Conway Historical Society Winter 2026
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What's In Store for 2026

The temps are warming up, the snow is melting, the front door is open at the Eastman Lord House...ok, it might be false spring, but we're getting ready to open the museum for the season!

Eastman Lord House & Museum

Opening weekend is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend (5/23)

Open by appointment during the week and Saturdays through mid-October

We are planning 2 open houses and membership drives in June and September

Bringing more events to the house!

4th of July Celebration and Conway parade for US 250th



Program Changes for 2026

We are making some changes to our programs this year. We're excited for a new collaboration and location. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for all the details.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

The temperatures are getting warmer and we've been able to see the ground for the first time since November! It's still too cold in the museum portion of the house (another old house issue we're looking to remedy), but we're gearing up to get into the house and start putting the rooms back together. Before we know it, it will be time to open for the season and welcome more visitors into the Eastman Lord House.

This winter we've been working on some projects to help maximize our collection storage space. I've managed to make several small messes in different rooms of the house, all in the name of organization! With limited storage space as it is, we will be transforming the bathroom in the office area by taking out the tub and shower to make a storage space for our event items and items used in the museum.

Another project we're excited about is our new collaboration with the Conway Public Library. We have decided to take up the library's offer to use their Periodical Room for our programs going forward. While we love the Old Firehouse space, we are beginning to outgrow it. This is a good change and we thank everyone who has attended one or more of our programs, forcing us to find more space! You can find more information about our programs moving to the library on the next page.

Opening day at the Eastman Lord House will be the weekend of Memorial Day, one month earlier than last year! We'll have a new exhibit set up celebrating the grand hotels that existed in our area, with a special exhibit of the Eastern Slope Inn (Hotel Randall). The current building is celebrating it's 100th anniversary this July and Eastern Slope has a week of festivities planned. Stay tuned for more details.

We hope to see you this summer, whether at the house, at a program or around town! As always, thank you for your support and for supporting local history.

-Heather Corrigan

AMERICA 250



AMERICA 250

2026 Programs

CHANGES TO PROGRAMMING FOR 2026!

We are happy to announce a collaboration with the Conway Public Library starting this year! In an effort to reach more members, patrons, and to provide more seating at these events, we will be moving our programs to the Periodical Room at the library.

We love using the space at the Old Firehouse building, but we have seen an uptick in the number of attendees at the programs, and the space is getting crowded.

Here are the details:

*Programs will still take place on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning in April.

*The Periodical Room is located on the first level on the left as you come in the main entrance.

*Programs will start at 6:30pm, rather than the usual 7pm. This is to accommodate the library's closing time of 8pm.

*The picnic and holiday party will be held at the Old Firehouse building.

*Programs will continue to be free and open to the public.

*Parking is available in any of the library spots.

*Light snacks and drinks will be permitted.

If there are any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact us at 603-447-5551 or stop by the office Monday-Thursday.

SNEAK PEEK!

Here's a look at the first few programs for 2026.

April and May:

A virtual "walking" tour of North Conway Village, similar to last year's tour of Conway Village.

June:

Mr. Brian P. Wiggin is writing a book about his life in Conway. Join him for a night of stories, history and take home a copy of his new book!

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Town of Conway Benches

We still have some benches for sale! This is your chance to own a piece of Conway history. Benches will be available until April 1, 2026 at the Eastman Lord House. Each bench is $150, about 6' long and solid wood. All proceeds go towards purchasing archival materials for preserving Conway's history.

Email us at conwayhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call 603-447-5551



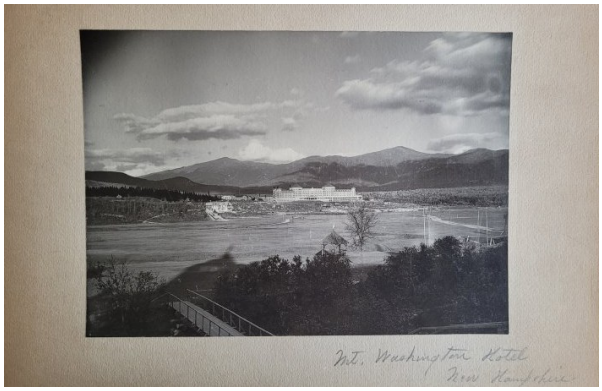


Champney's brushes

Benjamin Champney Exhibit at White Mountain Art Museum

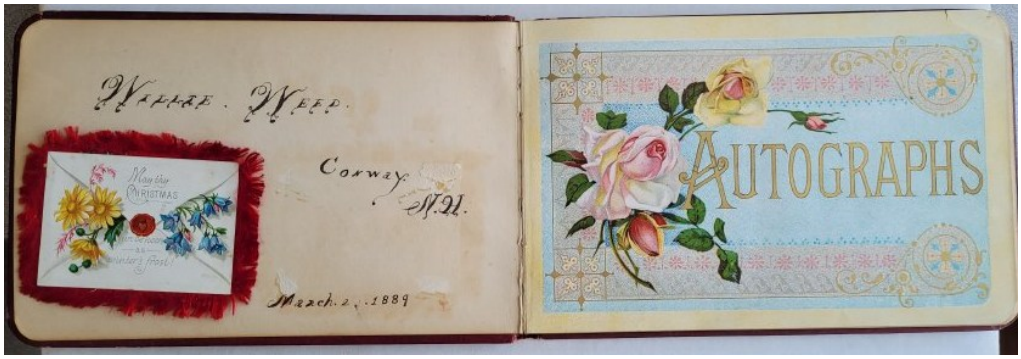
Some of our Champney paintings and items were featured in a recent exhibition at the White Mountain Art Museum in North Conway. The exhibition ran from February 13-March 1. They hosted just over 800 people and even had a visit from Champney's great-great granddaughters! Thank you to the museum for the opportunity to help sponsor the show and have some of our items be on display. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate with the museum.

From The Archives—Recent Donations



These photos came to us all the way from Kansas! A series of four photos featuring scenes from Saco Intervale, the Mount Washington Hotel (pictured), the Intervale and Diana's Bath. Two of the photos were by TEM and GF White, photographers who captured the White Mountains.

Gift of Betty Blundon



This autograph book belonged to Willy Weed, who lived in Conway, NH towards the end of the 19th century. The pages are filled with well wishes and autographs from friends.

Donated by Donna Specian



The political sign for Chester M. Wiggin Jr., was found in the basement of a Freedom, NH home. The owners moved in to the house in the 1980s, but recently found it still attached to the wall behind old shelving.

Gift of Diana Wilkinson

Other Donations in 2026:

Brian Wiggin: Booklets and photographs of KHS and Conway Grammar School, personal papers from George Davidson, scrapbook from Elmwood Grange and many others.

President's Message

This is the time of year when the snowbanks turn brown and the crocuses start to peak their heads above the leaves of autumn. Time not withstanding, the clocks are now turned 'ahead' and we at your society are also looking ahead to the upcoming summer season.

This summer Heather (our Executive Director) and Judy (our Administrative Assistant and chief cataloguer) are hoping to have the Eastman Lord House open to the public more often than last year, and we are planning a few special programs too. Heather has come up with a number of programs for this season as well as some cooperative programs with the Brown Church.

Our spring tasks revolve around getting the front yard picked up and raked out, getting some gardening work done, and scheduling a review by a professional of the windows – most of which need serious repair. We'll also be working on the shutters, which all need to be taken down and cleaned, and then parts replaced and painted.

Inside the house we'll also be working on the bathroom. (I bet that you didn't think we'd be talking about that room this summer!) We currently use the bathroom for storage of the tools and equipment and various physical plant gear. As the water heater failed this winter, we'll be replacing that shortly, and while the plumber is there, we will have him remove the plumbing for the tub. Removing the tub later this summer will allow us to better utilize that area and make it more functional.

As always, Heather, Judy, Gary, me, and the rest of the Board would welcome any help from the membership in any of the above tasks. We'll remind folks at our first members meeting of the season on April 14th of our 'big list' and hope that we can get some assistance! Here's hoping we all have a wonderful summer!

—Ken Rancourt



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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.

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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