

THE FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS IN 2025

The Freedom Historical Society is committed to preserving the history of Freedom, NH and educating the public about Freedom's unique history through exhibits, programs, books, newsletters, website, and Museum.



THE 2024 FHS TEAM

Executive Board

- ▶ Brandy Buttrick & Roberta MacCarthy, Co-Presidents
- ▶ Ed Barosky, Vice President
- ▶ Jane Davidson, Secretary
- ▶ Jayne Britton, Treasurer

Directors:

Nancy Essex	John Perkins
Anne Gaudette	John Shipman
Michael Gaudette	Carole Taylor
Pam Keith	Steve Thurston
Linda Habif	Barbara McEvoy
Jean Marshall	Moirra Epps
Pam Taylor	



2024 Priorities

Board Development

- Increased knowledge and awareness of the administration, collection, preservation, research and the financial resources of a small historical society.
- Updated the FHS Bylaws and the Board approved them on September 12, 2024. (Copies of the updated Bylaws are available.)
- Increased Board involvement in developing program strategies.
- Increased Board participation in the FHS Docent Program.

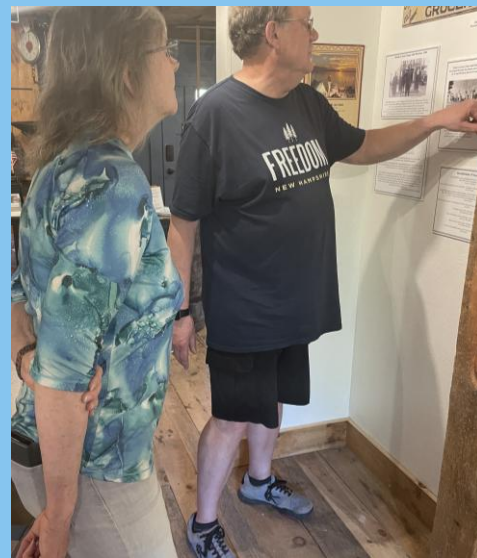




Training Docents

Brandy developed a Docent Training document and program

- Recruited 2 volunteers for 47 days
- Special thank you to our Docents:
 - Lucy Kendall, Pam Keith, Jane Davidson, Michele Keenan, Linda Habif, Lauren Stoddard, Nadine Chapman, Nancy Essex, Steve Thurston, Bill Elliot, Sarah Tabor, Pam Taylor, Arlene Knight, Brian Taylor, Carole Taylor, John Shipman, Laurie Eisner. Michael Gaudette, Anne Gaudette, Barbara Hall-Siktberg, Janice Zecher, Jayne Britton, Barbara McEvoy, Moria Epps, Karrie Buttrick
- Also, special thanks to Linda Habif for recruiting & scheduling the volunteers!!!





Community Outreach

- Partnered with Effingham Historical Society for this year's exhibit.
- Increased information sharing with neighboring historical societies (i.e., Wolfeboro Family Research Center).
- Work more with other Freedom Organizations: Community Club, Heritage Commission, Freedom Village Store, Freedom Library, Freedom Elementary School, and Freedom Old Home Week.
- Sponsored a Library Presentation by Noel Quinton on "A Sense of Freedom." Provided the Freedom Library with a signed copy of the FHS book.
- Handed out candy to "trick or treaters" in Freedom village.
- FHS table at Freedom Rings in the Holidays.
- Old Fashioned Bean Supper at a Community Club Dinner in May; to be repeated in April 2025!!!

Special Tribute to Scott Cunningham...



- We are remembering a community leader and a staunch supporter of preserving Freedom's history for future generations – Scott Cunningham.
- Scott was volunteer, Board Member, Vice President, and Lifetime Member of the Freedom Historical Society.
- Scott visited the beloved family Barn on Watson Hill before he was three months old. Scott and his sister, Marcia, spent summers on Watson Hill, and later on Berry Bay.
- Wherever Scott lived or traveled during his business career, he always called Freedom his spiritual home.
- When Scott returned to Freedom one of his dreams was to restore a snow roller and place it in Freedom's snow roller shed.
- Scott's family establish a special tribute fund for the snow roller restoration project.
- A Special Tribute to Scott was included in the 2025 FHS Calendar.



Special Community Project

Snow Roller and Snow Roller Shed

- In 2012, the Snow Roller Shed was placed on the New Hampshire State Registry of Historic Places.
- Shed renovated in 2016 - thanks to Heritage Commission.
- In 2019, Heritage Commission/FHS launched a joint project to obtain a snow roller.
- Snow Roller Shed floor will be leveled soon by the Town so that work to restore the snow roller can begin.
- Total revenue raised to date: \$7,235.
- Once completed, snow roller and shed will be the only restored snow roller contained in an original snow roller shed in the State of New Hampshire.
- The Shed will be part of the FHS Museum and open for display during museum hours.



Continued To Increase Research And Build The FHS Collection

- Researched and consulted with experts on our NH indigenous artifacts in our collection.
- Received a large donation of photographs, letters, and house artifacts from from Joe Maloof/the Nason and Towle Families on Scarboro Road.
- Received books and genealogical records from the Malvesta Family of Eaton through Nadine Chapman.



Updated FHS Facilities in 2024

- New Museum Exhibit Lighting
- Security/Alarm System
- The Septic System



Protecting Our Museum Collection - New Climate Control Room

- Converted the lower level of the Works Barn into a Climate Control Room for safer, environmentally-controlled storage of our Collection
- Completed Climate Control Room with temperature and humidity control for textiles, paintings, old documents, and other sensitive artifacts.



New Septic Systems For the Museum



- New state-of-the-art AeroFin system - passive wastewater treatment system.
- Renovated Bathroom for year-round use.
- Raised over \$23,000 for project.

Many thanks to our donors:

- Alan Fall - Designer
- Michael Gaudette & Bob Goos - construction team.
- Donors: Mike Poore, Robert Oram, Brooks and Son Construction and those individuals who gave through the 2024 NH Gives on-line campaign.



Monthly Speaker Program

Special Thanks to Programs Coordinator - Steve Thurston for a terrific year!!

- Feb 21 Early New England Ice Harvesting – Jane Hennedy, Historic NE
- Mar 20 The Old Man: His Life and Legacy – Inez McDermott*
- Apr 17 NE Bean Supper with Freedom Community Club offering a “sneak peek” of Museum Exhibits on History of Effingham Falls
- May 15 A Sense of Freedom: Historical Postcards of Freedom – Noel Quinton
- July 17 Saturday Morning Cartoons: Bugs Bunny, Bullwinkle, and Big Business in the 1960s – Margo Burns*
- Aug 21 Now Who Shall Judge the Indians? How 500 Years of Colonization Has Impacted the Abenaki People of NH & the Northeast – Anne Jennison*
- Sep 18 History of Purity Spring Resort – John Sexton
- Oct 16 A Sense of Freedom: Historical Postcards of Freedom – Noel Quinton. In partnership with Friends of the Freedom Library.

*Asterisk indicates a program offered by NH Humanities





Education Programs With The Freedom Elementary School

- Thanks to Steve Thurston and Pam Keith as they continue to work with Mrs. Kareen Briggs (4th, 5th & 6th grade teacher) to bring Freedom's History to FES students.
- Classes toured Museum Exhibit with Brandy Buttrick in both May and October.
- FHS set-up an exhibit at the School in 2024 – “Can you identify these objects”
- Winners in every grade. Prize - Free Ice Cream at Bobbie Sue's.
- Next year's exhibit will be a display of Freedom's Historic School Houses.
- The FHS goal is to work closely with the Freedom Elementary School sharing stories of Freedom's past.



2024 Summer Exhibit Featuring History of Effingham Falls

- Freedom and Effingham Historical Societies joined efforts to develop two new unique exhibits that feature the industries, heritage, and events of “The Falls” or as Freedomites know it, the “Lower Village.”
- These museum displays tell the stories of the historic Town of Effingham, and the dynamic events of the past that created the Town of Freedom.
- The 2025 FHS Calendar focused on “Images of Effingham Falls”

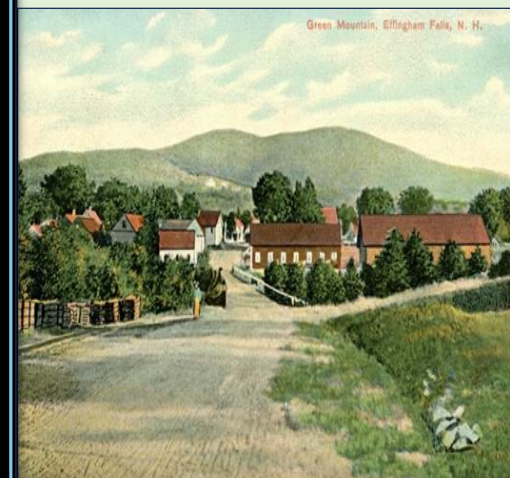


Museum Opening Reception on May 23



The Freedom and Effingham Historical Societies
present

2024 Exhibits on The History of Effingham Falls



The Freedom and Effingham Historical Societies have joined efforts to develop two new unique and exciting exhibits that feature the industries, heritage, and events of "The Falls." Please join us as we take visitors on a stroll through museum displays that tell the stories of the historic Town of Effingham, and the dynamic events of the past that created the Town of Freedom.

Freedom Historical Society & Effingham Historical Society
Museum hours:

May 25 – October 12, 2024

Wednesdays 10 AM to 12 Noon

Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM

See the Interesting/Informative Displays that Reunite Two Towns in 2024

Freedom Historical Society
28 Old Portland Road
Freedom, NH
Phone: (603) 662-2839
FHSociety28@gmail.com

Effingham Historical Society
1014 Province Lake Road
Effingham, NH
Phone: (603) 539-6715
effinghamnhhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

The History of Effingham Falls – “Freedom’s Lower Village”

Displays include:

- 1) Native American artifacts from Ossipee Lake system
- 2) Mills on Freedom’s side of the Ossipee River
- 3) The Ossipee Lake Dam
- 4) Development Schemes for the Ossipee River Corridor
- 5) Stores on the Freedom side of Effingham Falls
- 6) Bridges across the Ossipee River
- 7) Houses/Families on Freedom side of Effingham Falls
- 8) The origins of Freedom, NH
- 9) A close call - the Great Fire of 1947



Exhibit on the History of Effingham Falls - *Couldn't Have Happened Without Volunteer Dedication!*

- According to The New Hampshire Historical Society, the special partnership between the Freedom and Effingham created an interesting exhibit that demonstrates the effectiveness of cooperation among State historical societies.
- First, a special recognition to the Effingham Historical Society, including President Bill Talor and Vice President Jan Smith for their support of the idea, and especially to Jason Earle for his dedication to the joint effort and his tireless research that helped both organizations!
- Many Freedom volunteers were essential to developing the displays that highlighted the exhibit on the Freedom side of Effingham Falls. Special thanks go out to: David Trook, Moira Epps, Michele Keenan, Noel Quinton, Carole and Brian Taylor, Linda Habif, Barbara Hall-Sitkberg, Roberta MacCarthy, Pam Keith, Janice Zecher, Barbara McEvoy, Michael Gaudette and John Shipman.
- Also, a huge thanks to the Nason, Godfrey, Hall and Stokes families; long-time residents of Effingham Falls that donated special items and memories that made the exhibit possible.

Display Of Artifacts Highlight The Museum's Entrance in 2024



- FHS volunteers researched a collection of indigenous artifacts given by the Stokes Family.
- These artifacts collected more than 50-70 years ago along Long Sands area of Ossipee Lake, and some near the Route 153 bridge in Freedom.
- These artifacts include several projectile heads, a few stone tools, and some pottery shards.
- Our artifacts were examined by the State Archeologist for quality and dating; he was impressed with our collection and remains involved with FHS.
- John Shipman is Display Coordinator.

Effingham Falls Exhibit will be Refreshed in 2025

- New, updated research and photographs.
- Exhibit “Soft” Opening on May 22nd for FHS and EHS volunteers and Lifetime Members
- Grand Opening on Saturday, May 24th
- Closing date: Saturday, Oct 11th

2025 Museum Hours:

May 24– October 11, 2025

Wednesdays 10 AM to 12 Noon

Saturdays 10 AM to 2 PM



Freedom Historical Society's

5 Exhibit Plan Year Plan

(Summer Months of 2024-2028)

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>2024 - (Year 1)</i> | History of Effingham Falls |
| <i>2025 - (Year 2)</i> | History of Effingham Falls (refreshed with new information) |
| <i>2026 - (Year 3)</i> | Summer Camps of Freedom |
| <i>2027 - (Year 4)</i> | History of the Schools of Freedom |
| <i>2028 - (Year 5)</i> | Historic Recreation and Entertainment Activities in Freedom |

Other Topics Under Consideration:

History of Freedom's Old Home Week Celebrations (considering for 2029)

Historic Families and Ancestral Genealogy of Freedom

Are there other Topics?

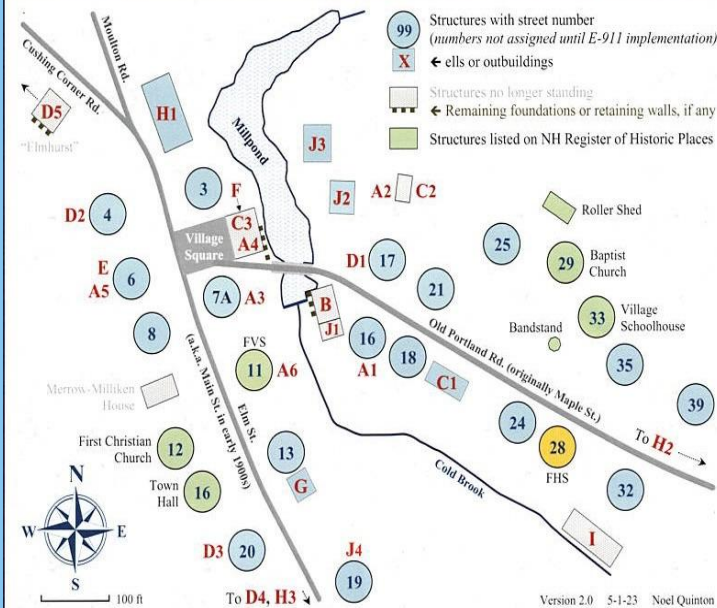
New Acquisition Display in The Allard House

- Allard House exhibit displays new objects recently accepted into FHS collection.
- FHS receives about 10-20 objects each year.
- Objects are researched, reviewed, documented, and added to the collection.
- Acquisition Display updated annually during each exhibit season.
- Thanks to Janice Zecher, Karrie Buttrick, and Roberta MacCarthy for their design work.
- Below: a 1929 Calendar, 2024 Signature Quilt, and a painting of a farmhouse on Scarboro Road where the Nason's and Towle's lived donated by Joe Maloof.



WALKING TOURS OF HISTORIC FREEDOM VILLAGE CONTINUED IN 2024 – AND LOOK FORWARD TO 2025

Historic Businesses of Freedom Village



A Mercantile stores

A1: in the Fowler house at 16 Old Portland Road
A2: behind Drake's barn at 17 Old Portland Road
A3: 7A Elm Street (Huckins, Fowler, Drake)
A4: Towle building (E. I. Towle, H. B. Milliken)
A5: 6 Elm Street - 1st floor (Ferren, Perkins, Stuart)
A6: 11 Elm Street (Foster, Tilton, Whitaker, FVS)

B Grist mill: beside Cold Brook, near the dam

C Clothing manufacturing

C1: Stephen Danforth - ell of 18 Old Portland Road
C2: O. E. Drake - behind 17 Old Portland Road
C3: E. I. Towle & Co. - at their village square bldg.

D Hotels and summer boarding houses

D1: Godfrey's Inn - 17 Old Portland Road
D2: Prospect House - 4 Elm Street
D3: The Elm (a.k.a. Hotel Elms) - 20 Elm Street
D4: Loon Lake House - 61 Elm Street
D5: Elmhurst (uphill past 15 Cushing Corner Road)

E Millinery shop: Mary Ferren - 6 Elm St, 2nd floor

F E. I. Towle & Co. building
Between village square and west bank of millpond
(General store, bank, apothecary shop, undertaker)

G Cobbler's shop > Harmony Tea Shop

13 Elm Street: Charles Beach > Angie Fracker

H Agriculture

H1: Prospect Farm - 3 Elm Street
H2: Maple Grove Farm - 65 Old Portland Road
H3: Freedom Creamery - 19 Loon Lake Road

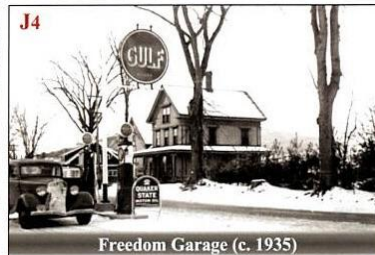
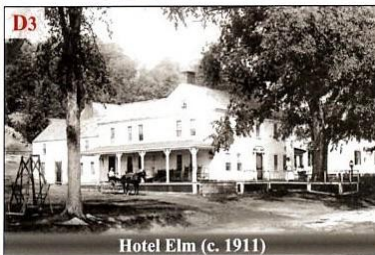
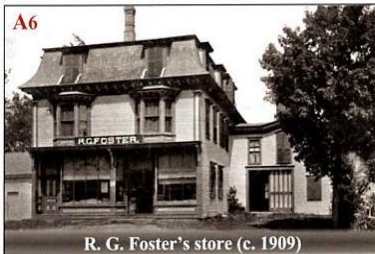
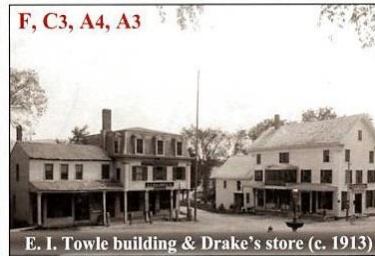
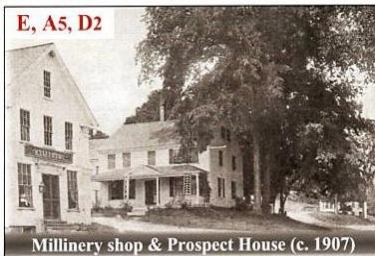
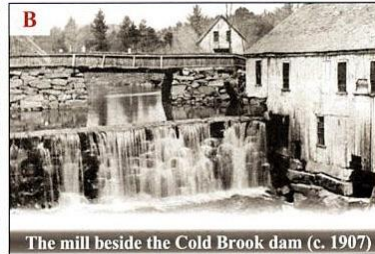
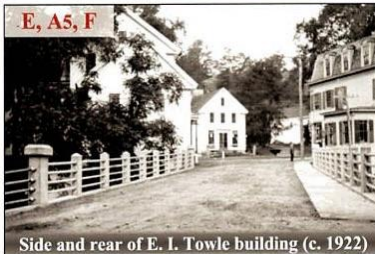
I Tannery

Along Cold Brook behind 32 Old Portland Road

J Blacksmiths & Mechanics

J1: Alonzo Fowler - at rear of mill building
J2: Edgar Mills - east of the millpond (now FFD)
J3: Herb Pray - east of the millpond
J4: G. Everett Nichols (Freedom Garage) - 19 Elm

Images of Freedom businesses, 1907-1935



Special Walking Tours Offered
during Freedom Special Events:

- Ducky Day
- Old Home Week
- Labor Day weekend
- Or upon request via reservation



A Sense of *Freedom*



A twentieth-century journey
featuring images from the postcard collection of the
Freedom Historical Society

Noel Quinton

NEW FHS PUBLICATION 2024

- ▶ A Sense of Freedom” by Noel Quinton;
a book of the FHS Post Card Collection.
- ▶ Program and Release date: May 15, 2024
- ▶ You can still get your copy during Freedom
special events and at the FHS Museum!!
- ▶ Will make an awesome Christmas presents!!



“A Sense of Freedom” A Huge Success!!

- ▶ Total Cost of book was \$3,963 for 317 copies.
- ▶ This includes printing by Minuteman Press, Shipping, ISBN registration, some image licensing from Penobscot Marine Museum).
- ▶ Needed to sell 136 books to break-even – recently accomplished!!
- ▶ All books sold from this point forward is profit for FHS.
- ▶ FHS has 154 books remaining to sell.



Margie's Lunch

- ▶ Continues to be a popular community event during Freedom's Old Home Week.
- ▶ 75 guests plus many volunteers served hamburgers and hot dogs over a 3-hour period.
- ▶ Guests also toured the Museum exhibits.
- ▶ Special thanks to the volunteer coordinator Maggie Hoople.



FHS Yard Sale - October 12 and 13

- Huge community support with community donations make this a terrific FHS fundraiser.
- Held during last weekend of museum's season.
- FHS made \$4,586 in profit for these 2 days in 2024!
- This revenue will fund ongoing activities.
- Plan to continue Community Yard Sale in 2025.





Concert for the FHS Future Fund Continues....

- This major fundraiser again contributed over \$4,000 (after expenses) to the FHS Endowment in 2024.
- The reception at the Freedom Gallery and the buffet dinner and concert with Darlin' Corey in the Town Hall was a huge success.
- Special thanks to Ed Barosky, the FHS VP and Concert Coordinator and Barbara McEvoy for providing the space in her Gallery.
- Importantly, a huge thanks to the 2024 sponsors: G.W. Brooks & Son, Gerard Constantino Real Estate, Glenn Kemper, Caterer, Freedom Gallery, and Vingard Winery from New Boston, NH.



Great Volunteers, Membership Support, and Participation

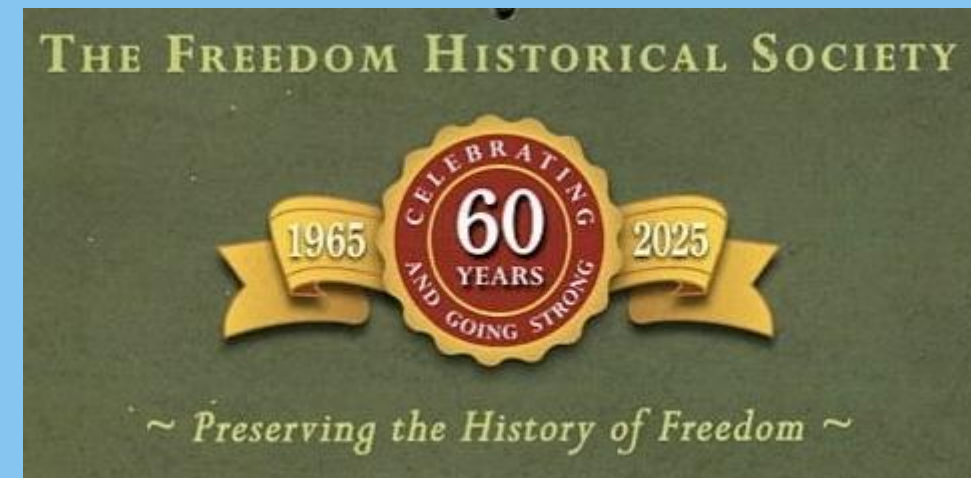
- More event, promotions and quality of our museum's exhibit in 2024 helped increase museum popularity.
- 2024 Museum attendance over 565 visitors; compared to 475 in 2023
- Continuation of the walking tours remained popular.
- Membership is stable at 220 members.



Celebrate with Us in 2025 - Our 60th!

Help us develop a plan to celebrate this significant milestone: Please share your ideas to make it a very special year!

- Special exhibit on the founding and growth of the FHS: Our History, Our Museum.
- Launch a new Alumni Group – recognize the early founders and leaders of FHS.
- Produce a series of Open Houses: Music and Wine at 28 Old Portland Road.
- Update the FHS Book on Freedom Tiles from the year 2000.
- Publish a FHS Cookbook on 60 years – A Taste of Freedom's Past or share your Families' recipe stories.
- Develop and introduce a Freedom Barn Tour.
- Picnic on Loon Lake - Celebration for Families.
- A concert or Square Dance



THE FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Renewal of Current Board Members – **Vote needed**

Brandy Buttrick – 2 years

Ed Barosky – 1 year

Michael Gaudette 2 year

Barbara McEvoy – 1 year

Jane Davidson 2 years

John Perkins – 1 year

Carole Taylor – 2 year

New Board Members – Vote needed

Lauren Stoddard – 1 year

Marcia Trook – 1 year

Paul Elie - 1 year

Stepping Back from Board Duties

Special Thanks to the Leadership & Commitment

Jean Marshall - Board Member since 2017

Pam Taylor - Board Member in 2024

John Shipman - Board Member since 2012

In 2025, We Celebrate 60 years of FHS!!

- FHS began with a conversation between Barbara Dutton and Molly Cunningham on March 30, 1965 - First official meeting was on May 5, 1965.
- Founding members included: Barbara Dutton, Molly Cunningham, John Brooks, Melvin Watson, Wesley Milliken, Lettie Thurston, George Littlefield, Emma Perkins, Kenneth Alexander, David Dutton and F. Graham Cunningham.
- 14 years later, through the extreme generosity of Margie Allard and the Works Family, the buildings and contents were donated to FHS to start the museum.
- Since then, three generations of Freedom families have provided support.
- We pay tribute to volunteers and supporters who have made this happen!



THANK YOU ALL !!