

# FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 Old Portland Road  
PO Box 548  
Freedom, NH 03836

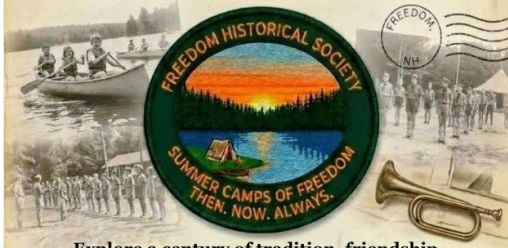
April 2026 e-Newsletter

Dear Friends and Members,

There's an unmistakable energy in the air as we head into our sixty-first year! This month connect and engage with Freedom's History through this e-newsletter! Check out the special messages below on the FHS celebration of the 250th American Revolution Anniversary, new additions to the Museum collection, preparations for the 2026 exhibits, our special volunteer salute, and upcoming events.

Each year the FHS Museum has been the place where Freedom comes together to connect, explore, and experience the power of shared Freedom stories. We want to hear your story. This year we are calling all FHA Members and Friends that attended camp in Freedom over the years to share their story! We want to hear about your experiences at summer camp in Freedom, whether that be as a camper, staff, or parent! We will be telling stories about Freedom Camps in the upcoming exhibit. Email us your story and it could be included in the Camp Exhibit at the Freedom Historical Society in 2026 and 2027. Your camp held a special place in your heart and we would love to hear why. Send your story to [fhsociety28@gmail.com](mailto:fhsociety28@gmail.com) and you snapshots!! We all love Freedom! You will be part of the history of youth camps in Freedom for future generations!

The Freedom Historical Society Presents:  
**SUMMER CAMPS OF FREEDOM**



Explore a century of tradition, friendship,  
and bugle calls!

- ❖ **CAMP HISTORY:** Learn about Freedom's summer camps, past and present
- ❖ **CAMP EXPERIENCES:** Try Knot-Tying, guess the mystery item, play rainy day games, and more!

<b>LOCATION:</b> 28 Old Portland Road, Freedom, NH Phone: (603) 662-2839 <a href="mailto:FHSociety28@gmail.com">FHSociety28@gmail.com</a>	<b>HOURS:</b> May 25 through October 12, 2026 Wednesdays 10 AM to 12 Noon Saturdays 10 AM to 1 PM
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**ADMISSION:** Free (But Donations Welcome. Help us keep the stories alive!)

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

With your help, we can continue to uncover and share the voices, places, and experiences of Freedom. Thanks to all for your membership, and for

your continued commitment and support. We depend on you! (to donate, click the "donate" button at the end of this newsletter).

Kyle and Roberta, Co-Presidents

## The Eaglewicke Eagle sign now part of the FHS Museum Collection

The story of the Eaglewicke Sign  
by Bonnie Klein Ainsworth

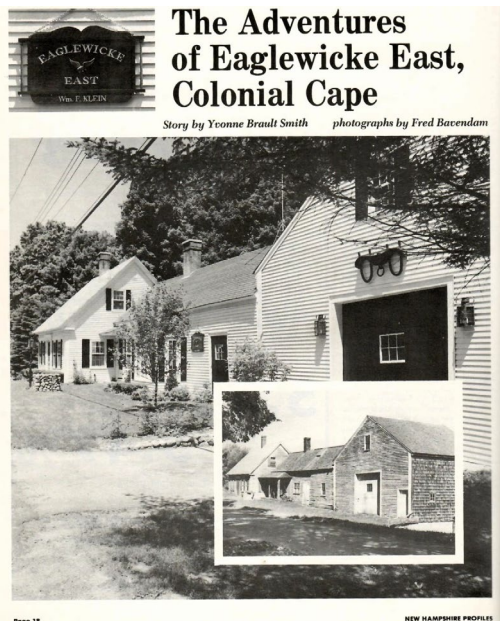
In the fall of 1973, Bill and Ida Klein (my Dad and Mom) relocated their Eaglewicke Gift Shop to Main Street in North Conway, first floor of the Masonic Temple building next to the Movie Theater. Their previous location was Indian Mound in Center Ossipee, opened in 1971. Bill and Ida loved New Hampshire and every year they vacationed at White Lake State Park it became more and more difficult to return to their life in New Jersey. When they discovered that a gift shop in Indian Mound was for sale, they took the leap of faith and never looked back. Their true home was New Hampshire. Ida's mother grew up in Groveton, New Hampshire so her New Hampshire roots were already there. They found their beautiful home in Freedom which became Eaglewicke East and their love of eagles and country décor could be seen in both their home and in their gift shop. Bill's business experience (previously owning the Summit House restaurant in Summit, New Jersey) and Ida's sense of style and decorating translated easily to Eaglewicke.

I had moved from New Jersey in the fall of 1973 to help out in their newly opened location.

They commissioned the iconic Eaglewicke sign which was designed by Russ Lanoie of Madison, New Hampshire and the Eagle was carved by Sherman LaBarge of Fryeburg, Maine. The eagle carving was inspired by the cover of a January 1967 issue of Country Ideals magazine. Eaglewicke carried Pfaltzgraff dinnerware, Hummels, Hampshire Pewter, Silver and Turquoise jewelry, Wilton Armetale, Christmas decorations, a Raggedy Ann and Andy Baby Boutique (offering all things baby including Christening Gowns), Mary Meyers stuffed animals, Smurfs, Needlepoint Kits, Kitchenware, Engraving Services, free gift wrapping and of course greeting cards. The two windows in the front of the store were decorated monthly to celebrate the current holiday. They were Mom's pride and joy and it was always fun to help out. Customers looked forward to seeing what was new in the shop and admire Ida's sense of style. In the early 1980s, Bill and Ida added engraving and UPS shipping to their line of customer services. Every year from 1973 until 1984 they had an Annual Christmas Open House in late November and the windows rivaled Macy's (at least in my mind's eye). If you visited Eaglewicke you might also remember being greeted by the loveable little toy poodle, Dondi.

Mom was a skilled seamstress and in 1976, for the Bicentennial windows, she and I created 2 life size Raggedy Dolls dressed in Colonial Costumes to put in the window during the summer of 1976. Later that year they were featured in the Christmas window display and they also appeared on the November-December 1978 cover of NRTA Journal and in the Ideals Christmas Edition in 1979. Photo by Fred Sieb of North Conway. (Fred took many photos of Mom's Still Lives that appeared in magazines). Eaglewicke East was featured in New Hampshire Profile magazine in October 1976.

Bill and Ida closed the North Conway location of the Eaglewicke Gift Shop in 1985 and brought the Engraving Services home to their barn on Elm Street in Freedom. It became difficult to compete with the new outlets opening in town. Who remembers Reading China and Glass, the first of many? Sometimes life gives you just what you need. The move back to their home in Freedom gave them more time to spend with family and their beloved grandson Nathan who was three years old at the time. The sign was rehomed to their barn and when they sold the house in the late 1990s it was given to Bill Taylor at Ye Olde Sale Shoppe in Effingham, New Hampshire where it has been stored in his barn these past 30 years or so. A very warm thank you to Bill Taylor for donating the sign to the Freedom Historical Society to bring the legacy of Bill and Ida Klein and the Eaglewicke history home to Freedom.



Bill and Ida Klein

Eaglewicke East, 51 Elm Street,  
Freedom, NH

## Honoring our Volunteers

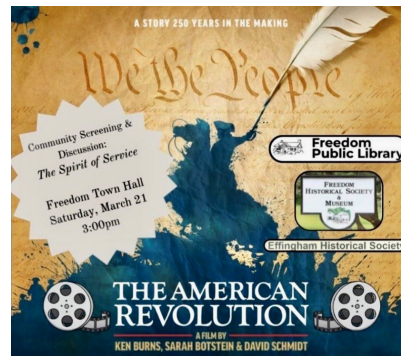
This year we want to do a special "shout out" to our committed volunteers who work behind the scenes, and whose spirit of service helps to preserve the history of Freedom. Every month, we will shine a light on a FHS member whose generosity and dedication makes our organization stronger

in it's mission to preserve our history. This month, we're proud to celebrate Sue Brown, whose commitment to giving back is keeping our antique loom on the second floor of the barn in working condition for over 20 years.

Sue diligently maintains our loom throughout the year for all our visitors. Her enthusiasm is contagious. We are so grateful for her knowledge, skill, and commitment. Thank you Sue!!



## Special Report by FHS Member John Mackey



As this year marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the American Declaration of Independence, it seems a good time to reflect on both the history and the current state of our nation. This is exactly what 45 people of Freedom and Effingham did on March 21 in the Freedom Town Hall at an event sponsored by the Freedom Historical Society, the Freedom Public Library, and the Effingham Historical Society. After welcoming remarks and introductions by FHS Co-Presidents Roberta MacCarthy and Kyle Thomas, Bill Taylor, President of the Effingham Historical Society, and Amanda Hatch from the Freedom Library.

The touchstone for the discussion was a thirty-minute series of film clips from the new epic twelve-hour documentary series *The American Revolution* by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt. The clips were meant to foreground the theme “The Spirit of Service” that is woven throughout the film, highlighting the contributions of a wide variety of Americans to the cause of Revolution. As the film clips illustrated, the successful founding of the United States was made possible by the labor

and sacrifice of people from across the social spectrum – rich and poor, free and enslaved, young and old, men, women, and even children.

The leadership of the Freedom Historical Society asked me to moderate the open exchange of ideas that followed the viewing. I posed a question toward the beginning of the discussion that asked whether we still have a “spirit of service” alive today. The first answer to this question set a tone that was explored by a number of participants in the audience, proposing that while such a spirit may not be evident in Washington right now, it is alive and well in Freedom Town Hall and at the local level in our communities. Attendees mentioned a variety of ways that people are currently serving their communities and their nation, from peaceful protests on bridges to traditional town meetings and school activities. Others suggested that even the very act of being well-informed and open to opposing views is a kind of service or patriotic orientation.

Among the most spirited aspects of the discussion involved community service and education. Some participants contended that acts of local aid and assistance, often behind the scenes, are important ways of keeping the spirit of service alive. Building on this concept, a number of attendees talked about ways that service can be both taught in schools and actively modeled by adults for children. While some worried that schools no longer do enough in this regard, others pointed to service projects that our youth are currently engaged in as positive examples.

It is clear to anyone who spends time in Freedom that its residents serve their community in numerous ways, volunteering their time to assist organizations like the Food Pantry, the Historical Society, the Public Library, and Old Home Week. They also serve by keeping the local environment clean, engaging with Town Meeting or the Freedom Elementary School, moderating the Freedom Bulletin Board, and in countless other acts of service. Overall, it seemed to me that the mood in Freedom Town Hall on March 21 was somewhat optimistic about this kind of local spirit of service but dispirited about the national scene. Some discussants thought that, unlike the citizens of disparate colonies in the 1770s, we seem unable or unwilling to overcome our differences today. As the film pointed out, even George Washington seemed astounded that people from different parts of the continent “strongly disposed by the habits of education to despise and quarrel with each other” were able to form “one patriotic band of brothers.” Discussants maintained that such unity is only possible when we can find common ground and are willing to compromise and make sacrifices. In this way, our discussion seemed to indicate that Town Meeting and other local forms of service might provide the model that we need to extend to more national forms of citizen participation.

Toward the end of the event, some suggested that this 250th anniversary feels less grand and celebratory than the Bicentennial did in 1976. Perhaps one way to change that and to energize this anniversary would be to build on events like this. The good citizens of Freedom and Effingham have done

and continue to do much to serve their communities. But we all seem to think we need to do more. Continuing the discussions we started in Town Hall that day could provide an opportunity to make real meaning out of this anniversary year, and to make citizen voices heard. In the film clip we viewed, the historian Annette Gordon-Reed astutely points out that the founders imagined a nation not of passive subjects, but of active citizens. I say let's try our best to fulfill that vision. And acts of service accompanied by open, lively discussions in our local communities is a great way to start. After all, as Thomas Paine argued in 1791, "the strength and powers of despotism consist wholly in the fear of resisting it." Citizen action without fear is where freedom begins.

-John Mackey, Freedom Historical Society Member, Moderator, and Professor at Boston University

## **You are Invited on May 20th to the Freedom Town Hall**

Your special invitation to "The Mammoth Road: New Hampshire Folk Tales as an Avenue to Local History and Culture" on Wednesday, May 20 at the Freedom Town Hall.

Gather around one of the FHS Member favorite historians, Erin Moulton, as we explore New Hampshire folk tales as a history resource. We can learn how to access history in a new and entertaining way, about the people who compiled them, and their cultural background. Erin will explain that folk tales are passed from one generation to another, embellished by time and teller. For example: "Ethan Crawford was as tall as Mount Washington. He could carry at least seven men on his back!" Was it a tall tale or town history?

Join us on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM at the Freedom Town Hall to hear and explore "folk tales" presented by Erin Moulton and collected by the New Hampshire Women's Federation (1932) and dig into local resources in search of truths.

Erin Moulton is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the New Hampshire Historical Society, and the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists. She has written several books (mostly for children) and presented her program "History and Mystery: A Genealogy Starter Guide" for FHS last fall. A FHS Member favorite, Erin Moulton, is returning to provide more stories about the history of New Hampshire. Join us.



Erin Moulton

## Have you logged on to see our online collection?

You can see our collection of items, articles, and photos without leaving home! Log on to [www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org), and click on the link on the front page under "What's happening?" Once you are in, be sure to click on Random Images, a trip down memory lane!!



Miss Gertrude Mider owned and summered at the Tea House on Elm Street in the 60's & 70's. She was a gifted designer, having studied at the Parsons School of Design.

**We love Freedom, NH, and we've been sharing it's stories since 1965!**

To our members and donors, we say thank you. We invite you to join or donate today. With your help, we can continue uncovering and sharing the

voices, places, and experiences that define Freedom. Thank you.

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