

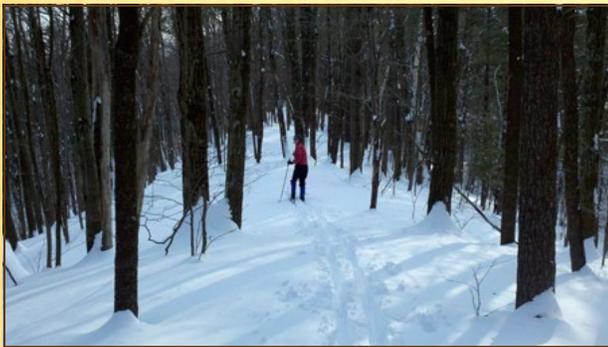


# Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Winter 2013

## Celebrating Winter in Freedom's Way!

Whether you prefer cozy indoor browsing, antiquing and visiting exhibits or outdoor excursions exploring the natural beauty of our landscapes, opportunities abound to learn and play in Freedom's Way. We invite you to get out and enjoy this beautiful heritage area. We promise your winter outings will make new memories.

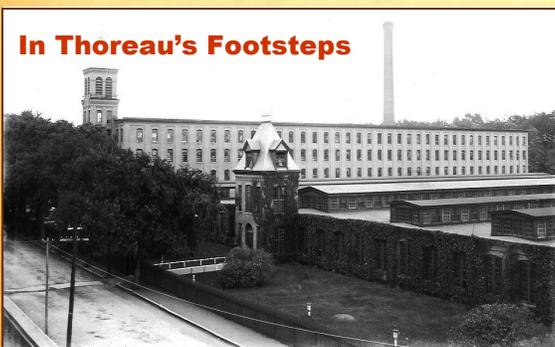


### Take a walk on the wild side at the [Oxbow Wildlife Refuge!](#)

Join the Friends of the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Program details can be found by visiting their web site [www.friendsoftheoxbowNWR.org/index.html](http://www.friendsoftheoxbowNWR.org/index.html)

Enjoy a Free live-animal, family program at the [Nashua River Watershed Association's](#) Resource Center in Groton on January 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00- 2:30pm. Preregistration strongly recommended by contacting Pam Gilfillan at [PamG@nashuariverwatershed.org](mailto:PamG@nashuariverwatershed.org) Visit [www.nashuariverwatershed.org](http://www.nashuariverwatershed.org) for additional winter activities including their *Healthy Lifestyles & Wellness* series.

[Beaver Brook Association](#) in Hollis, MA offers 2,100 acres with lots to do from programs on winter tracking and survival skills to a *Friday Hikes to Fitness Series* that explores 35 miles of trails from historic Monson to Joe English Preservation. Visit [www.beaverbrook.org](http://www.beaverbrook.org) for information. *Photo courtesy of Beaver Brook Association.*



### In Thoreau's Footsteps

Get to know famous people in two stunning local landmarks. Meet *Henry David Thoreau* at the [Clinton Historical Society](#) ([www.clintonhistory.org](http://www.clintonhistory.org)) on January 17<sup>th</sup> or visit with *Abraham Lincoln* on February 26<sup>th</sup> at the [Arlington Historical Society](#) ([www.arlingtonhistorical.org](http://www.arlingtonhistorical.org))

*Continued on page 6.*

### Freedom's Way Heritage Association

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Freedom's Way Heritage Association serves the communities of Acton, Arlington, Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Bedford, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Clinton, Concord, Devens, Dunstable, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hudson, Lancaster, Leominster, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Lunenburg, Malden, Maynard, Medford, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Stow, Sudbury, Townsend, Westford, Westminster, Winchendon and Woburn in Massachusetts. Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Mason, Milford, Nashua and New Ipswich in New Hampshire.

Editor: Margaret Coppe  
Design/ Copy: Linda Bowie

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Freedom's Way,

Happy New Year. This is a good time to reflect on the wealth of partnerships and programs we have been blessed with over the past year and to think about upcoming challenges.

Our successful *Harvest Home* series, a 5-town Farms and Farmers initiative that touched upon barns, 19<sup>th</sup> Century farm implements, and thoughts from contemporary farmers, culminated with a special program featuring Ben Hewitt, farmer & author of *The Town That Food Saved*. Many thanks to our co-sponsors: The Groton Local, as well as The Bull Run Restaurant in Shirley, MA and ReMax Properties, Hollis, NH.



We piloted *A Walk to Wachusett*, an online trail booklet that features Thoreau's journal entries and tourism links. These programs were supported, in part by grants from the Local Cultural Councils of Ayer, Fitchburg, Medford and Westminster. More programs are planned for 2013 including a reprise of Thoreau's winter mill tour in Clinton and a walk along the Nashua River.

In 2013, we expect to approach the finalization of our 10 to 15-year management plan mandated by the federal law that created FWNHA. The management plan is a large and ambitious undertaking that will set out the policies, strategies, and recommendations for how we will tell the story of this region's heritage, and what we propose for long-term resource protection and interpretation. In short, it is the road map for the future of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area.

Our management plan will be the collective work of many, including the National Park Service, the residents in our 45 communities, the federal, state and local elected officials, donors, public and private groups, and agencies. All are important stakeholders who will jointly determine our priorities. Your input is important and will be requested. This is the time to share your thoughts and expectations of what Freedom's Way National Heritage Area should be and how we can celebrate the many heritage resources within our borders.

Thank you for all your efforts and support. I look forward to the year ahead.

Peter Webb  
President

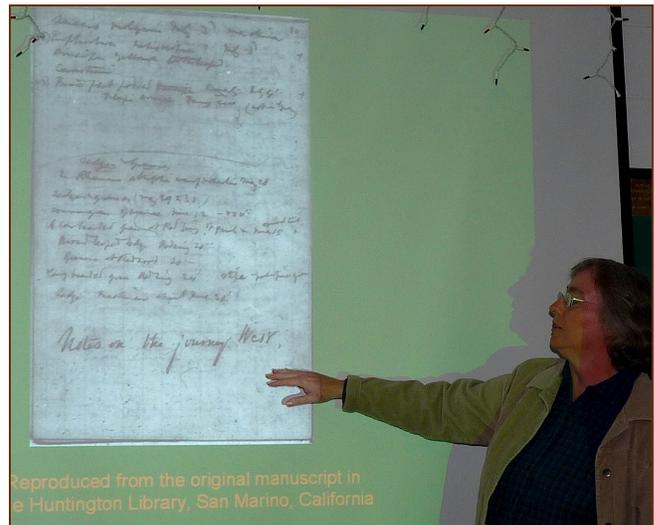
## Thoreau Farm Birthplace Hosts Sunday Salons

By Corinne H. Smith

The Thoreau Farm Birthplace in Concord has launched a new series of "Sunday Salons" to be held on the third Sunday of the month, from November through May. The Salons will offer discussions, lectures, films, and speakers on various topics related to placing Thoreau's ideas in the 21st century. Salons usually begin at 2 p.m. and are held in the parlor of the birth house.

At the November Salon, Patricia Turner of Porter, Maine, spoke about "Contemplative Photography." Patricia believes that "the camera lens points both ways." She combines the act of framing images with Taoist philosophy in order to use photography as a contemplative practice. Patricia will return on April 21, 2013 and conduct a photographic field trip in and around the Thoreau Farm property.

During the December Salon, Thoreau Farm Guide Corinne H. Smith presented methods on writing about nature and also of recording Phenology — the study of nature's calendar and its recurring plant and animal life-cycle on stages. Interested citizen scientists can supply data to such databases as



Smith shares information in Thoreau's field notebook.

*Photo courtesy of Corinne Smith.*

Cornell University's [Project FeederWatch](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw) [www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw] and the USA [National Phenology Network](http://www.usanpn.org) [www.usanpn.org].

From January through May, these winter conversations will invite you to join a lively exploration on ideas and actions that concerned Henry David Thoreau and remain relevant today. To learn more about upcoming Sunday Salons, please visit the [Thoreau Farm Birthplace](http://www.thoreaufarm.org) web site at www.thoreaufarm.org. Events are free, but space is limited so make reservations by emailing info@thoreaufarm.org or by calling 978-451-0300.

**Boxborough Historical Society Annual Pot Luck Supper**  
**Grange Room, Boxborough Town Hall, 29 Middle Road**  
**Sunday, February 24th, 2013 • Serving at 5:00pm • Talk at 6:00pm**

Corinne H. Smith will present a program entitled *The History of the Fitchburg Railroad*, showing how the Fitchburg Railroad was a key transportation link across Middlesex and northern Worcester counties and continues to act in that capacity today as part of the MBTA. Admission is Free, and all are welcome to attend and enjoy both the food and/or the talk. Please call John Fallon at (978) 264-0069 to volunteer to bring something to the Supper.

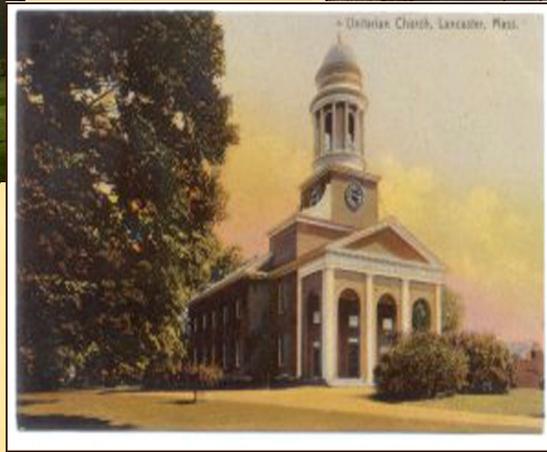
# Happenings Around Freedom's Way in 2012

*Strollin & Rollin' 2012* towns of Bolton, Clinton, Lancaster shared their historic sites and treasured places.



Above: Beautiful Central Park anchors downtown Clinton. © Photographs copyright Ken MacGray. All rights reserved.

Right: Early postcard image of the Bulfinch Church shared by the Lancaster Historical Society.

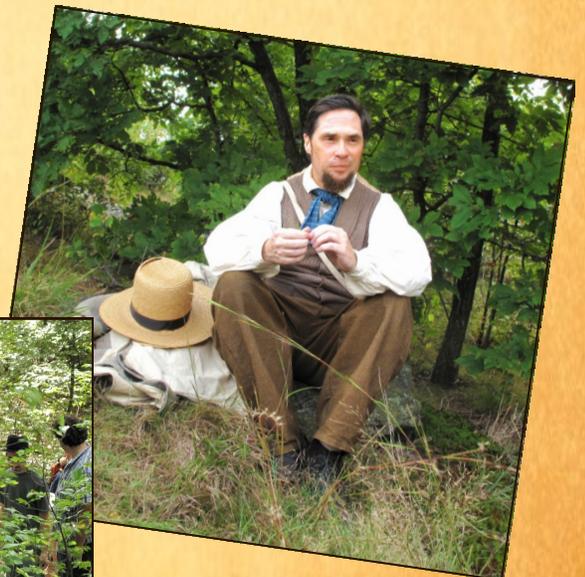


Above: Still a treasure, the Wilder Mansion in Bolton sits atop a hill overlooking orchards. *Photo courtesy of the Bolton Historical Society.*

*In Thoreau's Footsteps* kicks off in 2012 with Cultural Council grants from Ayer, Fitchburg, Medford and Westminster.



Above: Thoreau historian Corinne Smith addresses gathering at Fitchburg Public Library.



Left and Above: Thoreau (aka impersonator Richard Smith) leads participants along a trail at Middlesex Fells Reservation in Medford, MA. © Photos courtesy of Mike Ryan. 2012

### Harvest Home event Celebrated Farms and Farming in Dunstable, Pepperell, Townsend and Groton, MA and Hollis, NH.



Above: Owners Carl & Marie Hills of Kimball Fruit Farm in Pepperell participated in an Oral History interview held at the Lawrence Library. © Photo courtesy of the Hills.



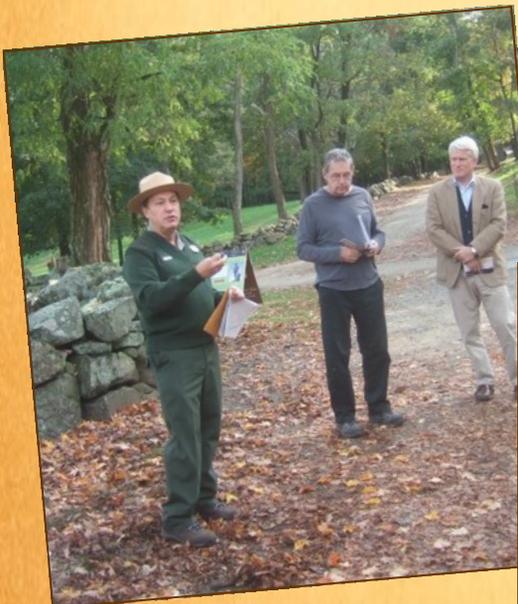
Right: Visitors explore exhibits from regional farm organizations. Photo courtesy of Hugh Field. © 2012.



Above and Left: Farmer and author Ben Hewitt engages attendees at culminating Harvest Home event co-hosted with Groton Local.



### Minute Man National Historical Park hosted the FWA Annual Meeting at the Hartwell Tavern and McHugh Barn.



Park Ranger Lou Sideris, Chief of Planning and Communications, gave a guided tour along the Battle Road at MMNHP.



Above: Ranger Judith Broggi demonstrates musket. Although women did not bear arms at the Battle of Concord and Lexington, they did support the effort by preparing ammunition and supplies. Photo courtesy of Robert Adam. © 2012



Left: A view of McHugh Barn across the field from the Battle Road. Photo courtesy of Hugh Field. © 2012

## Celebrating Winter *Continued from page 1.*

Head to **Great Brook Farm State Park** in Carlisle, MA to experience 20 miles of trails including a lantern lit "moon light" trail on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the **Great Brook Farm Ski Touring Center**. Be sure to call ahead for conditions to 978-369-7486. This park is home to the first robotic milking system in a state-of-the art "smart" barn. For more information visit [www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/gbfm.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/northeast/gbfm.htm)



Meet local farmers when shopping the **Fitchburg Winter Farmer's Market** for locally grown produce. Held on the first Thursday of the month, from 4:00-7:00pm. Be sure to make time to enjoy FREE admission to the world-class family **Fitchburg Art Museum**. Learn more at [www.fitchburgartmuseum.org](http://www.fitchburgartmuseum.org)



Bring the entire family to **Fruitland's Museum** in Harvard, MA for a **WinterFest Weekend**.

Held from January 12 - February 24th. Pack up your sleds, cross-country skis and snowshoes and get ready for the OMG hill! Visit [www.fruitlands.org](http://www.fruitlands.org) for details.

Enjoy a saunter among the sculptures at **Andres Institute of Art** in Brookline, NH. This art-filled landscape blends art and vistas that will surprise you with every hilly twist and turn. Open 365 days a year, dawn to dusk. For more information visit [www.andresinstitute.org](http://www.andresinstitute.org).

Discover something old while treasure hunting at **Hobart Village Antique Mall** [[www.hobartvillage.com](http://www.hobartvillage.com)] in West Townsend, MA or the **New Hampshire Antique Co-op** [[www.nhantiquecoop.com](http://www.nhantiquecoop.com)] in Milford, NH. As you go, enjoy the centers and back roads of these historic towns.

Be sure to combine your outings with stops for relaxation and refreshments along the way:

**The Bull Run Restaurant** in Shirley, MA [[www.bullrunrestaurant.com](http://www.bullrunrestaurant.com)], **The Old Mill** in Westminster, MA [[www.1761oldmill.com](http://www.1761oldmill.com)], the **Old Timer Restaurant** in Clinton, MA [[www.oldtimerrestaurant.com](http://www.oldtimerrestaurant.com)], **The Nashoba Valley Winery** in Bolton, MA [[www.nashobawinery.com](http://www.nashobawinery.com)] or Hollis Country Kitchen in Hollis, NH. These family-owned restaurants have been popular gathering places for generations of travelers.

**Wherever you go or whatever you do, have fun — and share your pictures and stories with us. Happy Winter!**

Presented by Freedom's Way National Heritage Area and Mount Wachusett Community College

Sharing Stories — People & Places of Freedom's Way

March 16th, 2013 • 8:30 – 1:30pm • Devens, MA

Conference Fee: \$10 includes Lunch — Registration Required

Snow Date March 30th

Learn from each other and expert presenters at 4 topical workshops. Sessions will share practical tools and resources on:

- Telling good stories
• Bringing documents to life
• Social networking made easy
• Winning collaborations with powerful results

Conference Schedule

Table with 2 columns: Time and Activity. Rows include: 8:00 - 8:30 Beverages & Light Refreshments; 8:30 - 10:00 Session One (Choose 1 of 2 workshops); 10:30 - 12:00 Session Two (Choose 1 of 2 workshops); 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch & Networking

WORKSHOP PREVIEW—We thank our partner Massachusetts Historical Society for offering a session.

Unfolding Lives – Upholding Voices What can those old letters, journals, newspapers, broadsides, maps, photographs and prints reveal about the hopes, fears, conflicts, celebrations and experiences of our fellow townspeople in the past? Examine how to build interesting encounters and programs using primary sources found in local collections. Learn how to read what lies beneath a document's surface and share history that is engaging to our neighbors today. Participants will be encouraged to send a sample document (digitized copy or transcription text via email) to use as a case study or bring copies to share.

Jayne Gordon is the Director of Education & Public Programs for the Massachusetts Historical Society that began in 1791. Previously, she was Exec. Dir. of the Thoreau Society and served as Director of Orchard House for 16 years. Jayne has held the position of Dir. of Educ. at the Thoreau Institute (Walden Woods Project) and Education/Interpretive Specialist at Minute Man National Historical Park. Jayne lives in Concord and teaches the Concord History course required for all town guides.

Yes, I want to help preserve and promote the special places in Freedom's Way!

Annual Membership Categories [ ] Renewal [ ] New Membership
[ ] Individual \$35 [ ] Family \$50 [ ] Community/Non-profit \$50 [ ] Business Roundtable \$100

[ ] Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please make payable to "FWHA".

[ ] I would like to make a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on my credit card. My credit card number is: \_\_\_\_\_ The card security code (the last digits on the back) is: \_\_\_\_\_ My credit card expiration date is: \_\_\_\_\_. Please note that the security code on American Express credit cards is four digits on the front lower left.

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Important for email newsletter and other FWHA information

Thank You!

Freedom's Way is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization and, as such, your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Mail with your check made out to FWHA, 94 Jackson Road, Suite 311, Devens, MA 01434

## Honoring African American Stories

Within Freedom's Way, we are fortunate to have a wealth of real sites and true stories that inform the history and culture that make this region a special place to live and visit.

The Flat Hill neighborhood is just such a place. Between the 1770s and mid 1850s, a small group of African Americans founded this settlement in Shirley, MA. But their family ties and their influences stretch beyond that one little settlement. The names: Freeman, Hammond, Hazard, Lew, Mitchell, Monroe, Gigger, Minikins are prevalent throughout the local histories of the 45 communities that make up Freedom's Way. Many of the descendants of that earliest settlement teach in our schools, run local businesses, attend our churches and lead our local governments.

Nahum Hazard (1830-1913) was a free person of color who grew up in the Flat Hill neighborhood. His life offers fascinating glimpses into early farming practices, slavery and the Civil War. While working as a boy drover driving cattle south, he was abducted and taken to Virginia to be auctioned into slavery. As he was waiting to be auctioned, Nahum asked permission to read to the other boys in order to pass the time.



Nahum Hazard circa 1863 as it appears in the Freedom's Way publication *The Story of Nahum*.

That one question led to his discovery—Southern African American boys did not know how to read. Nahum was released unharmed and returned to

Massachusetts within a few months but carried a scar where he had been branded with the letter 'S' on his scalp. His kidnappers were eventually brought to justice.

Joy Peach of Lancaster, with other genealogists, continues to conduct research into the families of African Americans in Freedom's Way. *The Hazard Families of Color* is an organization that is documenting its history. Many of those named above have attracted the work of researchers like Martha Mayo, Director of the Center for Lowell History at UMass Lowell. This important ongoing research is correcting the misconceptions concerning African American history while also involving descendants who are providing valuable documentation about family and friends who still work and live in our region.

To honor this family saga, Freedom's Way created *The Story of Nahum* developed by Dillon Bustin, a

*Continued on page 9.*

Visit [www.freedomsway.org](http://www.freedomsway.org) for information Nahum book.

### Other Storied Places

[The Drinking Gourd Project](#) in Concord is restoring the Robbins House and relocating it to its original site across from The North Bridge. Caesar Robbins was a former slavery survivor and Revolutionary War veteran. His home site will become the *Robbins Interpretive Center* to research and document Concord's African American and Abolitionist history. Visit [www.drinkinggourdproject.org](http://www.drinkinggourdproject.org) and learn about their preservation efforts and programs.

[The Royall House and Slave Quarters](#) in Medford, MA is one of the finest 18th century buildings in New England and the Slave Quarters is the only such structure in the Northern United States. Built in 1732–1737, both the buildings and grounds are a National Historic Landmark. Together, these unique structures tell the intertwined stories of liberty and bondage, independence and slavery. Visit [www.royallhouse.org](http://www.royallhouse.org) to learn about their winter programs.

## Clinton Home to Gallery of African Art

By Lynne Kluft

Step in and be transported—grassy savannahs, whispering palm trees, dusty plains, the land of ancient kings and warriors—the world of Western and Central Africa can be found in Clinton, MA.

Gordon Lankton's Gallery of African Art in downtown Clinton has been expanded since it's opening in 2011 and now contains a diverse collection of tribal masks, figures, sculpture, artifacts of stone, wood, clay and bronze. The Gallery houses a collection of more than 220 objects from 32 African tribes obtained from individual collections from cities such as Paris and Brussels.

Art from the Dogon, Baule and Bamana peoples, predominantly West African tribes are grouped into five categories, displayed not by tribe but how the objects are used. There is Spirituality—birth and initiation rites, medicine, shamanism, water, fertility, and death. The Masks and Masquerades include two walls of masks that were curated by Gordon. The remaining three displays include Music and Musical Instruments; Architecture and



Two masks on exhibit at Gallery of African Art.

Furniture—stools, chairs and headrests; and Village Life—with town posts, milk vessels, carved twin totems, tools and the like. There is a self-guided tour and videos illustrating how the collection objects are used in tribal life.

“Gordon loves the new space. What makes him the happiest is the positive response. When you watch people walk in for the first time, their eyes get wide, and they just say, ‘Wow!’ They just can’t believe it,” said Julia Metzidakis, Education and Outreach Manager of both the Gallery of African Art and the Museum of Russian Icons around the corner on Union Street.

The gallery is located at 62 High Street, Clinton and is entered through the Sunrise Boutique. Hours: Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Donations accepted.

For more information: [www.galleryofafricanart.org](http://www.galleryofafricanart.org) or 978-368-0227.

### African American Stories *Continued from page 8.*

folklorist, songwriter, and a playwright, in 2001. While the long-neglected people of color in Flat Hill are the main protagonists in this compelling musical drama, the play uses Nahum's voice to tell about the escape from federal custody of Shadrach Minkins, a fugitive slave who had settled in Boston. One of the Minkins Underground Railroad rescuers was abolitionist Francis Drake of Leominster. Ms. Drake's historic home today remains a private residence that — along with the Whitemore House in Ashburnham — was awarded an Underground Railroad National Register Historic Place designation in 2007. — MD & MA

# Freedom's Way Heritage Association

New England Landscape  
of  
American Ideals

Serving 45 Communities in  
Massachusetts  
&  
New Hampshire



**Freedom's Way**  
94 Jackson Road, Suite 311  
Devens, MA 01434  
[www.freedomsway.org](http://www.freedomsway.org)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Thursday, January 17th • 7:00 - 8:30 pm Clinton Historical Society  
Holder Memorial, 210 Main Street, Clinton, MA**

**Words to Ponder: Thoreau Comes to Clinton — *Again!***

Thoreau will reprise his lecture "An Excursion to Cape Cod" as he did one snowy evening at the Bigelow Mechanic Institute. Free program, designed for all ages.

**Wednesday, March 7th • 7pm Concord Museum  
200 Lexington Street, Concord, MA**

**Brian Donahue — Environmental historian, farmer, and author**

Share his current work on envisioning how much food New England could sustainably produce as part of a healthy food system.

**Saturday, March 16th • 8:00am - 1:30 pm**

**Mount Wachusett Community College, Jackson Road, Devens, MA  
Hosted by Freedom's Way & Mount Wachusett Community College**

**Sharing Stories — People & Places of Freedom's Way Conference**

Learn from each other and expert presenters of 4 topical workshops.

More information inside.

Visit [www.freedomsway.org](http://www.freedomsway.org) for more information on all events.

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## National Park Service: Freedom's Way Partner

Since 1916, the National Park Service has been caring for our national parks, preserving and protecting America's special places. The NPS also provides technical, planning and limited financial assistance to National Heritage Areas, including the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. The NPS is a partner and advisor, with decision-making authority remaining in the hands of local people and organizations.

