

Engage Minds, Ignite Curiosity, and Provoke Thought

Woodman Museum's Artifacts on Display at the Horatio Colony Museum in Keene, NH

Two circa 1800s birch bark canoe models, one from the Ossipee Tribe of NH and one from the Indigenous cultures of Quebec as well as a pair of circa 1750s moccasins from the Ossipee Tribe will be displayed in the exhibit titled *Two Sides Of The Coin: Native American & Early Colonists Cultural Clashes*. The exhibit highlights both sides of the story of the Native American and English Colonial struggle for control of the natural environment of New England, and specifically Cheshire County. Native American archaeological finds from Swanzey, as well as 18th century farm and domestic items from regional colonial settlers will help to give a balanced picture of the early history of the region. The exhibit can be viewed Wednesdays through Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. May 11th through August 26th at the Horatio Colony Museum - <http://horatiocolonymuseum.org/>



Civil War Bronze "Napoleon" Cannon Restoration Begins

by Paul Timmerman

As part of its *Adopt-an-Artifact* campaign, the Woodman Museum announces the start of the restoration of the museum's Civil War cannon, carriage, and limber.

The cannon, donated by the Dover GAR to the Woodman Museum in the early 1930s when the Charles Sawyer GAR Post was disbanded, is one of the Woodman's most valuable artifacts. The cannon was manufactured in 1863 and was used by the Union Army during the Civil War. It is one of the few surviving Civil War cannons that are still mounted on the original wooden carriage and wheels. It also has its original limber and ammunition chest—the latter containing rare sabot casings.

The cannon was disassembled on Saturday May 5th and was taken to its restoration location where it will be restored to its original Civil War-era look. The restoration crew will take care to see that original wood is preserved wherever possible. Additionally, the cannon's iron fittings will be cleaned, missing components will be replaced, and the bronze cannon barrel will be polished.

The project is expected to take 6 to 12 months. Upon completion the cannon and limber will be returned to the Woodman Museum for public display. Please consider helping the Woodman restore this priceless Civil War artifact—and other *Adopt-an-Artifact* candidates—by donating to the project at the following site: <http://woodmanmuseum.org/adopt-woodman-artifact/>.



Checking the original wood of the cannon carriage



Moving the cannon carriage to the truck



Bronze cannon (1283 pounds) lifted from the carriage

Thank You for Your Support of the Woodman Museum

For over 102 years the community has supported the Woodman Museum through volunteerism, sponsorship, financial contribution, artifact donation, visitation, membership and professional partnerships. Without you, and others like you, the Woodman Museum would not be able to carry out the original vision of Annie E. Woodman: *Engage minds. Ignite curiosity. Provoke thought [...] Educate, excite, and inspire current and future generations about a changing nation by preserving and exhibiting objects of historic significance, decorative and fine art, and natural science that connect Dover and its citizens to the world.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What's happening at the Woodman Museum?

Visit our website woodmanmuseum.org for additional events and information during 2018. In addition to our ongoing wonderful exhibits that will WOW you every time you set foot inside the museum, please join us for these special events:

May
28

Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony at the Civil War monument (in front of Dover Library) 10 am, and the GAR monument, (Pine Hill Cemetery) 11 am

July
2018
TBA

Art Talk at the Thom Hindle Gallery, 5-7 pm
Ocean Discovery Day with the UNH Marine Docents, 10 am-3 pm

August
TBA

Art Talk at the Thom Hindle Gallery, 5-7pm

August
9

Speaker Series #1 with Allan Breed - Historic Furniture, 5-7 pm

August
19

SUMMER FUNDRAISER
7th Settlement at the Woodman Museum featuring beer and music provided by Great Bay Sailor and the Bog Standard playing maritime, Irish/Scottish, British and Oldtime music, 4-7 pm

Sept.
TBA

Art Talk at the Thom Hindle Gallery, 5-7 pm

Sept.
9

22nd Annual Car Show, 11 am-4 pm, rain date Sunday September 16th

Sept.
20

Speaker Series #2 with Paul Timmerman - 1st NH Light Artillery in the Civil War, 5-7 pm

Oct.
13-14

FALL FUNDRAISER
Voices from the Cemetery III, 10 am-3 pm

Nov.
TBA

Art Talk at the Thom Hindle Gallery, 5-7 pm

Nov.
18

Veteran's Day Event, 12-4 pm

Dec.
16

Home for the Holidays Artisan Faire IV opens at the Thom Hindle Gallery, weekends 10:30 am- 4:30 pm

Dec.
TBA

Dover Chamber Business After Hours at the Woodman Museum, 5-7 pm

Dec.
24

Home for the Holidays Artisan Faire IV closes

The Buildings of the Woodman

by David Dupont, Head Trustee

The Woodman Campus is composed of four buildings, the Damm Garrison (1675), the Hale House (1813), the Woodman House (1818) and the Keefe House (1825). The Woodman and Hale House were purchased by the original museum trustees in 1916 for \$7,000.00 and \$3,000.00, respectively, and the garrison was moved to its present location in 1915. The Keefe House was added in 2004 and the home's collections now number over 20,000 objects.

Although the Woodman and Keefe families moved out long ago, some feel they may still be occupied! Back in 2012, as a new trustee to the Woodman, I was spending some time with then-curator Thom Hindle. We were discussing the museum's history and he brought up Melville Smith. Melville was the museum's first curator and was responsible for a good portion of the museum's taxidermy collection. Thom feels that Melville never stopped caring for his animal and bird collection--even after death! Thom recalled that on many occasions, he or his son Jason, while alone in the museum's animal exhibits, heard footsteps. Upon investigation neither ever found anyone else in the museum. This was at a time when the taxidermy collections and the dioramas framing them (which were created by Melville's wife Mary, an artist) required serious and long-overdue maintenance.

Eventually the displays were upgraded. Thom and Jason restored some of the badly aged taxidermy and the beautiful backgrounds were cleaned and touched up as well. Thom claims once this was done, the restless Melville Smith, whose lifelong animal collection was finally being cared for properly, no longer maintained a presence in the galleries. But could he still be silently watching?

My own experience occurred in the Keefe House. The house was the home of former Dover treasurer Asa Tufts, and several other families thereafter. The third floor was the servant's quarters. On several occasions I have been in those rooms at night and I have never felt so uneasy; I was only up there long enough to put some items back in storage, but enough time to know I was not alone and whoever was with me was not happy.

I had chills up and down my spine and my instincts were telling me to leave. I have never felt such sensations before. Despite having been on the third floor many times during daylight hours, I have never felt anything similar. Could it be the ghost of an unhappy servant? Operations director Mike Day, though a skeptic, has had similar experiences on the third floor as well. Fellow trustee Dennis Ciotti has heard doors slam upstairs but upon investigation has found no one else present.

However, Donna Ciotti, a former trustee and former office manager at the museum, has never experienced anything in the hundreds of hours she has spent on the second floor of the Keefe. Could this spirit be a woman servant who has some type of grievance with a male member of one of the former families who inhabited

the Keefe House? Be assured we have never heard of any activity during the normal business hours of the museum, so don't be spooked into not paying us a visit!



The servants bell on the third floor of the Keefe House



The Keefe House

A Peek at the Past - “Benny” Turner Silent Movie Era Collection on loan for the Season

by Paul Timmerman

Benjamin (Benny) Turner spent his working life in the motion picture industry and was an eyewitness to the film industry growth. He was there at the beginning as a child actor (14) in the first movie to tell a story – 1903’s *The Great Train Robbery*; he is the telegraph operator in the opening scene.

In order to sell more of his projection machines, Thomas Edison required a wealth of films to show on them, resulting in his creation of a movie division. In 1899, he hired Edwin S. Porter to help produce these films. Porter saw the creative opportunities that making movies offered, so he became an ardent filmmaker who ultimately helped the entire newly-emerging movie industry leap forward. *The Great Train Robbery* delivered, becoming the first surefire movie attraction and remaining the most successful film for more than a decade until D.W. Griffith’s *The Birth of a Nation* was released in 1915.

This film, about the Civil War and Reconstruction era, was adapted from the book *The Clansman*. Director, D.W. Griffith was known for his innovations. The movie starred Lillian Gish and was the first U.S. blockbuster and has been lauded for its pioneering storytelling forms, greatly influencing modern movie making and shaping ideas around audience cultivation.

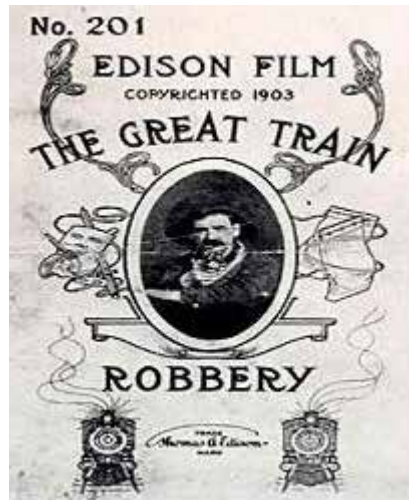
Benny Turner became the Chief Operator for the movie from its premier at the Liberty Theatre, New York in 1915 until it closed at Griffith’s Mamaroneck, NY studio in 1926.

Because of the movie, Lillian Gish’s exposure to the public was so great she became one of the top stars in the industry, right alongside Mary Pickford, “America’s Sweetheart”.

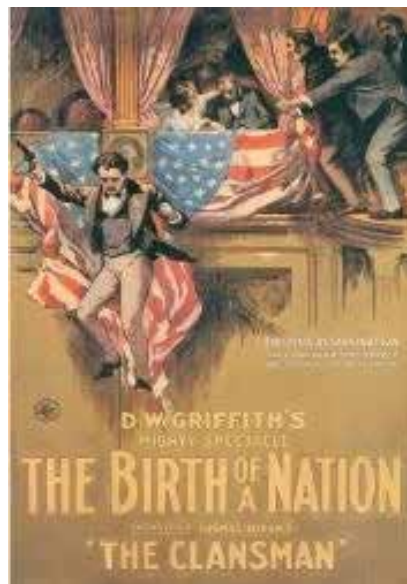
Benny Turner knew both D.W. Griffith and Lillian Gish and both had a high regard for the man and his work.

The Birth of a Nation was the first motion picture shown at the new Dover Opera House. Also, it was shown elsewhere in private previews to such notables of the time as President Woodrow Wilson, Supreme Court Justice Edward Douglas White and, in England, to the King and Queen, Lloyd George and Winston Churchill.

This collection, on loan from Woodman Museum volunteer Paul Timmerman, along with others on loan from local historians Ernie Bruneau and Thom Hindle, will be on display throughout the 2018 Season as part of our APP: A Peek at the Past exhibit in the Foster Gallery of the Woodman House. APP: A Peek at the Past highlights communications and entertainment technologies from the past that are now largely replaced by smartphone “apps.”



1903's *The Great Train Robbery* movie poster



1915's *Birth of a Nation* movie poster

Woodman Museum Facilities Projects Seek to Remove Barriers and Preserve the Past

by Mike Day, Operations Director

If you have driven by the Woodman Museum campus lately, you may have noticed and perhaps wondered about large piles of dirt and the deep trenches throughout our back yard. Our neighbors over at the Wadleigh Assisted Living House wondered what we were up to and asked if we were having our sewer pipes replaced! While we did have to move one sewer pipe, I can assure you that our bathrooms are working just fine - in fact, we have a new accessible bathroom in the Woodman House and will soon have ramped entrances throughout the campus! The Woodman Museum was awarded a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the City of Dover that will fund the “removal of barriers to access” to three of the Museum’s buildings. New ramps—using concrete, brick, granite and black iron materials that complement the historic architecture of the buildings—will be built at the rear entrances to both the Woodman and Hale houses. To access the colonnade that shelters the Damm garrison house, the finish grade leading up to the concrete foundation will be increased, eliminating the barrier presented by the two stairs that exist there now. Finally, the walkways leading to the different houses will be paved and the lawn will be loamed and seeded. All work on the first phase of the Woodman Accessibility Project will be completed before summer and the planning and funding for the second phase will begin shortly thereafter. The plan for phase two is to provide “digital access” to the upper floors of the Woodman and Hale houses as well as to the interior of the Damm garrison using 360° digital photography that guests can view on provided tablet computers. Work on the CDBG Accessibility Project was awarded to local architect Walter Rous, and local contractors Seavey Carpentry and Rye Beach Landscaping.

In addition to the CDBG Woodman Accessibility Project, a *Historic Building Assessment with Preservation Guidelines* study of the 1818 Woodman House has also begun. This report is being prepared by Scott Stevens and Steven Mallory of Groundroot Preservation Group in Cape Neddick, ME and William Bennett of Bennett Engineering in Freeport, ME. The report will address the history and function of the Woodman house over time as well as identify and assess the building’s preservation needs and priorities. The end result will be a report that provides prioritized recommendations, following the appropriate *Secretary of the Interior’s Standard for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, for the next steps in the Woodman house preservation, restoration and rehabilitation. This study is funded through The NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), which is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire’s most important natural, cultural and historic resources.

LCHIP Land & Community Heritage Investment Program



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

***Thank you for your Woodman Museum membership!
Your continued support keeps history alive in our community!***

If you are not currently subscribed to our Woodman Museum Newsletter, please visit <http://woodmanmuseum.org/join-our-mailing-list/> to sign up to learn about all of the exciting events at the Woodman.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Free admission based on paid level for individual or family named on membership card
- Members at any level may purchase up to two half-price guest tickets every time they visit the Woodman during their membership period
- Free admission to non-fundraising events (Annual Car Show, Annual Veteran's Day Event, Speaker Series, Art Talks, etc.)
- 10% off purchase at the Museum gift shop

Wish to get more involved with the Woodman Museum?

You can help support the Woodman Museum by donating a Wish List item to make the Woodman's exhibitions, programs and archival efforts even better. And remember: all donations are tax deductible!

WOODMAN MUSEUM WISH LIST

- Gift of your time: Volunteer as a gift shop attendant, flyer/poster distributor, museum docent, gardener etc.
<http://woodmanmuseum.org/join-and-support/volunteer/>
- Donate your professional services in graphic arts, website design, marketing, administrative services, building trades, etc.
<http://woodmanmuseum.org/join-and-support/volunteer/>
- Donate funds to underwrite art/science/history exhibits in the Foster Gallery at the Woodman House or Thom Hindle Gallery at the Keefe House
<http://woodmanmuseum.org/product/donate-to-the-woodman/>
- Donate funds to sponsor one of our signature events (*Night at the Museum, Annual Car Show, Annual Veteran's Day Event, etc.*)
<http://woodmanmuseum.org/sponsorship/>
- Donate online to our Adopt an Artifact campaigns for restoration and preservation of museum artifacts:
<http://woodmanmuseum.org/adopt-woodman-artifact/>
- Represent the museum on a community committee
- Donate gift cards from Aubuchon Hardware, Middleton Lumber, Lowe's or Home Depot to buy supplies to maintain the museum's historic structures
- Donate gift cards from area grocery stores to feed volunteers and events visitors

Interested? Contact director@woodmanmuseum.org or call (603) 742-1038 for additional information.



“Engage Minds, Ignite Curiosity, and Provoke Thought!”

MEMBERSHIP FORM



YES, I want to be a Member!

Please send your completed application to the Woodman Museum by mail to: P.O. Box 1916, 182 Central Avenue, Dover, NH 03821. For questions, please call us at 603.742.1038 or email us at director@woodmanmuseum.org.

Name _____

Name on second card (for Dual/Family levels and higher) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

If this is a gift membership, please indicate here who the gift is from:

Name _____ Telephone _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please go to www.woodmanmuseum.org to join or make a donation online.

Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____ CVC number (3 or 4 digit code on back of card) _____

Signature _____

- Cash Check (payable to the Woodman Museum)
- I/We think the Woodman Museum is grand!
Please accept an additional gift of \$ _____.
- Please send me information about volunteer opportunities at the Woodman Museum.
- Please contact me about being an event sponsor.
- Please accept my gift in honor/memory of _____.
Name
- I wish to keep my gift anonymous.
- Please contact me about a legacy gift to the Woodman Museum.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Single Membership \$40
- Family Membership (2 adults and up to 3 children) \$55
- Sustainer \$150

ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM

Admission Pricing Tickets good for 2 consecutive days

MEMBERS ARE FREE

Adults — \$13

Seniors (65+) — \$10

Active Military — \$9

Students age 13-college — \$9

Children age 4-12 — \$7

Family (2 adults and up to 3 children) — \$35

Children (3 and under) — FREE

Families of deployed military — FREE

GROUP RATES — 15 or more people

Adults — \$11

Students — \$7

Seniors — \$8

The Woodman Museum is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. The total amount of your membership contribution is tax-deductible except for the fair market value of offered benefits.

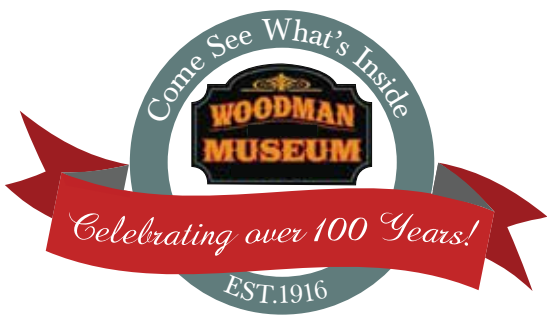
Our tax ID # is 02-0223356

Woodman Museum

P.O. Box 1916
182 Central Avenue
Dover, New Hampshire 03821
603.742.1038

www.woodmanmuseum.org

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The Woodman Museum
P.O. Box 1916
Dover, NH 03821-1916

Thank you to our newsletter sponsor:



Woodman Museum Among the Stops on NH Heritage Museum Trail

The Woodman Museum is proud to be a part of the Seacoast Branch of the NH Heritage Museum Trail along with The American Independence Museum, Albacore Park and Discover Portsmouth. The trail offers over 300 years of history to explore in the Seacoast, Lakes and Merrimack Valley regions of the State. NH Heritage Museum Trail: Connecting the public with culturally rich heritage institutions in New Hampshire. To find out more, visit www.nhheritagetrails.org.



Take the Woodman Treasures Tour and Enter to Win a pair of Apple AirPods!

In celebration of the Woodman's 100th Season in 2016, one hundred historically important "treasures" from collections across the campus were chosen to be highlighted in articles of the Foster's Daily Democrat newspaper. This year, those treasures are now part of an online assisted "scavenger hunt" throughout the Museum (<http://woodmanmuseum.org/woodman-exhibits/>). Visitors can locate 38 of the 100 treasures during their self-guided tour of the Woodman House and sign up to win one of (2) pairs of wireless Apple AirPods earbuds, generously donated by Dupont's Service Center! Visit the Woodman Museum Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm during the months of June and July (one AirPods winner for each month) to take the Woodman Treasures Tour and enter the raffle!



Woodman Museum Collections Projects Prove That "Everything Old is New Again"

by Mike Day, Operations Director

Over the winter, the Natural History and Indigenous Cultures Galleries on the first floor of the Woodman house were redesigned and revitalized. A team of local professionals ranging from graphic designers to building contractors and even a taxidermist were employed to ply their various trades and breathe new life into the mounted specimen and Indigenous cultures collections and exhibit spaces. A group of dedicated and enthusiastic educational and cultural consultants, Woodman staff members, Woodman Collections Team volunteers and UNH Museum Studies Program interns followed closely at the heels of the contractors—busily cataloging, researching, photographing, displaying and labeling hundreds of artifacts in the galleries. The project was funded by generous grants from the Dorr Foundation of Portsmouth and the Gladys L. Smith Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation. Stop by during our 102nd season and "Come See What's New" at the Woodman Museum!