

Freedom Historical Society

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

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

www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org

Celebrating 50 years as a Non-profit Corporation!

May 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	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Anne Cunningham, interim
Secretary	Sylvia Carney

Directors

John Manley	Anne Gaudette
David Trook	Anne Furtado
Roberta McCarthy	Jean Marshall



www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org

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 by calling 603-733-9307.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends:

We so pleased and honored that the 2018 Freedom Old Home Week Committee has chosen to celebrate the 50th year of incorporation of the Freedom Historical Society this year. The Society had its beginnings in 1965 (see the first meeting minutes below) in this very month. It wasn’t until 1968, 50 years ago, that the Society became formalized as a NH not-for-profit corporation in the State of New Hampshire. This is what we are celebrating and it is so pleasing to be able say that the Society is still going strong after all these years.

In the February newsletter we listed the folks responsible for getting the Society underway and keeping it going for the first 30 years. That early group deserves so much credit for having the vision, leadership and energy to create a sustainable organization. We need to recognize the initiators, Barbara Dutton and Molly Cunningham/Vestner and the others mentioned below. Today, we owe them many thanks!

Speaking of thanks, we are grateful for those who have sent in their 2018 membership. For those of you who undoubtedly have been meaning to ☺, a membership form is included herein. We humbly ask that you also consider an additional donation to support our Archival project, operating expenses, or an education program of your choice. Your generosity is so valuable and appreciated! Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Shipman, President

FHS RECENT NEWS

- **Announcing the 2018 Freedom Historical Society educational programs!** The 2018 programs are all on Wednesdays (except in August) at 7pm and are at the Freedom Town Hall (except in June); refreshments are served. They are free and open to the public; donations are accepted. These are all high-quality programs by subject experts, so you don't want to miss them!

- *May 16th: Chocorua for Two Bits: The Value of a View: Art, History and Nature" by Bob Cottrell, Historian.*
- *June 13th: Abenaki People of NH by Paul Pouliot, Native American historian; co-sponsored with Freedom Community Club at Camp Calumet.*
- *July 18th: Exemplary NH Country Estates by Christina Ashjian, NH Humanities Council.*
- *August 6th: Stepping Forth to Honor New England and the Nation: Parades from 1788 to 2018 by Jane Nylander, Historian.*
- *September 19th: TBD.*
- *October 24th: Music in my Pockets: Family Fun in folk Music by Jeff Warner, NH Humanities Council.*

- **The FHS 2019 Calendar.** As announced last newsletter the theme of the 2018 FHS calendar will be "Remarkable People of Freedom". This is an interesting and educational twist in our calendar collection, and a sure 'collectable'. The calendars will be announced and for sale at a special event at the Freedom Gallery on June 29th from 6:00-8:00. Society members will be on hand to unveil the honorees and explain our selection. 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:** Some big steps have occurred over the winter: 1) Detailed cataloging procedures (for the Past Perfect database) have been written specifically for our collection by Nadine Chapman. This documentation insures that artifact and document cataloguing will be understood and consistent going forward, ready for all new volunteers and board members in the future. And, 2) Computer scanning has been completed of the three notebooks of Freedom Old Home Week paper and photo records, the collection of people

photographs, and our genealogical records. These records are now "secure"; other records will follow. The second objective, entering the scanned images into the Past Perfect database is more time consuming and will happen at a later date.

- **Museum clean-up and season opening:** Please put these important dates into your calendar and come help us if you can.
 - Spring cleaning at the Allard House is happening **May 18th and 19th** (Friday and Saturday) from 9am-noon and we could sure use your help for an hour or two during that time- it's easy and we'll provide coffee and donuts.
 - Museum Opening is **May 26th** (Memorial Day weekend) from 10am-noon. Drop to celebrate and see what is up for 2018!
- **We Need Your Help!** Have I mentioned this before ☺? We need the help of volunteers to help with any and all aspects of our museum work. No experience necessary; we will show you what to do. A couple of hours here and there will help. We usually do museum work on Wednesdays, but we can adapt to your schedule. If I say "pretty please" will that help ☺?

DID YOU KNOW?

That NH Governor H. Styles Bridges and his wife attended festivities during the 1936 Freedom Old Home Week? They were luncheon guests of the FOHW committee, led by Ralph Mitchell, at the Harmony Tea Shop.

Mr. Bridges was a Republican NH governor for one term (1935-37) and went on to serve in the US Senate representing NH for 24 years. The "Bridges House" is in Concord, NH and may be visited by tour groups or organization.

His predecessor as NH Governor was John Winant (read "Citizens of London" by Lynne Olson)



See: www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org and learn more interesting Freedom tidbits under "Explore on-line"



A Celebration!!

**Freedom Historical Society Celebrates
 “Celebrating 50 years as a Non-profit
 Corporation!”
 Incorporated May 22, 1968**

The Freedom Historical Society is celebrating its 50th year of incorporation. On May 22, 1968 the papers were signed. The Society had its beginnings on March 30, 1965 with its first meeting, organized by Barbara Dutton and Molly Cunningham. They and, other key citizens (see below), spent three years getting the Society established and organized, producing by-laws and setting a path that they hoped would be sustainable. This is what we are celebrating in 2018 and it is so pleasing to be able say that the Society is still going strong after all these years. “Preserving Freedom’s history for future generations”.

The Society honors the memory of some of the people who set us on the path to incorporation from 1965-1968 (these were the leaders, but it is recognized that several others stepped up to help carry the load):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position, years served</u>
Barbara Dutton	<i>President, 1965-66</i>
John Brooks	<i>President, 1966-67</i>
<i>Molly Cunningham</i>	<i>President 1967-68</i>
Albert Godfrey	<i>Vice President, 1966-67</i>
Clem Lovell	<i>Vice President, 1967-72</i>
Marilyn Rines	<i>Secretary, 1966-67</i>
Mabel Davis	<i>Secretary, 1967-68</i>
Luke Hatfield	<i>Treasurer, 1966-1970</i>
Lettie Thurston	<i>Custodian, 1966-1970</i>
<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>Molly Cunningham, 1965-67</i> <i>Mabel Davis, 1966-67</i>

Other organizing members present at the first (1965) meeting included Melvin Watson, Wesley Milliken, Lettie Thurston, George Littlefield, Emma Perkins, Kenneth Alexander, David Dutton and F. Graham Cunningham.

On September 6, 1967 the following met as the “First meeting of Incorporators”: Barbara Dutton, Molly Cunningham, Mabel Davis, Luke Hatfield, Merue Page, Clem Lovell, Mrs. Francis Bryant and Jack Middleton. It was Jack Middleton who volunteered, and accepted the role of attorney to file all application papers for the incorporation, which were finally accepted and signed on May 22, 1968. Thank you Jack!

Much has been done in 50 years to protect, preserve and archive our history for easy access by the community. Through membership dues and special donations, we can achieve our goals. Please look for news of our events in celebration of our 50th Anniversary and send off to the next 50 years!

What can you do to help carry on their legacy?

Today the Freedom Historical Society is supported directly by membership dues and funds raised at member and community events. Without financial support from the community and volunteers, the FHS could not continue. Currently there are 128 members, several of whom are direct descendants and relatives of the original charter members. We have a wonderful and dedicated membership base that care so much about preserving Freedom's history. We hope to increase our membership in this celebratory year by attracting those that are just learning about us and new and renewing families who call Freedom home.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
**The Freedom Historical Society is born!
 Minutes of the first meeting**

*Editor’s note: In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of the Freedom Historical Society, we felt that it was interesting to read what the Society’s founders had in mind when they got together for their first meeting in 1965, three years before the Society was incorporated. So, we are printing below the **minutes from the first meeting**. The previous article will tell you who the key players were.*

Also, the formation of the Society did not involve a building (the Allard House was gifted in 1979) nor a barn museum (given by Nelson and Glad Works in 1980). The Society’s formation should also not be confused with the “Freedom Museum Corporation”, a separate entity established earlier by Nelson “Skrow” Works.

The following minutes were taken in the "voice" of Barbara Dutton.



David & Barbara Dutton

The Freedom Historical Society May 5, 1965

First I want to welcome everyone here and I do hope we have a group here who will really stick together until we have all kinds of material and information gathered together, so that in the future sometime, we may sort it over and put together a nice little book entitled "The History of Freedom, N.H." That, in my opinion, is the primary objective in starting a "Freedom Historical Society".

Secondly, I would like to see us all get together once a month just to have a real good time discussing by-gone days - the people and the houses that used to be here - the various mills, stores and activities of the old day so I think this could be real fun and perhaps even after the Freedom History is written could continue on for years.

In order to get some ideas to start an Historical Club for our town, we have held two small organizational meetings and this group has come up with several ideas, or recommendations, which I will present to you to discuss one by one, and perhaps vote on, too, so that we can have a basis for running future meetings.

1. The first recommendation - and an important one we feel,- is to keep the meetings just as simple as possible; - no ceremony - no business meeting even - except for perhaps every third or fourth meeting, when it may be necessary to settle certain things. We feel in order to make the meetings interesting and fun, we do not want long drawn-out Sec.'s or Treas.'s reports. In other words, we would like two hours, approximately, of program for our meetings - 7:30 to 9:30 every first Wed.

of the month seemed to be the best time after talking with many different people. Now, just how do you people feel about this meeting time and the type of meeting? (discussion). Merue Page has agreed to take notes of our meetings for this year.

2. We do feel that perhaps we should collect some dues in order to be able to pay the few expenses that we may have. For example, perhaps you have already heard, that we hope to tape-record many of our Senior citizens' recollections and stories they have heard of earlier days - we have started doing this already, but we will need a little money to pay for new tapes every so often. I think, too, it would be of great value to tape our programs each meeting, as a great deal of valuable information perhaps could be obtained in this way. To get back to dues, our group finally thought that \$1.00 per-person or family per year would probably be sufficient; but we also discussed perhaps making it as low as 50¢ per year. I would like to hear your opinions on this, as I believe we should have a vote on this. (discussion- vote) Blanche Watson has said she would be willing to take charge of the money for the next year, so anyone who wishes to pay dues to-night can pay her.

3. The third recommendation was that we have no refreshments at our meetings, as that entails expense and extra work, and the size of our meetings may be unpredictable. However, it was suggested to me that perhaps instant coffee and tonic could be available to be paid for by the individuals who wished it. We perhaps could have a kettle of boiling water on the stove in the kitchen and cold tonic in the refrigerator, and a basket to put a dime into for all who wanted to help themselves. What is your wish on this matter?

All of the rest of our discussions and recommendations concerned our future programs and how to gather together the material relating to our town's history" I know there are many of you right here to-night who have heard tales of people or incidents that have happened here in our town, that would be of great interest to others - now, if you would only write these tales down, and bring them in and read them, or at least hand them to us to put with all the rest of the collected material concerning our town. Just be willing to share what you know, or can find out from others,

and then perhaps someday we may be able to get some professional help to sort it all out and put it together to make a history of Freedom. You may give any written information that you may get to Molly Cunningham or myself and we will keep it all together for the Historical Society.

We all felt that a good plan to gather material, for example, on the old houses in the town, is to ask each and every one of you to write down all you know about your own house. Write down the original owner, if you know it - even the builder, perhaps, - and then all the owners in between that you know about.

Also, we thought it might be good to have a person in charge of different sections or roads in the town, who would be responsible to gather the material on the houses in their districts.

One thing we must all keep in mind is that through the years a great many of the stories handed down from person to person will vary. Many people might think that the events told by a certain person were entirely different. Let us not get into any arguments over this sort of thing. We will gather everybody's stories just as each one thinks it happened, keep them all, and each one of us can believe the version he or she chooses.

Another recommendation was that we have different people in charge of different categories of interest, such as: maps, schools, old mills, stores, churches, cemeteries, old roads - houses and old cellar holes where houses used to be. If any of you have a particular interest in anyone of these categories, I would appreciate it if you would volunteer your help. Luke Hatfield is going to be in charge of maps, as he had started working on various town maps before we even had considered having an Historical Soc. He will tell you a little about his map projects.

(after Luke talks)—[About maps]

One item more - sometime in June I would like to run a Thrift Shop again for a few weeks in order to get a little money as a starting fund for the Hist. Soc. so if you have any "so-called" white elephants' in your house would you bring them to my barn or call either Molly Cunningham or myself and we will pick them up.

Clothes in fairly good condition will be acceptable, but bric-a-brac, toys, kitchen utensils, furniture, etc. will be even more desirable for the Thrift Shop. Any help volunteered will be most welcome, too.

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.

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 as of May 1st, 2018:

Angel: Laura & Maynard Thomson, Emily Phillips

Sponsors: Lucy Works, Laura Robinson, Linda Walls, Dann Lewis, Costantino Real Estate, William & Sally Stoops, Ramon & Susan Marks, David Meserve, Jane & Richard Nylander, Brandon Buttrick, Lee Allison, Tim Allison, Eric & Joanne Whitehouse, George Winters, Warren & Patti Manhard, Frank & Judy Virnelli, Roberta McCarthy, Robert Phinney, Bill & Nancy Essex.

Contributors: David Cheever, Charles & Margaret Gibbs Kim Reis, Robert & Ruth Smart, Charles & Terri Brooks, Fred & Beverly Trail, Larry & Nancy, Wogman, George & Ivernia Thompson, Dick & Hazel Gauley, Gale Morris, Jayne Britton, Janet Smith, James Brown, Carl Bloomquist, Deborah Shadd & William Grimm, Elizabeth Hentz, Bonnie McCue, Alice Custard, Robert & Karen Hatch

Families: Ruth Paul, Peg Scully, Larry Meserve, James & Betsy Bradt, Alan & Beverly Grant, Nettie Nason, Dianne Cahill, Sylvia Bouve, Myrtle & Don Macleod, Rachel Ward, George & Aila Clauson, Ellie Stokes, Tim Hartsfield & Jody Shellene, Alan & Roberta Davidson Ned & Judy Kucera, Gale Johnson, Carroll & Sandra Jacobs, Pat & Frank DelGigante, Mary ?, Art & Barbara Robinson

Individuals: Joanna Mera-Krinsky, Sue Stamm, Ed Boyer, Judith Smith, Gail Bizer, William Thompson, Lorraine Martin, John Immediato

The generosity of all of you is most appreciated.

Additional Donations

We are very appreciative of those members and donors who give additional donations to the general fund or to the Archival Project fund so far this year. We thank the following people for their additional generosity: Roberta MacCarthy, Jack Middleton, George & Aila Clauson, Elizabeth Hentz, Lorraine Martin, Sue Stamm, Mary Staples, and one anonymous donor.

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.

We love old photos!

We know you have old family photos of days gone by in Freedom. Or even current family photos that you can share. We can scan them and return the originals to you; or, if you are tech savvy, scan them yourself and e-mail them to us, or share from your iPhone or computer. Remember, you and your family are now part of Freedom's history! Record it!

Margies Lunch



MARGIES LUNCH MENU

(as listed, 1974)

SANDWICHES

Egg Salad

Tuna

Cream cheese-olive

Cheeseburg

Hamburg

Grill Cheese

Frank Furts

Chicken Salad

Plain Salad

Ice Cream Flavors

Coffee

Chocolate

Strawberry

Vanilla

Maple Walnut



Support Freedom Historical Society

When you shop at smile.amazon.com

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

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

amazonsmile

Local Businesses Support your Historical Society

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs in 2017 by advertising their businesses in our fund-raising calendar. We encourage you to do business with them. If you would like to be, or know someone who would like to be a sponsor, please call 539-5799. It helps everyone to “shop local”!

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

Beth Day Massage Therapy
Camp Calumet
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 Educational Programs
 Memorial in honor of: _____

Your Name _____

Mailing Address _____

_____ 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.



Freedom Historical Society
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