

# Franklin Historical Society

## October 2022

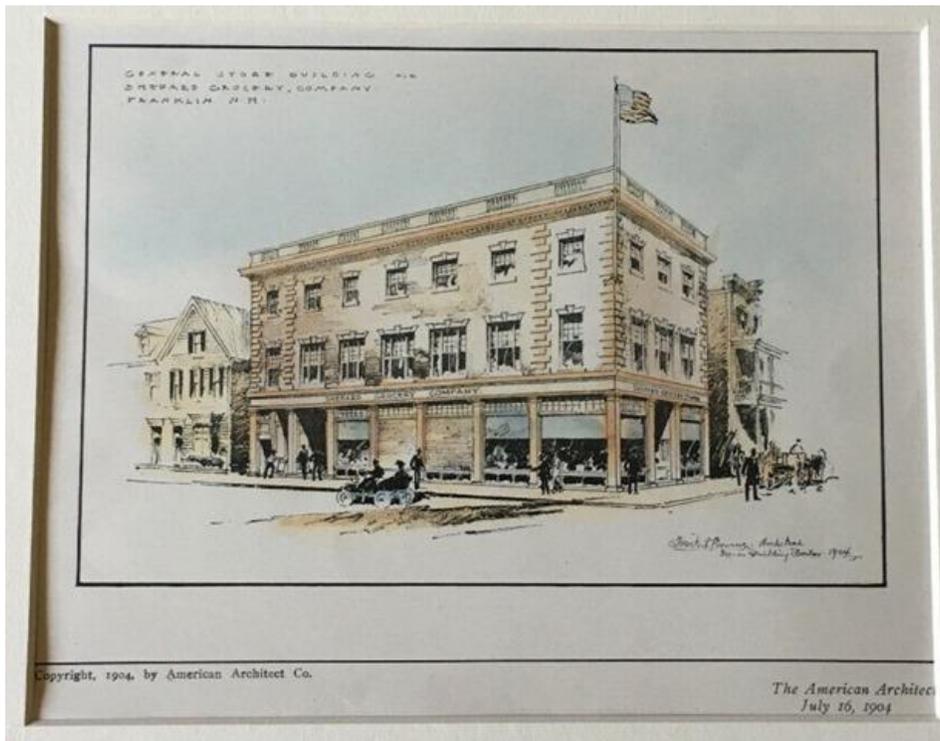
Lately there have been a few subtle reminders that fall is here, such as a slight chill in the air, a few leaves floating earthward, with others starting to turn while still clinging to their attachments. To celebrate the change of season, the Society will offer a slide show (the old fashioned way, with a slide projector—if it works, otherwise the “new fashioned” way, with images scanned and projected with a computer) of Jeannette Morency’s foliage pictures. There will be an added bonus: Jeannette’s photos of Franklin from 1966, providing a trip down memory lane for many. **The presentation will begin at 7 pm, Thursday October 6th, in the Society’s Webster Place building.**

Just this past week the Society hosted a “walking tour” of the downtown area for the Grappone Leadership Group, headed by Amanda Osmer. Keeping it light but informative, the group was appreciative of the information, learning of the importance of the rivers to not only Franklin’s past, but its future.

These past few weeks have been a banner month for material donations, so much of this newsletter will include more photos than usual to highlight the treasures recently procured and ask for help in fleshing out the backstory which makes these articles so valuable in being tangible and educational pieces of the past. The Society’s expression of gratitude to these donors and their gifts can never really be enough, but “thank yous” go to the following:

to **Sheila Rainford**, who, as part of her talk on the Webster Lake Association, donated a map of the Lake with addresses for all the lots, a Xerox of the 1902 Granite Monthly issue featuring “A Day on Webster Lake” and a copy of the NH State Constitution; to **Linda Pauwels** for her usual contribution of

obituaries and interesting newspaper articles; to **Frank Genus** who has been surfing the web for pieces of Franklin’s history for sale donated some absolute gems—a colorized 1904 architect’s drawing of the new Shepard Building at the corner of Central and Franklin Streets (the wooden structure suffered a fire early that year, and was subsequently moved to Memorial Street) with a bizarre notation by “Frank A. Bourne Architect Mason Temple, Boston” who had nothing to do with either building (!),



a 1904 Odd Fellows booklet, a 1948 Franklin Chamber of Commerce folder, and photos of George W. Nesmith, Walter Aiken, and three other photos (below) which could be Aiken family members or ? (any thoughts would be most welcome).



Wouldn't it be wonderful if the older gentleman was Boston John Clark? There sure seems to be a resemblance, but Boston John never learned to read, and he was said to have been a very large man with incredible strength. It also is unlikely to be Judge Nesmith, as he had a club foot and both feet of this gentleman's appear to be normal. All of the likenesses were captured by the Concord, NH photography studios of Kimball or Bailey.



More thanks go to **Judy Bibbins of the Franklin Planning and Zoning Departments** for copies of 1964 and 1973 aerial photos of Franklin; to **Bill Gardyne of the Derby, VT Historical Society** who mailed a small box to the Society labeled latch needles from the Franklin Needle Company, but contained small rivets. Anyone know to what use these rivets were put? Any latch needle using one would be much larger than any on record with the Society.

Finally, to **Steve Johnson**, an extra special thank you for donating a railroad conductors ticket punch (in its original box), obviously much used as the nickel plating has been seriously eroded, manufactured here in Franklin by Jonas Aiken, with an original diamond shaped die, making it possibly one of the first made in 1877.



Any thoughts to illuminate questions raised by the above items or photos may be submitted by simply responding to this newsletter by email. Suggestions will be included in the next business meeting following the slideshow on Thursday night. Until then, stay safe, take care, and be caring.