

# "People You Should Know...Portraits from the Collection"

Special exhibit in the Millyard Museum's Charles F. Whittemore Discovery Gallery

200 Bedford Street – Manchester, New Hampshire USA 03101

May 18, 2013 – October 12, 2013



## 1. Frank P. Carpenter

0000.8059.001

Gift of Mrs. Charles B. Manning

Oil portrait by Sidney F. Dickenson, 1931

Frank Pierce Carpenter (1846-1938) was born in Chichester, New Hampshire. He graduated from high school in Concord then moved to Manchester where he spent the rest of his life. As a young man he was involved in the grain business. In 1885 he purchased the Amoskeag Paper Company, located at the north end of the Amoskeag Millyard, which became his primary business pursuit. Mr. Carpenter was treasurer of the Mechanics Savings Bank and a director of the Amoskeag National Bank. He was also active on the boards of insurance companies and other corporations and was a director of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

Mr. Carpenter is recognized as Manchester's greatest philanthropist. He used his influence and wealth to benefit social, civic and cultural organizations. He gave generously to many Manchester organizations, and served on nonprofit boards. He had a particular interest in architecture. He served on the building committees for the Currier Gallery of Art (now the Currier Museum of Art) for the construction of its original 1929 building; the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company for the construction of its 1915 building on Hanover Street (now Fuller Hall of the New Hampshire Institute of Art), and the 1932 post office building on Hanover Street (now the offices of Devine Millimet law firm). In 1914 he donated the beautiful Carpenter Memorial Library building to the city in memory of his late wife Elenora. He was an active member of the Manchester Historic Association and donated the neo-classical building at 129 Amherst Street to the organization in 1931.

Although Mr. Carpenter was unable to attend college due to family circumstances, he was proud later in life to be awarded two honorary degrees from Dartmouth College. He was a generous donor to the college, giving it its first art building, Carpenter Hall, in 1929. Frank P. Carpenter and his family are buried in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Mr. Carpenter's magnificent home at 1800 Elm Street, built in 1892 (formerly the home of the local chapter of the American Red Cross) is protected by a Historic Preservation Easement administered by the Manchester Historic Association. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## THE ARTIST – SIDNEY F. DICKENSON

Sidney F. Dickenson (1890-1980) was a prominent portrait artist. He studied at the Art Students League in New York where he later taught for many years, and had a long association with the National Academy of Design (now the National Academy Museum and School). Both institutions are in New York City. He was commissioned to paint several members of the Rockefeller family, and the official portrait of New York Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia of New York (1948). Mr. Dickenson's studio was in the Carnegie Hall building in New York City until he retired to Windsor, Vermont in the late 1970s.



## 2. Mrs. Henry Herrick

2008.600.012

Gift of Mrs. R. A. Simerl

Watercolor on paper by Henry W. Herrick

Artist Henry Walker Herrick married Clarissa Harlow Parkinson in 1849 in New Boston, N.H. They had five sons. This is a portrait of Mrs. Herrick painted in water color by her husband. Mr. Herrick was fond of painting small portraits, perhaps because of his early training and experience as a painter of miniatures.



**3. Clarissa Harlow Parkinson Herrick (Mrs. Henry W. Herrick)**

2002.007.002

Gift of Mrs. R. A. Simerl

Oil on canvas by E. H. Dearborn, 1894

This painting is a creative interpretation of Henry Herrick's watercolor of his wife, painted in oils. No information has been found about the artist.



**4. Bertha Smith Herrick**

2002.007.011

Gift of Mrs. R. A. Simerl

Watercolor on paper by Henry W. Herrick

Bertha was Henry Herrick's daughter-in-law. She was married to Henry and Clarissa's son, Henry Augustus. The portrait was painted based on a photograph of Bertha as a child (pictured to the right).



**THE ARTIST – HENRY W. HERRICK**

Henry Walker Herrick was born in Hopkinton, New Hampshire in 1824. His father was a merchant and lumber dealer. He was encouraged to develop his artistic talent by his mother, who was an amateur painter. She had studied under Jedediah Morse, the father of Samuel F. B. Morse, the inventor of the telegraph. When he was in his teens, Mr. Herrick studied wood engraving and traveled to Tennessee to work as a painter of miniature portraits. When he was twenty, he studied at the National Academy of Design. He later worked as a book engraver, reproducing the works of other artists for publications, and also created original engravings.

In 1852 Mr. Herrick was hired as a teacher in the new School of Design for Women in New York, and later became its principal. He stood up for equal pay for women in the engraving trade. He began working full time as an engraver in 1858, and contributed many illustrations to *Harper's Weekly* magazine during the Civil War. Mr. Herrick came to live in his family's home in Manchester in 1865, in order to care for his elderly mother. He was active in the First Congregational Church and was a founder of the Manchester Art Association. He continued his work as an engraver, contributing to publications in New York and Boston. Starting in 1875 he delved into water color painting, which became his favorite medium. Mr. Herrick was a founder and one of the first officers of the Manchester Historic Association. The Association owns over 80 of his paintings and drawings. He died in 1906.

**SEE ALSO IN THE MILLYARD MUSEUM:** In addition to the Herrick paintings on display in this exhibit, you can also see his work in the General John Stark exhibit, in the "Made in the Mills" exhibit, and in the City Hall display in the Elm Street Gallery.



### 5. Captain William D. Downs

1978.065.004

Gift of William E. Downs

Oil on canvas by Walter Slovick, 1946

William D. Downs (1920–1945) of Manchester died and was buried at sea on May 26, 1945 at the age of 25. Captain Downs was on his way home after serving three years in the Fiji Islands, New Hebrides, New Guinea and the Philippines during World War II. Captain Downs graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1941. He became a second lieutenant of the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) and entered the armed forces on September 23, 1941. Captain Downs was survived by his wife Carol M. Downs, a daughter Carol Ann, whom he never met, and his parents Mr. and Mrs. William E. Downs.

After his death, Captain Downs' father requested a special grave marker for his son's grave, only to be told by the federal government that no such marker existed. This rejection sparked an interest in Mr. Downs to create a monument to honor American sailors lost at sea. He helped establish the New Hampshire Marine Memorial Commission, which raised the funds needed to erect the Marine Memorial Monument at Hampton Beach. This was designed by Alice E. Cosgrove of Concord and dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1957. The monument honors all sailors in the U.S. Navy lost at sea while serving their country.



#### THE ARTIST – WALTER SLOVICK

The artist for this portrait, Walter Slovick, was a student the Manchester Institute of Arts & Sciences (now the New Hampshire Institute of Art).



### 6. Alonzo Elliot

2002.028.001

Transfer from Currier Gallery of Art, gift of Mrs. Robert Davison

Oil on board by Burriss Jenkins, Jr. (1897-1966)

Alonzo "Zo" Elliot (1891-1964) was a composer and songwriter born in Manchester, N.H. He grew up at the family home known as Brookhurst at 320 North River Road. His best known song is "There's a Long, Long Trail," which he composed during his senior year at Yale University. His friend Stoddard King was the lyricist. The song became very popular during World War I and was frequently sung by American and British troops and at Liberty Loan rallies.

#### THE ARTIST – BURRIS JENKINS, JR.

Burriss Jenkins, Jr. was a newspaper cartoonist, best known for his sports-themed and editorial cartoons. He was regarded as one of the top sports cartoonists in America during his time working for the *New York Journal* and the *New York Journal-American* beginning in the 1930s. Mr. Jenkins had a heavy line style that produced stark and humorous images. He also served as a war correspondent for four years during World War II and sometimes

served as a courtroom illustrator.



### 7. Edward L. Custer self-portrait

0000.7296.001

Gift of Emil Christophe

Oil on canvas by Edward L. Custer (1837-1881)

Edward L. Custer was born in Switzerland in 1837. His family came to the United States in the mid-1840s when he was 9 years old. He attended local schools, and later attended art school in Germany. He settled in Boston, but kept his Manchester contacts. He was a prominent portrait painter. He produced portraits of local dignitaries including Governor Moody Currier and his family, Governor Frederick Smyth, Person Cheney, Alonzo Smith, and many others. He also painted landscapes and animals, and was particularly known for his study of cattle. Mr. Custer died in 1881 at the age of 44. He and his wife Ruth are buried in the Custer family plot at Valley Cemetery in Manchester. The Manchester Historic Association art collection includes 33 works of art by Custer, three of which are included in this exhibit.



### 8. Mrs. Emil Custer

0000.5891.001

Gift of Emil Christophe

Oil on canvas by Edward L. Custer (1837-1881), 1872

Nannette Tollman-Spann Custer was the mother of artist Edward L. Custer. Born in Switzerland in 1813, she married German Doctor Emil Custer after her first husband (and Edward's father) Henry M. Tollman-Spann died. Emil Custer brought his wife and four stepchildren to American in 1847, settling first in Syracuse, New York and then in Manchester a few months later. Mrs. Custer died in Manchester in 1889. She is buried in the family plot in Valley Cemetery.



### 9. Esther Africa

1975.071.173

Gift of Mrs. Walter Africa

Tinted photo portrait, c. 1894, artist unknown

Esther Elizabeth Africa (1890-1967) was born in Manchester on January 21, 1890. She was the daughter of Walter G. and Maude C. Africa. Esther had three siblings - Dorothea, Maude, and Walter. The Africa family lived at 87 Harrison Street before moving to 764 Chestnut, where Esther would live along with her mother and sister Dorothea, for the remainder of her life.

Esther was known as the family artist. Each year for 32 years she sent a handmade card to acknowledge the wedding anniversary of her sister Isabel and her husband Robert "Red" Rolfe. These creative cards were made from a variety of materials and included words of encouragement to the couple. The cards were often signed "From Mama and the girls." All 32 of these cards are in the collection of the Manchester Historic Association, donated

by Esther's niece, Isabel Africa Rolfe. The Association also has an extensive collection of other Africa family memorabilia.

Esther's father, Walter G. Africa, was a successful businessman and was active in the community. He was superintendent and treasurer of the People's Gas Light Company, a director of Amoskeag National Bank, a trustee of the Masonic Home, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Board Chair of the YMCA, and a member of Manchester Rotary, the Derryfield Club and the Odd Fellows.



#### 10. Samuel Newell Bell

1947.031.001

Gift of Alice L. and Mary W. Bell

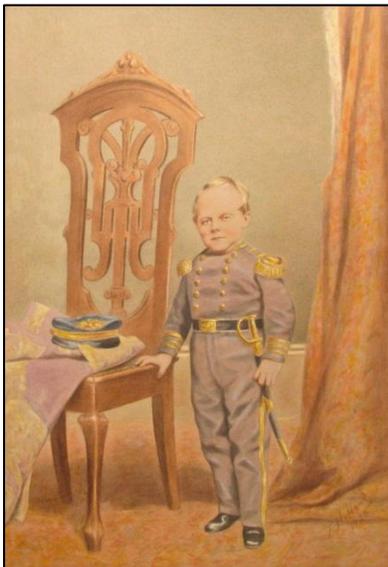
Oil on canvas, artist unknown

Samuel Newell Bell (1829-1889) was the son of Samuel Dana Bell, who was the First Justice of the Police Court in Manchester, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New Hampshire. Samuel Dana Bell bought land in the first Amoskeag land sale in 1838, which included a lot on the corner of Amherst and Chestnut Street. The building he constructed there still exists. Samuel Dana Bell's father, also named Samuel, was a Governor of New Hampshire.

Mr. Bell was born in Chester, New Hampshire in 1829. He attended school in Francestown, New Hampshire, and Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. He graduated from

Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire in 1847. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. He set up his own law office in Manchester on Elm Street. A Democrat, he was elected to the U.S. Congress twice, serving in 1871-1873 and in 1875-1877. In Manchester he owned a considerable amount of land around Rock Rimmon, Lake Massabesic and on Wilson Hill. He sold some of the land around Lake Massabesic to the city of Manchester. He was president of several railroad companies, and was vice president of the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company, headquartered in Manchester. Mr. Bell died of a cerebral hemorrhage or brain aneurysm in 1889 while on a visit to North Woodstock, New Hampshire. He is buried in the Valley Cemetery in the family plot where his father is also buried.

This portrait was painted in 1859, when Samuel Newell Bell was 30 years old.



#### 11. Commodore Nutt

0000.346.001

Gift of Clever M. Harvey

Watercolor by Frank Holland, 1920

George Washington Morrison Nutt (1848-1881) was born on April 1, 1848 in Manchester on the Nutt Family Farm, the youngest of five children born to Rodnia and Maria Dodge Nutt. Mr. Nutt was born with a form of dwarfism and would grow to only 36 inches tall. Due to his mother's wishes, he lived a relatively normal childhood on the family farm. In 1861, he began performing song and dance acts with his brother Rodnia, Jr., also a dwarf, under the direction of local entrepreneur, William "Uncle Billie" Walker. In December 1861, circus showman Phinneas T. Barnum expressed interest in hiring George, who at the time was only 29 inches tall and weighed 25 pounds, to join his traveling act. Barnum signed George to a 3-year contract for \$30,000 which included a provision that allowed Rodnia, Jr. to accompany him. Barnum gave George the stage name, "Commodore Nutt," a name that stayed with him for the remainder of his life. The Commodore joined fellow "little people," Tom Thumb,

Lavinia Warren (Mrs. Tom Thumb), and Minnie Warren on tour. The quartet traveled the world performing in Japan, China, Australia, Prussia, Germany, Austria, France, Russia, and England. The Commodore left Barnum at age 27 to begin running a theatre and traveling show which proved to be an unsuccessful venture. In 1879, he met and married Lillian Hersey, a five foot tall woman from Oregon. George Washington Morrison Nutt died in New York City on May 25, 1881 at the age of 33. His body was returned to Manchester where he was buried beside his parents in Merrill Cemetery on South Willow Street. The Manchester Historic Association owns several artifacts relating to the Nutt family, including some of Commodore Nutt's personal items.

No information was found about the artist, Frank Holland.



## 12. James W. Hill

2008.600.026

Oil on canvas by Omer T. Lassonde (1903-1980), c. 1946

James W. Hill (1857-1941) was a prominent figure in Manchester business circles. He went into business with Joseph R. Weston in the early 1880s and operated Weston & Hill, a dry goods store on Elm Street (formerly Weston & Senter). In 1889 he married Sallie May Chandler, the daughter of Henry Chandler, treasurer of the Amoskeag Savings Bank. In 1898 the business became the James W. Hill Co., a department store that was located at 787 Elm Street for many years.

### THE ARTIST – OMER T. LASSONDE

Omer T. Lassonde was a prominent New Hampshire artist who studied and later taught at the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences and he co-founded the New Hampshire Art Association. He had a rare ability to paint in any style, including expressionism, realism, cubism, and abstractionism. In 1947

journalist Ben Bradlee said that he had "done more than any man living to put New Hampshire on the map artistically." During the Great Depression, he administered the WPA Arts Program for New Hampshire. His wife, Louisa Tompkins Lassonde (1895-1992) was a jewelry maker and craftswoman whom he met at a watercolor class. Louisa was the niece of James W. Hill. After Mr. Hill's death, Omer and Louisa inherited his home at 269 Hanover Street in Manchester.

This portrait was painted after a photograph as a memorial to the late Mr. Hill. It was first displayed at the James W. Hill Co. in 1946. The Manchester Historic Association owns seven paintings by Mr. Lassonde as well as several photographs of the historic Hill-Lassonde house, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



## 13. Lt. Jean D. Grenier

1949.104.001

Gift of Grenier Air Force Base

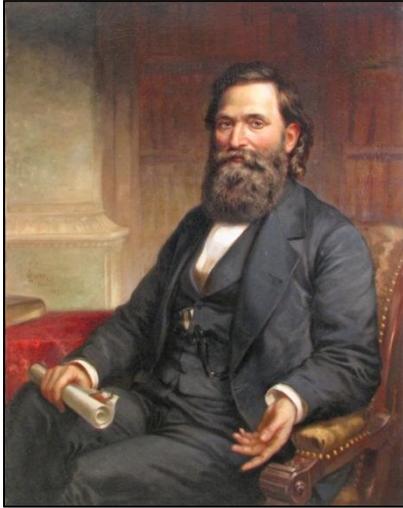
Oil on canvas by George C. Soule (1914-2008), 1974

Jean D. Grenier was born in Manchester on November 24, 1909. He was a graduate of Manchester West High School and the University of New Hampshire where he played football and baseball and was co-captain of the boxing team along with his brother Jacques. He served as an airman in the U.S. Army and was killed on February 16, 1934 at the age of 24 when an airplane he was piloting crashed in a snowstorm near the Utah-Wyoming border during an assignment to explore the air mail route from Cheyenne to Salt Lake City. Lieutenant Grenier was one of 12 pilots who died on air mail routes before the War Department ordered instruments to be installed in their aircraft. In 1942, the War Department renamed the Manchester Air Base as Grenier Army Air Force Base in his memory. It was known as Grenier Field until 1978 when it was renamed the Manchester Airport, and was later renamed again as the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

### THE ARTIST – GEORGE C. SOULE

George C. Soule was a life-long resident of Manchester. He was an architect, and established the firm Soule & Associates that designed buildings across New Hampshire. He got his start working as an artist in the New Hampshire Civilian Conservation Corps, where he painted life in CCC Camps from 1935-1937. He later taught art classes at the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences and at Saint Anselm College.

Mr. Soule's original portrait of Lieutenant Grenier was given to the Manchester Historic Association in 1949 by Grenier Air Force Base. It was on loan to Grenier Field when it was destroyed during the Ammon Terminal fire at the airport in 1974. The artist repainted the portrait and framed it in the original frame.



#### 14. Governor Frederick Smyth

2008.600.029

Oil on canvas by Edward L. Custer, 1867

One of the most admired of Manchester's historical figures is Frederick Smyth (1819-1899) who rose up from humble origins to become one of the city's most prosperous and prominent citizens. He was three times City Clerk and four times Mayor of Manchester. He served a term in the state legislature and was elected Governor of New Hampshire twice. He was a leader on various commissions and was influential in several benevolent efforts to improve public welfare. He was a founder of the Manchester City Library and of the Reform School (now the Sununu Youth Services Center). He traveled widely throughout the United States and abroad, always observing with keen interest the culture and commerce of the places he visited. He was an astute businessman, a published writer and an amateur archeologist. His spectacular mansion, "The Willows," built on a bluff overlooking Amoskeag Falls, is still

remembered by many today, even though it faced destruction in 1969.

Frederick Smyth was born in 1819 in Candia, New Hampshire. As a child he worked on his family's hardscrabble farm, and attended local schools only in the winter. When he was 16, he worked in the Middlesex Mills in Lowell, Massachusetts, and later in a hotel in that city. He then taught school in Auburn and Hooksett, New Hampshire before returning to Candia to work in a local store. After spending one semester at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, he came to work in a store on Elm Street in Manchester in order to earn enough money to go to college. His plans changed once he got caught up in the hustle and bustle of the growing city, and he could see a bright future in business and politics. An early member of the Republican Party, he had the honor of hosting Abraham Lincoln on his memorable visit to Manchester in March 1860. Mr. Lincoln spoke at Smyth's Hall, which was in a building that Mr. Smyth co-owned at the current site of the Brady Sullivan Plaza at 1000 Elm Street. He visited Lincoln in the White House during the Civil War. He died in 1899, and is buried with his family in the Valley Cemetery, in a mausoleum shaped like a Greek temple.

**SEE ALSO IN THE MILLYARD MUSEUM:** Frederick Smyth and his first wife Emily Lane Smyth are depicted in bronze busts displayed in the "Where Shall We Live?" gallery in the back of the museum, along with one half of the front door of their mansion "The Willows."



#### 15. Elsie D. Fairbanks

1950.079.000

Gift of the estate of Elsie D. Fairbanks

Oil on canvas, 1930, artist unknown

Elsie Daniels Fairbanks (1873-1950) was born in Manchester on October 26, 1873. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry B. Fairbanks. Miss Fairbanks attended Manchester schools and graduated from Wellesley College in 1898. She returned to Manchester and began her 46-year career teaching social sciences at Manchester Central High School. Miss Fairbanks was active in the community. Her obituary from 1950 describes her as "a patriotic citizen...active in many of Manchester's patriotic, educational, and civic societies." She belonged to the Franklin Street Congregational Church where she taught Sunday school and was a member of the church's standing committee and Women's Union. Miss Fairbanks was also a member of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Club, the Manchester Institute of Arts and Sciences, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the New Hampshire Historical Society. She also served as secretary

of the Manchester Historic Association. Miss Fairbanks died in June, 1950 at her home at 1189 Union Street.

This portrait was painted by an unnamed student at the Manchester Institute of Arts & Sciences.

**The Manchester Historic Association's collection includes over 150 portraits. The complete collection of portraits and other artwork can be viewed in the online catalog on the Association website: [www.manchesterhistoric.org](http://www.manchesterhistoric.org)**