



# Freedom Historical Society

*"Preserving Freedom's Past for Future Generations"*

28 Old Portland Rd, PO box 548, Freedom NH 03836

[www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org)

*Celebrating 52 years as a Non-profit Corporation!*

## August 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](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org)

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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:

In May we said that the year 2020 was going to be a challenge for everyone and the Freedom Historical Society is no exception. That said, we are moving ahead: and we think you will be pleased that:

- At the museum there is a special exhibit for the public highlighting our Freedom veterans.
- There is also a very well done exhibit highlighting John Holmgren's sketches of local residents and information about his work.
- The 2021 calendar highlighting more "Remarkable People of Freedom" is now available.
- Educational programs of broad interest are being presented on Zoom every month
- We have executed two fundraising events despite COVID: the NH Gives campaign and the 2021 calendar

You will be happy to know that we are staying focused on our mission as well as our 2020 objectives and financial goals. We know these are tough times, but we remain optimistic and will make decisions one month at a time. We hope that you all will be pleased and supportive of the fact that we are focused on our priorities and making good progress in 2020.

Stay well and stay connected!

Sincerely, Co-Presidents  
John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

## FHS RECENT NEWS

- **FHS is responding to Covid-19.**

Like everyone during this Covid-19 pandemic, the Historical Society wants our volunteers, members and the public to be safe and sound. A few volunteers are comfortably working, but are protected by being socially distanced in the museum and wearing masks if more than one person is working. We have appropriate materials and instructions to keep the work areas clean.

- **The Museum:** The museum is open Saturdays and Wednesdays, 10am to 2pm. We do have protocols in place to protect our greeters and the public and follow State and federal guidelines. We limit the number of visitors at one time and require masks (which we can provide) and provide a one-directional movement with hand sanitizers and entry and exist points. Plus, we ask that no one touch anything.

- **Educational Programs:** These are being presented on-line through Zoom; registration is required through our website. We have had very good attendance so far, due to the quality of the presentations.

- **2021 Calendar:** The calendar, our major fundraiser, is available at the Historical Society (Wednesday or Saturday) or by ordering through the Freedom Village Store, who will deliver! Rumors are that this is the best calendar ever!

- **Membership renewal reminder.** The Freedom Historical Society faces some hardships during these difficult times. We understand that you may be experiencing tough times, too. We are in a pickle because we cannot operate without your generous support. But times are tough so we humbly, and with understanding, ask that you support us in a way that represents your ability to help preserve Freedom's history. A form at the end of the newsletter is provided for your response. We are forever grateful for your past support and thank those who have already sent in their membership for 2020.

- **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 **Wards Boat Shop** who has been a faithful sponsor for a number of years.

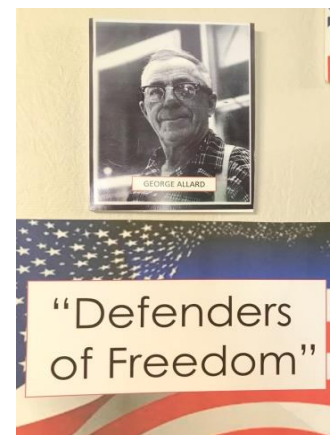
- **Still Seeking information on Freedom veterans:**

Although the Freedom's Veterans exhibit is up and running, we are still seeking information about Freedom Veterans. It's not too late. Please email, mail or call us with your veteran's information. Thank you!

## New Museum Exhibits

The Freedom Historical Society has opened two new special exhibits this summer at the Museum. Access to the museum is in line with Federal and State safety guidelines; visit on Wednesdays or Saturdays. Or make an appointment by calling 603-733-9307. Visit before mid-September when the exhibits will come down. The two current exhibits are:

- "Defenders of Freedom", which is a presentation of the Museum's military collection and information about Freedom's military veterans that we have been given.



- "Freedom's own John Holmgren", which features a presentation of drawings of local men by John Holmgren in the 1950's and the artist who sketched them.



## The Pandemic: Looking back 100 years in Freedom

It is important for us to record the stories of our present Covid-19 happenings. We need to keep the right records and artifacts to make sure the future generations will be well informed about this life altering event. The FHS museum entrance sign below is a true "Signs of the times"



We do know that the novel COVID-19 virus we are now experiencing today is not unique- the "Spanish Flu" influenza about 100 years ago was much worse today's virus...at least so far. Approximately 650,000 U.S. citizens died of that flu in the 1917-1920 pandemic, the majority in 1918. As of this writing the U.S. is at 167,000 deaths for COVID-19. One difference between these two pandemics is that the 1918 flu affected more people under 40 years old, while COVID-19 is affecting more people over 40. Again....so far.

Thinking historically, the question that comes to my mind is what did the pandemic in the 1918 era look like in Freedom; was it even evident?

Anne Cunningham (thanks Anne) was nice enough to tabulate Freedom's death records (from our Town reports) by age from 1913-1920; I added 1921-1925 because more questions arose. The annual number of total deaths recorded in Freedom from 1913-1925 were all below 20,

averaging just under 16 per year. In 1918, however, the numbers were higher. The striking difference was the number of deaths under 40 years of age.

The Freedom total death numbers look like this:

- Annual average 1913-1925: 16 people
- Total deaths in 1918: 23 people (44 % higher)

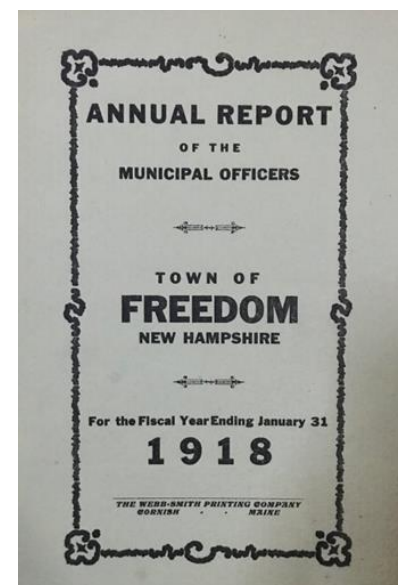
The Freedom deaths under 40 years old:

- Annual average 1913-1925: 3 people (13%)
- Total deaths under 40 in 1918: 9 people (39%)

One interesting observation is that most of these people who died under 40 years of age did not die in Freedom. Did they get sick and die while visiting family elsewhere? Did they get sick and then go somewhere else to day? But this was not unique to just those under forty. Of the 22 Freedom people who died in 1918, only 8 were listed as dying in Freedom. I'm not sure of what to make of this information; each of you can do your own speculating.

But something else (or was it the flu again, or pneumonia?) was going on in 1923 and 1924:

1. Deaths under 40: Five in each year
2. Percent of deaths under 40: 36% & 50% each year. The little research I did didn't turn up another cause of increased deaths under 40 in 1923-24; however, there were reports of a resurgence of the flu in 1923-24 in some locations in the U.S.



There are two caveats to add here:

3. From the Town reports data we cannot separate out influenza deaths from other causes, and
4. We are talking about “trends” here since the number of deaths is low and variable; these differences may not be statistically significant. That said, the numbers are noticeably higher in the years noted.

My conclusion from the above is that the influenza during that period 100 years ago was evident in Freedom, based on death records.

The above discussion segues nicely into research and findings for the military exhibit currently going on at the Historical Society museum.

For example, Both George Allard and his brother Fred, were in WWI in late 1918. Luckily for George, he did troop training in Dartmouth NH at the time and for some reason was not exposed, or did not catch the “Spanish Flu”. However, his brother Fred was not so lucky. Here are some memories from Ruth Allard Paul (still living in southern NH), who is Fred Allard’s daughter (and Rachel Ward’s sister):

“Fred Allard was drafted in Maine since the family moved to Maine in 1915, although he was born and brought up in Freedom, NH. Fred was drafted in the last half-year of World War I (fall of 1918) and due to the decimation of troops in Camp Devens in Ayer, MA by the Spanish Flu Pandemic, he never got sent to France. Instead he survived in a weakened state at Camp Devens. Statistics say 100 men a day died there while it raged. Fred substituted as bugler in the brigade depot. The mood there was bad when 100 coffins a day were being constructed hurriedly. After the doctor’s OK (after Flu recovery), Fred survived a 10 mile march. His track experience at Parsem (Parsons Seminary) helped.”

The following article from Michael Graham (N.H. Experience with Spanish Flu Puts Coronavirus Panic in Perspective, [NH] Journal, March 10, 2020) puts it this way: “The infamous Spanish Flu of 1918 was

actually the second wave of an H1N1 virus that had been working its way through Europe and the U.S. for months. When all was said and done, an estimated 50 million people worldwide were dead.



The deadliest outbreak in the U.S. began just miles south of the New Hampshire border at Camp Devens, a United States Army training camp just outside of Boston. As some 800 young, healthy soldiers died in a matter of weeks, the U.S. Surgeon General sent a group of doctors to the base to issue a report. What they found was horrifying. “In the morning the dead bodies are stacked about the morgue like cordwood,” one doctor reported. Another said, “This must be some kind of new infection — or plague.”

That plague made its way to New Hampshire, some contracting it via contact with victims at Camp Devens, others from the Portsmouth Navy Yard, where nearly 150 victims fell ill on the U.S.S. Frederick. Soon the Spanish Flu was spreading across the entire state.”

This was corroborated by Dorothy Anne Pettit in her 1976 UNH PhD thesis, “A Cruel Wind: America experiences influenza pandemic, 1918-1920. A Social History”. She referenced a report that showed in the 37 days between September 12 and October 18 that at Camp Devens there were 9,717 influenza cases, 2,314 pneumonia cases and 667 deaths. In fact, the week of September 22-29 there were 298 deaths, or 37 people per day (my emphasis). A total of 850 men died of the flu at Devens in 1918, according to Wikipedia. Carol Byerly (The U.S. Military and the Influenza Pandemic of 1918–1919. Public Health Rep. 2010; 125(Suppl 3): 82–91) stated that “The virus traveled with military personnel from camp to



camp and across the Atlantic, and at the height of the American military involvement in the war, September through November 1918, influenza and pneumonia sickened 20% to 40% of U.S. Army and Navy personnel. These high morbidity rates interfered with induction and training schedules in the United States and rendered hundreds of thousands of military personnel non-effective.”

And this was just the military’s perspective. If you want to learn more about the 1918 pandemic, go to this CDC report: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/reconstruction-1918-virus.html>



Camp Devens in 1918

## FHS initiates a “Risk Assessment” for its museum collection.

The responsibility for the safety and condition of all items at the FHS Museum lies squarely on the shoulders of the Board. How does the Board know if all the various collection items are safe from damage or destruction? And, how does the Board balance between managing our collections and engaging the public? For example:

- Ceramics and glass are safe; until someone accidentally knocks a piece off a shelf, or drops it while looking at it.
- Wooden items are safe; until they dry out and crack, or fade from sunlight, or get damaged from handling or knocked by passersby.
- Metal objects are safe; until they corrode.

- Textiles are safe; until mold, mildew, mice, insects or light deteriorate the piece. Or the natural acid in the fabric, or even gravity, deteriorates the piece because of how and where it has been stored.
- Papers are safe; until light, insects or even inherent acids in the product deteriorate the piece.

All the above materials have risks due to what are called “inherent vices”; in other words, because of the nature of the materials themselves, they are at risk from damage or destruction. And, most importantly what steps does a museum take to protect the items it owns? This is where a “risk assessment” comes in and is part of a larger effort called a collection management plan. This plan involves a condition assessment, mitigation methods, storage recommendations and scheduled inspections to insure that the collected items are safe and secure over time.



FHS WAC uniform showing white mold.

As good fortune would have it, Rosie Bauer showed up at our museum’s door this July. The timing couldn’t have been better since the military clothing collection was on display and it was clear it needed attention.

Nadine Chapman summarized the results of the first meeting with Rosie:

Rosie is a college intern working on the clothing and textiles collection at the Conway Historical Society this summer. Recommended by Bob Cottrell, FHS asked if she could help FHS assess our clothing & textiles collection, particularly condition, preservation and storage environment. Rosie is very knowledgeable in her field and a helpful resource. Below is a summary:

The team [Rosie Bauer, Brandy Buttrick and Nadine Chapman] started with viewing uniforms in the military exhibit and then moved to the Barn second level to look at the contents of our cedar storage & exhibit unit. We also found pieces in two plastic storage cases and two trunks stored under the eaves. We also took a look at military objects stored in display cases. Next we moved to the Allard House second floor where we display children's clothing, bed linens, rugs, and found some valuable quilts in a trunk. The front room closet contains two storage containers of previously catalogued objects. Finally, we assessed the contents of the Bennett chest in the Piano Room.



The "Textiles assessment team", Brandy Buttrick, Rosie Bauer, Nadine Chapman, August 2020. Evaluating a 1880's skirt.

Rosie made at least 18 recommendations based on her first visit. Here is an abbreviated summary

1. Uniforms on display should be on muslin-padded hangers.
2. Uniforms and other clothing should be stuffed with tissue or muslin in legs and sleeves where creased for exhibit and storage as well.

3. Medals and the like in exhibit boxes should contain acid free buffer between fabric and medal.
4. Barrier fabric or acid free tissue should be placed on Styrofoam heads that hold hats.
5. If an object contains mold and is particularly important or valuable, we may want to consult a conservator.
6. Recommend that we line the cedar closet with Mylar or other suitable material so the textiles are no long exposed to the wood fibers.
7. An overall recommendation is that FHS not continually display all clothing & textile items year round, but rather store them in archival containers away from light and dust and take a rotating number out for display during the museum season only.
8. If not being displayed for the season, clothing & textiles are best stored flat in archival boxes and, in some cases, sleeves and the like stuffed with archival tissue paper or unbleached muslin.
9. If on display, use hangers that are well-padded with cotton or muslin fabric. The weight of hanging and items stresses the fabric.
10. Remove anything non-archival from the storage closet (plastic bags and storage containers, newspapers, other wood objects). Shoes & boots can be stuffed with tissue or muslin. Manikins should be covered with muslin or tissue.
11. Remove all straight or safety pins
12. Cover the face of the storage cabinet with a curtain that can be drawn to eliminate light.
13. Hats should be covered with archival material or placed in boxes, particularly those that may have been chemically treated during construction.
14. Trunks are a poor container for storing clothing and textiles and should not be used. FHS has at least four quilts (that Rosie commented are exceptional) and should be removed and stored properly -- rolling them on 2 tubes covered with Mylar or tissue.
15. Beaded clothing is especially fragile and must be carefully handled and always stored separately.
16. Use gloves when handling all textiles (Rosie said the non-latex ones we have in the resource room are suitable although cloth is best).
17. Rosie recommends that we research our clothing and textiles for provenance to set priorities for handling and preservation.

18. It was generally agreed that FHS should gather together all clothing & textiles from the various locations into one area for evaluation to determine provenance, establish priorities, and gauge the need for archival supplies.

Since this initial meeting, Rosie and the FHS team have spent at least three more Wednesdays, on the order of 3-4 hours each time, reviewing and recording the condition and storage needs of all the clothing and other textiles that FHS has in its collection. We are so lucky to have these folks donate so many hours for the benefit of the museum, and all Freedom citizen's for that matter. We thank them dearly!



The assessment team at work!



Circa 1870's Women's purse in FHS collection. All the brown things on the purse are actually

seeds sewn into the piece. Special preservation to avoid any moisture is important here.

## Donors of New Acquisitions

The FHS does appreciate receiving items from Freedom, or done by people from Freedom. We thank the folks who have recently (since May) donated the following items to the FHS:

- Noel Quinton for the 1930's era post card of the Federal House and 1934 panorama phot of Cragged Mountain Farm.
- Rachel Ward for the enlarged, framed photo of George Allard as FOHW parade marshal, the framed tin-type photo of William and Mittie Thurston
- Mark Bossi for the framed Freedom circus poster.
- Cynthia Wood Peavoy for the Tales of Effingham and "Here is Freedom" pictures by John Holmgren.
- Kevin Connerton for two books related to a Freedom author and illustrator.
- Bill Candy for photos of the Freedom fishing derby in about 1950.
- Nancy Griffin for a pottery piece of Louise Lovell's.
- Rick Davidson for many slides of Freedom people at FOHW in the 1980's and 1990's
- Jane Luke for an "eggbeater" style hand drill.

## Memberships

We offer many, many thanks to our members who have renewed for 2020 and thanks to our first-time members as well. We cannot do this without YOU! If you have not renewed your membership for this year or if you would like to give an extra gift, there is a form at the back of this newsletter for your use. Thank you.

**Lifetime Members:** Bill Barret, Edwin Boyer, GW Brooks & Son, Susan & Ramon Marks, Roberta MacCarthy, Richard & Ellen Many, John & Sylvia Manley, Barbara McEvoy, CSM R.A. Oram (USA Ret.), Elizabeth Seabury, Laura & Maynard Thomson, Catherine Watts, Gary and Elizabeth Coddington Ward, Peter & Beth Earle, Jody Shellene & Tim Hartsfield, and Ann & Noel Quinton.

**Sponsors:** John Shipman, Dann H. Lewis, Robert Barker, Jane & Richard Nylander, Lucy Kendall, Linda Walls, Lee Allison, Dick & Hazel Gauley, Jim Rines & White Mountain Survey, George Winters, Tim Allison, John Woodward, Randy Greenstein, Jack Middleton, Brandon Buttrick, Alice Custard, Linda Habif, William & Carolyn Stone, David and Marcia Trook, and Warren & Patti Manhard.



**Contributors:** Don & Janet Johnson, Larry & Nancy Wogman, Elizabeth Hentz, Deborah Shadd & William Grimm, James W. Brown, Carole & Brian Taylor, Carl A. Bloomquist, Steve & Diana Thurston, Charles & Terri Brooks, George & Aila Clauson, David & Kathleen Avery, Bonnie McCue, Kimberly Reis, Jean Marshall, Michael & Anne Gaudette, Betty Fuller, Bill & Maureen Elliott Jr., and Pamela Clemons-Keith.

**Family:** Bob & Deb Cottrell, Judith Smith, Ned & Judy Kucera, David Cheever, Larry Meserve, Nettie Nason, Christine Shields, Rachel Ward, Gary & Dianna Wagner, Carroll & Sandra Jacobs, Dianne Cahill, Paul Wheeler, Myrtle & Don Macleod, Jayne Britton, Gerald Hastings, Gale Johnson, Diane & Lawrence Claveau, Nadine Chapman, Margie Amico, Peg Scully, James & Betsey Bradt, Robert & Karen Hatch, Fred & Beverly Trail, Miranda Lee, Joyce Watson, and Charles & Margaret Gibbs.

**Individual:** Gail Bizer, Arlen Knight, Lorraine Martin, Jane A. McKenzie, Robert Smart, Susan Weeks, Ruth Allard Paul, Beverly Glynn, Arthur Birnie, and William Thompson

### Donations

We are so grateful to and thank donors in who have contributed to one or more of our special funds (the Archival project, the Freedom Houses project, General projects, and the memorial funds in memory of Sylvia Carney, Tom Luke, Nancy Seabury, Audrey Nicholson, Eva Cate Sheridan, and Howard Bouve: Lee Fritz, Erin Gaven, Susan and Ramon Marks, Judith Rope, Peg Scully, Sara Owen Tabor, Virginia Buckman, Jane Luke, Mary Lee Allison, Jody Shellene, Gail Bizer, Sylvia Bouve, Katharine Watts, Charles Watts, and the North Broad Bay Association. We give a very special thank you to CSM R.A. Oram (USA, Ret.) for sponsoring the construction and development of the upcoming military exhibit. This is a “gift that keeps on giving” since the exhibit structure will go on in subsequent years to show other stories about Freedom based on items in our collection.

We do suggest that 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. Thank you.

### Volunteers!!

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers who work hard and quietly on the Society’s projects. Thank you to our Board Members, thanks as always, to Nadine Chapman for all of her continued efforts to help keep us on track with our database efforts and the collection process as a whole. And for her organizing a John Holmgren display and the Freedom History displays; both of these are something to look forward to through 2021. Thanks to Pam Keith for her work on our monthly financial reconciliation and reports. And, thank you Anne Gaudette for paying all our bills and tracking the financials. And, thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully help with grounds maintenance both summer and winter.

### The 2021 Calendar

You can have a 2021 FHS calendar NOW. Either contact the FHS or ask the FVS to deliver one! Below a photo for August 2021 featuring **Avis Goss**; read about this interesting person who was the Freedom librarian for 17 years! And eleven other remarkable people from Freedom’s past. Every person you read about in our calendars has been gone for at least 20 years, so you learn about Freedom’s history through individual lives.



Avis Goss as a young woman.  
And later, Freedom’s librarian.



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

We thank our local businesses that have made a significant contribution to our operating costs in 2020 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**  
**Exit Realty, Grace Brooks**  
**Freedom Gallery, Barbara McEvoy, Artist**  
**Freedom House Antiques**  
**Freedom Village Store**  
**G W Brooks & Son, General Contractors**  
**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**  
**Paul Wheeler, RE/MAX Presidential**  
**Paul Olzerowicz, Sentinel Financial**  
**Terri Brooks, Watercolor & Pastel Artist**  
**Sarah Groleau, Trivent Financial**  
**Waddell & Reed, Margie Amico, Financial Advisor**  
**Ward's Boat Shop**  
**White Mountain Survey & Engineering**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 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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