



Saco River, North Conway, Benjamin Champney (1817–1907), oil on canvas, 1874. Champney described the scenery along the Saco River, with its “thousand turns and luxuriant trees,” as “a combination of the wild and cultivated, the bold and graceful.” New Hampshire Historical Society.

DOCUMENTING THE LIFE AND WORK OF BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY

The recent purchase of a collection of family papers adds new depth to the Society’s already strong resources documenting the life and career of influential White Mountain artist Benjamin Champney. A native of New Ipswich, Champney lived with his wife, Mary Caroline (“Carrie”), in Woburn, Massachusetts, near his Boston studio, but spent summers in North Conway, producing and selling paintings to tourists.

The new collection includes 120 letters, some from the artist and others from his father (also named Benjamin); from his brother Henry Trowbridge Champney; and from his son, Kensett Champney, the latter writing from his home in Guatemala, where

some of the artist’s descendants live today. Based on evidence within the collection, these papers appear to have been acquired around 1960 by University of New Hampshire English professor William G. Hennessey from the estate or heirs of Benjamin Champney’s daughter, Alice C. Wyer of Woburn, the recipient of many of the letters.

The collection also includes handwritten poems by Benjamin Champney, photographs of his Guatemalan relatives, a photograph of Carrie Champney, and a diary she kept during the couple’s 1865 trip to Europe.

(continued on page 4)

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
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Newsletter

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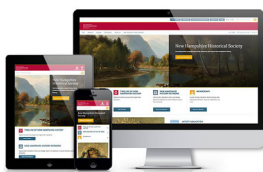
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Earlier this year the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies closed its doors. This was a real loss for the state, since the center was a source of unbiased, nonpartisan information and data analysis for New Hampshire's policy makers. I had the pleasure of serving on the center's board for several years.

In the words of a *Concord Monitor* editorial:

The reports the center created never carried the kind of provocative headlines that make it easy for people to "like" or retweet without ever reading, never mind absorbing, the data. Facts that form the foundation of truth tend to be boring, especially against the gray backdrop of context. So titles such as "Federal Income and Estate Taxes: A New Hampshire Perspective" or "Hospital Prices, Market Structure and Cost Shifting" could seem stilted in the BuzzFeed era. But as former house speaker and NHCPPS board member Donna Sytek said, "reliable, unbiased information and analysis is essential for shaping good public policy."

The public policy center was, like the New Hampshire Historical Society, an independent nonprofit organization that depended on donations for its survival. Also like the Society, the center had a solid reputation, but unlike the Society it had existed for only two decades. As a comparatively young organization it did not have the benefit of an endowment or a wide and deep membership to support it.

While we are very sad to see the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies become a thing of the past, its demise reminds us of the importance of the Society—an institution that endures in its traditional role of saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire's history.

The center had an attribute that is in increasingly short supply these days: a lack of bias. There are many think tanks producing white papers on important issues, as the center did, but almost all have a point of view or a particular agenda they are pushing, either overtly or subtly. By contrast the center was an honest broker of information and therefore was trusted by policy makers of all political stripes. For example, each biennium, when the state budget was being negotiated by the legislative leadership of both political parties and the governor's office, the various interlocutors would produce dueling financial projections to validate their respective positions. Then quietly, leaders of both political parties would call the center to ask, "What are the real revenue and expense numbers we should be using?" They knew the center could be trusted.

A recent example of an issue in which the public policy center played a pivotal role was legalized gambling. Should the state pass a law that would authorize private companies to build and operate casinos? Proponents cited the potential windfall of new tax revenues that might come to the state, while opponents focused on the social costs of gambling, arguing that any new public revenues would be eaten up by the cost of treatment for those addicted to gambling. To complicate matters, the two sides were touting wildly divergent projections for revenues and costs. The governor's office turned to the center and asked for a study to be done to shed unbiased light on the matter. With funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the center's report served as the fact-based foundation for the deliberations. (The bill failed, and expanded gambling was not enacted.)

Other groundbreaking studies by the center in recent years delved into New Hampshire's changing demographics, education, water resources, infrastructure, and healthcare. The release of its annual report card for the state, called "What Is New Hampshire?" was eagerly anticipated each fall by business, nonprofit, and governmental leaders.

While the closing of the center is lamentable, New Hampshire residents can take some solace in knowing its body of research and reports have become part of the collections here at the New Hampshire Historical Society. The center's leadership decided the Society was the best place to ensure this valuable material would be preserved for posterity and available for future students, researchers, and interested members of the public. Although we are very sad to see the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies become a thing of the past, its demise reminds us of the importance of the Society—an institution that endures in its traditional role of saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire's history.



Bill Dunlap
President

GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society is a thoughtful gift for everyone who loves New Hampshire and enjoys history. Annual membership levels are \$50 for an individual and \$75 for a couple. Another option is to endow a lifetime membership for an individual for \$1,000 or a couple for \$1,500. The Society will send a gift announcement card and a membership welcome package to you or directly to your gift recipient. To give the gift of membership, stop by the Society, call 603-856-0621, or give online at nhhistory.org.

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DOCUMENTING CHAMPNEY (continued from page 1)

The Society also owns sketches made by Champney during that European trip. They are part of a group of 105 Champney drawings the Society purchased at auction in 2014.

In related news, we are pleased to report that all 105 of these Champney drawings have been conserved, thanks to a grant from the Stockman Family Foundation. During much of 2017, conservators at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center were at work cleaning, mending tears, and relaxing wrinkles in the paper. After conservation work was completed, each drawing was housed in a protective acid-free mat and mounted on matboard to protect it for future study and exhibition.

All of the Champney sketches and paintings in the Society's collection are available for viewing online via the Society's collections catalog at nhhistory.org. After the newly acquired Champney family papers have been processed and a finding aid created, that collection will be available to researchers as well.



This photograph of Mary Caroline Brooks Champney (1829–76), dated around 1860, was purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society as part of a collection of papers related to Benjamin Champney, one of the leading White Mountain landscape artists. In his autobiography, *Sixty Years' Memories of Art and Artists*, Champney wrote, "In 1853 I was married to Miss Mary C. Brooks, who was born in Indiana, but of good New England stock."



Drawing, 1860–70, of an unidentified meadow scene, before and after conservation treatment and, on the opposite page, a view of Mount Washington from North Conway, dated 1851, both by Benjamin Champney (1817–1907). These recently conserved works are part of a group of 105 Champney drawings purchased by the Society at auction in 2014 through the fundraising efforts of P. Andrews McLane and Charles O. Vogel, with the support of 15 additional donors. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of P. Andrews and Linda McLane, G. Warren and Leslie Schomaker, Michael Mooney, Josh Eldred, Jamie LaFleur, Roger E. Belson, Jackson Historical Society, Doug and Karin Nelson, Bryant F. Tolles, William W. Upton, Charles O. and Gloria Vogel, John and Alice Pepper, John A. and Nina DeLoge, Frances S. MacIntyre, Samuel M. and Sheila Robbins, Barbara MacAdam, and the Katharine Prentis Murphy Fund.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

This summer the New Hampshire Historical Society hosted Megan Mullins of Contoocook, a junior at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, as an intern in the Society's library. A history and political studies major with previous experience at the college's Cleveland Colby Colgate Archives and at Canterbury Shaker Village, Megan was a great asset to the Society. In addition to assisting researchers in the reading room, she worked on processing collections, including a large collection of photographs donated to the Society by longtime professional photographer Bill Finney (1931–2016). Megan also drafted transcriptions of letters and other documents, which will soon be added to the hundreds of transcriptions already accessible to Society members via our online collections catalog at nhhistory.org. We were very pleased when Megan offered to come back to volunteer at the Society during her winter break from school. She was a great help this past summer, and we look forward to having her as part of the Society's team again in January.





Newly laid steam pipe crossing the New Hampshire State House grounds between Park and Capitol Streets. This project was among the first undertaken by the Concord Steam Heating Corporation, a public utility founded in 1938 to provide coal-fired, centralized steam heating throughout Concord's state and municipal district. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Concord Steam Corporation.

COMPANY RECORDS PRESERVED

Before the founding of the Concord Steam Heating Corporation in 1938, older buildings like the State House and the New Hampshire Historical Society operated their own coal-fired steam plants. With the creation of Concord Steam, this was no longer necessary in new buildings such as the State House Annex (1939) and Concord Public Library (1940), and eventually most buildings in the area purchased steam from the new public utility. Although the system worked for almost 80 years, Concord Steam went out of business in May 2017. To preserve the story of this recently ended era in the state capital's history, the Society has acquired a collection of the company's records, including letters, account books, engineering plans, and photographs.

LIBRARY RESOURCES REMINDER

The Society offers on-site researchers access to digital databases via the library's public access computers. Through EBSCO's database "America: History and Life™ with Full Text" researchers can search thousands of articles and entire journals related to the history of the United States and Canada. For patrons focused on genealogy, two other databases will likely become a staple of their research: Ancestry.com can be used to access millions of genealogical resources, and American Ancestors, powered by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, contains a wealth of records with a focus on New England. The Society's library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS EXPLORE COLONIAL LIFE

During four days each spring, the Society is filled with the energetic chatter of hundreds of pre-teens participating in an education program on colonial life in New Hampshire. The Colonial Life program was created by the Society in 2010 with funding from the Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation and in collaboration with social studies teachers at Concord's Rundlett Middle School. Since then, more than 3,000 seventh graders from the capital city have participated in the program, and it has also enriched field trips for middle and high school students from Claremont, Gorham, and Manchester.

Using the Society's diverse collections, including maps, documents, and museum objects, students take part in a range of activities to hone their critical thinking skills. For example, using testimony from a 1686 court case, students evaluate sources, distinguish between fact and opinion, and analyze conflicting points of view. Students also complete an artifact-based scavenger hunt in the Society's *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition and, in one of the most popular activities, try to fool their peers in a mock game show called "Two Fakes and a Fact." Gathered in teams, students try to figure out the purpose of various 18th-century artifacts and then trick their classmates into thinking the objects had different uses.

Recently, with continued generous support from the Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation, the Society expanded the Colonial Life program to include New Hampshire's role in the Revolutionary War and the early Republic. Museum educators worked with the library staff to identify documents in the Society's collections that highlight New Hampshire's unique contributions to the struggle for freedom, such as the December 1774 raid on Fort William and Mary, one of the earliest acts of open resistance to British rule. Another new component of this expanded program utilizes the iconic 1816 map of New Hampshire, created by Philip Carrigain, to teach geography skills and reflect on patterns of settlement. With this expanded content, the program is sure to reach even more Granite State students.



Participants in the Society's 2018 Colonial Life in New Hampshire program included some members of our extended family. Pictured are students Ryder Fisk (right), grandson of Tom Fisk, longtime Society docent and 2015 volunteer of the year, and Ben Masur (left), son of Jenn Walton, the Society's assistant director of education and public programs. Funding for the Colonial Life program, now in its eighth year, was provided by the Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation.

RESEARCH SERVICES AVAILABLE

Are time and distance preventing you from doing your own research? If so, you can hire us to research sources at the New Hampshire Historical Society for you.

Society staff will assist you in framing the research proposal and in estimating the time required to research the topic. A fee is charged on an hourly basis (\$25 for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$40 for nonmembers) plus the cost of document copies. For more information or to submit a research services request form, visit nhhistory.org/research on the Society's website or contact Library Director Sarah Galligan at 603-856-0643 or sgalligan@nhhistory.org.

FALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Thursday, September 20, 2018, 5 p.m.

Lecture: Revolutionary Portsmouth through French Eyes

Without French military assistance, the American Revolution could very easily have had a different ending. From 1780 to 1783, French troops and ships supported American forces throughout New England and the mid-Atlantic states, wearing down British efforts to subdue its former colonies and helping turn the tide in America's bid for independence. In the fall of 1782, four French ships arrived in Portsmouth to repair and refit. During the nearly five months the ships remained in the area, French officers stayed with Portsmouth families, interacted with suppliers and shipbuilders in the region, and advised local authorities on the construction of defenses for Portsmouth harbor. Documenting their visit in ship logs, journals, and letters, they left a remarkable record of the time they spent in Portsmouth. Join historian Robert Selig of the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail as he delves into the experiences of these French officers and their impressions of revolutionary New Hampshire. Funding for this free program is provided by the National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association.

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 10 a.m.

Lecture: Genealogical Resources at the New Hampshire Historical Society

The New Hampshire Historical Society holds a wealth of resources to support New Hampshire and New England genealogical research. From printed and unpublished family histories and church records to rare and unique manuscripts, the Society's collections have information not found elsewhere. Join Library Director Sarah Galligan to learn how to find and use different types of research sources. This one-hour program is for experienced genealogists and novices alike. Admission is free for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Smithsonian Museum Day

The New Hampshire Historical Society is once again participating in Museum Day, an annual celebration organized by *Smithsonian* magazine. Participating museums and cultural institutions across the country provide free admission to visitors presenting a Museum Day ticket. Tickets are available through *Smithsonian* magazine and provide free admission for two people. Visit the Museum Day website at smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ for more information.



Detail from "A View of Portsmouth in Piscataqua River," print by Joseph F. W. Des Barres (1721–1824), published as part of a marine atlas entitled *The Atlantic Neptune*, 1781. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Edward Tuck.



Detail from “A Family Record of Moses Dudley Esq. of Raymond, in the County of Rockingham, and State of New-hampshire,” by George Melvill (c. 1755–c. 1800), c. 1797. In the late 18th century, George Melvill created decorative ink-and-watercolor family registers documenting families from the areas of New Hampshire where he taught school. Melvill used his talent as a calligrapher and artist to supplement his teaching pay. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Christine D. Foster.

Saturday, September 29, 2018, 2 p.m.

New Hampshire Heritage Lecture Series:

Why a Telephone Museum in New Hampshire?

Learn how four generations of one family turned a lifelong career in the independent telephone industry into one of New Hampshire’s hidden gems. This presentation by

Executive Director

Laura French and

President/Curator

Paul Violette explains

how Warner became

the home of the

New Hampshire

Telephone Museum.

The New Hampshire

Heritage Lecture

Series highlights the

stories behind the state’s many historic and cultural

attractions. Admission is free for New Hampshire

Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.



Saturday, October 20, 2018, 2 p.m.

New Hampshire Heritage Lecture Series:

Remembering World War II with the Granite State’s Wright Museum

David Wright of Worcester, Massachusetts, developed an interest in World War II at a young age. After serving in the Korean War, Wright began collecting and restoring World War II vehicles, sharing them with the public in traveling exhibitions and parades.

His dream was to commemorate not just the battlefield experiences in World War II but also the lives of those on the home front. Since its founding in the early 1990s, the Wright Museum has grown to a collection of more than 14,000 objects. Michael Culver, the museum’s executive director, recounts the story of one man’s collection and how it helps the people of New Hampshire remember the Greatest Generation.

The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture Series highlights the stories behind the state’s many historic and cultural attractions. Admission is free for New Hampshire

Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.

Guided Gallery Tours — Fall 2018

Saturday, October 13, at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Saturdays, November 10 and December 8, at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Fridays, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21, at noon

Enjoy a guided tour of the Society’s Park Street building and exhibitions in a 45-minute tour led by a member of the Society’s education or volunteer docent staff. Included in the price of admission, the tour is appropriate for visitors of all ages. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis, and tours are capped at 12 people.

Admission to the New Hampshire Historical Society is \$7 for adults. Children ages 18 and under and members of the New Hampshire Historical Society are admitted free of charge. Full-time students and active military personnel and their families also are admitted free of charge with a valid ID.

Sunday, October 21, 2018, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
**Genealogy Seminar: From Ulster to New England:
Researching Your Scots-Irish Ancestors**

In 1718 more than 500 Scots-Irish men, women, and children arrived in Boston from Coleraine and Londonderry. In the same year, even more settlers made their way to other settlements across the New England colonies. These journeys mark the largest influx of Scots-Irish families to America. Join the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the New Hampshire Historical Society, and the Ulster Historical Foundation for a special genealogical seminar celebrating the 300th anniversary of this Ulster Scot migration. Discover the history of the Scots-Irish people and learn how to uncover the resources and records for your family history research. The cost for this seminar is \$125, and registration is required. Register online at americanancestors.org or call 888-296-3447. Please note: This workshop will be held at the Executive Court Banquet Facility, 1199 South Mammoth Road, Manchester.

Saturday, October 27, 2018, 2 p.m.
**Lecture: “A Great National Painting”:
James Walker’s *Battle of Gettysburg***

Six years in the making, James Walker’s 20-foot-long painting, *Battle of Gettysburg*, debuted in Boston on March 14, 1870. No fewer than five major newspapers lauded the work’s sweep and substance, praising its detail and precision. Indeed, several of the generals depicted in the work vouched for its accuracy—and its pathos. Based on the research and design of historian John Badger Bachelder, the monumental picture shaped popular perceptions and interpretation of the Battle of Gettysburg that continue to define it to the present day. A smaller version of the painting, also created by Walker and part of the Society’s collection, is currently on display in the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition. Join Erin Corrales-Diaz, assistant curator of American art at the Worcester Art Museum, as she presents the remarkable story behind these iconic objects and then view the Society’s own painting. Admission is free for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.



Detail from the dramatic historical painting *Battle of Gettysburg*, researched and designed by John Badger Bachelder (1825–94) and painted by James Walker (1819–89), c. 1870. Bachelder, a native of Gilmanton, was the United States Government Historian of the Battle of Gettysburg. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Amanda Stevens and Charlotte B. Stevens.

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 2 p.m.
Lecture: Private George Dilbooy and the Decisive Battle of World War I

When the Yankee Division was thrown into combat during the terrible summer of 1918, none of its soldiers had more combat experience than Private George Dilbooy. Born in the Greek-speaking provinces of the Ottoman Empire, Dilbooy had fought in the Balkan Wars as a teenager, and after emigrating to New England, he eagerly volunteered for service in his adopted country shortly before the United States entered World War I. This presentation, given by Professor Dan Breen from Brandeis University on the 100th anniversary of the end of the war, commemorates Dilbooy's heroism during that bloody conflict by telling the story of how, in a few moments of astonishing courage, he earned the only Medal of Honor awarded to a New Hampshire resident during the Great War. Admission is free for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$7 for nonmembers.

Saturday, November 17, 2018, 1 to 4 p.m.
Genealogy Workshop: Researching Veteran Ancestors in Colonial Conflicts, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812

Throughout American history, brave men and women have answered the call to serve our country and defend our families. Many of us can claim these courageous citizens as our ancestors, but how do we learn more about their service? In this workshop, presented in conjunction with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, discover tools and strategies for researching veteran ancestors. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of either the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society; \$50 for nonmembers. Space is limited, and registration is required. Register online at Eventbrite.com or call 603-856-0621.

Saturday, November 24, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
New Exhibition Opening: Signs of the Times
 Signs are part of New Hampshire's landscape and culture. Some have become iconic symbols of the Granite State, while others are so commonplace as to be barely noticed. Either way, signs have been ever-present throughout the state's history, whether they are pointing us to where we want to go, showing support for a cause or a candidate, or tempting us to buy a product or service. In this new exhibition, discover how signs can also serve as a window into our past.



Saturday, November 10, 2018, is the final day to see the Society's exhibition *Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire*. The exhibition features 15 World War I posters from the Society's collection, including *Columbia Calls*, designed by Frances Adams Halstead (1873–1951) after an original painting by Vincent Aderent (1880–1941).

Saturday, December 1, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Workshop: Caring for Audiovisual Collections

Audiovisual collections, such as home movies, oral histories, and television and radio broadcasts, bring the past to life using sound and moving images. These materials also present unique challenges, however, to individuals, families, and organizations trying to care for them. Most motion picture film, tape, and other AV formats deteriorate quickly and require obsolete equipment to be viewed or heard. This one-day workshop, presented in conjunction with the Northeast Document Conservation Center, provides participants with an overview of the wide range of AV materials and introduces strategies for their care and digitization. The cost for this workshop is \$75 for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$100 for nonmembers. Space is limited, and registration is required. Register online at Eventbrite.com or call 603-856-0621.

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

NEW EXHIBITION OPENS IN NOVEMBER

On November 24, 2018, the Society will open a new exhibition exploring how signs guide us through our daily lives and serve as a window into the past. *Signs of the Times*, featuring an array of advertising, political, informational, and directional signs, will be on view at the Society's Park Street building in Concord through October 2019.

RATE OF TOLL		Cts
Each foot passenger		3
For rider		8
Wheeled Pleasure carriage		20
Wheeled do do		30
Cattle		30
Cart or waggon by one beast		10
Drawn by two beasts		15
Loaded do		25
By three do empty		20
Loaded do		30
By four do empty		25
Loaded do		37½
Each additional beast		5
Sleigh drawn by one beast		10
By two do		15
Sled by one do		6½
By two do		12½
By four do		25
Each additional beast		5
Horfe jack or mule		4
Neat cattle		3
Sheep & swine each		1

Toll sign for the Cornish Bridge, crossing the Connecticut River between Cornish, New Hampshire, and Windsor, Vermont, c. 1796. There was a charge for virtually everything, even sheep and hogs, that crossed a toll bridge. The toll account books for the Cornish-Windsor Bridge show that on a single day in September 1833, 1,000 sheep crossed the bridge. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of William E. Beaman.

Highway sign, c. 1961, marking a stretch of Interstate 93 named for Alan B. Shepard Jr. (1923–1998) of Derry, the first American to travel into space (1961) and the fifth to walk on the moon (1971). Shepard also holds the distinction of being the only person to golf on the moon. The longest interstate route in New Hampshire, I-93 enters the state at Salem, connecting Manchester and Concord with Tilton, Plymouth, and Littleton. From the Massachusetts line to Hooksett (just north of Manchester at the northern terminus of I-293), I-93 is designated as the Alan B. Shepard Jr. Highway. From Hooksett to Concord, it becomes the F. E. Everett Turnpike, and from Concord to the Vermont line, the Styles Bridges Highway. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

