

Meet Your New Executive Director

Hi! I'm Heather Corrigan, your new Executive Director. I'm very excited to be taking on this role and dive into the history of the Conways.

I am originally from Connecticut, growing up in West Hartford. From a young age, I was exposed to the history world through my parents, as they were avid collectors of antiques. My Dad was the curator of the Museum of Connecticut History for almost 40 years, and I spent a great deal of time as a child helping out and learning about their collection. As I got older, I started working there in the summers, learning how to accession and organize the ever-growing collection.

My love for history carried over into my college years, where I attended Plymouth State University and started as a history major, then realizing that the major was geared more towards teachers. I switched to Humanities, which gave me a much broader selection of history classes. I graduated with a BA in Humanities, and then 10 years later graduated with a MED in Heritage Studies, with a concentration in Historic Preservation.

I've only been at my post for three weeks, but I have already learned so much about what we have in our collection. So far, the most interesting finds have been Grover Cleveland's long johns, some uranium glass pieces from the 1940s, and all the Benjamin Champney items, including his paintbrushes.

In addition to our website, you can now find us on Facebook and Instagram! Our Facebook page is Conway NH Historical Society and Instagram is conway_nh_historical_society. Check us out and give us an add!

We hope to see you at our upcoming fall programs before the winter break and at the Christmas party in December.

Until next time,
Heather

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the recent loss of two loyal members, Briggs Bunker, and Jim Arnold. Briggs was a loyal member for many years. Jim served as the Acting Curator following the death of David Emerson. He also served as a director and was actively involved with training as well as giving house tours.

Our condolences go to both families during this difficult time.

Upcoming:

October 10 New Hampshire Humanities to Go about Benjamin Champney and Mount Washington

November 14 Kennett Sports Through the Years by Tim Quint Elections for 2024

December 12 Annual Christmas Party and Yankee Swap

January to March Winter Break

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, or if you know of someone who would be willing to present a program, please contact Heather Corrigan.

*From the Minutes of October 13, 1938, 75
Years Ago*

The Historical Society met in the Recreation Room of Russell Cottages which was a particularly fitting setting as the room was made by remodeling an old barn and transforming it into an especially charming Assembly Hall.

The president Miss Ruth Kennett was in the chair and appointed Mrs. Adeline Roberts secretary pro tem in the absence of Mrs. Marion Dixon. Thirty-five members and visitors were present. This being the annual meeting nomination of officers was made by Mrs. Persis Berry of the nominating committee. The list was president, Miss Ruth Kennett; 1st -vice president, H. C. Lovejoy; 2nd -vice president, Mrs. Ella Mudgett; secretary, Mrs. Adeline Roberts; treasurer, Mrs. Edna Eastman. It was moved and seconded that the secretary pro tem case one ballot for the list which was done.

The president introduced George Evans. He told of a book entitled, Pequawket, which he has written, and which is now ready for the printer. Mr. Evans suggested that the Society sponsor the publication of the book making it the first of a series which it is hoped may be issued in the name of the Society. The Society to incur no financial obligation but to agree to attempt to sell one hundred copies within one year from publication. The proposition was discussed, and Mrs. Ruth Horne moved that the offer be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Albert Hall and the society voted to accept the proposition with no dissenting vote. Mr. Hall recalled Mr. Evans from the anteroom and the meeting proceeded.

The president spoke of the idea of a permanent home for the society. Miss Harriet Woodward was introduced and spoke of historically interesting places in East Conway; of a visit of Gen. Frye during which he selected a site for settlement; and of Nathaniel Smith, the first to be ready to settle in that section; of David Page, one of the early settlers, and Jeremiah Page whose wife was a descendant of

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Upcoming Programs

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th, at 7:00 P.M., at the Old Firehouse in Conway village. The program will be a New Hampshire Humanities to Go presentation about Benjamin Champney and Mount Washington. It is free and open to the public.

Benjamin Champney was a local artist in the vanguard of the movement to develop a uniquely American style of art. While working in his studio in North Conway, he created stunning landscape paintings and mentored a generation of artists who helped make the White Mountains famous the world over. Some of the collections pertaining to Mr. Champney will be on display.

Everyone in New Hampshire is familiar with Mount Washington, but few know the sacrifices and travails of those who "conquered" the mountain to reach its summit. From the first known ascent of Washington in 1642 to the auto road of the 21st century, the challenge of getting to the top of Mount Washington has involved danger, courage, inventiveness, and sometimes just plain old good luck.

The November program will be the History of Kennett Sports Through the Years, by Tim Quint. As you probably know, Kennett just celebrated its 100th anniversary. Tim will be highlighting some of the teams and athletes going back to the early days through modern times.

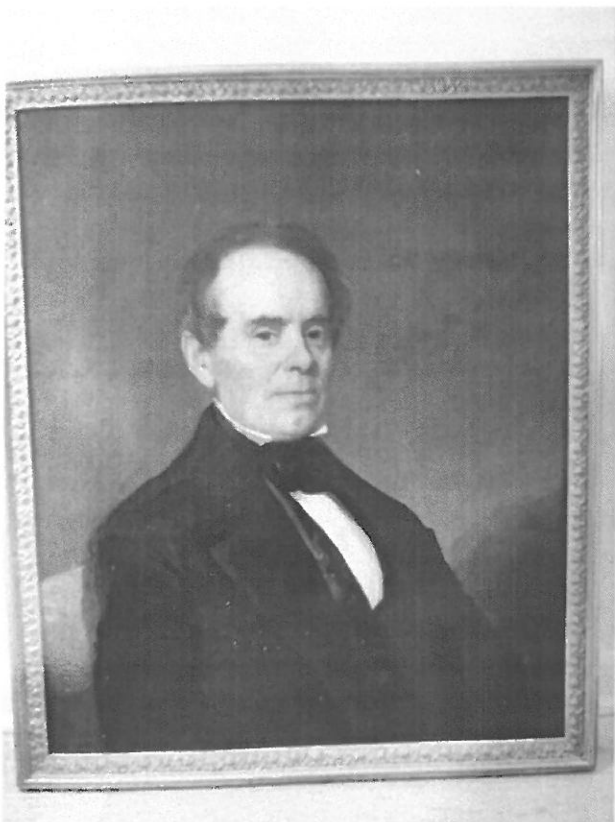
Elections will be held at the November meeting for 2024.

The December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party and Yankee Swap. Attendees are asked to bring a small, wrapped gift, no more than \$10.

New Additions to Our Collections



Newly acquired chairs made by the Conway Chair Company



Portraits of Zara and Mary Putnam Waldo Cutler (See next page for story)

Cutler Portraits Donated

Zara Cutler was born in 1786 to Benoni and Luranna (Leavens) in Guildhall, Vermont. He was a Conway attorney until his death in 1861. Zara married Mary Putnam Waldo (1789-1832) in 1812 in Pomfret, Ct., and moved to Conway a short time later. They had 6 children, 3 girls and 3 boys. Both Zara and Mary are buried in the Conway Village Cemetery.

These portraits were originally in the possession of Maurice Lovejoy. They were loaned to the Conway Public Library and hung there for years. Eventually he gave them to Stewart and Marion Putnam, who were related to Mary Cutler. They retained possession for several years. Betsy's son, Scott, became an attorney, and they gave the portrait of Zara Cutler to him, eventually having Mary join him. Scott recently moved to Brooklyn and no longer has the room for the portraits.

Because Stewart and Marion Putnam were members and enjoyed the Conway Historical Society, their daughters, Betsy, Peggy, and Ann, felt this might be a good home.

The artist, Albert Gallatin Hoit (1809 – 1856), was born in Sandwich, New Hampshire, and lived in Boston. He was best known for his portrait work. Arguably his most famous work was of William Henry Harrison (1840), the ninth President of the United States.

Deaccessioned Items

After many years of sitting in boxes at the Eastman-Lord House, the Presidential papers of Grover Cleveland have found a new, more appropriate, home. As of Friday, September 29th, these papers now reside at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where they will be catalogued and preserved for future generations to use and enjoy. The library's extensive collection covers the presidencies of George Washington to Calvin Coolidge and are available online. See the pictures below of the boxes after being loaded into the car for transport, as well as being accepted by an archival supervisor.



Trunk filled with Grover Cleveland's papers



Library of Congress Madison Building



Maurita Baldock, Archival Supervisor at the Library of Congress, accepting Grover Cleveland papers from Judy Williams for Conway Historical Society

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Hannah Dustin. The Page place is still occupied by a Page, and the place which John Webster settled is still in the Webster family. The first schoolhouse in the town was located near the David Page place and was afterwards moved.

Albert Harrison Hall was introduced. He spoke of hurricanes in this section especially of one of Sept. 1815 which then was said to be the greatest wind ever known in New England. Another occurred Sept. 8, 1869, after which Hurricane Mt. received its name. He showed maps of the roads in Fryeburg and maps of Brownfield and Conway showing parts over which were disputed claims. He pointed out the facts that East Conway was first settled then Conway Center and then North Conway.

Miss Kennett mentioned the idea of interested members making a tour of the places mentioned by Miss Woodward as first settlements. Miss Edna Eastman furnished a paper on Rev. Edward Payson Eastman which was read by Mrs. A. H. Hall.

Miss Kennett spoke of finances and Fred Dinsmore gave a treasurer's report. Voted to adjourn.

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Conway Historical Society

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CHS Newsletter

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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 November and run through December of the following year.

CHS Membership Dues are \$20 per person per year

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