

## **Franklin Historical Society - May 2023**

May, with its promise of warmer temperatures as a gateway to summer, brings the beginning of the New England planting season and for the Historical Society, several opportunities to mingle and remember. The month starts with the Society's regular meeting and its speaker Randy Kovach, Site Manager for the Daniel Webster Birthplace State Park, discussing his plans for making the site more attractive, informative, and inviting to visitors. **"Plans for the Webster Birthplace" starts at 7 pm, on Thursday May 4th at Webster Place** (21 Holy Cross Rd.). Please park completely off the pavement of Holy Cross Road or in the paved parking areas around the Society's building. Light refreshments are always provided after the presentation, and to entice attendees to remain for the short, but always informative, business meeting following. The program and meeting is open to all, at no charge.

May is also the month which includes **Community Day, Saturday the 13th, at Odell Park**. The Society will once again have a presence, offering memberships, merchandise, and information on the city's storied past. Volunteers are needed to fill time slots from 10 am to 2 pm. Everything will be set up under the "pop top" in advance, and chairs will be provided. Volunteers are needed simply to interact with the public and sell the items offered (a price list is provided).

**Memorial Day, Monday the 29th**, will be recognized in a very special way with a ceremony at the Society officially opening the Martin Memorial Exhibit in the Society's room dedicated to all those from Franklin who have served their country in uniform. The ceremony will be held outside (weather permitting), beginning at 11 am, before opening the building to family, guests, and visitors to view the display. Lisa Martin is providing refreshments, and will be available to answer questions about the three brothers being honored (her two uncles, Roger and Ray, and her father Neal). Admission to the museum is always free.



*Photo by Annette*

April was the advent of spring and the appearance of daffodils, of which there was no better example than the water pipe garden across from Franklin High School. Tended with loving care every year since its inception by Annette Andreozzi, it has flourished in bringing attention to a lesser known landmark of Franklin. The pipe above the garden, long since abandoned, was once the source of the water filling the wagons and trucks that were used to control the dust of the city's main roads when they were dirt, before being paved in the 20th century. A contributor years ago of the daffodils filling the garden was Norma Bushman, for whom there is a thought to name the garden in memoriam.

Donations to the Society's collections continue unabated, as an example, and encouragement, for more to follow. This month's list includes, with sincere thanks, the following:

**Lilly Machos** for a paper copy of a photo by a very young George LaBonte of JFK visiting the Franklin Opera house during his campaign in 1960, and a list of 2002 property assessments; **Chris Lewis** for a copy of Jim Garvin's 2009 "Report on the Log Cabin House" (the oldest in Franklin, since deconstructed unfortunately and lost) and a note pad from Piper Printing when the business was still in Franklin; **Kathy Fuller** for photos from **Priscilla Toshack** (most of which were of 1930's Andover High School students, now in the hands of the Andover Historical Society) and 1927 (again of Andover) and 1936 floods, political pin-back buttons, research on the life of Fay Mahoney, and Walter and James Aiken, information on the Abenaki, a set of WWII vintage phonograph records of Irving Berlin's "This is the Army", a 1973 booklet on the NH Senate, and a pair of vintage pantaloons (with thanks to the Clothes Closet Thrift Shop); **Rita Norander** paper copies of the logging industry's use of the Pemigewasset River more than 100 years ago; **Patricia Miller (mailed from Virginia)** of a pristine copy of the c. 1900 souvenir booklet of photos of Franklin; **Linda Pauwels** for her usual packet of newspaper articles and obituaries pertaining to Franklin, photos of Carl and Annie Hoessler with the



*Photos from what is believed to be the Hoessler's Wedding Anniversary party in 1944. At first visual inspection the hall was thought to be the Odd Fellows meeting room, but the bead board at the edge of the stage does not match that venue, and the window configurations are not consistent. It is definitely not the Franklin opera house, the Odell opera house (Webster Inn), or the Christian Church (Masons) basement. So where was this held?*

genealogy of the Hoessler family, and Linda's tiara and news articles from her being crowned the BPW's 1961 Calendar Girl; and **Joel Doherty (from Burgess Doherty)** a vintage quart bottle from Giles Dairy. There has also been a promise of Webster memorabilia from Sister Diane Dupere of the sisters of Holy Cross, as soon as delivery details can be arranged.

A subject of some speculation lately has been the name of the artist responsible for the murals painted for Favorites, that were recently rescued from the Soda Shoppe. After following up on a couple of leads that did not pan out, the best suggestion yet was Betty Jean Bassett, who was very active as an artist in the late 1960's, the time in which the murals were created. An example of her work is the very large painting (4 by 8 feet) of the Franklin Public Library done in 1967, that now hangs in the main hallway of the Society's building. The search to confirm continues...

Reminder that the Society will be open to the public *every Saturday* beginning May 27th through Labor Day weekend, from 10 am to 2 pm. Members wishing to be docents to conduct museum tours, can just show up any Saturday to study the "script", so that they may be fully conversant on what the museum has to offer.