



U.S.S. Constitution at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, oil on canvas, by Walter B. Styles (1862–1948), c. 1890. This great symbol of American naval history came to Portsmouth in 1857, where it was rebuilt as a U.S. Navy training ship. It returned to Portsmouth in 1882 where, with the deck housed over, it served as a receiving (barracks) ship and later as a museum. The ship returned to Boston in 1897.

NEW ACQUISITIONS ENHANCE SEACOAST COLLECTIONS

On August 17, 2014, the Sawtelle Collection of paintings and artifacts relating to the maritime history of Portsmouth and the surrounding Piscataqua River region sold at auction for more than \$925,000, with four New Hampshire museums among the purchasers. The 181 lots sold by Northeast Auctions were from the collection of Jean E. and Joseph G. Sawtelle, a local property developer and his wife, who began collecting maritime paintings in the 1960s. The

Sawtelles carried their passion for Portsmouth across the country and around the world. Wherever they went, they searched for signs of home, purchasing paintings and artifacts connected to Portsmouth, with an eye toward ultimately creating a maritime museum there. After Joe Sawtelle's death in 2000, a two-part exhibition at the Discover Portsmouth Center and the Portsmouth Athenaeum featured highlights from the collection, and Richard M. Candee edited *Maritime*

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NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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Newsletter

Volume 51, No. 4
Winter 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



One of the puzzles of our state's history is the lack of public awareness about the life and accomplishments of John Gilbert Winant (1889–1947). Along with Daniel Webster and President Franklin Pierce, Winant is one of the most consequential and interesting figures to rise from New Hampshire to the national and international stage. It probably is a reflection of his era that the manner of his death—by suicide—discomfited his contemporaries. This lessened the impact of his passing and delayed recognition of his legacy. Despite his tragic and untimely death, however, his life was a remarkable one.

In recent years there has been a renewal of interest in Winant's life and achievements. *Citizens of London*, the best-selling 2010 book by Lynne Olson, highlighted Winant's extraordinary service both to his own nation and to the English people as U.S. ambassador to Great Britain from 1941 to 1946. Winant's opening comment upon landing on war-racked British soil endeared him instantly to the English people: "I'm very glad to be here. . . . There is no place I'd rather be at this time than in England."

"Doing the day's work day by day, doing a little, adding a little . . . wanting not only for ourselves but for others also, a fairer chance for all people everywhere."

That Winant had risen to such prominence was astonishing, given early indications. Although born into privilege, he was an indifferent student at St. Paul's School and at Princeton, where he failed to graduate. He was a haltingly poor public speaker. When he ran for public office, first as a state senator and then as governor, he was not taken seriously by the dominant Republican Party establishment. Yet he won.

Winant aligned himself with the Progressive movement of the time, advocating a 48-hour workweek for women and children, a minimum wage, and the abolition of capital punishment. As governor (the youngest in the nation) Winant came in contact with then-New-York-governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt and, despite being from the opposing party, found common cause with him as a fellow Progressive. As president, FDR appointed Winant as the first head of the new Social Security Administration in 1935. Winant is credited with shepherding what was a highly controversial program through its early development.

In 1936 Winant actively campaigned for FDR—and for Social Security, which he believed in wholeheartedly. This caused him to be vilified by his fellow Republicans, who viewed him as an apostate and effectively ended any future for him in Republican politics. Yet it was precisely his willingness to put principle over party and self-interest—rare in politicians of any era—that earned him the admiration of many.

In 1939 Winant became the director of the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, where he continued to work, now at a global level, for social and labor reform. As Europe descended into chaos, Winant went to extraordinary lengths on behalf of his Jewish staff members at the ILO to get them to safety away from the Nazis. Then in 1941 came his appointment as U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James and his storied run there, during which he came to symbolize the close wartime relationship between the United States and Great Britain.

At the war's end Winant was completely exhausted. Back in Concord, beset by personal debt, a failing marriage, health issues, the death of his mentor Roosevelt, and marginalization by FDR's successor Harry Truman, Winant succumbed to depression and took his own life on November 3, 1947. The epitaph carved on his headstone is drawn from one of his speeches. It reads in part:

Doing the day's work day by day, doing a little, adding a little . . . wanting not only for ourselves but for others also, a fairer chance for all people everywhere.

The Society's spring history course, a five-part lecture series, is devoted this year to the life of John Winant and is offered in recognition of Concord's 250th anniversary. Details about the course, open to the public in addition to Society members, can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and online at nhhistory.org. Society members will receive an additional mailing about the course containing registration information.



John Gilbert Winant (1889–1947) by Samuel Johnson Woolf (1880–1948), charcoal and chalk on paper, published in *Newsweek Magazine*, October 10, 1936. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thorne.

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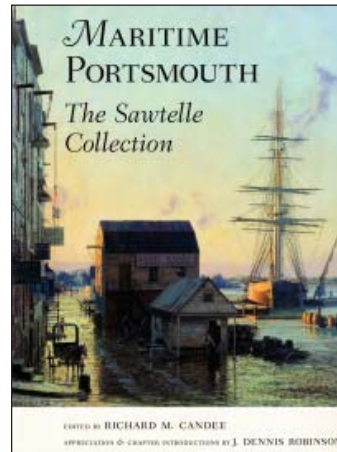
Philip M. Zea
Norwich, Vt.

SEACOAST COLLECTIONS (continued from page 1)

Portsmouth: The Sawtelle Collection, published by the Portsmouth Marine Society in 2011 to document the exhibition. Plans for the museum foundered, however, and the trustee for the Sawtelle estate ordered the collection sold.

Recognizing that New Hampshire historical societies, museums, and libraries have limited funds, the New Hampshire Historical Society worked with seacoast-area historical societies and libraries to preserve public access to as much as possible of this well-documented collection. As a result of this coordinated effort, the Society acquired three paintings and three prints, selected for their history, uniqueness, condition, and aesthetic qualities as well as their value to historical interpretation of Portsmouth and the Seacoast area. Purchase of the three paintings was made possible by the Society's Katharine Prentis Murphy

Fund, an endowment to support the acquisition and conservation of museum collections. A late-19th-century chromolithograph and two prints advertising the Wentworth Hotel in New Castle were purchased with funds generously provided by Society trustee Q. David Bowers of Wolfeboro. Other organizations that succeeded in acquiring pieces of local history for their collections included the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth Historical Society, and Strawberry Banke Museum.



Oceanic Hotel, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, with a View of Gosport Village, watercolor en grisaille on paper by an unidentified artist, 1874. Tourists promenade before the hotel, while others venture onto the rocks. Rowboats and sailboats are lined up just offshore, and a steamship brings passengers from the mainland. An engraving, produced by John A. Lowell and derived from this scene, appears on the hotel's stationery and menus.

NEW MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

The Society is now offering two new categories of membership: an Individual Sustaining Membership at \$10 per month and a Couple Sustaining Membership at \$15 per month. Payment may be made either through automatic transfer from your checking account or through monthly contributions by credit card.

Even if you are already a Society member, please consider renewing at the sustaining level. Regular monthly contributions help sustain the Society's programs and activities throughout the year.

With your monthly gift you'll receive all the usual benefits of membership, and you'll enjoy the ease of automatic giving in support of the Society through your credit card or bank. Sustaining members receive additional benefits through the North American Reciprocal Museum Association (NARM) program. A sticker on your Society membership card entitles you to free admission to more than 700 museums in North America. (See narmassociation.org for details.)

To become a sustaining member, complete the online enrollment form found in the "Join & Support" section of the Society's website (nhhistory.org), or contact the membership office at 603-856-0621 or membership@nhhistory.org.

HISTORICAL NEW HAMPSHIRE ACCESSIBLE ELECTRONICALLY

As a result of a partnership with EBSCO, a leading producer and distributor of research databases for libraries and educational institutions worldwide, the entire run of the Society's journal, *Historical New Hampshire*, from the first issue in 1944 to the present, is now available electronically through the database *America: History and Life™ with Full Text*.

America: History and Life™ with Full Text is a key bibliographic reference tool for students and researchers of U.S. and Canadian history. It is accessible in most academic and many large public libraries and is available at the Society's library as well. The Society also is working to make digitized copies of *Historical New Hampshire* available through our own website as a benefit of membership.

HISTORY COURSE BEGINS APRIL 23

The Society's annual spring history course will focus on John Gilbert Winant of Concord, a state, national, and international leader during the 1930s and 1940s. Educated at St. Paul's School, Winant became governor of New Hampshire during the Great Depression, a close ally of Franklin D. Roosevelt, first leader of the Social Security Administration, head of the International Labor Organization in Geneva, and ambassador to England during the height of the London Blitz. Winant's career was characterized not only by his accomplishment and versatility but also by his extraordinary human qualities.

*John Gilbert Winant
Citizen of Concord, Citizen of the World*

*April 23—May 21, 2015
Thursday evenings at 5 p.m.
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street, Concord*

Thursday, April 23—*Gil Winant: Patrician Pelican* presented by Berkley Latimer, Emeritus Faculty, St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire.

Thursday, April 30—*New Hampshire's Most Charismatic Governor* presented by R. Stuart Wallace, Professor of History, NHTI, Concord's Community College.

Thursday, May 7—*Progressive Pioneer of Social Justice* presented by Robert Macieski, Associate Professor of History, University of New Hampshire.

Thursday, May 14—*The Yanks are Coming: John Winant, World War II Ambassador to the Court of St. James* presented by Richard Hesse, Professor Emeritus, University of New Hampshire School of Law.

Thursday, May 21—*A Life of Consequence: Winant's Impact on the Nation and World*, a panel discussion with all course presenters.

The registration fee for the five-part history course is \$60 for Society members and \$75 for nonmembers. (Society members will receive a special mailing about the course.) To register by telephone with a credit card, call Education Services Coordinator Stephanie Fortin at 603-856-0604.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART TRANSFERS PAINTING TO SOCIETY

When those responsible for a museum's collection realize that an item could be more fully appreciated in another museum's collection, they sometimes offer to give the item to the more appropriate museum. The Society was recently the recipient of such a gift, a landscape painting picturing the Pillsbury homestead in Warner with Mount Kearsarge in the background, donated by the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.

Painted in 1884 by Harriet Newell Andrews, a native of the adjoining town of Bradford, the landscape was probably commissioned from the artist by Charles A. Pillsbury (1842–99) of Minneapolis, Minnesota, founder of the world-famous flour-milling business. He was born and educated in Warner, and the scene is of the house and farm of his father and mother, George Arthur and Margaret (Carleton) Pillsbury. The painting came to the Bowdoin museum along with a major bequest, primarily of prints, from George Pillsbury's great-great-grandson, David Pillsbury Becker, a noted print curator.

The family lived in Warner from 1840 to 1851, with the exception of a year in Boston. While in Warner, George Pillsbury, a native of Sutton, operated a general store and served as postmaster, selectman, and

representative in the state legislature. In 1851 he and his family moved to Concord, where he served for more than 20 years as purchasing agent for the Concord Railroad Corporation. In 1878 he moved to Minneapolis, where he became a partner in his son's flour business, C. A. Pillsbury and Company. George Pillsbury later built and endowed the Pillsbury Free Library of Warner and the Margaret Pillsbury Hospital of Concord, named for his wife.

Since both generations of the Pillsbury family were living in Minnesota by the time the painting was created, it no doubt served as a memento of their years in New Hampshire. The artist Harriet Newell Andrews attended schools in Bradford and later Miss Gregg's Academy in Chicago and Mount Holyoke College. From 1886 to 1888 and again in 1892 Andrews traveled in Europe and studied at the Academie Julian in Paris. Returning to America she established a studio in Boston specializing in portrait painting.

The Pillsbury Homestead, oil on canvas, by Harriet Newell Andrews (1847–1937), 1884, David P. Becker Bequest, gift of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art.



COUNT RUMFORD ARTIFACTS RETURN TO MUNICH FOR EXHIBITION

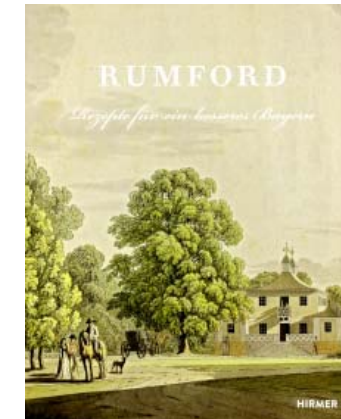
Two portraits and a trunk from the Society's collection, all associated with Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford (1753–1814), a one-time Concord resident, are on loan to the Münchner Stadtmuseum in Munich, Germany, for the exhibition *Rumford: Recipes for a Better Bavaria*. On view from October 31, 2014, through April 19, 2015, the exhibition pays tribute to the life and achievements of Count Rumford on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of his death in 2014.

Between 1788 and 1796, Thompson lived in Munich and there developed a program of reforms beginning with the needs of soldiers but leading to numerous innovations to improve the lives of the Bavarian people. This resulted in his being granted in 1791 the title of a count of the Holy Roman Empire. Count Rumford was a social reformer, crisis manager, statesman, physicist, inventor, town planner, and nutritionist as well as a prolific designer. Also founder of Munich's "English Gardens," he was the embodiment of Enlightenment philosophy, driven by the practical conviction that through science and experimentation he could make the world a better place. The exhibition focuses on three areas of reform: poverty and unemployment, the army and civil society, and the use, design, and sharing of urban spaces.

Among the items loaned to the Munich museum for this major exhibition were portraits of Rumford's European mistresses, the Countess of Baumgarten and the Countess of Nogarola, both attributed to the Bavarian court artist Moritz Kellerhoven, and a trunk used by Count Rumford in his travels. These items descended to the Society in various branches of the family of Thompson's wife, Sarah Walker Rolfe of Concord and, of their daughter, Sarah Thompson, known

as Countess Rumford. The portraits and trunk are also pictured in a publication accompanying the exhibition. *Rumford: Rezepte für ein besseres Bayern*, a copy of

which is available in the Society's library, is sure to become the definitive work on this subject.



Maria Josepha Barbara Johanna Nepomucena Gabriele von Lerchenfeld-Siessbach-Prennberg, Countess of Baumgarten (1762–1816), oil on canvas, attributed to Moritz Kellerhoven (1758–1830), c. 1790, bequest of the Reverend Sheafe Walker.



Magdalena von Lerchenfeld-Siessbach-Prennberg, Countess of Nogarola (1770–1810), oil on canvas, attributed to Moritz Kellerhoven (1758–1830), c. 1790, bequest of the Reverend Sheafe Walker.

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While on a recent class trip to the Society's Park Street headquarters, a group of students from Southwick Elementary School in Northfield participate in a lesson about the building's architecture. As part of the lesson, students piece together puzzles illustrating the architectural features that surround them.