



# 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!*

**August 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	John Shipman (acting)
Secretary	Sylvia Carney

**Directors**

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



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

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

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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:

Summer celebrations! Freedom Old Home Week is 120 years old this year AND the Freedom Historical Society is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of incorporation. The Society had its beginnings in 1965 but 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. The fact that the Society is still going strong after all these years is a testament to the tenacity and support of all the leadership and members across these many years. Please see the May Newsletter to read about the society’s inaugural leaders and the successful path they set us upon. A big thanks to all, past and present!!

To recognize this special occasion, the current Board of Directors is pleased to announce a new membership level: Lifetime! Just think, for \$500 any single person or couple can become members for life and pay no more dues. This membership level will place you in a special position to engage with the board and help us set goals and milestones for the future. You will get additional communications from our leadership to keep you more closely “in the loop”. And, have the satisfaction that you are helping the Society at a very high level. Our goal this year is five lifetime memberships, and we are pleased to say we only need three more. The membership form in this newsletter has that category available. Won’t you join us as a lifetime member today?

Thanks to all, and enjoy the rest of your summer!!

Sincerely,

John Shipman, President

## FHS RECENT NEWS

- **FOHW presentation by historian Jane Nylander!** Monday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Town Hall. Jane Nylander, President Emerita of Historic New England, a well-known author and speaker who is a summer resident of Freedom, will offer a privileged preview of her current research topic and forthcoming book in her illustrated talk, "**Stepping Forth to Honor New England and the Nation: Parades from 1788 to 2018**".

For centuries Americans have celebrated their public identity with parades. Marching politicians and soldiers, stirring music, colorful flags and banners, ornamented fire engines, costumed school children and colorful floats set forth on the stage of town after town to symbolize traditions and values that Americans hold dear. Sometimes sophisticated, often naive, but always visual, narrative and intentionally ephemeral, parades present visual stories of deep meaning to those involved. This talk will explore both story and significance, focusing on parades in New England from the time of those celebrating the ratification of the Constitution in 1788 to the Tercentenary celebrations of the 1920s and 1930s, before concluding with some rare views of Freedom's own Old Home Week parades.



FOHW Parade, 1940

Ms. Nylander speaks of the origins of her talk and upcoming book: "*For many of us Old Home Week in Freedom has always been a highlight of the summer. In our family, my father made sure to schedule his two week vacation for the beginning of August. In those days before Interstate Highways, we spent two full days driving east to Freedom from*

*our home in Cleveland, Ohio. We were returning to my mother's New England roots. At first we rented "Camp Elsie" near my mother's aunt and uncle, Lou and Arthur Brown, who were among the first to build a house on what is now North Broad Bay Road. Later, my parents, Jim and Jean Cayford, bought the Browns' camp and remodeled it into a year round house where they lived from 1972 until the end of their lives. My husband, Richard, and I are happily now the owners of that property and it has become a magnet for our own children and grandchildren. Our participation in Old Home Week activities has ebbed and flowed over the years, but joining the crowd at the parade has always been a favorite activity for me.*

*I have enjoyed a long career as curator or director of several New England historical museums and, in retirement, I have undertaken a detailed study of parades. I'm absolutely certain that my interest in the subject was sparked by the Old Home Week parade in Freedom. I'll be happy to share some of the results of that study in my lecture on August sixth at seven o'clock in the Town Hall".*

To understand the depth of Ms. Nylander's experience and professionalism, below are a list of her major positions held and awards she has received:

### POSITIONS HELD:

President, Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston, 1992-2002; Director, Strawberry Banke Museum, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 1986-2002; Curator of Textiles and Ceramics, 1969-1986, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA; Director-Curator, New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH 1962-1969; Adjunct Faculty, Department of American and New England Studies, Boston University 1978-1992; Department of History, University of New Hampshire, 1987-1992.

### CURRENT BOARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

Trustee, Old Sturbridge Village, 2012-present; Governor, The Decorative Arts Trust, 1991-2018; Secretary 2013-17  
Trustee or Honorary Trustee, Historic Deerfield, Inc. 1981-present; Trustee, NH Historical Society, 2007-18; Editorial Advisory Board 1988-present; Member, H. F. DuPont Award Committee, Winterthur Museum, Winterthur, DE, 1994-present; Member, Curatorial Committee, Castle in the Clouds, Moultonborough, NH 2005-present; Honorary Member, National Council, Strawberry Banke

Museum, 2004-present; Editorial Advisory Board, The Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife, 1982-present.

- **The remaining 2018 Freedom Historical Society educational programs.** There are three high-quality programs remaining in 2018, so you don't want to miss them!

- *August 6<sup>th</sup> (see above): Stepping Forth to Honor New England and the Nation: Parades from 1788 to 2018* by Jane Nylander, Historian and Freedom summer resident.
- *September 19<sup>th</sup>: Remarkable People of Freedom's Past* by Roberta MacCarthy and Anne Gaudette.
- *October 24<sup>th</sup>: Music in my Pockets: Family Fun in folk Music* by Jeff Warner, NH Humanities Council.

- **The FHS 2019 Calendar.** The 2019 FHS calendar "Remarkable People of Freedom's Past" is now available and exciting to look at. This is an interesting and educational twist in our calendar collection, and a sure 'collectable'. The calendars are available at the FHS museum (Wednesdays and Saturday mornings) and at the Freedom Village Store, or by ordering them on-line from us. Thanks to Roberta MacCarthy and Anne Gaudette for pulling off this beauty☺.

- **Collections Update:** Nadine Chapman has continued to come in to the museum every Wednesday, and other days as well, to continue the process of organizing and cataloging our collection. Since winter, Judy Smith has volunteered every Wednesday working on a variety of projects. Her help is invaluable and much appreciated. We also have two Freedom students volunteering during July and August, Hillary Johnson and Elizabeth Davis, who have gotten us started on cataloguing the 2,665 photographs and documents that were scanned this past winter. They've also volunteered to renovate our military exhibit and have plenty of good ideas for display and interpretation. It's wonderful to experience their enthusiasm. Thank you also to FHS director, Anne Furtado, for her work to finish creating our huge bibliography of research books.

- **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.

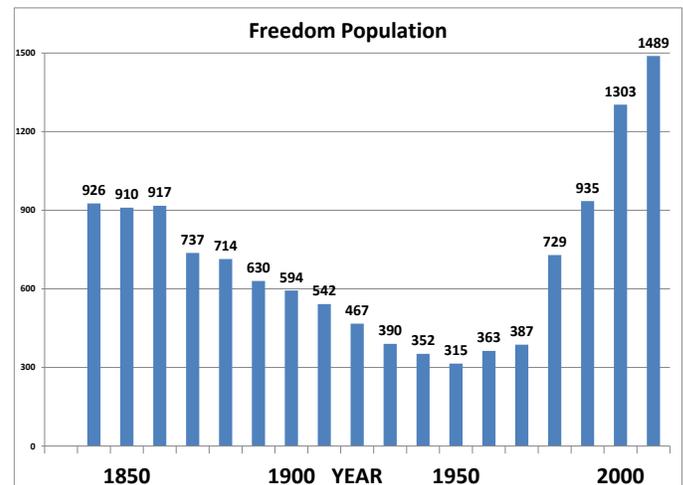
### DID YOU KNOW?



That Francis X Blouin was Freedom Town treasurer 50 years ago (served 1965-1969) and we received his FHS membership renewal this month? Francis lives in Worcester, MA. Talk about being faithful to Freedom! Of course Dan (Bud) Brooks was a Supervisor of the Checklist back then (50 years ago), as he still is today. Talk about dedication!

See: [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org) and learn more interesting Freedom tidbits under "Explore on-line"

### From Farms to Tourists: How NH's and Freedom's shift in "Industries" changed our population



Freedom's population changes from the 1840 census through the 2010 census have certainly shown their ups and downs (see above chart). The fact that Freedom's population in 1950 was only one-third the number in 1850 might be a surprise to some; why did it drop so much? And, from 1950 to 2010 the population grew from 315 to over 1400; with no real increases in "businesses" in town, what caused that increase? Like many small towns in New Hampshire (and New

England), it was all about the shift from farming to tourism. An excerpt from a 1990's paper written by Pam Keith (*The New Hampshire Commission of Immigration, Pamela Clemons-Keith, May 24, 1990*) explains how this all unfolded.

The exodus in the mid-nineteenth century of New Hampshire farmers to new farmlands outside of the state or to new industrial occupations produced a great number of abandoned farms. The desertion of the farms caused major economic consequences for the state. New Hampshire's attempts to encourage immigration of farmers to live on the abandoned properties were stymied by prejudice (related to immigration- another part of this story for later) . This caused an alternate method to once again inhabit these farms: the encouragement of the transformation of farmhouses to summer boarding houses for tourists. The attempt by the New Hampshire Commissioner of Immigration to solve the problem of abandoned farms through the encouragement of immigration failed, but its efforts fostered the tourism industry.

New Hampshire began experiencing a decrease in population in the 1860s after a period of steady population growth. Between 1790 and 1830 the state had experienced a ninety percent increase in population. An increase of twenty-one percent occurred between 1830 and 1860. The trend reversed in the decade between 1860 and 1870 when New Hampshire had a two percent decrease in population.

During this period the state economy was primarily agricultural. Urbanization and industrialization were beginning to lure farmers away with stories of good jobs, and higher standards of living.

The major impact on the decline of New Hampshire farms was caused by the rise of farms in other areas of the country and the improvement of transportation. Before the middle of the nineteenth century inexpensive, fertile farm lands became available in northern and western New York and in the Mississippi Valley. The agricultural products sent from these areas as canal and railroad transportation improved were

priced so the New Hampshire farmer could not compete. Less than half of all employed residents of New Hampshire were farmers by 1850.

The decade of 1860 to 1870 saw the greatest exodus from the state. The passage of the Homestead Act in 1862 resulted in a large migration of farmers to the western states. The state of New Hampshire became very concerned regarding the status of farming in the state. In 1866 the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts was founded in Hanover. (The school would later move to Durham and become the University of New Hampshire). The legislature reestablished a Board of Agriculture in 1870. The work force in New Hampshire that year was 120,000; 46,500 people were working in agriculture but the same number were employed by manufacturing.

More New Hampshire farmers left their properties in the 1880s. State officials and private citizens grew more vocal in their concerns. Most public works in the state were paid by property tax. The State defined an abandoned farm as one that has reverted to the state or to the town on account of long-continued neglect and non-payment of taxes assessed on it.

The Board of Agriculture petitioned the Legislature in 1889 "to enact a law by which the inducements offered by the abandoned, neglected and uncultivated farms can be brought to the attention of the vast number of industrious and thrifty people annually coming to this country to purchase land.

The Legislature authorized the Board of Agriculture to develop the State's agricultural resources through immigration and other means. Nahum J. Bachelder, Commissioner of Agriculture, was appointed to the newly created post of state Commissioner of Immigration in 1889. In August of 1890 he conducted a survey of town selectmen to find out how many abandoned farm properties existed. One hundred fifty-four towns reported there were 1,342 abandoned farms with tenable buildings.

As a result the Commissioner published this list in 1890 as a brochure titled *"Secure a Home in New Hampshire, Where Comfort, Health and Prosperity Abound"*. In the introduction Bachelder painted a vivid image of what life would be like for the man of means who purchased one of these farms for a summer escape: "When once he has it he can turn his family loose upon it, cultivate it as little or as much as he pleases, roam through the woods and over the ledges and by the brooks upon it, and enjoy all the comforts of farm life." It turned out that this life of country leisure did in fact appeal to many wealthy families, and an influx of tourists and summer residents began to bring life back to struggling rural towns (NH Historical Society).

The 103-page pamphlet contained a map of the state and a description of New Hampshire's social, educational and financial advantages. Eight thousand copies of this pamphlet were published in the first edition; six thousand copies were sent to Canada, Sweden, England and throughout the United States.

The goal of reclaiming the abandoned farms was a success. Immigration was not the solution; the answer was the growing summer tourist industry. While agriculture had decreased in New Hampshire, tourism had grown.

Bachelder decided attracting farmers to New Hampshire would not be the most successful mode of again occupying these properties. In his report to the governor on November 1, 1891, he expressed the idea to convert the farms to tourism.

All the corn, rye, wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, grass seed, clover seed, potatoes, peas, and beans grown in New Hampshire in 1890 market price was almost \$4 million less than the monies received from the summer boarding business in 1889.

Fifty thousand people annually came from other states to spend the summer in New Hampshire. The report states that "There is a grand opening here for people desiring to engage in the summer boarding business, and many farms are especially desirable for this

purpose. Fourteen hundred summer hotels and boarding-houses are annually filled to overflowing and are unable to accommodate the vast number that desire to spend the summer months among our granite hills. This industry brings to our state annually more than \$5,000,000. "

The Commissioner reported in 1892 that: "Six thousand pamphlets have been distributed advertising the advantages of New Hampshire as a summer resort and the opportunities offered for purchasing farms -for agricultural purposes or for summer homes." The emphasis is definitely on resort versus farm, but these were the same 6000 pamphlets which were supposed to encourage farmers to immigrate here. After 1892 the Board of Agriculture no longer had an immigration division.

Bachelder ordered a study of ten towns, one in each county, which had a summer boarding business and of ten other towns with equal agricultural advantages to the first group but which had no summer boarding business. The towns with the summer business had experienced an increase in valuation of land and buildings of \$319,000; the towns without the summer business had a property valuation decrease of \$186,000 during the same period.

The Board of Agriculture was not alone in this push to convert farms to the summer tourism industry; state officials, agricultural club workers, and others throughout the state made every effort to attract the tourist. Discussions at farmer's meetings, articles in farm magazines, and pamphlets issued by the state told boarding house owners how to best serve their guests. Proper menus, ways to increase the attractiveness of the property and the comfort of the sleeping quarters, and means of amusing guests were all discussed.

Not everyone felt the conversion of farms from agriculture to tourism was positive. Those opposed claimed that the summer business destroyed the normal routine of the farm, caused a drop in agricultural productivity, upset local wage scales and working hours, and caused discontent and social unrest

among local rural youth. The Chief of the Division of Soils of the Federal Department of Agriculture told the United States Industrial Commission in 1900 that while tourism had benefitted New England states, the tourists "...had a demoralizing effect upon the agriculture" of the region."

Although there was criticism, the program was a success. The Board of Agriculture sent out a total of 30,000 pamphlets. In 1913 Bachelder in his last report as Secretary of the Board of Agriculture reported 6,000 copies of the eleventh edition of "New Hampshire Farms for Summer Homes" had been sent out during the previous year. It was estimated that as many as 75 percent of the abandoned farms had been put into use for summer tourists. Herbert O. Hadley, Chairman of the Board of Agriculture reported in 1913 that in New Hampshire over fifty million dollars were invested in summer hotels, boarding houses, and cottages. To justify the impact on agriculture, Hadley stated the demand for farm products by these summer people not only consumed all the local produce, but additional farm goods now had to be shipped into the state.

Farmers were not the only people living in rural areas to benefit economically from the tourist trade. People were employed as cooks, waitpersons, chambermaids, caretakers and gardeners. Carpenters, mechanics, masons, painters and laborers also were employed due to the tourist industry. Service industries (tea rooms, pharmacies, service stations, etc.) generated business from the summer visitors.

The concern over property taxes was alleviated also. Large numbers of towns in New Hampshire were now receiving a large fraction of their local tax revenue as a direct result of the summer tourist industry.

### **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 July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018:

**Angels:** 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; Corbett, Eugene; Essex, Nancy & Bill; Glynn, Beverly; Jane & Tom Luke; Manley, John & Sylvia; Many, Richard & Ellen; Marshall, Jean; McCarthy, Roberta; Phinney, Robert.

**Contributors:** David Cheever, Charles & Margaret Gibbs Kim Reis, Robert & Ruth Smart, Charles & Terri Brooks, Fred & Beverly Trail, Larry & Nancy, Wogman, George & Ivonia 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; Carney, Sylvia; Fritz, Lee; Fuller, Betty; Habif, Linda; Middleton, Jack; Shields, Christine; Shipman, John

**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 Staples, Art & Barbara Robinson; Brooks, Rochelle & Scott; Furtado, Anne & Norman; Gauley, Dick & Hazel; Hemphill, Ingrid & Ray;

Krottinger, Andrew; Tung, Paul & Donna; Watson, Joyce  
**Individuals:** Joanna Mera-Krinsky, Sue Stamm, Ed Boyer, Judith Smith, Gail Bizer, William Thompson, Lorraine Martin, John Immediato; Birnie, Arthur; Blouin, Francis Brooks, Dorothy; Brooks, Pauline; Immediato, John; McKenzie, Jane A; Paul, Ruth E. (Allard).

The generosity of all of you is most appreciated.

### **Additional Donations**

There are many members and supporters who give additional donations to the general fund or to the Archival Project fund, going above and beyond during the second quarter of 2017. We are very grateful for this generosity and thank the following people for going above and beyond with donations so far this year: Roberta MacCarthy, Dick and Hazel Gauley, Marcia Trook, Don and Janet Johnson; John & Sylvia Manley and Jane Luke (these last two donations in memory of Tom Luke). Thank you!

*Support Freedom Historical Society*

*When you shop at smile.amazon.com  
FHS has received more than \$50 so far from  
Amazon!*

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



## **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”!

**Beth Day Massage Therapy**  
**Camp Calumet**  
**Constantino Real Estate, Gerard Constantino**  
**Cooper Cargill Chant, Deborah A. Fauver, Esq.**  
**Deb’s Custom Upholstery**  
**Exit Realty, Grace Brooks**  
**Freedom House Antiques**  
**Freedom Village Store**  
**G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors**  
**Gary Wallace Auctioneers, Inc.**  
**Green Mountain Furniture**  
**Hatfield’s Bed & Breakfast**  
**Jakes Seafood**  
**James C Farinella Building & Remodeling LLC**  
**Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, artist**  
**Minuteman Press**  
**McConkey & Associates**  
**Re/Max Presidential Realty, Paul Wheeler**  
**Sentinel Financial, Paul Olzerowicz CPA, CFP, ChFC**  
**Watercolor & Pastel Artist, Terri Brooks, artist**  
**Thrivent Financial, Sarah Groleau**  
**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 Level:**  Lifetime \$500 (NEW!)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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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