

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

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2016

PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: Donna-Belle Garvin, Editor (603-856-0642; dbggarvin@nhhistory.org), or Elizabeth Dubrulle, Editorial Coordinator (603-856-0604; edubrulle@nhhistory.org)

Revolutionary New Hampshire: On Land and Sea

CONCORD, NH—For a fresh glimpse into the lives of New Hampshire residents who experienced the American Revolution, be sure to see the spring issue of the New Hampshire Historical Society’s journal, *Historical New Hampshire*, the state’s only statewide history magazine. *Revolutionary New Hampshire* is available through the Society’s website either by purchase or as a member benefit.

In the publication’s lead article, entitled “Captain Thomas Pickering: New Hampshire Patriot and Seafarer,” Sheldon S. Cohen, professor emeritus of history at Loyola University Chicago, explores the remarkable career of a daring Portsmouth sea captain who played a prominent, although almost forgotten role in the American Revolution, with adventures extending throughout the Atlantic world. Though his name is remembered by few today, Thomas Pickering was a leader in much of the protest activity in New Hampshire leading up to the Revolution, including the attack on Fort William and Mary in December 1774. He later helped defend Portsmouth from naval attack in the early phases of the war; undertook important work in Charleston and the West Indies for the South Carolina Navy Board; and commanded the

Portsmouth privateer *Hampden* on a trans-Atlantic cruise. This mission involved taking captured vessels into France as America's new ally, and communicating from the French port of Brest with Benjamin Franklin and the American commissioners in Paris to resolve issues then faced there by American privateers. On the journey back to America, however, Pickering lost his life at the age of about 32 in a typically bold though reckless engagement with a larger and better-armed East India Company ship. Further enlivening the already action-packed text are numerous images from the Revolutionary era, representing the full range of locations where Pickering's wartime exploits took place.

By contrast, the second article features one of the best-known New Hampshire figures of the American Revolution. In "Editing General John Stark: John Stark, His Clerk, His Grandson, and the Battle of Bennington," Ennis Duling, a researcher with a special interest in Vermont during the American Revolution, takes a close look at two letters that Stark wrote from Bennington, reporting on the battle to the New Hampshire Committee of Safety and to General Horatio Gates. A comparison of Stark's original drafts in the New Hampshire Historical Society's collection with copies in the handwriting of Stark's clerk in the recipients' papers, as well as with newspaper and other early printed versions, results in a more in-depth picture of Stark at Bennington. At the same time, this examination reveals much about how recorded history has been shaped by the pens of editors. Sample pages from the various versions of these manuscript letters and their published counterparts accompany the article.

This publication is supported in part by funding from the Benjamin Couch Trust.

The New Hampshire Historical society has published *Historical New Hampshire* since 1944. Each issue contains a variety of articles about a past that enriches and informs our lives today, as well as reviews of recent books of state and local interest. Each issue is richly illustrated; this one contains 34 illustrations, 7 in color. *Historical New Hampshire* is a benefit of membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society. To purchase a copy, call 603-228-6688 or visit the Society's online store at nhhistory.org.

Founded in 1823 the New Hampshire Historical Society is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its exhibitions, research library, educational programs, and award-winning publications. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information about the Society and the benefits of membership, visit www.nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

###