

# New Hampshire Landscapes

## Paintings from the Permanent Collection

*Special exhibit in the Millyard Museum's Charles F. Whittemore Discovery Gallery  
200 Bedford Street – Manchester, New Hampshire USA 03101  
February 15, 2014 – June 28, 2014*



**1. Amoskeag Manufacturing Company**  
1994.7.2  
Museum Purchase  
Oil on canvas by L. Luthy  
c. 1855

This painting depicts an early view of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company mills from the west bank of the Merrimack River. Pictured in the left foreground is the Amoskeag Machine Shop. The Stark Mills are pictured in the background.

### THE ARTIST – L. LUTHY

Little is known about the artist, L. Luthy. Nine paintings of his are known to exist. Three are views of Mount Washington and the others are portraits of buildings, likely done on commission for the owners. This painting was originally owned by the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company.



**2. Presidential Range**  
2008.600.025  
Oil on canvas by Edward L. Custer  
No date

The painting depicts part of the Presidential Range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

### THE ARTIST – EDWARD L. CUSTER

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.



### 3. October in New Hampshire

1985.082.001

Gift of Louisa Tompkins Lassonde

Oil on panel by Omer T. Lassonde

c. 1970

The location shown in this painting is unknown.

#### 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 local department store owner James W. Hill. After Mr. Hill’s death, Omer and Louisa inherited his home at 269 Hanover Street in Manchester. The Manchester Historic Association owns seven paintings by Mr. Lassonde.



### 4. Smyth Mansion

1981.89.1

Gift of Louisa Tompkins Lassonde

Oil on canvas by Omer T. Lassonde

c. 1960

The Frederick Smyth Estate, also known as “The Willows”, was the home of Governor Frederick Smyth (1819-1899). The estate was located on the corner of West Salmon and Elm Streets in Manchester and was built on a bluff overlooking the Amoskeag Falls. Governor Smyth bought ten acres of land from the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company c. 1866 and hired architect Gridley J. F. Bryant of

Boston to design the mansion and develop the grounds. It was considered a masterpiece of 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture and craftwork. The building was demolished in 1969.

Governor Smyth was one of the most admired of Manchester’s historical figures, rising 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 (1852, 1853, 1854, and 1864). He served a term in the state legislature and was elected Governor of New Hampshire twice (1865-1867). He was a leader on various commissions and was influential in several benevolent efforts to improve public welfare.



### 5. Uncanoonuc Paper Mill

5995

Gift of Mrs. Charles H. Fish

Watercolor on paper by Henry W. Herrick

1881

The Uncanoonuc Paper Mill, more commonly known as the P. C. Cheney Paper Mill, was located in Amoskeag Village on the west side of the Merrimack River. Amoskeag Village is pictured on the far right of the painting. The figures in the foreground are standing on giant boulders in the middle of the Merrimack River. These boulders existed at the head

of Amoskeag Falls. Some were later blasted away due to dam construction, and others are now under water behind the current dam.

#### 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 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. The Manchester Historic Association owns over 80 Herrick paintings and drawings. He died in 1906.



### 6. Lake Massabesic and Lodge

1997.039.009

Gift of Margaret Haller

Watercolor on paper by Henry W. Herrick

c. 1875

Lake Massabesic is a natural body of water east of Manchester, New Hampshire covering about 2,600 acres. Located conveniently about 400 feet above Manchester, the lake has supplied water to the city since the late 1870s. Today Massabesic is the source of drinking water for

around 159,000 people in the city and in surrounding towns. This beautiful, clear expanse of water, surrounded by woodland, has long been used for recreational purposes.



## 7. Amoskeag Train Station

2006.3.1

Purchased by Manchester Historic Association

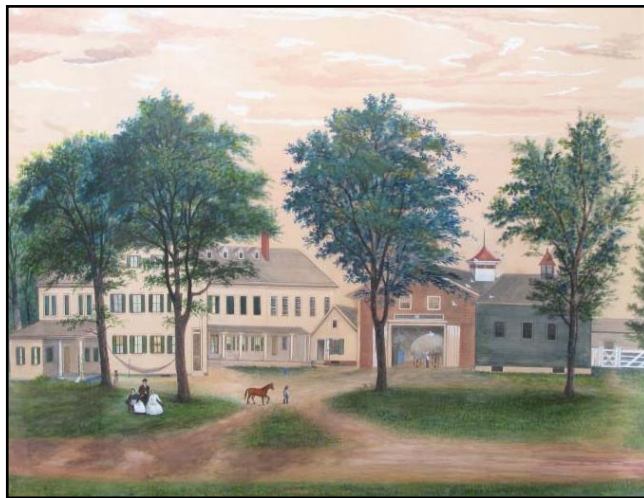
Friends: Doug Chamberlain, Alice DeSouza, Dick & Phyllis Dowd, Hilda Fleisher, Tom & Sue Haydock, Michael Lennon, Anne Milne, Walt & Kristen Milne, Herb & Judy Pence, and Tony Taylor

Tempera on paperboard by Arch McDonnell  
c. 1955

The Amoskeag Train Station was located on the east bank of the Merrimack River just north of the Amoskeag Millyard. The station was built for the convenience of Governor Frederick Smyth and other wealthy residents of the North End who lived nearby. The building still stands as a private residence on Webster Street.

### THE ARTIST – ARCH MCDONNELL

Arch McDonnell (1909-1978) was a native of New Hampshire and a nationally recognized artist of “railsapes”: landscape paintings of train stations and locomotives. Using early photography and on-site observation, he painted scenes from New Hampshire’s vanished rail era for over two decades and was known for his meticulous detail and historical accuracy. McDonnell was originally a cartoonist for the Manchester Union Leader newspaper in the 1930s and 1940s. His father worked as a brakeman for the Boston and Maine Railroad.



## 8. City Farm

1948.59.47

Gift of Emma Streeter Proctor

Watercolor by unknown artist (inmate at City Farm)

c. 1890

Manchester’s City Farm was a city-operated “poor farm” that housed poor and disabled people. The building later served as the headquarters of the Derryfield Country Club until it was torn down in 2005 and replaced by a modern building. The figures pictured are Mr. Leroy Streeter, City Farm superintendent from

1889-1893, his wife, and daughter Emma. The man leading the horse was Jimmy Dowd, a “trusty” or trustworthy resident. The artist’s name was not recorded, however we do know through notes taken from recollections of the donor, that the artist was a middle-aged man who was a resident at the City Farm.



**9. Old Footbridge over Merrimack**

8731

Gift of Adelaide Griffin

Oil Painting by unknown artist

This painting is an artist's rendering of an old footbridge that spanned the Merrimack River near the fishing islands and Amoskeag Falls. The bridge connected the West Side of the mainland to the island just below Amoskeag Falls.



**10. Rock Rimmon and the Uncanoonucs**

5949

Gift of the Artist

Oil on canvas by Frank French

c. 1920

This painting depicts a scenic view in West Manchester of Rock Rimmon with the North and South Uncanoonuc Mountains in the background. Amoskeag Falls on the Merrimack River is shown in the foreground.

**THE ARTIST – FRANK FRENCH**

Frank French (1850-1933) was an internationally known portrait and landscape artist. He was born in Loudon, N.H. and had an art studio in Manchester. In the 1870s, he served as art director of the "Mirror and Farmer" newspaper. He helped organize the Manchester Art Association. This painting was a gift to the Manchester Historic Association from Mr. French.

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