

Freedom Historical Society announces new exhibit for 2024!

The land that is now called Effingham and Freedom NH has been blessed with rolling hills, forests, and the Ossipee River, and utilized in multiple ways by its indigenous population, early settlers, and today's residents. The great Ossipee River served as a principal "highway" and source of food for the Abenaki Tribes. For European settlers the Ossipee River also provided a transportation corridor for the timber industry and furnished waterpower for early mills. As we entered the 20th century, the natural resources of the Ossipee Lake system attracted more tourists and created an increase in summer residents. Camping, seasonal homes, water sports, hunting and fishing became the driver of the local economy. The section of the Ossipee River from where it leaves the outflow dam and travels to the Maine border is the boundary line between Effingham and Freedom in that section. Effingham Falls was and still is a village and its commonalities served to unite the two towns into one community.

In 2024 the Freedom Historical Society and the Effingham Historical Society have joined together and are developing an exhibit that highlights the common industries and heritage of "The Falls" (AKA the "village" of Effingham Falls and also known as the "Lower Village" by "Freedomites"). This new exhibit features the history of people, places, and events of Effingham Falls through photographs, artifacts, news articles, maps, and research completed by volunteers from both Historical Societies.

Join us on May 25th, 2024, from 10am to 2 pm, at the Freedom Historical Society for the grand opening of this interesting and informative exhibit. Visitors will witness the common threads that united the people and industries of the village that is Effingham Falls. The Effingham Historical Society will have a complementary exhibition as well.



Letter from the Presidents

As we write this letter, the 18' of snow we got on March 23rd is slowly receding. For many of us April and spring can't get here soon enough. One of our remaining winter duties, as Board presidents, is to remind everyone that it is Membership renewal time. Your membership and donations are the lifeblood of our organization and we cannot operate the Society, programs and the wonderful museum without your support. Please take a moment to slip a check into the enclosed envelope to keep us going. You certainly can subscribe at a specific membership level plus make an additional donation. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

We think it is important for all our members to know that we have been very busy at the beginning of the year laying out the plans for the Society and museum for 2024. We have identified eight major goals, as follows:

1. GOAL: Maintain a Strong FHS Administration and Financial Review
2. GOAL: Maintain and Improve the Museum Buildings (the Allard House and the Works Barn) to Support the FHS Mission and to Preserve the Collections.
3. GOAL: Continue to Strengthen the Collection Management and Showcase the Stories of Freedom by Focusing on the Archival Project:
4. GOAL: Maintain and Strengthen Exhibits in the Allard House, Works Barn and Website
5. GOAL: Continue to Strengthen our Outreach to the Broader Community by Focusing on Community Engagement and Outreach Projects and Events.
6. GOAL: Maintain a Presence in the Larger Community through live Audience Presentation, as well as social media, website, video, publications, tours, and special events
7. GOAL: Establish a Genealogical Database for FHS
8. GOAL: Expand Fundraising Activities

The above goals may seem to be broad and goals that we need to address every year. This is true. But, within each of these goals are up to 10 specific action items that we need to complete in 2024. All told, there are 72 individual action items we need to undertake this year to meet our goals. Please note that we are going to do all this with a volunteer workforce! You can see, and past year's activities will tell you that we are a very busy organization! But, with our volunteer time backed by your equally necessary financial support, we can continue to be a very active and successful organization. Not only in preserving Freedom's past but also educating our members and visitors about Freedom's history and what it means to us today.

Roberta MacCarthy



Brandy Buttrick



Co-Presidents

To give our readers a “teaser” of information that will be presented in the new 2024 exhibit featuring “The Falls”, below are some results of research on the bridge(s) across the Ossipee River; note that the location was not always where the bridge is currently on Rt.153.

Timeline of bridges over the Ossipee River

- 1790** - John Costelloe, owner of the iron works on the Effingham bank of the Ossipee River, starts building a bridge at a site between the present Route 25 bridge and the Huntress bridge. The location is chosen because the northeast spur of Green Mountain runs to the river’s edge and is considered too much of an obstacle to be traversed by a road. (Blasting in the 1800s creates room for the present Route 153 to pass by the spur.) Costelloe probably uses iron from his foundry to strengthen the timber bridge.
- 1795** - Costelloe dies, leaving the bridge unfinished. Stepson Isaac Lord leads the effort to complete it, so it becomes known by his name.
- 1808** - The New Hampshire state legislature incorporates Isaac Lord and five others as proprietors of the Ossipee Bridge which enables them to charge tolls to the people, conveyances and animals that cross it.
- 1816** - The first comprehensive map of NH (by Philip Carrigain) confirms existence of so-called

Chapter 37 of the NH Session Laws of 1808 incorporated Carr Leavitt, Isaac Lord, Joseph Drake, John Leavitt, William Towle, and John Lang and their associates and successors as the proprietors of the Ossipee Bridge. The act granted them the right to charge a toll for each crossing of the bridge, at the following rates:

- for each foot passenger, one cent;
- for each horse and rider or leader, three cents;
- for each chaise or other carriage of pleasure with two wheels and one horse, six cents;
- for each carriage of pleasure or with passengers with
- four wheels, twelve cents;
- for the like carriage with four horses, seventeen cents;
- for each sleigh with one horse, four cents;
- for each sleigh with two horses, six cents; and two cents
- for each additional horse;
- for each cart, waggon [sic], sled or other carriage of burden drawn by one beast, four cents;
- for the like carriages drawn by two beasts, six cents; if by more than two beasts four cents for each additional
- pair of horses or yoke of oxen;
- for sheep and swine quarter of a cent each;
- for cattle and horses half a cent each;
- and to each team one person only shall be allowed to pass free of toll.

[Note: One cent in 1808 is equivalent to about 25 cents in 2024]

Lord’s bridge.

1821 - The town of Effingham purchases Lord’s bridge, after which tolls are no longer charged.

1834 - A deed transfer refers to a bridge near the upper falls, upstream from the present Route 153 bridge.

1839 - Freedom voters approve the building of a new bridge halfway across the Ossipee River at Iron Works Falls and raise the sum of \$250 to do so. Construction will occur below the mills, at a site previously chosen by a committee consisting of Amos Towle, Jr., Joseph Bennett and Ezekiel Andrews.

1840 - The first wooden bridge at the lower falls (near the present Route 153 bridge) is completed. The state repeals the charter of the proprietors of the toll bridge.

1843 - Lord's bridge collapses.

What! You are leaving us here! Yes, please come to the exhibit this summer to learn more!!

Potty Talk.

Excuse me? Normally not a subject for communication, but this is big news: The FHS is planning for the installation of a new, fully functioning and winterized bathroom in the Allard House. Since the Historical Society took ownership of the Allard House in 1979, we have had to operate the one bathroom with a cesspool "waste treatment system". Legal, yes; neighborhood friendly, not so much. And the system was not operational during months when water freezes (November-April). Currently, this means board members, volunteers and visitors have had to go off site (to the Town Office, Library, or Village Store) to use a bathroom- if one of these sites was even open. And during the busy summertime, with all its volunteer workers and museum visitors, bathroom use has been restricted to "number one" only.

The good news is that FHS now has a 2024 approved septic design (thanks to a donation by Alan Fall), with a heavily discounted installation cost (thank you G.W. Brooks and Son, Inc.), and 74% of the cost covered by challenge grants (thank you CSM Oram, the Forest Foundation, and Loel and Mike Poor). This project has been spearheaded by Brandy Buttrick, FHS Co-President, and we are grateful for all his volunteer efforts. So, you can see that we are well on our way! On June 11-12, 2024 (NH Gives day) we will be reaching out to the public to complete our final financial need. Stay tuned for more news on this very important project! "It takes a Village..." has never been more true than on this project!

Memberships in 2024

An envelope is included herein for your 2024 Membership; we thank you all for returning your remittance as soon as you are able. Below is the list of recently renewed members whom we thank for their timely checks. You all are our lifeblood, and we are very appreciative of your generosity!

Individual: Amy Forman, Gale Johnson, Lauren Stoddard, Rachel Ward,

Family: Carl Bloomquist, Lee Christopher, Charles Gibbs, David Habif, Janet & Don Johnson, Sharon & Alan Meyer

Contributor: Eugene Corbett, Randy Greenstein, Heidi Miksch, Jack Middleton, Deborah Shadd & William Grimm, Carolyn Stone, Linda Walls, Janice Zecher,

Sponsor: Kathleen & David Avery, Edward Reed, Dianna & Gary Wagner,

Leadership: Janet Smith

Lifetime: Edward Barosky, William Barrett, Karen Beatty, Hope McGowan, Barbara Birnie, George W. Brooks and Pauline Brooks, Karrie & Brandon Buttrick, Nadine Chapman, Anne & Scott Cunningham, Beth & Peter Earle, Nancy & Bill Essex, Linda Habif, Pat Hatfield, Tim Hartsfield & Jody Shellene, , Carolyn & James Holmes, Roberta MacCarthy, Sylvia & John Manley, Richard and Ellen Many, Karri & David Kemper, Lucy Kendall, Jane Luke, Roberta MacCarthy, Susan & Ramon Marks, Barbara McEvoy, Hope McGowan, CMS R. A. Oram, Emily Acton Phillips, Nancy & Robert Phinney, Ann & Noel Quinton, Elizabeth Seabury, John Shipman, Sarah Owen Tabor, Carole & Brian Taylor, Laura & Maynard Thomson, Elizabeth Coddington & Gary Ward, Holly Haynes & Charles Watts, Katherine Watts, Lucy Works, Marjorie Works

Memorial Gifts: William Stoops, Piete Birnie, Edwin Boyer, and Nancy Seabury

Heritage Circle: The Heritage Circle is the top donor level honoring generous annual donors of \$1,000 or more. Heritage Circle Members take the lead in shaping the present and future of the Freedom Historical Society: Loel & Arthur Poor, Forest Foundation, CSM Robert Oram.

Construction of the new steel bridge at Effingham Falls, 1910

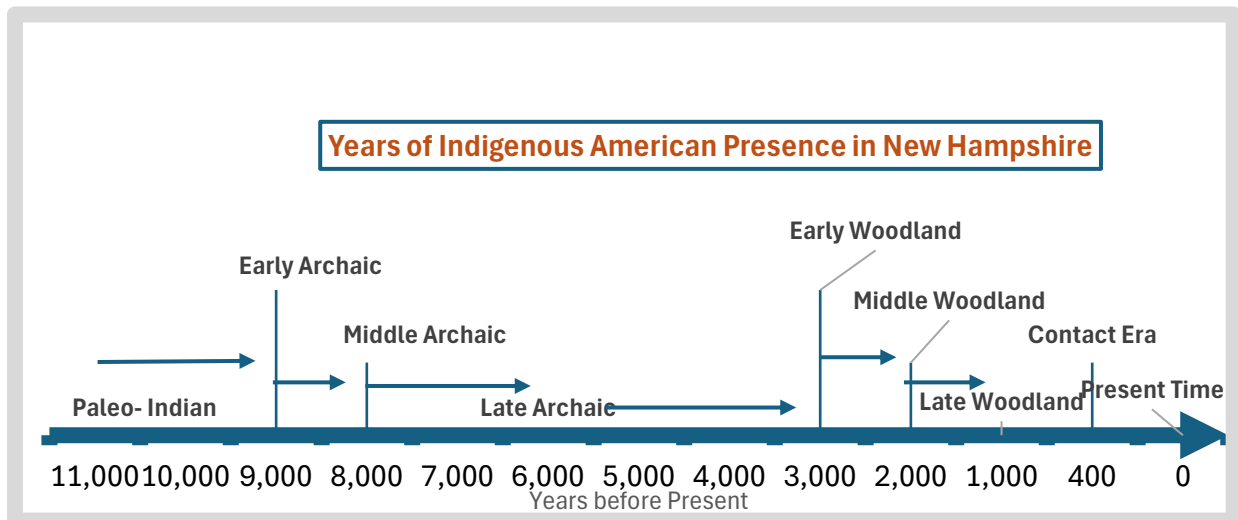


This view toward Freedom shows a crew installing the wooden deck on the Effingham span. During the construction period, pedestrians utilized a temporary crossing made of planks lashed together and laid atop rocks in the river, downstream from the new bridge (visible at the far right).

This writer remembers David Buswell complaining about the “thump-thump” or “clack-clack” noise the boards made in the neighborhood when driven over. Anyone else remember that and found it annoying?

New exhibit coming about the Indigenous People of New Hampshire and the Lake area.

As part of the new 2024 exhibit at the Museum there will be a segment on what we know about Indigenous American in our region. One important piece is to recognize how long indigenous people inhabited this area before Europeans arrived- At least 10,000 years! The timeline below shows this, and the areas as defined by archeologists. An explanation, artifacts and other info will be in the exhibit.



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 extra 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

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