



Freedom Historical Society

“Preserving Freedom’s
past for future generations”

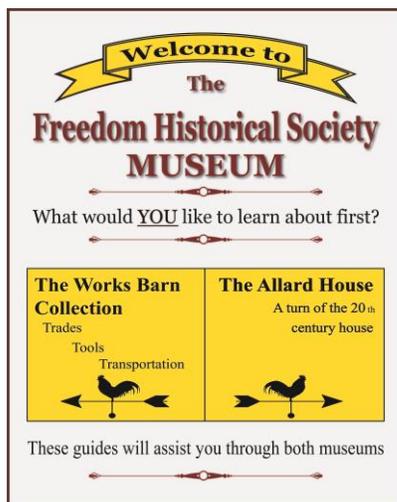
www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org

Mid-year Update, 2015

Dear Members,

The summer solstice is here and gone -- wow time does fly! As fans of history, and particularly Freedom’s history, I guess we may be more aware of the passage of time than many. However, it always seems to be a surprise. What isn’t a surprise is the continued support of members like you. I hope you know that we do not take your support for granted. Without you, we cannot exist. Thank you!! Below we hope you will enjoy some Society news.

New Museum Guides: The Board is pleased to announce that our museum has some new introductory signage (see below) and written guides to help improve visitor experience. For this same purpose, this summer we are working on organizing, de-cluttering, and labeling selected exhibits in the Works barn.



Our aim is to help visitors understand the trade or craft being displayed and explain where, when and who in Freedom performed this work. We want everyone to be able to connect our collection to Freedom history. We are an educational organization and we hope YOU want to be educated about your town.

Volunteers: We always ask for volunteer help, so many thanks to the three volunteers who worked with Sylvia Carney and me on an initial evaluation of part of our collection this spring: John Manley, Steve Thurston, and Chuck Brooks. I also want to recognize ‘regular’ volunteers who

work behind the scenes: Ed Boyer, who keeps our driveway clear all winter and also renewed signage in the Allard House, and Karl Ogren & Sons, who keep our lawn mowed all summer. Also, Nancy Essex continues to help us publicize our educational programs. We are very grateful to all the above and it shows that any amount of volunteer time is not only needed but also put to very good use. “No job is too small” as they say, and work from home is available. Please contact John Shipman at 539-5799 or e-mail at jshipman120@gmail.com if you can help. Thanks!!

“Freedom House Book” Project: The Society has completed the initial phase of an inventory of Freedom houses along the roads leading into the Village, updating what was previously known as the “Chase Book”, an informal report published by Don Chase in 1978. Our project expanded the data presented about each house and now includes a current photo as well as an historical one, if available. Moving ahead, we hope to add more historic photos as well as expand to other roads. The House books are organized by road/street and available for review in the Society’s resource room library. Call for an appointment or come by on any summer Saturday 10-12 to view this information. On May 6th, the Society’s Vice President, Nadine Chapman, presented an overview of the project and tour of selected houses in a program entitled “Freedom Houses: Then and Now”. Included in the program were several examples compiled by the Freedom Heritage Commission, for whose work we are grateful.

2016 Calendar: The 2016 Freedom Historical Society calendar has now been released and contains beautiful photos reflecting the theme "Stone Walls of Freedom". Congratulations to the winners of the calendar photo contest: Abby Elliott (cover); Robert Hatch (January); Nancy Essex (February, June); Sherry Rehm (March); Bonnie Burroughs (April); Nancy Griffin (May); Marjorie Stevenson (July); Michael Anne Johnson (August); Bonnie DuBois (September); Richard Many (October); Libby Priebe (November); Merton Sargent (December). There were nine "honorable mention" photos as well, which are included on the back cover. You can pick up your calendar at the Freedom Village Store, at the Historical Society on Saturday mornings, or during Old Home Week. This is a limited edition since only 200 have been printed. Particular thanks go to Bonnie Burroughs, Nadine Chapman and Sylvia Carney for making this project happen!

We hope everyone will buy a calendar, as it is our major fundraiser -- thanks!



Pumpkins and Leaves at Nannie and Papa's House Abby Elliott, Photographer

Planning is underway for the 2017 calendar that will feature Freedom area artists who have paintings or drawings that reflect Freedom's past. The calendar will then return to the photo contest format for 2018 and feature citizen photographers. So this summer, continue to take unique photos that connect the history of Freedom to our lives today.

Freedom Youth Enjoy the Museum:

Freedom Elementary School's 1st, 2nd 3rd graders visited the museum on June 18th as part of their curriculum on Freedom history. The students got to learn about representative

trades and recreation that took place in Freedom's past. Subjects covered included: research utilizing the Society's historical records; trades that took place in Freedom (barrel maker, tinsmith, and blacksmith), leather production and shoe making; Freedom's ball teams; and the Cornet bands. The students got to see firsthand how different things used to be and how everything had to be done locally and "by hand". Thanks to Gale Morris, Janet Johnson, Pat Hatfield and John Shipman for being docents at this event.

FHS 2015 Educational Programs:

Each month, May-October, the Society presents educational history programs at the Freedom Town Hall at 7pm. The speakers are very knowledgeable in their field and bring their expertise to our town. It is the quality of these speakers that consistently attracts an audience of 35-50+ people. There is still time to catch the remaining three programs in 2015 (see below). I hope as many of you as possible can attend the annual dinner meeting where we will taste New England regional foods and then hear from Edie Clark, who has written a book on the subject-- don't miss it!

Date	Presenter	Topic
May 20 th	Nadine Chapman	Freedom houses-Chase Book project
June 17 th	Douglas Wheeler	Geo. Washington spied here. Cosponsored w/Friends of the Library*
July 15 th	Glen Knoblock	NH gravestones & cemeteries
Aug 19 th	Hans Hug	Shipwrecks of Lake Winnepesaukee
Sep 16 th	David Hesse	The Founding Fathers: what were they thinking? Cosponsored W/ Friends of the Library*
Oct 21 nd	Edie Clark	Baked beans and fried clams; how food defines a region. Annual meeting dinner (5:30) precedes the program.

Personal Stories: We continue to share stories about people who lived in Freedom. We recently lost a long-time resident who contributed much to our community. He will be missed.

David Buswell

Excerpts from his oral history



David Buswell, 86, died on May 12, 2015. As he wished, his obituary contained only the brief facts of his birth date, survivors, and burial place. We would like to pass on some thoughts he shared about himself and also about Freedom in an interview with Joan Grossman in 2003. The remembrances below are from the Oral History Project conducted by the Freedom Public Library.

His Work

David, born on Christmas Day, 1928, in Wolfboro, was one of three brothers (Paul and Warren are also deceased; Gordon survives) and came to Freedom in the mid- 1940s with his mother Pauline and her second husband Clarence Godfrey. They lived on Village Road across from what used to be Mabel Davis' house [hence, this would be the Towle property at 64 Village Rd]. David worked at the Effingham Falls Store, now L. Mays store, which sold groceries and sundries. He graduated from Brewster Academy in 1947 and went to work for Carroll Reed as his private secretary for five years. His next position, at the White Mountain National Bank in Conway, lasted for 21 years during which time David rose from teller to Executive VP. "I was offered the Presidency but I didn't want it." In 1983, David went to work for William Levy who owned Yield House. He served as Administrative Assistant for 18 years when Mr. Levy died. Retiring in 2002, David said: "Now I am looking for a wealthy widow with two days to live."

His Homes

After Clarence Godfrey died, his mother sold the house in Freedom and the family moved to North Conway for four years. They didn't like it there..."It was too city like, too busy", so they came back to the Freedom area but, unable to find a house, settled in Effingham Falls. Suffice it to say that Effingham Falls, though it was right across the river, didn't suit David, and the family was able to find a place in Freedom: "the Al Pease house next to the Library and the Historical Society." David did extensive remodeling on the house, but his mother suffered a stroke shortly thereafter and they decided to sell. David bought the old Creamery (19 Loon Lake Rd.) from Chilton Thomson in 1976 and "paid him \$6700 for it." Chilton had rented the place to Jimmy Vincent, an "old-timer" (or perhaps just let him live there). In any case, David rapidly transformed the house into an attractive and comfortable dwelling. After David's mother died in 1983, he sold the Creamery and had his house built on the land next door where he lived until his death.

First thoughts about Freedom

On first seeing Freedom...."I said to my mother, who in hell would want to live over here? This is God's jumping off place...Remote! There was nothing here. The only thing they had back then was the Midway..."

The Midway

"That was the dance hall next to the present fire house. And they had dances; I think it was either Wednesday or Thursday...and Saturday. And it was mobbed. They used to have the best times."

Thoughts on Freedom later

"...I can remember when the town dump was on Loon Lake Road just below the Bathing Beach. There was a dump in there and I used to come down on Saturdays and throw my trash in there. And now it's all changed....And I love Freedom! I wouldn't live any other place, no way.

On change

"I think the two drastic changes to Freedom...one was the dump...the landfill. We used to go to the dump and bring back more than we took. The other change..."The Town Hall. I was heartbroken when the Library went out of the Town Hall...We didn't have the fire

escape stuck in there and we didn't have the elevator stuck in it. And they took down the stage curtain because it wasn't fire proof. ...I was a worker. I got things done. I enjoyed it. Those were happy years. I just wish it could continue. But..."

David's reminiscences about people, places, and happenings in Freedom are funny and poignant. He contributed so much to our town and to its institutions and longed for the things he loved to stay the same. He lamented the changes in the Church, the Town Hall, the Dump, and the Library, things we are quite sure are improvements and which had to be made. But we too are sometimes nostalgic and understand. He mourned their passing as we mourn his.

The Freedom Historical Society

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

Do you know this man?



Probably not since this photo was taken ca 1900. Let me introduce Ralph G. Foster (1865-1922). Ralph was an owner of the Freedom Village Store back at the turn of the 20th century.

House and Works Barn Museum, and through its cultural education programs and publications.

2013-14 Board Members:

John Shipman, President
Nadine Chapman, Vice President
Tom Luke, Treasurer
Sylvia Carney, Secretary
Bonnie Burroughs, Director
Dotty Brooks, Director
Scott Cunningham, Director
David Troom, Director

Location & Hours

The Allard House/Works Barn are at 38 Old Portland Road and are open Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10am to 12pm, and by appointment. See www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org.

Again, thanks so much to all you members for your support and to our hard-working Board!!

Sincerely,

John Shipman, President

He was also a tinsmith and learned the trade from his father, James D. Foster (1839-1897), who also lived in Freedom. One or both lived part of their lives at 43 Old Portland Road, which now is the Griffin's house (previously Clem and Louise Lovell's). It appears that he did tin smithing both at his home and then in the barn of the Store when he owned it. Both Fosters, and their wives, are buried in Lakeview cemetery.

You can see the collection of tin smithing tools and products, learn about the process and understand why Freedom had, and needed, a local craftsman in this trade. Just come to the Works Barn museum (28 Old Portland Road) on any summer Saturday (10-12).

Since we are 100% member supported, it would be wonderful if you shared this membership form with a friend or neighbor- thanks!

2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

Yes, I/we would like to support the Freedom Historical Society by starting/renewing my membership. Enclosed is a check in the amount of:

- Angel \$_____;
- Sponsoring Member \$100;
- Contributing Member \$50.
- Family \$25;
- Individual \$10

Name: (as you would like it listed in the program)

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
- yes, you may publish my name as a member

Please return this form with your check to:

Freedom Historical Society, PO Box 548, Freedom, New Hampshire 03833



**Freedom
Historical Society**

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www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org

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