

# The Historical Herald

The Quarterly Newsletter of



The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

PO Box 514, 13 School Street  
Bartlett, NH 03812

[www.BartlettHistory.org](http://www.BartlettHistory.org)

Fall 2025 Edition (2025:4)

## The Bartlett

## Historical Society

### **BHS Received a Donation of a Portland Cutter Sleigh**

Since opening our museum, numerous artifacts and documents that reflect different aspects of the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore have been donated to the Bartlett Historical Society. We are very grateful for the generosity of the donors and their trust in us to preserve these items in our historical collection.

Recently, we received a donation that reflects the early years of winter transportation in Bartlett. BHS members, Carroll and Nancy Hayes, donated a Portland Cutter sleigh. This sleigh was owned and used by Carroll's parents, Hellen and Grover Hayes, here in Bartlett. They lived in a house at the corner of our current Route 302 and Rolling Ridge Road. In the 1930s, Hellen converted the house to a small inn that was named "Elmcrest." Carroll believes his parents used the sleigh in the winter when snow rollers packed the winter snow on the roads. After the invention of snowplows, the sleigh was no longer needed and placed in storage in the Hayes' barn and there it sat for decades. Carroll and Nancy moved the sleigh to their house and again, kept it under cover.



Carroll Hayes by the sleigh



Portland Cutters were a style of sleigh made by different companies. They were two person sleighs described as having a design "that featured angular lines, flat body panels, and a goose-neck dash that protected passengers from snow kicked up by the horse. The Portland Cutter was a lightweight sleigh made with speed in mind, and in fact these sleighs were often raced." ([www.nps.gov/long/blogs/portland-cutter-sleigh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/long/blogs/portland-cutter-sleigh.htm)). Northeast manufacturers were "Kimball Bros." (Kimball Brothers) from Boston, MA who operated from 1864 to 1915 and Samuel Robinson with his S.R. Bailey Company initially from East Pittston, ME in 1856, eventually opening a factory in Amesbury, MA in 1888. In a 1902 Sear, Roebuck & Co. catalog, we found you could purchase a Sears version of the Portland Cutter made in Kalamazoo, MI for \$16.95 excluding shipping. We will try to identify the manufacturer for our Portland Cutter.

The sleigh needs some restoration work and we intend to have that done as soon as we can find someone who does this type of work. This will make a great display piece for our museum in our upcoming winter themed exhibit. Our thanks to the Hayes' for sending this piece of Bartlett history our way. If anyone knows of a person or company who restores sleighs, please drop a note to Phil Franklin at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org).

**Thank You to our BHS  
Donors from 07/13/2025—  
09/21/2025**

Martha Benesh  
Carroll and Nancy Hayes  
Pauline Lombardi

Scotty Mallett  
Carl Olson  
Barbara and Bob Southward

Sheila O'Connell in  
Memory of Norman  
Head



## **President's Message**

An early fall is upon us here in Bartlett. Where we started the spring and early summer with a steady flow of rain, the past couple of months have been nothing but dry. While this makes for great vacationing weather, it has also caused our trees to start turning to their fall colors three or so weeks prior to normal. Let's hope we get some rain soon ... but not all at once!

Since our last newsletter, the activity level here at BHS has been very high. We hosted a workshop that included an interactive presentation where attendees learned about how to discover the history of their old house. We concluded a series of events with the Conway Scenic Railroad in their celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the tracks and first train to roll through Crawford Notch. We kicked off our effort to update our BHS website with the technical support of BHS members, Jackie and Tom Connors, and our own BHS Board members, Sue Franklin and Kathy Howard doing a content review of the existing site. We made some improvements to the museum building by getting to work on a couple of things we had pushed off to a later date when we opened the museum. And, finally, we started planning for 2026 and a full year of activities and programs. All of this work has been done through the greatly appreciated support of BHS Board members and volunteers.

After many months of searching for new Board members to join our BHS leadership team, we welcome Buzz Query and John Chanley to the BHS Board of Directors. There's an article telling about them in this newsletter.

Our museum has continued to see a number of visitors coming through the door, many first time visitors as well as many return visitors. The reaction in these visits continues to be the same as people are amazed at the results of our renovation effort and variety of exhibits we have for people to learn about different aspects of our local history. Their positive comments give us the energy to keep moving forward to make the museum and BHS better for all.

Our cover page story tells of the donation of a Portland Cutter sleigh to BHS. Donors and members, Carroll and Nancy Hayes offered the sleigh to us. It was used by Carroll's parents, Hellen and Grover Hayes, here in Bartlett in the early 1900s. This sleigh is a great addition to our collection of Bartlett historical artifacts. We thank Carroll and Nancy for their generosity.

We'll be kicking off our *2026 BHS Membership Drive* in November. We hope that all BHS members will renew and we are always welcoming new members. Did you ever think of giving a BHS membership to your parents or children as a Christmas gift as a way of supporting our local history? It's a great way to remind everyone that "History Matters."

Finally, on behalf of our BHS Board of Directors and myself, I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of BHS. If you have any questions, comments or ideas about BHS or Bartlett, Hart's Location or Livermore history, please let me know by dropping me an email at [Phil@BartlettHistory.org](mailto:Phil@BartlettHistory.org). Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

*Phil Franklin*

President, Bartlett Historical Society

*A color version of this newsletter is available on our website at [www.BartlettHistory.org](http://www.BartlettHistory.org).*

*The Historical Herald by Email?* If you would like to receive your BHS newsletter via your email, please let us know by dropping us an email at [BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com](mailto:BartlettHistoryNH@gmail.com)

## **Welcome Two New BHS Board Members**

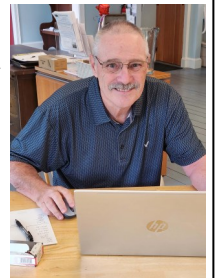
At our July BHS Board of Directors meeting, we welcomed A. H. “Buzz” Query and John Chanley to our leadership team. They will serve the BHS Board as Directors-at Large.

Buzz is a native of southeastern Massachusetts and learned to ski at Cranmore Mountain when he was in elementary school. In high school and college, he was the property manager for 22 cemeteries in Lakeville, MA. He earned a bachelors degree in Textile Chemistry from UMASS – Dartmouth and MBA in Chemical-Pharmaceutical Marketing from Fairleigh Dickenson



University. Buzz has spent his career working for different chemical companies, once being the Vice President of sales for GM Gannon Chemicals. For the past 28 years, he has been the president of his own company, Covalent Technologies. Buzz and his wife, Jane, moved to the Valley in 2008 and into Bartlett in 2017. Buzz is a 38 year member of the Chemical Club of New England, where he was the President from 2004 – 2005. He is currently the Secretary of the Saco Valley Gem and Mineral Club.

John and his wife, Jeanne, moved to Bartlett (Glen) from Everett, MA in 1998. In Everett, he served as a firefighter for 32 years in the Everett Fire Department. John is a veteran of the US Army; he earned a Bronze Star for his service. While serving with the Everett Fire Department, he was a member of the Union E-Board for 15 years working on contracts and grievances. He was a two-time delegate to the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts Union State Convention. In Bartlett, John has served on the Board of Directors of the Linderhof Property Owners Association as a Director, Secretary, Vice President, and President.



Both John and Buzz are making very positive contributions to the organization in the short time they’ve been on the Board. Welcome them aboard and thank them for their service to BHS.

## **How Did Carroll County Get Its Name?**

When Carroll Hayes visited our museum to drop off his donation of the Portland Cutter sleigh he posed this question, noting that his name is spelled the same as the county. According to the *History of Carroll County: 1632—1889*, Carroll County was named after Charles Carroll of *Carrollton, Maryland*. Our county was created by a legislative act approved on December 23, 1840 (Bartlett and Hart’s Location were annexed from Coos County on January 5, 1853). Charles Carroll is described as “one of the most distinguished signers of the Declaration of Independence.” But he’s not from New Hampshire! Further research reveals that Carroll was possibly the wealthiest man in the colonies and America owning a vast plantation in Maryland as well as being a politician serving in several federal and state positions. He was the only Catholic to sign the Declaration and the longest living signer of the Declaration (born September 19, 1737; died November 14, 1832 at the age of 95). Why New Hampshire honored him is a mystery.





## BHS Notes

### Upcoming Events With BHS

October will be another busy month with BHS events. We hope that you can join us for one, two, or all of these events.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025: Dining Event at the Red Parka Pub, on Route 302 in the Glen section of Bartlett—4:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. The owners of the Red Parka will generously donate 10% of the evenings meal receipts to BHS (excluding alcohol). All proceeds will go to the BHS General Operating Fund to cover our operating expenses. Please plan to join us for this dining event. Bring a friend or neighbor!



Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12: Used Book Sale at the BHS Museum—Over the past years, many people have donated books to BHS. Some of the books related to local history are being retained by BHS but we have hundreds of other books, hard cover and paperback, covering numerous topics (e.g. novels, mysteries, travel, cooking, gardening, history outside our area, and so many more). The sale will be held at our BHS Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett. All proceeds will go to the BHS General Operating Fund to help cover the costs of normal organizational and museum operations. A great opportunity to pick up a few books at great prices.



Wednesday, October 15, 2025: Our final 2025 presentation featuring Eric Pinder, talking about “Life at the Top” - The story of his experiences working at the Mount Washington Observatory and living at the top of Mount Washington—7:00 p.m. at the BHS Museum building, 13 School Street, Bartlett (see page 6).

### BHS Projects Underway

We have a few projects underway in our museum.

- ♦ Combing Past Newspapers for Bartlett News: Scotty Mallett is continuing to “mine” local newspapers from years past capturing articles about Bartlett, Hart’s Location, and Livermore.
- ♦ Cataloging BHS Artifacts: Our Curator, Kathy Howard, is continuing to work through a significant backload of artifacts that need to be cataloged in our PastPerfect database.
- ♦ BHS Website Upgrade: As noted in Phil’s President’s Message, we have a team of volunteers working on the effort to upgrade and reorganize our BHS website. This effort is taking some time as we are reviewing all of the content on our current website as a part of the process.
- ♦ Record of Town Officials: We are continuing to work on our project to record all the names and positions of our town officials dating back to 1790. This is another challenging project with BHS member, Gale Mender, working on it.
- ♦ Stanton Bridge?: For several years there has been a question of whether there was a bridge over the Saco River at the western end of town. Phil Franklin researched this topic and is fairly certain that there was, in fact, a bridge over the Saco River at the border of Hart’s Location and Bartlett, by Sawyer’s Rock. Some site work still needs to be done to confirm this finding but all evidence found so far says there likely was a crossing “Stanton Bridge.” Aside from maps from the 1800s showing a bridge that connects to today’s Cobb Farm Road, BHS has a document from 1816 from the state of New Hampshire authorizing a bridge, a document written by Edward Melcher, who lived near the bridge, describes how the bridge was destroyed in the 1826 flood, and we have a couple of local historians who have knowledge of the bridge. As soon as we do the site work, we should have a definitive answer.

## **BHS Goes International!**

Recently, at the museum, our Curator, Kathy Howard, was Zooming with friends, Barbara and Bob Southward, from Southend on Sea, England. Kathy took them on a virtual tour of our museum. They were quite impressed. They have been reading our newsletters and keeping up with the activities of BHS. The Southward's have now joined BHS as new members so we welcome our British friends and first international members.



Also, this summer, we had our first international in-person visitors to the museum. Relatives of our BHS Vice President, Hannah Chandler, came to Bartlett from Germany for a visit with Hannah and her husband, Mike, and were very impressed with our museum and displays.



## **Celebrating with the Conway Scenic Railroad**

Partnering with the Conway Scenic Railroad in celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the tracks and first train through Crawford Notch was an eventful time.

Presentations were given by Scotty Mallett (June 28th) and Ben English (August 1<sup>st</sup>). Scotty focused on the track construction through Crawford Notch; Ben offered a pictorial rail journey highlighting people and events as the Maine Central Railroad operated in the area.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, BHS members joined in a special train ride through Crawford Notch on the Mountaineer train, attending a special celebration at Fabyan, at the top of the Notch, reenacting an 1875 celebration marking the first train to ride through the Notch.

We are very pleased that we had the opportunity to be a part of the celebration of local railroad history that changed life in Bartlett and Hart's Location.

## **How Can You Donate to BHS?**

*There are several options:*

Cash or Check; Credit Card; Gift-in-Kind; Stock Transfer, Matching Gift from your employer, Memorials, Estate Designations

Donations to BHS will help with our operational expenses while helping research and preserve the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore, while offering different opportunities for people of all ages to learn about our rich history.

All donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you for your continued support.

*Bartlett Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 organization. All donations may be tax deductible*



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## **BHS Quarterly Presentation Series News**

The BHS Quarterly Presentation Series is a way for the Historical Society to offer informative presentations on topics of local interest and/or history. Some of these topics touch directly on our local or regional history while others highlight the experiences of local people in their life professions or experiences. If you have an idea for a topic that you'd like to see us pursue, please let us know.

### **What's Next—Our Last 2025 Presentation**

#### **Wednesday, October 15, 2025: Life at the Top with Eric Pinder, author and former Mount Washington Observatory Weather Observer**

Mount Washington, "Home of the World's Worst Weather," is a place visited by many for an hour or so but Eric worked at the top of the mountain from 1995 to 2002 as a weather observer in the Mount Washington Observatory. His talk will cover many different aspects of life at the top of the mountain, from weather observing to favorite crew recipes. And, of course, the observatory cats.

Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.



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### **2026 Presentation Line-up Taking Shape**

#### **Sunday, January 18, 2026: Logging Railroads of the White Mountains with Dave Govatski, Naturalist, Former U.S. Forest Service Employee, Local Historian**

In the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, the logging industry dominated our White Mountains harvesting trees to mill into lumber supplying the building needs of a growing nation. There were several independent logging railroads in our mountains, each servicing a mill or logging interest. These included the Bartlett and Albany Railroad, Sawyer River Railroad, and Saco River Railroad. Dave's talk will tell us the history of these railroads.

A brief BHS Annual Meeting will precede Dave's talk.

Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 2:00 p.m.



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#### **April Presentation—TBD**

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#### **Wednesday, June 17, 2026: Colonies to Country: The Forming of the United States of America with Bob Cottrell, Curator of the Henney History Room, Local Historian**

In 1776, talk of finding our independence from our Royal Governance by England was growing in the colonies. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress and our effort to depart from British rule began. By 1789, the Revolutionary War saw the defeat of the British troops and our nation had a new Constitution. The effort to form a government and move from 13 separate colonies to 13 states under a federal government was underway.

Bartlett Historical Society & Museum, 13 School Street, Bartlett, Time: 7:00 p.m.



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#### **October Presentation—TBD**

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## **BHS Curator's Report—BHS Curator Kathy Howard**

We are coming up on the one-year anniversary of the opening of the Bartlett Historical Society Museum! Since the opening, we have added over 300 items to the collection. This number only reflects the number of items that have been cataloged and added to our PastPerfect database. I can report that 99% of our total holdings have come to us by donation from society members and non-members who are interested in history. Our donors very often approach us with “not sure if you want this but I thought maybe you could use it”. Any donation large or small, seemingly insignificant or not, valuable or a potential yard sale item is greatly appreciated by Museum staff.

You may wonder what we do with “stuff” when we receive a donation. The first step is to document the donation. If there are several items, a list is made and the group may be designated as a “collection” meaning all of the items will be kept together and linked in the database to assure that the historical provenance will be maintained. The donor then receives a written thank-you letter along with a deed-of-gift document which should be signed and returned to the Museum. This deed of gift requests the donor’s signature to transfer complete ownership to the Museum.

Museum staff evaluate each donation and most items are set aside for cataloging and addition to the collection. We keep duplicate copies of books as back-ups to the collection and set aside books which are less relevant for possible book sales to benefit the Society’s General Fund. Actual artifacts are cataloged separately. Papers (newspaper articles, letters, deeds, maps, etc.) are sorted and cataloged according to importance or filed together according to “theme”. We currently have over 300 boxes and folders that contain various papers arranged by themes (railroads, schools, restaurants, hotels, etc.) or family names. We sometimes receive items which are not necessarily relevant to Bartlett but could be useful to another location’s history collection. In that case, we contact that local historical society and offer them the item. This spirit of cooperation works both ways as we have received items relevant to Bartlett from other historical societies as far away as Florida!

Our current exhibits (history of railroads, local geological history, and area hotels) are a cross-section of what the Museum owns or items that have been loaned to us for display. Our geological display is mixture of donated items and items that have been loaned to us for the duration of the exhibit. Loaned display items are acknowledged in writing when received and a letter is sent to the owner specifying the terms and dates of the loan.

In preparing for the next round of exhibits, the first order of business is to decide on a theme or multiple themes and then identify items in the collection that are interesting and informative for display. We hope to change over the Museum exhibits in January with the overall theme of “Winter in the Valley”. This theme encompasses everything from Attitash, “lost” ski areas, ski clubs, other winter sports (snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skating, etc.), winter hiking and camping, ski trains and the list goes on. We have already received a sleigh as a focal point for our winter display, but we need your help to collect items which can be added to



Lost Ski Area—  
Stanton Slope

other displays. If you have any “old” items in your attics or garages that might be useful please contact us to arrange a donation or loan. We know there are old skis, sleds, or snowshoes out there that would make great display items. Maybe you have old brochures or maps or menus or tickets related to ski areas or ski clubs. You may have pictures of winter events that were held years ago. Maybe you have photos of yourself or older family members skating, skiing, playing hockey, building the perfect snowman or enjoying a good snowball fight. Anything “winter” would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact us if you have any items for donation or loan. We can arrange to meet you at the Museum or arrange a time to pick up your items. We can’t do what we do without your participation. Thanks for your help!



## Declaration of Independence and New Hampshire Signers

by Phil Franklin

The Declaration of Independence was the monumental document that launched our quest for freedom. It started a revolution that changed what started as thirteen separate colonies of the British empire into our United States of America. The document was adopted on July 4, 1776 and eventually signed by 56 delegates to the Second Congressional Congress in Philadelphia, PA. The question of exactly when the document was signed has been debated by historical scholars for decades. The dates of July 4, 1776 and August 2, 1776 are the two most accepted dates and signing most assuredly occurred on both dates.

New Hampshire was represented by three delegates to the Continental Congress. Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, and Matthew Thornton put their lives on the line for the state of New Hampshire. Bartlett is arguably the most well-known of the three.

As we approach 2026, we thought that a look at the biographies of our three brave men would be a good lead into the upcoming 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our declaration of independence from Britain.

### Josiah Bartlett

Josiah Bartlett was born in Amesbury, MA on November 21, 1729. He was the seventh of seven children of Hannah (Webster) and Stephen Bartlett. Stephen was a shoemaker. An inquisitive student, Bartlett connected with a variety of teachers in his early years. Aside from his schoolmaster, he learned Latin and Greek, presumably from a relative, Reverend Doctor John Webster. In 1745, he studied medicine with his hometown physician, Doctor Nehemiah Ordway and after five years of apprenticeship, he moved to Kingston, NH and hung out his shingle. In 1751, he purchased a twelve acre farm in Kingston. On January 15, 1754, he married his cousin, Mary Bartlett, the daughter of his uncle, Deacon Joseph Bartlett and Joseph's wife, Sarah Bartlett. Josiah and Mary had twelve children, eight of whom lived to adulthood. Three of his sons and seven of his grandsons also became physicians. Bartlett was a freemason. He died on July 14, 1795.



Doctor Bartlett practiced medicine for 40 years. During that time, he used traditional treatments for illnesses but also experimented with different therapies for illnesses. As an example, when diphtheria spread through Kingston, he discovered that Peruvian bark (quinine) relieved the symptoms. He also promoted the idea of drinking fluids to relieve fevers. While this may seem commonplace today, in the 1700s, consuming fluids for fever relief was against medical advice. He also promoted the ideas of exercise, maintaining a good diet, and getting fresh air to cure illnesses. Bartlett was in a medical partnership with Doctor Amos Gale from 1765 – 1769.

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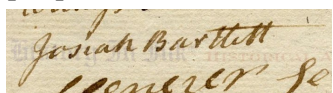


Declaration continued ...

In 1790, Bartlett worked with the New Hampshire legislature to recognize the New Hampshire Medical Society.

Politically, Bartlett was very active in the effort to move away from British rule of the colonies and the development of the American as well as the New Hampshire governments. From 1765 - 1775, he was an elected member of the Provincial Assembly for New Hampshire. He aligned with the Whig party. Also in 1765, Governor Benning Wentworth appointed Bartlett as a justice of the peace. Bartlett, in 1770, was a colonel in the 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the New Hampshire Militian.

His efforts to participate in revolutionary causes started in 1774 as a member of the Provincial Assembly's Committee of Correspondence and Committee of Safety. As a member of the Committee of Correspondence, he was selected as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. In 1776, when Congress took up the idea of declaring independence, Bartlett was a strong proponent of the idea. He became the first Congressional delegate to sign the Declaration of



Independence after the Congressional President, John Hancock. His signature is found atop the right most column of signatures.

A side note on the signing of the Declaration – The signing of the Declaration followed a formal process. Delegates from each state were asked to sign the document, starting with the northernmost colony (New Hampshire) and working down the colonies to the southernmost colony (Georgia). In 1776, the area we now know as Maine was part of the colony of Massachusetts and since the Massachusetts capital of Boston is geographically below New Hampshire, it fell to a secondary signing position. Similarly, the state we now know as Vermont, was a part of the colony of New York. So, that left New Hampshire as the northernmost colony.



Battle of Bennington Flag

Bartlett was a member of the Continental Congress in 1775, 1776, and 1778. In 1777, he served with General John Stark bringing medical supplies to Stark's forces at the Battle of Bennington. After serving on a committee to draft and sign the Articles of Confederation in 1778, he withdrew from his congressional position and returned to New Hampshire.

continued on next page


### 100 Years Ago ...

From the 1925 Bartlett Annual Report:

- ♦ Bartlett received \$2,476 in tax revenue from the State Railroad tax—8.5% of the total tax receipts
- ♦ Total assessed value of "Land and Buildings" in Bartlett = \$657,651 (2004 Valuation = \$2,069,445,542)
- ♦ Bartlett High School had its first graduating class in June—2 students; both went on to the University of New Hampshire



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Declaration continued ...

Bartlett's resignation from congress didn't end his career serving the people of New Hampshire or the country. Here is a list of his civic engagements from 1778 forward:

- ♦ 1778 – 1782: Became chief justice of the NH Common Court of Pleas
- ♦ 1782: Became Associate Justice for the NH Supreme Court
- ♦ 1788: Delegate from New Hampshire to the Constitutional Convention that framed the Constitution of the United States
- ♦ 1788: Leads the effort for New Hampshire to ratify the Constitution and become the ninth state
- ♦ 1788 – 1789: Becomes Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court
- ♦ 1789: Selected as U.S. Senator from New Hampshire but declined the offer
- ♦ 1790 – 1794: Chief Executive or President of New Hampshire; the state constitution was amended in 1793 changing the title of this position to "Governor"

During his tenure as Governor of New Hampshire, he developed the foundation for the laws by which the state would operate.

Following his governorship, he retired to his Kingston home where, on May 19, 1795, he died with his cause of death listed as "paralysis."

Honoring Josiah Bartlett, a bronze statue of his likeness stands in Amesbury, MA, his portrait hangs in the New Hampshire State House, and the town of Bartlett was named for him, the soil of which neither he nor his wife ever set foot upon.

### Two Other Signers from New Hampshire

Two other New Hampshire men signed the Declaration of Independence. William Whipple, Jr. and Thomas Thornton. While neither held the stature of Josiah Bartlett, they both contributed to the spirit of the revolution and establishment of a new nation.

#### William Whipple



William Whipple was born in Kittery Massachusetts (now Kittery, Maine) on January 25, 1731. After being educated in "common school" he left home to go to sea where, by the age of 21, he became a ship's master. In 1760, he settled back on dry land, opening a mercantile firm with his brother, Joseph, in Portsmouth, NH. He prospered in his business that traded between North America, Africa, and the West Indies dealing in wood, rum, and enslaved people. In 1767, he married his first cousin, Catherine Moffat and set up housekeeping on Market Street in Portsmouth, NH in 1769. The couple had one child who died in infancy.

In 1775, when New Hampshire dissolved the British Royal government and established the House of Representatives and Executive Council (a.k.a. Provincial Congress), Whipple was elected to represent Portsmouth. He was then elected to the Continental Congress where he, along with his friend, Josiah Bartlett, signed the Declaration of Independence (though not at the same signing). At the same time, he freed his enslaved servant, Prince Whipple, saying that he could not fight for freedom while holding others in bondage.

In 1777, the Provincial Congress gave Whipple his first military commission. Whipple commanded a brigade at the Battle of Saratoga. For his meritorious conduct, he was chosen as one of two revolutionary representatives to determine the terms of surrender imposed upon British General John Burgoyne.

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Declaration continued ...

In 1778, under the command of General John Sullivan, he led a brigade in the Battle of Rhode Island in an attempt to route the British from Newport. This campaign was less successful as the Continental Army force was withdrawn and the British remained in control of the city.

Following the Revolutionary War, Whipple became an Associate Justice of the Superior Court of New Hampshire. On November 28, 1785, he suffered a heart attack and died.

### Matthew Thornton

Matthew Thornton is described as one of the less substantial signers of the Declaration of Independence as his national service was brief and relatively insignificant. Still, his signature is one of the 56 at the bottom of the document. Born in 1714 in Derry, Ireland, his parents moved to the colonies in 1722 settling in Wiscasset, now Maine, then Massachusetts. They would soon flee to Worcester, Massachusetts after Native Americans attacked their town and burned their home.



Thornton studied medicine and became a physician setting up a practice in Londonderry, New Hampshire. As a surgeon for the New Hampshire Militia, he participated in an expedition against Fortress Louisbourg in 1745. Similar to his other fellow New Hampshire signers, he served in the New Hampshire Provincial Assembly from 1758 to 1762 where he would rise to the position of President of the Assembly. He was a member of the Committee of Safety and helped draft the plan of government after the Royal Government was dissolved. This plan became the state's first constitution. He was a justice of the peace and served as a colonel in the militia from 1775 to 1779.

Thornton was the Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1776 and was elected to the Continental Congress after the debates and decision for to fight for independence was reached. Still, he was granted permission to sign the Declaration in November 1776, becoming the last representative to sign the document.

Following his service in the Continental Congress, Thornton became a political essayist. In 1780, he retired from his medical practice and moved to Merrimack, NH where he farmed and operated Thornton's ferry. Without a law degree, he served as a judge on the New Hampshire Superior Court from 1776 to 1782. In 1783, he represented the towns of Merrimack and Bedford in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. From 1784 to 1787, he served in the New Hampshire Senate for Hillsborough County.

In 1760, Thornton married Hannah Jack. The couple raised five children. Thornton died on June 24, 1803.

### ... In Conclusion

The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents that defines who we are as Americans and lays the groundwork for our freedom as Americans – “... *that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness* ...” The only word I would change in this is to change the word “men” to “people,” but the sentiment remains the same. The three delegates from New Hampshire who signed this declaration, Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, and Matthew Thornton, demonstrated their bravery and spirit to form a new independent nation. In 2026, we will honor these signers along with the other 53 as they set the path for our nation.





The Bartlett Snow Roller—Restored 2015

# The Historical Herald

[www.BartlettHistory.Org](http://www.BartlettHistory.Org)

**Facebook: Bartlett Historical-Society**

## **BHS Looking Forward to 2026**

2026 will be a year of celebrations and remembrances nationally and locally.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of America:** At the national level, we will be celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of our nation. Josiah Bartlett, for whom our town of Bartlett is named, was the first delegate to the Continental Congress to sign the Declaration of Independence after John Hancock. On our BHS leadership team, we are looking at different options for how we can commemorate this significant milestone. Two ideas under consideration are assembling the contents of a time capsule to be opened in 50 or 100 years. Another idea is to plant a tree to commemorate this national milestone. We think it would be fitting to plant an oak tree (variety to be selected) as the Oak is our national tree (planting location TBD). We're still open to other ideas. Phil Franklin has had a brief conversation with selectman Gene Chandler about these ideas and plans to talk further with the town selectmen about 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary ideas.

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Willey Family Demise:** 2026 will mark the 200<sup>th</sup> year of the tragic demise of the Samuel Willey family in Hart's Location during a terrible storm on August 26, 1826. The Willey's were once residents of Bartlett, living in a house on what we now call West Side Road. They moved to Hart's Location in 1825 as Bartlett's population was growing and they wanted to be farther into the countryside. The tragic circumstances of the Willey family are still a topic of conversation amongst locals and visitors alike. We hope to do something to remember this family 200 years after their passing.

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of BHS:** Finally, 2026 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bartlett Historical Society. Starting with a meeting of several people in 2006 at the house of Norman and Kathleen (Sullivan) Head, we have come a long way from a very small organization to one that now has members across the United States and in 2024 opened our museum, receiving many very complimentary remarks from visitors over the past year.

Aside from these three events, we'll still be hosting our Annual Presentation Series, continuing our search for Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore history, and creating events for members and the public as well as for fundraising to keep the organization in the good graces of our creditors.

### **Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors**

Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
Scotty Mallett, Secretary	A.H. "Buzz" Query, Director
John Chanley, Director	

### **BHS Advisory Panel**

David Eliason, Michael Chandler, Anne Pillion, Hadley Champlin, David Shedd



**Silver Cascade in Crawford Notch  
surrounded by the colors of fall**