"Listen my children and you shall hear..." all about Paul Revere galloping alone through the night to raise the alarm, "The British are coming!" thereby mobilizing the colonists to defend themselves against the enemy.

Such poems as Longfellow's and stories of famous revolutionaries energize our children and awaken in them a civic pride -- pride in citizenship, town and country. Right? W-e-ell, maybe if they remember their history, and if they have learned it correctly.

A purpose of a National Heritage Area is to bring opportunities for public stewardship and civic pride to a region worthy of celebrating its uniqueness. Foremost in that effort is the task of reawakening the community to the realities of its forgotten history.

As exciting as the poem of Paul Revere may be to most Americans, few know how much of the story is missing in Longfellow's retelling. The actual story of the many men who fanned out over the roads going from town to town throughout the night is even more exciting. William Dawes, Jr., set out for Lexington from Boston at about 10:30 PM on April 18th. Paul Revere arranged for the lamps to be hung, then, he left from Charlestown. At mid-night, after traveling at what must have been dangerous speeds for both horse and rider, Revere reached Lexington where he was joined about a half hour later by Dawes. As the belfry bell on Lexington Green was rung, 130 men assembled there. Dr. Samuel Prescott, joined Revere and Dawes to continue spreading the alarm westward. Revere was captured in Lincoln, and his horse taken from him. Dawes escaped and turned back to Lexington. Dr. Prescott also escaped capture by managing to spur his horse over a stone wall and he arrived in Concord barely three hours from when Revere had left Charlestown. The ringing of the Concord Town House bell summoned the Minutemen who gathered at Wright's Tavern.

Prescott and others continued riding further westward. When a particular rider couldn't go further, another took up the alarm. Baker, Bancroft, another Prescott, Dawes, Dudley and many others, some unidentified, risked capture as they raced over unlit roads throughout the night,
Paul Revere continued.

urging their horses onward. The spreading of the
alarm continued. A rider arrived in Ashby at 9 am.

It may seem to some as if these stories have
been told often enough. Yet, what we know, and what
we don’t know about American history is surprising.
All Americans have a right to “life, liberty and the
pursuit of happiness,” but only three out of ten
know that those rights are set forth in the
Declaration of Independence, according to a new
survey commissioned by the Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation. It also found that children between the
ages of 9 and 12 were even less aware of some of the
most basic historical facts.

For instance:

• Almost half the children and 18% of
  the adults surveyed don’t know the purpose
  of the Declaration of Independence;

• Only one child in ten, and slightly
  more than half the adults can correctly identify
  our nation’s founding Fathers;

• More than two thirds of the children
  and one third of the adults don’t know that
  Patrick Henry said, “Give me liberty or give me
deaht,” rather than Thomas Jefferson, Abraham
  Lincoln or Paul Revere;

• Identifying the “shot heard round the
  world” as about the Revolutionary War
  challenged five out of ten children and four out
  of ten adults;

• Close to a third of the children and a
  quarter of the adults don’t know that the
  Redcoats were soldiers who fought in the
  Revolutionary War, rather than the Civil War or
  World War I.

• When both groups were asked the best
  ways they learn and remember American History
  they cited field trips to history museums as well
  as reading history books.

You have an opportunity to help document the
stories that will be remembered, to flesh out fuller
and more accurate historical interpretations, and to
develop community-based teaching programs. There
is a lesson here for those of us who care about what
and how our children learn. It is: that if told
graphically, stories stick -- even if incorrect.

Using the community as a classroom, you can
tell the stories in ways that will stick, but more
importantly, correct wrong impressions. The results
of the survey are discouraging, but, to those of you
working for the educational benefits of a Freedom’s
Way National Heritage Area, surveys continue to

show that people are hungry for history. You can
give them the real thing.

Anyone wishing a copy of the survey questions
and responses may call us at (978)-772-3654 to
request them.

New Publications

What began as a thesis for a college degree is
turning into a book about the Nashaway Indians.
According to Maryanne Macleod, FWHA board
member, the Nashaway Indians are usually
overlooked in the history of the Indians of
Massachusetts. Nineteenth century historians
deemed them to be a small, unimportant tribe.
Macleod also believed this perception to be true
until she began her research in the primary
documents. There she discovered that far from being
insignificant, the Nashaways were an important
tribe during the colonial era.

Several of the chapters in the forthcoming
book were published in the Archaeological
Quarterly. Another article about the use of
chisitolite, a stone found only in the Lancaster-
Sterling area and which details its significance in
Indian Culture, will appear in the Bulletin of the
Massachusetts Archaeological Society in the Spring.
The book, which is still in process will tell the story
of the Nashaway from the early days of colonization
to King Philip’s War. “It’s exciting to me,” said
Macleod, that my work is being taken seriously, and
has been cited in several books including the Red
King’s Rebellion by Russell Bourne and People of the
Fresh Water Lake by Dr. Curtiss Hoffman.
People

Welcome FWHA’s New Officers

Richard Canale has agreed to serve as President of Freedom’s Way Heritage Association, and he is joined by Jacqueline Davison as Vice President. Richard is a founding member of FWHA and served as Vice President for three years. He is also a Professor at Northeastern University Cooperative Education; former Chair of the Lexington Planning Board; and member of Hanscomb Area Town Committee (HATS). Jacqueline, also a founding member and past treasurer of FWHA, is a Guide at Buckman Tavern, and a member of the Walden Pond Advisory Committee. FWHA is honored to have them serve as officers as we move ahead in our efforts.

Richard will officially greet you with a President’s message in the fall.

A Farewell Thank You

Three years ago, Robert Farwell agreed to serve as president of Freedom’s Way Heritage Association, “for a year.” As things often happen in fledgling organizations, one year became three. Bob steered us through the early growing pains of opening an office at Devens, securing funding for and participating in the successful accomplishment of the Feasibility Study. He was one of the original founders of Freedom’s Way Heritage Association and it is with regret, that the Board has accepted his resignation. The Farwells will remain at Fruitlands Museums until after Labor Day when they will move to Mystic, Connecticut. We wish Bob and his wife Sandra, much happiness and success in the future.

We also wish to say thank you and good-bye to Robert Levine of the Nashua River Watershed Association, a member of the Freedom’s Way Steering Committee, who gave freely of his time and advice to good effect. We will miss his clear-thinking objectivity and lawyerly touch. Bob has given advice to many of our area’s conservation trusts, and been a strong supporter of the NRWA’s mission, worked alongside the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency to address environmental issues of the redevelopment of Devens. Although he promises to stay in touch, his new responsibilities on the Vineyard will keep him busy. We wish him luck in his new position.

Uncle Sam Wants You!

The white-bearded man dressed in stars and stripes, pointing a finger at America’s young men to join the Army during the Second World War had his origins in Mason, New Hampshire. Samuel Wilson (1766-1854) was born in Mason to Edward and Lucy Wilson. Edward Wilson was a veteran of the Revolutionary War having “answered the call” and served at Menotomy (Arlington) on April 19, 1775.

When young Samuel was in his twenties, he went to Troy, New York where he and his brother Ebenezer, established a brick making business and later a meat packing business. The company employed a hundred men and slaughtered a thousand head of cattle weekly. As was the custom of the time, adult men were sometimes referred to as “Uncle.” Citizens of Troy knew Uncle Sam, the successful meat packer.

When the War of 1812 broke out, the government contracted with the Wilson brothers to supply meat for the army. At the same time, Samuel was appointed the official government inspector of meat. Part of his job as inspector was to brand every white oak barrel destined for the army with the initials of the United States: U.S. - six inches high.

The quantity of oak barrels waiting on the loading dock in Troy amazed boat passengers. The barrels were identified as belonging to Uncle Sam who owns “near everything around here. He’s got the best beef and he’s feeding the whole army.” The joke spread, and soon all government property was referred to as Uncle Sam’s.

At thirty-one, Samuel came back to Mason to claim his long-time sweetheart and take her back to Troy. The Mason home of his parents is called the Uncle Sam House.

Welcome to New and Renewing Members
Carolyn Birmingham, Richard Canale, CPRI, Phyllis Farnsworth, Margaret Fox, Charles Gordon, Pauline Hamel, Florence and Richard Koplow, Rita Lancaster, Margaret M. Martin, Ed and Dianne Newton, Jerry Van Hook
application completed in Acton in the 70s for the Isaac Davis Trail, communities are accumulating maps, identifying trails and historical sites which could have this designation. In Acton, granite markers identify these sites and along with a route map, make a self-guided tour easy for all-year educational purposes as well as the annual celebration in April.

Through personal anecdotes that are discovered in town records, the nature of the Alarm and the Response by patriots in Massachusetts and New Hampshire will be collected and revealed in lively detail in accompanying text to the town maps. Liaisons in each community will be contacting Historical Societies and Minute Men groups to seek their help in this project. Although much of this material is available in town histories, the information is not readily available for school curriculum use nor for self-guided tours.

It is certainly not available in any unified way. Collecting data for this will be helpful to assist your town to protect its valuable historic resources.

The products of this research will be a comprehensive map for the region of the Paths of the Patriots, both the Alarm and the Response; town maps with short histories of the sites in each; National Register designation for sites and markers as towns desire; collected and compiled anecdotes relating to the Alarm and the Response for all the towns in the Heritage Area.

More About the Patriots

A poorly documented piece of American history involves the number of participants in the Revolutionary War who were Native American and/or African American. Richard Massey has sent us material about his relative, Jeffrey Hemenway, a Native American and Revolutionary War participant. Hemenway, Freeman, Oxford and Gigger are Nipmuc names from the Gardner area. In conjunction with the town histories, we are seeking additional documentation from the Nipmuc Nation Tribal Council, the New England Native American Institute, and members of the Hazard family. If you have any

data that would help illuminate any of this please contact your Town's liaison or the Freedom's Way office at 772-3654

New Projects

Those of you who are interested in historic research, and not very excited by the Paths of the Patriots project may wish to sink your teeth into another project underway.

Women of Independence is the title of one sub-theme project already begun. In the last newsletter, mention was made about a paper soon to be published entitled “Three Centuries, Three Women” which features the interconnections between Abigail Alcott, Mother Ann Lee and Clara Endicott Sears. Cynthia Barton, biographer of Alcott and Sears has researched this paper. Using her example, a list of Freedom’s Way women is being compiled: Louisa May Alcott, Fanny Farmer, Margaret Fuller, Eleanor Norcross, Lydia Pinkham (she is purported to have taken her water from Muppus Brook), Susanna Quailes, Mary Rowlandson, Sarah Shattuck, Marian Stoddart, Lucy Stone, and Prudence Wright. You are invited to add names to this list and suggest interconnections. The end result would be — a Women of Independence Tour.
Benefits of a National Heritage Area

Heritage-based cultural development and its associated benefits provide an economic alternative that helps support the local economy while preserving the area’s integrity. The essence of the National Park Service process avoids unnecessary duplication of effort and provides the cohesion for joint ventures and linkages. Partners work at all levels to bring “pride of place” to improve economic conditions through business development including tourism. The benefit to communities within a heritage area evolves from theme-related programs.

1. The themes are the citizens’ expression of their sense of place. The result is increased pride in community, through increased activity.
2. Emphasis is on private ownership, without obligation to open property to the public.
3. No regulatory authority

Increase civic pride by honoring

- Local history. Celebrating local history, the people and the places that make that place special through publications, or other means.
- The region’s influence on the world of ideas. Help communities find and document the stories of the people whose ideas influenced others, especially those with national significance.

Economic

Benefits will largely accrue to the hundreds of smaller businesses in the region, particularly retail, lodging, food, agriculture, antique dealers, among others. Economics and preservation are about the same thing—saving scarce resources.

Designation will:
- Assist with the pooling of resources;
- Assist with locating tax credits for major rehabilitation;
- Provide proceeds from sale of theme-related items;
- Become a bargaining tool to acquire additional funding;
- Bring jobs. Dollar for dollar, historic preservation is one of the highest job-generating economic development options available;
- Bring jobs. Historic preservation creates more jobs than the same amount of new construction;
- Bring jobs. CDCs train unemployed to work for tourism related businesses and institutions.

Preservation

Help communities find protection for historic buildings, sites, recreation areas, sacred places both Native American and for any area so defined by the community. Includes:
- The collection, conservation, dissemination of history, culture of places, use of historic buildings, natural and recreational resources, cultural artifacts and stories to enhance the quality of life and attract appropriate tourism and industry.
- Identification of large-scale natural or historical resources that unify or link the region
- Identification of resources that are of regional, state, and national significance
- Fostering a strong sense of pride, vision, and goals within a community or region

Planning

The National Park Service Gateway’s Program is specifically designed to help communities plan for economic benefits, growth, change, preservation, tourism and industry.
- The key to protecting a city neighborhood, or rural town is to identify its role in community life and to ensure that the role continues to be viable.
- Efficiency in planning for theme related events including maps for self-guided tours, signs for sites, etc,

Linkages or connections to other areas

Regional Identity indicated by Communities connected by events and activities.
- Main Streets and other themes: heritage homecomings, river and canoe festivals, walks, trails and maps. (Native American pathways and sites, Paths of the Patriots, Underground Railroad, Women, etc.) Bike
The Legislative Effort

In 1775, the Patriots rallied to the call to defend their rights as free men -- you do them honor when you recognize the way they risked everything to defy a major world power. By requesting the heritage designation, you are supporting the celebration of the land that brought forth the spirit of democracy and democratic principles, that nurtured Yankee ingenuity and invention, and finally the recognition that our finite resources, environmental and human, require stewardship.

Congressman John Olver has reiterated his strong support for the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area proposal. With good reason, Congressman Olver wants to be able to demonstrate to the Congress strong evidence of the grass-roots support that exists for the heritage designation. The Congressman has asked us to secure letters of support from Mayors or Selectmen, Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Historic Commissions, business associations and others. We are gathering the letters from each town. We have letters from at least half the towns, and in several instances, as in Leominster and Ashburnham, we already have a full “set.” If you want to schedule a meeting with your Board of Selectmen, or if you want to check on the progress in your town, please call the office at 978-772-3654.

Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

To help with the support effort, George Kahale of the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission and a member of the Freedom's Way Steering Committee, arranged a meeting with representatives from Congressman Olver's towns to discuss the concept of heritage areas and the effects of heritage designations. We met in the MRPC meeting room, and over coffee and donuts, discussed what people felt would help them to explain to others what a heritage designation means. All the participants were interested in the process, how a designation would work and what it would mean to them.

Mike Ellis of the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce asked for sample copies of legislation similar to what might be drawn up for Freedom's Way. George Kahale of MRPC and Christina Sargent asked for a list of benefits of heritage areas. Copies for you are available for distribution. Tricia Paulson from the Congressman's office participated in the discussion and offered
Leominster Rededicates Carter Park

"This memorial is dedicated to honoring the memory of service of all Leominster soldiers who served with courage for freedom and justice."

Recognition at last

Voluntary Infantries. Sculpted by Leominster artist Philip Cote, the statue is meant to honor the experiences of soldiers whose "service was at times scorned, ignored, or forgotten."

The celebration in Leominster preceded a similar event in Washington where a monument was unveiled honoring the black soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War. The Washington monument was called the "first of its kind" by the New York Times -- The City of Leominster can take considerable pride that it has honored its own and may well be able to correct the report in that prestigious paper by claiming to be first.

About the 54th and 55th Regiments, Lincoln acknowledged, "there will be some black men who can remember that, with silent tongue and clenched teeth, and steady eye, and well-poised bayonet, they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while I fear, there will be some white ones, unable to forget that, with malignant heart, and deceitful speech, they have strove to hinder it."

The days of the dedications in Leominster, were sunny and summy. Leading the participants from a gravesite ceremony in Evergreen Cemetery to Carter Park, on Sunday, the Mayor marched seemingly unperturbed by the heat. The re-enactors, who marched in their woolen uniforms, did honor to the men they represented.

From the late 1700s citizens of color serving in the military, were prohibited from serving as soldiers. Although many black soldiers did fight, their previous duty consisted mostly in labor battalions or rear-area garrison personnel. Accordingly, those who served were paid a lower wage. After President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, Governor John Andrews of Massachusetts authorized the formation of the first military unit in the north for "persons of African descent."

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, a white soldier selected as a young man of "military experience, of firm anti-slavery principles," by the Governor, led the 54th Regiment with particular honor. Colonel Shaw and 50% of his regiment died in the war, many at Andersonville. More than thirteen members of the Hazard family (sometimes spelled Hazzard) served in the 54th and 55th Regiments. These men fought with honor and without pay, rather than accept laborers' wages until the government agreed at a later date that full pay was due them.

Governor Andrews was to say: "A nobler corps ne'er tread the soil of Massachusetts."

According to Mayor Mazzarella, "Carter Park, Leominster, and its adjacent burial ground are rare examples of sacred historical ground surviving
Rededication Continued.
today and dating back to before the Revolutionary period. Since the land was granted in 1754, the location has born witness to a remarkable series of events that trace the very history of the United States.”

Carter Park, a grant from Oliver Carter for use as a training field, became the site in 1769 from which citizens of Leominster marched to the French and Indian War. Subsequently, it was the site of mustering for the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. It will become the site of Veterans Project 2000 of a memorial brick walkway containing more than 7,000 individual custom bricks honoring veterans.

Food For Thought

Quotes From Tony Hiss, author of Experience of Place, and other books, journalist, lecturer and friend.

“Benton MacKaye thought: ...that to stay healthy, all people, whatever their circumstances, need regular and ready access to at least three kinds of surroundings. Cities and towns, MacKaye said, strengthen our ties with each other and with the world of ideas; wild places reawaken in us our sense of kinship with the rest of creation; and farmland reminds us that ten thousand years ago, at the dawn of civilization, humanity entered into a lasting partnership with the life forces of the planet. MacKaye thought that once these relationships had been secured in our lives, each of us would have a better chance to start thinking, together with other people, about the issues that affect us all, such as how to keep the planet stable enough so it can continue to sustain life.

“The old buy-it-up and set-it-aside national parks solution is irrelevant to this new situation because humanized landscapes present a separate kind of complexity...Fifty years ago, just after World War II, the English set up their own national park system as a way of celebrating the peace, and they modeled it on the Wordsworthian or “green-line,” approach. This means calling a park into being by taking a map and drawing a green line around the outermost limits of a special place. It’s an act both imaginary and real – imaginary, because as far as ownership is concerned it’s exactly as it was, both inside and out; and real, because now the place has public standing.”

More New Projects & Celebrations

Architecture
On the next page there is mention of the Reach Fitchburg project supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and involving five (continued on major Fitchburg institutions in a history-gathering map and guide effort for the City of Fitchburg. One of the completed guide is the “Architecture of Henry M. Francis,” a Lunenburg native who attended Lawrence Academy, served as an apprentice in the Framingham architectural firm of Alexander R. Estey. He opened his own architectural firm in Fitchburg in 1868. Francis’ architectural firm left a legacy of public buildings and several hundred residences. You may have an H. M. Francis building in your town, or an interest in area architecture that could be the beginning of a regional tour. The Fitchburg guide is a model, one which you might like to emulate in your town. Call FWHHA for suggestions about how you might begin a local project of this nature.

Townsend Historical Society
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the purchase of the Reed Homestead, the Townsend Historical Society has embarked on an ambitious program to repair the Harbor Church. The Church in Townsend Harbor is one of five properties owned and maintained by the Society. The Society offers workshops and hands-on learning experiences for children in Townsend and neighboring towns.
Activities August Through September

Children's Hands-On Art Museum 19 Sanderson Road, Littleton at Veryfine. Tues-Sat. 10am-4:30pm and Sundays 12-4:00 Four art-focused interactive exhibits designed for ages 3-7. Children paint, sculpt, build, imagine and create. Special events 3rd Friday of month. August sample; drawing ages 5-8; sand painting ages 3-5; structure ages 3-5, paper mâché ages 4+, printing ages 3-5 Call for details 978-952-2555.


Fitchburg Art Museum 63rd Regional Exhibition of Art and Craft New England/New Talent, free to museum members and non-members from the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area Towns including the five New Hampshire towns of Greenville, Hollis, Mason, Nashua and New Ipswich. The Boston Globe has called the FAM a "gem of an art museum." Raving about the current exhibit, the Globe described the museum as one with "its priorities straight." Classes for adults and children. 978-345-4207.

Fitchburg State College Ongoing & Future. To promote cultural tourism and civic pride: "Reach Fitchburg" map guides for self-guided walking tours sponsored by the Mass. Cultural Council. Completed: "Historic Downtown," detailing the richness of the Main Street's National Historic District; "The Architecture of Henry M. Francis," the look of Fitchburg's architecture for its emerging middle class during the late 1800s. Soon to be completed: "The Neighborhoods," an exploration of the ethnic neighborhoods; and "Arts, Culture and Recreation," about the city's active cultural institutions and recreational areas. Finally, "The Traveling Exhibit," which will contain information from each of the guides and travel from partner to partner and other institutions. (Partners are: Fitchburg Art Museum, Fitchburg By Design, Fitchburg Historical Society, and Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg Economic Dev. Comm.) To obtain copies 978-343-3836 or Web site www.inergy.com\fsc.


North Bridge Visitor Center, Minute Man Visitor Center and Hartwell Tavern, Concord and Lincoln Let a Park Ranger bring history to life and bring you back to America's past at Park Sites. Trail walks, tours, multi-media programs, bicycle programs, house tours. Call Park Headquarters for specifics: 978-369-6993, Extension 22. Minute Man Visitor Center Open Daily 9am-5pm. North Bridge Visitor Center Open Daily 9am-5pm (through November.) The Wayside Open Daily 10am-5pm. Hartwell Tavern Open Daily 10am-5pm (through September.)

Shirley Historical Society Remembering Old Friends at Gray's home, 5 Brown Road, 7:00 pm September 11.

Wachusett Meadow and Wildlife Sanctuary Trails, Princeton are open dawn to dusk, admission free to Audubon members, fee for all others. Eleven miles of nature trails including a 1300 foot hilltop view. Programs include Full Moon Night Walks, hawk watches, canoe trips, an introduction to coyotes, Summer Wonder Walks for adults and children and more. Phone 978-464-2712 for details.
Membership is the best way to Participate in the Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area

If you are not yet a member, or you would like to give a gift membership or a donation, you may send us this form:

I would like to become a member:

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
Telephone _________________________

Please send 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

Commemorative Gifts

I/We hereby contribute to Freedom's Way Heritage Association as gift of $__________________________

Purpose of gift: ____________________________

Make checks payable to Freedom's Way Heritage Association, 43 Buena Vista St., Devens MA 01433

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