

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Several years ago the Society launched the universally acclaimed “Democracy Project: Renewing History and Civics in New Hampshire Schools.” Its award-winning curriculum, “Moose on the Loose: Social Studies for Granite State Kids,” is now used by more than 150 schools in the state, a number that is steadily growing each school year. Thanks to the Moose, thousands of school kids have a deeper understanding of our state and national history and system of government. They will be better equipped to

be thoughtful participants in civic life as adults.

The Moose curriculum has deservedly garnered much positive public notice. But there is another equally important component of the Democracy Project. This is the extensive program of training the Society has provided to classroom educators over the past few years. We recognized, when designing this project, that producing a new curriculum and providing it free of charge to all New Hampshire schools was only half the battle. There was also an urgent need to provide training for teachers so that they could more effectively use the new curriculum in the classroom.

The result has been a menu of training offerings that to-date have reached more than 800 educators from 77 school districts around the Granite State. In addition to our “Introduction to Moose on the Loose” workshop, we also have offered workshops on special topics such as civics, the American Revolution, immigration, the Industrial Revolution, working with primary sources, and connecting state and national history. The workshops are provided free of charge, and teachers receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and stipends for attending.



Beyond the benefits to educators in terms of increasing their subject-matter proficiency, these trainings have the additional benefit of driving broader adoption of the Moose curriculum in schools. Teachers return to their respective school districts and communicate their enthusiasm about the Moose to their colleagues, helping fuel its adoption through word-of-mouth.

Educators have been highly complimentary in their responses to these trainings. Said one: “I have loved all of the programs you have offered. You really do the best professional development.”

Another commented: “This is one of the best resources out there. I have recommended it to many, many teachers, and have been so impressed with the thoughtful responses it brings out in my students.”

And a third added: “Thank you so much for your efforts, you are advancing social studies in the Granite State. What you’re doing at the New Hampshire Historical Society is the gold standard.”

We are very proud to be providing such value to educators and—through them—to the next generation and our society at large.



Teacher training workshops are provided free of charge thanks to sponsors like the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire, which underwrote “New Hampshire and the American Revolution: A Hands-On Workshop for Educators.” During two days in August, teachers from across the state learned about New Hampshire’s revolutionary history and collaborated on ways to integrate the Moose into their teaching.

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COMMEMORATING AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY (continued from page 1)



Later this fall, author and historian Tom McMillan will give a virtual lecture about the difficult months surrounding the Declaration of Independence and how the American Revolution nearly ended before it had truly begun. This talk kicks off a series of public programs over the coming months, including the Society's annual spring lecture series, that will explore some of the more colorful characters and episodes of this period.

The summer of 2026 will be the high point of the anniversary celebrations. The Society is once again offering its popular statewide scavenger hunt, this time focused on all things related to the Revolution. Watch for more information about the 603 History Hunt in the new year. This free public event is a great way to connect with friends and family while getting out and seeing the state.

Another exhibition focused on the American Revolution, highlighting the treasures in our collections, will open in July, and a special event for

the Fourth of July itself is in development with the city of Concord and the state of New Hampshire. Stay tuned for details!

In the fall of 2026, we're planning a battlefield tour to Bennington and Saratoga, where New Hampshire soldiers made critical contributions to the American war effort. Two special issues of *Historical New Hampshire*, one published in 2026 and the other in 2027, will round out our commemoration and dig deeper into this period in New Hampshire's history.

As one of the original 13 colonies, New Hampshire has a unique opportunity to mark this anniversary. Several important events occurred in New Hampshire during the Revolution, and although no battles were fought here, New Hampshire and its people were often at the center of the action. Even for those on the homefront, national events were reflected in state and local concerns, which is what ultimately motivated Americans to take action in a variety of ways. The national story is, at heart, a New Hampshire story. We hope you'll join us in marking this American milestone.



Illustrations: Center emblems from two Revolutionary War flags carried by the Second New Hampshire Regiment of the Continental Army; sewn by Fanny Johonot Williams (1753–96) and painted by Daniel Rea Jr. (1743–1803), Boston, 1777. Both flags were captured by the British in July 1777 during the early weeks of the Saratoga Campaign. They ended up in the hands of a British Army officer, who sent them home to England. Handed down through his family, the flags eventually came to the attention of Edward Tuck in the early 20th century. In 1913, Tuck donated them to the New Hampshire Historical Society, which has displayed them almost continuously since then. The flags were recently conserved thanks to the generosity of the Artist Preservation Group (“We Are One”) and the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire (“The Glory Not the Prey”).

FALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

In-person programs will be held at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, unless otherwise noted. For the most up-to-date information on programs and events, visit nhhistory.org and sign up to receive the Society's e-newsletter.

Lecture: History of the Islands of Lake Winnepesaukee

Saturday, October 11, 2025, 2 p.m.

In this presentation, **Stephanie Erickson**, author of the recently published book *Islands of Southern Lake Winnepesaukee*, delves into the rich history of 45 islands in this region. She explores the geology and formation of the islands and the lake, the origins of the island names, an indigenous cremation site, the advent of colonial ownership, youth summer camps on the islands, and the Diamond Island Field Station. Admission is free for New Hampshire Historical Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Curator's Tour: A Legacy of Landscapes

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 2 p.m.

Join Director of Museum Collections **Jonathan Olly** on a guided tour of the Society's exhibition, *A Legacy of Landscapes: Selections from the Linda and P. Andrews McLane Collection*. Olly will discuss the story behind the exhibition and this sampling of 61 paintings from the McLanes' private collection. Most of these paintings have not been on view to the public for many years. Olly's tour will also explore the history of White Mountain landscape art and how it became emblematic of New Hampshire. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Virtual Lecture: Protestant Relics in Early New Hampshire

Wednesday, October 22, 2025, 7 p.m.

Dr. Jamie Brummitt explores how in the 19th century people came to cherish relics of lost loved ones. Granite Staters collected relics from deathbeds, stole relics from tombs, made relics in schools, and purchased relics in the marketplace. Locks of hair, blood, bones, portraits, daguerreotypes, postmortem photographs, memoirs, deathbed letters, Bibles, clothes, embroidered and painted mourning pieces, and a plethora of other objects that had been touched, used, or owned by the dead became a form of relics. This

program, conducted via Zoom, is free for all. Advance registration is required through the Programs & Events Calendar on the Society's website at nhhistory.org.

Lecture: Witches in New Hampshire

Saturday, October 25, 2025, 2 p.m.

Witchcraft in New Hampshire has received less attention than in other parts of New England, yet there were some remarkable cases that took place here decades before the Salem witch trials. New Hampshire towns also led early efforts to create witchcraft tourism and saw the first modern case of exoneration for witchcraft. **Dr. Tricia Peone** of the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston explores the stories of several women accused of witchcraft in New Hampshire and considers how this heritage continues to affect us today. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.



Mourning picture for Josiah Prescott (1780–1846) of Pittsfield, hand-colored lithograph by Nathaniel Currier (1813–88), 1846. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Mary Wallace Burleigh Sanborn.

Lecture: Governor in Exile: Thomas Wilson Dorr and Granite State Politics

Saturday, November 1, 2025, 2 p.m.

In the early 1840s, Rhode Islanders demanded the expansion of voting rights, which was denied to them under the state's old charter. Led by reformist politician Thomas Wilson Dorr, the movement for expanded rights became known as Dorr's Rebellion. For a time, Rhode Island had two competing state governments, with Dorr serving as governor of one of them. He eventually fled the state for New Hampshire, where he set up a "government in exile." Join historian **Erik Chaput** as he discusses Dorr's months in New Hampshire during the rebellion that bears his name. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Lecture: Things You Probably Didn't Know About New Hampshire Archaeology

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 2 p.m.

New Hampshire may not have archaeological monuments like cliff dwellings or burial mounds, but it does have a remarkable number of important and unusual archaeological sites and artifacts. Retired state archaeologist **Dr. Richard Boisvert** shares some of the state's notable archaeological past. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Virtual Lecture: The Year that Made America: From Rebellion to Independence, 1775–1776

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 7 p.m.

Historian and journalist **Tom McMillan** offers a gripping account of the precarious path to American independence. From the January publication of *Common Sense* to the darkest hours of the Revolution in December 1776, McMillan reconstructs the dramatic months when 13 rebellious colonies transformed into a new nation. This program, conducted via Zoom, is free for everyone. Advance registration is required through the Programs & Events Calendar on the Society's website at nhhistory.org.

Family Program: Giant Steps Across New Hampshire

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 10 a.m. to noon

Have you ever wanted to travel from Peterborough to Pittsburg, from Portsmouth to Plymouth, all in one morning? Drop in to the New Hampshire Historical Society for games and activities using the Giant Map of New Hampshire. Kids will play with this

room-sized map to explore the regions, resources, and history of the state we all love. No shoes allowed on the map, so be sure to wear socks! This program is geared for ages 6 to 10, but all are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Admission is free thanks to a generous contribution from **Concord Pediatric Dentistry**.



Lecture: Union Veterans and the Making of Weirs Beach

Saturday, November 15, 2025, 2 p.m.

Historian **C. Ian Stevenson** of Boston University speaks about the New Hampshire Veterans Association site at the Weirs, exploring the ways Civil War veterans used architecture and landscape to heal wartime trauma and preserve their legacy. In the process, they helped transform Weirs Beach into a popular tourist destination. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Lecture: Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: The Granite State Salutes the Nation's Guest

Saturday, November 22, 2025, 2 p.m.

Join historian **Alan Hoffman** as he explores the Marquis de Lafayette's triumphal tour of New Hampshire—and the United States—in 1824 and 1825. Lafayette was a young, idealistic aristocrat when he journeyed to America in 1777 to join the patriots in their fight against Great Britain. He became one of the most beloved figures of the Revolution, America's "favorite fighting Frenchman." When he returned to the United States in the mid-1820s, he was one of the last surviving leaders of the Revolutionary generation. Admission is free for Society members; \$10 for nonmembers. No registration required.

PORTRAIT OF A SUSPECTED LOYALIST

The Society recently acquired a portrait of Hugh Henderson that captures the successful young businessman's likeness just before the upheaval of the American Revolution threw his life into disarray. Born in Scotland, Henderson settled in Portsmouth and became a successful merchant, selling "a fine assortment of English goods," such as textiles, dishware, and tea. In 1772 he married Hannah Sheafe, daughter of fellow merchant Jacob Sheafe.

Henderson's fortunes began to change shortly after the Battle of Bunker Hill, when his brother wrote him a letter that criticized the patriot cause. The letter was intercepted by the New Hampshire Committee of Safety, the colony's executive authority, which demanded Henderson appear before them for questioning. Henderson pledged his loyalties to the patriot cause but remained under suspicion. His name was included on a list kept by the Portsmouth Committee of Safety as being among those "notoriously disaffected to the common cause." Henderson and his family eventually fled to New York City, which was held by the British for much of the war. He was legally banished from New Hampshire and his property was confiscated.

During and after the war, Henderson established another thriving mercantile business in New York. He became a naturalized American citizen in 1786. With the war-time banishment no longer in effect, the family returned to Portsmouth in 1791, living in a house purchased by Hannah Henderson's father. Henderson resumed his career as a merchant, an unusual example of a suspected Loyalist who was able to return to his pre-war life.

The portrait is attributed to artist Benjamin Blyth of Salem, Massachusetts, who specialized in the medium of pastel. Blyth drew portraits of local families and merchants in the Boston area from the mid-1760s to the early 1780s, including iconic pastels of John and Abigail Adams made soon after their marriage, now in the collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Blyth's portrait of Henderson is featured in the forthcoming book by art historian Bettina A. Norton, *Benjamin Blyth: Salem's 18th-Century Limner in a Time of Radical Upheaval*, and is on view in the Society's exhibition, *If You Had to Choose: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New Hampshire*.



Hugh Henderson (circa 1747–94), attributed to Benjamin Blyth (1746–1811), circa 1770. New Hampshire Historical Society, Katharine Prentis Murphy Fund.

DOCENT PROGRAM

The Society is expanding its volunteer docent program. This is an exciting opportunity to share your love of New Hampshire and its history with others. A new docent class will begin training this fall. For questions or additional information, please contact Visitor Services Coordinator Sonia Booth at 603-228-6688 or sbooth@nhhistory.org.



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



Leather wallet, embossed with “Liberty” on the exterior and “Unity” on the interior, owned by Jabez Lane (1760–1810) of Stratham, circa 1778. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of William W. Lane. The Lane family settled in the seacoast area in the 17th century and established a farm, which they supplemented with work as shoemakers and tanners. Jabez Lane’s father, Samuel Lane (1718–1806) is well-known for the remarkable diary he kept for more than 60 years, giving insight into the daily life of a colonial farmer, artisan, and tradesman. The Lane family is inextricably linked to the civic and economic history of the seacoast, and the Society is fortunate that generations of the Lane family have been careful stewards of their legacy and have passed this stewardship on to the Society. The “Liberty” wallet, donated by Jabez Lane’s five times great-grandson, is currently on view in the Society’s exhibition, *If You Had to Choose: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New Hampshire*. To learn more about the exhibition, see page 1.