

Anderson Falls Heritage Society
Annual Report
November 2021 – October 2022

Museum Operations:

The Anderson Falls Heritage Museum opened June 2, 2022. Regular hours were Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The museum closed October 8th. There were 149 visitors to the museum for the season.

We have begun digitizing the minutes of our meetings dating from the inception of AFHS. Handwritten minutes are being transcribed and typewritten minutes are being scanned. The goal is to have all minutes available as searchable computer files.

We have initiated the planning stages of a visit from a college class, with ground-penetrating radar, to create a map of the Old Burying Ground cemetery, located behind the former Baptist Church building on Liberty St. We hope to see this project reach fruition next year.

We participated in the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Museum Days Weekend, June 18th and 19th.

We made extensive revisions to our rack cards and purchased new ones. These cards are placed at various locations throughout the community for distribution to the public.

A process has been established for the backup of data on our computer and website.

An online method has been established for scheduling volunteers to staff the museum during our open hours.

We have begun working to develop a system for handling requests for historical information from the public.

Eighty-five items were accessioned into the museum collection.

A landscape painting of the Ausable River at Clintonville in the museum's collection was professionally cleaned.

Heritage House Maintenance:

The visitor entrance room has been repainted.

The downstairs front windows have been scraped and painted. Two storm windows for them have been ordered and are expected to arrive in November.

We are continuing to investigate options for the replacement of the front porch.

We have begun researching the acquisition and installation of gutter guards for the roof.

We have commissioned a Building Condition Study. This will guide us in future maintenance of the building, and can be used as documentation in future grant applications.

Programs and Events:

There were five summer evening programs:

1. Dr. Richard Frost presented “Rich in History: A Champlain Valley Reader” on Wednesday, July 20, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program presented an overview of Champlain Valley history, including military activity, transportation, and industry. 22 people were in attendance.
2. Zoanne and Rich Schnell presented “Kessel Park Inn, Home of Movie Pioneer and Keystone Comedies Founder, Adam Kessel” on Wednesday, August 17, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program highlighted Adam Kessel’s major role in the early development of the U.S. film industry, and showcased his residence, Kessel Park Inn, in Port Douglas. 49 people were in attendance.
3. G. Russell Oechsle presented “The Remarkable Heritage of the Keeseville Town Clock and Bell” on Thursday, September 1, at Masonic Lodge #149 (formerly the Presbyterian Church) in Keeseville. This program reviewed the history of the Meneely bell and the Van Riper town clock companies and the Keeseville clock and bell. 52 people were in attendance.
4. Mark Barie presented “Seven Facts about the War of 1812 that Will Amaze You!” on Wednesday, September 21, at the Keeseville Fire Station. This program featured information uncovered by Mr. Barie while researching his historical novel, *The Commodore and the Powder Monkey*. 21 people were in attendance.
5. Robin Caudell presented “Hidden in Plain Sight: Seneca Perry & Son” on Wednesday, October 12, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program explored the lives of Keeseville architects Seneca Perry and his son, Isaac, and focused on four buildings that were once part of the townscape of Keeseville and Ausable Chasm that the Perrys built or designed together or alone. 20 people were in attendance.

Volunteer Hours:

2021	
November	43.25
December	12.5
2022	
January	21.25
February	16.25
March	56
April	19
May	112.25
June	147
July	74
August	65
September	116
October	55.75

Our operations are performed entirely by volunteers, without whose dedication and commitment this organization and museum would not exist. We are grateful for all of their efforts.

2022 Officers and Trustees:

Garth J. Houde, President

Elizabeth Smith, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary

Allison Arnold, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary

Patricia DiNatale, Treasurer

Trustees (with term expiration date):

June Venette – 2022

Tim Butler – 2023

Colin McDonough – 2024

Sandi Connell – 2025

Richard Ward – 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Garth J. Houde
President