



Samuel Haley (1798–1884) and Sally Haley (1798–1854) of Epping, watercolor on paper by itinerant Maine artist Joseph H. Davis (1811–65), 1837. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Nancy B. Chase, great-great granddaughter of Samuel and Sally Haley.

## TWO CENTURIES OF FAMILY TREASURES DONATED TO THE SOCIETY

Recent gifts of artwork, manuscripts, photographs, and objects from two branches of the interrelated Haley and Burley families of North Epping help document daily life on a group of neighboring 18th-century farms that remained in family ownership into the 2010s. An extensive collection of letters, diaries, and business records centering on properties owned by the family for more than two centuries is the gift of the Joseph C. and Robert M. Burley Family Trust. The trust also made a generous financial contribution to help process and preserve the collection.

While this collection was being processed, the Society learned that another family member, Nancy Burley Chase, owner of the related Samuel Haley Farm,

was looking for a home for portraits of the family's ancestors Samuel Haley Jr., his wife, Sally Bartlett Haley, and their daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Haley, who later married Joseph Cilley Burley. These portraits not only show individuals whose lives and work are reflected in the papers we had just received, but, as we soon also learned, they were painted by the itinerant artist Joseph H. Davis, whose work is highly regarded by museums and folk art collectors for its colorful depictions of rural New Hampshire family groups and their household surroundings.

Although more than 160 portraits by Davis have been identified and many feature New Hampshire

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**HISTORICAL**  
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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William H. Dunlap

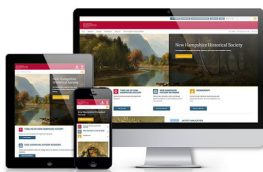
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



One of our jobs here at the Society is to acquire collections that will help tell the story of New Hampshire to future generations. Whether a single object or a massive manuscript collection consisting of thousands of pages, the standard is the same: Does this acquisition help tell the story?

A recent acquisition that certainly meets this standard is the collected papers and records of Concord's John Swenson Granite Company.

The company, founded in 1883 and one of the state's iconic commercial enterprises, was operated by four generations of family members until its recent sale. Kurt Swenson, the Society's board chairman, was the company's last family-member CEO. He had the foresight to keep the company records intact and arrange their transfer to the Society, along with a financial donation to underwrite the processing and preservation of the collection.

The Swenson collection, which falls into the "massive" category, includes financial records, photographs, correspondence with suppliers and customers, promotional materials, personnel records, family materials, and architectural plans for many of the buildings and monuments constructed from Swenson granite. The company's granite can be found in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, the CBS Building and Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City, the Christian Science Mother Church in Boston, and the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C. Here in New Hampshire both the State House and the Society's own building are graced with Swenson granite.

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*This is the beauty and attraction of studying history. From seeing the particulars of a story such as that of John Swenson and his company, one can glimpse the larger arc of history.*

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An unusual and very interesting item in the collection is the transcript of Kurt Swenson's testimony in 1975 before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, D.C. Kurt had recently taken over management of Swenson Granite, only to discover the company was in dire shape due in part to an influx of foreign granite to the U.S. market. In his testimony, Kurt laid out the steps—some painful—he had taken to save the company. The transcript provides insight into the travails of one small New Hampshire company and, through that prism, into the workings of commerce and governments on a global scale. Fortunately, in ensuing years the company was restored to good financial health and resumed rapid growth.



Another special item is John Swenson's certificate of U.S. citizenship, dated October 23, 1878. This certificate bears symbolic witness to the ambition and drive of John Swenson, who emigrated from Sweden at age 19, lured by the promise of America. It is remarkable that in the span of one lifetime, beginning with little except his native ability, he achieved prominence in his field and built an enduring company that provided livelihoods to many.

In its entirety, the Swenson collection charts the evolution not only of a company but also of its community and society as a whole. This is the beauty and attraction of studying history. From seeing the particulars of a story such as that of John Swenson and his company, one can glimpse the larger arc of history.



## How do you get 42 tough stonecutters all to smile at the same time?

You don't.  
Especially if you're a photographer stopping at John Swenson's Granite Works around the Turn of the Century.  
It was enough just to get them all to stand still in one place long enough to get a good exposure.  
And fortunate for posterity. Because it gives us a rare glimpse into what life was like at Swenson Granite when the company was just shy of 20 years old.

Today, we're celebrating our first 100 years. A full century of quarrying and fabricating fine New Hampshire and Vermont granite for our customers who care about superb quality and lasting beauty.

We may not be the world's largest granite company. But after a hundred years in business, you can be certain we're one of the best.

**The JOHN SWENSON GRANITE Company, Inc.**

Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
603/225-2783

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Advertisement marking the 100th anniversary of the John Swenson Granite Company, Inc., 1983. With thousands of items dating from the company's founding in 1883 until it was sold in 2016, the Swenson Granite Works collection represents one of the most comprehensive records of a New Hampshire company in the Society's holdings.

## FAMILY TREASURES (continued from page 1)

people, the Society until now owned just one portrait attributed to him. That portrait of Nancy Scruton Cate of Strafford, donated in 1926, is not as colorful as most Davis portraits and is probably one of his early works. With Nancy Chase's gift of the two portraits, excellent examples of this artist's fully developed style are now part of the Society's collection. The Haley portraits' significance is heightened by the fact that they came to the Society not through the antiques market but directly from the house where all three of the portraits' sitters once lived.

Like the popular cut-paper silhouettes of the time, Davis's were profile portraits. While his subjects are often dressed in black, their accessories are colorful, and they sit or stand in domestic interiors decorated with grain-painted furniture and brightly patterned carpets. The artist usually enhanced his portraits with decorative calligraphy, recording the subjects' names, ages, and birthdays in the lower margin. His known works range in date from 1832 to 1837 and depict residents in rural areas of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire, and York County, Maine.

Fortunately, Davis signed at least three of his portraits, on one adding "Left-handed painter" after his name. The discovery of the first of these signed portraits in the early 1940s led to speculation as to whether he was the Joseph H. Davis of Farmington or Dover, or whether he was from Maine instead. Although his identity remained uncertain for almost another half century, his work was featured in a major exhibition in 1974 at the Art Institute of Chicago. Finally in 1989, a definitive case was made that the artist was a native of Limington, Maine, a farmer remembered in the area as Pine Hill Joe, who "was always dabbling with paints, and who was taken at times with an irresistible urge to wander," and who "charged a dollar and a half for a portrait."

The collection of Burley and Haley Family Papers is likely to shed further light on the lives of the people pictured in these Davis portraits, since the letters and diaries of both Samuel and his daughter, Sarah Elizabeth Haley Burley, are well represented in the collection. Both Samuel Haley and his son-in-law, Joseph Cilley Burley, were prosperous Epping farmers, and Sarah Burley became an advocate for the antislavery and temperance movements.



Sarah Elizabeth Haley, later Mrs. Joseph Cilley Burley (1833–1912) of Epping, watercolor on paper by Joseph H. Davis (1811–65), 1837. This portrait of the Haleys' four-year-old daughter with her cat has the extra feature of corner decorations, found on only a few Davis portraits, all done in 1837, shortly before the end of his five-year painting career. Gift of Nancy B. Chase, great-granddaughter of Sarah Elizabeth Haley Burley.

More generally speaking, the manuscript and photograph collections document the heyday of Epping's and New Hampshire's agricultural heritage. The papers range in date from 1789 to 1962, with the bulk representing the period between 1850 and 1940. In addition to records for managing the family farm, the collection includes business papers from Harry B. Burley's tenure as an engineer for the city of Nashua during the 1890s and is especially strong in letters between parents and children; between the women of the family and their friends, sometimes in distant parts of the country; and among siblings, often while one was away attending or teaching school.

The manuscripts and photographs have been used already by the family in the process of listing the Haley and Burley farms on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. A finding aid for the collection is being created and, when completed, will be available on the Society's website, [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org).





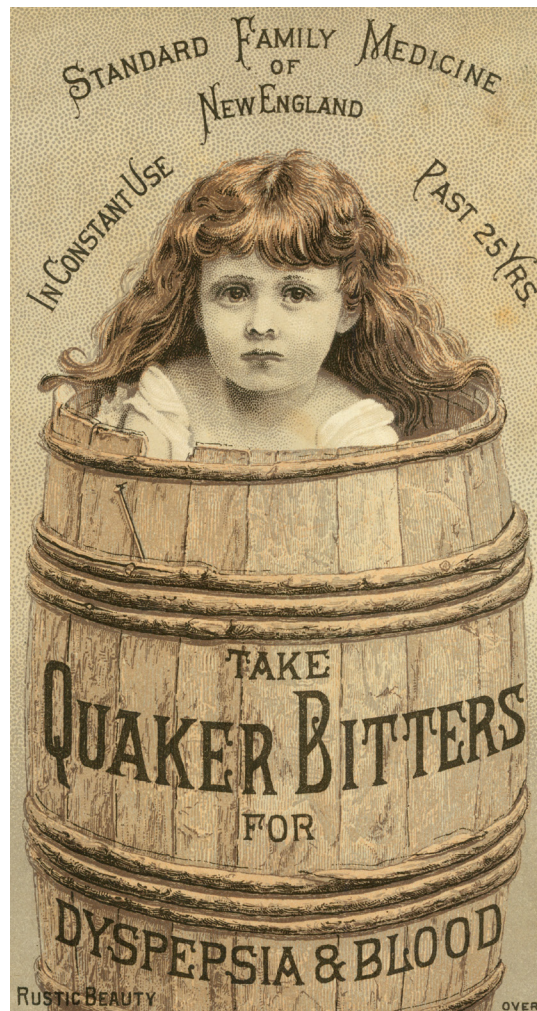
## STUDENTS UPDATE GUIDE

Last fall, St. Anselm College Professor Beth Salerno (above, far left) offered students in her public history course an opportunity to work on some “real world” projects so they could get a better idea of what professional historians, archivists, and educators do. Students Emily Lowe, Caitlin Williamson, and Greg Tubman (above, second from left to right) worked collaboratively to update and expand the *New Hampshire History Resources for Teachers: A Guide*, an annotated bibliography the Society originally created in the early 1990s. The trio eliminated listings for resources that were no longer relevant or available and added dozens of current books, videos, and websites that teachers can use to supplement instruction in Granite State history. As all three students plan to become social studies teachers, the project gave them an opportunity to combine their interests and contribute to the work of the Society’s Democracy Project, an initiative to renew social studies education in New Hampshire schools. The resources guide will be available via the Society’s website in early summer.

## HISTORY NETWORK SPOTLIGHT

The Historical Society of Amherst, New Hampshire, has long preserved and provided access to collections related to the history of the town. This local historical society also is expanding access to its collections statewide through the New Hampshire History Network, an online resource launched in 2015 by the New Hampshire Historical Society. Through the New Hampshire History Network, the Historical Society of Amherst shares photographs of the people and the architecture of the town, correspondence and documents written by and to Amherst residents, and objects of various types made or used in Amherst. The mission of the Historical Society of Amherst, which was founded in 1957, is to promote the study and recording of the town’s history and to arrange for the safekeeping of artifacts and records. As part of its work the historical society maintains two museums in Amherst Village—the Wigwam and the Chapel—

which are open to the public May through October. The organization offers programs throughout the year on a variety of topics related to New Hampshire history and also researches and publishes on the town’s history and architecture. To see collections from Amherst and other participating organizations, visit the New Hampshire History Network at [network.nhhistory.org](http://network.nhhistory.org). To learn more about the Historical Society of Amherst, New Hampshire, visit [hsanh.org](http://hsanh.org).



The Historical Society of Amherst is sharing selected items from its collections online through the New Hampshire History Network, including this trade card for Quaker Bitters, sold by W. D. Forsaith of Amherst, a dealer in “Fine Family Groceries.” A testimonial printed on the back of the card claims “The first bottle of your Bitters made a wonderful change in me, and after I took three I felt like another being. I can eat anything and a good meal every time I sit down. I intend to take them every spring and fall, and recommend them to every one I know.”





Poster by the United States Food Administration, original painting by Charles E. Chambers (1883–1941), printed by Rusling Wood, Lithographer, New York, 1917. Caption, written in Yiddish, reads: “Food will win the war. You came here seeking freedom, now you must help to preserve it. Wheat is needed for the allies. Waste nothing.” Fifteen World War I posters from the Society’s collection are featured in the exhibition *Making the World Safe for Democracy: Posters of the Great War in New Hampshire*, on display at the Society through October 2018. These posters and other World War I collections are also available for viewing in the Society’s online catalog at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org).

## SPRING 2018 PROGRAMS

**Saturday, March 10, 2018, 1 to 4 p.m.**

### **Workshop: Immigration and Naturalization: Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors**

Understanding the context of your ancestors’ arrival in the United States and the paper trail they may have left on the path to citizenship can lead to important genealogical discoveries. This workshop, presented by Rhonda McClure of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, will guide attendees through three centuries (1620–1920) of immigration and naturalization in the United States and explain how related records can be used in family history research. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of either the New Hampshire Historical Society or the New England Historic Genealogical Society and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) or call 603-856-0621.

**Saturday, March 24, 2018, at 2 p.m.**

### **New Hampshire Heritage Lecture: The Company That Built Manchester**

The creation and growth of Manchester, which today is the largest city in Northern New England, is primarily the legacy of one entity: the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. This lecture, presented by Jeffrey Barraclough, director of operations at the Manchester Historic Association, will look at the origins of Amoskeag, how it developed, and its lasting legacy, which has extended long past the company’s closing in 1935. It will also look at the founding of the Manchester Historic Association and how it became a repository for the history of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture series highlights the stories behind the state’s many historic and cultural attractions. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

### **Guided Gallery Tours — Spring 2018**

**Saturday, March 10, at 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.**

**Saturdays, April 14, May 12, and June 9, at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

**Fridays, March 16, April 20, May 18, and June 15, at noon**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Society’s Park Street building and exhibitions in a 45-minute tour led by a member of the Society’s education or volunteer docent staff. Included in the price of admission, the tour is appropriate for visitors of all ages. Availability is on a first-come, first-served basis, and tours are capped at 12 people.

**Admission to the New Hampshire Historical Society is \$7 for adults. Children ages 18 and under and members of the New Hampshire Historical Society 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.**

### Thursdays, April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 2018, 6 p.m. Spring Lecture Series: Natural Disasters in the Granite State

Natural disasters have marked New Hampshire and its people throughout the centuries. In the wake of these catastrophes, Granite Staters have had to marshal all their characteristic Yankee ingenuity to rebuild and go on, but disasters have also served as catalysts for great change in the state, whether clearing the way for a new industry or compelling increased government action in the management of the state's resources. At heart, though, these tragedies have served to remind people of the power of nature and our reliance on the land. This lecture series includes talks on the year without a summer (by historian Howard Coffin), the Willey Slide (by Professor Marcia Schmidt Blaine), the 20 most significant storms that changed the state (by WMUR meteorologist Kevin Skarupa), the 1903 fires in the White Mountains (by forester David Govatski), and the hurricane of 1938 (by author Stephen Long). Admission to this lecture series is free for Society members, but space is limited and registration is required. (Nonmembers are invited to join the Society to enjoy this and other membership benefits.) Register online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) or call 603-856-0621.



Learners in the Society's program *Granite State History for Homeschoolers* celebrate after winning the game Redcoats and Rebels. Each month 52 children from across the state gather at the Society to learn about a different theme in New Hampshire history. In a session on the Revolutionary War, learners explored some of the state's contributions to the fight for independence and played a rousing game of Redcoats and Rebels. This engaging board game, created by the Society's museum educators, puts players on opposing sides of the American Revolution as they race to capture Fort Ticonderoga. Redcoats and Rebels is also available as a traveling program for school, scout, and other youth groups. For information visit [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org) or call 603-856-0645.



Pine Island Park, Manchester, as it looked from the air, one day after the "Big Wind Storm." The powerful hurricane that swept through New England on September 21, 1938, was one of the region's most destructive natural disasters. Damage to the forests was especially severe, with more than 2.6 billion board feet of timber felled by the great storm, including 1 billion board feet in New Hampshire. Keene's residential streets lost about 1,800 shade trees. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Irene V. Marden.

### Saturday, April 14, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Workshop: Caring for Books

Join Sean Ferguson of the Northeast Document Conservation Center to learn how to handle, store, and exhibit old books. The cost for this workshop is \$35 for members of the New Hampshire Historical Society and \$50 for nonmembers. Register online at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com) or call 603-856-0621.

### Saturday, April 14, 2018, 2 p.m. New Hampshire Heritage Lecture: The Dunlap Broadside and American Independence

Only 26 copies of the Dunlap Broadside, the first official printing of the Declaration of Independence, exist in the world, and the American Independence Museum in Exeter has one. Join Emma Bray, the American Independence Museum's executive director, to learn how this small museum in a small town ended up with such an important document, why Exeter celebrates Independence Day in mid-July, and how the rediscovery of this document led to the creation of the museum in 1991. The New Hampshire Heritage Lecture series highlights the stories behind the state's many historic and cultural attractions. This program is included in the price of admission to the Society.

Saturday, May 5, 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**New Hampshire Historical Society Annual Meeting**  
Invitations will be mailed to members in March.



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



Multiple generations of the interrelated Haley, Burley, Cilley, and Burleigh families, pictured in front of the Benjamin Burley House, gathered for a reunion celebrating 250 years in Epping. Thanks to members of these history-minded families, extensive collections documenting the lives of their ancestors have been entrusted to the New Hampshire Historical Society, where they will be preserved for generations to come. Photograph courtesy of the Joseph C. and Robert M. Burley Family Trust. See story on page 1.