



Schoolchildren from across the state are learning New Hampshire history through the virtual field trip program “5 Granite State Icons.”

NEW VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAM BRINGS THE SOCIETY TO KIDS

For nearly 60 years, school groups have been visiting the Society to participate in what has become a rite of passage—exploring some of the iconic objects that have defined New Hampshire and shaped its history. Unfortunately, schools are unable to take field trips this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

But Granite Staters are nothing if not resourceful, and the Society was determined to find a way for schoolchildren to continue to benefit from an experience that generations of their predecessors have shared. In February, the Society launched its first virtual field trip program, “5 Granite State Icons.”

“The New Hampshire Historical Society has heard from teachers all over the state about the importance of providing high-quality virtual experiences for their students,” says Education Director Elizabeth Dubrulle.

“Virtual field trips not only support teachers in meeting their instructional goals for their students but they also help provide the sparkle that keeps students engaged in their educational experience, that fires kids’ imaginations, and reminds them that they are part of a larger world—past, present, and future—that transcends our current circumstances.”

The program is designed for students working from their homes or classrooms and is intended for the Society’s core student audience: grades 3 to 6. Lasting about an hour, “5 Granite State Icons” includes a series of short videos created by Digital Production Coordinator Kirsten Hildonen and hosted by Museum Educator Mary Adams. Each video is followed by a live, interactive, virtual session with a museum

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Newsletter

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William H. Dunlap

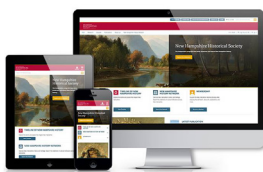
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Bill Dunlap

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the most rewarding aspects of my job is the chance to work with talented people from outside our organization, along with our equally talented staff members, on interesting projects. One such project is *New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State*, a collaboration with the New Hampshire Society of Photographic Artists (NHSPA) and seven other partnering organizations. This initiative will document, through photographs, life in our state in the present time. The resulting archive—as many as 5,000 images—will be preserved in the New Hampshire Historical Society's collections.

For the project, dozens of NHSPA member photographers have volunteered to capture images in every nook and cranny of New Hampshire—photographs of the natural and built environments, as well as of unfolding events, gathering places, and people going about their everyday lives. These photographs will not be simply a collection of “New Hampshire-the-Beautiful” scenery (although, given the natural beauty of our state, there will be plenty of images that are gorgeous). Rather, taken together, the images are intended to document the full range of contemporary life in New Hampshire, from the attractive to the gritty.

The Covid-19 pandemic, which was not even on the horizon at the start of the *New Hampshire Now* project, brought an unexpected twist. This global catastrophe, akin to that of the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918–20, has given special urgency to the task of capturing photographically the extraordinary history being made before our eyes. At the same time, the project could not be dominated by Covid-19; there is plenty of life in New Hampshire that transcends that trauma and is eminently worthy of documentation. The photographers of NHSPA and project director Gary Samson—a prominent photographer himself and seventh New Hampshire Artist Laureate—have achieved this balance beautifully, cataloging life in New Hampshire in all its splendid variety, together with the pandemic and its impact.

From the thousands of photographs, Gary, Dan Gingras, and Michael Sterling undertook the daunting task of selecting a representative sampling to be exhibited at venues throughout the state. On October 1, 2021, a series of simultaneous exhibitions will open at the following sites, each featuring images from its respective region: Belknap Mill Society (Laconia); Davidow Center for Art and Design at Colby-Sawyer College (New London); Historical Society of Cheshire County (Keene); Millyard Museum, Manchester Historic Association; Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University; Portsmouth Historical Society; Tillotson Center (Colebrook); and the New Hampshire Historical Society (Concord).

In addition to these exhibitions, a book containing more than 250 images, with an introduction by author Howard Mansfield of Hancock, is being produced. The publication is a truly New Hampshire product: created by New Hampshire artists; designed by Peter E. Randall Publisher of Portsmouth; printed by Puritan of Hollis, one of the nation's leading fine art and photography printers; and printed on paper produced by Monadnock Paper Mills of Bennington, founded in 1819 and the oldest continuously operating paper mill in the United States.

We are grateful for the generous support of our project's corporate sponsor, New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp, along with its affiliates, NHTrust, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Merrimack County Savings Bank, and Savings Bank of Walpole. It is exciting to be part of a collaboration with so many high-quality partners.

As I think about the project, it is gratifying to contemplate the rich historical record we are creating for future generations. Photographs are an engaging medium for capturing and sharing historical content. Fast forward to 100 years from now and imagine someone looking at this archive. As we live our lives, we are making history continuously, but we don't often think about it. It feels good to be planning ahead and creating, for our descendants, a window into New Hampshire life today.



The publication *New Hampshire Now: A Photographic Diary of Life in the Granite State* will be available on October 1, 2021, and retails for \$49.95. Pre-purchase your copy of this limited-edition book now through the New Hampshire Historical Society's online store at nhhistory.org or by calling 603-228-6688. (New Hampshire Historical Society members receive a 15 percent discount.)

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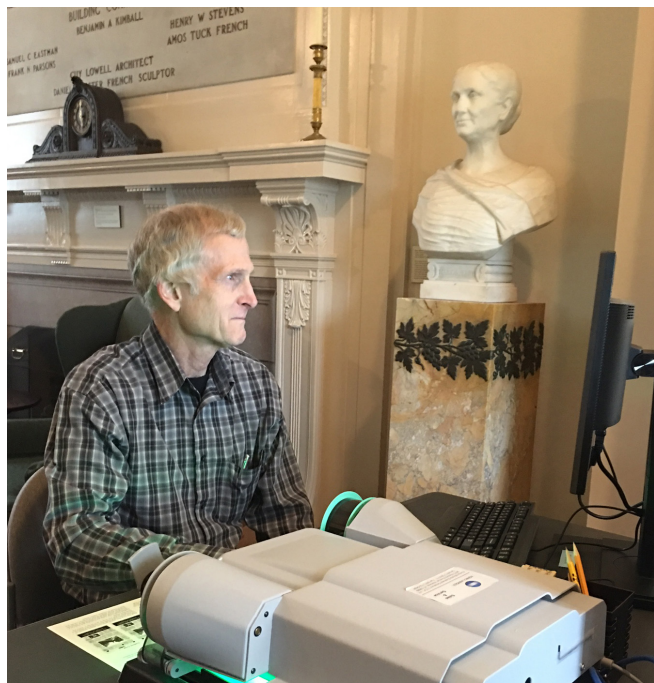
Philip Zea
Norwich, Vermont

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP (continued from page 1)

educator, who shares stories, prompts discussion, and engages students in an exploration of what it means to be a Granite Stater.

This virtual field trip experience does not just offer an alternative for the 10,000 New Hampshire school students who would normally visit the Society during the academic year, though. It also offers an opportunity to reach children who don't usually participate in the annual pilgrimage to Concord due to distance or the cost of transportation. The "5 Granite State Icons" virtual field trip will thus still be available for New Hampshire schools even after the pandemic ends, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to learn more about the state we all love.

A preview video of "5 Granite State Icons" is available on the Society's website at nhhistory.org. The fee for a virtual field trip is \$75 per session, with discounts for hybrid classrooms. Bookings are accepted online or by contacting Assistant Director of Education Jenn Walton at 603-856-0645 or jwalton@nhhistory.org.



Reference Librarian Paul Friday provides research services on family history and a range of other topics for Society members and patrons. Paul began volunteering for the Society's library in 2009 and joined the staff in 2014. He is certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists, a nonprofit organization founded in 1964 as a professional credentialing body for genealogists.

LIBRARY OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

The Society continues to adhere to Covid-19 safety measures to protect the health of members, staff, and visitors. The library is open for research, by advance appointment only, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. To make an appointment, email research@nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

While the exhibition galleries remain closed, please enjoy New Hampshire history through the Society's website, which includes the Timeline of New Hampshire History, video lectures, an audio tour of the Society's Park Street building, audio and PDF versions of *Historical New Hampshire*, and an online catalog providing access to information about the library and museum collections, as well as thousands of images. For the most up-to-date information on the Society's hours, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

LIBRARY RESEARCH SERVICES

Are time, distance, or the pandemic 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 have assisted patrons who live here in New Hampshire and as far away as New Zealand. For example, a member from New Mexico desired research on the 17th-century Runnells and Reynolds families. The search uncovered records in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. A Wisconsin resident wanted information about the activities of New Hampshire's Colonel John McNeil, while McNeil was serving in Wisconsin in the 1820s. And, that patron from New Zealand sought immigration and naturalization data about his 19th-century ancestor from Dover.

Society staff will assist you in framing your 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. To learn more or to submit a research services request form, visit nhhistory.org/research or contact Library Director Sarah Galligan at 603-856-0643 or sgalligan@nhhistory.org. (Please note, staff are only able to research sources at the New Hampshire Historical Society or those that are accessible online.)

MORE FROM MASON AND “MOOSE ON THE LOOSE”

The New Hampshire Historical Society continues to add resources and materials to the new statewide social studies curriculum, “Moose on the Loose: Social Studies for Granite State Kids.” This comprehensive educational resource for both students and educators is available online at moose.nhhistory.org. “Moose on the Loose” is a social studies adventure for upper elementary students (grades 3 to 6), covering state history, civics, geography, and economics in an interactive and dynamic program.

New units on the Abenaki, early settlement period, Industrial Revolution, and 19th-century tourism are now available. Each unit contains student readings, infographics, online and printable activities, content-rich handouts, photographs, maps, charts, vocabulary pop-ups, biographies, review slides, and other resources that help children learn about New Hampshire in fun and innovative ways. Particularly popular are “Mason’s fun facts,” which are pop-up bubbles that share interesting tidbits about the Granite State. The curriculum’s “explainer videos” that explore topics like the railroads, leisure time, factory work, and the textile industry are also favorites.

Next up in the Society’s plan for the curriculum are two units on civics. The units focus on constitutional government (both the New Hampshire and U.S. constitutions) and on civics and government today, including media literacy, civic virtue, and the structure of federal, state, and local governments.

These two units will introduce the foundational ideas that are so important to American democracy, such as the social contract, the common good, the rule of law, and federalism. Even children at young ages are capable of understanding these fundamental principles. Mastering these concepts while in elementary school will allow students when they reach the higher grades to explore these ideas more fully as they prepare to become voting citizens. These units, which are on the cutting edge of educational pedagogy, will be available by early summer and shared with educators during the Society’s annual teacher workshops in August.

“Moose on the Loose” also includes features that encourage students to look more closely at the artifacts of history—whether photographs, maps, documents, or objects. Students will become more comfortable with using such resources as they participate in the scavenger hunts in each unit designed to improve their powers of observation.

Primary source sets focusing on White Mountain art, the Leavitt maps, the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, John Stark, Franklin Pierce, the Old Man of the Mountain, and Mount Washington provide more opportunities for students to learn about our state as they develop their own projects in these subject areas. Additional primary source sets on historical maps, the Isles of Shoals, skiing, baseball, the Crawford family, and the sled dog Chinook are all in the works and due to be launched this summer.



DOCUMENTING THE ROCKS

A recent gift of papers, photographs, and objects adds new depth to the Society’s collection documenting the history of The Rocks in Bethlehem, the grand summer estate of wealthy Chicago businessman John Jacob Glessner, his wife, Frances, and their children, George and Fanny. The collection was the gift of Virginia Batchelder, widow of Charles Foster Batchelder III, a great-grandson of the Glessners.

John Glessner began his career in the farm implement industry in 1863, rising through the ranks to become, in 1879, a full partner of Warder, Bushnell and Glessner, manufacturers of agricultural machinery. By 1902, he was playing a lead role in a corporate merger that resulted in the formation of International Harvester. Glessner was named vice president of the company, a position he would hold until 1919.

The Glessners were first inspired to visit the White Mountains in the late 1870s as a remedy for their son’s severe hay fever. Ultimately their summer home at The Rocks would become an important part of the lives of generations of the Glessner family.



Above: Beginning with the purchase of 100 acres in 1882, John and Frances Glessner acquired and consolidated several small abandoned farms and, over a period of 30 years, assembled a New Hampshire estate of 1,400 acres.

LOT	NAME	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	BOUGHT
Original Purchase	F.M.G.	L 9 R 4	100	9/19/82
Lower Farm	"	* L 10 R 4	95	8/27/87
West Farm	"	L 7 R 5	100	9/22/91
"	"	* L 7 R 4	17	"
Pinnacle	"	* L 6 R 5	30	7/24/94
Wallace I	"	L 10 R 5	100	5/22/96
"	"	* L 9 R 5	50	"
"	"	* L 8 R 5	17	"
Baker Lot	"	* L 8 R 5	35	3/5/97
Wallace II	"	* L 9 R 3	17	10/2/09
"	"	* L 8 R 3	18	"
Hosea Crane	"	* L 8 R 3	3	8/3/06 ³
"	"	L 8 R 4	100	"
Kennedy Wood Lot I	"	* L 8 R 5	24	8/3/08
Hill House	"	* L 6 R 4	16	6/7/05
"	"	* L 6 R 5	4	"
Hayfields	"	* L 7 R 4	82	12/3/02
Veasie	"	* L 10 R 6	50	5/6/04
Wood Lot	J.J.C.	* L 10 R 7	56	"
Kennedy Wood Lot II	"	* L 8 R 5	24	10/13/03
Plant Farm	"	* L 7 R 4)	40	9/13/11
"	"	* L 7 R 3)		
"	"	* L 6 R 4)		
"	"	* L 6 R 3)		
South Farm	"	* L 1 R 4)	160	6/15/05
"	"	* L 1 R 5)		
"	"	* L 1 R 6)		
"	"	* L 2 R 5)		
Garnet Mountain	J.G.M.G.	* L 2 R 5)	348	11/ /12
"	"	L 2 R 6)		
"	"	L 3 R 6)		
"	"	L 3 R 7)		
			1487	

Handwritten note: * Less than full lot.

Left: Page from The Rocks land transfers notebook, 1854–1916. Many of the farms purchased by the Glessners were badly deforested. John Glessner’s views on forested land conservation become clear in his remarks published in the 1902 edition of *New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes*, “Too many of the farmers in my vicinity seem eager to cut off the trees, leaving unsightly stumps instead. I can hardly believe that they realize how much they mar the beauty of their landscape.”

Below: The Glessners’ appreciation for trees is reflected in this circa 1915 broadside from The Rocks.

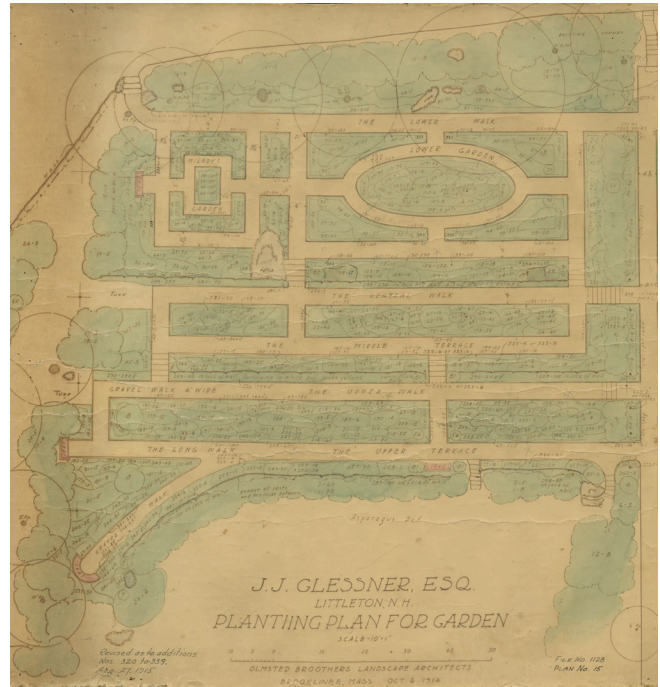


In New Hampshire, the Glessners were exemplary stewards of the land, working to prevent deforestation and destructive farming methods. They were passionate about gardening, implemented innovative farming techniques, and undertook an extensive landscaping program. The gardens enhanced the picturesque quality of the site, produced food for family and staff, and provided an abundant supply of flowers for arranging, a daily ritual and integral part of life at the estate.



Buildings constructed at The Rocks were as carefully considered by the Glessners as their stewardship of the land. The family's Queen Anne-style residence, designed by architect and craftsman Isaac E. Scott, was the focal point of the estate. Other structures included residences for staff, as well as a wide variety of outbuildings, including a carriage house/horse barn, tool building, electric plant, greenhouse/gardener's cottage, and bee house. The Rocks was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Sadly, many of the original structures have been lost, some to fire as recently as 2019.

The Rocks remained in family ownership until 1978, when grandchildren of John and Frances Glessner donated the property to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The gift was made with the stipulation that "there always be a crop in the field." In the decades since, the Forest Society has successfully operated a Christmas tree farm as part of its stewardship of The Rocks, and recently it embarked on a major renovation project for the property to increase educational and recreation opportunities and build upon the site's tradition of conservation, education, and innovation.



Above: Detail from a plan by Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass., 1914. Many of the formal gardens at The Rocks were designed by the Olmsted firm. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., a friend and Harvard College classmate of the Glessners' son, George, was a frequent visitor to The Rocks.

Left and below: In addition to designing the Glessners' home and several other buildings at The Rocks, architect and craftsman Isaac E. Scott (1845–1920) carved structural elements for some of the buildings. This 1905 sign has a family history of having been designed and carved by Scott as well.



Today, the legacies of John and Frances Glessner live on. Thanks to the gifts of their descendants, the history and future of The Rocks are in the care respectively of two of the state's leading nonprofit institutions—the New Hampshire Historical Society and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests—for the benefit of all of us and future generations.

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Hand-colored undated photograph of the entrance to The Rocks in Bethlehem, the grand summer estate of John Jacob Glessner (1843–1936) and Frances Macbeth Glessner (1848–1932). The Society enthusiastically welcomed the recent gift of a collection of papers, photographs, paintings, signs, and other objects related to The Rocks, donated by Mrs. Charles F. Batchelder III. See story on page 6.