

Franklin NH Historical Society News

September 2018

September. Labor Day, the traditional end to summer. Already?! What happened to those lazy, hot, humid summer days? For the merchandisers, September means “Back to School” sales, for the children, stocking up on supplies for another year of learning, and for the Society, a slideshow presentation from not-so-long-ago years of the 1960’s and specifically 1978. **On Thursday, September 6th at 7 pm**, the Society will show images from the Sesquicentennial Celebration and other dates from the Society’s collection of local newspaper negatives and photos (The Journal-Transcript, The Trumpeter, and The Telegram, now all defunct) donated by the Franklin Library and other sources (see Chris Lewis’ donations below). The program **will be held in the Society’s home at Webster Place** (21 Holy Cross Rd.— directions on the Society website: franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org). Admission is always free, as is the stimulating discussions of memories shared that these events tend to elicit. All are welcome, and light refreshments will follow the presentation.

In September will also be the reunion of Franklin’s High School Class of 1958, with all participants warmly invited to a special open house of the Society after their luncheon, offering a visual trip down memory lane, courtesy of the Poblenz Studios donation of material and the Society’s negative scanner. There is also a display specifically themed to the High School over the years, so an illuminating and evocative visit is guaranteed for all.

July and August were banner months for donations arriving at the Society either through the door, or through our P.O. box. The Society recognizes, with heart felt thanks, these donors and their gifts: Annette Cain, for four FSB metal “piggy banks” (but shaped like classic cars), a “Frontier Days” button, and a Center Launderette key chain; Porter Young, for two more 16 mm films of Odell Park in 1928 and 1930 (alas, one suffering from the ravages of moisture, may not be able to be saved, but an attempt will be made to digitize both) most likely shot by his father, Red Young; from Linda Pauwels, newspaper articles, info on Helen Hird, Smythe family photos and images from the Methodist Church; Madalene Dunlop (through Mary Foley) gifted a 7 x 9 photo of the 8th grade St. Mary’s class of Yvonne Jean Sylvestre; Ann Morgan, from the Lancaster, NH Historical Society sent a porcelain tea cup adorned with an image of the Franklin Public Library, commissioned by the H.L. Young Company, c. 1910; and speaking of H.L. Young, Carlton Ham donated business records from that company spanning from 1886 to 1980, along with commemorative plates from the Congregational and Christian Churches, and two photos of the Prescott Oil filling station on So. Main St.; Mary Ham contributed dues records from the Woman’s Club of Franklin (she was the organization’s treasurer), membership cards, and ledgers from the 1980’s and 90’s; from LoriAnn St. Jacques came an amazing largesse of material of her father’s, Arthur St. Jacques, including his WWII Navy uniforms from his days aboard a Sub tender, patches, medallions, souvenirs of that era and just after (a wartime embroidered pillow case of Malta, a fan and a Geisha’s sash from post-war Japan), documents, booklets, and his ceremonial vests from the VFW’s Order of the Cooties, his VFW and American Legion caps as well as other material and photos from the VFW, and Franklin memorabilia (magnets, and twenty FSB metal collector’s banks like those donated by Annette Cain); Carol Edmunds stopped by with a box containing newspaper clippings, a

program, and a three ring binder filled with 8 x 10 photos, all relating to the 25th Anniversary of the Polish Home Association in 1953; from the Clothes Closet and Sally Bussiere came a 1932 copy of "Antiques" magazine featuring an ad for Webster Place Antiques Shop and Tea Room and an Outing Club's Winter Carnival Volunteer's button; Frank Kyper, from Massachusetts, gifted a 53 inch long, 11 inch wide, enameled metal "FRANKLIN" RR station sign, which may well have been the last such sign to have welcomed travelers to the Depot Street station in the 1960's; Luan Clark, of the Andover Historical Society, for a c. 1890's card game based on the Mother Hubbard nursery rhyme in a small box stamped with the dealer's name—C. E. (Carl) Noyes, who ran a variety store on Central Street; Dorothy Hodgdon, of West Salem, Ohio, mailed the Society two 5 x 7 photos of Franklin c. 1890 and 1925, along with two Victorian era photo albums collected by Hattie Campbell, featuring members of the Smith, Hersey, and Clark families; Scott Clarenbach, for a 1941 booklet of speeches (his grandfather was in attendance) celebrating the 65th year of the Stevens Mills, with two booklets detailing the process of making wool into cloth, and a booklet written by Richard J. Datson, tracing his lineage back to Ebenezer Eastman; and *lastly* (catching one's breath!) once again Chris Lewis has added a wealth of material to the Society's collections including two desks (probably c. 1950) from the Parker Hancock School, more O.A. Towne glass negatives of various area houses (he sold real estate as well as publishing the local newspaper and being an accomplished photographer), a large box of 1960's era newspaper photos (including at least three of JFK campaigning locally!), 1959-1970 financial ledgers from the Journal Transcript, a trunk and suitcase, either or both to be used for transporting historically important material as learning tools between classrooms at the Middle School, and a cornucopia of artifacts (as yet not totally inventoried) to be stored in those containers and used as visual aids to introduce Franklin students to the city's, region's, and country's history.

An impressive list of gifts from a distinguished group of donors, to whom the Society is deeply indebted!

More and more current and past residents of Franklin are realizing the archival treasures they possess in closets, attics, and storage units, that should, instead of being hidden away, (or worse: *thrown* away!) be used constructively to tell and retell the story of Franklin through the Society. Thank you one and all for your collective thoughtfulness.

[This month's image from the Historical Society is a scan of one of the photos from Dorothy Hodgdon, collected by Hattie Campbell. The notation marks it as Franklin from 1890, but is of an area which is not easily identifiable. It appears to be the Pemigewasset River snaking through the terrain, and if so, would be the rural area that was the northern part of West Franklin. Any other ideas about its exact location can be addressed to Leigh Webb through the Society's webpage "Contact" link.]

Members' comments from the Saint-Gaudens field trip:

It was a lovely field trip. I was so happy my brother and sister-in-law were able to join me. They enjoyed it to the max. As usual, thanks to Leigh for doing a great job organizing and preparing for the trip itself. He did a lot of research and took many notes with which to enrich our experience. Sandra Burney

Well said! Ken and I had a wonderful time, including enjoying a Mediterranean lunch with Leigh and Annette. Judith

