Conway Historical Society Fall 2025
100 Main Street, PO Box 1949, Conway, NH 03818
Phone: 603-447-5551 Publisher: Conway Historical Society Volume Number: 36 Issue Number: 4

# The Lord Family Sleigh






The Lord Family sleigh is now back at the place it came from: The Eastman Lord House. Jill Ohlson, long-time Conway resident, approached us about giving the society the sleigh. It has been stored in her barn in Conway for many, many years, and she was ready to part with it. It is an eggshell sleigh, 6.2ft long and 42" wide. The design causes the sleigh to tip over if you get it tipped to the side just right.

How did Jill become the owner of the sleigh you may ask? Ray "Bowser" Lord, youngest child of the Lord family and the person who gave the society our house in 1962, was friends with Jill's father. Her family owned the gas station and property across from the Eastman Lord House where the Jem Coin Laundromat and the former gas station building currently sit. Bowser would visit her father almost every day and they chatted about a sleigh the family had in the Lord Barn, currently next to the fire department. He told Jill's father it was the sleigh that the family moved up to Conway in from the Hanover area. While that may be a tall tale, its an interesting piece of history about Conway Village and our house. Thank you Jill!

# From the Desk of the Executive Director

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2025. Where has the year gone? We were so focused on opening the house that we forgot to look around at the changing seasons and take a breath. The opening could not have happened without help from our membership, board of directors and the general public. We are so grateful we have a supportive community and board of directors to help us achieve our somewhat lofty goals. Now on to other projects!

The opening allowed us to paint and make some repairs inside the house, but it also added to our list of projects for next year. There are a few more projects left inside to help spruce up the interior and we're hoping to tackle some larger projects on the exterior as well. We're hoping to get the back of the house painted and the lead paint properly dealt with. There are also some projects we need to enlist the help of preservation experts, in order to help lead us in the right direction. As a reminder, since we are on the National Register of Historic Places we do need to follow certain preservation standards when replacing or repairing elements and features on the house. This is to ensure the house retains as much of its original integrity (or charm) and features as possible.

Next year, we hope to open the house for Memorial Day weekend. Stay tuned for our open schedule for 2026. We are always looking for docents and volunteers who would like to help give tours or organize the collection. Please reach out if you are interested.

As always, we thank you for your support, near and far, and can't wait to bring more events and exhibits to the Eastman Lord House. We hope you can join us!

-Heather Corrigan







## 2025 Programs

Our programs have come to a close for 2025. We are grateful to our speakers and our ability to bring diverse programming to the community. Look for a schedule for 2026 in the spring!

If anyone has an idea for a 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

## Cleaning House?

We can help with any "junk" that might be cluttering up in your home! Anything related to Conway history, the White Mountains, or anything of historic interest, we'd love to take a look. Call us at 603-447-5551 or email conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com




Join us for our annual Christmas party on December 9th! You can bring a dessert or snack, a Yankee Swap gift ($10 limit) or an ornament to share or to be part of our ornament collection. Or just bring yourself! We hope to see you there!

## Membership Season

Membership season is upon us! You should see a letter in your mailbox soon. We appreciate your support throughout the year. Your donations help us to continue to preserve the history of the Conways. THANK YOU!

# A Visit From Robert Frost Chartered Public School

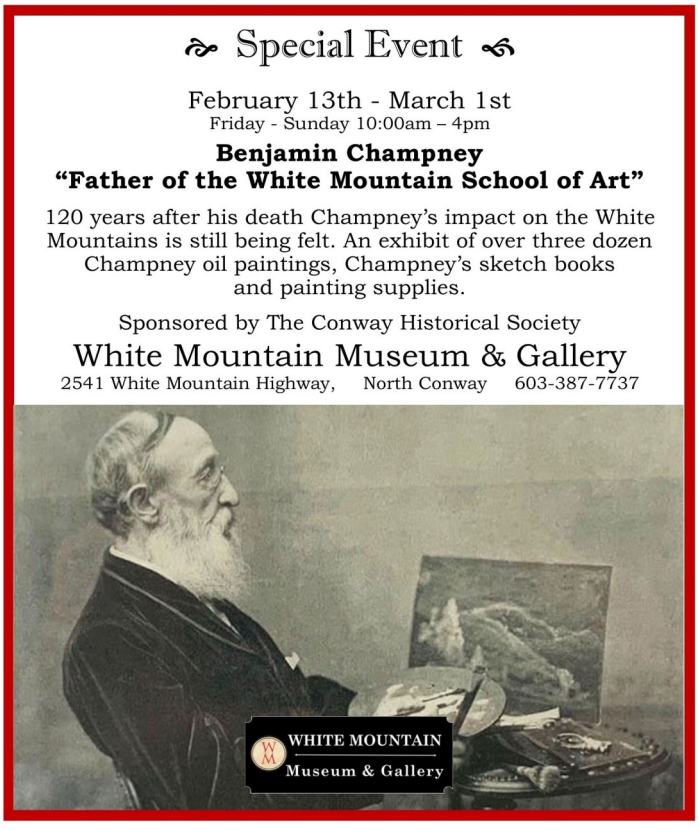
On October 7, 2025 we hosted our neighbors, the Robert Frost Chartered Public School, for a visit to our museum. Thankfully, they had a short walk from next door .

We took them on a tour of what life would have looked like if you lived in Conway from the early 1800s until the 1940s during World War II. The students were allowed to touch a number of items, much to their excitement, and we feel it is important for all ages to learn how to properly handle antiques and fragile items. They asked questions about the house, who lived there and most were convinced the house is haunted.

We hope to host more school groups next year!



Robert Frost Chartered Public School students learn about a stereoscope and how people saw the world in the late 1800s.




# CHS Collaborations for 2026

**While we wish our museum could be open during the winter, pieces from our collection are living their best "snowbird" lives until we re-open in the spring.**

*Some of our Benjamin Champney items will be on display at the White Mountain Museum & Gallery, North Conway **February 13-March 1, 2026**

*Eastern Slope Inn 100th Anniversary Celebration, North Conway **July 11-17, 2026**

# From The Archives—Recent Donations



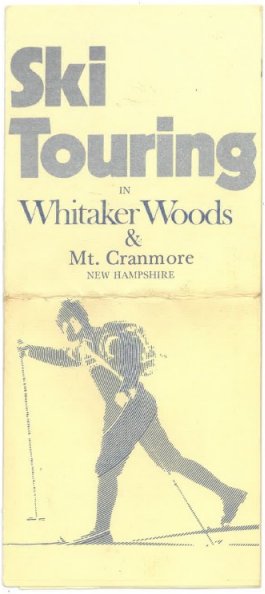

We received a number of items related to the Masons in North Conway. Among the items were medals, an apron, and certificates. Many of the items belonged to Andrew D. Davis, of AD Davis Insurance. Also included, a book of postcards all addressed to Olivia Sinclair at the Pendexter Mansion in Intervale, NH.

**Gift of Jan and & Tim Quint**

A series of postcards of the area, mostly hotels no longer around, Attitash and Heritage NH, were posted on Facebook. The owner was looking to give them away. We were tagged and were able to get in touch with the person giving them away!

**Gift of Cheryl Keenan**







With winter just around the corner, these brochures are a good reminder that it's almost time to break out the skis. Everyone knows Whitaker Woods in North Conway, but does anyone remember Good Earth Sports? From the map inside it looks like it was located around the current LL Bean store site.

**Gift of Deborah Shadd**



# President's Message

As you may have noticed in the past this column tends to start off with a reference to the weather. This morning, for example, we had our first 'snowfall' of the season. This time, the term 'season' struck me. For this upcoming season, Thanksgiving, which is just around the corner, it is important to be thankful for what we have in the Conway Historical Society.

This last year we, as a group, opened the Eastman-Lord House to the public for the first time since before COVID. Heather and Judy led that charge – with significant help from Board Members, Volunteers, and many friends and supporters of CHS. We also saw both volunteers and some paid individuals help us get the front garden under control. Your Board also decided to remove some dead trees and significant growth behind the house to allow more air flow around the north side of the building. Proper care of the inside of the house is important, but we cannot forget the outside either.

Your Board members work mostly behind the scenes to make the organization (your organization) successful. From 'just' helping to clean the period rooms (we should have purchased stock in the Swiffer company!) to making responsible financial decisions, to acting as an historic resource for all things Conway, their efforts help guide the organization forward.

So, in this season, and always really, we need to be thankful for all our members, volunteers, previous and future donors, program speakers, Board members, local businesses and supporters that make this a worthwhile and successful organization. Thank You!

-Ken Rancourt

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603-447-2720

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603-447-1733

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# CHS Newsletter

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**Volume 36 Issue 4, Fall 2025**

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.

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.

**CHS Membership Dues are $20 per person per year and $10 for students. Memberships are payable in November and run thru December of the following year.**

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