

The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of

PO Box 514, 13 School Street
Bartlett, NH 03812

www.BartlettHistory.org

Fall 2025 Edition (2025:1)

The Bartlett

Historical Society

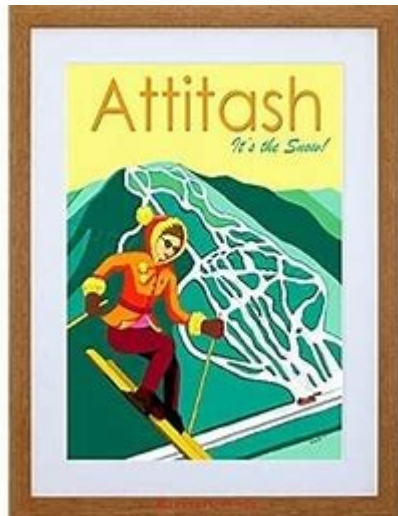


The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

For our first 2025 edition of The Historical Herald, we decided to do a quick historical review of the different ski resorts in Bartlett, both past and present.

Skiing in the White Mountains offers several different resort and slope options, too many to cover in our newsletter. However, Bartlett has some great options for skiing today and we've covered some long past slopes that have become housing or have reforested.

Even if you are not a skier, we hope that this historical overview brings some different aspects of Bartlett's history to light.



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President's Message

As we begin 2025, it's hard to believe that the first quarter of the twenty first century went by so quickly. 2024 was a monumental year for the Bartlett Historical Society. With the help of so many people, we accomplished something that, a few years ago, many thought was impossible – we opened the Bartlett Historical Society and Museum building, in the process saving a historic building and reopening it as a cultural center for all to enjoy.

When I first joined BHS in 2014, the possibility of having a museum to display our local history was just a dream at that point. Today, we welcome visitors into the building and enjoy seeing the look of fascination on their faces. If you haven't taken the time to drop by and tour our museum, please make the trip to 13 School Street in Bartlett. I think you'll be impressed.

Our plans for BHS in 2025 are multi-faceted. We plan to focus on getting a deeper understanding of our local history through research and hopefully donations of artifacts; we also want to broaden the availability of our museum and educational programs to people near and far; we hope to introduce ways to encourage the spirit of volunteerism in the organization; and finally, we think it is important to engage with other historical societies and non-profit organizations in our region and state as we share many common challenges, better viewed as opportunities. These are some big objectives, but with the museum renovation behind us, we can dedicate more time to our mission of historical discovery, preservation, and sharing our findings with anyone who is interested.

In December 2024, BHS was hosted by Terri O'Brien at the Red Parka Pub for a dining event. Terri generously donated 10% of the evening's meal receipts to BHS. Mother Nature threw a curve ball at us with a terrible rainstorm that evening but still we filled the restaurant with members and other visitors. Terri is a longtime supporter of BHS and we thank her for her generosity.

On a sad note, we lost one of our long-time members and ardent supporter of BHS. George Howard passed away on December 27, 2024, at the age of 89. George grew up in Bartlett, left for a distinguished military career in the US Air Force, retired as a Colonel, and returned to the area to help in several civic projects. Norm Head, then president of BHS, introduced me to George in 2014 shortly after my wife and I moved into Bartlett. Over the past 10 years, we talked often and became good friends. George wholeheartedly supported the museum project and helped get us an important donation to the effort. I was very happy to greet him and his longtime partner, Elois Sullivan, at the opening of our museum building. George will be missed. Our condolences to the Howard and Sullivan families.

Our 2025 Membership Drive is still underway. If you have already sent in your 2025 membership dues, we thank you very much for your support. If you have not renewed or joined BHS for 2025, please take a moment to go online or complete the enclosed 2025 Membership form.

I've taken on an additional civic role being sworn in as the Town Moderator for Bartlett in December 2024. Our former Moderator, my good friend, Norm Head, set a high bar for this position with his demonstration of integrity and commitment to the role. I told Norm that I have some big shoes to fill and I will do my best to uphold the standards that he set. Assuming I am elected to continue in this role in the upcoming election in March, I'll do my best to serve in this civic role for Bartlett.

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

Sincerely,

Phil Franklin

President, Bartlett Historical Society

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

BHS Notes

BHS Greeting Cards

One of our members, Greta George, is a very accomplished artist. She discovered her talent several years ago when she and her family were living in Alaska where her husband, the late Bert George, was stationed with the US Air Force. Greta has painted four scenes from Bartlett's past, had them made into greeting cards, and donated them to BHS for us to offer them to anyone as a fundraiser. We have them for sale in our museum and will soon have them for sale online (we'll let you know when we have the online sales function ready). The scenes are below:



Second Iron Bridge



Garland Ridge Cemetery



River Street Iron Bridge



Sawyer's Rock by
the Saco River

We are asking \$15 for each set of four cards (online order charge will be \$17 to cover mailing costs).

Our thanks to Greta for her sharing her artistic talent with us.

What Sort of Historical Items are in Your Closets?

With the opening of the museum, several people have stopped by to donate various items related to the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore. These items have enhanced our collection of artifacts and understanding of our local history. We recently acquired a trove of historical records from the early 1900s from the town of Bartlett.

Help Us Save Our Local History: All too often, we hear that a box of documents, an old collection of items, or an artifact was thrown out and lost forever, judged by someone as just "taking up space." If you have items that tell a story of our local history, even if they only tell a part of the story, we'd be interested in seeing them and, if we can tie them to the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and/or Livermore, we'd appreciate receiving them as a donation or even under a loan agreement. These items could be things such as documents and old deeds, family trees and family stories, old photographs of people and places, old local maps, school related memorabilia and artifacts (especially about any of the six Bartlett schools, the Livermore school, or the schooling of Hart's Location children) or items related to the logging, railroad, or tourism industries.

Next in the Museum—Tourism Display: This summer, we are planning to set up an expanded display in the museum to highlight "tourism" in Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore. If you have information or artifacts that will help tell our local historical story about tourism sites, old hotel and inns, restaurants, Story Land, souvenirs, hiking and camping in our area, we'd enjoy seeing them so we can include them in the new display.

Stories of Our Forefathers—Our BHS Oral History Collection: Finally, we are always open to hearing stories of our forefathers, whether completely true or laced with some folklore. We'd like to record these stories, even if they are very short so they we can preserve them and save them from being lost with the passage of time. We have a number of recordings already but we know there are more stories to tell.

If you have things that you'd like to add to our collections of historical artifacts, please contact Phil Franklin, at Phil@BartlettHistory.org, or drop by our museum, or call us at the museum at 603-374-5037 (please leave a message if we're not there).

Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Museum Hours of Operation

Our Bartlett Historical Society & Museum building (13 School Street, Bartlett) is open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (except holidays) or by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling our telephone number – 603-374-5037 – or by dropping an email to Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Admission to the museum is free and open to anyone; if you care to make a donation at the door to help offset our operating costs, we would be most appreciative. We look forward to seeing you soon.

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

If you would like to receive your BHS newsletter via your email, please let us know by dropping us an email at BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com and we'll add you to our "Newsletter Email Distribution List." The email version is in color. However, if you don't have email or want to keep receiving the newsletter in paper/hardcopy format, we'll keep mailing it to you via the US Postal Service.

Railroad Research Committee—Looking for Research Volunteers

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





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How Can You Donate to BHS?

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

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

*Bartlett Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 organization.
All donations may be tax deductible*

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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 interest and/or history. Some of these topics touch directly on our local or regional history while others highlight the experiences of local people in their life professions or experiences. If you have an idea for a topic that you'd like to see us pursue, please let us know.

A Recap of Our First 2025 Presentation

Jo Radner – Yankee Ingenuity: Stories of Headstrong and Resourceful People



On Sunday, January 12, 2025, we hosted NH Humanities speaker, Jo Radner, as our first presenter of 2025. She opened her presentation with a humorous story about a local man whose wife wanted a riding lawnmower so, she showed a photo of a reel style mower that the man welded to a bicycle. She went on to tell stories about several different “headstrong” people who make our “Yankee” culture what it is today. Jo is an excellent storyteller who brought characters to life with her different voice tones and character imitations. Those in attendance were well entertained. We’re thinking of having her back in the future for a different topic.

What’s Next

Wednesday, April 16, 2025: Fly Fishing on the Saco with local fishing expert, Steve Angers, owner of the North Country Angler shop

This presentation is a bit of a departure from our usual presentations on local history but fishing in our local rivers, streams and ponds has been a staple of life in the area since it was first settled. Steve will tell us about the sport of fly fishing and share news of expanded fishing opportunities in the local waters.



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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025: A Soldiers’ Story of Duty in the Middle East with Karl Dieter Chandler, 2nd Lieutenant, US Army, Blackhawk Helicopter pilot



Karl Dieter grew up in Bartlett (son of Hannah and Mike Chandler). He joined the US Army as an ROTC cadette and eventually served in a number of locations in the United States. In 2008, he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Aeromedical Evacuation Pilot. Karl will present a before and after view of the Middle East—before the war and after the war, talking about his experiences as a Bartlett native in a foreign land.

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025: TBD—We are working on scheduling a very interesting and entertaining presenter and topic for this event. We’ll have more to announce on this when we get the event confirmed.

We hope to have a presenter that will tell an interesting and unusual story of a hike on the Appalachian Trail. We hope to confirm the presenters availability soon.

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

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

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



Annual Report Summary

At the end of every year, our BHS president writes an Annual Report for the organization for the previous year. The following is a summary of the 2024 Bartlett Historical Society Annual Report.

Reminder of our Mission

- ◆ The collection and preservation of data and items pertaining to the history of Bartlett, Livermore and Hart's Location, NH
- ◆ Stimulating interest in the history of Bartlett, Livermore and Hart's Location, NH through the promotion and conducting of educational opportunities and events related to the history of these three towns.

Operational Results

- ◆ Board of Directors: The BHS Board of Directors consisted of five members in 2024. Each person brings a different skill or expertise to the table. We still have two openings on the Board and are hoping to see one of those openings filled soon.
- ◆ Historic Preservation & Our Museum: We have centralized all of the items in our BHS collection of artifacts, several are on display in the museum. The opening of the museum also saw several items of local historic value donated to the museum including, mechanic's tools from Livermore, several railroad items, a high school diploma, Bartlett Bicentennial memorabilia, old deeds, and more. Each item is being cataloged; some are on display now and others will be shown in future displays.
- ◆ PastPerfect Online: Our Curator, Kathy Howard, initiated the effort to upgrade our cataloging software, PastPerfect, to a version that will bring BHS online and open to anyone via our website. We expect the new version of PastPerfect to be available by mid-2025.

Educational Opportunities

- ◆ We continued our Annual BHS Quarterly Presentation Series but only hosted three events in 2024 as the fall event coincided with the opening of our museum
- ◆ We generated our usual four quarterly newsletters
- ◆ BHS was featured in several articles in the Conway Daily Sun throughout 2024

Fundraising

- ◆ Our fundraising activities included our annual golf tournament as well as three dining benefits. All these events were quite successful. In response to our newsletter appeals, we received many very generous donations. All these donations are helping us keep the Historical Society in a very positive financial situation

Bartlett Historical Society and Museum – Our Strategic Project

- ◆ As we have said many times, we concluded the renovation of our Bartlett Historical Society and Museum building, holding an opening event for the top donors on Friday, October 18th, and a public Grand Opening on Saturday, October 19th. Response to the museum has been overwhelmingly positive.

Financials

- ◆ Operational funding for BHS is on solid ground due to the generosity of a great many individuals. Also, we have received grants from the Robert and Dorothy Goldberg Foundation as well as the NH Charitable Foundation.
- ◆ As we closed 2024, the BHS Board formalized a decision to close the BHS Museum Fund and transfer some remaining funds in that account to the BHS Operational Account. We also established a financial structure that will have four major headings – 1. Ongoing Operational Funds; 2. Museum Maintenance Reserve; 3. Historical Artifacts and Collections Reserve; 4. BHS Endowment Fund.

continued on next page

Annual Report Summary

2024 was another very positive year for the Bartlett Historical Society. We accomplished several things with the opening of the museum topping the list. Board level discussions on how we are going to run the museum and take steps to broaden our services to our membership and the community occurred and will continue. Most importantly, we acknowledge the generosity of our members and thank them for their continued support. We look forward to a great 2025.

2025 BHS Board of Directors

At the conclusion of the Annual Report review on January 12th, Phil Franklin presented a proposed slate of Officers and Directors for the Bartlett Historical Society for 2025. The nominations were:

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

Phil asked for additional nominations from the audience. Since no other nominations were voiced, the nominated slate was accepted unanimously.

Phil announced that we still have two open positions on the BHS Board and are working to get those positions filled. Finally Phil thanked the audience for their confidence in this leadership team and vowed that they will continue to work to help BHS “live the Mission” of the organization.

A copy of the full 2024 Annual Report is on the BHS website (www.BartlettHistory.org).

Bartlett Historical Society [NH] YouTube

In the Works!

We’ve wanted to get a BHS YouTube channel for quite some time now. Thanks to the volunteer help of BHS members, Tom and Jackie Connors, we have the first step in this process completed. Our YouTube channel under the name – *Bartlett Historical Society [NH]* – has been created. Now, we need to get videos edited and uploaded to the channel. That’s why we’re asking for video editing assistance. The Connors’ will also be helping us with other social media endeavors as we look for ways to make BHS known to more people and, more importantly, give our members who live in other states across the country or who are unable to get out of their homes, a chance to see more of the work we are doing to preserve local history. Our thanks to Tom and Jackie for their continued support and expertise.



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Help Wanted! – BHS Volunteer Program

We are starting to get several projects underway to engage more people in BHS activities. One of the first things we'd like to do is get an active BHS Volunteer Program underway. We know that there are many very talented people among our membership so we're putting out the "Help Wanted" sign. As we start the program, here are activities where we'd some help:

<p style="text-align: center;">Online Sales</p> <p>BHS has several items that were left over from our past yard sales plus items from our museum building that we couldn't use in the renovated building.</p> <p>We are looking for someone who knows the ins and outs of online sales to help us get these items sold.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Museum Operations</p> <p>Our BHS Museum is open on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. We are looking for help in covering the museum hours.</p> <p>This includes following our opening and closing procedures, greeting visitors and answering questions about local history (knowledge of local history is helpful but this is something you can learn also).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fundraising Coordinator</p> <p>BHS, like any other non-profit organization, is in a continual fundraising mode.</p> <p>We are looking for someone to help coordinate/evaluate existing fundraising programs, discover new, interesting programs that could be fundraisers.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Video Editing & Transcription</p> <p>We have several video recordings in tape formats plus others that are digital. We want to get these recordings all in digital format and edited so we can load them onto the BHS YouTube channel. We also have several voice recordings that we would like to get transcribed, so we have the text in a digital format.</p>

Additionally, we have periodic need for some purely administrative things such as preparing the newsletter mailing.

Some of the items we've listed do require technical skills while others just require a desire to help by joining in on some things that we need to do to keep BHS moving forward. For more information on any of these Help Wanted listings, please contact Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org.

100 Years Ago ...

From the 1925 Bartlett Annual Report:

The town Inventory lists 114 horses valued at \$12,950 and 216 cows for the same valuation—horses were worth more than cows!

Goodrich Falls Electric Company was paid \$5.00 for lights in the town's covered bridges

Albert Johnson received a \$20 bounty on a "wild cat"; Burley Hill received a \$5 bounty for a bear and George Chesley received \$10 in bounties for 2 bears



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Skiing in Bartlett – Slopes Past and Present

by Phil Franklin

Exploring the winter scene in the Mount Washington Valley, skiers have numerous choices to show their skills at downhill and cross-country skiing as well as snowshoeing. Fresh powder is welcomed. Bartlett is known for the Attitash Ski Resort and the Bear North Ski Touring Center. However, we can't forget the "lost" slopes, now consumed by the forest. Here's a look at Bartlett's skiing history, past and present.

The Early Years of Skiing – Maple Villa Trail & Bear Mountain Trail

In the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corp was in the area doing a variety of projects including cutting the first ski trails. In 1933, they cut the Maple Villa Trail on Bartlett Mountain near the New England Inn. They also cut the Bear Mountain Trail, located south of Bartlett Village around today's Bear Notch Road. Both trails are gone but they represent the start of a skiing tradition in Bartlett.

The Maple Villa Trail was popular with the "ski train" passengers who came from Boston on the Maine Central Railroad from the 1930s through the 1950s. This trail was rated for beginners and intermediate level skiers and provided an enjoyable skiing adventure.



Bear Mountain
Ski Area

The Bear Mountain Trail was divided into upper and lower sections with Bear Notch Road being the dividing line. According to an article from the New England Ski Museum, in 1939 Austrian ski meister Hannes Schneider and ski instructor Franz Koessler inspected the Bear Mountain Trail and recommended that it be classified as a Class A race trail. The Eastern Amateur Ski Association approved the designation. The Schussverein Ski Club of Bartlett used this slope for their annual invitational downhill race. At their third event, club members looked out at the snow-covered Mount Washington and decided that the "rock pile"

was to be the place for the American Inferno on Mount Washington. Weeks later, a daredevil named Toni Matt skied from the headwall of Mount Washington's Tuckerman Ravine into Pinkham Notch.

Stanton Slopes



Stanton Slopes

Stanton Slopes (a.k.a. Mount Stanton Ski Slope) was located at the site of the old Stanton Farm, today known as the Stillings Grant housing development. This was a relatively small 30-acre slope had an 800' (later 1,200') rope tow to get you to the top of the hill. Stanton Slopes was in operation from the early 1930s to the mid-1940s. All that remains of this slope are the rope tow engine and hut at the top of the hill and ticket booth at the bottom, both are on private property and have been restored by their owners. Again, according to the New England Ski Museum article, we learned that

a young boy named Pete Seibert got his start skiing on Stanton Slopes. The Siebert family rented the Stanton farmhouse at the base of the slope. Pete became very skilled on skis, winning races at age 15. In World War II, he was a member of the US Army's 10th Mountain Division. Post WWII, he settled in Colorado, becoming very involved in the Colorado ski industry and becoming the founder of the Vail Ski Resort.

Intervale Ski Area

In the 1930s, Fred Pabst, Jr. heir to the Pabst Brewing Company, owned Ski Tows, Inc. with several skiing locations, one being the Intervale Ski Area, near the base of the Maple Villa Trail. In 1939 – 1940, the Works Progress Administration cut the trails and built a footbridge over the East Branch River allowing skiers to park on Town Hall Road, accessing the ski area via the bridge.

Pabst consolidated several of his ski holdings, including Intervale, into Bromley, VT during WWII. In 1947, Richard "Dick" and his wife Priscilla Stimpson purchased and operated this ski area, making upgrades and expanding the available skiing acreage. Upgrades included the installation of a ski lift, building of a ski jump, and adding a snow grooming machine (no snow making equipment, however). In 1968, the Stimpsons leased the operation to another operator but in 1976, the operation closed and the land naturally reforested. The Intervale Ski Area property is now privately owned.



Intervale Ski Area—Ski
Jump

continued on next page

Bartlett Skiing continued ...

Skiing in Hart's Location – Well, Almost

In the 1960s, the US Forest Service was surveying the White Mountains for new ski resort locations. Seldon “Sel” Hannah, a Berlin, NH native, owned Sno-Engineering. In 1964, Sel spied a location for a resort on the eastern slope of Saunders Mountain between Sawyer River Road and today's Notchland Inn, calling it “Sawyer River Skiways.” The plan called for slope with a vertical drop of more than two thousand feet; beginner terrain on the lower slopes of Mount Tremont; and a cross-country ski trail from the summit of Saunders Mountain into the former village of Livermore. The concurrent planning of the Attitash and Big Bear ski resorts in Bartlett may have played a factor in the demise of this resort.

Mount Attitash Ski Area & Big Bear

In the early 1960s, the development of two ski resorts was underway in Bartlett. “Big Bear” was proposed for the northern face of Rogers Mountain while an adjacent resort, “Mount Attitash Ski Area,” was being eyed for the northern face of Little Attitash Mountain.

Big Bear Development

Big Bear development was under the direction of Earle Chandler, a very accomplished man who wore many hats locally and at the state level. In January 1964, the Bartlett Development Corporation of Taunton, MA received approval to sell 75,000 shares of public stock at \$4.00 per share to help fund the Big Bear project according to an article in the January 4, 1964 Eastern Slope Signal newspaper. A January 15, 1964 Signal article reports that the sale of the stock would create a capital fund of \$300,000 thereby qualifying the corporation for a development loan of another \$300,000 from the state of New Hampshire.

Phase 1 of Big Bear was to be completed for the 1964 – 1965 skiing season. An added feature planned for Big Bear was an alpine village at the base of the mountain. Pinkham Associates managed the real estate sales for “Big Bear Chalet Village.” Lots were priced at “\$1,000 and \$2,000” according to the January 4, 1964 Signal article with 17 of the 45 lots already sold.



Trails for skiing were cut but a lack of funding halted the project, however, years later it would be Bear Peak.

Attitash Ski Area Development

The Attitash project was led by Phil Robertson, president of the Attitash Mountain Lift Corporation. Robertson spent 24 years building and managing the Cranmore ski area. Work on the Mount Attitash Ski Area (original name) project was ongoing in 1964 and continued into 1965. The trail network for Attitash was designed by two surveyors, Chad Thorne and David Douglass. Thorne became the vice president of the Attitash corporation, and in 1971 he assumed the role of president after Robertson retired.

As 1965 approached, Robertson resisted pressure to target an opening date. According to a December 26, 1964 Signal article, he declared, “We'll open when we're ready to open.” To speed the development process, Carson Helicopter Service from Perkasio, PA hoisted eight chairlift towers plus the T-Bar towers in just over two hours. With the towers in place, Attitash was now ready to open.

... continued on next page



Bartlett Skiing continued ...



Helicopter
hoists chairlift
tower

On January 26, 1965 the Mount Attitash Ski Area opened. Skiing in 1965 was free, however, to ensure that skiers didn't feel crowded on the mountain slopes, Robertson limited the number of daily tickets sold to 450. Holders of the "Mt. Attitash Lift Reservation Card" were allowed to make reservations. The ski lodge had wall-to-wall red carpeting, giving rise to the moniker "the red-carpet ski area." The lodge also housed one of the Carroll Reed Ski Shops and a restaurant, Ruth Leslie at Attitash.

Robertson search for a unique way to get skiers to the top of the mountain gave birth to the idea of a monorail, a heated ride propelled by a cog system like the Mount Washington Cog Railway. A company named Universal Designs Limited developed the drawings for the monorail. In the 1966 – 1967 season, a one-thousand-foot test track with a monorail car was installed in front of the lodge. Over time, however, the project lost its feasibility and the project was scrapped.



Attitash Monorail

Over the 1970s and 1980s, Attitash expanded its trail system and added terrain with a 750-acre parcel of land at the top of the mountain in the White Mountain National Forest. In the 1980s, with very little natural snow, Thad Thorne invested \$1.7 million into a snow making system for the 1982 – 1983 season making Attitash a leader in the snow making world.

In July 1994, Attitash was purchased by LBO Resort Enterprises. LBO also acquired the former Big Bear Ski Area property, renaming it Bear Peak, adding trails connecting the resorts. In 1997, the Grand Summit Hotel was built at the base of Bear Peak.

Corporate ownership has since changed. American Skiing Company bought out LBO in the 1996 – 1997 season. American Skiing eventually sold to Peak Resorts in 2007. Peak Resorts was acquired by Vail Resorts, the current owner of Attitash, in 2019.

Cross Country Skiing and Snowshoeing in Bartlett



Moving from downhill skiing to an easier pace, we find the Bear Notch Ski Touring Center in Bartlett's west end. Opened in 1995 by brothers, John and Doug Garland, they live by the motto "We pride ourselves on the quality of our skiing." Bear Notch Ski Touring is well known for their friendly, family orientation along with their extensive 65K trail network that includes trails on their property as well as in the Experimental Forest, National Forest and Attitash Village. Trail scenery includes the banks of the Saco River and views of local mountains.

The Garland family has deep roots in Bartlett going back to the Revolutionary War era. Their ski touring center is located on the site of their grandfather's dairy farm on Route 302. John and Doug were looking for a use for their family land that would keep it natural with its forest, riverbanks and streams. According to a Tom Eastman article in the Conway Daily Sun dated January 1, 2025, "the idea for a ski touring center arose from their (the Garland's) desire to put their land in the village to use that they were only utilizing for summer tourist cabins ..." Quoting from the same article Doug Garland explained "John was the driving force behind it. We never wanted to sell off the land – we wanted to generate something that supports itself."



In 2024, the Conway Scenic Railroad announced they will be using the rail tracks throughout the winter season. This forced a limitation of trail availability for the Garland as some trails crossed the tracks. However, the Garlands are working with the railroad for a solution to this dilemma.

Final Thoughts

The history of the sport of skiing in Bartlett and Hart's Location extends back almost 100 years. Predominantly focused on downhill skiing but with a great alternative for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Winter brings a special life to Bartlett and the region. The snow brings the skiers and keeps quiet little Bartlett a hot spot of activity in the winter.



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

The Historical Herald

www.BartlettHistory.Org

Facebook: **Bartlett Historical-Society**

2025 Membership Drive

Our 2025 BHS Membership Drive is underway. In response to the membership drive announcement in December, over 130 people have already joined BHS or renewed their memberships. Our BHS membership year is January 1 to December 31. Your membership is an active demonstration of your support for the work we are doing at BHS as we continue our stewardship of the rich histories of Bartlett, Hart’s Location, and Livermore. Your philanthropic support of BHS enables us to:

- ◆ Keep our members informed and up to date on BHS activities, plans, accomplishments
- ◆ Demonstrate to foundations and other donors (with real numbers) that ours is a viable historical society worthy of their support
- ◆ Generate our quarterly newsletter, *The Historical Herald*
- ◆ Engage interesting guest speakers in our Quarterly Presentation Series
- ◆ Obtain “Bartlett artifacts” that appear online, bringing them “home”, and
- ◆ Cover our operating expenses (e.g., insurance, association fees, office supplies, etc.).

*please
join us*

For 2025, we have maintained the same membership dues as we have for the past few years.

<u>Individual/General:</u> \$20.00	<u>Patron:</u> \$50.00	<u>Business:</u> \$100.00
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Please continue to be a part of, or join those who already are a part of, this growing and active historical society. In 2024, our membership grew to a new high of 276 strong with members across the New England states plus twelve other states across the country. In 2025, we look forward to thanking our renewing members for their ongoing support and welcoming many new member “historians.” Your support helps us “live” our mission of preserving and unraveling the mysteries of our local history while offering opportunities for everyone to learn about that history. Why? *Because History Matters!*

There are two easy ways to join BHS or renew your BHS membership:

- ◆ Online Membership Processing at <https://www.bartletthistory.net/membershipjoinrenew> for mail-in memberships or secure online credit card membership processing
- ◆ From our website, print the 2025 Membership form, complete the information requested and mail it back to us with your membership dues.

We look forward to welcoming you as a BHS member and we thank you for your support

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors	
Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
Scotty Mallett, Secretary	
2 Open Director Positions	
<u>BHS Advisory Panel</u>	
David Eliason, Michael Chandler, Norman Head, Anne Pillion, Hadley Champlin, David Shedd, Rachael Brown	



Ice on the falls at Diana’s Bath