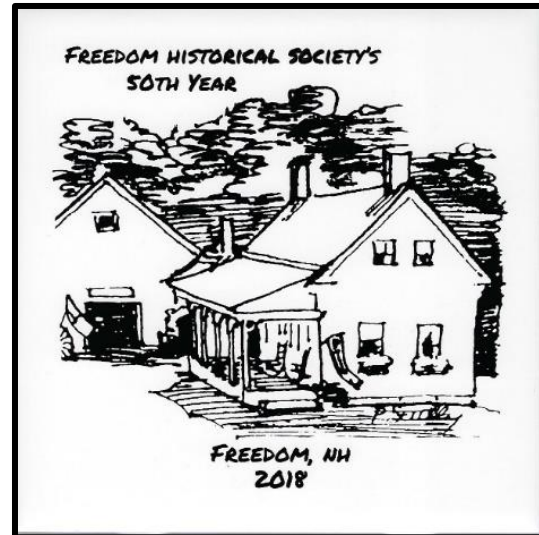


Winter, 2023

## The Freedom Tiles- How local artists create history and define a sense of place.

Since 1970 local artists in Freedom have been creating images that are printed on ceramic tiles as memorabilia for Freedom and to celebrate Freedom Old Home Week. But the tiles go beyond just being a collector's item. The tiles record images that become part of the Town's history and help define the sense of place that is Freedom. For this reason, these tiles are important and as part of a collection, preserved.



Continued on page ....5

## THE FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONNECTION

The Freedom Historical Society has long felt that it is important to establish and maintain strong connections with the "younger generation" to instill knowledge and interest in our town's history and residents – past and present. We have worked closely over the years with Mrs. Karen Briggs, the 5/6 grade teacher at Freedom Elementary School. In December 2022 the students created tree "ornaments" based on Freedom's people and places.



Continued on page.....8

## The Freedom Historical Society

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.

### 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.

### 2022 – 2023 Board Members

Co-Presidents	Brandy Buttrick Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Ed Barosky
Treasurer	Jayne Britton
Secretary	Jane Davidson
<u>Directors</u>	
Steve Thurston	Barbara McEvoy
Jean Marshall	Pam Keith
John Perkins	Linda Habif
Carole Taylor	Anne Gaudette
Scott Cunningham	John Shipman
Nancy Essex	Michael Gaudette



## Letter from the Presidents

Dear Members and Supporters:

Although winter is a quiet time with the Freedom Historical Society, our enthusiastic and dedicated Board of Directors have been meeting monthly and planning new activities, events, programs, and exhibits for the new spring and summer seasons.

This year's special exhibit in the Works Barn will open on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit on the Historic Businesses of Freedom Village will feature new items from the FHS Collection and new research information on the history of Freedom business. We will also be conducting a walking tour of Freedom Village weekly to aid visitors. You can also look forward to a new exhibit highlighting new acquisitions to our collection and we will also be continuing with our wonderful Freedom Artist Exhibit.

As we start 2023, we ask that you renew your membership or give an extra gift to one of our special projects described in this newsletter. This newsletter is our annual membership appeal, and an envelope is conveniently attached for your renewal and special gift. Members are the lifeblood of the Freedom Historical Society. Thank you.

*Roberta MacCarthy*

Brandy Buttrick

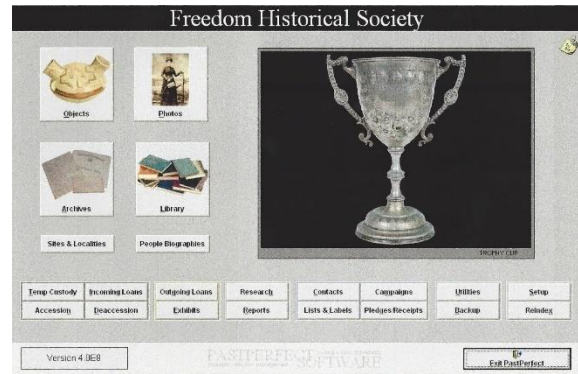
Co-Presidents

## FHS “Special Projects” explained.

The primary functions of the Freedom Historical Society is to maintain the collection and operate the museum while educating the public about local history. These functions are paid for by regular memberships and donations. These donations are “unrestricted”, meaning the Board can use these funds for any one of these operational functions.

However, the Board also undertakes “**special projects**” which have targeted funding; these donations are “restricted” and can only be spent on the specific project for which the money was raised. The FHS is required to track and account for the money spent of these special projects. We continue to seek donations from our members, conduct fundraisers, and apply for grants to support these key projects. Here is a list of our Special Projects for the coming year and please give as generously as you can to your priority areas.

1. Archival Project: This is an ongoing project that involves entering the museum collection into the museum software called “Past Perfect”. This database allows users to find collected items, read details about them, see a photograph of the item and where the item is stored. But the beauty is that this software allows users to see connections between people and places which helps contribute to their place in the story of Freedom itself. It’s a large web of related information.



The plan is to make this database available to the public at some point; right now, queries can be made primarily through Board members and specific researchers working on projects. This project is funded by private donors and a modest donation from Town taxpayers. This is an on-going project with no end date; fundraising is also on-going. Please give an extra gift this year to the Archival Project.

2. The Snow Roller Project: This project started in 2021 when an old snow roller was acquired from Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook Maine. The intent is to bring this piece of history back to its original shape so that Freedom will be the only NH town to have a snow roller and a snow roller shed.



The shed was previously preserved by the Freedom Heritage Commission and is on the State of NH list of historic resources. There are



pictures of snow rollers being used by the road crew in Freedom's past. This project is a joint effort between the Freedom Heritage Commission and the Freedom Historical Society; the Historical Society is responsible for the restoration of the snow roller. The projected end date for this project is 2024; fundraising has been completed as far as we can tell. Thanks to generous members the original goal has been met.

3. Allard House Project: This project involves several repairs and corrections to the Allard house to reduce moisture and mildew problems and restore the front porch posts to their original design.



It is anticipated that the majority of the work can be done in 2023, with a 2024 completion date. Fundraising has been completed for this project.

4. Climate Control Project: Moisture and heat fluctuations are the enemy of sensitive historical items including artwork, deeds, journals, letters, leather goods, etc. Since the Board is responsible for preservation of these items in the Freedom collection, the immediate need is for a climate-controlled room for storage.



Other small museums in our area have, or are, undertaking a similar project. Fortunately, the lowest level of the Works barn provides space to construct such a room. Work will begin in 2023 with a planned completion date of 2024. \$6,000 has been raised to date through individual gifts in 2022 and a Henney Grant in 2023. We have \$8,000 to go in 2023. Can you help fund this vital project by contributing a special gift to Climate Control this year?

5. Freedom Houses Project: This project involves compiling historical information on the private homes in Freedom. The Freedom Heritage Commission did this for historic public buildings in Freedom and has an interest in continuing the project for historical homes. The Historical Society is compiling historical data and putting it in standard format for future use by FHS and the Heritage Commission, as appropriate.



FHS undertook work on this project in 2020 and completed what could be done with town records, etc., short of researching deeds. Deed research is the heavy lifting of this project and FHS will be seeking funds to continue the project. For now, this project is on hold, but funds are needed to continue the project in 2024. Can you help?

6. Public Education Project: The NH Humanities Council funds speakers to help with the education programs that FHS presents each year. NHHHC usually funds 2-3 programs for us annually: the rest of the programs are paid for by FHS funds.



Because the NHHHC funds have a targeted use they are restricted to payment for the speakers only; hence we must track them separate from general funds. Funding for these programs is sought each year, so it is an on-going process. If you are interested in maintaining a full schedule of education programs, contribute a gift over and above

membership to the Public Education Fund.

### **The Freedom Tiles- Continued from Page 1**

Folks take pride in maintaining a full collection, but we have no record of how many people have attained that. The Historical Society does have one of the fullest collections and it is on display in the kitchen of the Allard House. Read on to understand several aspects of the Freedom tile collection.

**The Tiles:** Tiles have been produced now for 57 years and have included 45 different subjects. Ten of these subjects were private house (some gone). The village square and the First Christian Church were represented three times each and the following were represented twice over the years: School House Hill, Loon Lake, Freedom Library, Freedom Historical Society, the grist mill, the fountain and the Federal building. That leaves 15 subjects that were unique from the above.

What you may not realize that in 1975 there were two tiles and since 1976 was the Bicentennial there were four tiles. One additional "anomaly" was a tile produced in 1955, designed by John Holmgren; this appears to be a rare item, but the image was re-done on the 1975 ?? tile.

**Tile Artists (22):** Below is the "head count" of how many tiles each of the 22 artists have contributed. There is no doubt that we are all grateful for the work these artists have donated to help celebrate Freedom Old Home week.

Peg Scully: 16	Barbara Dutton: 1
Elizabeth Acton: 7	Fred Kimball: 1
Don Bossi: 6	Dawn Marion: 1
John Holmgren: 4	Essex, Nancy: 1
Alice Macy Miller: 3	Foord, Carole: 1
Brooks, Terri: 2	Johnson, Hillary: 1
Edward Leonard: 2	Marion, Dawn: 1
Keenan, Michelle: 2	McClare, Nancy: 1
McEvoy, Barbara: 2	Priebe, Elizabeth: 1
Bruce Bedford: 1	Stephan, Chloe: 1
Donn DeVita: 1	Tabor, Sarah: 1

The Tile Book: **Sketches of Freedom, 1970-2000**. This book is a collection of pictures of the annual Freedom Club of New Hampshire tiles from 1970 to 2000 with historical notes by Carol Foord. There is an additional tile drawing featuring the original Freedom Cornet Band which was commissioned as a 1976 Bicentennial souvenir. This book is still available for purchase at the FHS "store". A question is: should this book be updated?



1970 Tile by John Holmgren- in book

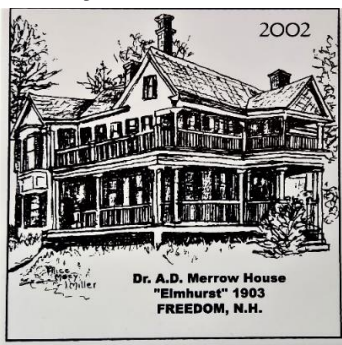


2021 Tile by Barbara McEvoy- not in book

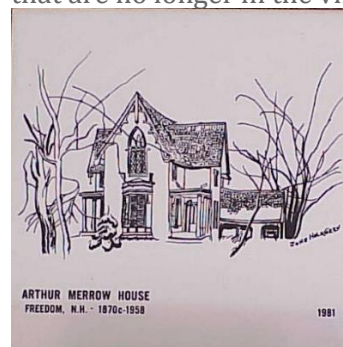
**The Art**

**History.** One nice feature of the Tiles is

their reminder of structures and places from times gone by. Four examples are buildings that are no longer in the village:

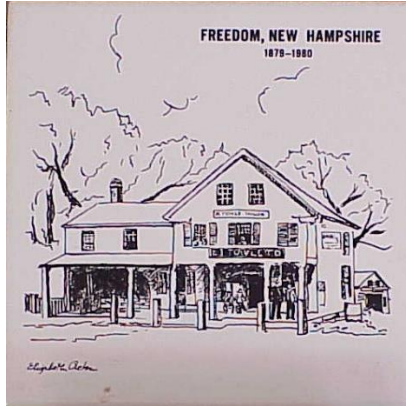


Elmhurst

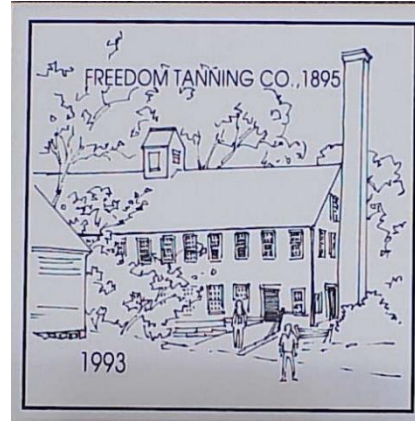


Merrow House





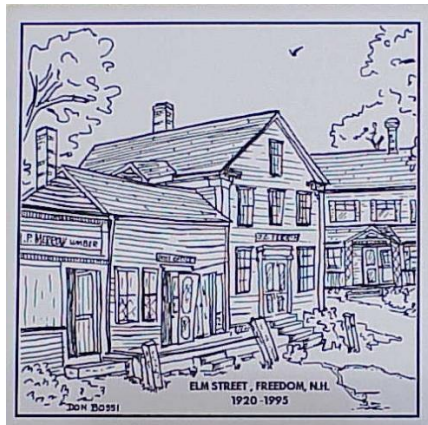
E.I. Towle store



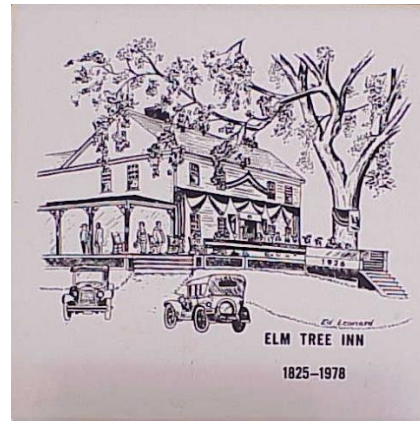
Tannery

Others are images of structures that are different today: The Federal House, the current Post Office and the Elm Tree Inn, for

example.



The Federal House, late 1800's



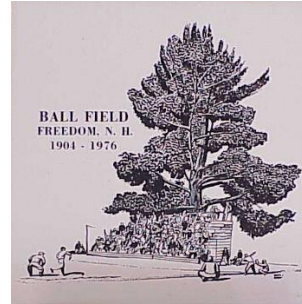
Elm Tree Inn, ca. 1920

**Sense of place.** Every town has its iconic buildings and views that make it unique. To the people who live in and visit Freedom the tile images provide a reminder of the human

attachment and belonging felt toward this Town. The images can evoke memories and reminders of the special nature of this place.



Freedom Village Store



Freedom Ball Field

**The future.** While the Freedom Club of NH started the tiles, their production is now in the hand of the Freedom Old Home Week committee. While some images have been repeated by different artists, there are still

new subjects to represent. Images that come to mind are the youth camps, views from the Ossipee Lake system, other 19<sup>th</sup> century homes in Freedom, the “Falls” area, to name a few. No doubt Freedom’s artists can continue to be creative.

**The FES Connection- Continued from Page 1**

When it came time for each Freedom Elementary School class to choose a decorating theme for its annual Festival of Trees event, it wasn’t such a surprise when we learned that Mrs. Briggs’ class chose something related to Freedom’s history. Each of the 10 students were asked to pick one topic/theme,

historic building, famous person, etc. and create an “ornament” as well as an “information card” for its tree to be on display at the school gymnasium. Topics chosen included Freedom Post Office, Village Grammar School, the Tannery, Cyrus Fowler General Store, Old Home Week, Snow Roller and Shed, Freedom Public Library, Peg Scully art and the Horse Trough.



**Membership**

Memberships in the Society are the lifeblood of the organization since we are a private non-profit organization. Your membership keeps the doors open and the work going. Many thanks to all of you as well as the Freedom taxpayers who voted in an annual stipend to help us out in 2023. We humbly ask

for your continued generous support as you fill out and submit the Membership Renewal envelop included herein. Thanks



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

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs by advertising their businesses in our fund-raising calendar. We encourage you to do business with them.

Beth Day Massage Therapy  
Camp Calumet

Costantino Real Estate, Gerard Costantino

Exit Realty, Grace Brooks

Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, Artist

Freedom House Antiques

Freedom Village Store

G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors

Green Mountain Furniture

Hatfield's Bed & Breakfast

Inn at Crystal Lake & Palmer House Pub

James C Farinella Building & Remodeling

Minuteman Press of North Conway

Paul Wheeler, RE/MAX Presidential

Paul Olzerowicz, Sentinel Financial

Max's Restaurant at Snowvillage Inn

Terri Brooks, Watercolor & Pastel Artist

Sarah Groleau, The Groleau Financial Group at Thrivent Waddell & Reed,

Margie Amico, Financial Advisor

The SPOT

*Your membership is critical to our survival- Please renew or join now! And its tax deductible! See next page Thanks!*

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS**

“Preserving Freedom’s Past for Future Generations”

**Membership:**

- Leadership \$250
- Sponsoring \$150
- Contributor \$75
- Family \$35
- Individual \$15
- Senior/Student. \$10
- Patron/Lifetime. \$500
- Heritage Circle \$1,000
- other \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations:**

I'd like to make an addition donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please specify project if you wish:

- General Operating
- Building Renovation.
- Preservation Supplies
- Programs
- Museum Collection
- Exhibits
- House Project

**Memorial/Tribute Gift in honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes, I'd like to know more about volunteering!
- Yes, you may publish my name as a member in the newsletter

Please make your check payable to Freedom Historical Society and mail to:  
Freedom Historical Society, P.O. Box 428, Freedom, NH 03836



Freedom Historical Society  
P.O. Box 548  
Freedom NH 03836

