



## Freedom Historical Society

“Preserving Freedom’s  
past for future generations”

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

Mid-year Update, 2013

### Dear Members,

Good news everyone! You, our valued members, are continuing to make the Freedom Historical Society a success. We have about the same number of members as last year, but membership income is up 20% so that means you have donated generously to preserve Freedom’s past. A **BIG THANK YOU!!**

We have many other positives this year that I would like to report on a few highlights.

**Calendar:** The 2014 Freedom Historical Society calendar has just been released (June 29th) and contains beautiful photos reflecting the theme “Freedom Community”. Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 Calendar Photo contest: John Shipman, Karen Hatch, Ann-Marie Knox, Judy Smith, Libby Priebe, Peg Scully, Dick Many, Maureen Elliott, Nancy Griffin, Bonnie Burroughs, Judy Robertson and Silas Feuerborn. There were many “honorable mention” photos as well which are included on the back cover. You can pick up your calendar at the Freedom Village Store or at The Historical Society on Saturday mornings. These are now a limited edition since only 275 have been printed.



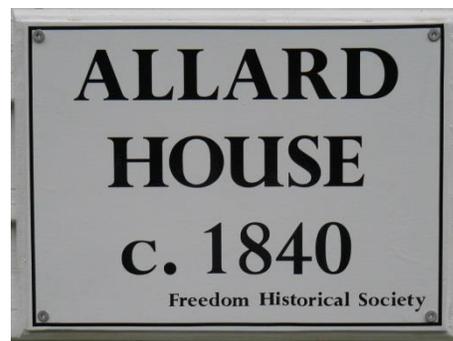
*Girl's Day Out*  
Ann-Marie Knox, Photographer

**FEBRUARY**

Anne-Marie Knox, Photographer

You can start collecting photos now for your 2015 calendar contest entry since the committee has announced the theme already: “**Freedom Gardens**”. **NOW** is the time to get the camera out and catch local gardens at their peak, although all seasons have their beauty. The deadline for of photograph submissions is April 1, 2014. Please make sure to read and follow the photo guidelines and contest rules-- format does matter.

**Facility:** I am happy to report that the painting of the roof has been completed and it looks great. A painter was also hired to repair and paint the back corner of the house which is too difficult for our volunteers to reach. There are also new signs on the house and barn to indicate dates of construction and/or museum ownership. Thanks to Dick Many for tackling these projects!





**Fall Fundraiser: Dinner Raffle**

The Society would like to make access to all parts of the museum available to everyone, regardless of their mobility. We have some amazing items that not everyone gets to enjoy. Our goal is to produce a video tour of the museum

**A Survey of our Members:** The Board is preparing to undertake the development of a 3-5 year strategic plan for the Society and museum. We need some guidance on what you feel is important related to our mission as well as what to keep, display or store. Responses will also help with accession and deaccession decisions. Completing the attached survey will help ensure that public opinion is reflected in the future of the Historical Society. We appreciate you providing the postage when you mail it back to us ☺; or, drop it in the box at the Village Store. The deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Personal Stories:** Finally, The Society would like to celebrate the life of Louise Lovell, an endeared Freedom resident who recently passed away. She and her husband Clem were great contributors to the Town and will be missed. So, we have published below, with some minor changes by this editor, Louise's oral history from the Freedom Public Library's Oral History Project. There are currently 38 oral histories on file, collected either by the Library or the Historical Society. We will publish a list on our website and hopefully soon make the histories available on-line. We also hope to bring you more stories about Freedom both on our website and in the newsletters. If you want to contribute a story or recommend someone for an oral history recording, please contact me and we can arrange it.

that, when completed, will be available all. Therefore the society will be again be offering chances to experience fine New England fall "comfort food" dinner for four with all the fixin's, to be held in the Allard House dining room. This event was a huge success in 2012 and the winners talked about it for some time afterwards. Some fine local "chefs" (Board members and friends) will again create a special menu to delight and satisfy. Look for tickets available around Freedom or call Sylvia Carney (539-5799) or e-mail [sylviacarney@roadrunner.com](mailto:sylviacarney@roadrunner.com). Don't miss this great opportunity!

**Mission Statement**

"The purpose of the Freedom, NH Historical Society is to collect, research and display objects and records relating to the town's history for educational and cultural preservation." The Society fosters and inspires awareness and appreciation of the town's past through the records and collections in the Allard House and Works Barn Museum, and through its cultural education programs and publications.

**2012-13 Board Members**

John Shipman, President  
 Dick Many, Vice President  
 Tom Luke, Treasurer  
 Gale Morris, Secretary  
 Bonnie Burroughs, Curator  
 Dotty Brooks, Director  
 Scott Cunningham, Director  
 Petula Plunges, Director  
 Sylvia Carney, Director  
 Nadine Chapman, Director

**Location & Hours**

The Allard House and Works Barn are located at 38 Old Portland Road and are open Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10am to 12pm, and by appointment. Further information is available at [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org)

Sincerely,

  
John Shipman, President

**Louise and Clem Lovell** moved to Freedom in 1964 from Portsmouth NH. They owned the house at 43 Old Portland Road, across from the Library.

### **In Memory of Louise Lovell, 1917 -2013**

Excerpt from Freedom Public Library's ORAL HISTORY PROJECT. On September 6, 2002 Joannie Grossman interviewed Louise Lovell and I have taken the liberty to extract from the transcripts prepared by Lee Allison (thanks to both people and the Library!)



#### **The Lovell's house & local businesses:**

This dining room, living room and den were originally a tin knocker's shop. They also lived here. If you were in my living room when we were taking the wall paper off, you could see where the shelves were. A tin knocker made all kinds of tin ware. Back years ago, every house in the village was usually some kind of a business. The farmers lived outside and came in town for things. Under my house there is no basement, except the kitchen, which is an addition. There are all kinds of pieces of scrap tin. Across the street next to that yellow house, in that spare place, they tell me they made wagons there, carriages and things. There were two blacksmith shops up at the end of the road; one down behind the fire station, which is now a home, and Bob Fowler's Dad had one behind his house- Bob Fowler's grandfather I should say. There was a hat shop I think in the front of the house. And then where Gail Bickford lives, that was a pants factory. Bob Fowler's family [had a place at the dam] where they would grind the corn and grain and things like that.

#### **The Village Store:**

They used to have coffee there [at Mary Hockmeyer's barn]. And he used to go there for coffee. That was after they gave up the coffee at the store. When we first came here, that was a typical old-fashioned store. Then it was purchased and it was still a country store. They took an area and had it for a coffee shop and that was the love of my husband's life. He would go there every single morning and he met all these fascinating people in Freedom that were moving in, that he never would have known. And [Clem] thoroughly enjoyed their company. We would be at camp and he would say, "let's go and get the mail". I knew the mail wasn't that important. He was coming for coffee. [The store] was owned by a group of men in town. I think Dr. Dutton, the local doctor, there were a couple of retired colonels, Molly Vestner's husband. They had bought the store and they had a couple that lived in town running it – Everett and Betty Nichols. And they lived in that house next to Pam Keith's house. Betty and Everett lived there. One

winter when we were away, Everett passed away. He was also head of the fire department, because he could run from the store and hop in the only fire truck which was right up here, and take off. Some funny things happened [with the fire truck]. One time they had a fire. Most of firemen were masons and they were at a Mason meeting, all dressed up, and they all ran down, but they couldn't start the truck, because someone had borrowed the battery. I don't remember which fire it was. Those kinds of things happened back in those days.

### **The Doctor and his wife**

Dr. Dutton lived where Peg Cade lives. Where she lives was the doctor's office. He saw patients there and his wife, Barbara, was a starter of the Historical Society. Barbara and Molly Cunningham (later married Col. Vestner after his wife died). They were the ones that really started it. Because they had a connection with the store, they had flea market, sort of, more clothes, upstairs over the store. Almost like a rummage sale. You could go in anytime and pick up clothes. That was one of the first times I was ever upstairs – beautiful woodwork and everything. The man that used to have the tin knocker shop here moved to the store. Whether he had anything to do with building it or not, I don't know.

### **Fashion**

They used to do those old-fashioned fashion shows. And we donated our money to different charities. We would get anywhere from \$25-\$100. We did them up to the hotel at Mount Washington, Bretton Woods. We did two or three up there. We would do them usually in the fall of the year. They would have conventions. One time it was firemen and we would do that for the wives, to entertain them, while the men were busy doing something else. And I forgot what the other group was. One thing I really remembered – I used to model. My first thing to model came from my family farm. It had a bustle – and I had the dress and the petticoat and the skirt and the jacket, and they had like an inside top, that fastened around your neck. [A bustle is] a metal piece that went around your heinie. It had straps to hold it on and to hold it down. I wore it to church one day for something and everybody thought I was sick, because of the way I had to sit. You had to sit in a certain way – and that's why they had those old fainting pouches....They wore bustles for years, in the late 1800's. The purpose was just style. No reason for it. Like the World War I hoop skirt. Some of the clothes belonged to his [Mel Lawrence] family and she [Agnes Lawrence] had a beautiful slip, lace and hand embroidered and it had the split drawers to go with it. And also a nightgown. The nightgown was about four sizes bigger than the dress. I did the dress and somebody else did the nightgown because I couldn't walk in it, it would have been so big. At that time my waist was pretty small. She would talk and I would hold the drawers up and open them up and then we would walk through the audience. While I was doing that, this girl said to me, "why the split drawers?" And I said, "you never lived in the country in the winter, did you?" You know going out to the privy..., they just had to split, like that. I can remember a lady who was my substitute grandmother – mine were both passed away –and she used to wear them, not fancy ones like this..., sort of a knit, you know. Mel (Lawrence's) family were old (timers?). I think he was related to Bob Fowler.

### **4-H**

[We did 4-H] in the back of my barn. You see...I had a ceramic shop. Clem got in to ceramics before I met him. Course I was his third wife. If you've read Laurie's book, you'll know that. [In 4H] we would have 6-10, something like that. And their ages were 8 to 11. Of course, the school was just up here then. The town office was the school then. And they would all come down from school and because I wanted to make sure that all the children could come, I only charged them \$1 [for ceramic pieces]. It rather limited their things. They couldn't pick a \$2 or \$3 piece off the shelf and do it. And they learned to make things my hand and do pouring – some of the molds. And decorate. When you are doing ceramics, you have molds. Some of my students are in the 40's and 50's now – grey hair. I ran into one of their wives recently, they are remodeling their house and she said "my husband is so happy, because he has just the right place to display the eagle he made. They didn't have the things in school then that they have now.

### **The Village school**

It was two [rooms]. One room downstairs and one room up. Downstairs, they had 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and upstairs, they had 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. Before I moved here, they had 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Because Phyllis Jones' daughters had gone there. There is a picture...you've seen those calendars with all the wonderful pictures in them, and there's a picture of her daughter graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade. They had three kids, I think, in the class. The only one [teacher] I can remember is Mr. Ranco. He was 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. The children adored him. He had a helper at one time. Ethel Ramsdell, who lived next door to me, was in her 70's and she used to substitute. And the kids would come in – and they would be bushed. Apparently she wanted to make sure she was earning her money. She really worked them out good. She lived to be over 100. She was over in Ossipee for the last.

### **Clem**

Well, of course, he [Clem] was tax collector for years. When we moved here, the man who was tax collector – Mr. Alexander [who] lived a couple of houses from here – and he had a brain tumor. Back in those days they didn't want to get rid of somebody who had been a faithful town person, so they asked Clem if he would take over as tax collector, but he wouldn't be tax collector, legally, you know. He would just be doing it to help Alexander out. Then when he passed away, they appointed him [Clem] and then he started running, and I don't know, some 18 or 20 years he was tax collector. [Clem stopped being tax collector] because he had had several operations. And the whole tax structure had changed. We had had court cases, you know, for things that we did that were perfectly legal at that time, but then everybody started taking everybody to court. We had a court case right here in the dining room because Clem had a sciatic problem with his leg and couldn't go to the court house. The lawyers and court stenographer came here. Then he could lie down on the floor and then get up and talk and then lie down on the floor again.

### **Older town folks**

Well on my street when we moved here there were a lot of them, 85 and older. And they are all gone now. Bob Fowler owned that house and he is still in it. Fred Cheveaux (sp) who had retired here. He had worked for one of the big oil companies. He was in his 90's when we moved here. And then, Clem Harmon, both Mr. and Mrs. Harmon, lived where Glad Works lived, right next to the Historical Society. I used to love to go and talk to her because she told about [how] she would have to walk through the woods to school [and] she would get there sopping wringing wet, her petticoats and everything ...and they would have a fire going and she would get all dried out, but by that time it was time to walk home. And she'd be sopping wet again. It was lots of fun to go and talk to them. Then of course the Drinkwaters lived across the street. The woman who lived here when we bought the house passed away...and the Drinkwaters came from up near Indian Mound and they had moved down here as more of a retirement place, but they were local people. She made the best doughnuts. She'd make them and sell them to me the days I was having classes. The woman who lived next door moved right after that. She was a Perkins. Quite a few Perkins lived here. Another person who lived down here....Milligan [Milliken?]. Before I moved here, next door, Phyllis Jones' – they had a great big barn. She also owned the land up in back of my lot. She passed away last spring. They kept horses, because you see the train would come in to Center Ossipee and they would meet the train and bring people over here. And sometimes they would have to change horses here. The Milligans lived across the street and he worked for this man – helped change the horses and things. And she used to do the news. She was a fascinating woman - I loved to go and visit her and I did once a week because I had to give the news for Community Club. She was also doing the Independent when I moved here. I would give her Community Club news because I was secretary then. I don't think she ever went out of the house. But you were supposed to be there the next night, or she would be on your ear....about why you didn't get the news to her.

### **The library**

The library was in the town hall. Clem was on the committee to build the first library. They were going to get state help, but then the state was telling them how to do it, but they said we can do it a lot better and a lot cheaper. And they got some fellow from Chick Lumber Company to come and tell them what to do and how to do it. And they sent some of their men down and built the first library. Mrs. Thomson, the elderly one...she donated....I think they owned that land too. There were two houses on it. A great big house and then a little one in back. I can remember them knocking those houses down. My grandson sat

in that window and watched them. He thought it was pretty nice. Mrs. Thomson would come from Ohio with her maid. They started in that...what used to be the blacksmith shop, behind the fire station, and they turned that into a gift shop. People in town made things and donated for that and this was all going for the library. And every Saturday they had home-made food. And people would bake pies and cakes and baked beans and things like that. And people would come and buy all those things. Mrs. Thomson was always buying something and bringing it to Clem to make. I have a ....she fell in love with this....a tile, but he didn't feel up to it. She would buy pieces of glass to make jewelry...and she would buy them and Clem would glue them on pens and earrings, and those were all things that the people in the town did...I understand that she is the one that paid for the chimney, which was in honor of Scrow Works' son.

### Quilting

Well I started doing quilting because everybody else could knit and crochet and I never could. It could be boring shut up in a 14' trailer [on their winter Florida trips] for three rainy days, so I copied one of the quilts Clem's mother had put together – just squares sewed together. Now our Ladies Guild – the church's Ladies Guild – that was started by Doris Macy and Linnie Giles' mother....they thought it would be nice for the ladies to get together – at the time there was no meeting place at the church and they used to meet at the library – before they built the rooms on the back of the church. We used to have craft fairs twice a year, but we are all in our 80's now and none of the new people in church want to belong. We enjoy the sociability, so I got a note from the AARP and the RSVP who were looking for people to make quilts. So they sent a lady down and she showed them what they wanted and brought us some material, so that is what we do now. Also, they go to the Memorial Hospital – baby quilts, lap robes, children,...all donated material...children that are under stress – fires, police—things like that. Isn't it wonderful to do something like that! Then a lady came and spoke one time when I was up there to an AARP meeting about a doctor in Portsmouth who goes to South America and operates on cleft palates and other diseases of the mouth and throat and he was wrapping the children in newspaper and plastic because they are so poor in some parts of South America, but they had nothing. Some of the Rotary Clubs donate material [as well].

Editor's note: There are oral histories collected by the Freedom Public Library and/or the Freedom Historical Society for the following Freedom people:

Acton, Elizabeth	Meserve, David
Acton, Ted	Middleton, Ann
Bickford, Gail	Watson, Melvin & Blance
Bookholz, Rita Lovering	Milliken, Wes & Olie (with Elise Thurston)
Buswell, David	Owen, Mrs. Charles (Mab) & Muriel Hall
Davis, Mabel	Packard, Wendell
Eldridge, Madeline	Pascoe, William
Fowler, Robert	Sargent, Merton
Gibbs, Margaret	Stewart, Tim
Giles, Linnie	Stokes, Emery and Ellie
Godfrey, Betty and Phyllis Mayhew	Thomson, Chilton and Janet
Haslett, Alice	Thurston, Ellie (with Wes & Ollie Milliken)
Hockmeyer, Mary	Thurston, Lettie Durgin
Lawler, Linnie	Trail Margaret and Velma Hormell
Libbey, Kenneth (FHS)	Watson, Velma (& Margaret Trail)
Libbey, Pauline	Works, Glad
Lovell, Louise	

## Freedom Historical Society Survey, Summer 2013

The Freedom Historical Society (FHS) is conducting a survey of members and residents to gain feedback about the Society and its offerings. The goal of the survey is to help us make the most of resources and set goals for improving the services to members and the general public. Your opinion is important to us. Please respond by **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Circle the most appropriate answer and use the back of this sheet for additional comments.

1. I know where the Freedom Historical Society building is located: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

2. I have been to the Freedom Historical Society building:  
 a. Never      b. Once    c. 2-3 times      d. More than 3 times

3. Rank what **interests you the most (1) to least (5)** about our Historical Society:

- \_\_\_ Allard House museum
- \_\_\_ Works Barn museum
- \_\_\_ Adult education programs
- \_\_\_ Children's programs
- \_\_\_ Archival records and reference materials

4. Please rank the Society's **top 3 offerings** most valuable to you:

- \_\_\_ Period displays of Freedom artifacts
- \_\_\_ Freedom historical records
- \_\_\_ Ephemera/memorabilia
- \_\_\_ Old news articles
- \_\_\_ Family histories
- \_\_\_ Educational programs
- \_\_\_ Children's programs
- \_\_\_ Newsletters
- \_\_\_ Oral histories
- \_\_\_ Books and reference materials
- \_\_\_ Other

*Please respond to the following as to the level of your agreement with the statements:*

5. Having a 3-5 year strategic plan is important  
 a. Disagree strongly    b. Disagree somewhat    c. Agree somewhat    d. Agree strongly    e. Don't know

6. Maintaining a museum of Freedom artifacts and records is important.  
 a. Disagree strongly    b. Disagree somewhat    c. Agree somewhat    d. Agree strongly    e. Don't know

7. The Society is effective in preserving and presenting the history and artifacts of Freedom.  
 a. Disagree strongly    b. Disagree somewhat    c. Agree somewhat    d. Agree strongly    e. Don't know

8. The Society's displays should stick to the period the museum was established to represent, the decades from 1850 to 1900.

- a. Disagree strongly b. Disagree somewhat c. Agree somewhat d. Agree strongly e. Don't know

9. The museum's displays need improvement.

- a. Disagree strongly b. Disagree somewhat c. Agree somewhat d. Agree strongly e. Don't know

10. The Society's collection should be limited to Freedom materials only (versus any "period" pieces).

- a. Disagree strongly b. Disagree somewhat c. Agree somewhat d. Agree strongly e. Don't know

11. The main reason I don't visit the Society's museum is:

- a. Lack of information b. No time c. Don't have interest d. Nothing changes e. Not open enough

12. The thing that would most likely cause me to visit/re-visit the museum is:

- a. More interesting displays  
 b. More focused displays  
 c. Better signage and explanations  
 d. A tour guide to explain things  
 e. Open more frequently/more hours  
 f. Nothing  
 g. Other (explain):

11. What do you think the Society should do with the following resources?

- a. Freedom artifacts: 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 b. Freedom Historical records: 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 c. Ephemera : 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 d. Old news articles: 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 e. Family histories: 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 f. Books and reference materials: 1) maintain 2) maintain and display 3) don't care  
 g. Oral histories: 1) maintain 2) put on website 3) don't care  
 h. # Educational programs : 1) less 2) ok as is 3) more 4) don't care  
 i. # Children's programs: 1) less 2) ok as is 3) more 4) don't care  
 j. # Newsletters: 1) less 2) ok as is 2) more 3) don't care

12. My age bracket is: a) under 45 b) 46-65 c) 65+

13. I live in Freedom: a) 9 months or more b) several weeks or months c) only visit occasionally

14. Please name historical subjects or objects that interest you the most:

***Thank you for taking a moment to complete our survey as we work to improve the Historical Society. Please return the survey to the Freedom Historical Society, PO Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836. THANKS!***

***Comments/Suggestions (use additional sheets as needed):***