

Conway Historical Society

100 Main Street, P.O. Box 1949, Conway, N.H. 03818
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Summer 2020

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The President's Corner

If nothing else we will all remember this summer as one that was completely different. "Different" may be an understatement, and in general all group activities in the area, as well as the rest of the country, have been compromised. Covid's effect on your society's activities have been no less disruptive. Most recently your Board decided that considering proper social distancing requirements, even having our annual picnic would not be a good idea at this time. It is unlikely that CHS will have any member meetings this year, which is similar to our sister societies: Bartlett having cancelled their April and June meetings (they 'might' have one meeting in October), while Madison (with one abbreviated outside meeting) and Brownfield are closed. In Fryeburg, the Samuel Osgood House, their Research Library, and the Hazel Currier Doll Museum are all closed too. So we are not alone in our concern for the health of our members. We are all in the same boat.

Some limited activities have continued at the Eastman Lord House anyway. Your Board has contracted with Shawn Bergeron Technical Services to manage the long awaited modifications to the exits and staircases required to meet current building codes. Shawn has been touring the building with potential contractors so that they can finalize their bids. We want to have the changes completed before winter sets in so we will see how that schedule unfolds. Mike Tamulis and Laraine Cormack have continued to keep the front garden in good shape and, even though it has been a little dry, mowing the lawn as necessary. When it gets cooler we will also have to pay some attention to the brush that is rapidly growing near the rear of the building. Mike has also been in touch with our painter to coordinate the painting on the east wall, and then on the westerly side, facing the Salyards. We've decided to wait on the rear of the building in anticipation of the exit work that needs to be done there. By the time fall arrives, and it is much cooler, we must
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Your Society Needs YOU

Every year we have a need to form a nominating committee (1-2 willing souls) to help us find more Board members.

If you are: 1) Willing to serve on the committee, or 2) willing to be a new board members (we really could use two more volunteers) that would be much appreciated.

The Board tries to meet monthly and you can help direct our progress into the future!

Upcoming Programs

None Scheduled at this Time

Save the dates

Conway Historical Society monthly program is the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings and presentations are held at the Old Firehouse beginning at 7:00 P.M. and are open to the public. Parking is available next to the building.

If anyone has an idea for an upcoming program that would be of interest to you, please contact Ken Rancourt. If you know of someone who would be willing to present a program, also please contact Ken Rancourt.

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resume moving de-accessioned items over to the Old Fire House so that they can be ready for a future tag sale.

In the meantime Bob Cottrell and volunteer Diana Levy have spent considerable time in the building evaluating and cataloging the many dresses and items of clothing in our collection. We also were able to have an intern, Rosalia Bauer, work on the same project with great results. Basically only one person at a time has been working in the ELH to ensure proper social distancing in very tight quarters. Indeed, Judy and Bob are scheduled to work on alternate days during the week, and when Jane and I stop in to get mail we do so at odd hours to limit any personal contact.

The question has to be asked: Will we have any member meetings for the rest of the year? That is still not clear at this time, and will depend on a number of factors. We should have at least one meeting in the fall to elect one or two new Board members so they can help share the load. All of your current Board members have offered to continue in their current roles until this Covid problem goes away, so we are not without leadership in these trying times. The Board meetings we have had have either taken place outside or by handling business by phone or email. Fortunately, no one we know of has come down with this disease.

As awkward as it may seem, the organization still needs your continuing support. We are trying the best we can to cope with these 'different' times and hope that our members will be there when things return to normal. The sooner, the better.

Summer Intern

We have a summer intern this year working with Bob Cottrell on our textiles. Her name is Rosalia Elizabeth Amato Bauer. She grew up in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and is a junior at UMass Dartmouth majoring in textile and jewelry arts with a minor in art history. Rosalia came to the area because of her boyfriend's seasonal work with AMC.

Rosalia has always had a love of textiles, especially in historical contexts. She grew up playing a lot of "dress-up" and always found clothing to be the most exciting way of transforming oneself to feel a part of another time or story. She has found sewing and weaving to be really engaging and an intimate way of learning about textiles. Her interest in jewelry is more recent, and how it relates to historical dress.

Rosalia's work this summer will include cataloging each garment, noting its condition, and doing research to give it an approximate date. She will hone her skills in preserving and storing items. The culmination will be an online exhibit of our textiles collection.

When asked about the most interesting find in our collection, Rosalia chose a green dress from around 1870. Green was all the rage in the Victorian era, and was a very difficult hue to produce in dye. Many dresses were dyed with arsenic to produce the green color, even though they knew how toxic it was. There is no way of knowing if this dress is dyed with arsenic without doing a test. Nonetheless, this piece is a relic from a time when colorfast green fabric was an obsession, to the point where women would knowingly poison themselves to wear it.

We all welcome Rosalia as our summer intern.

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447-2720

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CHS Newsletter

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CHS Membership Dues are \$20 per person per year

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