

Franklin NH Historical Society News

July, 2015

Happy birthday America! And what does July 4th, the day the Declaration of Independence was made public in 1776, bring to mind at the Franklin Historical Society? A pre-Revolutionary War deed for a King's grant lot, part of the interval of Elm's Farm, belonging to Samuel Scribner (kidnapped by Indians, sold into slavery, who ultimately escaped to return to his family), signed by Ebenezer Stevens (for whom Stevenstown was named) as a witness, and made out by Josiah Bartlett, the New Hampshire signer of the document which began the action we celebrate every year--the birth of our nation. A copy of this amazing deed is proudly displayed in the Society's exhibit room, as an integral part of Franklin's, New Hampshire's, New England's, and America's history. Those who have taken advantage of the Society's open hours of 11 am to 2 pm on Sundays, have been able to peruse this document and many other pieces of Franklin's intricate and fascinating story. Whether you are using the trail and stop by for refreshments (cold drinks and snacks are sold to benefit the Society), or have just been meaning to visit the museum, Sundays have provided sustenance for both body and mind.

Adding to the list of recent acquisitions, sincere thank you's go out to the following donors: to Nancy and Jerome Galloway for the 1935 wedding dress of Doris Dion Carignan, among other vintage personal garments, with the family history, and to Denise Steadman, for fifteen groupings of humorous greeting cards, published in 1993, and intended for sale only in Franklin, incorporating the city's name in the card's message. Such donations add so much to the Society's collections and ultimately to future meaningful, educational, and insightful exhibits. Keep these contributions coming!

The Society has also been active in the community: sprucing up the Daniel Webster descriptive plaque located in the wall beneath the bust in front of the Congregational-Christian Church, with a fresh black background and gold on the letters. The sign in Fenlason Square was also retouched, so we never forget those who sacrificed so much for the freedoms we all enjoy and remember this month. The president continues to pursue an estimate for restoring the original furniture in the Grand Army of the Republic's meeting hall upstairs in city hall (long and short backed benches as well as the ceremonial chairs, the leather on which is showing its age), again as a tribute to our veterans from all conflicts. The garden under the water stand-pipe (across from the High School) is sprouting spring color, thanks to the efforts of Society volunteers. And five informational signs have been placed along the Northern Rail Trail (thanks go to the Sant Bani class of 2012 and the city of Franklin for subsidizing the cost of the signs, hardware, and posts), to acquaint users of the once proud utilitarian railroad stations which once serviced the line, and the history of Elms Farm and the Orphanage which once sheltered and educated so many at Webster Place.

The July program at the monthly meeting of the Society will feature "The Franklin Library Collections, Part II" at the usual time of 7 pm, Thursday July 2nd, at the Society's Webster Place home (21 Holy Cross Road, off Route 3. Directions on our website, www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org) All are welcome, and

light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

[This month's photo is courtesy of Rob Sargent, Franklin Librarian, for allowing the Society to scan its wonderful array of historic photos and items. In keeping with July's holiday, it is a view of Central Street on July 4th, 1890.]

To all, have a safe and memorable Fourth!

