



Freedom Historical Society

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

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

www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org

Celebrating 52 years as a Non-profit Corporation!

November 2021

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.

2020 – 2021 Board Members

Presidents	John Shipman Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Dann Lewis
Secretary	Jane Davidson
<u>Directors</u>	
Steve Thurston	Barbara McEvoy
Brandy Buttrick	Jean Marshall
John Perkins	Linda Habif
Carole Taylor	Anne Gaudette
Ed Barosky	



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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENTS

Dear Members and Friends:

On October 20, 2021, the Freedom Historical Society presented to its members (via ZOOM) an annual report to the membership. Since many of you could not tune in to that program, we are including the report in this newsletter. You will see that the FHS had another successful year and continued to increase its community support. We thank you for that! Although there were many highlights, the two biggest successes were the Textiles exhibit and the fundraising for Allard House repairs. Please read more about them.

This past year, thanks to the work of Steve Thurston, the FHS was able to survey members about their perspective of the organization and what we might provide going forward. An overview of the findings is presented herein. Please be aware that we are always open to member input.

Sadly, on November 4th of this year, we lost one of Freedom’s kindest citizens and a big supporter of our Society, Edwin (Ed) Boyer. Ed’s obituary is included below, and our hearts go out to Ed’s family. The FHS Board of Directors, with the approval of the family, has set up a memorial fund in Ed’s name so that we can recognize his significant contributions to Freedom and our Historical Society. We will memorialize his name in a noticeable way. Anyone interested in contributing to the Ed Boyer Memorial Fund will find directions below and on our website.

Sincerely, Co-Presidents
John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

Dedicated to the memory of Ed Boyer

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ed Boyer, a beloved and respected member of the Freedom community (and beyond!). He was a staunch supporter of and contributor to the success of the Freedom Historical Society.

Edwin T. Boyer, 84, of Freedom, N.H. died on Nov. 4, 2021, in North Carolina.



He was born in Plainfield, New Jersey. He lived in New Hampshire from 1963 to 1974, and since retirement in 1998. He never missed a summer in Freedom since 1946.

Ed graduated from the Pingry School in New Jersey in 1956. He graduated from Keene State College with a B.S. in 1962; Indiana State University in 1963 with an M.S.; and he earned an Ed.D. at Texas A&M University in 1976.

He was a Research Associate at the University of Maryland for a year in the 1960's. The teaching career started in 1963 when he became an Industrial Arts teacher at Kennett High School in Conway, N.H. He initiated both the Drafting and Graphic Arts programs.

In 1976 he was a tenured Associate Professor at Northern Illinois University where he taught Engineering Graphics and related courses. He was an advisor for undergraduate, Master's and Doctoral students. For a short time he was Acting Chairman of the Industry & Technology Department (the largest of its kind in the country at the time). He received awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and Outstanding Scholarship and Leadership.

1984 until retirement, Ed was a tenured Associate Professor in the College of Engineering at The Ohio

State University in Columbus, Ohio. He taught Engineering Graphics, Architecture, Air Brush and Illustration courses. He was lead author with 4 others for "Technical Graphics", an internationally sold textbook; co-author with others on an "Engineering Graphics" textbook; published more than 50 professional articles; presented at local, national and international conferences and traveled as far away as Australia to present at an international conference; and established the French Laboratory for Advanced Graphics. Ed retired from The Ohio State University in 1998 as an Associate Professor Emeritus.

From the mid-60's to the mid-70's Ed founded a successful small business, Visual Grafix. The company produced custom Engineering, Architectural and Land Contour scale models and other graphic displays for industry.

In 1965 Ed was appointed as a charter member of the New Hampshire State Police Auxiliary. He authored a book on Basic Diagrams for Police Investigation and taught more than 27 accident diagramming and investigation courses for police departments and for the New Hampshire Police Academy.

Ed was a member and former Deacon of the First Christian Church of Freedom and was active with The Freedom Historical Society. He was an avid sailor and ice boater in the winter. He was a craftsman who spent countless hours in his shop designing and building projects like house projects, furniture, ice boats, and antique music boxes.

In late 2018, he sold the house in Freedom and relocated in North Carolina.

A celebration of the life of Dr. Edwin Taylor Boyer will be held on April 2, 2022, at the First Christian Church of Freedom at 1:00pm. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be sent to The Freedom Historical Society in the name of Dr. Edwin Taylor Boyer at WWW.FreedomHistoricalSociety.org or The Freedom Historical Society, P.O. Box 548, Freedom, N.H., 03836.

Celebrating 52 Years!!

2021 Annual Report to Members

Although the COVID virus has affected us all socially and culturally, the Freedom Historical Society continues to make forward progress. We had a slightly delayed opening of the museum which occurred on June 19th. And we continue to be open to this date, following State and CDC guidelines. The highlight of the year has been the replica of Ms. J.C. Ferren's Dry Goods Store featuring the items in the museum's textiles collection. This display and other progress would not have been possible without our dedicated members and volunteers. The Board of Directors thanks you all for supporting our efforts during these challenging times. We are pleased to report the following progress:

Membership 2021

To date 2021 Membership has increased to 187 members compared to 131 members in the total year of 2021, an increase of 42%. Membership dollars increased this year by 20% due to an increase in membership. (After a tough year of renewals in 2020 due to Covid.)

Total Supporters (Members & Donors) increased to 203 in 2021 from 134 in 2020 due to the Allard House Campaign and the successful summer exhibit.

We are pleased to announce that we now have 35 Lifetime Members giving \$500 or more, an increase of 19 over 2019. Lifetime Membership was created in 2018 to recognize the 50 years of incorporation and to help lay the foundation for the Society's and museum's sustainability.

Our Co-president, Roberta MacCarthy continues to effectively manage membership information and outreach using the Past Perfect software that we maintain with your support.

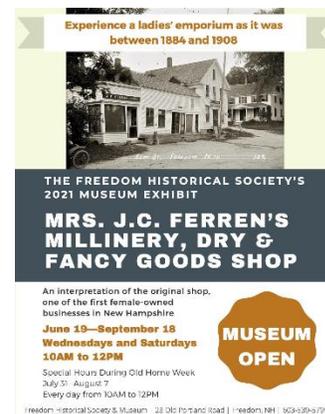
Museum highlights

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CLOTHING & TEXTILES EXHIBIT: "The History of Mrs. J C Ferren's Millinery, Dry,

and Fancy Goods Shop". The Freedom Historical Society developed a unique and exciting exhibit for its museum visitors for the Summer of 2021. The museum exhibit displayed clothing and textile items from its collection that provide an historical look-back at some items that Mrs. J.C. Ferren may have sold in her Millinery, Dry and Fancy Goods Shop. By focusing on items in the FHS collection, we were able to tell the story of what it may have been like to shop in her store between 1884-1908 in Freedom. Her shop was located on the second floor in the old Federal House. This project could not have happened without the leadership of Brandy Buttrick and the many volunteers that worked on each segment of the 'store' display. Those dedicated volunteers were Brandy and Karrie Buttrick, Susan Hoople, Linda Habif, Pam Keith, Noel Quinton, Carole Taylor, Roberta MacCarthy, John Shipman and Connie Wood. Advertising and outreach were provided by Nancy Essex and Caitlin Sackman.



Ms. J.C. (Mary) Ferren



Program poster

Mary Ferren was a true pioneer businesswoman by being one of the earliest known millinery store owners of her time in the State of New Hampshire. Her shop provided ladies fashion staples and quality home goods for families of Freedom for 24 years. The exhibit provided our visitors with the opportunity to experience a ladies' emporium as it was between 1884-1908. The exhibit ran from June 19, 2021 and concluded on September 18, 2021. We are extremely grateful to CSM Oram who financed the construction of this exhibit space which will serve the museum for many years to come.

FREEDOM ART EXHIBIT: "Freedom's own John Holmgren" featured a presentation of drawings of local men by John Holmgren in the 1950's and the artist who sketched them. This exhibit was continued from the 2020 season to allow more visitors to view it. This exhibit was prepared by Nadine Chapman and was in the "music room" of the Allard House. We hope to have a different exhibit in its place in 2022.

The 2021 attendance to Museum was about 400 visitors, which is a 260% more than last year (during COVID) and 130% more than a "normal" year. The take-away is that new exhibits and more promotion do increase museum attendance. This increase was quite significant in 2021.

Project Highlights.

1. The Archival Project

The goal of the Archival 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 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 1,243 new records have been added to the Past Perfect database

since January 1, 2020; this is more than double the number entered in 2019.

A few of our members agreed to help fund this project over a five-year period and we are very appreciative of those who gave initial donations to this Fund: Anne & Scott Cunningham, Jack Middleton, Howsie Steward, Mike and Loel Poor, Charles and Holly Watts, Caroline Collins, and Katherine Watts. In 2021 we are grateful for the support for this project from CSM Oram (Ret.); with his help we can foresee the continued support for this important project; thank you Oram. These and all our member donations help us continue the critical process of making sure all the Society's records will be preserved and stored electronically.

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 1450 "Freedomites" who are now represented on the data base.

2. Snow roller Project.

As many of you know, the snow roller shed in Freedom has historical significance because we are only one of three towns in New Hampshire that has one still in existence. In 2012 it was placed on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places and in 2016 it was rehabilitated, all thanks the efforts of the Freedom Heritage Commission. In 2019 the Heritage Commission and the Historical Society undertook a joint project of obtaining and rehabilitating a snow roller. The team of Scott Cunningham, Alan Fall and Peg Scully have been working on the restoration project with fundraising help from FHS. The team is pleased to report that the ash for the wood slats (all need to be replaced) has been cut to size and stacked for drying. FHS has raised \$2,400 from 21 donors and we hope to raise \$3,000 to cover expenses. All donors will be memorialized in a plaque accompanying the restored snow roller. Donations in your, or a family member's name may be made by sending a check to FHS with "snow roller" written in the note line.

3. Membership Survey. Top-line results presented by Steve Thurston

Surveys were mailed to approximately 200 members and friends on the FHS mailing list. A total of 49 useable responses were received representing a very respectable 25% response rate. Not all respondents identified themselves but a general review of those who did indicate a reasonable distribution of local fulltime residents as well as those living out-of-state. This general summary of results is intended to provide “top-line” responses to each question. It will be followed by a more detailed statistical report and include “write-in” responses and comments.

Benefit Valued Most: Respondents were provided a list of membership benefits and asked to rank them in terms of perceived value. Those topping the list were: Museum (Works Barn/Allard House), Historical Research, and Newsletters.

Change One Thing: A second question asked. “If you could change ONE thing about the Freedom Historical Society, what would that be?” Topping the list of mentions were: Expand the hours the museum is open; More historical information on areas outside the village; Increase historical information targeting younger generations including outreach to school; Make more information available online

Something More You’d Like to Know About Freedom’s History: Respondents were asked, “What more would you like to know about Freedom’s History?” They were provided a list and asked to rank them all in terms of those of most interest to them. Top responses were Houses of Freedom, The “character” of early Freedom’s small-town life, and Genealogy/Families of Freedom.

New Product/Service Ideas: Respondents were provided a list of possible ideas that might add membership value and allow FHS to more fully accomplish its mission and asked to rate their relative interest in each. Topping the list were: Publications on Freedom’s History, Publications of Freedom’s Historic Homes (including the

special publication “History of Freedom Houses”, Historic House Tours, and Oral Histories.

New Fundraising Ideas: A similar question asked about the relative importance in each of several specific fundraising ideas/events. Those ranking highest in terms of interest were Freedom History publications, Increase Individual Membership Fees to \$25, and Walking Village/Cemetery Tours.

Final Thoughts/Comments: Respondents were provided an opportunity to convey any final thoughts/suggestions/comments about the future direction of the Freedom Historical Society. While the final report will include verbatim comments, they were all very positive, complimentary, and thankful for the organization and its efforts.

Program videos on FHS Website

This fall we have made three videos available on our website. We recorded two of our local programs: John Perkins on the “History of Scarborough Road” and Alan Fall on the “History of the 1830 Meeting House”; and a videotaped tour of the 2021 Summer Exhibit of the "History of Mrs. J. C. Ferren's Millinery, Dry, and Fancy Goods Shop", narrated by Brandy Buttrick.

Museum Collection Work

The long-term work of getting all the FHS into the museum database, Past Perfect, has continued nicely in 2021. First with the help of Pam Keith for the first six months and followed up by Janice Zecher, who is continuing. As of this writing the Past Perfect database has 1,905 Object records, 1,244 Photographs, 524 Archival records and 54 Library items. We now have 1737 names in the “People and Biographies” section of the catalogue. If you have biographies or family genealogies you want to contribute to our Freedom records, we would love to have them.

We have expanded our collection by 25+ items in 2020. Most of the items were historical pictures, postcards, books and records; a number of items have been contributed by the Carol Stokes to preserve the local

family story. We thank all contributors for thinking of us. We accept items that have Freedom significance.

Educating the public

Connecting with the younger generation. Traditionally, The Freedom Historical Society (FHS) has maintained a connection with the Freedom Elementary School (FES) staff and students in the form of hosting annual historical tours of the village or providing access to historical information in our resource room to assist students with a research project. In 2021 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Kareen Briggs, wanted to complete a project where, previously, students had initiated an effort to produce an illustrated book, with poems, that was tentatively titled “F is for FREEDOM”. The idea was to come up with a key word (or words) for each letter of the alphabet that had meaning for our beloved Town of Freedom. To complete the project, each of the 10 students in FES’ current sixth grade class divided up the alphabet so that each had multiple letters. Each letter had a key word and a four-line stanza about that word but lacked two key things: 1) an illustration Mrs. Stephan, FES Art Teacher, worked with each student to produce an image. And 2), a narrative for each key word (perhaps a paragraph or few sentences) obtained through research at the FHS Resource Room. Students visited in two groups on two separate days with assistance provided by John Shipman, Steve Thurston, and Pam Keith. The goal for Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Stephan, and students was to finish this project by the end of the current school year and FHS has been promised a copy of the book when completed.

Adult Programs: Thanks to Steve Thurston for finding and coordinating an excellent line-up of speakers in 2021. They were

March: Defenders of Freedom: Freedom’s Military Veterans Exhibit & Stories – John Shipman

April: A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes – Adair Mulligan

May: Wit & Wisdom: Humor in the 19th Century – Jo Radner

June: New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell – Pam Weeks

July: A History of Scarborough Road – John Perkins

Aug: John Winant: New Hampshire’s Man of the World – Richard Hesse

Sept: A History of Freedom’s 1830 Meeting House – Alan Fall

Oct: Remarkable People of Freedom’s Past (2022 Calendar) – Robert MacCarthy & Anne Gaudette

Newsletters

Four (quarterly) newsletters, written by John Shipman, were distributed to members and supporters in 2021; the total distribution each time is about 170 newsletters

Social media: The FHS website and Facebook have been kept up to date this year thanks to Nadine Chapman, Roberta MacCarthy, Caitlin Sackman, and Kim Reis. Look to our website for videos of recent programs; more to come!

Maintaining the Museum

1. The Allard House Campaign.

We are very pleased to report that the Allard House repairs project was fully funded! Solicited donations along with the annual NH Gives fundraising campaign provided the \$10,000 needed for repairs and renovation. In large part thanks to the matching grant commitment made by CSM Oram (Ret.). As you may know, we were unsuccessful in seeking a State grant for this work, but our local community stepped up big time instead. We are continually struck by the wonderful support we get from our members and supporters from near and far- a huge “Thank You” to you all. You make it happen!

Unfortunately, our plans to complete the work this year was stymied by our designated contractor getting

injured just before the work was to start. We have identified another contractor, but due to the current demand, and labor shortages, this work is now planned to be completed in 2022. We will keep you posted.

2. Yard and gardens:

Thanks to the work of Linda Habif and Carole Taylor the gardens and window boxes have looked great this year- thanks to those two! Carole also coordinates our annual water water-on/water-off exercise. Also, the lawn cutting continues to be done by the Olgren's, and we thank them for their continued volunteer work. It "magically" gets done and we are relieved of the burden of having to provide equipment and people power to keep the grounds looking great.

Spring cleaning: Because of COVID, one person was hired to do the spring cleaning of the museum this year in lieu of a group of volunteers. The cleaning was funded by a donor.

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

Thank you to our volunteer board of directors who each wear many hats and all carry the load: John Shipman, Roberta MacCarthy, Brandy Buttrick, Anne Gaudette, Scott Cunningham, Dann Lewis, Jane Davidson, Jean Marshall, John Perkins, Steve Thurston, Carole Taylor, Linda Habif and Barbara McEvoy.

Thank you to Roberta MacCarthy and Anne Gaudette for excellent work to create our annual fundraiser, the 2022 FHS Calendar, "Remarkable People of Freedom."

Thanks to Steve Thurston for researching and organizing the 2021 educational programs and John Perkins for coordinating all our program presentations on ZOOM.

Thanks to our project volunteer Judy Smith for her weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission. Smartly, Judy took a hiatus during the worst of the pandemic but has continued to download and collect articles and information we need.

We are grateful to the Ogren Family who faithfully helped with grounds maintenance in summer and winter.

Financials

In 2021 Dann Lewis was the treasurer and we appreciate his work in this area. In 2021 we got bookkeeping support from Pam Keith, Dann Lewis and Janice Zecher. We thank them all and are very grateful for their valuable volunteer time.

Any member who wishes a copy of the financial report may do so by emailing FHSociety28@gmail.com or contacting Roberta MacCarthy at 617-780-5724.

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 would like to make an additional donation to boost progress:

Additional Donation: \$_____ Please specify:

- General Use Museum renovation Archival Project
 Snow Roller renovation 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
P.O. Box 548
Freedom NH 03836