

Anderson Falls Heritage Society
Annual Report
November 2023 – October 2024

Museum Operations:

The Anderson Falls Heritage Museum opened May 30, 2024. 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 12. There were 203 visitors to the museum for the season.

The building which houses our museum was generously donated to our organization by Charles E. Kilbourne and Elizabeth Kilbourne Jeffrey, Lincoln Kilbourne's heirs. We now own the building.

We have continued the project 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 15 and 16.

We assisted with the design of four interpretive panels which were installed at the new Riverfront Park in Keeseville.

We assisted with 6 research inquiries.

We accessioned 365 items into the museum collection.

Heritage House Maintenance:

The Building Condition Study, commissioned in 2022, was completed and delivered to us in January. The garage and front porch were identified as areas of most immediate concern.

Programs and Events:

There were three summer evening programs:

1. Ed Venette, Linda Liberty-Guimond, and Deb Winter presented "The History and the Present Day of the Keeseville Volunteer Fire Department" on Wednesday, July 17, at the Keeseville Fire Department. The history and evolution of volunteer firefighting and emergency rescue in our locality was presented through pictures, presentations of equipment, and real-life stories. 54 people were in attendance.
2. Karen Prescott presented "Prescott's Six Generations in Keeseville: Challenges and Triumphs" on Wednesday, August 21, at the Keeseville Fire

Department. This program, based on the research for a novel Ms. Prescott is writing, highlighted historical events as they pertain to the Prescott family, including industrialism, tourism, politics, military service, sports, and life in the North Country over 150 years. 44 people were in attendance.

3. Bradley Knapp presented “The Tomlinson House through Time: 1846 – 2024” on Wednesday, September 18, at the Keeseville Fire Department. A jewel of Keeseville’s iconic architecture, this two-story, late-Federal style house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The presentation shared the stories of the six families who have had the privilege of calling this their home and the historical context of their times. 22 people were in attendance.

On July 10, a VIP reception and tour was held for the Supervisors and Town Board members of the towns of Ausable and Chesterfield. 10 people attended this event.

This year, we initiated a youth program. The program consisted of five events:

1. On Wednesday, June 5, a Scavenger Hunt in Evergreen Cemetery was held in conjunction with the Keeseville Elementary School sixth grade class. By hunting for the graves of prominent people buried there, the students were introduced to the cemetery from a historical perspective. Afterward, the class visited our museum, rotating through nine stations where they were given brief presentations on various aspects of local history. There were approximately 65 participants, including students and teachers.
2. On Saturday, June 29, a presentation was given at the Keeseville Fire Department by a veteran captain about fire safety, a fire truck, and the fire department. Children then visited the museum for a presentation on the great fires of Keeseville. Each child was given a wooden model fire truck to begin assembling at the museum. 15 children and adults attended.
3. On Saturday, July 27, a presentation was given at the museum on historical telephones and how they worked. Children were then given different types of cups and wire or string to experiment with connectivity. 6 children and adults attended.
4. On Saturday, August 4, a presentation was given at the museum on three historic Keeseville buildings: the Masonic Lodge, the Ausable Valley Grange, and the Mineral Springs. This was followed by a question-and-answer session, then children were given a puzzle of the three buildings to assemble. 6 children and adults attended.
5. On Tuesday, October 29, a presentation was given at the museum on the historical aspects of voting. Children and adults were able to vote for their favorite animal. 9 children and adults attended.

Giuseppe’s ice cream cards were given to children for events 2 through 5. Our youth program was generously supported by the George and Shirley Moore Foundation, Stewart’s Foundation, and Giuseppe’s.

Volunteer Hours:

2023	
November	80
December	35.75
2024	
January	54.25
February	61.5
March	53
April	75.25
May	152.75
June	198.25
July	123.25
August	152.25
September	150.5
October	204.25

This table includes hours logged on the sign in sheets at the museum and personal records of activities performed outside of the museum.

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.

2024 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):

Colin McDonough – 2024
Sandi Connell – 2025
Richard Ward – 2026
June Venette – 2027
John Clute – 2028

Respectfully submitted,

Garth J. Houde, President