



Freedom Historical Society Newsletter January 2010

Our town of Freedom has rung in another new year. Like the old Roman god Janus for whom this month was named, people look in two directions as they make plans for 2010: back at all that was experienced in the previous year and forward with curiosity at what might happen in the next twelve months. And like small children learning to cross a busy road, we members of the Board of the Historical Society are looking both ways as well. This community might be just a small spot on the map of New Hampshire, but, as we all know, Freedom offers big opportunities for activities in every month of the year.

In 2009, the Historical Society scheduled a variety of programs for the public as well as our membership. We began our “open” season for visitors at the Allard Museum and Works Barn on Memorial Day Weekend, as is our tradition. A grand crew of new volunteers showed up to spring clean and tidy the property, both inside and out, in time for the start of our historical series with an evening's education on genealogy by Ossipee's Frank Fisher. Our own Dick Many showed the meticulous work he'd done on documenting his family roots. June brought Carol Foord's presentation of the fascinating life of the White Mountains innkeeper Dolly Copp. In July Dick Plusch of North Conway gave appraisals of people's personal treasures and in August we hosted Artisans' Demonstration Day during Old Home Week. Carol Foord also took folks on a walking tour of some stonework sites near Effingham Falls and the Huntress Bridge. Our program for September featured Natalie Petersen's talk on the mysterious disappearance of the child Sarah Walker and our last event was in October: a trio of musicians, led by Freedom's Mike the Mailman, who specialize in the playing of Irish music in America. Attendance was high for all these nights, and feedback was appreciative of both the programs AND the refreshments. Good times were had by all! We attribute the “crowds” in part to the effective “events” sign that Peg and Ellen suggested we purchase and keep outside the museum to advertise topics and dates. Peg made certain that the times and featured speakers/musicians were current. We thank Jennifer Molin for telling or emailing people about our “evenings” and our Saturday morning tours of the museum during the summer. Bonnie Burroughs did her usual excellent job of publicity posters and Lisa Wheeler featured our dates and times in her weekly column.

The September event was preceded by our Annual Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting. The new slate of officers was voted on and approved:

President: Dick Many	Vice-President: Scott Cunningham
Treasurer: Bonnie Burroughs	Secretary: Sylvia Carney
Curator: Ray Dahlstrom	
Directors: Dotty Brooks, Ellen Many, Art Robinson, Peg Scully and Gale Morris.	

Thanks to all who have served previously so long and so well, especially Carol Foord as Director, Nathan Ainsworth as Secretary, Ginger Brownell as Treasurer, and David Buswell as Curator. Ray got off to a running start as our new Curator by seeing to it that our building's plumbing was operative, and by closing down the water facilities in the museum for winter months by early October. He fearlessly crawls into spaces none of the rest of us would dare go, to check on things and make certain we know what repairs might be needed, although he often fixes small jobs himself! Thanks, Ray.

We certainly had our fair share of necessary maintenance and repair work in 2009. For the first time, the Society put an article on the March town Warrant, asking for \$10,000 to help with the fixing of our meeting room/barn roof, as well as the repair of part of the rotted sill under the barn entrance. The town rallied round and granted us this money, and we were very fortunate to receive several bids by builders. Michael Gaudette of Brookside Building Services of Durgin Hill Road received the job, and Mike really has gone above and beyond what we had asked of him. With his experience and knowledge of historic building renovations, he completed the work as contracted, as well as fixing and identifying other things for us as he uncovered more problems. We are grateful and very fortunate to have Mike become a friend of this Society!

As we look back, the largesse of good friends continued all through 2009. The Community Club dinner program for October featured a talk by Dick Many on the Historical Society. Dick, Mike Gaudette and Bob Smart had selected various “interesting” objects from our Collection to place on the tables so folks could speculate on the purpose of each item. It was a fun presentation and helped to spark awareness of the Society's role in the village. The members of the Old Home Week Committee made wonderful efforts on behalf of the Historical Society. Not only did they organize successful fund-raisers such as the barbershop quartet and the recent chili fest to benefit our building safety projects, but their work truly heightened community awareness of our goal to preserve Freedom's history for future generations. We thank this vital town group and especially Marshall Kendall for all their help this past year...it has been critical to our financial well-being as well as to our spirit for maintaining energy and purpose in the Society itself. That quartet's harmonious music and the fiery fabulous taste of over 20 different types of chili will warm us for all the winter months to come!

Another good friend has been our Fire Chief, Gene Doe. Gene walked around our buildings and advised us on a priority list for updating and keeping the buildings' safety measures current. Everything this Board plans is based on keeping our collection well preserved into the future! As a result, we plan to take another article to 2010 town meeting to help us add to money raised by the Old Home Week committee for the fire alarm/safety project. Other money from our business account was tapped to fund a much needed pest control contract. We had two treatments for powder post beetle by JP Pest Services, as well as fumigation for a carpenter ant problem. While costly, these measures were necessary.

In terms of our Collection, we received a few gifts of objects and papers from townspeople or those who had families living here once upon a time. The Society always is happy to receive photos, ephemera, documents that relate to Freedom's past and we welcome volunteers to help us catalogue and preserve such things. Pauli Libbey has been a careful collector of newspaper items on Freedom places and people and events for so many years that even she had lost count! Pauli has moved to North Conway this autumn. We want her to know how much her work is appreciated and that she is missed by all of us. Happily, another “friend” of the Society's work will take over this very important task. Dotty Brooks has assumed the job of keeping track of the weekly publication items on Freedom, and is almost caught up with what Pauli transferred to her care. There will be much more work ahead, though, as Dotty leads the effort to catalogue and maintain past articles related to Freedom, while dealing with current news. Thanks so much to Dotty.

Now we look forward to another year of commitment and energy dedicated to the guardianship of Freedom's history. To that point, the Board is working on plans to follow Chief Doe's advice by implementing the fire/safety systems in our buildings that he has recommended. Good lighting will be needed to define the exits for safety purposes. We need to consider enlarging doorways to the meeting room for better access and exit, as well as look at structuring an emergency exit from that common room and from the second floor of the barn. We also need to upgrade the plumbing for everyone's comfort and convenience! There will be more sill repair needed to the right of the barn entrance, and the house chimney, roof, and porch are slated for attention. It is fundamental repair work, not just cosmetics. Our one cosmetic treatment was the beautification program of filling in the little perennial garden and the window box treatment, all done after consulting with Nancy Ferry. There also is a rosebush at the side of the Allard House that once bloomed in the garden of Rachel Ward's grandparents' place in East Freedom. (photo in Carol Foord's book on Ossipee Riverlands).

We want to bring that back so it will cascade with color and perfume the air as we sit on the porch in the summer of 2010, reminiscing about events that happened long ago in the village, as well as chatting about those activities we shared recently, in 2009. Look both ways! Cherish the past, but plan to move into the future with us. It is our hope that you will continue as a member of a Society dedicated to keeping local history alive and well for people who visit in the summers or who come to put down roots and live among us all year long.

This is our newsletter issue that begins the process of requesting that you consider renewing your Freedom Historical Society membership for 2010 as well as an opportunity for new members to join us and help us achieve our goal to keep the Society vital. We send this edition as a paper mailing to the entire membership. Subsequent newsletters will come electronically to those members who indicate that they would prefer to receive news by email and provide an address on their membership form. Remember that you can visit us online at www.freedomhistoricalsociety.com, and don't forget to buy your 2010 calendars while we still have them! This year's theme is "Then and Now" along Elm Street. It's a poignant journey of words and photos. Janus would approve of our instinct to treasure the days gone by while also remembering to anticipate a fresh future in our peaceful little town of Freedom. Thank you for supporting the Society in the past, and may we all have a happy, healthy and "historic" new year!

To become a member or to renew your membership for 2010, please return the Membership form below.



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**Freedom Historical Society
2010 Membership Form**

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Thank you for your continued support!