

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Happy Spring!

Just when we thought spring was upon us, Mother Nature had other ideas! But even with our second winter, we are preparing to start our programs for the season.

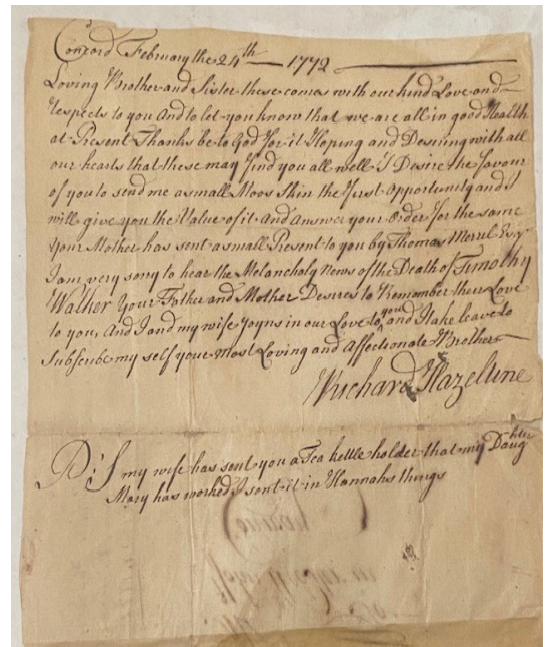
We're happy to announce our first three programs for April, May and June (see page 2). As always, our program line-up aims to cover different aspects of Conway or New Hampshire history. We hope to see you at some of the programs!

Over the last few months, we have been busy cataloging our collection and starting to organize some of the coolest historic items Conway has to offer. We continue to get donations of all different kinds and are blown away at their great condition. Recently, we discovered a letter from Richard Hazelton to John Webster of Conway from 1772! It is one of the OLDEST pieces of paper we have in the collection.

There's a lot happening this summer at CHS and we hope to see some of you here!

As always, thank you for your support.

-Heather Corrigan



In Memoriam

Dale W Hamilton, 87, passed away on Feb 4, 2024. Dale graduated from Kennett High School in 1954. He worked for many years at Carroll Reed, and after Reed moved out of state, he became the sexton at the First Church of Christ, Congregational in North Conway. One of Dale's proudest accomplishments, besides his family, was serving on the North Conway Fire Department. He served as a firefighter, historian, clerk, and dispatcher at the department. He loved the old station but was also so proud to see the new station built in 2021. Dale was an active member until Aug. 7, 2023, when he retired after 60 years of service. Although not a member of the Conway Historical Society, he and his wife Jean made numerous donations to the Society.

Norma Whitmore, recently passed away on December 17, 2023. She was a former member of the Conway Historical Society. A Celebration of Norma's Life will be planned later in the year. Norma attended Quincy High School, and worked for Second Bank–State Street Trust Company, East Bridgewater Co-Operative Bank, Plymouth-Home National Bank in Brockton, Bank of New England, Fleet Bank, and Peat Marwick. In order to honor Norma's memory, donations can be made to Mountain Garden Club at P.O. Box 913, North Conway, NH 03860.

Programs for 2024

April 9, 2024: **Extra! Extra! Historic Publications of the Valley**

Do you remember the Eastern Slope Signal? The Echo? Judy and Ken Williams will present a number of different publications from the valley that have since ceased printing.

May 14, 2024: **An Evening with Erik Koepfel**

Local artist Erik Koepfel will discuss his historic painting techniques along with showcase some of his paintings. Bring your questions!

June 11, 2024: **The Way Things Were**

Jan & Tim Quint will present snippets from the past, such as grocery prices from the 1950s and more.

Meetings and presentations will be held at the Old Firehouse in Conway village, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Programs are free and 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 at hcorrigan.conwayhistorical@gmail.com

The Conway Historical Society &
The Brown Church Presents

Yard Sale!

Saturday, July 13

9am-3pm

Green space between The
Brown Church & Robert Frost
Charter School



Get great deals on
household goods, plants,
antiques, collectibles,
books, furniture & more

**All proceeds will benefit
flood relief efforts**

For More Information:
603-447-5551
conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

We Need Your Help!

On December 18, 2023, the Salyards Building, home to the Robert Frost Charter School, sustained heavy damage due to the flooding. Our neighbors at the Brown Church also sustained severe damage to their historic building.

We are partnering with the Brown Church to hold a yard sale to help raise money for repairs.

This is an all hands on deck call, and we are hoping that you can help out in some phase of this event! We will need help moving items the day of the event, help the day of (in shifts) and also for clean-up.

Email conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 603-447-5551 for more information or to lend a hand.

President's Message

Trials and Tribulations

While many of you may think that we have had a warmer than usual winter, others may describe it as unusual. It was definitely unusual in December when the Conways (and the general area) experienced significant rainfall and record flooding. That was the beginning of our 'trials'. The lower level of both the Salyards building and the Brown Church next door could not escape the damage. Since then our new Executive Director, Heather, has become intimately familiar with FEMA representatives, Town of Conway Inspectors, members of the building trades, and filing related government paperwork. All of this in the hopes of receiving some relief from these unexpected repair costs – the Saco rose to almost 19 feet, well above historical flood stages. All of this work was clearly not in Heather's educational background of Historical Preservation, but it has certainly been a learning experience for both her and your Board.

While saving numerous items from the Salyards, and continuing our de-accessioning of "not Conway related" items in the Eastman Lord House, your Board is hoping that income generated by a flood sale of these items will help offset our looming repair costs. We've set a date of July 13th to have a large tag sale (in cooperation with the Brown Church trustees) so we should have a large number of items to interest a great number of folks.

Now it is April and we start our summer program series of members' meetings on the second Tuesday of each month thru December. We'll begin our programs with a talk on the early newspapers of the area on April 9th. We'll have some light refreshments available, and if you wish to help with providing something for future programs just let us know. Additional program topics may be found on page 2 in this newsletter. All programs will be held at the Old Firehouse on Main Street om Conway Village, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Ample parking is available.

Our work on re-opening the Eastman Lord House continues, even as some window replacement, painting, and renewing some damaged outside trim work takes place—notwithstanding the deadlines for numerous FEMA documents to be filed on time. Inside, of course, we are still cataloging items found in our large collection of things. All of our north-facing storm windows need to be replaced later this summer, and that adds to our list of tribulations.

With any luck the snow will eventually melt and we can turn our attention to mowing the grass, cutting some brush out back, and attending to the flower beds in front of the ELH. If you would like to help in this regard please call Heather and let her know!! At this point I'm sure that we are all looking forward to warmer temperatures and 'the usual' spring showers.

-Ken R.

From Our Collections

We recently received a large collection of papers from the Estate of Maurice Lovejoy. Most of these papers relate to the building and remodeling of the Conway Methodist Episcopal Church, later the Conway Methodist Church. They were donated by Brian Wiggin on behalf of the estate.

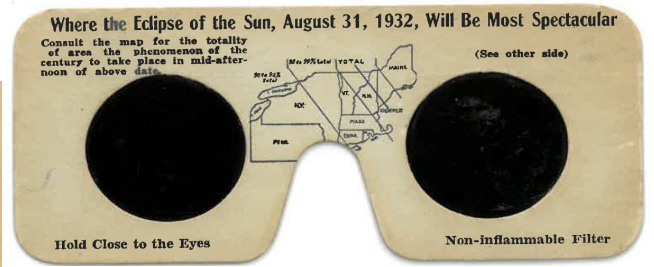


Picture from Dedication of Conway Methodist Episcopal Church in 1886

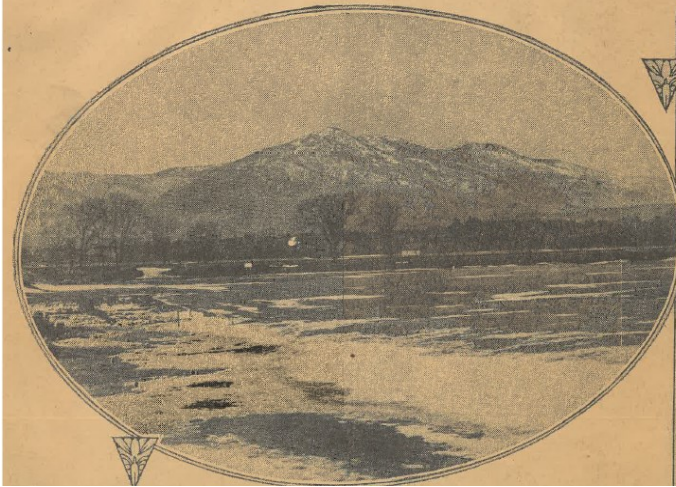
1932 Eclipse

It's been 92 years since the last eclipse, when Conway was in total view. Again, Conway and the Northern part of the state are getting ready for an influx of visitors to the area. We wonder if the eclipse glasses below will still work!

White Mountain Resorts Expect Countless Thousands of Visitors for the Spectacle of August 31, When Scientific Expeditions from All Over the World Will Set Up Instruments There



The Conways Prepare to Be a Tavern for the Sun's Eclipse



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The Grindle Center

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Historical Society when doing business with
them.

As a private 501(c)3

non-profit, we rely on your support.

Donations are tax-deductible to the amount
allowable by law.

Please consider donating

today and remember to

renew your annual membership.

Conway Historical Society

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CHS Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Affix address label here

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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 and \$10
for students.**

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Phone: 603-447-5551

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