

## Franklin NH Historical Society Newsletter – August 2023

As there was no meeting of the Society in the hot and wet month of July, it is hoped that some members, when the skies were not disgorging buckets of water, took the opportunity to visit some historic sites in NH, and can tell of their discoveries at the August meeting. The subject matter for that gathering **has changed**. Due to unforeseen circumstances, our scheduled speakers were not available, so instead of the history of the Conservation Commission (which hopefully can be a topic next year), the presentation will be a slide show of “then and now” images and several of just “then” pictures, to create opportunities for the membership and public in attendance to reminisce and share their stories. The event is free, open to the public, and will be in the Society’s building at Webster Place (21 Holy Cross Road) beginning at **7 pm Thursday, August 3rd**. Light refreshments will be served just prior to the regular board/business meeting, to which all are cordially invited. If parking on Holy Cross Road, please pull completely off the pavement, to ensure easy passage for emergency vehicles should they ever be needed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

With all the rain, the gardens around the Society have grown without restraint, calling for at least some thinning/trimming to take place. It took a couple of hours, and the results would hardly be noticed if not for photographic evidence, but the plantings were truly getting unruly.

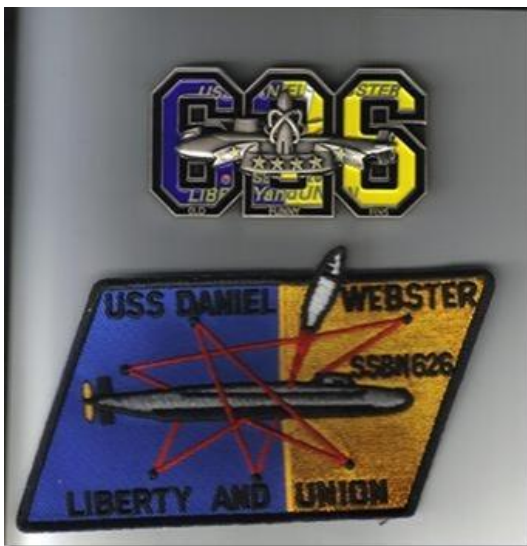


Before...

...after (not a lot of difference, but a tad more acceptable in appearance).

The real work will be early next spring, when the greenery has died back and where cuts to be made will be more obvious along with the need for weed abatement. A weekend day will be selected next year and anyone who wishes to help will be welcome. Some painting and clapboard replacement is still on tap for this season, but only when temperatures recede to a more comfortable level.

More donations have come to augment our collections, for which the Society is eternally grateful, and wishes to acknowledge the following donors and their contributions: from **Ron Mosher**, **Coordinator of the 2023 USS Daniel Webster Crew Reunion**, and **Maurice Tandy**, a Webster “Challenge coin” and 2023 reunion patch (see below) with the phrase “Liberty and Union” famously uttered by Webster in his 1830 speech before the US Senate, followed by “...now and forever, one and inseparable!”; from **Kate Morse** an off-white, silk necktie/cravat with a tiny pink and red printed repeated motif, attributed to the ownership of Daniel Webster by Kate’s grandfather, Wallace Webster Morse; from **Luan Clark of the Andover Historical Society** a pair of spectacles complete with case from Dr. James S. Shaw OD, Central Street Franklin, and with permission of Irene Haley Jewett’s family (she was the original donor to the AHS), a 1926 Franklin songbook “Songs for the Rotary Club” with FRANKLIN stamped on the cover; and from **Kay Judkins Spratt**, a wonderful 4 x 6 photo of the Franklin, Franklin Falls, and Tilton bus, in front of the Jackman Drug store, 354 Central Street (also below).



While researching the 1848-1852 journal preserved by the Sisters of Holy Cross and written by Wallace Burleigh and Henry Porter Taylor, some interesting references came to light. The area now occupied by the Society and the proposed Veterans Campus, was in the mid-19th century referred to as “Webster Place” or “Lower Franklin”. The journal mentions Parker Noyes Esq. by name, notes Webster’s death by time and day, and (although difficult to decipher the handwriting in places) states “50 men” got off the train at Webster Place late in October 1850, possibly related to the post Compromise of 1850 dinner Webster held in the Society’s building to celebrate its passage to keep the union intact. More reading and study and possibly discoveries to come...

#### *Announcements:*

The Andover Historical Society will hold its annual “**Old Time Fair**” on **Sunday, August 6th, from 9 am to 2 pm**. This is really a wonderful event.

The Salisbury Historical Society will have as its guest speaker Steve Taylor, formerly NH’s Commissioner of Agriculture, talking about “**Rural Schoolhouses**” at the Library, **September 16th at 11 am**. If you have never heard Steve speak, you should mark your calendar.