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Historic New England presents *America's Kitchens*



Boston – March 2009 – Historic New England’s traveling exhibition, *America’s Kitchens*, opens at the New Hampshire Historical Society’s museum on June 11.

Visitors to *America’s Kitchens* experience the history of the American kitchen from the Colonial period to the present through vignettes and interactive experiences. Based on real historical kitchens and primary research, the exhibition features innovative design, including recreated kitchens, artifacts, photographs, and personal stories.

America’s Kitchens showcases the important role of kitchens throughout history. Historic New England’s collections contain innumerable items related to the New England kitchen. For comparison, the exhibition also includes kitchens from the South, the Midwest, and the Southwest.

Each item in the exhibition tells a story – about food preparation and other domestic work, the use of household help, the impact of new technologies, changes in gadgets and appliances, how advertising portrays women’s roles -- and excerpts from letters and diaries reveal both nostalgic memories and despair at the endless drudgery of kitchen work.

Although kitchen chores have changed from the multi-tasking of colonial and early nineteenth-century households – cooking, laundering, preserving, making soap and candles, spinning, and minding children - to common activities taking place in kitchen today like paying bills, doing homework, entertaining, and microwaving popcorn, the kitchen remains the “heart of the home.”

Historic New England is grateful to the following organizations in presenting this exhibition:

- Anonymous Foundation
- Gilbert H. Hood Family Fund
- Mars Foundation
- National Endowment for the Humanities



The *America's Kitchens* exhibition is part of Historic New England's **Year of the Kitchen**, a celebration of the role of the kitchen in times past and present. Through special programs, house tours, exhibitions, and more, discover the technological and social changes that have taken place in the kitchen and why, for so many of us, this room still symbolizes warmth and comfort. Visit www.AmericasKitchens.org for a complete listing of programs and events throughout the region.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, research library, educational programs, publications, and outreach programs. *America's Kitchens* is on view at the Society's Museum of New Hampshire History, located at 6 Eagle Square, Concord, N.H., from June 11 through December 31, 2009. For more information, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

Historic New England is the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive regional heritage organization in the nation. It offers unique opportunities to experience the stories of New Englanders through their homes and possessions. For more information visit www.HistoricNewEngland.org.

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