

Franklin Historical Society February 2021

Cold! Certainly to be expected during a New England winter, the single digit temps that have become interspersed with above freezing readings are simply a reminder this is still the New Hampshire in February, despite occasional "warm" spells. The Museum's thermostats and heating system have been up to the task, and no problems have arisen thus far. The building is subject to a check from top to bottom on a regular basis, so if some difficulty should arise, it hopefully can be caught and rectified before much damage is done. There is also a sensing device as part of the alarm system, so if the main room's temperature falls below 41 degrees (the thermostat is set for 45), an alert goes out.

In Society business news, the investment account is either stable or increasing slightly, with the balance remaining healthy. There is a sufficient amount in the checking account to cover monthly costs, helped in great part by deposits of monetary donations, new life memberships, book sales and particularly a most generous distribution from the Melinda W. Tobie Trust. There will be an officers and board of directors meeting this month in Thompson Hall, courtesy of the Congregational-Christian Church and Glenn Morrill. An agenda will be emailed to all those who served in 2020, for those who cannot attend in person, comments will be solicited via email or they are invited to participate live, via phone.

Last year was obviously a great challenge for all like organizations, but because of dedicated volunteers, a favorable arrangement allowing us to have a permanent home, and a solid financial outlook, the Franklin Historical Society has fared very well. With optimism, the Society anticipates an inexorable movement towards a more acceptable norm, regular meetings (probably not until deep into the summer or even fall), and a Christmas potluck dinner to celebrate and appreciate that which may have been taken for granted before: the simple joy of social interaction. The most recent donations to the Society came from **Jack and Betty Tobey** through their daughter Elizabeth Jewell, one for the collections (Betty's perfectly preserved wedding dress) and the rest for the more pragmatic side of the Society's needs: tools of all kinds from power tools to screwdrivers, to address the various maintenance requirements posed by the stewardship of an historical building. For these gifts the Society is extremely grateful.

Inquiries appear periodically as well, either through the Society's website or FaceBook page (thank you Karen Darling). Some of these questions can be answered easily, some unfortunately cannot be answered at all. Sheila Rainford, a member who has donated often to the Society's archives, was helpful in determining the origin of a "mystery photo" posted on our FaceBook page (it turned out to not be Franklin, but Greenville NH!). A gentleman building a new website for the Franklin VFW contacted the Society and was very pleased with vintage photographs and some historical background that was provided. And Cathy Paris, another member, was astounded when a small article referring to an unfortunate 1888 drowning of a relative was found, scanned, and emailed to her. She also asked for and received scans of photos used by Andy Nadeau in his book on Papermaking in Franklin, of interest to Cathy because her great grandfather worked in the these mills, and in fact, died in paper mill B. One of the Society's most cherished missions is to encourage those who have an inquiring curiosity, members and non-members alike, to embrace, explore, and truly appreciate the past, so these little research projects go a long way in accomplishing that goal, on a very personal basis.

At least for the next few months, these newsletters will be the only direct contact with members. Should there be any topic a member would like discussed in these pages, they only need ask. In the meantime, keep a positive thought that in the not-to-distant future, we will be meeting again, swapping stories, enjoying a laugh, and just being able to see one another smile.

Below is a photo donated by Annette Cain some time ago, but recently scanned and sent to an 87 year old relative of Roger Elliott, top row without a rifle, as part of a request for images from his Franklin past. The group is the Senior Rifle Club, around 1954. Perhaps there are a few who might recognize some of the other faces, or where it was taken?

