

Andover Historical Society

Andover, New Hampshire 03216



- NEWSLETTER -

June 2024

Newsletter #3

POTTER PLACE FESTIVAL

This weekend, June 29th, is the Potter Place Festival, formerly known as the “Old Time Fair”! We hope you will bring your family and friends to come check it all out. We will have Burgers and hot dogs along with drinks for sale. There will be a petting zoo, children’s games, antique cars, lots of different vendors, African Drumming, The Ragged Mountain Band and The Frederick Douglass Community Reading (More to come in another section). We will be raffling off the Quilt at the end of the day. We still need some more volunteers to help this day run smoothly. Here is a link to [sign up](#). We will also be setting up on Friday starting at 2PM and the more hands makes the work go quicker.

There is a raffle for anyone that goes to all 3 local events – The Potter Place Festival, The Exchange and The Wilmot Farmer’s Market. Just pick up a card at one of the venues and get it stamped at all 3 places! There are some nice prizes and at no cost.

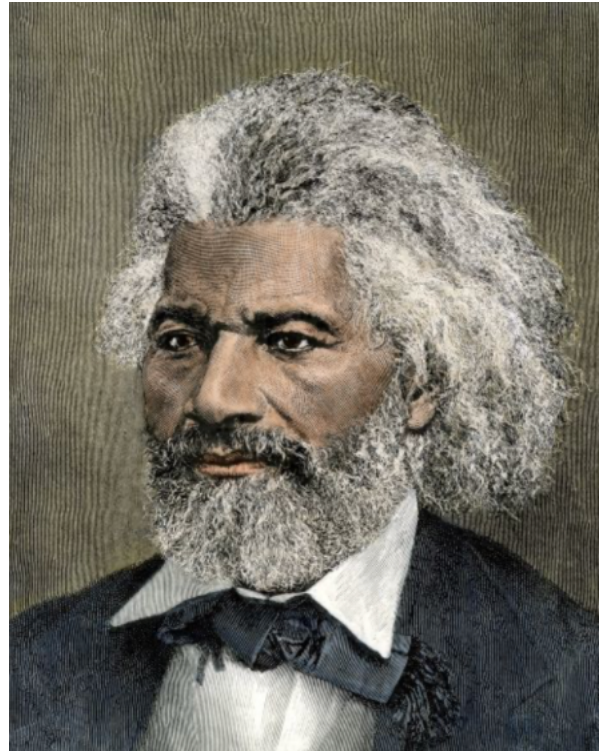
CONCORD STAGECOACH NEWS

In June the Lions Club gave the Concord Stagecoach to the Town of Andover. The Andover Historical Society (AHS) is working with our town administrator and selectboard to move forward with plans to build a barn for the care and sustained maintenance of the Stagecoach.

Local contractors will do site work to prepare for a concrete pad for the barn. We are looking at estimates for lumber, windows, doors, other building supplies with the anticipation of having a community “Barn Raising” in the coming fall season to build it.

The June 2024 Beacon featured a Coach article with photos (p. 6). The required permits have been approved and issued by the town of Andover. The Selectboard approved funds for an appraisal and insurance quote. We are seeking advice and guidance from nearby Historical Societies who own coaches.

This important collaborative project comes with a cost. The AHS is working with the remaining Lions Club members and has received a sizable donation from one member to add to the “Concord Coach Fund” established by a gift from the Andover American Legion last summer. The AHS will continue to raise funds to complete the barn and maintain the Coach. Your donation can be sent to the AHS, PO Box 167, Andover, NH 03216.



**Andover’s Inaugural Community Reading of the
Frederick Douglass Speech
“What to the Slave is your Fourth of July”**

Who is Frederick Douglass and why is the Andover Historical Society (AHS)

collaborating with the Black Heritage Trail NH for this special reading? And, do you know about the significant connection between Frederick Douglass's speech and Andover's Richard Potter? Frederick Douglass Community Readings: The Who and Why On July 5, 1852, Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist, and heroic orator for liberty, delivered one of his most famous speeches in which he asked, "What to the slave is your Fourth of July?" In addressing an Independence Day observance in Rochester, New York, his speech was a blistering indictment of an American idealism that ignored and accepted the inhuman treatment of enslaved African Americans as part of the country's identity and economy. Ironically, even though Douglass' words spoke directly to this moment in history, they still ring with an unsettling power today.

For the past several years, the BHTNH has collaborated with community leaders around the Granite State to bring people together to read Douglass' historic protest speech and to reflect on its meaning. This year the Andover Historical Society is very excited to be part of this important program at the site of our own Richard Potter BHT NH Marker in Potter Place during the Potter Place Festival. Readers from Andover and East Andover as well as from Wilmot and New London will share in the reading of this speech. Frederick Douglass's speech and Andover's Richard Potter: The Connection

Douglass's speech was a bombshell, but it did not come from nowhere. And Andover's own Richard Potter, while living temporarily in Boston in 1827, was intimately involved in some of the important work that laid the ground for Douglass' speech. Potter was a prominent member of the African Lodge in Boston, the first Black Masonic lodge, which on June 29, 1827 declared, echoing the very words of the Declaration of Independence, that "as people of colour by ourselves, we are and ought by rights to be free and independent of other lodges." This was the first formal evocation of the Declaration by any Black organization in the United States. Meanwhile David Walker, a friend and neighbor of Potter's in Boston and a fellow African Lodge member, was already writing the book he would publish in 1829, "An Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World," a denunciation of slavery that concluded with a fierce invocation of the Declaration. Walker quoted the Declaration at length and demanded that Americans compare those proclamations of self-evident truths "with your cruelties and murders inflicted by your cruel and unmerciful fathers and yourselves on our fathers and us – men who have never given your fathers or you the least provocation!" These connections to Richard Potter were both important precursors to Douglass's Fourth of July oration. Experience this Connection and the Powerful Message

While reading Frederick Douglass' work is a powerful experience for many, it is only one piece of the long-overdue conversations that our communities need to have. The BHTNH hopes that these readings will be a starting point for these difficult dialogues and that they will provide an opportunity for us to engage in deeper conversations that will lead to actions to help build more inclusive and just communities today. Join us for this exciting community reading - Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Noon - The Potter Place Festival, 105 Depot Street, Andover, NH

Join us in person at the Fair or by live-stream via BHTNH Facebook page: #BHTNH and #ReadingDouglass2024

DUES

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership already. Your annual dues are a very important part of our revenue. You can pay online with PayPal by going to our website at www.andoverhistory.org or mail the form below. Thank you.

2024 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. _____



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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 501C(3) charitable organization • PO Box 167, Andover, NH 03216

Look for us on the Town Green on the 4th of July! We will have books and the new calendar for 2025!

Stay Tuned for news about a Barn tour happening in early September.