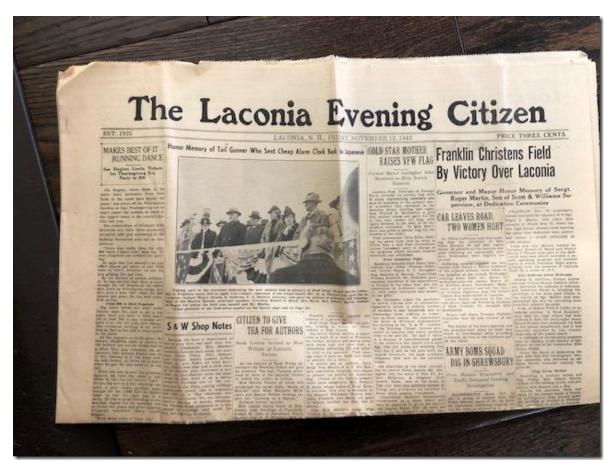
## **Franklin Historical Society**

## November 2022

On Thursday, November 3rd, the Society will hold its final presentation and business meeting for 2022. As November is the month in which we all recognize the service of those wearing the uniforms of the United States military, it seemed only fitting to have a program honoring some of the "Greatest Generation" from Franklin who participated in WWII. Delving into the Society's archives, and adding some newly acquired material, the slideshow will tell a little of the story of Ted Lepianka, Bernice Sinclair, Neal Martin, and Neal's older brother who did not return, Roger S. Martin. In the background will be playing songs from World War II, courtesy of a donation by Kathy Fuller. As the business meeting that will follow is the last of this year, all local members are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will follow the presentation and precede the meeting, and both the slideshow and the business portion of the meeting are open to all.

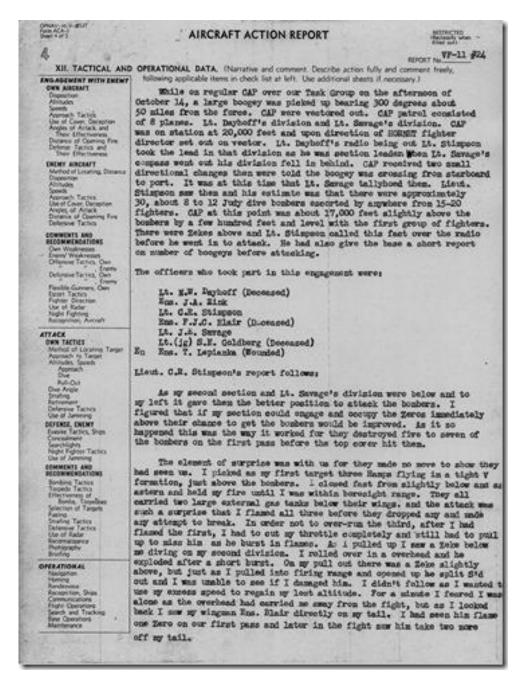
As has been the case of recent months, October was no exception in reaping rewards from generous donations to the Society's collections. Undying gratitude is expressed to the following: to **Donna** Gilbreth for a Mouli cheeses grater, Star-lite waffle iron (originally sent to Verna Schwartz, and after inspecting it, there is little wonder it was infrequently or ever used...), and fridge magnets from FSB and the Franklin Co-operative Bank, all found in the carriage house of the Gilbreth property at the corner of School and Prospect Streets; to Kathy Fuller for "Your Hit Parade" CD's of 1942-49 and the aforementioned "Songs of WWII"; to John Benham for a framed photo of generations of "The Kearsage Mountain Boys" (please note: this will be on display so everyone can help to identify those pictured) with a folder of the organization's records; to Linda Pauwels for her usual contributions of local obituaries and newspaper articles of interest; to **Rita Norander** for collectible newspapers from Sue Winters of Andover highlighting the Sesquicentennial and articles of historic interest in the Trumpeter; to Elizabeth Jewell for contributing a camo US Army uniform worn by her son; to Myla Everett for FHS Class of 1932 memorabilia (her mother's class), miscellaneous newspapers, a souvenir booklet c. 1900 of Franklin photos, and Franklin business memorabilia; and Lisa Martin for so many items in creating the Martin Memorial display, with personal items from Roger Martin, a scrapbook compiled by her grandmother, and several things of her father Neal Martin (who also served in WWII in the European Theater, including the Battle of the Bulge) and her uncle Ray Martin, who served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Visitors to the Society benefit in do many ways from gifts such as these, and lose so much when valuable artifacts and documents are discarded instead of donated. One of the most important functions of the Society is to save these treasures, so that those now, and later, can truly appreciate the sacrifices of those who came before.

Below is a scan of the 1943 newspaper article covering the dedication of the FHS football field in honor of Sgt. Roger S. Martin, one of the program designs commemorating the event, and a photo of Neal Martin, allowed leave to attend the special event, at the high school with his mother.



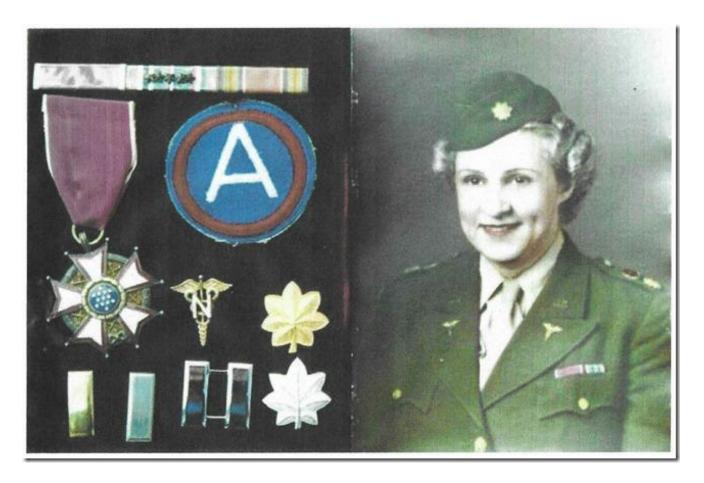






A scan of a page from the sortie mission report during which Ens. Ted Lepianka was wounded (see center of the document). Later in the same report his group leader praised Ens. Lepianka for a precision "no wheels, no flaps" carrier landing of his damaged plane, recorded for posterity on film, and now a part of the USS Yorktown's permanent history.

As the only souvenir retained by the family of Lt. Col. Bernice Sinclair's wartime service, below is a scan of the photo of her framed with her rank insignia, nurses pin, 3rd Army patch, campaign ribbons, and the Legion of Merit award of which she was so worthy.



Please join the Society in honoring not just these particular veterans, but all those who have faithfully and dutifully served to keep our country safe, free, and a continuing source of inspiration to the world as a beacon of hope. They are heroes all. Together, no matter what the problem, Americans can find solutions to get past any and all dark times, and the turbulent times in which we live will prove to be no exception.