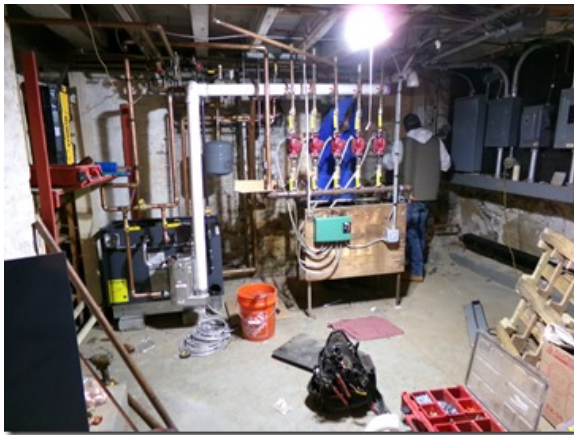


## Franklin Historical Society, January, 2024

Another year gone by, another twelve months of history made and history saved. For the next week or two the greatest challenge for some of us will be to remember to put the correct date on our checks. However, even that practice may soon be relegated to the past, with an all-digital future looming ahead of us, losing not only an invaluable source for autograph collectors, but a cache of historic documents which could often tell so much of the lives of the famous, and infamous. Daniel Webster, and his son Fletcher, were notoriously bad at managing money, often reflected in to whom, for how much, and for what, a check was drafted. These instruments of authenticity and the stories they could tell will be lost forever. Such is the price of the evolving technology engulfing us all.

January is a month in which little usually happens at the Society, but December was noteworthy for several items. A new propane-fueled boiler to heat the building was installed mid-month, to make the Society independent of the campus heating plant, soon to be dismantled to accommodate a repurposed use of the space by Easterseals.



*The necessity to place the propane tanks outside and accessible to the boiler, is being viewed by Easterseals and the NH Preservation Alliance as a temporary situation, for a more suitable location to be discussed in the spring when burying, and therefor concealing, a larger single tank may be more in keeping with the outside appearance of the Society's historic building, and that of the entire campus. Huckleberry Propane of Boscawen performed the installation at a reasonable cost, with professionalism and attention to detail.*

This makes the Society fully responsible for heating bills which heretofore had been non-existent, one reason the membership voted to increase the dues to help defray these inevitably rising costs. Some members have already recognized this added financial burden, and have contributed generously. For those who pay their 2024 dues prior to March 31st (traditionally dues are paid at the first meeting in April or before) may renew at the old rate. If paying after that, those rates will double—\$20 for a single membership, \$40 for a family, \$60 for a business, and \$250 for a lifetime membership. Thank you all for understanding the necessity of this increase, and continuing to support the Society in its work to preserve, display, and educate.

The annual Holiday Potluck was well received with more than enough food, in variety and quantity, to satisfy even the most voracious appetite. Thank you again to those who made this

possible: Glenn Morrill for making the arrangements to use Thompson Hall, Annette Cain and Annette Andreozzi for baking the turkeys, Elizabeth Jewell for organizing the dish-washing, and all those who helped set up first, and clean up after. It is this kind of combined effort of which we can all be proud, and what gives strength to our organization.

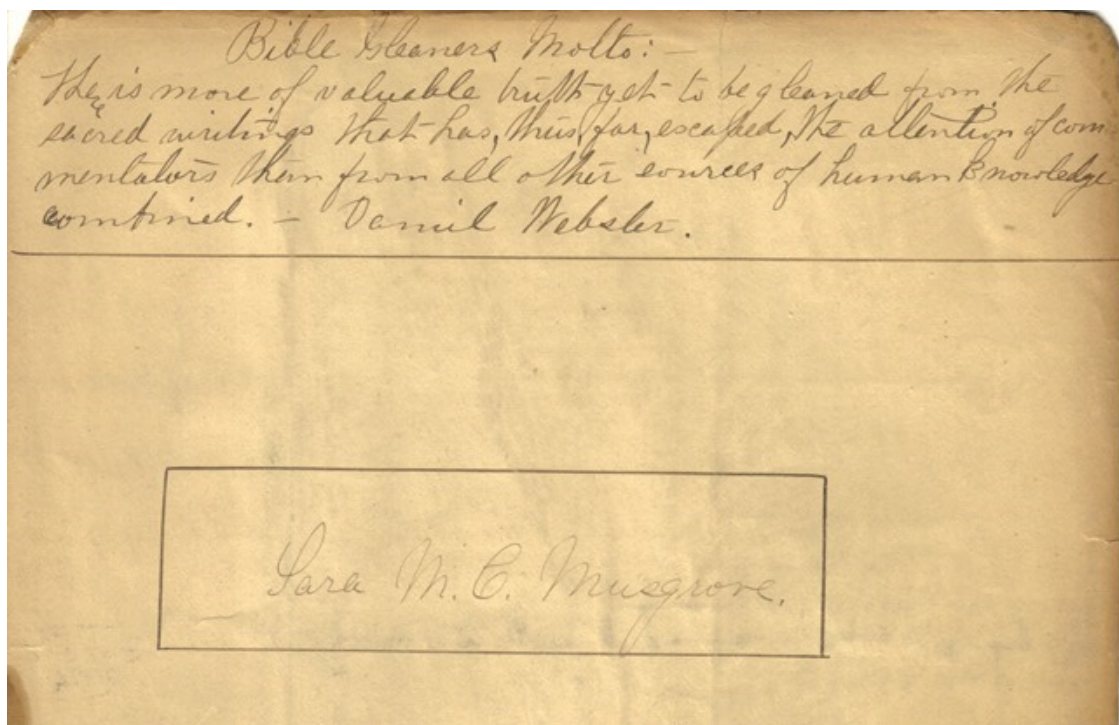
And as long as food is the subject, all year long members volunteered to supply refreshments for our monthly meetings, contributing to everyone's further enjoyment of the get-togethers. The Society would like to recognize those people again: Annette Andreozzi, Cyndy Campbell, Maureen Aube, Sandra Burney, Karen Darling, Rita Norander, Frank Genus, Chris Lewis, Linda Pauwels, and Elizabeth Jewell. The taste of their treats still lingers on the tongue...

Then there is the growing list of acquisitions of items by donation, for which the Society offers its everlasting gratitude. We thank the following for their gifts:

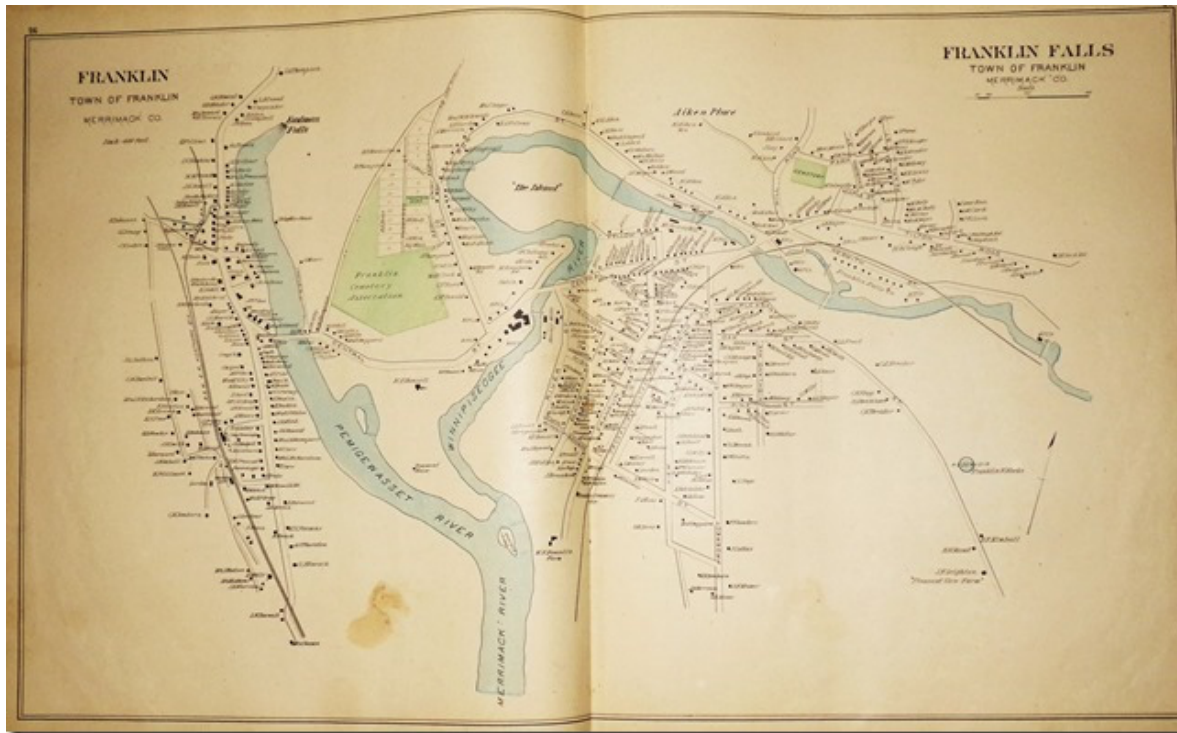
**John Benham** for an album of graduates name cards for the FHS Class of 1938.

**Annette Cain** for remembrances of the "Old Man of the Mountain—a 2003 Weirs Times Special Edition (at a price of \$6!), a Niels Nielson article "How Long Will the Old Man Last?" and an article *about* Niels Nielson, who was tasked for years to keep the rock from falling; Franklin Nat'l Bank deposit envelopes, AD&G Propane and Oil (now absorbed by Dead River) fridge magnets, and a 2005 newspaper article on the reopening of the Franklin Opera House balcony.

**Heather Moquin** for books left at the Merrimack County Nursing Home, including several bibles printed at different times: 1951, 1917, c. 1881, and a couple with no publishing dates but definitely from the 19th century. One had copious handwritten notes in the margins as reminders of favorite passages, and included, on a detached sheet, a quote from Daniel Webster and what appears to be the owner's name, as seen below:



The list of books continued with a 1965 Medical Dictionary, a 1951 Webster New World Dictionary, a 1951 Modern Biology textbook, an 1887 two volume set of “Voyages and Travels”, a 1923 “NH Beautiful” by Wallace Nutting, an 1891 copy of “Hill’s Album of Biography and Art, and a fabulous 1892 NH Atlas, with maps of every municipality in the state. The map of Franklin (see below) will hopefully end the debate over the area known as Franklin Falls, which is clearly on the east side of the Pemigewasset River. Many of these tomes will be displayed or stored in the upstairs schoolroom exhibit.



**Marcia Rollins** for a color poster from a past Hospital Lawn Party, possibly from the 1960’s.

And **Annette Andreozzi** for two books from her father’s estate, “First Manassas Battlefield Map Study by Ed Bearss and the “Second Manassas Battlefield Map Study” by John Hennessey, both with maps included. The 12th Massachusetts Regiment participated in the 2nd battle of Manassas (Bull Run), losing its Colonel, Fletcher Webster, son of Daniel Webster, whose death is mentioned in the second book as being wounded in the right arm and side, and succumbing to his injuries.

How one might put an actual value to these extraordinary gifts is merely impossible. Thank you to all who continue to make the Society’s collections and its very existence, essential. Thank you to those who responded to the “mystery photos” in last month’s newsletter, led by Steve Foley who was the first to recognize the “Webster Lodge” as the existing building at 52 Webster Avenue. A “Now” photo from the same perspective as the original is not attainable, due to the since-built buildings and dense growth of trees. However, you can see what the building looked like then, and now. The pictured cottages from last month may well still exist, but may be unrecognizable due to extensive remodeling over the decades.



Individual response and reminisces about the Lodge can be viewed on the Society's FB page.

The new year will most certainly offer new challenges, but also new opportunities. If there is one new year's resolution to be made, it might be for each member to help swell the Society's ranks with more new, young, passionate, and motivated members to assist in carrying on the message that remembering history and its lessons, is vital to a better future.

Stay safe, warm, well, and thank you for caring.