



**Spring
2018
Newsletter**

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

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 1

A publication of
the Conway
Historical Society

Welcome Spring

DIRECTOR NEEDED

It is with great sadness that we announce Len and Norma Whitmore will be moving out of the area in the near future. At this time, we are looking for a volunteer to replace Len as a Director. If you are interested, please contact Ken Rancourt. We wish Len and Norma good luck in their new home.

We recently received the following letter, which is excerpted here, from one of our long standing members:

My husband grew up in Center Conway. His mother taught at the Pine Tree School. Our two sons are joint owners of the house where the parents lived. I like to keep them informed about Conway. The newsletter is most enjoyable.

I'd be happy to visit Conway, but am now 94 and don't get around much. I keep in touch with a couple families, which is a real pleasure.

Thank you for keeping in touch. Membership matters just come to me.

UPCOMING CHS MEETINGS

**** April 10
Julie Lanoie regarding the Holocaust
and her family**

**May 8
The Building and Restoration of
Covered Bridges by Arnold Gratton**

**** June 12
100 Year Anniversary of Creation of
White Mountain National Forest
By David Govatski**

**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 in the lower level of the Salyards Center for the Arts.

Here are a few items about our town gleaned from The Granite Monthly of June 1896 in an article written by Mrs. Ellen Mason.

Did you know that:

1. Originally Conway was divided into sixty-nine equal shares and each grantee, his heirs and assigns, was required to plant and cultivate five acres of land within five years for each fifty acres in his share?
2. If a white pine was cut down of marked trees saved for the British for the royal navy, a fine of 100 pounds was imposed for each tree?
3. Approximately thirty of the early settlers were buried at the site of the original meeting house in Redstone?
4. The first meeting of the proprietors of Conway was held in the Town of Chester?
5. By 1768, twelve families lived in Conway - among them Osgoods, Dolloffs and Walkers?
6. Conway was the first White Mountain town?
7. In 1766, Daniel Foster, Thomas Merrill and Thomas Chadbourne began the settlement of North Conway in the interval and that Ebenezer Burbank, Joshua Heath and John Dolloff commenced the settlement near the "center" of town?
8. Until 1765, there was nothing more than a narrow bushed path from Centre to North Conway for hunters and explorers?
9. Town meetings were originally held in the home of Joshua Heath starting in 1773?
10. Kearsarge came from the Algonquin word "Kesaugh" meaning "born of the hill that first shakes"?
11. The first Eastman was Richard, who came from Pembroke and had four sons?
12. The first male child born in Conway was probably Jonathan Eastman, one of the four sons?
13. Jonathan Eastman lived until 1868 - his 98th year?
14. Jonathan Eastman lived at the Artist Falls House which became the Glen Keely Institute?
15. The original settlers moved off the intervalles in October 1785 because of the great flood?
16. The first settlements of Conway and Fryeburg were mainly by people of the Concord area?
17. Andrew McMillan was awarded, for his gallant services in the French War, a tract of land that embraced all of the intervalle on the east side of the Saco in what is now Lower Bartlett?
18. McMillan's storehouse became the first typical store in Conway?
19. Thomas Merrill was Conway's first justice of the peace?
20. East Conway was once called Fagend?
21. Conway was originally Democratic but trader Joseph Odell of Conway Centre (first syllable accented) was frequently a Whig candidate?
22. Abiel Lovejoy was the church's first deacon?
23. Cathedral Ledge was originally named Hart's Ledge for Captain John Hart, originally of Portsmouth?
24. The original stage road went along much of today's Boston and Maine Railroad and up to Hart's home, and therefore he may have had the earliest inn in Conway?
25. The first famed female Conway writer was Honor Hart, daughter of John, who "answered abstruse questions as to the aim of man and was deeply versed in polemic discussion?"
26. Early male settlers found it necessary to whip a bear in a fight?
27. Stephen Allard wrestled a bear at the top of a steep hill, and the bear and he tumbled over each other before falling into a pond? "Neither felt inclined to renew the contest."
28. Molly Ockett was a squaw from the Pequawket Tribe and visited her family each year in Canada?

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The following are derived from Granite Monthly, volume 20 published in June 1896

Did you know that:

1. One of our first pastors, Dr. Porter, served as a chaplain in the Revolutionary War when the Continental Army was encamped around Boston?
2. Reverend Porter served until his death in 1836? He was ninety-three!
3. The Baptists were formed at the home of Samuel Willey in 1796 and Richard Smith was their first minister?
4. Kearsarge was nicknamed "Hardscrabble" by its early inhabitants?
5. The planting of corn in the rich intervalees was done the following way - men dug the "holeing", the children dropped the corn in the hill, and the women covered it.?
6. The men mowed and pitched the hay, the boys spread it, and the women raked it?
7. Dr. Alexander Ramsay, a Scotch physician from McGill College, had a small medical school in what later became the Sunset Pavilion? It was rumored that some of his students robbed graveyards for dissection.
8. Dr. Ramsay's medical students were the first to ascend Mount Washington from the east side through the unbroken forest?
9. It was not until the 1830's that tourists came here for an entire season?
10. Conway was originally called Chataque, and the village, Conway Corner?
11. Samuel Thompson carried the mail to Littleton once a week from 1825-9 on horseback?
12. Most tourists came here by coach from Center Harbor?
13. In 1850, the Conway House was considered the finest hotel in the northern part of the state?
14. Jonathan T. Chase was the first Carroll County probate judge?
15. Benjamin Champney, the famed painter, first came here in 1838?
16. Portland & Ogdensburg was the original name of the Maine Central Railroad? General Anderson was its President.
17. The Eastern was the original name of the Boston and Maine Railroad?
18. There were several fraternal and social organizations as of the 1880's: the Free Masons; Odd Fellows; Knights of Pythias; Independent Order of Red Men; Moat Mountain Good Templars; Pequawket Grange; Woman's Club; and Daughters of the American Revolution?
19. The two best-known doctors in town at this time were George H. Shedd and John Z. Shedd?
20. Judge G.W.M. Pitman was elected thirteen times to be Conway's Representative and twice Senator, as well as a member of three constitutional conventions?
21. John Greenleaf Whittier was so enamored with the Pequawket House (where Kennett Middle School now stands) that he wrote of it, "...that quiet inn which looks from Conway on the mountains piled heavily against the horizon on the north like summer thunder-clouds."
22. The stream flowing out of the Pequawket through the village, because of its manufacturing, made it the most important part of the town?
23. A.C. Kennett's spool mill was the only spool mill in New Hampshire, and there were only eleven in the entire country?
24. Pegs were sent not just to mill towns, but also to Montreal and Germany?
25. There was a pure water supply from a spring at the base of Moat Mountain?
26. H.B. Cotton's mills on Walker's Pond (Conway Lake) dealt in flour and grain as well as boxes?
27. The oldest house in Conway is at the base of Walker's Pond and was first occupied by Lieutenant Barnet Walker?

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29. Timothy Walker was Conway's first pastor - "a learned orthodox minister of the Plantation of Pennycook"?
30. The first eight members of First Church were Timothy Walker, Martha Walker, Abiel Lovejoy, Anna (Stickney) Lovejoy, Sarah Russell, Richard Eastman and Abiah Eastman?

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28. The Redstone Quarry was owned and operated by the Maine and New Hampshire Granite Company? For many years George Wagg was its general agent. Among the buildings made of its granite are Union Stations in Portland and Boston; New Hampshire's State Library, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union Temple in Chicago?
29. That the Union ship "Kearsarge" which sunk the "Alabama", was named after our Carroll County mountain? The Ex-Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, and H.G.V. Fox, Assistant Secretary of the Navy who vacationed at the Kearsarge House, had to publicly claim this when the Merrimack delegation claimed it was their mountain.
30. There was an attempt to rename Kearsarge to Pequawket? Needless to say, it failed after the naval battle.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian P. Wiggin

Upcoming Programs

On April 10th Julie Lanoie will be speaking about her grandmother's experiences during World War II. She lived in The Netherlands and was married to a Jewish man. She also helped hide other Jews from the Nazis and escape to safer environments. Sometime after the war they moved to the Conway area.

On May 8th Arnold Graton will give a talk on "Covered Bridges." Graton is the foremost authority on covered bridges and lives in Holderness. Arnold Graton Associates has built new covered bridges and restored covered bridges all over the United States. He has over 63 years of experience, including 36 years with his father, Milton Graton. Together they built 10 new covered bridges and restored more than 65, using traditional methods and materials. Since his father's passing, he has built 17 new covered bridges working with his wife and son.

Join historian David Govatski on June 12th as he commemorates the centennial anniversary of the White Mountain National Forest's creation in 1918. With a degree in Forestry and over thirty years working for the US Forest Service, Govatski is well suited to tell the natural and historical story of the White Mountain National Forest over the past 100 years through the use of photos, illustrations, and historical documents.

July 10th's program will be "The Old Country Fiddler: Charles Ross Taggart", sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Humanities To Go program. This presentation by Adam Boyce is a living history portrayal of musical humorist Charles Ross Taggart (1871-1953), which includes some fiddling, humorous monologues, and recollections of his life and career.

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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

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
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Conway NH 03818

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CHS Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 1, Spring 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

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