



# Freedom Historical Society

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

28 Old Portland Rd, PO box 548, Freedom NH 03836

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

February 2018

The Freedom Historical Society was formed in 1965 and incorporated in 1968 and has sought to secure Freedom’s legacy. We continue this effort because of the value we all receive in preserving Freedom’s past.

### 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.

### 2017 – 2018 Board Members

President	John Shipman
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Anne Cunningham, interim
Secretary	Sylvia Carney
<u>Directors</u>	
John Manley	Scott Cunningham
David Trook	Anne Furtado
Roberta McCarthy	Jean Marshall
Anne Gaudette	



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

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

[Like Us on Facebook:](#)

Mailing Address:

The Freedom Historical Society

P.O. Box 548

Freedom NH 03836

The Freedom Historical Society & Museum is located at 28 Old Portland Rd in Freedom. We are open from Memorial Day to Labor Day on Saturday & Wednesday from 10 am - 12. we are open year round on Wednesday only from 10 am - 12. Open other times by appointment.

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

While we start 2018 with positive thoughts and actions, I cannot leave 2017 without mentioning the sadness of recently losing our dear friend, board member, and treasurer, Tom Luke. He served the Society faithfully and consistently from 2012 through 2017; his volunteerism and dedication is most appreciated. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife, Jane, and to his entire family. He is missed.

As I said, your Society is moving ahead in a positive direction in 2018, with a focus primarily on two projects: the Archival project and completing the Freedom House Books. The latter we started three years ago and are determined to finish them. You will hear about these projects in this and subsequent newsletters since both will take a significant effort throughout the year. We sincerely hope that you, our members and friends can help in these efforts. “Many hands make light work”.

Speaking of support, we ask and hope that you will renew your membership now for 2018. An envelope has been included for your convenience. Given the projects we would like to accomplish in 2018, we also ask that you consider donating an additional amount to support a special project or operational expense (see ‘recent news’, below). Your added contribution will help us make important progress in making sure Freedom’s records, photos and stories are safely archived. Your generosity is so valuable and appreciated! Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Shipman

## FHS RECENT NEWS

- **Celebrating Freedom Historical Society during the 2018 Old Home Week!** The Freedom Historical Society was formed in 1965 and incorporated in 1968. That means that 2018 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our incorporation. We are excited to announce that the Freedom Old Home Week Committee would like to honor the Society in its theme and possibly the T-shirt design this year. Stay tuned as we prepare for this exciting event!
- **The FHS Calendar Committee** has started its work on the 2019 edition, which we are pleased to announce will be "Remarkable People of Freedom". There are many that fit this category, so its likely that subsequent years will have the same theme with different people. If you would like to nominate someone for inclusion in future calendars, feel free to send us an e-mail to [fhsociety28@gmail.com](mailto:fhsociety28@gmail.com). Remember, the calendars are a major fundraiser for the Society. And, they make great gifts too! 2018 calendars are still available at the village store, or by ordering them through us.
- **Collections Update:** As a result of the successful Archival Project campaign we are able to initiate the first two steps in the process in early 2018. The first step is getting selected files ready by consolidating files and removing duplicates. The plan is to have the three notebooks of Freedom Old Home Week paper and photo records, the collection of people photographs, and our genealogical records all scanned. The first batch will be followed by two other batches of records to be scanned this spring. This will get us a long way to the "preservation" objective of the archival project. The second objective, entering the scanned images into the Past Perfect database will be more time consuming. All the information related to each image must be identified and entered into the appropriate fields in the database. We are seeking help from volunteers and interns to help with this aspect since this task will unlikely be completed in 2018.
- **The Freedom House project:** We stated this project in 2014, in order to carry on the important work of the Freedom Heritage Commission's efforts to update/replace Don Chase's 1976 book on Freedom houses in the village area. The Commission has completed very detail work on twelve important

building in Town. Our goal is to gather more detailed information on all the houses on Village Road, Cushing Corner Road, Moulton Road, Elm Street, Old Portland Road and Scarboro Road. While we have made significant progress, we wish to finish this project in 2018. Anne Gaudette is preparing a plan to make this wish a reality and we are grateful for her contribution. We will update you on our progress in subsequent newsletters.

- Also from the Freedom Historical Society: Do you like mysteries? Do you like to solve puzzles? The FHS is looking for volunteers to help us research information on homes in and around the village. We are working to document each home's history, including who owned them, when they were built, looking for old photos, etc. If you are interested in learning more about Freedom's history and want to help out with this project, contact Anne Gaudette at 539-3278. Even if you can offer to help a couple of hours here and there, we would love to have you join us on the fun project.
- **We Need Your Help!** We need the help of volunteers to enter data. A little computer experience would be helpful but we will show you what to do. And if you prefer to not work on the computer, we have many other related support tasks you can help with. We will train! Its neither hard nor scary☺.

### DID YOU KNOW?

That in the past the Freedom Beach Club beach had paid attendants? In our records we came across this list of attendants from the period 1978-1986. No doubt you

recognize these names:

1979: Michelle Culbertson

1979, 1980: Janice Godfrey

1981, 1982: Mary Mayhew

1983, 1984, 1985: Cindy Clancey

1986: Mark Read

Beach attendant pay at the time was \$2.65 per hour, 30+ years ago.



See: [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org) and learn more about "did you know" subject under "**Explore on-line**"

FROM THE ARCHIVES  
**Governor Frank S. Black**

### Who was Governor Black?

In the November 2017 FHS newsletter, we presented a piece on Mrs. Lillian B. Merrow and how her brother, Governor Black of NY State, was able to help her secure the postmaster position in Freedom NH in 1897. Most Freedom folks know that Gov. Black owned a house (still there) up on the hill off Scarboro Road; and that there is a memorial marker there for him. But what else do we know? Research turned up the following information which should help fill in some of “the rest of the story”.

### Frank S. Black (from Wikipedia)

**Frank Swett Black** (March 8, 1853 – March 22, 1913) was an American newspaper editor, lawyer and politician. He was a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1895 to 1897, and the 32nd Governor of New York from 1897 to 1898.

Frank Swett Black



Born near Limington, York County, Maine, Black was one of eleven children [Lillian being one] of Jacob, a farmer, and Charlotte B. Black. He graduated from Lebanon Academy in 1871, and then taught school for several years. With the money thus earned, he managed to enter Dartmouth College in 1875. Out of college, he moved

to Johnstown, New York, and was employed as editor of the Johnstown Journal.

An ardent follower of James G. Blaine, also from Maine, Black changed the political stance of the paper while the Democratic owner was out of town, but was promptly dismissed upon the latter's return. He then moved to Troy, New York, and worked for the Troy Whig and the Troy Times. At the same time he studied law, and was admitted to the bar. He developed a solid reputation after successfully prosecuting a high-profile murder case, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1894. He served from March 4, 1895, to January 7, 1897, when he resigned. He was Governor of New York, elected in 1896 on the Republican ticket, and was in office beginning in January, 1897. Governor Black urged the completion of the State Capitol, lobbied for election reform, endorsed the Spanish-American War, and supported improvements to the Erie Canal.

[All good so far...but at this time the railroads were out-competing the Erie Canal for transportation of goods; a problem for the State of NY. Excerpts from an article written by Mark J. Kozio titled “Riding to the Rescue: How Theodore Roosevelt saved the Erie Canal”<sup>1</sup> tells the story of how this project affected Frank Black’s career as Governor]

“To stay competitive with the railroads, an Erie Canal enlargement was begun in 1894. State officials arrived at a quick yet inaccurate budget estimate of nine million dollars. This faulty estimate was used despite later, better estimates of 11.5 and 14.5 million dollars. This use of the inaccurate nine-million-dollar estimate gave the enlargement project a poor start and led to other problems. Inefficient canal management and lack of money for the Nine-Million Dollar Enlargement project put the canal in jeopardy. Republican Frank Black, governor from 1897 to 1899, appointed George Aldridge as his Superintendent of Public Works, an appointment approved by Republican Party boss Thomas Platt. Aldridge, a former mayor of Rochester and a power in New York State politics, managed the Erie Canal system at a critical time in its life.

Thomas Platt was a very powerful party boss in New York State by the end of the nineteenth century. A master at his craft, Platt selected

candidates to run for state offices that could be counted upon to do what Platt told them to do. However, decades of scandals by dishonest patronage appointees created a need for reform. One of these reformers was Theodore Roosevelt. From the 1880s to the early 1900s, TR. and Platt clashed often over political philosophy, methods and appointees. When he could, Roosevelt went along with party policy. However, TR. did break with Platt on many issues, especially when he felt the interests of New Yorkers were being harmed.”

“The New York Times, a pro-Democrat paper, did not admire Governor Black's administration. The newspaper editorials challenged the governor and the canal officials to explain the misrepresentations concerning the canal enlargement project. Superintendent of Public Works Aldridge wrote in the 1898 Annual Report of the State Engineer and Surveyors that it was easier to make the enlargement project appealing at the ballot box if it was budgeted at nine million dollars instead of a higher figure. Also, Aldridge wrote that he wanted to shut down the enlargement project because of the shortfall of money, but he feared trying to break the construction contracts would create lawsuits.”

“New York political leaders and many voters wanted Roosevelt to run for statewide office, so in 1898 Boss Platt realized Roosevelt had a better chance of winning the governor's race than the incumbent, Frank Black, who wanted a second term but was severely handicapped by the Erie Canal enlargement problems. On August 4th, the Canal Report was issued to Governor Black. The report said there were indeed irregularities and "technical violations" of the canal laws by Superintendent Aldridge and Engineer Adams. No charges of fraud, however, were presented. To further clear his government, the governor appointed a commission to study the evidence collected by the Canal Report commissioners. This second report was issued in late November, 1898.<sup>1</sup> With the pro-Democrat newspapers such as The New York Times reminding the voters about the Erie Canal scandals, Boss Platt had little choice but to call upon maverick TR. to discuss a gubernatorial candidacy. Eventually Platt offered the nomination to Roosevelt and he accepted the offer to run for governor.”

This is how Governor Black was limited to one term in office. Black then returned to private life, practicing law in New York City. High Meadow Farm on Scarborough Road was bought by Gov. Frank S. Black and his wife Lois in 1904. Subsequently, the house was owned by the Governor's son Arthur Black (a lawyer in Boston) and his wife Frances until the 1940's. Charlie (II) and Patricia Watts were the next (1955) who then passed on to its current owners, Charlie (III) and Holly Watts.



High Meadow Farm (Gov. Black house) ca. 1904



High Meadow Farm, 2018. Note Black's memorial plaques on rock in foreground.

An interesting side note is that French virtuoso violinist, Rene-Charles “Zeno” Francescotti was a tenant in the caretaker's house on this property, possibly in the late 1930's- early 1940's when he was in America.

<sup>1</sup> Koziol, Mark J. “Riding to the Rescue: How Theodore Roosevelt saved the Erie Canal. Vol XVIII, No. 2 (Sept, 2001), pp 17-28.

**Can you volunteer to transcribe handwritten documents into typed form?**

**How about helping to sort and organize photos and documents for scanning?**

If you are interested in volunteering, please email us at FHSociety28@gmail.com. Or, contact John Shipman at 539-5779 or Nadine Chapman at 539-6594.

### Freedom's Cornet Bands



The Society now has a nice display holder for Freedom's cornet, thanks to Bill Stoops. Thank you Bill!!

Freedom had two cornet bands. The first one was led by Edgar Mills and it is his cornet that we have in our collection (see photo above). Edgar was a blacksmith in town and lived in the house on Old Portland Road next to the Town Office. The initial cornet band played until the early 1900' before it disbanded. The second band was organized about 1927. At one point, Arthur Bennett, Freedom's undertaker, was the band's conductor. Weekly concerts were played in good weather in the bandstand or at Town Hall, reportedly until the pre-war draft for WW II in 1940. The band dissolved at that point.

### Memberships & Donations

The majority of our support comes from membership dues and donations. We are very grateful to the following individuals who became new members or paid their membership in the last quarter of 2017:

**Sponsors:** Wendell & Terri Packard, Gay Mocerri, Lucy Works, Katherine Watts.

**Contributors:** David & Kathleen Avery, Heidi Miksch.

**Families:** Rachel Ward, Gerald & Kimberly Hastings, Ruth Allard Paul.

**Individuals:** Agnes Walls, Duane Schalter, and Francis Blouin.

Your generosity is most appreciated.

### Additional Donations

There are many members and donors who give additional donations to the general fund or to the Archival Project fund going above and beyond during the last quarter of 2017. We are very grateful for this generosity and thank the following people for going above and beyond with donations in December: **Lee Allison, Lee Fritz, Jennifer Molin, Joyce & Fred Watson and the Freedom Community Club.** We are grateful for the support of **Jack Middleton, John Towle, Charlie & Holly Watts, Peter & Caroline Watts Collins and Nancy Seabury** for their recent generous donation to our **Archival project.** Thank you all!!

These and all our member donations means we can continue the critical process of making sure all of the Society's historical records will be preserved and stored electronically, as a security backup to the real thing.

***Support Freedom Historical Society***

***When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)***

***FHS has received almost \$50 so far from Amazon!***

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/02-6013998>

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## Freedom Historical Society- the first 35 years

As the Society celebrates its 60th year of incorporation, we are looking back to recall its history. In the early 1990's the staff at the time compiled a list of Society leaders between 1965 and 1992. To provide you with a sense of history, we are including this list to you in this newsletter. Do These names bring back any memories? Good!! We are grateful for their significant contribution to keep the Society going over the years. And, provide a recognizable foundation for those of us who serve now, and in the future. The next newsletter will list those who have served from 1992 to the present.

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Position, years served</b></u>
Barbara Dutton	President, 1965-1966
John Brooks	President, 1966-67 Board of Directors, 3 years
Albert Godfrey	Vice President, 1966-67
Marilyn Rines	Secretary, 1966-67
Luke Hatfield	Treasurer, 1966-1970
Lettie Thurston	Custodian, 1966-1970
Molly Cunningham	President, 1967-68 Vice President, 1972-73 Publicity, 1973-74 Custodian, 1982-83
Clem Lovell	Vice President, 1967-1972 President, 1973-1976 Auditor, 1982-83
Mabel Davis	Secretary, 1967-68 President, 1968-69 Board of Directors, 1966-67
Anne Sheehan	Secretary, 1968-1970
Eleanor Lawson	Board of Directors, 1969-70
Joseph Dresser	President, 1969-70
Douglas Coates	Auditor, 1970-71
Louise Lovell	Secretary, 1970-71 Treasurer, 1979-80 Accession & Clothing, 1990-92
Lillian Cutting	Treasurer, 1970-1972
Anne Richardson	Secretary, 1972-73
Gordon Wolfe	Treasurer, 1972-1977
David Buswell	Vice President, 1973-1976, 1982-1984 President, 1982-1984 Auditor, 1967-1970 Board of Directors, 1990-1993 Secretary, 1973-74 Secretary, 1974-1976 Custodian, 1976-1982 President, 1976- 1978 Vice President, 1976-1978 Secretary, 1976-1980 Treasurer, 1977-78 President, 1978-1980 Board of Directors, 1966-67 Vice President, 1978-1980 President, 1980-1982 Treasurer, 1982-1986 Vice President 1981-84, 1986-88 President, 1984-1986 Board of Directors, 1989-1992 Secretary, 1981-1987 Treasurer, 1981-82 President, 1986-1991 Treasurer, 1987-1991 Board of Directors, 1988-89 Vice President, 1988-1990 Secretary, 1988-1991 President, 1990-91 Board of Directors, 1988-1991 Curator, 1992 Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Donald Chase	Secretary, 1973-74
Phyllis Jones	Secretary, 1974-1976
Ellie Thurston	Custodian, 1976-1982
Maisie Martin	President, 1976- 1978
Frances Shackford	Vice President, 1976-1978
Doris Macy	Secretary, 1976-1980
Margery Wood	Treasurer, 1977-78
Phyllis Mayhew	President, 1978-1980 Board of Directors, 1966-67 Vice President, 1978-1980 President, 1980-1982 Treasurer, 1982-1986 Vice President 1981-84, 1986-88 President, 1984-1986 Board of Directors, 1989-1992 Secretary, 1981-1987 Treasurer, 1981-82 President, 1986-1991 Treasurer, 1987-1991 Board of Directors, 1988-89 Vice President, 1988-1990 Secretary, 1988-1991 President, 1990-91 Board of Directors, 1988-1991 Curator, 1992 Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Bob Fowler	Vice President, 1978-1980
Margaret Trail	President, 1980-1982 Treasurer, 1982-1986 Vice President 1981-84, 1986-88 President, 1984-1986 Board of Directors, 1989-1992 Secretary, 1981-1987 Treasurer, 1981-82 President, 1986-1991 Treasurer, 1987-1991 Board of Directors, 1988-89 Vice President, 1988-1990 Secretary, 1988-1991 President, 1990-91 Board of Directors, 1988-1991 Curator, 1992 Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Elizabeth Acton	Vice President 1981-84, 1986-88 President, 1984-1986 Board of Directors, 1989-1992 Secretary, 1981-1987 Treasurer, 1981-82 President, 1986-1991 Treasurer, 1987-1991 Board of Directors, 1988-89 Vice President, 1988-1990 Secretary, 1988-1991 President, 1990-91 Board of Directors, 1988-1991 Curator, 1992 Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Lois Boewe	Secretary, 1981-1987
Ted Shackford	Treasurer, 1981-82
William Coleman	President, 1986-1991
Irene Kondrat	Treasurer, 1987-1991
Sam Martin	Board of Directors, 1988-89
Betty Godfrey	Vice President, 1988-1990
Barbara Coleman	Secretary, 1988-1991
Frank Seabury	President, 1990-91 Board of Directors, 1988-1991 Curator, 1992 Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Bill Fritz	Board of Directors, 1988-1992 Curator, 1980-1990 Vice President, 1990-1992 Secretary, 1990-1992 Treasurer, 1990-1992 Grounds, 1990-1992 House, 1990-1992 Pam Keith 1990-1992 Beverly Grant, 1990-1992
Nelson Works, Jr.	Curator, 1980-1990
Robert Cranage	Vice President, 1990-1992
Bonnie Brooks	Secretary, 1990-1992
Eric Pelton	Treasurer, 1990-1992
Richard Cummings	Grounds, 1990-1992
John Hall	House, 1990-1992
Entertainment	Pam Keith 1990-1992
Refreshments	Beverly Grant, 1990-1992

## **Local Businesses Support your Historical Society**

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs by advertising their businesses in our fund-raising calendar. We encourage you to do business with them.

**Beth Day Massage Therapy  
Camp Calumet**

**Gary Wallace Auctioneers, Inc.**

**Green Mountain Furniture**

**Hatfield's Bed & Breakfast**

**Inn at Crystal Lake & Palmer  
House Pub**

**James C Farinella Building &  
Remodeling LLC**

**Lampron Energy**

**Minuteman Press**

**Northern Tire & Alignment Inc.**

**Re/Max Presidential Realty, Paul  
Wheeler**

**Chuck Brooks, Carpenter  
Constantino Real Estate, Gerard  
Constantino  
Cooper Cargill Chant, Deborah A.  
Fauver, Esq.  
Deb's Custom Upholstery  
Estates at Sherwood Forest  
Exit Realty, Grace Brooks  
Freedom Village Store  
G W Brooks & Son, General  
Contractors**

**Sacopee Valley Health Center  
Sentinel Financial, Paul**

**Olzerowicz CPA, CFP, ChFC**

**Terri Brooks, Watercolor & Pastel  
Artist**

**Waddell & Reed, Margie Amico,  
Financial Advisor**

**Ward's Boat Shop**

**White Mountain Survey &  
Engineering**

**Help us save money! Send us your email. Ours is FHSociety28@gmail.com**

**Your membership is critical to our survival- Please join now! Thanks!**

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS**

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

**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, if you wish:

General Use  Museum renovation  Computer & Internet

Electric & Propane  Preservation Supplies  Programs

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

MailingAddress \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address: (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I’d like to know more about helping with a small project.

Yes, You may publish my name as a member.

Please submit with your check, payable to **Freedom Historical Society, and mail to Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836.**

**Thank you! Remember, your membership & donations are tax deductible.**



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