

Things drop from the sky in Freedom NH....

Including airplanes.

Pilot Safe in Jet Crash at Freedom. *The New Hampshire Sunday News, Manchester NH. November 6, 1966*

Mrs. Douglas Coates (Jessie) said that she and her husband heard a crash near their home at 70 Moulton Road and then “all of a sudden a very severe explosion”. She said she first believed the sound to have been caused by a plane breaking the sound barrier, then realized it “was much more than that”.

She said she looked out a window and saw smoke billowing from a field a short distance away. “The plane seemed to be a fighter, but it was completely destroyed, and you couldn’t see any markings on it” she said.

The crash set fire to the grass but the flames were quickly extinguished by the town firemen. The Air Force said the downed F-84F single-engine jet had been assigned to the 102nd Tactical Fighter Group of the Massachusetts Air National Guard at Boston’s Logan International Airport.



F-84F Thunderstreak

The pilot, Capt. Edward S. Mansfield, 31, of Marblehead, Mass, parachuted into nearby Kesar Falls, Maine. He escaped with minor cuts and bruises. A helicopter picked up Capt. Mansfield in Kesar Falls and transported him to Pease Air Force Base in Newington, NH.

The *Carroll County Independent* also reported on the incident. They reported that:

Lyle Giles was standing in front of the store in Freedom talking with Luke Hatfield. They saw a jet which was flying high above the village start to barrel roll like an old-fashioned stunt flyer. “That plane is in trouble,” said Giles. They saw a puff of smoke and heard an explosion as the pilot ejected. A parachute appeared. “About the size of a dinner plate” Giles said.

The plane went into a series of spirals then appeared to pull out and plunged straight into the ground. Mrs. Colby Weeks saw the plane crash near her home. A thick coil of black smoke arose about an eighth of a mile from the square. The crash site was just across the road from the [Luthi Peterson] International Camp and only 60 feet from a fire hydrant.

The Independent reported that Capt. Mansfield was seen as he descended into a tree behind the Everett Metcalf farm of the Colcord Lake Road in Porter by Frederick Glatzer, Sr. He notified the Sheriff's Department and went with the local undertaker [not the doctor?!], Preston Stanley Sr., to the scene where they found Mansfield had suffered only slight injuries in landing.

Fatal Freedom Plane Accident Cause Sought. *Publication not identified.* August 18, 1968.

Wolfeboro pilot Dennis E. Murray, 26, was fatally injured in a plane crash in Freedom on Saturday afternoon.

A single-engine light aircraft piloted by Dennis E. Murray plunged into an embankment at the side of Sweat's Hill Road in Freedom at 4:15 p.m. Saturday. Murray, who operated the Citco Service Station in Wolfeboro sustained severe head injuries and died later as he was being transferred from Huggins Memorial Hospital to Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Another man in the plane, James Glidden, 32, of Verny Road, who is a carpenter, suffered only cuts and bruises.



Aircraft on Sweat's Hill Rd embankment, August 18, 1968

Freedom Police Chief, Colby Weeks, was an earwitness to the crash. He said he heard the plane circle twice. "It was about 4:15 p.m. when I heard the engine cut out. I waited a few seconds, thinking he had shut his motor off. But finally, I heard no engine, so I came out to investigate". Investigators took the plane to Mountainview Airport in Wolfeboro to examine it thoroughly.

Freedom Historical Society's 5-Year Plan for Summer Museum Exhibits

This 5-year plan was developed as a guide for considering possible summer exhibits for the FHS museum. The plan is not meant to be set in stone, but serves as a useful tool for the FHS

2024 - (Year 1)

History of Effingham Falls

2025 - (Year 2)

History of Effingham Falls (Continued)

2027 - (Year 4)	History of the Schools of Freedom
2028 - (Year 5)	Historic Recreation and Entertainment Activities in Freedom
2029- (Year 6)	<i>The Summer Camps of Freedom</i>

Program News:

Adult Education Programs:

Co-Presidents Brandy and Berta presented a preview of this summer's FHS during the Community Club dinner on April 17th at the Town Hall. The dinner was an "Old Fashioned New England Bean Supper and was sponsored by the FHS Board of Directors. On May 15th the program on historic post cards "A Sense of Place" will be presented by Noel Quinton. Following the presentation, Noel's book, "A Sense of Freedom" will be officially released that evening. We are printing 300 copies and will cost \$30 each. The program will be at the Town Hall. On June 19th, we will offer a presentation on Indigenous Peoples' artifacts and a program about the Abenaki "Now Who Shall Judge The Indians". This will be presented via zoom. On July 17th we will offer a program about the cartoons of the 60's that will be presented by the popular Margo Burns (she was the presenter of last October's program on Witchcraft in New England). We are taking August off; On September 18th we are exploring having a speaker from Purity Spring Resort to discuss the history of the resort. October is the annual meeting.

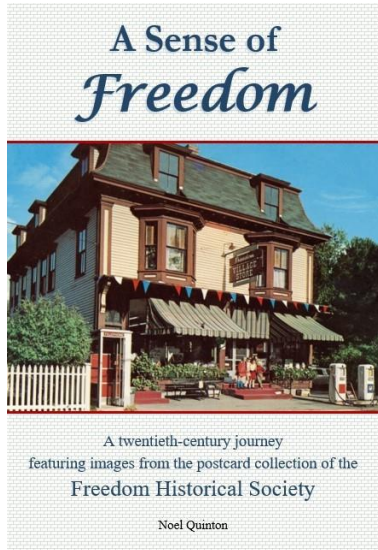
Freedom School FHS Programs:

Pam Keith and Steve Thurston have put 10 historical objects in the display case in the hallway at FES and challenged each class to figure out what the objects were used for. The winner from each class has been picked and there will be a ceremony, and each class winner will get a \$5 gift certificate to Bobby Sue's.

Announcing a New FHS Publication

The Freedom Historical Society (FHS) is announcing a new publication, *A Sense of Freedom*, to be released May 15th. The author, Noel Quinton, a local historian and Lifetime Member of the Freedom Historical Society, has many years of experience collecting vintage photography in the form of postcards. His new book features over 160 period images from locations all around Freedom, dating back as far as 1904.

Noel describes *A Sense of Freedom* as "a comprehensive collection of vintage images of Freedom with carefully researched remarks about each scene. These postcards were sold in Freedom stores and were purchased by residents who wanted to send messages to their friends, as well as summer guests who bought souvenirs to help them remember the time they spent here." Although the book focuses on historic imagery, readers will find many new historic details in the narrative uncovered by Noel during his research.



Noel will be presenting a “talk” to FHS members and the public on Wednesday, May 15 at the Freedom Town Hall at 7:00 PM. Signed copies will be available following his presentation. Not only will you want to purchase a copy for yourself, but the book will be an ideal gift for your friends and family who also think of Freedom as a very special place.

Freedom History Quiz

February: A photo of Avis Goss was shown in the February Chronicle. Avis was the Freedom Librarian from 1900 to 1900. She lived in the red house in the village now owned by Marcia and Davis Trook. Avis was known for her love of animals.

Three people answered the February History Quiz correctly: Dotty Brooks, Rachel Ward and Katey Watts- thank you history lovers! We will draw a winner from each month’s history quiz winners and issue a prize- stay tuned!

April Quiz:



Can you name the person who lived in this house on the left? A different house sits on this site now. Can you name the building on the right?

Email your answer under subject name “Quiz” to FHSociety28@gmail.com and we will give a prize to one lucky winner from those that got it right. The answer will be in May’s Chronicle.

Last but not least- Thank you!

Thank you to all of you that have submitted your 2024 membership dues and to those who are just now picking up their pen to do so 😊 It is your wonderful support that keeps us doing good things- we make an excellent team to help keep Freedom’s history and values alive! THANKS!