



**Summer
2018
Newsletter**

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

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

**A publication of
the Conway
Historical Society**

Welcome Summer

July Program

The New Hampshire Humanities has approved our application for a "Humanities To Go" program. This will be at our meeting on July 10th, to be held at the Conway Congregational Church (the brown church) at 7:00 P.M. There are only 450 applications approved each year, so we consider ourselves very fortunate to be able to offer this program. The New Hampshire Humanities will cover a portion of the cost, with the remainder paid by our local Society.

This program will be presented by Adam Boyce, who is a living history portrayer of musical humorist Charles Ross Taggart (1871 to 1953). He will perform some fiddling, humorous monologues, and recollections of Taggart's life and career.

Charles Ross Taggart was an American comedian and folklorist who appeared all over North America as "The Man from Vermont" and "The Old Country Fiddler" from 1895 to 1938. Taggart would perform on his violin, sing, play the piano, do ventriloquism, and tell outlandish stories that supposedly took place in rural New England. He was raised in Topsham, Vermont, later moving to Newbury, Vermont.

UPCOMING CHS MEETINGS

**July 10
The Old Country Fiddler
Charles Ross Taggart**

**August 14
Annual Members' Picnic at
Camp Wakuta**

**September 11
TBA**

**October 9
Annual Members' Meeting
Election of Officers**

**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).

The President's Corner

Your CHS Board has been very active over the winter months and we have a number of activities to report to you. As many of you know, Robert Frost Public Charter School asked us if it was possible to lease the lower level of the Salyards, in addition to the upstairs. After much consideration, and gathering advice from others in the local real estate business, we decided to honor their request. Beginning on June 15th they started to move into that space. Of course, we had to move out all of the artifacts and display panels first. The artifacts were moved into the upstairs of the Eastman Lord House on new shelving units, partially supplied by a grant from the Henney History Fund. The display panels are now stored, courtesy of Sut and Todd Marshall, in one of their barns, and Mike Tamulis agreed to store the chairs. One reason for the decision was that the added income will help us to improve the Eastman Lord House.

Judy Williams and Jane Rancourt have been working diligently on computerizing our artifact inventory in Past Perfect. Bob has been finding and labeling items. More can be found about their activity elsewhere in this newsletter. Your Board has also been active in grant writing, and we are pleased to report that the Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Foundation has awarded us \$5,000 to begin to address the Eastman Lord House upgrade to the Fire and Security system requested by the Conway Fire Chief. This grant will allow Pope Security to proceed on the much needed upgrade immediately. There is more work to do on the Eastman Lord House to help bring it up to current safety codes, and that effort will take more funding. Your Board will pursue other grants in the near future but it is likely that with the requirement of many granting agencies for 'matching funds' we need to consider a Capital Campaign in the very near future. Our Investment portfolio is holding its own in these volatile times and Gary Macdonald, our Treasurer, is pleased about that.

Our next Members meeting (July 10) will feature a travelling fiddler, and Judy has written a nice article about that presentation. This meeting, and others through the end of the year, will be held in the Brown Church next door. The picnic will be held at Rayleen Newbury's (George Davidson's camp) like last year, and we all look forward to that event.

Later in the year, or perhaps next spring, we will have a "de-accessioning sale" of un-needed items in our inventory. Brian Wiggin has already started this process with some of our books, which are either not related to Conway, or are duplicates. Brian has also been instrumental in coordinating the donation of our remaining Cleveland Papers to the Library of Congress, and he writes about this later in this newsletter.

Lenny and Norma Whitmore have now moved south and Mike Tamulis and Lauraine Cormack have taken on some of the gardening work that Lenny and Norma did for so many years. Thanks go out to them for making our grounds look well kept. Some assistance would be appreciated. We also need to replace Lenny's position on the Board, so please be thinking of ways you can help CHS by participating on our Board or other committees. We could use a few new Board members so there is lots of room to help!

ANNUAL PICNIC AT CAMP WAKUTA

This year we will have our Annual Picnic on August 14, at 6:00 P.M. at George Davidson's former boys camp, Camp Wakuta. There is a building if it rains. We will be led in campfire songs by Dick Vieras, who in the '70's was known as "Mr. Sing-A-Long" and traveled to different local campgrounds offering weekly sing-a-longs around the campfire. Russ Lanoie will accompany Mr. Vieras.

CHS will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, the fixings, the buns, sodas, and marshmallows. The membership contributes side dishes, salads, and desserts and a picnic spirit!

Members who want to car pool should meet at the Salyards parking lot by 5:15 for departure by 5:30. Directions are found on Page 4

HENNEY HISTORY GRANT

We recently completed the tasks associated with the 2017 Henney History grant. With this money we purchased acid-free storage boxes and shelving units. Below is a picture of the officers and directors of the Conway Historical Society.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

The upcoming October meeting will be our annual meeting. Elections will be held. Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact Ken Rancourt. This committee will be appointed at the September meeting.

December 11th will be our Christmas party and Yankee Swap.

We will now be meeting at the Conway Congregational Church (the brown church) next to Salyards. Parking is available at Salyards.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

This year's recipient of the Historical Society Scholarship of \$1000 is Cody Roberts. He will be matriculating at Plymouth State and wants to become a history teacher. "Students must be made aware of patterns in history - both the positive and negative results." "History repeats itself and that fascinates me." Cody is the fifth recipient of the annual scholarship which was given out on Scholarship Awards Night on June 5th at KHS.



UPDATE ON CATALOGUING

Judy Williams and Jane Rancourt have been working on entering donated items to the Historical Society prior to 1990. With all the rearranging of items, Bob Cottrell found a card catalog with listings and descriptions of items and their donors.

Many interesting items have been entered into the computer system. Including: "cherry tree stump waddled like a club", articles of clothing, dolls, dishes, ballot box from the Town of Conway, numerous flags, quilts, a gimlet, a copy of the Bennington flag made by the Center Conway Extension Ladies, numerous pictures, leaflets, books and booklets.

CLEVELAND PAPERS by Brian Wiggin

It has been seventeen years since David Emerson and I sent to Washington D.C. what we thought were the complete set of President Grover Cleveland papers. They had been given to us by the Cleveland family for safe storage. Brian inventoried the materials. A call was made to the White House to see what we should do with them. They - after several referrals - told us that all presidential papers prior to Herbert Hoover are housed at the Library of Congress. All Presidents from Hoover on have their own libraries. We were amazed at how fast a call was made from the manuscript division there and a U-Haul was in front of the Eastman-Lord House within a week. They were certainly appreciative.

Over a decade later, more boxes were found by Ken and Bob - thirteen to be exact - up in the attic and some in poor shape. Brian again inventoried the items which took a long time. (Four boxes are in terrible shape with rot and animal droppings). We called the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress at [101 Independence Avenue](#) across from the Capitol Building where I worked from 1972-8. The new director of the Manuscript Division is Dr. Michelle Crowl, a most interesting, knowledgeable and personable lady. She may even come up and visit this summer as she has several friends in the southern part of the State. The overall contents of the boxes was shared with her. The four boxes that are in poor shape may not be appropriate or wise to use but we will let D.C. make that determination. They are all lettered and ready to go. There are many letters from dignitaries of the time and presidents of well-known companies, and several hand written letters in President Cleveland's own hand. There are also many details on bills and laws with personal correspondence from the Speaker of the House and the Senate Clerk. Also found is a box of materials to and from the First Lady. This treasure trove of history belongs to the American people and needs to be preserved instead of deteriorating in the Eastman-Lord House. Our Historical Society is proud to donate these gems to our American populace.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP WAKUTA

From Route 16 and Route 153 in Conway village: Take Route 153 south approximately 12 miles to the intersection of Bennett Road and the road to Freedom Village. Take a RIGHT onto Bennett Road and follow it to the stop sign, then bear slightly right down the hill past Danforth Bay Pond on your right. This is Ossipee Lake Road. George Davidson Road is the second dirt road on the right. (We'll place the "Salyards Event" sign here.) After turning onto George Davidson Road, bear right at the fork for the camp. The camp is on Shaw Pond.

From the south: Take Route 16 South to West Ossipee. Just before Hobbs Tavern, take a left onto Route 41. Follow Route 41 for a half a mile or so and take a right onto Ossipee Lake Road. Follow Ossipee Lake Road for approximately 4 and a half miles until you pass a sign for Danforth Bay Campground on your left. George Davidson Road is the next dirt road on the left. After turning onto George Davidson Road, bear right at the fork for the camp.

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



Serving Conway, NH since 1935

As a private 501(c)3 non-profit, we rely on your support. Donations are tax-deductible to the amount allowable by law.

Please consider donating today and remember to renew your membership.

Please support our CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Burnham Company
- Conway Daily Sun
- Cormack Construction
- Eastern Slope Inn
- Furber & White Funeral Home
- Gamwell, Caputo, Kelsch & Co.
- Green Mountain Rifle Barrel
- Grindle Center
- Lindsay's Paint and Wallpaper
- Mt. Washington Auto Road
- Northeast Auto Body
- Richard Plusch Antiques
- Settlers Crossing
- Stonehurst Manor
- White Mountain Oil and Propane

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

affix address label here

CHS Newsletter

Volume 24, Number 2, Summer 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.

**Conway Historical
Society**
100 Main St.
P.O. Box 1949
Conway NH. 03818
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
membership level is a great gift to give**

Dues \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

www.conwayhistoricalsociety.org

Email: conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com