

Franklin NH Historical Society News

June 2016

And now, after waiting seemingly for an abbreviated eternity, the weather we have all craved is here, and for some inexplicable reason, time has accelerated. The weeks of planting, and watching new life spring from the earth in bountiful quantities, is speeding by, as if to tease, to give, only to take away again all too soon. The message here is to enjoy all these precious moments, to savor every brilliant sunset, every whiff of an invigorating breeze, and every bite of an early summer strawberry. And enjoy an illuminating trip into the past with the Society's June offering, a brief and illustrated "History of the Property Once Home to the Elms Farm, the NH School for Orphans, and the Sisters of Holy Cross", in the Society's meeting room, 21 Holy Cross Road (at Webster Place) at 7 pm on Thursday, June 2nd. The Society is looking forward to the attendance of a very special guest, who will hopefully share her insight on the Sisters' tenure as stewards of this exceptional and historic property.

Directions to the Society can be found at www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org. As always, the program is free and open to all, and light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Although the first "Open Sunday" on May 8th did not attract any visitors (it rained throughout the accessible hours), the Society will be open every Sunday, 10 am to 2 pm from now until Labor Day. If using the nearby Rail Trail, come stop in and discover what the Society has to offer. Refreshments (cold drinks, snacks, and ice cream) are sold to benefit the Society while replenishing the bodies of hikers, bikers, joggers, or walkers—especially on the warmer days. Tours of the exhibits by knowledgeable docents are throughout the day, the lengths of which can be tailored to the needs of the visitors. On Father's Day, Sunday June 19th, at 12:45 pm until closing, special guest author K. Peddlar Bridges will discuss his latest book project, continuing to chronicle the history of Bike Week in NH. He will also be available to sign his current book, "Laconia Motorcycle Week, 1916—the Beginning" and answer any questions about this signature event.

Also on June 26th, the following Sunday, the Society will be conducting its first annual Plant Sale, running throughout the open hours of 10 am to 2 pm. If you want to add some perennial color to your garden, come by and stock up.

The Curator does wish to thank the following generous individuals for their recent thoughtful donations: Rita Norander, for a Giles Dairy Bar paper napkin, gone but not forgotten; Linda Pauwels for a copy of "Passport", a self-guided tour booklet published to commemorate the city's 100th anniversary in 1995; Greg Stetson, for a wooden-clad steel container delivered to the Franklin Light & Power Company c. 1926; and Annette Cain, for a trove of significant historic treasures, including—maps of 1989 Franklin, 1963 NH, 19153 Andover and Salisbury, and 1950 Webster Lake development, photos of St. Pauls, 1953 high water, the 1936 flood, the demolition of the Daniel Webster Inn in 1973, the Samuel Jannelle Bar, the Lakes Region Rifle Club, NRA patches and marksmanship medals, school books and her mother's shorthand texts, a wool blanket manufactured in the J.P. Stevens mill, Franklin High School ephemera from the classes of '57 and '59, a Franklin Fire Dept. shoulder patch, WWII ration stamps and her father's Selective Service cards, plus assorted Franklin bank and business memorabilia. Thank you one and all. Keep them coming! These contributions truly make a difference.

Venture through the Society's doors for a meeting or on any Sunday, and you will be surprised what you might learn, and what stories you might hear, or even be enticed to remember and share!

[This month's Franklin Historical Society composited image is a series of photos from Annette Cain, showing the progressive demolition of a Franklin icon, the Daniel Webster Inn on N. Main Street, in 1973]

