



FREEDOM'SWAY
National Heritage Area

2020 Year in Review





A YEAR AGO

we held our annual meeting at the historic Depot in Lexington, Massachusetts. Tours of the Lexington Common and Buckman Tavern were offered, and an enthusiastic group of members and friends gathered to celebrate our shared accomplishments of the past year and learn about plans for the future. We could not have imagined that just five months later the world would come to a grinding halt—inextricably altered by an insidious pandemic followed by social unrest in our own country.

As a result, the landscape in which we do our work has changed. However, the need for connection has not, and our work is more important than ever.

While we were able to offer some of the programs we had planned, many were canceled. Fortunately, we were able to adapt and move forward with our Heritage Area-wide commemoration of the Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment—sharing the *19th Amendment Commemoration Countdown—100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Facts* through our social media platforms, publishing our first ever e-book, *Women Who Made History: Profiles from the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area* and producing six Heritage Stories vodcasts. We learned a lot along the way.

And it is in that spirit that we move forward with plans for the coming year. Our theme, broadly stated, is an exploration of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area's role in the creation of the American Conservation Movement. With access to open space more important than ever, in the coming year we will celebrate our shared landscape and the people and places from within our 45 communities that make this region the special place that it is.

We will continue to support our partners through collaborative programming and grant funding, including a continuation of our Capacity Building Small Grants initiative designed to assist organizations as they adapt to the complexities of operating in a Covid-19 environment.

We believe in the power of storytelling. In the coming year we will continue our quest to explore the region's rich history through its untold stories. To achieve this goal, we will seek out new voices and partners to fully embrace the Heritage Area's complex narrative and role in the shaping of an American identity. We will continue to serve as a catalyst for discovery and a positive force for creative partnerships and entrepreneurial endeavors that connect people to each other and to the nature, culture, and history of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.



We connect the people, places and communities of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area through preservation, conservation and educational initiatives to protect and promote shared resources and encourage residents and visitors to explore its landscape, history and culture.

WORKING TOGETHER TO CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE

The Freedom's Way National Heritage Area is comprised of a network of individual and organizational partners who work in partnership with the Freedom's Way Heritage Association and the National Park Service. Without their support our work could not be accomplished. **Thank You!**

INDIVIDUALS

Stephen Adams
Jonathan Amakawa
Neil Angus
Jennifer Annand
Anthony Arcieri
Maud Ayson
Lynette Aznavourian-Bennett
Ralph Baker
Audrey Ball
Franca Barricelli
Georgia Barry
Sheri Bean
Strong Medicine Bear
Sue Billings
Court Booth
Jacob M. Boucher
Daniel V. Boudillion
Helen Bowdoin
Rachel Bowie
William Brown
Liz Brunner
Lyndsy Butler
Melissa Carr
Carla Charter
Brian Cline
Katy Coburn
Ellen Cohen
Russ Cohen
Michelle Collette
Margaret Coppe
Patricia Elen Costello
Wendy Cummings
Paul Dakai
Marge Darby
Anne DeBoalt
Barbara DeVore
Kathy Dia
Louis DiMola
Jeff DiNardo
Joanne DiNardo
Grace Dingee
Chris Ebstein
Marie Elwyn
Maribeth Eugene
Kathleen Fahey
Susan Fedo
Elizabeth Fletcher
Bill Flynn
Anne Forbes
Patricia & Edmund Frederick
Rachel Frick Cardelle
Mary & Jeff Fuhrer
Paul & Donnie Funch
Rick Gardner
Edward Gordon
David W. Graf
Karen Gray
Linda Greene
Kyna Hamill
Beth Hayes
Portland Helmich
Ann Himmelberger
Frannie Hodge
Chris & Clare Hurley
Raynold Jackson
Della Jennings
Hartley Johnson
Jeanne Kangas
Ron Karr
Richard Kerwin
Craig Kilner
Phyllis Konop
Larry Kunz
Dan & Penny Lacroix
Steven Lamonde
Clem Larson

Roberta Lasky
Amy LeBlanc
Jeff Legros
Ann LeRoy
Jeannine Levesque
Melanie Levesque
Libby Levison
Robert & Jean Lidstone
Peter & Marilyn Lowitt
William & Jeanne Ludt
Louise Lumppio
Pamela Lynn
Donald MacIver
Lynne Man
Meredith Marcinkewicz
Erica McAvoyn
Dawn McCall
Maria McEachern
Cliff McMullan
Rosemarie Meissner
Stephen Meno
Emily Merlino
Pamela Moen
Mary Michaela Moran
Charles Mosley
Richard Muehlke
Carolyn Muller
Kevin Natwick
Susan Navarre
Dick O'Brien
Janet O'Riordan
Candy O'Terry
Theodore Peluso
Shelby Pery
Noreen Piazza
Paul Przybyla
Sally Purrington Hild
Nancy & Barry Reinbold
Pam & Griff Resor
Jordan Rich
Rachael Robinson
Susan Rockwell
Steve Rothman
Chris Ryan
Constance Schwarzkopf
Mary Shasta
Paul Shea
Andrea Shepard
Catherine Shortliffe
Lindsay Smith
Cec Snow
Reed Snyder
Bobbie & David Spiegelman
Jacqueline Stanton
David Steckler
Doreen Stevens
Jenny Stimson
Marion Stoddart
Quiet Storm
Judy Sumner
Marcia G. Synnott
Robert Tanner
Gordon Taylor
Patrice Todisco
Anita Tonakarn-Nguyen
Electa Tritsch
Joseph Wachtel
Elizabeth Watson
Peter Webb
Nancy White
Dermot Whittaker
Willie & Darrell Wickman
Anna Wilkins
Janice Wright
Marilyn Zavorski

ORGANIZATIONS

Acton Historical Society
Amherst Heritage Commission
Andres Institute of Art
Arlington Community
Preservation Committee
Ashburnham Community Church
Ashburnham Historical Society
Ayer Historical Commission
Bedford Historical Society
Bedford Trails Committee
Bedford TV
Bigelow Free Public Library
Bolton Conservation
Bolton Historical Commission
Bolton Historical Society
Bolton Trail Committee
Boulder Art Gallery
Boxborough Birders
Boxborough Historical Society
Carlisle Cultural Council
Center for Astrophysics I
Harvard & Smithsonian—
Wolbach Library
Chair City Community Workshop
City of Gardner
City of Gardner
Conservation Commission
Clinton Greenway
Conservation Trust
Codman Community Farms
Concord Art
Concord Free Public Library
Concord Historical Commission
Concord Land
Conservation Trust
Concord Museum
Concord Visitor Center
Devens Enterprise Commission
Dunstable Conservation
Commission
Fitchburg Art Museum
Fitchburg Greenway Committee
Fitchburg Historical Society
Fitchburg Public Library
Fitchburg State University
Fort Devens Museum
Frederick Historic
Piano Collection
Friends of Assabet River NWR
Friends of Fitchburg
Abolitionist Park
Friends of Minute Man
National Park
Friends of Pine Hawk
Friends of Sholan Farms
Friends of Sleepy
Hollow Cemetery
Friends of the Middlesex Fells
Fruitlands Museum I
The Trustees
Great American Downtown
Greenville Historical Society
Groton Conservation Trust
Groton History Center
Harvard College Observatory
Harvard Historical Society
Hudson Historical Society
Iron Work Farm
Lancaster Town
Forest Committee
Lancaster Trails Committee
Lawrence Library
Lexington Field & Garden Club
Lexington Historical Society

Littleton Conservation Trust
Littleton Historical Society
Lunenburg Conservation
Commission
Lunenburg Historical Society
MA DCR—Middlesex Fells
State Reservation
MA DCR—Stillwater Farm
MA DCR—Wachusett Mountain
State Reservation
MA DCR—Walden Pond
State Reservation
MA State Parks—Great
Brook Farm
Malden Historical Society
Mason Public Library
Mass Audubon's Wachusett
Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary
Massachusetts Society
of the Cincinnati
Maynard Conservation Division
Maynard Historical Commission
Maynard Historical Society
Medford Historical Society
Milford Historical Society
Minute Man National
Historical Park
Montachusett Regional
Trails Coalition
Mount Grace Land
Conservation Trust
Museum of Russian Icons
Nashoba Conservation Trust, Inc.
Nashua International
Sculpture Symposium
Nashua River Watershed
Association
Northeast Wilderness Trust
North County Land Trust
Old Groton Meeting House
Preservation Fund
Old Sturbridge Village
Pepperell Conservation
Commission
Pepperell Cultural Council
Pepperell Historical Commission
Princeton Open Space
Committee
Prudence Wright Chapter,
National Society Daughters
of the American Revolution
Robbins House
Shirley Historical Society
Society for the Protection
of NH Forests
Sterling Historical Commission
Stow Historical Society
Sudbury Historical Society
Sudbury Valley Trustees
Thayer Memorial Library
The Gardner Museum
The Old Manse I The Trustees
The Old Schwamb Mill
The Shirley Meeting House
The Wayside Inn Foundation
Thoreau Farm
Town of Clinton's Rauscher Farm
Management Subcommittee
Town of Lexington
Townsend Historical Society
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Unitarian Universalist Church
of Winchendon
Walden Woods Project
Westford Historical Society
& Museum

Winchendon History
& Cultural Center
Woburn Public Library

BUSINESSES

Concord's Colonial Inn
Enterprise Bank
Fast Twitch Media
Gioiosa Design
Halagan Design Group
MassDevelopment
Smith, Sullivan & Brown, PC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Ludt, *President*
Peter Lowitt, *Treasurer*
Erica McAvoyn, *Secretary*
Anthony Arcieri
Franca Barricelli
Rachel Frick Cardelle
Stephen Meno
Anita Tonakarn-Nguyen

STAFF

Patrice Todisco
Executive Director
Desiree Demski-Hamelin
Deputy Director
Linda Bowie
Communications Manager
Richard Gioiosa
Graphic Designer

ADVISORY COUNCIL

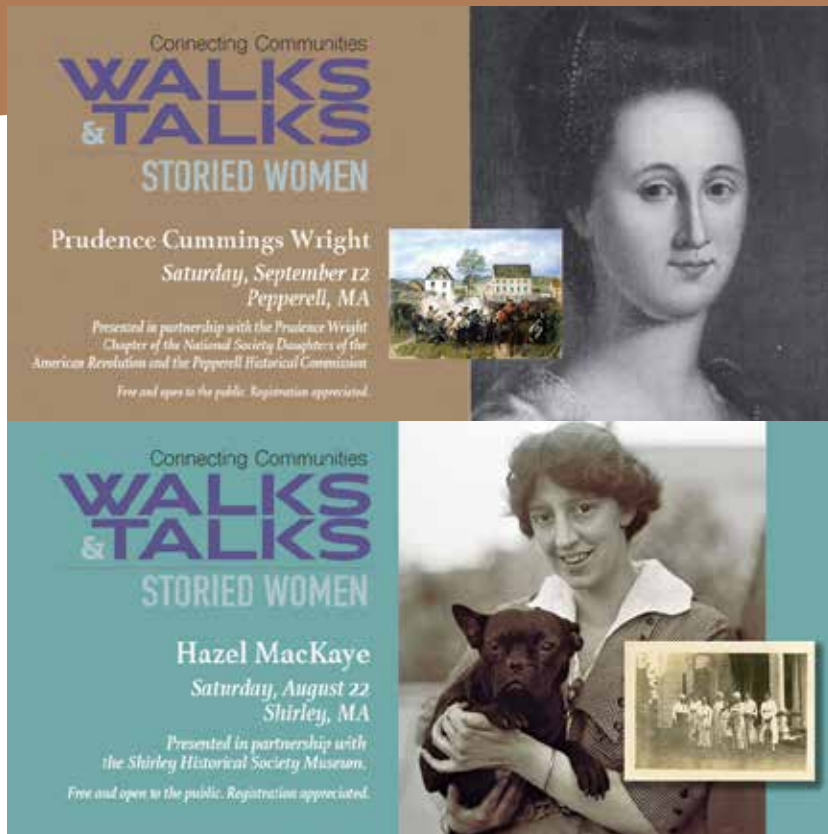
American Antiquarian Society
Arlington Historical Society
Beaver Brook Association
Chair City Community Workshop
Fitchburg Art Museum
Fort Devens Museum
Friends of Sholan Farms
Great American Downtown
Groton Trails Committee
Lexington Historical Society
MA DCR—Wachusett Mountain
State Reservation
MA DCR—Walden Pond
State Reservation
Mass Audubon's Drumlin Farm
Wildlife Sanctuary
Museum of Russian Icons
New Hampshire
Preservation Alliance
Preservation Massachusetts
Sudbury Valley Trustees
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)
Lori Trahan (MA 3rd District)

EXPLORING HISTORY: SHARING UNTOLD STORIES

National Heritage Areas develop interpretive themes through which to share their unique stories. This year we experimented with using a thematic approach to our programmatic work for the first time, choosing the **Centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment** as a focus to explore the evolution of democratic principles and the history of visionary women who were born in or shaped by their time in the region. This focus was implemented through multiple endeavors including:



Connecting Communities: Walks & Talks

Offered monthly, this series of community-organized walks connects residents and visitors to local landscapes and historic sites. While we were not able to realize our full schedule this year, we were fortunate to offer programs on

Lydia Maria Child in partnership with the Medford Historical Society

Wunnuhew (Sarah Doublet) in partnership with the Littleton Conservation Trust & Littleton Historical Society

Clara Endicott Sears in partnership with Fruitlands Museum | The Trustees

Patricia C. Fitzmaurice in partnership with the Old Schwamb Mill

Harriet E. Wilson in partnership with The Harriet Wilson Project

Hazel MacKaye in partnership with the Shirley Historical Society

Prudence Cummings Wright in partnership with the Prudence Wright Chapter, National Society for the Daughters of the American Revolution, Pepperell Historical Commission & Waterfall Productions

Heritage Stories: Visionaries & Experimenters

A multi-year project, **Heritage Stories** integrates sound-recording, photography and video to illustrate narrated scripts that provide insight into the lives of individuals who were born, or lived, within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and were shaped, in some way or another, by their time here. During 2020, we completed Heritage Stories for suffragist and theatrical performer, Hazel MacKaye of Shirley; astronomer Henrietta Swan Leavitt of Lancaster; chemist, professor and social reformer Ellen Swallow Richards of Dunstable; author and cook Fannie Farmer of Medford; Congresswoman, Mother of the Women's Army Corps and Godmother of Fort Devens, Edith Nourse Rogers; and author, abolitionist and suffragist Louisa May Alcott.



View the **HERITAGE STORIES** series at FREEDOMSWAY.ORG/HERITAGE-STORIES

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES: GRANT PROGRAMS

The **Freedom's Way Partnership Grant Program** is designed to provide strategic investments in the cultural, natural and historical resources that enhance the sense of place within the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. During 2020, eight Partnership Grants were awarded. Unfortunately, four were for programs and projects that were canceled due to the pandemic.

To offset this, we launched a **Capacity Building Small Grants Program** to provide support for equipment, services and training to improve remote communications and alternative means of engaging the public during the pandemic. Twenty thousand dollars has been allocated to the Capacity Building Small Grants Program. To date, fifteen non-profit organizations have received critically needed support.

CAPACITY BUILDING SMALL GRANTS...A LITTLE GOES A LONG WAY

A grant to the Friends of Minute Man National Park supported the purchase of a 360 degree camera for use by park staff to capture 3D images of the historic house interiors and the landscape. These 3D virtual tours are shared through social media and on the Minute Man National Historical Park website.



A SELECTION OF 2020 PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROJECTS

Something Must Be Done: The Bold Women of Lexington Exhibit, Lexington Historical Society | Beyond Midnight: Paul Revere's Ride Exhibition and Programs, Concord Museum | Self-guided Audio Tour of Public Art, Great American Downtown, Nashua, NH



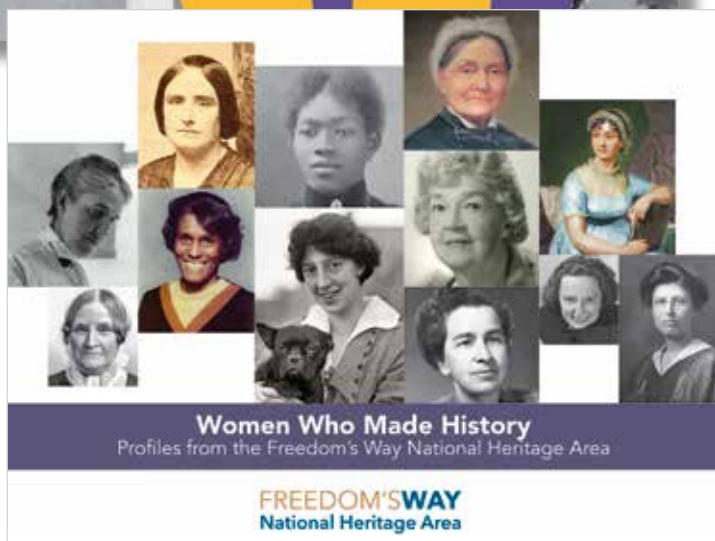
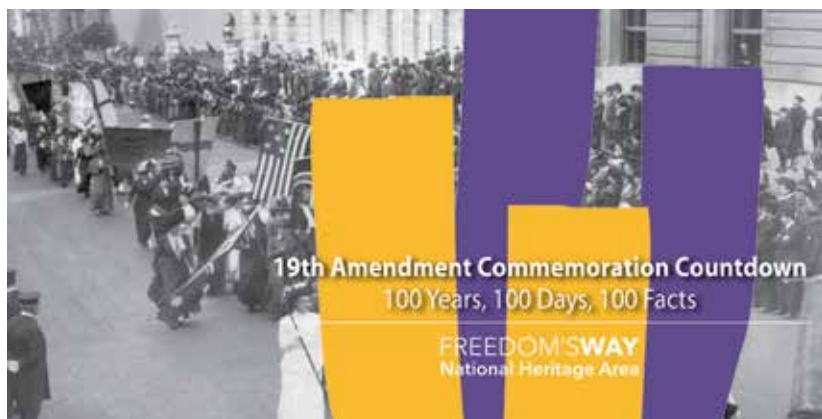
1 & 2—Lexington Historical Society; 3 & 4—Concord Museum; 5 & 6—Great American Downtown

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC: COMMUNICATION & COLLABORATION

Through communication and collaboration, the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area provides partners with opportunities to share stories and extend their programming, cultivating new audiences within the context of a regional identity and experience.

This past year, with help from our partners, we successfully executed the social media campaign, **19th Amendment Commemoration Countdown—100 Years, 100 Days, 100 Facts**, and published our first e-book, **Women Who Made History: Profiles from the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area**. Both commemorate the Centennial of the passage of 19th Amendment.

Bi-monthly e-newsletters continue to share important stories about the Heritage Area while promoting regional events and programs. Subscribe to our free mailing list at [FreedomWay.org/Subscribe](https://freedomsway.org/subscribe).



Our impact on **social media** continues to grow. In 2020 we increased the number of followers across our social media platforms by **20%**. We saw a **30%** increase on Instagram alone, driven by the success of our **100 FACTS COUNTDOWN**.

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED

In October 2019 we held the first **Connecting Communities: Walks & Talks** program celebrating author and abolitionist Lydia Maria Child in partnership with the Medford Historical Society. Four additional programs occurred until Covid-19 struck. We were fortunate to resume the series in August, replicating suffragist Hazel MacKaye's ringing of the Shirley Meeting House bell to celebrate the date on which the 19th Amendment was ratified.

Masked or unmasked, we thank our community partners who made **Connecting Communities: Walks & Talks** a success.



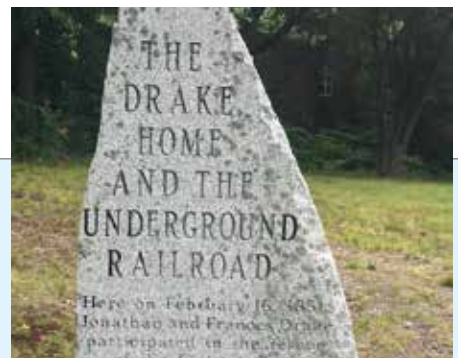
- ① Bicentennial Park, Milford, NH
- ② Medford Historical Society & Museum, Medford, MA
- ③ Sarah Doublet Forest, Littleton, MA
- ④ Covered Bridge Overlook, Pepperell, MA
- ⑤ Shirley Meeting House, Shirley, MA
- ⑥ Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, MA
- ⑦ Old Schwamb Mill, Arlington, MA

FREEDOM'SWAY National Heritage Area

94 Jackson Road, Suite 311, Devens, MA 01434

A WORD ABOUT 2021

Plans are underway for the coming year in which we will highlight the region's rich legacy of land and natural resource conservation and its role in creating the American Conservation Movement.



FREEDOM'SWAY HIDDEN TREASURES

Festival of Nature, Culture & History

Reimagined as a month-long festival celebrating the unique places, objects and stories of the region including virtual, self-guided and in-person programs and events.

DECLARING INDEPENDENCE Then & Now

Refreshed and offered as a virtual experience with associated curriculum development.

THEME EXPLORATIONS

A new initiative to study sites, stories and objects within the Heritage Area relating to the Revolutionary War and African American History providing resources for enhanced interpretation of the region.