

# Newsletter

## APRIL 2014

**Conway Historical  
Society**  
100 Main St.  
P.O. Box 1949  
Conway NH. 03818  
**Phone: 603-447-5551**  
**Fax: 603-447-1991**

**VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2**

A quarterly publication  
of the Conway  
Historical Society

### Officers and Directors

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447-2720  
Vice President – **Howard West**  
447-2621  
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*Serving Conway NH since 1935*

#### **This may be your last newsletter!!**

Please check above. Do you have a red sticker warning that this is your last newsletter? Check your mailing label. Do you have a pound (#) symbol after your name? If either or both of these are the case, we have no record of receiving your 2014 dues of \$20.00 per person. You are now transferred to "inactive" status. Please send your payment in as soon as possible.

If you do not have these warnings, this would be a good time to sign up a new member for the society. If you do have these warnings, it is still a good time to sign up new members, but don't forget to send in your own dues.

### CORPORATE SPONSORS

Furber & White Funeral Home  
Northeast Auto Body  
North Country Fair - Jewelers  
Zebs General Store

If you would like to submit an article for publication or want to share a picture and story please e-mail the materials:  
Conway History @myfairpoint.net  
Or mail to Post Office Box 1949  
Conway, NH 03818

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Save the dates—monthly  
every 2nd Tuesday**

\*\* April 8, 2014

May 13, 2014

\*

\*\* June 10, 2014

July 8, 2014

August 12, 2014

**Field Trip Destination TBA**

September 9, 2014

\*\* October 14, 2014  
**Annual Meeting and Dinner**

November 11, 2014

\*\* December 9, 2014  
**Christmas Party and Yankee Swap**

**\*\*Potluck dinner** begins at 6pm with regular meetings and presentations at 7pm. All programs are open to the public at the Salyards Center.



**Bring a Friend !**

www.ConwayHistoricalSociety.org

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2 APRIL 2014

## Conway Historical Society

Serving Conway, New Hampshire since 1935

Welcome to the  
CONWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HOME PAGE  
"All things historical"

<a href="#">About Us</a>	<a href="#">Contact Us</a>	<a href="#">Upcoming Events</a>	<a href="#">On-Line Gift Shop</a>	<a href="#">Visit the Archives: Newsletter</a>	<a href="#">The Eastman Lord House Museum</a>	<a href="#">Salvards Center for the Arts</a>
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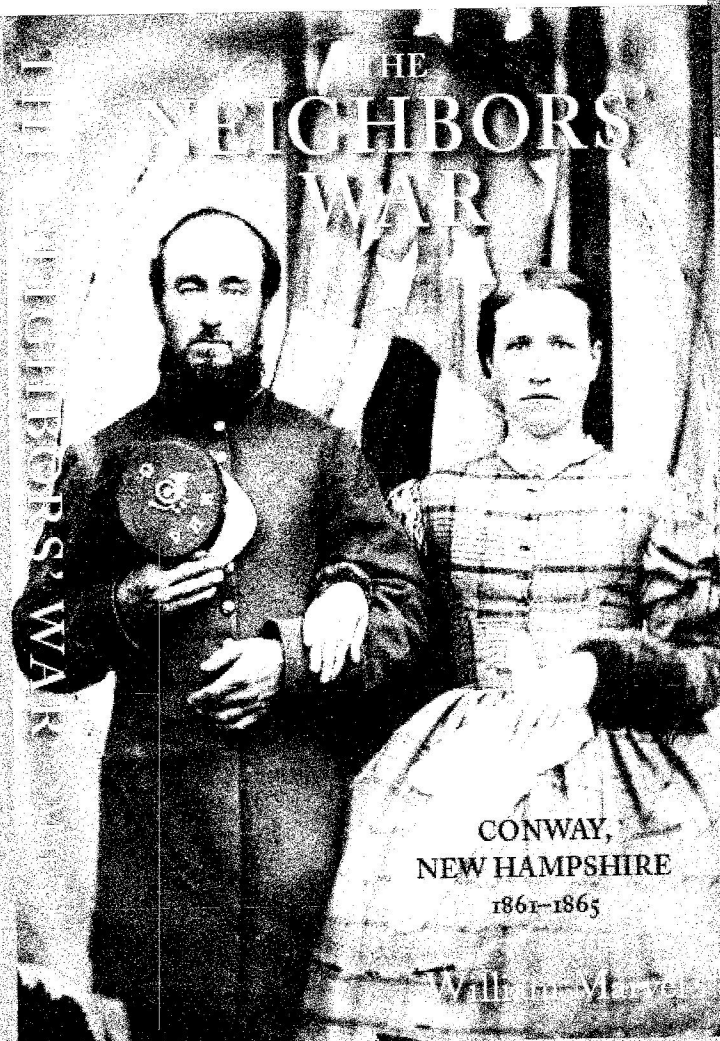
We have been doing lots of updating on the new site and thank those of you who have proofed the text and made a few suggestions. We appreciate your interest and input.

Don't forget to click on the Gift Shop.....

MARVEL-ous new book is ready to order now

Our new website!  
Check it all out at

[www.ConwayHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ConwayHistoricalSociety.org)



# Conway Historical Society

*Serving Conway, New Hampshire since 1935*

*Please print out this order form.  
Fill out each requested line and mail to:*

## CONWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIFT SHOP

Conway Historical Society  
100 Main Street / P.O. Box 1949  
Conway, New Hampshire 03818

I wish to order the following items:

(Please indicate number of each item desired in box)

ITEM TOTAL:

☐ "The Neighbors War" - Bill Marvel - \$20 + \$7 shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ "Conway, New Hampshire, 1765-1997" by Janet McAllister Hounsell  
and Ruth Burnham Davis Horne - \$35 + \$12 shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Jacquard Loom throws - 2 designs:

☐ Covered Bridges of Mt Washington Valley (dark red design) - \$45 + \$13 shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Historic Buildings of Conway (dark blue design) - \$45 + \$13 shipping \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL TOTAL ORDER: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

(In order to assure the order is filled correctly, either email or telephone is required.  
This information will not be sold.)

*Thank you!*

Form is available for printing on the website

## From the neighborhood

From

RICHARD A. WARE

Mr. Ken Rancourt, President  
Conway Historical Society  
P. O. Box 1949  
Conway, NH 03818

I was interested and surprised with the story in the recent Society newsletter about the B-36 crash in New Mexico in 1951 with a Conway Air Force officer among those killed. I also noted that the Base Commander of the crash site, Kirkland AF Base, was Col. Perry G. Griffith.

In 1945 and 1946 Col. Griffith was Base Commander of Bowman Field, Army Air Force, Louisville, Kentucky. I was a Senior NCO billeted at that base as a member of the Headquarters Staff of the AAF Personnel Redistribution Command, Lt. Gen. Hubert R. Harmon, Commanding.

On 25 January 1946 Col. Griffith signed my Honorable Discharge papers after my over three years of wartime service. He made every effort to have me join the Air Force Reserve as a Commissioned Officer. I respectfully declined saying it was time to return to civilian life. I saluted and departed for home.

2 Jan 2014

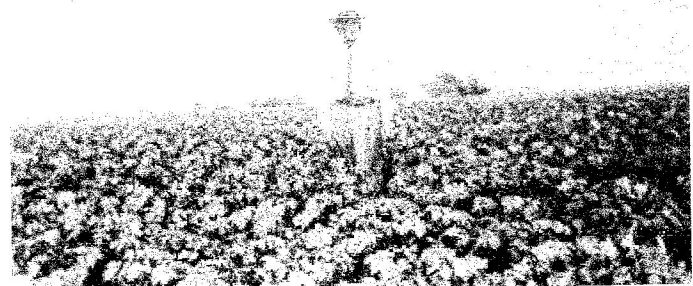
Howard West shared a web site with us for a panoramic view of the flight deck of the B36.

If you want to be amazed, visit

<http://www.nmusafvirtualtour.com/media/062/B-36J%20Engineer.html>



One of our CHS members, picking potatoes ~ circa 1960



Potato Inspector, circa 1950



## From the neighborhood

## Potato Power

On June 4, 2013 (294 years after the first planting) Governor Hassan signed a bill declaring the white potato as New Hampshire's official state vegetable. She did so surrounded by a group of 4th graders from Derry Village Elementary School. North America's first white potato was said to have been planted in their town in 1719.



### Common Potato Has American Roots in New Hampshire

By Richard Uncles, Supervisor  
Bureau of Markets  
New Hampshire  
Department Agriculture, Markets, & Food

The common Potato, Irish Potato, White Potato, known to plant taxonomists by its Latin name *Solanum tuberosum*, is one of the world's most important plants. A member of the Solanaceae family of plants the potato is a close relative of the eggplant, pepper, tobacco and tomato. Believed to have been originally domesticated from wild plants by the Inca of South America, the potato was widely grown throughout the Andes. When Spanish explorers conquered and colonized South America they brought the potato back to Europe in the 1500's.

Over the next several centuries the potato gradually became accepted by Europeans and widely planted throughout the continent. English and Irish settlers then brought the potato to the new settlements in North America and the travels of the potato came almost full circle. Legend has it that the first instance of growing Irish potatoes in the colonies occurred in Londonderry, New Hampshire in the mid-1700's – brought by the Scots-Irish settlers of the town.

Ireland in the 19th century experienced a population boom fueled largely by the ability of the poor, rocky, cool soils to produce good crops of potatoes. The emergence of a fungal disease known as late blight devastated the Irish potato crops for several straight years in the 1840's resulting in widespread famine, disease and a human exodus from the rocky uplands that could no longer feed its people without the potato. Of the approximately three million people in Ireland at the beginning of the famine, reportedly one million perished and another million emigrated, the majority of them to the United States.

Today, Americans are not nearly as dependent on the potato as many of our ancestors were. More glamorous vegetables compete for our food-shopping dollar. Yet, the potato remains an inexpensive, nutritious and tasty staple of most American diets in one form or another.

Fresh potatoes are available in several types. The common round white potato is commonly grown throughout New England, especially in northern Maine's Aroostook County, and is considered a good allaround variety – suitable for baking, boiling, mashing or frying. The russet potato or long white is best suited for baking. Newer introductions include yellow fleshed and red skinned varieties and more recently the reintroduction of older heirloom varieties such as fingerlings.

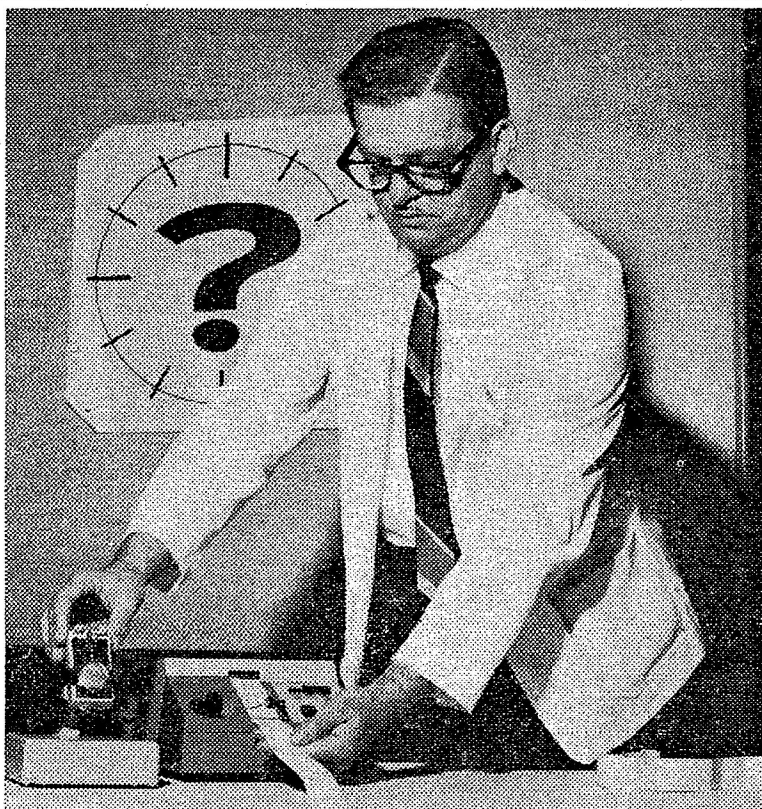
U.S. fall potato production is lead by Idaho, followed by Washington, Wisconsin and Colorado. Maine ranks eighth in fall production. California supplies the bulk of the summer crop of potatoes. Potatoes harvested in late summer or early fall along the Atlantic seaboard are known as "new potatoes" – great for prompt use but not for long-term storage. New Hampshire no longer produces large quantities of potatoes for wholesale markets yet many vegetable growers in the state raise excellent fresh potatoes for retail sale.

Thrifty shoppers can benefit from buying large sacks of 20 or 50 lbs. in the fall at a low price per pound and storing them at home if a suitable storage place is available. Store potatoes in a dark place, ideally with temperature around 40 degrees F with high humidity. A corner of a cellar is usually best in most homes. Do not allow potatoes to freeze or to be exposed to bright light. Sunshine or bright light will cause the surface of potatoes to turn green and develop a bitter tasting compound known as solanine. Some articles claim green potatoes to be poisonous but one would have to eat large amounts of green potato to be seriously affected by the toxin. Just the same it's best not to eat green potatoes.

# Village Goes Back 'On Time' at 9 p.m. Tonight

## CHAMBER GIVES AWAY EXPENSIVE TIMEPIECE

The North Conway Chamber of Commerce gave away four quality timepieces at two drawings at the railroad station headquarters of "PROJECT TIME OUT." On Saturday, Mrs Harland D. Howe of Kearsarge Road, won an Accutron electronic timepiece guaranteed not to gain or lose more than a minute a month in actual wear on the wrist. The Tuesday drawing produced three winners: Mrs Mabel Tschol of Carroll Reed's Ski Shop, who won a Bulova lady's diamond-ornamented watch; Harvey Forrest of the Gables Inn, who won a Caravelle jewel-lever man's watch by Bulova; and J. W. Webster, of the Waffle Shop, who won a Caravelle lady's jewel-lever watch by Bulova.



**ELECTRONIC EXPERT** Jack Ivers, of Bulova, tests a watch on the Vibrograf electronic watch-rate recorder at "PROJECT TIME OUT" headquarters at the railroad station in North Conway. The watch-rate recorder measures the 24-hour accuracy of a watch in only 30 seconds, Mr. Ivers explained. Each of the hundreds of watches turned in by village residents at the station were tested, and an analysis will be returned with each watch to the owner.

—Photo by Dan Noel

"The response has been greater than the civic committee expected," said Chamber President Lawrence H. Sherman. "Most residents supported the project, as did, we believe, all businesses."

Along Main Street, retail stores and other business establishments displayed the "PROJECT TIME OUT" proclamation in a variety of sizes, while down at the project's railroad station headquarters Bulova watchmaker Pat Little started checking the performance of hundreds of watches turned in earlier by village residents. Wednesday started more than an hour earlier than usual at the John Fuller School when five teachers arrived, apprehensively, ahead of time, afraid that they might be late for the start of classes. Many young students also arrived earlier than usual, either by bicycle or by cars driven by parents. However, the school buses ran on schedule, as announced at last Friday's special village meeting, with the first bus arriving at the school at 8:14, only four minutes late.

Later in the day, homework assignments at the John Fuller School included compositions that are to describe home life during the two-day blackout period. The compositions are to be turned in tomorrow; they will form part of the official record of "PROJECT TIME OUT" and will be submitted to "This Week Magazine" writer Leslie Lieber, who is covering the project for the mass-circulation Sunday magazine.

Mr. Lieber, who attended last Friday's special village meeting, returned to North Conway on Tuesday evening with an eight-member team to conduct the necessary research and interviews. The first interview Wednesday morning was with William Mathurin, principal of the John Fuller School. All 25 clocks at the school sported question-mark covers.

## Reporter Press Archives ~ May 1965

Radio station WBNC carried live interviews with village residents, but broadcast no radio time signals. Today's mid-day "Daily Meditation" on WBNC offered by the Rev Hobart H Heistand, rector of Christ Church, had as its subject the theological implications of Time. The rector of the Protestant Episcopal Church had suspended the church's hourly bell ringing for the two-day blackout period, but had played chimes early today

sometime before the regular 8 a.m. Communion service.

The man with perhaps the biggest problem in North Conway was Howard Walker, who has a collection of some 300 antique clocks and watches to contend with. Only the sun dial on Mr Walker's lawn was telling the correct time.

An unusual sight on Main Street were groups of people hunched over, looking at the sidewalks trying to read make-shift sundials. A rash of phone calls asking the time were reported by the supervisor of the telephone company. Requests for time were running 25 per cent above normal and approximated the rate of calls generally following power failures, she told The Reporter.

Bulova watchmaker Pat Little had a special problem late Wednesday afternoon trying to turn in hundreds of watches at the North Conway Loan and Banking Company for safe-keeping in the bank vault. After a wait, Mr Little was admitted to the bank, which had already closed for the day.

Watches turned in by their owners at the railroad station headquarters of "PROJECT TIME OUT" will be available for pickup Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. With each watch will be an analysis of its timekeeping performance.

## WHAT GOOD IS IT?



"PROJECT TIME OUT" has been an interesting experiment for North Conway. Though some have been inconvenienced temporarily, most residents have taken part and had a good time doing so. In fact, the response has been greater than those of us on the committee anticipated.

But what is the value of the project? Have we as individuals discovered how we are governed by Time and time-telling indicators? I think some have. And these findings may provide useful clues to scientists who are making formal studies along the same general lines. But "PROJECT TIME OUT" is more than a

unique community experiment in living with watchless wrists and covered clocks.

The project also has promotion value — although, obviously, it is impossible to know just how many tourists will be attracted by the article in "This Week," or if a businessman decides to locate a new industry here after reading it. But they will certainly know we're on the map; they'll know that as a community we're alive and alert, and that we have a healthy

curiosity about the things around us and the imagination to undertake a campaign like "PROJECT TIME OUT."

We do know economic studies demonstrate that every dollar spent by New Hampshire to promote our state creates a return of three or four dollars. That return is essential to our prosperity and future growth.

Yet on June 16 there will be a hearing in Concord on a proposed room and meals tax. Such a tax would make North Conway and every other part of New Hampshire more expensive to visit, live in and work in. Is that wise when we need to attract more visitors and more businesses?

Our purpose should be to make New Hampshire more appealing and more inviting. The best way to do this, I think, is through a constructive promotion and public relations program rather than through new taxes.

The State suggested North Conway as the site for "PROJECT TIME OUT" and we accepted the invitation. On the basis of the experience, perhaps we now could make a suggestion: let's have a worthwhile promotion program for New Hampshire. We might then not need new taxes.

PETER PINKHAM



AT PEPIN'S LUNCH ROOM ON MAIN STREET owner Armand Pepin and his counter customers enjoy The Reporter's special edition announcing the start of "PROJECT TIME OUT." Mr. Pepin told "This Week Magazine" writer Leslie Leiber that for the first time in years he brewed the coffee Wednesday morning instead of Mrs. Pepin because he rose before dawn in worried anticipation of the first business day of the blackout period.

—Photo by Dan Noel



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

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# CHS Newsletter

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2 APRIL 2014



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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.

**Conway Historical  
Society**

**100 Main St.  
P.O. Box 1949  
Conway NH. 03818**

**Phone: 603-447-5551  
Fax: 603-447-1991**

**CHS Membership Dues = \$20.00 per person per year**

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Society encourages the following levels of giving:  
Supporting \$50+  
Patron \$100+  
Friends of Henry Seymour Conway \$500+

☐ Dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *Conway Historical Society*

TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**[www.ConwayHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.ConwayHistoricalSociety.org)**

**Email: [ConwayHistory@myFairpoint.net](mailto:ConwayHistory@myFairpoint.net)**