



# Freedom Historical Society

*“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”*

February 2017

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*The Freedom Historical Society was incorporated in 1968. The Society has sought to secure Freedom’s legacy. We continue this effort because of the value we all receive in preserving Freedom’s past.*

Dear Members,

Happy winter everyone. I hope you are enjoying the snow in Freedom, or the sun and warmth if you are down south. Fortunately, the winterizing we have done in the resource room is allowing us to continue work on-site Wednesdays from 10am-12pm, rather than having to wait for warmer weather. We continue to make progress. Feel free to stop by!

Some of the projects we are planning for 2017 include building stairs down to the lower shed for safe access; correcting the water flowing into the house basement; correcting some safety issues in the house; buying more archival supplies and a map cabinet; undertake more training in the use of the Past Perfect; and, possibly hire an intern or other help to make more substantial progress on getting our records scanned and digitally secure. These are not small projects, so you can see why we need all the support we can get and why we appreciate so much the generous support that you do provide.

Speaking of support, we ask and hope that you will renew your membership now for 2017. An envelope has been included for your convenience. Given the projects we would like to accomplish in 2017, we also ask you to consider donating an additional amount to support a special project or operational expense (see article below). Your added contribution will help us make important progress in making sure Freedom’s records, photos and stories are safely archived.

Thanks,  
John Shipman

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

### 2016 – 2017 Board Members

President	John Shipman
Vice President	Nadine Chapman
Treasurer	Tom Luke
Secretary	Sylvia Carney
<u>Directors</u>	
John Manley	Open
David Trook	Scott Cunningham



Website:  
[www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org)  
 Email:  
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 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
 Mailing Address:  
**The Freedom Historical Society**  
**P.O. Box 548**  
**Freedom NH 03836**

### Location and Hours:

The Allard House/Works Barn location: 28 Old Portland Road, Freedom NH 03836. **The hours are: Saturday, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. or by appointment.**

The Freedom Historical Society remains open on Wednesdays 10-12 throughout the winter, as weather permits, or by appointment. Please stop by!

## FHS RECENT NEWS

- The relevancy of history: Your historical society supports the History Relevancy Campaign ([www.historyrelevance.com](http://www.historyrelevance.com)), because it helps us all articulate why history is important. Please see my reflections, below.
- Freedom Calendar: We are happy to announce the theme for the 2018 Freedom Calendar: **Youth Camps of Freedom**. The team of Bonnie Burroughs, John Immediato, Tom Luke and John Shipman are currently reviewing old records, photos and memorabilia to make an interesting presentation. This will feature past and current camps in Freedom, so we should all learn something new! Stay tuned.
- Fundraising: Thanks to the large body of work done by previous board members, much of Freedom's history records are contained in numerous blue notebooks and files. We have amassed a significant amount of material!



At this stage, the current board is undertaking the significant effort to make this information more secure (i.e., scanned and saved in a place safe from destruction) and retrievable based on key words or names (i.e., searchable on a computer database, or even on-line. This is a very large undertaking, and can't be completed in a short time frame. However, it is important to bring our historical society into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Accomplishing this goal will be very valuable to future generations as they look to understand and connect with their (and our) Freedom past.

However, we have barriers to accomplishing these goals, and the barriers are mostly

insufficient financial resources. We are appealing to you, our members, and to anyone who values the Town of Freedom, to help us reach the next level. To perhaps make this easier, we have identified some areas of added costs in hopes that you will be able to help us meet these important goals. The areas we have identified are (showing total need):

- Computer/IT support for scanning and digitizing records (\$850)
- Electric/propane to allow us to work over 12 months (\$1,400)
- Exhibit development to show results (\$500)
- Allard House furnishing maintenance, which is seriously underfunded (\$500)
- Donation for other purposes (specify programs, *in memoriam*, etc.)

Your generosity is very much appreciated!

### DID YOU KNOW?

That there are Freedom column articles and other news about Freedom since 1929 at the Historical Society? Many make interesting reading from the "old days". You could buy a full dinner with dessert at Sunny Villa for 75¢ in 1940.



Come in to read them or go to:  
[www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org) and see other archived stories under "Explore on-line"

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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Furbush house (now the Elie's house) and its belongings left the family in 1944, at an auction that lasted over two days, August 26-27). The following observations were made at the above auction, purportedly by Ollie Milliken.

### August 26, 1944

"Although the Furbush auction only lasted two days, the village will be talking about it for two years. Everyone in the two States seemed to have been there for it and the stories about the stuff and the prices are really growing more every minute.

**AUCTION**

AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF  
**Harriet S. Furbush**  
 Late of FREEDOM, N. H., deceased  
 I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION  
 ON THE PREMISES IN  
**FREEDOM VILLAGE**  
 on **THURSDAY, Aug. 26, 1944**  
 at nine o'clock in the forenoon

the Personal Property of the late Harriet S. Furbush  
 consisting of household furniture and equipment,  
 farm, blacksmith and carpenter tools

1 custom London made mahogany Grandfather's chime clock,  
 1 oak Grandfather's clock, heavy brass and iron set,  
 some old fashioned pieces, silver ware, cut glass ware,  
 jewelry and other articles too numerous to mention  
 1 stationary gas engine

**Phil A. Bennett, Administrator**  
**Harry Blanchard, Auctioneer**

Freedom, N. H., Aug. 22, 1944.

A lady from somewhere bought an alarm clock. Payng \$4.60 for it, but when she awoke she found that it didn't ring right. So, she rose up and demanded her money back. After she gave the clerk back and got her money, Harry Blanchard, the auctioneer, asked for another bid. This same person then repurchased the clock for \$1.50.

One of the County Commissioners, Forrest Leavitt, bought a big grandfather clock [see ad] for three hundred and thirty dollars. When he got it to Center Ossipee, he was greatly surprised to find that he couldn't get it in his house.

An old plug silk hat was bought for \$1.70. It was a good buy except that the top was busted in. Now what do you suppose anyone wanted a thing like that for?

Ms. Ralph [Louisa Jorgenson] MacGown bought three hassocks for her dogs and she also got a nice fur coat.

A nice drop leaf table, completely overlooked by most of the ladies, went to Guy Judkin's house. Guy had no comments to make.

Maude [S. Andrews] Lincoln paid fifteen dollars for some wood. Later the price was reduced to twelve when the O.P.A. regulations were mentioned. [Editor's note: The Office of Price Administration (OPA) was established by Executive Order 8875 on August 21, 1941 to control money (price controls) and rent after the outbreak of WWII. It was abolished effective May 29, 1947]

Hugh S. Fullerton feels very happy about a Florence oil cook stove & oven which he got for eight dollars and fifty cents. Do I hear nine? [See photo below. Now, just an advertisement for the stove costs \$10]



Mrs. Alexander DeZaliwski bought a chair when she first arrived. The she remembered that she had promised the Captain that she would not buy a thing. When last seen, however, the chair was in the back of the station wagon marked "Torr [Tarr?] Steps"<sup>1</sup>.

The Kennetts of Conway bought a large jar of jewelry.

By noon of the first day, the experts at judging crowds estimated that the attendance as at over 400. With blue skies overhead, the auctioneer in good voice, the crowd in a fine mood, Freedom spread out for a two-day holiday. Out-of-towners should have been there. It was 'Old Home Week,' "Christmas," "Easter," "the Cornish Fair" and the "4<sup>th</sup> of July" all wrapped up together.

The house itself is a mystery. It appears to be for sale. Price? Write Phil Bennet of Freedom.

<sup>1</sup> Does anyone know what "Torr Steps" means? Or is it Tarr Steps, which is a natural rock bridge in England "built by the devil" in folklore?

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**HAPPENINGS FROM THE PAST**  
**The Woman's Club of Freedom**  
**1921-1940**

**The History of the Woman's Club of Freedom** was transcribed from the 1931 document handwritten on letterhead stationery of the Harmony Tea House and Annex, Freedom, Village, New Hampshire, Ossipee Trail, White Mountain Gateway. FHS speculates it was

written by Mrs. Angie Harmon Fracker who owned the Tea House at that time. Thank you to Carolyn Fracker Clancy for donating this piece of Freedom History.

### **History of the Woman's Club of Freedom Tenth Anniversary, October 1931**

The forming of the Woman's Club of Freedom was the direct result of a great desire on the part of Mrs. Maude Andrews Lincoln and Mrs. Angie Harmon Fracker.

Coming from the busy city life to the quiet of a rural community to make her home, Mrs. Lincoln visualized the many possibilities of a woman's club activities that could serve the town and bring the women into closer relationship with the various departments of club work.

To this end, Mrs. Fracker, a summer resident and a past president of the Chelsea Woman's Club with deep interest for Freedom, organized the club.

On Saturday afternoon, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1921, about thirty women responded to the call to meet in Town Hall and voted to form a Woman's Club of Freedom. It is interesting to recall some incidents of this meeting when discussing the possibilities of a club. One lady stated she had left the city to get away from the busy life and just such activities as clubs and it was also suggested that a Woman's Club never could survive because the Grange had been a failure in this town. Toward the close of the meeting, one lady said, "I must go, God made a time for horses to be fed and they must be fed at that time."

However, a temporary organization was formed with Mrs. Fracker, chairwoman, and Mrs. Herbert F Pray, secretary. A constitution and by-laws were presented to the ladies for consideration. Mrs. Nellie W. Foster was appointed chairwoman of the nominating committee.

On Wednesday afternoon October 5, in Town Hall, the club became a reality with the following names elected to office: President Mrs. Maude A, Lincoln; Vice President Mrs. Emma F Bradbury; Secretary Miss Nellie M. Allard; Treasurer Mrs. Vina Fowler; Directors: Mrs. Bertha H Drew, Mrs. Alice E. Weeks, Mrs. Alice Brooks, Mrs. Charlotte M. Willikens and Mrs. Bessie M. Bradbury. Mrs. Fracker declared the officers duly

elected and presented Mrs. Maude A. Lincoln, first president of the club.

Thus, the Woman's Club of Freedom was organized and the executive board immediately went to work with earnest purpose. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the club voted to apply for membership in the State Federation. Twenty-two members supported the president and records show a splendid activity for so small a community and the handicap of travel in winter. As the club has been so well supported by summer residents, the activities have been greater during vacation period up to this year. Now that winter travel has been made possible for automobiles, it will be easier to carry on a prepared program. This season, the club is pleased and gratified to have a year book ready and printed, trusting the efforts of the club will be rewarded with success.

Through the initiative of our first president, the civics Department improved the Town Hall grounds by planting shrubs and laying a concrete walk from the entrance to the street. After the Freedom Club of Boston constructed a concrete curbing as a retaining wall near the road, the Woman's Club completed a good piece of the work by grading and seeding the grounds. Mrs. Lincoln's troubles were many in her endeavor to keep people from taking a short cut across – as they had been in the habit of doing. This town improvement cost the club ninety dollars. The next bit of construction work was a concrete sidewalk around the corner in the village square at a cost of three hundred dollars. This was a very dangerous corner for pedestrians as the automobiles multiplied. An ambition to have sidewalks through the village has not materialized.

The past two summers, the unused fountain in the village square has been filled with flowering plants and in winter, with evergreens. Mrs. Lottie Thurston has carefully tended the garden.

Several waste paper barrels were purchased and placed conveniently for the public, but they seem to have disappeared. In some instances, individuals purchased the barrels and thus they passed out of the hands of the club.

A contribution was made toward the completion of the new cement court adjacent to the baseball field.

The town school has received much attention. The club has paid for hot lunches during cold weather, and oculist bill for children and eye glasses for three children were paid for, also dental clinics. Twenty-five dollars was given toward the purchase of tools for manual training, a five-dollar gold piece for the best essay on the history of Freedom and clothing has been made for needy children. An organ, purchased by the club, has been placed in the school as a loan to assist in music but it is not being used at present.

Christmas parties for all the children of the town were given in Town Hall very year by the club until 1927 when the responsibility was turned over to the Old Home Association assisted by the Mother's Club and the Woman's Club. Last year the Woman's Club again assumed the responsibility and is already making plans for this year. The children have enjoyed the community Christmas tree in Town Hall with gifts for every child (over a hundred in number) also, candy, supper and moving pictures. The suppers have been discontinued and only light refreshments served. Now the moving picture machine has been removed, other forms of entertainment are introduced and the children participating personally in the program.

When Mrs. Lincoln first went out to locate all the children of the town, she found a family in an isolated house, pitifully destitute, the parents and children living and sleeping in one room. She immediately enlisted the help of club members and friends and within a few hours, furniture, bedding, comforts and food were literally poured into that poverty-stricken house. It proved to be an undesirable family – a worthless mother and a well-meaning father but lacking average intelligence, but the innocent children had to be cared for. They left the community several years ago. This is only an instance where organized efforts can accomplish relief quickly and child welfare is one of the activities of Women's Clubs.

The club has sold Christmas stamps, donated Red Cross for Mississippi Flood relief fund, contributed Near East Relief, the Franconia Notch Fund, the M-Dowell fund and has annually contributed to funds sponsored by the Federation, including Prosperity Fund, Library Nook, Scholarships, Children's Aid and Protective Society and adopted a World War soldier to whom has been given

cigarettes, candy, books etc. The Club Bulletin has been subscribed for at various times.

As club dues could not supply sufficient funds to support these expenditures, various ways and means have been employed to make money. There have been suppers in Town Hall, food sales, card parties, moving pictures, plays presented by members and gifts of money. Last year, a lawn party and sale on the spacious grounds of Mrs. Helen Lewis Baker's home brought a splendid financial result not overlooking the social success. One of the members has given the use of her finely fitted barn for luncheons, club meetings and parties. Here Mrs. Lincoln has given several readings including the "First Mrs. Fraser", "Stage Interlude", "Journey's End" and "The Flattering Word". Dr. Henry E. Utter of Cragged Mt. Camp for children gave an afternoon on the daily routine of the child, food, rest and recreation. Charles L. Hanson teacher of English Literature in Mechanic Arts School of Boston gave an afternoon of "Robert Burns". Mrs. Giny Burch, of New York City, a district leader in the "league of women voters", gave a nonpartisan talk on women's influence in politics. Dean Henry S. Ross of Emerson College gave an afternoon of "Kipling". All these were worthwhile summer meetings. Many summer residents have entertained the club these ten years past, in their homes or on the lawns.



Logo of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

The reciprocity day, November 16, 1927, four years ago next month, was a red-letter day when the clubs of this district so generously responded, making such a fine afternoon. Even the loss of electric lights, that played an unkind trick as darkness approached did not dim the light of pleasure in entertaining these welcome guests.

Two years ago, the club enjoyed a season in its own club house, a delightful place to meet, located near the edge of the village. It was rented and could be used until sold. It is now the summer home of Mrs. Burch. There was a printed sign at the entrance of the house "The Woman's Club of Freedom" telling its story quietly

and with dignity. The first meeting in the club home was the annual meeting on May 15, 1929. All meetings and social events were held in the club house for the season including card parties, luncheons, and gentlemen's night.

The annual meetings of the club have been held in various places – Center Ossipee Inn, New Lincoln at Cornish, Randall House at North Conway, Harmony Tea Shop, Club House and Eastland Hotel at Portland. All were interesting and entertaining.

Winter meetings have been held in the houses of members. The programs have been carried on along the lines of Federation rules so far as possible. There have been afternoons of child welfare, first aid nursing, parliamentary law, current events, nature, including birds, plants and flowers, books and book review, plays, New Hampshire authors, art and pictures, travel talks by members, (especially fine programs by Mrs. Harriet Furbush on her visits to various places in Europe and the Holy Land), music, the opera with Victrola records, home economics, public health, history, national and foreign affairs and the bible.

On June 16 of this year, the club sponsored a get together meeting in Town Hall to observe the one hundredth anniversary of the Town of Freedom on this date and endeavor to stimulate interest and enthusiasm toward the celebration to be held during Old Home Week. Over a hundred townspeople attended this meeting. At this time the \$5. Gold piece was presented to Linnie Watson, a pupil in the grammar school, for the best essay on the history of Freedom, which was judged by a committee of three members and announced that evening. By request of the club the pupil read her essay.

To state that all these activities have been easy tasks would be most erroneous. There were many hardships, lack of team work at times, the unseen but often felt atmosphere of objection. In fact, it has been a struggle indeed at times to keep the fires burning to warm the ambition of members to greater endeavor. This is not unkind criticism but calling to mind the ever-present task of pulling together. In a small town with scattered membership and long winter months with shut in days, it requires and desire to go out for club work. To be sure, one may gather a supply of books with educational and uplifting intent to improve the idol

hours and while that procedure may be worthwhile to a degree, it does not give one the benefit of human contact that we all need to broaden our mental horizon.

The Woman's Clubs stand first and foremost for the home and would never advocate any degree of neglect. The average woman can arrange her home duties to enable attendance at club meetings once or twice a month and benefit is bound to reach the betterment of service in her home. Let your home come first but use your head to make it possible to progress.

It was with this thought in mind that the Woman's Club of Freedom was organized and while the club has accomplished much there is a strong desire to increase its usefulness and cooperative influence for good in the home, town, state and nation.

The following members have served as president: Mrs. Maude A. Lincoln, Mrs. Ruth S. Nichols, Mrs. Georgia C Danforth, Mrs. Emma L Bradbury, Mrs. Hattie P Burnham (2 years), Mrs. Ellen L. Mitchell, Mrs. Harriet Furbush (2 years), and Mrs. Ruth S. Nichols now serving her second consecutive year, making three.

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**Why is history important; or,  
What does history mean to me?**



I have had to recently ask myself "why is history, and specifically the Freedom Historical Society, important to me"? I am the current president, going into my fifth year, so I must see something of value in the organization and get something back in return. But what is it? In recently read about the Relevancy of History Campaign<sup>1</sup> and it spoke to my questions

directly. I am sharing one quote from them, and my reaction, in hopes that it will resonate with you. ***“No place is a community until it has an awareness of its history”<sup>1</sup>.***

I think of this when we start to improve upon or develop a new historical display or presentation for the FHS museum. I am excited about creating something new and sharing it with our visitors. I got a lot of pleasure out of the Freedom post card display, for example. I didn't work on that project, but got enthusiastic when **Noel Quinten** and I talked about it. Noel and **Nadine Chapman** clearly felt that same excitement when they undertook that project, and we all got satisfaction out of the display. But why? I felt that these photos might educate all of us about Freedom's past and that we could all have that connection in common. It's about both awareness of and connection to the place we live; and value.

There are other rewards that I experience, but can save those for another time. Or, better yet, some of you can tell me what you value about history and what it has taught you.

<sup>1</sup> quotes from “the value of History”  
(www.historyrelevancy.com/valuestatement)

Yes, we have easy and short-term projects you can help us with at the Society's museum. No experience necessary. Your time is important to us. Call 539-5799 or send an e-mail to [FHSociety28@gmail.com](mailto:FHSociety28@gmail.com).  
Don't be afraid ☺. We will love you for it!

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In memoriam  
G. Wendell Brooks



The Freedom Historical Society, along with the Town of Freedom, and beyond, lost a good friend and

benefactor on November 16, 2016. We are deeply saddened at the passing of G. Wendell Brooks and send our condolences to his family. Wendell was a staunch supporter of the Historical Society and cared so much about Freedom and its history. He is now part of that history and will never be forgotten. We will miss him. Wendell's passing is a strong reminder to all of us to preserve our history, record our family stories and make sure all of that is passed on. The Historical Society is happy to play a role in that preservation for any family that wishes to do so.

### **Thank you, Volunteers!!!**

FHS recognizes and thanks the following dedicated volunteers for their assistance:

- Thanks go out to **Norman Fertado, John Manley** and **David Trook** for helping us get the museum's resource room sealed up for winter use. I can report that the efforts have paid off. Still a little cool on the floor, but much easier to retain heat; we can work there effectively now. Thanks guys!
- We continue to get donations and membership submittals since the November newsletter. We greatly appreciate receiving renewal memberships from **Agnes & Linda Walls, Charlie & Margaret Gibbs, Shirley Gulvin, Heidi Miksch**, and new members **Alexander Sopyla and Angela Ricci**. And particular thanks to those who gave additional contributions at year-end: **Howsie Stewart, Robert & Nancy Phinney, and Nancy Seabury and family**. And to **Ed Boyer** for being our first 2017 renewal. Thank you all for being so generous!!

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### **You are part of Freedom's History!**

Do you have family photos, old house pictures, photos or articles about Freedom in your “archives?” We would love to have copies for our records since you and your families are part of Freedom's history. We want a record of you family's connection to Freedom. We will make sure your archives are preserved and safely stored for your family and any Town historian to examine. Just contact us through phone, 539-5799, e-mail at [FHSociety28@gmail.com](mailto:FHSociety28@gmail.com), or come in any Wednesday and we can help record and preserve your place in Freedom's history. Don't wait!

**FHS 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.

**Membership:**

Sponsoring \$100    Contributing \$50    Family \$25    Individual \$10

Yes I'd like to make an additional donation to boost progress:

**Additional Donation:** \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please specify purpose, if you wish:

General Use    Museum renovation    Computer & Internet

Electric & Propane    Preservation Supplies    Programs

Memorial in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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 the newsletter emailed.

Yes, you may publish my name as a member

Please contact the FHS about volunteering: John Shipman, [jshipman120@gmail.com](mailto:jshipman120@gmail.com)

**Kindly return this form with check to:**  
**Freedom Historical Society, P.O. Box 548, Freedom NH 03836**

