



**Fall
2018
Newsletter**

**Conway Historical
Society
100 Main St.
P.O. Box 1949
Conway NH. 03818
Phone: 603-447-5551**

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 3

**A publication of
the Conway
Historical Society**

Welcome Fall

The President's Corner

While it seems rather odd to be writing this column now, it is Hot, Hazy, and Humid outside, the focus will be on our activities planned for the Fall - - when we expect the weather to be much more cooperative and colorful.

Our program line-up starts with a September 11th meeting on a topic and with a presenter many of us have known for many years: Mount Washington and TV-8 weather man Marty Engstrom. Marty worked on The Mountain for over 30 years, and had many experiences during his tenure there. During this program he will show us a little bit of what he saw over the years, and talk about some of the more harrowing times. Marty has also penned a book about his experiences and that will be available for sale for those interested. This meeting is at the Brown Church at 7:00 pm as are the meetings for the rest of the year.

Our October 9th meeting will focus on our collection. Curator Bob Cottrell and CHS Secretary Jane Rancourt will speak about "Items Found in the Collection". Jane and our Administrative Assistant, Judy Williams, have been digitizing our old accession records found on 3 x 5 cards and are entering them into our Past Perfect program. Bob has been going through each room of the Eastman Lord House detailing the items he has 'found' there. Some items are downright surprising! (and some are just undefined) While Jane and Judy are not done yet, they have catalogued over 1,500 items in our

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UPCOMING CHS MEETINGS

**October 9
Annual Members' Meeting
Election of Officers
Update on Collections**

**November 13
Old Lucy Sawmill**

****December 11
Annual Christmas Party and
Yankee Swap**

**Save the dates—
Conway Historical Society monthly
program is the
second Tuesday of each month**

****Potluck dinner begins at 6pm with
regular CHS meetings and presentations
at 7pm. All CHS programs are open to
the public at the Conway
Congregational Church (brown church).**

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collection so far, it would be good if they had a little more help. They have accomplished a lot, but Bob is still ahead of them!

With all of the hubbub about the parking at Diana's Baths over the last two summers, my mind stumbled on the idea of doing a presentation on the old Lucy sawmill just up-river from the baths. So, our November meeting (on the 13th) will be devoted to seeing old pictures and some history of the mill and the part that the Lucy family played in its operation. The sawmill produced lumber for the growing local community over the years, generating many board feet by water power alone. Chet Lucy penned a book about the mill, which will form the basis of the presentation, and Lucy family members have generously offered their reminiscences about the mill (but mostly relating stories they heard from their elders). I'll be doing more research on the history of the mill as time progresses and will be looking forward to having some of the family present to share their memories.

To round out the Fall, we'll have our much anticipated Yankee Swap, which will take place after our Christmas Dinner at the Brown Church on December 11th, at 6 PM. As always, 'bring a gift and get a gift' -- and if you are lucky you might even see a gift that made the rounds in previous years! We've seen some unique items pass through many hands, complemented by many laughs and giggles.

Those are the fun activities coming up, but there are also some serious ones too. We received a grant from the Goldberg Foundation to help defray costs associated with improving the fire safety of the Eastman Lord House. That work is now in progress. Jane, Judy, and Ken have been working to organize the ELH, one room at a time. Ken started in the 'east' basement and both Mike Tamulis and Bob took loads to the dump. We found lots of 'stuff' down there, but nothing of historical value. (I was hoping for an item I could take to Antiques Road Show, but to no avail.)

Brian Wiggin, our intrepid historian, is continuing work on the disposition of the 10 or more boxes of Cleveland papers still in our possession. Previously the CHS had given about a dozen boxes of Cleveland papers to the Archives, thinking that that was all there was. We found more in the attic while cleaning. Brian was featured in a recent TV spot talking about the archive, and is now famous! Actually this second batch of papers will be given to the National Archives for cleaning and preservation. Some of the contents are hand-written letters by the president and his wife, and some are signed by him.

From the change in the sign out front of the Salyards it is now clear that the Robert Frost Public Charter School is operating in the whole building. Our Florence McBride Salyards Center for the Arts sign will be kept in dry storage for the immediate future. The Lawn and Garden Committee (i.e. Mike Tamulis and Laraine Cormack) have been tending our gardens, and Mike has been a great help in coordinating the repair of the stone work at the lower rear entrance of the Salyards. Frost heaves over the years caused the walls to tip inwards and the ramp to raise up and become uneven. Because we could re-use the existing bricks we were able to do the work for under \$10,000. We also need to complete some roof repair on the Salyards prior to this coming winter, and next year the complete roof will need to be replaced. While we can handle expenses like the stone work over time, the cost of the roof replacement

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Photo of Annual Members Picnic held on August 14th at Camp Wakuta
A sing-along was led by Dick Vierus, accompanied by Russ Lanoie on banjo

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will be significant (upwards of \$50,000) and will take some planning to fund without dipping into our invested funds.

Finally, at our Annual Meeting in October we get to vote on the addition of two more Board Members. All of the current members of the Board have either one or two more years to serve, but we were short one board member before Lenny Whitmore and Norma moved 'down south' earlier this summer. The members should be very proud of the good work your board members are doing for the CHS in keeping all of our various activities proceeding on course, but there are too few members of the board to properly share the load. Please consider volunteering as a Board member. Remember the old adage, many hands make light work! We need you.

A MEMORABLE POEM

Recited by Frank Eastman

A wise old owl sat in an oak.
The more he heard, the less he spoke.
The less he spoke, the more he heard.
Why can't we all be like that wise old bird?

WHITAKER FAMILY VISIT

A member of the Whitaker Family recently stopped in to the Eastman-Lord House. He was looking for any items that might have been donated by his family.

When he stepped into the office, he immediately recognized a painting done by his grandmother, a still life of a basket of apples. When he checked the artist's signature, it was indeed his grandmother.

We were able to locate two portraits. These had been restored by a firm specializing in restoration in Cooperstown, N.Y. He was thrilled to see them again and was able to take photos.

We have some items for sale that would make unique Christmas gifts:

- Throws with local covered bridges (\$45)**
- Throws with old local buildings (\$45)**
- Swift River Bridge mugs (\$7.50)**
- Magnets of the Eastman-Lord house (\$2.50)**
- Note cards of miscellaneous scenes around the valley (\$2)**
- Aerial view maps of Conway (\$5)**
- Eastman-Lord House large mugs (\$12)**
- Postcards of Swift River bridge (\$.75)**
- Small pocket knife with Conway Historical Society (\$6)**

Please contact an officer to purchase any of these items.

Officers and Directors

President – **Ken Rancourt**
447-2720

Vice President – **Brian Wiggin**
447-3426

Secretary – **Jane Rancourt**
447-2720

Treasurer – **Gary MacDonald**
447-5014

Directors

Joseph Phillips 717-873-9081
Mike Tamulis 447-5162

Curator

Bob Cottrell 323-3359

Lawn and Garden Committee

Open

Newsletter - Judy Williams

447-5551

Programs

Open

Membership

Jane Rancourt
447-2720



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- Northeast Auto Body
- Richard Plusch Antiques
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Your name here!
**Please consider becoming
a business sponsor!**

The Conway Historical Society has many books for sale, including the following:

The Cemeteries of Conway, New Hampshire, June 2015 compiled by Brian Wiggin and Jane and Ken Rancourt - \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, \$5 shipping

The Neighbor's War by Bill Marvel - \$20, shipping \$7

Conway, New Hampshire, 1765-1997: Including Its Villages: Center Conway, Conway Village, East Conway, Intervale, Kearsarge, North Conway, Redstone by Janet McAllister Hounsell and Ruth B. Horne - \$35 plus \$12 shipping and handling

Places of Historic and Scenic Interest in Carroll County, New Hampshire compiled by Historical Societies of Carroll County, 2006 - \$3

The Hotels of Intervale 1850-1890 by Gordon Tasker Heard - \$10

The Latchstring Was Always Out, A History of Lodging Hospitality and Tourism in Bartlett, New Hampshire by Aileen M. Carroll - \$5

Cemeteries and Graveyards of Madison, New Hampshire compiled by Mary K. W. Lucy - \$10

The White Mountains of New Hampshire Annals of the Notches by Guy H. Lagroe, 1977 - \$1

Commemorative Booklet Bicentennial of Conway, N.H. 1765-1965 by Conway Bicentennial Committee, 1965 - \$1

Books may be purchased from any Officer or Director or at the monthly meeting.

Conway Historical Society
100 Main Street
PO Box 1949
Conway NH 03818

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CHS Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 3, Fall 2018

A significant percentage of our income is generated through membership.
Please pass your newsletter along to a friend when you are finished with it. Recycle and help the society to grow.
Membership Dues are payable in October and run through December of the following year.

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Phone: 603-447-5551

CHS Membership Dues = \$20.00 per person per year

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

**Our \$5 student
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www.conwayhistoricalsociety.org

Email: conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com