



# Freedom Historical Society

Summer 2010

## State of the Society

As I sit to write my first newsletter as President to our Historical Society friends and members, it is the beginning of summer and the talk seems to center on the many visits throughout town by a cadre of black bears. It seems they too recognize a wonderful and inviting town to live in just as we do.

A relatively (for NH) mild winter gave way to an early, warm and very pleasant spring. This seasonal transition has brought with it some exciting news that I'm pleased to share with all of you. Through the tireless efforts of Bonnie Burroughs, Dotty Brooks, Gale Morris, Ed Boyer, David Buswell and Ray Dahlstrom, we have now completed the process of transferring all of the news clippings and Freedom related newspaper articles that Pauli Libby and others so carefully collected over the years into new archival quality sleeves in sequential folders. This set of folders provides a wonderful print archive with some clippings and articles dating back to the late 1920's and continuing with a few interruptions to the present. A huge "Thank You" goes out to this group for the work they have done and with Dotty as our current "keeper of the clippings" we are insured that the Historical Society will continue to maintain a print record of Freedom's history.

I am also pleased to report that our first two evening programs for 2010 have been a great success. Approximately 45 friends and members enjoyed John Hartog and Joe Bradley's DVD presentation of "Hidden Treasures of the Granite Section" where we learned much about the early settlers in that section of Ossipee. Earlier in June, we were treated to a very informative program on "American Advertising 1935-1955" presented by Mark Foynes, Executive Director of the Wright Museum. We hope that each of you will be able to join us for the interesting programs that are still to come this summer and fall.

As you all know, trying to keep up with the ravages of time and the toll it takes on our buildings is a tough and costly task made all the more difficult by the economic times in which we live. In 2009, the citizens of Freedom voiced their support and voted by Warrant Article at town meeting to help defray the cost of building repair and maintenance for the Allard House and Works Barn Museum. The result was that we were able to repair our museum roof, replace the barn sill and resolve our water drainage issues. This year, once again, the citizens of Freedom have stepped up and voted to allocate \$10,000 for continuing care of our Society's buildings. We will begin implementing life-safety improvements recommended by our Fire Chief, Gene Doe. By the end of 2010, thanks to these funds, we will have completed the installation of an emergency, handicap accessible, ramp exit from our meeting room and will have installed directional emergency exit lighting from our museum. Additionally, using funds derived from membership renewals, charitable donations and fundraising programs like the 2010 calendar, the Society's member and friend, Michael Gaudette has widened the interior door into our meeting room, built a portable wheelchair ramp into the barn and will be installing a new recommended exit door from the lower level of the barn. Plans are also in place to add a security door to the upper museum level to protect our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor collection. Many thanks to Michael for all that he does for us....by the way...watch for the wonderful Freedom Historical Society sign to reappear at the end of the driveway.

In terms of our collection, we have purchased a new laptop computer and state of the art museum collection software. We will be beginning the process of cataloging the museum collection this year and this will be added to the work already done on the contents of the Allard House. Plans are also being worked on to have our collection documented by a photographer in a format similar to the one used by realtors so that a person who might be unable to access areas of our collection can sit and enjoy all that we have to offer by watching a tour of the Historical Society on our laptop.

I'd be truly remiss if putting together a "State of the Society" letter didn't include a heartfelt "Thank You" to the following:

To Lucy and Marshall Kendall and all of the volunteers who worked so hard on the "Mile Long Charity Yard Sale". Nearly \$1000 was raised for our operational budget through the rental of tables, space, direct donations and the sale of strawberry shortcake at the Allard House.

To the First Christian Church of Freedom Ladies Guild for their generous donation raised during the Charity Yard Sale.

To Gale Morris who donated the proceeds of her yard sale (over \$100) to the Society.

And especially.....

To all of our members and friends whose time, donations and membership renewals help to sustain us each and every year.

Thank you one and all!

As you can see, much has happened already this year and much more is yet to come. We are very excited about the "State of our Society" thanks to the continuing support of our friends and members. As you can also see, there are lots and lots of things to do and limited resources and people with which to do them. Please, if you haven't done so, consider becoming a member of the Freedom Historical Society and also consider finding a way to give of your time. We would love to have you offer to volunteer as a docent, help us by bringing a dessert to one of our programs or perhaps even serve on a committee like membership, fundraising or collection documentation. I can be reached at 301-1107 or by email at [many@roadrunner.com](mailto:many@roadrunner.com).

Please be sure, also, to visit us on the web at: <http://www.freedomhistoricalsociety.com/> or on Facebook by doing a search for: Freedom Historical Society.

Richard Many  
President

## From the Past

*This is the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Freedom Historical Society. 45 years ago a small group of residents met in the spring and the following are the notes of that meeting.*

.....Several interested residents of Freedom, many direct descendants of the first settlers, and new people who have adopted Freedom, have been desirous of having an Historical Society.

Wednesday evening, May 5, 1965, through the efforts of Barbara Dutton and Molly Cunningham, an Historical Society was formed.

It is hoped to have informal monthly meetings and everyone is cordially invited.

In some of the older homes, dates and name of the builder was written on the rafters, a good place to look in your house. It was the custom in the olden days to record births, marriages and deaths in the family Bible. Many brought articles of handiwork, old lanterns, irons, town reports, pictures and a wooden container to keep the wooden pegs used before nails. All these proved most interesting.

It was voted to have Barbara Dutton serve as chairman and Molly Cunningham Co-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Luke Hatfield showed a map he has made of Freedom.

Research is now in progress in the hope of finding unclaimed acreage. Also to open roads through woodlands in case of emergencies and fire.

Tape recordings have been made and will be at each meeting. To defray expenses, a membership fee of fifty cents for anyone over twenty-one was voted.

## Wanted!!!

- Freedom Annual reports 1902, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 to complete our collection dating to 1900
- Copies of genealogies of local families to add to our collection and to share with interested members and friends
- An old potato masher to add to our kitchen collection
- Old Freedom photos to scan

## 2010 Programs Schedule

May 18th 7:00 pm  
Hidden Treasures in Granite, presented by John Hartog.

June 15th 7:00 pm  
American Advertising 1935-1955, presented by the Wright Museum.

July 20th 7:00 pm  
A History of Mount Washington presented by Ken Rancourt.

August 17th 7:00 pm  
The Geologic and Human History of the Old Man of the Mountain, presented by Brian Fowler.

September 21st 7:00 pm (Annual Meeting and Pot Luck)  
The Cog Railway, presented by Jon Hively (engine driver for 15 years).

October 19th 7:00 pm  
Brendan Smith... a Flatlander Speaks.

All programs are held in the Work's Barn Museum on Old Portland Road.

**Executive Board**

Richard Many  
*President*

Scott Cunningham  
*Vice-President*

Bonnie Burroughs  
*Treasurer*

Sylvia Carney  
*Secretary*

Ray Dahlstrom  
*Curator*

**Directors**

Dotty Brooks  
Ellen Many  
Peg Scully  
Art Robinson  
Gale Morris

FREEDOM, N. H.  
FIFTEENTH SUCCESSIVE SEASON  
**Grand May Ball**

Prizes of \$3.00 & \$2.00 For Prettiest Paper Dress

**MAY 4 AT THE OPENING OF**



**BARN DANCE**

Every Saturday, MAY 4 to OCT. 26

Music by Weed's Famous Barn Dance Orchestra

Unsurpassed Dance Music and good times. Fourteen big seasons of Barn Dances is "nuf sed," for our music.

**GENTS 50c**

**LADIES 10c**

**REFRESHMENTS**

These Dances started in

1914

The Year of this poster was

1929

Restart 2011???

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Cut Here

**Freedom Historical Society**

**2010 Membership Form**

Name: Mr. Mrs. Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_

(if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you would like your newsletter emailed

**Membership Levels**

Sponsoring Member \$100     Contributor \$50.     Family \$25     Individual \$10     Angel \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your donation to: **Freedom Historical Society**  
**PO Box 548**  
**Freedom, New Hampshire 03836**