

The President's Corner

Although the calendar doesn't say summer yet, experiencing strong sunshine and clear blue skies makes one hopeful, and the jubilant flock of evening grosbeaks around the feeders make one get excited about the upcoming season.

Here at CHS, we anticipate an active season ahead. Aligning programs for the summer, continuing the construction work on the Eastman Lord House, and re-organizing our space at the Old Firehouse are all on the docket.

At the Old Firehouse our renters, the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, are expanding their staff and need more office space. To meet that need we will re-organize our large upstairs room to include the photographs, scanning system, and some of our photo collections. This summer we also look forward to the painting contractor to paint the whole outside of that building.

As we move and re-organize our collections we find that we have seriously underestimated the number of old photos, negatives (both "film" and on "glass") and 35 mm slides. We will start off the season in April with a show of "old" Conway slides, narrated by David (Spike) Smith, and Brian Wiggin. In May we will hear from co-authors Rick Davidson and Bill Thompson on their upcoming book on and famous and infamous "residents" of New England cemeteries. And more program listings are on the way.

Just a little more work on the Eastman Lord House and we will be able to put some of our period rooms back in shape. The "Keeping" room in the northwest corner is the first room we are working on. The windows there need new putty and new storm windows. Some areas of the wallpaper need attention. When done we will proceed to the southwest room, the Victorian Parlor.

With all the work that needs to be done inside it would be good if we could get some volunteer labor to help.

Continued on Page 2

Executive Director Position Open

Your Executive Board voted last December to hire an Executive Director. The Board has been working throughout the winter on a list of qualifications and duties. We are now ready to hire a person for this part-time position.

If you know of someone looking for a position such as this, please have them contact Ken Rancourt or one of the Board members. The successful candidate will likely have experience in Historical Preservation or a related field, and preferably a working knowledge of the computer program, Past Perfect. Familiarity with the Conway area would be helpful.

Upcoming:

- April 11** **Conway Slides by Brian Wiggin and David "Spike" Smith**
- May 9** **Famous and Infamous Residents of New England Cemeteries by Rick Davidson and Bill Thompson**
- June 13** **TBA in the Summer newsletter**

Save the dates

Conway Historical Society monthly program is the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings and presentations will be held at the Old Firehouse 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.

The President's Corner (From Page 1)

We will have a sign-up sheet at our monthly meetings and, depending on your availability, will schedule some work days. And don't forget to sign up for hospitality duty.

The outside of the house also needs attention, specifically more painting and scraping on the west and north sides. Hopefully we can arrange to have a contractor do that work later this summer. Thanks again to Mike Tamulis and Laraine Cormack for their efforts to attend to the seasonal decorations at the front of the house. The gardens are still under the snow, but that should change before long.

What's Its

What is the proper name of these three axes? As Ken says, a correct answer will earn you a nickel.

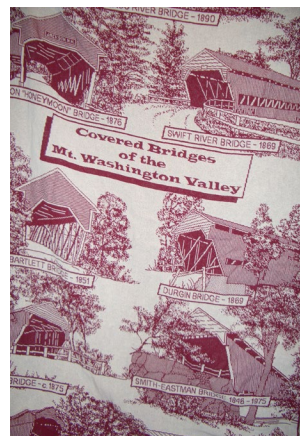


Volunteers Needed

Are you available to help with cleaning and moving items at the Eastman Lord House? If so, please sign-up at the monthly meeting, or call our office at 603-447-5551, and leave a message.

Items for Sale

We have several items for sale to members and non-members alike. Some of these items are pictured below.



Red Afghan with Covered Bridges from the valley, \$45

Blue Afghan with local buildings, \$45

Books for Sale:

Conway, New Hampshire by Janet Hounsell and Ruth Horne, \$35

Cemeteries of Conway, N.H. by Jane Rancourt, Brian Wiggin, and Ken Rancourt, \$15

The Neighbor's War by Bill Marvel, \$15

Goshen by Nellie Carver, \$15

Bird's Eye View map of Conway in 1896, 24.5 x 17.5", \$5

Deck of playing cards with old pictures of Conway, \$5

Please contact our office at 603-447-5551 and leave a message if you would like to purchase one of these items.

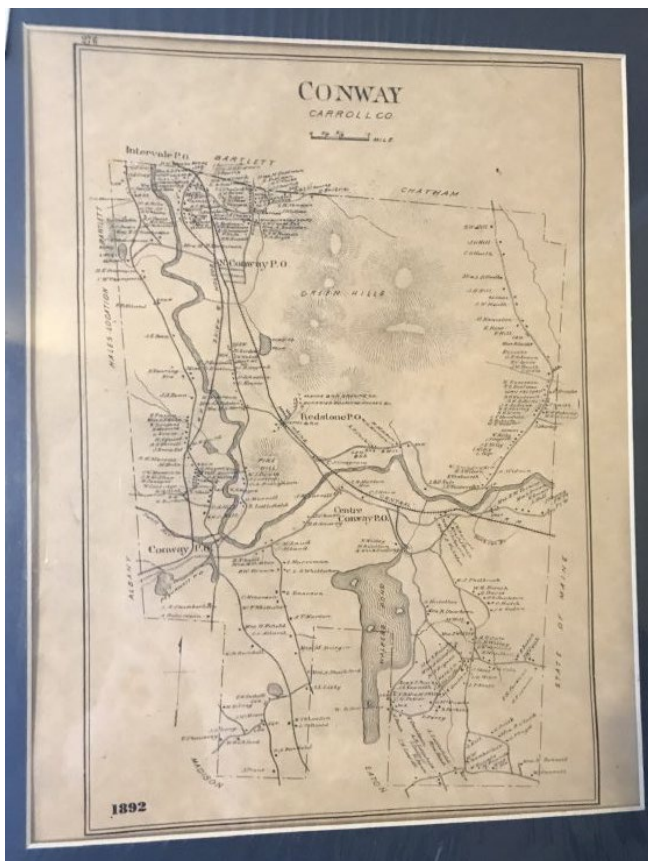
New Additions to Our Collections



Print of Intervale Summer, a pastel by Harriet Winchester, donated by Sally Hatch



Print of Chocorua Snow, a pastel by Harriet Winchester, donated by Sally Hatch



Matted map showing Conway and its residents in 1892, including Walker's Pond, donated by Jeannette Blake



Do you know this woman? Find out her name at our April meeting.

Did You Know

The first framed house built in North Conway was built by Thomas Chadbourne. He had the mill privilege on Kearsarge Brook and built where the bridge crosses the stream in North Conway. Richard Eastman soon purchased his rights, however.

The old McMillan House was so-called because it was built on land granted to Colonel Andrew McMillan, born in Ireland. He was a lieutenant in the French war. In 1765 he received as a grant from the king a gift of the intervalle on the east side of the Saco in Lower Bartlett. He bought shares in North Conway where he became a life-long resident. His was an aristocratic establishment with African servants. He died in 1800.

The first male child born in North Conway was Johnathan Eastman, July 18, 1770. He died May 11, 1868.

The progenitor of the Eastmans in North Conway (and at least some of the Fryeburg Eastmans) and Chatham was Roger Eastman, who migrated from Wales in 1640. His grandson, Richard, married Molly Lovejoy. They, with three of their four sons, settled in Conway. The fourth son, Johnathan, settled in Fryeburg. Richard purchased the Thomas Chadbourne estate with mill rights.

Johnathan Eastman was referred to by an early historian as “the right man in the right place.” At least he was a wonderful father to his eighteen children. Seventeen of his children grew up and married. All eighteen became members of a Christian church. The Carroll County history gives the names of the wives and husbands of all the seventeen children and in some cases even the second wife. This patriarch, like Enoch of old, is said to have “closely walked with God.” One wonders if possibly the wife didn’t have a little baptism of the Holy Ghost also, to keep eighteen pairs of stockings, whole and paired with the proper mate each week. And then those little squares of cotton on the line! And the epicac and worm-elixir and camphorated oil! History fails to mention her name. I should like to erect a cathedral to “the nameless saint” who mothered the eighteen Eastmans around 1800.

To continue her husband’s praises, he was seventy years a church member and fifty-seven a deacon. He voted for George Washington for President, for his second term. He kept a public library in his own house. In 1785 the freshet carried away his home and fifteen others on the intervalle and they then moved to the present village site. (C.C.H. page 845)

From a newspaper clipping by Abbie Norton in the Conway Historical Society’s files

Reports from the Treasurer, Selectmen, Road Agents, and School Board have been reported in the Annual Report for the Town of Conway. But did you know that in 1895-96 the reports were for the year ending February 15th? Sometime between 1916 and 1919, the ending date changed to January 31st, and in 1945, it changed again to be the calendar year. There was a special town report covering the period from February through December 1944. In 1945 the town reports covered the calendar year.

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Conway Historical Society

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CHS Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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A significant percentage of our income is generated through membership.

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Membership Dues are payable in November and run through December of the following year.

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