

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

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

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE**

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### **New Exhibitions Explore State History and Culture**

CONCORD, NH—Designed to share important aspects of New Hampshire’s history and identity, the New Hampshire Historical Society has opened two new exhibitions at its headquarters at 30 Park St., Concord, NH.

The *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition showcases objects, photographs, and documents essential to understanding New Hampshire’s story. Organized around five key themes, the exhibition uses objects—from the ordinary to the extraordinary—to illustrate how material items link us with our past. What do objects that have been saved by people over 200 years tell us about a state and its changing values?

Exploring identity “A Place Called New Hampshire” displays some of the symbols that have become emblematic of New Hampshire.

Focusing on the connections of community, family, work, religion, and ethnicity that link us to one another, “Ties That Bind” displays everyday items from hundreds of years of New Hampshire history to show how our society has changed over time and yet continues to connect us to our ancestors.

In “All Politics Is Local,” New Hampshire’s rich political tradition is explored through artifacts associated with national events like the presidential primary and the longstanding practices of local governance such as the New Hampshire town meeting. Of particular note are items associated with one of New Hampshire’s most influential presidential primaries to date—the 1952 election upset pulled off by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Items grouped under the theme “Citizen Soldiers” illustrate the thread of conflict that has affected New Hampshire families. Individual experiences in conflicts, from the Revolutionary War period through the Civil War and World War II, prompt the viewer to think about balancing individual needs and community responsibilities.

“Second Nature” acknowledges the impact of New Hampshire’s natural beauty, which for so many is central to our state’s character. Our physical surroundings sustained the Abenaki, drew new settlers to the land, triggered disputes over ownership, spawned tourist and recreation industries, and inspired in many a commitment to forest and land conservation.

True to its name, *Discovering New Hampshire* encourages visitors to uncover more about the state and think about our collective history in new ways. From an Abenaki dugout canoe to a snowmobile, this exhibition shares the history of New Hampshire's people, places, and events through images and artifacts you can't see anywhere else.

The second exhibition recently unveiled at the New Hampshire Historical Society, *Remembrance and Reality: Landscape Paintings of New Hampshire* explores the changing importance of the landscape in New Hampshire's history and tells the story of how the state's natural beauty has attracted and inspired artists, writers, tourists, and entrepreneurs.

New Hampshire’s mountains, seaside, and bucolic rural landscapes have had a profound impact on shaping our views of the state for people both living here and visiting New Hampshire. By carefully selecting what images to capture in their paintings, artists shared their ideas about how people should view nature and the landscapes around them. The paintings they created enriched people’s sensibilities and enhanced an appreciation of the landscape.

The paintings in this exhibition reveal stories and meanings of New Hampshire, of the 19th-century artists who depicted it, of changing aesthetic and cultural values, and of the consumers, who acquired, owned, and cherished this artwork. Through a selection of 17 diverse landscape paintings the exhibition explores America’s changing values and taste for art through the work of a diverse group of 19th-century painters who chose the scenery of New Hampshire as their subject.

Exhibitions are open to the public Tuesday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person. Active duty military personnel, full-time students, and children under the age of 18 are admitted for free. Members of the New Hampshire Historical Society are admitted at no charge.

The *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition was made possible by Merrimack County Savings Bank, the Concord Group Insurance Companies, and Cogswell Benevolent Trust.

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](http://www.nhhistory.org) or call 603-228-6688.

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Calendar Listing:

The exhibitions *Discovering New Hampshire* and *Remembrance and Reality: Landscape Paintings of New Hampshire* are now on view at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord. Exhibitions are open Tuesday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person. Active duty military personnel, full-time students, and children under the age of 18 are admitted for free. Members of the New Hampshire Historical Society are admitted at no charge. For more information about the Society and the benefits of membership, visit [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org) or call 603-228-6688.