

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514, 13 School Street
Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Winter 2026 Edition (2026:1)

The Bartlett

Historical Society

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Visit to the Museum

On November 7th, members of the BHS Board of Directors welcomed the staff, Board of Directors, and a few additional guests of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance (NHPA) to our BHS Museum. The stop at our museum was part of an NHPA north country tour to different historic sites. In total, we greeted 32 members of the organization, most of whom had never been to the museum. BHS was represented by Phil Franklin (President), Kathy Howard (Curator), and Sue Franklin (Treasurer).



NHPA members and guests at the BHS Museum

While this was an opportunity for the attendees to explore the museum, there was a short program kicked off by Martha Cummings, NHPA Community Preservation Services Manager, where she complimented our historical society on the work done to save and adapt our historic building to its current use. She also introduced Phil to the audience. Phil proceeded to give a brief history of the building, tell a few stories about the renovation process, point out several original features of the building and others that were recreated, and answer questions from the audience.



NHPA members and guests listen to comments by Phil Franklin

The NHPA has been involved in the renovation of our building from the beginning when their former Community Preservation Services Manager, Andrew Cushing, toured the building in 2016. In 2017, NHPA honored BHS by naming our building as one of their *Seven to Save*, a designation noting the historic value of the building and promotion of the cause to save the building. Over the years of renovation, Phil was in contact with Andrew as well as Jennifer Goodman, NHPA Executive Director, to keep them updated on our progress and consult on aspects of our preservation effort. In 2025, NHPA presented BHS with their Preservation Achievement Award.

We were very pleased to open the building for these special guests and hope that they will return for future visits as we change our displays periodically.

Photo credit to Althea Barton, Special Projects Coordinator at the Alliance for both photos.



President's Message

Welcome to 2026! I hope you had a very happy holiday season and wish you a Happy New Year. I can still recall the start of 2025 and asking myself, "Where did the year (2024) go?!" and here I am asking that question again. They say that "time flies;" every year it seems to set a new speed record.

I'm one who always likes to look forward to and plan for what's coming next but with the closing of the past year, I give a lot of thought to our accomplishments for the past year as I write the BHS Annual Report. Here are a few of the highlights that you'll see in our 2025 report (our 2025 Annual Report will be published in January 2026):

- Our museum was open for its first full year of operations
- We expanded our volunteer program
- We hosted four very interesting presentations in our museum plus two special railroad presentations and an interactive workshop
- We partnered with the Conway Scenic Railroad celebrating the 150th anniversary of the laying of the rail tracks through Crawford Notch; and with the Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club, received their help in establishing our geological history exhibit
- The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance garnered state-wide recognition on BHS as one of the 2025 Preservation Achievement Award winners
- We welcomed two new BHS Board members, John Chanley and Buzz Query
- Several historically significant items related to our local history were donated to our museum.

Our 2026 BHS Membership Drive is underway. If you have joined as a new member or renewed your membership already, we *thank you* for your support! If you haven't renewed your BHS membership, please take a moment to send us your renewal or to join for the first time.

People often ask how they can help us so here's an idea – if you know someone who is not a BHS member, ask them to consider becoming a member. Show them our newsletter, invite them to visit our museum, tell them how BHS is here to discover, preserve and share our local history. Support from members locally and from away is always welcome.

Our museum will be closed from January 4th to the 16th; reopening on January 17th with new "Winter in the Valley" exhibits. On January 18th, we'll host our first 2026 presentation and have our 2025 Annual Meeting.

You'll see a few changes in our newsletter format for 2026. We've devoted more space to acknowledge our Business members and to recognize our member donors.

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.

The Historical Herald by Email? 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

Thank You to Our Business Members and Donors

Our Business Members help underwrite the cost of this publication. We thank them for their generous support.

Please give them first consideration when searching for goods, services, dining, or entertainment.

Bartlett Historical Society - Business Members

<u>Conway Daily Sun</u> PO Box 1940, 64 Seavey Street, North Conway, NH 03860 www.conwaydailysun.com 603-356-3456	<u>Badger, Peabody, Smith Realty</u> PO Box 750, 2633 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860 www.badgerpeabodysmith.com 603-356-5757	<u>Covered Bridge House</u> 404 US Route 302, Glen, NH www.coveredbridgehouse.com 603-383-9109
<u>William C. Duggan Builder, Inc.</u> PO Box 430, Bartlett, NH 03812 603-387-5392	<u>Iron Mountain Water Services, Inc.</u> 243 US Route 302, Glen, NH 03838 www.ironmountainwater.com 603-383-4948	<u>Joseph's Spaghetti Shed</u> 357 US Route 302, Glen, NH 03838 www.josephsspaghettished.com 603-383-6680
<u>L. A. Drew, Inc.</u> General Contractor 15 Drew Road, Intervale, NH 03845 www.ladrew.com 603-356-6351	<u>Kathleen Sullivan-Head, Realtor</u> Badger, Peabody & Smith Realty kathleensulli- vanhead.badgerpeabodysmith.com 603-986-5932	<u>Lucy Hardware</u> 239 NH Route 16, Intervale, NH 03845 lucyhardware.com 603-356-0757
<u>North Country Fair Jewelers</u> 2448 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860 www.northcountryfairjewelers.com 603-356-5819	<u>Richard M. Plusch Antiques</u> 2584 White Mountain Highway, North Conway, NH 03860 www.richardmpluschfineantiques.com 603-356-3333	<u>Ragged Mountain Equipment</u> 279 Route 16 & 302, Intervale, NH 04845 raggedmountain.com 603-356-3042
<u>S.D. Szetela Masonry</u> 7 Glen Ledge Road; BOX 222, Glen, NH 03838 sdszetela.com 603-383-9740	<u>True North Veterinary Hospital</u> 1053 US Route 302, Bartlett, NH 03812 truenorth.vet 603-374-5130	<u>White Mountain Stove Shop</u> 1470 NH Route 16, Madison, NH 03849 wmstoveshop.com 603-447-7100

Thank You to all donors of the Bartlett Historical Society. Your support is greatly appreciated. Donors from 09/22/2025—12/31/2025

Mary Albertine & Mark Sugermeyer Frank & Nancy Alberto Albert Alex Anonymous (1) Donald Aubrecht & Mary Nodine Ed & Kathleen Bergeron Beverly Bierman Edward & Gale Bradbury Luke & Pat Brassard Myra & Larry Brodney Bobbi Bunker Kevin & Judy Burke David & Susan Clark Conway Daily Sun Dave & Francine Cronin Paula Dalton Matt & Jen DeAngelis Brian Doherty Heather Doyle Mary Franklin Phil & Sue Franklin	Bert & Ann Garry Jack & Susan Gay Barbara George Michael & Christine Glinski Robert & Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation Jim & Linda Hastings Rick Hennessey Pat & John Higgins Nancy Holmes William & Eileen Honen IMW Services Co. Joseph & Johanna Ierna Daniel & Judith Kennedy Lydia Lansing Jeff & Martha Leich Virginia Lewis Pauline Lombardi Joanne Lufkin Lynch Family Charitable Fund Dennis Maiorino	Dave & Jeanne Mason Philip McCarthy Louise Merrill Henry Mock Mary Ellen Moffitt Stephanie Mullins Scott & Gladys Olson John O'Neil Gail Paine Mark & Andrea Palmstrom Christopher Perley Pat & Dave Pomeroy Eileen Porter Buzz & Jane Query Red Parka Pub Stefi Reed Hastings Glenn & Sonni Saunders Fred & Sandra Schaaff Stephen & Wendy Scribner Terry Sherlock Brian & Michelle Spero Robert Sterling	Greg & Andrea Stidsen Carol Swanson Stan Szetela True North Veterinary Hospital David & Marilyn Wajda William & Marie Walsh Kenneth Ware Thomas & Janet Wing Charlie & Arlene Zaccaria <u>In Memory of Norman Head:</u> Huntley & Joyce Allan Suzanne Scolamiero Joseph & Patricia Talty <u>In Memory of Nancy Hodgkins:</u> Lloyd & Diane Drew <u>In Memory of George Howard:</u> Elois Sullivan
---	--	--	---

BHS Notes

BHS Leads a Trip to Livermore

Over the summer of 2025, Phil Franklin was contacted by a teacher from the Rivendell Academy of Orford, NH. The teacher explained that he was going to teach a segment on the American Industrial Revolution to his sixth-grade class. He wanted to use Livermore as an example of industrial change in the country and asked if BHS could help with this lesson.



Rivendell Academy 6th grade students and faculty by the Saco River at Livermore

In September, Phil went to the Rivendell Academy to present the history of Livermore to this class of about 25 students.

A couple of days later, Phil plus two other BHS Board members, Sue Franklin and John Chanley, along with Rivendell faculty and a parent made the two-mile trek up the gravel road to the old town. On the way, Phil noted different sites as well as continued the history lesson. Upon reaching the town, the students were led to various cellar holes, foundations, and mill sites in the old town. Phil also pointed out the remnants of the Sawyer River Railroad track bed, track, and other railroad items (e.g., spikes, old railroad tools).

BHS was very pleased that we could contribute to the education of the Rivendell students. We have offered to do this lesson again in 2026 if it remains in the curriculum.

Changes to our BHS Museum Displays

Our Curator, Kathy Howard, has announced that we will again be changing our museum exhibits as we step into 2026. We will be removing some of our current displays and introducing a “Winter in the Valley” theme to the museum. Our focus will be on winter sports in the area including ski areas, past and present, other types of winter activities, and living in the area during the cold winter months.

To accomplish this change over in exhibits, *the BHS Museum will be closed from Sunday, January 4th, through Friday, January 16th, inclusive. The museum will reopen on Saturday, January 17th.* On Sunday, January 18th, we will host our first presentation of 2026 with Dave Govatski talking about the history of the logging railroads that once were in the White Mountains. A brief BHS Annual Meeting led by Phil Franklin will precede Dave’s talk.

2026 Membership Drive Update

Our 2026 BHS Membership Drive is off to a great start. *Thank You to all our members who have renewed or joined anew in 2026 at the General, Patron, or Business level.* We are very pleased to see membership renewals from many of our long-term members. Equally, we are very happy to see many of our non-member donors to the museum renovation project joining as new members. Finally, we have received memberships from several new members. Thank you again to one and all who have joined or renewed your BHS membership.

Our 2026 Membership Drive is still underway and we look forward to hearing from current members who have yet to renew and hope that we get to welcome some new members along the way. Please see the Membership section of the BHS website (www.BartlettHistory.net). You can print and mail a membership form or complete the membership process online. If you do not have online access, please drop us a note and we’ll send a membership form to you. Either way, we look forward to receiving your 2026 membership and thank you for your continued support.

Goldberg Foundation Continues Their Generous Support

The Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Charitable Foundation was one of the top contributors to our BHS museum renovation project. We are very pleased to note that their support for our Historical Society has continued beyond the opening of our museum in October 2024.

Responding to a 2025 grant application filed by Phil Franklin, the Goldberg Foundation awarded \$4,000 to BHS for the restoration of our Hart's Location map dating back to 1795, an 1890 Carroll County map, and a volume titled the "History of Carroll County: 1623 to 1889". We are very grateful for their continued support.

But their support in 2025 didn't end with this grant. Over the past few years, Phil Franklin has talked with the trustees and advisors of the Foundation about establishing an endowment for the historical society. The trustees have always encouraged the BHS Board to establish this type of fund designed to provide financial security for the future of BHS. At the beginning of 2025, the BHS Board of Directors took steps to set up the BHS Endowment Fund and seeded it with a modest amount of money (about \$13,000).

In November, Phil had a conversation with the principal trustee of the Goldberg Foundation. In that conversation, Phil was informed that the Goldberg trustees and advisors would like to assist BHS in building our endowment as they have with other non-profit organizations. The trustees of the Foundation offered an additional unsolicited \$4,000 to be directed to our BHS endowment fund *with the provision that we raise a matching \$4,000* by December 31, 2025. Phil accepted the challenge and we are now pleased to report that through donations made in conjunction with our 2026 Membership Drive, we have raised the matching funds and reported this news to the Goldberg Foundation trustees.

The Goldberg trustees have encouraged the BHS Board of Directors to continue to build the funding in the BHS endowment program. With this type of support, in the first part of 2026, we will be announcing a campaign to raise additional funds that will be directed to the BHS Endowment Fund.

BHS Contributes Research Information to a Future Documentary

Over the past several years, authors and historians doing research on topics related to the White Mountains, Bartlett, Hart's Location, and/or Livermore have contacted BHS for assistance on their project. We are very happy to be a part of their projects. As a result, BHS is credited in several books for our research and editing support.

Recently, Phil Franklin was contacted by Chris Moore, an aspiring documentary producer from Massachusetts with a love of the White Mountains. Chris' project is focused on the regrowth of the forests that covered our White Mountains after the logging and timber harvesting occurred in the late 1800s and early 1900s that left our mountains nearly devoid of trees. He is currently in the research phase of his project, drawing information from many sources, including BHS.

Chris is planning a video-based documentary that will feature numerous animated photos and voice-overs including interviews with local forest experts explaining the history of our forest before and after the logging operations. Chris hopes that this program will be an educational highlight for teens and adults.

At our meeting, we provided Chris with additional materials for his data collection effort and agreed to continue to provide support as needed for his project. This is another example of how BHS is contributing to the historical research focused on our White Mountains.

BHS Quarterly Presentation Series News

The BHS Quarterly Presentation Series is a way for the Historical Society to offer informative presentations on topics of local historical interest. We are always interested to know what you'd like to hear about. If you have an idea for a topic, please let us know.

October 2025 Presentation Recap—"Life at the Top" with Eric Pinder



On October 15th, Eric Pinder, local author and former Mount Washington Observatory weather observer provided a very interesting, first hand look at what it's like to live and work in Mount Washington's weather observatory. Aside from stories of the daily weather observation routines, he told stories about dealing with tourists and hikers, living in winter conditions, and tales of the different cats that have made the observatory their home. Our thanks to Eric for sharing his time with us.

2026 Presentation Line-up Taking Shape

Sunday, January 18, 2026: "Logging Railroads of the White Mountains" with Dave Govatski, Naturalist, Former U.S. Forest Service Employee, Local Historian

In the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, the logging industry dominated our White Mountains harvesting trees to mill into lumber for our growing nation. There were several logging railroads in our mountains, each servicing a mill or logging interest. These included railroads in Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore. Dave's talk will tell us the history of these railroads. *A brief BHS Annual Meeting will precede Dave's talk.*



Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 2:00 p.m.

NEW!! Wednesday, April 15, 2026: "Wit and Wisdom: The Forgotten Literary Life of New England Villages" with Jo Radner, Freelance Storyteller and Oral Historian

Before and after the Civil War, our rural ancestors created neighborhood events to improve their minds. Community members composed and read aloud homegrown, handwritten literary "newspapers" full of keen verbal wit. Sometimes serious, sometimes sentimental but mostly very funny, these "newspapers" were common in villages across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont and revealed the hopes, fears, humor and surprisingly daring behavior of our forebearers. Jo Radner shares excerpts from her book about hundreds of these "newspapers" and provides examples from villages in our region.



Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026: Colonies to Country: The Forming of the United States of America with Bob Cottrell, Curator of the Henney History Room, Local Historian

In 1776, talk of finding our independence from our Royal Governance by England was growing in the colonies. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress and our effort to depart from British rule began. By 1789, the Revolutionary War saw the defeat of the British troops and our nation had a new Constitution. The effort to form a government and move from 13 separate colonies to 13 states under a federal government was underway.



Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.

October Presentation—TBD—Wednesday, October 21, 2026

BHS Curator's Report—BHS Curator Kathy Howard

Saturday, January 17, 2026, will be the “official” unveiling of our “Winter in the Valley” exhibits. This launch be followed on Sunday, January 18th with our presentation on “Logging Railroads of the White Mountains” presented by Dave Govatski and our annual meeting.

Our goal is to change exhibits every six months to keep displays fresh and to encourage visitors to return and learn more about the place where they live or enjoy visiting. Preparation for changing exhibits requires a lot of thought, research and physical work. The first step is to determine an overall theme. Our “Winter in the Valley” exhibits will include displays on Attitash, ski clubs, lost ski areas, winter sports and ski trains. The next step in creating an exhibit is to determine what we currently have in our collection that will fit the theme.

The centerpiece for our winter display will be the Portland Cutter sleigh donated by Carroll and Nancy Hayes. In addition to the sleigh, we have recently received skis to add to our ski and snowshoe display. Another donor has contributed a 1950's children's sled. We have contacted local ski clubs in hopes of expanding our current holdings on the history of these organizations. One of our displays will feature a dog sled made by a local resident and information on dogsledding in the Valley as well as information on the Chinook – New Hampshire's state dog.

Once we've gathered everything together that fits this theme, items are sorted for relevance and the research and documentation begins. Whenever possible, we document the source of the item and relevance to Bartlett. Photos from our extensive collection are printed and added to the exhibits and display cards are created. Brief explanations or histories are researched and added in order to provide more history and meaning to the display. Our goal is to provide visitors with a “taste” of these historical themes and hopefully inspire and encourage interest in the history of the town of Bartlett and the Mount Washington Valley.

Behind the scenes, most previous displays must be dismantled and stored. Each current display is photographed and all catalog records for these items are updated to include information on when the item was used in a display. Objects are returned to storage and documentation is filed for possible future use. Some displays are considered to be “permanent” such as our military history exhibit and our exhibit on the St. Joseph Church. Any new relevant items received are added to these permanent displays to “refresh” the collection but the overall theme of these two exhibits remains the same. Because of avid interest in our geological display, the “rocks” exhibit will be continued for another six months!

Our PastPerfect database allows us to keep accurate records of what we have used previously and the time period when the item was displayed. Going forward, this allows us to track and document the history of the Museum and the Bartlett Historical Society. We can also track the number of visitors for each exhibition period. Since the opening of the Museum in October 2024, over 350 people have enjoyed our exhibits!

We are already planning for our next series of exhibits to launch on July 4, 2026. Not to reveal too much too early but think of 2026 milestones for our nation and our local area as possible themes! More information will follow as we get ready to prepare the next round.

Please stop by to see the new exhibits starting January 17th. If you have anything to donate that would fit the “Winter in the Valley” theme or any other item relevant to Bartlett history please contact us by email bhscurator1890@gmail.com or leave a message at 603 374-5037. We are always excited to add a new item to our collection and appreciate your support in our effort to preserve the history of Bartlett and the Mount Washington Valley area. Thank you!

The Settling of Bartlett and Hart's Location

by Phil Franklin

As we enter the 250th year of the birth of our nation, we thought it would be interesting to take a step back to the latter part of the 1700s as the colonies were about to revolt against British rule and spend fourteen years in a fight for freedom and formation of a new government. While this was going on at a national level, in rural northern New Hampshire, new towns were being settled.

The Town of Bartlett

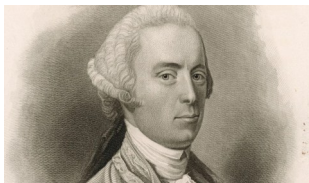
The town of Bartlett was incorporated on June 16, 1790. The town was named after Josiah Bartlett, who was the President of the state at that time. However, the story of the formation of the town of Bartlett goes back to the years 1754 to 1765 and the French and Indian War that took place between Great Britain and France. The result of this war, fought on what is now American soil, was that the French were pushed out of the pre-Revolution lands of America. As a reward for distinguished service in that war, the British government awarded land grants to soldiers. Land in what is now Bartlett, then an unincorporated territory, was granted to several soldiers.

In October 1765, New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth granted Lieutenant Andrew McMillan and Captain William Stark, 2,000 and 3,000 acres, respectively, in what we now know as Bartlett. Grants continued to be issued by Governor John Wentworth starting with a grant to Lieutenant Vere Royce of 2,000 acres in September 1769. Other land grants included ones to Adjutant Philip Bayley, 2,000 acres in August 1770; and Major James Gray,



Governor Benning
Wentworth

1741—1767



Governor John Wentworth
1766—1775

3,856 acres in June 1772. The fact that these grants were given didn't mean that these men were our first settlers, however. The recipients of land grants often sold or gave away portions of or all their granted land to others who were willing to settle in the area. If not sold and remaining unoccupied, granted land could be reclaimed by the state.

It appears the pre-Bartlett land grants were eventually disbursed to others willing to go through the effort and toil to settle the wilderness.

In the early 1770s, the first settlers in Bartlett were brothers, Enoch and Humphrey Emery, along with Nathaniel Harriman. They settled in the area we know as "Lower Bartlett" (today's Glen and Intervale sections of town). The land upon which they settled was part of William Stark's grant and became known as "Stark's Location." A note in the *History of Carroll County, New Hampshire, 1623 – 1889* described the plight of these settlers saying "The very hard and unenviable lot of the worthy pioneers in this section can scarcely be imagined by their descendants. They fought bravely with adverse elements, lack of sufficient food, inadequate protection from the weather and the ravages of wild beasts." In the winter of 1775/76, John Pendexter and his wife, Mary, arrived. In 1777, more settlers arrived. The names of Daniel Fox, Esquire; Captain Samuel Willey, and Paul Jilly appear in the records settling in Upper Bartlett (today's Bartlett Village). In 1783, Richard Garland along with other unnamed settlers arrived to settle in the area. The family names of Garland and Emery are still present in Bartlett today.

continued on next page

As noted, life for these early settlers was difficult. The closest place to obtain provisions was Dover, NH, some seventy-five miles away and the closest settlements outside the area were about thirty-six miles away. The earliest town reports (1881 and forward) show bounties being paid for the killing of wild cats, bears, and hedge hogs so these animals had to be present in force in the late 1700s. Fields for farming needed to be cut out of the forests as well as pastures for grazing animals. Aside from forest paths originally established by local indigenous people, there were no roads or bridges, so this infrastructure needed to be built.

In 1790, when the town was incorporated, town boundaries were established with the surrounding towns of Adams (Jackson), Conway, Chatham, Hart's Location (in 1795), and Albany. These boundaries, especially with Jackson and Hart's Location, changed several times. An old joke says that you could leave your house in Bartlett in the morning and come home to the same house in Jackson later that day. The last adjustment to the Bartlett town boundary lines occurred on July 12, 1971 when a 12-acre gore (defined as an irregular parcel of land) was adjusted from Hart's Location to be part of Bartlett. At the county level, Bartlett has moved several times. In 1790, the town was incorporated into Grafton County; in 1793, a petition to the state legislature was granted and moved the town to Strafford County; on December 24, 1803, the town was moved to Coos County as this new county was formed; in 1853, Bartlett was finally moved to Carroll County where it resides today.

In the years after Bartlett's incorporation as a New Hampshire town in 1790, many "new" families moved into the town. The family names of Tasker, Hall, George, Pitman, Meserve, and Chubbuck became prominent in town and some, like the Garland's and Emery's, remain today.

Among Bartlett's first governing officials were John Pendexter, Jonathan Tasker, and Enoch Emery as selectmen; Jonathan Tasker, town clerk; Joseph Pitman, moderator; Richard Garland, constable and tax collector. Prior to settling in Bartlett, Richard Garland, Jonathan Tasker, Austin George, Obed Hall, Ebenezer Hall, and Joseph Pitman served in the Continental Army and American Revolution. We are researching their stories for an article in a future newsletter.

In the History of Carroll County, a passage described Bartlett as "... a town of ruggedness and grace, of sterile, rocky mountains and rich, productive valley lands. It includes two mountain ranges and is rich in picturesque beauty." While the town has grown tremendously over the past 236 years, this description still holds true as a large portion of the town is in the national forest.

The Town of Hart's Location

Hart's Location is the smallest town in the state of New Hampshire at 16.5 square miles with a population of about 50 residents. Hart's Location was incorporated as a town by the state of New Hampshire in 1795. This land was originally "discovered" by two hunters although the local

100 Years Ago ...

From the 1926 Bartlett Annual Report:

- ◆ Town of Bartlett paid the Goodrich Falls Electric Co. \$15.00 for lights for (covered) bridges)
- ◆ Town expenditure for labor and materials for highway construction and maintenance was \$4,693.47
- ◆ Expenditures for the Bartlett Fire Department were \$85.32 with \$50 of that cost being for "Salaries for Firemen"

Indian population certainly knew of and used this land long before settlers arrived.

In 1771, Timothy Nash and Benjamin Sawyer were hunting in the area above today's Crawford Notch, probably in the area we know as Bretton Woods. During this hunt, the story goes that one of the men climbed a tree to see if he could find their quarry.

continued on next page

What he saw was a notch (eventually named Crawford Notch) between the mountains to the east. In 1773, Governor (John) Wentworth granted a piece of land above that notch to Nash and Sawyer, this was known as “Nash and Sawyer’s Location.” One of the grant provisions was that they build a road through the notch. This road would roughly follow the course of the Saco River that is at the base of Crawford Notch. Their road ended at the current Bartlett town line, then, the land granted to Vere Royce of Bartlett. Legend has it that Nash and Sawyer camped at a large rock at the end of their road and Sawyer proceeded to smash his “junk” (rum) bottle over the rock, proclaiming it “Sawyer’s Rock” – the boulder, still present today, at the boundary of Bartlett and Hart’s Location on Route 302 is still known by that name.

In 1772, the unincorporated land in the notch, later explored by Nash and Sawyer in 1773, was granted to Thomas Chadbourne by Governor (John) Wentworth. This was Chadbourne’s reward for his service in the French and Indian War. Old maps, including one in our BHS museum, still reference the name “Chadbourne” as the name of this area. The grant document contains several provisions that Chadbourne needed to abide by to retain his grant. It also contained a description of the property, typical of that era, starting at the Bartlett end of the granted



Section of 1796 map showing
Chadbourne/Royce grants

Chadbourne land with the land description “Beginning at a Birch Tree being the South westerly Corner Bounds of a Tract of Land granted to Mr. Vere Royse ...” The description continued referencing distances between points where there are vague directional changes and at one-point references “... the narrowest passage leading through the White Mountains lying upon the Saco River.” In 1784, Governor Wentworth had the province surveyed by Captain Samuel Holland, but this survey did not

clearly mark the Bartlett/Hart’s Location boundary. Not until 1797 did a survey map created by surveyor Nathaniel Merrill show the town lines and even then, as we have seen, there was still undefined territory. The Merrill Plan divided the Hart’s Location property into distinct lots or segments. The Chadbourne/Hart’s Location map in our BHS museum is believed to be an early 1800s hand drawn copy of the Merrill Plan.

Chadbourne sold his granted land in November 1772 to George Hart (440 acres) for five pounds; Robert Robertson (510 acres) for an unknown amount; and in 1795, Richard Hart (2,050 acres) for 300 pounds. Essentially Richard Hart received all the land in this province except for the land sold to (George) Hart and Robertson. The reference to “Hart’s Location” is found in the early deeds for the sale properties in this area and so the name stuck.

The first road in the town was built in 1797 following and improving on the Nash/Sawyer route. This was known as the “Cohos Road”. In 1803, improvements were made to the Cohos Road and it was renamed the Tenth Turnpike Road in New Hampshire. With this rough road established through the notch, travelers began using this passage and the need for inns/taverns arose. In 1792, the Willey House was built about three miles from the top of the notch where Nash and Sawyer first ventured into this land. Apparently, other settlers built cabins in the area also. Abel Crawford came to the notch from Vermont around the same time as the Willey family. He explored the area, liked what he saw, and, in 1795, bought a cabin from settler, David Bassett. In that sale, for \$300, the deed mentions “... a certain hundred acres of land lying and being in Hart’s Location.” The land description is not in the deed but from the Merrill Plan map, from other neighboring deeds, it is believed that Crawford purchased Lot 15 which is in the center of Hart’s Location and at or near the location of today’s Notchland Inn.

continued on next page

Town Formation continued ...

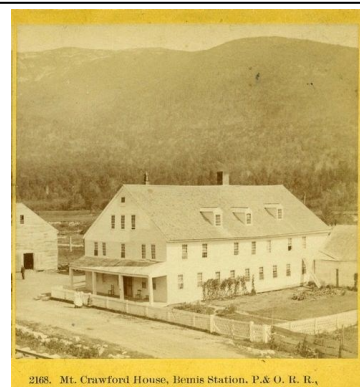
Abel Crawford and his family farmed the land they owned, eventually built an inn called the Mount Crawford House. The Crawford's became noted trail builders and hiking guides in the White Mountains. In 1816, with his son Ethan, Abel built the first trail up Mount Washington; the trail is named the Crawford Path.

Other notable events in Hart's Location's early history include the 1826 Willey family disaster where a major rainstorm and resulting landslide



Inn Unique—Formerly the mansion of Dr. Samuel Bemis

drove them from their home. The family, along with two of their workers, were killed in the landslide. In 1860, Dr. Samuel Bemis built his granite house in the notch. This house would eventually become the Inn Unique owned by the Morey family and then reopened as today's Notchland Inn. In 1875, the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad built the tracks through Crawford Notch and ran the first train through the notch. This accomplishment opened the transportation lines between Portland, ME and the U.S. mid-west and Canada.



Mount Crawford House

Similar to Bartlett, Hart's Location changed county affiliation over the years. Upon incorporation, it was part of Grafton County; in 1805, it was reassigned to Coos County; finally in 1853, it became part of Carroll County as result of a petition to the state legislature from eight of its residents.

Today, over 800,000 acres of the town land lies within the White Mountain National Forest and Crawford Notch State Park. Standing on the cliff at the top of Mount Willard, one can see the view that Nash or Sawyer had in 1771 as one of them looked eastward from the top of a tree.

Closing Thoughts

Looking back over more than two and one-half centuries to the time when Governor Wentworth issued the first land grants, we can only imagine the challenges before the first settlers. Those settlers from the late 1700s and early 1800s had to be intrepid souls. Faced with the effort to clear land for homesteads and fields for farming, fending off wild animals, traveling to southern New Hampshire for provisions, isolation in winter months, and so many other challenges, by current standards, it is amazing that new settlers continued to move north to find new places to live. Fast forward to today, Bartlett is a growing community with many new homes intermixed with homes dating back to the 1800s. Hart's Location has remained more rural with a small community of residents. What we see and have in our communities today is the result of the efforts of the first generations of settlers named Emery, Harriman, Garland, George, Hall, Hart, Willey, Crawford and so many more. They set the course for following generations of settlers as Bartlett and Hart's Location evolved over the decades.

Note: Information for this article was drawn from:

- History of Carroll County New Hampshire with Illustrations: 1632 – 1889
- Bartlett, New Hampshire ... in the valley of the Saco by Aileen Carroll, 1992
- Hart's Location in Crawford Notch by Marion L. Varney, 1997
- And information at the Bartlett Historical Society and Museum library



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

www.BartlettHistory.Org

Facebook: Bartlett Historical-Society

“Hats Off” and a Sincere Thank You to our BHS Volunteers in 2025

From Phil Franklin, BHS President on Behalf of the BHS Board of Directors

BHS is an organization that runs on the dedication, effort, and spirit of our volunteers, people with different talents, bringing the spirit of volunteerism to BHS. As the leader of this historical society and on behalf of the BHS Board of Directors, I offer my sincere thanks to every volunteer (listed below) who helped BHS in one way or another in 2025.



Patty Belcik	Karl Chandler	Sue Chula	Tom and Jackie Connors
Bill Duggan	Dave Eliason	Ryan Franklin	Greta George
Ellen Hayes	Diana Levy	Patty Martin	Gale Mender
Mary Nudd	Rob Owen	Saco Valley Gem & Mineral Club	David Shedd
Mark Spaulding	Margaret Vincent		

Our volunteers helped with a variety of things including (but not limited to):

- ◇ Getting our BHS newsletter, *The Historical Herald*,” ready for mailing
- ◇ Discovering data for research projects that we have launched
- ◇ Supporting our museum (e.g., administrative tasks, covering “open hours,” cataloging artifacts)
- ◇ Maintaining and updating our BHS website and Facebook page
- ◇ Helping provide coverage for the museum during our “open hours” and other museum tasks
- ◇ Moving parts of our BHS collection to a new storage facility
- ◇ Tending to our gardens in front of the museum.

In addition, I offer my thanks and appreciation to each member of the BHS Board of Directors, volunteers one and all, for your dedication as well as time and effort in the leadership of the Bartlett Historical Society.

If you would like to volunteer for BHS, please send a note to Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. We’ll have plenty of things to do in 2026.

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors	
Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
Scotty Mallett, Secretary	A.H. “Buzz” Query, Director
John Chanley, Director	



Stanton Slope, a lost ski slope in Bartlett, 1940. Building is the ticket shack and base of the tow rope.