free museum admission and is a member of the [Blue Star Museums](#) program, a nationwide initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, offering free admission for active duty military personnel and their families.

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, research library, educational programs, and award-winning publications. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

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Calendar listing

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