Freedom’s Way
Heritage Association

43 Buena Vista Street, Devens, Massachusetts 01432
Tel: (978) 772-3654 Fax: (978) 772-9807

Volume 4, Number 2 FALL, 2000

Freedom’s Way Heritage Association is dedicated to the preservation of our region’s significant historic, cultural and natural resources through the designation of a National Heritage Area

STRENGTH MEN WEEP

In the Broadway musical, Into the Woods, the twin princes, Charming and Valiant meet on the Palace steps to commiserate with each other about what each must face. They sing about the AGONY of princes. Charming sings of his intense desire to journey through the woods to kiss Snow White. He agonizes because a dwarf stands guard over her bier and he is afraid of dwarfs. On the other hand, Valiant must cut through a wild thicket to get to Rapunzel who is trapped in the Witch’s tower. He fears the thicket has “prickers” and he has “this thing” about blood.

We have been both charming and valiant for years while seeking a way out of the woods of legislative trials. When we began this initiative, we knew the path to success would be slow and difficult. We did not know just how thick our thicket would be, nor how much blood would be let before we reached the end of our quest.

Our quest has always been a National Heritage Designation for Freedom’s Way. We began our journey trudging through the labyrinth of incorporation forms, bylaw creation and goal setting. Which way was the best route? That choice was aided by then State Senator Bob Dunder whose assistance in funding the feasibility study set us off on the right path. With the successful completion of the feasibility study one initial requirement was fulfilled. We proceeded toward our goal armed with a strong positive endorsement from the public, professional consultants and the steering committee.

In all fairy tales, every accomplishment is followed by a new challenge. And our journey has been no different. Congressman Marty Meehan received us with enthusiastic interest. Later, he wrote a letter

continued on page 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOURS

FREEDOM’S WAY HERITAGE AREA

As our newsletter goes to press, representatives of the National Park Service are being treated by our Board and membership to a grand tour of the Freedom’s Way Landscape; yet another task completed in our quest for designation as a National Heritage Area.

The overall theme of the tour is the American Landscape—how it influenced development within the area and, in turn, how it was influenced by development. The region’s richest locale is its people, their ideas, visions and experiments in living and their attempts to adapt the landscape to their own use.

The tour is focusing on four regions (nodes), each of which has existing sites capable of interpreting the region’s historic/cultural heritage and a nearby open space component for interpreting the natural landscape. Each region has resources relating to all three themes, but each has the potential to develop a strong focus in one theme with connections to the others.

continued on page 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT’S LETTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TOUR
WHERE IS FREEDOM’S WAY?
PROJECTS UPDATE
NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS & FRIENDS
A BOOK REVIEW: REFLECTIONS IN BULLOUGH’S POND

Freedom’s Way, The Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenters
Strong Men Weep Continued from front page

to his entire district firmly committing himself to helping us with the legislative process to secure the designation. Congressman John Olver was the next test. His district included many additional Freedom’s Way residents. When he firmly announced he would submit the legislation, we were delighted.

We were charged with securing the support of the Chambers of Commerce. Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce was an early supporter and held us up through the many twists and turns of this part of our journey, urging us forward and bolstering our confidence with an award for our hard work.

Three tests of our strength had produced three successful outcomes. The goal seemed close.

The good guys in the fairy tales are always required to produce a list of items (a golden egg) or accomplish difficult tasks (slaying the dragon). Our list was extensive. And of course, each time we produced one item or accomplished another task – new requests were made. “Bring me the hair as smooth as silk...”

- Collect letters from elected town officials, planners, business people, conservationists, environmentalists, historians, and local organizations.
- Show support from planning commissions, historical commissions, and land managers.
- Get letters from all the Mayors.
- Bring evidence of support from Museums and Cultural Institutions.
- Hold more public meetings.
- Visit the area Park Service.
- Write your proposed legislation.
- Amend your proposed legislation.
- Get more letters of support.
- Get a letter of support from every Board of Selectmen.
- Get support from state senators and representatives. (The Massachusetts Legislature voted to match a Federal appropriation with $250,000.)
- Acquire the support of every Freedom’s Way Congressman.

At last! The end of the road appears to be near. October 11, 2000, Congressman John Olver filed the legislation to authorize a Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area. It was co-signed by Congressmen Charles Bass, Edward Markey, James McGovern, Martin Meehan, and John Tierney.

We can see daylight up ahead through the trees. But we are not yet out of the woods.

The last line of Into the Woods is sung by the entire cast, “Into the woods, out of the woods, and home before dark!” Then a tiny little voice says, “I wish.”

IN ORDER TO SUCCEED:

We must have letters of support from Governors Jean Shaheen and A. Paul Cellucci.
Our chances will improve if our Senators file companion legislation as evidence of their support.
We must attend hearings in Washington.
The National Park Service must favorably comment on the legislation after the tour of our designated area.
The Congress must vote to authorize a Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area and to fund the initiative.

(and most likely, there will be frogs to kiss.)

How You Can Help

1. Thank your Congressman for signing or co-signing the legislation -- few Congressmen ever receive thanks for the work they do, start a trend!
2. Let the Governor know how important this legislation is to you and your town, and ask for her/his letter of support.
3. If you live in Massachusetts, be sure to thank your state representative and your state senator for the appropriation. If you live in New Hampshire, remember to thank Betty Hall and her other state associates for their assistance. Perhaps they, and Senators Gregg and Smith along with Congressman Bass will help obtain a letter from Governor Shaheen. Please ask.
4. Rejoin Freedom’s Way Heritage Association. Send us something additional, if you can.

Thank You

U.S. Senators

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

Honorable John F. Kerry
One Bowdoin Square
Boston, MA 02114
617-565-8519 Richard Levitt, Aide

New Hampshire
Honorable Judd Gregg
125 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-622-7979 Richard Lougee, Aide

Honorable Robert C. Smith
1 Harbour Place - Suite 435
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-433-1667 Jeff Rose, Aide

U.S. Representatives

Massachusetts
Honorable John W. Olver
463 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060
978-342-0429 Tricia Paulsen, Aide

Honorable Edward J. Markey
Five High Street
Medford, MA 02155
781-396-2900 Mark Gallagher, Aide

Honorable John F. Tierney
17 Peabody Square
Peabody, MA 01960
203-225-8020 Elliot Kaye, Aide
978-531-1669 George McCabe, Aide

New Hampshire Second District
Honorable Charles Bass
170 N. Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060
603-889-8772 Bryan Christianson, Aide

U. S. Representatives

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide

Honorable James P. McGovern
14 Mechanic Street
Worcester, MA 01608
508-831-7356 Paula Buonomo, Aide

Honorable Martin T. Meehan
1 Keneberry Square
Lowell, MA 01852
978-459-0101 Marc Sternman, Aide
Dear Friends,

How do the words "Freedom's Way National Heritage Area" sound to you? To our Congressional Delegation, it sounds just right! Congressman John Olver, along with Congressmen Bass, Markey, Meehan, McGovern, and Tierney have filed a bill in Congress "To establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and in the State of New Hampshire, and for other purposes." You can view the entire text on the Web at Thomas.loc.gov/HR5446. Although there was not time for the bill to make its way through the complex House Committee process this session, we have been assured that it will be refiled at the start of the new Congress in February. We are thankful to each of them, and we will continue to work closely with them (as well as our senators) in shepherding our bill through the process until it becomes law next year.

The U.S. National Park Service has been extremely helpful in rewording our bill to ensure it meets everyone's expectations (they helped us refine our tag line: "Freedom's Way, the Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenters"). Park officials, at the national level, asked us to set up a three day visit to the Freedom's Way area. The tour wrapped up on November 15th and they are now in a position to make an official public recommendation on the legislation during the hearings.

What does all this mean to you? It means that we are really close, but we are still not yet there. It means that we can celebrate, but we can't yet rest. It means that to get that last bit done, we have to redouble our efforts. The last few yards are always the toughest. We need your help now at the local level to ensure that we become a known and treasured entity. Talk with your friends and local officials about our activities and programs. Volunteer to be a member of one of our Board's committees. Participate in a program. Renew or take out a membership. We organize stakeholders meetings in which we generate specific actions for you to take. Watch for details in future newsletters and on our web site. Please, identify a small piece where you wish to help and let us know.

In preparation for our designation, your Executive Board has been busy. Since the proposed legislation designates us as the management entity, we have doubled the size of our board and have set up a committee structure to get needed work done. We still need to grow our board. Look at this newsletter and our web site to see the scope of the great work that volunteers are doing now. Please nominate anyone whom you believe would be an asset to the board (maybe even yourself).

This is really an exciting time for us all. Help us continue our region's legacy by becoming one of today's bands of "visionaries and experimenters". Please take a moment to celebrate, and then let's work together to ensure the "National" designation.

Sincerely,

Richard Canale

Visit our upgrades web site: freedomway.org

---

US National Park Service Welcomed

The three day tour of the Freedom's Way Heritage Area kicked off on Monday, November 13th, 2000 at City Hall in Nashua, NH.

Pictured from left to right are: Terry Moore, US National Park Service; Roger Hawk, Director of Community Development in Nashua; Representing the Board of FWA-Milly Chandler, Vice President; Richard Canale, President; Marge Darby, Vice President and Alan Manoian, Downtown Managers Committee; Jim Pepper, US National Park Service; Bryan Christiansen, Aide to Congressman Charlie Bass; and Matt Leahy, Aide to Senator Judd Gregg.
**Board of Directors-2000**
- President: Richard Canale
- Vice President: Mildred Chandler
- Vice President: Margo Darby
- Secretary: Donna Jacobs
- Treasurer: Meg Delonier
- Membership: Roberta Atkinson

**Directors at Large:**
- Michelle Ciccolo, Liaisons
  - Jeffrey Harris, MD Book Reviewer
  - June Harris, Newsletter
  - George Kahale, MRIC
- M. MacLeod, Sterling, Native American Scholar
- Alan Manoian, Downtown Managers Committee
- Zelda Moore, Ayer Historian
- John Ott, Director, Museum of Our National Heritage
- Amy Petrone, Leominster Planning Department
- Tim Prior, US Fish and Wildlife, Oxbow Reserve
- Barbara Sipker, Local farmer
- Elizabeth Tennessee, Families of Color
- Jerold Van Hook, Trails
- Lucy Wallace, NRWA
- Rebecca Waugh, Town Web Pages

Site Steward: Nancy Nelson, Minuteman National Park Superint.

**Advisors & Steering Committee**
- Judith Aland
- Ren Ashton
- Hon. R. Antonioni
- Bill Ashe
- Jim Baeker
- Shirley Blanken
- Bryan Christiansen
- Hon. Geoff Hall
- Tom Malley
- Hon. Pam Resor
- Tricia Paulson
- Marc Sternman
- Walter Vickers
- Hon. Pat Walraith

**Liaisons**
- D. DeBoweer, Acton
- C. Kowalski, Arlington
- S. Sargent, Ashburnham
- D. Damon, Ashby
- R. Suboski, Ayer
- R. Sverness, Bedford
- L. Engelman, S. Becker, Bolton
- E. Coolidge, Boxboro
- J. Graves, Clinton
- C. Rinaldo, Concord
- S. Brophy, Carlisle
- Open, Devens
- S. Tully, Danvers
- J. Huff, Fitchburg
- L. DesGroseillers, Gardner
- B. Clements, Groton
- P. Durrant, Harvard
- M. Ciccolo, Hudson
- M. Seizer, Lancaster
- R. Eaton, Greenfield

**Interpretive Centers as of 2000**

**Park Service Tour Continued from front page**

Members and friends of Freedom’s Way, the Park Service and representatives of some New Hampshire legislators met at City Hall, Nashua on November 19th. We were greeted by the Mayor’s office, and then Alan Manoian, a PWHA board member related some of Nashua’s history.

The tour progressed across the northern scenic route that provides an opportunity to illustrate many interconnections: Native Americans, Conservation, The American Revolution, and **Inventing the New England Landscape**. After stops at Mine Falls in Nashua and Beaver Brook Association’s farmhouse in Hollis, the tour swung by some interesting sites such as Uncle Sam’s House in Mason and the Barrett Mansion in New Ipswich.

On the agenda was lunch at Gardner Heritage State Park, where we chatted with the area Mayors, and from there we went on to Mt. Wachusett, and Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary. This leg of the tour provided views looking over the eastern valleys and uplands, and a chance to climb Redemption Rock in Princeton.

On Tuesday the entourage began in the Central node, with the strongest potential for interpretive sites, in addition to existing sites for **Rediscovering the Native Landscape**. Sites were at Devens Lancaster, the Oxbow, Nashua River, Bolton Flats and Shaker Village. (With some great views in between.) After lunch at Fruitlands, the tour moved on to the Museum of Our National Heritage.

Wednesday, the tour wrapped up in the Eastern area where the strongest existing exhibits for **Shaping the Landscape of Democracy** are clustered: Minute Man National Park, Walden Pond and Great Meadows. (See Photos Pages 3 & 11 and the article “Where is Freedom’s Way” on page 5)

---

**RIGHT:** Alan Manoian laments the 1980’s desecration of the Mine Falls site as he points out its role in Nashua history.

**LEFT:** US National Park Service representative Jim Pepper reviews trail maps of Beaver Brook Association in Hollis
III. Shaping the Landscape of Democracy. For more than 100 years before the American Revolution, the New England towns shaped, reinvented and adapted a new form of governance. The Paths of the Patriots became avenues of intellectual exchange and social commentary. This trail will follow sites relating to some of America's best thinkers and writers, and the places they immortalized. In the New World, the freedom to experiment bred an independence of mind and nurtured the examination of accepted thought about government, land ownership, religion, equality and art. The so-called American Renaissance fed an evolution of thinking that continues to this day.

Freedom's Way, the "Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenter's" is an American Legacy.

Freedom's Way, the "Landscape of Visionaries and Experimenter's" is an American Legacy. The mission is to weave the stories of the land, the people and their ideas, by using the common threads of significant open spaces and historic events. A strong sense of land stewardship is the legacy of the Native Americans, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Benton MacKaye, and scores of others. They have connected the use of the landscape to a deeper understanding of ideas about independence, individual rights, conservation, social justice, and even democracy. Evidence of this connection is in the picturesque town commons, Shaker villages, Bronson Alcott's, Fruitlands, and Thoreau's walks through the countryside. Having learned to cherish the native land, the Freedom's Way towns inspire a sense of stewardship in children and adults, for now and in the future.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:
1. Rediscover your town's history.
3. Learn how to help put your town's important sites into our data base.
4. Stay Informed: find out who your town's liaison is to FWHA.
5. Make a financial contribution. Become a member.
6. Attend stakeholder meetings.
WHAT'S COOKIN’...

Freedom's Way is compiling a cookbook of historical recipes of the region. Members Jane & Dan Rosen, who divide their time between Oakland, CA and Still River, MA are looking for culinary contributions to make this project truly representative of the various historical periods, native people and immigrant groups over the years.

Recently, Ruth Hopfman of the Sterling Historical Society fulfilled one of our fondest desires by submitting a recipe for “Grandma Butterick's Mocha Cake” AND an accompanying pictorial depicting ladies’ & children's fashions of the late & post Civil War era. What is the connection? Grandma is of Buttericks sewing pattern fame.

If you or your town has had a famous visitor or resident you think should be noted in our cookbook, please help us find a suitable recipe to honor that person. This is a labor of love by the compilers, but they do need our help. The finished cookbook will be published as a fundraiser.

SPEAKING OF HELP WANTED...

The recipes must be tested before they are included in the book. One woman has been doing all the cooking trials and, due to some delightfully rich fare, is fearful of growing into two women! Wouldn’t you enjoy trying out different versions of recipes, finding the tastiest ones and helping us spread the calories around?

CREATING A WALKING TOUR

Liaison Carol Kawolski and Pat Fitzmaurice (see Schwamb Mill pg. 9) are spearheading a plan to update, expand and turn a very well researched and well written 1970’s brochure into an interesting walking tour of Arlington.

“The story of Arlington’s historically important sites is one of neglect; many have not been protected here as they have been in neighboring towns” explains Carol. Two sites have already been lost, one of which was an important tavern on Paul Revere’s ride.

Carol and her friends have a bit of work ahead of them, including grant writing, but it will be well rewarded if their updated brochure and tour raises awareness of the importance of preserving historic sites, while providing an interesting walk for residents and visitors to the Freedom’s Way area.

Historic sites cannot speak for themselves unless we make them talk.

LEARNING PARTNERSHIP:
IMPROVING LEARNING IN SCHOOLS WITH ARTS PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Fruitlands Museums has been awarded a planning grant for fiscal year 2001 from the Education Partnership initiative.

In partnership with Freedom's Way Heritage Association, Fitchburg State College and the Fitchburg Public Schools the Fruitlands grant will launch A Sense of Place: Exploring Community Connections: a community-based and student-centered initiative to provide students with access to primary sources to explore multiple perspectives on people's relationships with the land, communities past and present, and each other.

Contact Joanne Myers, Director of Education at Fruitlands Museum, 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA 01451 (978) 456-3924, jmyers@fruitlands.org.

The Arts Education Partnership is administered through a cooperative agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts and the US Department of Education.

NEW LINKS TO THE REGION
ON www.freedomsway.org

We have updated the web page! Thanks to board member Rebecca Waugh, we now have an exemplary link to the Town of New Ipswich.

Rebecca developed the site as a personal project while acquiring her Masters in Environmental Studies. She saw it as an opportunity to develop a useful skill, contribute to the goal of Freedom’s Way to ultimately have links to each of its member towns and a good resource to bring back to her hometown.

The four page website begins with a brief history of New Ipswich and the following pages are organized by Freedom’s Way themes wherein she highlights the activities, historical sites and the people, past & present, that are the landscape of New Ipswich.

Note: Mac owners may not be able to view this link. Please keep trying as we work out the glitches. Also, the link to Hollis developed by Evangeline Eresian is currently being expanded. Watch for the updated version on our site.

It is our dream that visitors to our Web site be able to see maps and stories of the many Freedom’s Way patriots, historical info., architecture and biographies; for teachers to be able to download stories for educational use; and for people interested in Revolutionary history to be able to follow the maps on self-guided tours.

Freedom’s Way has a program you may utilize in developing your town’s link and Rebecca Waugh has agreed to help you develop your town’s heritage web site and to learn the program. Call the FWHA offices at 978-772-3654 to sign up for this project.
**Rediscovering the Native Landscape**

**A Book Review**

**Reflections in Bullough's Pond**

**Economy and Ecosystem in New England**

*By Diana Muir*

Published by University Press of New England in Hanover, NH

At first glance, the title of this book might hold little appeal to a recreational reader. The author is quick to point out, however, that *Reflections in Bullough's Pond* is NOT an "unpleasant, guilt inducing scold about our reprehensible environmental profligacy" but a song of joyful praise to the human ability to overcome daunting odds.

She wasn't kidding. It is an exceptionally well woven and fascinating tour of the unique history of our New England. The struggles of New Englanders to overcome economic and ecological crises from time immemorial through the industrial revolution to the modern day is presented in a most imaginative & engaging way. The causes and effects she demonstrates are often surprising; always enlightening.

One can easily imagine what the furs of the once-prolific beaver did for the economy, but how did its near demise contribute to our economy 20 years later? Why are there so many Silver/Crystal Lakes? Why was the timing of the potato famine "lucky" for Irish immigrants? Why do spruce trees dominate North Country forests? Why not give a "tinker's dam"? What New England product was manufactured using stolen mummies? Ask the "stool pigeon"!

This is a real "A-ha!" book. You'll realize why we return from the dump with more than we take; wonder if a shoemaker's invention became the basis for producing oval frames at Schwamb Mill; more fully appreciate the import of the "Keeping Time: Clockmaking in Concord, 1790-1835" exhibit currently at the Concord Museum.

Muir's latest work is intimately relevant to the themes of Freedom's Way; reading it will reinforce your understanding of and commitment to the heritage we are striving to preserve and share. ~jch

---

**Bloom Where You're Planted**

Board member Barbara Sipler and her husband Dwight were transplanted to Stow in 1982 when Dwight Sipler accepted a position as a research physicist with MIT in Westford. Soon Barbara was going to farmers' markets for a nearby farmstand rather than working in newspapering and public relations as she had for 25 years.

They began gardening at their home, then selling some vegetable and flowers. Dwight somehow developed an obsession with tractors, and before long (1992) they had bought a 20 acre farm nearby to go with his tractor. The house and attachments were razed, and a new shed was built to "hold up the barn" according to Dwight. The barn was built in 1861 by the same man who built the town hall, accord- ing to Barbara who is president of the local historical society.

The Sipers now organically grow a large variety of vegetables and 45 varieties of flowers on Small Farm. They start their seeds in late winter in their greenhouse; then there is the planting, weeding and harvesting, not to mention a great deal of record keeping. They offer pick-your-own bouquets, supply fresh organic produce to local restaurants and a caterer, and occasionally supply flowers for weddings.

(Adapted from a feature article in the Home & Garden Section of the August 20, 2000 Boston Sunday Globe)

---

**The Beaver Brook Valley Preserve** in Boxborough is getting a facelift. The 82 acre preserve protects several natural community types and the Beaver Brook Esker, a high, narrow, sinuous ridge of gravel deposited 15,000 years ago through glacial action. During the first-ever volunteer work days this summer THE NATURE CONSERVANCY staff and volunteers cleared trails, created water bars to stop erosion on the esker, marked boundaries and eradicated invasive plant species. (wow!) This trail restoration was made possible with a grant from the Fields Pond Foundation. Other projects slated for 2001 will include bridge construction in a beaver flooded area and a trail re-route. For information on how you can visit this preserve, please call Meg Connerton at (617)227-7017, x301

---

**Massive ReLeaf** - The spring of 2000 was a huge tree planting season for Mass ReLeaf. They awarded over $250,000 in grants to bring almost 1800 new trees to 80 communities. Earlier in the spring $125,000 of transportation enhancement funding supported another 40 grants to plant another 1000 trees. Combined, these grants are reaching about 1 in 3 off all Massachusetts municipalities. Among the recipients of the grants were: Acton, Bedford, Concord, Fitchburg, Lassie League, Gardner, Groton Friends of Trees, Leominster, and Littleton.
WOMEN 2000
A CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL WOMEN’S RIGHTS CONVENTION OF 1850
A sense of energy permeated this conference which was held October 20-22 in Worcester. Every woman smiled and spoke in quiet yet excited tones, greeting friends and acquaintances with equal enthusiasm. The many displays in the Centrum; the portraits of four women in Mechanics Hall...Lucy Stone, Dorothea Dix, Clara Barton and Abby Kelley Foster—all Worcester women; and Marge Piercy reading her poetry were inspiring. The World Premier show “Angels and Infidels” was awe inspiring.

The three days were filled with workshops and panel discussions staffed by outstanding women knowledgeable of and enthusiastic about women’s history. Each person was encouraged to combine the effort to identify and document all those women who attended that first convention, as well as those who have contributed to the women’s movement through to the 21st century! The conference has reenergized my personal interest in women and their accomplishments.

I look forward to 2002 and the Second Convention in Syracuse, NY.

- Barbara Henderson

ROOTED IN HISTORY
The family tree “free roots” of FWHA board member Elizabeth (Betsy) R. Tennessee were featured in the Worcester Sunday Telegram during this year’s Black History Month.

Their story reaches back to before the Revolutionary War, when Thomas Hazard was a slave. He earned his freedom by serving in the war. He later married a Penobscot Indian, settled in Littleton, and began the “family of color” that would become prominent in central Massachusetts.

The family’s dramatic history includes the kidnapping of Thos. Hazard’s grandson Nahum at age 9 by slave traders and his subsequent rescue by a local Deacon. Nahum’s brother Oliver fought in the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry led by Robert Gould Shaw (whose unit was featured in the film “Glory”.) Tower Hazard is believed to have hidden runaway slaves in a cave near his farmhouse in Harvard.

Betsy’s forbearers were run out of Groton in the 1920s by the Ku Klux Klan. When the Klan burned their home and barn to the ground, the frightened Hazard family fled to Boston.

These and many other Hazard family stories have been kept alive through telling and retelling at reunions in the Leominster and Shirley area since the 1920s. Their oral history has been expanded through research and historical documentation and by a commitment of the descendants to fill in the blanks.

Note: The National Park Service has a national project called The Underground Network to Freedom. FWHA hopes to become a part of this project with its growing knowledge about the Underground RR resources.

The Gardner Historical Commission kicked off the WOMEN’S HISTORY PROJECT in midsummer by dedicating two historical markers commemorating the 19th century women’s rights activist, abolitionist and suffragist Lucy Stone. The first marker is on the Old Burying Ground behind the First Congregational Church. It was across Green Street where the Evangelical Congregational Church stood that Lucy gave her first public speech on women’s rights in the church of her brother. The second historical marker stands at 186 Elm Street, an historic Gardner home built in the 1790’s by Reverend Jonathon Osgood, Gardner’s first minister. In the 19th century it was the home of Sara Stone Lawrence and Henry Lawrence, Lucy’s sister and brother-in-law, where Lucy visited many times throughout her life.

ABOVE: (l-r) “Abigail Rawson”—alias Karen Board Moran—and Tony Dahir of Gardner celebrate the 1850 First National Women’s Convention

RIGHT: One of two commemorative markers in Gardner honoring 19th century women’s right activist, abolitionist and suffragist Lucy Stone

~ Photos by Milly Chandler

LUCY STONE
Suffragist and Abolitionist
Died for Women’s Rights. December, 1847
in the Evangelical Congregational Church across the street from this site

1850 Anniversary, 1997
Ottained by the Lucy Stone Commemorative Project
Funded by the City of Gardner
through the Gardner Historical Commission
BARN AGAIN!

In 1987 the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Successful Farming magazine launched BARN AGAIN!, a national program to preserve historic farm buildings, in an effort to stem the loss of our country's historic barns. Across the country, farmers and city dwellers alike are concerned about the disappearance of our nation's traditional farm structures. With the decline in the number of individual farms and the total acreage of farmlands over the past several decades, hundreds of farmsteads have been abandoned or demolished. Preservation on the farm has been hampered by a prevailing attitude that "newer is better" and a lack of information about the potential for and methods of rehabilitating rural buildings.

The National Trust publication Using Old Farm Buildings by Humstone & Johnson answers the questions most asked by owners of outdated barns and out-buildings. It suggests possible new uses, illustrates 15 different barn rehabilitation projects, provides cost-estimating hints (Barn Again! statistics show that the average rehabilitation project costs half as much as demolition and new construction,) and reminds readers about Historic Preservation and tax incentives.

The booklet is a good starting point for considering a potential new life for an old barn. Copies are available at FWHA headquarters. This and many other related publications are listed in the BARN AGAIN! Bibliography. Write to the program at 910 16th Street, Suite 1100, Denver CO 80202; call them at (303) 623-1504; or visit www.barnagain.org.

KEEPING TIME: CLOCKMAKING IN CONCORD, 1790-1835

The Concord Museum in Concord Massachusetts announces a groundbreaking exhibition, Keeping Time: Clockmaking in Concord, 1790-1835. The exhibition is open to the public through January 21, 2001. Keeping Time is the first major exhibition to reflect on a new and significant reinterpretation of New England clockmaking by focusing on the Federal-era craft community. The exhibition is a fascinating mix of craftsmanship, social history, entrepreneurship, economics and art and features over thirty of the finest examples of documented Concord clocks from the Concord Museum's collection and other collections including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Old Sturbridge Village and Yale University Art Gallery.

For information about Museum hours, the exhibit or programs being offered in association with the exhibit, contact the Concord Museum at (978) 369-9609 or visit their website at www.concordmuseum.org.

OLD SCHWAMB MILL

The Old Schwamb Mill in Arlington has been a working place since 1650. Originally a grist mill and then a saw mill, it is now where you will find woodworker David Graf (below) demonstrating the production of high quality, oval frames. Since family photographs became universally popular in 1864, the Schwamb Mill has crafted black walnut oval frames with gold leafed liners.

The Mill is open weekdays year 'round, with the exception of holidays This Preservation Project was spearheaded by Patricia C. Fitzmaurice.

Photo by Milly Chandler

DID YOU KNOW?.....

Traditionally, if a statue of a horse has both front legs in the air, the rider died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the rider died as a result of battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the rider died of natural causes.
MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Congratulations to MAUD AYSON, the new DIRECTOR AT FRUITLANDS MUSEUM. Maud has previously held senior management positions at Old Sturbridge Village, The Museum of the City of New York and the Norman Rockwell Museum.

The HUDSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY has acquired a Digital Image Scanning Facility through the efforts of Lewis Halprin and the contributions of local banks and corporations. The Society held an open house to demonstrate the equipment's ability to convert images into digital format and to store these digital images on CD's for both long term storage and wide spread distribution to schools, libraries and membership. It is this same technology that has made possible the "Image of America" series that includes Hudson, Stow, Assabet Mills, Maynard and Lake Boon; all of which were edited by Halprin.

The DEVENS HISTORICAL MUSEUM has been offered the loan of a Camp Devens collection of postcards (1917-1919) to be digitally scanned. The images will then be available on CD to enlarge and print for exhibits and displays when the Museum opens.

This fall DEVENS HISTORICAL MUSEUM, in partnership with MASSDEVELOPMENT will be renovating several buildings on Devens, including the Civilian Military Training Camp.

The Golden Ball Tavern in Weston hosted a SYMPOSIUM ON TAVERN CULTURE in September. A lively group presentation described the place of taverns in 18th century life. Among the speakers were Donna Curtin, Ex. Dir. of Plymouth Antiquarian Society who spoke about "polite culture" of the 18th century, and David Ingle speaking of folk songs. Joseph Carlin assured the group that tavern fare always included hasty pudding and rum punch.

ORTHARD HOUSE - Home of the Alcotts in Concord MA has become one of only 47 recipients of a Save America's Treasures Grant (administered by the National Park Service) designated for site of the utmost significance to American History and culture which are threatened by physical deterioration. The grant, totaling $400,000, was announce in Washington DC this summer during a speech by President Clinton, and will go toward the complete and total restoration of Orchard House, the beloved home of Louisa May Alcott and her family, where the timeless classic Little Women was written in 1868.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

At Dave Barry's Red Brick Inn, Greenville, DICK EATON, son of the late Town Historian, filled us in on the history of the town mills. His photograph album of the 1890's showed the removal of top floors of the mills as the later heavy machinery made the buildings unstable when under full operation. He reminded us that the invention of electricity meant that mills could be run 24 hours per day, thus creating the "graveyard" shift and so spelling the end of a rhythm of life when the mills stopped at dark. We rejoice that new technology is finding a home in old mills so that the handsome brick structures will remain as our heritage. We appreciate this gift of the history of the first one hundred years of Greenville for our library. Thanks also to BETTY HALL for a pleasant evening.

Many thanks to MICHELLE CICCOLO for the History and photos of Hudson and to Pat Fitzmaurice for the early history of Arlington. Both gifts are a welcome addition to our library.

MASSDevelopment kindly provided a van and driver for our US National Park Service Tour. Thank you!

ACTIVITIES

Uncovering an 18th Century Farm Family

An ongoing exhibit of archeological, documentary and landscape research from the Willard frontier farm site at Fruitlands. Contact Fruitlands Museums 102 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA 01451 Tel (978) 456-3924

“A NEW WAY TO SPEND CHRISTMAS”

THE HOLIDAY WRITINGS OF LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Is scheduled for the weekends of December 9th & 10th and 16th & 17th. Louisa May Alcott provided Victorian readers with over a dozen stories and poems about the holidays. Miss Alcott was able to convey the hopes and dreams as well as the want and hardship of the season. In this special Living History program, the Alcotts and friends celebrate the true spirit of the season. Audience participation, ranging from simple interaction with the Living History portrayers to participating in vignettes, is eagerly welcomed, making for great family fun.

“[For what is success given me after years of hard work? If I cannot feel [tediously] for others in need, and gladly help all I can...”

Louisa May Alcott. 1885

In their charitable partnership to collect outerwear, non-perishable foods or donations to the Literacy Fund, visitors will be asked to share in the example the Alcotts set by giving what they can to those less fortunate. For details, please phone 978-369-5617.

"FORT DEVENS MEMOIRS AND STORIES 1937-1947”

compiled by Jean McCrosky, one of the authors of "Nashaway" will be published this winter. It is a collection of personal accounts, letters, interviews, stories and historical material from the Fort Devens Public Affairs Office. The spiral bound book will be available from the Freedom's Way Heritage Association office. This was made possible through a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
Prophecy of Chief Seattle

Every part of the soil is sacred in the estimation of my people. Every hillside, every valley, every plain and grove, has been hallowed by some sad or happy event in days long vanished. Even the rocks, which seem dumb and dead as they swelter in the sun along the silent shore, thrill with memories of stirring events connected with the lives of my people, and the very dust upon which now stand responds more lovingly to their footsteps than to yours, because it is rich with the blood of our ancestors and our bare feet are conscious of the sympathetic touch. Our departed braves, fond mothers, glad, happy-hearted maidens, and even our little children who lived here and rejoiced here for a brief season, will love these somber solitudes and at eventide they greet shadowy returning spirits. And when the last red man shall have perished, and the memory of my tribe shall have become a myth among the white men, these stories will swarm with the invisible dead of my tribe; and when your children’s children think themselves alone in the field, the shore, the snow, upon the highway, or in the silence of the pathless woods, they will not be alone. In all the earth there is no place dedicated to solitude. At night even when the streets of your cities and villages are silent and you think them deserted, they will throng with the returning hosts that once filled them and still love this beautiful land. The white man will never be alone.

Let him be just and deal kindly with my people, for the dead are not powerless. Dead did I say? There is no death, only a change of worlds.

~ Submitted by Onkwe Tase
Southern New England Indian Council

A once lovely Mine Falls in Nashua, was blasted during the 1960’s to accommodate a privately owned hydro-electric facility, disrupting the landscape of this and contiguous historic sites, including an old lead mine. A nearby gatehouse was ‘adopted’ by a local Jr. High School enabling a complete removal of years of graffiti and restoration of the brick exterior.
You Can Help Secure A Congressional Designation for the Proposed Freedom's Way National Heritage Area

Freedom's Way Heritage Association, is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Membership is a tax-deductible contribution. If you would like to become a member, give a gift membership, or make a donation, please fill out this form.

I would like to help preserve Freedom's Way, an important part of America's Heritage

by becoming a member:

Name __________________________
Address _______________________
Telephone _____________________

by sending a gift membership to:

Name __________________________
Address _______________________
Telephone _____________________

Circle your choice of membership level:

Individual $30  Senior/Student $25  Non-profit or Public Agency $50  Corporate $100

All memberships are for one year from date of contribution.

I/We hereby contribute to Freedom's Way Heritage Association a gift of $ __________

Purpose of gift: ________________________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to Freedom's Way Heritage Assoc., 43 Buena Vista St., Devens MA 01432.

Thank you for your support!

Freedom's Way Heritage Association
43 Buena Vista Street
Devens, MA 01432

NONPROFIT ORG
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 52
Harvard, MA 01451

DATED MATERIAL: PLEASE RUSH

Printed on recycled paper