



## Restoring the Past Envisioning the Future

- ◆ Old Town Meeting House
- ◆ Digital Archives
- ◆ Keen Hall Restoration
- ◆ Community Center

Keen Hall retaining wall reconstruction 2020

### **GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND DIGITAL ARCHIVES**

We have some exciting news to share about progress being made this Summer. First, is that we are fortunate to receive **two new grants!** The **Davis Family Foundation** awarded us 15,000. for beginning work on the floors and underpinning of the garage end of the building, and closing up the walls of the old garage which will someday become a multi-purpose gathering and exhibit space. Contractors are being interviewed for that work as we write with the hope of having it done before Fall.

The second grant is from the **Maine Humanities Council** which will support continued work scanning and digitizing our archive collection, presently located in the Town Election Hall Annex. The work was begun last year by Frances Walker, two volunteer students from Mt. View H.S., and college student Jenny Doyle. Marie Overlock, sister of Lorraine Overlock is going through our files, scanning pictures and documents, and organizing them. This is a big step in making our materials useful for research and education.

*Tax deductible donations in any amount help support this unique and important project and assist in leveraging foundation grants that are making the restoration possible. Mail contributions to the address below or donate on-line through our web site. Meetings are held the at 6:30pm the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Town Office Annex, or on Zoom.*

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

We welcome to our Board two new highly-qualified members: **Tyler Hadinyak** and **Wilson Hess**. Tyler is a young attorney working in Portland who grew up in Freedom now living in Sydney. He replaces his grandmother, long-time supporter Sally Ann Hadinyak who passed away last year. Wilson Hess, who will be voted on at the August meeting, is a forty-odd year Freedom resident who has about that length of experience in higher education administration. He currently serves as Chairman of the Maine State Board of Education. His wife, Ellie is Freedom's current R.S.U. #3 Board Representative and Vice-Chair of the Board. Both new members bring valuable professional experience and a commitment to FCHS goals.

## **KEEN HALL RESTORATION**

Excavator Brandon Sutor and Concrete Contractor Mark Raven are hard at work replacing the old retaining wall along the front of the building on Main Street. The steep grade and proximity to the street make the work very challenging. A large amount of dirt had to be excavated before the new wall could be poured. The old concrete steps were unearthed and saved and the new wall will connect with them. A system of stairs from Main Street up to the front porch will be replicated, as seen in old pictures. Contractor and volunteer building consultant Glen Couturier of Halldale Builders, is overseeing all aspects of the restoration. A grant proposal to the Maine Community Foundation's Belvedere Fund hopefully will fund continuing work on window replacement and clapboard repair. Challenging preservation work, a phase at a time, depends on foundation grants and the generous support of donors like you.

## **RECENT ACQUISITIONS**

As FCHS becomes more visible in the greater Western Waldo County community, citizens discover papers, photos and items of interest to the broader community. Donations have been received from the Shirley Bessey (F.A. '41) Estate on Knox Ridge. Mike Caron donated a poster he found in a Searsport Flea Market advertising a 1902 Baseball game between Freedom Academy and Coburn Classical Institute in Waterville. It is fascinating to read the penciled class notes on the back of the poster! Paper must have been scarce 118 years ago! Your donations of significant items to our collection are appreciated.



### **Board of Directors**

Myrick Cross, Pres., Viola Greeley, Pres. Emeritus, Frances Walker, V.P., Anne Marie Anderson, Sec., Kate Flynn, Treas., Tyler Hadinyak, Paul Flynn, Beth Owens-Mishou, [Wilson Hess]

*\*Echo was the name of Freedom Academy's Yearbook for 125 years.*

Forms for new concrete retaining wall