



1  
00:00:00,610 --> 00:00:14,910

[Music]

2  
00:00:28,710 --> 00:00:16,060

so

3  
00:00:33,830 --> 00:00:31,910

to the state of new hampshire that was

4  
00:00:34,790 --> 00:00:33,840

the price of some new hampshire history

5  
00:00:36,790 --> 00:00:34,800

a record price

6  
00:00:38,950 --> 00:00:36,800

paid by the state for a lovely 18th

7  
00:00:40,310 --> 00:00:38,960

century high boy which once belonged to

8  
00:00:41,990 --> 00:00:40,320

josiah bartlett

9  
00:00:43,510 --> 00:00:42,000

by the close of the auction state

10  
00:00:45,910 --> 00:00:43,520

officials had spent more than one

11  
00:00:49,029 --> 00:00:45,920

hundred and fifty thousand dollars

12  
00:00:51,830 --> 00:00:49,039

thirty seven five bid forty thousand

13  
00:00:52,470 --> 00:00:51,840

the only one in the world thirty seven

14

00:00:58,790 --> 00:00:52,480

five bid

15

00:01:00,549 --> 00:00:58,800

forty thousand anywhere forty thousand

16

00:01:02,229 --> 00:01:00,559

we sold at thirty seven thousand five

17

00:01:04,310 --> 00:01:02,239

hundred forty eight number four new

18

00:01:04,869 --> 00:01:04,320

hampshire historical society pitched in

19

00:01:07,030 --> 00:01:04,879

also

20

00:01:08,950 --> 00:01:07,040

to stave off the loss of furnishings and

21

00:01:11,030 --> 00:01:08,960

paper to out-of-state buyers

22

00:01:12,149 --> 00:01:11,040

society officials spent seven thousand

23

00:01:14,789 --> 00:01:12,159

dollars for britches

24

00:01:16,950 --> 00:01:14,799

josiah wore horseback to philadelphia

25

00:01:18,070 --> 00:01:16,960

society director john frisbie told

26

00:01:19,510 --> 00:01:18,080

reporters

27

00:01:21,109 --> 00:01:19,520

every time things go out of state it

28

00:01:23,030 --> 00:01:21,119

makes me concerned i think

29

00:01:24,230 --> 00:01:23,040

i think we all all share a common

30

00:01:25,990 --> 00:01:24,240

feeling that we would like to keep

31

00:01:28,550 --> 00:01:26,000

things like this and things like

32

00:01:29,670 --> 00:01:28,560

those items sold at the bachelor sale in

33

00:01:31,350 --> 00:01:29,680

in the state and

34

00:01:33,109 --> 00:01:31,360

where we can get them in public hands

35

00:01:35,030 --> 00:01:33,119

who was josiah bartlett

36

00:01:37,270 --> 00:01:35,040

that when his descendants decided to

37

00:01:39,109 --> 00:01:37,280

sell his papers his tables and more

38

00:01:40,630 --> 00:01:39,119

even the vesty war when signing the

39

00:01:43,030 --> 00:01:40,640

declaration of independence

40

00:01:45,030 --> 00:01:43,040

the state silently set aside money to

41

00:01:46,789 --> 00:01:45,040

keep as much as possible of that special

42

00:01:49,030 --> 00:01:46,799

history out of the hands of private

43

00:01:51,510 --> 00:01:49,040

collectors and dealers from elsewhere

44

00:01:53,910 --> 00:01:51,520

state archivist frank meavers explains i

45

00:01:54,230 --> 00:01:53,920

think josiah was an extraordinary man

46

00:01:56,630 --> 00:01:54,240

who

47

00:01:57,670 --> 00:01:56,640

gave of himself greatly for the state of

48

00:02:00,069 --> 00:01:57,680

new hampshire

49

00:02:01,510 --> 00:02:00,079

he served us in almost every capacity in

50

00:02:03,350 --> 00:02:01,520

public office there was during

51  
00:02:05,030 --> 00:02:03,360  
the american revolution and during the

52  
00:02:06,789 --> 00:02:05,040  
years afterwards last president

53  
00:02:08,150 --> 00:02:06,799  
first governor of the state under the

54  
00:02:09,270 --> 00:02:08,160  
current constitution

55  
00:02:11,589 --> 00:02:09,280  
under which we lived he was the

56  
00:02:12,309 --> 00:02:11,599  
president pro tem of the ratification

57  
00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:12,319  
convention

58  
00:02:17,589 --> 00:02:15,840  
for the u.s constitution in 1988

59  
00:02:19,430 --> 00:02:17,599  
bartlett's most direct new hampshire

60  
00:02:21,030 --> 00:02:19,440  
descendant ruth reddy who lives in

61  
00:02:23,190 --> 00:02:21,040  
bartlett's kingston home

62  
00:02:25,750 --> 00:02:23,200  
and a new york aunt felt financially

63  
00:02:27,910 --> 00:02:25,760

pushed to go forward with the auction

64

00:02:29,750 --> 00:02:27,920

now imagine growing up in the midst of

65

00:02:32,470 --> 00:02:29,760

all this history

66

00:02:33,110 --> 00:02:32,480

there's a wonderful musty aroma about

67

00:02:36,229 --> 00:02:33,120

the place

68

00:02:38,229 --> 00:02:36,239

this room makes you want to touch all

69

00:02:42,150 --> 00:02:38,239

the items and read every

70

00:02:45,990 --> 00:02:42,160

letter and paper and then imagine

71

00:02:50,470 --> 00:02:48,710

for most of us this is state and

72

00:02:53,670 --> 00:02:50,480

national history

73

00:02:57,750 --> 00:02:53,680

but for ruth ready it's personal

74

00:03:00,470 --> 00:02:57,760

family history now i asked her

75

00:03:02,550 --> 00:03:00,480

what did she think that her great great

76

00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:02,560

great great grandfather

77

00:03:06,309 --> 00:03:05,040

was really like when you read the

78

00:03:06,790 --> 00:03:06,319

letters it's almost like you're right

79

00:03:08,309 --> 00:03:06,800

there

80

00:03:09,910 --> 00:03:08,319

listening to them talk you know and just

81

00:03:11,110 --> 00:03:09,920

asking about the children being

82

00:03:14,710 --> 00:03:11,120

concerned with them

83

00:03:16,949 --> 00:03:14,720

a real caring caring father

84

00:03:18,229 --> 00:03:16,959

in may the legislature led by senate

85

00:03:19,910 --> 00:03:18,239

president bill bartlett

86

00:03:21,990 --> 00:03:19,920

also of kingston but not a direct

87

00:03:23,910 --> 00:03:22,000

descendant quietly appropriated one

88

00:03:25,990 --> 00:03:23,920

million dollars to bid on josiah's

89

00:03:27,350 --> 00:03:26,000

possessions and buy and restore other

90

00:03:29,589 --> 00:03:27,360

historic items

91

00:03:31,990 --> 00:03:29,599

some lawmakers argued it was done too

92

00:03:34,149 --> 00:03:32,000

quietly the problem that arises in my

93

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:34,159

mind is why it wasn't brought before the

94

00:03:37,589 --> 00:03:36,080

legislature i think that

95

00:03:39,830 --> 00:03:37,599

the people of new hampshire being

96

00:03:41,110 --> 00:03:39,840

conservative respecting history and

97

00:03:42,229 --> 00:03:41,120

respecting the state would have been

98

00:03:44,070 --> 00:03:42,239

more than willing to

99

00:03:45,589 --> 00:03:44,080

consider it and probably vote in the

100

00:03:46,070 --> 00:03:45,599

affirmative if it had been brought

101  
00:03:50,309 --> 00:03:46,080  
before

102  
00:03:52,470 --> 00:03:50,319  
us rather than being hidden as i feel

103  
00:03:53,350 --> 00:03:52,480  
in this special section of the budget

104  
00:03:55,830 --> 00:03:53,360  
but you can't

105  
00:03:57,509 --> 00:03:55,840  
expect the badland family to retain

106  
00:03:59,429 --> 00:03:57,519  
history all their lives

107  
00:04:00,949 --> 00:03:59,439  
for the rest of us and i think that

108  
00:04:01,589 --> 00:04:00,959  
they're justified in doing what they're

109  
00:04:03,670 --> 00:04:01,599  
doing

110  
00:04:05,350 --> 00:04:03,680  
and if the new hampshire wants to retain

111  
00:04:07,110 --> 00:04:05,360  
its history i think it's important

112  
00:04:09,509 --> 00:04:07,120  
that they put their money up and retain

113  
00:04:11,830 --> 00:04:09,519

the history for the generations to come

114

00:04:13,990 --> 00:04:11,840

even governor judd greg got involved

115

00:04:16,150 --> 00:04:14,000

asking a noted appraiser and auctioneer

116

00:04:17,030 --> 00:04:16,160

ron bourgeois to help the state out in

117

00:04:20,469 --> 00:04:17,040

its bidding

118

00:04:21,509 --> 00:04:20,479

it's almost like a field of dreams it's

119

00:04:25,749 --> 00:04:21,519

it's

120

00:04:27,990 --> 00:04:25,759

you know the the items here today

121

00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:28,000

as an appraiser it's very difficult to

122

00:04:31,270 --> 00:04:29,040

appraise them

123

00:04:33,030 --> 00:04:31,280

at the prices that they're bringing but

124

00:04:35,430 --> 00:04:33,040

but you know there's magic

125

00:04:37,110 --> 00:04:35,440

it was like magic at the bartlett home

126  
00:04:39,030 --> 00:04:37,120  
auctioneer martin willis

127  
00:04:41,110 --> 00:04:39,040  
chose the site here intentionally for

128  
00:04:43,909 --> 00:04:41,120  
his auction one of the things

129  
00:04:46,390 --> 00:04:43,919  
when i first came here uh they were

130  
00:04:47,350 --> 00:04:46,400  
considering sotheby's in new york

131  
00:04:49,590 --> 00:04:47,360  
and that would have meant that

132  
00:04:50,790 --> 00:04:49,600  
everything would have gone down to new

133  
00:04:52,870 --> 00:04:50,800  
york

134  
00:04:54,310 --> 00:04:52,880  
and when i took a walk through the house

135  
00:04:56,070 --> 00:04:54,320  
and looked at everything

136  
00:04:58,070 --> 00:04:56,080  
i convinced them that they would

137  
00:05:00,469 --> 00:04:58,080  
probably get the most money

138  
00:05:01,430 --> 00:05:00,479

for their items coming right straight

139

00:05:05,029 --> 00:05:01,440

out of the house

140

00:05:09,110 --> 00:05:07,510

this is apple cider and if i'd been here

141

00:05:11,749 --> 00:05:09,120

200 years ago

142

00:05:13,990 --> 00:05:11,759

i'd be sipping it with josiah bartlett

143

00:05:15,670 --> 00:05:14,000

and george washington who came up here

144

00:05:18,550 --> 00:05:15,680

in 1789

145

00:05:20,230 --> 00:05:18,560

to visit him there's so much history

146

00:05:23,990 --> 00:05:20,240

associated with this property

147

00:05:26,310 --> 00:05:24,000

this house and this tree josiah bartlett

148

00:05:27,670 --> 00:05:26,320

brought this tree back from philadelphia

149

00:05:29,350 --> 00:05:27,680

as a sapling

150

00:05:30,870 --> 00:05:29,360

just after he'd signed the declaration

151  
00:05:32,790 --> 00:05:30,880  
of independence

152  
00:05:34,390 --> 00:05:32,800  
and speaking of declarations

153  
00:05:37,990 --> 00:05:34,400  
proclamations and the like

154  
00:05:40,550 --> 00:05:38,000  
those bartlett papers also sold well 275

155  
00:05:41,990 --> 00:05:40,560  
300 three and a quarter three and a half

156  
00:05:46,070 --> 00:05:42,000  
three and a half

157  
00:05:46,950 --> 00:05:46,080  
375 375 man 400. the historical society

158  
00:05:50,629 --> 00:05:46,960  
had to spend

159  
00:05:54,310 --> 00:05:50,639  
55 000 to get the papers it wanted

160  
00:05:57,430 --> 00:05:54,320  
josiah's school book 567

161  
00:06:00,790 --> 00:05:57,440  
607 800 809

162  
00:06:03,830 --> 00:06:00,800  
9 8 900 1

163  
00:06:09,110 --> 00:06:03,840

000. 5 900 standing

164

00:06:12,469 --> 00:06:11,189

notification department of the surrender

165

00:06:15,670 --> 00:06:12,479

of the british sold

166

00:06:17,830 --> 00:06:15,680

for around three thousand dollars and

167

00:06:21,270 --> 00:06:17,840

as for the prices generally i think

168

00:06:23,590 --> 00:06:21,280

they're all extraordinarily high

169

00:06:26,230 --> 00:06:23,600

but i think one has to anticipate that

170

00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:26,240

with the kind of hype that this has had

171

00:06:29,029 --> 00:06:27,440

you know i think it's great for the

172

00:06:30,070 --> 00:06:29,039

family but let's face it i mean it's a

173

00:06:32,710 --> 00:06:30,080

circus

174

00:06:34,469 --> 00:06:32,720

a josiah bartlett infant's playpen sold

175

00:06:36,070 --> 00:06:34,479

for thirty four hundred dollars

176

00:06:39,350 --> 00:06:36,080

a lot of little bartlett pots were right

177

00:06:43,110 --> 00:06:41,110

considering there were so many children

178

00:06:45,189 --> 00:06:43,120

that's a very good condition

179

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:45,199

what's also interesting is the state has

180

00:06:48,629 --> 00:06:46,880

eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars

181

00:07:03,320 --> 00:06:48,639

left to spend on other auctions in

182

00:07:10,150 --> 00:07:03,330

history for sale in new hampshire