

Franklin Historical Society

December 2022

For the time being, warmer temperatures have made for rain rather than snow, which for everyone except the skiers is welcome (you do not have to shovel rain). Thanksgiving, the traditional beginning of the official “holiday season” has come and gone, with Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Day, and of course Christmas in between. On **Sunday, December 11th at Thompson Hall, the Society will celebrate with its year-end potluck Christmas Dinner**. Members, friends, and family are all invited to socialize and add an inch to their collective waistlines. Turkeys are to be cooked by Joya Clark and Annette Andreozzi, with garlic mashed potatoes and an attempt to duplicate the wonder of Carlton’s punch from Leigh. Everything else is the surprise and joy of potluck. Contributions can be as simple as rolls and butter, cranberry sauce, hot veggies, with ample room for desserts of every description. There has never been a lack of anything. Attendees are also reminded that non-perishables can be donated to the food pantry via the Church, to help those less fortunate. **Set up and social hour is 4 pm to 5 pm** (spreading table cloths, arranging centerpieces, putting out silverware), with dinner served thereafter. Anyone wishing to get into the true holiday spirit, Maj will probably be at the piano, so bring your favorite holiday sheet music. This is not a regular meeting, just a way to express thanks for another successful and enjoyable year, so relaxation, conversation, and fun are the operative words for the evening. Thanks to Glenn Morrill for arranging the use of the hall, and if this year is like every other, for carving the turkeys!

In the news: “Echoes From the Mills” is in the process of being reprinted! A PDF file was found hiding on the computer, and a sample has already been struck and approved. We should have 50 more copies to sell in the next couple of weeks. Which is just a clever way to sneak in a reminder to all, that Society books and merchandise are available for purchase as Christmas gifts by contacting Leigh at 934-8222, or writing an email reply, or through the “contact” link on the Society’s website.

The 1890 Webster Lake maps are also nearing completion, and once in hand, will be for sale at \$10 each.

The property at Webster Place will be undergoing considerable change to accommodate the Veteran’s Campus envisioned by Easterseals. The project will probably take up to two years, and will include permanent and transitory housing, activity venues, and various therapies to help positively reintegrate those veterans who are in need of help. Hopefully, the Society’s veterans display and museum can play a small role in this grand scheme.

Recently a small “hiccup” occurred in the heating of the buildings. During a routine “building check” of the Webster/Tay it was discovered that the pipes in the basement were stone cold, and when the caretakers were notified to see how widespread the problem might be, it was determined to be a furnace malfunction, and that *none* of the buildings were receiving heat. The Society will be monitoring the situation while seeking out possible alternatives to keep our assets safe.

Curator’s Corner: As is *always* the case, several donors are to be thanked for their thoughtful generosity in giving items to be included in the Society’s archives. The Society’s gratitude is extended to **Annette Cain** for a plastic key chain from “Astro Waste Services” (anyone remember this company, and when it might have existed?); to **Delaney Carrier** (rescued from a delinquent storage account) a small

autograph book with signatures from the FHS class of 1928; to **Elizabeth Jewell** for a sesquicentennial glass goblet featuring the Birthplace cabin; and to **Stan Weglarz** for a newspaper article on a new book on Daniel Webster highlighting his stance on the Compromise of 1850 (which, upon a suggestion by Stan, has given birth to an idea for a presentation in 2023).

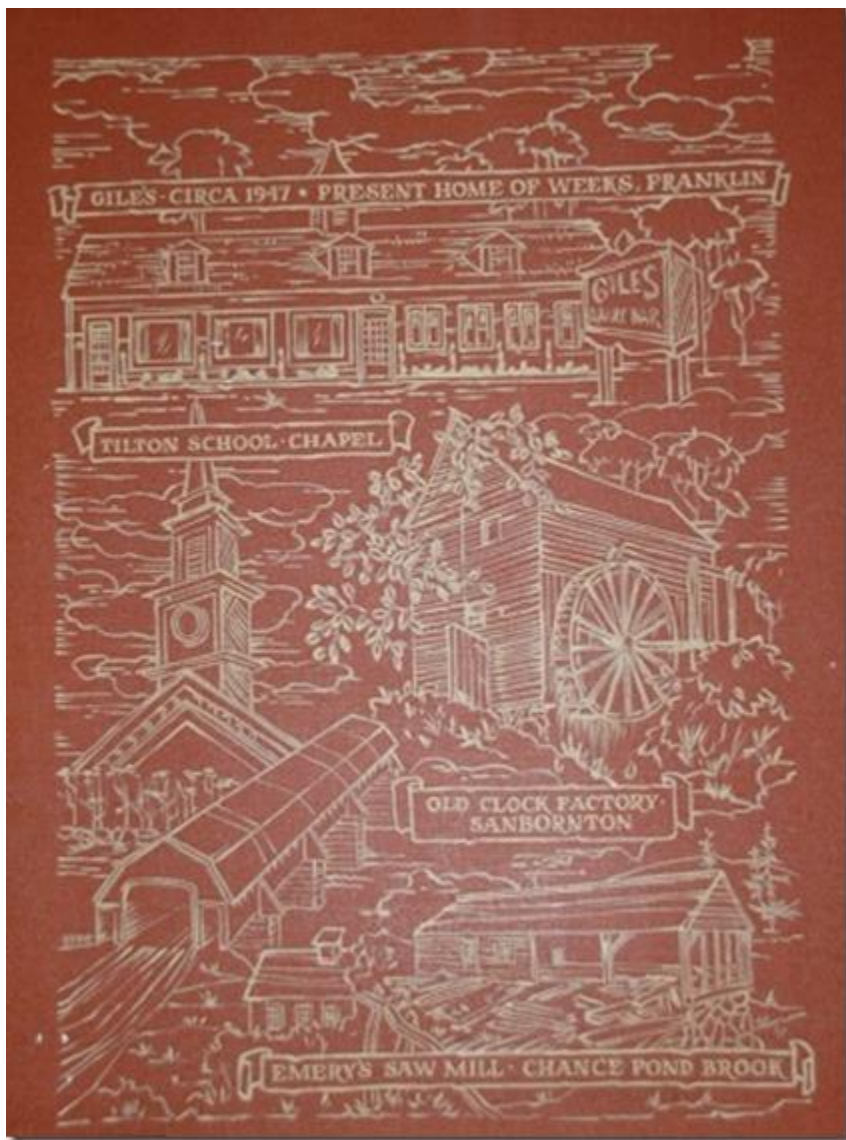
In the plethora of donations to the Martin Memorial Display from Lisa Martin, there were three film negatives of a group partying on what appears to be sand dunes near water (the Atlantic?). The one with the most visible background is below. Can anyone identify the location?



From the “Exciting News!” department, it came to the Society’s attention many months ago that the Soda Shoppe was for sale. It was common knowledge that there were several “murals” on the walls, depicting historical sites in Franklin, and as it turns out, also Tilton and Sanbornton. Attempts were made to first contact the realtor, which proved dismally unsuccessful when a phone call to the agent was rudely rebuffed. Then, with the help of the Franklin assessors office and a Post Office employee who were able to supply contact information, calls and emails were placed to the current owners. No response. When word came down that the property had been sold, the Franklin Director of Planning was approached to let the new owner know of the Society’s interest in preserving these wonderful pieces of Franklin’s history. Finally, at the Planning Committee’s meeting to discuss the new owners’ ideas, the contact was made with Jim Mitchell of Tropic Star Development, who could not have been more helpful and accommodating. Access was allowed, and the murals turned out to be on fabric wallpaper, which, once the wooden trim boards were removed, peeled easily off the wall. All five were first photographed

in place, then removed, rolled up, and are now safe in storage at the Society. According to the one pictured below, Giles dairy opened in the late 1940's, and with research using the Society's directories, it was determined that Weeks Luncheonette (which put up the murals) replaced the dairy around 1969-70.

None are "signed", so the artist is unknown. Can the story be completed by someone reading this article?



The Weeks murals are saved!
Happy endings are always the best...