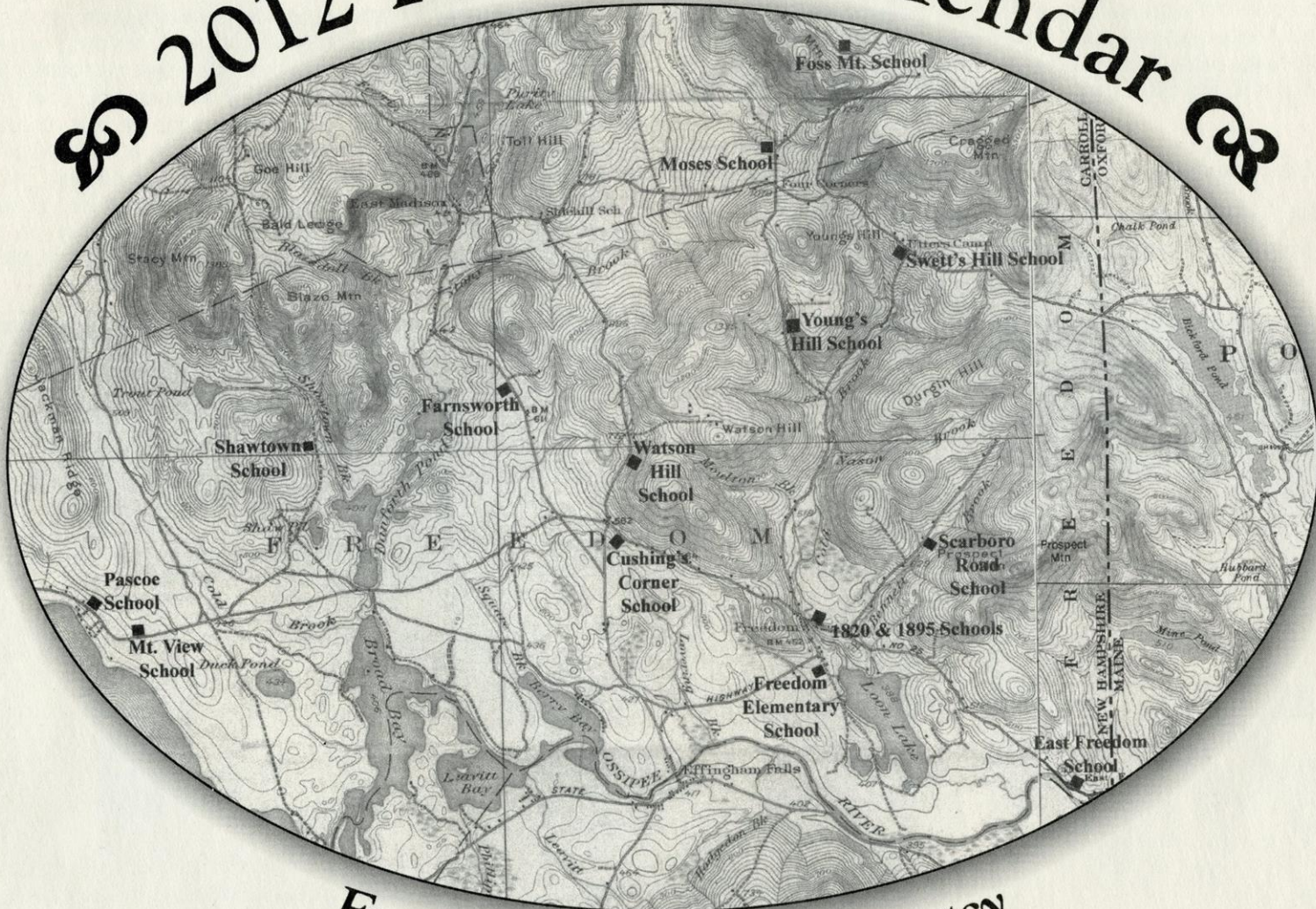


2012 Freedom Calendar



Freedom Schools ~ A Legacy

Limited Edition Calendar Sponsored by The Freedom Historical Society, Old Portland Road, Freedom, New Hampshire

First Village Schoolhouse



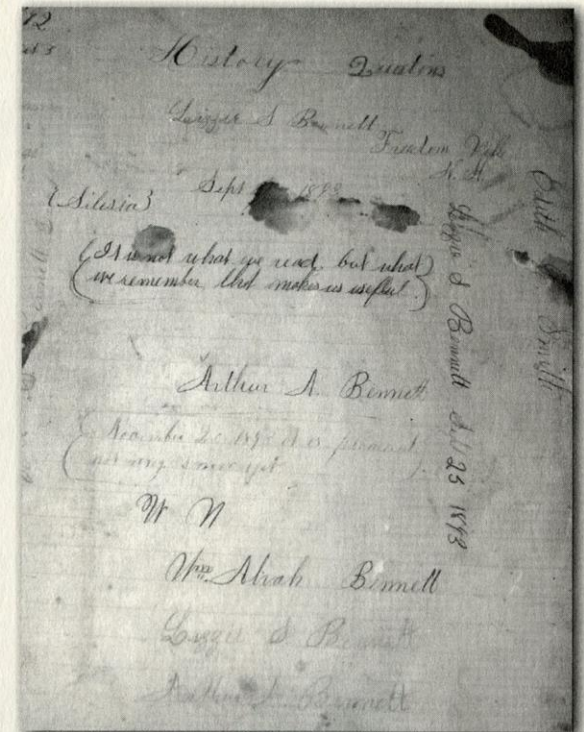
This was the original village one room schoolhouse, in existence by 1820, once located near to the site of the 1895 Grammar School (our current Town Office Building). It was on the eastern crest of "Meetinghouse Hill" (also known as "Schoolhouse Hill") before the town had it moved to its location west of the Masonic Hall, where today it is a private residence. In Freedom's early history, the building served both as schoolhouse and meetinghouse. The first Town Meeting in 1831 was convened at Amos Towle, Sr.'s Inn (now the Kendall's home, Prospect House) but was adjourned to the "meeting house". When Town Meeting decided to build the "new" Village Grammar School in the 1890's, the furnishings of this old building were kept to be used as was much of the old history curriculum:

"Who said: I would rather be right than President?" Henry Clay

"What battle was fought and gained without a Commanding Officer?" Saratoga

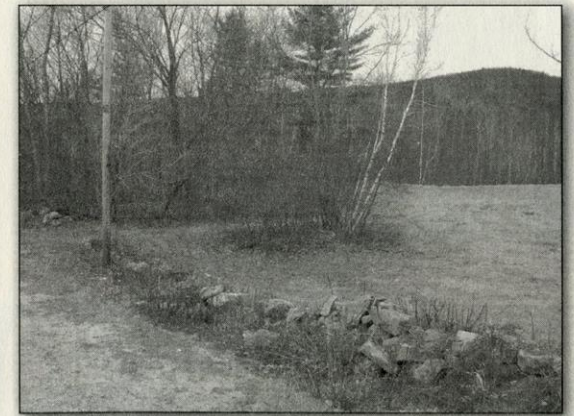
"Of what President was it said that if his Soul were turned inside out not a spot could be found upon it?" President Monroe

Teacher Lizzie Godfrey Bennett (1857-1930) wrote out questions from the 1892 curriculum that schoolchildren were expected to have mastered in elementary education in Freedom. The Godfrey and Bennett families produced several teachers for our schools, children who grew from pupils on one side of the teachers' desks to become educators in their own rights.



JANUARY

Swett Hill School

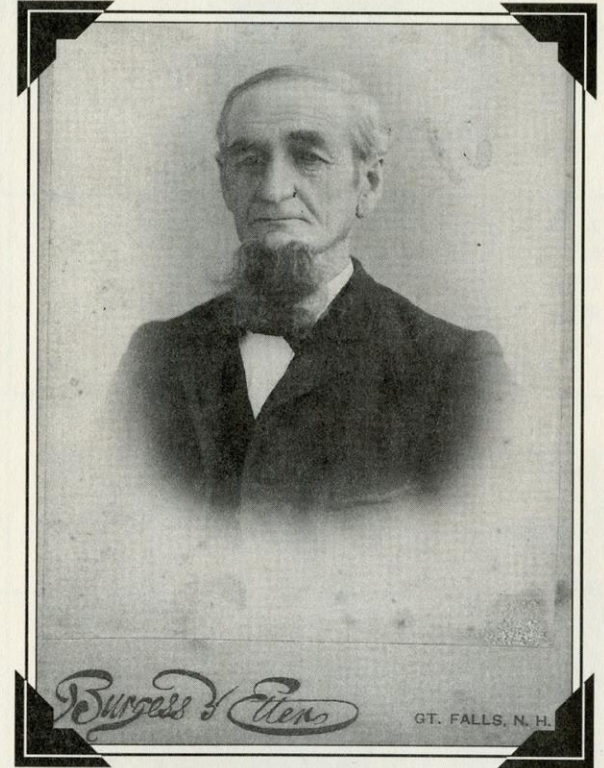
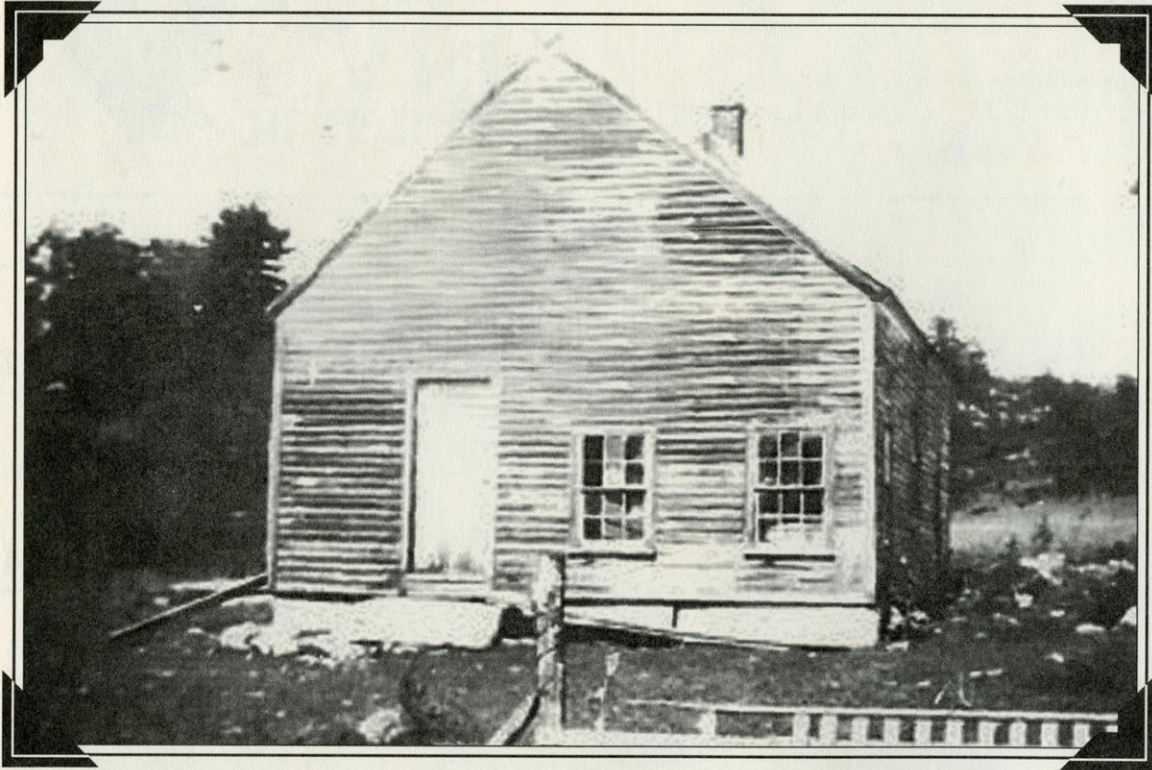


This was a very old school. Schools often had names associated with both "place" and "landowners". Swett Hill was known too as the Godfrey School. The Swett and Godfrey families on Swett Hill not only had children attending classes, but also grown children teaching in the districts and they provided lodging for teachers in inclement weather. In 1904 teacher Alice Brooks stands with her class outside the building at the top of the hill. In the background, note the

distant hillside also shown in the site photo taken in April 2011. Eva Mae Young Mitchell gifted this portrait photo memento to her Swett Hill students in 1909-10. The families she taught bore names of Bryant, Brooks, Brown, Meserve, Sargent, and Stuart. Other teachers here were Lizzie Godfrey Bennett, Ida Littlefield, Mabel Round, and Phil Bennett.

FEBRUARY

East Freedom Schoolhouse



Leander Milliken
Teacher at East Freedom School

This building was near the junction of Old Portland Road (then Maple Street) and Route 25, between the properties owned by Frank Morgan and Lovering Allard. When use was discontinued, it became a workshop for Lovering Allard as structures generally reverted to landowners when a school was closed. Blanche Watson recalled that some of the boys from the Libby family, who lived beyond

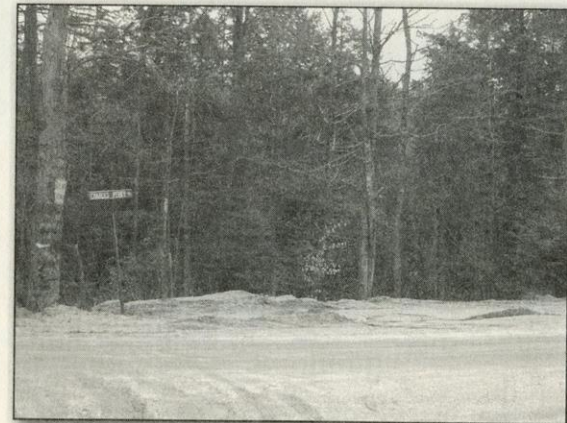
the back of the school, walked to sessions with hot baked potatoes in their pockets to warm their hands in cold weather. East Freedom was once a busy neighborhood with sawmill, cemetery, school, post office, and the little church that now sits on Route 25 in Porter Village, Maine.

MARCH

Young's Hill School



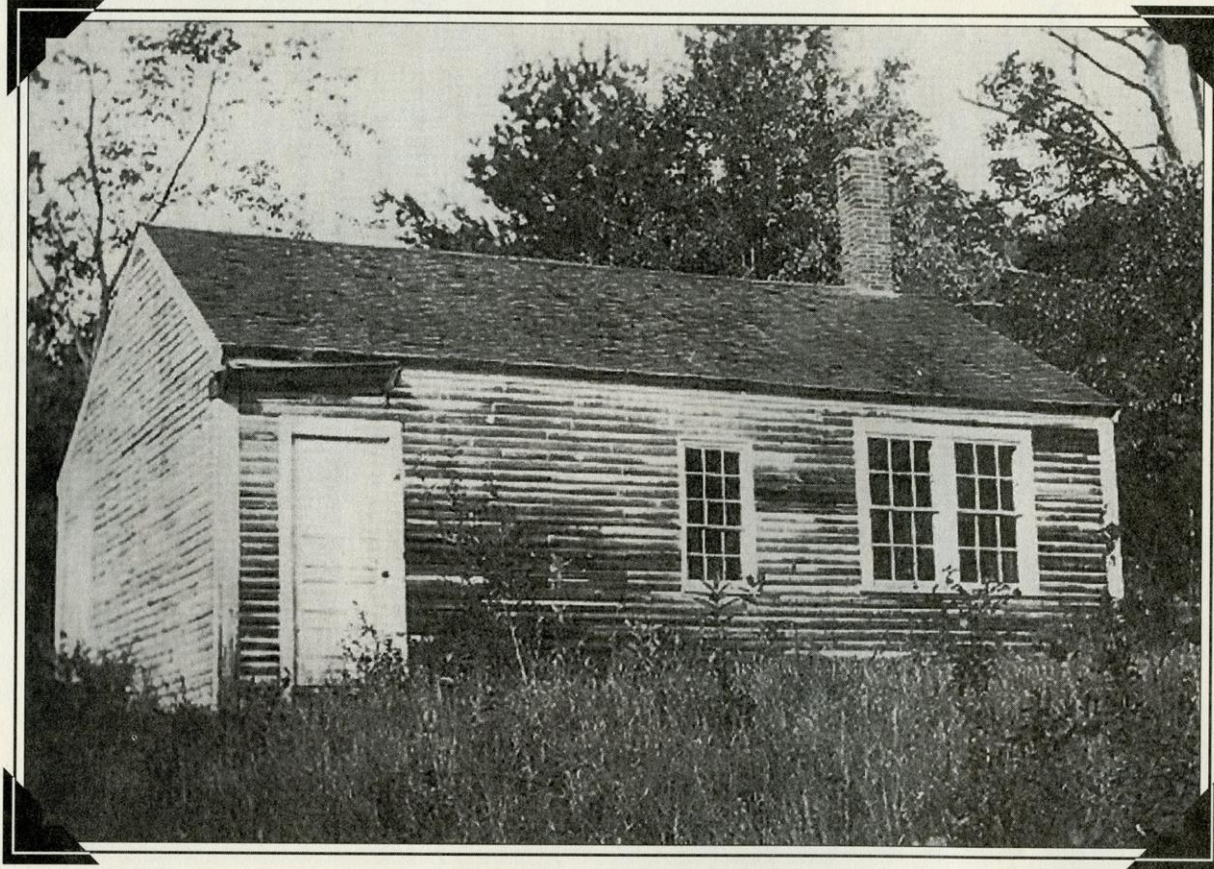
*Blanche Watson
Teacher with her class at Young's Hill in 1915*



This district was named for the Young family, and was on the right side of the Hill road. In 1911 a small office owned and operated by the Merrow family was attached to the village post office and the Federal House. It was sold to the town for \$75 and moved to Young's Hill to be used as a "new" schoolhouse. Blanche Eastman Watson, pictured with her class in 1915, taught here as well as at Watson Hill. She wrote that she was familiar with the building when it was beside the post office and Federal House, and had been inside it many times before going to teach at Young's Hill. This school closed, along with Swett Hill, in 1922. Blanche Watson recalled that the building was moved and used as a cabin on Herbert Week's property until it burned in the 1930's. The site as it exists in 2011 illustrates how pieces of our history can easily vanish.

APRIL

Watson Hill School



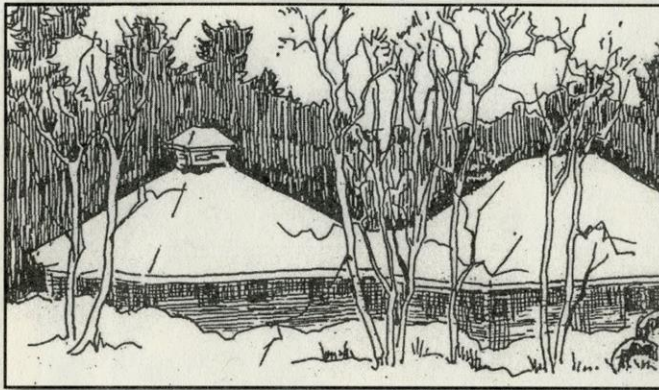
Blanche Eastman Watson's graduation photo at age 20 from Parsonsfield Seminary where she studied to be a teacher.

Watson Hill School was also known as the Chase Hill Schoolhouse. It was a very old schoolhouse according to Blanche Watson. Located on the right hand side of the road going up from Cushing's Corner, ¼ mile or so before the Watson Hill turn. Several generations of Watsons went to school here, as far back as Blanche's husband Melvin's father, William Watson, and HIS father, Albert Newell Watson. The town had a new addition (an outhouse) built at the end of the

schoolhouse rather unwisely because the school was discontinued soon after the construction. Melvin Watson bought the new part of the building and moved it up to his property. Alan Fall remembers it as the chicken "house". In later years Melvin sold it to the town for a shelter at the town dump that was once near Loon Lake. Like many other early buildings in Freedom, it was destroyed by fire.

MAY

Freedom Elementary School



In 1983/4 the "new" school, depicted here in a sketch by Freedom artist Peg Scully, began holding classes down on Loon Lake Road and the "old" village school became the Town Office Building. Here is the 6th grade class with teacher Todd Giles, great grandson of teacher Blanche Eastman Watson and grandson of another family teacher, Linnie Watson Giles.



Freedom Elementary School's 6th grade class of 2011.

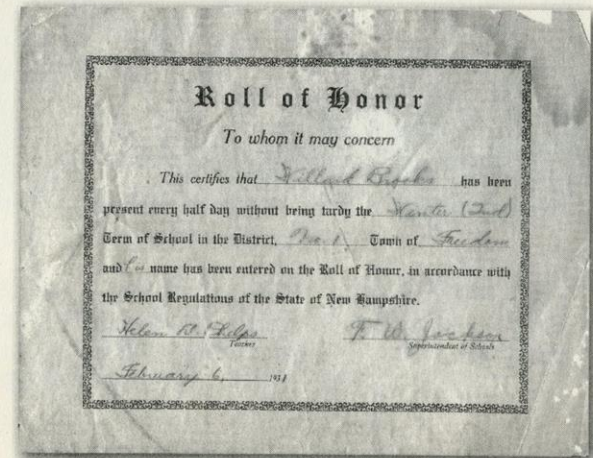
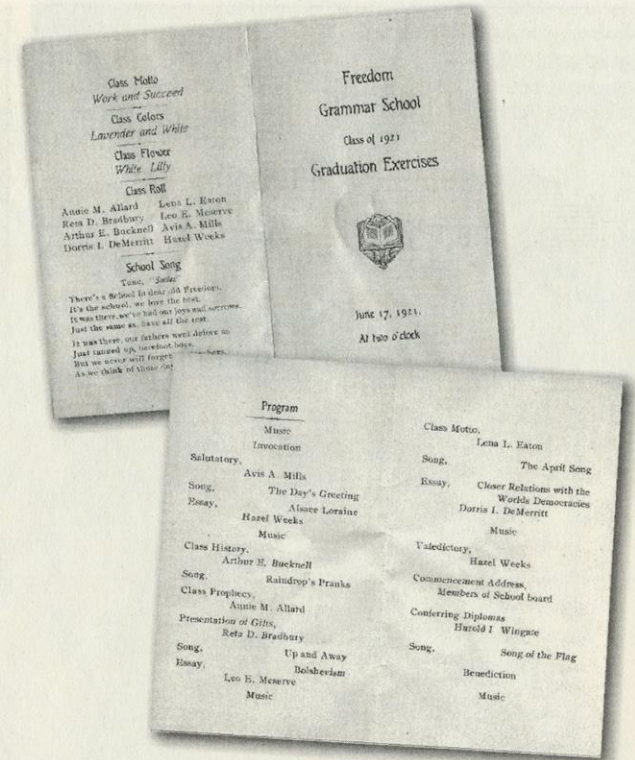
Steps, Left to Right: Anthony Swan, Marcus Clancy, Garrett Furnback, Elizabeth Davis, Emily Fournier, Michael Welch, Johnathan Brabant, Abigail Swan, Christopher Farinella, Shelby Cyr. Ground, Left to Right: Rebecca Lees, Nicole Costantino, Abigail Jones, Marianda Cloutier, Mr. Giles - Teacher. Missing from photo: George Hofmann, Lucas Rogers.

JUNE

Village Grammar School



A class of older students is shown outside the Village Grammar School. 8th graders would anticipate their final elementary days on Schoolhouse Hill. Here are selections from the Historical Society's collection of past graduation programs and papers from Freedom schools. Celebrations often followed the formal exercises and children looked forward to the lively days of summer in the beautiful Freedom outdoors. "Vacation" from schoolwork, however, generally included family chores, help on the farms, as well as the variety of jobs available to these younger residents of Freedom. The schools and the parents were known to teach the value, often the necessity, of productive work year round.



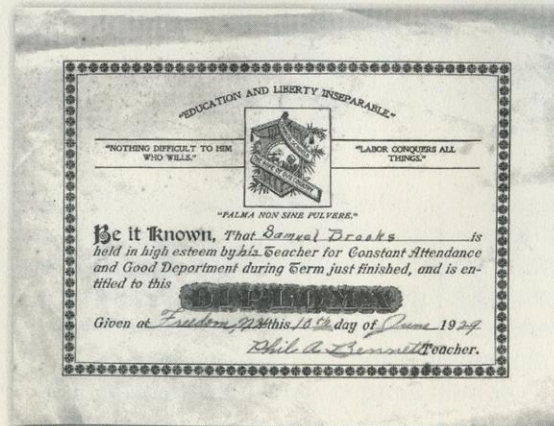
JULY

Swett Hill School



Here he is pictured with a class at Swett Hill School, where he was the last teacher before it was closed in 1922 and he went on to teach in the village. As of 1922 the School Reports show that, although transportation from outlying districts to the "new" Village Grammar School were substantial in cost, the philosophy of adopting centralization of resources and teachers was important to the townspeople in improving the quality of education for all of the children of Freedom.

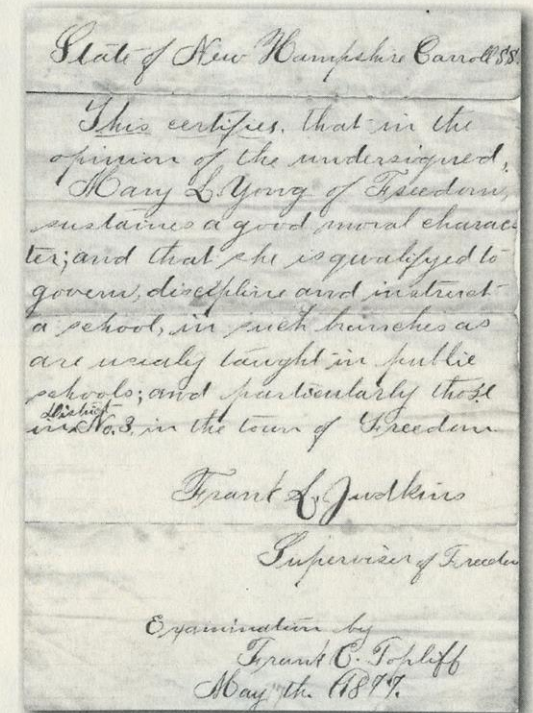
A photo of Phil Bennett as a student (3rd from right, front row), and ephemera of Samuel Brooks' diploma of department signed by his teacher, when Phil Bennett was older.



An excerpt from a letter about Phil Bennett's legacy as a good teacher from former student John Rasquin states: "...Phil Bennett was one of the most important influences in my life, both professionally and otherwise." Mr. Rasquin, who was in charge of a department of engineering at the Space Center in Alabama, wrote in 1988 that his teacher encouraged him to go on to UNH to study electrical engineering, and even though Rasquin amassed 21 patents for inventions, "...this is small potatoes compared with Phil's accomplishments....I only hope the present Freedom school can meet that standard of excellence exemplified by Phil Bennett."

AUGUST

Village Grammar School

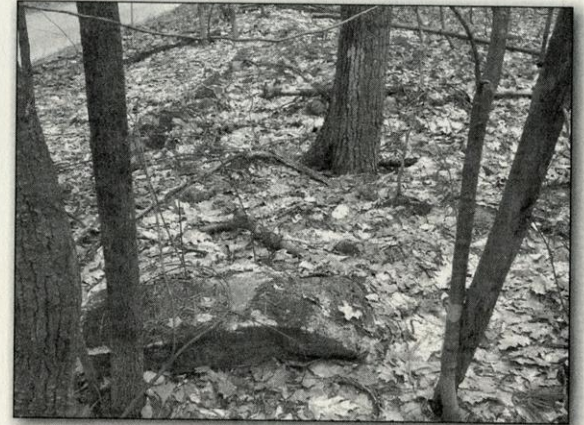


In 1897 Mary Young of Freedom was certified to be a school teacher in Freedom, and the document states that she was especially qualified to teach in the third district. Schoolchildren spent long days with their teachers, many of whom might be older siblings. From what Blanche Watson wrote of her own teaching experiences, as well as memories of being a pupil herself, the atmosphere

in these various schools was conducive to structured and disciplined studies. But there also were happy times of shared games and other typical childhood entertainments. In this photo of the Village Grammar School lower grades, note the bicycles leaning at the side of the building, to the left of the door.

SEPTEMBER

Watson Hill School

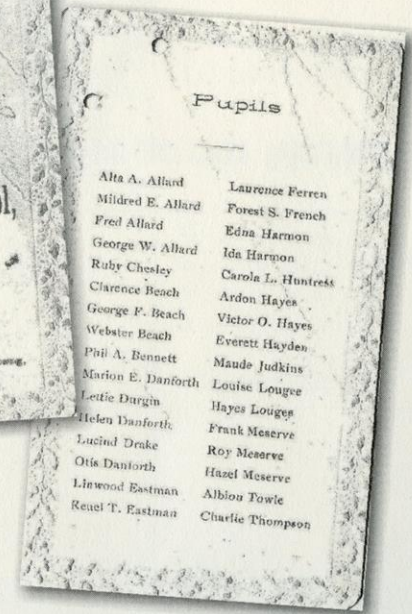
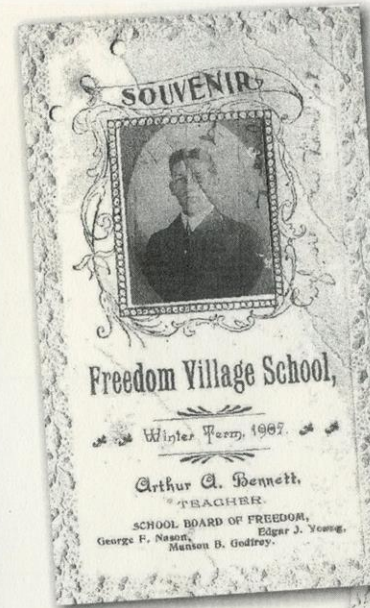
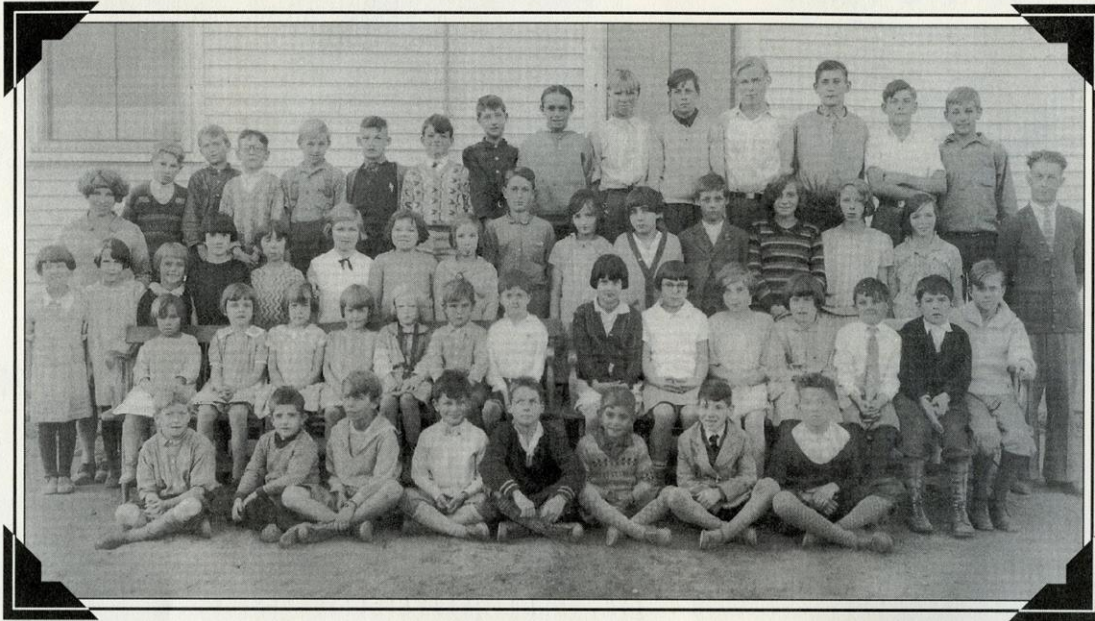


Where many of the schools once stood, site photos now show woods and fields and stone walls. This 1910 photo shows teacher Harvey Stuart with his class at Watson Hill/Chase Hill School. The 2011 picture reveals a stone from the doorway area of the school structure, still there amidst the grass in the field on Watson Hill. It was probably rolled over, out of the way, when the old building was moved down to the Village Road and became the home of Mabel and Raymond Davis. Most of New Hampshire's old-time schoolhouses have long passed away through fire, relocation, or plain deterioration. Freedom is fortunate to have two former

school buildings still standing on Schoolhouse Hill. They remain as legacies of our town's commitment to the public education of its youngest citizens. Just imagine, as Blanche Watson recorded, a teacher who lived on Bennett Road, close to Route 153, walking to the Mt. View school as well as the Farnsworth School to teach, and home again. Look at the map on our cover and think of the transportation logistics for teachers and students moving daily, in fair weather or foul, by foot, carriage, cart, wagon or sleigh before the invention of "iron horses" or the yellow school bus!

OCTOBER

Village School



Ephemera found in Arthur Bennett's school trunk. He was teacher Lizzie Bennett's son and attended elementary school in Freedom. He went to Parsonsfield Seminary to study (his report card from 1903-4) and to become a teacher, as shown here in his teacher's photo from 1907. An excerpt from his notes used for an essay on the validity of corporate trusts: "A trust should not be put down even if it has a few evils. Nobody asks that the Christian Church should be abolished because now and then a vestryman or minister conducts himself in a manner unbecoming a Christian. Neither should a trust be put down even if one man makes a mistake." It is interesting that he eventually joined his father William A. Bennett in the family business to become a Freedom funeral director and undertaker.

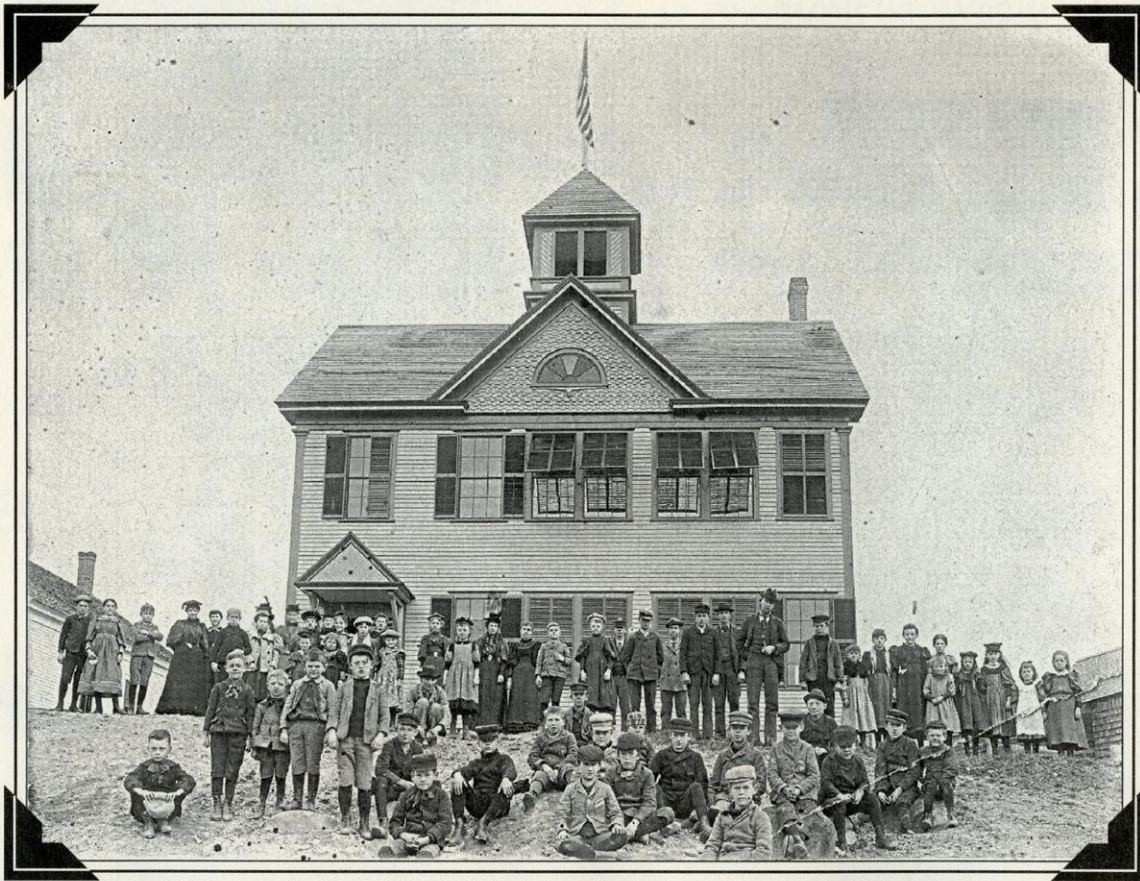
REPORT of SCHOLARSHIP in PARSONSFIELD SEMINARY

Name Frederick A. Bennett year 1903-4 Class.

Term	Days Present	Days Absent	Latin	French	English	Mathematics	Grammar	Algebra	Gen. Average
Fall	75	0	A	C	B	B	C	C	C
Winter	60	0	A	D	C	A	C	C	
Spring									
Y'ly av									

Parents please sign on the back of the card and return to principal.
 A, 95-100; B, 80-95; C, 80-90; D, 70-80;
 E is unsatisfactory.
 NATHAN R. SMITH, Principal

NOVEMBER



Schoolhouse Hill



Built on the eastern crest of Schoolhouse Hill in 1895, the "new" village two story, two room elementary school was constructed for a sum of \$2,000 and designed by townspeople George Philbrick. Blanche Watson's father, Greenleaf Eastman, and his brother, Charles Eastman, painted this new village schoolhouse when construction was completed.

Grades 1-4 met downstairs, and 5-8 were taught on the second floor. These classes were often referred to as "the schools". Blanche Watson remembered

"the big rope that hung back of the door upstairs that rang the bell in the belfry. This bell was rung at 9 o'clock, 10:30 recess, noon and 2:30 recess in the afternoon. School closed at 4 pm. The children took turns ringing the bell." In 1934 the belfry/cupola suffered a fire and the top of the schoolhouse was severely damaged. The cupola was never put back and the bell was removed into storage. It is now at the Historical Society in the upstairs of the Works Barn. Since 1983-4 this structure has housed our town offices. In April of 2011, the State of New Hampshire placed the building on its Register of Historic Places.

DECEMBER

Reference Notes

All fifteen of these schools were attended by Freedom students. Not all schools were in operation at the same time. The last outlying ones closed in 1922 when the Village Grammar School's two elementary classrooms were the only "schools" attended. Some buildings were "on the move" within town; others were lost by fire; one is now a private residence; one is the current Town Office Building.

The 2012 calendar features "cameos" of the history of our buildings, our teachers, our students and their families as recorded in public documents and personal memoirs. In particular, we are fortunate to have the recorded memories of Blanche Eastman Watson (mother of Linnie Watson Giles and Velma Fall Watson Hormell) who not only experienced Freedom schooling as a child, but who grew up to teach in several of our schools and establish one of the many legacies of life-long education within her own family. Note that Linnie Giles taught, and that her grandson Todd Giles is the FES 6th grade teacher today.

Of interest to today's families are the words of F.W. Jackson,
School Superintendent, who wrote in 1929 that Freedom's "school aims are seven:

1. Sound health
2. Worthy home membership
3. Mastery of the 3 Rs
4. Good citizenship
5. Vocational efficiency
6. Wise use of leisure
7. Training in good character."

References for the 2012 calendar: Ossipee Riverlands by Carol Foord; memoirs of Blanche Eastman Watson; research and photographic/map work on buildings, sites, deeds and general survey information by Alan Fall; photos courtesy of the Brooks, Watson and Giles families, as well as the Freedom Historical Society.

<p>JANUARY 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p>MARCH 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>APRIL 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>MAY 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>JUNE 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>
<p>JULY 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>AUGUST 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>OCTOBER 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>	<p>DECEMBER 2012</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>