

NEW HAMPSHIRE

HISTORICAL

SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

2012 Annual Report

A complete audited financial report for the New Hampshire Historical Society's 2012 fiscal year is available at nhhistory.org or by contacting the Society's Director of Finance Ann-Marie Miller at 603-856-0602.

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nhhistory.org

Front cover: *Ruth Ann Porter Custer* (1838–78), Edward L. Custer (1837–81), 1873, oil on canvas, bequest of Mary Pettengill Field.

Ruth Porter grew up in Manchester and taught school there. In 1864 Porter married artist Edward Custer, who was teaching art in Manchester after studying for two years in Europe at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Munich. The couple moved to Boston where Edward, though "excelling in portraiture," became "a master of landscape, figure, fruit and animal painting."

This portrait of Ruth Custer, painted by her husband in 1873, was recently cleaned and stabilized by the Williamstown Art Conservation Center with monies from the Society's Katharine Prentis Murphy Fund, an endowment fund to support the acquisition and conservation of museum collections.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Consistent with the recent pattern, the past year at the Society was highly eventful. The staff, volunteers, and trustees have been hard at work on several fronts.

The Society continues to be conservatively managed from a financial standpoint. For the 2012 fiscal year our net assets increased by nearly \$2 million, from \$14,978,652 to \$16,914,179. This robust growth is the result of a combination of investment gains in our endowment, bequests, and gifts to our capital campaign. For the year total revenues were

\$2,040,066, and total expenses were \$2,201,132, resulting in an operating loss of (\$161,066). It should be noted that expenses included nearly \$200,000 in depreciation (a non-cash item), so on a cash basis we had a modest surplus for the year of approximately \$40,000.

In this space over the past few years I have been providing updates about our digitization initiative, a project to create digital images of our collections and make these images and accompanying information available online. This is a tall order, since the collections include 32,000 objects, 200,000 photographs, and more than 2,000,000 manuscript pages. I am pleased to report that we reached a significant milestone in January, when we uploaded images of 23,000 artifacts from the museum collection onto our website. Also, earlier in the year we posted onto our website finding aids (detailed descriptions) for nearly 100 of our most significant manuscript collections, such as the papers of Josiah Bartlett, John Farmer, Alice Cosgrove, and Franklin Pierce. These accomplishments have generated considerable public interest, including a banner headline in the *Concord Monitor* and an upsurge in the number of persons joining the Society through our website.

A related initiative has been our planning to create a new web-based "front door" to our online collections catalog, to be named the New Hampshire History Network. This planning is being done in collaboration with the Maine Historical Society and has been funded by a grant from a national foundation. The final blueprint for the new network will be completed this fall, and its launch is projected for September 2014. The online network will allow us to showcase the Society's own collections and will allow local historical societies from around the state to share their collections as well. It also will provide new resources for classroom teachers and students.

Over the past year we added nearly 1,800 items to the collections, ranging from an important portrait of Daniel Webster to a 19th-century painting of an unusual winter scene of Mount Lafayette to numerous items of ephemera that help document daily life in past eras. Long-time trustee and

treasurer Stanley A. Hamel bequeathed to the Society an extensive collection of motor vehicle license plates dating from 1905, when the earliest plate was issued in New Hampshire, to 1995. The collection includes special issue plates such as a 1938 "Hurricane Plate." We also recently purchased a collection of papers related to John Parker Hale, containing correspondence from John Hay, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., and Robert Todd Lincoln. It includes, as well, a letter from William Russell, co-founder of the Pony Express, discussing the Kansas-Nebraska Act and his dislike for Franklin Pierce. When we accept items into the collections, we are assuming the responsibility to care for them in perpetuity. Our staff is acutely aware of this responsibility, and we strive always to fulfill it at a very high professional level.

Every year we touch the lives of thousands of students from every corner of New Hampshire, and the past year was no different. Our museum teachers delivered history programs to 14,048 students, and our Advanced Placement Conference for U.S. History attracted 199 high school juniors over two days. Our annual history course, held each spring, continues to provide Society members and the general public with engaging lectures on a variety of topics.

Last year's exhibitions included *New Hampshire and the American Civil War*, exploring the lives of both those who fought and their family members back home, and *Civil War Photographs of Henry P. Moore*, a Concord photographer who recorded the daily life of the Third New Hampshire Regiment in 1862 and 1863. In addition to presenting these exhibitions, museum staff simultaneously researched and planned our current exhibitions, *Mountain Scenery*, featuring 21 landscape paintings, and *Women Artists and New Hampshire*, showcasing 55 works created by women from the early 1800s through the mid-1900s. We also hosted an exhibition of contemporary furniture made by members of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters Association. Originally launched with the Society's help in 1996, the group will present an exhibition at the Society again this year in late September.

Our journal, *Historical New Hampshire*, continues to set the standard for historical publications. Among topics explored in last year's issues were the creation of the White Mountain National Forest and the visually rich art form of New Hampshire painted theater curtains.

The activities and accomplishments of the Society are made possible by the support of you, our members. The hard work of the staff is our way of thanking you for the confidence you place in us.

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Grants from foundations and businesses are vital to the continued success of the Society's school programs and enable us to provide history lessons to students not able to take advantage of our programs because of cost or distance. For example, a recent grant from the New Hampshire Antiques Dealers Association underwrote the cost of bus transportation for 451 students from nine schools to visit the Society.

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Museum teacher Katelyn Ellison engages students in a lesson using primary resources at the Society. The Society delivered history programs to 14,048 students last year, and our Advanced Placement Conference for U.S. History served 199 high school juniors.

The Society's annual Advanced Placement Conference for U.S. History provides high school students from across the state with the opportunity to meet together for a day of presentations and hands-on activities led by the Society's staff and Bill Kellogg, author of the first *Barron's* study guide for the Advanced Placement U.S. History Exam. Funding for last year's conference was provided by Granite State Management and Resources and the Society's John L. Frisbee Education Fund. Photograph by Mike Rounds.

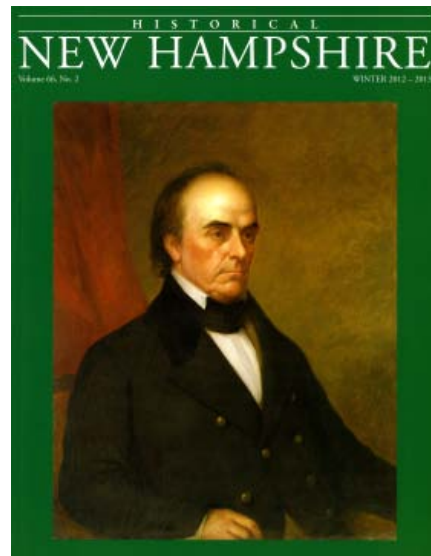




Gifts to the *Authors Fund* support the Society's journal *Historical New Hampshire*. Past and current authors are invited to contribute, as well as everyone who values and benefits from the publication.

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A young historian stops by the Society's booth at the 2012 Old House and Barn Exposition. The exposition for old house owners and enthusiasts is a biennial event presented by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

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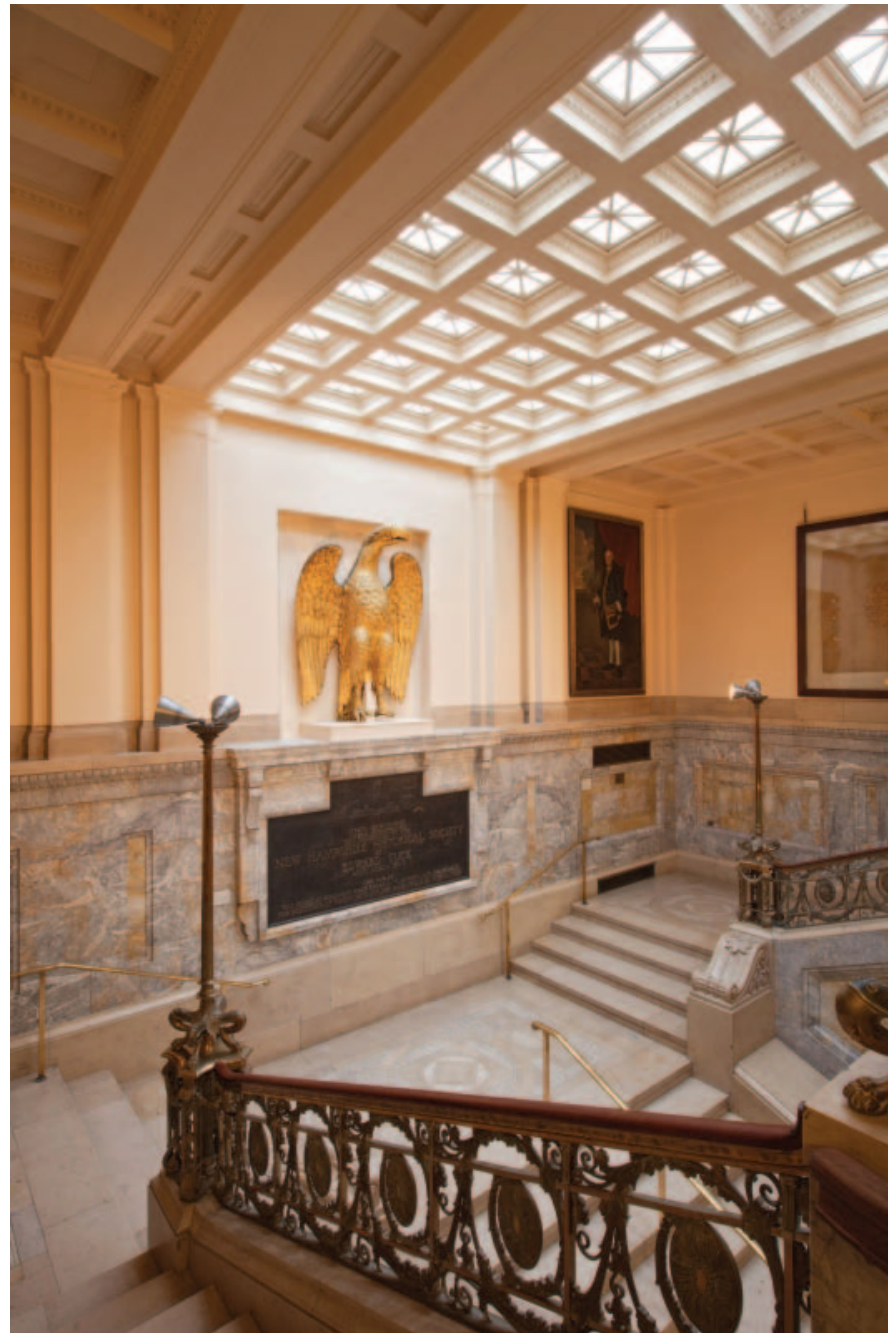
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Photograph of the rotunda stairway at the Society's library by Fiona Boyd, courtesy of *New Hampshire Home*.



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The Edward & Julia Tuck Society honors those who have included the New Hampshire Historical Society in their estate plans. A bequest to the Society's endowment preserves your legacy and provides support in perpetuity. For information on making a gift to the endowment or to discuss including the Society in your estate plans, contact Director of Development Anne Hamilton at 603-856-0608 or ahamilton@nhhistory.org.

Edward Tuck (1842–1938) and his wife Julia (1850–1928) financed the creation of the Society's landmark library building (completed in 1911), and made additional gifts that laid the foundation for the Society's endowment. Photograph (below) by Desgranges of Nice, France, April 1928, gift of Miriam Gardner Dunnan.



CONNECTIONS THROUGH TIME: CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY



Fifth-grade students study a map from the Society's collection as part of a program on colonial history. The annual program is sponsored by the Merrimack County Savings Bank Foundation.

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CONNECTIONS THROUGH TIME

CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2012 Total	2011 Total
REVENUES					
Contributed support					
Contributions and memberships	\$ 379,321	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 379,321	\$ 326,500
Grants, gifts, and fundraising	66,232	114,436	10,460	191,128	184,603
Contributed goods and services	6,393	-	-	6,393	24,936
<i>Total contributed support</i>	451,946	114,436	10,460	576,842	536,039
Earned revenues					
Earned income and special events	226,165	-	-	226,165	220,090
Rental income	669,298	-	-	669,298	669,261
<i>Total earned revenues</i>	895,463	-	-	895,463	889,351
Investment income					
Kimball Trust and Watson Trust income	70,897	-	-	70,897	83,666
Other investment income	136	-	-	136	260
Endowment spending draw in accordance with investment policy	303,630	193,098	-	496,728	495,018
Release of endowment draw for satisfaction of program restrictions	146,738	(146,738)	-	-	-
<i>Total investment income</i>	521,401	46,360	-	567,761	578,944
TOTAL REVENUES	1,868,810	160,796	10,460	2,040,066	2,004,334
Net assets released from restrictions:					
For satisfaction of program restrictions	273,381	(273,381)	-	-	-
EXPENSES					
Program service expenses					
Museum	243,562	-	-	243,562	317,140
Library	299,825	-	-	299,825	283,280
Education, exhibitions, and publications	426,372	-	-	426,372	411,608
Museum store and visitor services	104,516	-	-	104,516	112,026
Buildings, grounds, and security	11,980	-	-	11,980	13,307
<i>Total program service expenses</i>	1,086,255	-	-	1,086,255	1,137,361
Library and museum collection items acquired by purchase	85,780	-	-	85,780	101,670
Supporting services and general expenses					
Membership, development, and public relations	309,913	-	-	309,913	336,921
Administration	254,434	-	-	254,434	213,206
Depreciation expense, from operations	156,284	-	-	156,284	158,190
<i>Total supporting services and general expenses</i>	720,631	-	-	720,631	708,317
Rental expenses, including depreciation of \$39,672	308,466	-	-	308,466	336,471
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,201,132	-	-	2,201,132	2,283,819
<i>Increase (decrease) in net assets from operating activities</i>	<i>(58,941)</i>	<i>(112,585)</i>	<i>10,460</i>	<i>(161,066)</i>	<i>(279,485)</i>
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
Capital campaign					
Capital campaign contributions	40	810,007	99,671	909,718	181,376
Capital campaign expenses	(74,439)	-	-	(74,439)	(87,573)
Net assets released from restrictions for capital campaign expenses	74,399	(74,399)	-	-	-
<i>Net capital campaign</i>	-	735,608	99,671	835,279	93,803
Investment return					
Realized and unrealized investment gains (losses)	887,430	505,992	-	1,393,422	(431,883)
Investment expenses	(15,788)	(8,894)	-	(24,682)	(25,513)
Investment income, actual dividends and interest	228,785	146,731	-	375,516	406,137
Change in value of beneficial interest in a trust	-	-	13,786	13,786	(77,234)
<i>Total investment return</i>	1,100,427	643,829	13,786	1,758,042	(128,493)
Less endowment spending draw	303,630	193,098	-	496,728	495,018
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	-	-	-	(689)
<i>Increase (decrease) in net assets from non-operating activities</i>	<i>796,797</i>	<i>1,186,339</i>	<i>113,457</i>	<i>2,096,593</i>	<i>(530,397)</i>
<i>Increase (decrease) in net assets</i>	<i>737,856</i>	<i>1,073,754</i>	<i>123,917</i>	<i>1,935,527</i>	<i>(809,882)</i>
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 9,467,918	\$ 1,532,200	\$ 3,978,534	\$ 14,978,652	\$ 15,788,534
Net assets, end of year	10,205,774	2,605,954	4,102,451	16,914,179	14,978,652