

# 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!*

November 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.

### 2019 – 2020 Board Members

Presidents	John Shipman Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Anne Gaudette
Secretary	TBD
<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:

On October 16, 2019 we held our potluck dinner and annual business meeting. Forty-two members enjoyed a delicious meal and we ate it all- a sign of good food and good appetites☺. Thank you all for bringing a nice dish. We also held our annual meeting; the annual report is included below for your information. You will see that we have accomplished a lot, and have good plans in place to make more progress. Your membership dues and donations are key to that progress and we thank you for your continued support.

Speaking of support, we want to reinforce how fun it is to volunteer at the museum for a couple of hours a week, or provide support from your home. Two volunteers this year, Judy Smith and Pam Taylor, have come in every Wednesday during our two open hours on Wednesday and accomplished a lot while enjoying themselves. You wouldn’t believe some of the interesting things we uncover. And the team comradery adds to the fun. Please consider helping and contact us about this unique opportunity- “many hands make light work”.

As we write this, we are starting our planning for 2020, including project planning and budget preparation. While it never ends, it is exciting to continue and improve upon our methods for “preserving Freedom’s history for future generations”

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. This quarter we would like to give an extra thank you to GW Brooks and Sons, and specifically Scott Brooks Jr., who volunteered the company truck, flatbed trailer, diesel fuel and his time to help the FHC and FHS bring the snow roller from Westbrook, ME to Freedom (see article below). We are grateful for their support- Thank you GW Brooks & Sons!
- **2019 Board re-elected.** We are pleased to report that all the Board members from 2019 were re-elected to serve again in 2020. That means we have 11 board members who will give us year-to-year consistency across the board. Thank you so much to these dedicated volunteers!
- **The FHS 2020 and 2021 Calendars continue.** The 2020 “Remarkable People of Freedom’s Past” calendar is still for sale and makes a great Christmas gift for the coming year. The calendars are available at the Museum, the Freedom Village Store, or on our website. The 2021 calendar will be worked on next spring, so if you want to nominate someone, please send the information on them via email. Remember, they must have past at least 20 years ago to be included. The purpose is to inform and educate the public about our residents from the past, not memorialize them.
- **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 any Wednesday from 10am-12noon, or we will be happy to make an appointment any other day. 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?

The FHS now has all of **Freedom’s obituaries** starting from 1923 in one place, indexed, on the computer, and available in nice notebooks. All these are available for family research. This project started with Dotty Brooks, Bonnie Brooks and Gale Morris clipping and organizing all the Freedom news from the Carroll County Independent into annual notebooks- a huge task given that there are now 45 three inch notebooks!! Judy Smith, one of our current volunteers, has copied all the obituaries from these news clippings and has completed the compilation. We thank all of you who have worked on this valuable resource for our community. Stop by the FHS and take a look sometime.

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

### Snow Roller moves to Freedom!

Press Release from Peg Scully

October 22, 2019

Before the days of snow plows, large wheeled contraptions pulled by horses or oxen would roll over the roads, compressing the snow and making it easier for sleighs to travel. Several towns have restored their snow rollers and now, Freedom has its own, donated by Warren Knight of Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook, Maine, and delivered on October 21 to the Roller Shed yard atop Schoolhouse Hill. G.W. Brooks Company’s flat- bed truck driven by Scott Brooks, Jr., transported the snow roller and Scott Cunningham towed the roller up the hill in his Jeep where it now resides in front of the Freedom Roller Shed. Intrepid volunteers Scott Cunningham, Scott Brooks, Jr., John Shipman, Bill Elliott, Darwin Moulton and Alan Fall provided the planning and labor to make this project a success.

The acquisition of the snow roller has a special significance for Freedom because there are only three towns in New Hampshire which have an existing snow roller shed. Built around 1900, the roller shed was in terrible shape but, because of its historical importance,

in 2012 it was placed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. In 2016, the Freedom Heritage Commission applied for and won a Moose Plate grant to rehabilitate and restore the derelict building. Now a snow roller has been found eventually to go in the roller shed designed to house it.

Next steps will involve restoring the snow roller and doing the research and labor to bring the roller back to its original appearance.



**Scott Brooks Transporting the snow roller**



**Unloading snow roller- Scott Cunningham & Darwin Moulton**



**Towing up the hill- Scott Cunningham's jeep**



**l to r-Darwin Moulton, Bill Elliott, Scott Brooks, Jr., John Shipman, Alan Fall**

**Freedom Historical Society  
Annual Report  
Oct. 1, 2018-Sep. 30, 2019**

Although we provided the Society's annual report to members at the annual meeting on October 16, 2019, we missed about ¾'s of you. So, we are including it in this newsletter to make you aware of the substantial work and progress that has been made in moving the Society forward.

In 2019, the Society has again made good progress toward "preserving" the story of Freedom for your education and enjoyment. Important items to report to the membership are as follows:

**Membership 2019**

1. To date Membership has a slight increase at 142 supporters, about a 9% increase over last year. Collection of 2019 membership dues continues through December.
2. We are very pleased to announce we now three more Lifetime Members this year, so our total 14. Lifetime Membership was created last year to recognize the 50 years of incorporation and to help lay the foundation for the Society's and museum's sustainability.
3. We received 92 donations, separate from Membership Dues.

4. Past Perfect software continues to be used effectively to manage membership information and outreach
5. Increased newsletter frequency and content, as well as regular updates on our Facebook page and an increase in events and promotion are believed to be reasons contributing to membership increase.
6. Sadly we lost two good friends and members of the Freedom Historical Society this year, Nancy Seabury and Sylvia Carney. Sylvia had been a Board Member for nearly ten years and we will miss her leadership, management, and hard work as secretary. Nancy and Frank have been faithful supporters over the last 40 years or so. Thank you for your Memorial Gifts in their honor.

### **The Archival Project**

1. Two years ago the Freedom Historical Society initiated the "Freedom Archival Project" to organize and preserve all the photos, genealogies, maps and stories of Freedom and its people. The goal of this project is to ensure that our vulnerable collections of photographs, documents, maps, and manuscripts are safely protected and stored in appropriate files so that they are stored in a stable environment and digitally accessible. This Archival Project ensures that paper documents and photographs are properly protected for the long term through scanning and cataloguing each item into the PastPerfect Database. We made considerable progress this year by hiring a part time collection researcher and 523 new records have been added to the Past Perfect database. We plan to hire an additional part-time researcher in 2020. With more than 10,000 archival items, we are estimating a five-year project.
2. This year was the first time we received \$2,000 on the Town Warrant to support this comprehensive Archival Project to preserve Freedom's History for future generations. This funding has provided the opportunity to hire a part-time consultant to input and scan documents on a regular schedule with the long-term goal of making our records accessible to researchers, members, and the community.
3. In early 2019 we received a Henney Historical Fund grant of \$1,300 which enabled us to purchase additional archival supplies including a flat file map cabinet and a supply storage cabinet.
4. In addition to this funding, we are very appreciative of those who gave additional donations to the Archival Project Fund: Anne & Scott Cunningham,

Charles and Heloise Depew, Jack Middleton, Howsie Steward, Mike and Loel Poor, Charles and Holly Watts, Caroline Collins, and Katherine Watts. These and all our member donations help us to continue the critical process of making sure all of the Society's records will be preserved and stored electronically.

5. It is clear that our Archival Project is moving forward and creating value to the Freedom community because more people are coming in to find information about their families and their life in Freedom. We have 685 "Freedomites" who are now represented on the data base. Another demonstration of the Project's value is the fact that the Society was able to research and complete two annual calendar featuring the history of the "Remarkable People of Freedom". We see this concept continuing in future in the years so that our citizens can see both the accomplishments of our residence and gain an understanding of local history. And, residents are learning that our archives have valuable information about their families.

### **The Freedom House Project**

1. This year we participated in the NH Gives Campaign and raised over \$1,200 in this internet campaign to help fund The Freedom House Project. This was the first time we participated in this statewide fundraising effort.
2. We hired a part-time researcher this summer to help complete the Freedom House Project. There are completed inventory reports for all 188 houses: Cushing Corner Rd (25), Elm St. (22), Freedom Village Rd (35), Old Portland Road (45), Scarborough Rd (20), Swett's Hill Rd (9), and Youngs Hill Rd (10). The Loon Lake Road (18) inventory is partially completed. This project documents the houses and buildings in the village and who has lived in them over the years. It defines the unique "Sense of Place" that we all value so much. This project was first initiated by the Freedom's Heritage Commission and the Freedom Heritage Commission Inventory is included in the project.

### **Expanding the Collection**

1. We have expanded our collection by 12 items in 2019 including an 1897 Freedom Business Ledger, a cane belonging to Albion Pease, a colored pencil

sketch of the Federal House by John Holmgren, 15 Freedom Postcards, and an antique snowroller, ( joint project with the Freedom Heritage Commission).

attendees, many of which had not been to the museum in years.

### **Museum Exhibits and Attendance**

1. The 2019 attendance to Museum was 146 visitors plus 68 Visitors at the Wine Tasting Fundraiser. We also had 240 program attendees. Attendance does vary year-to-year as seen in 2016 when our attendance was high at 365 when the telephone and doll house exhibits drew significant interest/attendance. The take-away is that new exhibits, events, and more promotion do increase museum attendees.

### **Educating the public**

1. In 2019 six educational programs were presented for adults; attendance ran from 35 to 50, depending on the program. We continue to get 2 grants per year from NH Humanities Council for excellent programs. The total 6 programs included: Cruising NH History with Michael Bruno in May, Hiking Historical New Hampshire with Gordon DuBois in June, Bands, Bones and Ballads with Jeff Warner in July, How and Why to remember and tell Family Stories with Jo Radner in August, Remarkable People of Freedom in September, and lastly Geology of the Lakes Region by Dr. Jim Vernon tonight.
2. Four (quarterly) newsletters were distributed to members and supporters in 2019; the total distribution each time is about 150 newsletters
3. The FHS website and Facebook have been kept up to date this year thanks to Nadine and Roberta. Here are some estimated numbers for Facebook. We had an increase of followers to our Facebook page this year. Some of the most popular postings were: Celebration of the State Historical Registrar for the First Christian Church reaching 1,264 people; the second most popular was the Baseball Game Photo (1948) reaching 964 people; and the third was the Old Home Week Photos past and present with a 546 reach.
4. We entered The Old Home Week Parade with a float depicting the early lamp lighter and won first prize in the "Organizational Float" category.
5. We opened the Museum during Old Home Week for a Wine Tasting Fundraising event and attracted 68

### **Maintaining the Museum**

1. All the Fire Extinguishers were tested and replaced where needed; smoke alarms tested and batteries replaced, and emergency lights checked.
2. Window and door maintenance were also completed.
3. Rodent mitigation continued quarterly.
4. Spring cleaning was conducted by a few dedicated souls: Sylvia Carney, David Trook, John Shipman, Anne Furtado, Chuck Brooks, Susan Marks, John Perkins, Linda Habif, Roberta MacCarthy, and Nadine Chapman.

### **Thank you to our Volunteers who are the backbone of all that we do...**

1. Thank you to our volunteer board of directors who each wear many hats and all carry the load: John Shipman, Roberta MacCarthy, Sylvia Carney, Anne Gaudette, Scott Cunningham, Jean Marshall, Anne Furtado, John Perkins, Steve Thurston, Carole Taylor, and Barbara McEvoy,
2. Thank you to Anne Gaudette, Roberta MacCarthy, Lucy Kendall and Sylvia Carney for excellent work to create our annual fundraiser, the 2020 FHS Calendar, "Remarkable People of Freedom."
3. Thanks to Anne Gaudette, Pam Taylor, Anne Furtado, and Roberta MacCarthy for their launch of the Wine Tasting Event.
4. Thanks to John Perkins, David Trook, and Steve Thurston on creating the prize-winning float for the Old Home Week Parade.
5. Thanks to Steve Thurston for organizing the educational programs.
6. Thanks to our project volunteers: Judy Smith and Pam Taylor for their weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission.
7. Thank you to our maintenance volunteers Brian Taylor and John Manley.
8. Special thanks to Nadine Chapman for all of her continued efforts and work as the "keeper of the collections".
9. And, special thanks to Anne Furtado and Sylvia Carney for planting our flower boxes and to Bill Carney for keeping the flowers watered. And thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully helped with grounds maintenance in summer and winter.

## Financials

In 2019 Anne Gaudette took on the position of treasurer. Pam Keith has been our bookkeeper in 2019. We thank both Anne and Pam and are very grateful for their valuable volunteer time. Our 2018-2019 sources of income and expenses are as follows:

Income sources:

Membership-	41%
Donations-	27%
Grants-	17%
Merchandize-	8%
Fundraisers-	7%
Total	100%

Expense sources:

Programs-	36%
Occupancy-	30%
Maint./Supplies-	16%
Other-	11%
Technology-	7%
Total	100%

**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

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 November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019:

**Lifetime Members:** Anonymous member, William S. Barrett, Edward Boyer, G W Brooks & Son, Sylvia & John Manley, Ramon & Susan Marks, Roberta MacCarthy, Barbara McEvoy, 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, Beth and Peter Earle.

**Angels:** James Farinella, Janet Smith

**Contributors:** David & Cathy Avery, 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 Krottinger, Art & Barbara Robinson, George Winters, David Meserve, Paul & Bonnie Elie, Jane & Rick Davidson, Heidi Miksch, Charles & Terri Brooks, Betty Fuller, Carolyn Stone,

**Sponsors:** Tim Allison, Mary Lee Allison, Pieter Birnie, Lee Fritz, Randy Greenstein, Lucy Kendall, Dann Lewis, Warren & Patti Manhard, Hope McGowan, Jack Middleton, Jane & Richard Nylander Robert Phinney, John Shipman, Marcia & David Trook, Linda Walls, John Woodard, Janice Zecher.

**Families:** Peg Scully, James & Betsy Bradt, Barbara Buffery, Alan & Beverly Grant, Nettie Nason, George & Aila Clauson, Elaine Gentile, 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, Dean & Judy Robertson.

**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!

## Donations

We are grateful to and thank the following donors in 2019 who contributed to one or more of the following funds: the Archival project, the Freedom Houses project, General projects, and the memorial funds in memory of Sylvia Carney, Tom Luke and Nancy Seabury. Your generosity is being put to valuable use:

Tim Allison, Mary Lee Allison, Margie Amico, Paul & Polly Amundsen, Anonymous, Gail Bizer, Carl A. Bloomquist, Susan Bonard-Bygrave, James & Betsy Bradt, Charles & Terri Brooks, Bonnie Burroughs, Sylvia Carney, Nadine Chapman, Karen Coltin, Eugene, Corbett, Madeleine Corson, Cynthia Cunningham, Anne & Scott Cunningham, Louis & Linda DeMaio, Charles & Heloise Depew, Bill & Maureen Elliott, Anne & Norman Furtado, Linda Habif, Elizabeth Hentz, Maryann & John Hogan,

Susan C Hoople, Don & Janet Johnson, Lucy Kendall, Arlene Knight, Kim Kowal, Richard & Sandra Lamperti, Dann Lewis, Suzanne Lowe, Jane Luke, Roberta MacCarthy, John & Sylvia Manley, Ramon & Susan Marks, Jean Marshall, Lorraine Martin, Hope & Louise Mauran, Jane A. McKenzie, Harriette Merrill, Jack Middleton, John & Susan Mitchell, Gale Morris, Carol Neville, North Broad Bay Association, Elisabeth Paige, Peter & Diane Park, Anne Parker, Ruth E. (Allard) Paul, Emily Phillips, Noel & Ann Quinton, Ed Reed, Kimberly A. Reis, Art & Barbra Robinson, Charles Roscoe, Susan Sanders, Carole & Paul Schweid, Peg Scully, Seabury family, Deborah Shadd, John Shipman, Barry Shipman, Robert & Ruth Smart, Mary Staples, Peter Steeves, Howsie Stewart, Ellie Stokes, William & Sally Stoops, Evan Stowell, Harlan Sturm, Sarah Owen Tabor, Brian & Carole Taylor, Pamela Taylor, Alexander Thomson, Steve & Diana Thurston, Martha Timothy, Marcia & David Trook, Paul & Tung, Charles & Holly Watts, Katharine Watts, Paul & Lisa Wheeler.

### **Volunteers!!**

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers who work hard and quietly on the Society's

projects. Thank you to Anne Furtado for setting up our floral and pumpkin display in front of the Allard House this fall- looks great!

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. And for her organizing a John Holmgren display- something to look forward to in 2020! Thank you to our project volunteers: Judy Smith and Pam Taylor for their weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission. And, thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully help with grounds maintenance both summer and winter.

### **In Memoria**

It is with extreme sadness that we report the passing of three of our biggest supporters: Nancy Seabury (July 5<sup>th</sup>), Sylvia Carney (September 8<sup>th</sup>) and Chuck Depew (November 2<sup>nd</sup>). They all represent a different aspect of our community and not enough can be said about the loss to our Society and Freedom. We will miss them dearly; may they rest in peace.

## **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.

**Beth Day Massage Therapy**

**Camp Calumet**

**Constantino Real Estate, Gerard Constantino**

**Cooper Cargill Chant, Deborah A. Fauver, Esq.**

**Deb's Custom Upholstery**

**Eastern Propane**

**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**

**Exit Realty, Grace Brooks**

**Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, Artist**

**Freedom House Antiques**

**Freedom Village Store**

**G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors**

**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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