

Franklin Historical Society
January 2020

Another season of regular meetings and special events has come and gone, with the end marked in the traditional manner by a gathering of members and friends to celebrate the coming holidays with a resplendent pot-luck dinner. Glenn Morrill opened Thompson Hall for a warm and welcoming venue, Elizabeth Jewell and Annette Andreozzi cooked the turkeys, and members brought their favorite dishes to offer the more than twenty five in attendance with more than enough choices to fill their plates and their appreciative stomachs. With societal camaraderie and Christmas carols in abundance, the fading days of 2019 were noted with sated bliss.

Now is the time, during the winter hiatus, for the officers and board of directors to take stock of the successes of the past on which to build, and set new goals for the Society to continue to grow and fulfill its mission statement in the coming twelve months. The inventorying of recent donations and establishing new displays is ongoing, so that when the Society is reopened for Saturday of Memorial Day to begin the season of weekend viewings and visits, there will always be something interesting and educational to see. To add to the growing archive of precious materials in the Society's keeping, the following items and the generous donors who gave them are duly recognized, with heartfelt appreciation of the Society: **Frederick Kacprznski**, for a poster announcing an estate sale at the property of Ralph T. Hubbard in August of 1946; **Janet Jurta**, for a 1941 copy of the "High School Christmas Book", a FHS athletic letter, a Saturday Evening Post collector tray featuring a 1957 Norman Rockwell cover, an early 1900's song book from the Cable Piano Co., a 1992 newspaper article on St. Mary's School, and a 2007 article on the renovations at Webster Place Recovery Center; **Yvonne Weglarz**, a copy of the 1950 FHS "The Key" yearbook; **Annette Cain**, for 1953-55 photos of the members of the Franklin Senior Rifle Club, a shopping bag from Healeys Shoes, a comb from the "Barber Shop" at 939 Central, and two winter photos from behind city hall, c. 1965, of parked cars and a state police car with an abundance of snow nearby; **John Benham**, for a 1985 tribute booklet honoring Eugene S. Daniell, newspaper clippings about a 1977 tennis tournament honoring Sidney Holmes, and the 1978 centennial booklet from Griffin Hacksaw with four 5 x 7 photos of Griffin employees; and from **Mary Foley**, more material to offer for sale at next year's June plant sale. It is a constant source of amazement to see the extent and variety of donated collectibles dropped off, mailed, or submitted in person to the Society, always expanding the depth and scope of the story of Franklin, and often leading to some very illuminating and rewarding research.

NEWS FLASH: Bob Beaulieu, who crafted the stainless steel bracket from which our sign on Route 3 hangs, won the Society's entry into the Opera House's Festival of Trees. Bob recently visited the Museum to claim his additional gifts, one of which was a 2020 membership in the Society. Welcome Bob, and thank you for your support of both organizations!

In keeping with the Society's desire to extend educational opportunities, talks on a variety of interesting topics, slide shows, and show-and-tells are available to school classes, non-profits, and private groups. Arrangements can be made and potential topics discussed by contacting president Leigh Webb at 934-8222 or simply going to the Society website (www.franklinhistoricalsociety.org) and sending an inquiry via the contact link.

Also, as we enter into another inevitable tax season, please consider the benefits of donating to the Society, either as a direct gift or through Planned Giving. Details of the latter can be found on the website, and all gifts are gratefully accepted and deeply appreciated.

Considering it is soon to be January, what would be more appropriate in closing than to wish ALL a safe, productive, and HAPPY New Year!

See you in April when the Society reconvenes at its first 2020 regular meeting.

[This month's photo, from the Society's archives, is a winter shot from atop the city's famous railroad trestle looking west down Central Street in the latter part of the 19th century. The mill buildings near the Sanborn Bridge and large smokestack denote the location of Trestle View Park today. The Kidder building is now Sanel Auto Parts.]

