



## Freedom Historical Society January 2014

“Preserving Freedom’s past  
For future generations”

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

Dear Members and Friends,

### Membership Request/Renewal

The Freedom Historical Society’s Board of Directors is pleased to report on the significant accomplishments during the past year and we have summarized those in the newsletter attached. We are so grateful for the continued support of our members and the Freedom community; it is the reason we feel motivated to continue to preserve Freedom’s history. It is your membership and financial support that keeps our organization alive, so we humbly ask for your continued support in 2014.

**Why be a member?** We hope that foremost you are proud of the town you live in and will feel a sense of satisfaction when you support the preservation of the Town’s history. We realize that this is an “intangible”, but when you live in and visit Freedom, New Hampshire, this becomes tangible through the sights, sounds and memories of this unique place. This “sense of place” is built on the foundation of what has come before you. In order to preserve and enhance this experience, the Society offers a house and barn museum, adult history educational programs, youth events, Old Home Week activities, research sources and, of course, our website and newsletters to keep you informed.

As I have mentioned in the past, our operating budget is over \$8,000 annually to run the Society, to maintain the collections, facilities and upgrades, insurance, programs, mailings, etc., it all adds up. Keep in mind that we have no employees- FHS is entirely run by volunteers, so your membership support is what keeps us afloat.

We encourage you to read the attached newsletter to see what we are doing and, as you will see, this is a very active organization. But we want it to be your organization, so please visit, correspond, attend and interact with us and the programs and facilities we offer. You will be richer for it.

**Please fill out and mail the form!** To show your support we ask that you fill out (completely) the enclosed remittances envelope and return as soon as you can. To help us communicate with you better, we urge you to share your e-mail address with us to receive timely FHS news and updates via the internet- and it saves us postage, as well. Your support early in the year helps us pay bills that come in during the spring.

We greatly appreciate your support!  
Sincerely, John Shipman, President

### **Important accomplishments in 2013**

- **Membership survey and strategic planning.**

The results of the member/community survey completed in the summer of 2013 (available at [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org)) showed that the top five things most important to respondents were: period displays of Freedom artifacts; Freedom historical records; history education programs; family histories, and oral histories. The responses also strongly supported the idea of having a strategic plan. So, this information along with a close look at the Society's mission statement was the starting point of a strategic planning process that the Board undertook in the fall of 2013. The Board met three times to discuss and narrow the focus as to what priorities need to be addressed in the near-term.



“Preservation” became the key outcome of this initial process, with the following statement capturing the goal:

- Three years from now, Preservation will mean that:
  1. Freedom stories and history will be evident & secure
  2. Historical records will be available, displayed, organized and indexed
  3. There will be a method for accepting and documenting current history

4. Collection records will be extant and whole and be forward-thinking in their recording
5. Labeling will be done
6. History paper documents will be secure (digitally)

As a result of this planning work the Board has decided to start the process by undertaking an initial year-long project to update Don Chase's 1978 Book of [Freedom] Home Ownership (see article below).

#### **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.

#### **2013-14 Board Members**

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

#### **Our e-mail**

[FHSociety28@gmail.com](mailto:FHSociety28@gmail.com)

#### **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.

#### **Latest News & Information**

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

- **Video Project Dinner Raffle:** Bill Elliott was the winner of the 2013 Historical Society Dinner raffle, so he and three guests will be served a fine “comfort food” dinner in May 2014 at the Allard House. If 2012 was any indication, Bill and guests are in for a real treat. Congratulations Bill and we look forward to serving you! The proceeds from this raffle will fund a video project being undertaken in 2014. The project will result in a short narrated tour of the Society’s museum collection that will have three benefits: 1) it will allow physically challenged visitors to view all 3 floors of the collection without having to climb stairs, 2) it will allow us to show the museum collection at other locations, and 3) it will provide a visual record of the collection for preservation and insurance purposes. So MANY THANKS to all of you who made this possible by buying raffle tickets!!



- Freedom Buildings, then and now: Ms. Briggs second grade class also made Christmas tree ornaments using pictures of Freedom town buildings, showing “old” versus “new”. They also included a short piece of history about the building and a QR (Quick Response) code that could be read with the *i*-phone to get more information. [Editor’s note to self: find out what a QR code is so that I can keep up with second graders!]

- **Freedom Elementary School Projects**

- “T” is for telephone:

It was great to see the Freedom Elementary teachers and students involve the Society’s collection in its Christmas 2013 celebration. Ms. Pohl’s kindergarten class made tree ornaments involving articles “old” and “new” for each letter of the alphabet. For example, “T” is for telephone, with the pictures below mounted on a plastic sheet and then hung on their class’s tree at Town Hall. As a result the kids got to review, identify and match 26 “old” items from our collection with their modern equivalent- a great history lesson. Thanks to Gale Morris for coordinating these projects with the FES teachers!



“George Nichol’s gas station and garage once stood on the site of our current Post Office. Mr. Nichols also kept chickens there. After a fire all that remained was the office which was converted into the new post office.”



“This is Freedom Post Office around 1954”

- **Unsung Heroes!** Many folks help the Society each year but I would like to point out three individuals who deserve to be recognized at this juncture:
  - Gale Morris has now retired as Board secretary and all of us on the Board are so grateful for her excellent and complete notes. This was hard work and it has been appreciated!
  - Ed Boyer has contributed continually to the Society over the years and is now involved with updating the signage in the Allard house collection. He also keeps our driveway clear and keeps an eye on the building and collection; his care for the Society is always evident!
  - Fred Trail has quietly helped on two important projects: First, he has cleaned up and improved the audio on all of the (40+) oral histories in Freedom (both the Library and the Society have several) so that they can be safely stored and heard when re-played from a computer (cassette player no longer

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#### What are the plans for 2014?

**“Freedom House Book” project:** Given that this was the first planning process undertaken and that there is a large array of material to cover, the Board decided to undertake a one-year project in 2014. **This project is an update of Don Chase’s Book of [Freedom] Home Ownership, 1978.**

Essentially, the project is to have notebooks for each of the main roads coming out of Freedom village which will list each property, all owners (past and present), show photos of the homes

needed!). He has also converted the Society’s (over 1,000) photos of the Allard house collection from 3.5” floppy disks (remember those?!) to digital format which are now stored on the internet “cloud”. His contributions have helped keep our collection secure and accessible into the future...thanks Fred!

- **Building maintenance continues:** We are pleased to report that the final section (outside back wall of the kitchen) of the Allard house was repaired and painted in 2013, and the roof was painted as well. Additional good news is that financial results in 2013 will allow us to bring our capital reserve for major repairs and maintenance up to \$5,000; our goal is \$10,000. In 2014 we will start painting (inside and out) a portion of the building on a rotating cycle, so that proper maintenance is kept up with. Thanks go to Dick Many for coordinating this work.

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(past and present), give stories of the homes background and show location on a street map. It is envisioned that families associated with these homes will be documented for historical purposes, but this is a later project. The objective of the project is to provide a record for preservation and a resource for anyone who wants to know the history of any home in the village area (to address objective #1 above). Volunteers are encouraged and needed for the project. Volunteers can work at their own pace and on any part of the project that interests them, so please contact a Board member to get involved in this interesting project.

**Educational Programs:** We are pleased to announce some very interesting programs lined up for 2014. This is a draft list which will be finalized shortly, so stayed tuned for updates, which will be posted on our website and advertised around Town. Remember, programs are free thanks to a generous Freedom donor and NH Humanities Council grants. Of course, donations to support the Society's work are always greatly appreciated.

Proposed date	Presenter	Topic
May 21st	June O'Donal	Plants Impacting New England History
June 18 <sup>th</sup> *	Darryl Thompson	The Shaker Legacy (NHHC)
July 16th	NH Historical Soc.	NH hands at Work
Aug 20 <sup>th</sup> *	Janet Sullivan	Journey of Discovery: A Botanist on the Trail of Lewis and Clark
Sep 17th	TBD	TBD
Oct 22nd	Margo Burns	Capitol crime of witchcraft. Annual meeting dinner talk.

\*Co-sponsored with Friends of the Library

**Calendar/Photo Contest!** In June the Society announced the photograph theme for the 2015 Calendar. Anyone may submit photos that Capture the theme: **Freedom Gardens**. Remember, we need year-round seasonal photos, including winter, so don't wait until the last minute! An independent panel of judges will select four winners in each of three categories: Student, Amateur, and Pro/Semi-Pro. Winners will be announced at a reception on Friday,

June 27, 2014 where winning photographs will also be displayed. Deadline for submissions is April 1, 2014.

Address questions to Bonnie at [bonniebnh@myfairpoint.net](mailto:bonniebnh@myfairpoint.net) or call 603-539-3665; or see [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org). Don't miss out on your chance for calendar fame!

**You can join the fun, too!!** As mentioned, we are focusing on the "Houses of Freedom" project in 2014 and **you can work with the project team for as little or as much as you want.** Please contact John Shipman or a Board member to find out how you can participate. This and all volunteer jobs are very much needed and appreciated!

Old Home Week parade, 2013



- Photo courtesy Bonnie Burroughs
- Wagon courtesy Freedom Historical Society
- Horses courtesy Bill Stoops
- Decorating courtesy Nadine Chapman & Sylvia Carney
- Trailer courtesy David Trook
- Towing jeep courtesy Scott Cunningham
- Jeep operation courtesy Winston Morrow (Thanks everyone!)