

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

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PHOTOGRAPH AVAILABLE

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NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO LEAVE POST

CONCORD, NH— Bill Veillette, executive director of the New Hampshire Historical Society since 2004, will leave his position on September 1 to head the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover, Mass. The Society's board of trustees has begun the process to search for his successor.

"The Society is infinitely stronger today than it was when Bill took the helm almost five years ago," said John Robinson, president of the Society. "His successful tenure will long be remembered as one of solid leadership, practical vision, fiscal responsibility, and significant accomplishment."

Under Veillette's leadership, the Society adopted a new business plan focused on improving stewardship of its vast collection of artifacts and archives; expanding access to its collections and research resources through digitization and the internet; and increasing support services to the state's 206 local historical societies. Veillette will continue his involvement in the New Hampshire Historical Society as a lifetime member and as a volunteer to assist with several important initiatives of the business plan currently underway.

"I have been honored to lead one of New Hampshire's oldest and most cherished institutions," said Veillette. "The New Hampshire Historical Society is quite simply a public treasure. It has been a privilege to work with the Society's trustees, staff, and volunteers, and to get to know the hundreds of people who love New Hampshire history and support the Society's work to save, preserve, and share it."

After earning an MBA at Harvard Business School, Veillette worked in the business world for more than ten years before moving to New Hampshire in 1998 with his wife Tracy and three children. Since then, he

has immersed himself in the preservation of New Hampshire's historic buildings and the promotion of its history.

In 1999, Veillette purchased the Colonel Robert Means House, a circa 1785 house on the village green in Amherst, and rehabilitated the New Hampshire landmark in an historically accurate manner. The house was built by Colonel Means, the grandfather of Jane Means Appleton, wife of the only U.S. President from New Hampshire, Franklin Pierce. It also is where the Pierces married in 1834.

Veillette is an active volunteer for local, state, and regional historical organizations. He co-founded the Heritage Commission of Amherst, New Hampshire, and served as treasurer and chairman of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. He is a trustee of Historic New England; a board member of New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program authority; and treasurer of the Historical Society of Amherst, New Hampshire. Veillette has co-authored two publications, *An Early History of New Concord, N.Y.* (1990) and *Amherst Historical Moments* (2004).

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, library, educational programs, publications, and outreach programs. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information on the Society and the benefits of membership, visit nhhistory.org or call 603/228-6688.

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