

ITEMS CONSERVED, LOANED FOR MOUNT WASHINGTON EXHIBITION



Summit of Mount Washington, 1856, a painting attributed to John Denison Crocker (1822–1907), was conserved by the Society in 2012 and is currently on loan to the Currier Museum of Art. John Hubbard Spaulding (1821–93), builder of Tip-Top House (left) and the painting’s owner, noted that the observatory featured at the center of the painting had been a failure, “as most people felt that they were high enough without being carried any higher.” Gift of Martha Abbott Hill and Bartlett Cushman Hill, descendants of John Hubbard Spaulding.

The New Hampshire Historical Society recently worked with the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) to conserve a register for the first guest house for visitors to the top of Mount Washington. The register records the names and hometowns of people who visited the Mount Washington Summit House from 1852 to 1853. Some guests also made further notes in the register, most of which describe their travel to the summit. Other annotations include pencil drawings, short poems, and a September 1852 entry that describes viewing the northern lights.

The Society gave priority to conservation of the register in preparation for its loan to the Currier Museum of Art for its exhibition *Mount Washington:*

The Crown of New England, on view from October 1, 2016, to January 16, 2017. The register is one of several items from the Society’s collections loaned for the exhibition, and its condition needed to be stabilized before even a limited period of public display. NEDCC’s conservation of the register included surface cleaning and treatment to reduce discoloration and acidity, as well as mending tears, losses, and folds to stabilize the manuscript for years to come.

The conserved register will be displayed in context with a rich selection of historic prints, vintage photographs, scientific reports, guidebooks, and paintings, all of which illustrate the importance of the

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NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
 SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

30 Park Street
 Concord, New Hampshire 03301

603-228-6688

nhhistory.org

Newsletter

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President

William H. Dunlap

Editor

Judith B. Solberg

Contributors

Wesley G. Balla
 Douglas R. Copeley
 Korrena Cowing
 Joan E. Desmarais
 Elizabeth Dubrulle
 Sarah E. Galligan
 Donna-Belle Garvin
 Erin K. Jung

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sometimes good news arrives in unexpected ways. Recently I received a letter informing me that longtime Society member Robert P. Hubbard, who died in late 2014, had established a fund to benefit the Society in perpetuity. The fund is in the amount of \$1 million, and we will share the annual distributions from it with one other prominent New Hampshire nonprofit. The Society will receive about \$20,000 per year to help pay for our many programs, and this annual amount will rise over time to keep up with inflation.

Hubbard, an educator and member of Walpole's philanthropic Hubbard family, was a quiet, consistent supporter of the Society over many years. His giving was always without fanfare, and at the time of his death there had been no indication that we were in his estate plans, until the welcome piece of mail arrived.

Robert Hubbard's father and uncles, all based in Walpole, built the family poultry business, Hubbard Farms, into a worldwide enterprise. They did not simply raise lots of chickens; their business was, in a way, a technology company. By combining Yankee ingenuity with the scientific method, they invented new breeding techniques that were adopted worldwide. After selling their company to Merck in 1974, the Hubbard family became deeply involved in philanthropy, to the great benefit of their home state. The University of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the Currier Museum of Art, and the Society all have been beneficiaries of the family's generosity.

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.” —Albert Pike

The Hubbard gift brought to mind that of another Society benefactor, Benjamin Ames Kimball. Kimball was a giant in our history: a longtime trustee and board president and the overseer of the project that built the Society's headquarters building at Park Street. Kimball, born to a farming family in Boscawen, attended Dartmouth and achieved success in a range of businesses. Remarkably, at the time of his leadership in the creation of our building in the early 1900s, Kimball was simultaneously president of a railroad, bank, and electric company.

Kimball had the initial vision of locating the Society in a prominent location next to the State House and recruited Edward Tuck into the project as the lead benefactor. In writing about his aspirations for a new

building Kimball said, “My ideas may be pitched a little too high for our latitude, but hope not. I believe the best is none too good for New Hampshire.” Tuck found Kimball’s view to be persuasive.

By his death in 1920 Kimball had established a trust fund to benefit the Society and some other New Hampshire nonprofits. The beauty of such endowed funds is that they are invested to grow over time. Kimball’s fund has appreciated to more than ten times the dollar value today compared to its inception in 1920 and currently provides approximately \$85,000 per year in income to the Society.

It’s interesting to think about: from poultry and railroads to endowed funds for the Society. We rest on a solid foundation and are able to fulfill our mission of saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire history, due in large measure to the vision of persons such as Robert Hubbard and Benjamin Kimball. Each of their gifts, in the words of Albert Pike, “remains and is immortal.”



Bill Dunlap
President

SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEES

New officers and trustees were elected to the Society’s board this spring. Joel Bedor of Littleton and Kathleen Belko of New London were re-elected to their respective positions as board chair and secretary, while Jim Garvin of Pembroke assumed vice-chair responsibilities from Justice David Souter of Hopkinton. Mike Reopel of Hillsborough was elected treasurer and steps into the role formerly held by Kurt Swenson of Hopkinton, whose term on the board has ended.

Newly elected trustees include a few familiar faces, such as former trustee Bill Upton, who re-joins the board after a period away, and Ambassador Terry Shumaker, who was re-elected for an additional term of service. New to the board are Howard Mansfield of Hancock, David Ruedig of Concord, and Joe Taggart of Amherst.



Howard Mansfield is well known to many for his writing about preservation, architecture, and American history. A contributor to numerous prestigious publications, radio and TV shows, and conferences, Mansfield has explored issues of preservation in six books, including *In the Memory House* and *The Same Ax, Twice*. He is also the editor of *Where the Mountain Stands Alone: Stories of Place in the Monadnock*

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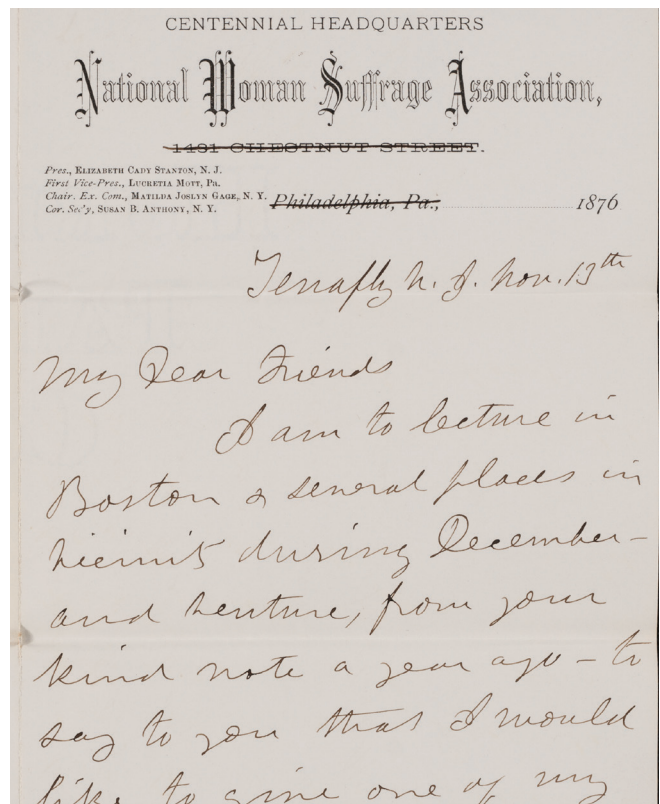
DIGITIZATION OF WHITE FAMILY PAPERS EXTENDS ACCESS

Digitization initiatives illustrate one way the Society is interpreting its mission—to save, preserve, and share New Hampshire history—in the 21st century. Scanning is a preservation process: it produces high-resolution images that can represent a physical object, extending its life by limiting handling and wear. Paradoxically, scanning is also a sharing process: it produces images that can be presented online to audiences who might never otherwise have direct access to the object itself. Every year, the Society undertakes new digitization projects to both preserve and expand access to its collections.

The recent digitization of the White Family Papers, 1777–1992, is one such project. The prominent Concord couple Nathaniel and Armenia White were suffragists, abolitionists, and temperance supporters. In addition to their interests in these national movements, they were deeply involved in the Concord community. In 2014 family members of late trustee and White descendent Stephen W. Winship gave a collection of family papers to the Society; it primarily reflects the more formal and business correspondence of this couple but also includes a small amount of material related to descendants. Digitization was supported by Betsy L. Humphreys, creating an online resource now accessible via the Society's collections catalog.

The collection illustrates the Whites' efforts to effect change on a national scale, with this ambition reflected in their correspondence with national figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary A. Livermore, Wendell Phillips, Parker Pillsbury, and William Lloyd Garrison. Abolitionist George Thompson thanks Nathaniel in 1864 for a generous donation; in an 1889 letter, Armenia implores the New Hampshire Senate and House of Representatives to legalize women's suffrage. Both Whites cared deeply about important issues facing the country in their time, and the collection provides a window into how they discussed such matters with contemporaries.

Yet local historians will find that the collection also illustrates the impact the White family had on communities within the state. Nathaniel was a prominent businessman, and his financial papers and correspondence reflect his close involvement with both the Profile House of Franconia Notch and Concord's



The White Family Papers shed light on national issues of the time through items like correspondence with Susan B. Anthony about the suffragist movement (above). The collection also contains treasures of more local significance, including Armenia White's 1911 receipt for life membership in the Society (below right).

Eagle Hotel. Similarly, the papers provide evidence of Armenia's philanthropic interests in Concord, as does an 1888 receipt from William P. Fiske of the Concord Park Commission thanking Armenia for the gift of \$1,700 towards the improvement of White Park (the park itself was a donation of the family to the city). Those with a more direct interest in the White family can peruse photographs and genealogical materials that trace family relationships and ephemera that reflect personal interests, such as membership certificates, souvenir pamphlets, and event programs. The collection also includes a 1911 receipt for a life membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society!

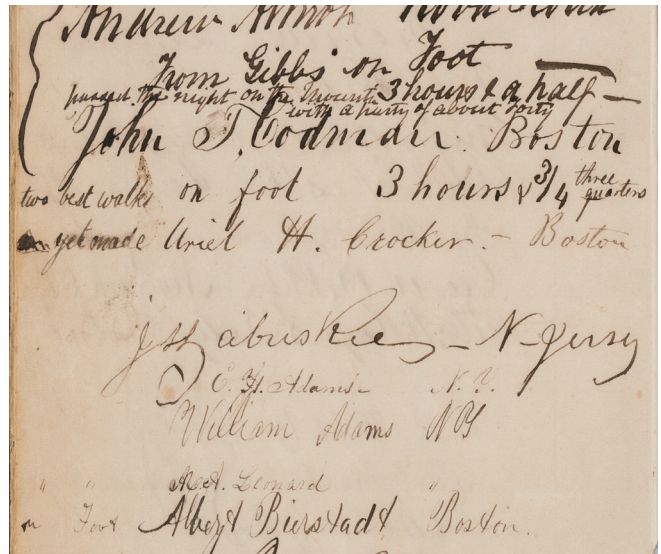
The White Family Papers offer a wealth of resources on a range of topics. With accessibility now extended through digitization, we can be confident that interested researchers will make use of the collection in years to come.

MOUNT WASHINGTON continued from page 1

mountain. "People are fascinated by the beauty and majesty of Mount Washington, and for good reason," says Andrew Spahr, Currier director of collections and exhibitions. He notes the historical impact of the mountain: "This exhibition will present major paintings by Thomas Cole and John Kensett that helped alter the course of American art in the 19th century, as well as prints, photographs, and early guide books that made the region one of the most popular tourist attractions in America in the mid-1800s."

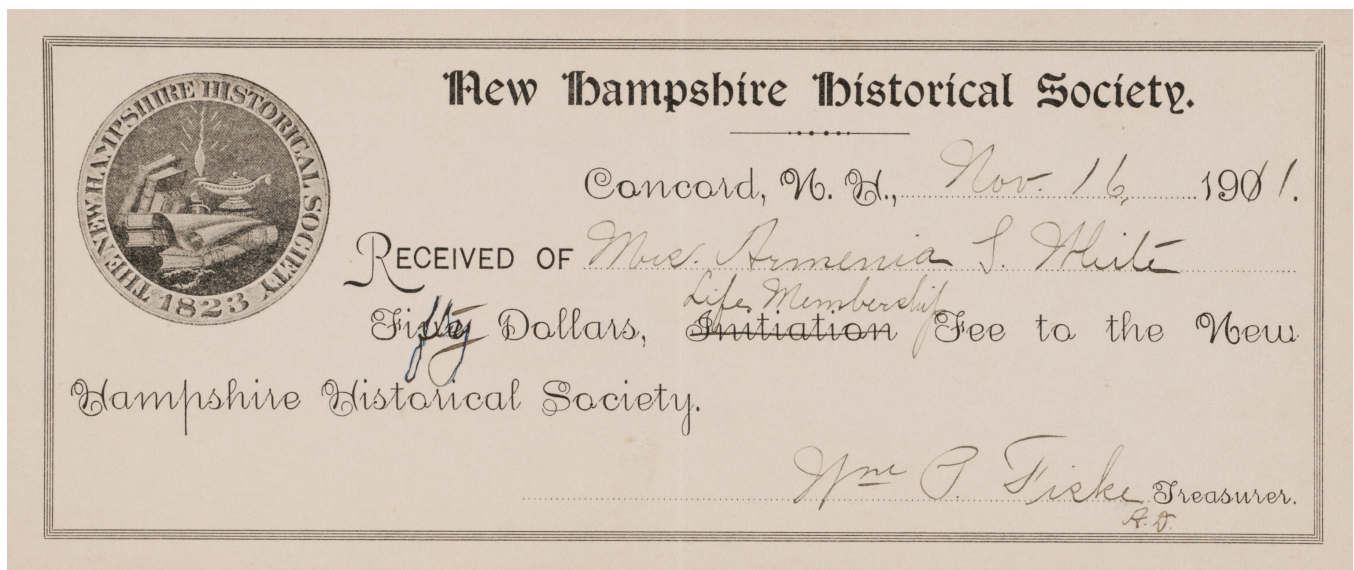
The Summit House register has a special connection with an item featured in the exhibition, *The Emerald Pool* by Albert Bierstadt, on loan from the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia. This impressive painting won a medal at the International Exposition in Vienna in 1873 and subsequently toured the United States and Europe, but the exhibition marks its first return to New England since it was painted in 1870. Bierstadt worked on the piece while staying at Glen House near Pinkham Notch; his 1852 signature in the register shows that his interest in the region had been piqued years earlier.

While physical conservation improved the register's condition and allows for limited display, the object remains fragile, particularly along its original leather spine. The Society's goal for conservation projects is twofold: to extend the physical lives of objects and to ensure future access for researchers and the public. With this in mind, the conservation process for



The signature of artist Albert Bierstadt (1830–1902) appears in this register for the Summit House, where visitors to Mount Washington from 1852 to 1853 recorded their names, hometowns, and other observations. Bierstadt was among many artists of the period inspired by the beauty of the White Mountains. Gift of Martha Abbott Hill and Bartlett Cushman Hill.

the register included digitization of each page. The resulting set of high-resolution images will be easily accessible to researchers via the Society's online collections catalog, enabling the Society to limit future use and handling of the object. This process has resulted in the register's display in a public exhibition and a new digital resource for researchers, making this another conservation success story.



ANDERSON PORTRAIT LOANED TO SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

After seven months of display in Washington, D.C., in the Society of the Cincinnati's exhibition *The Adventurous Life of Isabel Anderson*, a 1920 portrait of Isabel Perkins Anderson will remain with the organization on long-term loan. The painting was a 1980 gift of family member Evelyn Foster Hastings to the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Anderson is an important figure for the Society of the Cincinnati, as her former winter residence, Anderson House, serves as the group's national headquarters. The recent exhibition highlighted the impact of Anderson's gift of the 1905 mansion, donated after her



Isabel Perkins Anderson (1876–1948), oil on canvas attributed to DeWitt M. Lockman (1870–1957), c. 1920. Anderson is shown at her home on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, wearing a fashionable evening dress and feeding her pet parrot, Anna. Gift of Evelyn Foster Hastings.

husband's death in 1937. According to the Society of the Cincinnati, the gift "spurred the Society's growth as a public institution and gave the organization a prominent home in the nation's capital." The exhibition about Anderson's life was hosted in the historic building and featured nearly fifty paintings, photographs, documents, and other artifacts.

Anderson's mother was Anna Minot Weld, of a prominent Boston shipping family. Her father, Commodore George Hamilton Perkins (1835–99) of Hopkinton, was a noted naval officer during the Civil War who served under Admiral Farragut at Mobile Bay. At the age of 21, Isabel Perkins married Larz Anderson (1866–1937), a diplomat who served as U.S. minister to Belgium and ambassador to Japan. At that time, Anderson also came into an inheritance that made her one of the wealthiest women in the country. She was both a progressive and a philanthropist, and became well known as a prolific writer of children's and travel books.

Although Anderson was born in Boston and was a well-traveled woman, she held New Hampshire in great affection. She maintained the Perkins homestead in Contoocook and a summer house she called "The Box" on Lake Winnepocket in Webster. Anderson had Daniel Chester French (1850–1931) create a bronze statue of her father, which she presented to the State of New Hampshire in 1902 and which stands in a prominent position behind the State House. In the 1920s Anderson donated her father's papers to the New Hampshire Historical Society. The bulk of the collection dates from Perkins' service in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War, but there are also several volumes of journals, record books, and personal correspondence between Perkins and family members.

Although Anderson had no direct descendants, she left a legacy both within and beyond New Hampshire. Author Stephen T. Moskey will speak about how Anderson helped define modern culture and politics during his talk at the Society on October 6 at 5:30 p.m. This discussion of his book, *Larz and Isabel Anderson: Wealth and Celebrity in the Gilded Age*, will focus on the impact of that period on contemporary American life and offer Anderson as a shining example of the modern American woman.

GRANT UNDERWRITES PURCHASE OF NEW LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

The New Hampshire Historical Society recently received a grant from the Parker Nelson Charitable Trust enabling the Society to purchase a new computer-operated microfilm reader. The reader is simple to operate, and microfilm loads quickly and reliably. The resulting images are also of a higher quality, limiting grainy and distorted viewing. Researchers now have the option to crop and zoom in on items or save them to PDF; this convenience has the added benefit of decreasing the Society's use of paper and ink.

Researchers frequently access material stored on the Society's collection of hundreds of microfilm reels. Since the reader's installation in July, a number of patrons have shared their satisfaction with the equipment upgrade. Researchers, staff, and volunteers can now access and save research from microfilm with much greater ease.

We are grateful to the Parker Nelson Charitable Trust for underwriting this purchase and to other granting organizations for their continuing support of Society initiatives.

Research Librarian Paul Friday puts the Society's new microfilm reader through its paces in the library at 30 Park Street.



NEW TRUSTEES WELCOMED continued from page 3

Region. Mansfield has spoken at many historical societies, museums, and colleges, and at the Society, has been a member of the exhibitions and publications committee, and also served as a writer and consultant for the exhibition *Claiming the Land: Our Past, Our Future, Our Choice*.

David Ruedig holds a bachelor's degree in history from Dartmouth College and a master's degree in Islamic Studies from McGill University. For the past 35 years he has worked in financial services in a variety of capacities, and he is currently a financial advisor and senior vice president for wealth management at UBS. An active community leader and volunteer, Ruedig has served as chair of the New Hampshire State Board of Education and president of the Concord Library Trustees, the New Hampshire State Library Commission, the Concord Regional Visiting Nurses Association, and the American Red Cross. He is currently vice-chair of the Concord Hospital Board of Trustees.



Joe Taggart graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor of science degree in Forest Management and Economics, and later earned a master's degree in Forest Economics from Yale University. Currently the executive vice president of LandVest, Inc., Taggart works with institutional investors, conservation organizations, endowments, and family offices in the management of timberland investments across North America. He has formerly served as vice chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment in Amherst and as trustee of the Amherst Congregational Church. Additionally, he serves on the Board of LandVest, Inc., as a trustee of the Amherst Land Trust, and as ambassador to the American Independence Museum in Exeter.

We are grateful for the commitment of these new trustees and look forward to working with all of the accomplished individuals on the board in the coming year.

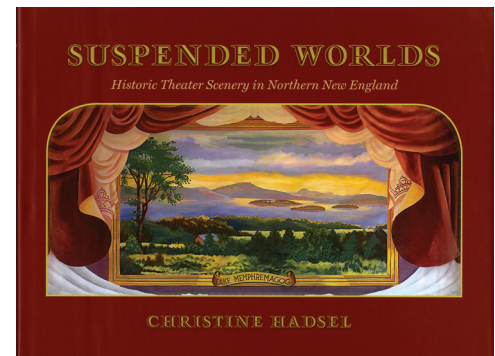
PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

AUTHOR TALKS & BOOK SIGNINGS

***Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England* by Christine Hadsel**

Saturday, October 1, 2016, at 2 p.m.

One hundred years ago in small-town America, people provided most of their own entertainment, gathering in town halls, small opera houses, or grange halls to enjoy locally produced variety shows. A crucial component of every hall was a stage with its own house scenery. Five hundred hand-painted theater curtains have now been located and documented in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine by a remarkable team of devoted conservators known as Curtains Without Borders. *Suspended Worlds* is a glorious celebration of historic stage scenery in northern New England. Painted between 1890 and 1940, these backdrops depict everything from country scenes to rustic interiors, European castles, and a Roman amphitheater. Conservator Christine Hadsel discusses the important work done to preserve these unique artifacts of New England history and brings to light little-known but stunning pieces of American folk art. Admission to the talk and book signing is free. Copies of *Suspended Worlds: Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England* will be for sale at the event and are available now through the Society's online store at nhhistory.org.



***Larz and Isabel Anderson: Wealth and Celebrity in the Gilded Age* by Stephen T. Moskey**

Thursday, October 6, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

Wealthy socialites and sometime New Hampshire residents Larz and Isabel Anderson lived extraordinary lives during the height of the Gilded Age. Their world was peopled with dozens of celebrities who helped define modern culture and politics: Henry and Clover Adams, Lord and Lady Curzon, Henry James, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Robert Todd Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and John Singer Sargent. Moskey's book offers readers a fresh look at this fascinating period of American history. Its focus on the intersection of wealth, celebrity, politics, gender, and race offers insight into the origins of contemporary American life. Most importantly, Isabel Anderson emerges in a new light—as a shining example of the modern American woman. Admission to the talk and book signing is free. Copies of *Larz and Isabel Anderson: Wealth and Celebrity in the Gilded Age* will be for sale at the event and are available now through the Society's online store at nhhistory.org.



PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

WORKSHOPS

Textile and Costume Collections Care

Offered in conjunction with the Costume Society of America.

Saturday, October 15, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Learn best practices for textile and costume collections in this one-day workshop, led by the Northeastern Region of the Costume Society of America. Designed for smaller institutions and local historical societies with textile and costume collections, this workshop will cover collection handling and storage, mannequin mounting and exhibition, basic textile conservation, correct archival material choices, documentation, photography, labeling, and storage as well as how to establish collection policies and implement an appropriate collections database for your institution's size. Space is limited, and registration is required. This workshop is \$50 for Society members and \$65 for nonmembers. Register online through Eventbrite, mail the registration form with payment, or call the New Hampshire Historical Society's Member and Visitor Services Coordinator Wendy Olcott at 603-856-0621 to register by phone and pay with a credit card.

Researching Early New England Ancestors

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

As a group, 17th-century New Englanders are perhaps the most studied group on the planet, thus descendants are blessed with a multitude of printed resources. In many cases, town vital records, church, colony, court, probate, land, military, and tax records not only have survived but have been abstracted and published. This workshop, taught by Senior Genealogist Emeritus David Curtis Dearborn from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, will give an overview of the settling of New England, discuss what records exist, and offer a guide to the best genealogical sources for early New England research. Space is limited, and registration is required. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online through Eventbrite, mail the registration form with payment, or call the New Hampshire Historical Society's Member and Visitor Services Coordinator Wendy Olcott at 603-856-0621 to register by phone and pay with a credit card.



This dress belonged to author, artist, and lay preacher Sarah Elizabeth (Harper) Monmouth (1829–87) of Canterbury, who was known for unusual textiles. The Society owns the largest collection of Monmouth's textiles in the world, many of which present unique preservation challenges. This dress, for example, features mosquito netting enclosures for paper and wallpaper cut-outs. Monmouth's textiles drew hundreds of tourists from around the world to the Worsted Church in Canterbury during the first half of the 20th century. Gift of Doris True Davis.

PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

FILM SCREENINGS

Shadows Fall North

Wednesday, October 19, 6 to 9 p.m. (screening followed by discussion panel)

Please note location: This event is being held at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord

The New Hampshire Historical Society sponsors this special showing of an important new documentary film on black history in the Granite State. Portsmouth, Milford, Canaan, and many other towns in New Hampshire have been home to natives of Africa and to African-Americans for centuries, but their stories have often been left out of official histories. *Shadows Fall North*, produced by the University of New Hampshire's Center for the Humanities in collaboration with Atlantic Media Productions of Portsmouth, focuses on the recovery of Black history in New Hampshire by two extraordinary women: historians and activists Valerie Cunningham and JerriAnne Boggis.

How does a state with the motto "Live Free or Die" confront and understand its participation in slavery, segregation, and the neglect of African-American history? What happens to our identity as residents of this state and as New Englanders when we begin to acknowledge all of our past? *Shadows Fall North* will explore these questions and more. To see a preview and learn more, visit blackhistorynh.com. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with Producer Nancy Vawter, Director/Editor Brian Vawter, Consulting Producer and Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail Director JerriAnne Boggis, and Consulting Producer and historic preservationist Valerie Cunningham.

Information on ticket purchase is available at nhhistory.org and redrivertheatres.org. The ticket price for the screening is \$10 for regular admission, and \$8 for Society members, students, seniors, or military. All proceeds support the promotion of the film.



Photograph of Esther Whipple Mullinaux (c. 1782–1868) of Portsmouth, c. 1850. Esther was the daughter of Dinah Chase Whipple, a formerly enslaved African-American who began and operated the Ladies Charitable African School, and Prince Whipple, one of 20 enslaved African men who petitioned for their freedom in 1779. Their histories are some of those explored in *Shadows Fall North*. From the North Church Collection, courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

PROGRAM & EVENTS CALENDAR

EXHIBITION OPENINGS & TOURS

Group Tours

To schedule a guided tour for a group of 12 or more people, see nhhistory.org or contact Elizabeth Dubrulle at 603-856-0604 or edubrulle@nhhistory.org. All youth and school groups must schedule guided visits in advance.

Guided Gallery Tours

Saturdays, October 1 and 8, 2016, at 12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3 p.m.

Fridays, October 21, November 18, and December 16, 2016, at 12 noon

Saturdays, November 12 and December 10, 2016, at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Society's historic Park Street building and the *Discovering New Hampshire* exhibition led by a member of the Society's education or volunteer docent staff. Guided gallery tours are 45 minutes long and are appropriate for visitors of all ages. The tour is included in the price of paid admission with no reservations accepted. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis, and tours are capped at 12 people.

Gallery and Exhibition Opening

Friday, November 18, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join us on opening day for a long-term, salon-style exhibition of White Mountain art, installed in the Society's new Gov. John McLane Gallery. During the 1800s, the natural wonders of the White Mountains attracted artists, photographers, writers, tourists, and entrepreneurs to New Hampshire. The 36 landscape paintings on view from the Society's collections reveal some of the stories and meanings of White Mountain scenery, of the 19th-century artists who depicted it, and of the people who acquired, owned, and cherished these paintings.

Presidential Range by Edward Hill (1843–1923), 1886, presents a view from the vicinity of the Waumbek Hotel in Jefferson and is featured in the Society's new long-term exhibition. Gift of the W. N. Banks Foundation.



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Doublehead Mountain, Jackson

Sawyer

This hand-colored photograph by Charles H. Sawyer (1868–1954) of Concord captures a fall view of Doublehead Mountain in Jackson, 1928. The image is one of 70 contained in a two-volume set purchased by the Society from Sawyer in that year. The photographs in the set were recently digitized and made available via the online catalog as part of the Society's ongoing efforts to increase access to collections.