

Franklin NH Historical Society News

November 2016

Even though the museum will not be regularly open on Sundays again until next May, the Historical Society is always accessible by appointment with Leigh Webb, 934-8222. However, anyone choosing to visit during the winter should wear warm clothes, as the building is only heated at a minimum to avoid freezing problems.

The Society's season winds down with the final scheduled meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, at 7 pm, in our building's Albert G. Garneau Memorial Meeting Room at Webster Place (21 Holy Cross Rd. in the Webster/Tay building. Directions available at www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org). The presentation will consist of two slide shows: more digitized photos from the Franklin Library collection, and scanned Real Photo Postcards (RPPC's) recently acquired in a turn-of-the-last-century album donated by Lois Bradley. This last group of images are of various street scenes in Franklin from over one hundred years ago, and, in the tradition of audience participation that has become a staple at these kinds of events, all in attendance will be asked to help identify the photos. Some are quite obvious, but others much more obscure, having undergone considerable change over the last century. Events such as these are always a delight, with lively exchanges of ideas and useful information being the result. Consider coming in November to tread down memory lane and reminisce about the changing look of Franklin over the last eleven plus decades. Light refreshments will be served after the show and before our last business meeting of 2016, to which all are encouraged to attend. Everyone--member, friend, relative, is welcome, and there is no charge. Member or not, participation and involvement is paramount for the Society to continue to improve and grow. Ideas for 2017 programs will be discussed, as well as details of the annual Pot-luck Christmas dinner at Thompson Hall on December 11th (courtesy of the reservation made by Glenn Morrill).

As is the custom of both the Society's curator and president, acknowledgement of recent donations and the extension of a extensive "thank you" go to: Fay Mahoney, for gifting an original oil painting of the Upside Down Bridge by Rita F. Poirier, many original framed photographs taken by Fay when working as a reporter and editor of the various Franklin newspapers (now gone), and an 1875 embroidery crafted by Fay's aunt; to Rita Norander for the provisional donation (subject to family approval) of an amazing (and incredibly scarce!) letter by Parker Noyes, who, with George W. Nesmith, helped create the town of Franklin in 1828; to Robert Toppi, a printed agenda and business cards of those who had attended the final reunion of the Daniel Webster Home; to Scott Clarenbach, for a wooden nickel from the Top O'Town bowling alley, a "Sonorian" magazine from the Franklin High School, Commencement issue June 1925, a copy of the Granite State Monthly for April, 1923 with a featured article on Franklin, a booklet on NH's Historical Markers, and two books on NH; to Dan Sylvester, the High School AD, for the most interesting collection of "locker leftovers" including a Howdy Dowdy Beef N' Burger pin, a Bush '88 pin, Student Handbook (year unknown), Whizzen Sales & Service ink blotter, '77-'78 Basketball schedule courtesy of Alfred Wilson Insurance, tickets from February 4 (no year) Carnival Ball with Bob Hall's Orchestra and 1975 Spring Concert and Ham Dinner ticket (with the blank reverse later used as a hall pass for Bill Hurd), a Webster pocket dictionary, newspaper stories, and two S&H green stamps; and to Laurie Bartow for a copy of "Daniell Jr. Echo" April 1925, who purchased the item on EBay specifically to donate to the Society. It is through the efforts of caring individuals like these that Franklin's treasures are recognized, put aside, and preserved, and why it is so important for the Society to publicly applaud these efforts and express its deep appreciation.

Bundle up, use care should the surfaces become icy, and see you at the November meeting. Your input on the "mystery photos" might just be the missing piece of information we need!

[This month's photo is actually an RPPC from roughly 100 years ago, and is meant as a "tease" to get you to come to the November meeting. Where exactly was this picture taken?]

