

Anderson Falls Heritage Society
Annual Report
November 2018 – October 2019

Museum Operations:

The Anderson Falls Heritage Museum opened May 7, 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 10. There were 203 visitors to the museum for the season.

The museum was open for Museum Days on the weekend of June 15th and 16th. There were 66 visitors for the weekend. The museum was also open for the afternoon of the Keeseville Alumni Banquet, July 20th. There were 3 visitors.

In conjunction with AuSable Valley High School, the museum has sent a complete set of yearbooks from the high school, 1990 through 2019, to Oklahoma Correctional Institute to be digitized. Each yearbook will be scanned, with the digital copies saved in pdf format to a set of DVDs. When combined with the yearbook scanning that was done last year, this will give us a complete run of Keeseville yearbooks from 1954 through 1968 and AuSable Valley yearbooks from 1969 through 2019. This will be a valuable resource for both our museum and the high school.

The museum was given a set of eight plaques from the Friends of Keeseville, honoring veterans of America's wars from the Revolutionary War through the Vietnam War. It was decided that these should be displayed in the Veterans Park. A committee has been formed to look into possible means of displaying these plaques.

The museum is in the process of making WiFi available to our guests.

The Adirondack Coast Cultural Alliance held their August 8th meeting at the AFHS museum.

The museum is in discussions with TD Bank to acquire a Marvin spherical safe dating from ca. 1865. Details to be worked out include opening the safe to make sure it is empty, moving the safe from the basement of TD Bank, and identifying a suitable location for displaying the safe at the museum.

A significant archiving project has been undertaken involving boxes and file drawers of documents from the Town of Chesterfield covering the years 1800 to 1950. These include justice documents, chattel mortgages, deeds, claims, and warrants. Maxine Orlando has been putting them in order and listing them, while Julie Preston has been transcribing and typing them. This project is approximately three quarters completed.

Applications have been submitted to the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for three historic markers for 2020, as follows:

1. The Port Kent – Hopkinton Turnpike (to be located in Port Kent)
2. Schuyler Island (to be located in Port Douglas)
3. Herbert Estes House at AuSable Chasm

There is a serious need for more volunteers. It has been a continuing concern that we do not have people prepared to help or replace any of our core members, should the need arise. We have been collecting, from each current volunteer, a list and description of the activities in which that person participates. These will be synthesized and used to generate volunteer job descriptions, which in turn will be used to recruit prospective volunteers and match them with appropriate activities.

Heritage House Maintenance:

The outside porch light at the side entrance is no longer working. It will be replaced soon.

Rotted wood around the exterior of the building has been replaced with new wood, and all of this wood has been primed in preparation for painting.

The front and right sides of the museum have been scraped, primed, and painted. We plan to have the remaining sides of the building painted next year.

Six windows have been replaced: three in the side entrance room, one in the fireplace room, one large window in the office, and one small window in the file room off the office.

Grants and Awards:

The museum received a \$250 Holiday Match award from Stewart's Shops for youth services.

Through Nancy Smith's efforts, we received a \$1,000.00 Professional Development Grant from the Pomeroy Foundation. This grant was used to fund Donald Wickman's attendance at the Museum Association of NY conference in Cooperstown. It was also used to fund our membership in the NY Council of Nonprofits.

Programs and Events:

There were four historic marker dedications:

1. The restored marker honoring the First Baptist Church in Keeseville was dedicated in front of the original Baptist Church building on Liberty Street on Saturday, May 4th.
2. A marker denoting the site of the Mineral Spring in Keeseville was dedicated in front of Donna's Hair Styles, 92 Kent Street, on Saturday, May 4th.

3. A marker honoring the Bloomery Forge in Clintonville was dedicated at 39 Lower Road on Saturday, June 1st.
4. A marker honoring the Clintonville Iron Industry was dedicated at 1290 Route 9N on Saturday, June 1st.

The three new markers were made possible by funding from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

There were three summer evening programs:

1. Dr. Gordon C. Pollard presented “The Iron Industry Heritage of Clintonville, NY” on Wednesday, July 17th at the Keeseville Fire Department. The program examined some of the elements that made Clintonville one of the North Country’s most prominent iron-making sites throughout the 19th century. 43 people were in attendance.
2. Donald Wickman presented “The Adirondack Northway” on Wednesday, August 21st at the Town of AuSable Town Hall. The program examined construction of the Interstate Highway system, especially the Adirondack Northway (I-87), and its effect on our region. 33 people were in attendance.
3. Dr. Richard Frost presented “The Plattsburgh Military Reservation: A Pictorial History” on Wednesday, September 18th at the Town of AuSable Town Hall. The program examined the history of the U.S. military in Plattsburgh. 18 people were in attendance.

On June 12th, 6th graders from Keeseville Elementary School were given a tour of the museum.

The museum set up a display table at the Town of Chesterfield open house at the North Star Underground Railroad Museum on Saturday, July 27th.

The museum set up a display table at the Keeseville Field Day on Saturday, August 10th.

A second church tour was held on September 14th, the first tour having been held last year. Churches toured this year included the United Methodist Church in Clintonville, Harkness United Methodist Church, Independent Baptist Church in Keeseville, and St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Keeseville. 15 people attended.

Honorary Memberships:

The society voted to award Richard W. Ward a Lifetime Membership in recognition and appreciation for his many efforts on our behalf, through the life of this organization.

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

Volunteer Hours:

2019	
May (partial)	10.5
June	37
July	107.75
August	84
September	77.5
October	80.5

Volunteer hours for November – December 2018 and January – April 2019 were not available for this report.

The success of this museum depends on the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. We are grateful for all of their efforts.

2019 Officers and Trustees:

Garth J. Houde, President

Liz Smith, Vice President

Betty Brelia, Recording and Membership Secretary

Roby Scott, Treasurer

Patricia LaBounty, Corresponding Secretary

Trustees (with term expiration date):

Colin McDonough – 2019

Sandi Connell – 2020

Richard Ward – 2021

June Venette – 2022

Tim Butler – 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Garth J. Houde

President