



Freedom's Way Heritage Association

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VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1, SUMMER 1999

FREEDOM'S WAY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF OUR REGION'S IMPORTANT HISTORIC, CULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH THE DESIGNATION OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

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Senator John Kerry joins in supporting a National Heritage Area designation. Congressmen John Olver and Marty Meehan prepare to take the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area legislation to the Congress.

When Congressmen John Olver and Marty Meehan submit a bill to the congress recommending establishment of a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, you will be participating in democracy at its best. What began as an idea tossed about by a handful of people, has grown to become a regional endeavor, encompassing 40 towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The process is the essence of grassroots government: concept, to legislation, to law. We will not be making history, we will be preserving its beginnings for our children and the American people. The National Park Service among other governmental entities will comment on the legislation during congressional hearings. We are confident the comments will be favorable.

The benefits of a designated Freedom's Way National Heritage Area will come to you through the combined efforts of a partnership responsible for overseeing theme-related actions and the distribution of funds. That partnership will represent the broadest possible coalition of community stakeholders: your local organizations, business groups, conservation and preservation organizations, historical societies, cultural institutions, you, your neighbors, and the National Park Service. These partners will enjoy equal say and equal representation.

The legislation will pass if you let your legislators, senators, congressman, state senators and state representatives know how you feel. Write, phone, visit, fax or email. Let them know how pleased you are that they are supporting this legislation. Be assured that eventually, with their efforts on your behalf, your wishes will be heard.

From the first days of the establishment of Freedom's Way Heritage Association, our goal has been to work for passage of this legislation. If you shy away from "political" process, consider that people become legislators because they honestly believe they can help make a difference: redress a wrong or support a good cause. For this reason, they are happy to introduce legislation when it will benefit so many. Join the march to recognize the birthplace of the American philosophies of Freedom, Democracy, Conservation and Social Justice.

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New Ipswich

Letter From the President Richard Canale

Dear Friends,

My message in the last newsletter urged that we all celebrate the formal recognition bestowed upon the Association by the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. That message, from only six months ago, noted our organization's achievements during its infancy. But, we all know that children grow, often quicker than we may expect.

Well, I am pleased to announce that our organization is growing up. Fast! Freedom's Way is achieving a recognizable identity and is ready to meet the public full force.

Our 100,000 Freedom's Way Heritage Area Maps, are now being put into circulation at eleven area Visitor and Interpretive Centers that are collaborating with us on our vision. These Trails Maps present our most public face. The plan is that the majority of these maps will soon be distributed outside of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. They will be targeted to potential tourists and visitors, and they will be used as promotional literature to entice businesses which are interested in quality of life to relocate to this rich, historical area.

An additional sign of maturity is that we are now on the Internet. www.freedomsway.org. is presently up and running as an infant. It will be continually constructed and developed. We hope it will reach maturity as a site by mid-September. But please visit it now and let us know what you wish to see. You may wish to submit links, photos, or stories for us to include.

We believe that we have reached a consensus with the major stakeholders on a common regional vision and agreement on draft legislation. We are pleased with the progress achieved as our "young adult" begins its journey through the legislative hurdles.

For any adolescent, new clothes are needed to fit a growing body. We are embarking on a restructuring of the Freedom's Way Heritage Association to fit our new maturity and prepare us for our new roles as we go forward. We will present these ideas and recommendations at our September

Letter From President Canale continued. Stakeholders and potential Partners Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there. We still have a lot of hard work ahead and along way to go before Freedom's Way reaches adulthood and independence. But, for now, let's celebrate our achievements and our growth.

This insane human adventure, called the technological society, needs to take pause, become wiser, and reconsider its direction. We must be able to leave the consumer society behind and go to places where the natural and human heritage looms large--offering us models of equilibrium and lessons on how to live. And then perhaps it may be possible for us to imagine another kind of time, a slower time...
 (cont'd bottom of page 4)

Freedom's Way Mission Statement:
 Through the framework of a New England Landscape, to articulate how the expressions and actions of Native Americans, new settlers, minute men and patriots, intellectuals and experimentalists, farmers and entrepreneurs, and immigrants and descendant are woven into the fabric of American freedom, democracy, social justice, and conservation. And from which, new expressions and actions emerge that ensure honoring of the past, cherishing of the present and conserving for the future.

MOTT and MassDevelopment Fund Freedom's Way Theme Trails Map .

Now available, the first Freedom's Way Theme Trails maps and guide has been published. Research and creation of the colorfully eye-catching maps have been sponsored by Freedom's Way Heritage Assoc. and, designed by ICON architecture, inc. Funding for the project has been provided by the Department of Economic Development or the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, and MassDevelopment.

The brochure outlining the geographic boundaries of Freedom's Way, is designed to educate visitors about some of our local resources and to encourage people to linger and explore places beyond the metropolitan suburbs.

The entire Freedom's Way area is marked upon a map, including, parks, forests, reservations, National Historic Park visitor sites, museums, rail-trails, scenic roads, and other places of interest.

This project is a set piece for a planned series of more detailed theme map/guides to follow. Each subsequent guide will focus on a single theme and provide text and specific directions for sites relating to that theme. Example: The next map project, the Paths of the Patriots will provide interpretive text and identify specific sites relating to the patriots, Minutemen, militia, taverns and cemeteries. (see Scholar's Project, next page)

We Open Our Web Site!

www.freedomsway.org.

We are open! Construction will continue for many weeks, please bear with us, as we make improvements. The new map, information, and some stories will appear.

We would welcome disc copies of historic walking tours, local maps of trails, parks and conservation lands available for public use. Stories of particular interest, local legends, individuals of note, examples of local preservation efforts, will be welcome, if they pertain to our themes. It is easiest if you provide subject matter on disc, in order to make inclusion easier.

This site will grow as we add to it. Let us know what you think of our progress.



Scholar's Project Sets Example Available on the Web

One of our Freedom's Way Scholars projects was: to research a paper available for presentation to a historical society, or high school history class or larger audience interested in Revolutionary History.

But, Evangeline Eresian, historian from Hollis, New Hampshire, has completed more than a paper. Also part of her project, Van includes a digitalized photograph, a brief history of a Hollis Minuteman showing the home from which he departed and a short biography. This information brought up on computer, provides the history of buildings, and occupants on a given Hollis property.

Van's work gives instructions for use. Her project provides a suitable model for other towns to use to map and record sites using GIS system software. This will eventually be available through our Web site, once construction is finished.

We envision other towns following her example for documenting their Paths of the Patriots sites, historical information, architecture and biographies.

Look the Hollis project to appear on the Web page. The example Van has provided should help you document your town.

Our dream is for visitors to our Web site to be able to see maps and read stories of many Freedom's Way patriots. Teachers should be able to download the stories for educational use and anyone interested in Revolutionary history could follow the maps as self-guided tours.

Other Scholars Projects Continue

All scholars projects will eventually be available in print. We are readying other projects and will tell you about them as they become available.

Thought:

Did you know that the number of buildings in this country that were built between 1952 and today is equal to the entire number of buildings built between 1492 and 1952?

Fifteen Minutes of Unbelievable Luck....

Did you ever win the lottery? We thought we had almost as good luck. Listing all the work to be done in the office, we began wondering how we would manage to do it all. Then we got lucky, almost. What would you say if we told you a well-spoken, well-dressed, aspiring lawyer from Yale walked into our offices and offered to work for us this summer as a volunteer organizer, to help with the legislative effort?

Wow! is what we said. We discussed the public relations, networking and lobbying tasks facing us to ensure the FWHA legislation passes in the fall. It sounded like fun to him. Contact the liaisons and enlist their help? No problem! Talk to Selectmen, Mayors, legislators? No problem! Visit business people in their offices? No problem. He wanted to be part of a grassroots effort, and Freedom's Way was it.

We slept peacefully for one night until the balloon burst. Our volunteer was given a paying job in his hometown. So much for that!

But the work he would have accomplished remains to be done. Unless, you can locate another young volunteer, or two, you will have to help. Call and offer your services, for a few hours a week in the office, or work from home writing letters, phone calling, making appointments, emailing. Show us you care!

Planning a trip to Washington? Consider visiting your legislators. Or visit them in their local offices. Call on your State Representatives and Senators, tell them what this means to you. Or simply visit your Selectmen and ask them to write a letter.

With your help the legislation designating Freedom's Way a National Heritage Area will pass. Then you can proudly say you participated in democracy in action -- and helped preserve a uniquely important part of your American heritage. We want to hold an old-fashioned victory party! Who wants to join us? (see *To-Do List* page 11)



All Carrots, No Sticks -- Johnny Appleseed Endorses Legislation

The National Park Service has described its concept of heritage areas as having no sticks, only carrots for all partners. For this reason, we used the Essex County National Heritage Area legislation as a model for our own. Once crafted, key liaisons, representatives from the cities and towns; local organizations; the entire FWHA Steering Committee, Board, and Advisors, had opportunity to review the legislation and recommend changes or additions. Thus a document draft incorporating many concerns was given to *Congressmen Olver and Meehan*, for submission.

The Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center, a subsidiary of the No. Central Chamber of Commerce sent their comments directly to Congressman Olver's office, therefore, we were unable to incorporate their recommendations, as we had the others.

To resolve this, *Tricia Paulson* representing *Congressman John Olver*, arranged a meeting with *Todd Shimkus*, Vice President of the Chamber, and Director of the Johnny Appleseed Hospitality and Visitor Center. Paulson, and Shimkus; Canale, Chandler and Darby (FWHA); met in the Freedom's Way office with *Amy Petrone*, Leominster's city planner; and *Kate Dempsey*, Congressman Meehan's Environmental Coordinator to review the draft legislation. In record time, we ironed out a few wrinkles, and shook hands over a slightly altered draft. Now, we are able to say: *all* the local Chambers of Commerce are with us. Welcome aboard, No. Central Chamber of Commerce and the Johnny Appleseed Hospitality and Visitor Center!

Benefits of a National Designation 225 in 2000

Our goal, a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area will benefit more than the single region that falls within the proposed designated area. An economic benefit to any region brings added benefit to other areas that can be thematically linked or connected.

There are eleven National Parks working to increase public understanding of the varied meanings and enduring legacy of the American Revolution for the 225th anniversary in the year 2000.

While FWHA has been concentrating on the thematic heritage linkages *within* the Freedom's Way area, we have never lost sight of the connections that exist elsewhere. As time goes on, these other connections will be developed for reasons of mutual benefit.

It is often said that Americans are hungry for history. They travel to visit areas where important events occurred, are celebrated and interpreted. Revolutionary War buffs enjoy following the battle areas, soaking up first hand the interpretive information available within each region.

Visitors to Boston, go to the Old North Church, the Common, Bunker Hill and Breed's Bunker Hill. They rave about Lexington, Concord and Lincoln, the local museums and Minute Man National Park. From there, they fan out through the countryside to absorb the experience of being Minutemen. They are drawn to other places where there are revolutionary war sites, seeking the cumulation of experience.

Each theme is a link between the Freedom's Way towns, and between other national heritage areas. With a congressional designation, Freedom's Way will forge stronger national connections through theme development, education, publishing, research and special events.

...when, having learned how to live with our cultural and natural environment, taking it into account in our everyday life, and in our projects of technological development, it will not be necessary to legislate the setting aside of parks and protected areas. These measures exist only because the heritage of the past--our heritage--is neglected or poorly loved--George Collin

First Prospective Partners Breakfast

Save the date: September 24th, 8 a.m.
Mark your calendar, now!

In addition to working for passage of a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area congressional bill, we are simultaneously preparing the ground work to establish a Freedom's Way Heritage Area Partnership. We have asked *Tom Leonard*, recently retired Vice President of the Salem Five Cent Savings Bank, and currently, President of the Salem Partnership of the Essex County National Heritage Area to give us some guidance and the benefit of his experience.

This will be the first meeting of prospective Freedom's Way partners. Leonard will elaborate on how he helped organize his area's cooperating parties. Plan to attend to find out how it has been done, and how we too can be successful!

Stakeholder Breakfasts

You may have attended one of our stakeholder meetings, designed to promote interaction between various interest groups and solicit their involvement in FWHA.

The first stakeholder meeting was a discussion forum for landmanagers, held at the Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge education center; the second, was a breakfast for business people hosted by Groton Selectwoman, *Virginia (Whistle) Wood* at Ken's American Cafe, in Littleton. *Annie Harris*, Director of the Essex County National Heritage Area spoke to a small, selected group of interested business people.

With the success of that second meeting, we found a formula -- breakfast, a selected interest group (like a focus group), with time for participants to network and exchange ideas after a brief presentation.

In January of this year, *Fruitlands Museum*, in Harvard, hosted the third breakfast. *Brad Kenney*, Director of Marketing, of the Worcester County

Convention and Visitors Bureau, described passport ticketing and other cooperative marketing tools. He offered ideas for short tours. A "Step On," is a brief talk at a local site, given by a historical guide who either meets or *steps on* a tour bus.

During the discussion period, ideas tumbled:

Nancy Jakobowicz, Ashby Historical Society, spoke about a successful Barn Day held in 1998. *Diane Sullivan*, Ayer Economic Development Director, mentioned Newburyport's Yankee Homecomings. *Barbara Sipler*, Stow Historical Society, announced the publication of their new book, *Lake Boon*, an Image of America Series. *Kathleen Corcoran*, Thayer Symphony Orchestra, Lancaster, asked organizations to consider music at events. *Maryanne MacLeod*, Sterling, is interested in a "Thoroughly Thoreau" train and bus ride to Mt. Wachusett. *Connie Schwartzkopf*, Stow, mentioned making use of rail/trails.

The meeting at Fruitlands elicited requests for more discussion about partnering and networking, particularly, for a meeting to include museum educators, business people, and teachers.

Fortunately, the *National Plastic Center and Museum*, Leominster, volunteered to host the next breakfast. *Mayor Dean Mazzarella*, welcomed us to his city, briefly describing its history. *John Flannagan*, President of the StanCast, Inc., and founder of the Plastics Museum talked about the birth of the museum, his philosophies about networking and stakeholders. *Barbara Bennett*, Director of Education of the Plastics Museum, gave attendees a taste of the museum's educational program through a small demonstration.

Joanne Myers, briefly outlined Fruitland Museum's program to incorporate the newest state curriculum guidelines as part of her museum's education program.

So little time was left for discussion, the subject will be continued in the fall. We hope to attract more educators and businesses to discuss with the museums, and historical societies, the mutual benefits of supporting local history projects, as well as the latest Social Studies and History Curriculum Frameworks. Call us if you want to be on our mailing list for these meetings.



Isabel Beal and the Reverend Andrew Rosenberger in front of the Civil War Tablet

Civic Pride

...their memory ever to keep.

Do you know that we have been asked what history, preservation, and heritage development have to do with civic pride?

It seems so obvious to us, that we are always a bit surprised by the question.

If we are ever asked the question again, our answer will be: Visit Groton.

This spring, the *Town of Groton* rededicated their newly renovated Town Hall. It is an attractive brick building, one of many historic brick structures on Main Street, in the center.

I approached the building on the day of the dedication, to see Main Street and Town Hall festooned with bunting. Flags, in special sidewalk stanchions fluttered softly. A project of the Groton Women's Club, residents may purchase flags to be flown at special town events such as this rededication.

Groton's police department was snappy and parade-polished. Ever polite, they managed the awkward task of moving the slow going gawkers in their cars, around pedestrians hurrying to the celebration.

By the time I had parked my car, the upstairs meeting room had filled, and I had to

be content to stand in the corridor with another thirty or more people. Although we couldn't see, we had no difficulty hearing. After the Presentation of Colors by the Police Color Guard, and a welcome by *Thom. Hartnett* of the Town Hall Building Committee. We pledged allegiance, and sang the national anthem led by Groton Town Clerk, *Bonnie Biocchi* and the Groton Marching Band and Chowder Society.

Bonnie's voice is exquisite, the town hall reverberated with her crystal notes. No doubt all of Groton knows about their talented Clerk, but as a non-resident, I was bowled over!

After the invocation by the Reverend *Andrew Rosenberger*, *Peter Cunningham*, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, *Michelle Collette* chair of the building committee, and the *Honorable Robert Hargraves*, Representative, spoke about the renovation project.

The speakers reminded the citizens of the background of this historic building, as a town hall, a town house, and they extolled the talents of the local workers, cabinetmakers and craftspeople who labored to complete the renovation. From the interior designer to the finish carpenters, wherever local talent existed, it was employed, and in some cases volunteered.

The result is a quality renovation that far exceeds the actual cost. As the workmanship was being acknowledged, my eye caught two young boys, the age when most youngsters would not be faulted for daydreaming through speeches. Something about the idea of local workmanship had captured their attention, and I watched them run their small hands across smoothed joinery, peek under countertops and eye doorframes admiringly.

They took the idea of ownership seriously, and their youthful pride was endearing.

A general goodwill was beginning to grow. People would smile broadly when they made eye contact. There were one or two seats in the hall area, and a very elderly man kept insisting I take his chair. People began to get comfortable, some sat on the corridor floor, curled up and cozy as they might at home.

The highlight of the day was when *Isabel Beal*, Groton Historian, in her light voice, read the Honor Roll. "In Dr. Samuel Abbot Green's Historical Series, he describes the

Roll of Honor thusly; Like many other towns in New England, the town of Groton has erected a monument in memory of her sons who fell during the War of the Rebellion. It is in the form of a marble tablet, affixed to the southerly wall of the entry-way in the Town House, and bears the names of the men, as well as their company and regiment, and the date and place of their death. The marble tablet is now affixed to the westerly wall in the entry-way of the Town Hall which we will rededicate today.

The Town of Groton places this tablet in memory of her sons who died in the service of their country during the Civil War 1861-1865."

As she slowly read all forty names, no word, no cough interrupted. Since time did not permit her to speak about all forty men on the Roll of Honor, she gave short biographies about the following²:

George Fullick, died September 20th, 1864 at 24 years of age from wounds received at Winchester, Virginia;

Adrastus Hazard, son of a slave, volunteered for the 54th Massachusetts Regiment under Robert Gould Shaw. Died, with Col. Shaw in Beaufort, South Carolina, at age 28;

Alfred Austin Richardson, great uncle to the late Ralph Richardson, Ayer historian, enlisted at age 20 and died two months later in Suffolk, Virginia;

and last, George Williams, whose grand-nephew was generous enough to send copies of Sgt. Williams letters to his family. Sample: July 24, 1863, Camp at New Baltimore - We have had some severe marching to do. I marched barefoot half a day before I got new shoes from Uncle Sam. I am willing to serve as long as I can, am willing to yield my life if need be.

He was severely wounded at Lookout Mountain and left for dead. Recovering, he rejoined his regiment to move with Sherman in his march to the sea. The last correspondence is Near Dallas, Georgia. It is my painful duty to inform you of the death of Sergeant George H. Williams who fell

in action May 25. He fell at my side, nobly doing a soldier's duty. He was my right hand man, always faithful to his duty, a brave soldier and trustworthy officer. I respected him as a man, and esteemed him as a companion. We are still on the battle field with the enemy before us. Will write again, when we are once more encamped if my life is spared. Edward Cheney, Lt. Commanding Co. E. Mass. 33rd Regt.

Isabel concluded with Walt Whitman's poem:

*When lilacs last in the dooryard bloom'd
And the great star early droop'd in the
western sky in the night,
I mourn'd, and yet shall mourn with every
returning spring....*

*As I held as if by their hands my comrades in
the night.
And the voice of my spirit tallied in the song
of the bird.
Comrades mine and I in the midst, and their
memory ever to keep, and for the dead I loved
so well.
There in the fragrant pines and cedars dusk
and dim.
Passing, I leave thee lilacs with heart-shaped
leaves,
I leave thee there in the dooryard, blooming,
returning with spring.*

First a silence. Then, with unashamed teary eyes, we stood and lifted our voices to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Bonnie Biocchi's beautiful soprano rising above all.

She led us through "America the Beautiful," before we went downstairs for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, and refreshments.

Who could doubt now, that historic restoration can engender civic pride?



² We have abbreviated the biographies further, but if you wish a complete copy of Isabel's presentation, we would be happy to oblige.

Gifts

Townspople have been making gifts to us of their Town Histories. Our library has grown to include:

<i>Bedford</i>	<i>Boxborough</i>
<i>Carlisle</i>	<i>Concord</i>
<i>Dunstable</i>	<i>Lunenburg</i>
<i>Fitchburg (Around the World)</i>	
<i>Mason</i>	<i>Pepperell</i>
<i>Stow</i>	<i>Townsend</i>
<i>Westford</i>	

We'd love a gift of your town's history. Gifts books are our treasures, thank you.

Ever grateful for donated equipment. Our wish list grows as we do: air purifier, book cases, copier, file cabinets, laminated signs, paper cutter, scanner, video slide projector and screen, small refrigerator

So that it's clear we are not greedy, but our files are spilling all over the office. One day Bobbi was adjusting files and books when the entire wall of shelving pulled free of its mooring and tumbled all around her. Luckily she wasn't hurt. But it took several hours to straighten out the mess. A couple of file cabinets would help ease the problem.

Who Said That? Not I.

Last holiday season, a reporter called our office for an update. From our mouths to the printed words, a machiavellian computer program transformed our statement into something we didn't recognize.

We called the people who might have been insulted by the article, and explained. Their response? We're sorry you were victimized. Thanks for the call, we understand.

After a suitable interval, the same troublesome computer, printed a fictional "comeback." This time, it was our turn to commiserate with the injured party. From these exchanges, a spirit of cooperation has developed, a friendship of victims, perhaps. If the purpose was to stir up trouble, it was a failure.

The victims, now friends? Freedom's Way, and the North Central Chamber of Commerce.

Books

Thoreau's Country: Journey Through a Transformed Landscape, by David R. Foster. Harvard University Press., Foster is Director of the Harvard Forest in Petersham, and teaches ecology at Harvard University.

Another Images of America Series: *Dunstable*, by Susan Tully and Susan Psaledakis. Arcadia Publishing. Available in the Dunstable Public Library, and local book stores. Retail price \$16.99. Royalties and proceeds from the sale of books purchased at the Dunstable Public Library will benefit the library.

Welcome to New Members:

Nancy Jakobowicz, Ashby; Sarah Brophy*, Carlisle; Sally Dancause, Harvard; Mary Dorward, Harvard; John Hamilton, Museum of Our National Heritage; Susan Hampton, Harvard; Joyce Huff*, Fitchburg; Elizabeth Orton Jones, Mason; Gayle Padula, Lunenburg; Carolyn and Wm. Patton, Harvard; Jane Pendelton, Lunenburg; Susan Tully, Dunstable Historical Society; Hudson Historical Society; Stow Historical Society; Sudbury Historical Society; Westminster Historical Comm.; Jack Whelan, Harvard (* New Liaisons)

Preservation Tools

Research inventory grants of \$1,000 are being offered by The Bay State Historic League and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities to small Massachusetts historical organizations with operating budgets of under \$50,000. The purpose of the grant is to help organizations assess the research value of specific collections, and may be used to pay an inventory taker and/or materials. Next deadline: September 1. Call 781-899-3920.

The Housing and Urban Development 203(k) program allows a qualifying owner to borrow a single long-term mortgage loan to finance both acquisition and rehabilitation. Cannot be used for owners planning resale. Ask the loan officer at your bank.

Places

Party Anyone? The Massachusetts Edition of *Historic Places for Historic Parties* is in its fifth printing. How many parties can Freedom's Way host? Twenty-three. Try them. The book is available from the State House Book Store 617-727-2834.

The Mary Sawyer Homestead has been placed on the list of endangered historic sites by Historic Massachusetts Inc. Mary's Little Lamb Association is trying to save the property.

Devens Museum

Within the Devens complex, is a cluster of buildings that served during WWII as a "Civilian Military Training Camp", a prisoner of war camp. German and Italian prisoners of war served out their time here. Many became citizens and never returned to their countries of origin, but some POWs, as in all such circumstances, never had the opportunity to return. Annually, the RFTA, the governments of Germany and Italy participate in an annual memorial service for these foreign servicemen.

MassDevelopment is exploring the possibility of creating a Devens Museum to be housed in some of the camp buildings. The military has promised to return collections from the former Devens Military Museum if an appropriate location can be found. If you are interested in helping to form such a museum. Call Gayle Padula 987-772-6340 or Milly Chandler 772-3654

Museums

An article in the April 21, 1999 New York Times calls museums the "engine of urban redesign." Cited as an example, is the new Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, which will be housed in one-time factory buildings in North Adams. Recycling odd spaces is a special gift. Artists often have the vision to see beauty and usefulness when the rest of us see "old." Museums, art galleries, theaters, concert halls, studios and crafts bring tourism and economic benefits. Include people from the art community when looking for ideas to utilize older structures.

Celebrate the Millenium with Freedom's Way

You are living in an exciting time when communities all over the country are making plans to celebrate the beginning of a new century. What is more natural you to celebrate for Freedom's Way and your community's contribution to our American philosophies of freedom, democracy, social justice, and conservation? Here are some ideas for you to consider for your town:

1. Document and map your Paths of the Patriots, Black Freedom, Women of Independence;
 2. Save a historical community treasure;
 3. Hold "open house" at your historical society;
 4. Award people who have made a significant contribution;
 5. Encourage families to preserve family history;
 6. Conduct time-line walking tours;
 7. Create a memento of historic resources and sell to raise money for a preservation project;
- These ideas are culled from a list from Massachusetts Historic Commission's "Preservation Advocate." Contact the White House Millenium Council, Ellen McCulloch-Lovell, 202-395-7200; www.whitehouse.gov/Initiative/Millenium.

Hot Enough for You?

One way to combat global warming is forest protection and management. According to the New England Forest Foundation, sustainably managed forests provide us with the prime ingredients for healthy living: clean water and clean air; continued production of forest products; places to hike and relax; diversity of wildlife; income; a local economy supported by renewable natural resources.

Commenting on global warming, who said?

"There is a rising tide of environmental awareness. Smart companies will get ahead of the wave. Those that don't are headed for a wipeout."³

³ William Clay Ford, Jr., Chairman Ford Motor Co.

Congratulations

Jan Turnquist, new Executive Director of Orchard House

Frank Jewell, new Executive Director of Fruitlands Museum

Visits and Special Meetings

Bolton Historical Society

The historical society's house museum sits on Main Street, (Rte 117) Bolton. We were welcomed by *Cathy Crocker* who took us on a tour of the exhibits. It was here, where the idea for a meeting with Museums and Historical Societies came about. During the tour, Cathy described to us the Society's extensive costume collection, that they have neither the money, nor the expertise to catalog for exhibit. She described problems attracting visitors for special exhibits. The thought came to us, that if several small house museums could cooperate on a theme exhibit, we could have a tour of local house museums, and they, by partnership endeavor, might have the opportunity to make better use of their collections. (see Breakfasts) Gardner Heritage State Park and Dunn's Pond

The Gardner Heritage State Park is actually two separate sites, one the museum and education space, and the other Dunn's Pond and recreation center. *Wes Adams*, Director, took us on a tour of both facilities. The museum's exhibits are attractively mounted and several are interactive. Of course there are chairs everywhere, and part of the upstairs is a porch front, with rockers, old signs and memorabilia. Classes in replacing chair seats are held, and school children come to learn about Gardner's history of furniture making, silversmithing, and for those of us who remember punching in at work -- a model of an early Simplex Timemachine will punch you in and out. After taking your young charges to the museum, you can drive over to Dunn's Pond. *Wes* is understandably proud of this part of his facility, so much as been improved recently. There are trails for a hiking, a picnic area, swimming, and a snackbar. The pond is accessible, with a special wheelchair ramp.

Freedom's Way Annual Meeting at the Fitchburg Historical Society.

Think snow! Can you? We had a big dumping of heavy wet stuff late on the Saturday before the Sunday annual meeting was scheduled. A self-guided architectural tour of the Henry M. Francis designed buildings in Fitchburg was scheduled before the meeting. Thinking of people tramping around unshoveled walkways, parking places unplowed, and sundry inconveniences, the meeting was postponed for following Sunday. This is New England, so of course, that day was bright, cloudless and very warm -- and we heard things from those of you who never got the word and came out anyway. We are very sorry.

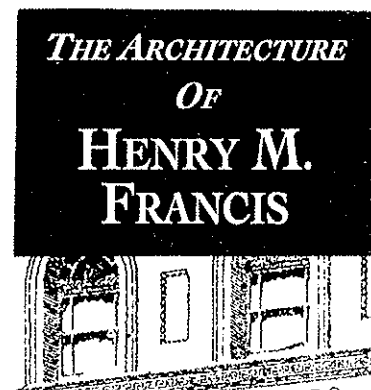
However, the next Sunday was a lovely day for a meeting. *Ruth Penka*, Executive Director of the Society welcomed us with a presentation about all she has managed to accomplish in her short tenure -- plenty!

The Reach Fitchburg Project; sorting through quantities of collections, cataloging, hiring a new curator, securing grants -- one to refurbish the Society's small garden -- and generally bringing a quiescent gem into the forefront.

The beautifully prepared Intown Fitchburg self-guided walking tours, are available at the Historical Society and around town.

The Honorable Mary Whitney, Mayor of Fitchburg welcomed us to her city, and spoke of her interest in Freedom's Way as a benefit to the community.

Richard Canale, newly elected President of Freedom's Way summarized our year's activities. After the usual annual reports, and the vote for directors, we enjoyed refreshments before heading home.



Learning Curve

We've been meeting with people whose experiences and background can help us to learn about structuring and managing a large non-profit organization. The first of these meetings was with *Ron Ansin*, Leominster businessman, who took a morning out of his busy calendar to help us. We have copious notes from that meeting, and we are grateful that he has agreed to act as an advisor. *Tom Leonard*, retired Senior Vice President of the Salem Five Cent Savings Bank, is President of the Salem Partnership, an organization that served Essex County in the Freedom's Way Heritage Association role by initiating the thrust for that National Heritage Area's designation. We met Tom in Essex, and he related his experiences forming the Essex County National Heritage Area. Tom also has valuable advice to offer, and we have asked him to be our speaker for the fall breakfast meeting. Our newly elected State Senator *Hon. Pam Resor*, has been a member of Freedom's Way for some time; she continues her support, and has agreed to advise and help us in her new capacity. Senator Robert Antonioni, has agreed to join her and encourage support for the congressional designation at the State House. He too, has agreed to become an advisor to FWHA.

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

The scheduled transfer of land from the Department of the Army to the Fish and Wildlife Service after the closing of Fort Devens has occurred. The Service has held meetings to garner public opinion about use and management of the Oxbow land. The acreage runs along miles of the Nashua River, and will become part of a network of nature preserves, recreation and conservation lands in central Massachusetts. We made a plea for an education center to build a future constituency to support stewardship of these important water recharge areas. The Service seems to have listened.

To Do List

If you would like congress to designate a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, here's how you can help.

The effort is two-fold. First, we must increase our membership to indicate that the organization has growing support. Our goal is to have a minimum of 10 new individual members per town in Freedom's Way. We are proud to say, an increasing number of towns', historical societies and organizations have become members in the past year. Your first effort would be to tell our story and encourage membership.

You could call your town's liaison and offer your services to help get the job done. If you are not sure who your liaison is, call our office 978-772-3654. We will supply maps and material to anyone planning to help.

The second big effort is to be sure your representatives at all levels of government know that you want the designation to happen. It is not enough for us to call upon them, they will want and expect their constituents also, to let them know how they feel. They will welcome a letter or a visit from you, or from someone you think might make a good presentation -- or you can organize a small group, or delegation, from *your town*. These people should hear directly from you:

- Senators
- Congressmen
- State Senators and Representatives
- Selectmen
- People who serve on town boards and commissions
- Local organizations

Our office will supply you with names, and phone numbers. You must do the visiting, calling, writing. And please keep us informed about how, and what you have done so we can keep track of the effort.

If you might be going to Washington and can take time to pay a visit to your legislator, please let us know about that as well.

Congressman Olver's office has suggested that you send letters directly to us, or FAX 978-772-9807. We want to send the Congressmen to Washington with the biggest stack of letters they have ever received!

Activities

Concord Museum *The Concord Grape: An American Classic*, exhibition from the archives of Welch's, through November 7, 1999. For a complete calendar, call 978-369-9763 or online at www.concordmuseum.org. Free Admission Evening, August 16, free admission from 5-7 p. m.

Devens Recreation Fishing, Hiking, picnicking, swimming, tennis, gym workouts (Call Kathy Wiberg 978-772-8875), Sports and day camps (contact 508-553-3962, or www.getsomegame.com), Tournaments (Bay State Games, frisbee, marshall arts, soccer, softball. Admission free, refreshments available.)

Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge In Concord: Saturdays through September, 2 p.m.,, Discovery Activity; Open Air Poetry Reading 2:30-3:30, bring your own poetry to share August 15th. In Sudbury: Afternoon Tea and Nature Poetry, July 25; Frog Talk, July 30; Natural Wonders, Saturday, July 31; Weir Hill cleaning and birding, August 21. Call 978-443-4661, X 17 for details.

Minute Man National Historic Park Historic activities coming up this summer include: Minute Men , Musters, Town Meeting, His Majesty's Foot Guards, The Alcotts, Abolition and The Underground Railroad. Starting September 25, the Park will celebrate its Fortieth Anniversary. Plans to showcase the resources, research, restoration and living history that has made this Park a national treasure are being developed. Information: www.nps.gov/mima. Or call Park Rangers at 978-369-6993, ext.22.

Museum of Our National Heritage Through September 6, *Designing in the Wright Style: Furniture and Interiors* by Frank Lloyd Wright and George Mann Niedecken. Also Saturday Screenings, 2 p.m. Aug. 7 and 21 Free Admission, Free Parking, Accessible, 781-861-6559 or www.mnh.org Archaeology workshop for children ages 8-12. Wednesday , August 25, 10 a.m. - noon. Preregister by August 20.

New England Native American Institute Celebration of the Sun Spiritual Gathering, July 26 and 27, Sterling Springs Campground call Ken 508-347-7829, or Peter 508-886-6073 (bring pot-luck, no vendors); also Sterling Springs Pratt Junction Pow-wow August 14-15, contact 413-659-3959; Honor the Spirit Pow-wow, Parker's Maple Barn, Mason, NH (603-495-0205)

Old Manse and Trustees of Reservations "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again..." The Old Manse and the Civil War activities and reenactments July 24 and 25th . Ezra Ripley II, cousin of Ralph Waldo Emerson, lived at the Old Manse, and joined The 29th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War . Re-creation encampment in the North Field of the Old Manse. Access to the encampment free, but there may be fees for some of the other activities. For details: 978-369-3909 or email oldmanse@ttor.org or www.thetrustees.org.

Orchard House One-day Programs: *A Morning with the Alcotts*, July 20, August 12, August 18 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Games, songs stories. Ages 5 & up. *Hand in Hand at Orchard House*, July 22, August 10, August 19, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., up to two children under 6 accompanied by an adult, songs, dress-up and drawing. Family Programs: *Welcome to Our Home*. Saturdays, July 24, August 28 from 4:45 to 5:45. Best for children over six, a costumed staff gives first-person accounts of life in the Alcott home. Drama Workshop: July 26 through July 30 and August 2 through August 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. Program costs differ. Contact: Jennifer Nutt ad 978-369-2290 for information about space and brochures.

Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge Beginners Botany, Aug. 27 from 8 a. m. to 9:30 a.m., meet at the Harvard canoe launch.; Beginning Birdwatching, September 11 call 978-779-0582; Identifying Wildlife Signs, September 25th, call 978-779-2259, donation \$35.00.

You Can Help Secure A Congressional Designation for the Proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Freedom's Way Heritage Association, is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Membership is a tax-deductable contribution. If you would like to become a member, give a gift membership, or make a donation, please fill out this form.

I would like to help preserve Freedom's Way, an important part of America's Heritage

by becoming a member:

by sending a gift membership to:

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Circle your choice of membership level: Individual \$30 Senior/Student \$25

Non-profit or Public Agency \$50 Corporate \$100

All memberships are for one year from date of contribution.

I/We hereby contribute to Freedom's Way Heritage Association a gift of \$_____

Purpose of gift: _____

Please make checks payable to Freedom's Way Heritage Assoc., 43 Buena Vista St., Devens MA 01432.

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