

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514
Bartlett, NH 03812

The Bartlett

www.BartlettHistory.org

Historical Society

Summer 2024 Edition (2024:3)

The Campaign Has Reached Its End ... Successfully!

Exciting times are upon us here at your Bartlett Historical Society. We are putting the final details into our Bartlett History Museum as this long renovation project is coming to a very successful end. The vision that we set forth in 2016 for the opening of a museum to display Bartlett's history is about to become a reality! When we outlined that vision, we stood before a former church building that was in terrible physical condition. The building "wanted" to collapse but for the skill of our forefathers who constructed a very strong frame, it remained standing ... with a little help from us. We sent out a plea for support starting with BHS members and all the property owners in Bartlett. In response, many people donated the first dollars into our capital campaign, but we also had our share of skeptics and rightfully so.



Over these past seven years, we've continued to ask for your support, each time showing a little more progress toward the fulfillment of the vision for our museum. And, with each request for support, donors/you responded generously.

Today, our/your museum building and headquarters for the Bartlett Historical Society is an amazing sight. We've restored many of the physical features of the old historic church but also modernized the building for its new purpose as a cultural center. As visitors enter the building now, most stop for a moment to take in the changes, and we still hear that first word – "Wow!"

As we close this capital campaign, it's hard to find the words that adequately express our thanks to all the 612 donors to this project. A great many of our donors made multiple donations to the project giving us a total of 1,775 separate donations. During our capital campaign, we raised \$613,000 through the support of individual donors from across the country, businesses from near and far, and several foundations plus BHS fundraising events. Many hours of volunteer effort were put into this project as was gift-in-kind support helping us save thousands of dollars in material and labor costs. Our General Contractor, Bill Duggan, put all his fine carpentry skills into the finish details that are so evident in the building. Throughout the project, aside from all of the work that he did and managed, he engaged a number of outstanding local contractors who installed the sheetrock, electrical, HVAC, plumbing and many other components in the building. We will be forever grateful to Bill for his ongoing support for this project.

As we transition from an organization focused on the renovation of a historic building to now preparing to open the museum, it's worth repeating that this project could not have been done without the dedicated support of hundreds of donors who believed in the vision we set forth in 2016 and are seeing it become a reality in 2024. Thank You one and all.

As we bring this major renovation effort to a successful ending, we are now at the forefront of opening the next chapter in the "life" of our Bartlett Historical Society. We look forward to continuing our exploration of the past as we step forward to the future.

Museum Donors: 03/24/2023—Today

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President's Message

Another summer has arrived here in the White Mountains. It came in like a lion with very strong winds and rain leaving many temporarily without power, trees down or missing branches, and streams overflowing their banks. While the weather has been flexing its muscles, we've been quite busy here at BHS but that's nothing unusual for us.

From a fundraising perspective, we've been working to earn the funds to pay our operational bills:

- ◆ In May, BHS was hosted by Terry O'Brien, the owner at the Red Parka Pub, for a "Giving Wednesday" dining event. Terry generously contributed 10% of her evening meal receipts to BHS and we thank her for her continued support. The event was well attended; we chatted with a number of our BHS members enjoying their dinner.
- ◆ On June 8th, we held our fourth annual BHS golf tournament at the Linderhof Country Club. We were fortunate to have 38 golfers at the tournament. A BBQ lunch, auction and raffle were held post-play.
- ◆ We kicked off our 2024 raffle. This year we are raffling off four individually framed photos that I took here in the mountains, one photo for each season. There's more raffle information in this newsletter.
- ◆ We hosted two presentations, one by Ed Parsons, a noted hiker and columnist in the Conway Daily Sun, talking about his hiking experiences in the mountains, and another with Rob and Marion Owen talking about their lives as clowns in different circus' in the United States, Canada and at Story Land.

The *big news* that I'm most excited about is the completion of our museum renovation project (with the exception of a few details) and the end of our capital campaign. We are very happy to say that we believe that we have sufficient funds to cover the cost of the remaining work items. This has been a multi-year, very intense effort to transform the former St. Joseph Church building into the Bartlett Historical Society and Museum. While I've been at the point of the spear on this project since the beginning, this effort could not have been completed without the support of so many generous donors, skilled tradespeople, our BHS Board of Directors and Advisors, and our General Contractor, my friend, Bill Duggan. With the project complete (aside from a punch list of items), we now move BHS into a transition period where we are focused on the preparations for opening the museum and beyond.

To get the museum ready for opening, we are making decisions on what we will have for opening displays. We obviously want to have displays that will showcase Bartlett's past but we are also committed to highlighting the history of Hart's Location and Livermore – two important towns, one still very much a part of local history (Hart's Location) and one now unincorporated, filled with legends and lore (Livermore).

The big question on everyone's mind is "When are you going to open the museum?" Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 19, 2024, as that is our Grand Opening target. Stay tuned for more information.

Mirroring what was written on the cover page of the newsletter, our thanks go out to each and every donor and volunteer who supported this project. Your collective support is a perfect example of what can be done when people from near and far unite to support a cause.

On another important note of local history, I offer our congratulations to our friends at the Bartlett Congregational Church as their church was added to the NH State Register of Historic Places. This is a great honor for them as their church is now recognized as a historic site.

Finally, on behalf of our BHS Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of BHS. If you have any questions, comments or ideas about BHS or Bartlett, Hart's Location or Livermore history, please let me know by dropping me an email at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society

A color version of this newsletter is available on our website at www.BartlettHistory.org

BHS Attends “Know Your Neighbors Summit”

There are a great many non-profit organizations in the area, each with a particular focus and each doing good things for the community. Looking across the scope of these organizations, we are differentiated by our missions but we all share some common challenges and needs. Things such as attracting and retaining members, earning sufficient funds to continue to be in operation and planning for the continued operational success of our organizations are just three of many commonalities that we share.

On June 11, 2024, the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State College hosted a meeting where leaders from a variety of non-profit organizations in the northern counties of New Hampshire were invited to attend. Quoting from the information provided by the summit organizers, “***The Know-Your-Neighbor Summit*** will bring together cultural heritage organizations from Coos, Grafton, Carroll, and Belknap counties with the hope of building a network to share information and resources about cultural heritage preservation and emergency preparedness.” There’s a lot in this statement and it intrigued us enough to attend. Representatives from other local historical societies in Conway and Madison were also in attendance along with several other state and local non-profit organizations outside of historical societies. BHS was represented by Phil Franklin, Sue Franklin (BHS Treasurer) and Kathy Howard (BHS Curator).

When we think of “emergency preparedness” our minds tend to jump to thoughts of hurricanes, tornados, floods and blizzards. While these are dramatic events, less newsworthy things such as a burst water pipe, breakdown in our heating system in the winter, or fire present real dangers to our collections of historic items, especially paper items (i.e. documents, books, maps, etc.). When the presentations and discussions focused on these real possibilities, it brought the notion of emergency preparedness into focus as we are entrusted with numerous historical documents in our BHS collection.

Presenters gave practical advice on how to not only prevent disasters that could lead to the need for disaster recovery but also what to do if a disaster occurs. In the afternoon of the summit, a panel discussion was held that covered a wide range of topics. While we had been talking about caring for and recovering physical items, Phil Franklin introduced a different type of “disaster” that we should be considering, that being insuring that we have enthusiastic successors lined up to take our places and carry our organizations forward. This launched a discussion on the need for succession planning in our organizations.

At the end of the day, the attendees concluded that this was a very worthwhile session and that we should continue to meet periodically to discuss other topics in more depth such as succession planning. This is another way that the leadership of BHS is getting involved in a broader participation with other non-profit organizations.

One of the things that we, here at BHS, would like to restart is a gathering of our neighboring historical societies. We organized and hosted one meeting in 2019 but the pandemic interceded after that and we haven’t had the time to restart that type of regional meeting since then. Our initial meeting with about 20 representatives from 12 historical societies generated a lot good discussion on the topics of attracting new and retaining existing members as well as communications and marketing of our organizational missions. This is just one of many plans that we have and can do within our new museum.

Would you like your BHS Newsletter by Email or our paper style?



If you would like to receive your BHS newsletter via your email, please let us know by dropping us an email at BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com and we'll add you to our "Newsletter Email Distribution List." The email version is in color. However, if you don't



have email or want to keep receiving the newsletter in paper/hardcopy format, we'll keep mailing it to you via the US Postal Service.

The Area of "Hardscrabble" In Bartlett

In our spring newsletter, we posed the question asking about information on a section of Bartlett known as "Hardscrabble." Our thanks to two of our BHS members who responded telling us that Hardscrabble was a small section of Bartlett on the current day Hurricane Mountain Road. Not much more information was available so we'll add this to our list of topics for further research when the museum is opened.

Railroad Research Committee—Looking for Research Volunteers

Scotty Mallet, a BHS Board members, is also a railroad historian. He has done a considerable amount of work tracking down the history of the railroads in Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore. In the latter part of the 1800s through the 1960s, Bartlett was a central point on the rails with the Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad and then the Maine Central Railroad plus several logging railroads operating in the mountains, Crawford Notch, and Livermore. Scotty is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping continue the research our local railroad history. If you'd like to join him in this research effort, please contact him at 603-383-3051 or by email at scottymallet@gmail.com.



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Donations to BHS will be used to help us research and preserve the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore as well as offer different opportunities for people of all ages to learn about our rich history unless otherwise specified.

All donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you for your continued support.

*Bartlett Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 organization.
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BHS Quarterly Presentation Series News
Recap of Second and Third Quarter 2024 Presentations

Hiking in the White Mountains

In April, we hosted Ed Parsons, an avid local hiker and weekly columnist for the Conway Daily Sun. Ed walked us through a series of slides showing various hikes that he's done in the White Mountains in New Hampshire and Maine. He provided many anecdotes about his adventures on trails and off the trails, bushwacking to different locations. We thank Ed for his stories of the trails.



Circus and Stage Performing—Insights from Spiff and Sam

In June, we hosted Rob and Marion Owen as they talked about their lives as professional entertainers, specifically professional clowns. They described how they met in the circus world and eventually married. They brought with them several circus posters, a pair of Rob's clown shoes, and another clown outfit. Some in the audience recalled seeing their performances at Story Land where Rob and Marion were joined by their young children on stage. They entertained us with an opening skit and Rob did a sleight-of-hand trick as they closed the presentation. Our thanks to Rob and Marion for sharing their entertaining story with us.



2024 Quarterly Presentation Series!

Cancelling the October 2024 Presentation

Looking ahead on the calendar, our next quarterly presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2024—just three days before we are having our grand opening celebration for the museum. Talking this timing over with the BHS Board of Directors, we decided that it would be best if we cancel the October presentation for 2024 as we anticipate being quite busy putting the finishing touches on the plans and preparations for the opening of the Bartlett History Museum.

Thank you to our Hosts at the Bartlett Congregational Church

We continue to extend our thanks to the leadership and congregational of the Bartlett Congregational Church for the use of their facility for BHS meetings and presentations. Their support has been invaluable.

2025 Quarterly Presentation Series—What are your ideas for topics?

Every year at about this time, the BHS Board of Directors starts to think about ideas for presentation topics for the upcoming year. We try to come up with new ideas for historical topics with local or regional ties. Sometimes this is a challenge because we're hoping that our selection of four topics is of interest to a broad section of people, members and the general public, alike.



We'd like to hear from you—*What topics, focusing on local or regional history, would you like to hear about?* Please send your topic ideas to Phil Franklin (Phil@BartlettHistory.org) and we'll consider each suggestion and see if we can find a presenter for the topic.

Retrospective Look at BHS and the Vision for the Future

By Phil Franklin

The Bartlett Historical Society of today started in 2006 with a strong effort by several local folks. There had been two other attempts to organize a historical society in Bartlett prior to the 2006 effort, one in the late 1990s and another in 2004. The effort in 2006 got off to a great start with the establishment of committees to explore different aspects of Bartlett's history. Membership grew at a good pace; the Morrell family, creators and now former owners of Story Land, allowed BHS to use a chalet located next to their theme park as the BHS headquarters; society leaders organized several different community-oriented gatherings, presentations, and fundraising events that were well attended.

Over time, however, the excitement of the "new" historical society began to wane and in the years around 2012 through 2015, membership was declining, some of the society leadership from 2006 changed, and the momentum slowed. Questions were starting to be raised about the future of BHS – would this be another well intentioned effort that ran out of fuel? Fortunately, the answer is emphatically "No!"

The years of 2014 and 2015 are ones where several things started to happen to turn the fortunes and future in a different direction for BHS.



BHS Snow Roller
Before Reconstruction

2014 marked the beginning of the effort to reconstruct the Bartlett snow roller. Several volunteers joined in this effort and rebuilt the snow roller. This project seemed to spark a renewed interest in BHS as many people were very curious about what we were building. The restored roller was eventually placed in the Bartlett Village Water Precinct Park on the corner of Albany Avenue and Route 302. It has become a bit of a tourist attraction as snow rollers are rare pieces of antiquity.

Also, in 2014, the Bartlett School Board proposed, yet again, to obtain funding to demolish their building located adjacent to the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School. That building, purchased by the school board in 1999, was the St. Joseph Church building. It was purchased after the Diocese of Manchester closed the church that same year. Norman Head, then president of BHS, spoke in favor of assembling a new committee, the "Save the Church" committee, to explore options for a new use for this historic building. The result of this committee work was a proposal to the Bartlett School Board to lease the building to BHS and allow BHS to renovate the building and transform it into a history museum. The proposal was accepted and, in 2016, the lease was signed and BHS started the campaign to raise the renovation funds.

Before we jumped into the renovation project, BHS leadership recognized that we were about to take on the most significant project ever attempted by BHS while coincidentally worrying about the future of the organization. BHS was at a crossroads—one road, the easy one, would lead to the likely end of the 2006 BHS, while the other would begin a project that involved significant financial risk as well as a complicated renovation of an 1890 building. The renovation road represented a lot of unknowns but the hope of a bright future for BHS was at the end of that road.



Former St. Joseph
Church Before Renovation

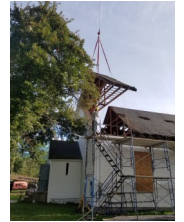
A new addition to the BHS leadership team challenged the other team members to see things in a different perspective. The argument was made that while the renovation project brought with it major risks, if carefully implemented, it would bring a new light and energy to BHS. A new plan of action was formulated for BHS. Recognizing that communications with our remaining members and the public was sporadic at best, the newsletter was revived; seeing that we had no donations for general operating expenses, let alone a major renovation project, a series of dining benefits were organized; learning that most of the public didn't even know of the existence of the Bartlett Historical Society a public awareness effort was started that included BHS attending events organized by the local chamber of commerce as well as having BHS become a member of some non-profit support and historical preservation organizations. After a great deal of discussion, a solid vision for the renovation of the former church became apparent. BHS leadership members embraced the idea of the renovation project,

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BHS Retrospective and Future continued ...

although some with reluctance and we took the road less traveled—Robert Frost would be proud of us!.

Through all these efforts and more, things started to turn around in 2017. People started learning more about the BHS mission, not only for the museum project, but through our newsletter, coverage in the Conway Daily Sun, spotlight appearances on local television with Mount Washington Valley Promotions, information booths at different community events and more, people started hearing good things and the rally started; fundraising events were well attended; donations started coming in for the museum project and BHS general operating fund as well; most importantly, membership started to increase (and has continued to increase every year since). In 2019, BHS purchased the former church and we had sufficient funding to start the renovation with the bold effort to remove all of the hazardous materials from the building, followed by the even bolder effort to remove the entire failed roof structure and replace it with an engineered truss design roof. The renovation continued from there as did the support for our effort.



1st Section of Roof Removed

Fast forward to today, the renovation of the former church is 99.9% complete with a few remaining items being managed by BHS volunteers. The BHS leadership team is discussing and planning the transition of our organization as we are preparing for our exciting new role as the owners of a long-awaited museum. We are inviting and welcoming all to see and learn about the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore in a building that, itself, is a saved historic artifact. So that leads us to the next major question – where do we take the Bartlett Historical Society from here? The answer, simple, “Upward!”

In high school, I had a great teacher who dismissed every class by saying, “Onward and ever upward!” I’m also fond of a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin (no relation), “Energy and persistence conquer all things.” BHS is currently in a period of transition – from an organization focused on renovating a historic building to being the managers of a museum with directors and a curator; from being an organization relying on the goodwill of others for places to meet to one where we can invite people to 13 School Street in Bartlett to meet; from one where all we could offer our members and the public was largely articles on our website to one where they can experience first-hand the history of the area. As we look to the future of BHS, we will work through this period of transition as we change from an organization that has spent the past several years focused on a campaign to raise funds to renovate and save a physically deteriorating historic building to one that joins several other local historical societies as we are now museum managers. We now have a permanent headquarters and have opportunities to continue to see BHS be a leader in the cultural community in the area.

Recently, a friend and neighbor echoed a question that’s been posed to me several times over the past weeks – “What’s next for BHS?” Here are some of the things that we are considering and planning:

- ◇ Focusing on our membership, we are exploring ideas to give members “something special” for their support as well as looking for ways to expand our membership
- ◇ We want to continue to have a well-rounded, diverse leadership team for BHS
- ◇ We are looking to expand our volunteer program to provide interactive ways for people to participate in BHS activities

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BHS Retrospective and Future continued ...

- ◇ Along with the volunteer program, we are looking to establish some active committees that can help with things such as researching the stories behind different topics, actively participating in BHS events, be BHS Ambassadors at different community events and expos, helping with the running of the museum and other things
- ◇ While continuing with our current educational offerings, we look to expand our educational programs to entice new and different audiences to learn about our local history; this could include the establishment of workshops on things such as researching the history of your old home, how to do genealogical research, or antique restoration
- ◇ We are hoping to discuss opportunities for reengaging with the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School and establishing a youth history program, maybe even a junior BHS membership for the students
- ◇ Along those lines, we want to explore ways to engage younger adults in the historical society
- ◇ We need to find the next generation of leaders for BHS so that the work we've done to take BHS to this next step with the museum will continue to be supported and built upon
- ◇ We want to create methods for allowing BHS members and any interested people from away places to be involved in BHS (our idea for a BHS YouTube channel is still on the table and our new version of PastPerfect museum software will allow virtual access into the BHS museum when the software is released online)
- ◇ We believe it is important for BHS to network with other local historical societies so we can work together on challenges or opportunities that impact all our organizations; along with this, we look to broaden our relationships with statewide historical preservation organizations creating a two-way street for sharing information and ideas
- ◇ We plan to rekindle a discussion with the Trustees of the Bartlett Public Library around how we can work together to promote an awareness and excitement about local history
- ◇ Developing a Fundraising Plan to support our operational expenses
- ◇ And, there are more ideas being generated all the time, some by BHS leadership and Advisors, some by people just stopping by so we'll evaluate the ideas and add ones to this list that are feasible.

If this list looks daunting, you're correct, it is if you look at it as happening all at once. However, if we approach the future of BHS in a logical and organized manner, engaging the right community leaders, our members, and non-profit as well as historical preservation professionals, we can and will grow our historical society as a cultural resource in the community. We will fulfill the tenets of our organization's Mission to discover and preserve the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore as well as to create educational opportunities to share that information and allow people to learn about the rich history of this area.

Bringing these lofty ideas down to earth, our ability to make them "operational" will require the participation of BHS members and other community members; it will require an open-minded approach to new ideas, a willingness to try new things, and adjust things that possibly don't work the first time. It will also take financial support in the form of membership dues and donations to provide the funding to pay the bills in the museum and for programs that have a cost associated with them. Where possible, we will apply for grant funding for educational programs or research projects to offset the costs of programs.

Finally, as we work toward and soon open our museum, we also open a new chapter in the history of our historical society. We hope that you, the people reading this note, as well as people who have yet to discover BHS will join us in this new venture, be a part of some or all the things that we are hoping to do with our new museum and help write the next chapter of the Bartlett Historical Society.

In the coming weeks and months, we will be sending out more information on the opening of the museum and ways to get involved as a BHS volunteer. Thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have any questions, comments or ideas that you'd like to share on the future of BHS, please drop me a note at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. As always, we thank you for your support.



BHS Board member Scotty Mallett cuts ribbon for the first use of the ADA Ramp—July 4, 2023

Bartlett Union Congregational Church

Honored with Listing in the

New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

In May 2024, the NH Division of Historical Resources announced that the Bartlett Union Congregational Church was one of eight 2024 honorees to be added to the *NH State Register of Historic Places*. The Bartlett Historical Society offers our congratulations to the church community for receiving this designation. The Congregational Church becomes the third site in Bartlett to receive this honor. The other two are the Bartlett Engine House (a.k.a. the Bartlett Roundhouse; the Roundhouse is also found on the National Register of Historic Places) and our former St. Joseph Church building.

Gail Prelli, a Deacon of the Congregational Church and a BHS member, submitted the application for the state register. With her permission, we are reprinting the section of that application that outlines the history of this church (below). Reference citations in the text are listed at the end of the article.

Historical Background and Role in the Town or City's Development:

In 1895 the Congregational Church was organized and called Christ's Church. While three pastors were mentioned in records, Mr. J. R. Horne, Jr., was noted and ordained as the first pastor to serve in the church. He was pastor from January of 1895 to 1899. During this time by-laws were developed that stated, "all Protestants who are regular voters in the Parish are eligible for membership on signing the By-laws. The Parish shall include that part of Bartlett, which is west of John Chandler's farm, including the same" (Howard, 1980 p. 3). Services were held in the Chapel of the Hills prior to the present church being completed in 1897.

The Bartlett Union Congregational Church started as the Bartlett Union Congregational Society which was established in 1889. The society was formed in accordance with New Hampshire Law for "the encouragement and support of evangelical preaching in Bartlett and to act in conjunction with the Home Missionary Society" (Howard, 1980 p. 1). The Congregational Society was formed in 1889 and church records included a Covenant that read, "We covenant among ourselves to the orderly administration of affairs of the church, and to walk together in brotherly love" (Howard, 1980 p. 2).



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100 Years Ago ...

In 1924, the town "Inventory" included 230 cows valued at \$13,065 (\$56.80 per cow).

School Superintendent, L. M. Felch, called for the replacement of the heating system in the Bartlett Village elementary school as the use of coal to heat in the normally wood fired system has burned through and warped the furnace.

Bartlett Village Fire Precinct Commissioner, George S. Chesley was paid \$10.00 for his yearly.

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Congregational Church continued ...

Land was donated by Frank George in 1896 for the building of the church. The cost of the building was \$4000.00 with an Architectural Fee of \$80.00. Steel girders were specially ordered from out West. They arrived and were too large. The building was redesigned to fit the girders. The parishioners had to raise additional money to complete the project (Carroll, 1990). A stain glass window was donated by the Morgan Family (Owners of Peg Mill) in 1897 and the building dedication took place on September 9, 1897 (Howard, 1980, as cited in Carroll, 1990, p.72).

The Reading Room in the Bartlett Congregational Church was finished in 1898 and later became the Bartlett Public Library. The library remained in the church until 1959 (Howard, 1980).

Howard (1980) reports in *Walking Together in Brotherly Love*, that a fire broke out in the church basement in 1912, resulting in minor smoke damage.

In 1954 the church added a cement floor in the basement and a new kitchen was added. The work was completed in 1955 (Howard, 1980).

In 1964 a bequest of \$500.00 from Edith Mayberry was given to the church and used to renovate the former library. The room was later used for Sunday School as well as church meetings (Howard, 1980).

In June of 1964, the church voted to use a bequest of \$2000.00, given by Gertrude Thompson, to renovate the sanctuary. The renovations included lowering the ceiling in the sanctuary and installing new lights. The same year, the Ladies Aid of the church financed the building of new steps and the addition of a railing at the front entrance of the church (Howard, 1980).

The church sanctuary was carpeted in 1970 thanks to a bequest of \$1000.00 from Mrs. Robert Hunter. That same year, the Church Mice and Ladies Aid of the church funded the carpeting of the dining room in the basement of the church (Howard, 1980).

In 1999 the George family donated land that allowed for renovations of the grounds. This provided a 20-car parking lot for church services and community use (Jean Garland's handwritten notes for the 125 anniversary of the church).

The New Hampshire Electric Coop gave the church a \$5,000 grant to install a new furnace in September of 2010. The stipulation was to install a more efficient furnace. The oldest furnace was taken out and a new one installed by Bill Wilbur. He also made new duct work for the heating system and installed automatic dampers in the duct work (Church records).

Bathrooms were renovated to provide access for all in 2011. The old bathrooms were small with a narrow hallway leading into them. The furnace was moved, and the size of the bathrooms and hallway were increased. The renovations required changing the toilets due to the septic tank elevation. New bladder style toilets were installed. This work was done by Glen Builders (Church records and invoices).

The land for the present parking lot of the church was purchased from the Steven P Ryan Trust in November of 2011. The total purchase price was \$70,000. Joe Berry facilitated this sale for the church and donated \$15,000.00. The church paid \$35,000.00 and gave a gift letter to the Ryans for \$20,000. The deed is recorded in the Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Book 2964, pages 227 & 228. In 2012, a strip of land was acquired. When the George Family had an inn, they owned a strip of land approximately 14 feet wide, that went to the railroad. This was a pathway for their guests. Bert George (proper name Clarence George) gave the church a quit claim deed to that strip of land. This was gifted in August of 2012 and is recorded in the Carroll County Registry of Deeds, Book 3016 Pages 295 & 296. Part of the parking lot is on this strip of land. It could not have been built without that gift. L.A. Drew did the work and the driveway remained gravel until the following year. It was paved by L.A. Drew in 2013. The cost for paving was \$10,500 in 2013. ... continued on next page



Congregational Church continued ...

There was a walkway paved from the driveway into the lower access to the church. Mark Spalding built a cover over the door that led from the walkway into the church. Burr Phillips, owner of Civil Solutions LLC, designed the parking lot at no charge. He also volunteered his time to oversee its construction (Church Notes and Invoices).

The Bartlett Union Congregational Church Building has been used to hold weekly Sunday worship services. It has also served the community as a building to hold spiritual functions such as weddings, funerals, baptisms, bible study, and Sunday School. The church has been open for these important religious events for church members as well as members of the community for over one hundred years. Presently, the Bartlett Union Congregational Church is the only church in Bartlett Village. There is one other church in Glen, (Glen is an unincorporated village in the town of Bartlett) the Glen Baptist Church, which provides for similar needs. In addition to worship and spiritual services, the Bartlett Union Congregational Church Building has been a center for several community activities. Church is a repository for important documents. (Membership ledgers, minutes of meetings, annual reports and special programs.) The Bartlett Public Library was housed in the lower level of the church before moving to Josiah Bartlett Elementary School in 1959. (Historical Herald, 2021).

Throughout the years, the church has been used by several civic organizations and groups continue to use the facility today.

- Josiah Bartlett Elementary School uses the Building for Emergency Shelter including drills each year to ensure all staff and students are prepared.
- Bartlett Recreation Department uses the bathrooms at the church during their summer concerts in the park. They also use the church for special events like the Valley Promotion's annual talent show.
- The Bartlett Historical Society used the church to hold meetings and special programs until work was completed on their building in 2024.
- The Bartlett Water Precinct holds meetings monthly.
- The Bartlett Public Library uses the church for storage of books they use for the annual book sale and the book sale is held in the basement of the church.
- The VFW holds monthly meetings at the church.


The church has also been used by individuals and various groups for meetings and events both in the past and individuals and groups continue to use the church today.

- Condo Associations hold their annual meeting at the church: Presently the condo associations using the church are Stillings Grant and Bartlett Place.
 - Small Musical Groups use the church for Practice: Tir Na Nog uses the church at the present time.
 - Families in the area use the building for weddings, showers, reunions, birthday parties and anniversaries.
- Church members recollect the church holding functions to bring the community together. A very popular event was the February Dinners for the community. A reference to these dinners is made in the book, *Bartlett, New Hampshire in the Valley of the Saco* (Carroll, 1990). One of the former members of the church shared that dances were held on the church grounds as a means to bring the community together. (J.Botsford, phone conversation August 31, 2024)

The church has served and continues to serve the town of Bartlett in several ways. It is more than a building used for religious services. The use of the building provides a center for organizations and community members to come together for both business and pleasure.

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Fourth Annual BHS Golf Tournament – Very Successful!

On Saturday, June 8th, we held our fourth BHS Golf Tournament at the Linderhof Country Club. We welcomed 38 players to the tournament, many of whom have played in our previous tournaments. Once again, we had blue sky at tee time on an otherwise rainy day.

The tournament generated \$3,500 that will help BHS in our efforts to research, preserve, and share the histories of Bartlett, Hart’s Location and Livermore. Our thanks to all the golfers who participated in the 2024 tournament as well as all the sponsors and donors to the 2024 tournament.

Tournament Sponsors were:

E. G. Chandler, Inc. Elvio’s Pizzeria & Restaurant Joseph & Lucille Russo Kathleen Sullivan-Head, Realtor	Lydia Lansing Milford Flooring, Inc. North Country Angler North Country Dental North Country Fair Jewelers	Northway Bank Pam Abbott Robert & Julia King White Mountain Oil & Propane
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A special thanks to our tournament co-chairs, Norman Head and Hadley Champlin, along with BHS Board members, Sue Franklin and Hannah Chandler for their many hours of work in preparing for the tournament. We also thank BHS Board members Kathy Howard and Scotty Mallett for their help coordinating tournament activities on the day of the event. Finally, thank you to the Linderhof Country Club staff for their support and hospitality.

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors

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Summer greens in the foreground; mountains under a partly cloudy sky in the background