

# Franklin Historical Society

## August 2022

HOT. Summer is upon us, with a vengeance. Thunder storms, heat, and high humidity have combined in delaying multiple projects for lack of a comfortable work environment. Regardless, some mildew abatement has been done on the Webster portion of the building, with the intent of also replacing and painting some clapboards and a trim board damaged by moisture. The back garden has been “trimmed back” after the rose bushes bloomed, and some excess growth of milkweed, goldenrod, and other plants removed. That “weeding” process is continuous, so that growth does not get out of hand.

During open hours on Saturdays, the Society has received a few visitors from off the rail trail, expressing an interest in the area’s history and making donations to the Society’s coffers. Despite the lack of numbers in visitors (averaging only a couple per weekend), there is always work to be done in cataloging, organizing, creating new displays, and of course general cleaning. Not to mention just keeping an eye on the building, as the rest of the campus remains closed and unoccupied. The lawns are being tended to regularly, and the caretakers make their rounds, so the property is being maintained and monitored.

Glenn Morrill will be the speaker at the **Thursday, August 4th meeting, at the normal time of 7 pm**, on the subject of the history of the Congregational Church and its upcoming bicentennial celebration on the 27th and 28th. A slide show of images from the Society’s collection of owned and scanned photos will also be part of the presentation. Light refreshments will be provided after the talk, followed by the usual business meeting of members and the board. All are welcome to attend, and as is always the rule, there is no charge.

There is a new display! The glass case recently received is now home to some of the Society’s Republican Bridge memorabilia and artifacts. The lost icon is reverently remembered in the main exhibit room. See below the donation that sparked the exhibit...



Members may recall that this display case originally came from a Franklin watch-making business located first at 19 Franklin Street. While inventorying the photographs donated by Ray Drapeau collected by his father William over decades, another link to this case's past might have been discovered. In the *early 1900's* that same address was home to a clothing store, of which a picture was saved by the senior Drapeau. Was this case one of those used as early as 110 years ago?!



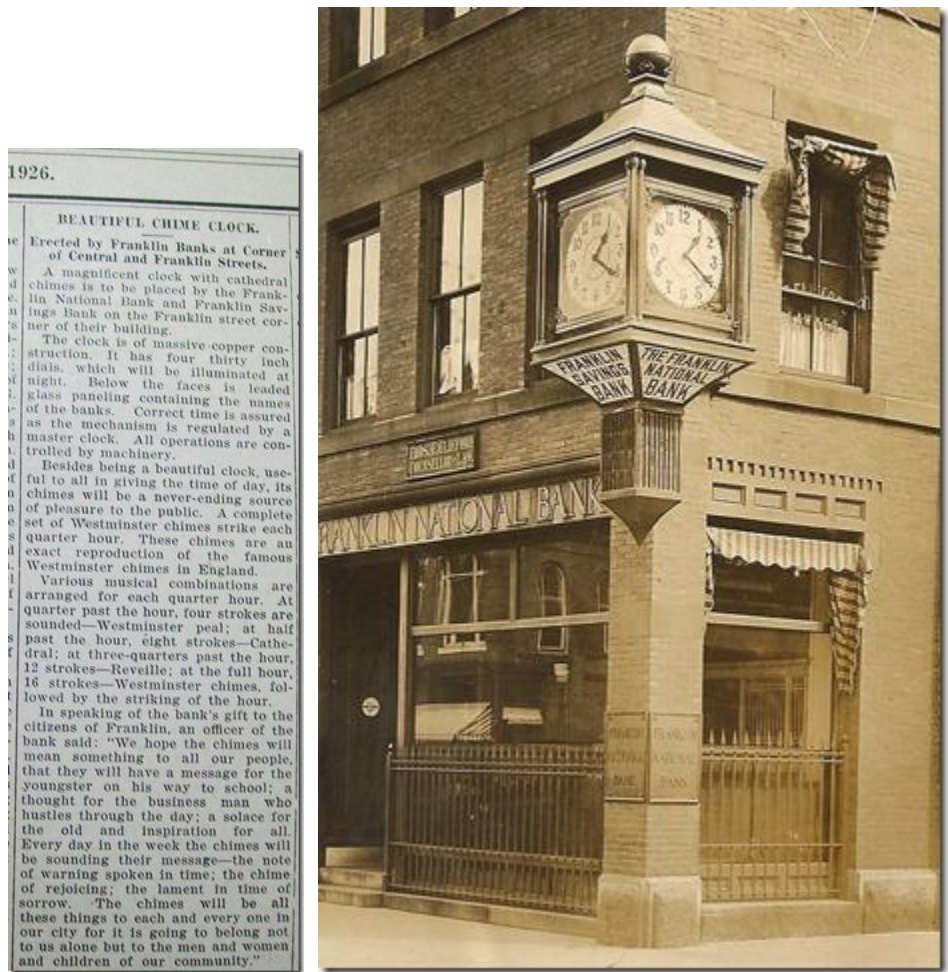
Hopefully all the members received via email and viewed the link to the Laconia Daily Sun's tribute to Chris Lewis upon her retirement from the Franklin Public School System. Chris is chair of the Society's Education Committee and continues to work tirelessly to spread the doctrine to the area's children of the importance of understanding and applying the lessons of Franklin's past to the betterment of its future. Chris may be retired, but will never stop working to educate and illuminate.

The Society also recently addressed the Franklin Rotary Club, projecting the PowerPoint program given to the fourth graders during their tour of the downtown area, showing some of the many changes that have occurred over the past century plus. The presentation was well received by those in attendance, but the Rotary needs more members to acquire the necessary charter to continue. If anyone would like to help in the good work this organization does world-wide, you can contact Betty Arsenault or Glenn Morrill about membership.

The Society received a bag full of vintage newspapers (one as old as 1842!) and magazines, saved because of the momentous world events chronicled within their pages. The donor was Claudette Welch through Kathy Fuller at the Clothes Closet Thrift Store, for whose thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. And while mentioning Kathy Fuller, who spearheaded the recent library book sale, it was during that event that Kathy set aside several books she thought would be of interest to the Society. One was a small bible, inside of which was found the signatures of Jeremiah Judkins. Upon contacting Kay Judkins Spratt, a longtime Society member now living in Pennsylvania, it was revealed that the

bible's original owner was her great grandfather! The book was sent to Kay and is now back in the Judkins family where it belongs, for which Kay was so pleased that she wished to show her appreciation with a generous donation, for which the Society is very grateful.

So often, while searching for information on one thing, something else equally interesting is discovered. So was the case of perusing newspapers in 1926 when encountering a front page article on the installation of the iconic bank clock on the corner of Franklin and Central. That clock no longer exists, but now we have a description that will live forever in the Society's archives (see below, with a postcard view of the clock now lost to history).



Lastly, the Franklin Public Library has been gifted by the Society those photos which had been given to the Service Credit Union, and due to the extensive renovations incorporating some of the images in mural-like wallpaper, were no longer needed and returned having been framed. One of those pictures was of the Sulphite Bridge, which led to the thought process of combining it with a model of the bridge that had been sitting in the GAR Hall of Soldiers Memorial Hall for decades, out of the public view. That model is now where everyone visiting the library can appreciate its craftsmanship. Should any one know who created this wonderful piece, please contact Leigh Webb (by simply replying to this email or use the "Contact" link on the Society website), so it can be properly credited.



See you on the 4th!