

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

[View as Webpage](#)

**NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 18, 2022

Photographs Available

CONTACT: Elizabeth Dubrulle, Director of Education and Public Programs (603-856-0604; edubrulle@nhhistory.org); or Bill Dunlap, President (603-856-0601; bdunlap@nhhistory.org).

**Exhibitions Offer In-depth Look at
Prominent 19th-Century Artist
Samuel L. Gerry**

The image shows a promotional poster for an exhibition. On the left, a dark grey vertical panel contains text in gold and white. The text reads: "A FAITHFUL STUDENT OF NATURE" in gold, "The Life and Art of Samuel L. Gerry" in a gold cursive font, "NEW EXHIBITION OPENS MARCH 18, 2022" in white, "New Hampshire Historical Society nhhistory.org" in white, and "ONLINE EXHIBITON OPENS MARCH 4, 2022" in white. To the right of the text panel is a landscape painting by Samuel L. Gerry. It depicts a wide river or stream with two people on horseback wading through the water. A dog is also visible in the water. The background shows rolling hills and mountains under a hazy sky.

CONCORD, NH--In a multi-faceted project developed over the past five years, the New Hampshire Historical Society offers an unprecedented look at the life and art of Samuel L. Gerry, one of the most prolific White Mountain artists. *A Faithful Student of Nature: The Life and Art of Samuel L. Gerry* showcases the work of this important artist using a variety of media and features many of Gerry's paintings held in private collections. This project affords the public a rare

opportunity to see these works, which are not normally on view.

Gerry created more than 140 paintings depicting majestic views of New Hampshire. His work was realistic, yet it also idealized the natural world, emphasizing its grandeur and its vastness. From the mid-1830s until 1890, he traveled nearly every summer from his Boston home and studio to the White Mountains or the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Here, he explored, sketched, and painted the natural world around him, one that, when he first visited the area, had been only lightly touched by man. His depictions of New Hampshire's natural beauty, including such iconic sights as the Old Man of the Mountain, Mount Washington, and the Flume, helped shape the way Americans viewed the state.

Gerry was part of a new order of artists, centered in Boston and New York, who were intent on establishing America's cultural reputation. They aimed to show that the nation's scenery and its artists rivaled what they had seen when studying in Europe. Together they redefined American art in the 19th century.



View of Centre Harbor, New Hampshire, by Samuel L. Gerry (1813-91).
New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of D. Bruce Montgomery.

A special issue of *Historical New Hampshire*, published in January, features 52 full-color plates of Gerry's works along with articles by Gerry scholar Charles

Vogel and art historian Melissa Geisler Trafton. The issue also appears in book form and is available for purchase at the Society, online at nhhistory.org, and by calling 603-228-6688.

An **exhibition** of Gerry's art is offered in two formats: virtual and onsite. The virtual exhibition includes the works featured in the publication, and the onsite exhibition showcases 38 of the artist's most significant works, with the majority coming from private collections. Also featured are paintings from the Society's own collection and from the collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Historic New England, Fenimore Art Museum, Revolutionary Spaces, and the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

The Society's annual **spring lecture series**, titled "Capturing Eden: An Exploration of White Mountain Art," examines the work of Gerry and his contemporaries within a broader context in five lectures held at the Society in April and May. Presenters include author Howard Mansfield, historians Dona Brown and Marcia Schmidt Blaine, and art historians Inez McDermott and Mark Mitchell. The spring lecture series is available only to members of the New Hampshire Historical Society as a benefit of membership at no additional charge. The public are welcome to become members for \$50, which would include access to the lecture series.

This exploration of the life and art of Samuel L. Gerry was made possible with support from P. Andrews and Linda H. McLane, Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation, LandVest, Carolyn and Bryant Tolles, Robert O. and Jill C. Wilson, Michael Mooney and Robert Cram, Benjamin and Emily Clark, David and Susan Clark, Jackson Historical Society, G. Warren and Leslie W. Schomaker, and New Millenium Studios, LLC.

The onsite exhibition, *A Faithful Student of Nature: The Life and Art of Samuel L. Gerry*, will be on view at the Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, from March 18 through August 6, 2022. Admission is \$7 for adults. Members of the New

Hampshire Historical Society and children age 18 and under 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.

Access the online exhibition through the Society's website or at exhibitions.nhhistory.org.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire history. Nowhere will you find a more extensive collection of objects and archives related to New Hampshire's history. The Society shares these vast collections through its research library, museum, website, publications, exhibitions, and youth and adult educational programs. 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 nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.