

Franklin NH Historical Society News

September 2016

Summer never seems long enough. Never long enough to enjoy the fruits of Memorial day plantings, or the long hours of daylight to pursue recreational delights, or the cool evenings sitting in rocking chairs on the porch and appreciating the twinkling stars and the flickering lights of fireflies. All gone so quickly. September means back-to-school for the youngsters and a month closer to the cornucopia of colors that October's foliage will emblazon upon the landscape. For the Franklin Historical Society, September means an update on the historic district of Franklin's downtown. On Thursday, September 1st at 7 pm, at the Society's building at Webster Place (21 Holy Cross Rd., directions available on the Society's website), Annette Andreozzi will talk about what has happened to the downtown since her historic district tour ten years ago. How well has the city preserved its heritage? How is the private sector contributing to the restoration of the district while adding to the downtown's economic revival? And what positive strides can the district expect in the future? Interweaving the vestiges of the past into viable visions for the future is an ongoing challenge, but one in which the Society can play a vital role. This is a discussion of importance to those who care not only how the city proceeds into the next generation, but for those who value retaining the reminders of what brought Franklin into the present. As always, the presentation is free, and will be followed by light refreshments and the regular Society business meeting, which all attendees are encouraged to attend.

Several visitors to the Society's museum have taken advantage of the regular open hours of every Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm, to peruse the exhibits, purchase snacks, drinks, and ice cream, and especially to drop off donations. Recent contributions to our collections include: from Ginger Gross, a vintage luggage rack from the Franklin Log Cabin Community, along with a piece of original stationery and scans of the Log Cabin Community's promotional material from fifty years ago; from David and Nancy Waldo, a Boston FD brass reducer coupling and fire extinguisher "grenade" which were added to the Society's fire Department display, designed to encourage interest in the Franklin Firefighter's Museum located behind the fire station on W. Bow Street; from Sue Barton and "Rue 21" at Tanger Mall, two female and two male mannequins (which were used for FHS alumni exhibits); from Darlene Ryan (of Wells, ME) an 1884 copy of Henry Cabot Lodge's "Daniel Webster American Statesman"; from Celeste Couture, a combination of scrapbook memories from both her parents (Anthony and Gertrude Richard) and herself, spanning the decades of the 1940's and 1960's, including Franklin High School memorabilia, Franklin Dairy bottles from the WWII era (found in the basement of her home) and a Franklin Dairy porch box that she received from Elaine Keating Pridham of S. Berwick, ME (her father, Tom Keating, had served as Postmaster in Franklin from 1971-1974) which Celeste was passing on to the Society; from Lois Bradley, three scrapbooks of postcards, mostly from Franklin, and containing some Real Photo PC's never seen before; and finally, from George Turcotte, invaluable member of the Franklin Municipal Services team, the last flags (one American, and one Polish) posted at the Polish Home on West Bow, as well as his mother's (Julia Slisz) 1930 Franklin High School diploma with a 1930 program for a class concert and reception at the Opera House and GAR Hall tucked in a paper pocket on the reverse of the frame. Saying "thank you" for these generous gifts seems woefully inadequate, but the hope will always be that every donor knows the deepest sincerity with which those "thanks" are given.

Labor Day weekend, the Society will be open all three days, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10 am to 2 pm, before closing for the season (the museum can still be visited by appointment by calling Leigh Webb at 934-8222, and donations are accepted all year long). The Society will continue to meet monthly in October and November, with enticing programs, and will end the year with its traditional pot-luck Christmas dinner in December.

Labor Day weekend clean-up volunteers needed: Saturday (weather permitting) will be garden pruning, weeding, and mulching. Sunday can be dusting, sweeping, and general cleaning of the inside of the building (unless it rains on the outside day, then duties will be switched), and Monday can be organizing the screened porch, with hanging signs (need some muscle to lift large signs up onto hooks in the ceiling) and labeling displays. All weekend long there is also docent training and helping with tours of the museum. Any help will be appreciated!

[This month's images from the Franklin Historical Society, in keeping with the theme of the September meeting, is a composite of the Buell's Block, featuring the original building from the late 1800's and a recent photo of the building just prior to the façade restoration, and an updated photo (Aug. 28) of the progress made under the guidance of Tim Morrill]

