

Franklin NH Historical Society News

September 2015

In the Society's ongoing quest to tie events at the Society to happenings sponsored by other groups within Franklin, over the weekend of August 7, 8, and 9, Annette Andreozzi, the Society's Curator, offered several exhibits to honor the High School All-Class Reunion held over that time period. A special open house on Saturday the 8th allowed alumni to view the displays, comprised of wedding photos and past dresses worn by graduates on their "special day" (made possible by loans of these precious garments by Rita Norander, Marie Creasey, and Pat Cutter of the Andover Historical Society), a 1960's FHS sweater and jacket with lettermen patches and several yearbooks, all loaned by Kathy Fuller, plus a slideshow of photos assembled by president Leigh Webb spanning high school related images dating from 1895 to the mid 1970's, utilizing photos from the Society archives, Library scans, and negatives donated years ago by Frank Poblentz. Those alumni who stopped by were visibly sentimental about their high school days, thrilled at the activities of the weekend, and thankful for the work done by Annette and Leigh at the Society to make their visit so memorable. A couple of visitors even promised to make donations of material to make future displays richer and even more entertaining!

As a bit of an experiment, the Society enjoyed a field trip instead of the traditional pot-luck picnic in August, venturing to the Sanborn Mills farm in Loudon for a guided tour on Saturday, August 15th. Over the course of two hours, a hardy group of walkers learned about the Farm's water-operated lumber mill, it's working blacksmith shop, learning garden, and grist mill, all features of this farm which has its origins in the 18th century. More than a dozen Society members took advantage of this opportunity, suggesting this kind activity may become an August fixture in the Society's event calendar.

The Society's next program occurs on Thursday, September 3, at 7 pm, when Glenn Knoblock, noted local author and NH Humanities Council lecturer, will present his talk on "New Hampshire Cemeteries and Gravestones". Please note that this lecture will be at the Franklin Public Library, 310 Central Street, in the upstairs meeting space. Access is via the rear door (off the parking lot behind the Franklin City Hall/Opera House). Use the elevator or stairs to the 2nd floor. The presentation is the product of the partnership between the Society and the Library, and is sponsored by the NH "Humanities To Go!" program. This event, as are all Society programs, is free and open to all. The New Hampshire Humanities Council is responsible for the subsidies which make these presentations possible.

From the Historical Society Curator Annette Andreozzi, come the undying thanks to the following for their generous and gracious gifts to the Society: to June Weglarz, for writing the history of the "Therrien Chair" (on loan from Maurice Tandy) adding an incredible back-story and making an inanimate object come alive in the telling of its vintage, as well as donating Hood's 1928 cookbook, Slade's 1916 cookbook for "home ec" teachers, an 1876 Franklin Savings Bank passbook, a photo of the Chase/Durgin farm (from whence came the "Therrien Chair"), a much used copy of "The History of Salisbury", an 1890 "Resolution of Recognition" for Jeannette Therrien, and rubber stamps used by Jeannette at the Nesmith School; to Edward A. Dorval, Sr. for dropping by on a Sunday and donating three 19th century

metal coal bin plates from the Merrimack Fuel & Feed Company, found by his metal detector; and Robert Lucas, for several vintage Franklin postcards. An incredibly productive month for the Historical Society archives! And never forget, that without the consideration of all our donors, the Society would be deprived of these treasures.

From the President Leigh Webb, a humble thanks to Karen Darling and her two adolescent charges from the Franklin Junior Youth Group, Riley Roper and Jake Allison, who aided energetically on Saturday, August 25th, in cleaning and weeding the gardens around the Webster/Tay, to make our building more attractive and welcoming; and to Geraldine and Roger Iliff, for their generous monetary gift towards the restoration of the Webster/Tay, which this year will help in removing another portion of the vinyl siding and reconstruction of the window frames and sills negatively impacted by the use of this type of siding, the bane of historical buildings.

Of important note: the Society will be open again on Labor Day Weekend this year, Saturday, Sunday and Monday the 5th, 6th, and 7th, 10 am to 2 pm, offering docent-guided tours of the museum exhibits, and books, T-shirts, memberships, snacks, cold drinks, and ice cream for sale, all to benefit the Society. If you were not able to make it out on the previous Sundays, or last year, this will be your last chance to this season discover the wonders of the Society's collections. After this weekend, the museum will be closed except by appointment (contact President Leigh Webb at franklin_pride@yahoo.com or call 934-8222) until May of next year.

[This month's picture, in keeping with the theme of high school graduations, is the Franklin High School Class of 1935]

