

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

Fall 2024 Edition (2024:4)

The Bartlett

Historical Society

The Bartlett Historical Society & Museum is OPEN!!!
Thank You to All Our Donors for Your Generous Support!



October 19, 2024—The end of a long renovation journey with a brief grand opening ceremony and the Bartlett Historical Society switches from renovation mode to celebration mode!

Phil Franklin, BHS President (L) with Norman Head, President Emeritus of the Bartlett Historical Society as Norm cuts the ribbon to mark the opening of the *Bartlett Historical Society & Museum* building.

As the ribbon fell, Norm called out “Who wants to be first?” to the waiting audience on the lawn of the building.

One Word From our Guest Book that was repeated several times

“WOW!!”

Photo credit: Gail Prelli

Thank you to our final museum donors

Museum Donors: 07/012/2024—10/19/2024

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President's Message

What an exciting time we have had over the past month with the opening of our museum and headquarters and the continued arrival of visitors in the subsequent weeks. My wife and I have been living full time in Bartlett for the past 10 years and that's how long I've been working on this renovation project. As the leader of the project for many years, working with Norm Head, our BHS President Emeritus, and Bill Duggan, our renovation General Contractor, I've worn many hats in the process. I'm looking forward to wearing one or two fewer hats with the renovation done.

This newsletter is admittedly late. I decided to delay the October newsletter because I simply didn't have the time to write it with all the final preparations for the museum opening underway. Once we opened the building, my wife and I took a short but much-needed vacation. Recently, I was appointed to the role of Assistant Moderator for Bartlett, assisting Norm Head, our town Moderator, and Cheryl Nealley, our Town Clerk, with the preparations for and running of the General Election. With all that behind us, I'm finally sitting down to write this newsletter. So, my apologies for the delay.

The focus of this newsletter is obviously the opening of our museum and BHS headquarters but there are other things I'd like to let you know about.

On Wednesday, December 11, 2024, Terry O'Brien, owner of the Red Parka Pub in Bartlett (Glen) is hosting a dining event for BHS. She will donate 10% of the evening's meal receipts to BHS. Terry has been a great supporter of BHS for many years and we appreciate her continued generosity. Please mark your calendar so you can join us at the Red Parka Pub for a great meal and evening with friends.

With the year end fast approaching, we are starting to prepare for our BHS Annual Meeting. The meeting will precede our first 2025 presentation on Sunday, January 12, 2025 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at our Bartlett Historical Society & Museum building, 13 School Street in Bartlett. At the Annual Meeting, we'll review the highlights of 2024 and elect our Board of Directors for 2025. It will also be a great time to see the museum if you haven't already dropped by.

Over the past weeks, several items of historical value to Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore have been donated to BHS. We are always looking to enhance our collection of historical treasures so if you have an item or items related to the history of our three covered towns, and you would like to donate them to us, we will gladly accept them. Recent donations have included signs from hotels, deeds from the 1800s, railroad items from Bartlett's railroading past, wall maps, paintings by local artists, logging and lumbering tools, and family histories. If you have a question about an item's historical relevance, please ask us. We cannot appraise items, but we can determine if they fit into the fabric of our local history.

We are starting our 2025 BHS Membership Drive. You'll find membership information in this newsletter and can either send in your membership renewal or a new membership via the US mail or complete the membership form online at www.bartletthistory.net/membershipjoinrenew. We hope that all our current members will renew their membership. If you are not a member but have been donating to the BHS museum project, please consider joining BHS as a member as so many other donors have done. As always, we appreciate your support.

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. 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

BHS Notes

Coming Soon—BHS Greeting Cards

One of our members, Greta George, is a very accomplished artist. She discovered her talent several years ago when she and her family were living in Alaska where her husband, the late Bert George, was stationed with the US Air Force. Greta has painted four scenes from Bartlett's past. She is having a set of greeting cards made with these images and donating the first set to BHS. After those sell out, we will have them reprinted and continue to offer them as fundraisers. The scenes are below:



Second Iron Bridge



Garland Ridge Cemetery



River Street Iron Bridge



Sawyer's Rock

We'll have them available in our museum and online through our website.

Four Season Raffle Winner

This year we offered a raffle prize of four original photographs taken by Phil Franklin depicting our four major seasons in and around Bartlett (we didn't think Mud Season or Black Fly Season would be very appealing, so we stuck with the standards, winter, spring, summer and fall). The winner of the photos was Adel Hollum of Conway, NH. She told us she plans to hang them in a newly refurbished room in her house. The raffle brought in \$565 as a fundraiser for BHS. The winning ticket was drawn as planned on October 16th. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Your support is greatly appreciated.

We're working on an interesting idea for our 2025 raffle. Please stay tuned.

BHS Continues Participating in Non-Profit Summit

In our summer newsletter, we mentioned that members of the BHS Board of Directors had participated in a non-profit meeting titled "Know Your Neighbors Summit." These summit meetings are being held at the Museum of the White Mountains at Plymouth State University and are being led by the museum Director, Meghan Doherty.

One of the themes for this meeting was "success stories." Continuing our participation in that group, Phil Franklin was one of the presenters at the most recent summit meeting on October 30th. He told of our success story with our museum project. In his presentation, Phil covered all aspects of the effort including how the project came to be, the marketing and fundraising, challenges presented by the project and the actual renovation. Phil's presentation was well received.

Phil is also using these group meetings to make contacts with other non-profit leaders. At this meeting, for example, he met with a gentleman from Keene State College who is an expert at "translating" old and very hard to read colonial handwritten script into readable statements. Phil along with our Curator, Kathy Howard, are looking forward to working with this gentleman as we have many old documents where the handwriting, abbreviations, and legibility of the words are challenging. It will be interesting to learn what is being said in these pages.

Museum Hours of Operation

Our Bartlett Historical Society & Museum building (13 School Street, Bartlett) is open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (except holidays) or by appointment. Appointments can be made by calling our telephone number – 603-374-5037 – or by dropping an email to Phil Franklin at Phil@BartlettHistory.org. Admission to the museum is free and open to anyone; if you care to make a donation at the door to help offset our operating costs, we would be most appreciative. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Would you like your BHS Newsletter by Email or our paper style?

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 and we'll add you to our "Newsletter Email Distribution List." The email version is in color. However, if you don't have email or want to keep receiving the newsletter in paper/hardcopy format, we'll keep mailing it to you via the US Postal Service.

Railroad Research Committee—Looking for Research Volunteers

Scotty Mallett, a BHS Board members, is also a railroad historian. He has done a considerable amount of work tracking down the history of the railroads in Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore. In the latter part of the 1800s through the 1960s, Bartlett was a central point on the rails with the Portland & Ogdensburg Railroad and then the Maine Central Railroad plus several logging railroads operating in the mountains, Crawford Notch, and Livermore. Scotty is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping continue the research our local railroad history. If you'd like to join him in this research effort, please contact him at 603-383-3051 or by email at scottymallett@gmail.com.



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How Can You Donate to BHS?

There are several options:

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Donations to BHS will help with our operational expenses as well as be used to help us research and preserve the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore as well as offer 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.

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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.

Sunday, January 12, 2025: Yankee Ingenuity: Stories of Headstrong and Resourceful People, presented by Jo Radner (A NH Humanities presenter) *We rescheduled this presentation from its original*



October 2024 date

Jo shares a selection of historical tales—humorous and thought-provoking—about New Englanders who have used their wits in extraordinary ways to solve problems and create inventions. The talk will include discussion with the audience, and may introduce a brief folktale or a poem about inventiveness and problem-solving.

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

Wednesday, April 16, 2025: Fly Fishing on the Saco with local fishing expert, Steve Angers, owner of the North Country Angler shop

This presentation is a bit of a departure from our usual presentations on local history but fishing in our local rivers, streams and ponds has been a staple of life in the area since it was first settled. Steve will tell us about the sport of fly fishing and share news of expanded fishing opportunities in the local waters.



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

Wednesday, June 18, 2025: A Soldiers' Story of Duty in the Middle East with Karl-Dieter Chandler, 2nd Lieutenant, US Army, Blackhawk Helicopter pilot



Karl-Dieter grew up in Bartlett (son of Hannah and Mike Chandler). He joined the US Army as an ROTC cadette and eventually served in a number of locations in the United States. In 2008, he served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as an Aeromedical Evacuation Pilot. Karl will present a before and after view of the Middle East—before the war and after the war, talking about his experiences as a Bartlett native in a foreign land.

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025: TBD—We are working on scheduling a very interesting and entertaining presenter and topic for this event. We'll have more to announce on this when we get the event confirmed.

We hope to have a presenter that will tell an interesting and unusual story of a hike on the Appalachian Trail. We hope to confirm the presenters availability soon.

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

BHS Quarterly Presentation Series—What are your ideas for topics?

We'd like to hear from you—What topics, focusing on local or regional history, would you like to hear about? Please send your topic ideas to Phil Franklin (Phil@BartlettHistory.org) and we'll consider each suggestion and see if we can find a presenter for the topic.



A Recap of the Celebration to Open the Bartlett Historical Society & Museum Building

By Phil Franklin

Saturday, October 19, 2024, marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of the Bartlett Historical Society and in Bartlett, NH. We had a wonderful celebration to mark the opening of the Bartlett Historical Society & Museum building at 13 School Street in Bartlett. In doing this, we closed a decade long chapter of BHS history where we were focused on the planning and purchase of the former St. Joseph Church building as well as the monumental effort to save, renovate and transform that building into our headquarters and museum. For the many who could not attend, here's a rundown of the grand opening activities.

To celebrate this milestone, we planned a weekend-long event for the opening of the building. On Friday, October 18th, we invited our top-level donors to a preview event of the building. This was our way of thanking them for their generosity. We were very pleased to have about 30 guests in the building for this event. I took a few moments in the event to express our thanks to the attendees for their extreme generosity during this long campaign. Everyone had a great time; the compliments were overwhelming.

On Saturday, October 19th, the day of the opening event was perfect with a blue-bird sky, warm temperature, and gentle breeze. We marked the opening of the building with a brief program where I spoke and acted as Master of Ceremonies. I remarked that in 2016 when we introduced the project to the public several people told me "It'll never happen." Given the condition of the building at that time, it was understandable that some thought the building would end up as a pile of demolition material. I talked about our journey to this opening day highlighting a couple of major events in the renovation. Finally, the most important part of my comments, I thanked those present who donated to this project and let them know, again, that this project would not have been successful without their sustained and generous support (this applies to every donor to this project reading this note).



Phil Franklin addresses the opening day audience

During my comments, I pointed out two individuals for their participation in this renovation. First, I recognized my friend, Norman Head. Norm was the president of BHS when this project started. He and I worked together on the planning and preparations for the effort, making proposals to the Bartlett School Board (owners of the building in 2016) for BHS to lease the building, and then sale of the building to BHS in 2019. As I took on more of the project leadership, Norm remained a close advisor. Second, I recognized my friend Bill Duggan, our General Contractor. Bill was a key part of this effort from the start in 2016 and remained dedicated to seeing this project through to the end. Bill not only coordinated the work to renovate the building but he and I also spent many hours discussing how the function of the building as a museum would influence the redesign of the building.



Bill Duggan

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Photos of our Museum Displays



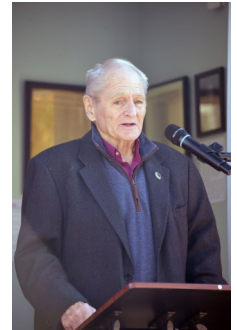
Photo Credits: Brianna Goldblatt



Andrew Cushing from the NH Preservation Alliance addresses the audience

We were also fortunate to have Andrew Cushing, Community Preservation Services Manager for the NH Preservation Alliance, join us for the grand opening. In 2017, the NH Preservation Alliance recognized our building as one of their Seven to Save award winners. Andrew has followed this project from its inception and remarked at how well it turned out. He also noted that this is one of the few Seven to Save buildings that has seen the renovation and preservation effort completed. Andrew and the other members of the NH Preservation alliance have been very supportive of our project over these past years. We appreciated his effort to make the trip to Bartlett for this event.

To close the opening program, I asked Norm Head to say a few words and conclude with the ribbon cutting. Norm added a few brief comments, kidding me about my attention to detail along the way as well as noting the great accomplishment that we (i.e., BHS members, donors, and tradespeople) have made in getting us to this opening day. Finally, the last tool to be used in the renovation was a scissors and with them, Norm sliced through the ribbon and the building was open.



Norman Head adding a few comments about the project before cutting the ribbon

Norm remained at the front door of the building greeting every guest who came through the threshold.

On Sunday, October 20th, we again opened the building and several people arrived to see the museum.

Comments from everyone who has come through the doors have been overwhelmingly positive and complementary. Several visitors have taken out new memberships and others made generous contributions. Seeing the reaction of everyone who attended the opening weekend events made all the long hours of hard work on this building and behind the scenes doing the deskwork worthwhile. This is a new museum for Bartlett, Hart's Location and Livermore, open to anyone who is interested in or just curious about the history of these three towns in northern New Hampshire. Please stop in for a visit.

Photos of our Museum Displays



Photo Credits: Brianna Goldblatt



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Thank You Notes for Renovation and Museum Opening Support

In Phil's recap of the Grand Opening Day celebration for the museum, he noted our appreciation for all the support from our donors along with Norm Head and Bill Duggan but the list of people and businesses deserving a special mention goes on. Also, again, our sincere thanks to all of our donors.

For the past several years, the BHS Board of Directors has listened to updates from Phil on the renovation, discussed different aspects of the effort, and offered suggestions on the renovation. A special thanks goes out to our current BHS Board members, Hannah Chandler, Vice President; Scotty Mallett, Secretary; Sue Franklin, Treasurer; Kathy Howard, Curator. Also we extend our thanks to our past Board members who served BHS during the renovation, Hadley Champlin, Peg Fish, and Rob Foppiano along with Norm Head.

During the opening weekend, we had tremendous support from our Event Manager, Terri Goldblatt and her daughter, Brianna. Our thanks to Terri for organizing several different aspects of the weekend, making it easy for us to focus our attention on our guests. We also extend our appreciation to Terry O'Brien of the Red Parka Pub, Beth Carta Dolan of Joseph's Spaghetti Shed and The Sugar Maker Bakery as well as the managers of El Reparo Restaurant and Hannaford Supermarket for their donations of some wonderful foods and desserts to our pre-opening event.

We also thank Tom Eastman, a Conway Daily Sun journalist and Rachel Sharples, the Conway Daily Sun photographer for their coverage of this event and all the activities leading up to this weekend. Finally, our thanks to Lisa DuFault, Executive Director of the Mount Washington Valley Promotions organization for her coverage of the event also.

As anyone can see, there was a community of people behind the success of the opening weekend and the creation of our museum. If we missed anyone, it was not intentional, and our apologies are extended.

More Comments from Our Guest Book

"Congratulations! We enjoyed visiting the fruits of your labors. Great Job!"

"I'm impressed!"

"Such a labor (of love, I hope) but so worth it. It is fabulous, Well done & thanks."

"A fabulous accomplishment. Perseverance wins!"

"Wonderful"

"It looks wonderful. This was my church for a long time"

"So wonderful to see this moment of accomplishment and beginning. The museum looks fabulous!"

"So glad to have you as a neighbor!"

"Wonderful job—Hard work—Bless those that did the work and may Bartlett cherish and take care of their heritage"

"Wonderful addition to our town. Thank you!"

"Amazing local resource"

"Very nice & educational. Awesome photo collection."

"What a beautiful museum. Thank you for what you do"

These are just some of the comments made by our guests on our opening weekend and subsequent days. While most of our guests were local, there are many who signed their names with addresses from out of state. We are so pleased that right from the start, we are seeing people from near and far enjoying our museum. These comments make all of the effort worthwhile.

What's Coming Up for the Future of the Bartlett Historical Society?

by Phil Franklin

With the opening of our new headquarters and museum, the Bartlett Historical Society has turned a major corner and instead of obtaining building supplies we are now completely focused on the future of the organization. I'd like to offer a look our plans for our future. Working with our Board of Directors and Advisors, we will work within the following guidelines as we outline our plans:

1. Our members are most important to us as without our members we fail to be an organization
2. Communication with our membership is a two-way street so while we will send information about BHS out to you we also welcome your participation in a dialog that will help us know of your interests.
3. We have many mysteries and "gaps" in our recorded history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore; we want to solve those mysteries and fill those gaps
4. The realities of operating a museum include the need to do fundraising and promotions to "stay in business" so we hope that we can earn your support as we offer different ways to be involved in BHS
5. Creating a sustainable future for BHS by engaging people in volunteer activities, seeing the next generation of leadership start to take the reins of the organization, ensuring that we have a sound financial base on which to continue operations, and finally, to continue our never ending pursuit of the details of the history of Bartlett, Hart's Location, and Livermore while being able to share that history with all who are interested.

With those guidelines in place, here are some of our plans for the future of BHS:

Membership: As we noted, our members are very important to us and we want to continue to increase our membership. Your support through your annual dues allows us to do some very basic things such as continue to pay our bills. Your active support via your membership helps us show foundations that we have a strong base and their support of us through grants is worth their investment. When important historical items are not offered as donations, we often need to purchase them, and while this is not our favorite option, it is often the only way we have to bring the artifacts of our local history "home." Our commitment to you is that we will use your membership dues wisely and efficiently.

continued on next page

100 Years Ago ...

The town paid the Goodrich Falls Electric Company a total of \$24 for lighting on our covered bridges.

W.J. Chandler, John Eastman and G.W. Melanson were paid \$3.00 each to care for town water troughs

Snow roller expenses were paid for rolling to Nathaniel Hill, \$72; W.D. Tasker, \$120; G.W. Russell, \$20 plus \$32.30 to J.L. Gibson & Co. for iron for the roller; G.K. Howard received \$215.15 for planking; F.H. Stillings was paid \$30 for snowing bridges (for sleigh travel)



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The Future Direction of BHS continued ...

Volunteers: BHS is a strictly volunteer organization, this includes our Board of Directors. Beyond the Board, we want to grow a base of volunteer support to do a variety of things such as provide coverage in the museum, help get mailings packaged and out the door, be ambassadors for BHS at public events, help maintain our museum grounds, and help with or do research into our mysteries and gaps, just to name a few things. We hope people will volunteer for things where they feel comfortable. By creating a strong base of volunteer support, we can not only get more people actively involved in BHS but also sustain our organization as volunteers grow into leadership roles.

Expanded Educational Programs: Today, we offer four presentations as a part of our Quarterly Presentation Series. We would like to expand our educational offerings through ideas such as:

- ◆ Offering workshops where attendees can actively learn about things such as researching the history of their old house, learning about the symbolism found on old gravestones, and/or learning about how to discover your genealogical past
- ◆ Reengage with the Bartlett Elementary School to offer students opportunities to learn about their local history, maybe event develop a Junior Historical Society membership
- ◆ Bring in authors of historical books to present on the topic of their book
- ◆ Get members of local families to talk about their ancestry as it relates to Bartlett, Hart's Location, or Livermore or even beyond
- ◆ Coordinate with the Bartlett Public Library as they have a Bartlett History section
- ◆ Encourage people with artifacts and documents related to the history of our three covered towns to bring them out of their attics and closets so they can be donated to our historical society and enrich our collection and understanding of local history
- ◆ Participate in local fairs and expos to promote the work we are doing at BHS to enhance the historical culture of the area
- ◆ Engage with other area historical societies to promote the idea of historical awareness on a broader scale (e.g. a historical society museum tour on a specific weekend or a loan program of displays with neighboring museums)

Historical Research: As noted, we have many topics of local history that need to be explored in greater depth or where we have no history at all. We plan to dig into these topics to enhance our historical understanding of our fore-fathers and mothers, document notable events, and sift through the facts versus fiction in local folklore. Now, if you're reading this saying that you don't know how to do historical research, please don't let that deter you as we will be available to help point you in the right directions and help you with the effort.

Oral Histories: Over the past years, we've been able to interview a number of local folks to hear and relate to you "their story." We want to continue that program but we've found that often people don't want to open up their life story so we are considering another approach. That is to have guests just tell us about different things they remember about growing up in Bartlett, stories from school (e.g. local folklore, pranks, amusing

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The Future Direction of BHS continued ...

teacher and student stories, stories of local “personalities,” etc.). There are so many things people have told us on a casual, off-the-cuff basis and we’d like to capture those little quips so they are not lost to the ravages of time. Oral histories are a prize for any historical society because they capture the original voice and words of the story teller.

Giving Members from Away Opportunities for BHS Participation: We have BHS members in all the New England states plus twelve other states across the country. We want to have ways and opportunities for people in California, Utah, Washington, Texas, Illinois, Florida and several other states to be a part of BHS beyond just sending in their membership renewals. To do this, we are working on extending access to the museum through an online software program, delving into the world of social media and YouTube, and even considering the idea of doing live Zoom programs for our presentations. There’s a lot involved in this topic heading and we need some technical expertise to get this accomplished but the ideas are on the table.

Sustainability of the Organization: In my conversations with other leaders of historical societies and other non-profit organizations one of the largest, yet strangely least discussed topics, is who will the next generation of leaders be to take over after the current leadership “retires.” This is a topic critical to BHS longevity as it is with all other non-profit organizations. A high percentage of the leaders of other historical societies are in their 70s and 80s. BHS is fortunate to have a couple of leaders below the age of 70 but some of us are gaining on that mark quickly (not that 70 is old by any means!). When I ask my peers who they have for backup in their leadership roles, the answers are few. Here at BHS, we have two open positions on our Board of Directors and while I’ve talked with several people about joining the BHS Board, they cite that they are already too busy with other commitments (I actually know that when I talk with them but still you need to ask). A focus needs to be placed on getting the next generation of leaders engaged so when current leadership moves on to other things, we can be sure that we are leaving our historical society in the hands of strong, committed leaders who will carry forward the Mission of BHS. There’s a lot to talk about here and if you are interested in joining this conversation, please contact me (Phil@BartlettHistory.org).

I hope this list of topics gives you an idea of the direction we want to go with BHS. We’re not going to do everything at once as that would get unmanageable but we are hoping to get things kicked off in the coming months so we’ll get more information out to you on this and hope that you’ll consider being an active part of BHS through one or more of these topics.

Photos of Grand Opening Day Guests

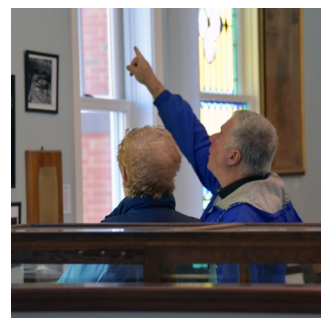


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The Historical Herald

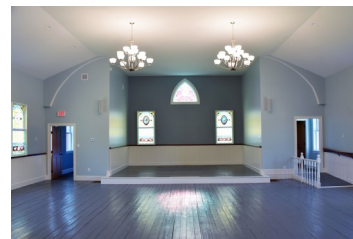
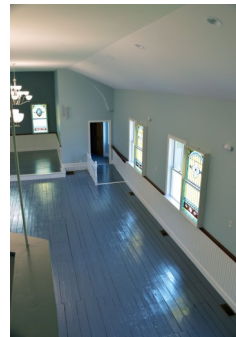
www.BartlettHistory.Org

Facebook: **Bartlett Historical-Society**

A Last Look at Some Before and After Photos of OUR Building



The photos on the left reflect the look of our museum building in 2016 when we first leased it from the Bartlett School District.



The photos on the right reflect the look of our museum building in 2024 just before we installed the displays for our new Bartlett Historical Society & Museum.

Bartlett Historical Society—Board of Directors

Philip Franklin, President	Hannah Chandler, Vice President
Susan Franklin, Treasurer	Kathleen Howard, Curator
Scotty Mallett, Secretary	
2 Open Director Positions	

BHS Advisory Panel

David Eliason, Michael Chandler, Norman Head, George Howard, Anne Pillion, Hadley Champlin, David Shedd, Rachael Brown



Albany Covered Bridge over the Swift River