

**A HISTORY OF CONWAY, NEW HAMPSHIRE FOR USE  
IN THE SOCIAL STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE FOURTH GRADES  
IN THE CONWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

by

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# CONWAY FIRST WHITE MOUNTAIN TOWN

## Chapter 1 Before 1765: The Indians

At one time, it is thought, thirteen Indian tribes lived in New Hampshire. In our Saco Valley were the Pequawkets. They summered here and spent their winters in and around St. Francis, Quebec. They belonged to the Abenaki family of the great Algonquin nation.

This valley was rich in fish and game, and the Indians led a happy life. They grew corn on the intervale, and they hunted and fished. They also raised beans, squashes, pumpkins, and tobacco. Some of their tools were made of clam shells. They also carved wooden spades. Traces of their camps have been found on the banks of the river and near Conway Lake. In Conway, pipes and pieces of kettles made of soft earthenware have been found. Stone arrowheads, spoons, hoes, and a stone mortar and pestle have been dug up. Some Indian objects were found near the farm of Mrs. Angelina SantaMaria in Conway.

These Indians were good students of nature, and always built their homes at least thirty feet above, the Intervale. Later on you will read how much more clever they were about this than the first settlers were.

One of the Indians' groups of wigwams was in the area of the Northway Bowling Alley. Another was near the North Conway Country Club. They built cone shaped houses or wigwams, which were sometimes enclosed in stockades.

These Indians were once powerful tribes. By the time this area was settled, there were not many left. Smallpox, or a plague, had spread through the Indian tribes in all of New England. When it finally ended it left a shattered, weak race. The Indians who were here never caused the settlers any trouble.

Think And Do

Does your family have any Indian relics?

Behind the Intervale railroad station there is a totem pole made by an Abenaki Indian. Visit it; and also the Abenaki Indian shop nearby when it is open in the summer.

Do you know what the Indians do when they come back to Intervale every summer for a reunion? Mr. Stephen Laurent of Intervale, whose family is Abenaki Indian, could tell you.

## Chapter 2 More About Indians

Do you sometimes wonder how places are named? Here are a few Indian names. Maybe you can guess why they were used where they were.

There are two or three meanings of the name of the Saco River, one of the largest rivers in New England. Some people say the name comes from the Abenaki word "Soko" meaning "towards the south." Others say it gets its name from "Skog kooe" meaning "the snake-shaped stream running amidst pines trees." And still others say it comes from three Indian words, "sawa" (burnt), "coo" (pine), and "auke" (place), Which do you think fits the Saco River best?

Kearsarge, named for Mt. Kearsarge, comes from "Kesaugh." This means "born of the hill that first shakes hands with the morning light."

Pequawket means "the crooked place." The Pequawket River is small and crooked, isn't it?

"Me-ole-o-tid," meaning "Song of the Robin," was the Indian name of Molly Ocket. She was an Indian who came to Fryeburg and Conway from St. Francis every summer. The early settlers liked Molly. One year Colonel McMillan, an early settler, decided he wanted to grow corn that could be harvested before

anyone else's. He asked Molly to bring back from St. Francis some special kernels, The next spring she did. She stopped by Mill Brook in North Conway and went in to talk to some of the women at a house there. A lady named Lydia Fisher saw the bag of corn and took it in to the miller to be ground. She was afraid that the owner of the corn would be back too late to have it ground. So Colonel McMillan didn't have the earliest corn that year! For many years the people sang this little song to the tune of Yankee Doodle:

"Molly Ocket lost her pockets,  
Lydia Fisher found it.  
Lydia carried it to the mill,  
And Uncle Noah ground it."

One day Molly heard that the Indians were planning to attack a Boston man named Colonel Clark, who camped near here. She walked many miles through the deep forests, When she reached the camp he had built for himself, she told him. He was able to escape in time. He was so grateful to Molly he took her to Boston so his family could take care of her. She never liked it, and missed her woods and rivers. Mr. Clark finally built her a wigwam back here in the woods she loved. He supported her the rest of her days.

Think And Do

Some important Indian chiefs who lived in this area were Passaconaway, Wonalancet, and Paugus. Can you find out anything about them?

Where does the Saco River rise? Where does it meet the sea?

### **Chapter 3 The Very Beginning**

In the days when George III was King of England and Benning Wentworth was Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, people got grants to land they wished to settle. For a long time the English granted, or gave, land here with no thought for the real owner. They paid no attention to the rights of the Indians. The Indians had no set boundaries to their land. They did not realize that the white people who were coming in such large numbers would settle wherever they wanted to. This would put an end to the hunting and fishing grounds of the Indians.

The very earliest white people who came to Conway were hunters and explorers. One of these explorers was named Darby Field. He lived in Exeter, on the seacoast. He was interested in finding out what was in the wilderness of New Hampshire. In 1642 Darby Field paddled up the Saco River in a canoe. This was over 300 years ago. He told about seeing thousands of acres at Pigwacket, an Indian town, This Indian town included all the land which is now Conway and Fryeburg, Maine. Although Darby Field told people about the good land in the river valleys the tall forests, and the swift waterfalls, very few people came here and no one settled here at that time.

Many years later, not long before the Revolutionary War, hunters came to this area. A man named Emery built a camp on the bank of the Saco River somewhere in North Conway. Although the hunting and fishing were very good, Mr. Emery did not stay there. He didn't want to be in one place too long, and he liked to wander through the woods stopping to camp and hunt wherever he wished.

The Town of Conway really began in 1765. In that year Benning Wentworth, the Royal Governor of the Province of New Hampshire, gave a charter to sixty-four men to start Conway. Governor Wentworth wanted to have some towns in other parts of the state and not just along the seacoast. Conway was named for Henry Seymour Conway who was Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. At the time Conway was settled, he was a strong supporter of American liberty.

The Conway charter gave to those sixty-four men almost all of the land which is now Conway. In order to keep the land which he received a man had to plant five acres of land for every fifty acres in his share. He had to do this within five years. If asked, he had to pay to King George a rent of one ear of Indian corn a year and one shilling for every one hundred acres he owned. This was strange rent, wasn't it? Some

families who didn't do these things sold their shares of land to others. Other families never were interested in settling here, so they sold their land, too.

One acre of land for each settler was set aside in what is now Redstone. These acres were called the Acre Lots. Five of the acres were cleared for a meeting house and a graveyard. This was supposed to be the center of the town. Only a large stone with a bronze tablet on it marks the place now. Thirty of the first settlers and their families are buried here. Their stone grave markers were later used for house foundations and in the making of bridges.

Governor Wentworth also saved a large slice of land for himself in the town. He did this in every town he granted. Perhaps this is the reason he granted towns so freely. He became a very rich man this way. The year after he granted Conway he was forced to resign. His land grabbing acts had become known to the King.

Conway has continued as a town every since it was formed by its charter. That is why it is called the first White Mountain town.

Think And Do

The stone with the bronze tablet which marks the early graves was placed there by the D.A.R. It is right across from the road to East Conway. Go and look at it and see what the tablet says. Can you find out what other towns started in 1765, as Conway did?

#### **Chapter 4 The Town Starts**

There was nothing here in 1765 but the forests and rivers, the ponds and streams. Only the Indians had lived here, and only a few hunters had passed through. Can you think what it must have been like when Joshua Heath, Benjamin Dolloff, and Ebenezer Burbank, who were the first settlers, came that year? They built cabins in Center Conway. The next year Daniel Foster came and built his cabin near the place where the Northway Bowling Alley now stands, This area was called "Foster's Pocket" for a long time. In 1766 Thomas Merrill and Thomas Chadbourne also came. They built cabins in North Conway.

David Page and James Osgood were already in East Conway, and were really the first settlers. They came to their land in 1763 when East Conway was still a part of Fryeburg, Maine. Colonel David Page lived at the head of the road leading from the East Conway Road to Fryeburg Village.

During the first years the settlers came every summer to fall to clear and plant some land. They also would build log cabins. Then they would go back to their old homes, and during the winter they would move their families. They often found their cabins buried in snow and had to dig holes to find the doors. Then the snow was deep and hard it was easier to travel on snowshoes. It was also easier to pull a sled loaded with food and the few things needed to start a home, Often 400 pounds of supplies would be brought this ways A horse for riding and work and a cow for milk walked with then. One little boy trained a pig to harness. The pig walked here dragging a hand sled behind him. The men always carried muskets and axes and packed heavy loads on their backs.

Elijah Dinsmore and his wife traveled eighty miles on snowshoes to Intervale. He carried a pack of furniture on his back, When night came they slept in the snow.

Joshua Heath's house was on the left side of the hill going down toward the Town House in Center Conway. The town meetings were held here for several years. He and Thomas Merrill were the first selectmen. Thomas Merrill became wealthy and owned land on both sides of the Saco River. Frank Kennett, Jr. lives in the house on the West Side that Mr. Merrill built for his son Amos. Amos was the first deacon of the Baptist Church.

Perhaps the most powerful man who helped in the growth of our town was Colonel Andrew McMillan. He was a Lieutenant in the French and Indian Wars. For his services he was given a large piece of land in Lower Bartlett. He sold this land and bought many acres in North Conway. His farm was on the Birchmont Inn hill. His home, known as the McMillan House for many years afterward, sat where the Gralyn Antique Shop now is. Colonel McMillan was very interested in getting people to settle in Conway. He often helped new settlers to get started. People came and stayed at his house while looking for some land. So his house became the first hotel. He was also the first storekeeper in town. He received and weighed the goods which people brought to pay taxes. He built a storehouse for this.

His son, John McMillan, furnished hay for the minister. He told the minister, "Put away your money. I'll take my pay in preaching. And if I'm not always in church you go right on just the same and it will be all right."

The first boy baby born in North Conway was Jonathan Eastman. He was born in the first frame house built in town. It was built on the Intervale near Mill Brook by Thomas Chadbourne. Jonathan's father bought it and moved it to higher ground. It has been added to and greatly changed and it is now the Cherry Valley Country Store.

Thomas Chadbourne was granted 15 acres with the mill rights on Pudding Brook. Pudding Brook is on the east side of the Maine Central railroad tracks behind the Tartan Hotel in North Conway. Pudding Brook flows out of it and into Artist Falls Brook. He had to do certain things to keep these rights, though. He was asked to build a good saw mill and to keep it in good repair forever. He sawed logs into boards for one-half of the lumber. Later he built a grist mill where he ground wheat for the people. He was asked to be always ready to serve. To encourage him to do all these things, he was given 100 acres of land.

Captain Samuel Willey had a large farm where Stonehurst Manor now is. North of the Hoffman House is the small cemetery which was on his farm. It has a stone wall and large pine trees around it. Here are buried his son, Samuel Jr., Samuel's wife, Polly, and two of their five children, who were all killed in the Willey Slide disaster in Crawford Notch in August 1826.

Not everyone who came here liked it. Mr. Willey's horse decided he wanted to go back to his old home. During his first winter, when the snows wore very deep, he and some other horses set out. The next spring, dogs brought pieces of horse meat home from the woods. Mr. Willey and his friends found that one horse had lived through the winter in a snow cave made by snow freezing on the tons of thickly matted tree branches.

Leavitt Hill farmed on the West Side in Conway where Mr. Woodrow W. Allard now farms. He had built the house in the Notch that Samuel Willey, Jr., ran as an inn. Leavitt Hill kept a tavern on the West Side for many years. About 1780 he brought up from the intervale an elm tree about one inch across. He set it at the corner of his house. It still stands there today, the largest elm in New England.

So the Town of Conway started, settled by men who knew that where the Indians camped there was plenty of game and fish.  
Think and Do

Is the house you live in a very old one? Perhaps you can find out when it was built and who lived in it. You might like to visit the Willey cemetery behind the Hoffman House. What do the gravestones of Samuel Willey, Jr. and his family say?  
Leavitt Hill's elm is in Allard's dooryard. Mr. Allard will tell you which one it is. How tall do you think it is? How big around is it?

## **Chapter 5 At The Town Meeting**

In the early days the town was full of rattlesnakes. On May 1, 1767 a law was passed "that any person who should kill a rattlesnake should be paid three pence lawful money." At one time \$20 was paid for wolves' heads, 23 cents for crows, and 6 cents for grown blackbirds. The town officers wanted people to kill as many of these as they could.

At the first Town Meeting hold in March 1770, the town elected some officers. John Dolloff became Constable and John Dolloff, Jr., was the Fence Viewer. There were three Hog Reeves elected, and two Field Drivers. Joseph Kilgore was elected Surveyor of Lumber. Two years later a pound was built, and Ebenezer Burbank was elected Pound Keeper. This pound was a pen for stray animals.

The Fence Viewer saw that each man worked his share of time each year on the fences around town land, or paid someone else to do it. He could also tell a man to repair his own fences if they needed it.

It was the Field Drivers who turned out any cows or sheep found in a field of growing hay. They fined the owners of the animals.

The Hog Reeves made sure that all the pigs had nose rings. Sticks were put through the rings to keep the pigs from getting through fences. The pigs ran freely everywhere. There must have been a great many pigs in Conway to have needed three Hog Reeves.

Ezekiel Walker was the first Highway Surveyor. In the winter he had charge of breaking out the roads. Sometimes fifteen or twenty yoke of oxen were hitched to a plow. Boys felt very important when it was their turn to stand on the plow to help weight it down.

Think And Do

What town officers do we have in Conway nowadays?

Who are Conways' selectmen? Do you know what they do?

When is the Town Meeting held? What happens at the Town Meeting?

Have you ever seen the Town House in Center Conway? If not, try to visit

## **Chapter 6 How They Lived**

It wasn't until 1840 that stoves were used for cooking. Until then all cooking was done in the fireplace, usually in a black kettle. This kettle was one of the things always brought by the family when it first came.

The fireplace was large, and great logs burned on andirons. The roaring fire gave both heat and light. To make more light for reading or working, pitch pine knots were burned. These were collected on the pine flats between Redstone and East Conway. At night the fire was raked up in ashes. A bed of hardwood coals would be found in the morning. Potatoes were roasted on the coals for breakfast.

Early floors were wide pine boards which were never painted. Sometimes a coat of white sand was sprinkled on the floor to keep it white. These floors were swept with birch brooms. How would you like to use a broom made from the slivered ends of a birch branch?

Overhead in the main room were huge beams colored by smoke. Poles hung between them. Here were hung apples and pumpkins to dry. Here also the family clothes hung after they were washed and ironed.

During the first years, turnips were grown and eaten instead of potatoes. From the first there was plenty of milk, because everyone had a cow. As soon as the apple orchards were bearing, cider became a

common drink. The housewife made a barrel of apple sauce or apple butter in the fall. This was allowed to freeze and was eaten during the winter.

There were many maples on the interval. The settlers always made and used maple syrup and maple sugar. They grew peas and beans. These were baked, boiled, or made into porridge.

In the winter of 1816 food was very scarce. All over New Hampshire the summer and autumn had been very cold. Only August had been free of frost. Many crops died from the sharp cold. The people in Conway were so hungry they became thinner and thinner. Sometimes they put a wide strap of skin around themselves. This was pulled tighter as they got thinner. This way they didn't feel so hungry.

A man named Emery and his friend had buckled into the last hole, and they were hardly able to stand. They saw a moose not far from the cabin. By using all their strength they each cut one more hole in their belts and drew them tighter. With great effort the gun was aimed and the moose was shot. Soon they sat down to eat. Before the close of the next day, it is said, the straps would hardly reach around them.

Through the first winters the men wore outer clothing made of skins. Their pants were long and their wool stockings came up to the knee. They wore leather moccasins.

A boy was taught early to imitate the calls and notes of birds and animals. He learned how to travel in the woods. All children were taught to work early and late. There were few rewards like allowances or playthings.

It was common to get together for fun and work. Corn was often husked in the kitchen after a day's work. Women spent pleasant days together making quilts. These quilting bees gave them a chance to visit and work, too. Men got together for stone bees to clear fields. Many oxen and many pairs of strong arms could move large boulders in a short time. These were piled around fields to make the stone walls we still see.

So these early people worked hard and long to improve their land. And by working with each other they slowly built Conway into a busy town with its many parts.  
Think And Do

Does your family have any early kettles or tools? Can you bring them to school?

Fred Lucy on the West Side in North Conway has a maple orchard. You might like to see him make maple syrup in the Spring.

An excellent book about everyday life in Colonial America is Colonial America by Fisher and Fowler. The Conway Public Library has a copy and its number is J973.2. It tells about candle making and soap making. There are pictures and stories about flax and wool spinning and about making maple syrup. There are also pictures of a corn husking bee and a quilting bee.

It might be fun to try drying some apples. Peel them and core them. Cut them into slices crosswise.

Thread the slices on a string. Hang the slices in a cool dry place. How do you suppose the apples might be used after drying?

## **Chapter 7 Parts of the Town**

The Town of Conway is divided into several villages and areas. Sometimes people don't realize that North Conway, Redstone, or Kearsarge are all parts of the whole town of Conway. Here are some interesting facts about those parts of town.

### Conway Village

This village is in the southwest corner of the town. It was settled at the great bend of the Saco River where it joins the Swift River. You can see where those two rivers meet just behind Abbott's Dairy. Conway was sometimes called Dollofftown from the name of one of the early settlers. Here is a little poem

which was found written inside the cover of an old Psalter. Whoever wrote it spelled the words just as they sounded to him, didn't he?

"Thre men went up From dolluf Town,  
And stop ol Nite at Forster's Pokit,  
To mak ye Rode Bi ingun Hil,  
To git clere up to nort pigogit.  
To Emris kamp up kesuck Brok,  
Wha chadbun is Be ginen - - "

Conway Village was known also as Chautaque. This name was given to it by the soldiers who fought in the War of 1812. They had camped near a place by that name in northern New York. Later, because of Conway Village's nearness to Albany and Madison, it was known as Conway Corner. The scenery in Conway was said to be the finest in New England.

Pequawket Pond is in the very southwestern part of the village, behind Swanweir Cabins and the Boston and Maine Railroad crossing. The Pequawket River flows out of the pond and goes under the bridge by the IGA store. In days past there were several mills by the waterfalls. A long time has past since Pequawket River was called one of the most beautiful spots in this area.

About 150 years ago, a Conway man had an exciting meeting with a bear. One very dark night Stephen Allard was climbing a hill. A bear sniffed him coming and stood up on his hind legs. Mr. Allard ran into him. With their arms around each other they rolled down the hill and into the pond. As you can guess, each one got up and ran away in a hurry.

#### North Conway

This village was once called the summer capital of the White Mountains. It is built on a terrace overlooking the Saco River. At first the settlers' cabins were built on the intervalles on the banks of the river. In October of 1735 a flooding of the valley swept away houses and barns. The water ran many feet deep over the intervalle as we see it run every few years even now. Two barns filled with hay were washed away. Seven houses and four other barns were hurt so badly they had to be rebuilt. Ten oxen, twelve cows, eighty sheep, two horses, and twenty-five pigs drowned. One saw mill, one grist mill, and all the bridges and fences washed away. All of the flax and most of the hay and corn were lost. The settlers then rebuilt or moved their cabins to higher ground.

In the middle 1800's American artists were fond of painting landscapes, and many of them stayed in North Conway. Artists Falls Brook, which goes under the bridge in the southern part of town, was the setting for many paintings. It is called Mill Brook when it gets to the bridge. This is because early mills in North Conway were here. Former King Edward VII of England bought twelve White Mountain paintings done in North Conway. They now hang in Windsor Castle in England. Benjamin Champney, a famous artist, had his studio, in the house where Mr. Phillip Merrill lives. He used to sit in the middle of Main Street to paint Mount Washington. Could he do that now?

#### Intervale

Two miles north of the business district of North Conway is Intervale. It was built at the junction of the Boston and Maine Railroad and the Maine Central Railroad. It sits on a shelf overlooking the Saco River intervalles, so it gets its name. There were many summer homes in Intervale.

#### Kearsarge

This village is at the foot of Mount Kearsarge. Many years ago Kearsarge was called Hardscrabble because the people who lived there were very poor. They were people who had no money to buy any of the valuable intervalle land. They had to take pieces of land farther away from the river which did not have such good soil, and they worked for the richer intervalle farmers. The people of Hardscrabble were hard workers. The whole family went down to the valley to work on the Intervale farms. At corn planting time father walked the rows making holes, some of the children followed behind him and dropped the corn kernels in, and other children came along and covered the kernels with dirt. The men mowed and pitched



hay and the women raked it. Whole families pulled and shocked and spread the flax. The women worked in the homes for the farmers' wives.

The day for the people of Hardscrabble began before sun-up. Some of them walked three miles to work. They were paid in grain. After a long day's work the men carried the grain on their shoulders to the mill to be ground. Then they walked home after sundown.

The "U.S.S. Kearsarge," a Union warship which sank the Confederate sloop-of-war "Alabama" in 1864, was named for Mount Kearsarge. Walter M. Schirra, the United States' first astronaut to make seven earth orbits, landed near and was picked up by another "U.S.S. Kearsarge" in October 1962. And L. Gordon Cooper, who was the first American astronaut to stay in orbit more than a day in May 1963, also was picked up by the same ship. She is an aircraft carrier, also named for Mount Kearsarge.

### Green Hill

The Green Hills are a group of mountains east of Route 16 between North Conway and Conway. There are eight mountain peaks in a double line. Hurricane Mountain is the furthest north. Cranmore and Black Cap are the best known. It is at the foot of Rattlesnake Ridge that the Redstone quarries are found. The eastern side of the mountains faces Chatham and is known as Green Hill. The Green Hill Road runs from East Conway to the eastern end of the Hurricane Mountain Road.

### South Conway

This settlement, on the road to Brownfield, Maine, was once a farming section. It was called Goshen, and oldtimers even today call it that. Conway Lake, the largest in town, is here. About half of the lake is in Eaton. It has four islands and lovely views of the White Mountains.

### East Conway

In 1766 it was found that the town line between Fryeburg, Maine and Conway, New Hampshire was not where, it should be. At this time parts of Fryeburg were given to Conway. This is why the first people in East Conway were here before the men to whom Conway was granted. East Conway is a wide, flat, arid beautiful valley of the Saco River. Many large dairy farms grew up and are still there. In the old days it was called Fag End. Later it was called Conway Street. A canning factory which canned the sweet corn grown in large amounts in East Conway was built on the edge of town. The farmers in East Conway still grow sweet corn for the canning factories.

### West Side

The West Side Road goes from Conway to Bartlett on the west side of the Saco River. At this end of the Saco valley are the rest of the town's large farms. There also are White Horse and Cathedral Ledges. White Horse gets its name from the outline of a horse on its side. All ladies old enough to be married used to run out to look at this horse. There was a belief in New England that if a lady counted to one hundred after seeing a white horse, the first man she saw would become her husband! Cathedral Ledge was once called Hart's Ledge for Captain John Hart. Just after the Revolutionary war he had a farm and inn at its foot. Mr. Henry J. Hatch now owns the farm. The main stage road from Conway to the Notches passed his door. The stages forded the river behind this farm.

In 1901 the Town of Conway bought 110 acres, including Echo Lake and the ledges. This was to save them from being used as stone quarries. Later the town deeded the area to the State of New Hampshire for a State Park.

On the West Side also is the Moat Mountain range. A fire swept the Moat Mountains in 1854. This left the soil very bare, and drove the bears and rattlesnakes from their homes there. Blueberries have always been plentiful on the Moats. In early times beaver dams were found along the foot of the mountains. These were called "moats." People in other parts of the town always said they were "going up to the moats" or "over to the moats." So the Moat Mountains were named.

### Center Conway

The Town House of the Town of Conway is in this village. Center Conway is between Conway Village and Fryeburg, Maine. There have always been mills here at the outlet of Conway Lake. Conway Lake was

first called Saco Six Mile Pond, and then Walker's Pond. This was for Timothy Walker, who had mills on it. There have been a clothing mill, iron works, a box factory, and a shovel handle factory in Center Conway. In the 1870's a successful factory which made piano frames and boxes had twenty-five to thirty men working in it.

### Redstone.

Lying at the foot of Rattlesnake Ridge were granite boulders which were used to build bridges. The stone cutters were excited by the way the stone could be cut. They liked its color and the way it looked when it was polished. In 1886 the Maine and New Hampshire Granite Company was formed. The first stones taken out were paving and building stones for the Union Railroad Station in Portland, Maine. The Maine Central Railroad laid a side track one mile long from the main line to the cutting yard. A new station called Redstone was made. Two granites - - one a pink or red stone and the other green -- were found in the quarry.

The Granite Company built houses for the workers to live in, and also a boarding house. The boarding house is now The Pines, a hotel. A school was built. It is now a warehouse for the Yield House. The old store beside the boarding house is a warehouse now, too. The company sent to Italy for men to do the fine stone carving. There are still Italian names in this area.

Some buildings in which granite from Redstone was used are: the New Hampshire State Library in Concord; the George Washington National Masonic Memorial Building in Alexandria, Virginia; the American Legion Memorial in Grand Rapids, Michigan; Grant's Tomb in New York City; and the Denver, Colorado, railroad station. Business at the quarry slowed down in the 1930's. Cement began to be used more and more for building. After 1941 the business finally stopped, and the sheds were taken down after a while and moved to Lynn, Massachusetts.

### Stark Neighborhood

Stark Road runs from Route 302 just outside Conway Village to the Crystal Lake Road. The Sterling and Stark Locations were granted to Lt. Hugh Sterling, Lt. Samuel Stark, and Captain William Stark for their services with Rogers Rangers in the French and Indian wars. The grants became part of Conway in 1800. Lt. Sterling married Isabel Stark who was a sister of Samuel, William, and the famous General John Stark.

Isabel Stark Sterling was a real frontiersman's wife who feared nothing. Once when her husband was sick, she went out and killed a buck. She dressed the deer and started home. Hearing snarls she climbed a tree and watched a bear and a wildcat fight and kill each other. She climbed down and went home. The next day she went back to get more meat, and the skins of the three animals. These were used during the next winter by her family.

During a smallpox epidemic from 1791 to 1798, Samuel Stark's home was a pest house. This was where anyone who had smallpox went to stay until he was better.

A true but queer story is told about this area. It says that a young lady who was in love with a man who lived in this neighborhood died of a broken heart. The man had been unfaithful to her. Just before she died she cursed the lands of the man's family. She said their fine homes should rot away, their cleared land should grow up to bushes, and that no one who lived there would ever become wealthy by farming. If you know Stark Neighborhood, it is interesting to see how this curse has been carried out.

Think And Do

If your family has a North Conway painting by an early artist, you might be able to show it to the class. There are artists living and working in the area even now. Do you know any of them? Can you find pictures of any of the buildings in which Redstone granite was used?

Mrs. Leah Barnes Gray of Kearsarge launched the "U.S.S. Kearsarge" during World War II. You would enjoy talking to her about it.

What part of the town do you live in? Perhaps you can find out some interesting facts about it. Many older people in town like to talk about things that happened years ago.

## **Chapter 8 Colonial Conway**

During the Revolutionary War fifteen Conway men were away from town with the American Army during the attack on Boston. Because so many men were away, Andrew McMillan asked the State of New Hampshire to guard the town from possible Indian attacks. Conway was a frontier town. It was a long way from Portsmouth and Dover. All the state sent to Conway was a supply of gunpowder.

Amos Barnes of Kearsarge was at Bunker Hill, Trenton, and Valley Forge. Captain Hutchins of Center Conway commanded a company. David Page, who had been a soldier with Rogers Rangers, was a Colonel. He was wounded in the leg.

Also at the Battle of Bunker Hill was Ebenezer Bean of the West Side. When he had used all of his ammunition, he started hitting enemy soldiers with his rifle butt. When a British soldier said, "Lay down your arms, you rebel," Mr. Bean answered in language that was not very polite. He then kept right on with what he was doing. Ebenezer Bean is buried in the cemetery on the West Side across the road from Mr. Karl C. Zacker's home.

All through the Revolutionary War Captain Joshua Heath enlisted rangers to scout the woods. These scouts were kept out at Conway to watch for Indians.

During this troubled time, mail first came to Conway. It doesn't seem possible now that our mail didn't use to come every day. In 1775 a post rider "brought the post," or mail, to Conway. Perhaps there were letters from the men in the army at Boston to their families in Conway. The post riders did not hurry along, so people never knew when the mail would come. A few years later when the state started postal service, a mail carrier on horse back rode every two weeks from Portsmouth to Conway. This was one of the state's four postal routes. The rider was paid 70 dollars every three months.

In 1825 Samuel W. Thompson decided that Conway should have mail from other parts of the state. He carried the mail to and from Littleton once a week on horseback. In the fall of 1828, a flood carried away many bridges. Mr. Thompson carried the mail on his back for a while.

When the Revolutionary War ended, England said that the thirteen American colonies were free and independent. These colonies wrote a national constitution which set up a strong central government. If nine colonies said that they would live under this constitution, it would become the law. On July 18, 1788 New Hampshire became the 9th state to adopt the new constitution.

Men from all over New Hampshire met in Concord to vote. The representative from Conway was David Page. Acting as the people in Conway wanted him to, he was one of the forty-six men who did not vote for the new Constitution. These men did not like the part which allowed slavery to continue in America until 1808. They felt that slavery should be done away with by the Constitution, or else it might never be done. So, although it seems strange to us that David Page did not help New Hampshire in its vote to adopt the Constitution, he was still a patriotic American. He had very good reasons for voting as he did.

Think and Do

Is your family an old Conway family? What can you find out about it? When did your family settle in Conway?

Who represents Conway in the state legislature now? How and when are they elected?

How does your family receive its mail? If you have a box at a post office, find out how the mail got to the post office. If you live on a rural route, ask the mailman where he goes to deliver the mail.

## **Chapter 9 Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic**

Even in the earliest days in our town the children went to school. The very first school was in East Conway. Simon Colby kept a little school in his house about 1769.

In 1775 the town raised small sums for two schools. One was in the Page Neighborhood, near Colonel Page's home. The other was in North Conway near the present Episcopal Church. These schools were built and furnished by the families who used them. The families also had to take care of the paths used to reach the school. One farmer ran a flock of sheep over the path to pound down the dirt and to eat off the lower leaves of the bushes.

At first the schools were built of rough hemlock logs covered with the bark of trees and rough boards. There was a fireplace and chimney. These chimneys were made of poor bricks or rocks, held together with sticks. They were laid up against the wall to form what was called "catting" to guide the smoke out of the room. Some of the early schools were built on legs to raise them up from the ground. Pigs liked to root in the cool earth underneath them. A favorite sport of the boys was to yank the pig bristles which stuck up through the wide cracks in the floor. The pigs squealed and of course interrupted the class.

Reading and writing were the only things taught through Revolutionary times. For reading the children used the Bible or the Psalter. The Psalter was the Book of Psalms. Sometimes the New England Primer was used. Those who wanted to practice writing used white birch bark.

In 1849 there were twenty school districts in town. There was a school at Echo Lake, and one across the West Side Road from the present home of Mr. Leonard R. Drew. There were schools in Intervale, Kearsarge, Redstone, East Conway, Green Hill, Stark Neighborhood, and other places, too. As the town grew, some of the smaller schools were closed and combined to make larger schools. When this happened to the Echo Lake School in 1897, though, it asked the School Board to reopen. And it did for six pupils! The Adora Motel on Route 16 and the Gralyn Furniture warehouse on Seavey Street in North Conway were once schoolhouses. Part of the house where Mr. Robert C. Palmer lives on the Hurricane Mountain Road in Kearsarge was also a schoolhouse.

Some of the schools in the outlying districts had no winter term. Often the terms were as short as four weeks, and a different teacher taught each term. How confusing this must have been to the children! The children only went to school when they wanted to, which must have been confusing to the teacher.

By 1915, both Conway and North Conway had a high school. They were two-year high schools. The town paid the tuition of the pupils who wished to go for four years. For many years, Mr. L. Crosby Kennett urged Conway to build one four-year high school. In 1926, his wife gave what is now the main part of Kennett High School to the town as a memorial to him.

The first superintendent of schools was hired in 1910. Mr. John H. Fuller, for whom the Fuller School in North Conway is named, was superintendent from 1926 to 1946.

Think and Do

Who are the school board members in Conway? How do they become members?

Do you know who the superintendent of schools is? How is he chosen, and what are his duties?

When was the school built which you attend?

## **Chapter 10 The Churches**

To the early settlers a church was important. On the cleared land in Redstone, the first meeting house was started. It was never finished, so it could only be used in the warm summer months. Church services were held whenever a minister came. Reverend Timothy Walker of Concord sometimes made the one hundred mile journey on horseback through the woods. Some of the people who settled in Fryeburg and Conway came from his Concord parish.

The partly finished meeting house was moved to Center Conway near the cemetery there. Here is buried Reverend Nathaniel Porter, the first minister. He came to Conway in 1778. During the Revolutionary War he had been a chaplain to the American Army when it was camped around Boston. He had a farm in Center Conway where he lived for fifty-eight years. At night he wrote his sermons by the light of pitch knots. Abiel Lovejoy was the first church deacon. He is buried in the North Conway cemetery.

There were two meeting houses built in North Conway, as there seemed to be more people there. The first one was near the cemetery. The second one built was on the hill behind Doris P. Furber's home. In 1884 the present North Conway Congregational Church was built.

In these early days the town built a meeting house and all town meetings and church meetings were held in it. The town also hired a minister and every man was taxed for his share of the minister's salary. This was changed in 1796 when the Baptists formed their own church. They did not feel it was fair to be taxed for someone else's minister. In 1838 the Baptists were the first church group to build a church building. At this time they bought a Paul Revere bell for the steeple. It was guaranteed for one year. Will you think of this when you hear it ring?

During the Civil War there were in town some Copperheads, or people who did not want war with the south. Feeling was very strong between them and other people. In fact, haystacks in the fields had to be protected at night or else they might be burned. Because of this feeling, some people in the Conway Congregational Church stopped going to it. After the war a group of Methodists was formed.

In the Town Charter, Benning Wentworth had set aside one share of land "for the support of the gospel in heathen lands, one for the Church of England, one for the first settled minister." The Episcopal Church stands on a part of the lot set aside for the Church of England.

The first Roman Catholic pastor in the Eastern Slope Region was Reverend C. S. Lacroix. In 1903 he said Mass in the new church building which was Our Lady of the Mountains Church. It was built in North Conway because this was the center of the new parish.

Think and Do

Try to get to North Conway some Sunday and listen to the Paul Revere bell in the Baptist Church. There are not very many left in the country.

The church in Chatham also has one. Have you ever heard it?

In the North Conway Congregational Church there are some old paintings of the two first churches. Mr. Roden would be pleased to have you look at them.

## **Chapter 11 Traveling the Roads**

To get to each others' houses the early settlers had to have roads. They used, mostly, the old Indian trails along the Saco River. The first roads were built in 1766 and started at the Province Line, as the state line between Conway, New Hampshire and Fryeburg, Maine was called. They went along either side of the Saco River to North Conway. One forded the river behind Judge Joel Eastman's house where Mr. David M. Nichols, a descendent of his, lives now.

Building a road then was a simple matter. A gang of wood choppers cut trees. Then ox teams came to haul out the logs, stumps, and bigger rocks. The land was leveled a bit, and that was that. Travelers had to splash through brooks or streams.

Dr. Jeremiah Chandler was called to the West Side one night when the Saco was high. Half way across, with the water up to the horse's sides, the horse stopped. The doctor couldn't budge him, so had to sit in the middle of the fast flowing river and wait for him to decide to finish the trip.

In 1793 a road was cut through Crawford Notch. The Tenth New Hampshire Turnpike, chartered in December 1803, followed its course. The turnpike connected Coos County with the seacoast. Tolls were paid all along the road to help with its upkeep. At each toll station there was a large log laid across the road. When the toll was paid, the log or pike, was turned which allowed anyone to pass by.

For many years all the freighting from Coos Country used this route which was the only direct one to the sea. Often there were wagon trains one-half mile long going along the main street of Conway. In the winter, big sleds were drawn by two-horse teams. This turnpike encouraged settlement more than any other New England road. And to think that the first Notch road was largely paid for by the sale of a Tory's land! He was William Stark and he had large holdings in Fryeburg and Conway. He remained loyal to England at the time of the Revolutionary War. He was forced to flee. All of his rights and real estate were sold, and the money was used to build this road.

Covered bridges are a part of New England that visitors from far away come to see. Conway has had several over the years. The first one was built in 1845 over the Saco River where, remodeled, it still stands. John Smith and Judge Joel Eastman built it behind the Judge's house. Uncle Johnny, as Mr. Smith was called, had a stagecoach line for many years from Conway to Portland.

A toll had to be paid to go through these bridges. The charge for a person walking was 1 cent and for a horse it was 4 cents. It cost 15 cents to take a cord of wood through, 2 cents for a cow, and 1 cent for a sheep. If you went faster than a walk you were fined.

At the time of stagecoaches, Conway was the headquarters of several stage lines. There were lines from Concord, Dover, Littleton, and Portsmouth. At one time the stage line from Center Harbor to Conway had 120 horses in constant use. The stagecoaches went from four to six miles an hour without stopping. Every ten miles there was a relay station where fresh horses were hitched to the coach. Everyone rode in the coach, but there were three types of fares. Going up a hill, those who paid first class fares rode. The second class fares walked. But the people who paid third class fares got out and pushed!

Although the Concord Coach was used after it was invented, the first coaches were just small covered wagons with benches. The women sat on the rear bench to support their backs. Passengers got in from the front and crawled on hands and knees to their seats.

From 1887 to 1897 the White Mountain towns were known far and wide for their gay coaching parades. The coaching events in Conway brought many people from all directions. The guests at each hotel decorated the hotel coach. Six to eight horses pulled each one. These were matched pairs, mostly bays, blacks, or chestnuts. Many of them worked in logging camps in the winter, but they were brushed and made fancy for the coaching events. Each coach had its own songs and yells. Pretty girls in costume rode in them and on top of them. There were prizes given so everyone had fun working to make theirs the best one. The judging was very difficult. Before long the new railroads took over, and the stagecoach days ended.

Think and Do

What state highways pass through Conway? Do you know in what town each one begins and in what town each one ends?

Have you seen the three covered bridges in town? Perhaps you can find them and walk through them.

## **Chapter 12 The Steam King Comes**

At first people were upset by the new trains. They said hens would not lay eggs because of the noise. They were sure there would be no market for all their oats and hay. They felt that the engine sparks would cause fires all the time. And they were more than sure that no car could ever get anywhere going against the wind. Someone even wrote:

"We hear no more the clanging hoof  
And the stagecoach rattling by;  
For the steam king rules the troubled world,  
And the old pike's left to die."

In spite of this, the first railroad came to Conway. It was called the Great Falls and Conway Railroad. It was finally bought by the Boston and Maine. It opened in December 1871 and came from Somersworth. Later, the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, which became the Maine Central, laid its tracks to Intervale.

The Boston and Maine Central were in a race to see who could get to St. Johnsbury, Vermont through the mountains first. The Maine Central won, and the Boston and Maine ended its line in Intervale. The Boston and Maine built a new turntable in North Conway in 1886. It is still in North Conway, across the tracks from the Post Office,

The Maine Central station in North Conway was at the foot of a street. It was very funny, with stained glass windows and a marble topped fountain in the ladies' waiting room. There were Maine Central stations in Redstone and Intervale, too. The Boston and Maine stations were in Conway, North Conway, and Intervale. The early trains carried much freight. Most of it was wood and wood products. They also carried ice to the cities. It had been cut out of our lakes in the winter. Much traffic for Mount Washington came up the Conway Branch to Intervale. Here it took the Portland and Ogdensburg for the rest of the trip. The first locomotives burned wood for steam power. The passenger cars were wooden open-end platform coaches. After ninety years of busy service, the last passenger train to North Conway came from Dover on the Boston and Maine Railroad. This was on December 2, 1962. Only freight passes over either railroad now.

Think and Do

There are railroad men living in town. Talk to some of the older ones. They might tell you some interesting things.

Mr. Richard L. Church, Sr. of North Conway has a notebook called "Scenes of the Conway Branch." There are some interesting railroad photographs in it and he is willing to lend it to the school.

## **Chapter 13 Conway Earns Its Living**

By 1783, Conway had more people in it than any other inland town in the state. In 1790 there were 574 people here.

The intervalles were covered with maples and pines. For many years the maples were almost the whole support of the people. The sap was boiled in kettles outdoors over open fires. Maple sugar and pine timber were exchanged for bread and other food.

The Conway Town Charter says "That all white pines fit for masting the Royal Navy be carefully preserved for that use." Masting was a business found only where there were heavy pine forests. It was the most important business in Colonial America. The trees were marked with the King's broad arrow. This was made by cutting an arrow with three strokes of the axe. After the trees were cut down, they were hauled to the seacoast by yokes of oxen. There was an old Mast Road which went South from Passaconaway. Sometimes these logs were floated down the Saco River to its mouth. Even after the colonies became free, mast pines were still cut. America had a growing navy which needed masts.

The first small mills in Conway were built to serve just the parts of town in which they were located. The waterfalls on Artists Falls Brook, Conway Lake, and Pequawket River all had mills at one time or another. These were saw mills and grist mills. By the bridge in Conway Village there was a carding mill. The farmers kept large flocks of sheep. Early in the summer there was a sheep washing and a sheep shearing. The wool was then combed, or carded, at the mill.

As time went on, Conway Village and the waterfalls of the Pequawket River which go under the bridge beside the IGA store seemed to be the center of business. The largest thread spool factory in the United States was on the land where the Heel Mill building now stands. The Conway Supply Company is now where Kennett's Spool Factory stood. Fifty men worked here. During the early 1800's, there was an iron works in Conway. Nails, axes, scythes, and other tools were made here.

In 1861, New Hampshire once again had to think about slavery. The Civil War in the United States started, and Northern States were fighting with Southern States to decide whether or not slaves should be free. We have read that there were people in Conway, called Copperheads, who did not want war with the Southern States. However, most people wanted to free the slaves. Sixty-six men from Conway sent to war. Seven of them were killed, two were missing, and two were wounded. Money, called a bounty, was paid to each volunteer. This was done so Conway could send its share of men to the war. If a man was drafted and didn't want to go to war, the town paid him \$300 to hire a substitute for himself. While the men were away, the town took care of their families.

As the years went by, the people needed stores at which to buy things. These were called "general stores" because they sold everything. A store was long and it had low ceilings. Shutters on the windows kept it quite dark. Sold in one general store were cotton cloth, calicoes in every color of the rainbow, bed ticking, woolen stockings, boots and shoes, dried apples, pork, beans, tie chains, axe handles, gunpowder, shot and caps, crackers, cheese, and salt fish. Can you imagine so many things in one store?

So the people of those days kept busy earning a living.

THINK AND DO

Find out what businesses there are in Conway now.

What mills are there in Conway now? What do they make? Are they on waterfalls? Do they use water power?

Where would you go today to buy bread, cotton cloth, boots and shoes, or axe handles?

## **Chapter 14 We Begin to Grow**

Because Conway was the chief stopping place at the east entrance to the mountains, a number of inns and taverns were built there. Besides McMillan's there was Samuel Thompson's Kearsarge House. His first small inn is now the Episcopal rectory on Pine Street in North Conway. During the Civil War Samuel was one of the Copperheads. He became angry one Sunday when the minister of the Congregational



Church, who admired Abraham Lincoln, preached a sermon praising Lincoln. Samuel went home and got boards and nails. He went back to the church and nailed up his pew. From that day on, he and his family were Episcopalians. Later, a larger Kearsarge House was built. It stood behind the place where the North Conway Community Center now is. The row of large pine trees there was along its walk. The Thompson family then moved the small inn to Pine Street where it now is.

Another very early inn was the Pequawket House. Kennett High School is on that land now. There were many small inns in other parts of town.

In 1882 there were over 2000 people in Conway. More and more inns and hotels were built as the years went by. The hotels which lined all the streets were big. Most had a farm which provided food and milk for the guests. These hotels advertised such things as wide porches over 300 feet long, pure spring water running through iron (not wooden) pipes, pure running water on two floors, a large bathroom on the first floor! Some of the names were Artist Falls House, Sunset Pavilion, Intervale House, Bellevue House, Maple Villa, and North Conway House. The North Conway House was on the corner of Mechanic and Main Streets where the North Conway Library is. It was moved to Pine Street. Mr. Harry D. Bunker uses it for his plumbing and heating supply shop. There is an apartment on the top floor.

The North Conway Chamber of Commerce put out a booklet in 1891 which told that the streets of North Conway were very well known for driving. This was because the roads were kept free from dust by the many water carts.

In the summer there were concerts in the bandstands. The Conway Bandstand stood in the crossroads in Conway Village by Dr. Smith's house and the Presidential Inn. The men wore little oil lamps attached to the brim of their hats so they could read their music at night.

Climbing Mt. Kearsarge was a popular thing to do. People slept overnight on the top in a small house there to see the sun rise the next morning. People also played tennis and golf, walked through the woods, and rode bicycles. In the winter they tobogganed and skated. There were winter carnivals with sled dog races and sleigh rides. A hotel might have what it called a "coffee break." A bonfire was built in a clearing in the woods, and hotel guests snowshoed in to it. Hot coffee and doughnuts were served.

And then, in the spring of 1895, electricity turned on lights in Conway. It wasn't until January of 1897 that they were turned on in North Conway. What an exciting time that must have been!

So, these great inns were the beginning of the tourist business which is the biggest in Conway today.

THINK AND DO

If your family owns a hotel, is it an old one? What can you find out about it?

There are many hotels and motels in Conway now. See how many folders you can collect from the different ones. Find out what they offer to their guests.

## **Chapter 15 Important Things Happen**

In talking about our town, we so often don't think about buildings which seem very common to us. Our libraries are two of these. The Conway Library is a town library. This means that the town sets aside money each year for it. It has a branch in the old Selectman's Office in Center Conway. The North Conway Library is supported by private funds. Both of these buildings were built after 1900.

In 1902 the present newspaper, The Reporter, started. There had been a few newspapers published before this. None of them lasted very long. Some were only published in the summer. People at an inn

not only liked to see their names in the paper, they also wanted to know what the guests at the other inns were doing. Now, of course, the Reporter has a great deal of news year round.

Then, in 1910, Dr. George H. Shedd and Dr. John Z. Shedd wanted to build a hospital. Reverend and Mrs. Daniel Merriman gave the hospital to the town as a memorial to Mrs. Merriman's mother. It was built on land which had been Stonehurst Manor, their home. From 1912 to 1920 there was a Nurses' Training School at Memorial Hospital. Some of the nurses who graduated from this Training School lived in Conway for a long time. One of them, Mrs. Mattie H. Randall, was still working at Memorial Hospital in 1964. Many people now in Conway were held in her arms when they were babies.

In the spring of 1936, very heavy rains fell all over New England. In Conway there already were four feet of snow on the ground. On March 12, there was an avalanche on North Moat Mountain. Tons of water, snow, slush, and mud roared down and across the West Side Road near the Bartlett line. Buildings were swept away and one man was killed. Roads were blocked and the rivers were full of ice. Floods all over New Hampshire at this time were the worst in at least one hundred years.

It had been during this winter that the first ski trail had appeared on Cranmore Mountain. What a beginning to a year that was to start Conway on its road to fame!

THINK AND DO

Do you have a library card to use at any one of the libraries in Conway? If not, get one. The librarians will help you, and they will show you where to find books that you will like.

Read a copy of The Reporter this week. What news does it report? Does it tell about the weather, about television programs, about meetings which are coming, about church and school happenings?

## **Chapter 16 Some Eventful Years**

In a house by the railroad trestle on Artist Falls Road in North Conway a baby boy was born in 1882. His father was the station agent at the Maine Central railroad station. The baby was Harvey Dow Gibson. When he was a little boy he used to coast on the west side of Cranmore Mountain. In 1937 he bought it. He had become famous as the General Manager of the American Red Cross during World War I, and as a banker in New York. But he wanted to do something for his town.

The first ski trail on Cranmore Mountain was made in 1936. A rope tow was used on this lower slope. Mr. Carroll Reed ran the first public ski school in New Hampshire during that winter. Now Mr. Gibson asked Mr. George Morton of Jackson to design a ski lift. The lower half of the Skimobile, Mr. Morton's invention, was built in 1938. The upper half was finished the next year.

In February 1939, Hannes Schneider of St. Anton, Austria, came to North Conway. He was a ski expert. He started his famous ski school on Cranmore Mountain which is now run by his son, Herbert. On a ski weekend today, over 2000 people may ski on Cranmore Mountain. That's more people than lived in the whole town less than 100 years ago!

During World War II, one of the sheds at Redstone quarry and the dining room of the boarding house were busy places. Three shifts of workers a day made small parts for submarine nets there.

At the airport on Route 16 there was a flight of planes connected with the Civil Air Patrol. The CAP, as it was called, was the only civilian group during the war, which could wear the uniform of the United States Army. It did many useful things such as anti-submarine patrols, search and rescue missions, and forest patrols.

## THINK AND DO

In the base station of the Skimobile, there is a picture of the ski hut build that first winter. Look at it and find out who built it, and where it was located.

The rock near the bottom of the south slope of Cranmore Mountain has a tablet on it. It tells why the Town of Conway placed it there in honor of Mr. Gibson. What does the tablet say?

Today, Mr. Wylie Apte owns the airport where the CAP had its flight of planes. If you have ever flown in one of Mr. Apte's small planes, tell the class about it.

### **Chapter 17 Here We Are Today**

The Town of Conway has grown and grown. The main support of the town now comes from the recreation business. People visit Conway both summer and winter. The lumber business and dairy business are also very important to our town.

More people move here every year to work or to enjoy their retirement from business. There are now nearly 4,500 people in our town.

And, as the history of our town began with the Indians, it is well to end this story with something named for an Indian. In 1959, the full length of the Kancamagus Highway was opened to the public. This highway joins Conway and Lincoln. It climbs Mt. Kancamagus and is the highest mountain pass in the eastern United States.

This highway is named for Kancamagus who was an early Indian chief of the Penacook tribe. The Penacooks belonged to the Algonquin nation, and for many years they lived in the Merrimack River Valley in southern New Hampshire. As more and more white settlers moved into the Indians' hunting grounds, the Indians became very unhappy. Their chieftains could not stop some of them from joining with other tribes and attacking the settlers' new homes and cleared fields. The Penacooks finally fled from their homes along the Merrimack River. They came to the mountains around Passaconaway. They hoped to find peace in this area from other warring Indians and from the white people. The Penacooks were finally torn to shreds by the warlike Mohawk Indians.

The Kancamagus Highway is 34 miles long, and the United States Government paid \$3,500,000 to build it. It goes through a wilderness area, which is one of the most natural and beautiful in New England. Hardly any logging has ever been done along the Kancamagus Highway but now some timber products will be logged here. The forests and hills look just about the way they did when the very first settlers to Conway, walked through the woods and over the hill to settle our town.

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