

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 Old Portland Road
PO Box 548
Freedom, NH 03836

May 2026 e-Newsletter

Dear Friends and Members,

Spring is here and FHS volunteers are very busy getting the Allard House and the Works Barn cleaned for our 2026 season. Behind the scenes our volunteers are also working non-stop to get the new exhibits ready for our opening weekend on May 23rd.

After the opening, Allard House and the Works Barn Museum will be 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. There will be special events featured through the summer, so stay tuned for additional announcements.

Thank you to every member, donor, and volunteer who has pitched in this spring to ready the gardens and the museum. As we open our doors on May 23rd and welcome visitors, we are celebrating more than the feature exhibit, Camps in Freedom, we are celebrating Freedom's legacy and community support. And take a look at our window boxes and plants!! Special thanks to Carole Taylor and Linda Habib for their wonderful flowers!

Please join or renew your membership today and support FHS's mission to preserve and share Freedom's history.

See you soon,

Kyle Thomas and Roberta MacCarthy, Co-Presidents



Celebrating the 250th Revolutionary War John Andrews 1761-1840

John Andrews was born on August 23, 1761 in Scarborough, Maine, which was part of Massachusetts at that time. He was a son of Amos Andrews and Anne Seavey. John joined the militia at 18 as a Private for about a year. He served under Col. Nathaniel Jordan of the Massachusetts' First Regiment of the Cumberland Militia. Andrews served from September 1779 to October 1779 and fought at the Penobscot (Bagaduce) Expedition, a battle fought in the middle-northern Main and southern Canada area, but was lost.

Upon returning to Scarborough, John married Tabitha Stone on 19 January 1785. They had the following children:

- Abigail Andrews, born in Scarborough ME 1785 and died 1879 in Freedom and buried on Andrews Hill) and Amos Andrews (1792-1835).
- Tabitha died sometime between 1792 and 1796. In 1797 John married Ester Gray and moved to Limington, ME and in 1807 moved to North Effingham/later Freedom. They had the following ten children:
- Tabitha Andrews: Born in Scarborough ME in 1796 and died in Freedom in 1838 and was buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery.
- John Andrews: Born in Scarborough ME 1797 and died in Effingham in 1877.
- Thomas Andrews: Born in Limington ME 1799 and died 1855 in Freedom.
- Solomon Andrews: Born in Limington Me 1801, died in Freedom 1881, buried in Prospect Cemetery
- Betsy Andrews: Born in Limington, ME 1802 and died in Freedom 1844 and is buried in Towle Cemetery
- Lydia Andrews: Born in Limington 1804 -Married Thomas Lovering.
- Mary Andrews: Born in Limington 1806, 1882 died in Bangor, ME
- Annie Andrews: Born in Effingham/Freedom 1810 and died 1873, buried in Lakeview Cemetery
- Stephen Andrews: Born in Effingham/Freedom 1813.
- Daniel Andrews: Born in Effingham/Freedom

John Andrews died in Freedom, New Hampshire in 1840 and is buried in Andrews Hill cemetery in Freedom. The Family of John Andrews has many descendants who came to Freedom. Here is a partial list of descendants: Towle, Lovering, Topliff, Mills, Huckins, Milliken, Moulton, Danforth, Durgin, Malvesta, Works, Phinney, Phillips, and Gibbs. Many of these families lived on Scarboro Road in Freedom. One of the Descendants, was Nelson Works who built and donated the Museum Collection at the Freedom Historical Society and was a Board Member.

On August 3, 2003, as part of Freedom's Old Home Week Celebration, John Andrews was honored as a Revolutionary Soldier by his family and community with a special ceremony at the Andrews Hill Cemetery. A new stone was placed in honor of John Andrews. Approximately 50 people attended the event which had been initiated by the Rev. David Works, a descendant of Pvt. Andrews.

Research completed by Moira Epps, Board Member & Coordinator of the Collection.

Our newest Centenarian!

A very Happy Birthday to Ellie Stokes, who turns 100 on May 29th! Ellie contributed countless hours to the Freedom Food Pantry and was involved for many years as a member of the Old Home Week Committee, Freedom Community Club, First Christian Church of Freedom, as well as being a talented gardener. Send Ellie a Happy Birthday at 33 Christian Avenue, Concord, NH 03301



Ellie Stokes

Don't miss our May program at the Town Hall "The Mammoth Road"

New Hampshire Folk Tales as an Avenue to Local History and Culture

Folk tales are passed from one generation to another – often 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!” Yet, when we look at folk tales, the people who compile them, and the location from which they spring, we can access history in a new and entertaining way. Join us to hear and explore folk tales collected by the New Hampshire Women’s Federation (1932) and dig into local resources in search of truths. Was it tall tale or town history?

The public is invited to join us on May 20 at 7 PM to be part of an evening of shared stories, local history, and community connection. The program is free and will be presented in person at the Freedom Town Hall, 16 Elm Street.



Erin Moulton

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 Peg Scully who has been committed to FHS for nearly 50 years as an artist and historian. She is currently working with Lisa Wheeler on a summer exhibit of the history of the Freedom Club of Boston, which was started in 1902. Please check this out.



Peg Scully

Have you logged on to see our online collection?

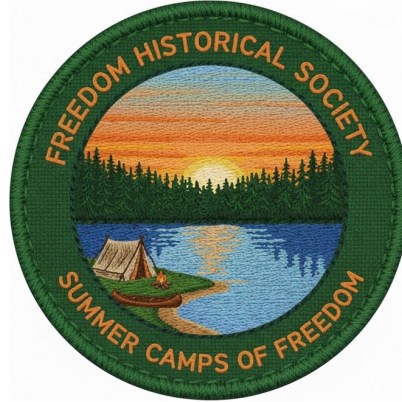
You can see our collection of items, articles, and photos without leaving home! Log on to www.freedomhistoricalsociety.org, and click on the link on the front page under "What's happening?" Once you are in, be sure to click on Random Images, a trip down memory lane!!



Merton Sargent (Mert) was a Freedom favorite. Store owner, bus driver, Road Agent, School Board, Supervisor of the Checklist, cribbage master and friend to everyone in town!

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

Don't miss the story of summer camps in Freedom!



We are so excited to announce that the feature exhibit in the Works Barn Museum is “Summer Camps of Freedom: Then. Now. Always.” The exhibit will open on Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Freedom Historical Society, 28 Old Portland Road in Freedom. This is the story of summer camps in Freedom.

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. For more than a century, summers in Freedom have been shaped by the laughter of children, the glow of campfires, the closing of the day with the soft notes of the bugle, and the haunting calls of loons across the water. Visitors will share the rhythm of camp life and the deep, enduring roots of a shared legacy.

This new exhibit will feature Freedom’s five active camps (Calumet, Cody, Huckins, Luethi-Peterson, and Robin Hood) plus two legacy camps (Cragged Mountain Farm and Wakuta). Volunteers of the Freedom Historical Society conducted research and interviews with representatives from these camps during the past winter and are pleased to share what they have compiled. Visitors will be encouraged to share their local camp experiences and provide additional photos and stories to add to our collective memory.

Additionally, in honor of our nation’s 250th anniversary, the Freedom Historical Society will display ten stories about early Freedom settlers who participated in the Revolutionary War. There will also be an exhibit highlighting the Freedom Club of Boston, an organization that provided a beloved social network for several generations of people, who had a deep personal connection to Freedom, but were not full-time residents.

Thank you to our Members and Donors!

To our members and donors, we say thank you. With your help, we can continue uncovering and sharing the voices, places, and experiences that define Freedom with the community!

Here are our upcoming events!

May 20: New Hampshire Folk Tales with Erin Moulton at 7 PM at the Freedom Town Hall

May 23rd: FHS Opens for the 2026 Season with Exhibits on Suumer Camps in Freedom, Veterans from the Revolutionary War, and Freedom Club of Boston

June 17th: Who was John Stark? with George Morrison at 7 PM at the Freedom Town Hall

Correction on April newsletter



When Bill and Ida Klein sold their Elm Street house and barn in the late 1990's, Bill Taylor at the "Ye Olde Sale Shoppe" in Effingham NH purchased the sign. 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's history home to Freedom".

Freedom Historical Society | 28 Old Portland Rd P.O. Box 548 | Freedom, NH 03836 US

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