

Conway Historical Society

100 Main Street, P.O. Box 1949, Conway, N.H. 03818
Phone: 603-447-5551

Fall 2019

Publisher: Conway Historical Society

Volume Number: 25

Issue Number: 3

The President's Corner

Yesterday morning the temperature fell to 34 degrees. I stuck my head outside to feel if it was "real" and I spied a number of red leaves on the porch--fall has arrived! Your society still has lots of activity going on, so read on:

Before really cold temperatures arrive CHS has contracted with a local company to scrape and paint portions of the front of the Eastman Lord House. That work will be completed in short order, with final touches being done next spring. The work will make the front of ELH look more presentable and protect the underlying clapboards.

As renovation work on the Bolduc Block nears completion, Mountain Top Music has now moved most of their equipment from the Old Fire House to their new facility. Once they move out and we re-paint the offices, we have agreed to lease some of the space to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. Their monthly rent will help defray operating costs at that building, while giving us space to store a number of items from the Eastman Lord House so that we can begin needed repairs there. Some of the items we are moving have already been de-accessioned and we'll be getting ready for a big tag sale in the spring.

Even as we have started the de-accessioning process we have recently received a donation of five Brownlow Thompson paintings. Mr. Thompson served the community many years in various schools in Conway. In mid-October, CHS and the Conway Public Library will hold a reception for Brownlow's daughter, Mary Ellen Thompson, who donated the artwork. Our paintings, and a few more that are in local hands, will be on display in the library. *Watch for more information in the next pages!*

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Nomination Committee

At our October meeting, we will appoint a nomination committee. Anyone wishing to serve as either an officer or committee member should contact Ken Rancourt. Elections will be held at our November 12th meeting.

Upcoming Programs

October 8 - 7:00 P.M.

**Annual Members' Meeting
Selection of Nomination Committee
History of the Conway Fire Department
By Tom Steele and David Weathers**

November 12 - 7:00 P.M.

**History of the Conway Public Library
By Margaret Marschner and Gary MacDonald
Election of Officers**

December 10 - 7:00 P.M.

**Annual Christmas Party and
Yankee Swap
Pot Luck Dinner**

Save the dates

Conway Historical Society monthly program is the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings and presentations begin at 7:00 P.M. and are open to the public.

The October meeting will be held at the Conway Congregational Church (the brown church). Parking is available at Salyards.

Beginning in November, meetings will be held at the Old Firehouse, pending readiness.

There will be no monthly meetings in January, February, and March. We will resume in April.

The President's Corner

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You may have noticed over the summer that the Salyards now has a totally new roof. That was a much needed repair, and happily the work went off without a hitch. Robert Frost Charter School continues to occupy that space.

We are looking forward to having use of the Old Fire House again, which will allow us to have our monthly meetings in our own "house". We may be able to meet there in November, but if not, then certainly for our Annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Supper!

As we end this year you will also be asked to continue to support your society's work by maintaining your annual membership. We can't do the kind of work we do without your support! Thank you!

A Note from your Membership Secretary

It is fall again and membership fees are due for the year 2020. Letters will be going out to members this month with the 2020 membership form attached.

If you do not get a letter but you get the newsletters, you are either a lifetime member or you are considered a contact person. If you are not a member, please consider joining the Society. Dues are only \$20 per year. It may not seem like much, but together we are a vital part of keeping the history of the Town of Conway alive.

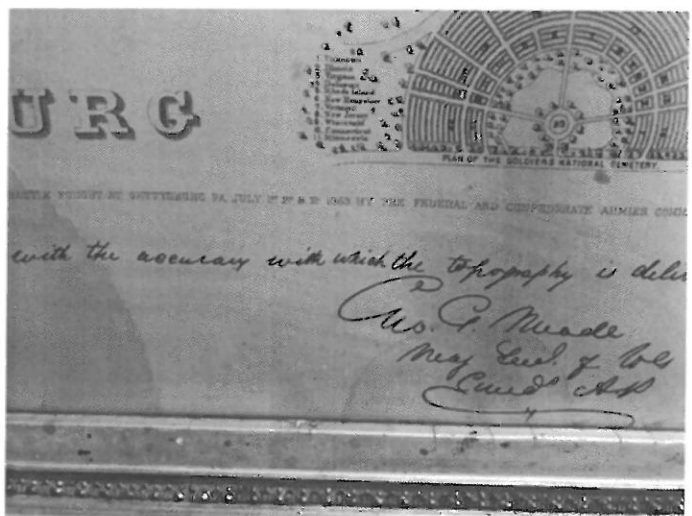
Update on Art Sale

We still have a few pieces of art for sale. These can be seen on our website. Please help distribute these to worthy homes. Prices are \$25 each or the best offer.



General Meade's Signature?

One of our items being de-accessioned appears to have the signature of General Meade, best known for defeating General Robert E. Lee at the Battle of Gettysburg. We will place this in the hands of an auction house to maximize our return.



*Exhibit Reception Brownlow Thompson:
Art, History and Science*

The community is welcome to a reception of the art, history and science of Brownlow Thompson at the Conway Public Library on October 15, from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. The display will be the inaugural exhibit of their new "History Hall," which will feature a variety of displays throughout the year. This first exhibit will include five paintings by Thompson donated to us by the Thompson family, and memorabilia from the Henney History Room.

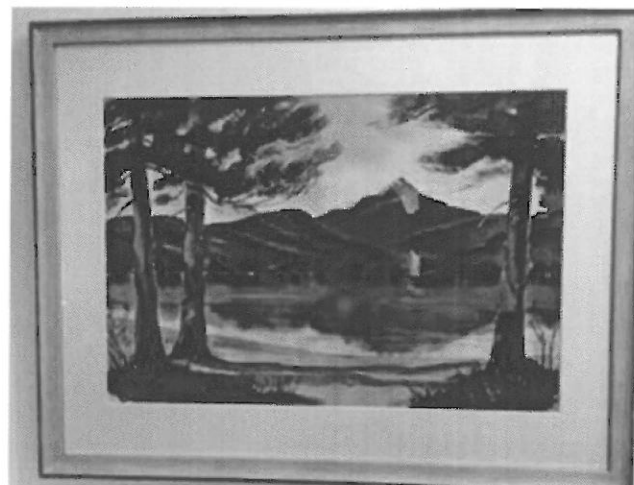
Known affectionately as Brownie or BLT, Thompson was a social studies teacher, Kennett High School principal, minister, rock hound, and square dance caller, among many other things. Thompson's daughter, Mary Ellen, who arranged the donations of artwork and photographs, will be the featured guest.

Local historian Brian Wiggin will provide some remarks, Refreshments will be served in the Ham Community Room.

Brownlow Thompson



Paintings by Brownlow Thompson





During scraping phase



After primer

Painting Project

Recently Moose Painting started scraping two sections of the Eastman Lord House in preparation for repainting it. Scraping was necessary because of the lead paint used prior to lead regulations. While the main purpose is to protect the building and present a pleasing appearance for potential visitors, the project also exposed some interesting physical evidence that helps us better understand the story of the Eastman Lord House.

The clues are in the clapboards. After the paint was scraped off, a close observation revealed that clapboards were joined together in two different ways.

The section on the right with the door and bay window facing south towards Main Street is joined with butt joints where two flat surfaces meet together with no overlap.

The section on the left facing east towards the Sweet Maple Café uses the older style feathered joint where the boards are tapered and overlap to create a more weather-tight joint.

According to James Garvin's book, *A Building History of Northern New England*, pages 32 - 34, "It was an almost universal practice of carpenters until well into the nineteenth century to skive and lap the ends of clapboards in order to provide a weatherproof joint. By 1830 or so, this technique was abandoned in favor of simple butt joints at the ends of clapboards."

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447-2720

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Mike Tamulis

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Judy Williams

447-5551

Programs

Open

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Jane Rancourt

447-2720

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.

Salyards Roof

As of the date of this newsletter,
work on the Salyards roof repair
is now complete.



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Your name here!
Please consider becoming a
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New Website for Society

Our new website
(www.conwayhistoricalsociety.org) is
now up and running. This is a work in
progress. We will be adding more
information as time goes on.

If you have any suggestions as to what
you would like to see on our website,
please email Judy Williams at the
Society
(conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

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CHS Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Volume 25, Issue 3 , Fall 2019

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.

CHS Membership Dues are \$20 per person per year

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Our \$5 student membership level
is a great gift to give

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