

# Franklin Historical Society

## May 2022

This month's presentation is a mixture of front page news and venerable Franklin history, from the mind and research of John Benham, the Society is proud to offer "**Comfortable Senior Living: from Peabody Home to Peabody Place**". Beginning at **7 pm on Thursday May 5th in the Webster/Tay building at Webster Place**, the talk and slide show of vintage images will be followed by the Society's Annual Meeting and election of officers and directors of the board. Light refreshments will be provided between the two, and as always, the event is free and open to all: members, friends, and those with an insatiable appetite for Franklin history.

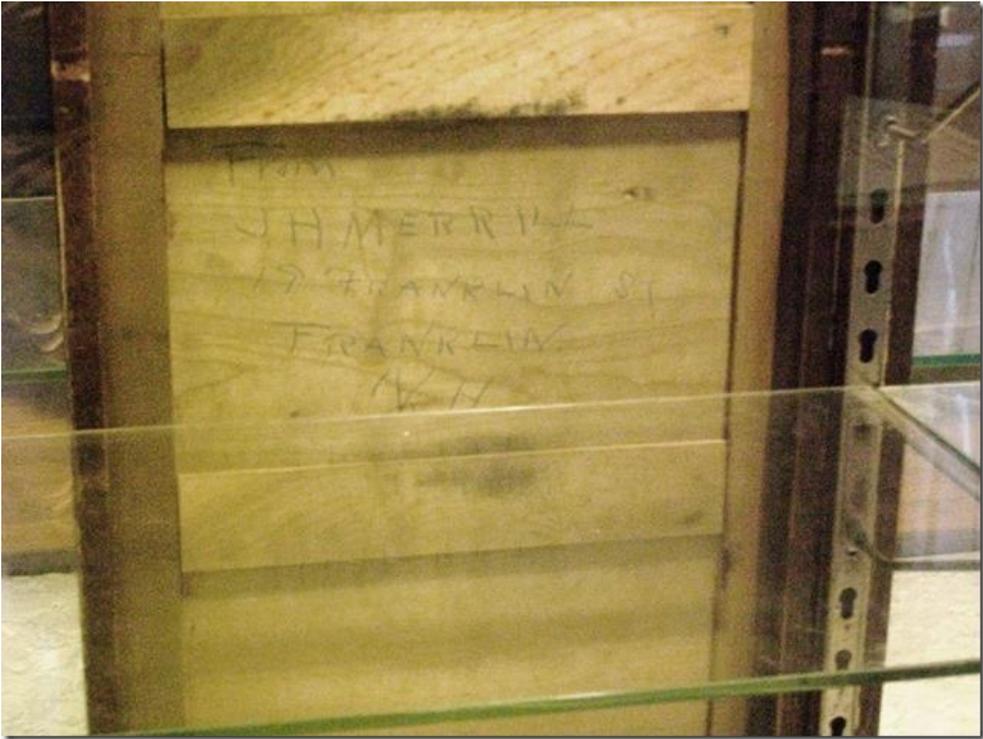
Last month's e-newsletter received more comments than any in recent memory. First, a correction: the sheet music mentioned as a donation once belonged (and was signed by) Kathy Fuller's *grandmother*, not mother. Regarding the photo of the gas station on Route 3, everyone who replied was spot on—it was indeed the station associated with the Isaac Hale House (which was just out of frame) and across from the Thousand Acre Campground. Thank you to Chris Seufert, Glenn Morrill, John Benham, Diana Seamans, Susie Sullivan, John Hebert, and Cindy Waldon Mansfield for their intuitive and informative responses!

More donations have arrived at the doorstep of the Society, for which the following acknowledgements accompany the Society's deepest gratitude: **Betty Cate** (with thanks to Stan Weglarz) gave several copies of the Franklin High School yearbook for years 1949, 1950, 1951, and 1953, with a Tilton School yearbook for 1953, all related to her late husband Warren Cate's high school tenure; **Annette Cain** brought in a checkbook cover from the Trachy Agency, and a list of wedding anniversary gifts from Griffin Rexall; more recent and older newspaper articles on notable Franklin subjects came from **Linda Pauwels**; **Kathy Fuller** rescued framed color photographs from the soon-to-be-demolished Peabody Home building including views of mills, the Odell arch, and the Public Library; **Pat Tucker** (from Northfield) contributed a massive 1922 Webster Dictionary that was a wonderful fit to the classroom display on the second floor of the Tay building; **Roberta Burke** then gave a late 19th century "Thank you Card" featuring a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier on several pages and multiple copies of The Cottage Hearth magazine from 1883 and 1890 (see the note and photos below tying in these last two donations); and a large glass display case came from **Den Brae Golf Club through Lisa Martin** which now sits in the middle of the exhibit room, waiting for a new top glass and to be filled with items for which no space had previously been found.

Under the heading of "Strange Coincidences", the case mentioned above was picked up, brought to the Society, and in the process of situating it in its current location, had a mirror become dislodged from one of the wooden sliding back doors, revealing a surprising past. The handwritten words "To Manchester Glass From J.H. Merrill 19 Franklin St Franklin NH" saw the first light in almost a century. With some research using past city directories, it was determined that J.H. Merrill was a watchmaker at that address in the 1930's, and that this was his display case! The building in which he sold his wares is no longer there, now the parking lot behind the Shepard Building (Toad Hall), but the case lives on, given new purpose, and serving as a quiet reminder of one more Franklin business and structure no longer extant.



A closer look at the long concealed clue as to the case's origin...



And then there is the odd story behind the dictionary and the 1890 magazines...While perusing the Cottage Hearth periodicals for mention of NH or Franklin in particular (only a tale about the White Mountains was found) the first thing encountered was an ad for the genuine Webster Dictionary being sold by the G. & C. Merriam & Company of Springfield, Mass.

**WEBSTER'S  
UNABRIDGED  
ANCIENT EDITION.**

A so-called "Webster's Unabridged Dictionary" is being offered to the public at a very low price. The body of the book, from A to Z, is a cheap reprint, page for page, of the edition of 1847, which was in its day, a valuable book, but in the progress of language for over FORTY YEARS, has been completely superseded. It is now reproduced, broken type, errors and all, by photo-lithograph process, is printed on cheap paper and flimsily bound. A brief comparison, page by page, between the reprint and the latest and enlarged edition, will show the great superiority of the latter. These reprints are as out of date as a last year's almanac. No honorable dealer will allow the buyer of such to suppose that he is getting the Webster which to-day is accepted as the Standard and THE BEST,—every copy of which bears our imprint as given below.

☞ If persons who have been induced to purchase the "Ancient Edition" by any misrepresentations will advise us of the facts, we will undertake to see that the seller is punished as he deserves.

**G. & C. MERRIAM & CO.  
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.**

Any guesses as to where the aforementioned massive dictionary was printed? Ahh, stranger than fiction....

Lastly, a very special thank you has to go out to Alicia Wheeler, for allowing the Society to borrow, peruse, and scan photographs and notebooks she found in the home of a relative, linking her to some famous Franklin family names of such as Barnard, Daniell, Morrill, Beaupre, and Nowell, with the thank you extended as well to Kathy Fuller, for bringing Alicia to the Society. Having a public record and understanding of this material is beneficial to all.

As a reminder: the May meeting of the Society is particularly important because of the election of board members. Please attend if at all possible, and learn about the past, present *and* future of the Peabody Home/Place.