



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!

November 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:

The year of "the COVID-19", 2020, has been a difficult one, both locally and globally. That said, we are fortunate to live in a small, mid-State New Hampshire town where we are relatively safe. Although the virus has affected us all socially and culturally, the Freedom Historical Society continued to make forward progress in 2020. This progress would not have been possible without our dedicated members and volunteers. The Board of Directors thanks you all for supporting our efforts during these difficult times. We are pleased to report the our progress in 2020 in this newsletter



Stay well and stay connected!

Sincerely, Co-Presidents

John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

FHS RECENT NEWS

- **New Board members elected:** We are pleased to report the results of the election of Board members for 2021:

Continuing Board members: (2 year terms in 2019 and 1 year left); Carole Taylor, Director; Barbara McEvoy, Director; Steve Thurston, Director; Anne Gaudette, Treasurer; John Perkins, Director; Roberta MacCarthy, Co-President.

Board renewals: Scott Cunningham, Vice President (2-years); John Shipman, Co-President (1-year); Jean Marshall, Director (1-year); John Perkins, Director (2-years); David Trook, Director (1 year)

New Board Members: Jane Davidson (2 years); Dann Lewis (1 year); Linda Habif (1 year); Brandy Buttrick (2 Years).

We now have a 15 member Board! We are so grateful to have these Board members step up to help preserve the history of Freedom.

- **2021 Calendar:** The calendar, our major fundraiser, is available at the Historical Society (Wednesday) or at the Freedom Village Store; they will even deliver! We think that this is the best calendar ever!
- **Membership renewal reminder.** We remind everyone that 2020 membership can be accepted anytime up until the end of the year. A form at the end of the newsletter is provided for your response.
- **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 **White Mountain Survey** who has been a faithful and generous sponsor.

Membership 2020

To date 2020 Membership is about flat with 106 members compared to last year 105. Membership dollars increased this year by 22% due to an increase in average gift from \$60 to

\$75 Collection of 2020 membership dues continues through December.

Total Supporters (Members and Donors) decreased this year from 142 to 134 in 2020. There were a larger number of overall donations in 2019 due to an increase in memorial contributions.

We are pleased to announce that we now have 19 Life Members, an increase of 5 over 2019. Life Membership was created in 2018 to recognize the 50 years of incorporation and to help lay the foundation for the Society's and museum's sustainability.

New Exhibits

To increase museum attendance and further the educational mission of the Society, new exhibit space for rotating exhibits was constructed in the Works Barn in 2020. The new U-shaped walls in the center of the barn provide an additional 400 sq. ft. of exhibit space. The approach is to bring out and highlight a portion of the collection, with more details about the items and the stories they tell about Freedom people, business and event. This process helps us catalogue any of the items from the barn that have not been put into the PastPerfect database, assess their condition, and then safely store them to properly protect them for the next 50+ years. To accommodate this new exhibit space, the butter and cream making equipment was moved to the lower barn level into a display area where similar items already were.

We are extremely grateful to CSM Oram who financed this construction project which will serve the museum for many years to come. Also, we give many thanks to Chuck Brooks for donating his time and skills for the construction of the new display space and to Steve Thurston and Barbara McEvoy for painting it. Here are the two exhibits displayed in 2020.



Before



After

"Defenders of Freedom"



George Allard, WW1 soldier

This was a presentation of the Museum's military collection and information about Freedom's military veterans that we have been given. John Shipman, with assistance from Brandy Buttrick, put together this exhibit. It will be replaced with a new exhibit in 2021. The information and photos from this exhibit will be digitally saved for research and review by the public.

"Freedom's own John Holmgren" featured a presentation of drawings of local men by John Holmgren in the 1950's and the artist who sketched them. This exhibit was prepared by Nadine Chapman and is in the "music room" of the Allard House. This exhibit will remain up through the 2021 season.



John Holmgren self portrait

The 2020 attendance to Museum was 150 visitors, which, despite COVID-19, were up slightly from 2019. All the visitors attended to see the new exhibits; so if we had had a "normal" year, one could argue that we would have had twice the number of visitors than 2019. The take-away is that new exhibits and more promotion do increase museum attendance.

Project Support. There is still time to make a tax-deductible donation to the Archival Project (see below). We know that you have many options when it comes to end-of-year giving. Why not choose the FHS Archival Project. Small and large gifts help preserve Freedom's history for future

generations. Make it a priority this December! There is a form at the end of the newsletter for making a donation. Thank you!

The Archival Project

The goal of the Archival Project is to ensure that our vulnerable collections of photographs, documents, maps, and manuscripts are safely protected and stored in appropriate files so that they are stored in a stable environment and digitally accessible.

This Project ensures that paper documents and photographs are properly protected for the long term through scanning and cataloguing each item into the PastPerfect Database. We made considerable progress this year by hiring a part time collection researcher and 1,243 new records have been added to the Past Perfect database since January 1, 2020; this is more than double the number entered in 2019.

The screenshot shows the PastPerfect database interface. The top menu bar includes options like Add, Browse, Edit, Spell, Find, Query, Delete, Print, Media, and Exit. The main window is divided into several sections:

- Screen View:** Photos (selected), Custom.
- Other Views:** Appraisal, Condition (selected), Lexicon, Location, Notes & Legal, People - Subjects, Classification, Search Terms, Relations, Source, Lists, Virtual Exhibit.
- Record Details:**
 - Collection: Freedom Historical Society Collection
 - Object ID: 1979.01.0411
 - Object Name: Photograph, Black-and-White
 - Date: 1920
 - Year Range: thru
 - Catalog Date: 03/21/2019
 - Cataloged by: Keith, Pamela
 - Status Date: / /
 - Status by:
 - Other#: 00167
 - Old#:
 - Accession#: 1979.01
 - Original FHS Collection - Unk
 - Status:
 - Home Location: Works Barn:Resource Room:East Wall:Storage Unit 04:File Drawer 3
- Photos Section:**
 - Description: Black and white photo of the Frank Linville Sargent home on Rice Hill Road. Frank was the father of Ernest Sargent and grandfather of Merton, Linville and Agnes. The house burned October 1986. The photo shows the side and porch of a cape with an attached barn with two signs. There is a large stack of firewood in the foreground.
 - Provenance: Waldo H. Nason
 - Title: Frank Linville Sargent's home 1920
 - Photographer:
 - Studio:
 - Place:
 - Event:
 - Medium:
 - Slide#:
 - Frame:
 - Frame#:
 - Neg Location:
 - Neg#:
 - Processing Method:
 - Site /Site#:
 - Orig/Copy:
 - Print Size:
 - Film Size:
 - Dimension Details:
 - Copyrights:

The bottom status bar shows "Record 199 of 743", "Updated by Pam Keith", "Updated 06/18/2020 02:49 PM", and "Update History".

“Screen shot” of the Past Perfect database showing the Sargent’s house which was destroyed in a fire.



Mert Sargent

A few of our members agreed to help fund this project over a five year period and we are very appreciative of those who gave additional donations to this Fund: Anne & Scott Cunningham, Charles and Heloise Depew, Jack Middleton, Howsie Steward, Mike and Loel Poor, Charles and Holly Watts, Caroline Collins, and Katherine Watts. These and all our member donations help us to continue the critical process of making sure all of the Society's records will be preserved and stored electronically.

It is clear that our Archival Project is moving forward and creating value to the Freedom community because more people are coming in to find information about their families and their life in Freedom. We have 1450 "Freedomites" who are now represented on the data base.

Museum Collection Work

One major task we undertook this year was a condition assessment of the museum physical structures to determine if any of the buildings or major collections were at risk, or a risk to the public. Brandy Buttrick graciously agreed to undertake the project and his report is almost finished. This project will help point out where we will need to focus our maintenance and repair work over the next year or two.

The above assessment work, combined with work on the military exhibit pointed out current problems with the museums textile collection, which is composed of dresses, hats, military uniforms, quilts, rugs and assorted millinery items. There have been problems with moths, insects and mildew compromising these items. Coincidentally, we were very fortunate to have Rosie Bauer, an intern, referred to us from the Conway Historical Society. Rosie's expertise is in historical textiles research and preservation and she was very nice to volunteer to review and advise us on our textiles.



She spent upwards of 20 hours with Nadine Chapman, Brandy Buttrick and Roberta MacCarthy working on identifying and assessing the condition of our textile collection. This led to a thorough inventory of the collection, its data entry and/or updating into the Past Perfect database, and the determination of safe storage practices and needs. Safe storage materials are currently being purchased.

We have expanded our collection by 35+ items in 2020. Most of the items were historical pictures, postcards, books and paper records; four items were farm implements from the Kidder family's barn.

Educating the public

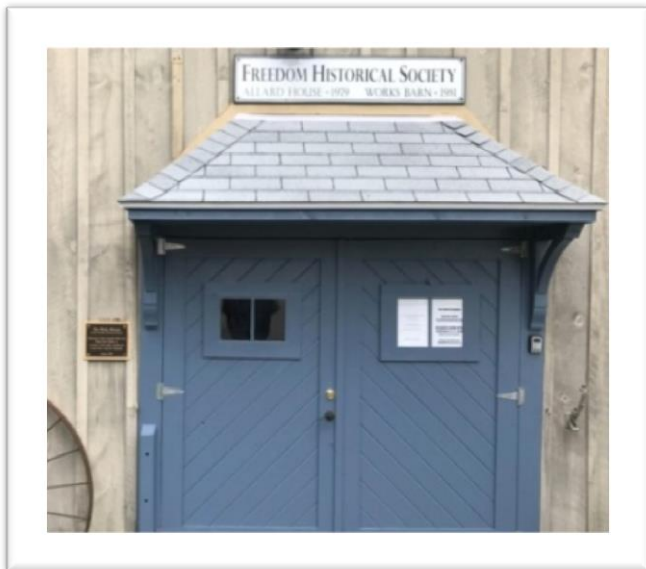
In 2020, despite COVID-19, FHS presented five educational programs on Zoom; attendance ran from 20 to 49, depending on the program. We continue to get two to three grants per year from NH Humanities Council for excellent programs and the rest are supported by our members.

Four (quarterly) newsletters, written by John Shipman, were distributed to members and supporters in 2020; the total distribution each time is about 150 newsletters

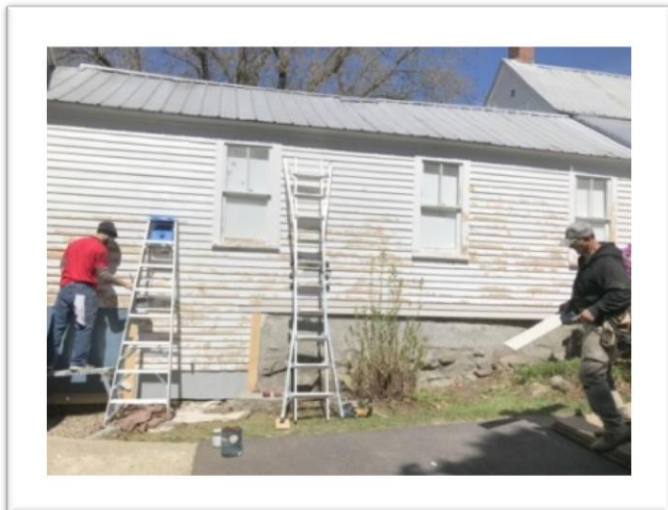
The FHS website and Facebook have been kept up to date this year thanks to Nadine Chapman, Roberta MacCarthy and Kim Reis.

Maintaining the Museum

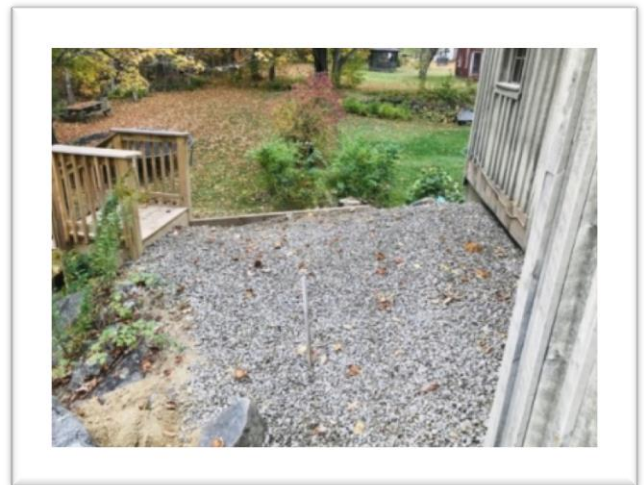
2020 was a big year for repairs and maintenance; spending over \$7,700. We finally attacked several major needs, including: Carpentry repairs to the barn entrance, barn siding (front and back), the carriage shed foundation and adding an ADA railing to the back stairs.



Repairing and repainting the siding on the east side of the Allard house;



replacing the bathroom toilet; Remediating an erosion problem in the back of the barn by adding drainage structures and stone;



Replacing the Resource Room doors with winterized (insulated and weather-stripped) exterior door to keep out the cold;



Added lighting to the main barn floor exhibit area and exhibit shelves

Rodent and pest mitigation continued quarterly. Because of COVID, one person was hired to do the spring cleaning of the museum this year in lieu of a group of volunteers. The cleaning was funded by a donor.

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 before the end of the year, please use the form at the back of this newsletter. Thank you.

Lifetime Members: William 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, Emily Philips, Catherine Watts, Gary & Elizabeth Coddington Ward, Peter & Beth Earle, Jody Shellene & Tim Hartsfield, Ann & Noel Quinton, and Anne & Scott Cunningham, Charles and Helen Watts, and In Memoriam Elizabeth Seabury.

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, David Meserve, Robert Barker and Tim Ostendorf, Jack Middleton, Brandon & Karrie Buttrick, Alice Custard, Janet Myers, Linda Habif, William & Carolyn Stone, David and Marcia Trook, Warren & Patti Manhard, Laura Robinson, John & Carolyn Woodward, James C. Farinella Building and Remodeling.

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, Peter & Diane Park, Charles & Terri Brooks, George & Aila Clauson, David & Kathleen Avery, Bonnie McCue, Kimberly Reis, Jean Marshall, Michael & Anne Gaudette, Betty Fuller, Bill & Maureen Elliott Jr., Pamela Clemons-Keith, Paul & Donna Tong, Art & Barbara Robinson, Jane McKenzie, Sioban Murphy, Christine Shields & George Kohler, , and Pat & Frank DelGigante.

Family: Bob & Deb Cottrell, Judith Smith, Ned & Judy Kucera, David & Maureen Cheever, Larry Meserve, Nettie Nason, Rachel Ward, Gary & Dianna Wagner, Carroll & Sandra Jacobs, Dianne Cahill, Paul & Lisa Wheeler, Myrtle & Don Macleod,

Jayne Britton, Gerald & Kimberly Hastings, Mitch & Marie Hansen, Gale Johnson & Shana Aisenberg, Gary & Dianna Wagner, Diane & Lawrence Claveau, Miranda Lee, Nadine Chapman, Margie Amico, Peg Scully, James & Betsey Bradt, Robert & Karen Hatch, Fred & Beverly Trail, Miranda Lee, Joyce & Fred Watson, Charles & Margaret Gibbs, Pat Hatfield, Sylvia Bouve, Andrew Krotinger and Linda Curtis, Elaine Gentile, Ellie Stokes, Sandy & Rick Gleeson, Jennifer Miller, Betty & Frank Fuller, Dennis & Julia Valentine.

Individual: Gail Bizer, Arlene Knight, Lorraine Martin, Jane A. McKenzie, Robert Smart, Susan Weeks, Ruth Allard Paul, Beverly Glynn, Arthur Birnie, William Thompson, Dorothy Brooks, Lauren Stoddard, Dorothy Reed.

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, Erin Gavin, Jane Luke, Mary Lee Allison, Jody Shellene, Gail Bizer, Sylvia Bouve, Katharine Watts, Charles Watts, the North Broad Bay Association, Elizabeth Hentz, Lucy Kendall, Robert & Karen Hatch, Caroline Marston, Edward Wogan, Nancy Ozikowics, Robert Phinney, Rachel Ward, Brian and Carole Taylor, Pieter Birnie, John Shipman, Paul and Bonnie Elie, John & Mary Habif, Miranda Sandahl, Elizabeth Genoese, Roberta MacCarthy, Anne Moore, Anne and Scott Cunningham, Marsha Hurst, Nancy Dzikowicz, Susan Hoople, and Ronald Goodmaster. 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.

Gifting

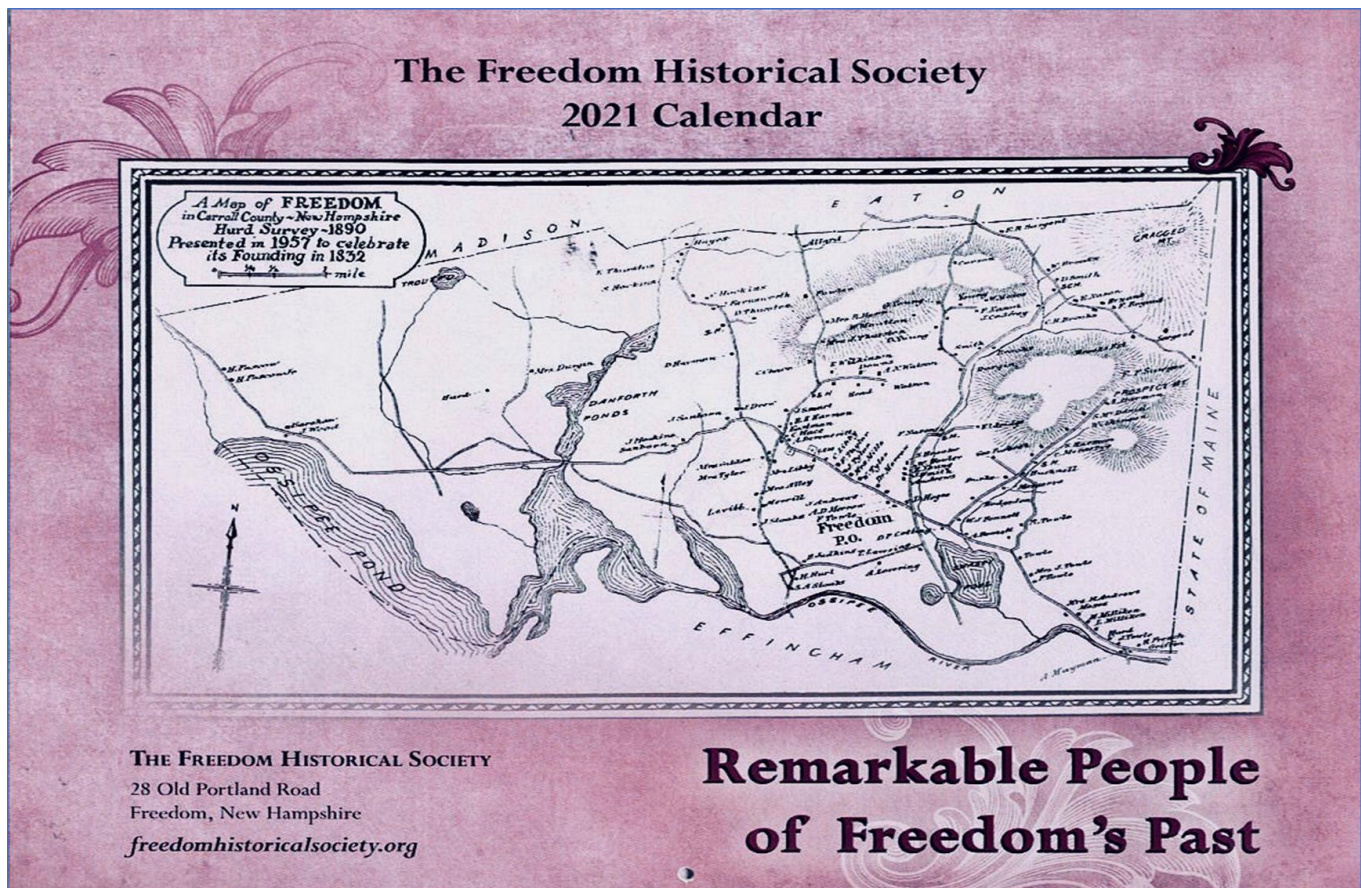
We do suggest that a Memorial Gift to FHS is a great way to recognize a loved one who

appreciated Freedom and its history. Also please consider a Legacy Gift from your estate or will. A Legacy Gift is a testament to your confidence in the future of FHS. Giving at a time when all personal needs have been satisfied, it is a way to leave a lasting connection with an institution you are passionate about. This will enable opportunities for preserving the history of Freedom and the enduring value of the FHS.

Legacy gifts will build the museum's endowment, provide essential annual income, and support its growing collection and educational programs. By including the FHS in your long-term financial plans, you can achieve the goals that are important to you—to benefit yourself and your family, and the community. Virtually anything of value may comprise your estate gift, including gifts of art, cash, securities, or real estate.

Volunteers!!

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers. 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. Thanks to Judy Smith who has been collecting and cataloguing all of Freedom's births, deaths, marriages and obituaries so that they are in reference notebooks. 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 FHS 2020 Calendar makes a great holiday gift for people with fond memories of Freedom!

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_____

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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