

# The Kearsarge/Concord Connection

## Take a drive to check out what's new in the Concord area

BY Laurie Reynolds Rardin

### Museum of New Hampshire History Keeps Visitors Coming Back

The railroad tracks are gone, as are the trains that once supplied the Wade Stone Warehouse in the early 1870s. But the building on Concord's Main Street where Samuel Wade once kept the inventory for his hardware store is now home to an amazing collection of exhibits and artifacts that tell the story of New Hampshire's past.

The New Hampshire Historical Society purchased the building in 1992 and retrofitted it to become the first and only state history museum. By 1995, visitors were enthralled by the museum's

"Through Many Eyes" is based on the Historical Society's collection of over 29,000 objects as well as photographs and manuscripts," says Wes Balla, the Director of Collections and Exhibitions.

In spite of the museum's relatively small size, visitors rarely catch all there is to see in one trip. "You notice something new and different every time you're here," says Mark Foynes, Director of Education. With more than 23,000 visitors last year, folks are obviously coming back. The Museum brings in 10,000 New Hampshire school children yearly and reaches the same number through its traveling programs to individual schools.

But perhaps one of the most enticing aspects of the museum is the rotating displays. "Consuming Views: Art and Tourism in the White Mountains, 1850-1900" — currently on display through May 6 — is a breathtaking collection of 37 lesser known paintings by 19th century landscape artists. The canvases were borrowed from private collections or "dis-

covered" in unusual places. "Old Man of the Mountains Near Profile House, White Mts." by Samuel Lancaster Gerry had been hanging unobtrusively in a hallway at Norwich University.

"Along with its relative obscurity, this particular painting is an excellent example of the way in which these artists captured the spirit of the White Mountains as they were perceived at that time in history," says Balla, who notes

that public perception of the mountains changed drastically during the time these paintings were completed. Formerly thought of as "obstacles" and places of fear and desolation, the White Mountains were becoming a tourist destination as sources of beauty and tranquility.

And just when you thought you had seen it all, the Historical Society's Library on Park Street (home of the society's research collections) is hosting "New Hampshire Then and Now," based on Peter Randall's book of the same name. Photographs showing New Hampshire scenes from the late 19th century are contrasted with pictures of the same location today.

The Museum of New Hampshire History is located at Eagle Square in Concord. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 to 5 p.m. The New Hampshire Historical Society's library is located at 30 Park Street in Concord. Call ahead: 228-6688.

**Directions:** Take Interstate 93 to Exit 14. Northbound — turn left at the light at the end of the exit ramp; Southbound — turn right at the light at the end of the exit ramp. Stay in the right lane. At North Main Street turn right. Take the next right onto Storrs Street. Pass under a bridge and overhead parking garage; the museum parking lot entrance is on the left. At the parking lot entrance gate, take a ticket to open the lot gate. After parking, cross Storrs Street to the museum entrance. (The library is a three-block walk from this lot.) Parking is free for museum and library visitors. Bring your parking lot ticket to either the museum or library reception desks and redeem for an exit token.



"Saco River, North Conway" by Benjamin Champney

core exhibit, "Through Many Eyes." This glimpse into New Hampshire's history — beginning with the first Native Americans and ending with present day — includes an Abenaki wigwam; an original Concord Coach; a fire tower with a 360 degree view; and paintings and artifacts from the lives of Sarah Josepha Hale, Franklin Pierce and other citizens of New Hampshire who left an indelible mark on our state and on our nation.



*Keith Dickey is the proprietor of Butter's Fine Food and Wine.*

### Butter's Slips onto Concord's Main Street

Keith Dickey re-invents himself every 15 years. A Dartmouth College graduate with a Ph.D. in archaeology, the capital region benefits from his latest metamorphosis — proprietor of Butter's Fine Food and Wine on Main Street in downtown Concord.

"I have always loved Concord, and I have always loved good food," Dickey says. "After my family and I moved here three years ago, I realized there was a niche that needed to be filled." And fill it he did. Dickey opened Butter's doors to the public on July 19, 2006.

The shop's atmosphere is light and airy, and customers are encouraged to taste the fresh delicacies displayed in glass cases: Cheeses from around the world, meats to order and pates of all types. World class wine at reasonable prices, handcrafted artisan bread and a variety of jams, honey, tea, coffee, sweets, fresh cut flowers and hard-to-find or unusual food items fill shelves throughout the rest of the shop. Dickey includes inventory from local producers whenever possible, and offers wine tastings on a regular basis. "I hope folks from surrounding communities will venture into Concord to sample what we have to offer," says Dickey.

Butter's is located at 70 North Main Street in downtown Concord. It is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday from 9 to 7 p.m., Saturday from 9 to 6 p.m., closed Sunday. Orders may be made by calling 225-5995.

### Memorial Honors Firefighters

Tucked away along the banks of the Soucook River near the Concord-Pembroke line, a masterpiece has been crafted: The New Hampshire Fallen Firefighter's Memorial was dedicated by Governor John Lynch and Department of Safety Commissioner Richard Flynn on Sept. 10, 2006.

The memorial honors the 67 New Hampshire firefighters who gave their lives to save others between 1886 and 2006. Their names are engraved on three of four granite tablets surrounding a bronze church bell symbolizing the firefighter's call and last alarm. An eternal flame burns brightly to keep their memories alive.

"This is the first statewide firefighter's memorial in New Hampshire," says Gary Lambert, Hooksett fire captain and the memorial project chairman. Lambert hopes the beautiful landscaping, brick walkway and granite benches will encourage the community to come for quiet meditation and reflection. "We designed the memorial to give visitors the time and space to contemplate the service and ultimate sacrifice of our firefighters. They are our true heroes."

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*The New Hampshire Fallen Firefighter's Memorial in Concord was dedicated in 2006.*

**Directions** from the north: Take I-93 to Concord to Exit 13, Manchester Street. Take left off ramp; go over the bridge to first set of lights. Turn left at the lights onto Old Turnpike Road. Follow Old Turnpike Road to traffic light at the intersection with Airport Road. Go straight ahead on Regional Drive past the Air National Guard Armory and through the intersection with Chennell Drive. At the next set of lights, cross Route 106 and follow signs to Smokey Bear Boulevard. Follow to end of the road.