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USING THE PAST TO EDUCATE THE FUTURE

 **Moose on the Loose**
Social Studies for Granite State Kids
NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Learn more at
moose.nhhistory.org

MASON THE MOOSE IS GETTING LOTS OF ATTENTION LATELY!

The Society's online curriculum, "Moose on the Loose: Social Studies for Granite State Kids," has received a Leadership in History Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH).

"By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Award winners serve as models and inspirations for others in the field," stated the AASLH when announcing the awards.

The AASLH Leadership in History Award is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The Society is the only recipient of the award from New Hampshire this year.

In September, the Society's Director of Education Elizabeth Dubrulle will be attending the AASLH's annual conference in Mobile, Alabama, to receive the award on the Society's behalf.

This honor comes amidst a busy season for the "Moose" team, which offered seven professional development workshops for teachers over the summer with financial support from New Hampshire Humanities and the New Hampshire Bar Foundation.

The Society is also embarking on a partnership with the Manchester school district, the largest and most diverse district in the state, to embed the "Moose" in K-4 English language arts instruction in a manner that will serve as a model for the rest of the state.

(continued on page 4)

NEW HAMPSHIRE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY FOUNDED 1823

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nhhistory.org

Newsletter

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President

William H. Dunlap

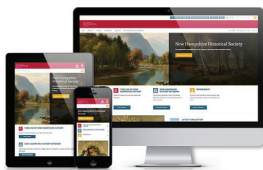
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Tale of Two Commissions

The New Hampshire Historical Society's mission is to foster the preservation and study of history. Some people think that our gaze therefore is fixed exclusively on the rear-view mirror, that our focus on history means current events hold little interest for us. They are mistaken: the study of history very much relates to the present; history helps us better understand who we are as individuals and as a society at large. An understanding of history

informs our decision-making in the here and now.

Evidence of the Society's engagement with the present is our participation in two New Hampshire state commissions that each are working on matters of current interest. One is the Commission on New Hampshire Civics, and the other is the Christa McAuliffe Memorial State House Commission. Both bodies are doing interesting work.

The legislation that established the Christa McAuliffe Commission stipulated that the Society have a seat on the commission, and I have taken that role. The commission, which began its work in the spring of 2023, was charged with having a sculpture of Christa created and placed on the State House grounds by the fall of 2024. At the outset I had very little understanding of what creating a public sculpture involves. As it turns out, it is a fairly complicated process, from interviewing and vetting sculptors, and ultimately selecting one, to fabrication, siting, and installation. A myriad of details must be considered beyond the artist's aesthetic vision for the sculpture itself: what material should the work be rendered in? What's the color and patina? Where can it be sited on the State House grounds (buried utility lines is just one complicating factor), and how will it relate to the other statues already in place? How large should it be?

It was gratifying to see the high level of interest among sculptors from all over the United States in this project. It was apparent that Christa continues, even today, to hold a revered place in the public imagination. In interviews it was striking to hear the artists talk about how she inspired them as youngsters, many having been school kids when she emerged on the public stage. The artist who won the competition for the job is Benjamin Victor, whose home base is in Idaho. His body of work is impressive. He is the youngest sculptor to have his work placed in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol, and he is the only living artist to have three sculptures in Statuary Hall.

It was impressive, too, to see Benjamin's preparation process. After his selection he visited New Hampshire to further research Christa and connect on a more personal level with her life and impact. He also paid a visit to the New Hampshire Historical Society. He loved our building and paid special attention to the iconic frontispiece sculpture by Daniel

Chester French. French is one of Benjamin's heroes, and he was thrilled to see this sculpture first hand. I am quite sure we made the right choice of sculptor, and I can't wait to see his creation when it is placed on the State House grounds.

The Society also has a seat, mandated by the enabling legislation, on the Commission on New Hampshire Civics. This commission has been tasked with developing educational materials to teach the state constitution in New Hampshire schools. Elizabeth Dubrulle, the Society's director of education, is serving as our representative on the commission, whose membership includes members of the legislature, educators, representatives from the legal community including New Hampshire's Chief Justice Gordon MacDonald, and New Hampshire education Commissioner Frank Edelblut. It is chaired by Ovide Lamontagne.

I have attended two of the commission's hearings and was gratified to witness firsthand the members' respect for what the Society has accomplished in regard to social studies education. We are viewed as the go-to authority on history and civics education in the state. Our curriculum, "Moose on the Loose," is well known and highly respected.

The State of New Hampshire has contracted with Discovery Education to produce K-12 resources focused on civics, and Discovery Education has consulted the New Hampshire Historical Society as subject matter experts. In addition, some "Moose on the Loose" materials will be incorporated into the resources Discovery Education is producing.

Soon the jobs of both commissions will be fulfilled, with a beautiful statue of Christa McAuliffe to grace the State House grounds and a new civics curriculum to be available to all New Hampshire students. The Society is proud to be playing an active role in both efforts.



Christa McAuliffe, a social studies teacher at Concord High School, with students, September 4, 1985. Christa was selected to become the first "teacher in space" through a nationwide competition that drew 11,000 applicants. Photograph by Gene Willman, United Press International. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Gary Samson.

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MASON THE MOOSE (cont. from page 1)

Educators are increasingly recognizing how important cultural literacy is in improving students' overall reading proficiency. Readers use contextual clues to help them decipher unknown words or navigate difficult passages. And these contextual clues derive almost entirely from a greater understanding of a broad range of topics—in short, of the world around us, past and present.

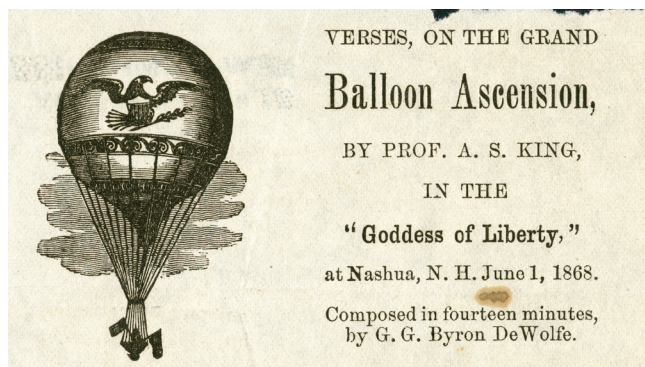
After Society staff offered a “Moose” training session at one of Manchester’s in-district service days last fall, Manchester’s elementary curriculum coordinator, Lisa DeLacey, recognized the potential of the “Moose” to introduce students to this kind of contextual knowledge about their state. DeLacey—along with several teachers who attended the training session—saw how well the “Moose” dovetailed with the district’s new literacy program, “Amplify,” which teaches the mechanics of reading and then has students practice those mechanics by working with social studies content. The Society’s partnership with the district during the 2024–25 school year will align the district’s literacy instruction with the “Moose” to develop students’ reading and writing skills, while providing Manchester teachers with intensive training in the “Moose” and state history. This work is being underwritten by a grant from the Norwin S. & Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation.



Headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, the American Association for State and Local History is a national membership organization dedicated to helping the history community thrive. The AASLH provides leadership and resources to its over 5,500 members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all people.

FALL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

In-person programs will be held at the New Hampshire Historical Society, 30 Park Street, Concord, unless otherwise noted. For the most up-to-date information on programs and events, visit nhhistory.org and sign up to receive the Society’s e-newsletter.



Detail from a broadside featuring the poem “On the Grand Balloon Ascension,” 1868. New Hampshire Historical Society.

Lecture: “Lighter-Than-Air”: Early Ballooning in New England

Saturday, October 5, 2024, 2 p.m.

Long before the Wright Brothers, pioneer balloonists took to New Hampshire’s skies. Some intended to pursue military reconnaissance and scientific inquiry, while others were daredevil stuntmen looking to attract a crowd. Leah Dearborn, assistant director of the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire, gathers these tales together to show the diverse panorama of colorful personalities who shared the skies over 19th-century New England. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Lecture: Hiking the New Hampshire 48

Saturday, October 12, 2024, 2 p.m.

Not all miles are created equal, especially among the nearly 800,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest. Experience the visual beauty of New Hampshire’s 48 highest peaks while embracing the brutality it takes to get up and down them. This four-season presentation will take you to the summit of each peak and details the author’s four-year journey to complete the NH48. From gear to weather to hiking partners, discover the joys and education of a Granite State hiker with award-winning writer, editor, and columnist Keith Gentili, author of *White Mountains State*. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

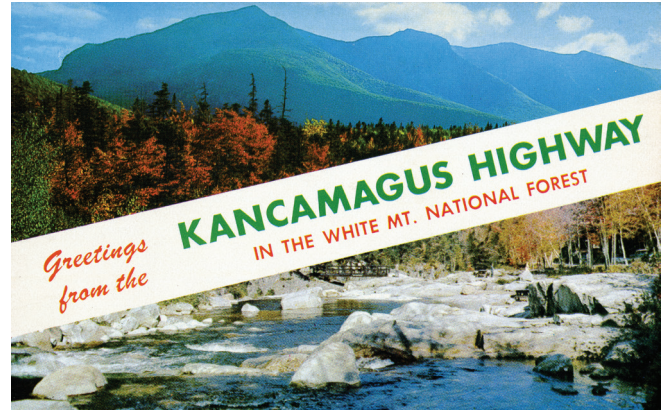
Virtual Lecture: The History of the Kancamagus Highway

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 7 p.m.

Considered to be one of the most scenic roads in America, the Kancamagus Highway draws thousands of tourists to New Hampshire annually. The complete highway, running between Conway and Lincoln, opened officially in 1967, but it had taken more than 120 years to develop and build. Located in the Swift River Valley for much of its length, the Kancamagus is the gateway to the southern White Mountains. It is renowned for its fall foliage views and for such celebrated natural sites as Sabbaday Falls, Lower Falls, and Rocky Gorge. Join historian and author Glenn Knoblock as he details the development of this Granite State treasure and gives a glimpse into what the “Kanc” has to offer visitors year-round. Admission is free for Society members; \$5 for nonmembers. Advance registration is required. To register, visit the programs & events calendar at nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.



Mountain climbing scene drawn by Alice Cosgrove (1909–71), around 1957, the year a committee of the Appalachian Mountain Club first proposed the creation of the Four Thousand Footer Club. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Mary Louise Hancock.



Postcard promoting “New Hampshire’s newest and most scenic mountain highway.” New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Michael Ehrmann.

New Hampshire Furniture Masters Exhibition, Friday, October 18, and Saturday, October 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Since the founding of the New Hampshire Furniture Masters in 1993, the organization has promoted a greater appreciation for the state’s long tradition of fine furniture making, one that continues to this day. The New Hampshire Historical Society was a founding partner of the Furniture Masters and is pleased to host a two-day exhibition celebrating the group’s 30 years of craftsmanship. Admission to the exhibition is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. For more information, including how to purchase tickets to the Furniture Masters reception and silent auction on Saturday evening, visit furnituremasters.org.

Virtual Workshop: Who’s Taking Care of Your Local History?

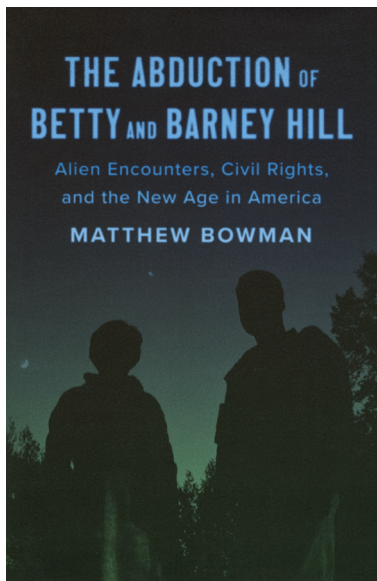
Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

New Hampshire’s towns have always played a defining role in shaping the state’s character, and it is in our local communities that New Hampshire’s history has largely been written and lived. Yet these stories of our towns and their people are often in danger of being lost. Join Maggie Stier of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance to learn about how different groups at the local level—like local historical societies and heritage and historic district commissions—work to save and preserve that history. This workshop is for anyone who wants to find out more about where they live—genealogists, local historical society members, homeowners, realtors, and newcomers to the state. The program is free, but advance registration is required. To register, visit the programs & events calendar at nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

Lecture and Book Signing: Three Ways of Thinking about the UFO: Betty Hill, Barney Hill, and UFO Culture in America

Saturday, October 26, 2024, 4 p.m.

The abduction tale of Betty and Barney Hill is one of the most significant elements of UFO culture in the United States. After an encounter with a strange light that followed their car down Route 3 through Franconia Notch in September 1961, the Hills began to experience nightmares and anxiety—symptoms that were relieved through hypnosis. Although they were cautioned that any “memories” that emerged were likely manifestations of emotional truth alone, the Hills were convinced they had been taken aboard an alien craft by extraterrestrials, examined, and then released. For years afterward, they struggled to understand what had happened to them, and their quest for answers illustrates in microcosm broad trends in mid-century American culture: a decay of trust in authority, the emerging prominence of the New Age movement, and the political turbulence of the 1960s and 1970s. The modern UFO movement in the United States was born out of these changes, and this presentation by Matthew Bowman, professor of religion and history at Claremont Graduate University, will demonstrate that the Hills’ experience, whether or not real, was central to this movement. Bowman’s most recent book, which delves into this topic, will be available for sale at the event and through the Society’s online store at nhhistory.org. This program, which is free, is being offered both in-person and virtually. No registration is required to attend in person; advance registration is required for virtual attendees. To register for the virtual program, visit the programs & events calendar at nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.



Lecture: The N.H. Primary: A Light-hearted Look at the Long Shots

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 2 p.m.

What do Billy Joe Clegg, Vermin Supreme, “The Hemp Lady,” Joe Biden, and Donald Trump have in common? They and hundreds of others have been candidates in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. One candidate proposed unclogging traffic jams by hoisting disabled cars off the road with helicopters. Another proclaimed: “Don’t vote for me.” Yet another campaigned from prison. Join retired news reporter David Tirrell-Wysocki for a light-hearted, nonpartisan look at New Hampshire’s presidential contest. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Lecture: Traveling with Count Rumford

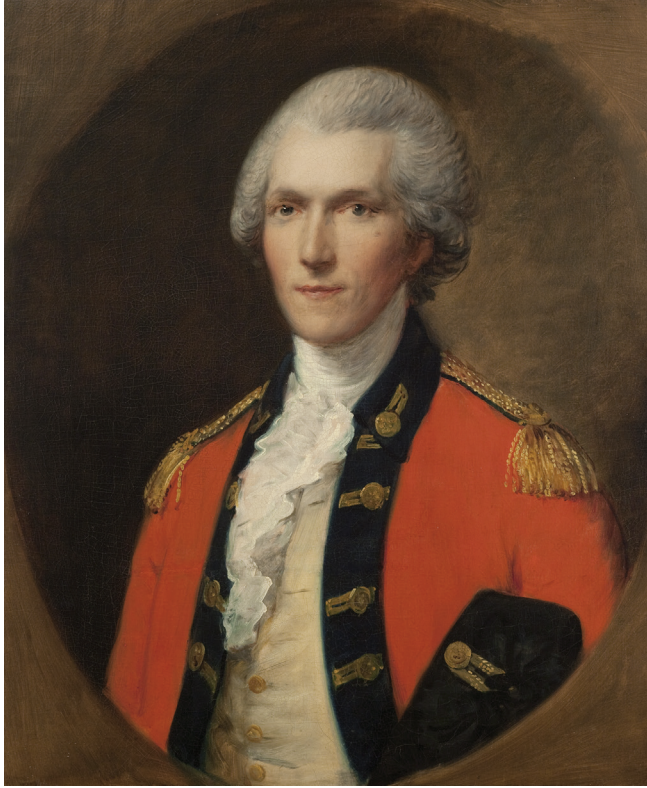
Saturday, November 9, 2024, 2 p.m.

A spy, a lover, a scientist, an inventor, and a diplomat, Benjamin Thompson, the American-born Count Rumford of Concord, lived a complex and controversial life. Rumford’s time in New Hampshire was brief but meaningful, as when he was ennobled by the Holy Roman Emperor in 1792, he chose to be named Rumford after one of the early names for Concord. Join Glen Rodgers, emeritus professor at Allegheny College and author of *Traveling with the Atom: A Scientific Guide to Europe and Beyond*, as he recounts Rumford’s scientific, economic, diplomatic, and military accomplishments while following in his footsteps across the United States and Europe. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Virtual Workshop: Creating Dynamic Cemetery Tours

Wednesday, November 13, 2024, 7 to 9 p.m.

Few places evoke local history the way cemeteries do, and more and more people have taken to exploring them, hoping to discover the stories they contain. Learn about the many ways that local organizations can put together compelling, crowd-pleasing cemetery tours. Some tours will be spooky, some theatrical, some strictly historical, and some high-tech—find the type of tour that is right for your group and discover how to pull it together for an outstanding community event. The cost of this workshop is \$15 for Society members; \$25 for nonmembers. Advance registration is required. To register, visit the programs & events calendar at nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.



Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford (1753–1814), painted by Thomas Gainsborough (1727–88), 1783. New Hampshire Historical Society, bequest of Sheafe Walker. A lecture at the Society on November 9, 2024, will explore the many aspects of Thompson's extraordinary life.

Lecture: New England's Colonial Meetinghouses and Their Impact on American Society
Saturday, November 16, 2024, 2 p.m.

New England's colonial meetinghouses embody an important yet little-known chapter in American history. Built mostly with tax money, they served as both places of worship and places for town meetings, and were the centers of life in colonial New England communities. Using photographs of the few surviving "mint-condition" meetinghouses as illustrations, Paul Wainwright tells the story of the society that built and used them, and the lasting impact they have had on American culture. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Mexican War hat of Brigadier General Franklin Pierce (1804–69), circa 1847. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of Virginia M. Fenn. Join the Society on November 23, 2024, to explore what motivated Pierce to serve in the Mexican War and learn about his wartime experience.

Lecture: New England's General: Franklin Pierce and the War with Mexico

Saturday, November 23, 2024, 2 p.m.

Franklin Pierce was one of the most prominent men to volunteer for military service during the Mexican War of 1846–48. But what compelled this middle-aged northern politician to leave his home and family for the field of battle 2,000 miles away? And how well did this future commander-in-chief perform at the head of his regiment? Join doctoral candidate James Irving from the University of New Hampshire as he considers these questions and, in the process, uncovers the wide and tangled network of individuals—from President James K. Polk to local friends, foreign foes, and even horses, mules, and mosquitos—who helped determine the course of Pierce's wartime experience. Admission is free for Society members; \$7 for nonmembers. No registration required.

Family Program: Giant Steps Across New Hampshire

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 2 to 4 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to travel from Peterborough to Pittsburg, from Portsmouth to Plymouth, all in one afternoon? Drop in to the Society for games and activities using the Giant Map of New Hampshire. Kids will play with this room-sized map to explore the regions, resources, and history of the state we all love. No shoes allowed on the map, so participants should be sure to wear socks! This program is geared for kids ages 7 to 11, but all ages are welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult. No registration required. Admission is free thanks to a generous contribution from Concord Pediatric Dentistry.



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State Capitol, Concord, N.H., painted by Paul Sample (1896–1974), circa 1960. New Hampshire Historical Society, gift of William W. Upton. A statue honoring Christa McAuliffe (1948–86) will be placed on the State House grounds. Learn more in the President’s Message on page 2.