

*From the Desk of the Executive Director*

*A Year in Review*

As I write this, the first snowfall of the season is falling and covering our picturesque New England Federal house in a blanket of snow. With the year about to wrap up in a few short weeks, we look back on what the society has seen in 2023.

Our programs in 2023 featured a variety of different topics: historic views of Conway through postcards, music of the Grange, the history of Crawford Notch, famous residents of New England cemeteries, the life and legacy of Benjamin Champney and wrapping up the season with Kennett High School sports through the years, presented by member Tim Quint. We are looking forward to our program schedule for next year, with the hopes of bringing you more unique stories about the area, New Hampshire, and some spooky treats for the fall. Look for a schedule in the next newsletter in 2024.

This fall was a busy time for the society, with a number of events and happenings. September saw the hiring of a new Executive Director, for the first time since David Emerson's tenure. On a side note, this has always been my dream job, and I hope that I can bring the historical society into the future, because we really have so many special and amazing historical pieces to share with the community. We are working to re-open, so we can let the public back into our little world.

The journey of the Grover Cleveland papers came to an end, as they found their forever home at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. Cleveland's second term as president ended in 1897, before the creation of the Presidential Libraries. Historically, FDR is credited with the creation of the libraries, after he donated his personal and presidential papers to the Federal Government and helped raise funds to build the library and museum.



Across the street at the Old Firehouse building, the 1915 clapboarding saw a new coat of paint and our friends at the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust are delighted with the facelift. Thank you to Mountain Top Music for scheduling the painting and to Chris Saunders Paint Company.

If you are looking for any holiday gifts, check out the insert in this newsletter! We have a number of books and other merchandise for sale. All items are available for shipping or pick-up at the Eastman Lord House. Happy shopping!

Happy holidays to all, and see you in the spring!

Heather Corrigan

Check out the insert in this newsletter for some holiday gift ideas! All items are eligible for shipping or pick-up!

*Upcoming:*

**December 12 Annual Christmas Party, 7PM**

**\*Bring an ornament to share or share a story**

**\*Please bring a light refreshment to share**

**January to March Winter Break**

**Our new office hours are 8:30 to 4:30, Monday through Thursday**

*Programs:*

The program schedule will be released in our next newsletter in 2024!

**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.

*President's Message*

The days of 2023 are becoming much shorter and less numerous. Our long (and rainy!) summer is now well behind us, and we will definitely have a white Christmas/Holiday season given the heavy and wet snow we have just received. Your society has completed all of the member programs that we planned for this year—excepting for the annual picnic which got rained out. Heather, our new executive director, has detailed our recent activities in her column found on page 1. Speaking of programs, we'll be lining up speakers/presenters for the 2024 summer season shortly, so if you have any ideas or requests for programs please be sure to let Heather know.

It seems like construction in one form or another never ends. Older homes need constant attention, and both the Old Firehouse and the Eastman Lord House (ELH) are no exceptions. The long awaited painting of the Old Firehouse is now complete, and we have just received a quote for scraping, repairing, and painting the north and west sides of the ELH—when done the whole house will be completed! We've also identified some issues with the windows on the north side which we will need to address this coming springtime. Internal to the ELH we've contracted the remaining work on the new attic floor, and that work will provide us with some clean, dry storage space to house some of the lighter items in our collections.

Heather and Judy have been focusing on re-organizing and cataloging items located in the entry room and the former kitchen. That work, and more, will continue through the winter months as the kitchen is heated and provides a work space close to the computer where the data entry occurs.

Don't forget our last meeting of the 2023 season! Our annual Christmas/Holiday Celebration will take place on the night of December 12<sup>th</sup>. Our Member's Tree is already in place in the Old Firehouse (thanks to Mike and Lorraine) and it is waiting for the next installment of your 'old' ornaments. Just as important as the ornaments themselves are the stories that they tell. Remember that you can take the ornaments back home with you, or you can leave them on the tree for future celebrations. We'll record your stories either way and recite them as we continue the tradition over the years. A Yankee Swap will highlight the evening, and light refreshments are always welcomed! We hope to see you there!



*Conway, New Hampshire, 1765—1997* by Janet McAllister Hounsell and Ruth Burnham Davis Horne

“While we’re on the subject of Christmas trees, we’ll mention the lovely one on Gordan and Norma Stimson’s West Main Street property, which was for many years lighted to the delight of all passersby. The blue spruce was given to Gordan’s father, Clyde Stimson, by Paul Dwight of Fryeburg, many years earlier. It was carefully nursed through infancy, even, at one time, fenced in. The Stimsons’ blue spruce was, in my humble opinion “the perfect Christmas tree.” Until it grew really huge and the Stimsons closed their garage business, it was strung with lights each holiday season in memory of Clyde Stimson.”

### *From Our Collections*



From our collection, a simple creche given in 1971 by Philip Steele



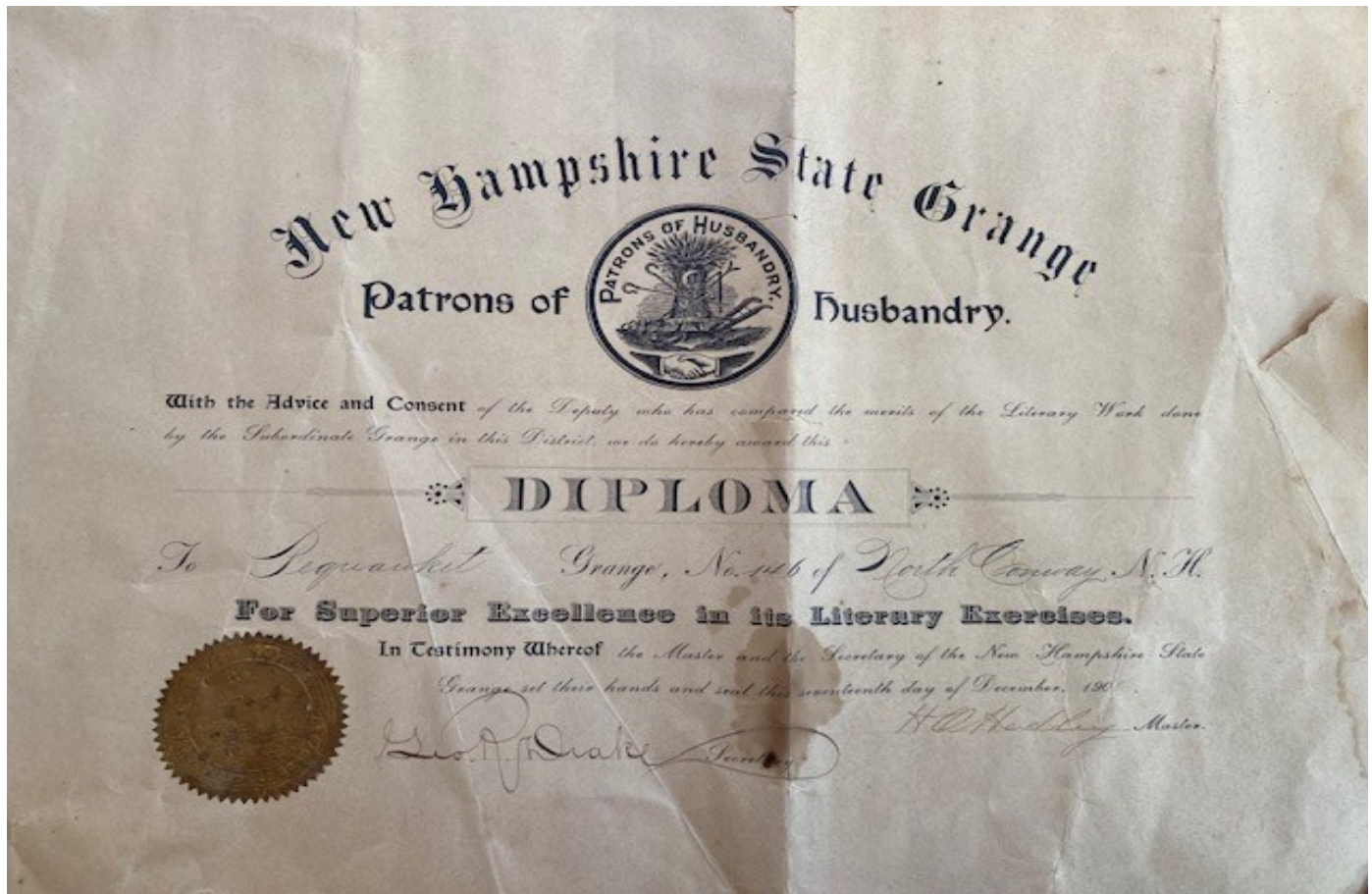
A Christmas postcard in our collection



Some of the tools used at the Redstone Quarry from our collection. These were displayed at field trips at the quarry in late October.



*New Additions to Our Collection*



Brian Wiggin donated a diploma from the Pequawket Grange from the year 1908 for Superior Excellence in its Literary Exercises.



Photographs of the Fifield and McKen families were donated by Stephanie Hastings



This Victorian mourning dress was donated by Eleanor Eastman, along with a shawl and bonnet cover.

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# Conway Historical Society

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## CHS Newsletter

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### Volume 29, Issue 4, Winter 2023

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

Our \$10 student membership level is a great gift to give

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