



A portion of the funds raised through the *Campaign for New Hampshire History* will be used to improve and expand online access to the Society's extensive library and museum collections, like this photograph of the Nutter family in Bath, N.H., c. 1897.

## CONNECTIONS THROUGH TIME: CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY

The New Hampshire Historical Society is approaching its 200th birthday in 2023. It has borne witness to most of our nation's history along with New Hampshire's place in that history. By remaining true to its mission while at the same time being open to change, it has survived and prospered even as other organizations have come and gone.

It was in this same spirit of combining tradition with forward vision that the Society's board of trustees and staff developed a strategic plan and began laying the groundwork for a comprehensive capital campaign. This campaign, with a capital fundraising goal of \$9.2 million, is designed to fund several key Society initiatives.

During the planning process, the trustees and staff listened to stakeholders from around New Hampshire—our members, educators, researchers, and local historical societies—and investigated the potential of new technologies to help improve and expand access to our collections. The resulting plan is an ambitious one—to expand public access to the Society's wealth of collections and resources through digital technologies and to strengthen the financial underpinnings of the organization to ensure its future well-being.

The capital campaign began its initial phase in the spring of 2011. A steering committee was formed, the fundraising plan adopted, and the case for support

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NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**HISTORICAL**  
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

**Newsletter**

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## CONNECTIONS THROUGH TIME (continued from page 1)

developed. Headed by trustees Bill Veillette and Kurt Swenson, the steering committee has provided sound guidance and has led by example—giving generously both in time and financial support.

The “quiet phase” of the campaign began in September 2011 with solicitations of the board of trustees, staff, volunteers, and other stakeholders. Since then multi-year pledges totaling nearly \$4.5 million have been committed to the effort. Steering committee members now are reaching out to a broader group of individuals, businesses, and foundations to enlist their support.



The Society recently achieved a significant milestone in its digital transformation when 23,000 images of artifacts from the museum collection were uploaded onto our website, including this watercolor, *Steamer Mt. Washington, Centre Harbor, N.H.*, by John Badger Bachelder (1825–94), October 12, 1873.

### Key projects the *Campaign for New Hampshire History* will fund include:

- ◆ Digital transformation of the library and museum collections and expanded accessibility through the Internet  
**\$2,825,000**
- ◆ Increased engagement with schools, local historical societies, and libraries through the creation of the *New Hampshire History Network*  
**\$1,750,000**
- ◆ Reconfiguration of the Society’s facilities to make 30 Park Street our public hub, along with energy conservation and risk mitigation measures  
**\$2,225,000**
- ◆ Unrestricted endowment to support ongoing operations  
**\$2,000,000**

## COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The *Campaign for New Hampshire History* will broaden its scope this fall to include many more Society members and friends through a statewide fundraising effort. One of its goals is to raise \$100,000 to support the cataloging and digitization of 18,000 of the Society’s collection of photographs associated with New Hampshire towns. In the weeks ahead Society members will be invited to join this effort by donating or pledging support.



One goal of the *Campaign for New Hampshire History* is to digitize photographs related to New Hampshire towns and to make the images and accompanying information available online. *Above*: View from Mason Street Bridge, Berlin, c. 1920, gift of Rowena C. Atkinson. Incorporated in 1829 and originally a logging community, Berlin became a booming mill town, attracting large numbers of French Canadians, Scandinavians, and other workers. *Below*: Potter Place, Andover, c. 1940, gift of John F. Page. When this photograph was taken, the heyday of the railroad was drawing to a close. The Potter Place railroad station, built in 1874 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is maintained by the Andover Historical Society.



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## Campaign for New Hampshire History

### Steering Committee

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(1927–2012)

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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kurt Swenson of Hopkinton, a life-long New Hampshire resident, is chair of the board and retired CEO of Swenson Granite Company. Kurt has been a member of the Society's board of trustees since 2008 and is serving as volunteer co-chair of the *Campaign for New Hampshire History*.

“As a kid I worked in the family granite business started by my grandfather John Swenson in 1883. The stone used to build 30 Park Street came from our Rattlesnake Hill Quarry right up the road on North State Street.” Kurt went on to attend Colby College in Maine and Boston College Law School. He practiced law for 12 years upon returning to New Hampshire and then assumed the reins of the family granite business.

“When I was working I was too busy to be very involved with the Society, but now I have more free time. It's important that more people know what goes on at the Society and get involved. I love New Hampshire—my family has been a part of it for five generations. It has a rich and important history, and I want to help people learn more about us from any part of the world. The *New Hampshire History Network* will make this possible.”



John Swenson's Granite Works, photographed by the Hub Studio, Concord, c. 1905, gift of Judith F. Mason. Granite quarrying has long been a major industry in Concord, employing at times more men than any other industry except the railroad. This photograph descended in the family of Charles (Carl) Emanuel Forsberg (1861–1923), one of the granite cutters pictured and, like many, a native of Sweden. By the 1890s Swedish immigrants worked in each of the 32 stone businesses in Concord, and a few, like Swenson, owned quarries.

## GREENING AND RENOVATING 30 PARK STREET



comparable building opened in 1909 for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Society's building features a monumental portal sculpture by Daniel Chester French, the sculptor of the seated Abraham Lincoln in Washington's Lincoln Memorial. In celebration of the

There are many extraordinary items in the Society's vast collections, but in the opinion of many, the single most important artifact is not a painting, piece of furniture, or document—it is our building at 30 Park Street. The gift of Edward and Julia Tuck, this 1911 building is a nationally significant example of Beaux-Arts public architecture. Its architect was Guy Lowell, who had recently designed a

building's centennial in 2011, its design and construction were documented in a film by New Hampshire Public Television.

The building has been carefully maintained over the years, but as with any 100-year-old structure, some updating is required. One major goal of the *Campaign for New Hampshire History* is to raise funds for these updates.



*Left:* The impressive skylight above the rotunda stairway of the Society's building at 30 Park Street, photographed by Fiona Boyd, courtesy of *New Hampshire Home*. *Above:* An interior view of a portion of the building's extensive skylight structures.

### Hunt Foundation Offers Challenge

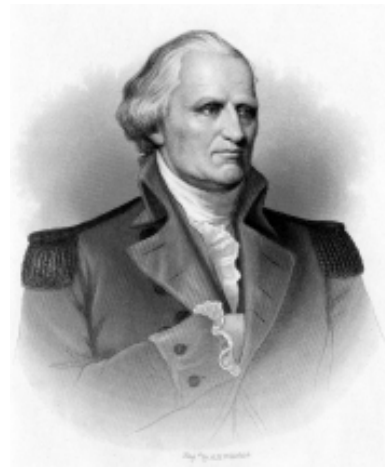
The Samuel P. Hunt Foundation has presented the Society and its supporters a challenge. The foundation will match dollar for dollar, up to a total of \$50,000, donations toward energy-efficiency upgrades to the Society's building at 30 Park Street. Meeting this challenge will enable the Society to insulate the skylights and spaces between the ceiling and roof at a cost of \$100,000. The project will provide a high return on invested capital and save more than \$19,000 annually in energy costs, so that this amount can be spent on collections and programming. For information about the challenge and how to make a gift, contact Director of Development Anne Hamilton at 603-856-0608 or [ahamilton@nhhistory.org](mailto:ahamilton@nhhistory.org).

In 2010 and 2011 the Society conducted facilities studies to assess the condition of the mechanical systems and to evaluate opportunities for improved energy efficiency. The studies confirmed that the infrastructure of the building's heating system has reached the end of its 100-year useful life. Failure of this system, consisting of wrought iron steam-delivery pipes embedded in the interior marble and granite walls, could have devastating consequences for the fabric of the building and the collections it contains. In addition, the study documented the potential for a 50% annual savings in energy expenses, along with a 75% reduction in the building's carbon footprint, to be realized by insulating the roof, retrofitting the skylights, and converting the heating system to natural gas and hot water. The skylight renovations will also better protect the collections from damage caused by ultraviolet light.

## MAKING NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY MORE ACCESSIBLE

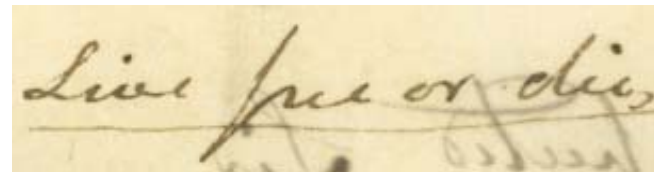
### *Digitizing the General John Stark Papers*

The John Stark Papers are one of the most treasured collections of the Society. General John Stark (1728–1822) of Derryfield, now Manchester, fought with Rogers' Rangers in the French and Indian War and served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. A hero of the Battle of Bennington, he is most often remembered today for his statement "Live free or die, death is not



Engraved portrait of John Stark by Alexander H. Ritchie (1822–95).

this great nation. As New Hampshire citizens, we have always admired John Stark's courage and dedication to the high ideals of freedom, patriotism, and service. We encourage others to join us in the Society's valuable endeavor, so that New Hampshire's history may be preserved for future generations."



Due to the age and fragility of the Stark Papers, their digitization has been contracted to the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) of Andover, Mass., one of the nation's leading conservation and imaging centers. Collections requiring special handling, like the Stark Papers, are sent to NEDCC or places like it, while others, suitable for processing at the Society, are done in-house.

Additional funding has been secured to digitize a portion of our map

collection; a selection from the papers of Frank R. Kenison (1907–80), Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court from 1952–77; and the Amherst Congregational Church Records. Funding opportunities are available for many significant manuscript collections, including the papers of General John Sullivan, Josiah Bartlett, Daniel Webster, Franklin Pierce, John Parker Hale, John Farmer, and Sarah Low, among others.



**CONNECTIONS  
THROUGH TIME**  
CAMPAIGN FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY

the greatest of evils." Stark coined the phrase in a toast he proposed by letter in 1809 to a Bennington committee commemorating the famous battle. (Stark was too frail to attend the event in person.) The only original manuscript source of that famous quote is preserved in the Society's collection in an 1810 letter from the Bennington committee to Stark thanking him for the toast. The Stark collection includes letters from George Washington, John Hancock, and Generals John Sullivan and Philip Schuyler.

The Society was delighted when a couple who are long-time members recently made an anonymous pledge of \$30,000 to the *Campaign for New Hampshire History* to pay for the digitization of the John Stark Papers, comprising 4,400 pages of letters, military accounts, and orderly books. When making their generous commitment, the donors said, "We are pleased to assist the New Hampshire Historical Society in preserving precious artifacts which document New Hampshire's contribution in the building of

## CREATING THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORY NETWORK

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, the Society is busy digitizing its collections. (Digitization refers to the process of creating digital images, along with descriptive information, for the items in the collections.) The beauty of digital material is that it can be made continuously accessible through the Internet. This offers the opportunity for Society members and the public to access the collections as never before possible.



Digital Projects Manager Katelynn Vance (left) and volunteer Lea Stark examine maps in preparation for their digitization, made possible by a grant from the Cogswell Benevolent Trust.

In addition to the Society's extensive collections, there is a wealth of information in the collections of local and regional historical societies throughout New Hampshire. With funding from a national foundation, the Society has developed a plan

to create a statewide online network, to be called the *New Hampshire History Network*, where local societies can share digitized material from their own collections.

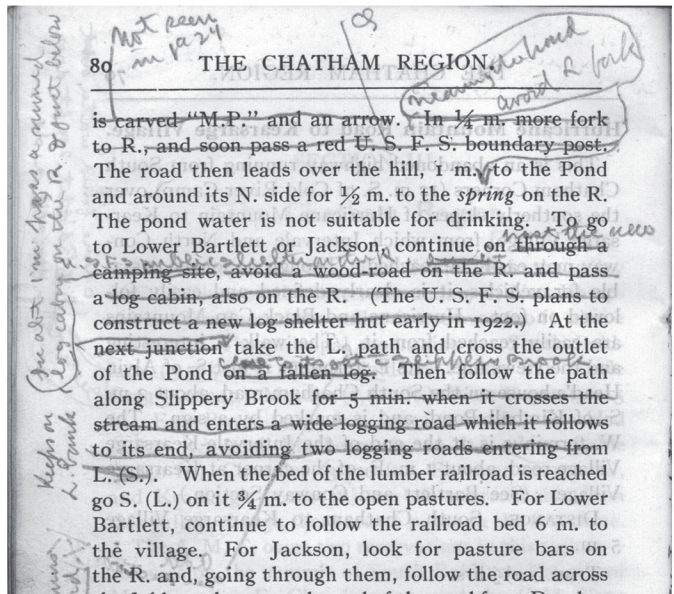
The *New Hampshire History Network* will also expand the Society's capacity to deliver its educational programming and open up new possibilities for teachers and schools. In addition to the database of historical collections, initial offerings will include a narrative timeline of events that shaped New Hampshire and its people, online exhibitions on selected topics, and resources for teachers and schools to facilitate the use of primary sources in the classroom.

In the words of one Society trustee, "For the younger generation, if you are not on the Internet, you do not exist." The *New Hampshire History Network* will ensure that the Society not only exists but thrives, as we continue to fulfill our mission of saving, preserving, and sharing New Hampshire's history for generations to come. The Society plans to launch the *New Hampshire History Network* in the fall of 2014.



Above: Education Programs Coordinator Katelynn Ellison (center) engages students in a lesson using primary resources at the Society. Left: Projects Archivist Sarah Galligan is assisting with the development of digital resources and helping to catalog the Society's manuscripts, maps, photographs, broadsides, ephemera, and rare books.

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



Ralph Larrabee (right) and two unidentified men photographed by Harold Orne (1890–1972), c. 1918, together with a page from the 1922 *AMC White Mountain Guide* annotated by Larrabee. In addition to hiking and serving on trail-building teams with other Appalachian Mountain Club members, Larrabee also edited the *AMC Guide*. A set of guidebooks from 1907 to 1934, containing Larrabee’s proposed corrections and additions to the text, are part of the Society’s Larrabee Collection.

## PRESERVING AND SHARING A PHOTOGRAPHIC LEGACY

Ralph C. Larrabee (1870–1935) was a physician in Boston with a passion for hiking in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. Early in life Larrabee showed an interest in nature, joining the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) at the age of 22. He remained active in the AMC for 43 years, serving as its president and chairman of the guidebook committee. An avid amateur photographer, Larrabee recorded his life and world in thousands of photographs. In 2006 Larrabee’s grandson and granddaughter-in-law, David and Katherine Larrabee, donated to the Society a large collection of photographs, cameras, hiking equipment, and AMC guidebooks owned by Ralph. A generous grant from the Larrabee family has enabled the Society to catalog more than 2,300 of the photographs and create digital images of 700 of Ralph Larrabee’s favorite prints. These records and images will be among the first published on the Society’s website in the fall of 2014 with the launching of the *New Hampshire History Network*, a digital gateway to historical collections and resources. (See story on page 7.)