

## Franklin NH Historical Society News

NOVEMBER 2018

The pinnacle of fall foliage has passed, with more color on the ground now than in the trees, the air is crisper, laden with the hint of impending and inevitable snow to soon follow, and the promise of families to gather at Thanksgiving, are all part of the month of November. At the Society, it is the month of the final regular meeting of 2018, offering as its theme **"Then and Now"**, featuring 1940's era NH DOT photos of the bridges of Franklin as well as other images of Franklin past and present. **The presentation on Thursday, November 1st, will begin at 7 pm at the Webster Place home of the Society** (21 Holy Cross Road for your GPS, or use the directions available on the Society's website, [franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org](http://franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org)). All are welcome to this free event, and light refreshments will be served between the slideshow and the general business meeting, at which details of the Christmas Potluck dinner will be discussed. "Now" photos have always been illuminating when properly mimicking vintage "then" pictures, but very challenging to capture. In the late 19th century, when so many of these fabulous shots were originally taken, the countryside was almost barren from the ongoing efforts of a robust lumbering industry. As a result, today there exists little old growth, but because of conservation efforts and the private acquisition of much of the land, trees abound, hindering the view that the first photographers enjoyed unrestricted. Even when trying to duplicate pictures from the 1940's, considerable underbrush and new growth is encountered, jeopardizing even the most intrepid photographer. With new and unseen material, as well as comparisons seen prior but not by everyone, the show should have something for everyone. The bridge photos are courtesy of the NH Department of Transportation as negatives, which were scanned by the President of the Alton Historical Society Martin Cornelissen and graciously passed on to us, for which the Society is exceedingly grateful. The "now" photos were all taken by the Society president.

Over the months during which the Society will be closed (except for regular meetings this month and in April 2019, the Society museum will not be open again on a regular basis until May of next year), donations to our collections will always be welcomed, as well as any gifts to help with the Society's mission of spreading the joy of knowledge and appreciation of Franklin's past. In that regard, the Society is still looking for a bicycle parking rack, to be a more welcoming destination to those using the Northern Rail Trail intersecting with Holy Cross Road. Anyone who wishes to donate, or has pertinent information on items sought, or wishes to arrange a personal appointment to visit the museum, may call the Society's president Leigh Webb at 934-8222.

Segueing neatly to the thank you's owed to current contributors, the Society wishes to acknowledge the following for their generous gifts: Bob Desrochers, for an old clapboard stenciled "C.P. Stevens Co.", for Clarence P. Stevens, who owned and operated a hardware store in Franklin in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (and, as an historic note, booked entertainment acts to appear in the Burleigh Hall and then the Memorial Hall Opera House) and several square cut nails, taken from a house he owns

on Franklin Street built prior to 1884; John Benham, for a box of material including copied manuscripts written by Mrs. John Proctor and Miss Mary Proctor, documents related to the Symons cemetery, the Colby family, and Thomas Welch, as well as a sheet about "salmon fishing"; Carlton Ham, for a slide projector, the Rotary Club trophy from the 1982 Santa Claus Parade, a copy of Edward Nelson's "Assignment in Japan", framed maps of Franklin, framed Styles Bridges posters and signed photo, framed photos of the first motorized hearse in Franklin, and the original H.L. Young sign (c. 1930) from the Central Street bldg.; Glenn Morrill, for several bank deposit envelopes with local business ads from the 1960's; and Chris Lewis, for several hacksaw blades from the modern era from the Griffin hacksaw mill (some refer to it as the Stanley Hacksaw mill, as the Stanley Company was the last owner, c. 1978-1984) on Memorial Street. After years of being abandoned and neglected, this original mill building in the Franklin Historic District, may now be in danger of being demolished, as was the building which served at times as the Franklin Steam Laundry and as a bowling alley, also on Memorial Street, razed in October as part of the downtown revitalization project.

As always, these gifts are appreciated beyond words, as the collections continue to grow, and with them, the ability of the Society to enrich the lives of all who live in

Franklin with the ultimate gift: knowledge.

*[This month's double image from the Franklin Historical Society is one to be used in its November program, showing the Daniell Bridge, looking towards the Franklin Public Library in 1940, and today]*

