

Franklin Historical Society

July 2022

Despite a “fall-like” day recently to confuse an already flummoxed New Hampshire populace on what to expect for weather, the first day of summer is past us and the days of 80 and 90 degree heat are here in earnest. Hopefully the Webster/Tay will remain cool enough through this month to offer a hospitable environment for the Society’s next meeting. *There is no monthly meeting in July* so that the Society’s members can enjoy the 4th of July with its family get-togethers, BBQ’s, and fireworks, without having to decide what other events might be worthy of their attention. August will reinstate our regular Thursday presentation with a tribute to the 200th anniversary of the Congregational Church, with a talk by Glenn Morrill outlining the Church’s diverse history accompanied by a slideshow of images from the Society’s archives. The actual celebration will occur on August 27th and 28th at the Church.

June was marked by another successful Plant Sale, captained by Annette Andreozzi with ample help from the following volunteers: donors of plants and other saleable items included Dan Darling, Glenn Morrill, Lisa West and son Tyler Baroody, Kate Siberine, Amber and Roxie Morrison, Judith and Ken Anderson, and Sheila and Alan Rainford. Those who donated plants and helped at the sale were Annette Andreozzi, Elizabeth Jewell, Rita Norander, and Karen Darling. Lastly but never least, those without whose help the sale would not have run as smoothly as it did, Sandra Burney, Cindy Campbell, Vanessa Hollins, Sally Bussiere, and John Cutter. Thanks to all these individuals in a group effort, the Society pulled in over \$600 to help cover monthly expenses and our yearly insurance bill, without dipping into our invested savings. A job *really* well done. Thanks to you all!



Photo of the Plant Sale courtesy of Karen Darling.

In June the Society also added to its collections via the following donations: from **Kathy Fuller** (through the Clothes Closet Thrift Store) a wonderful “art deco” 5x7 photo frame (with a 1948 view of downtown Franklin), a 1918 booklet of Patriotic songs from a “Liberty Loan Dinner”, and (from the library book sale) to mention but a few, a 1909 “Who’s Who in NH”, Civil War regimental histories, NH Registers for 1947-1951, and a 1916 four volume set of “A History of NH” with a photo of the Rumford House in its original Concord location (see below); from **Annette Cain** two Water Department Frisbees to celebrate Franklin’s (2nd) centennial in 1995; and from **Bob Lucas** a typed copy of the “History of the Peabody Home for the Aged”. As always, these gifts are received with the most sincere gratitude and appreciation.

In other Society news, a letter was delivered to Judie Milner, City Manager, requesting the traditional \$250 from the city to support the Society’s mission, and ultimately, be put towards appropriate signage to commemorate the mills that predated the White Water Park, celebrate Peabody Place, and honor the place in Franklin history reserved for the Stevens Mills.

As part of a downtown tour for the 4th graders of Franklin’s Middle School, Dan Darling ably presented a slideshow at the Opera House detailing many of the changes in the past 130 years, and led a tour of the restored balcony of the Opera House, for so many years covered by a drop done ceiling during the time the space housed the area court. The ever-inquisitive students were then allowed into the G.A.R. Hall to view the Civil War exhibits, as a prelude to going outside to stand in front of the plaques naming all those from Franklin who went to war to to protect the union and to understand why the true name of city hall is “Soldiers Memorial Hall”. Something none of us should ever forget.

Pictured below, from the 1916 history of NH, is the Rumford House, according to city records built in 1732, and rescued from demolition (unlike the companion Rolfe Building with its French mansard roof) by being moved to Franklin. This historic building has been the home of Society members Jack and Bettey Tobey, who, as stewards to history, will pass that responsibility on to the next owners.



Rolfe and Rumford Home, Second Oldest House in Concord, N. H.

As a courtesy to other historical societies, printed below are events happening in our general area.

2022 is the Andover Historical Society's 40th Anniversary which it will be celebrating with the return of the Old Time Fair after a 2 year hiatus. on [Sunday August 7th, from 10 am to 3 pm](#). We will be presenting a new sign in partnership with the Black Heritage Trail of Portsmouth in recognition of Richard Potter, and will feature a special Potter exhibit.

The New London Historical Society is hosting [the 3rd](#) Vermont Re-enactor Regiment for a Living History event [on July 9](#), starting at 10 am, with [the 5th](#) NH Regiment as an additional participant. At least one operable cannon will be part of the festivities. Last summer the 3rd brought both of their cannons and fired them almost simultaneously.