

# 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)

*Celebrating 51 years as a Non-profit Corporation!*

**August 2019**

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.

### 2018 – 2019 Board Members

Presidents	John Shipman Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Anne Gaudette
Secretary	Sylvia Carney
<u>Directors</u>	
Steve Thurston	Barbara McEvoy
David Trook	Anne Furtado
Jean Marshall	John Perkins
Carole Taylor	



[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 from 10 am - 12. Open other times by appointment by calling 603-733-9307.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members and Friends:

Happy Old Home Week, everyone! 121 and years of fun in Freedom. Did you know that Freedom has the oldest OHW celebration in the State of New Hampshire?

This year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of electricity coming to Freedom. Two people who were part of the transition were our local lamplighter, Aldo Lovering and George Nichols, who strung most of the electrical line in the village. These two individuals were at the threshold of electricity coming to the village. Unfortunately, the more rural parts of Freedom did not get electricity until the 1930’s.

The 2020 calendar is now out and for sale at the Museum, the Village Store, and on our website.

We are inviting Freedom families to bring in photos to the Museum during Old Home Week. Your family is an important part of the story of Freedom so please come in and share. We can scan your photos and return them quickly to you. Be prepared to identify those in the photos; location, and approximate date, if possible. The success in getting photos of the people of Freedom (the ones we have so far) into our Past Perfect database at the museum is also important to highlight.

The Museum will be open every day of OHW, 10am-noon, or otherwise by appointment. Please come in and learn something interesting!

Sincerely, Co-Presidents  
John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

## FHS RECENT NEWS

- **Our Sponsors.** We are so grateful to our commercial sponsors who support our major fundraiser, the 2020 Calendar (now available) “Remarkable People of Freedom”. This month we call your attention to one of our “downtown” businesses, Freedom House Antiques. It’s a good place to browse and buy something special from days gone by. Visit them at 17 Old Portland Road.
- **Reminder about the 2019 Freedom Historical Society educational programs!** Please tell your friends and spread the word about our great programs in 2019. And, put the list on your calendar- you don’t want to miss them!
  - AUG 21- JO RADNER: “FAMILY STORIES: HOW & WHY TO REMEMBER & TELL THEM”
  - SEP 18- ROBERTA MACCARTHY & ANNE GAUDETTE: “REMARKABLE PEOPLE OF FREEDOM”
  - OCT 16- FHS ANNUAL MTG/POT LUCK DINNER; Dr. Jim Vernon, Nobis Engineering: “Lake’s Region Geology”
- **The FHS 2020 Calendar continues the theme of** “Remarkable People of Freedom’s Past” but with a whole new set of people to read about! The calendars are available at the Museum, the Freedom Village Store, or on our website. We hope you will support this major annual fundraiser and consider purchasing one for your collection.
- **Wine tasting and Museum tour:**

Monday, August 5th, Freedom Historical Society (FHS) invites everyone to come enjoy a “night at the museum” exploring The Allard House and Works Barn exhibits while tasting wines produced by local vineyards. The 5 to 7 PM event is a fund raiser for the Society. Tickets are \$25 per person. There are a limited number of tickets available and can be purchased at FHS from 10 to noon this Saturday or at the Freedom Village Store. Lemonade and ice tea will also be available. Bring your friends and come explore museum exhibits, learn about Freedom history, and see what’s new!
- **Tell Us How You are Related to Freedom:** Among the many efforts underway on the Archival Project is building our PastPerfect database of biographies

and photographs. Whether you are the first, or one of many, generations of families who have lived in Freedom, we invite you to tell us more by sharing your family biography and photos. This will help us establish biographical details that will be helpful as we move forward in creating the database of Freedom history. Come by with your photos during 10 am to noon any day of Old Home Week, beginning Sunday, 8/4. Be prepared to identify the people, place, and approximate date of your photo.

- **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?

*Our Resource Room at the Museum contains thousands of photos, books, and documents about Freedom history. You can research such topics as Freedom businesses, camps, and obituaries (we have an indexed book of over 300); read all the news in town columns since 1924; and view our beautifully indexed book of old Freedom postcards.*

To see more about what’s available go to <https://freedomhistoricalsociety.org/historical-research-resources/>

## Freedom in 1919

Celebrating 100 years of Electricity  
In Freedom!

The Freedom Old Home Week theme this year is to celebrate the 100th anniversary of electricity in Freedom. So, let’s put ourselves back to the year 1919 and see what was happening.

Globally, this was an important year in that WWI was officially over and January marked the beginning of Treaty of Versailles.

Prohibition became the law



and women got the right to vote.



The rotary dial phone and the pop-up toaster were introduced to the public. Daylight savings time was initiated. Big changes were afoot.

In Freedom, the population was about 467 people in 1919 (based on the 1920 census) which was a 50% drop from the 1840 population of 926. Freedom's population would continue to drop until 1950, reaching a nadir of 315 people. Farming was tough; the city jobs and the open west were continuing to call people away.

The Town and School Reports for 1919 were published in January 1920, since that was the end of the Town's fiscal year in those days. Fred Godfrey, George Philbrick, and Wesley Wentworth were the Selectmen. The Town

Clerk was William C. Brooks. Everett Day and Fred C. Stuart were the Road Agents. The total municipal and School budget in 1919 for the Town was \$9,202.31 and the tax rate was \$22.30. The budget allocated to the Old Home Week Committee was \$50. In 1919, Aldo Lovering was the Town's auditor.

Like the internet today, it was important in 1919 to "modernize" Freedom with electricity. In 1919, George I. Philbrick and 31 others associated themselves together under the name of the Freedom Electric & Power Associates for the purpose of engaging in the business of furnishing to the public in Effingham Falls and in the town of Freedom, electricity for light and power purposes. Energy was purchased from Ossipee Water & Electric Company at Mountview in Ossipee, about 8 miles from Freedom. Colby Week's uncle was the treasurer of the Association and Aldo Lovering was the first meter reader.

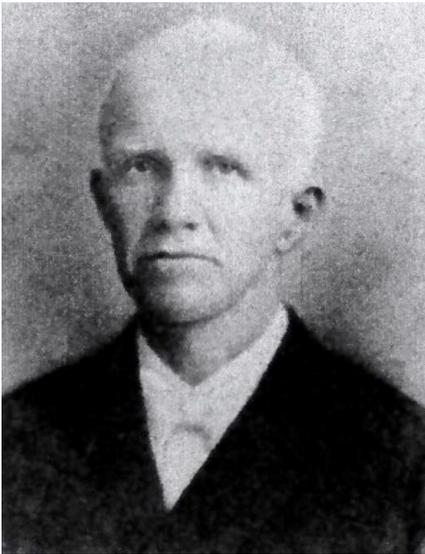
Service was first provided on December 4, 1919. The Freedom organization was incorporated on September 1, 1922 and in 1929 the stock was acquired by Public Service of NH; PSNH took over the operations November 30, 1930.

Freedom's hillside homes were not electrified until the 1930's. Edna Cole remembers that the family homestead (Andrew's House) on Moulton Road was not electrified until sometime in 1932 or 1933. She remembers that her grandmother Weed (site of Weed's Barn Dances) on Route 153 did not get electricity until the end of WW II.

In the Society's "Remarkable People of Freedom"-themed calendar, we celebrate a couple of people who were active in the change from gas street lights to electric street lights in Freedom.

### **Aldo Lovering 1866 to 1927**

Aldo Lovering was Freedom's lamplighter in the early 1900's. He would light them at night and shut them off in the morning. After electricity was introduced in 1919, he would use a master switch located in Ralph Foster's village store. He served as town constable and auditor and was a member of the Mason's. Aldo also was the ticket taker for the popular Freedom Ball Games and was known for letting kids in for free at halftime. Aldo was married to Florence Lord Lovering. They lived on Elm Street and raised 5 children. He was the father of Rita Lovering Bookholtz who passed away in 2013 at 105 years.



Aldo Lovering



Aldo Lovering (Back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and other Carroll Lodge A.F.A.M. Masons, 1912.

### George C. Everett Nichols 1885 to 1970

George Nichols lived in Freedom for 55 years until he was 85 years old. He was described as a master of all the arts and crafts connected with building, planting, cars, and fishing. George was instrumental in bringing roads, water, and electricity to Freedom Village. He strung the first wires to the telephone poles from 1919 to 1921. He owned and operated a car repair shop where the Freedom Post Office is today, and part of the existing Post Office was his shop. George and his wife Ruth lived at 65 Old Portland Road, now owned by Paul and Bonnie Elie. From 1949 to 1965 George was planner, builder, and caretaker of many homes in Freedom Village. He was an avid fisherman especially on Ossipee Lake where he docked his boat at the home of Alice and Randy Miller on Berry Bay. In the Carroll County Newspaper, 1965, Chilton Thomson wrote of George, "George Nichols is as representative of the strength and greatness of America as were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln – men whose qualities he shares, whose friendship he would certainly have had. My family and I have grown in understanding and knowing him. He has not only made our dream of Freedom grow into its present fact – he has become part of our lives. "



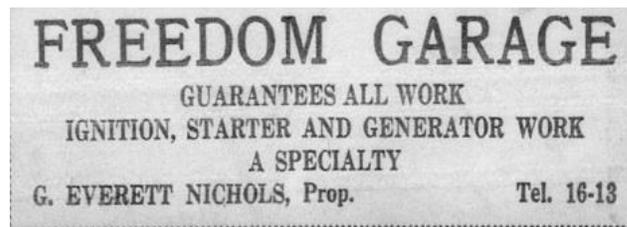
Typical Lamplighter



Aldo Lovering was the ticket-taker at the Freedom ball field, Madison vs. Freedom. Circa 1910.



George working at Bath Maine Ironworks during World War II; circa 1943-45.



Wedding photo of daughter June Nichols to Jack Rasquin's (left), Ruth and George Nichols on the right. December 15, 1963; location was at home (Now owned by Paul and Bonnie Elie)



George Nichol's garage. Part of his garage is still part of the Post Office. Photo circa 1930's.

**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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

**Lifetime Members:** William S. Barrett, Edward Boyer, G W Brooks & Son, Sylvia & John Manley, Ramon & Susan Marks, Roberta MacCarthy, Barbara McEvoy, CSM R. S. Oram, Emily Phillips, Nancy Seabury, Laura & Maynard Thomson, Gary Ward, Katharine Watts. Costantino Real Estate, Jane & Richard Nylander, Lee Allison, Tim Allison, Robert Phinney, Ed Reed, John & Carolyn Woodard, John Shipman, Hope McGowan, Marcia & David Trook, Lee Fritz, Jack Middleton, Randy Greenstein, Janice Zecher..

**Contributors:** Bill & Maureen Elliott, Kim Reis, Robert & Ruth Smart, Gale Morris, James Brown, Carl Bloomquist, Elizabeth Hentz, Alice Custard, Robert & Karen Hatch; Sylvia Carney, Linda Habif, Steve & Diana Thurston, Don & Janet Johnson, Brian & Carole Taylor, William & Sally Stoops, David & Kathy Avery, Bonnie McCue, William Carney, Andrew Krotinger, Art & Barbara Robinson, George Winters, David Merve, Paul & Bonnie Elie, Jane & Rick Davidson, Heidi Miksch, Charles & Terri Brooks.

**Families:** Peg Scully, James & Betsy Bradt, Alan & Beverly Grant, Nettie Nason, George & Aila Clauson, Ellie Stokes, Ned & Judy Kucera, Pat & Frank DelGigante, Mary Staples, Ingrid & Ray Hemphill, Gerald Hastings, Pat Hatfield, Paul & Lisa Wheeler, William Thompson, Fred & Beverly Trail, Judith Smith, Diane & Larry

Claveau, Anne & Kim Moore, Jayne Britton, Beverly Glynn, Jean Marshall, Larry & Nancy Wogman, Charlie & Margaret Gibbs and Joyce Watson.

**Individuals:** Ray Dahlstrom, Gail Bizer, Lorraine Martin, John Immediato; Dorothy Brooks, Jane A. McKenzie, Ruth Allard Paul, Pam Taylor, Rachel Ward, Marcia Santner, Diane Cahill, Patricia Bernard, Christine Hurley, and Sarah Owen Taylor.

The generosity of all of you is most appreciated. If you don't see your name listed, but have paid membership dues or donated in 2019, please let us know. Otherwise, a membership form is on the last page and we welcome your renewal for 2019☺. Thank you!

### **Archival Project and Other Donations**

We are very appreciative of those members and donors who have given additional donations in 2019 to the general fund or to the **Archival Project fund:**

Anonymous donor, Chuck & Terri Brooks, Anne & Scott Cunningham, Charles & Holly Watts, Katherine Watts ; this latter project has pledges over a five-year period.

We thank the following people for their **additional donations:** Jane McKensie, Lorraine Martin, Marcia & David Trook, Gail Morris, Susan and Ramon Marks, Peg Scully, Emily Phillips, Charles & Holly Watts, Ruth & Bob Smart, and two anonymous donors.

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.

### **NH Gives campaign for the Houses of Freedom Project**

Over 24 hours from June 20-21 we very pleased to report able to raise over \$1200, thanks our donors to the NH Gives on-line campaign. All the proceeds go to support the Houses of Freedom Project, which Hillary Johnson is working on this summer. May thanks to the following donors during that campaign:

Brian & Carole Taylor, Chuck and Terri Brooks, Paul and Donna Tung, Dann Lewis, Tim Allison, Steve & Diana Thurston, Sarah Owen Tabor, Anne & Norman Furtado, Cindy Cunningham, Alexander Thomson, Kim Kowal, Ruth Allard Paul, Kim Reis, Nadine Chapman, Linda Habif, Noel and Anne Quinton, Susan Hoople, Jean

Marshall, Peg Scully, Pam Taylor, Deborah Shadd, Bonnie Burroughs, Charles & Holly Watts, Roberta MacCarthy, Chuck & Heloise Depew, Sylvia Carney & John Shipman.

### **Volunteers!!**

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers who work hard and quietly on the Society's projects. Thank you to Roberta MacCarthy, Anne Gaudette, Lucy Kendal and Sylvia Carney for excellent work to create our annual fundraiser, the 2020 FHS Calendar, "Remarkable People of Freedom." Thank you to Nadine Chapman for all of her continued efforts and guiding Pam Keith in her work to scan and enter all our photographs. Thank you to our project volunteers: Judy Smith and Pam Taylor for their weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission. Our beautiful flower boxes thank Anne Furtado and Sylvia Carney for planting them and Bill Carney for keeping them watered. And, thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully help with grounds maintenance both summer and winter.

### **We love old photos and biographies!**

We know you have old family photos of days gone by in Freedom. Or even current family photos that you can share. And biographical/genealogical information. 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!

***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>

**amazon**smile

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

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs in 2019 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**  
**Eastern Propane**  
**Exit Realty, Grace Brooks**  
**Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, Artist**  
**Freedom House Antiques**  
**Freedom Village Store**  
**G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors**  
**Gary Wallace Auctioneers, Inc.**  
**Green Mountain Furniture**  
**Hatfield’s Bed & Breakfast**  
**Inn at Crystal Lake & Palmer House Pub**  
**Jakes Seafood & Grill**  
**James C Farinella Building & Remodeling LLC**  
**Minuteman Press**  
**Re/Max Presidential Realty, Paul Wheeler**  
**Sentinel Financial, Paul Olzerowicz CPA, CFP, ChFC**  
**Terri Brooks, Watercolor & Pastel Artist**  
**Trivent Financial**  
**Waddell & Reed, Margie Amico, Financial Advisor**  
**Ward’s Boat Shop**  
**White Mountain Survey & Engineering**

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

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS**

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

**Membership:**

Lifetime \$500    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    Archival Project  
 Freedom Houses Project    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.**



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