

FREEDOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

28 Old Portland Road
PO Box 548
Freedom, NH 03836

September 2026 E-Newsletter



Part of the FHS postcard collection managed by volunteer Noel Quinton

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**A Sing-A-Long for Rachel Ward's 100th Birthday!!
Wednesday, September 16**



Rachel Ward, pictured at left with John Shipman is a long time supporter of the Freedom Historical Society



Wednesday September 16 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Come one. come all and bring your friends. What's most exciting is that Cake & Ice Cream is for lunch! A fun time honoring a special member of South Eaton Meeting House at the intersection of Horse Leg Hill Road and Burnham Road with interactive singing of Rachel's favorite songs with Shana Aisenberg playing the pipe organ Rachel's family donated to South Eaton Meeting House.

It's almost time for our yard sale!



Freedom Historical Society's annual yard sale will be held this year on Saturday, October 10th from 9am - 3pm, and Sunday October 11th from 9am - 1pm.

Members and community volunteers are organizing this event to help raise funds for the Freedom Historical Society. Items for sale will include furniture, kitchenware, glassware, pottery, household items, tools, artwork, and books. There will be lots of treasures, household goods, and good cheer! The last day the Museum is open to the public in 2026 will be Saturday, October 11. Prior to the official yard sale event, the FHS will be open for drop-off donations on Wednesday afternoon, October 7th from 1-4 pm. Please no electronics, large appliances, microwaves, or bed frames and mattresses. Special arrangements can be made by emailing fhsociety28@gmail.com

Robin Hood - A Centennial Perspective presented by Chuck Illig, Head Counselor



Join the Freedom Historical Society on **Wednesday, September 16 at the Freedom Town Hall at 7 PM** for the next installment of our 2026 speaker series on Summer Camps of Freedom. Head Counselor Chuck Illig will share some history and stories of how Robin Hood has brought generations of children and families to Freedom for 100 years. Chuck has been at Robin Hood since 1965.

Robin Hood was founded in 1927 by Andrew Friedman, a semi-pro football player whose dream it was to spend his life working with children in a camp that he would build and call Robin Hood. He came from the main lake of Ossipee by canoe through the channel to Broad Bay and landed on the natural sandy shore and declared this the spot. Robin Hood opened for its first season in 1928 with 49 campers. Join us to hear the their fascinating history.



Photos above show campers and councilors from Camp Robin Hood visiting the 2026 Summer Camps exhibit

Connecting to Freedom's Revolutionary History with Daniel Brooks, 1761 -1836

This past year, in honor of the 250th Anniversary of American Independence, we have been sharing the stories of Revolutionary War veterans with connections to Freedom. Our FHS Collection Coordinator Moira Epps, has identified and researched ten veterans. To date, we have shared the stories of six of these soldiers since our February newsletter: Thomas Lord, Benjamin Thompson, John Andrews, David Allard, Palatial Harmon, and Richard Taylor.

This September's newsletter features the story of our seventh veteran, Daniel Brooks. An early settler of the Maine coast and a Revolutionary War soldier, Brooks later resided in Effingham (which eventually became North Effingham and Freedom). According to Revolutionary War pension records, Daniel Brooks was born in 1761 in Falmouth, Massachusetts Bay Colony—present-day Portland. He was only about fifteen years old when the American Revolution drew him into military service.

His early service began in 1777 with Captain Abner Lowell's artillery company, stationed at Falmouth for seacoast defense. As part of the local militia, he protected this coastal community from British attacks, serving along the coast of Maine for nearly two years. He returned to military duty in 1780, serving in Colonel Joseph Prime's regiment.

Following his service, he married Susanna Dunn of Cape Elizabeth and raised ten children in the Buxton and Portland areas. Nearly three decades after the war, he relocated to New Hampshire. Land deeds filed in Strafford County show that Daniel purchased land on lot 49 in Effingham from William Tole in November 1808. Daniel died in 1836 and he and his wife are buried in Freedom. Daniel was the great-great-grandfather of John D. Brooks, one of the original founders of the Freedom Historical Society.

Check out our latest Acquisition!



Lovell & Mary Towle

Lovell Towle (1801–1891) and his wife, Mary (1809–1892), lived at 301 Old Portland Road. They had ten children. Lovell was the son of Amos and Susan (Moulton) Towle and belonged to a family that played a significant role in the economic and civic development of Freedom. In 1867, he served on the committee responsible for constructing the First Christian Church of Freedom. In the winter of 1829 & 1830, Lovell worked alongside his brother Elias in the region's timber industry.

Portrait donated by Rev. Betty Works Fuller

Honoring our Volunteers

Our September shout-out goes to Lucy Kendall! Lucy's enthusiasm is contagious to members, volunteers, and visitors alike. From organizing FHS events and managing our shop to warmly welcoming everyone who walks through our doors, Lucy has given so much of her time to Freedom. Thank you, Lucy, for all that you do! Your spirit of service helps to preserve the history of Freedom and make FHS stronger.



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?



Bill Elliott

Bill loved all things Freedom. He generously gave his time and energy to the community, volunteering at the Freedom Food Pantry and serving on the Freedom Town Planning Board, the Community Club, the Welcome to Freedom Sign, the Village Store, and the Historical Society.

Bill had a remarkable ability to make friends wherever he went. He was genuinely interested in people and loved listening to their stories. His warmth, kindness, and devotion to the community touched so many lives. The Mayor of Freedom is deeply missed every day.

Are you a member yet?

The Freedom Historical Society's mission to save, preserve, and share Freedom's history depends on membership dues and donations from people like you. To our members, we say thank you for your commitment. And to all our other friends who share our love of Freedom, we invite you to join the FHS today.

Save these Dates For Upcoming Programs

- **September 16th 7 PM:** History of Camp Robin Hood narrated by Chuck Illig at the Town Hall
- **September 24th 6:30 PM: Elm Street Concert - This special Concert benefits the Freedom Historical Society.**
- **October 21st:** A Time Traveller's Journey through Carroll County at 7 PM at the Freedom Town Hall with Noel Quinton

A Special FHS Evening on Elm Street September 24 at 7PM

Sol y Canto, the award winning pan-latin ensemble is known for making their music accessible to Spanish- and non-Spanish speaking audiences of all ages. They can make you dance, laugh, cry and sigh all in one concert. Their arrangements of classic and contemporary Latin tunes are always fresh and original.

Since 1994, Sol y Canto has brought audiences to their feet from the Kennedy Center to the California World Music Festival, Boston's Symphony Hall, Puerto Rico's Museo de Arte and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, as well as countless club shows and house concerts. The Boston Globe hails them as "sublime ambassadors of the Pan-Latin tradition".

Enjoy this fun evening in Freedom village and support the preservation of Freedom's unique history. We are pleased that the partner beneficiary will be The Freedom Historical Society.

NOTE: Folks who get tickets *BEFORE* September 15 using the code -- **SAUNTER** -- will get 15% off. After that, the tickets will be \$30.

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