

Franklin NH Historical Society Newsletter – October 2023

Cooler temperatures, occasional rain, leaves turning, yet forecasted days with summer like heat. One might wonder what with all the inconsistency of weather we have had, what the winter will bring soon enough. The only sure thing on which the Society can depend is an October meeting with the topic **“Gone! or soon will be”**, a nostalgic slideshow comprised of a look into the past of buildings once proudly representing the divergent nature of Franklin’s businesses and housing, now just memories. Some destined for the wrecking crew’s relentless work still remain, but not for much longer. The program will begin at **7 pm, Thursday October 5th, at the Society’s museum, 21 Holy Cross Road, Webster Place**. Refreshments will be provided after the presentation and prior to the regular business/board meeting, to which all attendees are cordially invited. All are welcome to participate in the program, and there is never an admission fee.

Last month’s meeting Society member and presenter **Rob Sargent** offered a fascinating reveal of just some (to be continued!) of the Franklin Public Library’s historic treasures. The objects spawned lively discussion and even some spontaneous laughter, much to the enjoyment of those present. Many of the objects were donated by Rob, with eternal gratitude, to the Society. These items included: nine scrapbooks from the Franklin High School from 1951-52, ’70-71, and ’75-82, (already delighting one alum who visited recently, who found an article mentioning her!); a collection of Woman’s Club yearbooks of various years from 1899-1982, a 1904 dues notebook, and some vintage photos of prominent early members; a Franklin High School Class of 1937 25th reunion commemorative ceramic ashtray, with a transfer image of the old high school; a commencement program from the Class of 1910; a 1991 20 x 30 color photo of snow sculptures (as part of the Winter Carnival) in front of the high school with Bryan Burrows identified as one of the students pictured; two 1989 football player photos; a framed 11 x 14 color group photo of FHS Class of 1983; and a team photo/plaque of the 1989 field hockey championship team; the Morrill coat-of-arms from Duncan Morrill; a framed 1941 panoramic photo of the Sulloway Mills employees’ summer outing; another framed photo of the 1945 Knights of Columbus 25th anniversary dinner in the opera house of the Webster Inn (see below-if you look closely, the balcony wooden chair sets match the four-set in the Society’s meeting room!) with Henry Proulx at the VIP table; and finally, a 12 x 36 wooden sign (also see below) advertising the Young’s Hotel and Garage (from the WWI years, when automobiles replaced horses and carriages, and livery stables became garages). The Society is exceedingly grateful to Director Sargent for these generous additions to its ever-growing collections.



STOP AT
YOUNG'S HOTEL AND GARAGE
FRANKLIN FALLS, N. H.

Front

Young's Hotel
Clinton E. Davidson, Prop.
5 Bals.
Franklin
N. H.

Back

Segueing to the month's other generous donors, thanks are extended to those listed below for their important and acknowledged contributions to the Society's archives.

To **Betsy Davison**, for the book "Discovering South America" signed by Robert M. Leach!

To **Kathleen Addressi**, for Stackpole's 6 volume set of "The History of New Hampshire" and an original copy of Wallace Nutting's "New Hampshire Beautiful", which has since been passed onto the Peabody Place library for the enjoyment of the residents in this beautiful new facility.

To **Janet Jurta**, for her 2013 proclamation honoring her retirement from many years of teaching, class photos from St. Mary's school, and a snapshot of Pete Sylvestre in his market.

To **Chris Lewis** for a 1983 FSB calendar, a 2008 Casey Family Services (sorely missed when they left Franklin) calendar and carry bag; multiple enlargements from some of O.A. Towne's 19th century glass negatives (houses, people, and pets), ledgers documenting the Franklin-Tilton-Northfield Scholarship, a Ripple Inc. checkbook, a gasoline/kerosene iron (could you imagine?) from Wayne E. Van Gordon, the FHS Class of 1949 30th reunion address book, a Journal-Transcript unused receipt booklet, and some FSB's "Save a dime a day" cards (when a dime could actually buy something!).

To **Chip Dodge**, for sending the Society his father's recent obituary and bio. Lewis Dodge and his siblings spent considerable time in the Home for Orphans, and had his picture taken right outside of the Society's building. Our most sincere condolences go out to Chip for his loss.

To **Carolyn Malone (of Greensboro, NC)** for an 1861 pamphlet by Jonas Aiken "The Art of Knitting".

To **Annette Cain** for a FPD shoulder patch from Chief Doug Boyd.

And to **Linda Pauwels**, for her monthly contribution of obits and newspaper article, along with a copy of the Franklin Regional Hospital's Auxiliary's cookbook.
So much for which to be thankful.

September was also the month featuring Labor Day, celebrated by the Society with an Open House all weekend long. Not that many visitors came by, but those who did left knowing, and appreciating, more than when they arrived. If it were all about numbers, the Society would rethink its "open hours". But luckily, it is more about the impact our displays and docents knowledge can have on a visitor's outlook and knowledge. If only one appreciative member of the public, from Franklin or from out of the area, walks (or drives, or bicycles) away, enriched by the short time they spent perusing and listening, then the Society's mission is that much further advanced, and the time well spent.

The Society would also like to extends its sincere thanks to Ron Collins, who stopped by on several occasions with his restored Model T, adding a wonderful outside attraction to those the Society offered inside.