

Franklin NH Historical Society News

September 2017

Summer is over, school children have returned to their classes, and the next thing on the New England agenda is the brilliant foliage for which the area is famous. Prior to the next stage (about which few but avid skiers wish to think) more maintenance work (remedying peeling paint, paring the back garden down from its current unruly state, and additional removal of damaging vinyl siding) will be accomplished on the Society's historic Webster/Tay building. As Labor Day looms, the Society would like to remind those who did not get a chance to visit during regular "open Sundays" since May, that the museum at Webster Place will be open 10 am to 2 pm all three days (Saturday, Sunday, and Monday) during the holiday weekend. After which, the museum will only be open only by appointment until May of 2018. Arrangements to visit after closing can be made by calling Leigh Webb at 934-8222 or by making inquiries through the Society's website (click on "Contact") at franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org. September also offers the Society's regular monthly meeting and on Thursday, September 7th, at 7 pm the presentation will be Dan Darling's Heartstrings video of "Castle in the Clouds: the Historic Lucknow Estate". Here is your chance to explore this wonderful NH landmark from the comfort of a Society meeting room chair (cushions provided by multiple donors over the years). Directions to the Society are posted on the website. Light refreshments will be offered at the conclusion of the film and before the regular business meeting, which all are encouraged to attend. The event is free and open to all.

Once again the previous month has yielded a cornucopia of gifts from multiple generous donors adding to bounty to our burgeoning collections. The most sincere thank you's are extended to the following: the NH Historical Society, which, through Sarah Galligan, Library Director of the organization, offered us a large 1858 map of Merrimack County, as the one the Franklin Society had was irreparably damaged at the bottom, and the NHHS had duplicates; Judith Poblentz Perreault, her husband Lloyd, and Rita Norander for delivering to the Society four business ledgers from Daniel W. Welton's meat market from 1881-1890 (located on the corner of Bow and Central Streets) with all entries written in Mr. Welton's hand; Franklin Fire Chief Kevin LaChappelle for two vintage FFD helmets; "Smitty" of Denny Ordway's Bow Street Garage who donated a connecting pin from the old Republican Bridge (many of these pins were salvaged when the bridge was demolished in 1931, to be made into souvenir lamps, with a suitable label connoting the pin's origin); Porter Young, for two original 16mm films of a Sulloway Mill employee outing and 1928 activities in Odell Park (the Society would like to transfer these to a digital medium to be screened at a future meeting) and a tri-fold display of the history of the Outing Club (now on exhibit); Joan Haney for multiple gifts, including decorative tiles featuring the state bird and flower, and one honoring the Webster Birthplace, as well as a c. 1905 Victorian condiment holder, penny postcards (unused, but then the rate has gone up significantly...), reproduction Victorian art cards, miscellaneous postally used stamps, a NH book, and her own WWII ration book; David Palfrey (our former Mayor) a Colby Dairy milk bottle; Lori St. Jacques, two framed maps of Franklin from 1892 and 1956 (currently hanging on the wall at the top of the stairs); David and Nancy Waldo, for a brass Firefighter's grave marker, which once was placed on the resting place of Charles Dodge (and removed for fear of theft or vandalism) who lost his life responding to a false alarm in 1928; and Sue Barton and Rue 21, for two more male mannequins, on which will be displayed the FFD dress uniform and Firefighter's Association vest of Capt. Arthur St. Jacques, in a continuing quest to honor all those who have served in the FFD to protect lives and property in Franklin. These fabulous additions to new and potential exhibits are now, and will be forever, treasured by the Society.

Please consider not just visiting during Labor Day weekend, but joining the Society to help preserve the heritage and history of Franklin, a worthy endeavor. Moving forward into the future is only possible by understanding and appreciating what has come before.

[This month's image, from a gift of Andy Nadeau of a box from the Franklin Firefighter's Museum containing multiple photos and Franklin scrapbooks, is of a rare shot of the Grevior Furniture store's second location, c. 1948. The first location was on Franklin Street, under the Free Baptist Church in the early 1930's]

