

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Conway Public Library Receives \$20,000 Mooseplate Grant for GAR Flag Conservation

Conway, NH – October 28th, 2022 – The Conway Public Library has received a \$20,000 Mooseplate grant from the New Hampshire State Council Arts (NHSCA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for the purpose of performing conservation treatment on its Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) flag that has been part of the library collection for nearly one hundred years.

The Museum Textile Service (MTS) of Andover, Massachusetts will perform the treatment work and build the frame that the flag will now reside in. The treatment report, which was done by MTS, was paid for by the Friends of the Conway Public Library. The report informed the grant proposal and allowed the library to make a strong case for support from NHSCA.

The flag was donated to the library on May 28th, 1924. The letter from the GAR to the Library Trustees thanking them for accepting the gift remains in the library collection to this today. The letter reads as follows:

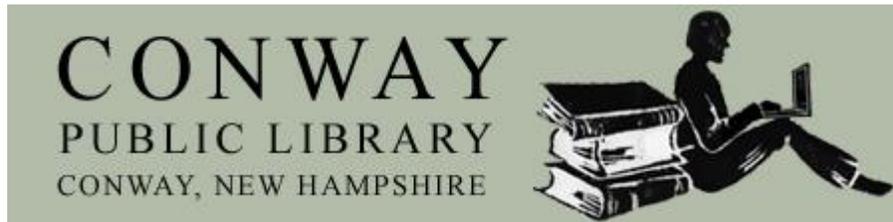
To the Trustees of the Jenks Memorial Library of Conway:

You have so kindly consented to the request of the three surviving members of Custer Post No. 47 of the GAR to receive and perpetuate their flag carried by them for forty-four years. I had hoped to present it to you personally, being the Commander of the Post and the longest in office but the sickness and infirmities of age make it impossible for me to do it. Therefore, I delegate the President of Custer Relief Corp No. 71 Dept. of New Hampshire or anyone whom she may direct, to perform this duty for me.

We assure you that this will be considered a great honor to the surviving families of the Post. We know that this flag represented them at more than a hundred battle fields in the great War of the Rebellion and we know that you will faithfully carry out their wishes and desires also to place the Commander's picture with the flag, according to your request.

George S. Pitts

Custer Post no. 47 Dept. of N.H. Commander for eighteen years.



Since that time the flag resided in a case standing upright in the northeast corner of the original portion of the building. Over the years the condition of the flag has deteriorated to the extent that it was felt exploring conservation treatment options was necessary and appropriate.

The flag will return to the library in an approximately 6x6 frame where it will be placed on display for all to enjoy and learn from. Library Director David Smolen said, "Thank you to the NHSCA and NEA for their generous support. This project will provide much needed care for our flag as well as make it more accessible for use by the general public."

Founded in 1900, the mission of the Conway Public Library is to create an environment that promotes lifelong learning and community engagement. To meet that end the library collects and provides access to materials in print and digital form that meets the intellectual and cultural needs of the community. The address of the Library is 15 Greenwood Avenue in Conway Village. Library hours are Monday -- Thursday 9-8, Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-1.