

## February 2018

The end of December and the first part of January will certainly be remembered for its unforgiving cold periods and noticeable snowfall, leading to constant vigilance over water pipes and snow accumulation on roofs, particularly porch and flat roofs. At the Society, frequent trips for “building checks” were necessitated to confirm adequate heating levels, and a single trip to clear the porch roofs, both front and rear, of over two feet of drifted snow and ice in some places. Considering the added anomaly of temps in the high 40’s plus rain (!?) mid month, the action of clearing the roofs before the heavy precipitation turned out to be a wise decision.

The Society also greeted the New Year with, just possibly, a record number of material donations to the collections. Deeply felt and the most **sincere thanks** must be offered to acknowledge the following gifts and their donors: scrapbook photos, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia from the St. Mary’s School (**Janet Jurta**); a framed letter, dated 1846, addressed to Herrick Aiken, regarding payment from an out-of-state distributor of Mr. Aiken’s saw sets (**Judy and David Palfrey**); color snapshots taken during the 2000 Society Christmas dinner (**Sandra Burney**); Photo postcards and a small albumin print from the early 1900’s of mill employees (unfortunately not identified), (**Rita Norander**); panoramic photo of the August, 1941 outing for the Sulloway Mill Hosiery employees (**Kathy Davidson, via Mary Foley**); photo albums and clippings of the FHS Class of 1947 from their 25th, 40th, 50th and 62nd class reunions, plus original memorabilia and even Jr. HS photos of that class (**Jane Fredette and Barbara Wiegand Robinson, also via Mary Foley**); a 1966 Franklin Woman’s Club cookbook (**Mary Foley**); a collection of material, including minutes, from meetings of the Abigail Webster Chapter of the D.A.R., deaccessioned from the NH Historical Society (**Bev Smith of Concord**); Annual city reports for 1899, 1901, 1904, 1932, and 1941 (**Scott Clarenbach**) [note: the Society is particularly interested in town reports published before 1861, and acquiring town and city directories of any year, such as the one from 1895 (the Society has a few of this year, but with varying condition issues) from **Juliette Miner, of Gilford**]; a vintage postcard of the Webster Birthplace (**Alvin Schaut of Wisconsin**); four ledgers from Keegan & Company, dated 1897-89, 1901, 1914-15, and 1969-71 with a typed history of the Keegan Co. partnerships, more than a half dozen 1907-1910 vintage Franklin postcards, plus a 6 inch Judkins & Wallace promotional ruler (**Tom Keegan**); and a large Giles Dairy metal milk can (with lid!), multiple card-mounted photos, mostly early 20th century, of various sizes, from the John Keegan collection featuring mill employees, school classes of young children, a family in an early automobile, a store interior [see this month’s photo], and high school athletic teams—all with precious little or no information unfortunately, Forest Vale Camp photos and memorabilia, multiple snapshots, photo postcards, booklets, souvenir tickets for past Franklin events, newspaper clippings, and typed information on the Keegan family genealogy (**Kathy Keegan Malsbenden**). What absolute treasures!

Not limited to these physical items, the Society also wishes to profusely thank the following for financial gifts: **Jim Perkins**, the Town of New London’s Archivist, for a check which not only purchased some glass negatives which proved to be heretofore unseen images of c. 1913 New London that had come into the possession of the Society, but added a generous donation as well. To **the Stanley family**, for cash and checks to purchase an item formerly donated by the Franklin Savings Bank for the expressed purpose of being used as a fundraiser. And finally, to **Scott Clarenbach**, for his magnanimous gesture of donating the entire sum of his final city check for services rendered as interim mayor. Words are barely adequate to express the Society’s immense gratitude to all the above for helping, in their own way, to perpetuate the understanding and appreciation of Franklin’s past, and the people and families who breathed life into a little industrial giant.

Thank you.

Even though it is now February, it is never too late to make a New Year's resolution if you wish to support the mission of the Society and make a significant difference. Giving can take many forms, but the result is always making the Society better and stronger. Please consider naming the Franklin Historical Society as a beneficiary of your estate, or donating tax-friendly cash gifts or securities to the Society. For details on how any of these approaches might be accomplished, the benefits derived, and how best to proceed, ask your estate planner or family lawyer. Other than legal questions can be addressed to the Society's president, Leigh Webb, at 934-8222, or an inquiry through the Society's website ([franklinhhistoricalociety.org](http://franklinhhistoricalociety.org)), and thank you in advance for your interest!

*[From the John Keegan collection of vintage photographs, donated by Kathy Keegan Malsbenden, this month's image is of a store interior, appearing to be a business catering to the early 20th century woman, offering apparel and accouterments. It is a wonderful shot, but is it in Franklin? And if so, what was the name of the shop?]*

