

## Franklin Historical Society

### June 2022

Saturday May 28th was the first day of “Open Saturdays” at the Society. Unfortunately, rain curtailed any trail users from visiting and made putting out the sign by the trail impractical. However, a neighbor did stop by, promising to come back to learn more about the area’s history. No time at the Society is ever wasted, as on this Saturday, donations were sorted, and a PowerPoint presentation for the Franklin 4th graders was put together for later viewing.

Randy Kovach is now the new docent/state employee at the Daniel Webster Birthplace. Hours and days should be posted on the State’s Parks website. He has been given all the material the Society has gathered over the years about the Birthplace specifically and Daniel generally, so he is prepared to dazzle all seasonal visitors with his knowledge.

June’s program introduces Yama Ploskonka, a relatively new Franklin resident who is an expert on papermaking, which will be the subject of his presentation on **Thursday the 2nd at 7 pm, at Webster Place**. His new book entitled *A Few Notes on the History of Papermaking, especially about handmade paper and the early years of papermaking in Franklin, New Hampshire* will be on sale that night only for \$10. The regular price will be \$19.99. The book is 92 pages long, with 32 illustrations, and features 5 samples of handmade paper. Pictured below is the author and our speaker in 2018, hand making paper at a crafts workshop in Texas.



This meeting is open to all and light refreshments will be offered between the talk and the business meeting, to which all are encouraged to attend.

Community Day was an absolute success. The weather was warm certainly, but the pop-up gave shade and chairs were provided for our volunteers. THANK YOU to those who gave of their time, patience, and expertise: Elizabeth Jewell, Annette Cain, Will Clark, and Frank Genus. Without these generous members, the Society would not have been able to have a presence at Odell Park to answer questions, meet one of the new owners of the Isaac Hale House (perhaps becoming the newest member?), and collect \$169 in sales and donations.

On **June 9th** the Franklin Middle School 4th graders, led by teacher Kerri Biller, will be touring the downtown area. Beginning at Trestle View Park, they will visit local business owners, and then be treated to an educational slideshow at the Opera House, sponsored by your Society, featuring Franklin's past, the changes the city has undergone in the last 130 years, and its bright future with a new identity.

*Don't forget* that Saturday **June 18th** will be the Society's annual plant sale, so anyone wishing to donate plants, or volunteer to help out that day, please contact Annette Andreozzi at 603-934-8222 or through the Society's Facebook page.

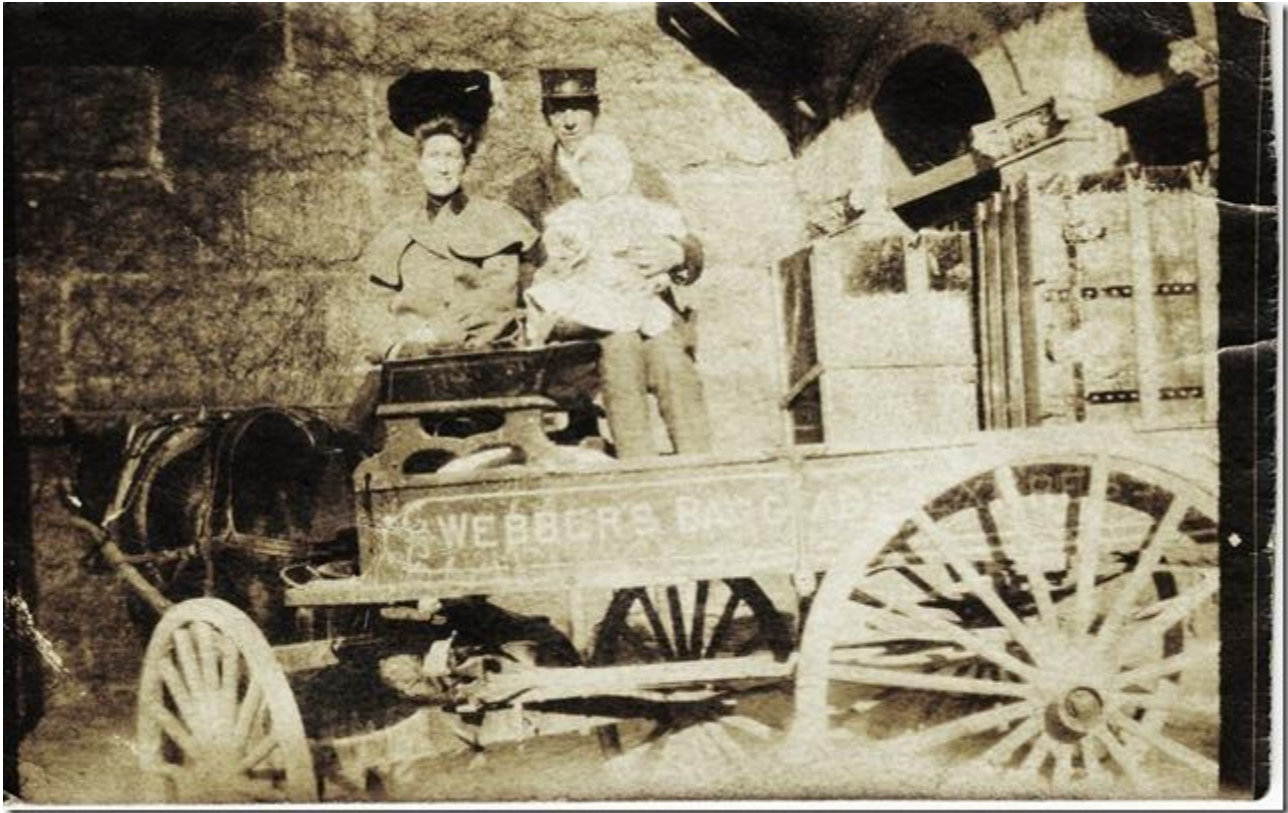
It has been a busy month for donations to the Society's collections. Many thanks go to those whose gifts were gratefully received: from **Annette Cain** a copy of the 1978 plan to relocate Routes 3 and 11 starting with the creation of exit 21 off I-93 (it never happened, of course); from **John Benham** a copper funnel from Dan's Pharmacy used in conjunction with the soda fountain to mix drink syrups; from a benefactor living in Plymouth came bound Merrimack Journals from January 5 1876-December 28 1877 (if you are, or know that person, please contact the Society with your name for proper donor attribution!); from **Ray Drapeau** three albums full of photos and post cards acquired by his father William Drapeau (whose scrapbooks had already come to the Society many years ago) resulting in the photo below and a story further down; from **Kevin Murphy** (via Linda Pauwels) a roll of green felt purportedly from the Stevens Mill used for pool tables, two unidentified B&W snapshots possibly from the 1950's, a newspaper article about Henry L. Smith and his model of the Republican Bridge (including a photo of Henry with his creation for which the Society has the original negative!) and a stereocard photo of orphans gathered at the main stairs of the Mack Building; from **Linda Pauwels** her usual contributions of obituaries and notable newspaper stories; and from **Bob Lucas** 18 photo frames of various sizes. Once again, as it always bears repeating, THANK YOU to all for your thoughtful and important gifts.

Below is one of the images found in the William Drapeau collection, showing what appears to be a circa 1900 parade down Central Street (with all the original buildings on the trestle side of the street) possibly being led by the George F. Sweatt Post number 38 of the Grand Army of the Republic.



As had been mentioned in a previous newsletter, Alicia Wheeler allowed the Society to review documents, a scrap book, and even scan some photos that had been found when cleaning out a house owned by her family. There were a few surprises... The president of our Society was raised in Melrose MA, so when a postcard was discovered in this material of Upham Street *in* Melrose, as where Charles, of the famous Daniell family, lived, the six degrees of separation (or is that six *feet* of separation these days?) truly hit home, with an early connection of Melrose to Franklin! Also in the “small world” category, two of the photo albums came from Marguerite Daniell, an inveterate traveler, some of whose other photographic albums, documenting hikes up and down NH mountains, had been rescued by John Benham from being thrown away some time back. But then *another* connection: Marguerite graduated Franklin High School in 1910 with her close friend Ruth Adams, whose photo appeared in one of Alicia’s albums. In William Drapeau’s collection of postcards, there was one from 1906 of the old high school *sent by Ruth Adams!* Is it not amazing how individual histories can intertwine so seamlessly? One of the many images scanned by the Society from the Wheeler material is below, with permission from Alicia Wheeler. Anyone know who these people are, or where this might have been taken? Alicia’s family connections include the Morrills, Beaupres, Daniells, Barnards, and Nowells. The location could be a train station, and the gentleman could be a railroad employee...





Any thoughts can be expressed by an email reply to this newsletter, with a “thank you” in advance for any light that may be shed on an image once a precious family memory, now lost to time.

This Memorial Day, please keep in your thoughts those who put on a uniform to protect our precious way of life, and did not come back. It is the Society’s wish that exhibits like that dedicated to Roger S. Martin will serve as a constant reminder to never forget the sacrifices made.

Be well all, stay safe, and see you on June 2nd.