Freedom's Way
Heritage Association

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Tel: (978) 772-3554  FAX: (978) 772-9807
Preserving our National Heritage from Arlington, Lexington/Concord to Mt. Wachusett.

Enjoying each other at the Freedom's Way Annual Meeting Dinner at
Ken's American Café in Littleton

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Right: Lily Citt, John Ott, Meg Delorier, Richard Canale (standing), Zelda Moore, (and hidden) Holly Rogers, Jean McCroskey, and Ken Turkington.

Below left: Michael Creasy

Center: Founding board member, Jackie Davison enjoys a chat with Nancy Nelson and Richard Canale

Below Right: Martin Green

Left to right: Michael Creasy, Executive Director of the John H. Chaffee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission; Martin Green, Executive Director and Director of Economic Development of the Blackstone River Valley Chamber of Commerce; with Richard Canale, President of Freedom's Way Heritage Association; and Nancy Nelson, Superintendent of the Minute Man National Historic Park.

Above Photo: John Love, Public Spirit
President's Report March 2000

This past year, we have made significant progress toward a number of goals that we set last year. We do have an ambitious agenda for the coming year that will require broad participation from all of you. I am looking for additional volunteer work, and as we describe our activities and agenda, I hope you will identify a small piece where you wish to help.

Who we are: The association has been asked by the Congressional leadership, funding agencies and the National Park Service to restate our mission and goals more concisely. We have done this, and the language is currently with the legislative committee that will prepare the final draft bill.

Congressional Designation: Our goal of a congressional designation is nearing action. We have the support of the area’s congressional delegation as well as Senators Kennedy and Kerry. The regional representatives of the National Park Service have met with us and expect to work together with us should the legislation pass.

Once designation occurs, an appropriation of 10 million dollars will be requested. This appropriation will be available to cities, towns, and non-profit organizations within the proposed Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area for projects and activities relating to the Freedom’s Way themes through a public participation process. A 50% match will be required for each grant.

Freedom’s Way Heritage Association: As a result of the federal legislation, we must revisit our organizational structure, and determine how we need to change in order to meet the potential new Federal requirements. The Board of Directors has recommended slight by-law changes as an interim step.

Jacqueline Davison has completed her service on the Board. She is one of the original incorporators of the Association and also served as our first Treasurer. Her service on the Board will be missed. Ruth Penka has also resigned as Treasurer because she has assumed new professional job responsibilities outside our area. We are thankful for her contributions.

Current Projects:
The Scholars Program was initiated to encourage research in theme-related activities. This program has produced material for additional publications. We hope to continue the program from sales of the publications and some additional outside funding. The Paths of the Patriots is still in progress as is the search for funding for a project assistant and project scholar.

The facilitation of the establishment of a Devens Historical Museum continues. The DHM has filed for incorporation as a 501(c)(3) and elected a Board of Directors. The Board is currently looking for appropriate exhibit and archival space.

The region’s African American Heritage Effort also continues.

Communications/Publications/Outreach:
We created and published a Freedom’s Way Area Map; established a web site; published two small booklets and prepared for the publication of four more; continued our series of Stakeholder Breakfasts and focus groups; and met with numerous town officials, mayors, boards of selectmen, historical societies, businessmen and others. We will continue the stakeholder and focus group series as well as our outreach to meet with local, regional and national representatives of relevant interests.

Richard Canale

(Copies of the full report available upon request.)
Thank You

Founding member, Jackie Davison, has concluded her term as a member of the Board of Freedom's Way. As a board member, Jackie helped steer Freedom's Way through its early years, serving as the organization's first treasurer and program director. She remains committed to the goals of Freedom's Way. We value her continued membership as we thank her for her years of service.

Working on the support effort in New Hampshire, as well as Massachusetts, Jean McCrosky has been visiting towns, dropping off copies of the map/brochure, and making appointments with historical societies, Selectmen and town officials to secure 100% town approvals for Freedom's Way. If you don't know if your town has sent us an official letter of support, call the office at 978-456-3654.

Thanks to Ken Turkington for making certain that Congressman Charles Bass, New Hampshire Second District, was one of our congressional supporters. Ken has also been working to garner support for Freedom's Way in New Hampshire.

A special thanks goes to the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce for its continued support of the Freedom's Way efforts. In addition to advice and assistance, the organization permits us the use of their copier from time to time. This is an enormous contribution to the administration of Freedom's Way. As a fledgling organization we could not survive without such generosity.

While we are thanking our supporters, we must again acknowledge the support we have received from MassDevelopment which matched the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism grant to help fund the Freedom's Way Heritage Area Map and for providing Freedom's Way with comfortable office space.

Preservation Update

The Page-Moore Block, purchased last year by Freedom's Way board member, Zelda Moore, and her son, Calvin, has been undergoing exciting renovation and restoration. The work began with major stabilizing efforts to prevent further deterioration of the structure that dominates Main Street Ayer. The pigeons have been evicted and the rubbish of many years is finally gone. Eventually, Page-Moore Block will become the set piece for future development in Ayer. It is a National Register of Historic Places Main Street USA. More than a million dollars of renovation has included restoration of the great room on the second floor to its original dimensions. A corner of the second floor has been completed for Zelda's museum and private library. It is here that Zelda painstakingly pours over the books, photographs, newspapers, and other collections, some belonging to former Ayer historian, Ralph Richardson. As she discovers them, Zelda has been bringing us interesting articles for our files.

E-mail, e-mail, e-mail.

We can be reached at freedomsway@bicnet.net. They said it couldn't be done! We were told we couldn't connect to the Internet using our older-version, donated computers. Richard Duncan, is a senior systems analyst who is not only a whiz with computers, he is also a gifted teacher. He has connected Freedom's Way to the net, and he has helped us negotiate this technological world better. We met Richard when he was teaching computer classes across the hall from our offices. He has begun his own business offering companies and individuals a wide range of computer services from training to technical advice. He stopped in to tell us about his new company, and ended up donating his services. We thank him and in return, we recommend him to those of you who might wish to employ his professional services. (978) 796-2047.
About Members and Friends

At the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Governor’s Conference 2000, we met up with some familiar faces and met some new ones. The Johnny Appleseed staff was there, as was the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau, and of course we ran into our old friends from the Worcester County Convention and Visitors Bureau. We spent some quality time with Judith McDonough, Executive Director of Massachusetts Historical Commission and hope to convey to you some of her words of advice for a fledgling National Heritage Area. The big news is the news Strategic Plan for the Future to be concluded this month. “Massachusetts a real vacation” is the Massachusetts “brand” and for anyone with fears that we might become a state that celebrates fakery, “real” means just that. We have the real stuff, and there is no need to create a fantasy world – the real thing is good enough.

Welcome to the newest board members of Freedom’s Way Heritage Association: John Ott, Director of the Museum of Our National Heritage; Meg Delorier, Director of the Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce; and Jerrold Van Hook, Lexington.

Hermann and Kate Field

The Field’s new book, Trapped in the Cold War, has been published by Stanford University Press. It is the story of Hermann’s sudden and mysterious disappearance while traveling in Eastern Europe, of his secret imprisonment by the Polish government, and of Kate’s tireless efforts to locate him and bring him home. His eventual return to Valley Farm in Shirley and a remarkable apology from the Polish government make this story unique. Careful readers will notice in Hermann’s description of his fight for survival, the strengthening of his beliefs in the importance of land preservation and sustainable development. The Valley Farm area was a favorite of Benton MacKaye’s, and the Fields have seen to its permanent protection. This seems a particularly fitting story for Freedom’s Way.

The Fitchburg Historical Society has announced the appointment of Elizabeth (Betsy) Hannula, as executive director.

Littleton Historical Society is putting together an exhibit of the life of Gertrude Sanderson, and is creating a catalogue of her artwork. If you have any of her work and would be willing to loan or photograph it, please contact the museum.

The two new presidents of area Convention and Visitor Bureaus are: Donna J. McCabe of the Worcester County Convention and Visitors Bureau/Central Massachusetts Tourist Council, and Debra Balenger of the Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau.
Theme Activities

Freedom's Way, the landscape of visionaries and experimenters 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.

The Freedom's Way Landscape Themes are meant to define Freedom's Way, to help people discover for themselves the rich heritage of the region.

1. Rediscovering the Native Landscape
2. Inventing the New England Landscape
3. Shaping the Landscape of Democracy

These themes are connected by past and present activities; by the sites and stories of the people; and by the contributions and ideas they generated. The stories can connect the themes, like Benton MacKaye's sense of the need to protect the wilderness; his appreciation of Shirley's history and its historic center; and his writings about the importance of regional planning. MacKaye recognized the interrelationships and we hope you will begin to make these connections yourself.

Writers Wanted: We are continuing to develop the Freedom's Way themes through the stories of people and sites related to those themes. These stories will serve to help illustrate the themes, and as interpretive material for trails. If you like to write and have an idea for a story that connects more than one Freedom's Way town or, if you would like to work on a story we suggest, contact us as soon as possible. Send writing samples to show ability and evidence of publication in a local paper or other source. Some of the subjects we suggest:

1. Women of Independence such as -- women who invented things, or created cottage industries; Marion Stoddart's efforts on behalf of the Nashua River; women who purchased and donated buildings for libraries, theaters, historical societies; black cohosh (cimicifuga racemosa), Mulpus Brook, Lydia Pinkham and the 36% solution to ease those "painful Complaints and Weaknesses so common to our best female population;" Margaret Fuller; Angela Fiducia Tilton Heywood (Was she interested in women's rights or pornography?); Prudence Wright; Eleanor Norcross;

2. African American Heritage -- we are readying for publication the stories and genealogy of Lancaster's African Americans, if we are to develop a trail, we must have the stories from the other towns. Examples: Everettville, Jonathan Drake;

3. Stories of Struggle -- for religious freedom, social justice, experiments in living -- shakers, transcendentalists, millerites, and experiments in socialism;

4. Architectural trends and local architects
5. Symbols of community and local government
7. Workshop subjects (Writing for Freedom's Way)

Workshops: Freedom's Way is planning a series of projects, small workshops and focus groups. If you are interested in any of the subjects listed below or in helping to plan the workshops please let us know. (978) 772-3654.

- Crafting the Guided Tour
- Writing for Freedom's Way -- theme development. This workshop will help set up collaborations.
- Freedom's Way curriculum guide
- Developing a Freedom's Way matrix of Museums, Historical Societies, events and collections
- Marketing for Museums and Historical Societies
- Downtown managers and planners' workshop: Freedom's Way's historic town squares and their relationship to the themes.
Freedom’s Way Theme I. Rediscovering the Native Landscape

Archaeology
In Sanctuary Magazine, (Jan/Feb 2000), John Hansen Mitchell wrote about “Deep Time,” the nearly five-thousand years of continuous use of the New England landscape by Native Americans. These were people who measured time “not by weeks and days and hourly schedules but by the great circles of the seasons....” We have much to learn about our predecessors.

Fruitlands Museum’s ongoing exhibits offer an intimate look at 5000 years. This season, two new outdoor sites, an excavation of a 1711 garrison house and a Native American hunting/gathering area are open for viewing. The museum experience offers an opportunity to explore the lifestyles and landscapes of the Native Americans, colonial farmers, Transcendentalists, Shakers and landscape artists – all of whom shared a belief in living in harmony with nature.

Groton Historical Society is planning a July 11 program on Archaeology with Alan Leveilee. Keep your eyes open for more about this.

Museum of Our National Heritage, Archaeology workshop on Saturday, May 20, a hands-on lab for children, ages 7-12; Pre-register by May 13. Fee $8.

Benton MacKaye’s Shirley Center
The Shirley Historical Society Museum on Center Road, is open to visitors, free of charge every Saturday 10:00 – 1:00, plus many Mondays and Fridays. Phone 978-425-9328 for a schedule. In addition to the Shaker artifacts and tours, the Museum has a special interest in the life of Benton MacKaye (1879-1975). MacKaye spent many of his childhood years in a small cottage in Shirley Center. Author, regional planner, co-founder of the Regional Planning Association of America, and the Wilderness Society, he is best known for proposing a continuous hiking trail through wilderness areas from Maine to Georgia that became the Appalachian Trail. MacKaye understood the necessity for people to have access to each other for commerce and socialization, and he strongly believed that people need proximity to wilderness in order to regenerate. His books include the

new Exploration: A Philosophy in Regional Planning, From Geography to Geotechnics, and Expedition Nine: A Return to a Region. In the latter book, he tells of his walks around the town of Shirley, and of his observations about the environment. In 1953, MacKaye wrote and narrated a pageant depicting 200 years of the Town of Shirley. For more information check out the Historical Society website at www.ma.ultranet.com/~shs1.

Celebrating Biodiversity.
Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge 2000: Get close up with salamanders, turtles, and snakes! See egg masses, find birds, and explore emergent spring plants. Contact Rona Balco for reservations 978-779-2259 and a complete schedule of events from through October 14, 2000. Sponsored by Friends of the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge. Donations requested. For information and a calendar about the spring and summer schedule at the Concord or Sudbury Units of Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge call the Refuge at (978) 443-4661 extension 17.

Drumlin Farm
Perhaps you missed the woodcocks migration and the male courting display consists of peents, twitters, and chirps. Male woodcocks prance on the ground and spiral upward in flight, reach a peak and then circle, and drift down. You can often see this spectacle in fields and shrubby wetlands at twilight. Look for the schedule of upcoming events at Drumlin Farm. Fee.

Land Conservation: Trustees of Reservations. A new acquisition, is the Dexter Property, Lancaster, a gift of the late Nathaniel Dexter of a 38-acre drumlin with views of the Nashua River, the town of Lancaster, and the surrounding landscape of Central Massachusetts. Also, TTOR announces a new conservation restriction on 53 acres of woodland and wetland adjacent to the Estabrook Woods in Concord and Carlisle.

2000 Summer Adventures for Children
Wachusett Meadow Wildlife Sanctuary was once a colonial farm and now includes over 1,100 acres in
Princeton. There are views from Brown Hill, extensive wetlands, open meadows and shady forests, the historic Crocker Maple, glacial boulders, and a beaver pond to see. If you are looking for something exciting for your budding young explorer, naturalist or adventurer to do this summer, check out the Sanctuary’s 2000 Summer Adventures for Children during July and August. Children play “Indian Sneak,” thicket and camouflage games, scavenger and/or frog hunt, and make medicine bags and other age appropriate games and activities. Group sizes are small; the counselor-child ration is 1 to 10 for ages 7-16, and 1 to 5 for ages 3 1/2 – 6. Find out all about it, and register now: 978-464-2712 E-mail: wachusett@massaudubon.org http://massaudubon.org

Conservation Conversations
Protecting Townwide Open Space Networks through Conservation Design, speaker Randall Arendt. Thursday, May 25 from 4:30-9:00 PM at the Groton Country Club, 94 Lovers Lane, Groton. (Sponsored by the Nashua River Watershed Association, Groton Public Library, Groton Conservation Trust, and the Groton Planning Board.) For reservations, call 448-0299.

Other Nashua River Watershed Association events:
Birds, Butterflies and Beyond, Thursday, June 8 from 7-9 PM; Soils, Saturday, June 10 from 10AM-12noon; and tentatively, Everything about Lakes and Ponds, Thursday, June 15th 7-9PM.

Freedom’s Way Theme II. Inventing the New England Landscape

Can You Say “No” to the Gingerbread-Gazebo-Fountain Monster? Maybe. Local Historic Commissions are often ill-prepared to handle suggestions for “improvements” to districts and buildings by other town boards and committees. Lately we’ve been hearing from beleaguered local preservationists about plans to alter historic buildings, add decorative touches to “beautify” public buildings, or to add gazebos or fountains to town commons. Don’t misunderstand, we love fountains and gazebos. Gingerbread or japoneseque decorations have always been popular. Certain alterations will be acceptable to Massachusetts Historic Commission. Learn what those are.

Protecting the integrity of a historic district or building, saving an agricultural landscape, recognizing the significance of a particular industrial site, are efforts that can pit preservationists against people with other goals in mind. It can help to put things into historical perspective. For example: at the time of incorporation, many towns were required to create and maintain training fields or mustering grounds. How that land has been used, preserved or protected varies from town-to-town. In order to avoid future conflicts consider adopting design guidelines. Many town commons are similar enough that design guidelines could be adapted for more than one town. Consider joining with a couple of neighboring towns and working together on a unified version. We have sample guidelines available 772-3654.

Cemeteries and Burial Grounds
Save the date! On Friday, May 12, 2000, there will be a daylong conference on the Preservation of Historic Cemeteries and Burial Grounds. This will be a Department of Environmental Management Workshop at Clark University, in Worcester. Registration material available at 617-626-1379, or check the website at http://www.state.ma.us/dem/programs/hilstand/hilstand.htm. Deadline for reservations, Monday, May 1.
2000 Trees
Community trees are in decline, yet trees and forests attract new residents, industry and tourists. Trees cool our streets, filter the air and slow the drainage of storm water. To counteract the loss of shade trees, many Massachusetts Cities and Towns have pledged to plant 2000 trees for the millennium. Funeral homes are joining the Mass Memorial Tree Program to support tree planting in their communities.

Groton Friends of Trees completed a self-guided tour to attract attention to the great variety and value of community trees in the town center. The Town of Lexington initiated a habitat survey along the Minuteman Commuter Bikeway to create a planting plan and to link the greenway to other adjacent parks and trails.

The state offers a variety of programs and technical advice to help communities save older trees and to plant new ones. Trees that are champion in size, have diameters greater than 32 inches, or have cultural/historical significance are eligible to receive a Heritage Tree designation. The Mass ReLeaf Fund gives funding priority to community projects that meet the standards of Tree City USA. The US Department of Agriculture and the White House Millennium Council have announced a partnership to involve businesses and individuals in planting or adopting trees. To learn more about state and national tree projects contact Edith Makra at 617-626-1466.

Freedom’s Way Tree Cities: Acton, Groton, Leominster spend at least $2 per resident on trees!

Freedom’s Way Theme III. Shaping the Landscape of Democracy

Ideas on the meaning of Freedom. Has American history always involved a tension between individual freedom and collective demands? A new scholar, James E. Block, from the School on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, believes that from the start, untethered liberty was seen as an indulgent and potentially disruptive danger; yet conversely, servitude and unquestioned authority was just as troubling. The compromise, he posits, is a notion of agency—where freedom serves a common cause. The concept of “agency” includes a new interpretation of responsibility: the individual becomes self-reliant and able to act freely if that freedom of choice serves a larger vision.

Therefore, Freedom defers to collective authority. This item is from the New York Times, “Arts and Ideas Section”, Saturday, January 1, 2000.

2000 Special Events Schedule of Minute Man Nation Historic Park. The Park preserves and interprets the significant historic sites, structures and landscapes associated with the opening of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775. The park also serves as a global symbol of humanity’s universal struggle for liberty. Activities are available for all ages and include: reenactments, educational tours, programs, talks, “parties,” music from now through November. For a complete schedule of events call: (978) 369-6993 or visit the website at mima_info@nps.gov.

Cyrus Edwin Dallin Art Museum. Located in the Jefferson Cutter House, at the corner of Massachusetts and Mystic Avenues in Arlington. A new history gallery has opened to the public to exhibit Dallin’s patriotic works. The exhibit is entitled “History and Allegories.” Dallin is best known for his Native American art, but is also widely regarded for his works portraying patriotism, heroism, and dedication. The museum is open daily from noon-4PM. Call 646-3553 for information. Admission is free.
Concord Museum: Where Concord’s History Begins. Walking tour, Saturday, May 27, 9:30-12noon. Exploring Concord Inside and Out: The Town of Emerson and Thoreau. Walking tours are offered the last Saturday of every month. Also a special Mother’s Day Tea at 2PM on Mother’s Day. On Memorial Day, admission is free to Veterans and present members of the Armed Forces. Most events, such as teas, Living History Performances, and special children’s programs, require reservations because space is limited. Inquire about fees and reservations for events. (978) 369-9763.

Cultivating Self/Cultivating Nature, Emerson, Thoreau and the Challenges of Today. The Humanities and the Challenge of Environmental Justice, James Hoyte, and Timothy Weiskel, Co-Program Directors of the Working Group on Environmental Justice and members of the University Committee on Environment at Harvard University. Lecture series sponsored by the Thoreau Institute, the Concord Museum and the Thoreau Society. Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 PM. At the Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road. Free and open to the public.


Westford Museum: A part of the 1775 story comes home to Westford. When Jonathan Minot led the Westford Company to Concord, his son, Jonathan Minot Jr. beat the drum. Thanks to the auspices of Mrs. Jean Burrage Burton, and a donation from John Burch of Atlanta, young John’s drumsticks are back in Westford on display.

My History is America’s History: Fifteen things you can do to save America’s Stories. This booklet is part of a millennium project of the National Endowment for the Humanities in Partnership with the White House Millennium Council. We purchased a small number of these books. For each copy, the cost is $4 if you pick up a copy at the Freedom’s Way office, or $6 if you want us to mail it to you.

General Interest

Alcott Orchard House: “Sweet Dreams, My Dears” – Bedtime Stories with Louisa May Alcott. For ages 6 and up. Admission charge. 978-369-4118.

Devens Recreation Over 1,000 acres of Open Space and Recreation land for public use. Swimming, hiking, picnicking, fishing, and tennis available in season. Call the Devens Recreation office (978) 772-8875 for a schedule of grand opening specials or www.devens.com.

Littleton Historical Society Museum occupies the Houghton Memorial Building, formerly the Reuben Hoar Library. It is a yellow brick building on the triangle of land at Littleton Center formed by King, Rogers and Foster Streets. The museum is open every Wednesday, from 1-4 p.m. and on the second Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. and by special appointment. Parking is available on Rogers and Foster Streets.

Emerging Preservation Leadership Scholarship. The National Trust is seeking candidates whose attendance at the 2000 National Preservation Leaders Conference in Los Angeles will benefit their community and strengthen their commitment to preservation. If you know an emerging preservationist or student who might otherwise be unable to attend consider an application. Call (843) 722-8552 or e-mail scholarship@nths.org, or for fax-on-demand dial (202) 588-6444, document number 9006. Applications deadline June 15, 2000. FWHA will consider a letter of support for your candidate in exchange for a theme-related article or presentation that will benefit Freedom’s Way.
Planning Grants.
There are two grant programs that might assist your preservation efforts.
The Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program is offering planning grants to municipalities to support the preservation of public historic landscapes. Properties must be open to the public, and must be listed or eligible for listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places. If the property is not yet listed the town may be eligible for planning and inventory projects. A 50% match is required. For details, call (617) 626-1379, or [website link].
Also, Massachusetts Historic Commission is offering Predevelopment project planning grants for preservation projects that are consistent with state/local community revitalization plans. Preference will be given for sites or landscapes that are listed or eligible for listing on the Historic Register. These grants also require a match. Deadline for applications due June 8, 2000. For details, [website link].

Ayer/Harvard/Shirley: The Horgan Ice House
Property is getting a new life. Drive to the far end of West Main Street, in Ayer and over the Nashua River, there the shell of a former icehouse is visible alongside a dam and spillway that once produced hydroelectric power for the Fitchburg and Leominster Street Railway. In the years before refrigeration, ice was a major local business. First ice was cut from frozen waterways and ponds. Eventually, electrical power was used to produce ice that was shipped by rail and other means to areas outside the region. At the Horgan Ice House, by controlling the flow of river water through a dam and gates beneath the power station, sufficient electrical power was generated to operate the trolley line. With the clean up of the site and the plans to rehabilitate the power plant itself, an attractive business and light-manufacturing complex is in the future. Ducks, heron, turtles and other wildlife will welcome the Grady Research Company for their efforts to revitalize the area.

Groton: Williams Barn Restoration Project.
Constructed in 1840, and located on town-owned conservation land, the Williams barn is an example of timber framing used in American barns during the 19th century. The Statement of Significance for the National Register of Historic Places has been written by Groton historian, Isabel Beal, who believes some of the building material may have been recycled from an earlier structure. Urging the vote to preserve the barn, Mark McInerney of the Finance Committee was quoted in the Groton Landmark newspaper as saying: “There are some decisions that should not be based on finances. A project like this says who we are and who we want to be. Sometimes its okay to spend money on a barn just because you want to save the barn.” The voters of the Town of Groton agreed by an overwhelming majority.
Thank you...

Your membership and support for Freedom's Way has meant a great deal. Let us continue to work together to ensure the success of this initiative. Freedom's Way, the landscape of visionaries and experimenters is an American legacy.

Photos: This page, and all others unless otherwise identified, Dwight Sipler.
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.

Yes, I would like to help conserve an important part of America's heritage, Freedom's Way. By becoming a member:

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Telephone ___________________________

e-mail _______________________________

I would like to send a gift membership to:

Name ____________________________

Address __________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

Telephone ___________________________

e-mail _______________________________

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.

Note:

We don't play the membership game! The current advice to non-profit organizations is to begin asking for donations one month after a person has paid dues!!!! We hate that, and we guess you do too. Bobbi Atkinson informs you when you should renew your membership — and that's it! We do need operating and administrative expenses, and dues do not cover it all. Consider a donation in addition to your membership fee. OR bring us ten new members from your town — that would cover the cost of half a newsletter.
Tidbits

Livable Communities Initiative. Learn how you can participate in this Clinton/Gore initiative about preserving our cultural heritage through growth management and improvements in the quality of life: smart growth, open space and farmland protection, and transportation choices. For more information visit: doc.gov/livablecommunity/index2.html

The Pepperell News
Friday, January 5, 1917
The Ayer News Section
Moving Pictures
"Manager Poulis has started giving matinees Wednesday and Saturday afternoons at Page's Hall Theatre, in order that school children may have an opportunity to see the high-class offerings without being out at night... Tomorrow afternoon and evening the offering is the great modern railway drama, 'The Juggernaut,' featuring Nina Stewart, and there will also be a Beatrice Fairfax feature in two acts. Next Wednesday, Violet Dana appears in the five-act drama, 'The Gates of Eden,' an absorbing romance of the Shaker Sect...."

A tidbit from the Moore library

FWHA Wish List

Projector, cart and accessories, postage scale.
Volunteers are needed to help distribute maps.
Newsletter volunteers: help format, label and sort for mailing. Work from home! We are all volunteers so we can be an equal opportunity employer.

While not part of our Paths of the Patriots, we thought you'd like to know that Maine State Senator, Leo Keiffer has started his own revolution. As a result of the introduction of a bill to ban automated answering equipment use during ordinary business hours, Maine has issued directives to all state offices. Systems must offer callers an option of punching "O" for a live person, and nested systems are banned. Good idea?