

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 Old Portland Road
PO Box 548
Freedom, NH 03836

June 2026 e-Newsletter

The Season has started!

The Allard House and the Works Barn Museum are open every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 12p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the season concluding in mid-October. Please visit and stroll through the comprehensive displays highlighting 21 youth camps based in Freedom since 1899, five of which are still active and 16 others that are part of the town's history. In addition to this exhibit on Summer Camps in Freedom, we are also highlighting an exhibit on the Freedom Club of Boston, an organization that provided a beloved social network for several generations of people. Also in the Allard House, there is a 250th Anniversary display about early Freedom settlers who participated in the Revolutionary War.

Please visit, join or renew your membership today and support FHS's mission to preserve and share Freedom's history. We thank all who supported FHS through the recent NH Gives statewide fundraising campaign on June 9th and 10th.



There is no place like
Freedom!

Kyle Thomas and
Roberta MacCarthy,
Co-Presidents

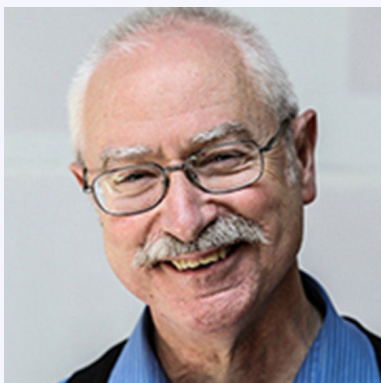


Celebrating the American Revolution
Don't miss our June 17 program
at the Freedom Town Hall
Who was John Stark? with George Morrison

We are continuing our celebration of the 250th Anniversary, marketing the semiquincentennial of American independence and the signing of the Declaration of Independence with our 2026 speaker series on June 17. The program is entitled "Who was John Stark?" by George Morrison. It is made possible by a generous grant from New Hampshire Humanities.

While many are familiar with New Hampshire's state motto, "Live Free or Die", few might know about the man, General John Stark, who uttered these words. Ransomed captive, Ranger officer, road-builder, lumberman, husband and father, militia Colonel, Continental General...this biographical sketch reveals the man whose phrase has become synonymous with our state – from license plates to tourist trinkets. Dispensing with myth and reaching back nearly three centuries into our colonial past, George Morrison invites you along a journey of re-discovery. The program is free and will be presented in person at the Freedom Town Hall, 16 Elm Street at 7 PM on June 17th.

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Found in the Archives

In 1988 under the direction of the FHS Curator, Nelson Works, FHS published the **New and Improved Edition of Rogers' Reminiscences of the French War and Life of Major General Stark**. These works were originally published in London, then in Concord, NH by Luther Roby, 1831. This 1988 edition incorporates Major Rogers' Memoirs, including his expedition to Mackinaw. The Rogers portion is derived from the first edition of "Reminiscences" published in Long, England, in 1765. It described Rogers' expeditions with the New England Rangers under his command. The Rangers comprised primarily of New Hampshire men, constituted England's best defense against the Native Nations who had allied with France, as France and England struggled to establish possession of America. Duties of the Rangers included spying, ambushing, taking prisoners, and righting and killing indigenous peoples to clear the way for England's troops. These Rangers were described as hardy, intelligent men, many of whom would go on to distinguished careers in the Revolutionary War.

The second part of this book is a memoir of the life of Major General Stark, and the belief is that Luther Roby himself, wrote this Life of John Stark, as the author seems to be unknown. Major General John Stark of New Hampshire served as an officer in the Rangers and is considered a hero of the American Revolution. This book published by the Freedom Historical Society is composed of biographical material, letters, and notices, providing the reader with a personal look at Stark's life and military career.

This book was unknown to the public for many years until the FHS publication. FHS holds the copyright and this book is registered with the Library of Congress. The Freedom Historical Society added portraits, maps, preface, notes, and glossary to this new edition. Permission to use maps was given by commercial publishers with copyright control.: American Heritage, Scribner-Macmillan, and Harper Brothers. This project was supported by the FHS Board of Directors under President William Coleman. FHS was helped by Matthew J. Higgins, New Hampshire State Librarian; Dr. Philip Cronenwett, Chief of Special Collections at Dartmouth College; William Copeley, secretary of the New Hampshire Historical Society, and Dr. Gail Bickford of Freedom Press Associates, the editor, who designed and typeset the book and wrote the glossary.

FHS Records indicate that approximately 400 copies were sold and there were 4 Printings from 1988 to 1990. FHS has only has 4 copies remaining and they are scarce on EBAY. This book will be a door prize at the June 17 program on John Stark at the Freedom Town Hall. Join us!

Remembering Veterans of the Revolutionary War

David Allard 1743-1831

David Allard, Revolutionary War Veteran, and his wife Lydia Allard are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Freedom, New Hampshire, along with their children. David was married to Lydia Berry (1741-1839). Note that Orren D. and Mayhew C. Allard of Freedom, NH are descendants and were in possession of the family Bible that states that David Allard was born on October 14, 1743, and died Nov. 28, 1831.

According to family history, David Allard was born in the Rochester/New Durham area, New Hampshire about March 1746. His parents were Henry Allard (b. 1705) and Sarah Rollins/Rawlins from Newington, NH. In 1785 Henry and Sarah were settlers of Burton, NH (now Albany). Records show that David Allard and his family lived in Burton and Eaton, NH.

David served six months in the service of the First New Hampshire Regiment, Captain Sartwell's Company, from July to December 1780. Because David served in a state militia for only six months and not the Continental Army or Continental Navy, he would not have been eligible for a full military pension. Soldiers who fought in state militias for at least two years did not become eligible for a pension until the Pension Act of 1832. This act did allow Militia soldiers who had served between six months and two years a half pension. Since David died in November 1831, there are no pension records available for him. At the time of the 1832 Act, there were no provisions for widows of veterans, so there are no widows' pension records for Lydia.

David and Lydia had the following ten children:

David Allard, Jr. 1762-1838
Shadrach Allard 1766-1831
Samuel Allard 1768-?
Henry Allard 1768-1862
Job Allard 1770-1826

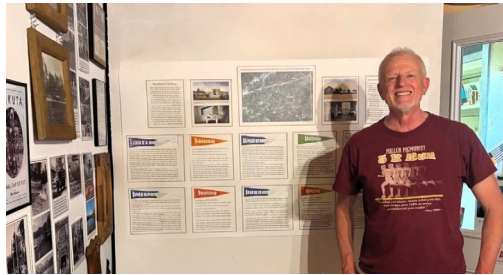
Louisa Allard 1770-1860
Elizabeth Allard 1772-1841
Lydia Allard 1773-1858
Tryphena Allard 1775-1852
Sarah Allard 1777-1859

David died on 28 November 1831. Records show that David and Lydia Allard lived in Burton, (now Albany) NH, moved to the Eaton area and are buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Freedom, New Hampshire, along with their children.

Research completed by Moira Epps, Board Member & Coordinator of the Collection. We welcome any additional information on profiles of Revolutionary Veterans that are connected to Freedom. Please send an email to fhsociety28@gmail.com

Honoring our Volunteers

This month, we're proud to celebrate Noel Quinton, dedicated volunteer, historian, researcher, FHS Lifetime Member, and author of the FHS book, "A Sense of Freedom". Since moving to Freedom in 2007, Noel has been uncovering and preserving Freedom's stories. In the last 5 years he has played a significant role in helping to produce our exhibits in the Works Barn including this year's focus on Summer Camps of Freedom. His dedication and generosity has made FHS stronger in its mission to preserve Freedom's history for future generations. Thank you Noel!



A Recent Historical Journey with Noel Quinton

While doing errands in Rochester recently, FHS volunteer of the Month member Noel Quinton found time to take a side trip to Northwood, where a long stretch of Route 4 was once known to aficionados as “Antique Alley”. Though the number of shops has dwindled during the past two decades, a few remain in business with active sellers who steadily refresh their inventory. One such dealer features a selection of New England books and ephemera which Noel routinely checks to see if something intriguing has arrived. On this particular visit he pulled a beat-up book from a shelf and discovered it was an 1855 guide to New Hampshire, containing detailed profiles of the state’s municipalities. Having been compiled when Freedom was barely two decades old, the description of the town and its businesses is the earliest one he has ever seen. A year ago, on the same shelf, Noel found a 1955 New Hampshire directory in which he spotted the names of some unfamiliar summer camps. Subsequent research at the state library in Concord revealed that back in 1925, New Hampshire began to require the inspection of summer youth camps to ensure their drinking water was uncontaminated. From that year onward, a record of state-licensed camps was published annually and examination of those lists revealed the names of obscure Freedom camps which you’ll learn about when you peruse the FHS exhibit this year and next. The path to the discovery of these camps began with that random book in Northwood, and culminated in a more-comprehensive exhibit ensuring that even those which were small and short-lived will always be part of Freedom’s remarkable summer-camp history. This exhibit is now on display at FHS.

Did Noel venture to Northwood just to see if he could find an old book that mentions some aspect of Freedom history? In a word, no! His real mission was to continue his years-long search for vintage scenes of Carroll County which he is assembling for a presentation to be delivered this October. How many more quirky, unexpected and informative images did he find? You'll have to come to Noel's presentation on "A Time Traveller's Journey through Carroll County" at the Freedom Town Hall on October 21 at 7 PM to find out!

Do you Remember?

Lillian Cole Godfrey was a school teacher at Ossipee Central School, Freedom's Town Clerk (the office was located in her home, Town Auditor, School board member, and a committed, long time contributor to the First Christian Church of Freedom. In addition to her community dedication, she is remembered for her kindness, devotion to children, and her molasses cookies!



Thanks to our Lifetime Members

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Pietie Birnie †
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