

The Freedom Historical Society Annual Meeting Celebrating 54 Years

2023 Annual Report to Members

The Board of Directors are pleased to present this summary of activities and accomplishments through this, 54th year as a NH Non-profit 501(c)3 organization.

The FHS is committed to preserving the history of Freedom, NH and educating the public about its unique history through exhibits, programs, books, newsletters and website.



The FHS Team

- ▶ Brandy Buttrick and Roberta MacCarthy Co-Chairs
- ▶ Ed Barosky, Vice President
- ▶ Jane Davidson, Secretary
- ▶ Jayne Britton, Treasurer
- ▶ Nancy Essex
- ▶ Scott Cunningham
- ▶ Anne Gaudette
- ▶ Michael Gaudette
- ▶ Pam Keith
- ▶ Linda Habif
- ▶ Jean Marshall
- ▶ Barbara McEvoy
- ▶ John Perkins
- ▶ John Shipman
- ▶ Carole Taylor
- ▶ Steve Thurston



Museum Exhibits 2023

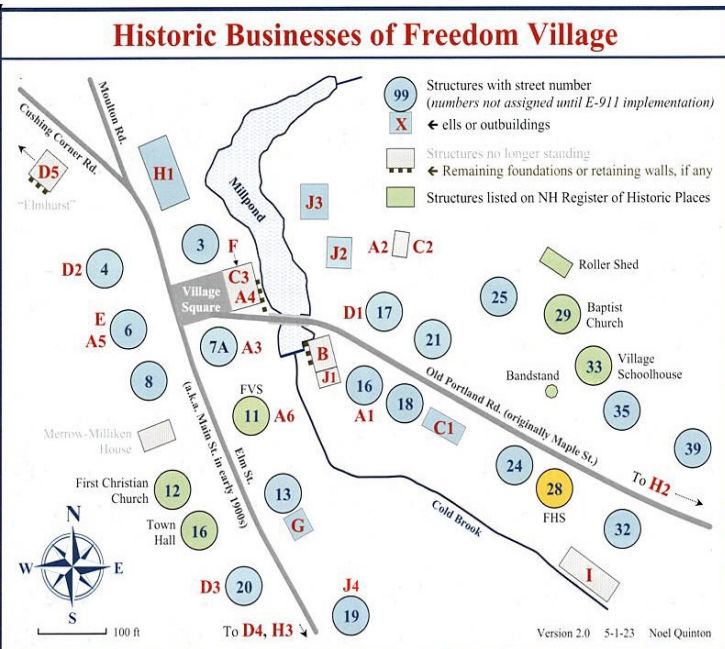
Primary Exhibit in the Works Barn

“Celebrating the historic businesses of Freedom Village”

- ▶ Unique, delightful, educational and very successful!
- ▶ This exhibit resulted in the identification, research and preservation of artifacts and photographs from the most significant businesses in Freedom 1860 -1940.
- ▶ Primary producers were Noel Quinton & Brandy Buttrick.
- ▶ The exhibit has been digitally saved.



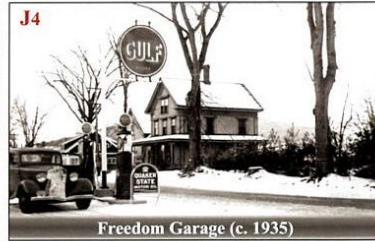
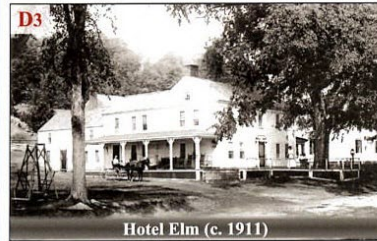
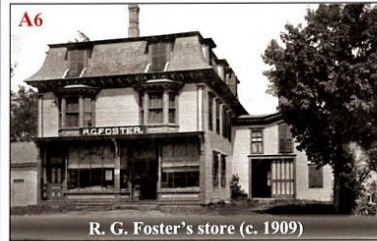
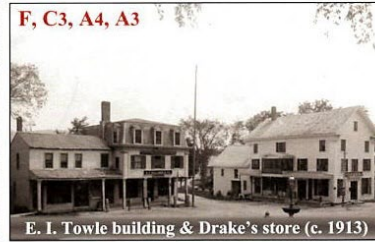
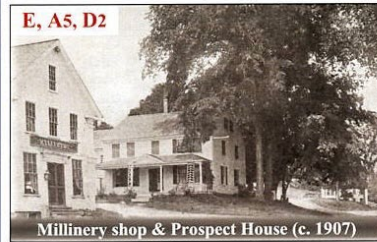
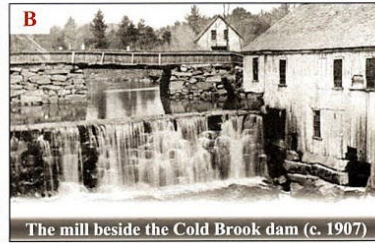
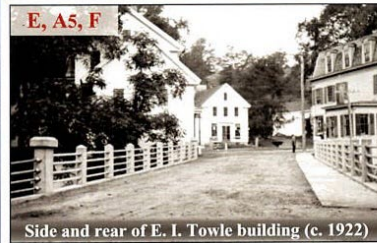
Launched a Tour of Historical Businesses of Freedom Village on Saturdays



- A Mercantile stores**
A1: in the Fowler house at 16 Old Portland Road
A2: behind Drake's barn at 17 Old Portland Road
A3: 7A Elm Street (Huckins, Fowler, Drake)
A4: Towle building (E. I. Towle, H. B. Milliken)
A5: 6 Elm Street - 1st floor (Ferren, Perkins, Stuart)
A6: 11 Elm Street (Foster, Tilton, Whitaker, FVS)
- B Grist mill:** beside Cold Brook, near the dam
- C Clothing manufacturing**
C1: Stephen Danforth - ell of 18 Old Portland Road
C2: O. E. Drake - behind 17 Old Portland Road
C3: E. I. Towle & Co. - at their village square bldg.
- D Hotels and summer boarding houses**
D1: Godfrey's Inn - 17 Old Portland Road
D2: Prospect House - 4 Elm Street
D3: The Elm (a.k.a. Hotel Elms) - 20 Elm Street
D4: Loon Lake House - 61 Elm Street
D5: Elmhurst (uphill past 15 Cushing Corner Road)

- E Millinery shop:** Mary Ferren - 6 Elm St, 2nd floor
- F E. I. Towle & Co. building**
 Between village square and west bank of millpond
 (General store, bank, apothecary shop, undertaker)
- G Cobbler's shop > Harmony Tea Shop**
 13 Elm Street: Charles Beach > Angie Fracker
- H Agriculture**
H1: Prospect Farm - 3 Elm Street
H2: Maple Grove Farm - 65 Old Portland Road
H3: Freedom Creamery - 19 Loon Lake Road
- I Tannery**
 Along Cold Brook behind 32 Old Portland Road
- J Blacksmiths & Mechanics**
J1: Alonzo Fowler - at rear of mill building
J2: Edgar Mills - east of the millpond (now FFD)
J3: Herb Pray - east of the millpond
J4: G. Everett Nichols (Freedom Garage) - 19 Elm

Images of Freedom businesses, 1907-1935



Allard House Exhibits

Celebrating Freedom Painters 1970-2020

- A presentation of the works and biographies of Peg Scully, Terri Brooks, Barbara McEvoy, Laura Thomson, Nancy Essex, Gary Heckner, Alice Macy Miller, Sam Warren, Elizabeth Acton, Sarah Tabor, and Ian Marshall .
- This 2023 exhibit was updated with new paintings by all the artists.
- This exhibit was coordinated by John Shipman.



Celebrating Freedom's Painters

Integrated this Exhibit with the 2024 FHS Calendar and the September Program



- We increased visibility by highlighting the painters in the 2024 FHS Calendar.
- The 2024 Remarkable People of Freedom Calendar is produced by Anne Gaudette.
- Anne and John Shipman produced a program with a panel discussion in Sept. at the Freedom Gallery highlighting the artists in the calendar and in the Allard House Exhibit.
- 28 people attended the presentation and reception.

Exhibit for New Acquisitions

- ▶ This year we set up an exhibit in the Allard House to display new objects that have been accepted into our collection - new acquisitions.
- ▶ FHS acquires objects by purchase, contract, gift, bequest, exchange, field collecting, or other appropriate means subject to restrictions outlined in the FHS Collection Policy.
- ▶ We receive about 10-20 objects a year that are accepted into our permanent collection.
- ▶ Objects are researched, reviewed, documented, and added to the collection.
- ▶ The Acquisition Exhibition will be updated annually.
- ▶ Producers of the New Acquisition Exhibition are Janice Zecher, Karrie Buttrick, and Roberta MacCarthy.



Acquisition Policy

FHS collects, preserves, and displays artifacts that are significant to the history and culture of Freedom, NH by virtue of:

- Created or produced in Freedom; or,
- Used for its intended purpose in Freedom; or,
- Related to historically important people, activities or events in Freedom, or
- Although not created or produced in Freedom, the item is important to the history of Freedom and is similar to what would have been used in Freedom.

Collection Research for Future Exhibit

- ▶ FHS is researching a collection of indigenous artifacts given to FHS by the Stokes Family.
- ▶ Mark Greely, a volunteer from the NH Archaeology Society, is helping FHS research this collection. John Shipman is the Project Coordinator.
- ▶ These artifacts were collected by the Stokes family members more than 50-70 years ago along Long Sands area of Lake Ossipee and some near the Rt 153 Bridge in Freedom.
- ▶ The artifacts include several projectile heads, a few stone tools, and some pottery shards.
- ▶ The goal is to use this donated collection as a basis for educating our members and visitors about the stories of the indigenous people in our area.
- ▶ We hope to produce a future exhibit on this subject.



2023 Exhibit Highlights

- ▶ **Good Attendance Continues!**
- ▶ Museum attendance was over 475 visitors - compared to 400 in 2022. We had more events and promotion this year which continued to increase visitors.
- ▶ An additional 175 participants in the tour of Freedom Village. A take-away is that the walking tour was very popular especially with long-term residents.
- ▶ We also reached out to our neighbors and had a special exhibit night for the Effingham Historical Society. This relationship will continue in 2024.



Exhibit Planning

Primary FHS Exhibits in Barn - Five Year Plan

- 2023 Refresh the Historic Businesses of Freedom Village
- 2024 Effingham Falls
- 2025 Freedom Summer Camps
- 2026 Social Life, Entertainment, and Recreation in Freedom
- 2027 School Houses of Freedom

Possible Future Secondary Exhibits

- ▶ -Display of Folk Art by Freedom artists
- ▶ -Best Picks of the FHS Museum Collection
- ▶ -Spinning Wheel Display
- ▶ -Renovating the Barn Loom and offering workshops

2023 Special Events

- ▶ Exhibit “Soft” Opening on May 25th for volunteers and Lifetime Members, two days before the Grand Opening.
- ▶ This is a special benefit for Lifetime Members.



2023 Concert for the Future Fund, July 16th

Fundraiser to launch the FHS Endowment

Concert with Erica Brown and the Blue Grass Connection

Attending 103

Coordinator: Ed Barosky

Total Revenue \$4,525

Reception at the Freedom Art Gallery and
Concert in the Town Hall

Special Thanks to the sponsors: CSM R.A. Oram,
G.W. Brooks & Son, Glenn Kemper Caterer,
Freedom Gallery, and Valueland.



2023 Old Home Week

- ▶ FHS Museum open everyday.
- ▶ Walking Tours available every day.
- ▶ Parade on July 29th: FHS 1800's Surrey with “the fringe on top”,
- ▶ Board Members walked with the Surrey
- ▶ Margie’s Lunch on August 5th



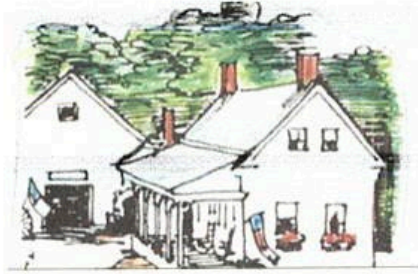
2023 Margie's Lunch Event

- ▶ Brought back lunch at Margies with hotdogs, hamburgers, buttered buns, chips, drinks, and ice cream and brownies for Freedom Old Home Week.
- ▶ 75 guests plus many volunteers served over a 3-hour period.
- ▶ Guests toured the Museum.
- ▶ Revenue \$845 net.
- ▶ Special thanks to Hannafords Supermarket.



The Freedom Historical Society

Presents



A Wine Tasting & Open House

Total revenue \$1150 net.
35 guests



Enjoy a "night at the museum" exploring the Allard House Museum and Works Barn while tasting wines and ciders produced by local vineyards

Lemonade and iced tea will be available for non-wine drinkers

Thursday, August 24

5:00 to 7:00 pm

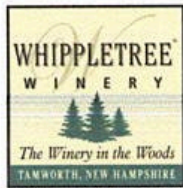
28 Old Portland Road

\$25/pp donation at the door

Only a limited number of reservations available so make yours now!

To make your reservation, email us at FHSociety28@gmail.com and let us know how many will be in your party

Featuring local wines, hard cider, and mead from:



FHS Yard Sale - October 7th Saturday & Sunday

Huge community support with donations for sale.
Last Day Museum was opened
Many visitors for the exhibit
Used tents due to weather
Total Income \$3,359
Coordinator: Roberta MacCarthy
Thank you for all the volunteer support.



Education Program 2023

Student and School Project:

1. Steve Thurston continues to work with Mrs. Kareen Briggs (5th & 6th grade teacher) to bring Freedom History to the FES students.
2. Two projects involved a tour of the Allard House and the village tour of the businesses in Freedom on the way back to school.
3. FHS is now setting up an exhibit at the School for 2024. Thanks to Steve Thurston and Pam Keith for creating the display.
4. The FHS goal is to work closely with the Freedom Elementary School sharing stories of Freedom's past.



Community Outreach Activities 2023-2024

- ▶ Work more with other Freedom Organizations: Community Club, Heritage Commission, Freedom Village Store, Freedom Library, Freedom Elementary School, and Freedom Old Home Week.
- ▶ Increase sharing of information with neighboring Historical Societies - Effingham Historical Society and Bartlett Historical Society.
- ▶ Handout candy to “trick or treaters” in Freedom.
- ▶ Coordinate a promotional/sale table at Freedom Rings in the Holidays.



2023 Maintenance and Future Plans

1. The Climate Control Room Project was fully funded this year through a generous challenge from the FHS Board of Directors, the NH Gives Fundraiser, and several special donations from our Lifetime Members.

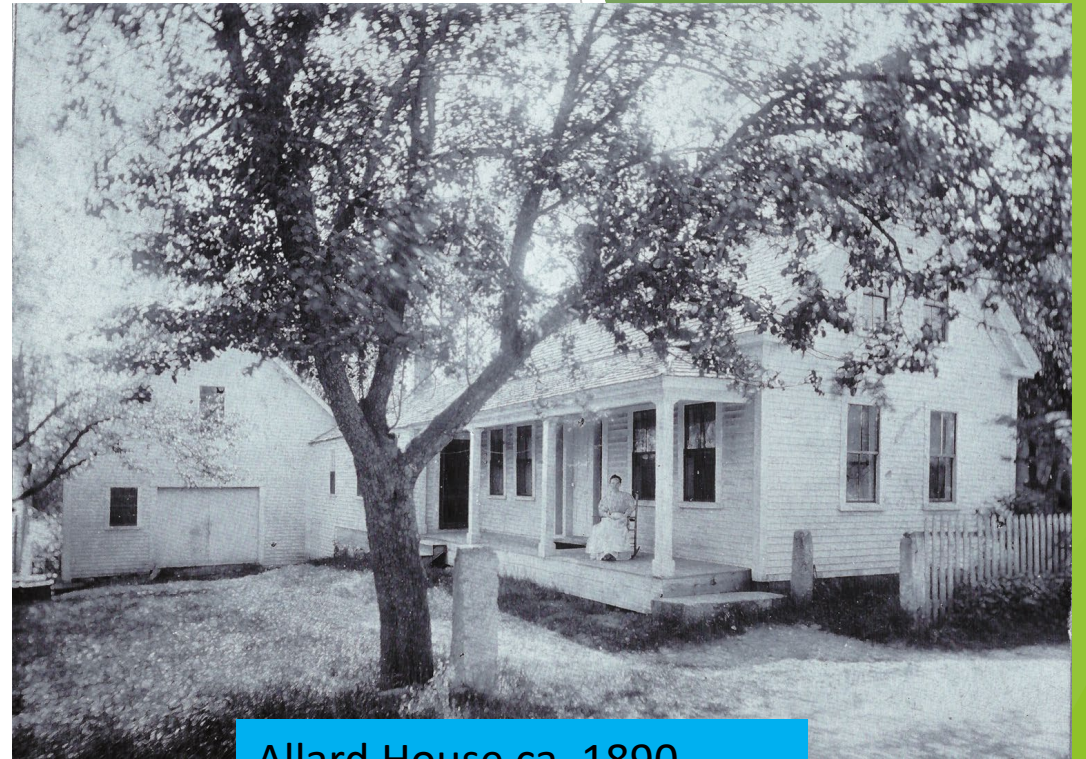
2. A new Fire and Security System was funded and installed. There are new secure procedures for opening and closing the Museum.

3. Yard and gardens: Thanks to the continued work of Linda Habif and Carole Taylor the gardens and window boxes have looked great. Also, the lawn cutting continues to be done by the Olgren's, and we thank them for their continued volunteer work.

4. New porch columns are being installed on the Allard House Porch.

4. Thanks to our Board Member, Michael Gaudette, we have been able to keep the Powder Post Beetles/rodents under control in the lower part of the barn.

5. Plans are underway to install a new septic system for the Museum in 2024. Included in the proposed costs is landscaping in the back of the Allard House. We are researching possible grant money for this important project.



Allard House ca, 1890

8 Programs in the 2023 Speaker Schedule

Audience size range from 26-110
Total participants for all programs over 450

This year we had an early start on our programs in February.
The first 3 programs of the year were on ZOOM.

- 2/22 Moved & Seconded - Rebecca Rule, NH Humanities
- 3/22 New Hampshire on Skis - John Allan, NH Humanities
- 4/26 Writing & Publishing Your Family History - Kyle Hurst, American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society

2023 Speaker Program (Continued)

Next 5 programs from May through September were live.

- ▶ 5/17 Freedom Artifacts and the Stories they Tell - Bob Cottrell
- ▶ 6/28 Ossipee Ring Dike Complex - Nelson Eby, NH Geological Society
- ▶ 7/26 New Hampshire's Indigenous People - Past, Present and Future - Paul and Denise Pouliot, Cowasuck Band of Penacook-Abenaki People
- ▶ August - no program due full schedule of summer events.
- ▶ 9/27 Celebrating Freedom's Artists in the Remarkable People of Freedom Calendar - Anne Gaudette and John Shipman
- ▶ 10/11 Witchcraft - What the Primary Sources Tell us - Margo Burns, NH Humanities

FHS Program Coordinator is Steve Thurston. Special thanks to Kim Reis and Nancy Essex for press and web promotion, and Barbara McEvoy for her Gallery.



Planning the Programs for 2024

We would like your feedback!

- ▶ Are 8 programs adequate for a full season?
- ▶ Should we start the winter months with ZOOM in Feb., March, and April?
- ▶ Should we consider alternative “in-person” venues in addition to the Town Hall? For example, the Freedom Elementary School.
- ▶ Should we schedule these programs on different days throughout the year? In addition to an evening night at 7 PM add Sunday afternoons at 4 PM.
- ▶ Are there suggestions for topics and speakers?

Archival Program/ Museum Data Base

- The Archival Program continues to make Freedom History more accessible. More and more documents, photos and other historical information are being digitized to create a cross-reference for research, learning, and enjoyment.
- This August the the FHS Past Perfect Software was converted to the WEB VERSION, a cloud-based software solution that allows up to 10 multiple users and longer-term public access with the goal of sharing our records.
- The Past Perfect database now has 2,300 Object records, 550 Archival records, 4485 Images/Photographs, 98 Library items, and 4,328 names in the “People and Biographies” section of the database.
- This enhanced web platform will ensure that our collections are safely protected and stored in appropriate data files so that they are digitally accessible and in a stable environment.
- Our goal is to have a percentage of our web data base accessible to the public in 2024.



Special thanks to Janice Zecher for heading up the research for the Archival Program.

Special Projects 2023/2024

The Snow Roller Project

1. The snow roller shed in Freedom has historical significance because we are only one of three towns in New Hampshire that has one. 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.
2. 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 Brandy Buttrick have been working on the restoration.
3. The team is pleased to report that the team cleaned out the Roller Shed with the help of the Town. And there is an effort under way to put the Snow Roller into the Shed.



A Sense of *Freedom*



A twentieth-century journey
featuring images from the postcard collection of the
Freedom Historical Society

Noel Quinton

Special Projects 2024

New Publication

Plan to publish a Book of the FHS Post
Card Collection

“A Sense of Freedom” by Noel Quinton

Release date planned for Opening Day at
the Museum, May 25th

Financials: Nov. 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023

Income Categories	Amount	Percent
Membership	\$10,861	21%
Donations Unrestricted	12,294	23%
Donations Restricted	27,702	52%
Merchandise	1,687	3%
Other	232	1%
Total Income	\$52,776	100%
Expense Category		
Project Expenses	\$10,696	33%
Occupancy/Maintenance	5,926	18%
Technology	4,058	12%
Merchandise Expenses	4,281	13%
Restricted Project Expenses	8,010	24%
Total Expenses	\$32,971	100%
Net Income	\$19,805	

Financial Summary as of October 2023

- ▶ Operating Account: \$25,072
- ▶ Restricted Account \$39,394
- ▶ Henney Fund \$3,418
- ▶ Savings Account \$10,261
- ▶ Northeast CD's. \$10,671

Total Cash Assets: \$88,816. (in 2022 \$72,095)

Thanks to our Treasurer, Jayne Britton

Membership 2023

1. In 2023 (to date) Memberships have increased from 179 to 200.
2. Lifetime Members increased from 19 to 46 since 2019. Lifetime Membership was created to help lay the foundation for the Society's and museum's sustainability.
3. In 2022 the Heritage Circle was created to highlight our higher-level donors/supporters. There are currently 3 major donors.



Elections 2023/2024 Board

Board Members up for renewal/election in 2023

Carole Taylor – 1 year
Anne Gaudette – 2 years
Linda Habif – 2 years
Barbara McEvoy – 1 year
Roberta MacCarthy – 2 years
Ed Barosky – 1 year
Jayne Britton – 2 years
Scott Cunningham 1 year
Jean Marshall – 1 year
Pam Keith – 2 years
John Perkins – 1 year
Steve Thurston – 2 years

New Board Members elect (nominees)

Pam Taylor
Moira Epps

Board Members not up for re-election in 2023

Brandy Buttrick
John Shipman
John Perkins
Jane Davidson
Michael Gaudette



Thanks to Board member John Perkins for technical support on our Zoom meetings, Jane Davidson for meeting minutes Jayne Britton for financial reports, Steve Thurston for programs, Pam Keith for Elementary School Project, Barbara McEvoy for use of the Freedom Gallery, Nancy Essex for press and promotion, Carol Taylor and Linda Habif for Garden Maintenance, Michael Gaudette for House & Barn Maintenance, and Anne Gaudette for Special Events.

Thank you!!

