

Franklin Historical Society March 2021

It is amazing what can appear on the doorstep, arrive in the mail, or just be offered out of the blue. In February the Society was gifted the following, with it's deepest appreciation: from **Stanley and Beth Robinson**, framed maps including those from 1892 of Franklin Falls and Tilton and Sanbornton, plus a framed reproduction of a 1796 map of NH (with a framed explanation of its source); from **Scott Burns** miscellaneous paperwork associated with Charles Colby's ownership of Rennie's Taxi, with a 1991 newspaper article retelling the business's history; from **Maurice Tandy** a copy of "The History of the Tandy Family"; from **Linda Pauwels** pertinent obituaries from local newspapers of well known Franklin residents; from **Cathy Fuller** a book by Bradbury Prescott (Prescott Oil) of the "Maine Coastline" signed by the author (with a newspaper clipping of his obituary) and a Franklin Historical Society T-shirt that must have been created in the 1970's (does anyone remember a design including pictures of the Congregational-Christian Church, the Republican Bridge, Eastman Falls, the Webster School, and the Upside Down Bridge?), prior to the incorporation of the current Society in 1981; from **Gail Henry** two letters written to her mother by Bessie Rowell and two newspapers from 1873 (with an article about Jonas Aiken creating a Webster Lake guest house to accommodate up to forty guests!) and 1890 (with a map of Webster Lake); and from **Tom Caldwell** a plaque from the NHPA honoring Richard P. Lewis' lifetime dedication to the newspaper field. The latter is now hanging in the newspaper room at the Society bearing his name on the door. The Society also received (to keep its inventory up to date) a current Winter Carnival program and button. If only an original 1936-37 Carnival button could be obtained, the collection would be complete...(hint, hint).

February is also the time designated for the annual meeting of the Officers and Board. The topics of discussion and the results of the same have been distributed to the membership, with the following as an addendum: Sandra Burney has graciously stepped forward to fill out Steve Foley's term of office as a Director.

In last month's newsletter, a photo was distributed of the Franklin Senior Rifle Club, and two members were able to identify the location as the meeting room of the old West Franklin fire station (long since demolished), which, coincidentally, had a firing range in its basement. The website still gets inquiries on a regular basis, some requesting information on family ancestors, and occasionally to reveal a new mystery. Such a contact came from Jim McConaha, who had acquired a bookcase which revealed certain handwritten information of its original destination (Franklin National Bank) and its creator (D.M. Page). However, the only Page in Franklin around the possible time of creation who was a carpenter listed in the contemporary directory was an A.W. Page. Related? One might believe that to be true. Unfortunately Mr. Page did not date his handiwork, so the story is only half complete.

If you have not visited the Society's Facebook page recently, there is an entry to Black History Month that you might find enlightening. Franklin's contribution to the African-American experience may not be the most consequential, but the stories told have chapters yet to be written. Lastly, responses to the email survey at the bottom of the Officers and Board agenda/minutes regarding member's feelings about the use of Zoom for meetings, should that need continue in the months ahead, or just to expand the membership base in the future, have been very few. Unless otherwise indicated by additional replies, the supposition would be that too few members have the desire to pursue such a course. An alternative could be, as suggested by one of the Society's officers, that meetings could be recorded, and made available after the fact via access to an online medium (such as Youtube). If you have an opinion as yet undisclosed, you may reply directly to this missive.

Below: two small (not more than 4" long) latch needle boxes donated by Jason Blais, from a bygone industrial era in Franklin.

