



*View of Mount Washington from North Conway* by Benjamin Champney (1817–1907), 1851.

## **BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY DRAWINGS ACQUIRED AT AUCTION**

Through the efforts and support of P. Andrews McLane and Charles O. Vogel, together with 15 additional donors, the Society purchased 105 drawings by artist Benjamin Champney from Eldred’s Auctioneers in East Dennis, Massachusetts. Part of a collection found in Minnesota, most of the drawings focus on the Conway area from 1850 to 1863. Others depict Champney’s trips to Vermont and New York in 1853 and to Europe in 1865.

Following preliminary cataloging and imaging, the new collection is already available through the Society’s online catalog at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org), where scholars, collectors, and the public can examine the

drawings in detail. As a result, the Society’s Champney collection is now one of the best publicly accessible resources documenting this artist’s work in the White Mountains.

“We invite interested and knowledgeable scholars and collectors to examine the collection online and help further identify scenes, locations, and possible dates,” said Wes Balla, the Society’s director of collections and exhibitions. Soon, conservators will prepare condition reports and treatment proposals with estimated costs for the cleaning and conservation of the drawings.

(continued page 8)



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**HISTORICAL**  
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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**Newsletter**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The Society's capital campaign, led by trustees Bill Veillette and Kurt Swenson, now totals just over \$6 million in gifts and pledges. We are grateful to all those who have contributed. The campaign is underwriting key priorities: digitization of the Society's collections to make them more widely available; implementation of the online *New Hampshire History Network* to facilitate the sharing of collections by local historical societies around the state; additions to the endowment; installation of a new overview exhibition; and important climate control and energy efficiency renovations at our historic Park Street headquarters.

In support of the climate control and energy efficiency plans, we recently received the welcome news that we have been awarded both a \$350,000 Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities and a matching grant of \$200,000 by an anonymous foundation. With this total added to the previously announced LCHIP grant (the state's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) and private donations, we now have sufficient funding to move forward with the climate/energy project.

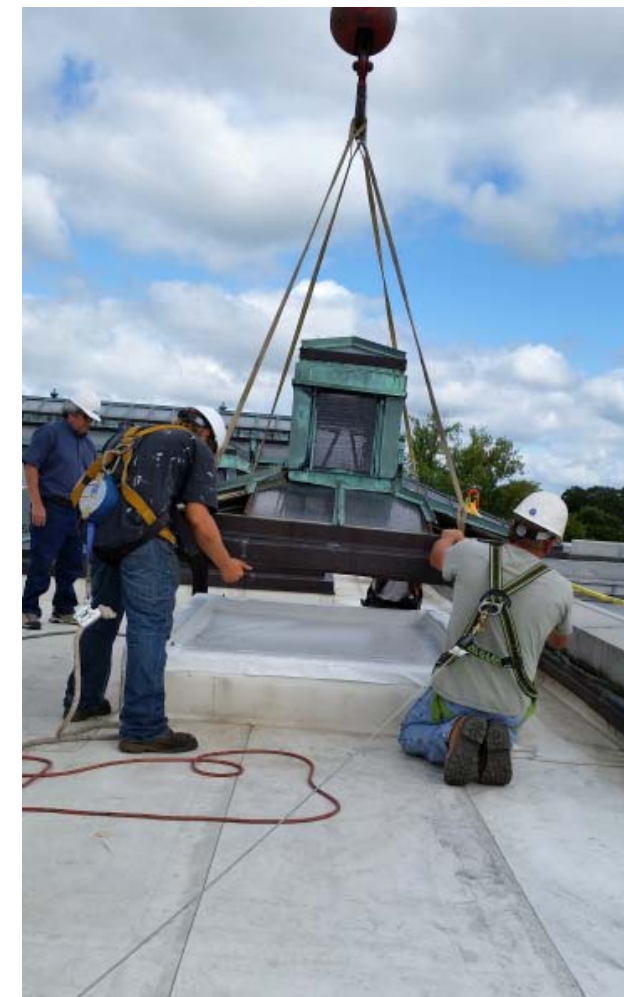
Because our Park Street building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making any changes to it is a far more complex undertaking than renovating an ordinary commercial or residential building. After considerable preliminary planning, we are now at the stage of engineering design and testing, after which construction will begin.



A key part of the plan involves the building's 11 skylights covering 40 percent of its roof area. Our objective is to retrofit the skylight system to eliminate the ultraviolet light that is damaging to the collections, better manage temperature levels (also to the benefit of the collections), and reduce heating and air conditioning expense. These benefits will be achieved by constructing barriers within the skylights that will be invisible from the exterior or interior of the building.

*All of this is complicated and time consuming, but necessary, with a building as precious as the Society's.*

To gather data about the barriers' environmental effects, a test barrier was constructed, where sensors could be placed to gather data over several months. For the test we selected the smallest skylight in the building. Even with a small skylight, this was a complex process, requiring a team of engineers, HVAC experts, construction and roofing crews, and a large crane. The good news is the test barrier has been installed, we are now collecting data, and—assuming good test results—full construction will commence in the coming year. All of this is complicated and time consuming, but necessary, with a building as precious as the Society's.



*Bill Dunlap*

Bill Dunlap, President

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## SOCIETY ACQUIRES FRANKLIN PIERCE INDIAN PEACE MEDAL

Society trustee Q. David Bowers has made a generous and significant addition to the collection after acquiring at auction a rare peace medal documenting diplomatic relationships with Native Americans during the presidency of Franklin Pierce (1804–69). Following the practice established by European powers during the colonial period, Pierce and other presidents and their agents gave medals to chiefs or leaders of Native American tribes as tokens of friendship with the U.S. government. According to family history, the original recipient of this medal was Sicola (Barefooted or Chief Barefoot) of the Sihasapa or Blackfoot band of the Lakota people.

The medal was previously part of the collection of Dr. Luther R. Zehner and Frances T. Zehner of Meadville, Pennsylvania. In 1949 the couple moved to the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. They learned to speak the Sioux language used by the Lakota people and recorded oral histories from those residing on the reservation, including survivors of Little Big Horn. They also collected the material culture of the Lakota people.

The Zehners purchased this medal in 1950 from Leo Cadotte, Sicola's great-grandnephew. According to Cadotte, the medal was received by Sicola on the occasion of the signing of the Fort Laramie treaty in 1851. The medal dates from 1853, however, during Pierce's administration. The treaty, signed by representatives of several Native groups and recognizing their sovereignty over much of the Great Plains, was designed to ensure that, in return, settlers could pass

safely along the Oregon Trail. Sicola apparently received the medal during the short period of peace that resulted.



Franklin Pierce Indian Peace Medal, silver; obverse (left) designed by Salathiel Ellis (1803–79); reverse (right) designed by Joseph Willson (1825–57), New York, New York, 1853, purchased with funds provided by Q. David Bowers.



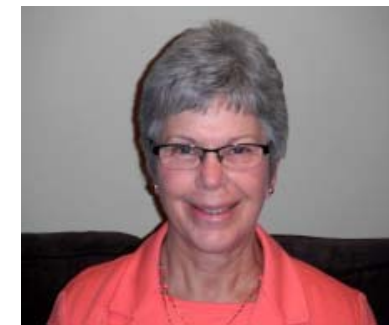
Peace medals given to Native American leaders by or on behalf of various U.S. Presidents appear in many 19th century portraits, as in this example in which "Naw-Kaw, a Winnebago Chief," wears three such medals of different sizes. Illustration from Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall, *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* . . . copyright 1848, vol. 1.

Cast in silver, the medal is 2.5 inches in diameter. A hole drilled at the top allowed the medal to be hung from the neck by a leather thong. On the front is a bust of Franklin Pierce. On the reverse, a farmer and a Plains Indian face each other against the backdrop of an American flag. In three interlocking ovals above the flag appear the words: "LABOR VIRTUE HONOR."

The medal joins the Society's already extensive and important collections of papers and objects related to the life and career of Franklin Pierce, many donated by family members.



## SOCIETY WELCOMES NEW TRUSTEE



Marilyn Goodwin Soper of Newbury is the newest member of the Society's board of trustees. Marilyn was born and raised in Manchester. She attended Wellesley College and holds a B.S. in early childhood education from Wheelock College and an

M.A. in American and New England Studies from the University of Southern Maine. While living in Maine, Marilyn participated in architectural and volunteer work at Castle Tucker in Wiscasset as the property transitioned from private ownership to Historic New England. In 2004 Marilyn and her husband moved to Keene where Marilyn served as executive director of Giving Monadnock, as well as a volunteer and trustee of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. In 2012 the Sopers relocated to the Lake Sunapee region where Marilyn keeps busy with volunteer service, with completing Goodwin family genealogical research, and with the preservation of materials spanning eight generations of the Goodwin family in New Hampshire.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Rob Bermudes, an employee of Xerox in Rochester, New York, and a graduate student in history at the nearby College of Brockport, is the Society's 2014 Volunteer of the Year. He is a life member of the Society and visits New Hampshire regularly to use our library and other resources but carries out much of his volunteer work from his home in New York.



When Rob first offered to help with *Historical New Hampshire*, he already had experience writing for, as well as helping edit, the *Daguerreian Annual*, a journal of early photographic history. At the Society we employ his talents and knowledge as both a proof-reader and copy editor. In addition to his work on the journal, last year Rob served a

month-long internship in Concord as part of his master's degree requirements. While working on site, Rob helped with the development of an online exhibition, and he continues to work on this project for the Society from New York.

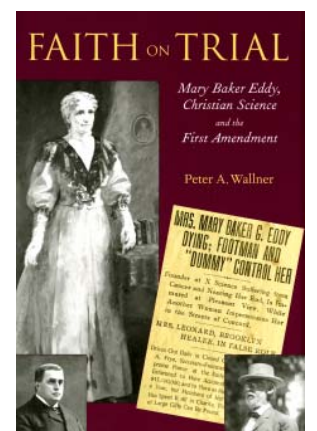
## NOTEWORTHY



When Peter Wallner retired in 2012 from his position as library director at the New Hampshire Historical Society, he embarked on a project to research and write a book about one of the most sensational legal trials of the

20th century. The idea came from his years of working at the Society, where much of the original source materials for the book are preserved. The 1907 trial took place in New Hampshire's Merrimack County Superior Court and involved one of the most famous women in America at the time—Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science. In the case of *Eddy v. Frye*, Mary Baker Eddy's sons attempted to take possession of her person and wealth, charging she was insane. The case became a heresy trial as Eddy's religious views and the doctrine of Christian Science became the basis of the plaintiff's charge. In his meticulously researched book, *Faith on Trial: Mary Baker Eddy, Christian Science and the First Amendment*, Wallner brings this courtroom drama alive and explores the case's implications for yellow journalism and the Progressive Era.

**Meet the Author;  
Buy the Book**



Wallner will present a talk about this notable trial and sign copies of his book at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, on Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at 4 p.m. The book is available for purchase at the Society and online at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org).



## BUILDING, CONSERVING, AND SHARING THE SOCIETY'S HALE COLLECTION



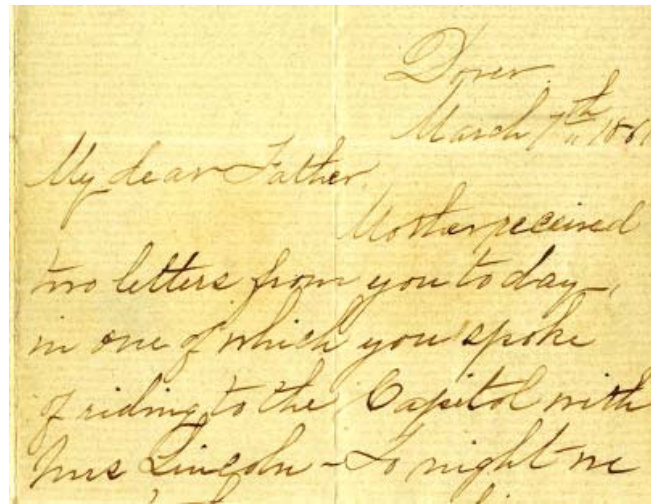
This c. 1860 oil portrait of Lucy Lambert Hale Chandler (1841–1915), acquired along with a collection of letters and documents related to the Hale and Chandler families, has recently received conservation treatment at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. The conservation was made possible by the Society's Katharine Prentis Murphy Fund, an endowment to support the acquisition and conservation of museum collections.

This past year the Society added more than 800 items to the papers of John Parker Hale and William E. Chandler. Both Hale and Chandler served as U.S. Senators from New Hampshire, the former holding the position during the Civil War.

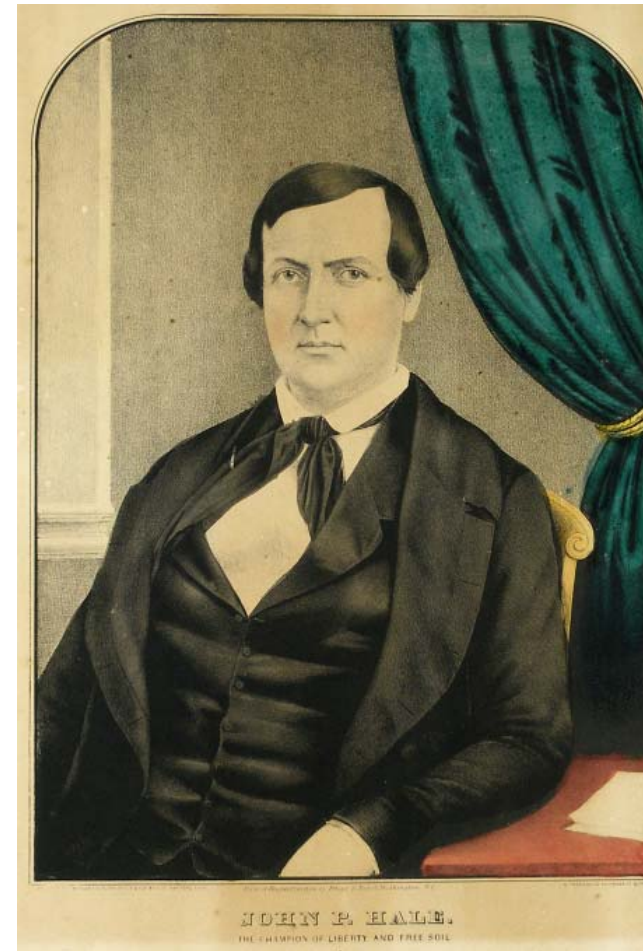
The original manuscript collection was a gift to the Society in 1926 from the Estate of William E. Chandler and contains items related to John P. Hale, William E. Chandler, Joseph Gilmore, and their families. The Society's recent acquisition, a purchase, centers on Lucy Lambert Hale Chandler, who was John Parker Hale's daughter and William E. Chandler's wife.

A number of letters in the new acquisition are to Lucy Hale from her suitors, including Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., John Hay, and Robert Todd Lincoln.

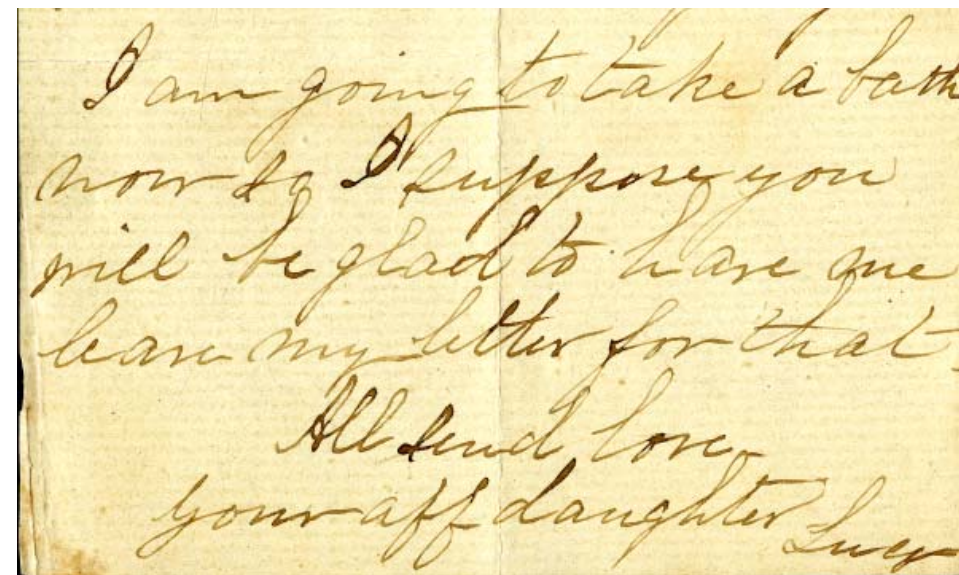
The acquisition also includes correspondence among members of the Hale family. Their letters describe society and events in Washington, D.C., as well as the daily lives of the Hale women: John P.'s wife, Lucy Lambert Hale, and their two daughters, Lizzie Hale and Lucy Lambert Hale Chandler. Additionally, the collection contains political and business correspondence of John P. Hale with Gilman Marston, Asa Fowler, Edward A. Rollins, Joseph A. Gilmore, Nathan Lord, and other prominent men of the time.



John Parker Hale was born in Rochester and educated at Phillips Exeter Academy and Bowdoin College. Admitted to the bar in 1830, Hale practiced law in Dover, building a reputation as a successful jury lawyer and public speaker. He became a member of the Democratic Party in New Hampshire, serving in the state legislature and U.S. House of Representatives. Hale first showed independence of thought in 1845 while serving in Congress when he denounced the annexation of Texas as immoral because it promoted the extension of slavery. He was elected to his first term in the U.S. Senate in 1846 when a combination of Whigs and Independent Democrats gained control of the New Hampshire Legislature. Hale became a national figure for his outspoken opposition to slavery. In 1852 he accepted the nomination of the Free-Soil Party for U.S. President, running against Franklin Pierce, polling 150,000 votes. Hale eventually became a Republican and went on to serve two more terms in the U.S. Senate before being appointed Minister to Spain by President Abraham Lincoln.



John P. Hale. / *The Champion of Liberty and Free Soil*, hand-colored lithograph by Kellogg & Comstock, after a daguerreotype by Paige & Beach, 1852, gift of Herschel B. Burt.



Thanks to Society volunteer Sandy Wheeler, who processed the recent acquisition, updated finding aids (collections guides) for both the Hale and Chandler collections are available on the Society's website at [nhhistory.org](http://nhhistory.org).

Another recent undertaking related to John Parker Hale is the conservation of a locket daguerreotype of a young Hale. The locket's glass was cracked to the point that the image could hardly be seen. The Society sent the item to the Northeast Document Conservation Center for treatment and digitization. As a result of conservation, the locket is now in better condition, and the daguerreotype of Hale is more clearly visible.

This locket is an example of how conservation and digitization help make the collections more accessible. With the future launch of the Society's new online catalog, many more images of collections, like the John Parker Hale daguerreotype and Lucy Hale's letter to her father, will be available via the internet.



The Society's collections related to John Parker Hale (1806–73) and William E. Chandler (1835–1915) include this daguerreotype of Hale, c. 1845, and hold a wealth of information about New Hampshire and United States history.

Excerpts from a letter by Lucy Hale to her father, John Parker Hale, March 7, 1861. Lucy wrote to her father in Washington, D.C., about her daily life in Dover, frequently apologizing for not writing more often.



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## BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY DRAWINGS PURCHASED AT AUCTION (continued from page 1)

Benjamin Champney became one of America's most famous artists depicting White Mountain landscapes during the second half of the 1800s. Born in New Ipswich, Champney began his training as a lithographer in Boston. After traveling in the White Mountains and Europe, Champney married Mary Caroline Brooks of Woburn, Massachusetts, in 1853. The couple bought a house in North Conway, and each summer, for 50 years, tourists and vacationers from the United States and Europe visited their White Mountain studio and home. Champney split his time between Boston and North Conway, further popularizing White Mountain landscapes by working with Louis Prang & Co. of Boston to manufacture and sell affordable chromolithographs of his paintings to American consumers. He was a founder of the Boston Art Club and exhibited regularly at the Boston Athenaeum.



This view of Lake Dunmore in Vermont is one of a group of 105 drawings by Benjamin Champney recently purchased by the Society thanks to the efforts and support of P. Andrews McLane and Charles O. Vogel, together with 15 additional donors. The date "August 10th 1853" is inscribed on the bottom edge of the painting, together with the name of the lake. Champney and his wife, Carrie, visited Lake Dunmore that summer during their honeymoon.

### Funds for the purchase of the Benjamin Champney drawings were provided by:

P. Andrews & Linda McLane ♦ G. Warren & Leslie Schomaker ♦ Michael Mooney ♦ Josh Eldred  
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