

Anderson Falls Heritage Society  
Annual Report  
November 2017 – October 2018

**Museum Operations:**

The Anderson Falls Heritage Museum opened May 1, 2018. Regular hours were Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. to noon and Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The museum closed October 11.

The museum was open for Museum Days on the weekend of June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. There was a total of 27 visitors for the weekend. The museum was also open for the afternoon of the Keeseville Alumni Banquet, July 21.

An inventory of items in the Prescott Room is underway.

The museum loaned pictures and other relevant items to the Keeseville Fire Department for their open house on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

In conjunction with AuSable Valley High School, the museum sent a complete set of yearbooks from Keeseville and AuSable Valley high schools, 1954 through 1989, to Oklahoma Correctional Institute to be digitized. Each yearbook was scanned, with the digital copies saved to a set of two DVDs. Copies of these DVDs were made and sold at the Keeseville Alumni Banquet on July 21.

A new laptop computer and external DVD drive were purchased for the museum.

A length of steel rail from the Keeseville, AuSable Chasm, & Lake Champlain Railroad (a.k.a. the "Peanut" Railroad), which had been donated to the museum, was sandblasted and cut into slices by Loya & Son's Welding, to be sold as paperweights. This project was a great success. The first slice was given to Jim Jones in appreciation for donating the original piece of rail and for his work in creating a Peanut Railroad display and his presentation at the historic marker dedication (see below). The remaining 25 slices were quickly sold out.

With generous help from Jamie Lamar and Richard Lawrence, all of the museum's glass plate negatives have been digitally copied.

Applications have been submitted to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for three historic markers for 2019, as follows:

1. Location of the Bloomery Forge at Clintonville
2. Clintonville iron works site
3. Location of the Mineral Springs at Keeseville

We will be informed whether or not our applications have been approved in January, 2019.

**Heritage House Maintenance:**

The outside door in the downstairs bathroom and two small windows in an upstairs room were removed; the openings were covered and painted. The small window in the downstairs bathroom was replaced.

A screen door for the side entrance was purchased and installed.

The concrete slab and wooden posts for the overhang at the side entrance were replaced, and additional concrete was poured under the opening for the garage door. We are most grateful to Link Kilbourne for his financial assistance in this regard.

**CVNHP Local History Grant:**

A grant proposal for \$2,500.00 was submitted in November for a project which would involve 8 -10 AVCS students in a study of the economic and cultural effects of the Northway on our local area. The proposal was approved. A youth leader was selected, but then realized she would not be able to work on the project. Another youth leader was selected, and efforts were made to recruit students for the program. Unfortunately, an insufficient number of students signed up for the program to remain viable, so the project had to be terminated.

**Programs and Events:**

There were three historic marker dedications:

1. A marker honoring the life of Dr. Georgia Harkness was dedicated on the grounds of the United Methodist Church in Harkness on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
2. A marker honoring the life of N.Y. State Lt. Governor Thomas F. Conway was dedicated at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Keeseville on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. A marker denoting the site of the Keeseville depot for the Keeseville, AuSable Chasm, & Lake Champlain Railroad was dedicated at the North Country Club restaurant in Keeseville on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

These markers were made possible by funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Keeseville Elementary School were given a tour of the museum from 9:00 to noon.

There were three summer evening programs:

1. Don Papson presented "Robert Elliott: 'Who Do You Think You Are?'" on Wednesday, July 18, at the Town of AuSable Town Hall. The program highlighted discoveries about Robert Elliott and his descendants. 44 people were in attendance.
2. Jim Jones presented "Queen City to Keeseville: Sentimental 195 Year Journey" on Wednesday, August 15, at the Keeseville Fire Station. The presentation examined early transportation from Burlington, VT to Keeseville, NY, highlighting the development of AuSable Chasm and the 1890 arrival of

the Keeseville, AuSable Chasm & Lake Champlain Railroad. 40 people attended.

3. Nancy Smith presented “Missing Relatives? How to Overcome Brick Walls & Find the Hidden Women in Your Family Tree” on Wednesday, September 19, at the Town of AuSable Town Hall. This presentation illustrated specific techniques and strategies to break down obstacles to discovering women who, because of name changes, can be difficult to find when doing genealogical research. 20 people attended.

AFHS set up a display area for the Keeseville Field Day on August 11.

A church walking tour was held in Keeseville on September 15. Churches toured included The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, The Front Street Fellowship House of Hope, and the former Congregational/Presbyterian Church now known as the Masonic Lodge. 28 people attended.

AFHS collaborated with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Keeseville Elementary School for “WWII Veterans Museum Night” which took place Thursday, November 8, 2018, at the school. This event focused on the lives of 11 Keeseville men who died in the war. It was estimated that 200 people turned out for the event, which was also covered in two articles in the *Press-Republican*.

**Honorary Memberships:**

The society voted to award Link Kilbourne a Lifetime Membership in grateful appreciation for the generous support he has provided over many years.

The society also awarded Ricky Weerts a one-year student membership in appreciation for his assistance in maintaining our web site.

**Volunteer Hours:**

2017	
November	51.25
December	24.75
2018	
January	40.5
February	54.75
March	70.25
April	167.5

May	162.25
June	173.75
July	112.75
August	70.25
September	47.5
October	100.5

This museum would not exist without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. We are grateful for all of their efforts.

**2018 Officers and Trustees:**

Garth J. Houde, President  
Liz Smith, Vice President  
Betty Brelia, Secretary  
Roby Scott, Treasurer

Trustees:

Ron Allen  
Sandi Connell  
Colin McDonough  
June Venette  
Richard Ward

Respectfully submitted,

Garth J. Houde  
President