



Freedom's Way

Heritage Association

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Volume 6, Number 2

December, 2002

The goal of Freedom's Way Heritage Association is to protect and preserve the Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenters through the designation of a National Heritage Area to include 42 communities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the State of New Hampshire.

Despite Senate Passage, Adjournment by House Hampers Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Designation in 2002

By unanimous consent, the U. S. Senate passed the Omnibus National Heritage Act of 2002 that would have designated Freedom's Way as a National Heritage Area. This November 19th vote contained Senate amendments to House Bill H. R. 695 that the house passed last year. The Bill, now called H.R. 695 AES, needed only House concurrence to these amendments. Upon concurrence, it would become an enrolled Bill that would be sent to the President for his signature.

Unfortunately for us and the nine other Heritage Areas included in the Bill, the House's only remaining session was on November 21, and was scheduled to be pro forma. There was too little time for the bipartisan floor and committee leadership to clear the Bill. The result is that we didn't achieve Designation this year, although there is still a slight chance that the bill may be included in one of the remaining FY 2003 appropriations bills still pending.

All Freedom's Way advocates should celebrate the major achievements gained this year. For the first time, our congressional leaders filed Bills for Freedom's Way Designation in both houses of Congress. We successfully testified before the Senate Energy and Resources Committee. The National Park Service testified before Congress that Freedom's Way meets the NPS criteria to be designated as a National Heritage Area. The Senate unanimously voted for Freedom's Way's designation and authorization.

The Governors of Massachusetts and New Hampshire wrote letters of support to Congressional Committees. A multitude of other key supporters helped in ways both small and large.

Our Congressional Delegation will file new Bills early in the new session. Senators Gregg, Kennedy, Kerry and Sununu; and Congressmen Bass, Markey, McGovern, Meehan, Tierney and Olver serve us well. We are indeed fortunate to have such loyal supporters.

Freedom's Way has a strong foundation from this year. But we still need to nurture our grass-roots support. The board of Freedom's Way Heritage Association thanks of the many volunteers who helped with the mailings and other contacts. We will be organizing new campaigns to insure passage during the new Congress and look forward to your help again.

Government Affairs Committee

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Freedom's Way Heritage Association

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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 Appleseed Hospitality & Information Center.

U. S. Senators

Massachusetts

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

New Hampshire

Honorable Judd Gregg
125 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-622-7115 Matt Leahy,
Aide

Honorable John F. Kerry

One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114
617-565-8519 Richard Levitt, 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
978-531-1669 George McCabe, Aide
Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide
Honorable Martin T. Meehan
11 Keaerney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Chris Doherty, Aide
New Hampshire Second District
Honorable Charles Bass
170 N. Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060
603-889-8772 Mark Sanborn, Aide



President's Report

Dear Friends,

We have more to cherish about our towns than ever before. We are very close to being recognized for the rich legacy of the New England Landscape that our communities symbolize. How impressive that is – our predecessors envisioned their own towns, and created their own form of governance as they struggled for independence and self-survival against a major world power. We are the inheritors of their contributions, their sense of place and their concepts about freedom and individual rights. Isn't it ironic that we should be struggling to achieve recognition for the towns we all inhabit, because of this very legacy and because we know how important it is to the telling of the American story?

We know how much our communities can teach about American Democracy. In the face of assaults on our American ideals and symbols, now, more than ever, the preservation of the places where these concepts germinated and grew must be given the appropriate distinction. History is only compelling when it can be deeply understood. Where better to teach future generations about the first owners of the land, the first immigrants, religious freedom, town meeting form of government, the emergence of the industrial revolution, and concepts of land preservation than here? Of course other areas can teach parts of these stories, but none have the accumulation and richness that exists here.

Freedom's Way has the capacity to provide a unique educational experience. Through our museums and cultural institutions we will be able to present interpretive programs and unmatched opportunities no other region could produce. Minute Man National Historic Park and the Transcendentalists symbolize ideals about which people in the United States and around the world have debated, disagreed and committed their lives. Why has the area produced such a great number of nationally renowned visionaries and experimenters? The extraordinary tradition of conversations about man's connection to the landscape perhaps stems from its charm and intimacy of scale that invites reflection. It has certainly produced words and actions that have reached far beyond its boundaries.

When we testified before the Senate Energy and Resources Committee we added the following:

In 1990, E. L. Doctorow spoke at Walden Woods about great historic and cultural assets under siege in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He emphasized how the education of an idea requires preservation of its origin. Like literature, he said, "...history, composes places, identifies them, locates them in the moral universe, gives them a charged name, makes them resound.... We are not all spirit, anymore than we are all clay. We are both, and so we need both, as in 'You read the book, now see the place.' We have to be able to take children there to say, 'This is it. This is the famous Walden, [or Mt. Wachusett, or Nashua River] the man wrote about. You see?' You give them that which is theirs, just as we give them Gettysburg, so they can see where it happened.... Then it is truly meaningful in spirit and in clay, like us, like the world, invisibly charged with our idea of it."

Thank you for your membership in Freedom's Way and continue your support. We need you! Happy Holidays

Sincerely,



Marge Darby

New Email Address: Call us at 978-772-3654, FAX us at 978-772-9807
and email us at mail@freedomsway.org
or you may visit our Web site at www.freedomsway.org

Visionaries and Experimenters

Benton MacKaye:

Conservationist, Planner and Creator of the Appalachian Trail
By Larry Anderson

One of Freedom's Way's visionaries is Benton MacKaye (1879-1975) the Father of the Appalachian Trail, and co-founder of the Wilderness Society. A former resident, MacKaye often walked the Shirley countryside visiting familiar local paths and trails. MacKaye was inspired by the Freedom's Way landscape. He was a pioneer in linking the concepts of preservation and recreation, and he believed that to stay healthy, all people, whatever their circumstances, need frequent access to at least three kinds of surroundings: Cities and towns, farmland and wild places. MacKaye's long and productive career had a major impact on emerging movements in conservation, environmentalism and regional planning. He understood the importance of the

harmonious balance between human need and the natural environment. Cities and towns, he suggested, are the places where we connect with each other and exchange ideas. The wild places connect us to the land and to other creatures, awakening a spirit of belonging that transcends the day-to-day. That is a sense of time that John Hansen Mitchell has referred to as "deep time." Farmland then, teaches us that man's connection to the land is a partnership in sustainability.

A pathbreaking biography of MacKaye provides the first complete portrait of a unique American icon. Written by Freedom's Way author, Larry Anderson, it is a "must read" for those of us who admired MacKaye and want to learn more about him. Give a gift of Freedom's Way to a friend. Price: \$45.00 Available by phone or mail order: Benton MacKaye (0-8018-6902-1) from Johns Hopkins Press, Box 50370, Baltimore, MD 21211. Or log onto <www.jhupbooks.com>

Committees

Some of you have responded to our request for committee members, and we thank you. We have been building a stronger Freedom's Way in preparation for the eventual passage of the legislation that appoints Freedom's Way Heritage Association as the management entity. This language imposes great responsibilities upon the Association. Until the designation and appropriation become a reality, we must prepare for the rapid expansion of the Association and increase our capacity to communicate with a greater number of people and organizations.

As the number of meetings and participants grow, the costs increase. We have conducted all the work of the organization through the efforts of a network of volunteer efforts. We have relied upon donations, dues and grants to accomplish our activities. With the imminent passage of the legislation we require additional support of an expanding group of corporations, foundations and individuals to help us accomplish the work before us. To this end, we have overhauled the structure of the organization and created new committees.

1. **The Finance and Grants Committees** have embarked on a major fundraising campaign.
2. **The Membership Committee** will initiate a membership drive.
3. **Government Affairs Committee** will continue to monitor the legislation in Congress and work with our state legislators to continue their support.
4. **Governance Committee** is drafting guidelines for identifying interpretive centers to be designated official Freedom's Way sites.
5. **Publicity and Newsletter Committee** will keep the news coming to you on a timely basis.
6. **Liaison Committee** will continue as our conduits to the towns.
7. **Theme Development Committee** oversees our thematically connected activities.
8. **Facility Committee** is to find space for our needs and necessary equipment upgrades.

Membership in committees is open to all members of Freedom's Way. Call us if you would like to help. We'll find the slot that right for you!

New Committee Members

We are happy to announce the following new volunteers for Freedom's Way Committees.

Liaisons: Vicky Beyer, Acton; Donald Gearan, Gardner

Nominating Committee: Rona Balco, Barbara Sipler and Janet Umphress

Membership Committee: Maud Ayson, Christine Bergeron, Gail Bloom, Mary Shasta, Susan Smith and Jerry Van Hook

Freedom's Way Heritage Association provides the cooperative framework and technical assistance to increase the public's awareness of the significance of the Area's heritage themes through educational and other programs.

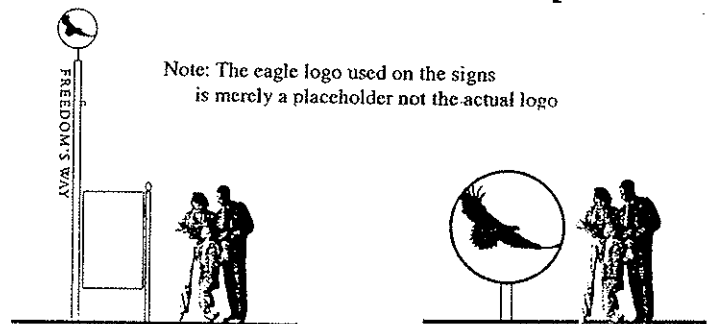
Where is Freedom's Way?

Soon you will be able to visit Freedom's Way museums and interpretive centers and recognize our logo identifying the facility as an "official" site capable of delivering educational exhibits, activities or programs related to the Freedom's Way Themes.

"Branding" or name recognition of a unique motif identifying Freedom's Way has been our dream since the first eagle flew onto our stationery in 1996.

We are now proudly investing in a redesign of our eagle with the firm of Icon, Inc. The new design will be phase one of a program to create a logo for use immediately on our printed stationery, mailings, reports, etc. It can be bestowed upon the Freedom's Way museums and interpretive centers. Later, it may appear as a decal on your car window or at the entrance to the centers. Eventually, it will be on one of those big brown signs on the interstate highways advising that you are "Entering Freedom's Way National Heritage Area."

Theme Development Committee



Freedom's Way Board News

We welcome **Sandra (Sandy) Lefkovits** to the Board, as our new treasurer/bookkeeper. Sandy is a former member of her town's Conservation Commission as well as the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. She is also the former Treasurer, AOG Systems Corporation. Currently, she is the owner of Pinhill Gardens specializing in daylilies. She is also a Long Term Care Ombudsman. Our former treasurer, **Rebecca Waugh** remains on the board as a member of the Finance Committee. Although the struggles of keeping up with her son Jared and her own flower and antiques business have prevented Rebecca taking a more active role, she intends to continue on the board to lend us a hand with our other efforts.

New to our office staff is part timer and neighbor of Freedom's Way, **Betty Barbadoro**. Betty lives a stone's throw from the office in one of the newly renovated Devens historical homes. We are delighted to have her assistance.

Keep you fingers crossed, **Bobbi Atkinson** and her husband John have put their house on the market as they contemplate a move to Maine. While we wish them well, we will miss Bobbi's golden voice. She is the person who can get anyone to agree to anything and make them feel good about it – she has no idea how *much* she will be missed. That is why we ask you to keep your fingers crossed, if the Atkinsons don't sell perhaps they will change their minds. (?)

Why Should I write a Letter to My Senators or Congressman?

Many thanks to those of you who found the time to write to your legislators about your specific interest in establishing a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. You have been heard.

You might wonder why you should bother to write letters when we are doing just that on your behalf? The answer is in this portion of a letter we received from Senator Judd Gregg in November:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. I have heard from many of my constituents in New Hampshire who share your feelings on the importance of establishing this heritage area. I agree that Freedom's Way will be an important piece of the efforts to promote the history and rich culture of New Hampshire and I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of S.1925. I will keep you updated as it moves through the legislative process. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions and if I can be of additional help.

Nothing, absolutely nothing, is as powerful and effective as letters, postcards or emails from you, the constituents. Together we convinced our legislators that we truly wanted a Freedom's Way National Heritage Area – but four Senators and six Congressmen do not constitute a majority of either house.

Now that we are entering a new congressional year, your legislators need your help. Let's give them something to be proud of. Inundate them with correspondence reminding them how much we care about American History. Give them the ammunition to convince their colleagues also to lend their support. Send them the interesting, but little known stories. Remind them that we have inherited the legacy of an independent citizenry who helped foster and shape our democratic principles. The economic benefits of tourism are a byproduct not a goal of cultural and heritage development. In difficult economic times it is important to remember that we do have one way to help the local economy – as we help ourselves. That is a plus for everyone!

You might like to quote from your favorite town fathers and mothers such as: Alcott, John Eliot, Emerson, Fuller, MacKaye, Mitchell, Stone, and Thoreau. Give your legislator a chance to be eloquent. Here is what Senator Kerry said when he introduced the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area legislation on behalf of himself and Senators Judd Gregg and Edward Kennedy:

To pass muster as a National Heritage Area, the candidate region must

represent an important theme in American history; reflect traditions, customs, beliefs and folk life that are a valuable part of American history; provide opportunities to conserve natural, cultural, historic and scenic qualities; be an example of a natural or cultural region or process; have local support, public involvement and potential for partnership; and have consistent economic activity. I believe that the 36 Massachusetts and 6 New Hampshire towns that have joined together in the proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area have all these characteristics and more.

The history of the region, and its importance to our nation, is nearly unparalleled. These communities have been called the Landscape of American Democracy, and that description is not an exaggeration by any means. More than 100 years before the American Revolution many of these cities and towns were inventing their own system of self-governance, one that embraced democracy, property rights, religious

freedoms and equality. In other words, the same individual rights we cherish so passionately today.

When the American Revolution started the men of these cities and towns organized themselves into a militia and stood against the British regulars at Lexington and Concord. The battle galvanized the colonies in the battle of independence. And when the women of these towns were called upon, they took up the cause just as forcefully. It was Prudence Wright and Lt. Sarah Shattuck who lead a women's troop to capture a Tory spy in Pepperell.

It was in Concord that one of the most famous lines in American history was spoken by Captain John Parker, when he called to his militia, 'Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.'

Various religions grew up throughout the region. The Shakers settled in Harvard, Ayer and Shirley. The Millerites in Groton. Transcendentalist thinkers gathered in Harvard, Fruitlands and Concord. The St. Benedict's Abbey of Harvard, a community of devout Jesuits, is still strong today. Each of these faiths has impacted the region and the nation's in its own way.

Political and social movements flourished. Thinkers that have shaped our political foundation and our history wrote and taught in the towns of the proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. They include Emerson, Hawthorne, Thoreau and others. They nurtured movements for abolition, women's suffrage, equality and conservation.

Abolitionist Societies flourished, and within these towns are several stops on the Underground Railroad. Runaway slaves fleeing north for freedom hid in basements, caves and passageways in Fitchburg, Princeton and other towns.

One can see today how many of these towns were planned and developed hundreds of years ago. Homes, churches, inns, taverns, government buildings and markets are clustered around the town common. Once land for grazing animals, the commons are now shared space for communities to come together for recreation and celebration. In other towns, especially along the rivers, you can see the birth of industry in old mills. The shift from agrarian economies to industrial economies was started when waterpower forged metal and drove machines. You can see that transition in buildings that stand today.

The natural and scenic values of the region are extraordinary. In the eastern region the suburban land outside Boston is broken with the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Walden Pond State Reservation, Minuteman National Historical Park and the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The central region is a more rural landscape, with orchards, farmlands and river ways, and the Nashua River Greenway, Bolton Flats Wildlife Management Area and the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. In the western region the hills begin to rise with the Mt. Wachusett State Reservation, Mt. Watatic and state forests.

With all of these historic, cultural and natural qualities it easy to understand why the local support for a national heritage area designation is strong. The 42 cities and towns of the region have endorsed the effort. Massachusetts and New Hampshire have endorsed this proposal. Massachusetts paid for the feasibility study and has set aside budget authority of \$250,000 should the federal government act favorably on S.1925. The Freedom's Way Heritage Association is a vibrant organization, with strong local support, creative thinkers and exactly the kind of group needed to make the potential benefits in a national heritage area designation a reality....

Please don't forget to thank your Congressmen and Senators for what they have already accomplished on your behalf. Every team does better with a cheering section.

History Is In Your Hands

"History is in Your Hands," a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is a call for citizens to recognize, protect and preserve the significant places of America's past in their communities. A joint project of the National Trust and the Ad Council, it will promote a "preservation ethic" during the next three years.

"The campaign goal is to bring these resources that can empower them to become engaged in their communities and raise their awareness of the historic treasures in their backyards."

Freedom's Way is proposing a new publication for children and adults, appearing as a simple workbook of drawings of a hometown's structures, unique because of their architectural style or historical owner or events that distinguish them. Many properties are already inventoried and are on the National Register, and that information is safely stored in town vaults and archives. This book would be inexpensively printed with line drawings to acquaint everyone with the architectural treasures we have in our hometowns including what makes them so special. The future of these treasures is "in your hands." We are looking for volunteers who would like to work on this project.

Senator Kennedy, Congressman Meehan, other legislators and over 250 Veterans attended a dedication ceremony in January. A Memorial Fund has also been started to move a former World War II barracks, due for demolition, to the site. This was proposed by the late Edward A. Pieters, Harvard resident, who trained at Fort Devens in 1941. As one of WWII's first infantry combat officers to lead a black platoon, his unit helped liberate Cologne and several prison camps in Germany.

Until the building can be opened to the public, a virtual museum is being undertaken on the museum web site <devenshistoricalmuseum.org> by Ruth Rhonemus and Milly Chandler. The first display prepared by Dr. Marcia Synnott, will be that of Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers who was responsible for the camp achieving the designation "Fort Devens" in 1941.

In addition, display cases are being installed in some buildings at Devens to hold museum artifacts so the public can see the collection as it grows. Jean McCrosky compiled and FWHA published "Fort Devens World War II Memories and Stories" in 2001. Marge Derby prepared the Collections Policy; Dan Rosen, former Historian at the Presidio, is registering items donated recently to the collection. Ted Gentile, former President, is available as a speaker for groups wishing to learn more about Devens and the Museum. Freedom's Way has also prepared a Historical Map of Devens. Visit the web site or call Freedom's Way for information.

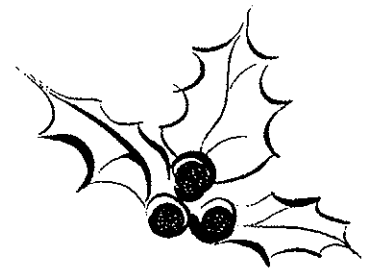
Theme Development Committee

John H. Ott Appointed to Board of Governors of the Devens Historical Museum

John Ott, of Freedom's Way Board, is the first appointee to this new level of distinguished advisors to the Devens Historical Museum. A former Director, he has assisted the Board's progress with his experience as Executive Director of the National Heritage Museum in Lexington.

For the last six years, Freedom's Way has sponsored the Museum, served as Secretary to the Board and as the office of the Museum, offering telephone service and now housing the first contributions to its new collection. Freedom's Way joined others to establish a museum on Devens and to preserve whatever could be salvaged after the base closure. This was based on the deep sentiments expressed by returning servicemen and former Fort families who visited the base and its former museum regularly. As New England's major induction center, some 600,000 civilians had been processed through here in its seventy-five years. Its place in the region's history could not be ignored.

President Frank J. Hartnett, Sr. and Bert Tompkins, Vice President, have launched a fund raising drive to be matched by MassDevelopment, endorsed by Vice Presidents, Bill Burke and Meg Delorier, to renovate a former Civilian Military Training camp site as the first of three museum buildings on Barnum Road.



Freedom's Way Heritage Association would like to wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a safe and Happy New Year!



About Membership in Freedom's Way

Our work will first focus on helping our local museums and historical societies to collaborate in the telling the story of Freedom's Way. Each institution will tell the story from a different perspective; but by so doing, a fuller picture will emerge for everyone's benefit. The story of Freedom's Way is compelling to us and I know you want to help it become as compelling for your children, grandchildren and visitors.

We will be able to continue to plan for future activities and programs in cooperation with regional organizations.

With your dues and donations we have:

- Enhanced our competitive advantage for grant funds from public and private sources that require a community match;
- Funded the work of building our capacity to serve you better;
- Traveled to Washington to enlist the support of our Congressmen and Senators.
- Attended conferences and seminars to educate ourselves;
- Expanded our board to include a broader range of interest and expertise;
- Edited and published a series of stories about Freedom's Way now available at reduced prices for members and educators;
- Created a slide presentation for organizations and clubs;
- Helped to facilitate the creation of a Devens Historical Museum;
- Embarked on a campaign to raise funds to develop a logo and identifying signage for our member museums, organizations and interpretive centers.

While not a specific goal of heritage development, we know from the experience of other National Heritage Areas that heritage development bring financial benefits to cities and towns. It is one of wonderful byproducts of enhancing the quality of life – people and companies want to live where the environment is appealing.

Membership Committee

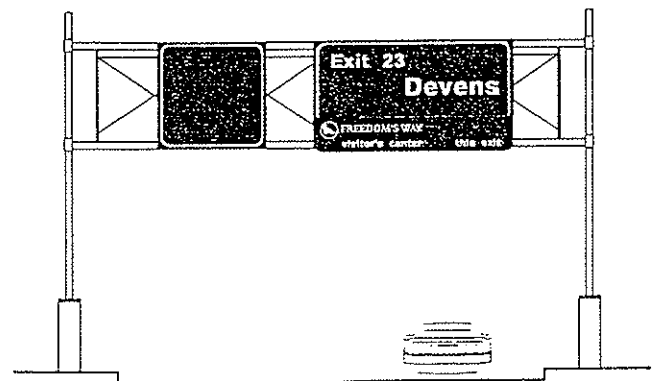
If you wish to join Freedom's Way, use the membership form on the back page.

With your help, signs like these will someday identify Freedom's Way

HIGHWAY SIGNAGE



d.o.t. highway district identity



d.o.t. exit direction sign

The logo used on the above signs is merely a placeholder not the actual logo that will be used. This is an illustration of a type of identity system.

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 \$35

Family or Non-Profit \$50

Minuteman \$100

Thoreau Associate \$500-999

Patriots Circle \$1,000-4,999

Golden Eagle \$5,000 and up

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
43 Buena Vista Street
Devens, MA 01432**

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U. S. POSTAGE

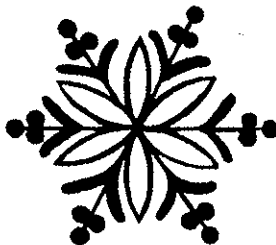
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Freedom's Way, The Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenters