

Franklin Historical Society

June 2021

The email election was unanimously (there were no "nay" votes) in favor of accepting the Board's recommended slate, with Dennis Swett initiating the motion, and Syl Swett seconding the motion.

The following officers and directors were voted in to serve for the 2021-2022 season:

President	Leigh A. Webb	
Vice President	Linda Pauwels	
Treasurer	Dan Darling	
Recording Secretary	Karen Darling	
Co-recording Secretary	Dan Cerat	
Curator	Annette Andreozzi	
Asst. Curator	Annette Cain	
Director	Glenn Morrill	Term ending 2024
Director	Karen Grzelak	Term ending 2024
Director	Sandra Burney	Filling term for Steve Foley, ending 2022

Thank you to those willing to serve, and to all members who responded with their votes.

As the pandemic fades, and precautionary measures ease, the Society gets closer to having meetings at Webster Place, but for safety's sake, is still not quite there yet. The tentative events schedule is therefore holding true: no June meeting (and we were not gathering in July anyway, due to being so close to the 4th), having an *outdoor* business meeting in August, and if all goes well, a "welcome back" meeting inside our building in September, with a guest speaker.

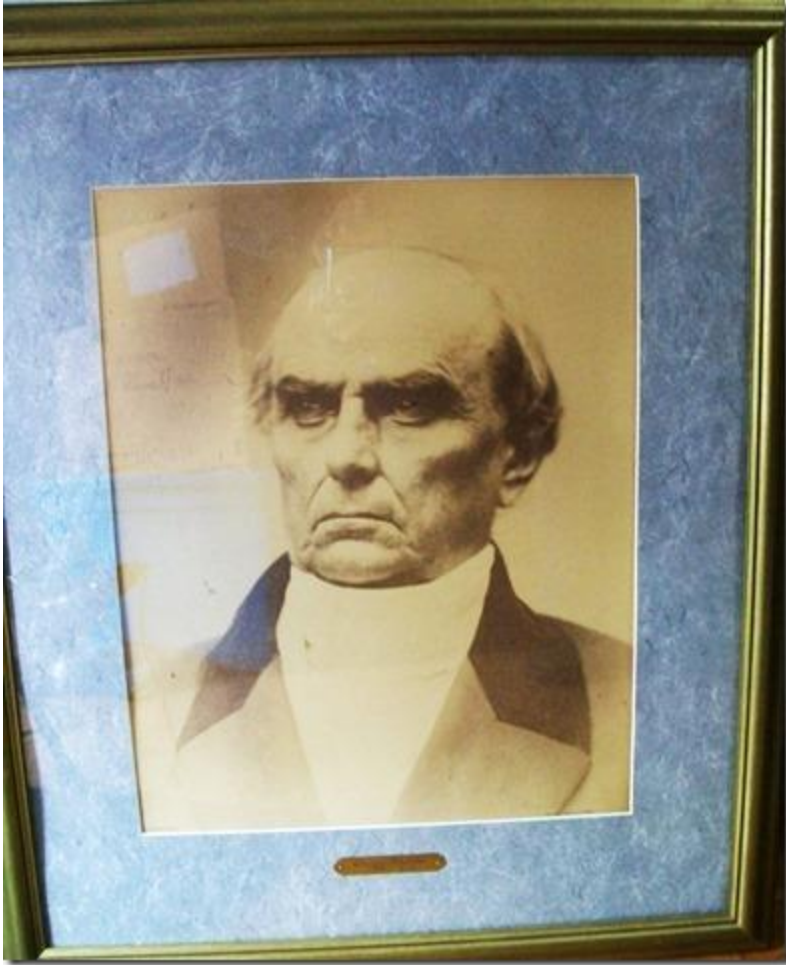
Volunteerism is the backbone of any non-profit, so whenever a call goes out for help, those who respond deserve recognition and copious thanks. Such was the case for "Garden Clean-up Day" organized by Annette Andreozzi. Not only did members appear, but family members as well, including non-members who simply wanted to participate as garden lovers. The Society is exceedingly thankful for the combined efforts of Frank Genus and his four children Olivia, Mary, Frank and Tony, family friend Randy Kovach, the Zink family (Interim Mayor) Olivia, her daughter Ellie, and mother Kathy, and Karen Darling with two of her youth group, Aila Lumsden and Roxy Morrison. The gardens around the Webster/Tay were weeded, pruned, last year's leaves and debris removed, and are now in a condition to warmly welcome visitors.

Which blends beautifully into a reminder to all that the **Annual Plant Sale** is slated for **Sunday, June 6th** (next Sunday!), rain or (hopefully) shine. You can come to drop off plants for sale, help out, buy plants, or just socialize! For safety sake, we are requiring that Covid protocols be observed, even though the event will be outside on the front lawn and on the front porch. All volunteers involved in the sale will have masks, gloves if requested, and have access to water and snacks. Information on plants available is listed on the Society website and Facebook page. It is first come/first served if you did not pre-order, so come early for best selection. This year there is a wide range of indoor plants to purchase as well, along with garden tools, hand implements, yard decorations, sprinklers, pots and more!

A

n amazing array of donations has descended upon our Society recently, with more promised in the near future. One item was actually stuck in our back door (see below) that was not only unexpected, but a treasure from a "best friend" of the Society (without whose assistance our presence in the Webster/Tay building would not have been possible).

As a reminder, **the Society is now open every Saturday through Labor Day, 10 am to 2 pm.** Only groups of four or less will be allowed to tour per docent, for safety and reasons of security.



Item left in the door of the back porch

The Society profusely thanks the following donors for adding incalculably to our collections: **Alex Ray** (without whose offer of a generous 100 year lease on our building, the Society would still be without a home), who dropped off at our back door a framed 25 x 30 portrait photograph of Daniel Webster, which came to him through the Crowley family, and is now hanging in the Webster kitchen; and **Joel and Sara Doherty**, for an archive of material related to the Griffin Hacksaw Mill, including an aerial photo of the mill (with no date, but possibly c. 1940), a 4 x 6 photo of the original mill, a framed 25 x 30 portrait photo of Parker C. Hancock (Joel's great grandfather, and brother-in-law and business partner of G. W. Griffin, and for whom the Parker C. Hancock School was named. The school was built in 1889 due to Parker's efforts, and suffered a destructive fire in 1974, forcing its demolition), several ledgers from the mill (William A. Doherty ran the mill for many years, and Joel himself worked there as well), a Griffin logo stamp, Griffin rug machine, coping saw and hacksaw blades in boxes, a loop end coping saw, an 8" hack saw, and three-ring binders with color photos of employees from the final years, Franklin postcards and photos, and news clippings. WOW.



Parker Cross Hancock from Joel and Sara Doherty

Update on the Library's loan of Jonas B. Aiken journals and papers: Upon perusal of the July-September 1857 diary, several passages referred to Helen Shaw, a woman with whom Jonas spent time, and who sued him for breach of promise later that same year, and settled for a substantial sum of money (as evidenced by a legal document in the Society's archives)! And speaking of the library, Sandra Burney, now on the Society's board and also a Library Trustee, remembered that the Society was looking for a bike rack to welcome bicyclists from the Rail Trail. When the subject came up that the Library was removing their bike rack, Sandra volunteered a new home for it, and Rob Sargent contacted the Society. It now resides on our front lawn. Thank you Sandra, Rob, and the Library Trustees!



Additional update: After a second trip to the Spaulding Academy, a complete list of available archives has now been given to Sandy Marshall at Spaulding, so that a surviving relative may contact her about any records that might still exist from the NH Home for Orphans (absorbed by Spaulding Youth c. 1958). The files are in storage at Spaulding, in a locked space, kept in file cabinets and index card files. Although nothing was found regarding the first residents (1871 to about 1894), most records from past that time appeared to be intact. The Society retained a copy of the inventory, in order to facilitate the handling of future inquiries.

REMINDER: This is the last chance to renew your dues before the roster is printed and distributed with the names of all current and paid members. The Society never wants to lose a member. Please consider getting your payment to the Society as soon as this note is received. Thank you.

Individual Membership - (\$10 Annually)

Family Membership - (\$20 Annually)

Business or Professional Membership - (\$30 Annually)

Student membership - (\$1 Annually)

Individual Life Membership - (\$125 One Time Payment)

Mail check, made out to "The Franklin Historical Society", to

Franklin Historical Society

P.O. Box 43

Franklin, New Hampshire 03235

May we all remember and pay tribute this Memorial Day, to those who served and sacrificed. The liberties and freedom we enjoy came at enormous cost, lest we ever forget.