



Freedom's Way Heritage Area

Volume 7, Number 2

December, 2003

Meet the Freedom's Way Board of Directors



Members of the FWHA board of directors along with FWHA friends and volunteers at the August 4, 2003 celebration at Fruitlands Museums

The following are introductory profiles of our FWHA board members. We thought it would be interesting to our members and supporters to meet our own group of innovators and visionaries who treasure the proposed Freedom's Way Heritage Area.

Maud Ayson was elected to the FWHA board in 2002. She is the executive director of Fruitlands Museums in Harvard and serves as the chairperson of the FWHA Theme Development committee. Maud formerly held leadership positions at The Norman Rockwell Museum, the Museum of the City of New York and the Old Sturbridge Village Museum.

James Baecker joined the FWHA board in 2001. He chairs the FWHA Grants committee and is project manager at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management. Jim oversaw the Freedom's Way Feasibility Study in 1997 that set the organization on its current course of action

Tim Bauman joined FWHA's board in 2003, and is the chair of the Public Relations committee. He is also the chair of the Ashby Conservation Commission and a member of the Fitchburg and Ashby Historical Societies as well as the Fitchburg Art Museum.

Bonnie Biocchi, joined the FWHA board in 2003. She is the executive director of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce and was formerly the Town Clerk in Groton. She is a member of the Groton Historical Society, the Groton Women's Club, the International Municipal Clerk's Association, the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association and the Massachusetts Justice of the Peace Association.

Marge Darby was first elected to FWHA's board in 1995 and currently serves as the president. She has been a FWHA volunteer for over eight years and served as vice president and treasurer. Marge has been the chair of the Harvard Devens Reuse Committee, past president, Harvard League of Women Voters, former member of the task force on Ft. Devens Charrette, former member of Harvard Devens Housing Committee, and served the Town of Harvard in both appointed and elected positions.






Hon. Marty Meehan (l) and Marge Darby

Meg Delorier joined the FWHA board in 2000. As the vice President of Community Relations for MassDevelopment, at Devens, Meg is the chair of FWHA's Facilities committee. She is formerly the director of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce and former regional director of the American Red Cross.

Jeff Harris, MD was elected to the board in 1997 and is a member of the Governance and Theme Development committees. He is a retired physician, practicing in the area since 1953. Jeff is a trustee of the Harvard Public Library and member of the building committee. He is a community member of the Bromfield School Council and a marine history compiler.

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To protect and preserve the Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenters through the designation of a National Heritage Area comprising 42 communities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Meet the Board *Continued from page 1*

George Kahale joined the FWHA board in 2001 and serves on the Theme Development committee. As the principal transportation planner, transit project director of Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, he coordinates the Transportation Enhancement, Housing Rehabilitation, and Title V Septic Management Programs. He has been a supporter of FWHA for many years and is currently advising the ad hoc TEA committee of FWHA.



George Kahale

Sandy Lefkovits, joined the FWHA board in 2003. She is the treasurer and serves on the Executive and Finance Committees. Sandy has served on the Harvard Conservation Commission and Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee. She is the former treasurer of the AOG Systems Corporation and currently owns Pinhill Gardens where she raises and sells hybrid daylilies.

Alan Manoian joined the FWHA board in 2001 and serves on the Government Affairs committee. He is the Deputy Manager/Downtown Programs for the City of Nashua, NH.

Cara Metz joined the FWHA board in 2001 and serves on the ad hoc TEA committee of FWHA. She currently is the State Historic Preservation Officer for the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Zelda L. Moore joined FWHA's board in 1995, and serves on the Theme Development committee. She belongs to the Ayer Historical Commission and received the Service and Leadership award from the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce in 1998. She was also awarded the Dedication of the Ayer Annual Town Report in 1999. She is currently researching a Shaker quarry site in Ayer, and is developing an historical library in the newly renovated Page- Moore Block building in Ayer.

Rick Muehlke, of Groton, joined FWHA's board in 2003 as chair of the Advisory committee. He has a lifetime interest in forestry, Christmas tree growing, and land conservation. He is president of the Groton Conservation Trust and has worked in the railroad industry, high tech and the Yellow Pages.

Rick says he would like to have land managers from the various FWHA towns share successful ideas and get to know each other better. *Public and private land conservation efforts will be successful in the long run only if we encourage the public to get out into our open spaces and enjoy them*, he said.

John Ott was elected to the FWHA board in 2000 and serves as a member of the governance and facilities committees. A museum director for over 30 years, John says, *My interests in local history, historic sites, and museums collections have driven my career. From Hancock Shaker Village to the Atlanta Historical Society and from the B&O Railroad Museum to the National Heritage Museum I have worked to integrate these interests while building meaningful relationships between my museum and the community in which it existed. But nowhere do I see more potential for this form of working partnership than in the cultural, historic and environmental organizations of the towns and villages included in the Freedom's Way Heritage Association. Within the boundaries of the 42 towns of this proposed heritage area are stories of people and events tied to places and spaces that make New England unique. For me, having the National Heritage Museum as one of Freedom's Way's primary interpretive centers in this future heritage area, gives me a facility where I can explore Freedom's Way's three key themes through exhibitions and public programs. Then using well-designed educational materials like maps and interpretive signs I can direct people to the local historic sites, trails, and places where they can enjoy the experience for themselves. This is the real satisfaction I get working on this project, promoting and celebrating the organizations who are Freedom's Way and meeting the visitors we want to share our story with while they're visiting New England.*



John Ott

Mary Shasta joined the FWHA board in 2002 and chairs the Membership committee and represents the Nashua River Watershed Association on the FWHA board. She is a self-employed financial administrator to elderly clients and formerly a senior account manager and group leader in Personal Trust and Private Banking for Bank Boston. Her many board and philanthropic associations include the Indian Hill Music Center, the Nashua River Watershed Association, and the Corporation of Worcester Area Museum, Fruitlands Museums, Regis College Alumnae

Elizabeth (Betsi) Tennessee joined the FWHA board in 2002 and serves on the public relations committee. She is the Vice President of the Hazard Family of Color in New England, Inc. and Nipmuc Tribal member.

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The President's Message

Opportunities for the Future

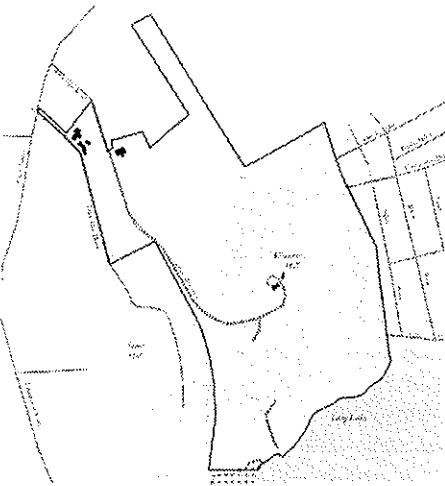
The latest news about cutbacks has created a shock wave that has traveled through environmental organizations, conservation commissions, land managers and town officials. The tools we have come to rely upon to combat sprawl and exponential development are no longer available. Among our own gravest concerns is the protection of heritage landscapes. If government officials are crossing land acquisitions off the lists of priority items, how can we address the very real threat of the loss of open space and habitat protection to development?

Massachusetts Audubon's much-heralded third edition of *Losing Ground* notes that Massachusetts continues to lose 40 acres a day to "visible" development. If the "hidden" impacts of development are taken into account – including roads and buildable lots, the full impact is closer to 78 acres per day! Between 1985 and 1999, due to the loss of forest and agricultural lands, a value of over \$200 million in annual ecosystem services has been lost. The forests, rivers, wetlands, estuaries and beaches provide quantifiable goods and services: climate regulation, water supply, filtration of waste, nutrient regulation, natural pollination, mitigation of floods, recreation and aesthetics.

In most quarters, officials consider that they have an obligation to support the "highest and best use" of undeveloped lands. This translates into the types of development that often pits developers against agricultural and other land uses. Some call protectionism, "nimbyism", or "anti-lulus"* or anti-sprawl. The only certainty is that no one is satisfied.

According to a letter writer in the New Bedford Standard Times, Doug Foy is credited with saying towns need a "cold-turkey" approach to shaking their addiction to open space purchases as the main way to battle sprawl.

What are we to do? For a sense of what the next trend will be, notice that two well-recognized New England organizations are setting up



Map of the Prouty land purchase

Conservation Institutes within Freedom's Way. The Trustees of Reservations have plans to open the Doyle Conservation Center and Putnam Institute in their new green building in Leominster in the spring. Once the Prouty Land purchase has been secured, the New England Forestry Foundation is planning a forest



View of Long Lake on the Prouty Land Purchase in Littleton

conservation and education site in Littleton. As the months progress, we will also be exploring the concept of an Innovation Center dedicated to the redevelopment of existing buildings and the development of brown fields rather than eat up more of our vistas and open spaces with new development.

Join us on January 6 at 11 a.m. at Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge Education Center on Weir Hill Road in Sudbury, for an open-ended discussion about Master Planning and Heritage Landscapes. (See the notice in the *Calendar* in this issue.)

Challenge brings out the best in Americans. We have always been most inventive when circumstances demand it of us. If we are to protect our American Heritage, protecting the essence of our cities and towns as well as our countryside must be tops on our list.

This is the essence of the work of Freedom's Way – to bring together the regional institutions to address the issues that no one can separately hope to accomplish.

Sincerely,

Marge

Marge Darby

*Locally Undesirable Land Uses

NH Town Website is Worth a Visit

Just one-year-old, the unique Hollis, NH website www.hollis.nh.us/windowsonhollispast has been awarded the 2003 Preservation Achievement Award from the NH Preservation Alliance. Launched in September of 2002, the website contains photographs, written and oral histories and data on over 200 historic properties in the Town of Hollis. The website is linked to other historical websites in Hollis and through the region and was the first known comprehensive centralized collection of historic data in NH.

Much of the information is accessed through an interactive display, which links to hundreds of pictures, maps and texts related to identified properties. Global satellite positioning (GPS) was used to locate the historic sites, in part through a grant from the FWHA.

The website also was recently voted the Website of the Week by "NH.com" and won second place in the state from the New Hampshire Office of State Planning.

Van Eresian is the project coordinator of the website and previously served on the Hollis Historic District and Hollis Heritage Commission. The project was underwritten by a three-year grant from the US Department of the Interior, NH Division of Historic Resources and required a 40% in-kind match of local volunteer time and equipment.

John W. Olver Student Scholar Essay Contest

FWHA will award a \$100 prize for the best essay from a public or private high school junior or senior scholar in honor of Congressman John W. Olver, for his work on behalf of the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area. Eligible students must reside in one of the 42 towns in the proposed Freedom's Way Heritage area in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

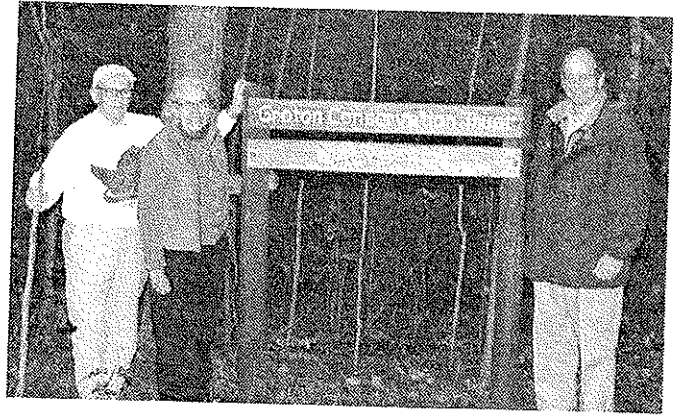
To win, a student must successfully write an essay of up to 1250 words about one of the three themes of Freedom's Way: Rediscovering the Native Landscape, Inventing the New England Landscape, and Shaping the Landscape of Democracy. "This region was host a series of historic events that influenced the course of American History," said Marge Darby, President of FWHA. "Look around your town and find a story others might like to know about Freedom's Way. Be proud of your heritage," she said.

The deadline for submission is January 31, 2004. In addition to the \$100 award, the winning student and his or her parents will be invited as a guest to the FWHA annual meeting in March, 2004, where the award will be given.

Entries will be judged by a panel including FWHA Board Members Professors Terri Thomas, of Fitchburg State College and David Westerling, of Merrimack College.

Copies of the contest rules, description of the three themes, and blank cover sheets are available by calling FWHA, 978-772-3654 or through the organization's website, www.freedomsway.org.

Macy's Fen is Dedicated in Groton



Peter and Claire Macy (*left above*) celebrate their gift of land into the protection of the Groton Conservation Trust (GCT). GCT President Rick Muehlke (*right*) remarked on the apt name that the donors chose for their gift, *Macy's Fen*. The 13-acre parcel bordering the northern edge of Baddacook Pond on Martin's Pond Road is predominantly wetland, and as such, provides valuable wildlife habitat. It also directly serves the human community. By adding protection for the town's Baddacook water well. While walking on Macy's Fen is not recommended, observing its inhabitants from a canoe on Baddacook Pond is, and there are numerous trails to be explored on neighboring New England Forestry Foundation properties.

Invented Here: The Circular Saw

In *Gleanings From Old Shaker Journals*, Sarah Endicott Sears gives the following description:

One of the most talented women among the Shakers was Tabitha Babbit. One day as she was spinning, she noticed the brethren sawing wood the old fashioned way; she observed that one half of the motion was lost, and so conceived the idea of the circular saw.

She made a thin disk, notched it around the edge, slipped it on the spindle of her spinning wheel, tried it on a piece of shingle, found that it would cut and gave the world the buzz saw. The first circular saw made under her instructions is on exhibit in the Geological Building at Albany, NY.

Sister Tabitha was born in 1784 and died in 1853. She was 29 years old when she invented the circular saw. The Shakers made no attempt to Patent this invention, but just used it to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Page-Moore Block Remembered

FWHA board member Zelda Moore had a key role in rebuilding an important part of Ayer. Below, she describes the events that led to the development of an historic building, now called the Page-Moore Block.

"Beginning in 1996, weekly visits with Ralph H. Richardson were very rewarding and enlightening as they were history lessons," she said. "Ralph could identify and describe property owned by my husband, George V. Moore. He told of residents, railroads, schools, businesses, and past life in the area.

"When Ralph Richardson died in 1997, many papers came into my possession, along with the purchase of Page's Block on Main Street in Ayer" she said. "Every day I thank Ralph for this beautiful brick building, built in 1872, where folk enjoyed dances, student studied, selectmen held meetings, lawyers practiced, and Ralph's father, Edward Adams Richardson told of his interesting trips."

"The experience of this purchase, created a great dimension for my senior years," said Mrs. Moore. "It was completely different from past interests. Page's Hall is now Billiards Café. Professionals occupy the offices, and on the walls of the center hallway are interesting items that hold silent stories of earlier owners. Then there is my library—a beautiful room with books, drawers filled with old papers, receipts, pictures, deeds and maps."

"Thanks to my late husband, for making Page-Moore Block possible. Also to our son Calvin E. Moore, for his tremendous interest and drive to make this old brick treasure a building with life," she said.

Welcome, Will

William (Will) Ludt, of Amherst, NH, joined the FWHA board at the November, 2003 meeting. Will has retired as a USAF Colonel after a 26-year military career. He is currently a program manager for the Space Satellite systems at BAE SYSTEMS in Merrimack, NH. Will is also the Chair of the Amherst Heritage Commission, the president of the Historical Society of Amherst, and a board member of the Nashua Children's Home in Nashua, NH.

Meet Our Federal Site Managers

We are proud to introduce two of our federal partners.

Libby Herland is the newly appointed refuge manager, Eastern Massachusetts National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and she works out of the Great Meadow's Wildlife Refuge Education Center in Sudbury.

Nancy Nelson is the Superintendent of Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, MA. Nancy is a long-time friend of Freedom's way and along with Libby is participating in our quarterly round-table luncheons to provide us with an opportunity to meet and talk about mutual goals and possible cooperative activities.

Know Someone Who Should Belong to FWHA?

As we continue to seek new members to spread the news and progress of Freedom's Way Heritage Association, we have found the best source for new member is you, our existing membership! So, we are turning to you with a request: Please list names and addresses of friends, neighbors or colleagues you think may be interested in the good works and future of Freedom's Way. We will confirm submitted names against our existing database and send them pertinent information about Freedom's Way, a complimentary copy of our biannual newsletter and our membership materials. We think this is a great way to tell our story and build our membership.

Gift Memberships are Available

Of course, you could also give a gift membership to a new neighbor or longtime friend who shares your interest in the region and its history. Use the membership form in this newsletter for your gift membership, completing the donee's personal information where noted. Don't forget to tell us who you are, too! We'll gladly send your gift recipient an acknowledgement letter naming you as the gift giver. Don't forget - Freedom's Way Heritage Association is a 501 (c) (3) organization.

If you have other suggestions on ways to spread our story or build our membership, feel free to call or visit the office to discuss them. We are ever grateful to members who share our story.

Detach and mail to: Freedom's Way Heritage Association, 43 Buena Vista Street, Devens, MA 01432

Yes! Here are some prospective members you should contact:

Name

Name

Address

Address

Town

State

Zip

Town

State

Zip

Visit Our Visitor and Interpretive Centers

Freedom's Way Heritage Association is dedicated to the preservation of the nationally important historic, cultural and natural resources of a 42-town region in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The region is rich in irreplaceable sites, trails, landscapes and viewsheds, which are important in our country's history and in the establishment of our American philosophies of freedom, conservation and social justice.

Visitor and interpretive centers throughout the region serve as resources to our citizens and visitors alike. The following is a partial list of some key sites that participate in and support FWHA.

Concord Museum

Lexington Road and Cambridge Turnpike, Concord. Where Concord's History Begins - *Exploring Concord* film and engaging *Why Concord?* history galleries; Native American history, Revolutionary War artifacts, including the famous Paul Revere lantern; Ralph Waldo Emerson's study where he wrote his influential essays; a gallery dedicated to Henry David Thoreau including the desk where he penned *Walden* and *Civil Disobedience*; a nationally significant collection of American decorative arts, illustrating three centuries of Concord's domestic life. Museum Shop. Open Monday-Saturday 9-5; Sunday 12-5. Call for winter hours. (978) 369-9609 www.concordmuseum.org.

Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

Route 17, Lincoln. Experience a working New England farm; take a hayride; see baby animals. Harvest celebration. Guided walks. No dogs, alcohol, collecting, biking, skiing, or hunting. Nature Center and Trails open March - October 9-5; in winter, 9-4 (781) 259-9807 www.massaudubon.org.

Fruitlands Museums:

The Museum of the New England Landscape

102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard. Rte. 2, Exit 38A; right onto Shirley Road. Explore this magnificent 218-acre site that has witnessed major change from prehistory to the present. Observe archaeologists as they uncover the past. Gain a broader understanding of our environment, the people and natural forces that give it shape. Nature trails, Fruitlands Farmhouse, Indian Hunting/Gathering Area, Indian Museum, Picture Gallery, Shaker Museum, Archaeological Excavations, Picnic Area, Museum Store and Tea Room. Open daily May 15 -



Fruitlands Museums

October 31, 10 am to 5 pm. (Grounds and Nature Trails open year round to members only.) (978) 456-3924 www.fruitlands.org.

Gardner Heritage State Park

26 Lake Street, Gardner. Route 2 to Exit 22 (Rte. 68) North, follow signs to Visitor's Center. Learn about chairmaking and silversmithing in the "Chair City" exhibits, as well as contributions of the Irish, French, Polish, Jewish, and Finnish Americans in Gardner. Open Tues. - Sat. 9 to 4 (978) 630-1497 www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/ghsp.htm.

Dunn's Pond, Route 101, five minutes from the Visitor Center features walking trails, swimming, picnicking and play equipment, paddle boats, ice skating. Open daily 10 to 8 or sunset. Standard State Park prohibitions. (978) 632-1497 for information

' www.state.ma.us/dem/parks/ghsp.htm.

Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge

Two locations along the Sudbury and Concord Rivers: Weir Hill Rd., Sudbury; and Monsen Rd., Concord. This 3,400-acre refuge is composed of freshwater wetlands and upland areas that noted ornithologists have called one of the best inland birding sites in Massachusetts. Trails



Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge

open at both locations from dawn to dusk for wildlife observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, photography. Environmental education and interpretive programs. No horses, motorized vehicles, hunting, campfires, or swimming. (978) 443-4661 <http://greatmeadows.fws.gov>.

Johnny Appleseed Hospitality and Information Center

Rte. 2, Lancaster. Maps, information, and brochures on the region's many historical, cultural, and hospitality-related sites. Free Regional Guide, gift shop and souvenirs. (978) 534-2302. Open 9-6 daily www.appleseed.org.

National Heritage Museum

33 Marrett Road, Lexington. Rte. 2A "Lexington Alarm'd" explores how and why this community was the launch site for the Revolutionary War. Regularly changing exhibitions on topics of American history and popular culture from the Nation's founding to the present day. Museum Shop. Monday-Saturday 10 to 5; Sunday 12 to 5 (781) 861-6559. www.monh.org.

Nashua River Watershed Association Resource Center

592 Main Street, Rte. 119, Groton. Regional environmental learning center with displays, demonstrations, accessible library, community programs. Slide shows explaining cleanup of the Nashua River. Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 (978) 448-0299. www.nashuariverwatershed.org.

Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary of Massachusetts Audubon Society

113 Goodnow Road, Princeton. Rte. 62, 3/4 mile west of Princeton Center. Eleven miles of nature trails include a 200-acre pond alive with beavers, mink, otters, wood ducks, and herons. One of the best hawk watching spots in New England. Wxplore 1,000 scenic acres and spot deer, coyotes, bluebirds, and bobolinks. No dogs, alcohol, collecting, biking, skiing, or hunting. Trails ope: Tuesday to Sunday dawn to dusk. Trail map and ckeck lists available at Visitor Center open Tuesday to Saturday 10 to 2. (978)464-2712 www.massaudubon.org.

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

Mountain Road, Princeton. Rte. 2 Exit 25, south on Rte. 140 turn at Wachusett Mt. Ski Area sign, Visitor Center is 1/2 mile further. Hiking trails, scenic vistas, old growth forest, ski lodge. Prohibited on trails: motorized vehicles, roller skates, roller blades, skateboards, and other non-motorized vehicles. Road to the summit. Handicap access. Open daily 9 to 4. (978) 464-2987 www.state.ma.us/dem/park/wach.htm.

Walden Pond State Reservation

Rte. 126, Concord. Rte. 2 to Rte. 126 south, parking on left. Kettle pond made famous by Henry David Thoreau. Come for recreation and relaxation and to contemplate philosophical, literary, and environmental significance of Thoreau's *Walden*. National Historic Landmark. Environmental capacity. To avoid disappointment, please call before you go. 8 to 7:30 daily. (978) 369-3254. Bookstore 10 to 5 daily www.state.me.us/dem/parks/wldn.htm.



*I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree.
Perhaps, unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all.*

—Ogden Nash

Other FWA Affiliated Sites

FWHA will be adding new key sites as resources in our heritage area. Listed below is a partial list of affiliations we are developing.

- Barrett House, New Ipswich, NH
- Beaver Brook Association, Brookline/Hollis, NH
- Buckman Tavern, Lexington, MA
- Codman House, Lincoln
- DeCordova Museum, Lincoln
- Doyle Conservation Center, Leominster
- Emerson House, Concord, MA
- Faulkner House, Acton, MA
- Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg, MA
- Fitchburg Historical Museum, Fitchburg, MA
- Gardner Museum, Gardner
- Gropius House, Lincoln
- Groton Historical Society, Groton
- Hancock Clark House, Lexington, MA

- Harvard Historical Society, Harvard
- Minute Man Historical Park, Concord, MA
- Monroe Tavern, Lexington, MA
- New England Forestry Foundation, Littleton, MA
- Old Manse, Concord, MA
- Orchard House, Concord, MA
- Plastic Museum, Leominster, MA
- Royall House, Medford, MA
- Rumford House, Woburn, MA
- Shirley Historical Society, Shirley, MA
- Thoreau Institute, Lincoln, MA
- Townsend Historical Society, Townsend, MA
- Wayside Inn, Concord, MA

Additional Travel Information and Resources

Many town halls and libraries have detailed local maps and/or guides from Local Conservation Commissions, Historical Commissions, and Land Trusts. Some local Historical Societies have collections of artifacts, memorabilia, shards and Native American tools.

Massachusetts State Parks and Recreation: (617) 727-3180. Ask for the Universal Access Coordinator. www.state.ma.us/dem/forparks.htm.

Minute Man National Historical Park: (978) 369-6993 ext. 22. or www.nps.gov/mima

State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development: (603) 271-3556. www.dred.state.nh.us/

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuges. Call (800) 344-WILD www.fws.gov.

Meet the Board *Continued from page 2*

Teresa (Terri) Thomas, Ph.D., of Fitchburg, joined the board in 2002, and currently serves on the Theme Development committee. She is a Professor of History, Chair of the History Graduate Program, Fitchburg State College. She has lived in the Freedom's Way region all of her life and has had a lifetime interest in history. She currently serves on the Collections Committee of the Fitchburg Historical Society.

She was an archivist to the Lancaster, [MA] Historical Commission for ten years. *It was a job that entailed working with a rich variety of historical resources and focused on a town rich in American history from its earliest settlement through the current era*, she said. Terri earned a masters and doctorate in history at Clark University. The focus of her masters studies was the American Civil War volunteers from the region, which was later published as an article entitled "For Union, Not for Glory: Memory and the Civil War Volunteers of Lancaster, Massachusetts".

I believe that the area encompassed by Freedom's Way is of vital importance to understanding the history of America, since so many important events happened here. The story of the people of the area—Native Americans and European colonists—tells us a lot about how America was settled and played a vital role in shaping American independence. I love the area and its history!



Jerry Van Hook

Jerry Van Hook, Ph.D.,

describes himself as a retired scientist who joined the board of Freedom's Way in 2000. His major interest since retirement in 1993 from Raytheon's Research Division has been the promotion of bicycling in Lexington and the greater Boston area. He helped establish the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway..

Joining Freedom's Way has been a logical extension of this

interest in bicycle routes in and outside the Lexington area, because most of my favorite rides are in the towns comprising the Freedom's Way Heritage Area. The focus of these rides has been the historic or national scenic virtues of the region, he said.

Jerry is compiling for future publication interesting bike routes including a description of a ride through Lexington, that emphasizes visits to revolutionary sites using paved paths that are suited to family outings and beginning bicyclists. More challenging rides within area towns will also be described, but with an emphasis on the FWHA interpretive sites.

Lucy Wallace, joined the FWHA board in 1998 and currently serves as the Vice President and chair of the Governance Committee. She is a selectwoman and former Chair of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Harvard

Since settling in Harvard in 1979, I've wanted to be involved in community organizations—both conservation and planning, Lucy said. *"Involvement in regional organizations only enhances the activities at the local level. FWHA offers a great—and unique—opportunity for a significant regional collaboration."*

Lucy's roots go back to the original settlement of Lancaster in the 1600's. Her great, great, great...grandfather was one of the original proprietors.

David "Doc" Westerling, became a member of the board in 2002 and as chair of the Government Affairs Committee serves on the Executive and Finance committees. He teaches Civil Engineering at Merrimack College. He's been an elected Finance Committee member and tax assessor. Experienced in both state and federal government, "Doc" worked with the US soil Conservation Service, Farmer's Home Administration and US Fish and Wildlife Service. He also served as a Fellow in the US Senate on the staff of Senator Kent Conrad (D-North Dakota) and the Massachusetts State House, as a Fellow on the staff of the Joint Committee on Transportation. He is helping to represent Freedom's Way in Washington, DC and in the MA and NH State Houses. *"I hope to shepherd the organization to designation as a heritage area,"* he said.



David "Doc" Westerling

The Hon. Mary H. Whitney, former Mayor of Fitchburg, joined the FWHA board in 2002. As the chair of the Finance Committee, she also belongs to the Executive committee. She serves on many civic and professional organizations. She was voted the 1998 Woman of the Year in Fitchburg. She is a former Fitchburg City Councilor, past president of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Fitchburg School Committee member, Financial Assistant at U. Mass Medical Center for Health and Fitness, Worcester, Bookkeeper, Dr. Robert Babineau, secretary, Fitchburg City Auditor's Office.

From our upcoming FWHA cookbook:

*"Corn by the common usage
is eaten from the cob,
but the exhibition is not interesting."*

*From a Shaker publication
Gentle Manners, a Guide to Good Morals*

*Provided courtesy of
Dan Rosen, cookbook researcher*

Welcome New Members

Freedom's Way Heritage Association welcomes our new members during our 2003 membership drive. Regrettably space doesn't allow us to acknowledge renewing members here. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our new member list. If you feel your membership has been overlooked or listed in error, we apologize and hope you will call the FWHA office at (978) 772-3654 so we may make a correction.

Leonard Adams	Jonathan Lane
David Alexander	Betty Levy
Meg Bagdonas	Karen and John McGarity
Bruce M Bailey	Richard V. Muehlke
Tim and Sally Bauman	Frank Mueller
Bonnie Biocchi	Kevin Natwick
Gail Bloom	Nancy Nelson
Paul Cohen	Ron Ostberg
Margaret Coppe	Jan Patterson
Marilyn Day	The Hon. Susan W. Pope
Alan F. French	Duncan Rasmussen
Jean Porter Green	David and Chelsey Remington
Robert C. Hilton	Kathy Hewitt & Billy Salter
Harriet Hornblower	Eric Shapiro
Sharon Howe	Tom Smith
Kyle Keady	Mary Van Vleck

Digging Into History

The Fitchburg Historical Society is coordinating an archaeological dig at the site of the Old Thurston Homestead. To date, more than 500 5th and 6th grade students have had the opportunity to experience some of the techniques and methods employed by archaeologists in answering questions about days long passed.

The home was built in the early 1780's on the second highest hill in Fitchburg, MA. Located on a parcel of 79 acres, the structure grew through a series of additions to as many as thirteen rooms. After years of occupancy, the homestead and barn burned to the ground in a forest fire in October of 1947. The dig was started at that location this fall.

Students have been provided with some background information including: marked maps of various kinds, copies of sketches and a picture of the original building, biographical data of the occupants of the home, along with information obtained from old newspapers and other sources. Armed with this information, the students have been able to do "walkabouts" of the site. Then they were provided the opportunity to be an "archaeologist" digging into their own one-square-foot of the project.

Results prior to the site being closed down for the winter-season include: buttons, nails, pieces of glass and pottery, and the like. More importantly, we now have a large group of enthusiastic and motivated students with a developing interest in reading our historic landscape.

This is a truly exceptional way of making the learning process relevant. Using the dig as the central theme, students are offered interdisciplinary learning experiences in the areas of mathematics, art, the sciences, history, and language arts, to name but a few. All this accomplished in a truly "hands-on" environment.

Our hats are off to the Fitchburg Historical Society. Keep on digging!

Town Government in Massachusetts—The Beginning

In Provincetown Harbor in the morning of November 11, on the second day after a two month crossing from Plymouth England, Governor Bradford called a meeting of all the male passengers on the ship Mayflower. He was concerned about how the Pilgrims would govern themselves once they stepped ashore. He was aware three or four men did not share the Pilgrims religious convictions. He had prepared a document that after a preamble went as follows:

"In the presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a Body Politic for our better Ordering and Preservation and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Officers, from time to time as such be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience. In witness whereof we have subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France and Ireland the eighteenth and of Scotland the fifty-fourth Anno Domini 1620."

Legal scholars consider the Mayflower compact the first document of American democracy. John Adams paid tribute to it in writing the Massachusetts Constitution. Town Government formed on the template of The Mayflower Compact was up and running with general supervision of the General Court by 1640. It has been refined and kept up to date since then but the broad outline and function are unchanged in over 350 years.



Freedom's Way Heritage Association

Membership

Your membership is important! Your contribution to Freedom's Way Heritage Association will help to create and foster the National Heritage area. You may send a check or money order along with your name, address, email and telephone number to:

Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Inc.
42 Buena Vista Street
Devens, MA 01432

Annual Membership Categories:

- Individual: \$ 35
- Family/Nonprofit 50
- Business roundtable 100

Supporting Memberships:

- Minuteman \$ 250-499
- Thoreau Associate 500-999
- Patriots Circle 1,000-4,999
- Golden Eagle 5,000 and up

Renewal or New Membership

Name: _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

I would like to volunteer. Please call me!

FWHA is a 501 (c) (3) organization

Hello, Ann!

Ann Chapman, founder and first president of FWHA, paid her first visit to our office since she left office to begin the University of Massachusetts Master programs in Regional Planning and Landscape Conservation. She formed our first board and set us on a regional course of connecting organizations and individuals who are concerned about open space.

Now writing her thesis, she was looking for ways to relate her research to coincide with efforts of FWHA in those areas that might prove valuable to us. Long an advocate of Benton MacKaye's dream of public access, Ann is devoted to efforts to increase walking trails across the land. Her thesis will investigate connecting Olmstead's Emerald Necklace through numerous conservation properties and their trails to MacKaye's Appalachian Trail. We look forward to helping her with her project.

Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Act Bill Sponsors

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Mark Your Calendar

Special Note:

The year 2004 marks the 10th anniversary of the Freedom's Way Heritage Association!

December 14 & 20, 2003

Minute Man Historical Park

A Literary Holiday at The Wayside

Watch three literary families—the Alcotts, Hawthornes & Lothrop—prepare for the holidays. Contact: The Wayside, (978) 369-6975

December 20, 2003

Sudbury Valley Trustees

Winter Solstice at Half Moon Meadow Brook

Sunrise through ceremonial stone structures in Boxborough 7-8 a.m. Registration Required. Contact: SVT (978) 897-5500

January 6, 2004

Great Meadows Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

Education Center, 11 a.m. through Lunch

Bob Durand, Andrea Freeman, Libby Herland, the Hon. Pam Resor and Jessica Rowcroft

Master Planning and Heritage Landscapes Program

All Welcome – Planners, Landmanager & Trusts

Contact: FWHA (978) 772-3654

January 11, 2004

Sudbury Valley Trustees

Buds and Berries Snow Shoe at Cedar Swamp

Snowshoe exploration at the headwaters of the Sudbury River

1:30-3:30 p.m. Registration Required. Contact: SVT (978) 897-5500

January 14, 2004

Nashua River Watershed Association

Traffic and Transportation for the Layman

Philip Nyberg, Central MA Regional Planning Commission

7-9 p.m., NRWA Resource Center

Contact: NRWA (978) 448-0299

January 25, 2004

Freedom's Way Heritage Association & Fruitlands Museums

"Lost Utopias" by Cynthia Barton

Author's Lecture, Book Signing and Tea

1 p.m., Fruitlands Museums, Harvard

Contact: FWHA (978) 772-3654

February 22, 2004

Sudbury Historical Society, Inc.

"Barns: Love Them and Leave Them"

3 p.m., Town Hall

Contact: SHS (978) 443-3747

March 10, 2004

Freedom's Way Annual Meeting

Page Moore Block Billiards Café, Ayer

All FWHA member welcome. Speaker TBA

Contact: FWHA (978) 772-3654

March 13, 2004

Massachusetts Land Trust Conference

Bancroft School, Worcester

Contact: TTOR Doyle Conservation Center, (978) 537-4458

March 14, 2004

Sudbury Historical Society

"Stone Walls" by Prof. Robert M. Thorson

3 p.m., Town Hall

Contact: SHS, (978) 443-3747

April 19, 2004

Lexington Minute Men

Battle of Lexington Reenactment

5:30 a.m., Lexington Green, Lexington

Contact: Jim Roberts, (978) 323-5364

Calendar listings are a selection of interesting events and learning opportunities in the Freedom's Way Heritage Area. We recognize that errors occur and schedules change. We urge you to contact event sponsors prior to attending and apologize in advance if misinformation is included here in error.

If you have an event you would like to see included in the FWHA biannual newsletter, contact:

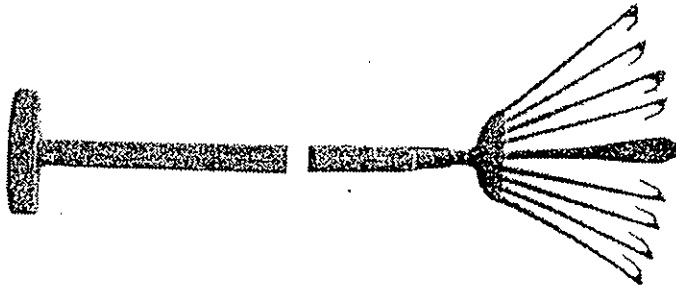
Freedom's Way Heritage Association

43 Buena Vista Street

Devens, MA 01432

(978) 772-3654 or email to mail@freedomsway.org

Freedom's Way Curiosity Corner



We Have a Recipe For You!

Some of our FWHA members might not have one of these stored in the cellar. It's an illustration of an early, hand-wrought eel spear, mounted on a hand-made T-handled shaft 10 feet, 10-inches long (though some can be as much as 16 feet long). It appears that this type of eel spear was used through the ice for winter fishing.

According to Marcel L. Salive, www.antiquetools.co.uk, the spear has tines with the tips bent into a U-shape with the sharp tip pointing back up between the tines. The center of the spear is a flat, dull-edged blade extending out beyond the hooked tines to protect the soft iron tines from rocks in the muddy bottom. The eel slides up between the tines, the tines pinch the eels' body wedging them in, and the reversed point keeps the eels from sliding out.

"Great care must be taken to keep the eel stuck in there," advises Joe Dixx in the Portsmouth, NH *Herald* (Nov. 22, 2002). "This is done by a smooth steady pull toward the surface by the fisherman. Once out of the water, the spear is shaken vigorously over the ice and the fish drops to the ice where it becomes quite numb from the cold" he said. Eel fishing was an important profession in some local waters up to the 1950s, according to Dixx.

If you happen to get lucky and spear a bag full of these reportedly delicious fish, FWHA is developing an illustrated cookbook featuring historic recipes from each of our 42-member towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Yes, there is a savory eel recipe for you to prepare!



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