

Franklin NH Historical Society News

March 2017

Despite Punxsutawney Phil's dire prediction of an extended winter, most all (with the exception of skiers and snowmobilers, perhaps) long for spring and its renewal of life, warmer temperatures, and shoveling only in the garden and not in the driveway. March means only one more month before the Society's 2017 season begins with new monthly programs every first Thursday night from April to November, museum open hours every Sunday starting in May, and exciting events such as Community Day, the annual plant sale, and an August field trip. A new season also opens up the opportunity to become a new member, renew your existing membership, learn how to be a docent in the Society museum, help with the maintenance of our Webster/Tay building, get involved with creating new exhibits, or contribute to the Society in a variety of other ways. There is always something to do at Webster Place...

During the winter months the Society's officers and board of directors were far from idle. In February, the board held its annual meeting to arrange for the yearly elections, talk about upcoming needs, discuss financial matters, and to generally plot a practical course for 2017. The president welcomed the volunteer help of Easter Seal's Tabatha Barton and her student at our home building, who spent several hours in sorting vintage newspapers, organizing the outside porch display of historic Franklin business signs, and generally helping out wherever the need dictated. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact Leigh Webb at 934-8222 or through the Society's website. The president and curators were also busily inventorying the latest donations to the collections and creating new exhibits to educate and to pay respect to those who served our country and Franklin in both military and civilian capacities. An area of the museum once used to serve refreshments during the Society's monthly meetings, has now been converted into a display area, and come Memorial Day, will feature military uniforms from every branch of the services to honor all veterans (thank you again, Kathy and David Fuller, whose family uniforms going back to WWI will be at the center of those shown).

Once again so many caring individuals have shown their love of Franklin by donating prized finds to be preserved in perpetuity by the Society. This month's "honor roll" includes: Kris Meinhold, for gifting a steam gauge made for the Kidder Machine Company; Denny Ordway, for a 1953 "Always Be Careful" calendar, a reminder to children with bicycles to be cognizant and safe; and Annette Cain, whose list of incredibly generous donations includes a candlestick bowling pin from the Top O'Town Lanes (which later became the Steenbeke and Son's hardware store and lumber yard, now also gone), two spare projector bulbs for the Society's vintage slide projectors, a petite Griffin Drugs dark brown medicine bottle, several Franklin High year books, her 1955 St. Mary's diploma and her 1959 High School diploma, several pieces of Franklin Savings Bank and National Bank ephemera, business matchbooks (remember when they were popular promotions?), her 1950's Franklin Junior Rifle Club score card, ice tongs from the Webster Lake Ice House, a 1924 Franklin Fireman's Relief Association booklet of By-Laws, and snapshots of the FFD 1973 rescue truck and Griffin Beach in 1951. Wow! The society is in all of these donors' debt, for which a simple "thanks" seems barely adequate, but the sentiment is genuine and lasting.

To keep abreast of all developments at the Society, please visit the website www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org regularly. Spring is around the corner, and with it will come our first 2017 meeting in April. Please mark your calendars for Thursday, April 6th at 7 pm to see what is new and exciting at your Society. The subject of the presentation, sure to be entertaining and informative, will be announced in next month's article. Stay warm, stay well, stay tuned!

[This month's photo is a composite of the clocks which have graced the exterior of the bank (really banks) at Central and Franklin Streets, from the early part of the 20th century until today, with the newest clock installed just last month. It is a shame that the first clock, as iconic as it was, did not survive urban renewal...]



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