

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!

February 2020

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.

2019 – 2020 Board Members

Presidents	John Shipman Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Anne Gaudette
Secretary	TBD
<u>Directors</u>	
Steve Thurston	Barbara McEvoy
David Trook	Anne Furtado
Jean Marshall	John Perkins
Carole Taylor	



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:

Wow, its 2020! Wish that was our eyesight☺. But, we, the board, are seeing just fine when it comes to looking at and initiating our plans for FHS for this year. Some of the things you can look forward to are:

- A special exhibit highlighting our Freedom veterans
- A special exhibit highlighting John Holmgren's sketches of local residents
- The 2021 calendar highlighting more "Remarkable People of Freedom"
- A Freedom history "Timeline" exhibit
- Six educational programs of broad interest
- Second annual wine tasting and museum tour

As we start 2020 we also ask that you renew your membership, or start a new one, so that we can continue to do our important preservation work for Freedom. Thank you for using the enclosed envelope.

We also have a special request: If you, or a family member, is or was a military veteran please fill out and submit the form at the end of this newsletter. This will help us with the first rotating exhibit at the Museum which will feature Freedom's veterans. It will also help us maintain a list and information on our Freedom veterans for future generations to learn about. The Society is the keeper of local history, so please help us stay informed. Thanks.

Sincerely, Co-Presidents
John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

FHS RECENT NEWS

- **Membership renewal time.** Yes, it's that time again! The vast majority of our financial support needed to run the Society and the two museums comes from annual memberships. We cannot operate without your generous support. Therefore we ask at this time that you mail us the enclosed envelop with a check covering the level of support that represents your commitment to preserving Freedom's history. We are forever grateful and thank you always for your support!
- **Our Sponsors.** We are so grateful to our commercial sponsors who support our major fundraiser, the FHS calendar. This quarter we would like to give an extra thank you to Green Mountain Furniture who has been a faithful sponsor for a number of years. Marshal Kendall would be proud of the organization he started and built from the ground up. We hope you shop locally at Green Mountain Furniture!
- **Seeking information on Freedom veterans:** Are you or someone in your family a military veteran? We are looking for names, ranks, years of service, medals awarded, photographs, etc. for all Freedom vets, whether you have lived in Freedom for one year or 100 years.



Or you have a past relative who is a Freedom vet. By June first we expect to unveil the first rotating exhibit at the Museum and we need your input for this display. Please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and mail it in, or drop it at the FHS. We don't want to miss anyone!

- **The FHS 2021 Calendars is in the works.** The candidates for the 2021 "Remarkable People of Freedom's Past" calendar are being narrowed down as we speak. Calendars will be available by Duck Day. The purpose of the calendar is to inform and educate the public about our residents who have passed on at least 20 years ago. It is a major fundraiser for the Society.

Come to the Freedom Gallery on Elm Street on the evening of June 26th for the release party for the 2021 FHS calendar. Libations and appetizers will be served. Calendars will be for sale, as well as the next Day at the FOHW Ducky Day event. Meet more "Remarkable people of Freedom!"

New focus on Freedom artifacts and stories

By Nadine Chapman, acting Collections Manager

FHS has become more knowledgeable by taking courses, consulting with experts, updating our technology and spending lots of time researching best practices for protecting the collection. In 2018, the Board updated its Collection Management Policy to set forth guidelines to ensure that the Society collects artifacts significant to the history and culture of Freedom by virtue of having been created or produced in Freedom; used for its intended purpose in Freedom, or related to historically important people, activities, or events in Freedom.



FHS has amassed a sizeable collection over the past 50 years, especially for a local history museum of our size; traditionally almost all donated artifacts have been displayed as best as they can be. This practice has strained our valuable exhibit space and made it difficult to effectively tell the story that explains why we have these items. Like most everything else, the public and its needs are changing. The Board has begun to shift the vision of the Society and our buildings as keeper of Freedom culture for the future, not simply a repository for old things.

These days, when people come to the Museum to learn about Freedom history, they are led through a late 19th century house and representative barn where one can get a glimpse of those industries that met the needs of the people of Freedom. Yet we have thousands of records, photos, news

articles, and so much more that can help present the Freedom story. Indeed, past experience has shown that exhibits need to change and provide interpretation in order to encourage return visitors. One of our biggest challenges is getting new or return visitors.

With this move to rotating exhibits, FHS will be moving some things around and perhaps taking some objects off display and storing them for the future. In fact, FHS is excited to be creating two new exhibits for the coming museum season. One exhibit about Freedom in the military will be located in the Works Barn. The other will be in the Allard House and present the Museum artwork collection of John Holmgren, well-known illustrator and Freedom resident. In addition, we will be rotating the exhibit of artwork elsewhere in the house to include works by more contemporary artists.

Updating FHS Collections- the role of the Collection Committee, by Nadine Chapman, acting Chair, Collections Committee



Freedom Historical Society has always accepted donated artifacts with the intent of retaining them permanently in the collection. We hold a public trust that when people donate their family photos and items, they have a right to expect these things will be taken care of and displayed in a professional manner.

It is written in the FHS By-laws that: "The Collections Committee shall ensure that there are policies and procedures in place to review the display, condition and accession/deaccession of collection items and that the collection is consistent with the Society's mission". In 2018, the

Board updated the FHS Collection Management Policy to provide more definitive guidelines and procedures for evaluating and making proper, documented decisions to answer these kinds of questions.

As exhibit space progressively fills to capacity, it is necessary for the museum to periodically consider identifying and assessing artifacts that may not be in line with collection objectives, to wean similar or duplicative objects, or objects where the condition has deteriorated beyond repair. This formal process of removal of an object from the collection is referred to as "deaccessioning." Our rigorous collections policy seeks to diminish the future need for this action by the careful review of new donations, or "accessions." However, it can be a more difficult process for a preexisting object, especially when we are unclear of its "provenance" or how it came into the collection. Provenance is particularly important when an item appears to have no connection to Freedom or is not relevant to events or activities in Freedom.



OHW 1974 in front of Allard House

The Collections Committee, composed of Freedom residents and Board members, is responsible for evaluating such objects according to objective deaccession criteria. With an effort to be fully transparent, the Committee documents and presents its recommendations to the full Board of Directors for final decision. FHS will always investigate old records to try and identify the original donor and offer to return it. Otherwise, the artifact will be divested of through gift, sale or exchange to another town, museum, or school;

sale to the public; or, if no value to anyone, disposed of. These actions are infrequent, but occasionally are necessary. FHS will always be concerned that the manner of disposition is in the best interests of the Society, the public we serve, and the public trust it represents.

The FHS Military Collection

A process of discovery, by John Shipman

DID YOU KNOW?

That there are over 400 military veterans from Freedom over the Town's history? Brandy Buttrick is helping the FHS by searching for all Freedom veterans for the military exhibit that we will be rolling out this summer. The exhibit will also feature military items of interest from Freedom Veterans.

To see more about what's available go to <https://freedomhistoricalsociety.org/historical-research-resources/>

What is this item? Who owned it? Where were they? Did they in fact have a connection to Freedom? These are the questions I faced immediately when I started cataloguing the Museum's military collection this winter. The answers turn out to be the fun and educational things one learns when wading through our materials. In anticipation of the Museum having a special exhibit on our military collection this summer, I want to give you a sampling of what that experience was like



Your first question might be: what, you mean these things are not catalogued already? The answer is

“well, sorta”. Nelson (Skrow) Works did maintain an index card catalogue of items he brought to the museum. Keep in mind that 99% of the barn collection was donated to the museum by Skrow and Glad in 1981. Here in 2020 we have museum software that requires accession numbers, catalogue numbers, what the item is and from whom and from where it came; and a full description. So, by cataloguing, I mean entering a full description of the item and all these parameters provided, in part by Skrow, and the research that we, the volunteers, do. Yes, it is time consuming; but the big advantage is that records (including photos) are now backed-up (safe) and can be related to other items in the database that have something in common (a family name, a place, an event, etc.). Hence it's characterization as a “relational” database.

Ok, enough of the boring stuff. First, I knew that some military artifacts were catalogued last summer by two student volunteers, Hillary Johnson and Lizzy Davis. We surely thank them for that. But that left another 50-75 items to tackle. I just started on the top shelf; the items are all laid out on shelves in the barn at the top of the stairs to the second floor. So, what did I find?

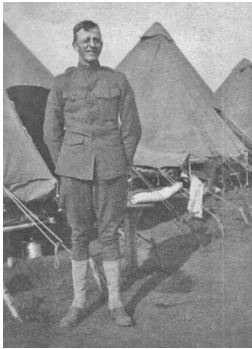


Mess Kit

Well, first I found a bunch of stuff that seemed rather boring, like backpacks, entrenching tool, uniforms, helmets, some belts, ammo pouches and the like. Of course, I didn't know their story. As I brought out the uniforms for example, I measured them, looked for names and labels and possible dates they were used, and where. Some of that information was found and helped fill in the story

of the person who wore it; as did research on the internet. Take, for example:

- **Colonel Eliot N. Vestner.** Many of you, knew or know of Col. Vestner. He lived up on the hill in one of big white farm houses on Old Portland Road; as did his daughter-in-law, Penny, whom many of us also knew. Colonel Vestner's footlocker is at the Museum and contains his uniforms and some Japanese military items. It turns out the Eliot served in the Mexican-American conflict in 1916 in Texas as a private, then corporal then sergeant and platoon leader.



Private Vestner in 1916

The Army's 42nd (Rainbow) Division Commander in Texas at the time was none other than Gen. John J. Pershing. Eliot's Division chief-of-staff was Colonel Douglas MacArthur. And, on May 14, 1916 the first motorized attack in the history of U.S. warfare was led into Mexico (looking for Poncho Villa) by then second lieutenant George S. Patton. Patton used three 1915 Dodge Brothers Model 30-35 touring cars for the assault. [See where history research leads you?]. Eliot Vestner went on to serve in WWI, the CCC, WWII, as well in the reconstruction efforts in Japan and then Korea. As an officer he was in the Army Corps of Engineers. He retired as a Colonel in 1954 and moved to Freedom. During his WWI duty he was in the Luneville-Baccarat (France) sector in 1918 where both sides were deep into gas warfare. Eliot's gas mask is part of our collection. If you want to hear a podcast on this WWI battlefield mission in France that Eliot was in, go to this URL link: <https://podtail.com/en/podcast/world-war-i-podcast/into-the-trenches-luneville-baccarat-sector-feb-ma/>. If you want to see film clips from that military sector, go to this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTOTDS46lkw>. Eliot could have been one of the many soldiers in these films. But we have no way of knowing.

- **Colonel Gordon Mulvey.** Gordon Mulvey was a young man in Freedom who, after attending Lawrence University (Wisconsin) joined the service.

He was appointed as 1st Lieutenant, 1953. In 1967, now Lt. Colonel Mulvey was Commander of 36 Airlift Squadron (PACAF) and became part of what was known as Operation Creek Dipper.



On June 5, 1967 Israel and some of her Arab neighbors went to war. In six days of fighting, Israeli armed forces occupied large portions of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Civil disturbances in Libya and Jordan threatened the safety of U.S. citizens there. The State Department arranged to rescue them. The State Department asked USAFE to rescue foreigners in Amman, the Jordanian capital. The 322d Air Div. executed Operation Creek Dipper. The evacuees traveled from their hotels to the Amman airport before dawn to escape public attention. On June 10 and 11, thirteen cargo planes took off for Amman (three turned back because they were not needed). Col. Gordon E. Mulvey piloted the first C-130 into Jordan. On June 11, ten of the aircraft flew 816 evacuees from Amman to Tehran, including 252 U.S. nationals, 261 Britons, and citizens of 28 other nations, including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and even the Soviet Union. Passengers included embassy officials and workers, business men and their families, oil company workers, and members of international organizations. Creek Dipper's C-130s also carried 15 tons of passenger baggage. The State Department arranged for repatriation of

evacuees after their arrival in Iran and about 100 U.S. citizens flew to Athens, Greece, the next day.

- **Colonel Albert S. Follensbee.**



Now, this person does not appear to have any connection to Freedom, but the artifact we have reveals an interesting story, none-the-less. In our collection are the military gloves and belt of Capt. A.S. Follansbee, Company C, 6th Reg., M. V.M. (Mass Volunteer Militia). Apparently President Abraham Lincoln got concerned about the safety of the Capitol when Fort Sumner was attacked by the Rebels on April 11, 1861. According to Wikipedia the 6th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia "Minute Men," was summoned to Boston by Special Order No. 14, issued on the afternoon of April 15, 1861, from the office of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts. At 7 o'clock on the evening of the 17th the regiment, fully armed and equipped, entrained for Washington. While passing through Baltimore, Md., April 19, a detachment of four companies, C, D, I, and L, under Captain Albert S. Follansbee, was set upon by a mob, and in the street fighting which followed four members of the detachment were killed and thirty-six wounded, the first soldiers to fall in the Civil War. This incident was known as the "Baltimore Riots of 1861". This regiment was the first to arrive in Washington completely uniformed and equipped for service, apparently just in time to protect the Capitol. It was at first quartered in the Senate Chamber in the Capitol. Mustered into the service April 22, it was soon transferred to the Relay House near Baltimore. In the occupation of Baltimore and in doing guard duty at or near the Relay House the

regiment was occupied until July 29, when it entrained for Massachusetts. Reaching Boston on the 1st of August, on the following day it was mustered out of the service. This unit was known as the "Minute Men of '61".



Military gloves of Col. Follensbee

In checking Skrow Work's records it is not clear from whom or how this artifact was donated to or acquired by him. It has no Freedom connection that we know of. But is a very interesting piece, none the less. You never know what will show up in a collection!

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

1. Thank you to our volunteer board of directors who each wear many hats and all carry the load: John Shipman, Roberta MacCarthy, Sylvia Carney, Anne Gaudette, Scott Cunningham, Jean Marshall, Anne Furtado, John Perkins, Steve Thurston, Carole Taylor, and Barbara McEvoy,
2. Thanks to Steve Thurston for organizing the educational programs.
3. Thanks to our project volunteers: Judy Smith and Pam Taylor for their weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission.
4. Special thanks to Nadine Chapman for all of her continued efforts and work updating the Collection Management procedures, helping set priorities and guiding Pam Keith in putting our collection into Past Perfect.
5. Thanks to Pam Keith who maintains our bookkeeping system and helps with monthly financial reports.

6. Thanks to Barbara McEvoy for providing her Gallery for the Calendar Launch Party...this year on Friday, June 26, 2020.



Snow Roller "Movers", 2019

Memberships

The majority of our support comes from membership dues and donations. It is time for membership renewal and we have included a membership envelop for your convenience. Of course we always want to recognize our **Lifetime Members:** Anonymous member, William S. Barrett, Edward Boyer, G W Brooks & Son, Sylvia & John Manley, Ramon & Susan Marks, Roberta MacCarthy, Barbara McEvoy, Emily Phillips, Nancy Seabury, Laura & Maynard Thomson, Gary Ward, and Katharine Watts. Thanks You!!

Donations

We are grateful to and thank donors in who have contributed to one or more of the following funds:

Local Businesses Support your Historical Society

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs in 2019 by advertising their businesses in our fund-raising calendar. We encourage you to do business with them.

Beth Day Massage Therapy

Camp Calumet

Constantino Real Estate, Gerard Constantino

Cooper Cargill Chant, Deborah A. Fauver, Esq.

Deb's Custom Upholstery

Eastern Propane

Gary Wallace Auctioneers, Inc.

Green Mountain Furniture

Hatfield's Bed & Breakfast

Inn at Crystal Lake & Palmer House Pub

Jakes Seafood & Grill

James C Farinella Building & Remodeling LLC

Minuteman Press

Exit Realty, Grace Brooks

Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, Artist

Freedom House Antiques

Freedom Village Store

G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors

Re/Max Presidential Realty, Paul Wheeler

Sentinel Financial, Paul Olzerowicz CPA, CFP, ChFC

Terri Brooks, Watercolor & Pastel Artist

Trivent Financial

Waddell & Reed, Margie Amico, Financial Advisor

Ward's Boat Shop

White Mountain Survey & Engineering

the Archival project, the Freedom Houses project, General projects, and the memorial funds in memory of Sylvia Carney, Tom Luke and Nancy Seabury. A memorial gift to the Society is a great way to recognize a loved one who appreciated Freedom and its history. Also, please consider a memorial gift to the Society in your estate planning. All donations help to serve your community better. Thanks you.

Volunteers!!

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers who work hard and quietly on the Society's projects. Thank you to Anne Furtado for setting up our floral and pumpkin display in front of the Allard House this fall- looks great!

Thank you to Nadine Chapman for all of her continued efforts and guiding Pam Keith in her work to scan and enter all our photographs. And for her organizing a John Holmgren display- something to look forward to in 2020! Thank you to our project volunteers: Judy Smith and Pam Taylor for their weekly volunteerism and commitment to our mission. And, thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully help with grounds maintenance both summer and winter.

Record Freedom's Veterans

For the sake of preserving local history about our veterans for future generations, we ask for your help. Are you a veteran or do have a relative who is or was one? We respectfully ask that you help us compile this information by filling out this form and mailing it to Freedom Historical Society, PO Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836. If you have photos we can copy them on print paper and return the originals to you. Or, you can bring them in on Wednesday morning (10-12) and we can copy them and return to you there. Of particular interest is getting images, information and any memorabilia from local (meaning natives or most of a lifetime) citizens.

Consider including this form (below) in your membership envelopes, attached. Thank you!

Veterans name:

Branch of Service:

Dates of service:

Highest rank:

Copies of Photographs (please date them as best you can): We can make copies for you if you bring them in to the Museum

Where stationed*:

Medals awarded*:

Division(s) served in*:

*If known

Submitted by (and relationship to Vet):

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'd like to make an additional donation to boost progress:

Additional Donation: \$_____ Please specify, if you wish:

☐ General Use ☐ Museum renovation ☐ Archival Project

☐ Freedom Houses Project ☐ Preservation Supplies ☐ Educational Programs

☐ Memorial in honor of: _____

Your Name_____

MailingAddress_____

_____ 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.



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