

# *Freedom Historical Society & Museum*

P O Box 548, 22 Old Portland Rd, Freedom, NH 03836    [www.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org)    [FHSociety28@gmail.com](mailto:FHSociety28@gmail.com)

## *Preserving the Stories of Freedom*

### **2016 Report to Members**

**October 16, 2016**

Directing the Society and operating the Museum require many concurrent activities and competing demands: From caring for the facilities to updating collection records; from allocating resources to updating policies; from working on membership to writing newsletters and social media; from implementing new exhibits to improving existing exhibits; from arranging the summer education programs to engaging and working with volunteers.

A renewed focus has emerged in the organization of historic records so that we can better facilitate research. Our archive holds Freedom's rich history in many different documents such as letters, diaries, photos, maps, posters, deeds, business ledgers, records of organizations like the Grange and Freedom Club of Boston, family biographies, as well as past research. Board members have logged well over 200 hours in the Museum Resource Room working to organize archival records as the first step in scanning and recording them in the computer collection database. We hope to eventually have all records indexed and searchable online. We have also added to and/or updated the artifact collection database in order to prepare numerous items for storage

Your Resource Room looks and feels different! The room is neater with comfortable seating for your research and finding relevant resources is now easier. Even though there is much more work to be done, your FHS has made huge strides this past year to improve your experience and make the entire Museum more relevant, inviting, and engaging.

#### **1. Preservation Progress Report**

- Resource room organization
  - Have spent many hours organizing, filing and storing historical papers and photographs, documented where things are.
  - Now using collection storage space constructed in lower barn.
- Secured \$2,740 grant through the Henney Fund to purchase two new computers and PastPerfect version 5.0, with wifi access so we can work on-site and be technologically up-to-date.
- Updated (in process) our Collections Management Policy to better document our guidelines and procedures to ensure the integrity, safety, and preservation of the Society's collections.
- Considering making the resource room more environmentally secure and habitable year-round. The board needs to evaluate cost/benefit based on plans graciously drawn up by Rick Holt.

#### **2. New Museum Exhibits and Increased Attendance**

- Museum attendance was enhanced by two new exhibits:
  - History of the Telephone in Freedom with interactive display, thanks to ....
  - Thomson Doll House, thanks to Laura and Maynard Thompson, and volunteers Joann Whitehouse and Paul Tung.

- Attendance was up significantly from 2015 with more than 365 people visiting.

### 3. Educating the public

- Organized a 6-week program for Freedom Elementary School students to research and report on Freedom history topics, with thanks to Nadine Chapman and Gale Morris.
- Organized a student tour of historic places in Freedom, with thanks to John Shipman, Steve Thurston, and Nadine Chapman
- Organized vintage Freedom postcards into a moveable exhibit, thanks to Noel Quentin.
- Arranged 7 summer educational programs for adults.
- Produced two membership newsletters and changing to quarterly for 2017
- Effectively used Facebook social media as well routinely updated the FHS website.

### 4. Maintaining the Museum

- The most thorough Spring cleaning in a long time and a couple mid-season dustings with our new vacuum.
- Tidying up and labeling artifacts and displays
- Accomplished plumbing repairs
- Completed outside painting and repair of Allard house, front and back
- Grounds maintenance

### 5. Board running the Society's "business"

- Executed goals and objectives of preservation & education
- Nadine Chapman completed an 8 week online museum collections management course
- Organized fundraisers: Freedom Quilt Raffle and 2017 Calendar
- Organized our museum task list in order to involve more volunteer help.
- Planned and tracked financials

### 6. 2015 Financials (Sep. 30, 2015 to Oct. 1, 2016)

Income		Expenses	
			\$
Membership	29%	Maintenance	23%
Donations	19%	Grant designated funds	17%
Calendars	17%	Programs	16%
Grants	20%	Insurance	13%
Fundraiser	13%	Utilities	11%
Merchandize	2%	Printing/mailings	10%
Supplies			5%
Other			5%
\$12,577.25	100%	\$11,625.68	100%

### 7. Looking ahead:

- Organize and Implement the archival catalog process to get records into PastPerfect
- Install the new walkway from the board to shed made possible through successful raffle fundraiser
- Solicit volunteers to help with museum tasks
- Monitor and care for buildings and grounds