CONWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL 2026

Volume Number: 39 Issue Number: 3

We're Going to be on NH Chronicle!

Our Executive Director, Heather Corrigan, and Bob Cottrell, Curator of the Henney History Room, spent a morning with Sean McDonald back in September talking about the Maine & NH Granite Quarry in Redstone. Check out their interviews and walk through the quarry grounds on Friday, November 6.

New Membership Committee Chair

Jane Rancourt has been the Membership Chair for fifteen years now and is ready to pass the baton. She will also be stepping down from her post as Recording Secretary for the Board of Directors at the end of November. We thank her for all her work making sure everyone's dues are paid and our minutes are correct. Enjoy retirement! Taking her place as Membership Chair is Judy Williams, our faithful office assistant and registrar. You'll be hearing from Jane and Judy soon, as membership renewals are set to be due!

Samuel Howard-Boston Tea Party Participant





Group photo of the participants present at the grave marker ceremony on August 18, 2026.

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2026 Programs

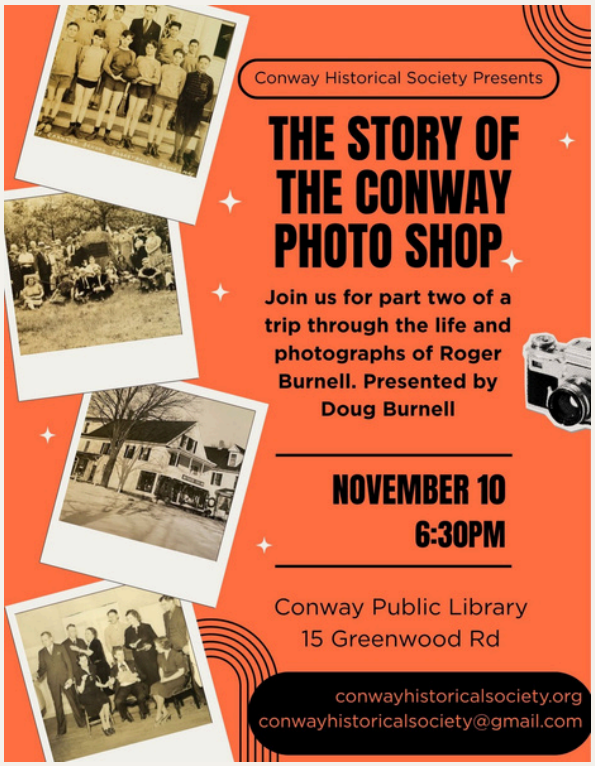
Upcoming Programs

All programs are held at the Conway Public Library at 6:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month

Join us for our final program of the season and mark your calendar for our annual holiday party!

November 10: Story of the Conway Photo Shop Part 2

Roger Burnell documented many events in Conway's history from the 1930s-60s. Join Doug Burnell as he shares stories and photographs of his father's contribution to documenting the history of Conway.





December 8: Annual Holiday Party

Join us for our annual fete! We ask for everyone to bring one of the following:

*An appetizer or dessert to share
*Yankee Swap gift
*An ornament to share a story about or to put on our tree

The party will be held at the Old Firehouse Building at 7pm

We will return with monthly programs in April 2027! Thank you to everyone who attended!

From the Desk of the Executive Director

It's been a busy year for us at CHS. Construction projects, re-opening the museum, community events and our on-going battle to get our collection cataloged and accessible. The construction projects this summer helped us gain more storage space and allowed us to re-arrange our archive room, where many of our oldest books reside. We also spent a lot of time in the attic this summer, re-arranging our chair collection and sorting our large tool collection. Some of the storage racks we cleaned off have been very handy in the attic, and the fact that they are on wheels is even better! The collection is becoming more and more accessible every day and we are getting closer to being able to have the collection appraised.

The Meeting Room is another on-going project we were able to make some headway on this summer. Aptly named the Meeting Room, board meetings were once held there and this room served as the office in the 1990s. Historically, it was the location of Mary Daniels Lord's millinery shop in the late 1900s. She ran her business out of the house, advertising in The Reporter the latest hat fashions she carried. We are looking to turn this room into a research space for people when they come in looking for information.

We have a busy winter ahead of us while the house is closed up. We're working on a plan to gain more members, planning our programs for 2027, and looking for more ways we can be involved with the community. In November, REVO Casino and Social House will be hosting us as the recipients of their charitable giving from 11-12 thru 11-16. A percentage of their daily earnings will be donated to the society to go towards projects for the collection and up keep of the Eastman Lord House.

Check in with us next year for our program schedule, and hopefully some more events at the Eastman Lord House!

Thank you for a great season at the house and for supporting our programs!

-Heather Corrigan

From The Archives--Recent Donations

We can never have enough postcards of Cranmore Mountain! These were found at a relatives house in Colorado. Postcards of Cranmore in the winter and summer months.

Donated by: Judy Bunyard





A painting of what we believe is Mt. Chocorua from the lake. Signed by B.T. Newman (Benjamin Tupper). If anyone has any others ideas of a location, please let us know!

Donated by: Glenn Merrow

An assortment of local ephemera, photographs, booklets, postcards, all of Conway or North Conway.

Donated by: Jan and Tim Quint



Thank you to everyone who donated to us over the last year. We have such a unique collection thanks to the generosity of our donors. If you or anyone you know would like to donate items, please call the office at 603-447-5551 or email conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

President's Message

Believe it or not, 2026 is coming to a close rather rapidly! Thanksgiving is around the corner, and, eventually, we'll see all the leaves drop. That means a little bit of cleanup for the CHS members too. Our garden staff has already pruned back some of the many irises that have grown to overcrowding.

The Eastman Lord House is now closed for the season, and it was a very busy one to boot. Our last program of the season at the library is also coming to a close, but that means that our Annual Christmas Party is just around the corner! Heather has detailed our November program elsewhere and I am really looking forward to it and hope that you too can attend.

Also please note that as 2026 is coming to a close 2027 is just around the corner! To that end, CHS has partnered with the Town of Conway Historic District Commission and created a wonderful new calendar for 2027 to keep all your appointments on track - and also keep some 'old Conway' photographs in your home at the same time! This will be a collector's edition so please don't miss out. All profits from this year's calendar will go towards the 2028 calendar featuring North Conway - so help us fund this effort into the future!

Your Board is already looking forward to next year as we start to review our annual budget and decide on which house improvements we can consider. We are looking at more window replacements for sure, and "maybe" addressing moisture issues in the older section of the Eastman Lord House. We will keep our members posted on those developments as they occur. We will be looking for recommendations from historic preservation folks to help address those issues.

Thank you for being a member and supporting your society! Your membership is important and greatly appreciated!

--KR

Interested in joining the Board of Directors?

This fall, we are looking for interested parties to fill vacancies on our board. There are 2-3 seats available. One officer position, an officer/secretary position or simply another officer. The secretary position can be filled by someone who does not need to join the board.

If you are interested, please contact our office at 603-447-5551 or conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for more information.



Gravestone Cleaning: The Eastman Family









The progression of the cleaning, from the brown stain, the moss covered obelisk to the final result at the bottom.



On September 3, Ken Rancourt, Brian Wiggin and Heather Corrigan headed into Conway Village Cemetery with a mission to clean the Eastman Family's stones.

William Kimball Eastman (1794-1887) built the Eastman Lord House in 1818 and lived in the house until 1879 with his wife Rhoda and their nine children. Some of the children moved out to California and others went to Minnesota to follow the lumber boom. Upon returning from a trip to Minnesota, Rhoda fell ill and passed away in 1870.

William continued to travel to see his children until his death in 1887. Most of the family is buried in Conway, with the plan being for the entire family to be buried together.

Their stone is the tallest in the cemetery and was in need of a good cleaning. After a few coats of D2 solution, some elbow grease and a lot of water, the stone began to return to it's original white. A few more cleanings and it should look almost brand new.

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The Grindle Center

Eastman Lord House Open Hours

Fall Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:30am-4pm

Museum Hours:
CLOSED for Winter

Look for the museum to re-open next spring!

Conway Historical Society
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Conway, NH 03818

CHS Newsletter

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As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, 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.

Contact us!

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