

Anderson Falls Heritage Society
Annual Report
November 2022 – October 2023

Museum Operations:

The Anderson Falls Heritage Museum opened June 1, 2023. 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 7. There were 193 visitors to the museum for the season.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Lincoln F. Kilbourne on March 10 of this year. Mr. Kilbourne owned the building which houses our museum. It was through his generosity that we have been able to enjoy the use of this building, rent free, since 2011. His spirit of support and friendship for our organization will be missed.

We have continued the project, begun last year, of digitizing the minutes of our meetings dating from the inception of AFHS.

We participated in the Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance Museum Days Weekend, June 17 and 18.

We assisted with 13 research inquiries.

133 items were accessioned into the museum collection.

A painting in the museum's collection, depicting a view of Keeseville including the Arch Bridge, was professionally cleaned.

The project of hosting a college class to map the Old Burying Ground cemetery did not reach fruition. The professor for the class ceased communication despite our repeated attempts to reach him.

A new DVD player was purchased for the display area near the side entrance. This will play many different formats that were unplayable on the old player that was there.

We applied for and received a grant from the Greater Hudson Heritage Network to fund a Site Assessment. Emily Gardner Phillips, of Phillips Art Conservation, a Professional Associate of the American Institute for Conservation, was hired to conduct the assessment in October. We anticipate receiving her final report in December.

Heritage House Maintenance:

Improvements to the building, such as porch replacement, were put on hold following the death of our lessor, Lincoln Kilbourne, and the resulting uncertainty regarding our future occupancy.

From the Ground Up tree service was hired to trim some spruce tree branches that were rubbing on our neighbor's roof.

The Building Condition Study, commissioned last year, is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Programs and Events:

There were three summer evening programs:

1. Steven Dorr presented "St. John the Baptist Church: Exploring its Architectural History & Heritage" on Wednesday, July 19, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program presented an examination of the Romanesque Revival style architecture of St. John the Baptist Church in Keeseville. 35 people were in attendance.
2. Jacqueline Madison presented "Underground Railroad in the North Country: Then and Now" on Wednesday, August 16, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program examined the role of the North Country in the Underground Railroad, with information about freedom seekers and those who helped or hindered their travels. 37 people were in attendance.
3. Jim Jones presented "Queen City to Keeseville: A Sentimental 200 Year Journey" on Wednesday, September 20, at the Keeseville Fire Department. This program retraced the trip from Burlington, VT, to Keeseville, with emphasis on the development of Ausable Chasm and the 1890 arrival of the Keeseville, Ausable Chasm & Lake Champlain Railroad. 49 people were in attendance.

The museum commissioned a "photo op" board, which was created by local artist Jessica Bjornstad. The board depicts a Keeseville baseball team member, a cheerleader from Our Lady of Grace Academy, and a Keeseville Harmony Band member. The board was officially unveiled on Saturday, September 9.

Volunteer Hours:

2022	
November	16.5
December	1.25
2023	
January	8.25
February	22.5
March	26.5
April	30.25
May	54
June	136.25
July	99.75
August	90.5
September	90
October	85

Our operations are performed entirely by volunteers. The success of our organization is a reflection of their dedication and commitment. We are grateful for their efforts.

2023 Officers and Trustees:

Garth J. Houde, President

Elizabeth Smith, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary

Allison Arnold, Recording Secretary

Julie Preston, Membership Secretary

Patricia DiNatale, Treasurer

Trustees (with term expiration date):

Tim Butler – 2023

Colin McDonough – 2024

Sandi Connell – 2025

Richard Ward – 2026

June Venette – 2027

Respectfully submitted,

Garth J. Houde

President