

Franklin Historical Society

March 2022

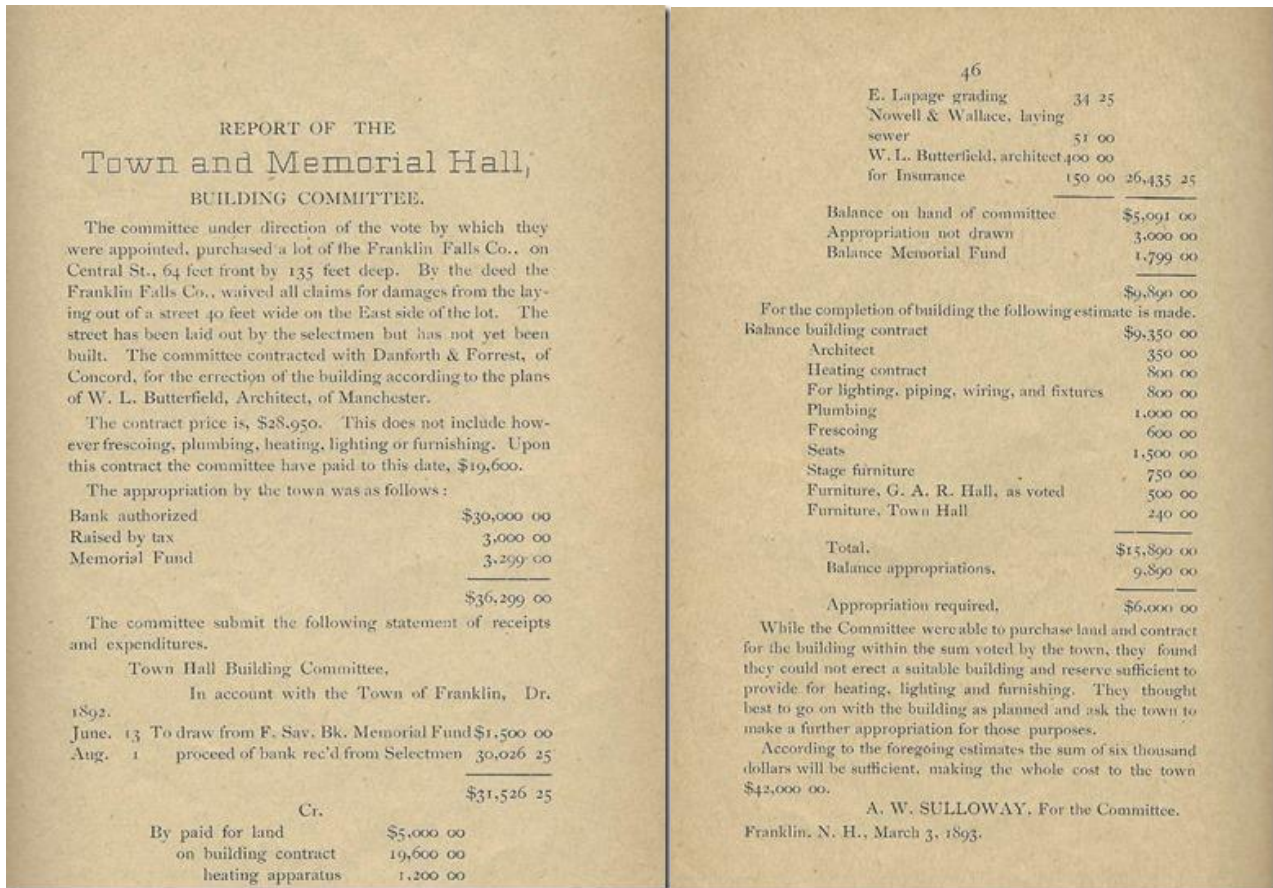
Whether March came in as a lion or lamb, winter is still with us for a while yet, despite Mother Nature's teasing with spring-like days followed by bitter cold. The Society building has weathered (is that a pun?) the winter thus far very well. With the heat being maintained at thermostat settings sufficient to prevent freezing, the building is safe even if the ambiance is not truly conducive to working comfortably. Regardless, some cataloging and research has still been possible.

The board of directors and officers met last month to discuss elections of candidates in May, and to determine who currently serving would be willing to continue. Suggestions for possible speakers' names were solicited, and a tentative list of programs has been compiled. The Society will once again participate in Franklin's Community Day, the second Saturday of May. It has always been a great opportunity to familiarize attendees to the Society's existence, and introduce those who stop by to the fascinating history of the city we love. Additionally, the plant sale will again be mounted in June, and if the weather is cooperative, a favorable outcome can be predicted. As chair, Annette Andrezzi puts her heart and soul into making this project an annual success, with the help of so many plant donors and helpers. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, May 14th, and Saturday, June 18th for these much anticipated events.

Although closed until the end of May, the museum still attracted donations last month. **Annette Cain** found a cache of receipts from Franklin businesses, most of which are regrettably long gone, a "Senior Memories" booklet with calling cards from members of FHS class of 1959, and a small brass plaque referring to a gift given to St. Paul's in memoriam of Albert J. Garneau (Albert G. Garneau's father). How Annette got it, or to what it referred, even she cannot say. The largest gift (in size) came from **the volunteers at the Thrift Clothes Closet headed by Kathy Fuller** in the form of a chrome, wood, and glass display case, which may be used to house much of the Martin Memorial archive of items, honoring the service of all three Martin brothers. Roger was the only one not to survive WWII, having the High School football field named for him.



Linda Pauwels donated more obituaries of Franklin residents and historically significant newspaper articles on Franklin businesses and personalities. **Rita Norander** found an 1893 Franklin report mentioning the Soldiers Memorial Hall building committee, which was not only absorbing in its detail, but also served as a reminder that the structure was always meant to honor those who served from Franklin *first*, and only then to serve as town (and now) city hall and Opera House. As tribute to those brave souls, the GAR Hall remains almost as it did in 1893, with most of the furniture, wall art, and exhibits intact.



Thanks go out to Paul Doucette, Rita Norander, and Nancy Waldo who identified the Franklin sign's location as most likely on Route 11, near the Andover town line. Paul also thought the tank hiding behind the Orphanage "root cellar" may have been used when first converting the steam plant from coal to fuel oil for the heating of (mostly) all the Sisters of Holy Cross buildings. Steve Foley, however, did not remember that tank being there in the 1980's or 90's, so its story may not be evident until closer inspection is allowed once the snows have gone, and the ground is firm.

As a friendly reminder, annual dues can be paid at any time for 2022. The Society's address is PO Box 43, Franklin, NH 03235. Those planning on attending the first meeting in April are welcome to pay at that time.

Be of good cheer, spring is nearly here!