

Franklin NH Historical Society News

October 2015

This month's program, "The Postcards of Franklin, Part II" is a continuation of the presentation begun this previous May. Glenn Morrill has accumulated so many incredible, often rare, cards, it was impossible to share all the images in one night (and may be difficult to complete at this meeting! But, it just leaves more to be enjoyed next year). The meeting will be held in our regular venue at the Webster/Tay House (21 Holy Cross Rd., Webster Place, off Route 3—directions available on our website, www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org), at 7 pm, Thursday, October 1st. The program is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the slide show, and all attendees are encouraged to stay for the short business meeting thereafter.

If you are available at 8 am the morning of the 1st, please consider stopping by the Franklin Public Library (upstairs) for the monthly Choose Franklin meeting. Society President Leigh Webb will be speaking about the many valuable benefits to the community that the Historical Society brings to Franklin, as do so many non-profits in this city. The Society is not just about collecting and displaying historical artifacts...

A suggestion has been made by a Society member to extend an invitation to those residents whose ethnic ties brought generations of their family to Franklin to seek employment in the mills in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In order to capture the important personal histories of the many families with Polish roots, or who migrated from French Canada, or came from a myriad of other ethnic backgrounds to melt into the pot of a diverse Franklin, you need only call the Society president, Leigh Webb (934-8222) to arrange a time to be interviewed. A digital recorder will be used so a computer file can be created, with the ultimate goal of transcribing that file (if volunteers can be found) into a permanent record of the accomplishments, trials, and successes of these hard working groups. Please consider adding your story to the indelible history of our city.

It was a banner month in August for donations to our burgeoning collections, for which Annette Andreozzi, Curator, and Leigh Webb are forever grateful. Thanks go out to: Betsy Davison, owner of "Harry's Land" on Aiken Point, the house built by Robert Leach, who donated several objects from the house—a vintage mirror, a large oval photo of (presumably) a young Robert Leach, c. 1900, in a Loyal Order Of Moose metal frame, two crystal hurricane lamps from the fireplace mantle, and a display cabinet, which will be used in the Society's upstairs "classroom" to house the Society's collection of vintage textbooks; Carlton and Mary Ham, for newspaper clippings, inserts, and Franklin Hospital reports; Elaine Gauthier, for a photo of the 1934 FHS girl's basketball team, with Pauline Gauthier, and a copy of "The Memoirs of Nelson E. Howard"; Annette Cain for two checks signed by the owner of C.P. Stevens Hardware, plus a glass souvenir coal hod, photos of the construction of the new fire station, an I.O.O.F ribbon, postcards, and multiple town and city reports ranging from 1868 to 1965; Steve and

Mary Foley, for an 1886 booklet from the "First Annual Exhibition of the NH Grange", a 1988 city directory, and a silver fork owned by Ellery c. Bugbee; K. Peddlar Bridges for a signed copy of his book, "Laconia Motorcycle Week 1916: the Beginning"; Linda Pauwels for wire rim glasses in a case from Dr. James S. Shaw, Franklin, FHS drama club rules, multiple clippings and newspaper articles, and her very own roller skates from the 1950's; Maurice Tandy for 1941 newspapers; Judith Ackerson for a panoramic photo of the 1941 M.T. Stevens employee outing and a zippered deposit bag from Franklin National Bank; and Joan Haney, also for wire rim glasses and a pair of pince-nez glasses. Wow! Keep these donations coming! It is always exciting to see another piece of Franklin history come across the Society's threshold.

The Society also extends its most heartfelt thanks to Linda Pauwels, for sharing her time over the Labor Day weekend to be a docent at the Society's Open House. Sunday was the busiest day, and her assistance made a huge difference.

As the summer ends and the leaves begin their glorious descent into the magnificent colors of fall, we should all remember and appreciate our New England heritage. Let others be jealous of what we too often take for granted: the gifts of the four seasons and generosity of the Yankee spirit.

[This month's image from the Franklin Historical Society of Central Street in the late 1800's, is one of the many postcards in the Society's collection, similar to views Glenn may be presenting on October 1]



Central Street, Franklin Falls, N. H.