

Franklin Historical Society September 2020

Although few of us wish to be reminded that colder weather is inevitably in our future, recent cooler temperatures presage the coming of fall, and this year, the controversial reopening of schools. Despite having not missed a fourth grade class for the last several years, it appears most likely that the Society's annual in person presentation on Daniel Webster will not happen in 2020. Optimistically there may be a possibility of May of 2021, if conditions and adequate precautions permit. The purpose of this presentation has always been to instill in the young minds of the audience a sense of pride in being from Franklin, and to serve as inspiration to become the *next* famous person to bring honor to their hometown.

As stated in an earlier announcement, the September meeting of the Society has been pushed to either October or November, depending on the completion of the renovation work at Mojalaki. This venue was selected because it provides enough space to properly distance attendees, but more importantly, to recognize Mojo's 100th anniversary while looking forward to the next one hundred years. Please continue to check the Society's website (www.franklinhistoricalsociety.org) for updates, as changes can occur with little or no advance notice. As backup, appropriate announcements will be sent via email to all current members, in as timely a fashion as circumstances allow.

In Society news, the City of Franklin once again has contributed \$250 with the expressed use to defray the cost of signs to honor the industrial heritage of Mill City Park, and as a tribute to the Proctor family and to relate the history of the Peabody Home, when those in control of these projects determine the best use and most strategic placement of the signs to maximize their educational efficacy. Other significant monetary donations came from the Franklin Women's Club and Mary Ham (the organization's former treasurer), and Gail Brophy Barry, who donated several items to our collections (see below) and became a lifetime member as well. The Society's investment portfolio has been treated kindly by the Stock Market, and the checking account had sufficient funds (from dues, donations, book sales, the plant sale income, merchandise, and new memberships), with a reserve, to cover all ongoing expenses (electricity, water, preservation supplies, the PO Box rental, building maintenance supplies, postage, and printing) and the annual insurance bill (for liability and lessor's protection) of a little bit over \$2,000.00. Unlike other historical associations similar in size, the financial condition of our Society is very sound.

Donations to the museum continue unabated. Deepest thanks go to the following for their gifts to history: **Gail Brophy Barry** for a large oval photo of her grandfather Leslie Buchanan in his WWI uniform with his purple heart medal (he was wounded twice and gassed), campaign medal (listing the battles in which he fought), military rank insignia (captain) and various WWII lapel pins (he was a veteran of both wars), as well as a framed photo of her mother Genevieve Buchanan Brophy in her WWII uniform with her Women's Army Corps medal, rank insignia (lieutenant bars) and WAAC lapel pin, with postcards with personal messages from WWII, newspaper clippings, civilian photos, a FHS 1939 graduation commencement program, and a souvenir blue ceramic Jonroth English plate of the Old Man of the Mountain from the Flume Reservation; **Annette Cain** for a Franklin Co-op Bank vinyl folder and two deposit envelopes with local advertising, a FSB savings passbook used from 1928-1951, an unassembled cancelled checks box, a "Family Variety" refrigerator magnet, an H.L. Young rain cap

folded in its vinyl sleeve, two Franklin Rotary pens, small jewelers' repair envelopes from Phipps Jewelers and John Harley Merrill, small Franklin National Bank cloth bag, Plaza House of Pizza advertising postcard, Franklin-Tilton Chamber of Commerce pamphlet, a Journal Transcript Trumpeter flyer, various telephone booklets, copies of 1976 and 1981 newspaper articles on the Old Man of the Mountain (interesting because they discuss the decay of the rock formation), various Franklin business matchbooks, and a "Welcome to the NH House of Representatives" pamphlet, c. 1986; **Mary Crowley** for a rolled copy of the 1932 panoramic photo commemorating the Dedication of the Daniel Webster bust; **Scott Burns** who stopped by with the typewriter which once belonged to Katharine Ralph of Railroad/Ridgewood Road; **Darlene Cutter Ryan** for two small B&W snapshots of her father's Esso gas station (where the mill wheel is now in Trestle View Park); and **Charlotte "Charlie" Annand of the Milford Historical Society** who has offered a large reverse-painted portrait of a young Daniel Webster, which is to be picked up in Milford. All of these contributions are immensely appreciated, and illustrate how many different ways in which support for the Society can be demonstrated.

Life goes on at the Society. Although few have visited the museum this season, if even one visitor learns something about the history of Franklin, or adopts an increased appreciation of what came before as a result of their museum tour, the effort is well worth the time committed. Perhaps in October we will once again be able to share stories and memories in person. Keeping a positive thought, stay well, stay safe, and stay informed.

[This month's photo, circa 1950, is of Harold Cutter in front of his oil delivery truck, with his Esso service station in the background]

