

*“There are going to be scoffers and doubters and critics galore of this movement among people who do not see in it its true significance or realize that the art of every country remains, in the last analysis, the true measure of its civilization.”*

*Edward Bruce to Nat Burwash, 1933*



Department of Cultural Resources  
20 Park St  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
Phone (603) 271-2540

## LENDERS TO THE EXHIBIT

Alan and Suzanne Rom  
League of New Hampshire Craftsmen  
New Hampshire Art Association  
Office of the Attorney General  
Warner Historical Society

## EXHIBIT CREDITS

### Administration:

Van McLeod, Commissioner  
Kathy Stanick, Michael York, Janet Eklund

**Curator:** Rebecca L Lawrence

**Assistant Curators:** Julie Mento  
Lynn Martin Graton

**Curatorial Assistant:** Sarah Chalsma

**Researchers:** Charles Shipman  
Russell Bastedo

**Music Mix:** David Harris

**Exhibit Designer:** Kathy Hanson

**Fabricators:** Clint Jackson, Bill  
Charron, Tom Kennedy, Robert  
Clark, Bob Killilea

---

## ARTISTS AT WORK

1935-1942

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
REMEMBERED

---

NATHANIEL BURWASH  
& HERBERT WATERS

---



---

**This exhibition is made possible by:**

New Hampshire  
Department of Cultural Resources  
New Hampshire  
Conservation License Plate Fund  
Public Service of New Hampshire.

# ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

This is the second exhibit in the Department of Cultural Resources “Hidden Treasures” series. It draws from the New Hampshire Artist Archives to give historical context to paintings and prints produced for the New Hampshire Federal Art Project (NHFAP) between 1935 and 1942. NHFAP was part of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) that was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to relieve the massive unemployment that followed the 1929 stock market crash.

The director of the New Hampshire Federal Art Project was Omer T. Lassonde. About 20 artists worked for WPA/NHFAP creating large-scale murals and sculptures for public spaces as well as small, portable artworks that toured in group exhibitions around the state.

Federal Art Projects all over the United States helped artists survive the Great Depression by paying them a modest wage and supplying them with the materials they needed to do their art work. In exchange, the work the artists produced was delivered to publicly supported institutions, such as the New Hampshire State Library, for safekeeping and for sharing with the general public.

## ABOUT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ARTIST ARCHIVES

---

The New Hampshire Artist Archives was established in 1996 to collect, index, and preserve the papers of artists and arts organizations with strong connections to New Hampshire. It is an ongoing joint project of the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the New Hampshire State Library. The artists featured in this exhibit were the first to donate their papers to the archives.

*The New Hampshire State Library is the repository for nearly 200 works by WPA/Federal Art Project artists who worked in New Hampshire between 1935 and 1942.*

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

---

Two of the artists who worked for the New Hampshire Federal Art Project are featured in this exhibit: Nathaniel C. Burwash and Herbert Ogden Waters.

NHFAP Director Omer Lassonde, after stamping each artwork with the official Federal Art Project stamp, delivered works by these artists to the New Hampshire State Library between 1936 and 1942. This is the first time that these two artists’ works have been exhibited together since the early 1940s.

## HERBERT OGDEN WATERS

---

Herbert Waters, born in China as the son of Baptist missionaries, moved to New Hampshire in 1933, having earned art degrees in the Midwest.

As a WPA artist, he lived with his wife Bertha in Warner, NH. He credited the NHFAP with giving him the time and means to learn wood engraving. The prints in this exhibit include early linoleum block prints, woodcuts, and wood engravings. The prints range from his humorous view of a country fair to a delicate rendition of his wife’s window garden.

Waters donated not only papers to the Artist Archives, but also his work table and printing press to help others understand more about the working life of artists.

## NATHANIEL C. BURWASH

---

Nat Burwash and his wife Ida moved from New York City to Washington, NH in 1934. He worked for the NHFAP from 1937 to 1941. After he moved to Massachusetts in the fall of ‘41, he continued to come to their wooded retreat as often as possible until he sold the land and camp in 1980.

Burwash produced hundreds of watercolors for the NHFAP. With an economy of line and vibrant color his works evoke rural life in 1930s New Hampshire as if it were today.

His archived papers and photos provide rich detail to his long, productive life as an artist and to the times in which he lived.