

# The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514  
Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Spring 2024 Edition (2024:2)

## The Bartlett

## Historical Society

### **The Campaign Continues...Thank You For Your Continued Support**

Our journey to the opening of the Bartlett History Museum continues and is near an end – a very happy end. For the past several years, we’ve started each newsletter with a note of thanks to the many donors to our Bartlett History Museum renovation project. Words cannot express the appreciation that we feel for every donor’s support for this project. Thank you to one and all for your support because it is your support that has made this project possible. Over 600 donors, be they individuals, businesses, or foundations, have together played a part in the saving of our historic building. When this project started, we asked for help with nothing more than a vision of what could be possible. Many people offered their support but some were skeptical, some even doubtful, of our chances for success. We hope that those feelings have changed now.



If all goes according to plan, we will be completing our renovation project and opening the Bartlett History Museum sometime later in 2024! It’s important to note that we still have several things to do in the renovation plan, but that list is growing shorter and shorter. With that said, we still need your support and donations to be sure that we can tackle all the remaining tasks needed to open the museum. So, we ask that you please continue to think of the BHS Museum Fund when you are considering a donation.

The largest remaining task on our work list is the installation of the interior trim in the building. Our General Contractor, Bill Duggan, has been working tirelessly on this detailed piece of the project over the winter months. Beyond Bill’s trim work, we need to complete the painting, electrical, and plumbing work. Once those larger components are done, there’s a list of smaller items that, with a continued dedicated focus, we’ll get through quickly. The BHS Board is discussing museum operations and setup items. There’s more information on the remaining portions of the renovation project later in the newsletter.

**Campaign Update:** To date, with the generous donations of 602 individuals, foundations, and businesses, many having made multiple donations, we have raised \$602,455 of the recently revised \$625,000 campaign goal! Project expenses to date are about \$454,181; of that total, \$429,366 in real capital value has been added to the building (invoices are pending). We are estimating that we need to raise \$22,545 to complete Phase 2 and open the museum (*we’re that close with the funding!*). We are and will continue to stretch every donated dollar as far as possible to complete the renovation. *How can you help get us to this goal? First, any donation you can make to the project is greatly appreciated. Second, if you know of anyone who is interested in adding their name to our growing list of donors, please contact Phil Franklin, at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). Thank you.*

Museum Donors: 12/20/2023—03/23/2024

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## **President's Message**

Spring is a season of renewal with the melting snow giving way to wildflowers in the mountains, streams filled with fresh but very cold water, and the bear cubs trailing their mothers as they are caught by game cameras in the woods. At BHS, our level of activity never really waned through the winter months, and we have a lot to show for our efforts.

Starting with some big news about our museum project. In the past couple of newsletters, I've said that we are getting close to the end of the project and that we are in the final stages of the renovation. With the progress that we've made this winter, mostly through the efforts of our General Contractor, Bill Duggan, we are looking at an opening celebration for the museum sometime later in 2024. As I typed that sentence, my fingers danced with delight across the keyboard! Bill has done a tremendous job working on the details of the interior trim. I/we can't thank him enough for his dedication to this project. The remaining worklist is drawing down with painting, plumbing, and electrical finish work topping the list. And then, there are the details that we, BHS, need to complete. That list includes several manageable items, the largest being the setup of the museum and organization of the displays. As we get things finalized, we'll keep you informed.

We have made the initial arrangements for our fourth BHS Golf Tournament that will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, at the Linderhof Country Club here in the Glen section of Bartlett. There's more information on the tournament on the flier we've included with this newsletter.

For our 2024 raffle, this year, instead of a quilt raffle, we are changing things up a bit and raffling a package of four matted and framed photographs that I've taken depicting the four seasons in the White Mountains. They are four of my favorites. More information on the raffle is forthcoming soon.

We are wrapping up the "official" part of our 2024 BHS Membership Drive and the response has been fantastic—229 members including 40 new members. We've added some comments on the membership drive in the pages that follow. Thank you for your continued support! Your support energizes us.

In this newsletter, we have another story about one of our local members. This edition features Ed Bergeron. Ed's background is in the field of engineering but there's so much more to his story including aviation, weather observation, and ski instruction. I hope you enjoy reading his story. Every year, I interview people and, in each conversation, we learn of so many unique and interesting backgrounds, hobbies and talents. We learn about participation in civic activities, and different ways of helping others grow their skills, talents, and education. In several past newsletters, I've quoted my favorite author of American history, the late David McCullough as he wrote, "History ... is about people, and they speak to us from across the years." McCullough writes about events and accomplishments with the focus on the people involved in the story because the people, just like all of us, make the history of our town, our state, our nation and, most importantly, ourselves. We learn so much from talking with people from all walks of life and their stories, especially the local stories, help shape the fabric of our local history. We're always looking for people to talk with so we can learn "their story" and how that story adds to the overall story of our local history. Please contact me if you know of someone with whom we should talk or if you want to tell your story. We'd enjoy adding your story to our growing collection.

Finally, on behalf of our BHS Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of BHS and our museum project. 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](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

*Phil Franklin*

President, Bartlett Historical Society  
[Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org)

*[A color version of this newsletter is available on our website at www.BartlettHistory.org](http://www.BartlettHistory.org)*

## **Annual Meeting Review**

Our BHS 2023 Annual Meeting originally planned for January 7, 2024 was preempted by a pretty good snowstorm so we held it on the alternate date of January 16. Unfortunately, it was sparsely attended but we proceeded with the members present. Phil Franklin provided a review of the accomplishments we achieved in 2023 for both the museum project and our general operational activities (a recap of the 2023 BHS Annual Report was on page 3 of our winter edition newsletter and the full report is on our website).

Highlights on the operational side included our third annual BHS golf tournament, our third quilt raffle and a banner year for memberships. We published four well received newsletters and hosted four well attended presentation events. Several donations of historical value were received and we performed a significant amount of work in the maintenance of our snow roller. As a side note, this roller draws a lot of curious attention. While Phil Franklin was working on the roller, a visitor from France stopped by to ask what this contraption was, how it was used, and in the process, learned a bit of local history. Photos were taken and now Phil's likeness is somewhere in France!

On the museum front, Phil noted that we continued to move forward with the renovation work thanks to a significant level of donations and fundraising that allowed us to bring in contractors as needed to get work accomplished. We had a very successful July 4<sup>th</sup> Renovation Open House event with about 100 people dropping in to see the museum. All were quite impressed with the new look of the building, especially people who had once worshiped in the church and knew what it looked like before we renovated.

Finally, Phil talked briefly about plans for the historical society once we get into the museum. He mentioned the possibilities of expanding our educational programs, trying to engage younger people in the society, reengaging with the Josiah Bartlett Elementary School, and diving into a list of historical research topics. A good discussion ensued with members present asking several questions on both the operational and museum topics.

The last item of business for this meeting was the election of the BHS Board of Directors for 2024. The slate presented was:

◇ Phil Franklin	President
◇ Hannah Chandler	Vice President
◇ Scott Mallett	Secretary
◇ Sue Franklin	Treasurer
◇ Kathy Howard	Curator

No other nominations were presented from the members present so the slate of board members was voted in unanimously. Phil noted that we have two open Board positions that we are looking to fill.

## **2024 Membership Drive**

Our 2024 BHS Membership Drive is nearing its end. While we gratefully welcome new memberships and membership renewals at any time in the year, we focus an "official" membership campaign in the first three months of each new year. So far, we have welcomed 229 members for 2024 with 40 new members among them.

There are still 66 members from 2023 who have not replied to our membership drive and we hope to hear from them soon.

If you have not renewed your BHS membership for 2024 or are not yet a BHS member, please take a moment to send in your renewal or join as a new member. While you're at it, tell a friend about BHS and see if they'll join also. Our membership form is available via our website or you can use our online membership process on the website also - [www.bartletthistory.net/membershipjoinrenew](http://www.bartletthistory.net/membershipjoinrenew).

By being a BHS member, you are demonstrating your support for the preservation of Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore history. Your support helps us show with clear numbers that BHS is a non-profit organization bringing meaning to the saying "History Matters!" As always, we thank you for your support.

## Volunteer Opportunity

This is a very different and unusual opportunity that we want to pass on to you. It's a different way of helping BHS. In February, our BHS President, Phil Franklin, received an email from the Event Staffing Coordinator at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway. Every year they host a NASCAR race and depend on volunteers to help put on the events for their race weekend. This year the race weekend is June 21, 22 and 23. There are a variety of volunteer positions that they are looking to fill – ticket sales, parking, security, ushers, suite attendants and more – and they are turning to non-profit organizations in New Hampshire asking for support. In return for your volunteer services to the NASCAR event, the Speedway will donate \$10 per volunteered hour to BHS. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please contact Phil (Phil@BartlettHistory.org) as there is a fair amount of paperwork to be completed plus other things that you should be aware of as a volunteer for the Speedway event. Please note that this is not a BHS sponsored event. Your participation is completely your decision and BHS will be the beneficiary of your efforts.

## 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](mailto:BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com) 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.



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## How Can You Donate to BHS?

There are several options:

Cash or Check; Credit Card; Gift-in-Kind; Stock Transfer, Matching Gift from your employer, Memorials, Estate Designations

Donations to BHS that are designated to the Museum Fund or those that are undesignated are currently funneled to the Museum Fund. Donations designated to the General Fund are directed to our operating fund.

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

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## **BHS Quarterly Presentation Series News**

### **Recap of First Quarter 2024 Presentation**

#### **The Mammoth Road: NH Folk Tales as an Avenue to Local History & Culture by Erin Moulton**

On February 4, 2024, BHS hosted a presentation by historian and author Erin Moulton where she regaled us with several New Hampshire folktales. Some were quite humorous while others had tragic endings. With each tale, she walked us through a review of the story and showed how some of the pieces of the story were based on factual information while other parts were either made up or unverifiable. From her descriptions of these tales, we saw how portions of folktales can be used to help build a historical record while other components of the same folktale can take us down the path of fiction and misinformation.

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### **2024 Quarterly Presentation Series!**

#### **Wednesday, April 17, 2024, Hiking in the White Mountains, presented by Ed Parsons, local hiking enthusiast and Conway Daily Sun columnist**

The White Mountains, including our National Forest, are covered with hiking trails offering different challenges. Ed will talk about his experiences as he has hiked these trails, offering thoughts on sites and “trail attractions.” Ed is a regular columnist for the Conway Daily Sun on the subject of “Hiking.”



*Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.*

#### **Wednesday, June 19, 2024: Circus and Stage Performing—Insights from Spiff and Sam, presented by Rob and Marion Owen, Professional Clowns and BHS members**

Rob and Marion (Spiff and Sam) will entertain us with the story of how they became circus and stage entertainers, clowning, performing magic, juggling, and inventing skits to let people forget their cares and laugh. We featured them in our fall 2023 newsletter and now they’ve agreed to tell us more about their clowning experiences and their work in the Valley.



*Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.*

#### **Wednesday, October 16, 2024: Yankee Ingenuity: Stories of Headstrong and Resourceful People, presented by Jo Radner**

Jo shares a selection of historical tales—humorous and thought-provoking—about New Englanders who have used their wits in extraordinary ways to solve problems and create inventions. The talk will include discussion with the audience, and may introduce a brief folktale or a poem about inventiveness and problem-solving.



*Bartlett Congregational Church Sanctuary, Route 302 and Albany Avenue, Time: 7:00 p.m.*

### **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.

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### **Railroad Research Committee—Looking for Research Volunteers**

Scotty Mallett, a BHS Board member, 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 603-383-3040 or by email at [scottymallett@gmail.com](mailto:scottymallett@gmail.com).

# H. Edmund “Ed” Bergeron

## A Man of Many Interests and Talents

by Phil Franklin

Ed Bergeron is probably best known as the founder of the very successful, now 50-year-old, local engineering firm HEB Engineers, Inc. but there’s much more to this story. Ed has a variety of other interests and talents that retirement has allowed him to enjoy and while making tremendous contributions to the quality of life here in the Valley. We met on March 7, 2024 at the Bergeron’s home in North Conway.



Ed & Kathy Bergeron

### Coming to America

The Bergeron’s are a large French-Canadian family that have three divisions dating back to the 1630s. Ed’s grandparents came from Trios-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada in the 1920s. Ed’s grandfather, Emile, was a loom fixer at the Merrimack Mills. Ed’s parents, Harvey and Carmen Bergeron, first lived in Lowell, MA. This is where Ed was born on November 10, 1947, but the family soon moved to Windham, NH, bought a small farm where they raised six children. Ed said that when the family moved to Windham, it was very different than today. It was rural southern New Hampshire, “there were more cows than people,” there were no housing developments. Ed and his siblings went to grades 1-5 in a three-room schoolhouse.

Harvey Bergeron was a WWII veteran of the United States Army Air Force. He was a flight engineer on the B-17 bombers but, serving near the end of the war, saw little combat flying. Following his military service, using the GI Bill, he became an aviation mechanic. He served as a member of the National Guard until his retirement. Aside from the farm, he ran the ground operations at Grenier Air Force Base, now Manchester-Boston Regional Airport.

### Ed, Kathy and Family

Ed met his wife, Kathy, in his junior year of college and they were married in 1970. Kathy is from Berlin, a northern New Hampshire town known for its paper mills where members of her family worked. Kathy graduated from Plymouth State College in Plymouth, NH with a degree in elementary education in 1970. Her career would eventually take a business focus as she became the Business Manager for Ed’s engineering company. She earned her MBA from Plymouth State University in 1997.

Ed and Kathy have two daughters, Kathleen “Kate” and Amy. Both are engineers, Amy is local, living in North Andover, MA., and Kate lives in Los Gatos, California. Kate has two daughters, Liza, 21, and Maeryn, 19; Amy also has two daughters, Lilly, 20, and Victoria “Tori,” 18. Liza, Maeryn, and Lilly all are pursuing careers in the field of engineering. Tori has decided that she wants to be a lawyer and work for the FBI. You can hear the pride in his voice as Ed talks about his family.

### Engineering Studies at UNH

Ed’s career aspiration was to become an engineer. Attending the University of New Hampshire (UNH), he pursued a degree in civil engineering and graduated in 1970. While at UNH, Ed was a student athlete competing on the track and cross-country teams. In high school he played football but admitted that he didn’t have the physical size he needed to play football at the college level.

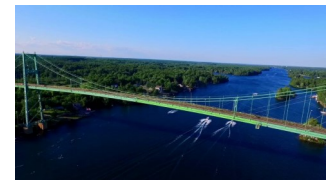
At UNH, Ed also participated in the Air Force Reserve Officers Training Program (ROTC). He said that he really didn’t do much military training though as the priorities of training for the track and cross-country teams limited his ability to participate in the ROTC marching and drills. At the end of his sophomore year, he needed to decide to either officially sign on with the Air Force and become an officer or drop the program. At that time, the late 1960s, the United States was heavily engaged in the Vietnam war and the military draft was in effect. On draft lottery day, he was assigned the number 360 (out of a 1 – 365 scale – one number for each day of the year). This meant he had little chance of being drafted so he decided to resign from the ROTC program and continue pursuit of his engineering career.

Graduating from UNH, Ed decided he wanted to see something different from the farms and hills of the 1960s southern New Hampshire, so he went to work at the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT). The irony is that he was assigned to work in Watertown in rural upstate New York. There, he worked on interstate highway and bridge projects that were underway as the network of modern roads was being developed. His first

... continued on next page

Ed Bergeron continued ...

project was to work on the Wellesley Island Bridge in the Thousand Islands area in the St. Lawrence River.



After spending a couple of years in New York, Ed and Kathy decided to move back to Windham, NH where he worked for Hamilton Engineering in Nashua from 1972 to 1974. Upon their return, Ed and Kathy found that things had changed dramatically as I-93 and other major road and housing development projects were underway. Looking for a better place to settle, they turned to the White Mountain region. While in college, Ed made many hiking and skiing trips to the White Mountains. They felt this would be a good place to buy a home and start a family. In 1974, North Conway became their new hometown. They rented a small house in the middle of the Lucy family farm property on West Side Road.

Self-Employment – A New Phase in Life Begins

Ed opened his engineering business, H. Edmund Bergeron Engineer and Surveyor, in a rented space in North Conway above the one-time Carroll County Hardware Store in an office block known as Reporter Court (at the time, the home of “The Reporter” newspaper). His business grew quickly. After about a year and a half living in their house on West Side Road, the Bergeron’s bought a house on the corner of Mechanic and Swett Streets in North Conway and moved the business into the front room of their new house.

In 1977, Ed entered a joint venture with local surveyor, Doug Burnell (Bergeron & Burnell, JV). Doug had just returned from the Peace Corp and was working with his father, Roger, in their Burnell Land Surveying business. Ed and Doug secured contracts with the US Forest Service to survey the lands in and around the White Mountain National Forest. Soon after that, they contracted with the National Park Service to survey privately owned land along the Appalachian Trail (AT) from Vermont to Maine. Most of the AT in New Hampshire is protected being within the White Mountain National Forest. The Park Service’s plan was to purchase large tracts of land to protect the AT from Maine to Georgia.



When Roger decided to retire, Doug teamed up with Ed and, in 1986, they merged Brunell Land Surveying into the company we now know as HEB Engineers, Inc. Doug brought his father’s clients with him as well as historic land records from Roger’s years of surveying in the Valley. As the business grew, Ed started working in his specialty of building and bridge structural engineering while Doug headed the surveying part of the firm. Ed’s first structural project was with local architect Frank Kennett who was designing the Heritage, NH building for Story Land owner Bob Morrell (the Heritage, NH building is now the Living Seas Aquarium).

HEB Engineers, Inc. – A Local Diverse Firm

The 1970s marked the beginning of the environmental movement in the country. As this occurred, HEB Engineers began working on clean water and wastewater projects for private owners and municipalities. They had projects from Gorham and Berlin in the north to the Lakes Region to the south. This added yet another dimension to the growing services provided by HEB Engineers, Inc.

As we talked about HEB Engineers, Ed told of how his wife, Kathy, became their Business Manager and brought a different perspective to the company. He quipped that engineers want to solve all the problems presented to them without thinking about the money involved. With Kathy in her role and Ed earning his MBA from Plymouth State University in 1988, the business model of HEB changed to focus on the company as a profitable business as well as continuing to solve engineering problems. HEB started a 401K plan, health insurance and paid leave for his employees as well as other benefits.

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Ed Bergeron continued ...

In 2008, HEB received the Mount Washington Valley “Employer of the Year” award. Ed’s business philosophy is to “hire good people and get out of their way and let them do their jobs.” Ed has received several other accolades throughout his career. In 1981, he received the NH Society of Professional Engineers “Young Engineer of the Year Award” and in 1989, this society awarded him the “Engineer of the Year” award, in 2010, he was recognized by UNH with their “Alumni Meritorious Service Award”, and in 2011, he was recognized with the UNH College of Engineering and Physical Sciences “Distinguished Alumnus” award. In 2023, Ed was awarded the Bob Morrell Award for Civic Entrepreneurship by the Mount Washington Valley Economic Council. Ed never mentioned these awards but we discovered them in our research for this article. This speaks to Ed’s quiet and unpretentious nature.

While leading HEB Engineers, Ed served as an adjunct faculty member at UNH from 1997 to 2003. He taught courses in Timber Design and one that he developed titled “Issues in Engineering Practice and Management.” This course was a practical look at the “real world” issues of engineering. Ed also wrote a book titled “A Pocket Guide to Business for Engineers and Surveyors” in 2009 along with other engineering journal articles over the years.



### Successful Career – Retirement Ahead

Jumping ahead to 2012, thoughts of retirement were on both Ed’s and Kathy’s minds. Ed noted that Kathy had a very capable assistant to replace her as Business Manager, so she retired. Ed retired January 1, 2014 but has stayed on as the Chairman of the Board. The company established an Employee Stock Ownership Program in 2010 and has retained the name of HEB Engineers, Inc. Following his retirement, Ed did some consulting work for HEB but was also enjoying traveling and exploring new opportunities. He added that he has no desire to go back to engineering now because “there are too many other things in the world to do.”

Reflecting on his career, he mentioned several stand-out projects including the Loon Mountain Bridge Replacement (after Storm Irene) in Lincoln over the Pemigewasset River; the downtown covered bridge in Littleton, NH; the ongoing restoration project for the Nansen Ski Jump in Berlin/Milan, NH; and the Davis Path asymmetrical cable-stay pedestrian bridge over the Saco River in Hart’s Location (this brought a national award to the firm).

Ed has enjoyed a very active retirement. When Ed retired, he was the president of the Mount Washington Observatory Board of Trustees. As the year changed from 2013 to 2014, he was appointed the Executive Director ... continued on next page

### 100 Years Ago ...

Let’s step back 200 years this time ...

In 1824, Elias Hall was chosen as the toll-taker on Union bridge according to the History of Carroll County 1632—1889. We presume it crossed the Saco River.

An 1823 notation tells us the town voted for \$200 to repair the Union bridge and erect a toll house and gate. It also reported the bridge was swept away in 1826.

Does anyone know the location of the Union bridge?



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Ed Bergeron continued ...

of the Observatory, a position he held until September 2016. Being in the leadership role at the observatory, Ed became one of twelve representatives on the multi-organizational Mount Washington Commission.

### Mount Washington Commission

The Mount Washington Commission “consults and advises the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in the management of the summit property owned by the state of New Hampshire.” The Commission has a broad responsibility for overseeing everything at the summit of the 60-acre Mount Washington State Park from the protection of the summit environment to the maintenance of the summit buildings and facilities. This park, which is surrounded by the White Mountain National Forest, is the most popular tourist attraction in the state.

Ed’s position on the Commission started with his role as the Observatory representative. After leaving the Observatory, Governor John Sununu appointed him as one of three “Public” representatives on the Commission. At the time, Commission Chair NH State Senator Jeb Bradley, led the effort to update the Mount Washington Master Plan, completing the project in October 2022. This plan guides the direction for maintenance, operations, and capital improvements on the summit. Upon completion, Bradley turned the execution of the plan over to Ed, then vice-chair of the Commission. Ed became the chair of the Commission in 2022. He is currently in the process of seeing that a consultant is selected to put the Master Plan recommendations into action.

### A Passion for Aviation

Ed has been exposed to the field of aviation since he was a young boy but took a special interest in aviation in high school and college. He earned his private pilot’s license in 1981 and owned his own airplane, using it for business and family trips. He sold the airplane in the early 1990s but continued the use of other aircraft. Ed became involved in the Eastern Slope Regional Airport Authority as the Secretary of the Board. The Airport Authority governs the Eastern Slope Regional Airport in Fryeburg, Maine. This airport became the regional flight center when the White Mountain Airport in North Conway, NH closed in the mid-1980s and the land for that airport became today’s Settlers’ Green Outlet Village shopping center.



While on the airport authority board, Ed was involved in several improvements to the facility including two runway extensions, the building of a jet fuel facility and a \$2.5 million transient jet hangar. Before closing out his term on the Authority Board, Ed led the effort to establish the Eastern Slope Aviation Academy. This academy is based at the airport in Fryeburg.

### Opening a New Career Opportunity to High Schoolers



The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy was started by Ed in 2020. The Academy’s mission is - “The Eastern Slope Aviation Academy was developed to fill a need in the Mount Washington Valley and Western Maine for focused, affordable education and guidance in aviation.” The Academy was preceded by an Aviation Camp for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in 2018 and 2019. This camp remains active today.

Partnering with the Mount Washington Valley Career Technical Center at Kennett High School, the program started a new career program developed by the Aircraft Owners & Pilot’s Association (AOPA). Starting three years ago with 9<sup>th</sup> graders, it has expanded to include students from all four high school years. Now in its third year, the program includes Fryeburg Academy students. There are currently over 40 students in the program. While there are over 300 similar high school aviation programs in schools across the country, ... continued on next page



Ed Bergeron continued ...

the Eastern Slope Aviation Academy program is the only one that offers actual in-flight training, making it a unique model.

Ed said the program was initially given a small room at the back of the old airport hangar. They bought a flight simulator and taught flying on that simulator for the first year of the program. Then they bought a Cessna 150 training aircraft and began in-flight training in August 2021. Recently, another airplane, badly in need of repair, was donated to the program. Students have disassembled the aircraft and the Career Technical Center at Kennett High School has made space for the airplane to be rebuilt there as a part of a new aviation mechanics training program.

Aviation students pay for flight training, but Ed and the Academy Board work hard to secure additional grant funding for the program. To date, five students have obtained their private pilot's license through the program. Three of those students have gone on to continue flight training in college.

#### Local Weather Observer

As our conversation turned to the subject of the weather, Ed clarified that he is a weather "observer" not a weather "forecaster." He reports the weather conditions as they are at his home in North Conway; he does not predict what the weather will be, however.

Official weather observation in the White Mountains began in 1932 when the legendary Joe Dodge, along with three others, started the Mount Washington Observatory at the summit of the mountain. From 1959 until his death in 1973, Dodge reported his weather observations to the National Weather Service from his home on West Side Road. From 1974 to 2018, local weather observer Briggs Bunker picked up the observation "job," reporting daily on local radio station WMWV and to the National Weather Service with Dodge's equipment relocated to his yard. Toward the end of his weather observing career, Briggs approached his neighbor, Ed, to see if he would like to be the local weather observer, as Ed's father once was. Ed agreed and started reporting on WMWV and to the National Weather Service.



While no longer reporting to the National Weather Service, he reports his observations to his listeners on WMWV using his own recording equipment. He has also carried on a tradition of giving the daily home weather rating, a tradition started by Dodge in 1959. Every day is rated on a 5-cent to 50-cent scale with a 50-cent day being spectacular and 5 cents being only worth a "wooden nickel". As a side note, to help people save money, the former White Mountain Bank gave out piggy banks so people could deposit coins daily based on the weather rating.



Ed is currently a volunteer weather observer for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRHAS) based out of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado.

#### Other Hobbies and Interests

Ed has been skiing since he was a young boy on the family's Windham farm. He started with a pair of old WWII skis. In college, he hitched rides to the White Mountains to ski on weekends. He got serious about teaching skiing in the 1980s when his children attended John Fuller School in North Conway and participated in the Eastern Slope Ski Club (ESSC) at Cranmore Mountain. He continued his ski instruction with ESSC for another 10 years after his girls moved on from John Fuller School. While the Director of the Ski School at Cranmore at that time encouraged Ed to work at Cranmore, he waited until he retired from HEB. Ed is one of 130 part-time ski instructors at Cranmore.

After retirement, Ed also took up other sports including road cycling raising funds for the Tin Mountain Conservation Center Century+ ride (Century = 100 miles in bicycling terms). He also took on rock and ice climbing becoming an instructor for the IMCS (International Mountain Climbing School) in North Conway.

Another sport hobby that Ed has had since his youth is fishing. He said that his father was an avid fisherman. When it was a rainy day on the farm, they'd often spend it fishing because his father thought the fish were more likely to bite on rainy days ... and they did, he added. He referred to himself as a "worm dunker" but also told how he got into fly-fishing. As a sophomore in high school, with his good friend, gathered some fly-fishing gear and went off to try their luck. Apparently, they did well. In 1974, Ed learned how to tie his own flies with Dick Surette, the original owner of North Country Angler.

... continued on next page

Ed Bergeron continued ...

He said that tying flies is a work of art and he gives away or loses most of the flies that he ties. When Bill and Janet Thompson owned North Country Angler, Ed and his friend, Joe Redman, started a Saturday morning fly tying group called "Liars and Tyers." They met after deer hunting season ended in November and tied through the winter months to the start of trout fishing season in April. This gathering ended in 2020, another victim of COVID.

In years past, Ed teamed up with another good friend, Glenn Saunders, and did some maple sugaring. Ed said they had about 60 sap collecting buckets spread about their neighborhood and a 200 tap tubing sugar orchard on the top of Glen Ledge in the Glen section of Bartlett. This small enterprise ended when the Glen Ledge property was sold for housing development in the 1990s.

#### Reflection on the Growth of the Valley

Finally, we talked about how the Mount Washington Valley has changed since the 1970s. He reflected saying that when he and Kathy arrived, the population was about 3,000 people; today there are about 10,000 people living here. The area has steadily turned into a tourist-based economy. While many people feel that the character of the Valley is lost, Ed sees things a bit differently. Acknowledging that there has been a tremendous growth in tourist-oriented hotels and shopping centers, he feels that development has been done in a quality way. He thinks that with the current mix of long-time locals and those who are new residents, several good new development ideas have advanced the area. Noting that politics has played a part in some of the local discontent, he added that things are being built according to the local zoning laws so those laws may need to be reviewed for currency. Ed was on the original Conway Planning Board that developed the zoning regulations, but that board was dissolved in favor of an elected Planning Board, on which he also served. He sees positive things such as the efforts to conserve open land for the community. He ended these comments saying that the Bergeron's plan to remain in this area for this is a good place to live.


#### ... In Closing

Ed Bergeron is a rather quiet, modest, well-spoken individual who has a record of accomplishments that go far beyond what's written about in this article. He speaks glowingly of his family. He believes in and practices the art of forming good interpersonal relationships. He has been successful in business and continues to make positive contributions to the community in "retirement." His closing piece of advice to the audience at the presentation of the Bob Morrell Award was "Have outside interests, give back to your community, and have fun!" Sage advice from a very engaged and successful person. My thanks to Ed for taking the time to meet with me and for a very enjoyable conversation.

### **Hardscrabble?**

Recently, we were doing some research in the book, "The History of Carroll County—1632—1889." We found a number of very interesting things in the story of Bartlett. One new mystery is an 1822 reference stating that the inhabitants of "Hardscrabble" were forming a new school district. Hardscrabble?! This was a surprise.

Today, Bartlett has three main sections of town, Bartlett Village, Glen and Intervale. We've known of areas in the past called Goodrich Falls, Jericho, and Hilltown but we've never come across Hardscrabble. We also know that Bartlett had six school districts in 1897: No. 1 - Lower Bartlett; No. 2 - Glen; No. 3 - Garland Ridge; No. 4 - Kearsarge; No. 5 - Hill Town; No. 6 - Goodrich Falls but no mention of Hardscrabble—So here's a question for our historians—Where is Hardscrabble? Who lived there? What happened to it?

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The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

# The Historical Herald

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## Bartlett History Museum Update

Our museum project has made tremendous strides forward over the winter months. Here are the highlights:

Interior Trim Installation: Our General Contractor, Bill Duggan, has been working on installing all the wood trim in the building. This has been a huge task requiring a great deal of detailed work, and the results are stunning.

Painting the Interior: Painters are now in the building, keeping pace with the work being done by Bill. The finish painting project is enormous. Fortunately, the painting company we brought in is one of the best in the Valley and they are doing a great job with the painting details.

New Areas of Plank Flooring: New vinyl plank flooring, donated by a very generous couple of BHS members from Massachusetts, has been installed in the foyer, exit door area, lavatory, and curator’s work area.

1890 Floor Prepped for Painting: Cleaning and repair work on the original 1890 flooring in the display, stage, office areas plus the choir loft has been completed by a BHS volunteer. The floor still looks like an 1890 floor, “it has character.” The floor will be painted gray; we found a similar gray color of paint scraped from the old floor.

### So, What’s Left To Do?

Plumbing and Electrical: The plumber needs to install the ADA lavatory and curator’s work area components plus reconnect the building to the water and septic systems. The electrician needs to electrify all the plugs and switches and finish a few other details.

Back Stairs and Bulkhead: We need to construct the back stairs to the building and replace the entire bulkhead structure. We wanted to get both things done before winter hit but the ground froze quickly. As soon as the weather allows, we’ll get moving on these projects.

Historical Society and Museum Sign: We’re working with a local sign maker to design our street sign. The funding for the sign was donated by a very generous BHS member.

### Getting the Museum Open and Operational

Historical Society Tasks: To get the museum operational, we have a long checklist of things to be done before we can open our museum doors. Our Curator, Kathy Howard, and Phil will be coordinating this effort.

Volunteer Opportunity: If anyone would like to volunteer to help with the tasks to get the museum open, please let us know. There are a variety of things that need to be done and we’d welcome your support. We can show you what we need to do and will be there to help if there are questions. If you’d like to volunteer to help to get the museum organized, please contact Phil Franklin ([Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org)).

### **Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors**

Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
Scotty Mallett, Secretary	
2 Open Director Position	

### BHS Advisory Panel

David Eliason, Michael Chandler, Norman Head, George Howard, Anne Pillion, Hadley Champlin, David Shedd, Rachael Brown



**A sure sign of spring—the blooming of the trillium in the forest**