



THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMICSTITUTION

Comic by Marek Bennett

How many ways are there to tell a story? As many as you can imagine! You can write a paper, put together an exhibit, sing a song, build a website, share tales around a campfire, or create a comic. And history is full of stories to tell!

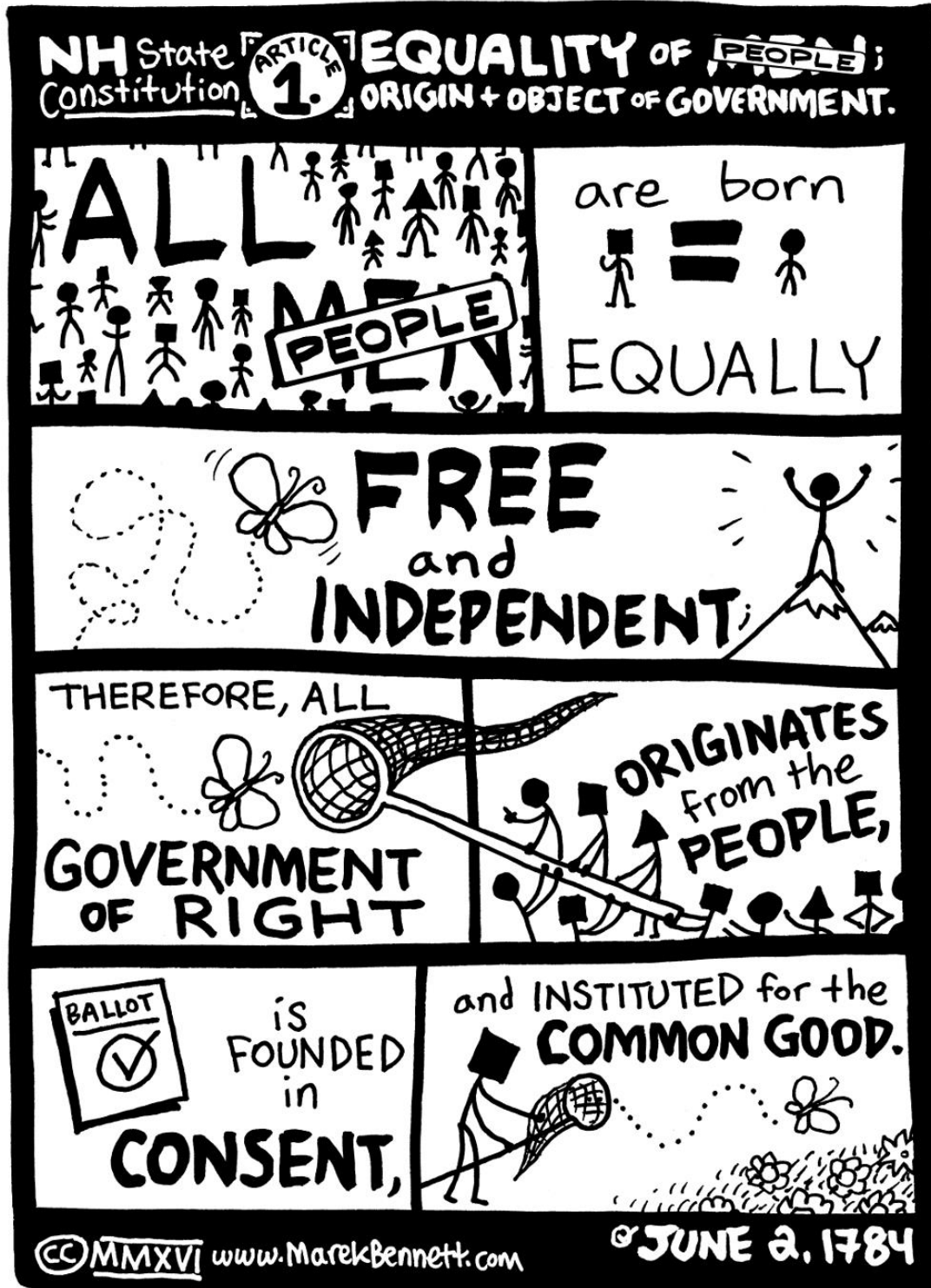
The NH State Constitution contains a whole lot of important, interesting, and intriguing words and ideas that form the foundation of our state government... but for some reason, very few people ever take the time to read it! So here's the official LIVE FREE AND DRAW comics adaptation — a "Comicstitution" — to help draw out its meaning:*

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Article 1. Equality of Men; Origin and Object of Government.

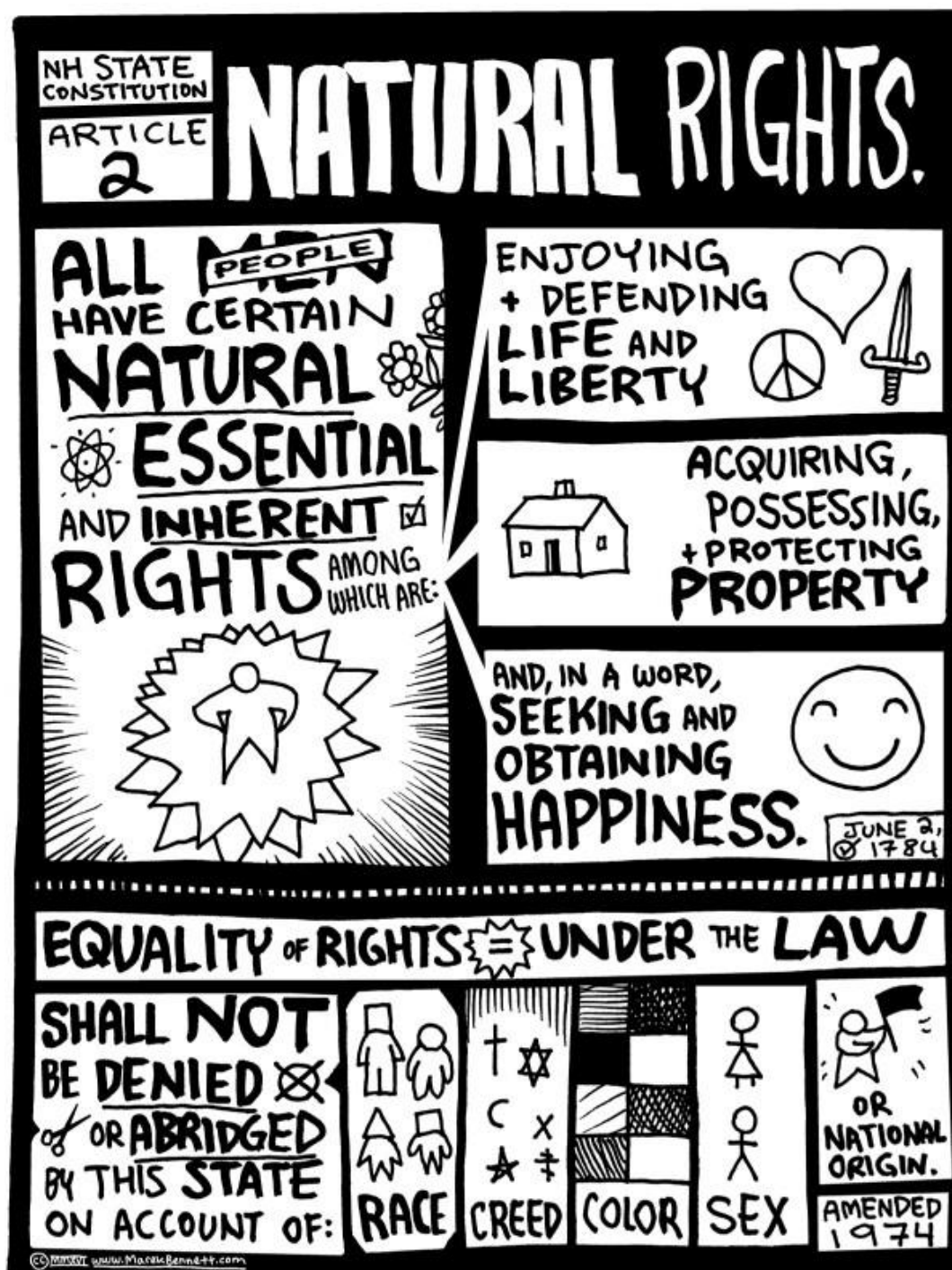
All men are born equally free and independent; therefore, all government of right originates from the people, is founded in consent, and instituted for the general good.





Article 2. Natural Rights.

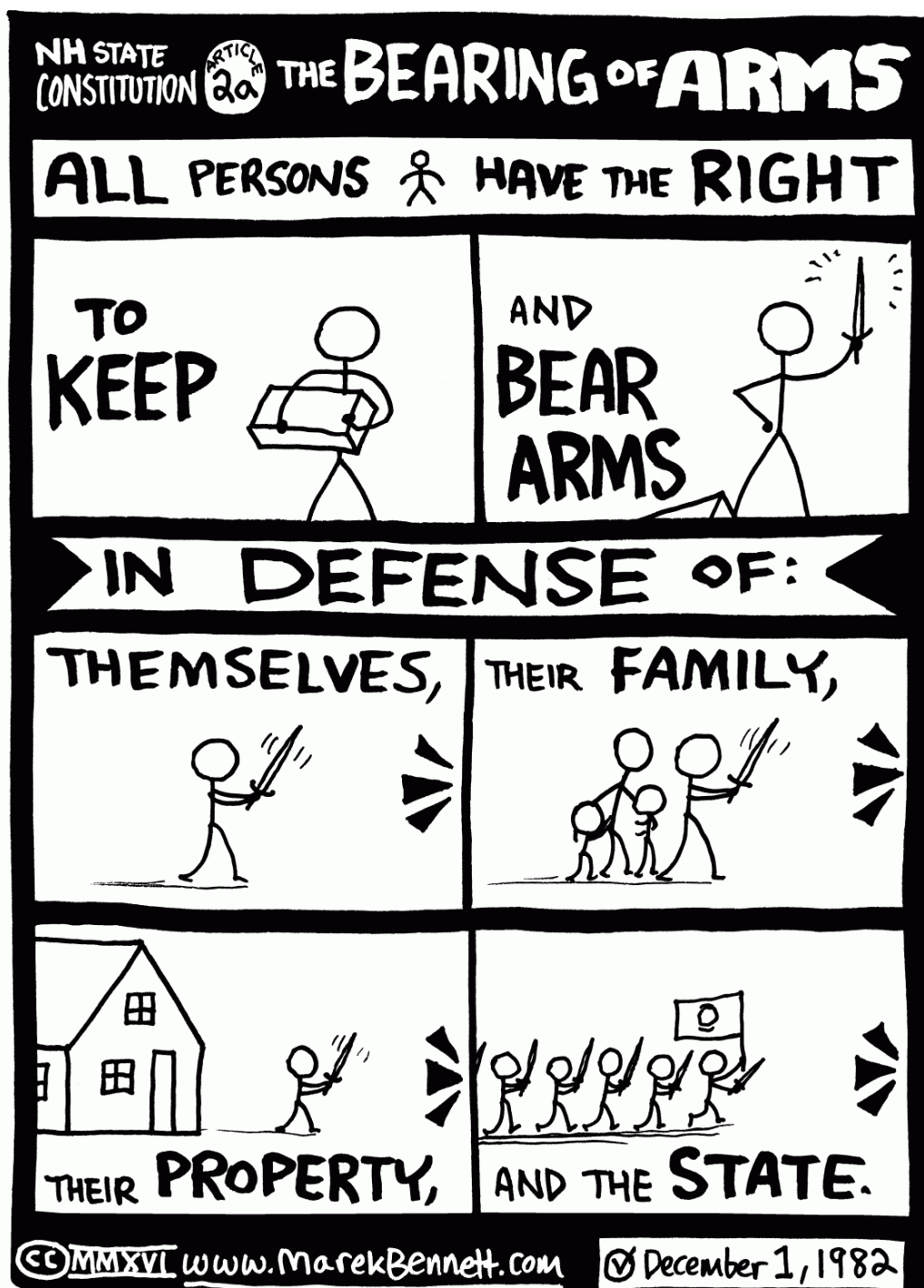
All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights—among which are, the enjoying and defending life and liberty; acquiring, possessing, and protecting, property; and, in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by this state on account of race, creed, color, sex or national origin.





Article 2-a. The Bearing of Arms.

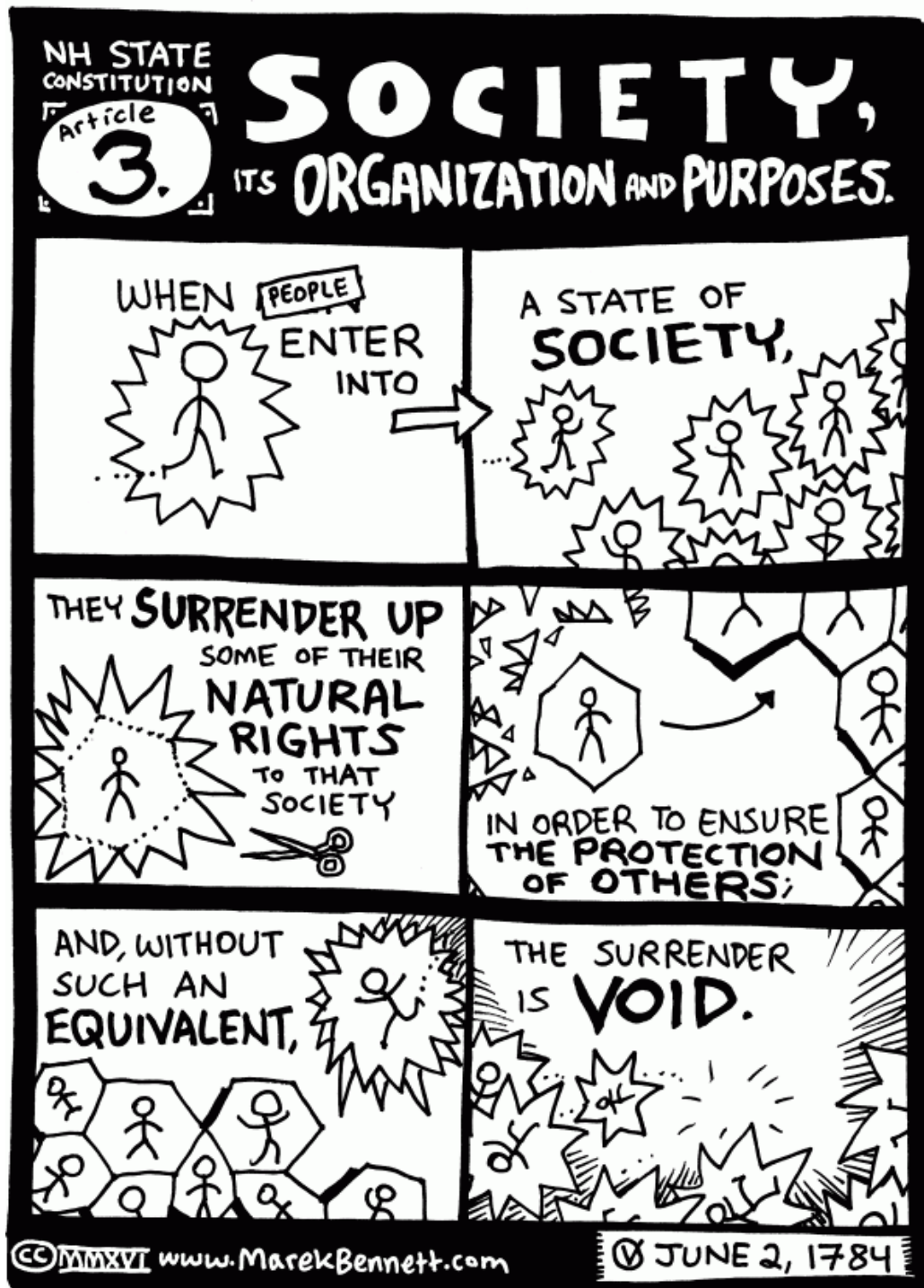
All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.





Article 3. Society, its Organization and Purposes.

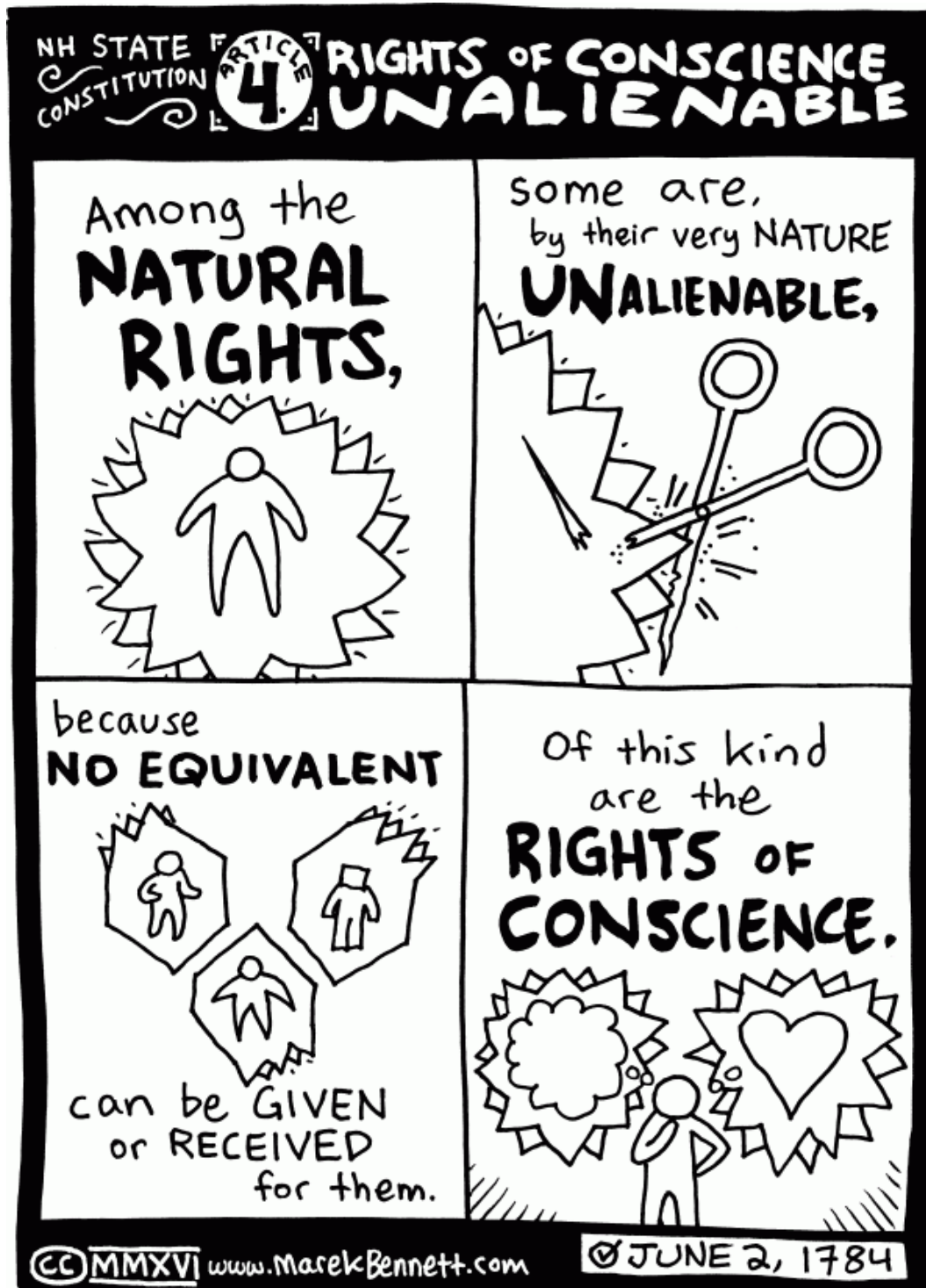
When men enter into a state of society, they surrender up some of their natural rights to that society, in order to ensure the protection of others; and, without such an equivalent, the surrender is void.





Article 4. Rights of Conscience Unalienable.

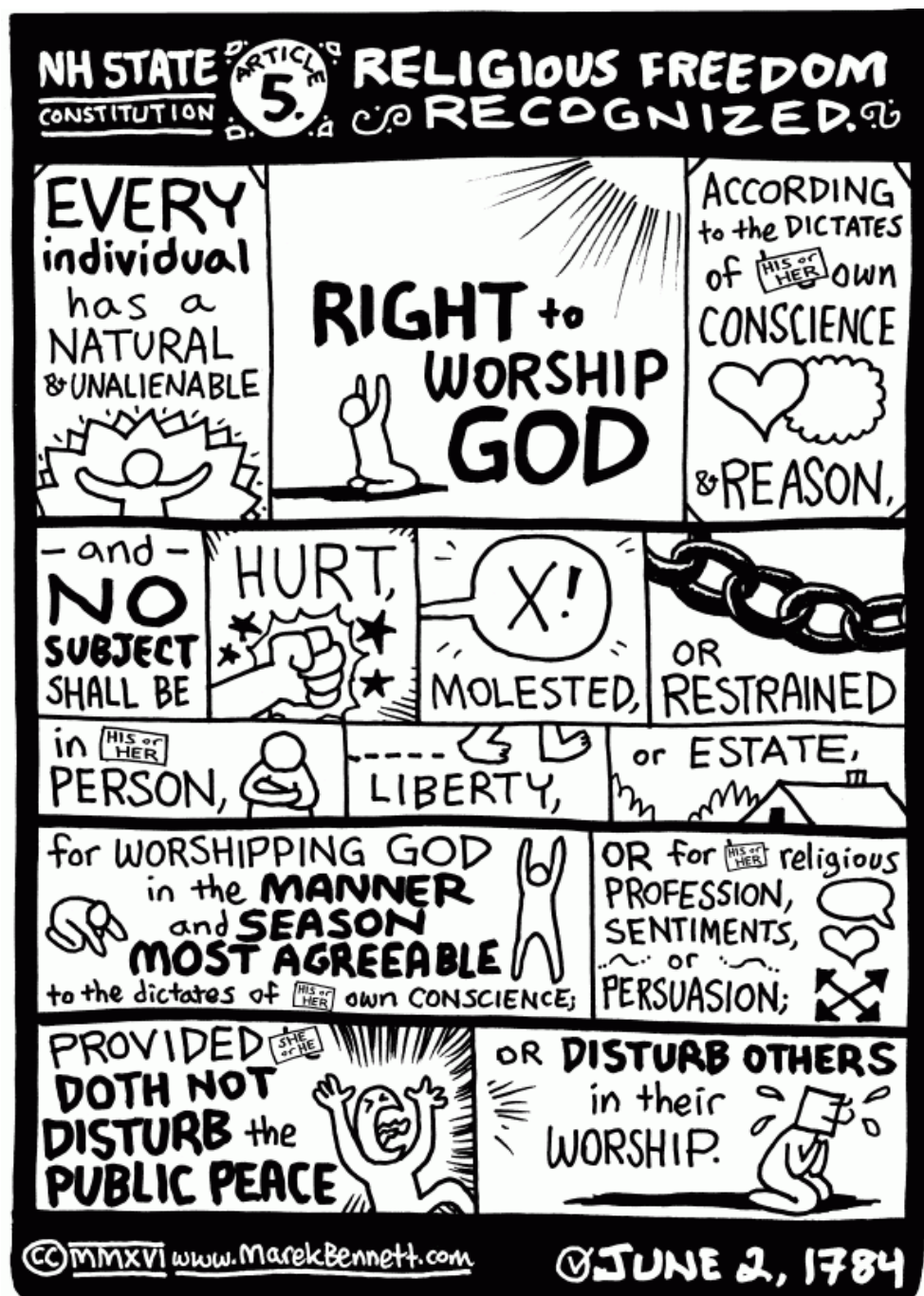
Among the natural rights, some are, in their very nature unalienable, because no equivalent can be given or received for them. Of this kind are the Rights of Conscience.





Article 5. Religious Freedom Recognized.

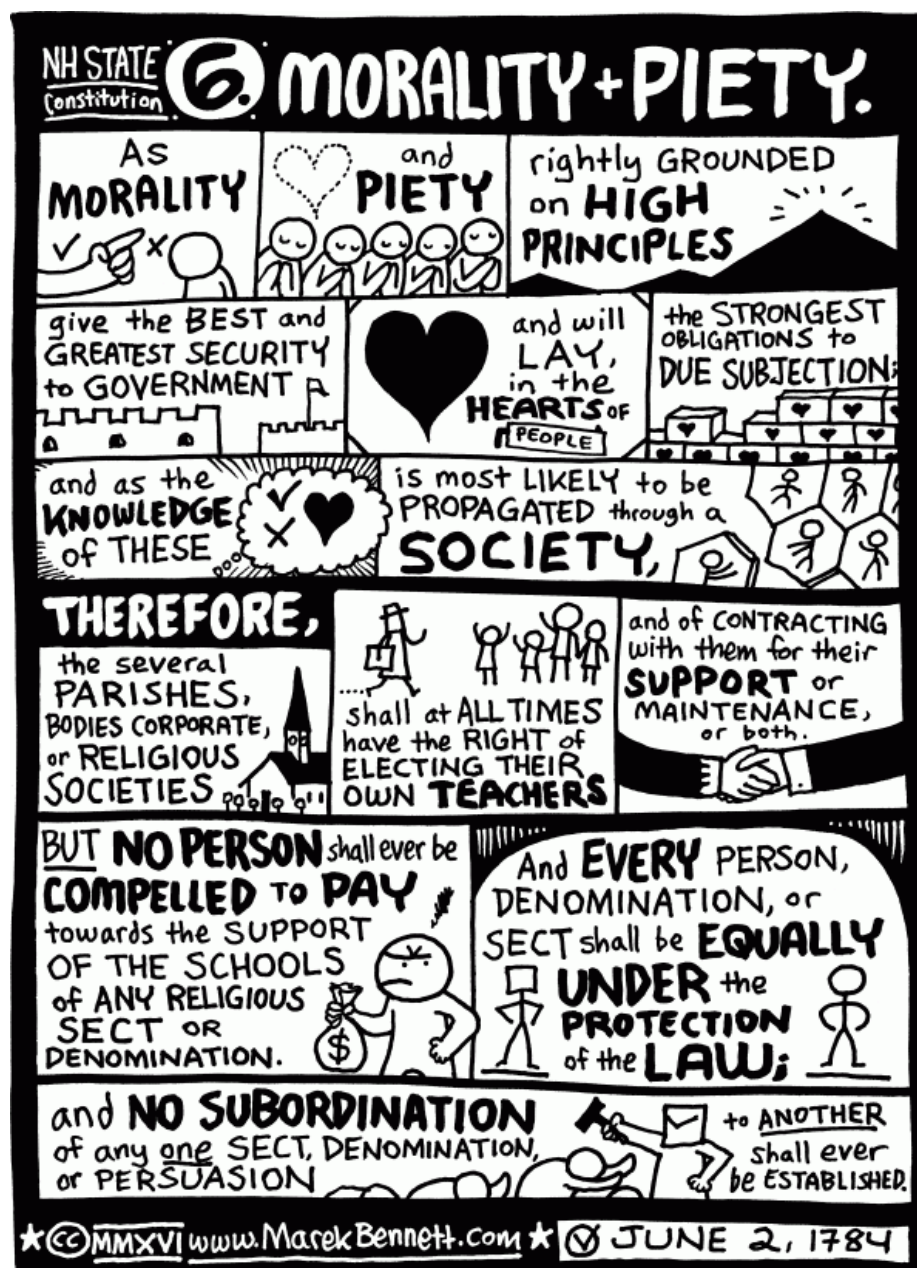
Every individual has a natural and unalienable right to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, and reason; and no subject shall be hurt, molested, or restrained, in his peers on, liberty, or estate, for worshipping God in the manner and season most agreeable to the dictates of his own conscience; or for his religious profession, sentiments, or persuasion; provided he doth not disturb the public peace or disturb others in their religious worship.





Article 6. Morality and Piety.

As morality and piety, rightly grounded on high principles, will give the best and greatest security to government, and will lay, in the hearts of men, the strongest obligations to due subjection; and as the knowledge of these is most likely to be propagated through a society, therefore, the several parishes, bodies, corporate, or religious societies shall at all times have the right of electing their own teachers, and of contracting with them for their support or maintenance, or both. But no person shall ever be compelled to pay towards the support of the schools of any sect or denomination. And every person, denomination or sect shall be equally under the protection of the law; and no subordination of any one sect, denomination or persuasion to another shall ever be established.





Article 7. State Sovereignty.

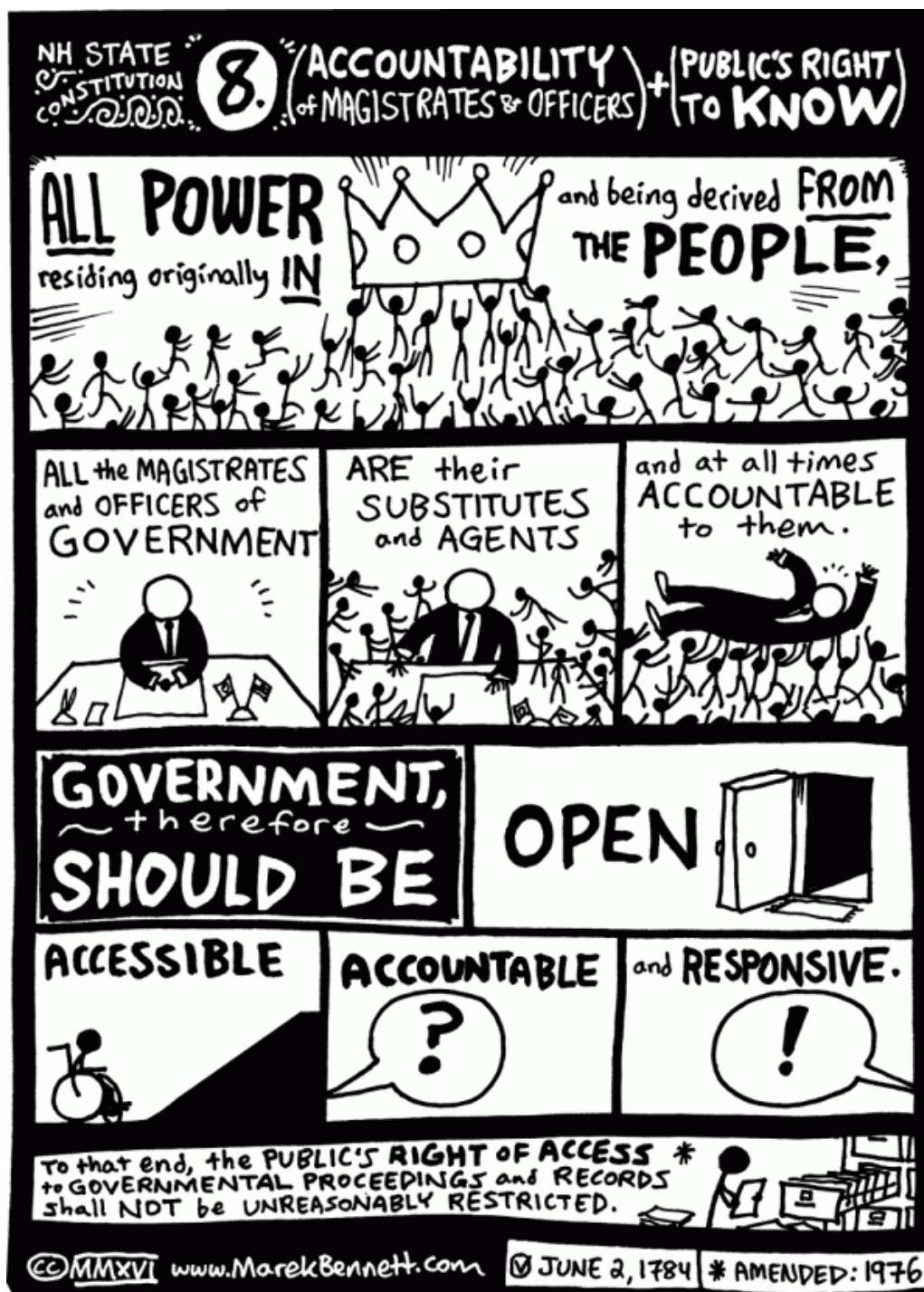
The people of this state have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign, and independent state; and do, and forever hereafter shall, exercise and enjoy every power, jurisdiction, and right, pertaining thereto, which is not, or may not hereafter be, by them expressly delegated to the United States of America in congress assembled.





Article 8. Accountability of Magistrates and Officers; Public's Right to Know.

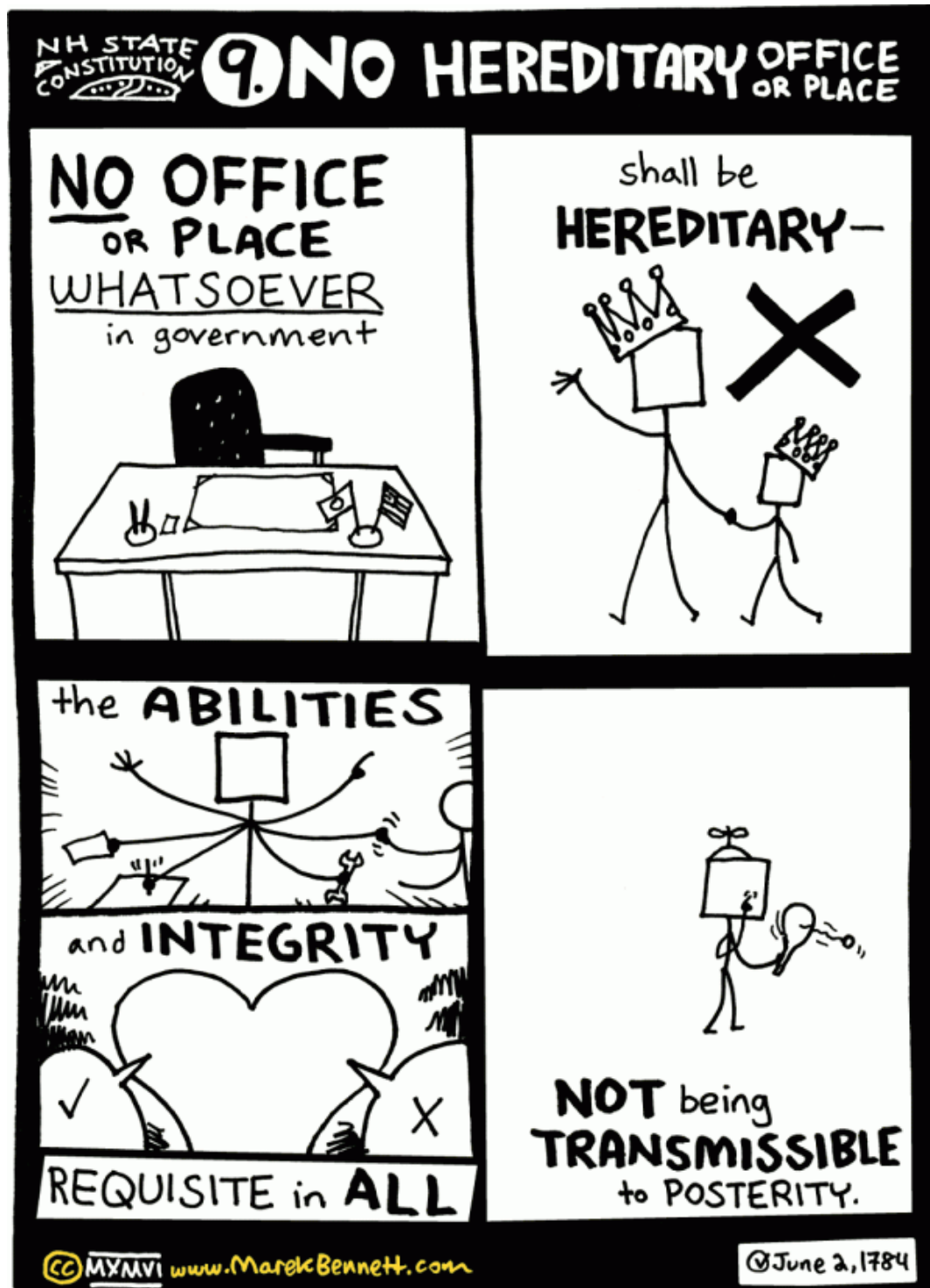
All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive. To that end, the public's right of access to governmental proceedings and records shall not be unreasonably restricted.





Article 9. No Hereditary Office or Place.

No office or place, whatsoever, in government, shall be hereditary—the abilities and integrity requisite in all, not being transmissible to posterity or relations.





Article 10. Right of Revolution.

Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind.





ABOUT NEW HAMPSHIRE CARTOONIST MAREK BENNETT

Marek Bennett makes comics and music in New Hampshire. He is also an educator and leads discovery workshops for all ages throughout New England and beyond. Marek is the founder of "Live Free and Draw," an independent visual storytelling project exploring the history of New Hampshire through comics drawn from historical sources.

So why does Marek focus on New Hampshire? He answers with a comic!



Marek has published several comic books, including a series on a Civil War soldier from New Hampshire named Freeman Colby. To find out more about Marek, his books, and his workshops, check out his website at www.marekbennett.com. To enjoy more comics about the Granite State, see the Live Free and Draw website at www.livefreeanddraw.com

