



Freedom Historical Society

January 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

January's newsletter is such a fun piece to put together as it gives me a chance to remember and share with you all the wonderful accomplishments of the past year as well as an opportunity to let you know about the plans we have for 2011.

As is tradition, early in May, a great group of volunteers helped us "dust off" our collection and ready the Society for our first evening program—"Hidden Treasures of the Granite Section of Ossipee" presented by John Hartog. This hugely successful program was followed in June by the Wright Museum's interesting program "American Advertising 1935-1955". The popularity of these first two programs and the limited space in the Meeting Room necessitated moving the remaining programs to Freedom's Town Hall. In July, Ken Rancourt shared with us his experiences working on Mt Washington and August brought Brian Fowler's very interesting program titled "The Geologic and Human History of the Old Man of the Mountain". In September, Jon Hively recounted his experiences working at the Cog Railway in various capacities. Our October program "A Flatlander Speaks" by Brendan Smith, Editor of the Weirs Times, was a humorous talk about life in New Hampshire and was preceded by our annual pot-luck dinner and business meeting. The slate of officers below was voted on and approved for 2011.

President: Richard Many

Vice President: Scott Cunningham

Treasurer: Tom Luke

Secretary: Sylvia Carney

Curator: Bonnie Burroughs

Directors: Dotty Brooks, Arthur Robinson, Ellen Many, Peg Scully and Gale Morris

The election of these folks means we have to say goodbye to old friends Ginger Brownell who was our Treasurer and Ray Dahlstrom who was our Curator. We sincerely thank them for their service to the Society and for all their hard work over the years.

Doesn't the Allard House look beautiful? With the leadership of Peter Park and Michael Gaudette, an unbelievable number of Freedom volunteers turned out in the late summer to scrape, sand, prime, caulk and paint two sides and the porch of the house. A special thank you goes out to Peter who could be found there on several days working by himself scraping and painting the porch deck. We all so very much appreciate his efforts and those of all the volunteers. In addition to the work on the outside of the Allard House, Mike Gaudette has completed the widening of the meeting room doorway, installed a new emergency exit door in the basement and we now have a concrete handicap ramp into the barn and a concrete footing for the replacement of our wonderful sign at the end of the driveway. Installation of a fire/smoke alarm system accompanied by directional emergency lighting is scheduled to be completed in early 2011. Mike Gaudette, Gene Doe and Bob Babine have worked very hard to find cost saving modifications to the original plans and as a result money has been saved but completion of these projects has been somewhat delayed. Again this year, we are planning to ask the Selectmen to support our request for a Town Warrant for funds to complete the fire-safety requirements

including an emergency fire escape from the second floor of the museum as well as to help us with some urgent roof, plumbing and chimney repairs. As stated in our “Mission”, the Societies goal is to collect, research, preserve and display objects and records relating to Freedom. Completion of this work will go a long way to ensuring the safety of Freedom’s historical artifacts and records.

It is very gratifying to live in a community that is so willing to give of not only their time but so generously support non-profit organizations like the Historical Society monetarily. This past year we were the beneficiaries of two major fundraisers. In early June, Marshall and Lucy Kendall along with many volunteers organized and ran Freedom’s first “Mile Long Yard sale” which raised \$868 for the Society. Then in early fall, Marshall and Lucy once again spearheaded a “Freedom Cooks” fundraiser for the Society which raised another \$886. It was, in large measure, these funds that offset the cost of painting the exterior of the house and will help with other critical maintenance work in 2011.

In addition to the wonderful programming and the beautiful work on our building, the Historical Society also participated in the restoration of Freedom’s bandstand. Rob Hatch, who did such a beautiful job restoring the bandstand, unearthed the original paint colors. He and Scott Cunningham found enthusiastic support in the community to repaint the bandstand in those original colors and the result is the return of this iconic structure to us as it looked in its hey-day. To cap off this wonderful community project, the Society returned, from its collection, the original hanging lamp which was wired and installed by Mike Gaudette. Work also continues in the research/meeting room, led by Bonnie Burroughs, Dotty Brooks, Gale Morris and Ray Dahlstrom, to complete the cataloging of Freedom’s history in a wonderful series of beautifully prepared binders for all to enjoy.

Remembering and sharing all that we have accomplished this past year inspires us as we look ahead to 2011. We are happy to tell you that we have confirmed a terrific series of evening programs which you will find in the back of this newsletter—be sure to mark your calendars. We are hoping to sponsor a Cornet Band that will play on the bandstand perhaps for the Ice Cream Social during Old Home Week. In addition, we are very excited to share with you a wonderful, professionally done, DVD that stars and is narrated by our own Carol Foord. Carol takes us on a journey through Shawtown, a once vibrant and thriving neighborhood in the Danforth Bay area of Freedom which essentially disappeared after the Civil War. The Historical Society has also purchased a season pass, good for 2 adults and up to 2 children, to Willowbrook Historical Museum in Newfield, Maine. The museum is open Thursday thru Monday beginning Memorial Day weekend. Please stop by the Freedom Public Library if you are interested in signing out a pass. These and many other activities and events are planned for the year ahead including a wonderful dollhouse size exact replica of Maynard and Laura Thomson’s home in Freedom which they graciously donated to the Society and will be prominently displayed this summer in the Museum.

Membership in the Historical Society continues to grow. There is a palpable feeling of pride in our little town and we are very happy to be a part of that feeling. It is our sincere hope that you will join us in helping to preserve Freedom’s history by renewing your membership for 2011 or if you haven’t been a member, this is your opportunity to join a wonderful group of fellow members who work diligently to preserve the history of the little town that we call Freedom. Don’t forget to follow us on the web at:

WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.com and on Facebook by searching Freedom Historical Society.

This...Compliments of John Immediato

Behold the WORK of the OLD...

Let your **HERITAGE** not be lost...

Bequeath it as a memory, treasure and blessing.

Gather the Lost and the Hidden.

Preserve all for the FUTURE.

Sr. Sylvia Bielen '91

Christian Metz 1840

Wanted!!!

- VOLUNTEERS FOR 2011!!
- Copies of genealogies of local families to add to our collection and to share with interested members and friends
- An old potato masher to add to our kitchen collection
- Old Freedom photos to scan

Cut Here

Freedom Historical Society

2011 Membership Form

Name: Mr. Mrs. Other _____

Mailing Address _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Winter Address _____

(if applicable) _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Please check here if you would like your newsletter emailed Contact me about volunteering

Membership Levels

Sponsoring Member \$100 Contributor \$50. Family \$25 Individual \$10 Angel \$_____

Please return this form with your donation to: **Freedom Historical Society**
PO Box 548
Freedom, New Hampshire 03836

2011 PROGRAMS

February 15th – Freedom Oral Histories

Moderated by Gale and Bonnie

May 17th – Rufus Porter Museum

Presented by Bob Boggs

June 21st - Jon Hively as Thomas Edison

July 19th – Stonewalls, Cellar Holes and other

Stoneworks: “Our Heritage and Treasures”

Presented by Carol Foord

August 18th – King Phillips War

Presented by Michael Tougias

September 20th – Chinook Dogs

Presented by Bob Cottrell

October – TBA

November – TBA (Morning)

“Weather CSI”

Presented by Kevin Skarupa

(Meteorologist for WMUR)

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