

Franklin NH Historical Society News

August 2015

In the Society's recent history, August has been designated a month of respite, replacing the regular monthly meeting with a social evening, scheduled on a day other than the 1st Thursday (usually a weekend day), centered around an informal potluck dinner. One year we even had inspirational piano (Robin Charles) and violin music (Howard Slosek), with singing accompaniment (Steve Foley). However, a suggestion was made this year to consider a field trip in lieu of the potluck, and based on the responses to an email inquiry, and taking into consideration those who still work and cannot take a weekday fieldtrip, the votes favored, and a decision was made, that the Historical Society go to the Sanborn Mills Farm in Loudon, Saturday, August 15th. The tour will start at 9 am (please look for Leigh Webb in the parking area), and the Farm requests a \$5 donation from each participant. Everyone must provide their own transportation (carpooling is encouraged). Sanborn Mills dates to the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and offers a teaching garden, a fully functional water-powered lumber mill, a blacksmith shop, and a grist mill. The Farm offers clinics in several disciplines and is quite a fascinating visit. The tour will take approximately 2 hours and will require walking, so comfortable shoes and casual clothes are suggested, as well as each participant may wish to bring water to drink.

Additional information on the site is available at the Sanborn Mills website:

<http://www.sanbornmills.org/>

The past month was most productive in acquiring new donations to the Society's collections, and several generous and caring individuals need to be recognized and thanked: Mary and Carlton Ham, for more cushions providing comfort for our members while seated during our monthly meetings; Wanda Lepianka Jordan, for a large archive of 19th and early 20th century card mounted photos of wedding couples, graduating students, and groups, many identified, from the Surowiec family; Betty and Jack Tobey, for a Victorian sofa, covered in blue velvet, which had been in the Tobey family since it was new; June Therrien Weglarz, for the history of the Colonial ladder-back chair with arms, loaned to the Society by Maurice Tandy (and now displayed in the Society's Tay front parlor), which began life at the East Andover Chase/Durgin Farm, eventually making its way to the Therrien family, and ultimately being used and enjoyed by five generations of Chases, Durgins, Bowlbys, Therriens, and Weglarzs. A "friend of the Society" donated an outside bench attributed to the Nesmith School, and a wooden shipping crate from the New England Confectionery Company ("NECCO") sent, and stenciled, to the Shepard Grocery Store in Franklin, circa 1927. Acknowledgement must also be awarded to Dan Jordan for allowing the Society to scan his wonderful photos of "Ted" Lepianka and those with whom he served in WWII as a Hellcat fighter pilot aboard the USS Hornet. Please remember that the Society offers to scan and return any item or photo that may be too precious to surrender at present. A special thank you also to Charlie St. Clair, who granted the Society permission to scan vintage images of three families (Kenrick, Drew, and Buswell) he had purchased at auction, intending to resell (see this month's photo). This incredibly gracious gesture must be especially applauded. Once in private hands, these sometimes one-of-kind pictures can be kept from public view. That Mr. St. Clair was willing to share with the Society is deeply

appreciated.

So much can be lost to posterity even with the best of intentions, when appropriate preparation is lacking. Feel free to contact either Leigh Webb (president) or Annette Andrezzi (curator) at 934-8222 or email franklin_pride@yahoo.com if you have any questions as to what methods may best be used to secure that your eventual gift to the Society be realized. The historic treasures in your attic or basement may not always be recognizable as such, and the loss of that material could be tragic.

For those wishing to know if Franklin's famous Upside Down Bridge might ever be restored, there is a glimmer of hope. Efforts are ongoing with the assistance of Ben Wilson of the state's Bureau of Historic Sites to identify funding and a sustainable use for the bridge. Stay tuned....



[This month's photo of Suzie Holcomb Hall Drew standing in front of the Gilchrist store, 48 N. Main St., is courtesy of Charlie St. Clair. Anyone wishing to purchase the original image should contact the Laconia Antique Center, 524-9484]