Conway Historical Society
Summer 2026
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Local Milestones in 2026



North Conway's Eastern Slope Inn celebrates its 100th anniversary on July 15, 2026. The hotel was the second hotel built by the Randall family, after devastating fires claimed the original hotel in 1902 and the second in 1925. In 1937, Harvey Dow Gibson, born in North Conway, bought the hotel and Lookout Mountain (which became Mt. Cranmore). He renamed the hotel the Eastern Slope Inn, as his plans of turning North Conway into a ski town were coming to fruition.

The Conway Public Library celebrated their 125th anniversary on June 13, 2026. Originally named the Jenks Memorial Library, it was built by the family of Dr. Thomas Jenks, born in Conway. In 1900, the cornerstone was laid, made from the local Washington Boulder, and the building was dedicated on June 13, 1901.





The Methodist Church on Main Street in Conway Village was originally built in 1826 in the Greek Revival style. It was the first public building in the village and was financed by selling pews. It was first known as the Second Congregational Church, with Methodists and Congregationalists sharing the space. By 1886, the Congregationalists were looking for their own space, and offered to buy out the Methodists. The Methodists in turn bought them out, and the church was theirs.

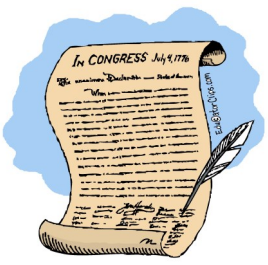
From the Desk of the Executive Director

We were so busy this spring that we completely missed our spring newsletter! Apologies for not getting a newsletter out to you. But, we have a bunch of updates to hopefully make up for our brains deciding to take an early vacation!

Although it was not what we planned, the Eastman Lord House officially opened for the season on June 13. Mother Nature did not play nice this spring and it was still too cold to work comfortably in the house until mid-May. We have an exhibit up for the season celebrating the Grand Hotels that existed and are still in our area. While organizing this spring, we came across a hotel register from the Conway House in 1912. After close inspection, we noticed fire damage and no guest entries for April 7, 1912. The fire at the hotel broke out between 1-3am on April 7. The register survived the fire. Pretty cool!

The Eastman Lord House has been hosting a group of contractors doing several projects for us. We had work done in our bathroom—the shower and tub were removed to make more storage space and also laid a new floor. The window we had enclosed a few summers ago was enclosed from the inside and this has allowed us to re-arrange the Archive Room. We are getting closer everyday to having so many materials accessible! The back portion of the house was also painted and the lead pain removed. We are also in the process of having some of our original/older windows rehabbed in order to improve their health and durability. It's expensive but very necessary work. The health of our house is just as important as the health of our collection and materials.

We hope you have been able to get out or attend some virtual programming for our country's semisesquicentennial celebration! Our program for July is about New Hampshire's role in the American Revolution and there are a number of programs available through New Hampshire 250. Also check out the Conway Public Library's page and other local events. We hope to see you this season and thank you for supporting public and local history!



-Heather Corrigan

(Hoping John Hancock would be proud of this signature!)

2026 Programs

Upcoming Programs

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

July 14: Rebels & Redcoats: NH and the American Revolution

New Hampshire's role in the American Revolution is often overlooked, yet it has a rich history. Did you know Paul Revere's first ride was to Portsmouth in December 1774 to warn patriots about British reinforcements? We welcome back Mary Adams of NH Humanities for a thrilling night of lesser known stories about the forming of our nation.

August 11: Annual Picnic

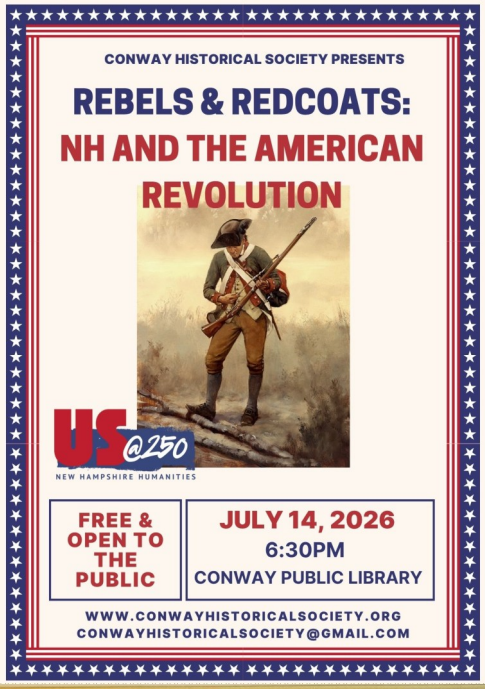
Bring a dish to share! Our annual picnic will be held at the Old Firehouse Building in Conway Village, rain or shine.

September 8: Photos by Roger Burnell

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.

October 13: Buried New Hampshire: Unearthing Stories from Granite State's Graves

Rick Davidson and Bill Thompson, authors of Buried New Hampshire: Graveyards Have Stories to Tell, present their photographs and historical research on the hidden narratives behind New Hampshire's burial grounds—from the Seacoast, to the White Mountains, to the Great North Woods.







Conway Public Library 125th Rededication June 13, 2026



Our Executive Director, Heather Corrigan, had the honor of serving on the committee responsible for planning the library's rededication celebration. A group made up of historians, library staff, trustees and friends of the library, they put together a number of activities honoring the library's history and celebrating the importance of a community library.

All of the activities were themed around the early 1900s, because the library was officially dedicated on June 13, 1901. Beatrix Potter stopped by to read some of her classic tales (published in the early 1900s) to children, a history exhibit about what life was like in the early 1900s, original deeds and plans of the building, architectural pieces of the library and even a demonstration of stone cutting. Speeches from library director Jeff Beavers, Town Manager John Eastman, James Cousins from the board of trustees, and Heather gave a speech about the history of libraries in town. Festivities were highlighted by musical interludes by Mountain Top Music's Orchestra. Thank you to everyone who helped celebrate!

New Board Member—Jenny Spofford

We welcomed our newest member to the board back in May. Jenny, originally from Illinois, has lived in New Hampshire for over twenty years. Residing in Albany, she served as a selectperson for the town. She comes to us with a MLIS in Library Science and as the current Ossipee Library Director. Jenny also served as director of the Fryeburg Library and worked at Conway Public Library as well. She loves cats and just self published her first children's book Cat Tales!



From The Archives— Conway Celebrations



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1. **Fourth of July parade in North Conway**
2. **Memorial Day parade in front of the L.C.. Prescott house, Conway**
3. **Fourth of July parade in front of the Lord Barn, Conway**
4. **Conway's Bicentennial 1965, Robbins & Kolln, North Conway**
5. **Conway's Bicentennial 1965, Western Auto, Conway**

President's Message

The Eastman-Lord House is open! The grass is growing, the flowers are blooming, and so are the weeds! It is summertime in the Valley and there are lots of activities in progress. As listed in this newsletter, we have a number of interesting programs lined up for you to attend, not the least of which is our Annual Summer Picnic which is just around the corner.

Through the spring months Heather and Judy (and some wonderful volunteers) prepared the house for opening. The usual cleaning and dusting has been seriously undertaken and the house looks really good. We've undertaken the renovation of the bathroom (Heather talks more on this) and a few other inside/outside projects. We also contracted to have the north and west halls of the house repainted – a much-needed task for sure.

Getting back to the grass and gardens: we could certainly use some volunteer help to pick a few weeds and water the flowers once in a while. To make things easier, we purchased a battery powered lawn mower to keep the front yard presentable. Trust me—it is easy to push, and it starts wicked easy!

So, when the temperature allows, we'd really appreciate any volunteer time you can spare to help keep the house looking good. Either Heather or Judy are there Monday thru Thursday so please drop by and lend a hand if you are able!

—Ken Rancourt



Brian Wiggin cleaning Howard's stone in Center Conway earlier this summer

Samuel Howard: Boston Tea Party Participant

The Boston Tea Party Ship & Museum contacted us about placing a marker on the grave of Samuel Howard, who is buried in Center Conway's Pine Hill Cemetery. They have been scouring the records to locate participants of the tea party for the last few years and laying plaques at each of the gravesites. Currently, we are scheduled to have a small ceremony on August 18. Pictures to follow!

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Eastman Lord House Open Hours

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:30-4pm

Museum Hours:

Weekdays by Appointment

Saturdays 1-4pm*

*subject to change



Conway Historical Society
100 Main Street
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CHS Newsletter

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A significant percentage of our income is generated through membership.

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As a private 501(c)3

non-profit, we rely on your support.

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Please consider donating today and remember to renew your annual membership.

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