

Franklin Historical Society

January 2023



The winter has begun, but looks and feels more like the end of autumn. After some light snowfall, most of what accumulated has been washed away by rain, and the New Year may start with more liquid precipitation accompanied by temperatures in the 50's. The savvy New Englander knows that the inevitable is only being postponed, and that storms like the one that hit the lower states and New York can still be in the future. Don't put away the shovels and snowblowers just yet...

It was the snow forecast on the night of the Holiday Potluck dinner that may have been the reason (and was, for at least one person), along with feeling less than 100% (one family), or just having forgotten the date, that only around twenty five souls sated themselves on a wide selection of dinner choices and a plethora of turkey. A special thank you has to go to those who helped with the dishes afterward, including **Yvonne Weglarz, Sally Bussiere, Elizabeth Jewell, and Belinda Aylward**. The Society also can never thank **Glenn Morrill** too much for arranging for the hall, carving the turkeys (expertly cooked by **Joya Clark and Annette Andreozzi**), and supervising the clean-up. No one went away hungry or socially deprived, as conversations and reminiscing happened at every table before and after the comestibles were consumed. News: The Society's building is subject to frequent visits to assure that all is in order. One of these visits uncovered a heating problem that Easterseals responded to quickly, as the core buildings as well as the Webster/Tay were at risk. Since then, there has been no sign of any absence of heat. All of the

Society's thermostats are set at a tolerable level above freezing, and are checked regularly.

The 1890 maps of Webster Lake, printed from the original plate used by the newspaper on that date, have been printed and are available for only \$10! The image below is the proof without the legend added to the bottom, which details the owners and businesses which were accurate to the time.



Also available are new copies of “Echoes from the Mills” at \$15 each. Both the book and map, along with all other Society merchandise, can be purchased by making arrangements with president Leigh Webb at (603) 934-8222.

For those interested, find attached a PDF file distributed by Easterseals recently to the city of Franklin providing an overview of their projected use of the old Orphans Home buildings as a Veteran’s Campus. The Society continues to offer its services in anyway that Easterseals may find beneficial, either now or in the future.

Lastly in News, after considerable prodding on the part of the Society for the NH Historical Society to officially recognize a connection between Herrick Aiken and the idea of the Cog Railway (it was NOT all Sylvester Marsh’s concept), a movement is finally afoot to research this link by D.B. Garvin and Elizabeth Dubrulle of the NHHS. Fingers crossed that enough evidence is found by them (our Society already believes there is a sufficient amount, in its archives alone, to at least recognize the *possibility*) that Herrick is finally given his proper credit.

Curator’s Corner: Some members of the Society are constantly on the lookout for interesting material from sources normally outside of the Society’s immediate sphere. **Kathy Fuller** is one, and recently found a modern reprint of a Christmas classic Victorian era pamphlet “All About Santa Clause” (a page of which is replicated above) at the Clothes Closet store, along with a postcard of the origin of the Merrimack River. **Rita Norander** is another who constantly plies other sources and came up with a 9 inch Republican Bridge trunnel (connecting pin) with a postcard of the bridge circa 1910, donated by

Claire Wallace. Rosemary Mellon found a Weirs Times featuring an article on Elizabeth Akers who wrote the poem “Rock me to sleep, Mother” to add to the Society’s collections. **Annette Cain** came across obituaries and tributes for Albert Garneau (see newspaper photo below), and Frank and Helen Poblentz, from whom the Society has an extensive collection of negatives for FHS classes from the 1950’s into the 1970’s.



Garneau family photo

Albert Garneau and his son Joseph hitch up the family dog, Timber, in this family photo.

In the true Christmas spirit, **Tracy Wood** donated three hand-made woolen ornaments that were on the tree her family won at the Opera House Festival of Trees this year. The wool was found in a closet by a member of the Lemire/Montambeault family to craft the unique tree decorations. What makes these particularly special is that all the material came from the Stevens Mill, and will now not just benefit the Wood family every December, but the Society’s collections all year long with the tale perpetuated forever. A most heartfelt “thank you” goes to all our thoughtful and generous seeker/donors.



The three ornaments now part of the Society's permanent collections and memories.

As the time ticks down to January first and the welcoming of another year, the Society reminds all to stay safe, be mindful of your health, and to keep the holiday spirit burning brightly throughout *every* day of the coming twelve months. Caring for one another can be contagious, and is a wonderful habit to cultivate in yourself and in others.

Happy New Year!