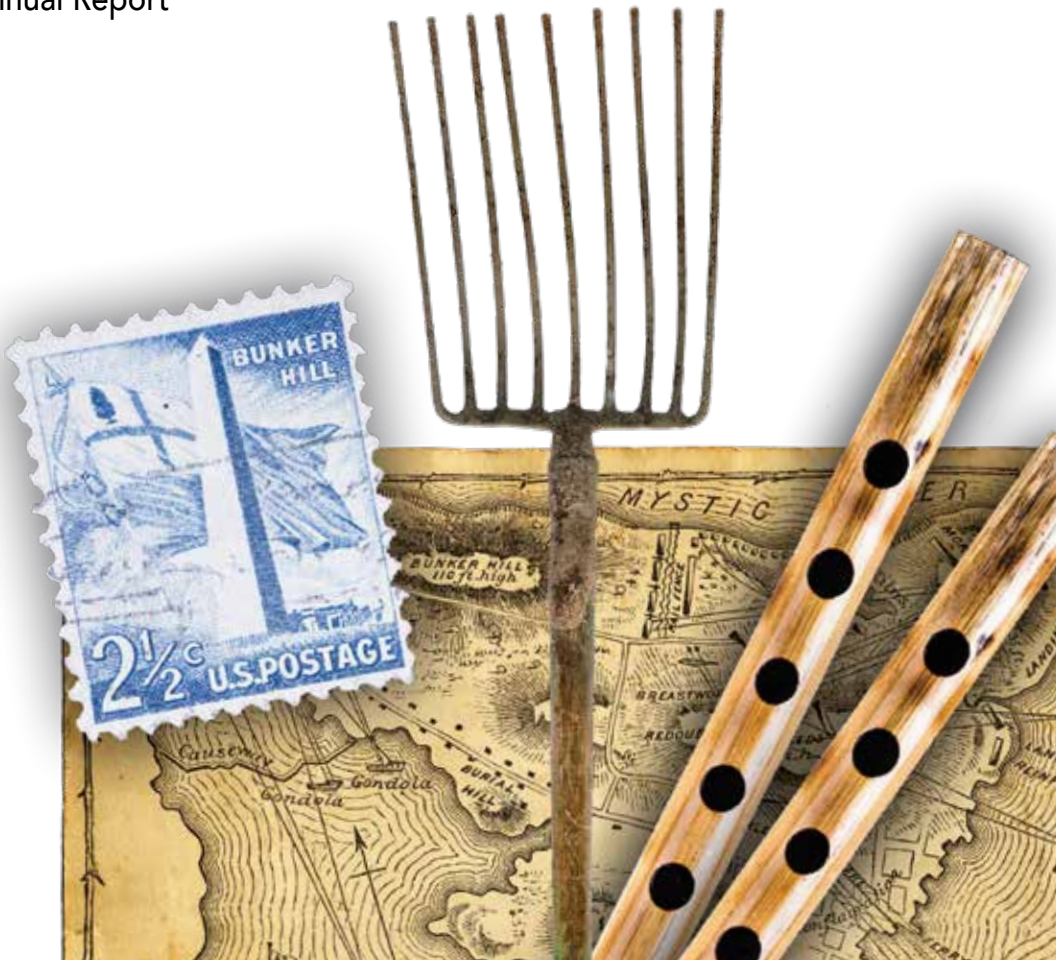


ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE (IT DOES)

—William James

Visionaries & Experimenters in History

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area
2018 Annual Report





the experience of place.

Making a Difference

This year has been one of continued accomplishment for the Freedom's Way Heritage Association.

Significant progress has been made on advancing the goals and objectives articulated in our management plan approved by the Secretary of the Interior in 2015. Collaborative programs, designed to strengthen the regional identity of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area, have provided new insights into the region's rich history, strengthening its sense of place.

Partnerships remain key to our success. During the past year Freedom's Way has increased the number of individuals and organizations it works with and engaged new constituencies and communities. Themed interpretive presentations, including **Hidden Treasures** and **Declaring Independence: Then & Now**, have made a difference, linking sites and stories and revealing shared subjects, topics and themes.

Moving forward, there remains much to accomplish, and we need your help. Journey with us and explore the region's historical, cultural and natural resources. Be a visionary and experimenter. You can make a difference.

45

CITIES & TOWNS

122

HISTORIC
districts

74

MUSEUMS &
galleries

Connecting People, Places and Communities

Among the many traditional activities explored by Freedom's Way during the management planning process was an entirely new way of thinking about communication and collaboration—the Heritage Area as a virtual museum to empower a shared sense of place.

By curating the landscapes, sites, communities, structures, routes, objects and stories within its boundaries, the Heritage Area serves as facilitator, managing “the experience of place.” To create a museum without walls, Freedom’s Way works with communities to gather, organize and provide access to information, content and collections developed by partners and others.

To achieve this outcome, Freedom’s Way continues to expand its communication capacity through the use of innovative social media (including an enhanced website and bi-monthly e-newsletters) and the ever-changing variety of applications available for managing and sharing information in creative and engaging ways.

While a complex undertaking involving the integration of a wide range of information, topics and stories, assuming a curatorial role and providing the framework for a shared interpretive presentation strengthens the Heritage Area’s identity and brand.



Left: Hikers walk the mowed path on Dexter Drumlin, Lancaster, MA.
Above: Events promoted through Freedom’s Way E-newsletters.

Images on cover represent our new initiative, Heritage Stories.

HERITAGE STORIES

Visionaries & Experimenters

An exciting multi-year initiative that celebrates those visionary individuals within the Heritage Area that have been at the forefront of ideas and events that have shaped the region and provided new ways of thinking about America and the world.

Visionaries and Experimenters

Through a continued exploration of the region's stories, the Heritage Area's role as a region of firsts in American invention, thought and design has emerged. Key is the contributions of individuals, whose discoveries and inventions remain at the forefront of social, intellectual and cultural innovation in America. They made a difference.

It is these visionaries and experimenters that are celebrated in **Heritage Stories**. Designed to encourage new audiences to consider their relationship to Freedom's Way, **Heritage Stories** encourage everyone to explore their own story.

Stories shape our identity, connecting physical places to people and time. The past informs the present and future, providing a bridge between generations. Shared, the stories we tell make a difference and provide a context for understanding the cultural identity of our communities.

Cultural Heritage Through Image

In collaboration with Fitchburg State University, Freedom's Way is a partner in **Cultural Heritage Through Image**, a multi-year project that encourages students to make connections between the history and experiences of their local culture with those outside of New England.

This year, students used photography to illustrate how ancient to medieval cultural heritage stories from other countries relate to cultural heritage stories of local communities within the Heritage Area. A digital exhibition of themed photographs, focusing on Freedom's Way, was mounted at the Fitchburg Art Museum for Cultural Heritage Day, on September 30th.

In FY2019, students will develop, research, and record cultural heritage stories, translating them into cultural heritage artifacts. These will be used to create written accounts that can be used by Freedom's Way to develop **Heritage Stories**. The interviews are thematic and include artisans and traditional crafts people, historic reenactors and personas, and contemporary individuals from within the Heritage Area that are visionaries and experimenters.

The Father of Heritage Interpretation, Freeman Tilden (1883-1980) is considered one of the National Park Service's founders. A teacher, mentor and philosopher, his six timeless principles, articulated in "Interpreting Our Heritage" continue to guide and sustain the field of interpretation today.

“Through interpretation, understanding; through understanding, appreciation; through appreciation, protection.”



FREEMAN
TILDEN



ELLEN SWALLOW
RICHARDS

“You cannot make women contented with cooking and cleaning and you need not try.”

The first woman to be admitted to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ellen Henrietta Swallow Richards (1842–1911) was the most prominent female American chemist of the 19th century. A pioneer in sanitary engineering, she founded the science of home economics in the United States.



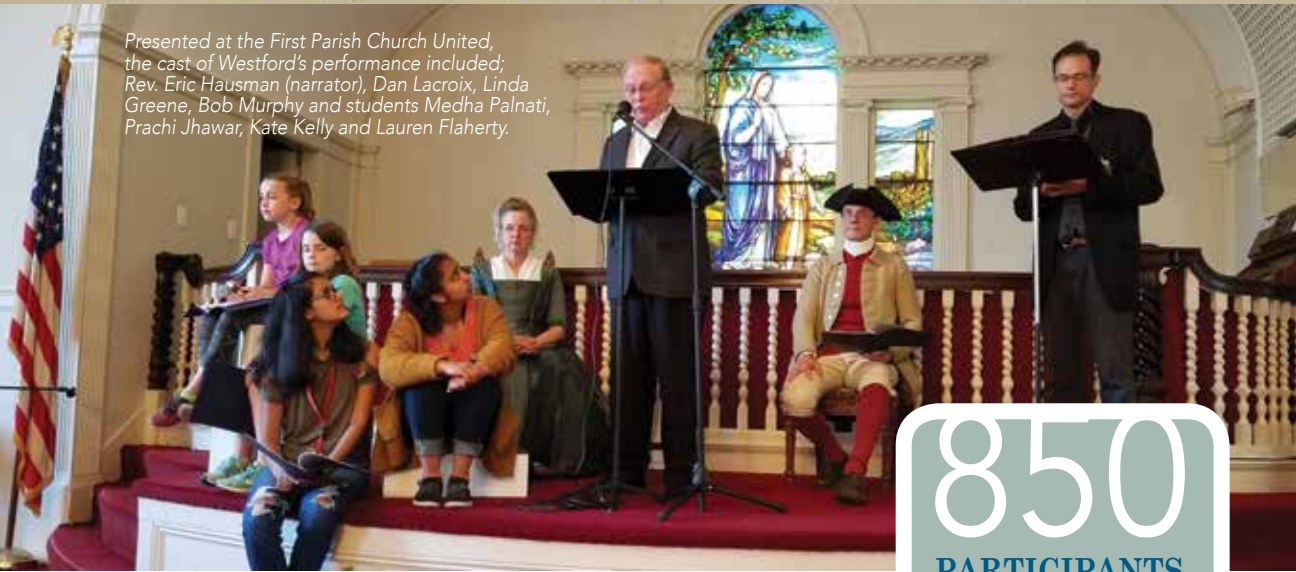
BARZILLAI
LEW

The musical talents of Barzillai Lew (1743–1822) took him as a fifer to the Battle of Bunker Hill, Fort Ticonderoga, and Saratoga, where he was “selected for fifer and fiddler for the grand appearance” at Burgoyne’s surrender.

Photo by Bruce White, Courtesy of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

A DECLARATION

Presented at the First Parish Church United, the cast of Westford's performance included; Rev. Eric Hausman (narrator), Dan Lacroix, Linda Greene, Bob Murphy and students Medha Palnati, Prachi Jawar, Kate Kelly and Lauren Flaherty.



850
PARTICIPANTS

Declaring Independence: Then & Now

This year we proudly offered 17 performances of **Declaring Independence: Then & Now**. The program tells the story of people within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the spring and summer of 1776. Using their own words, it portrays how they debated and celebrated the declaring of independence from Great Britain.

Offered in partnership with the American Antiquarian Society and with support from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati, **Declaring Independence: Then & Now** provides an opportunity to consider the promises made in that foundational document through the lens of both the past and the present, providing new insights into its meaning today.

Each presentation, which includes a narrated reading of the Declaration of Independence, interspersed with the words spoken by local individuals as researched by citizen-historians, is unique. Presentations are held in historic venues, often the same ones in which the original discussions occurred.

Declaring Independence: Then & Now continues to evolve as each community explores its part in the story of American Independence and in our on-going aspirations for freedom and equality for everyone.

Civic engagement and interest in our nation's founding principles are high and **Declaring Independence: Then & Now** provides an interactive forum in which to explore both. Audiences are inspired and challenged by hearing the Declaration of Independence anew, providing an opportunity for reflection about what the words mean in contemporary society.

A highlight of **Declaring Independence: Then & Now** was "**Holding These Truths: A Panel Discussion about the Declaration of Independence**" with historians David W. Blight, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Peter S. Onuf. Topics discussed included defining equality and the Declaration of Independence, the views and interpretations of W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass and Thomas Jefferson, and the perspectives of 18th century African Americans and women. Held at the American Antiquarian Society the discussion can be viewed on C-Span at: <http://www.freedomsway.org/programs/declaring-independence-then-now/>

Since 1776, there have been approximately 120 declarations of independence made by different countries and different peoples.

Volunteers Making a Difference

Declaring Independence: Then & Now, is made possible through the generous volunteer hours of many individuals and organizations who have dedicated themselves to making the program available to the public.

These include the citizen-historians who research the stories, the historical reenactors who breathe life into each character, the narrators who read the words of the Declaration of Independence, the coordinators who oversee each performance and the community access stations that record them.

We would also like to celebrate the three people whose vision and focus have been central to the program's success—*Mary Fuhrer*, *Maud Ayson* and *Jim Moran*. Their dedication brought the story of the Declaration of Independence to life.

Thank you!

For collaborative heritage programming, Freedom's Way National Heritage Area may match the funding we receive through the National Park Service with the fair market value of contributed volunteers' time, including donated professional services. Every "in-kind" dollar we receive makes a difference.



*Mary Babson Fuhrer,
Public Historian*



*Maud Ayson,
Non-profit Consultant*



*James David Moran,
Vice President for
Programs and Outreach
American Antiquarian
Society*

IT TAKES EACH
OF US TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
FOR ALL OF US



**HIDDEN
TREASURES
2018**

**PHOTO
CONTEST**

Promoting the Region's Hidden Treasures

Hidden Treasures celebrates the region's natural, cultural, and historical resources by showcasing the work of the many organizations that steward and interpret these sites, artifacts, and traditions. Freedom's Way provides a coordinated branding and marketing effort aimed at increasing exposure and inspiring residents and visitors to discover their place in the Heritage Area.

Despite a particularly rainy May, the fourth year of Hidden Treasures boasted over 10,500 attendees! In its second year as a month-long program, Hidden Treasures promoted 80 unique events in 35 of the Heritage Area's communities. This year's events were offered in coordination with 83 local, state, federal, and non-profit partners; nearly a third of which were first-time participants.

Thank you to Fidelity Bank for its continued support of this program.



Hidden Treasures Photo Contest

2018 featured the launch of the inaugural Hidden Treasures Photo Contest! The public was invited to submit original photographs from their travels throughout the Heritage Area in three categories: *What's Your Nature?*, *Culture Reframed*, and *History in the Making*. Winners were announced at the Annual Meeting on October 28th at The Groton Inn.

Thank you to the local businesses that generously donated prizes:

80 Thoreau	Forge & Vine
Battle Road Brew House	Gibbet Hill Grill
The Bull Run Restaurant	Idylwilde Farms
Cataldo's gift & garden	Mahoney's Garden Centers
Chatbooks	The Rail Trail Flatbread Co.
Concord's Colonial Inn	True West Brewing Co.



Top: 1840 Erard piano at The Frederick Collection of Historic Pianos, Ashburnham, MA;
Bottom: Wild edibles enthusiast and author of *Wild Plants I Have Known...and Eaten*, Russ Cohen, shares his expertise with a group of foragers.

Hitting the Trail

The Thoreau Trail—A Walk to Wachusett

Following an exploratory launch of the Thoreau Trail in 2017, this past year's efforts were focused on working with municipal and non-profit partners in Concord, Acton, Maynard, Stow, Bolton, Lancaster, Sterling, Leominster, and Princeton to discuss the project's opportunities and challenges. Through these meetings alternative routes, interpretive themes, and priority projects were identified. An interpretive framework was developed for Concord and will be used as a model for the other communities. These findings will be compiled into a feasibility report to be shared with the public in early 2019.

Connecting Communities: Walks & Talks

After a year-long hiatus, Freedom's Way is pleased to announce its relaunching of the Connecting Communities: Along Our Trails program as **Connecting Communities: Walks & Talks!**

What was once a series of monthly trail activities coupled with a cultural or historical component, is now an annual set of five guided walks with an educational focus led by local experts on a new theme each year. Stay tuned as we bring you *Birding in Freedom's Way* in early 2019.



25%
CONSERVED
land



Top: Hikers walk through the fields of Sholan Farms, Leominster, MA;
Bottom: An adult male northern parula (*Setophaga americana*), a member of the New World Warblers family. Courtesy of Ken Hartlage.

On the Road in Freedom's Way

During the past year, we were provided numerous opportunities to share the work of Freedom's Way with new audiences. These included:

Co-hosting the 2018 Mass History Conference: People's History–Local History and moderating the Self-guided Tours: To App or Not to App? session, which explored affordable options for developing self-guided walking tours, including CLIO and Uniguide;

Presenting at MassDOT Moving Together 2017: Annual Statewide Healthy Transportation Conference, the 2017 Massachusetts Trails Conference, and the 2018 Thoreau Society's Annual Gathering about the Thoreau Trail project;

Sponsoring and presenting at Cultural Heritage Day at the Fitchburg Art Museum with Fitchburg State University English Studies Professor Kisha Tracy where exhibits, activities and speakers focused on exploring the meaning and significance of cultural heritage;

Introducing Freedom's Way to the Tyngsborough-Dunstable Historical Society, Hanscom Area Towns Committee, and students in the Culture Heritage Through Image English Studies class at Fitchburg State University;

Exhibiting at National Trails Day at Wachusett Mountain and Mason's 250th Anniversary Celebration; and,

Conducting field work for the National Historic Landmark Study with municipal planning departments, historical societies and site managers in Amherst, Milford, Nashua and New Ipswich, New Hampshire and Ashburnham, Arlington, Fitchburg, Harvard, Hudson, Lexington, Leominster, Maynard, Malden, Shirley and Woburn, Massachusetts.



Uncle Sam and Little Red Riding Hood at Mason's 250th Anniversary celebration

IT'S ALL ABOUT GETTING THERE



Partnership Projects

We are pleased to share updates on three partnership projects which the Heritage Area supported.

The **Boxborough Historical Society's** efforts to restore the 1784 Levi Wetherbee (Steele) Farmhouse (*pictured top right*) concluded its preliminary phase, which included stabilization of the existing structure and planning for rehabilitation. A "Hug the House" celebration was held in June 2018.

The **Shirley Meeting House** accessibility project completed its first phase in early 2018 with the installation of a new handicapped-accessible bathroom and a utility area with sink and cabinets. The second phase, which will be completed in October, includes the reconstruction of the portico deck (*pictured bottom right*).

The **Sudbury Historical Society** is continuing its work on its multi-phased project to build the Sudbury History Center, complete with museum galleries, an archive, and a visitor's center, in the town-owned, circa 1730 Loring Parsonage (*pictured top left*). Construction is set to begin in late October on phase two and is scheduled to be complete in the spring of 2019.

Leadership & Advisors

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 Chair City Community Arts Center
 Concord Museum
 Fitchburg Art Museum
 Fort Devens Museum
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 Friends of Sholan Farms
 Great American Downtown
 Groton Trails Committee
 Lexington Historical Society
 Mass Audubon—Drumlin Farm
 MA DCR—Wachusett Mountain
 MA DCR—Walden Pond
 Massachusetts Historical Society
 Museum of Russian Icons
 New Hampshire Preservation Alliance
 Preservation Massachusetts

Sudbury Valley Trustees

The Trustees—Fruitlands Museum
 The Robbins House
 The Royall House & Slave Quarters
 The Walden Woods Project
 Thoreau Farm
 Wayside Inn

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. Senators

Maggie Hassan (NH)
 Ed Markey (MA)
 Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
 Elizabeth Warren (MA)

U.S. Representatives

Katherine Clark (MA 5th District)
 Annie Kuster (NH 2nd District)
 Jim McGovern (MA 2nd District)
 Seth Moulton (MA 6th District)
 Niki Tsongas (MA 3rd District)

A Special Thank You to Our Supporters

National Park Service
Minute Man National Historical Park

BUSINESSES

80 Thoreau
Battle Road Brew House
The Bull Run Restaurant
Cataldo's gift & garden
Chatbooks
Concord's Colonial Inn
Fidelity Bank
Forge & Vine
Fundraising Focus
Gibbet Hill Grill
Gioiosa Design
Halagan Design Group
Heritage Strategies
Idylwilde Farms
Mahoney's Garden Centers
MassDevelopment
Middlesex Bank & Charitable Trust
Oakfield Productions
The Rail Trail Flatbread Co.
Smith, Sullivan & Brown, PC
True West Brewing Co.

ORGANIZATIONS

Abbot Public Library
Acton Memorial Library
Acton Natural Resources Department
American Antiquarian Society
Amherst Heritage Commission
Andres Institute of Art
Appalachian Mountain Club
Arlington Historical Society
ArtSpace Maynard
Ashby Historical Society
Assabet River Rail Trail
Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee
Bedford Free Public Library
Bigelow Free Public Library
Bolton Conservation Department
Bolton Conservation Trust
Bolton Historical Commission
Bolton Historical Society
Bolton Trails Committee
Boulder Art Gallery
Boxborough Historical Society
Brookline Conservation Commission
Chair City Community Arts Center
Citizens for Lexington Conservation
Clinton Greenway Conservation Trust
Concord Art
Concord Division of Natural Resources
Concord Museum
Concord Trails Committee
First Parish Church United of Westford
First Parish in Concord
Fitchburg Art Museum
Fitchburg Greenway Committee
Fitchburg Historical Society
Fitchburg State University
Fort Devens Museum
Framingham History Center
Frederick Collection of Historic Pianos
Friends of Middlesex Fells Reservation
Friends of the Acton Libraries
Friends of the Assabet National
Wildlife Refuge

Friends of the Oxbow National
Wildlife Refuge
Great American Downtown
Great Brook Farm State Park
Groton History Center
Groton Public Library
Groton Trails Committee
Harvard Alpaca Ranch
Harvard Historical Society
Historic New England—
Gropius House
Historical Society of
Amherst, NH
Hopkinton Public Library
Iron Work Farm in Acton
Lancaster Garden Club
Lancaster Historical Commission
Lancaster Land Trust
Lancaster Recreation Committee
Lancaster Trails & Bike
Way Coalition
Lanni Orchards
Leominster Public Library
Lexington Arts & Crafts Society
Lexington Bicycle
Advisory Committee
Lexington Greenways Corridor
Committee
Lexington Historical Society
Lexington Safe Routes to School
Littleton Community Farm
Littleton Conservation Trust
Littleton Historical Commission
Littleton Historical Society
Lunenburg Historical Society
MA Dept. of Conservation
& Recreation
Malden Historical Society
Mass Audubon—Drumlin Farm
Mass Audubon—Wachusett
Meadow
Massachusetts Society of
the Cincinnati
Mattapoisett Free Public Library
Maynard Conservation Division
Maynard Historical Commission
Medford Historical Society
& Museum
Munroe Center for the Arts
Museum of Fine Arts
Nashoba Conservation Trust
Nashoba Valley Weavers' Guild
North County Land Trust
Old Frog Pond Farm & Studio
Old North Church & Historic Site
Old Schwamb Mill
Old Sturbridge Village
Pepperell Conservation Commission
Piscataquog Land Conservancy
Princeton Historical Commission
Shirley Historical Society
Shirley Meeting House
Sholan Farms
Smith's Country Cheese/
Otter River Farm
Stow Conservation Commission
Stow Conservation Trust

Sudbury Valley Trustees
Symphony NH
Thayer Memorial Library
The First Parish in Bedford,
Unitarian Universalist
The Robbins House
The Trustees—Farandnear
The Trustees—Fruitlands Museum
The Trustees—Old Manse
The Walden Woods Project
Thoreau Farm
Town of Lancaster
Tyngsborough-Dunstable
Historical Society
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Westford Museum &
Historical Society
William Diamond Junior Fire &
Drum Corps
Woburn Historical Society
Woburn Residents' Environmental
Network (WREN)

INDIVIDUALS

Bettina Abe
Steve Abrams
Robert Adam
Tammy & Pete Alfano
Jonathan Amakawa
Robert Allison
Leslie Ardisen
Mary Askeland
Ben Atherton-Zeman
Maud Ayson
Susan Barber
Georgia Barry
Michelle Barry
Lindsay Beal
John Bell
Ronit BenShir
Sharon Bernard
Jeanne Blauner
Pleun Bouricius
Sally Bowers
Roger Breeze
Bill Brown
Duncan Brown
Joe Brown
Ruth Broughton
Jeffrey Bryan
Cristina Burwell
Laura Busky
Lori Capone
Richard Canale
Steve Carlin
Margaret Caroll-Bergman
Nancy Catalini
Jake & Allie Catlin
Mike & Leah Catlin
Joanne Chaffee
Mary Ciummo
Liz Clayton
Russ Cohen
Alice Coggeshall
Tom Coots
Pat Costello
Dona Cozzens

2018 Financial Report

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Federal	\$172,000.00
Contributions/Grants/ Sponsorships	\$17,744.00
In-Kind Support	\$444,697.00
Total Support & Revenue	\$634,441.00

EXPENSES

Outreach Expenses	\$149,461.00
Program Expenses	\$64,772.00
Operating Expenses	\$34,261.00
In-Kind Expenses	\$444,697.00
Total Expenses	\$693,191.00

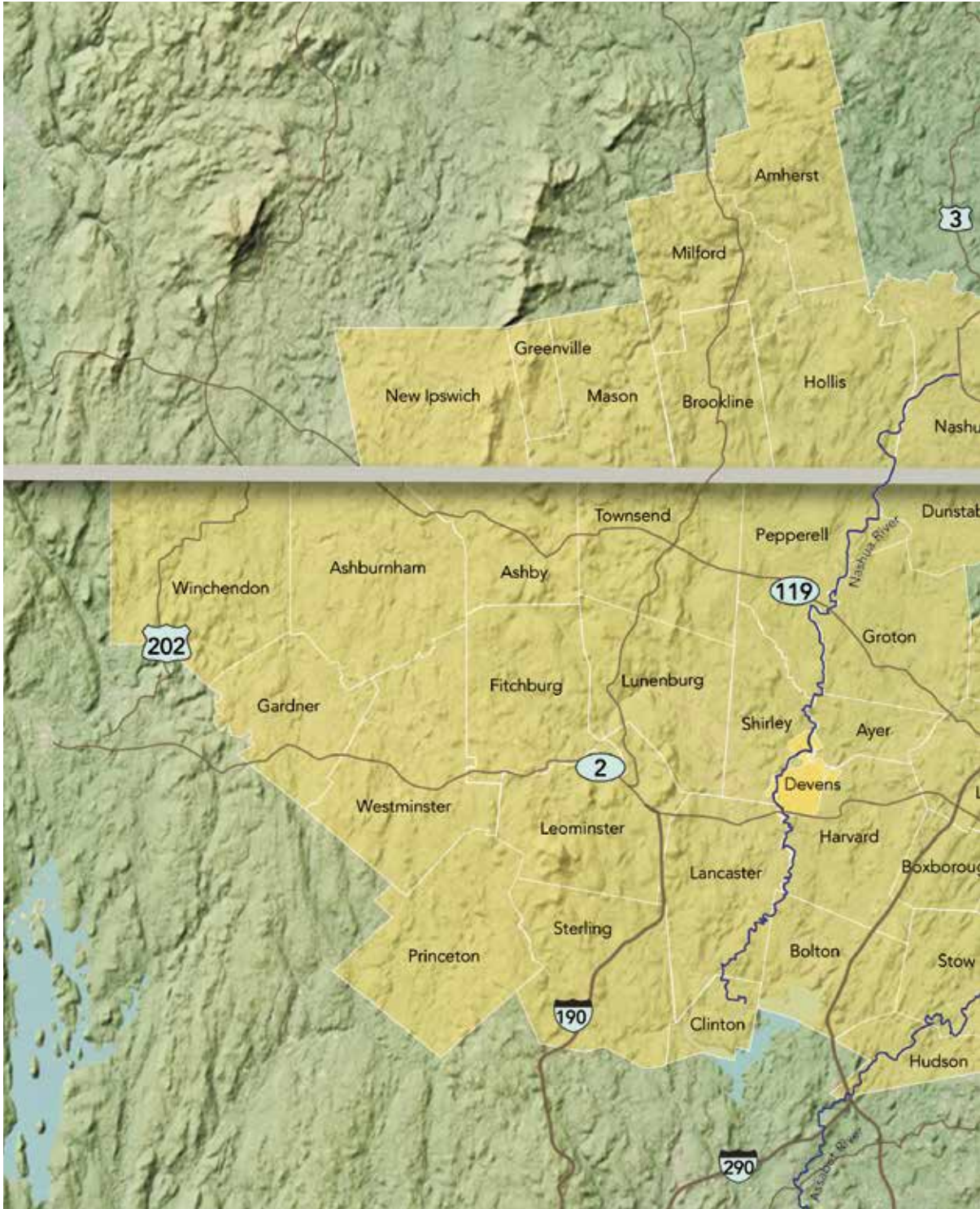
Colleen Cunningham
Hal & Betsey Cutler
Howard Dana
Marjorie Darby
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Tom Dorward
Michelle DuBois
Chris Ebstein
Maribeth Eugene
John Fallon
Tim Fiehler
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Patricia & Edmund Frederick
Anne Forbes
Kara Fossey
William Fowler
Mary & Jeff Fuhrer
Paul Funch
Charles Gordon
Jayne Gordon
Jared Green
Tamarah Green
Linda Greene
Michele Grenier
Krista Hampsch
Jared Hardner
Pat Hatch
Marion Hauck
Eric Hausmann
Alma Himmelberger
Ann Himmelberger
Calvin Himmelberger
Clayton Hobart
Linda Hoffman
Ariel Hoover
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Chris & Jackie Marshall
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We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name as a supporter.

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

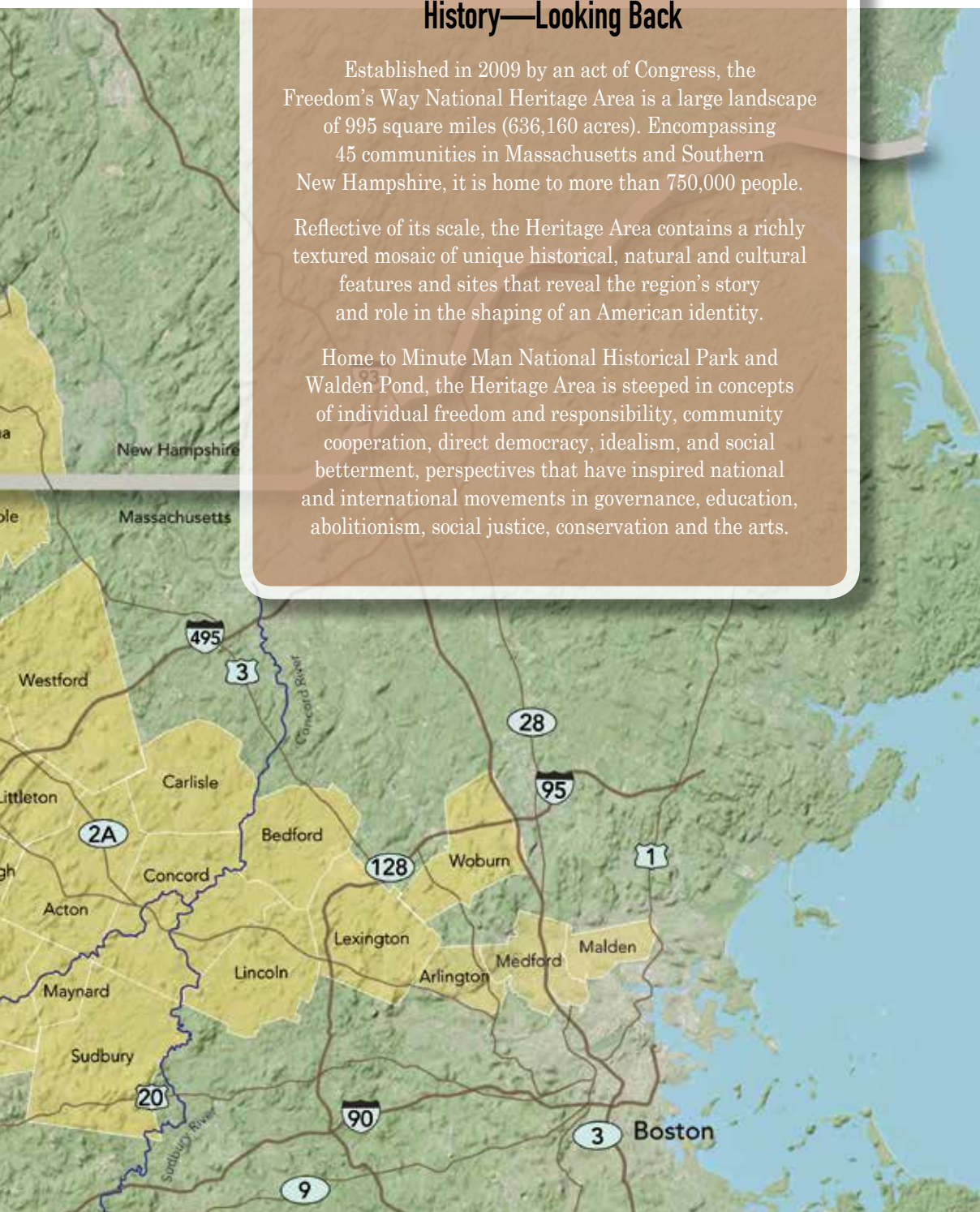


Freedom's Way National Heritage Area History—Looking Back

Established in 2009 by an act of Congress, the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area is a large landscape of 995 square miles (636,160 acres). Encompassing 45 communities in Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire, it is home to more than 750,000 people.

Reflective of its scale, the Heritage Area contains a richly textured mosaic of unique historical, natural and cultural features and sites that reveal the region's story and role in the shaping of an American identity.

Home to Minute Man National Historical Park and Walden Pond, the Heritage Area is steeped in concepts of individual freedom and responsibility, community cooperation, direct democracy, idealism, and social betterment, perspectives that have inspired national and international movements in governance, education, abolitionism, social justice, conservation and the arts.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Our work is made possible in part through support from the National Park Service as well as through the generous contributions of individuals, businesses and organizations.

As described in this report, there are many ways to contribute:

DONATE
JOIN
SPONSOR
VOLUNTEER

Gifts may support your favorite programs or you may let Freedom's Way decide where the need is greatest.

Additional ways to provide support include:

- employee matching gifts
- direct donations from donor-advised or charitable gift funds, or your IRA (*certain restrictions apply*).

Gifts to Freedom's Way are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

For more information about how you can make a difference, visit our website, call us or send an email to mail@freedomsway.org.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to support the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.



FREEDOM'SWAY

National Heritage Area | Nature · Culture · History

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978.772.3654 www.freedomsway.org



Freedom's Way National Heritage Area is managed by Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works in partnership with the National Park Service to promote the regional identity of 45 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.