

Franklin Historical Society, August 2024

Time is winding down! Saturdays in August will be the *last chance* to purchase chances in the Society's First Ever Scavenger Hunt. Entry forms for \$10 each are available at the Society, 10 am to 2 pm every Saturday through Labor Day weekend (all three days). Considering it is tough to answer one question in particular without a visit to the Society's museum, it behooves anyone interested to visit *now*. Completed forms need to be returned by Labor Day, with all questions answered, to be eligible for prizes to be drawn at the Society's September monthly meeting (winners need not be present, but it would be nice...). Learn about Franklin's history AND possibly win prizes for your effort! Now that is a definition of a win-win...

The August meeting on Thursday, August 1st, will feature a talk by Linda Pauwels titled “So you have a family tree, now what?” to help those venturing along the path to genealogical enlightenment. Knowing one's family history, to what famous (or infamous) people one might be related, can be incredibly rewarding—or or a bit frustrating. In any case, it can be a lifelong task. Linda will have some helpful suggestions to hopefully make the journey somewhat less torturous. **The meeting is at 7 pm at Webster Place (21 Holy Cross Rd.**—please park in paved lots or completely off the road). Light refreshments will be served after the presentation, with a regular Society business meeting to follow. All are welcome, and there is never an admission fee. Both the front and back doors will be open.

Easterseals' demolition of interior structures and the construction of the bridging building (which will house an elevator servicing both the Webster Memorial and the Henry Memorial apartments) is in progress, but the septic connection has not yet been made, so rest room facilities for the meeting continue to be a porta-potty provided by Easterseals placed next to the garage in the rear of the Webster/Tay. The Society did acquire a small blackboard from the Henry Memorial School to be mounted on the wall of the second floor classroom display, but because of its slight curvature, a hope remains that a flat, and larger blackboard, may still be available.

Program changes are coming for September and October. “Treasures of the Library” needs additional time to compile sufficient material, and Daniel Huyduk, who was to speak about the history of the Pemigewasset Valley, has a family conflict, and will be pushed to next year. Instead, “Mystery photos” and “A video tour of the Franklin Firefighters Museum” will be substituted. Check with the Society's webpage or FaceBook page for updates.

General news: The updated roster of members for 2024-2025 is attached! This labor of love comes to you courtesy of Karen Darling, who puts considerable effort into making sure the information is accurate, while properly acknowledging all those who continue to support the Society's mission. If you

need the roster in Word form, simply make the request and it will be emailed to you.

The plaque attached to the wall beneath the Webster Bust in front of the Congregational-Christian Church has been refurbished, and the path to the Stevenstown Fort marker has been cleared.

While no gifts actually appeared recently, understandable in a month with no meeting, several wonderful items have been pledged for next month.

Lastly, per a request through the Society's website, a visit was made to the Shaw Corner cemetery in response to an observation that no maintenance had been done for quite a while. A large branch had fallen down on top of several grave markers, luckily without damaging any. A chainsaw was employed to at least clear that branch, and perhaps a crew can be assembled to help with containing the growth threatening to engulf the ancient gravestones. These places are meant to be sacred and the home of memories for those remaining behind, and deserve to be treated with respect.

Below is a representative photo of the "wet" nature of the June plant sale. Despite less than desirable conditions, a profit was still realized to help pay for next winter's propane bills, and always a side benefit, some very nice people came by to say hello, while making purchases to add beauty and substance to their personal gardens. All in all, not a bad day.



If you have a story about experiencing the joy of visiting a NH historical site in July, come prepared to share during the business portion of the meeting. There is so much out there to explore, and from which to learn...