

From the Desk of the Executive Director

The leaves have changed and the temperatures are cooling, but things at the Eastman Lord house are heating up! We have spent most of this calendar year organizing, cleaning and getting the house back into shape. A large number of items for the collection have been catalogued and placed in new archival boxes, thanks to our grant from the Henney History Foundation. We still have a long way to go to get the collection fully accessible, but we are well on our way.

Our summer yard sale with the Brown Church in Conway was a very successful event, not only monetarily, but also because we gained so much valuable real estate inside the Eastman Lord House! Removing the items that we no longer needed or did not support our mission of preserving items from the Conways, helped us check off many projects on our "Operation Re-Open The Eastman Lord House Plan." We have cleaned and rearranged two more rooms in the house, and they are starting to look like themselves again. We're excited at the progress and can't wait to continue. We'll be discussing plans to re-open the house next summer, along with planning a 90th anniversary party for the Historical Society! Stay tuned!

OLLI approached the society about presenting a class for their fall programming. OLLI is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNH, an educational program for lifelong learners. We presented a two day class called "A Walk Through Conway Village," finishing with a walking tour down Main Street in the village on a cool, fall day. We got great feedback and are looking forward to teaching another class, hopefully next fall.

The outside of the house has also been seeing some TLC, thanks to some local magicians. Our house was built in 1818, and has retained much of the original wood, and replacing the rotten wood has been a priority this year. We postponed the exterior painting to repair as much as we could, and will look into having it painted next fall. Keeping historic homes looking fresh is difficult at times, but thankfully our community has professionals who have the knowledge we need.

Happy Fall!

Heather Corrigan



Hailey Boynton, Student Intern

We are very excited to have a student intern this year from Kennett High School. Hailey is a senior, looking to pursue a degree in Archaeology and Forensics in college. She will be working with us for (hopefully!) the entire school year, helping us get organized and getting her hands dirty, as we continue to work on getting the Eastman Lord House re-open to the public.

Programs for 2024

October 8, 2024: **Behind the Veil: Death Rituals in New England**

Executive Director Heather Corrigan brings a spooky treat to CHS with a look at New England gravestone iconography, the obsession with death and superstitions, spanning the Puritans through the Victorian Era.

November 12, 2024: **Ski History of the Eastern Slope Region**

Local reporting legend, Tom Eastman and Jeff Leich, director emeritus of the New England Ski Museum, bring the history of skiing in the area to CHS. The perfect program for the end of the season, as the valley gears up for ski season.

December 10, 2024: **Annual Holiday Party**

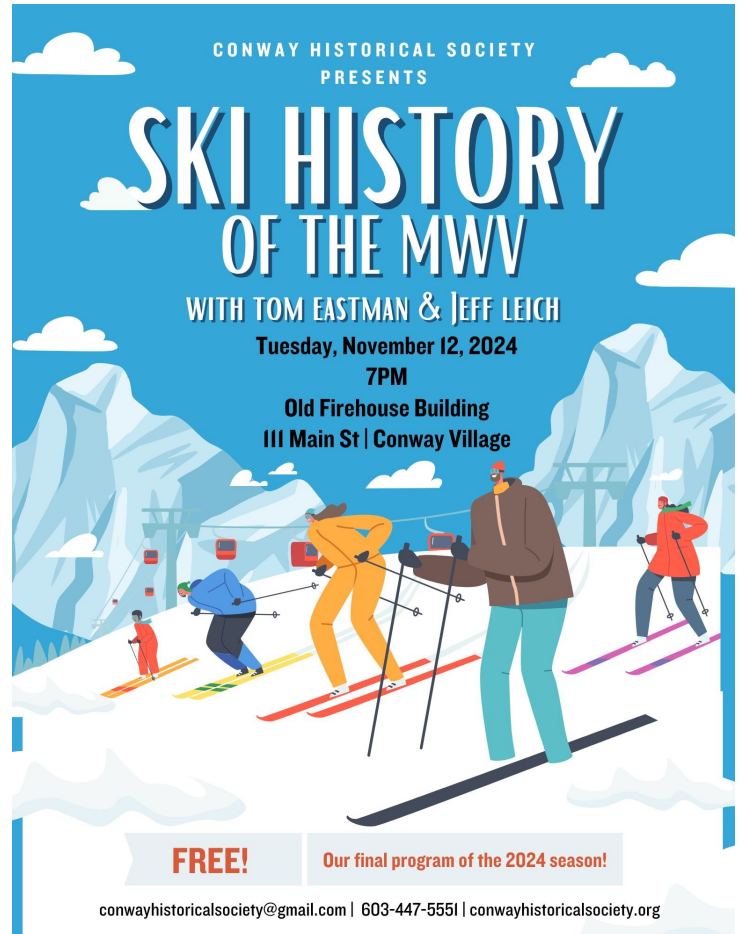
Join us for our annual celebration! Bring an ornament to share for our tree and bring a Yankee swap gift to participate in the game! Desserts and beverages will be available.

See you in April 2025 for the next season of programs!

Meetings and presentations are held at the Old Firehouse in Conway village, beginning at 7:00pm. 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



Thank you to all the presenters and everyone who supported us by attending our programs this season! We hope to see you next year!

Membership season is upon us! Look for a notice from us in the mail to renew your membership. Thank you for your continued support of CHS!

President's Message

The seasons seem to be changing faster and faster! There is now the first snow on top of Mount Washington, and the leaves are losing their fall luster. A definite chill is in the air. Meanwhile, both Heather and Judy have been working feverishly to complete work on The Keeping Room and the formal Victorian Parlor of the Eastman Lord House. All of the physical items that were there in prior years have been catalogued into our computer system and dusted and put back in place! That doesn't include the portraits or other wall hangings that will be moved into their respective locations next spring when the rooms are reasonably warm. (Remember, there is no heat at all in these rooms! It must have been cold in the old days with just a small fireplace to warm up by.)

We are still recovering from the flood damage, which occurred about a year ago, and although the physical work is 100% done the FEMA required paperwork continues. We've been assured that we will eventually receive some level of reimbursement for our recovery effort but it all takes so much time. Construction at the ELH also continues with a short rush before snow flies. The large northwest facing window in the office has lasted for more than its expected lifetime and needs to be replaced. We also have to keep in mind the historical significance of the structure so we will try to re-build it carefully and then add a new storm window over it to protect it from those strong winds that come down the valley.

There are two more Member Programs that cap off our 2024 season. November will feature well-known local persona Tom Eastman and Jeff Leich talking about the history of skiing in the valley. I've known Jeff since he was working on Mount Washington decades ago, and if you want to know something about skiing in the Valley just ask him! Tom, of course, has covered every news-worthy event in the Mount Washington Valley for years. And he also has a pretty dry New England wit to boot!

Our December program is, of course, highlighted by decorating our Christmas tree with ornaments of renown-- those 'old' and 'loved' ornaments that we've had in our homes and families for years. (Please share their beauty and history with fellow members as you place them on our tree and tell their story -- but you can also take them back home with you if you want.) Our tree decorating is always followed by a Yankee Swap. Bring a small wrapped gift and see what you might get in return! Believe it or not, one year the most sought after gift was a case of toilet paper!

All-in-all as summer winds down we have just a little more work to do outside before we close up shop for the winter. However, cataloging work will continue in the office, and over at the Old Firehouse where it is warm and comfy, so we still have lots to do!

-Ken Rancourt

In Memoriam

Thomas Bryant Jr., 86, passed away in early September. He joined the US Navy from 1956-60, and he was the second youngest enlisted man to make second class petty officer after only two years. Tom and family moved up to Conway in 2000, after retiring from Foxboro Co., in Foxboro, MA. He served as the chairperson of the pastoral council of Our Lady of the Mountains Church in North Conway and was the treasurer of the Conway Historical Society for a number of years.

From Our Collections

This summer was busy with donations. The items below are just a few of the wonderful items we received from donors all over the state.



A suitcase (pictured left) that belonged to Helen Dahl when she attended college. Dahl's father was a lawyer in Conway and had a storefront on Main Street.

Donated by Linda Fernald

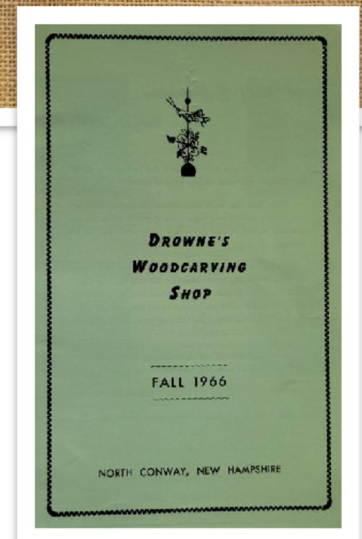
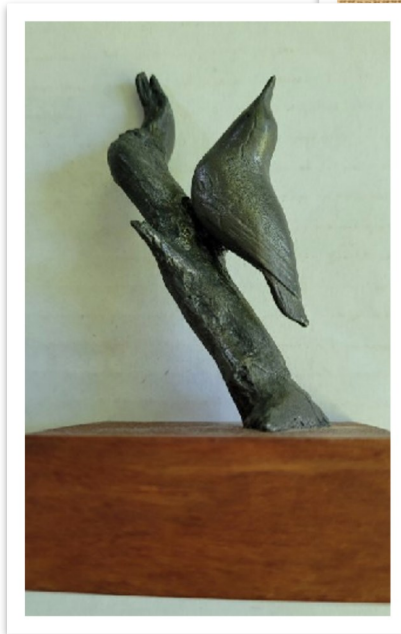
Same donation: a postal scale, large travel trunk



A large donation with a number of carved pieces from artist David Drowne. Drowne sold his art at The Shop In The Woods in North Conway in the 1960s.

Unique items for our collection, along with photographs of Drowne's time as a camp counselor and pamphlets from The Shop In The Woods.

Donated by Amy MacDonald



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

Executive Director

Heather Corrigan

Newsletter and Office

Judy Williams

Membership

Jane Rancourt

Lawn and Garden Committee

Jan & Tim Quint

Programs

Open

**Please support our
CORPORATE SPONSORS**

Burnham Company

Conway Daily Sun

Cormack Construction

Eastern Slope Inn

Furber & White Funeral Home

Gamwell, Caputo, Kelsch & Co.

The Grindle Center

Northeast Auto Body

White Mountain Oil and Propane

Your name here!

Please consider becoming a business
sponsor!

Please thank our Corporate Sponsors for
their support of the Conway 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

100 Main Street
P.O. Box 1949
Conway, N.H. 03818

CHS Newsletter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Affix address label here

Volume 32, Issue 3, Fall 2024

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.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues \$ _____

Donation \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Phone: 603-447-5551

www.conwayhistoricalsociety.org

conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Conway NH Historical Society



conway_NH_historical_society