

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 Old Portland Road
PO Box 548
Freedom, NH 03836

Newsletter

February, 2026



Greetings in the New Year!

Although winter is a quiet time for the Freedom Historical Society, our enthusiastic and dedicated Board of Directors have been meeting monthly and planning our new exhibit, programs, and events for 2026. The scene of Freedom Village above is painted by Freedom Artist, Peg Scully and generously donated to the Freedom Historical Society to be part of our Art Collection. Thank you Peg!

This is a special year as it marks America's 250th anniversary, and we are looking forward to celebrating this historic milestone with special programming about the Revolutionary War period in New Hampshire. Our plans include sharing the stories of families who participated in the fight for American Independence and are connected to Effingham, later Freedom, or are buried in Freedom. This year we will also continue our historical exhibits in the Works Barn. The 2026 exhibit will trace the development of summer camps in Freedom that started along the shores & hills of Ossipee Lake as early as the 1890's. You will learn about the importance of the summer camp experience and how it connected generations of people with common memories of outdoor experiences and friendship. This very special exhibit will open on Saturday, May 23rd.

We invite you to explore the wide range of opportunities and events FHS has to offer in the coming year. It will deepen your experience about Freedom's history and heritage. As we start the new year, we ask that you renew your membership or give an extra donation to one of your special projects. Members are the lifeblood of the Freedom Historical Society

Please go to our website www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org and click on the donate button or send a donation to the Freedom Historical Society, PO Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836. Thank you.

Our 2026 FHS LIVE program series begins in March. Read on for more details!

Warm regards,
Kyle Thomas and Roberta MacCarthy
Co-Presidents

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS

This year the FHS will be highlighting American Revolutionary Veterans with a "Freedom connection" in our newsletters starting with Thomas Lord, followed by John Andrews, Moses Harmon, Pelatiah Harmon, John Mills, Richard Taylor, and David Allard. Moira Epps, the FHS Collection Coordinator, is the researcher. We would love to hear from you if you have any family history about the Revolutionary War or any artifacts related to this national event. We hope you will share your family stories with us. Please contact the Freedom Historical Society at www.fhsociety28@gmail.com

THOMAS LORD 1757-1843

Thomas Lord was the son of Thomas Chapman Lord, born in 1721 in Berwick, York, Province of Maine in British Colonial America. His mother was Mary Wise born in 1723 in Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts. Thomas's parents were married in 1746 and their son, Thomas, was born in 1757.

In 1776 at 19 years, Thomas enlisted in the New Hampshire Militia, 1st regiment under Captain Wiggins as a volunteer for three years. After his enlistment ended in 1779, Thomas enlisted on the U.S. Continental Navy ship Ranger at Portsmouth, NH. The US Continental Navy ship Ranger was built in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and launched by master shipbuilder James K. Hackett, in 1777. The Ranger was originally captained by John Paul Jones from 1777 to 1778, and the ship traveled to France where Jones took command of the Bonhomme Richard. Lt Thomas Simpson took over the command of the Ranger in 1778.

Thomas Lord did not join the Ranger until September 1779, so Lord did not serve under Captain Jones, but he did take part in the capture of some of the British Jamaica Fleet as well as capturing 24 "prizes" across the Atlantic. This is where a humble New England farmer becomes a "pirate!"

The Ranger was captured in May 1780 while trying to help the American garrison at Charleston, NC. The ship's company surrendered to the British and Lord became a prisoner of war. He and his shipmates were transported to Philadelphia as part of a prisoner swap for British prisoners of war. (Note that the FHS has tracked down the British court records of the British capture of the Ranger. These records are now on file at the FHS.)

After his return to Berwick from the military Thomas married Esther Bradbury from Biddeford, York in 1782 in Berwick. Thomas and Esther moved from Berwick to Limerick, York in 1790 and on to Effingham around 1810. They had a family of 4 sons and 5 daughters and almost all married spouses from the Effingham/Freedom area. (William Lord, John Lord, Thomas Lord, Abigail Lord Tayler, Susannah Lord Hodgton, Zillah Lord, Matilda Lord Emery, Cazanda Lord Clemmons, and Ammid Lord). Thomas's wife Esther died in Freedom on Feb. 17, 1841 and Thomas died in Freedom in 1843 at 86.

March 21, 2026

Join the Freedom Historical Society for our first program of the year!

This year we are celebrating 250 years of American Independence and the formation of the state of NH.

You are cordially invited to attend the first Freedom Historical Society Program in 2026 on Saturday, March 21 at 3 PM at the Freedom Town Hall. The program is co-sponsored by the Freedom Public Library and we will be joined by the Effingham Historical Society for a special screening of "Spirit of Service" - an excerpt from **THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**, a film by Ken Burns, Sarah Botstein, and David Schmidt. This clip explores the enduring ideal of service in American life, and how the most diverse population of the 18th century came together and did their part to form a nation. Following the screening, guests are invited to stay and enjoy a moderated discussion with John Mackey, a Freedom resident and a professor at Boston University, offering an opportunity to connect national events with our local Freedom History. You will learn things you probably didn't know about New Hampshire's role in the American Revolution. Join us!

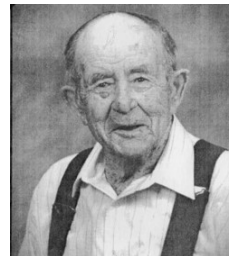
April 15, 2026

The Freedom Historical Society continues its celebration of the 250th Anniversary on Wednesday, April 15 at 7 PM at the Freedom Town Hall with the program **Redcoats & Rebels: New Hampshire and the American Revolution**. Presenter Mary Adams from the NH Historical Society will share her expertise on the New Hampshire Revolutionary Story with a Q & A to follow.

Few people know that Paul Revere's first ride was to Portsmouth, NH in December 1774 to warn the patriots that the British were coming to reinforce Fort William and Mary. This was five months before the Redcoats marched on Concord and Lexington. Nor do they know that two-thirds of the troops at the Battle of Bunker Hill were from New Hampshire. Most people are also unaware that New Hampshire's Provincial Congress adopted the first state constitution in January 1776, making no mention of royal authority and essentially declaring independence from Great Britain six months before anyone else. You will not want to miss this program event.

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, 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!!



Do you remember Carroll Chase? He was Freedom Fire Warden for 50 years. Carroll is remembered for his smiles and his humor. 1911-2002

Our Mission and Leadership

The Freedom Historical Society was formed in 1965 and incorporated in 1968 as an educational and cultural non-profit. The purpose of the Freedom Historical Society is to collect, research, and share objects, records, and family stories related to the town's history through programs, exhibits, special events, publications, and the website.

2026 Board of Directors

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Secretary: Jane Davidson

Collection Coordinator: Moira Epps

Facility Coordinator: Michael Gaudette

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Molly Foye	Carole Taylor
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Share your Freedom history with us

We would love to get any photos, documents etc that you have of Freedom. You can send them in via email, just be sure to identify people and location information. If you need assistance with this, just send us an email at [**fhsociety28@gmail.com**](mailto:fhsociety28@gmail.com)

Many Thanks to our Generous Lifetime Members We are so Grateful!

Edward Barosky, William S. Barrett, Karen Beatty, Barbara Birnie, G. W. Brooks & Sons, Pauline Brooks, Karrie & Brandon Buttrick, Nadine Chapman, Eugene Corbett, Anne Cunningham, Peter & Beth Earl, Nancy & Bill Essex, Linda Habif, Pat Hatfield, James & Carolyn Holmes, June & Bruce Howlett, Lucy Kendall, David & Kerri Kemper, Dann Lewis, Jane Luke, Roberta MacCarthy, Linda Mailhot, Sylvia & John Manley, Ramon & Susan Marks, Caroline & Greg Marston, Barbara McEvoy, Hope McGown, Jane & Richard Nylander, CSM Robert S. Oram, Arthur Poor, Noel & Ann Quinton, Laura Robinson, Elizabeth Seabury, Jody Shallene, John Shipman, Janet Smith, Sarah Own Tabor, Carole & Brian Taylor, Laura & Maynard Thomson, Ellen & Richard Many, Emily Acton Phillips, Robert & Nancy Phinney, John Shipman, Kyle Thomas, Gary & Elizabeth Ward, Charles Watts & Helen Haynes, Katherine Watts, Lucy Works, and Marjorie Works
In Memorium: Edwin Boyer, Piete Birnie, Scott Cunningham, Nancy Seabury

Are you a member of the Freedom Historical Society?

The Society's work to save, preserve, and share Freedom's past depends on membership dues and contributions from people like you.

To our members, we say thank you. And, to all others who share our love of Freedom, we invite you to join or renew today. And become a steward of our shared heritage. Your membership helps preserved treasured archives and support exhibits and educational programs for all ages. Together we will preserve the past while strengthening the sense of Freedom, our special place.

Membership dues levels range from \$15 for Individual, \$35 for Family, \$75 Contributor, \$250 Leadership, and \$500 Patron-Lifetime. Your membership support is greatly appreciated. Please send your check to Freedom Historical Society, P.O. Box 548, Freedom, NH 03836 or go to our website www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org and click on the donate or membership button.

Thank you!

Kyle Thomas and Roberta MacCarthy, Co-Presidents



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