

Andover Historical Society

Andover, New Hampshire 03216



- NEWSLETTER -

February 2025

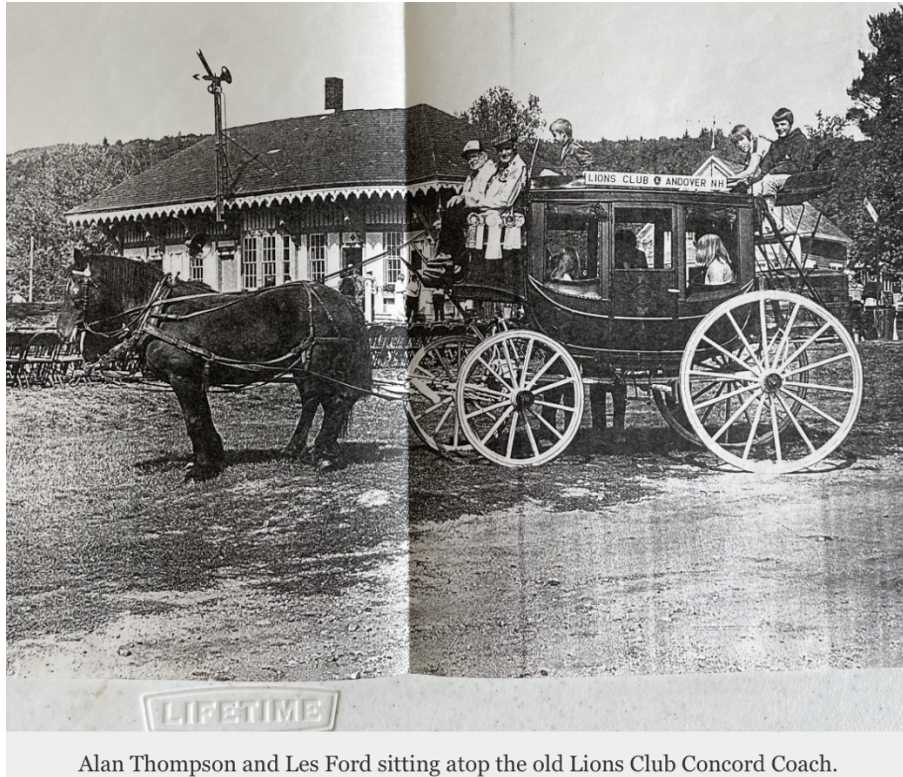
Newsletter #1

2024 was another great year for the Andover Historical Society. Our Potter Place buildings and campus are open on weekends from Memorial Day Weekend through to Indigenous Peoples Day Weekend. We have had lots of groups come through to visit – Scientists from Gordon Research staying at Proctor (every week is a new group of visitors). Granite State Ambassadors brought a group of people to see Potter Place (these are the people that say hello to visitors when they arrive at the airport and welcome areas). They help bring the tourists to NH special places. We also resumed the “Round Robin” for local school aged children and had a group of 4th graders from Webster, Salisbury and Andover for a day. Lots of visitors this past year, and hopefully even more in 2025.

We changed the date of the Potter Place Festival (formerly “The Old Time Fair”) to be at the end of June. We also held the first annual Frederick Douglass Community Reading in partnership with the Black Heritage Trail of NH. The reading included many folks from town participating. Even though the weather wasn’t great, we had a pretty good turnout, with 70 + folks coming for the reading itself. We also joined forces with “The Exchange” and the Wilmot’s Farmers Market, including a raffle for the folks that went to all three places that morning. We are going to try it on that day for another year. Our goal is to have an event for as many people to come as possible and not compete with other nonprofits in town. Mark your calendars and please join us for the Potter Place Festival on June 28, 2025!

Another big project for the Andover Historical Society is the Coach Building, we are working on to store and display the Andover Concord Stagecoach. The Andover Lions Club donated the Coach to the town in 2024. We are in the process of raising \$45,000 to be able to preserve and care for this Andover gem for everyone to see and cherish. We have already poured the slab and are working to raise the rest of the funds for the building as soon as possible. If you are interested in donating or helping with this project, contact one of the following people – Nancy Teach, Doug Phelps, Brooks

Bicknell, Pam Cooper, Ricker Miller, Lance Ford, Bill Hoffman or Bonny Morris and email treasurer@andoverhistory.org.



Alan Thompson and Les Ford sitting atop the old Lions Club Concord Coach.

THE CONCORD COACH

In the spring of 1919, the second, and last, grand Hotel Potter was destroyed by fire. Fortunately the fire did not spread to the "Hotel Potter Livery Stable", so its contents (horses, carriages, and coaches) were not lost. Harry and Arthur Clark (my grandfather and great-grandfather) were the proprietors at that time, and later that year the name of the livery was changed to "AA Clark & Son - Livery, Feed, and Exchange Stable".

Then, in June of 1944, there was another large fire in Potter Place which took several of the buildings across the road from the Freight house, including the large Trow Store/RP Johnson & Son store house, and this time, the livery stable as well. Thankfully the stagecoach, as well as several carriages, sleighs, and wagons, were being housed in the livery's large storage barn down at "The Horn". ("The Horn" is an area just beyond the Potter Place depot, where the shim-shack, the conveyor house for coal transfer from

freight car, the rail-car-hut, and the livery stable's storage barn were.) So once again, the Concord coach was spared. Bob Peters remembers that as a boy, he and friends would sneak into the locked barn ("I don't know how we got in!") and climb up into the carriages and coach "for exciting adventures to places near and far".

In 1955, the Andover Lions Club was formed. Wallace "Sam" Clark, the son and grandson of Harry and Arthur Clark, was a charter member of the Andover Lions Club and it's first president. Two years later, he was the person responsible for securing the Concord coach for the Lions Club.

It seems fitting that the Concord stagecoach will once again reside in Potter Place.

In June 2024 the Lions Club gave its Concord Coach to the Town of Andover. After spending many years resting in the yellow trailer, the Historical Society decided the coach needs a new home to protect it and for the public to view it. Late summer a concrete pad was installed as a foundation followed by a groundbreaking ceremony. The coach committee meets regularly to design the barn, choose materials, and seek bids from contractors. The estimated cost is \$45,000. We have raised just over \$34,000, and are just \$11,000 away from our goal. As soon as we have the balance in hand construction can begin. We could use your help. Donations can be sent to the AHS, PO Box 167, Andover, NH 03216 or visit our website: Andover history



We Need a Museum Manager

We are looking for someone to manage the Museum for the Historical Society. This person would setting up the exhibits, helping with the volunteers for the Station and Store during our Summer hours. This person is responsible for the preservation, acquisition, and display of historical artifacts relating to the Andover region.. Does any part of this sound of interest to you? We would love to have you join us, if you are interested or know someone who might be, have them contact one of the trustees or email estinal@proctoracademy.org to answer any questions. Thank you for even considering to help. Do want to do a shift at the Museum or store, let us know, and we will get you on the list as we always need volunteers!

Potter Place Festival

We have set the date for the Potter Place Festival. We are going to try one more time to celebrate on June 28th. Hoping the weather will cooperate more this year. It will be on the Saturday from 9:00AM – 3:00PM. We will be including the Frederick Douglass Reading again, as it includes many Andover residents. Our own John Hodgson will be one of the readers and have autographed copies of his books at the reading. There will be the kids games, petting zoo, vendors, food and much more. Save the date and come join us!

Dues!

Reminder that a new year means 2025 membership dues are needed. Your annual dues are a very important part of our revenue. Please renew your membership for 2025, if you haven't already. You can easily pay online here [link](#) or by mailing it to the address below on the Membership Form. Thank you.



We want your email address, as it would help save in paper and postage. For email updates of local programs and newsletters send to estinal@proctoracademy.org. Don't forget to check out our website www.andoverhistory.org and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Andover-NH-Historical-Society-1698688253763025/>

2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Categories: Individual: \$20 • Family: \$30 • Donor: \$50 • Corporate: \$100

Name _____

@AHS-NH

Email address _____

Please print:

Mailing address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____



venmo

Seasonal Mailing Address (please specify months)

Life member: \$250 per person • \$450 per couple Enclosed is an extra donation of \$ _____

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. If you would like to participate in the work of the Andover historical Society, please indicate your special interest _____

Andover Historical Society is a 501 C(3) charitable organization • PO Box 167, Andover, NH 03216