

Conway Historical Society

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Fall 2021

Publisher: Conway Historical Society

Volume Number: 27

Issue Number: 2

The President's Corner

As I compose this note we have just watched a film on the events of 9/11/2001. The events themselves were terrible, but after 20 years they have become "history". Members of this organization think that history is important to remember, or else they would not support our ongoing efforts. Sometimes you need "something" to remind you of history, and in the coming months we've got something for you.

We started our regular monthly meetings in August (our first was the well-attended Annual Picnic at the Tin Mountain Conservation Center) and we move on to talk about our local history through a selection of photographs that Curator Bob Cottrell has prepared for our viewing. Bob, Brian Wiggin, and yours truly, will guide the conversation, but we'll look forward to our members to help fill in the blanks and add to the discussion. You can feel free to bring your older photos, also, so we can share in your knowledge of the area too. Our collective knowledge of the area is extremely valuable.

In October the history of the Mount Washington Auto Road will take center stage. Our presenter will be Howie Weymss, former General Manager of the Auto Road for many years. Howie is an individual who, other than former manager and historian Doug Philbrook, knows more about the Auto Road (or Carriage Road for us more mature individuals!) than anyone else in the area. I for one am looking forward to his talk.

Following the local history concept, in November we will listen to Dr. Peter Crane present a talk on the lost village of Livermore. Peter is a great historian in his own right, being the chief librarian of the Mount Washington Observatory's Gladys Brooks Memorial Library. Outside of the Shackford family, the most recent owners of the last private land in the Livermore area, Peter "knows it all". I'm always impressed when I hear Peter speak, and I'm sure that you will be too.

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September Program

Our September program will be Old Photographs of Conway from the Historical Society's and Conway Public Library's collections. Members are invited to bring any old photographs they wish to share with the group.

We will be meeting at the Conway Public Library, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Parking is available next to the building. Masks are recommended.

Upcoming:

September 14 Old Photographs of Conway

October 12 History of the Mt. Washington Auto Road and Glen House Hotels by Howard Wemyss

November 9 History of Livermore by Peter Crane

December 14 Annual Christmas Party--7:00 P.M.

Save the dates

Conway Historical Society monthly program is the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings and presentations will be held at the Conway Public Library until construction is complete in Conway village, beginning at 7:00 P.M. and are open to the public.

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.

The President's Corner (From Page 1)

December marks our last meeting of 2021, and like always will be celebrated with a Christmas party and Yankee Swap. This event is always well attended, and you never know what gift you will end up taking home with you!

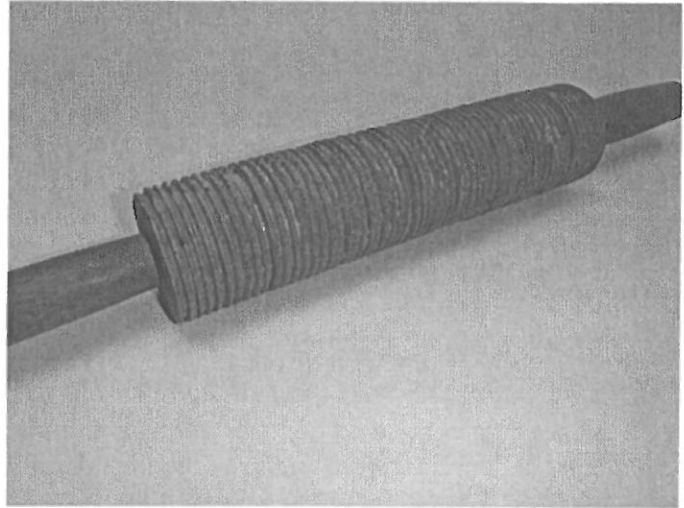
Other items of note are that construction in the Eastman Lord House is under contract with Bergeron Construction and Landscaping Co. Their work will take place when the weather gets colder and their outside commitments are complete. Building fire proof walls, putting a floor in the attic, and constructing new exits will keep them busy for a considerable time.

You should also take a moment to read about our Curator's efforts later in this newsletter. Bob has been at the new Senior Day Care Center sharing memories of life in Conway over the years.

On a wholly different topic, but likely of interest to many, is the re-invigoration of the Conway Historic District Commission. Brian Wiggin and yours truly are serving on this volunteer commission and our principal task for now is to determine the homes (or structures--barns count) that are the oldest in the town. Brian worked on the Centennial Booklet that logged a number of older homes on Main Street in Conway Village. The trouble is that since then we have lost a number of those structures for various reasons. So, in the near future we will be reaching out to folks to help us determine a little about the history of some of these homes. Information we would like is not limited to who built the home, but also who might have lived there and their contributions to the town, or, "even if", "perhaps", George Washington slept there! The Town of Conway has lots of history right in front of us; all we have to do is see and record it!

The members of your Board of Directors continue to search for additional people to become directors. Recently, Mike Tamulis resigned his position, however, he will continue to be our principal gardner at the ELH. Thanks, Mike, for all that you have done for the organization!

Curator's Report



It often begins with a rolling pin, but with a twist. With the challenges of the pandemic and public access limitations due to our building improvements to the Eastman Lord House, we had to be a little creative about using our collection to teach about local history.

With the support and coordination of the Conway Public Library we have been sharing our collection through hands-on educational outreach programs for both students and seniors. Our approach is to show items such as this spaghetti roller to our audience and ask them to speculate about its function. It is a common enough item, familiar to many of us of a "certain age"; however, it can be an object of wonder for younger minds and stimulate those of older minds with memory loss issues.

We have also been sharing our collection virtually. We continue to do blogs, cell phone history tours, and "reel history" with the support of Valley Vision.

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From the Curator (From Page 2)

We would like to invite our members and friends to participate in these “Remember When” documentaries. Please share your stories and let us preserve them for future generations. A special thank you goes out to Howard Hatch and Frances Richardson for being part of our most recent Valley Vision video on the Abenaki Indian Shop in the Intervale section of Conway.

You can view these programs anytime by going to this link on your computer <https://conwaypubliclibrary.org/henney-history-room> and clicking on the link for “The Reel History of Conway“. Here you will also find previous videos on the Redstone Quarry and Cathedral Ledge.

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October Program

The history of the Mount Washington Auto Road and Glen House Hotels as interpreted by long time General Manager, Howie Wemyss. This 45 minute presentation, using historic images and stories, relates the account of America's oldest man-made attraction and the famous grand hotels at the base. From 1852 when the first Glen House appeared in The Glen through to the fifth iteration opened in September 2018, along with the evolution of the Carriage Road into the Auto Road, come and learn the fascinating and intertwined history of one of New England's iconic attractions.

Howard M. "Howie" Wemyss ("weemz") was born in Cambridge, Mass. and raised in Biddeford, Maine. He attended Colorado State University, honorably discharged from the US Army in 1971, NH resident since 1971. Since 1987 he has been employed by the Mount Washington Summit Road Co. as General Manager of the historic Mt Washington Auto Road and Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center. Wemyss presently serves as a trustee of the Mount Washington Observatory, board member of White Mountains Attractions and the Mount Washington Commission. Howie and his wife Sue live in Randolph, N.H., where they enjoy cross country skiing, mountain biking, birding, photography and travel. Howie has a daughter Cory, who is a licensed Massage Therapist in the Conway area.

From the Curator (Continued from Page 3)

We hope to be back in the schools this Autumn. We would love to have you contact your children's or grandchildren's teachers to request these fun, free, programs for their classroom. We have a long list of outreach programs available including & "Made in Conway", "The Abenaki", "Cellar to Shingles: Early New England Architecture", "Art of the Harvest: The Art of Farming", "Maps and Map Making", "Stone Walls and Cellar Holes: Reading the Historic Landscape", and many more.

Also with birthdays and the upcoming holidays, please consider purchasing a student membership in the CHS for only \$5 so your children and grandchildren can become "Junior Historians". They can even get school credit by doing an internship or extended learning opportunity (ELO) by helping us save, search and share our collection. On the save (preservation) front we have continued to sort through our extensive collection. If you have followed our progress in previous newsletters, we first addressed our most sensitive items such as photos, archival papers, and textiles. This fall the emphasis will be to take advantage of the cooler weather and cataloging the larger items that are harder to move. We will then box up the smaller items so they can be moved into our heated work space to process over the winter.

As always we would welcome any volunteers to help with this process. There are all types of tasks needed to be done that would fit all ranges of knowledge and experience.

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CHS Newsletter

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Volume 27, Issue 2, Fall 2021

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