

The Allenstown Historical Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Your contributions and donations are tax deductible.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership privileges include notice of scheduled events and a voice in the society agenda.

Annual membership dues become payable January 1st for the ensuing year.

Dues paid by NEW members on or after August 1st shall cover membership through the ensuing year.

You need not be a resident of Allenstown to be a member.

Your membership dues and participation in various fund-raisers help us in the preservation of Allenstown's rich history.

We encourage you to share old photos, memorabilia and small items of historic value so generations to come will better understand our origin.

President:

Armand Verville 485-4437

Vice-President:

Richard Merrill 485 7514

Secretary:

Harriet Bean 485-3915

Treasurer:

Carol Merrill 485-7514

Archivist:

Claudette Verville 485-4437

DUES

Individual \$10.00

Family-*In Same Household* \$20.00

Name:

Address:

Phone:

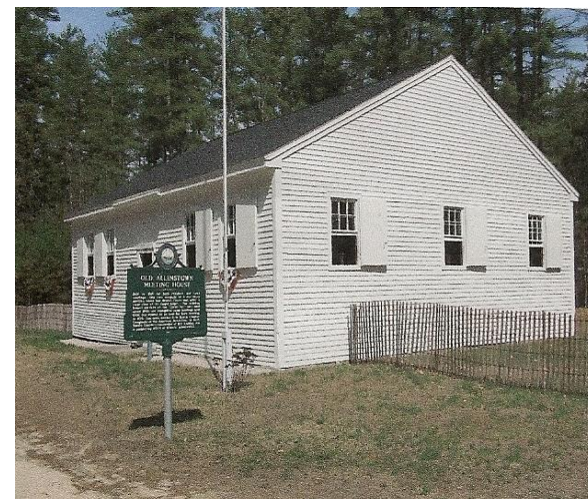
E-Mail:

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Allenstown NH Historical Society
PO Box 94
Allenstown, NH 03275

Allenstown NH Historical Society

Established May 6, 1994



*Old Allenstown Meetinghouse Circa
1815*

**GOOD CITIZENSHIP SPRINGS FROM A
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ONE'S OWN
COMMUNITY.**

PURPOSE

The object of this Society is to collect and preserve valuable manuscripts, artifacts and other articles relevant to the history of Allenstown, NH; to write and publish whatever may be of value concerning the history of the town; to record items and events which may be of historic significance; and to foster a general interest in the history of Allenstown, NH.

ACTIVITIES

- **Fund raising for restoration of the Old Allenstown Meeting House**
- **Walking Tours and Lectures**
- **Collaborative programs with other local groups**
- **Restoration of Old Cemeteries**
- **Recording Oral Histories**

Bear Brook State Park is the second-largest State Park in New Hampshire. Located here are the NH Antique Snowmobile Museum, and the Richard Diehl Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Museum.

A Brief History of Allenstown

In 1722, the heirs of Governor Samuel Allen received a grant of a tract of land four miles square. The first settlers arrived in 1728/1729. In 1750 the Masonian proprietors obtained control of the land from the heirs of Governor Allen. In 1756 this tract of land was named Allenstown in honor of Governor Allen. There were originally 30 lots of 350 acres each with each of 15 proprietors receiving 2 lots. The proprietors could subdivide and sell lots.

By 1773 the population was 143. The best farming land was along Deerfield Road. The first sawmill was built in the Bear Brook area near the Deerfield town line on Little Mill Brook in 1769.

A gristmill had been built on Bear Brook near the highway and a tavern was built near what is now the parking lot behind the bathhouse in Bear Brook State Park by 1790, and the population was 254. The population grew to 346 by 1817 and there were now four sawmills and two gristmills. A new Meeting House had been built in the center of town on Deerfield Road. Town meetings were held in the Meeting House until 1876.

There were two school districts. District 1 had a school house on the main road, but District 2 along Podunk Road had no schoolhouse until 1840. Each year residents found a place to hold school until the schoolhouse was built.

By 1823, there were five sawmills in town. Spruce and Beaver Ponds were once called "Shingle Ponds" in reference to the shingles made there. There was a bark mill and a tannery on Mount Delight Road, and a cooperage near the Burgin Tavern.

Allenstown had a population of 481 by 1831, which was enough to become a town. It was incorporated on July 2, 1831. The coming of the railroad and the growth of the mills in the Suncook area of town caused the population to shift from the eastern to the western part of the town.

After the Civil War most of the farms in eastern Allenstown dwindled away. In 1876, town meetings were moved to the Hayes Opera House.

The Old Meeting House was closed and rarely used. In 1908, the old meeting house was transferred to the Buntin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) and they turned it over to the State of NH in 1991. On March 9, 2004, ownership of the Meeting House was transferred to the Town of Allenstown.