

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!

May 2021

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.

2020 – 2021 Board Members

Presidents	John Shipman Roberta MacCarthy
Vice President	Scott Cunningham
Treasurer	Dann Lewis
Secretary	Jane Davidson
<u>Directors</u>	
Steve Thurston	Barbara McEvoy
David Trook	Jean Marshal
John Perkins	Linda Habif
Carole Taylor	Anne Gaudette



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:

It is late spring, and the Freedom Historical Society Board and volunteers have gotten into full swing. Dare I say "busy as bees"?

In the last newsletter we reported that the Society's Board just submitted a grant proposal to the NH Preservation Alliance for matching funds to complete needed repairs to the Allard House. Although disappointed that we were not awarded a grant, we are so pleased to report that a local donor has stepped up to provide an equal amount as a challenge grant to the Freedom community. Read below to learn how we will be successful! And participate in June's NHGives.org campaign.

You will also want to keep reading below to learn about this year's summer exhibit that is now being feverishly completed. "Welcome to Mrs. J. C. Ferren's store" is an exhibit of women's apparel, dry goods and sundries that are in the FHS collection and representative of items sold in her shop in Freedom. Come to the museum to see what the shop (that was in the Federal House) may have looked like in the period 1884-1908 and learn about this entrepreneurial Freedom woman. Our "clerks" will be standing by to serve and educate you!

Sincerely, Co-Presidents

John Shipman

Roberta MacCarthy

FHS RECENT NEWS

- **Support Freedom's historical buildings.** The FHS Board of Directors is supportive of the efforts to have the town purchase and use the current Mason's building on School House Hill. This structure was originally the first church in Freedom and is seen in all old and current photographs of the Hill. It is iconic and will help preserve what is Freedom's sense of place.
- **Upcoming Educational programs**
We are continuing our Educational programs on Zoom so that fans near and far can be enriched by stories and artifacts from Freedom and throughout New England. Do not miss these upcoming programs- register at [Freedomhistoricalsociety.org](https://freedomhistoricalsociety.org).
 - **June 16 – New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell**
Presented by Pamela Weeks
 - **July 21 – A History of Scarborough Road**
Presented by John Perkins
- **2021 Membership renewal reminder.** This newsletter is a gentle reminder (and/or plea☺) that now is time to renew your 2021 membership. We rely on your generosity and a few grants to keep the museum, preservation and programs going!
- **Thanks to Freedom voters!!** Speaking of fundraising, we thank all of you who voted at Town Meeting to financially support preservation efforts at FHS. It takes all sources to complete our mission we are grateful to voters who support our efforts.
- **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. They have been a consistent and generous supporter over the years. We are very appreciative of this support. Thank you and we ask that "shop local" to support those who support the preservation of Freedom's history.
- **2022 Calendars:** Calendars are being completed as we speak and will be available at the FVS and

the Historical Society late in June. They continue with the theme "Remarkable People of Freedom's Past" and we are extremely excited about this latest edition!

- **Lifetime Members:** We are pleased to announce that we now have 30 Life Members, an increase of 7 over 2020. Life Membership was created in 2018 to recognize the 50 years of incorporation and to help lay the foundation for the future.
- **The Allard House Campaign - Preserving the past and investing in our future.**
The Freedom Historical Society is embarking on a preservation campaign and needs your help. The restoration will not only preserve and protect the museum, but will improve its appearance, and restore historic features. We hope you will consider making a generous tax-deductible contribution to the Allard House Preservation Fund. Please indicate "House Fund" on the check's memo line. Please send your donation to the Allard House Fund, The Freedom Historical Society, PO Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836. Or donate in June through the NHGives.org campaign. Please see article below.

CONNECTING WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION

By Steve Thurston



Traditionally, The Freedom Historical Society (FHS) has maintained a connection with the Freedom Elementary School (FES) staff and students in the form of hosting annual historical tours of the village or providing access

to historical information in our resource room to assist students with a research project. This connection, however, was impacted during the 2019/20 school year due to the pandemic. We reached out to them, however, this spring to see how we might re-connect.

Well, it just so happened that the 6th grade teacher, Mrs. Kareen Briggs, had a project in mind. It seems that some 15 or so years ago, FES hosted an “Artist in Residence” program where students initiated an effort to produce an illustrated book, with poems, that was tentatively titled “F is for FREEDOM”. The idea was to come up with a key word (or words) for each letter of the alphabet that had meaning for our beloved Town of Freedom. Think things like...

A	is for	Artists/Artisans.
B	“	Ballfield
F	“	Freedom
H	“	Huckins
L	“	Loon Lake
P	“	Post Office
R	“	Roads
S	“	Schools



To bring closure to this never-completed project, each of the 10 students in FES’ current sixth grade class divided up the alphabet so that each had multiple letters. Each letter had a key word and a four-line stanza about that word but lacked two key things:

- An illustration: Mrs. Stephan, FES Art Teacher, has worked with each student to produce an image.
- A narrative for each key word (perhaps a paragraph or few sentences) obtained through research at the FHS Resource Room. Students visited in two groups on two separate days with assistance provided by

John Shipman, Steve Thurston, and Pam Keith. (see photos).



The goal for Mrs. Briggs, Mrs. Stephan, and students has been to finish this project by the end of the current school year and FHS has been promised a copy of the finished book when completed. Developing/keeping connections with other community organizations (particularly those representing younger generations) continues to be an important outreach effort for the Freedom Historical Society.

[Editor’s note: Steve Thurston continues to spearhead the Society’s educational programs for both youth and adults, and we applaud his efforts. Education is one, if not the primary, goal of our institution. Thanks Steve!]

We are pleased to announce:

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S CLOTHING & TEXTILES EXHIBIT: “The History of Mrs. J C Ferren’s Millinery Dry and Fancy Goods Shop”




Mrs. J.C. (Mary) Ferren

The Freedom Historical Society is developing a unique and exciting exhibit for its museum visitors for the

Summer of 2021. The Freedom Historical Society will present a museum exhibit designed to display clothing and textile items from its collection that provide an historical look-back at some items that Mrs. J.C. Ferren may have sold in her Millinery, Dry and Fancy Goods Shop.

Experience a ladies' emporium as it was between 1884 and 1908



THE FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2021 MUSEUM EXHIBIT

MRS. J.C. FERREN'S MILLINERY, DRY & FANCY GOODS SHOP

An interpretation of the original shop, one of the first female-owned businesses in New Hampshire

June 19—September 18
Wednesdays and Saturdays
10AM to 12PM

Special Hours During Old Home Week
July 31—August 7
Every day from 10AM to 12PM

MUSEUM OPEN

Freedom Historical Society & Museum | 28 Old Portland Road | Freedom, NH | 603-539-5799

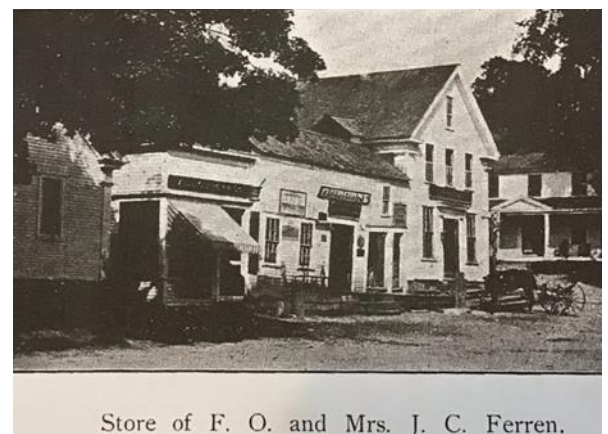
By focusing on items in the FHS collection, we will tell the story of what it may have been like to shop in her store between 1884-1908 in Freedom. Her shop was located on the second floor in the old Federal House.



We have also discovered that Mary Ferren was a true pioneer businesswoman by being one of the earliest known millinery store owners of her time in the State of New Hampshire. Her shop provided ladies fashion staples and quality home goods for families of Freedom for 24 years. It is our hope that through this exhibit, we will be able to provide our visitors with the opportunity to experience a ladies' emporium as it was between 1884-1908. The opening date for this exhibit is June 19, 2021 and will conclude on September 18, 2021.

The exhibit will include:

- Representation of a typical millinery shop in the late 1800's/early 1900's.
- A time period shop as soon as they walk-in to the Works Barn.
- "Clerks" with black vests will be able to help with authenticity and guidance.
- Photos and stories from the collection or from community donations that will explain the clothing and textiles that are being exhibited.
- An exhibit organized by department/sections as they would be displayed in a store: e.g., Ladies Clothing, Child/Infant's Clothing, Ladies Accessories (Hats/Reticules/Gloves), Shoes, Textiles, Stationery/Postcards, and quilts.
- Several dress makers forms and mannequins from the period that are in the FHS collection will aid in displaying items.
- A display case (located to the right of the Works Barn door) will be set up as a clerk's checkout area to show and sell Freedom memorabilia.
- There is information about the exhibit on the FHS website to keep community informed of on-going progress on setting up the exhibit.



The history of Mrs. J C Ferren's Millinery Dry and Fancy Goods Shop: Mary Marston Ferren. Mary owned the

millinery and dressmaking shop from 1884 to 1908. Mary sold Millinery and Dry and Fancy goods on the second floor. Her son, Frank Ferren, sold groceries on the first floor. The building in the back was Mary's husband John's livery stable. The stable was torn down in 1932. Ida Ferren was the daughter of Mary Marston Ferren. Ida was born in 1863 and she is the mother of Fran Shackford. Fran is Mary's granddaughter. This probably means some of the hats we have from Fran Shackford could be traced back to Mary.



Connie Wood and Sue Hoople examining a dress.

The purpose of this exhibit is to educate and entertain Freedom residents, FHS members and guests about a Freedom business in the late 19th century.

Items available for sale at Mrs. J.C Ferren's store at the FHS will be a series of useful and collectable memorabilia to commemorate this event: Coffee mugs, car coasters, table top coasters and ornaments imprinted with iconic images of Freedom in color. These items may be purchased singly or as a set. The image below is an example of one of the items that will be available.



A Major 2021 "Facility" Project

The ALLARD HOUSE Project

As mentioned in the February 2021 newsletter, the Society currently has a significant amount of work that is needed to help preserve and restore the Allard House. Here is a summary of the work needed and planned.



The Allard House Project: This project is divided into two main components: moisture impact repair and mitigation and structural support repair/replacement. We want to remedy each issue with the building's integrity in mind.

1.0 Moisture impact repair and mitigation. The approach to this work was guided by reviewing the NHPA on-line webinar "Q&A on Old House Projects" and consulting with Steve Bedard, of Bedard Preservation and Restoration. There are four techniques from these sources that the Project will rely on:

1.1 Leveling and sealing the dirt basement floor with a thick (12mil) polyethylene layer to keep ground moisture from migrating up into the main house; recommended by Steve Bedard. An important component of the moisture mitigation.



1.2 Sealing holes between the foundation rocks and granite sills from the outside

1.3 Insuring there is a proper slope away from the foundation to carry away roof run-off on the west side of the house.

1.4 Seal holes in walls in upstairs bedroom to keep elements and pests out.

1.5 Furthermore, there is the repairing, priming and painting of areas on the house that have deteriorated due to weather impacts. This includes repairs to both siding and windows.



Based on advice from the above sources these actions should substantially reduce and control moisture in the basement to help protect the house above from mold and mildew that is currently a problem.

2.0 Improvements to building structural support. There are two areas that need attention to ensure long-term stability and durability of the Allard House.

2.1 The first area is the columns in the basement that support the first floor. The supports are deteriorating and need to be replaced; in addition, two more columns need to be added. The structural integrity of the house is dependent upon these repairs.

2.2 The second area needing attention is the side porch of the house. There is substantial snow load on the porch (including snow that slides off the house onto the porch roof). There are five roof support columns on the porch now, but they are not original in design, size or placement. The current five posts do not line up with the four supporting posts under the porch. And they are round, lathe made columns not like the original posts. Therefore, for both structural and historic restoration purposes, we plan to restore these posts back to their original design and placement. The result will be a substantial improvement to the look of the porch, its historic and structural integrity.



Why this project matters: Proper maintenance of the Allard House matters because, as mentioned above, this building and its current use are an essential part of Freedom's sense of place. Our members, donors and the Town have shown their support for maintaining this building as evidenced by their financial support. The building matters dearly to Freedom residents, both current and former. Since the Society is a private 501(c) 3 organization it must raise all the funds to maintain this important structure; there is no endowment. Funding from the 2021 Allard House Challenge will provide the critical resources that are needed to perform corrective repairs to the museum house. It is critical to preserving the architectural and historic heritage of this iconic building in Freedom.



How will the Society fund this project??

As mentioned above, the Society has received a matching challenge grant for this project from a generous donor. This challenge replaces the grant that we were not awarded from the NH Preservation Alliance. With the \$5,000 challenge grant it is our challenge to raise the matching \$5,000 so that we have the \$10,000 necessary for the work. Yes, this is a big goal, but the need and justification have been laid out above. We need

to accomplish this project. Fortunately, in comes the spring NH Gives fundraising project to help us!

The NH Center for Non-profits is sponsoring a 24 hour **"NH Gives" campaign** from June 8th to June 9th. However, any donation made from June 1 through July 30th counts toward our match.

As mentioned, the Society is participating in the campaign in order to complete the "Allard House" project. We do ask that you help us reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in June (focusing on June 8-9 as the key dates) so that we can complete the needed repairs.

Just think:

- ✓ *Your \$25 becomes \$50.*
- ✓ *Your \$100 becomes \$200.*
- ✓ *Your \$500 becomes \$1,000.*
- ✓ *Your \$1000 becomes \$2,000.*
- ✓ You get the picture 😊.

So, on June 8th to 9th please go to: www.NHGives.org/organizations and type in Freedom Historical and click on our name/logo and make a donation. Or anytime in June- we are grateful.

Thank You for your support; we can do this together!!



The Freedom Historical Society's role in preservation:
The Society owns this structure outright as well as the entire property and land at this address; as such it is 100% responsible for the building's care and preservation. The house was bequeathed to the Society without an endowment so raising funds to maintain the house is one of the Society's major tasks on an annual basis.



Memberships

It is time to renew your membership for 2021; there is a form at the end of this newsletter for your use. We are so grateful to you all for your continued support- it is what keeps the organization going. Thank you!

Lifetime Members

William S. Barrett, Edwin Boyer, Scott & Ann Cunningham, Peter & Beth Earl, Pat Hatfield, Lucy Kendall, Jane Luke, Ramon & Susan Marks, Barbara McEvoy, CSM Oram, US Army, Ret., Noel & Anne Quinton, John & Marilyn Woodard, Brian and Carole Taylor, Maynard & Laura Thomson, Richard & Ellen Many, Emily Phillips, Bill & Nancy Essex, John & Sylvia Manley, Barbara Birnie, Pieter Birnie, Linda Habif, G. W. Brooks & Son, Elizabeth Seabury, Shellene & Tim Hartsdale, Brandy & Karrie Buttrick, Charles Watts & Helen Haynes, Katherine Watts, Roberta McCarthy, Gary & Elizabeth Ward, John Shipman, In Memoriam - Nancy Seabury.

Sponsor Members

Linda Walls, George Winters, Mary Lee Allison, Eugene Corbett, Laura Robinson, Ellie Stokes, William & Sally Stoops, Sarah Owen Tabor, Steve & Diana Thurston, John & Carolyn Woodard, Heidi Miksch, Dann Lewis, James Holmes, Russel Petrie, Gerard Constantino, James C. Farinella, James Rhines, Janet Myers, Caitlin Sackman.

Contributor Members

Debora Shadd & William Grimm, Elizabeth Hentz, David & Kathleen Avery, Chuck & Terri Brooks, Art & Barbara Robinson, Bob Smart, Cary & Dianna Wagner, Carl A. Bloomquist, Tim Allison, Barry & Nancy Meserve, Siobhan C. Murphy, Joyce & Fred Watson, David & Maureen Cheever, Carolyn & William Stone, Miranda Sandahl, Pat Crane.

Family Members

Mary K. Staples, Joanne Nason Bodnar, James & Betsey Bradt, Jayne Britton, Dianne and Peter Cahill, Nadine Chapman, Alan & Beverly Grant, Carroll & Sandra Jacobs, Jean Marshall, Nettie Nason, Kim Reis, Peg Scully, Fred & Beverly Trail, Joanna Mera-Krinsky, Judy Smith, Mitchell Hanson, Nils Lovering Nordberg, Charles Thorndike.

Individual Members

Gail Bizer, Dorothy Brooks, Ray Dahlstrom, Jane Hartnett, Robert & Karen Hatch, Shana Aisenberg, Patricia Bernard, Gale Johnson, Andrew Krotinger, Beverly Glynn, Pamela Taylor.

Donations

• Allard House 2021 Preservation Fund

Robert Smart, Peter & Beth Earle, Ramon and Susan Marks, Carolyn & William Stone, Carl Bloomquist, Roberta MacCarthy, Emily Phillips, CSM Robert S. Oram, Linda Habif, John Shipman.

• Archival Fund

Charles Watts & Helen Haynes, Katherine Watts

• Memorial Gifts

Arlene Knight, Fred and Beverly Trail, Arthur Poor, Caroline Marston, Sarah Scully, Zenya Hernandez, Jane Luke.

• General Operating Fund

Janet Meyers, Lindsey Allard

2021 Item Donations

Many thanks to those below who donated Freedom items to the FHS collection since January 1, 2021.

First	Last	Item
Peg	Scully	Original watercolor by Sam Warren
Robin	Waters	Military newspapers, WWII
Rachel	Ward	Memorabilia of Freedom people
Charlie	Gibbs	Grain scale from FVS
Brandy	Buttrick	Notebook of Freedom Veterans through 2020.
Carole	Stokes	Large collection from and about the Stokes family

Linda	Walls	19 th century Spinning wheel and 2 portraits of Sargent family members
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Volunteers!!

We would be nowhere without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to our Board Members, thanks as always, to Nadine Chapman for all her continued efforts to write, update the FHS Collections Management Procedures in 2021; and help with training! 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 news articles so that they are in reference notebooks. Thank you, Roberta MacCarthy and Anne Gaudette, for all the research and preparatory work on the 2021 calendar. And thank you to the Ogren Family who faithfully help with grounds maintenance both summer and winter.

Coming Soon!



Shoe display

at FHS's re-enactment of Mrs. J. C. Ferren's store, 1884-1908. Opens June 19th, 2021!

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, The Groleau Financial Group at Thrivent
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 would 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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