



# Freedom Historical Society

Summer 2011

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer is passing quickly, Old Home Week is behind us and many of us here in Freedom are collectively catching our breath after the whirlwind of summer activities beginning with Rubber Ducky Day. This welcome lull, thankfully, affords me a chance to catch all of you up on Historical Society activities both past and upcoming for this year.

After a long, cold and snowy winter, as always, we thawed out and spring settled in Freedom. As is tradition, a call was sent out for volunteers to help open the Allard House and Work's Barn for another season. The turnout of volunteers was unbelievable! In one afternoon in early May more than 20 "friends" descended on the house and barn and when they were finished, the kitchen was spotless, the house had been dusted and vacuumed, the windows had been washed, gardens had been weeded, lawns raked, our wonderful sign had been repaired and erected on a new post and the Barn Museum vacuumed, organized and readied for another season. I was truly stunned by the out-pouring of support....Thank you all so very much.

Coincident with spring's arrival, we kicked off our 2011 program schedule on May 17<sup>th</sup> with a very interesting presentation by Robert Boggs, Museum Director at the Rufus Porter Museum in Bridgton, Maine. As an expert on Rufus Porter, he described for all of us what a truly remarkable life Mr. Porter had as an inventor, muralist and landscape painter. June's program saw the return of our friend Jon Hively, this time not as a train engineer but instead as a reincarnation of inventor extraordinaire Thomas Edison. This hugely popular program was followed in July by our own historian and past Historical Society President, Carol Foord who presented a very interesting program, "Stonewalls, Cellar Holes and Other Stoneworks". Her program was immediately preceded by a fascinating granite splitting demonstration by Michael Gaudette. This year's Old Home Week celebration featured a trophy-winning float co-sponsored by the "Church Music Camp" and Historical Society that showcased the old school bell that hung in the belfry of the schoolhouse...now the Town Offices. Carol Foord, once again conducted a very well attended historical walk through the Shawtown cellar-hole area and on the final Saturday, Richard Plusch, a well know antiques dealer from North Conway, appraised family heirlooms for 26 visitors at the Society. Following the appraisals, a celebration of the Work's Barn 30th anniversary, complete with a delicious cake, was enjoyed by many of us including a couple of guests who were original volunteers. The quality of the programs and speakers is just great this year as witnessed by the impressive audiences thus far. We look forward to author Michael Tougias' program on King Phillip's War this month followed by September's program about Chinook Dogs by Bob Cottrell as well as a planned morning program in November featuring WMUR meteorologist Kevin Skarupa who will relate stories about significant weather events in New Hampshire's past. The 2011 schedule is included at the end of this newsletter so be sure to mark your calendars.

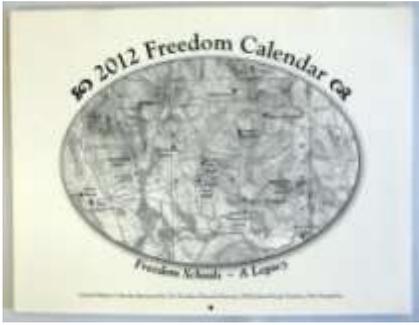
The Allard House looks great this year with the return of our sign, beautiful flowers in the window boxes and sporting its new paint from last fall. Again this March, residents of Freedom voiced their support of the Historical Society by approving funds at town meeting to continue critical life-safety and accessibility upgrades

to the house and barn. I'm pleased to tell you that so far this year, thanks to Chuck Brooks, the old sagging roof over the bathroom has been replaced and the rear meeting room door widened to make it accessible to a wheelchair. Additionally, the non-functioning and decaying chimney above the kitchen was removed and capped by Michael Gaudette and masons are scheduled to re-point the kitchen brickwork. By the end of the year, we anticipate that the barn doors will be re-hung in a fashion making it safer for emergency egress, the emergency directional lighting and exit signs will be in place and hopefully an emergency escape from the upper barn will be fabricated and hung on the rear side. Rob Hatch, who you will remember was the craftsman who restored the Freedom Bandstand, is now a certified pest control technician with JP Pest Control and has been contracted to keep our buildings and collection free from pest damage. His work while costly is vital to preservation and we appreciate his efforts. One more side of the house remains in need of scraping and painting so stay tuned for a call once again for volunteers coming in September.

Other items of importance to share with you include the production of our "first" Historical Society Freedom History Series DVD about the history and mystery of Shawtown, the Freedom neighborhood that disappeared after the Civil War. This professionally done DVD narrated by Carol Foord with video by Joe Bradley is available at the Village Store, various local businesses and on our website. Speaking of the website, Freedom's own Kim Reis has done a wonderful job of completely redesigning the Society site...please be sure to visit and bookmark. Archiving continues most Thursday evenings (weather permitting) with Bonnie, Gale, Dotty and others plugging away at documenting the paper records relating to Freedom's history. Many interesting factual and anecdotal items continue to be unearthed. We're also excited to share with you a gift by Maynard and Laura Thomson of an exact replica "dollhouse" of their village home as it would have appeared in the 1950's. The house is on display as it is being restored on the upper floor of the barn. We have also received gifts from Ted Acton which include a document and artifact scanner to help with inventory of the barn collection as well as a portable cassette to PC device which allows us to transfer the Freedom oral histories, now on cassette tape, to our laptop and then to CD for long-term archiving. Much of this archiving was accomplished this July by Scott Cunningham's granddaughter, Caroline Tyson, who served a one week internship at the Society. Don't forget to take advantage of the family pass that the Historical Society has donated this year to historic Willowbrook Village in Newfield, Maine. Passes are available at the desk in the Library. Also, don't forget to pick up your 2012 calendar, this year celebrating Freedom's schools. Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the docent volunteers who open the Society to visitors on Saturdays and conduct tours including new docents, Myrtle Macleod and Polly Hamilton.

I feel like I could go on and on but it's time to wind this letter up by saying that it is very gratifying to serve as your Historical Society President and to be a part of preserving the history of our wonderful little town. The support I receive from the Executive Board and the community makes this "job" so rewarding. Please, make a point of visiting the Allard House and Work's Barn Museum this summer or fall, offer to volunteer if you can and don't miss the remaining programs still to come. And, as always, please be sure to visit us on the web at our new address, [WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org](http://WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org) or become a "friend" on Facebook by searching: Freedom Historical Society.

Richard Many  
President



## 2012 Calendar: Freedom Schools ---- A Legacy

The intent for this coming year's calendar was to document through words, a map and photos, information on the 15 schools that have served Freedom at various times in our history. We wanted to have in one accessible place as full a listing as possible of the legacy of our schools.

We were fortunate to have a great deal of ephemera, pictures and written materials to draw upon in our research. Carol Foord's Freedom section in her book *OSSIPEE RIVERLANDS* (this book co-authored with Sheila Jones of Effingham) as well as information from Georgia Merrill's book on the history of Carroll County were good resources. The Historical Society holds a treasury of photos, documents and photographs that were used to illustrate the specific "lives" of students, teachers and buildings in the field of public education sponsored by our town over many years. In fact, after we'd finished the calendar and it had been printed, we found evidence that the oldest schoolhouse on the top of Schoolhouse Hill (not the current town office building!) was in existence as far back as 1802. We had listed the date as 1820 but through surveyors' maps and various notes we now believe the village school was in place much earlier, well before this terrain was named North Effingham, let alone Freedom, New Hampshire! There are always new discoveries in ongoing research at our Historical Society, and we are grateful for the efforts of Alan Fall's work as a surveyor and local history enthusiast that have helped us so much.

We were also lucky to have the memoirs of Blanche Eastman Watson to flesh out the vital experiences of growing up in Freedom as a student, then a teacher, and a mother and grandmother and great grandmother of other teachers! Her daughters, Linnie Watson Giles and Velma Watson Fall Hormell, loaned us photos and we used the transcribed interviews with Blanche Watson to help us understand the important transitions in Freedom education over many years. Her grandson, Alan Fall, collaborated with the production of the calendar and the month of June features a picture of her great grandson, Todd Giles, with his 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at our current elementary school. Freedom schools are "A True Legacy".

One important point to note is that in April of 2011 the Town Office Building, that was the village Grammar School built in 1895, was listed on the state's Register of Historic Places. This detailed application process work was done by members of the Heritage Commission and it is that group's hope to document and apply for a listing of all of Schoolhouse Hill buildings at some point in the future as a "Neighborhood Historic District." This honor is in no way subject to the buildings being regulated by the state; rather it lets townspeople as well as visitors know that we have preserved a true collection of historic treasures that once served as the very heart of our historic town of Freedom.

Please be sure to pick up your copy of the 2012 calendar at the Village Store, Historical Society Barn or at our on-line store on the web at [WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org](http://WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org). As always, we thank you for your support.

Gale Morris

Samples from the “Store” page of [WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org](http://WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org)



FREEDOM HORSE TROUGH PRINT

The watering trough, now a planter, was a gift to the town from the Freedom Club of Boston (later the Freedom Club of New Hampshire, now the Freedom Beach Club) in 1908. It was fed by an underground pipe from a spring on Andrew’s Hill. Later, when the trough was no longer used for horses, a kerosene lamp streetlight, also donated by the Freedom Club, was installed in the trough. After electrification in 1919, it became a planter carefully tended by local gardeners in the summer and a location for the lighted Christmas tree in the winter.

The late Sam Warren, a Freedom artist, sold his original watercolor to Skrow Works in 1980. Popular prints of his painting of the Horse Trough and the directional signs in the Village Center are sold to benefit the Society.



Shawtown: Freedom’s Ghost Town

The Freedom Historical Society has produced a wonderful new DVD, narrated by Carol Foord, that chronicles the history of the Shawtown neighborhood which disappeared right after the Civil War. With terrific videography by Joe Bradley, Carol weaves the story of these pioneer Freedom residents based on her exhaustive research and her documentation of their cellar holes. This first Freedom History Series DVD is one that will be a great addition to your library. In addition to being available through the web-site store, the DVD is available at the Historical Society, the Freedom Village Store and many local businesses for only \$12.

## Wanted!!!

John Shipman is gathering historical information about Freedom Old Home Week and so far has filled two notebooks and Gale is working on a photo book. If you have any information (photos, schedules, articles, memorabilia etc.) from the early years and would be willing to share, please contact John. He would be happy to make a copy for the Historical Society records. He is looking for any information you might have prior to 1970, and has no information from these years: 1898, 1899, 1905, 1913, 1915, 1916, 1918-1926 inclusive, 1930, 1932, 1935-1947 inclusive, 1950-1961 inclusive, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1976, 2005. There are a few posters from some of those years, but he is seeking anything available to fill out the record. Please contact John at 539-5799 or [jshipman120@gmail.com](mailto:jshipman120@gmail.com) if you can help. Thanks!

## Needed!!!

- VOLUNTEERS!!
- Copies of genealogies of local families to add to our collection and to share with interested members and friends
- Old Freedom photos to scan
- 1902 and 2007 Town Annual Reports

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**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 Phillip’s War

Presented by Michael Tougias

**September 20th** – Chinook Dogs

Presented by Bob Cottrell

**October 18th** – Annual Meeting and

Pot-Luck dinner followed by a

Freedom history trivia contest

**November** – TBA (Morning)

“Weather CSI”

Presented by Kevin Skarupa

(Meteorologist for WMUR)

**Freedom Historical Society**

**PO Box 548**

**Freedom, NH 03836**