

Franklin NH Historical Society News

October 2016

Labor Day weekend came and went, the young people are back in school, and pumpkin patches throughout the region are in hyper-drive to produce the orange globes destined for pies and to feature the most creative and hideous expressions as jack o' lanterns, to the delight and wonderment of all. That three day weekend, which for many marked the unofficial end of summer, also marked for the Society the end of public open hours until next May. Monthly meetings continue this month and in November, and the museum is open by appointment (contact information and directions are on the Society website, www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org) and donations to the Society will be welcome anytime by contacting the Leigh Webb, 934-8222.

The October program, on Thursday, October 6th, at 7 pm, will feature a NH Humanities presentation entitled "Rally Round the Flag, The American Civil War in Folk Music", offered by two musical scholars of this critical era in U.S. history, Woody Pringle and Marek Bennett, "The Hardtacks". Please note that this event will be held at the Franklin Public Library in the upstairs meeting room. The program is free, and open to all. The library is handicapped accessible via an elevator off the back parking lot entrance.

New Hampshire native Marek Bennett is an award-winning cartoonist and musician who teaches and performs comics and music at schools and libraries throughout New England and the world beyond. He holds B.A.s in Music and Mathematics (Brown University) and an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction (Keene State College), and is a rostered teaching artist with the NH State Council on the Arts, Children's Literacy Foundation, and the Arts Alliance of Northern NH. Marek's latest graphic novel, "The Civil War Diary of Freeman Colby", details one NH teacher's experiences in the 39th MA Regiment. Woody Pringle is both a musician and educator, teaching at many NH colleges and organizations. His credentials include B.A. in Social Science (Johnson State College) and MBA (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute). His band Bradford Bog People often airs on NH Public Radio's Folk Show and on many radio stations throughout the country. This is a program NOT to be missed, blending fun with education, music with knowledge, and is suitable for all ages.

From the Curator's Corner, the most recent additions to the Society's collections came this past month from: Dorothy Hodgdon (of Ohio), a marvelous collection of photos and other items assembled by Hattie Campbell (a teacher in Franklin for many years in the early 20th century) from her own family and that of Clarence Hunt, long-time photographer from Franklin; Marilyn Bacon (of Penacook), an 1899 City Annual Report (the Society is still in need of City Directories from any year); from the manager of "Peebles" at the Belknap Mall, Melissa Zimmer, thirteen torso mannequins for display of our vintage apparel (because of tiny waists in the 19th century, the Society still needs boy and girl mannequins); Claire and Gerald Gauthier, a Cooperative Bank 1976 bicentennial calendar, a 1944 copy of the "News Digest" for Franklin, detailing the war front and home front news, and two milk bottles from the RC Colby Pleasant Street Farm in Franklin; the collective groups of alumni representing the Daniel Webster Home, Golden Rule Farm, Spaulding Youth Center, and Bull Run home, photo albums and documents from the reunions held at the Orphans Home spanning more 40 years; Ruth Mann, a copy of an article she wrote on the Elms Farm for the Farm Bureau; Kermit Simon (of Pennsylvania), an intact, half full, box of "latch needles", dated January, 1916, from the Acme Knitting Machine and Needle Company, which will be loaned to the CATCH housing project on Memorial Street for display, once the work is completed and a "museum space" is created; Sarah Stanley, a variety of items featuring the logo of the Franklin Savings Bank, soon to be changed; Darlene Ryan (of Welles, ME), two 8x10's of the 1952 FHS cheerleading squad which won the statewide competition amongst cheerleaders that year; and Linda Pauwels, scripts she used as a member of the Franklin High School Drama Club in 1957-58, newspaper clippings of significant events and obituaries of prominent people in Franklin, a vintage "curtain stretcher", and a copy of "40 Fordway" by Joe McKeever, a graduate of Franklin High School, chronicling a heinous crime in Derry, NH. For all these gifts, a collective "Thank You!" to all from the Society. Preserving the vestiges of Franklin's past and honoring those who made Franklin great is only one of the many important duties assumed by the Society, and one that makes other responsibilities, such as a continuing quest to educate, possible.

[This month's photo is of "The Hardtacks", Bennett and Pringle, in period attire, preparing to sing a song that rallied the troops in the War Between the States]

