

The President's Corner

It is "85 degrees plus" and there is still plenty of snow on Mount Washington. Harbingers of summer – black flies and mosquitos - are making themselves known, especially to those individuals outside gardening. Volunteers Mike T. and Lorraine C. have already been out tending to the Eastman Lord House flowers making it look well cared for. Judy and Ken Williams, along with David (Spike) Smith, have re-arranged the Keeping Room so we can now proceed with "due diligence" in tending to the two windows that need to be re-puttied and painted, and fixing the door. And, thankfully, the snow is now all melted off the new landing. The windows will have new storm windows installed and sealed, and we'll move on to the next room.

Inside, Judy and Jane have been cataloguing both older books and newer donations. Gary M., Frank B. and Ken (me!) started the process of cutting brush behind the ELH so that our painters can get easy access to the rear and west sides of the building. So, lots of progress overall. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the line-up of summer programs which, overall, should generate lots of interest because the topics are extremely varied. Including, of course, the August Picnic.

Over at the Old Firehouse we have collaborated with the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust for them to utilize two more rooms upstairs. They have recently hired two more individuals to support their efforts and needed the extra space. We have now moved all of our items there to the large room over the meeting room downstairs.

Over the springtime your Board has finalized the Job Description for our new Executive Director, and a notice will be placed in in the Conway Daily Sun and on our web page in early June. If you know someone, or are interested yourself, please respond to our email address: conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com We've gone too long without an Executive Director and your Board believes that resuming this position will help us move forward at a faster pace.

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June Program

Our next meeting will be June 13th, at 7:00 P.M. at the Old Firehouse. Our program will be a continuation of the meeting in April, old slides from around the valley. The April meeting was especially well attended, and hope this one will be, too.

Upcoming:

- June 13** **Conway Slides, Part 2, by Brian Wiggin**

- July 11** **The History of Crawford Notch by Christopher Daley**

- August 8** **Annual Members' Picnic**

- September 12** **Music of the Old Grange by Catherine Rhoda**

- October 10** **Kennett Sports Over the Years**

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)

All in all we can all look forward to a great summer season with exciting programs and (I hope) a new Executive Director!

Executive Director Position Open

The Board has been working throughout the winter and spring on a list of qualifications and duties for the new Executive Director position. We are now ready to hire a person for this part-time job.

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. A notice will be placed in in the Conway Daily Sun and on our web page in early June.

From Gems From James Whitcomb Riley

They's been a heap o' rain, but the sun's out to-day,
And the clouds of the west spell is all cleared away,
And the woods is all the greener, and the grass is
greener still;

It may rain again tomorry, but I don't think it will.

Pansies! Pansies! How I love you, pansies!
Jaunty-faced, laughing lipped, and dew-eyed with
glee
Would my song might blossom out in little five-leaf
stanzas
As delicate in fancies
As your beauty is to me!

Upcoming Programs

July's program will be The History of Crawford Notch and Environs, by Christopher Daley. This presentation chronicles the fascinating history of a wonderous and beautiful location in New Hampshire - Crawford Notch! The talk begins with a tale of survival! The story of how Abel Crawford and Eliezer Rosebrook moved into this vast wilderness with their families and carved out a living. They created crude dwellings cleared the land and survived for those first few years.

Eventually, the two men would contract to build a turnpike through the Notch. Rosebrook and Crawford took advantage of the situation and both set up inns to accommodate travelers.

And, then they came - people who wanted to ascend nearby Mount Washington. The Crawfords exploited this new phenomenon and cut a trail to the top of the great mountain and began to guide parties to the summit. This proved so profitable that another inn was built at the Gateway to the Notch - the Notch House. Other hotels followed, and the Grand Hotel era was born.

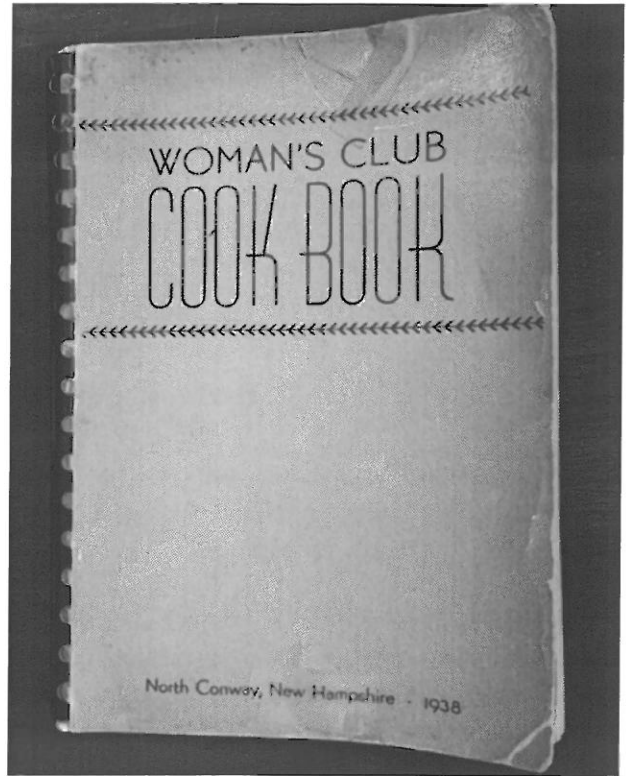
Christopher Daley has been speaking all over New England for the last 30 years and virtually via Zoom throughout the United States for the past two years on historical topics of interest; at libraries, historical societies, schools and all sorts of clubs and organizations!

September's program will be Music of the Old Grange, by Katherine Rhoda. An egalitarian, nonpartisan fraternal organization founded in the wake of the Civil War to advance the interests of farming communities, the Grange (AKA the Order of Patrons of Husbandry) has had a profound influence on rural American life. It has a rich heritage of song, with a number of songbooks published starting in 1874. Katherine Rhoda collects and studies this material and will share songs celebrating agriculture, rural life, and the pursuit of the common good. For more information, her website is:
<https://katherinerhoda.com>

New Additions to Our Collections



75th Anniversary of Kennett High School Blue Glass Plate, donated by Marcia Shackford

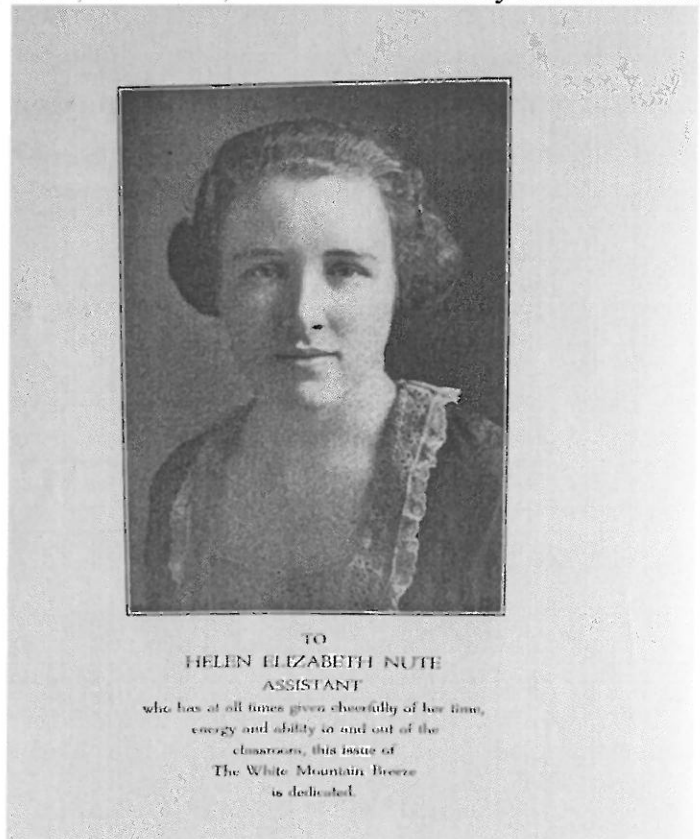


Woman's Club Cook Book from 1938, donated by Joanne and Joe Grdinick

Vacation Guide of the White Mountains



From the White Mountain Breeze, North Conway High School, June 1922, Pillar of No. Conway and local author



From the Minutes of the First Meeting of the Conway Historical Society:

A meeting attended by those interested in the forming of a Conway Historical Society was held at the home of Frank W. Davis on the evening of June 15, 1935.

Mrs. Adeline Roberts, chairman of a committee previously appointed by the Conway Woman's Club for the purpose of forming such a society, called the meeting to order and after the following officers were elected, turned the gavel over to the newly elected president.

President – William G. Parker
First Vice President – Charles Gibson
Second Vice President – Percy Garland
Third Vice President – Robert H. Kennett
Secretary – Eliza H. Tibbetts
Treasurer – William Carter
Custodian – Alice Pollard

A talk on the purpose and interest of said society was given by George Hill Evans, a native of Conway, now of Somerville, Mass., who has been a prime mover in arousing interest in said society and who has done considerable preliminary work to push forward the project.

A set of by-laws was adopted and the meeting given over to an informal discussion of interesting local historical facts.

Ernest Gibson Fifield of New York, a native of Conway, was present and had the honor of being the first member to join the society by paying the annual dues.

Ruth B. D. Horne, Secretary pro tem

From the Second Meeting Minutes:

Thursday, July 25, 1935

The Conway Historical Society met this afternoon in the curio room of the public library with ten members present.

The meeting was called to order by the president, William B. Parker and two letters from interested friends were read and filed with the secretary.

The president appointed Mrs. Adeline Roberts chairman to organize a committee for collecting historical data and legendary lore, and by a vote of the members George H. Evans was elected as honorary president of the Society.

Mrs. Ruth B. D. Horne was appointed as a member of the Council, two others to be interviewed before appointment.

The matter of preserving important current was discussed, and by a vote of the Society, Mrs. Adeline Roberts was elected to carry it into effect, and to buy a book for that purpose at the expense of the Society.

A discussion concerning corresponding members resulted in leaving this matter for the Council to decide, and it was voted that all those joining not later than the regular meeting in October, be admitted as charter members of the Society.

Amount taken for dues \$5.

Respectfully submitted,
Eliza H. Tibbetts, Secretary

Officers and Directors

President

Ken Rancourt

603-447-2720

Vice President

Brian Wiggin

603-447-3426

Secretary

Jane Rancourt

603-447-2720

Treasurer

Gary MacDonald

603-447-5014

Directors

Joseph Phillips 802-449-2012

Ted Hounsell 603-447-4801

Tim & Jan Quint

603-397-7897 Blaine Nelson

512-470-8756

Lawn and Garden Committee

Laraine Cormack and

Mike Tamulis

Newsletter and Office

Judy Williams

603-447-5551

Programs

Open

Membership

Jane Rancourt

603-447-2720

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Conway Historical Society

100 Main Street

P.O. Box 1949

Conway, N.H. 03818

Phone: 603-447-5551

CHS Newsletter

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Volume 29, Issue 2, Summer 2023

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.

CHS Membership Dues are \$20 per person per year

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