



# Freedom's Way

## Heritage Association

43 Buena Vista Street, Devens, Massachusetts 01432  
Tel: (978) 772-3654 Fax: (978) 772-9807

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Freedom's Way Heritage Association is dedicated to the preservation of our region's significant historic, cultural and natural resources through the designation of a National Heritage Area

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### THOUGHTS ON DEMOCRACY

*"I shall not die without a hope that light and liberty are on steady advance... and even should the cloud of barbarism and despotism again obscure the science and liberties of Europe, this country remains to preserve and restore light and liberty to them. In short, the flames kindled on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 have spread over too much of the globe to be extinguished by the feeble engines of despotism."*

Thomas Jefferson in a letter to John Adams, September 12, 1821

Jefferson and his friend Adams argued and debated the meaning of democracy throughout their lives and early in their careers, they fought side-by-side in the struggles to create an independent nation. While on a diplomatic mission to Paris, they became close friends. Abigail Adams looked after Jefferson's daughter for a time when the Adams had moved to England and Jefferson, remaining in Paris found it not a good place for a child.

Adams and Jefferson had a falling out that was both personal and political and did not contact each other for years. After both had retired from public life and at considerable prompting from friends anxious to heal the breach, they resumed contact in 1812. Although they never saw each other again, for the next fourteen years the two engaged in correspondence until they died on the same day, July 4, 1826, on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

*"Every tree is a living liberty-pole on which a thousand bright flags are waving."* Henry David Thoreau.

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### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMES BACK FOR MORE OF FREEDOM'S WAY!!!

Once again we had the opportunity to host representatives of the National Park Service. This time, Brenda Barrett, Coordinator of National Heritage Areas honored us with a visit to Freedom's Way. Park Service executives usually do not take time out of their heavy schedules to visit areas not yet designated by Congress. We took her gesture to be a good omen. Friends and family took part in an all-day whirlwind tour that began at Minute Man National Park. There, Richard Canale and board member Cara Metz, Executive Director of Massachusetts Historical Commission drove Ms Barrett past Fiske Hill and sections of the Battle Road to the Lexington Visitors Center.

At the Visitor Center, several Local Park Service personnel including Nancy Nelson, Superintendent greeted Ms Barrett. Also at the Visitor Center, were Jonathan Lane of ICON architecture, inc., and James Pepper who had taken the earlier tour on behalf of the National Park Service, Philadelphia.

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### Another's Thoughts of Democracy

Of all the people who have written about America, few were more perceptive or opposed than James Madison and Alexis De Tocqueville. Both spoke of the inherent conflict between the sense of history and community on one side and the dangers of individualism and separation on the other. Both saw the conflict between private interest and public good. Both recognized the tension between the individual and the community. Madison envisioned individuals brought together in a kaleidoscopic collection of factions so numerous and contentious that they would counterbalance one and other in a kind of great organic whole. De Tocqueville saw a similar problem but offered a different solution. He saw Americans being pulled back from individual isolation into social communications through involvement in civic associations. He saw Americans as "great joiners."

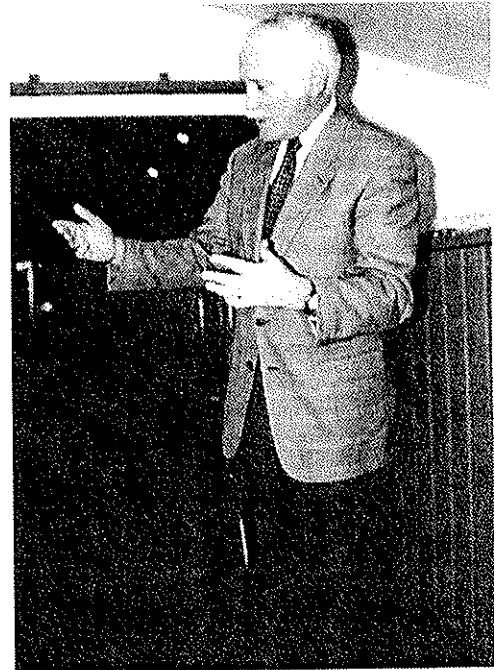
Madison's sense of an organic whole and DeTocqueville's about civic associations were assaulted in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries by industrialization, technology, urbanization, suburbanization and sprawl. That is why organizations like Freedom's Way are so important. ... Our ancestors cooperated and covenanted together to create this great Commonwealth. We must do the same to keep our common wealth.

Excerpted from a speech by William M. Fowler, Exec. Director Mass. Historical Society (pictured right) of the Freedom's Way Board of Directors, speaking at the annual meeting.

We invite you to share your thoughts on Democracy and Freedom's Way. Please send us your ideas or favorite quotes. Let us begin an exchange about democratic principles for our mutual benefit.

### WOULD YOU BELIEVE THE 1812 OVERTURE? REAL CANNON FIRE?

Well, maybe not real cannon fire, but fireworks and music. Why travel to the Esplanade if you can have a 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert closer to home. Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Fruitlands Museum and Indian Hill Music Center have come together to form a partnership to work on a lofty long-range goal. In the very preliminary stages is an idea for a regional multi-cultural center that would sponsor open-air concerts on Devens leading up to the eventual construction of a permanent year-round facility for performance and other arts. The idea of a place to celebrate music, art, and our cultural heritage has been brewing for quite some time. We think Devens in central Massachusetts is a good place for this. We know multi-cultural centers are successful economic stimuli for regional growth. And besides, we like the idea.



### U. S. Senators

#### **Massachusetts**

**Honorable Edward F. Kennedy**  
2400 John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.  
Boston, MA 02203  
617-565-3170 Steve Carrigan, Aide

#### **Honorable John F. Kerry**

One Bowdoin Square  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-565-8519 Richard Levitt, Aide

#### **New Hampshire**

**Honorable Judd Gregg**  
125 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-622-7979 Richard Lougee,  
Aide

#### **Honorable Robert C. Smith**

1 Harbour Place Suite 435  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
603-433-1667 Jeff Rose, Aide

### U. S. Representatives

#### **Massachusetts**

**Honorable John W. Olver**  
463 Main Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
978-342-8722 Tricia Paulsen, Aide  
**Honorable Edward J. Markey**  
Five High Street  
Medford, MA 02155  
781-396-2900 Mark Gallagher, Aide  
**Honorable John F. Tierney**  
17 Peabody Square  
Peabody, MA 01960  
202-225-8020 Elliot Kaye, Aide  
978-531-1669 George McCabe, Aide DC

#### **Honorable James P. McGovern**

14 Mechanic Street  
Worcester, MA 01608  
508-831-7356 Giles Giovanni, Legal Asst.

#### **Honorable Martin T. Meehan**

11 Kearney Square  
Lowell, MA 01852  
978-459-0101 Glenn Shor, Aide

#### **New Hampshire Second District**

**Honorable Charles Bass**  
170 N. Main Street  
Nashua, NH 03060  
603-889-8772 Marc Ssanborne, Aide

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT


Dear Friends,

We are now 42. No, that's not Freedom's Way age, but it is a sign of our maturity. Forty-two is the number of cities and towns now in Freedom's Way. Thanks to the support of Congressman Ed Markey, we have added Malden, Medford and Woburn; they are included in the Freedom's Way Legislative Bill. I am pleased to report on our legislative progress. In the spring, we produced an Addendum to the Freedom's Way Feasibility Study for the National Park Service that demonstrated how we meet the Park Services' criteria for National Heritage Area designation. Brenda Barrett and Jim Pepper, the Park Services' Washington D. C. National Heritage Area Coordinator and Philadelphia Field Specialist toured the Freedom's Way Area in July as preparation for the upcoming hearings. As we are painfully aware, The Congressional schedule has been altered dramatically to enable our government to respond to the terrorist threats. As a result, our hearing has been put off, likely until January. A contingent of Freedom's Way Board members is planning to travel to Washington in December to meet with the House and Senate aides to firm up strategy.

In the meantime, we are moving ahead full steam with our programs and activities as you can see in the Newsletter Articles.

We are now three months past September 11, enough time to allow us to put those events in some perspective, yet not enough time to have a comfort level to know what lies ahead. Probably, more than enough has been reported and analyzed elsewhere. Yet, I do wish to humbly offer that the legacy of the Freedom's Way's heritage will provide a touchstone and base to move ahead. I wish us all, at least an internal peace, and hopefully a national peace during the next year.

Sincerely,



Richard Canale

### PROJECTS

#### MMM. SMELL'S GOOD. WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Test kitchens have been trying out the delicious recipes sent to us for the FWHA Cookbook. **Jane and Dan Rosen** are combining a history of American cooking with the "rules" from the communities. Native American to modern short-cut cooking will be represented. So here's a last call to make sure your town is represented. Call **Bobbi** if you have a favorite that needs to be included 978-456-8771. Here is a tasty one to consider this winter.

#### MASH

2 pounds fresh eels or snake cut into 4-inch sections  
Place in baking pan; season with salt and pepper.  
Add 1 layer onion sliced thinly

Place 1-inch piece of fatty bacon on each chunk of eel.  
Sprinkle with flour, cover with foil  
Place in 350 oven, bake 25 minutes  
Add one-cup cold water  
Cover, return to oven for additional five minutes

Eel sometimes must be requested ahead of time from your local fishmonger. My mother's father used to ice fish for eel in the winter at Punkhorn Bay, Mashpee. They were considered an Indian staple in tough winters on Cape Cod. - **Angela Peters Shwom**, Pepperell

[Editor's Note:] **Maryanne MacLeod**, a Native American scholar from Sterling tells us that snake is still a popular food among local tribespeople.

## FREEDOM'S WAY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

### **Board of Directors-2001**

**President:** Richard Canale  
**Vice President:** Mildred Chandler  
**Vice President:** Marge Darby  
**Treasurer:** Meg Delorier  
**Membership:** Roberta Atkinson

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James Baecker, Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Mgmt.  
Christine Bergeron, Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Michelle Ciccolo, Liaisons  
William Fowler, Massachusetts Historical Society  
Jeffrey Harris, MD, Book Reviewer  
June Harris, Newsletter  
George Kahale, MRPC  
M. MacLeod, Sterling, Native American Scholar  
Alan Manoian, Downton Managers Committee  
Cara Metz, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Zelda Moore, Ayer Historian  
John Ott, Director, Museum of Our National Heritage  
Amy Petrone, Leominster Planning Department  
Tim Prior, US Fish and Wildlife, Oxbow Reserve  
Elizabeth Tennessee, Families of Color  
Jerrold Van Hook, Trails  
Lucy Wallace, NRWA  
Rebecca Waugh, Town Web Pages

**Site Steward:** Nancy Nelson, Minuteman National Park Superint.

### **Advisors & Steering Committee**

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Ron Ansin	Tom Malloy
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Bill Ashe	Tricia Paulsen
Shirley Blancke	Marc Sternman
Bryan Christiansen	Walter Vickers
	Hon. Pat Walrath

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<b>Open, Acton</b>	A. Petrone, Leominster
L. Olsen, Arlington	J. Davison, Lexington
C. Sargent, Asburnham	E. Fitzgerald, Lincoln
C. Damon, Ashby	J. Bowers, Littleton
S. Suhoski, Ayer	G. Padula, Lunenburg
C. Huxson, Bedford	L. Fletcher, Mason
L. Englemann/S. Becker, Bolton	Boothroyd/Dillard, Maynard
E. Coolidge, Boxboro	S. Smith, Pepperell
Graves, Clinton	Open, Princeton
C. Rinaldo, Concord	S. Shipton, Shirley
S. Brophy, Carlisle	M. MacLeod, Sterling
V. Normand, Devens	C. Hastings, Stow
S. Tully, Dunstable	J. Allen, Sudbury
J. Huff, Fitchburg	A. Struthers, Townsend
L. DesGroseillers, Gardner	D. Cormier, Westminster
B. Clements, Groton	E. Bagley, Westford
P. Durrant, Harvard	V. Eresian, Hollis
M. Ciccolo, Hudson	Barker/Manoian, Nashua
M. Sezerzen, Lancaster	H. Rogers, Brookline
R. Eaton, Greenville	L. Fletcher, Mason
	R. Waugh, New Ipswich

### **Interpretive Centers as of 2001**

Concord Museum, Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass Audubon Society, Fruitlands Museum, Gardner Heritage State Park, Dunn's Pond State Park, Great Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary, Great Meadows Wildlife Reserve, Museum of Our National Heritage, Nashua River Watershed Assoc. Resource Center, Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary of Mass. Audubon Society, Wachusett Mountain State Reserve, Walden Pond State Reserve, Rte. 2 Johnny Applesseed Hospitality & Information Center.

### **Park Service Returns Continued from front page**

At Fruitlands we feasted on our meal while Ms Barrett feasted her eyes on the spectacular view. She took the opportunity to hear from the additional supporters seated around the table: Maud Ayson, Executive Director of Fruitlands; Trisha Paulsen from Congressman Olver's office; board members Tim Prior, US Fish and Wildlife, and Lucy Wallace, Harvard Selectman. Pam Resor, State Senator, Judy Pierce, Mass Audubon and Judy Stearns, Education Coordinator from the Concord Museum spoke emphatically about their interest in Freedom's Way.

We stopped in Still River and showed Ms Barrett the Watt Farm. Tim Prior presented her with a little sprig of timothy so she would remember him and the tour. A highlight of the tour was a bumpy and a trifle scary trip over the tank road of the Oxbow to Devens. The road was ablaze on both sides with brightly waving daisies and other wildflowers as if they too wanted to impress the National Park Service with the beauty of the region. We passed a couple of gigantic beaver lodges and still following Tim Prior found our way back to the FWHA offices.

In our offices the remainder of the board of Freedom's Way had patiently waited their turn to express their interest in a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area designation: George Kahale, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission; Meg Delorier, MassDevelopment; Christine Bergeron, NVCO; Betsy Tennessee, Ayer; Jeff Harris, Harvard; and Alan Manoian, Economic Development, Nashua.

On the way back, we took one final opportunity to show Ms Barrett additional sites by bringing her through Still River, past Bolton Flats, and the Bullfinch Church before the tour took Route 2 east.

A very impressed Ms Barrett declared she was excited about our proposed legislation and offered the comment that Freedom's Way will be the first and only "intellectual" heritage area in the country.

Good job and thank you all. Now we have to make certain our legislators take good care of us.



Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge

# FREEDOM'S WAY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Pending acceptance HR 1027  
Freedom's Way, the landscape of visionaries and  
experimenters is an American legacy.

Our mission is to weave the stories of the land, the people and their ideas, by using the common threads of significant open spaces and historic events. A strong sense of land stewardship is the legacy of the Native Americans, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Benton MacKaye, and scores of others. They have connected the use of the landscape to a deeper understanding of ideas about independence, individual rights, conservation, social justice, and even democracy. Evidence of this connection is in the picturesque town commons, Shaker villages, Bronson Alcott's Fruitlands, and Thoreau's walks through the countryside. Having learned to cherish the native land, the Freedom's Way towns inspire a sense of stewardship in children and adults, for now and in the future.

On March 14, 2001 Congressman John Olver, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Tierney, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Bass, and Mr. Markey) introduced H.R. 1027 to provide for the designation of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. On March 26, 2001, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Recreation and Public Lands, and Executive Comment was requested from Interior. It is anticipated that the measure will be scheduled for a hearing in January.

The following paragraphs are excerpted from an addendum to the Feasibility Study that has been submitted to Congress and the National Park Service.

The concept of a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area has been well defined by the aforementioned feasibility study. Priorities speak to linkages through education and preservation of the region's nationally distinctive resources. Freedom's Way objectives include:

1. elevation of the importance of nationally distinctive regional resources
2. mobilization of the region's communities by assisting and supporting their local institutions to build partnerships focused on stewardship
3. engagement of the region's populace in the understanding and celebration of the unique heritage of existing regional assets

The vision for Freedom's Way is a landscape that retains its traditional New England character; a place where residents and visitors may truly experience and appreciate the rich heritage that contributed immensely to social experimentation and literature, our national ethic and democracy; where theme related physical remnants of importance are preserved and interpreted; and, where communities and citizens understand the need for, and are actively engaged through partnerships in maintaining the rich resources and history that helped to shape our way of life.

Support for a National Heritage Area and the proposed legislation that will accomplish designation is exceptional. The supporters view potential designation as a way to enhance and compliment their own programs and activities through the umbrella that a National Heritage Area will provide. They view the purpose of Freedom's Way Heritage Association as one that will facilitate a cohesive strategy for interpretation and protection of resources and serve as a vehicle to increase visitation to the region and understanding of the role it has played in the history of our nation.

This is a region of truly great natural, cultural, and historical resources; one filled now with the excitement of having the opportunity of celebrating the heritage that our forebears gave to us and to the American people in a coordinated fashion, and; a region prepared to work together with our respective governments as citizens to make sure that our precious heritage related resources are protected and appreciated by all.

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

1. Rediscover your town's history.
2. Volunteer to help. Help document your town's history.
3. Learn how to help put your town's important sites into our data base.
4. Stay Informed: find out who your town's liaison is to FWHA.
5. Make a financial contribution. Become a member.
6. Attend stakeholder meetings.
7. Help to distribute our Freedom's Way maps. Call: 1-978-772-3654 for information.

# REDISCOVERING THE NATIVE LANDSCAPE

## TOWN INVENTORIES

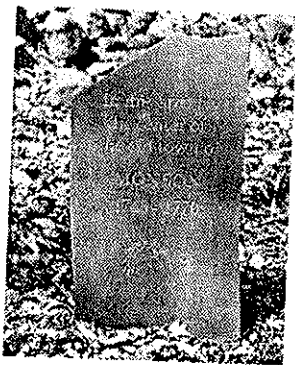
Our feasibility study was designed to determine if Freedom's Way had sufficient natural, cultural and historical resources to warrant a National Heritage Area designation. But we knew then, as we know now that the inventory would grow with time. It grows when you provide us with more data for our files. The latest addition to our file collection comes from **Rebecca Waugh** of New Ipswich:

1. A beautiful conservation map of the lands managed by the Conservation Commission with accompanying text and,
2. A four page environmental fact sheet from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Affairs about the Souhegan River Flood Control Sites in New Ipswich.

Keep us informed about your town, too. And thank you.

## WATT FARM

US Fish and Wildlife celebrated the addition of 108 acres of the Watt Farm to the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge in Still River. Thanks to the leadership of Senators Kennedy and Kerry, and Congressman Meehan, this project, underway for many years by the Harvard Conservation Trust and the Town's Watt Farm Committee, has preserved this former farm land as a habitat for nesting birds in Massachusetts and along the Atlantic Flyway. The Trust for Public Land, a national conservation organization dedicated to protecting land for people to enjoy as parks and open space, assisted in the purchase of this grassland adding to the already 1350 acres of wetlands along the Nashua River.



Details on this archaeological dig in New Hampshire  
coming soon

## AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

For the past twenty-six years, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has been looking at important biodiverse areas in a similar fashion.

Its Areas of Environmental concern program aims to preserve critical environmental resources throughout the state. It does so by involving individuals, communities and agencies in researching areas they consider important and subsequently nominating them as ACECs. This creates few barriers to a developer, but helps to identify along with other wildlife surveys, large, contiguous tracts for conservation. Currently being explored is an ACEC for an area within: Ashby, Ayer, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend and Tyngsboro.

## FREEDOM'S WAY TRAILS

One of the goals for Freedom's Way is to produce self-guided tour maps, and what a better way to rediscover the beauty of the New England Landscape than over Rail Trails and bikeways? Avid biker, and long-time supporter of the Lexington and other bikeways, **Jerry Van Hook** joined our board of directors specifically to help us map trails through the region. Beginning with the Lexington bikeway, maps of which he already possessed, Jerry has embarked on the ambitious job of collecting and combining the maps of all of our trails. He has created one table-sized Freedom's Way map showing all the towns and indicating the existing trails. Using this map, we can plot where other trails might logically go and add new ones as they are identified. Eventually, this will be the basis for a regional map publication. Imagine being able to pedal from the east all the way to Nashua and back, with trip times marked and side trips suggested to visit sites of interest! This is an extraordinary effort that will take considerable time before completion, but the beginnings are more than promising.



## Freedom's Way

## Heritage Association

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Tel: (978) 772-3654 Fax: (978) 772-9807

*Our Region's Heritage is Priceless!*

Are you a Freedom's Way Heritage Association member?  
It's time to join!

**As a Freedom's Way Heritage Association newsletter recipient:**

- \* You know what a heritage area is.
- \* You know about the legislation currently before Congress ( HR 1027 ).
- \* You know what a Heritage Area Designation can do for your community.
- \* You know about the projects, publications and presentations we have made.

***Isn't this the right time for you to become a member?***

**For less than \$2 a month – for only \$20 a year – you can help us broaden our membership base – a critical factor in Congress' evaluation of our legislation.**

☞ Take a moment to fill out the membership form and send in your check for \$20. ☞

As a special person who cares deeply about this region --FREEDOM'S WAY NEEDS YOU!

And thank you in advance.

*Bobbi Atkinson*, Membership Chair

**~ Fill out the membership form on the back page ~**

*FREEDOM'S WAY, THE LANDSCAPE OF VISIONARIES AND EXPERIMENTERS*

## **MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

James E. Austin of the Harvard Business School has written "The Collaborative Challenge", a book describing in some detail the developing collaboration between non profit organizations and successful businesses. The author was able to interview the collaborators - NPO and business leaders. Many collaborations started by chance but recently collaborations have developed by search. The exchange described is often mutual values and services rather than money. The last two chapters of the book are in the nature of "how to". In looking at the basics it seemed to me local non profits can improve their positions by a synergy of cooperation.

Jeff Harris, FWHA Book Reviewer



*Happy Holidays from Freedom's Way!*

## **MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

### **Boxborough Historical Society**

Sunday programs: February 24, Pre-history of the SuAsCo River Basin; March 24, Thoreau visits Boxborough; April 28, History Day in the Town Hall – Boxborough During the 1940s. For more information contact Boxborough's Freedom's Way liaison Emile Coolidge 978-264-0113

### **Heritage Trees**

USDA Forest Service Funds have been awarded to Ashby and Leominster to help care for their Heritage Trees. Ashby will be pruning trees on the historic town common and burial ground; Leominster has a special black oak that will receive the attention it needs. The historic oak tree is in Pine Grove Cemetery the burial site of the largest number of Revolutionary War Soldiers in the country.

### **Townsend**

The November/December issue of Sanctuary Magazine, except for the fact that it doesn't mention Freedom's Way could have been our issue. John Mitchell writes about how Boxborough has begun creating a Town Common. Gayle Goddard-Taylor gives a good overview of the meaning of those letter programs called ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) or DCPC (District of Critical Environmental Concern) as she explains the nature of overlay districts. Donna Williams describes the battle over ACECs and lists the ABCs of them. And finally, Martin Laine writes about how Townsend has managed to save itself. Good reading.



## SHAPING THE LANDSCAPE OF DEMOCRACY

### UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Freedom's Way has a new official Underground Railroad site, which is part of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The Wayside, home to the Alcotts has been officially dedicated as part of the Underground Railroad. In 1846, when Louisa May Alcott was a girl, a runaway slave took shelter in the house. Years later, she wrote "An impressive Lesson to My Children," a dramatization about the event and John, the slave, who briefly became the Alcott's houseguest.

### MEDFORD

Although the Daughters of the American Revolution saved the famous Royall House, modern day archeologists in Medford turned their attentions to a brick and clapboard outbuilding that once housed slaves and hit pay dirt. Evidence of how forced labor made much of the lavish life-style of wealthy New Englanders possible has been uncovered by a dig at the site. We do not like to dwell on this part of our history, but the "benevolent North" was not benevolent to all people in all places. This history adds importance to the Underground Railroad sites as well as identifying an entire realm of forgotten history. "The Forgotten Royalls" is a Medford project that will eventually include tours demonstrations, musical performances and reenactments. Royall House is at 15 George Street, Medford. 781-396-9032.

### MORE ON JEFFERSON

Conservators at the Massachusetts Historical Society have uncovered previously unread portions of Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* during the conservation process. A new project will eventually make the manuscript available to interested readers through a web site developed in cooperation with the International Center for Jefferson Studies. Quoted in the November/December issue of *Preservation Magazine*, board member **James Fowler**, Director of the Society, says: "As a teacher of American History, I lectured for years about Jefferson as a slaveholder. But coming to MHS and encountering the actual manuscript of the Farm Book was a revelation. Reading the names of Jefferson's slaves listed there, in his own handwriting, alongside the mundane details of his farming operation gave me a much more vivid and concrete sense of what it meant to run a plantation with human property."

### IN THE PLANNING STAGES...

Research on democracy. We are sponsoring **Dave "Doc" Westerling** as a Freedom's Way Scholar in Residence who is in the process of shaping a proposal for a publication on American Democracy in Freedom's Way. Dave has already attended more than 30 local Town meetings and plans to attend more as this project unfolds. More about the progress of this project in issues to come.

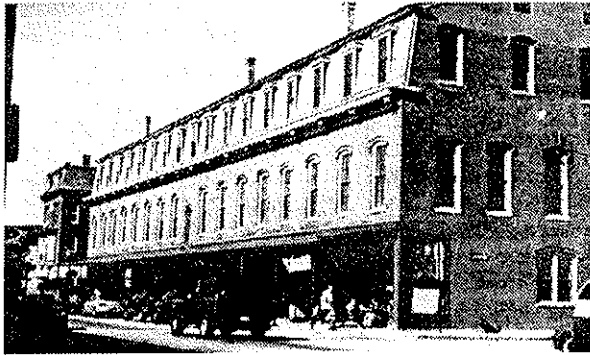


Do you know where/what this is?  
Contact FWHA at (978) 772-3654

## INVENTING THE NEW ENGLAND LANDSCAPE

### LANCASTER

Getting ready for the year 2003 the Town of Lancaster is preparing now to celebrate their 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The plans will include year-long activities that "promise to educate, enlighten, and provide enjoyment for all ages". The committee is chaired by Frank MacGrory, 978-368-3427. We can't wait to see the plans shape up in 2002. By then we hope Lancaster, one of our "mother" towns, will be able to participate as a member of the newly designated Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.



*Page-Moore Block, Ayer*

**Main Street Ayer** is getting a facelift. The downtown area is sprucing up. The Page-Moore block is showing how much historic renovation brings economic benefits to a community. As Main Street pretties up, little alleys are finding new uses, the Rail Trail (to open 2002) progressing all the way to the New Hampshire border and we can't wait to see the Town Hall renovations.



*Ayer Rail Trail*

### MINUTE MAN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Sheep are once again grazing at the MinuteMan National Historic Park in an experimental project to rid the park of invasive plants that damage park structures. The sheep devour bittersweet, honeysuckle, poison ivy and leave behind a natural fertilizer. We are confident the experiment will be a success because visitors will discover immediately the beauty of green. Park spokesperson Melissa Saalfield is quoted in the Magazine of the National Parks Conservation Association as saying the "sheep are a real crowd-pleaser."



*"Henry Wadsworth Longfellow"*

On a lovely autumn day in October, the **Groton Historical Society** hosted a very special occasion. The Boutwell Mansion looked beautiful, its rooms filled with elegant furniture and objects from the mid- 1800's, portraits, carpets, china, glass, and other period antiques. As we wandered through the rooms we met ladies and gentlemen in costumes of the time, willing to answer our questions and talk to us about the historic mansion, which had been built by Governor Boutwell as his home in the years before he became Secretary of the Treasury under President Ulysses S. Grant. Boutwell himself was there, and so was President Grant. Another guest was the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The gentlemen looked handsome in their beards and top hats, and the ladies looked stunning in their long dresses. Refreshments were served outside on the lawn. New England graced us with a beautiful day, sunny skies, a gentle breeze, and orange and crimson leaves drifting down around us, as the dignitaries spoke and we were treated to Mr. Longfellow reading aloud from his poetry. The audience loved hearing those beloved poems, especially "Paul Revere's Ride," with its familiar phrases and its message of patriotic pride, which especially stirs our hearts today. I spoke with Mr. Longfellow afterwards and he talked about his friendship with another writer, Edgar Allen Poe. The Groton Historical Society deserves all our thanks for offering the public such a fine historical treat.

By *Jane Rosen*



*"H.W. Longfellow and Governor Boutwell take refreshment"*

## MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Have You Missed Us?

This newsletter was made possible by the kindness of **Christine Bergeron** and her assistant **Nicole Robichaud** of the **Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce**. Several of you have wondered why we hadn't published a newsletter for some time. Our newsletter editor has been over-burdened by the pressing needs of an ailing mother and sister on top of her family and business responsibilities. We wish them all a speedy return to wellbeing. And many, many thanks to Christine and Nicole who have made it possible for us to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. You will never see a prettier pair of Santa's elves. Thank you.

We are enormously grateful for the improvement in our work environment as a result of two generous gifts:  
From **Marie Cloutier**, a brand new iMac at half price.  
From **Bicnet** a copy machine, bookcases and telephones.

## PUBLICATIONS

Our list of publications grows. The following are available for sale:

*Black Freedom Trail in Harvard, Massachusetts*

by Nancy Reifenstein

*Fort Devens World War II Memories and Stories*

by Jean McCrosky

*Three Women, Three Centuries* by Cynthia H. Barton

*Utopian Communities in Nashaway* by Cynthia H. Barton

The following are in production and will be available soon:

*Old Growth Forests in Southern New England*

by Joel Gerwein

*African Americans in Lancaster's History, a Genealogy* by Joy Peach

*Stories of Lancaster's African Americans 1700s-1800s*, culled from the genealogy by Joy Peach The Story of Nahum compiled by Elizabeth Tennessee.

### The Devens Historical Museum

From the museum brochure: "The historical preservation of the Devens area must occur for two reasons: first to honor and recognize those whose lives were offered in sacrifice and service to our great nation, and second, to preserve the memories of the times in which these people lived.

"The Devens museum is dedicated to convey the sense of this place, by making visible and memorable the stories of the lives connected to Devens." Preparations for a celebration of the opening of this Museum are being planned. The grounds are being groomed and the buildings will be given a preliminary clean up before rehabilitation and construction begins. For more information contact Frank J. Hartnett, Sr., President, or Theodore Gentile, Chairman at 43 Buena Vista Street, Devens MA 01432.

## KUDOS

**Lucy Wallace**, Freedom's Way Board member was the recipient of the Nashua River Watershed Association Conservation Award 2001 for her leadership in forging workable approaches to the balance between conserving natural places and planning for growth. Lucy has served as the Town of Harvard's 1980 Master Plan Committee, worked on the Communities Connected by Water Project to create a Devens Area Regional Plan, helped to preserve the Watt Farm, and is on the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Harvard.

Congratulations to our friend **Ruth Rhonemus**, Ayer, who is one of this year's recipients of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Service and Leadership Awards. Ruth is a tireless volunteer for her town, serving in many capacities. We know her best as a member of FWHA and as the Treasurer of the Devens Historical Museum. We know what it is like to receive this award since Freedom's Way was honored by the Chamber as one of the Outstanding Company/Organizations four years ago.

## FOCUS GROUPS

### Museums and Cultural Institutions

Another focus group is planned for Museums and Cultural Institutions. Notes from the previous meeting where Trudy Coxe was the speaker will be mailed to all the previous invitees along with details of the next meeting scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of our National Heritage.

We continue to host other focus groups and public meetings to educate you about Freedom's Way and to hear from you about how we can help you collaborate with others to accomplish your goals.

We held two public meetings in New Hampshire. Board member Alan Manoian, Downtown Development Director from Nashua, gave a wonderful slide presentation on Freedom's Way to an overflow audience in the historic Hunt Memorial Building. The group, many of whom were standing in the outer lobby because all the 30-plus seats were filled included Planning Board members and other community leaders. Mayor Bernie Streeter gave the welcome. Manoian showed his audience the historic sites in Nashua that had already been leveled or destroyed and admonished them to take care that all of the city's heritage is not destroyed. He was quoted in the Manchester Leader, "We're successful - wealth is here. Now is the time for us to be splendid and magnificent!"

The second New Hampshire meeting was another relaxed gathering in the historic Brookline Town Hall. Selectman Harry Rogers welcomed the attendees who were seated at long tables over box lunches. Our New Hampshire friends talked about how they envisioned a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. We learned of one proposal for bringing the Freedom's Way communities together: Use the successful mutual aide model in fire fighting and other emergencies. We plan return to Brookline to learn more about how this is set up.

**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-deductible 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:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*by sending a gift membership to:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*Circle your choice of membership level:*



Individual \$30 \$20

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.

*Thank you for your support!*

**Freedom's Way Heritage Association  
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