



March  
2024

[www.concordcoach.org](http://www.concordcoach.org)

### Upcoming Event

Tom Prescott's Open House

June 22, 2024

10:00am - 3:00pm

Airport Road

Come and spend some time looking at various coaches, wagons and more.

Food will also be available

Concord Coachman Barbershop Chorus

Lots to see !

### ADHS Meetings

Meetings are held in the Lobby of the Audi beginning at 5:30pm.

There is also a ZOOM link available.

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, April 2nd 5:30pm**

We will be discussing updates on the 1905 Stables and upcoming spring and summer events.

## Fun Facts and Did You Know ?



The Concord Coaches came in **3 sizes**. They carried 6, 9 or 12 passengers inside. However many coaches carried extra passengers on the roof.

The body shape of a Concord Coach was **oval**. This made the coach stronger and sturdier.

Coach routes were called **Stage Roads**. The coaches made frequent stops to change horses.

Some coaches were built to be used for **Mail Routes**. These coaches were heavier and not very fancy.

The Abbot Downing Historical Society works with many other groups to keep the history of the Concord Coach and the Abbot Downing Co alive for future generations.

Invite a friend to join us.



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page 2



SNEAK PEEK

Each month we will highlight one of the coaches that you will find at the future ADHS 1905 Museum. Come take a Sneak Peek.

On August 25, 2017, a Friday, about 10:00 in the morning, Peter James got a tip that there was a coach that might be available up in Vermont. Some quick research found the coach to be in Waitsfield. A phone call was made and by 1:00 Peter and Tom Little were on the way to Waitsfield to meet with Eric Haskin, one of the owners of the Waitsfield Telephone Company and the Mad River Concord Coach. After touring the Phone Company facilities, they went to check out the coach that was in storage in one of the remote switching buildings. Back in the 1990's, Eric's mother, Eleanor, who was a principal in the company, had dreams of setting up a museum in Waitsfield, but for reasons beyond her control, it did not happen and the coach was put in storage where it sat for over 20 years. Some years after she died, the adult children decided the time had come to dispose of the coach. Peter and Tom made a pitch for the coach to come to the ADHS and Eric said he would get back to us after talking to the rest of the family. On Monday, there was a voice message on Peter and Verna James' phone saying the coach was ours and now negotiations began on getting the coach back to New Hampshire. In the fall a team from the ADHS traveled to Waitsfield and brought the coach back to Concord. On another day a team met and replaced the thoroughbraces that were rotted and broken with some new ones that were donated by Sut and Margaret Marshall.

This is a six passenger coach built in about 1848 by L Downing and Sons. It is numbered with the Roman numerals XXXVI (36). It is in excellent condition and at one time was in the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan and later in a museum in West Virginia. While in the West Virginia museum, there was a fire and when they rushed to get the coach out of the building some damage was done to the iron rail on the top. It eventually found its way back to the Mad River Valley where it earlier had been in use carrying passengers and mail between Waitsfield and Middlesex, Vermont.

This is another case of "striking while the iron is hot". By moving quickly, we acquired another coach. The fact that Verna James and the Haskins that owned the coach turned out to be distant cousins did not hurt, either.

Written by Peter James