

## Franklin Historical Society

December 2021

Mark the date on your calendar for the Holiday Season Pot-luck Dinner, **Sunday, December 12th**, at Thompson Hall, the Congregational-Christian Church (thank you Glenn Morrill!). Table setup and acceptance of dishes with **social hour, will be from from 4 pm to 5 pm**. Dinner from 5-7 pm. Turkeys have been paid for by the Society and will be at their succulent best thanks to Annette Andreozzi and Glenn Morrill. Garlic mashed potatoes and Carlton's famous punch will also be provided. Everything else is subject to the tastes of those attending (and the advice is always that you bring what you like best, so if there is anything leftover, there is no question as to who will be enjoying it later!). Suggestions include: favorite appetizer, dinner rolls and butter, vegetables, cranberry sauce, and of course all kinds of desserts. **Please also consider bringing non-perishables to add to the Church's donations to the local food pantry, as we have done so often in the past.** This is not an official meeting, just a way to give thanks with good friends for the months past, while looking forward to the future with positive thoughts. Wearing a mask when socializing and not eating or drinking is encouraged. If anyone is feeling even the slightest of symptoms (sour throat, fever, congestion) it would be best to stay home. Your fellow members thank you in advance, for your consideration.

While on the subject of tantalizing food, the Society wishes to acknowledge all those who provided refreshments for the 2021 abbreviated meeting schedule: Elizabeth Jewell and Jack Tobey, Sandra Burney and Cyndy Campbell, and Rita Norander and Charles North. Thank you for making our gatherings that much more like bringing the membership together in as homelike a setting as possible. We are all family, are we not?

Society news of note: an additional alarm siren has been purchased and installed. There is now an audio alert that the museum alarm has been triggered emanating from *both front and rear* of our building, with our neighbors asked to notify authorities should the sirens begin sounding. The treatment center's groundskeeper has also been given contact information should he hear or see anything untoward.

The second of the mill maps from the 19th century has been framed, and is waiting to be picked up. Due to a paper shortage (another casualty of the pandemic) the postcards, Webster Lake maps, and other printed collectibles have not yet been completed. Much as the Society was hoping to have them for possible Christmas gifts, the date of completion as of this writing is TBD, but projected to be in January. However, the Society is still offering an enticing assortment of books as potential gifts, which can be ordered through Leigh Webb, 934-8222, and be mailed out to the requesting party (an additional fee is required to cover cost of packaging and postage). Books include the Society cookbook, the Shepard Franklin History, the Mary Proctor Indians of the Pemigewasset Valley, Echoes of the Mills, Elizabeth Jewell's Franklin Then and Now, and Alice Shepard's first edition book on Daniel Webster, "I Still Live". Order soon in order to receive your items before Christmas!

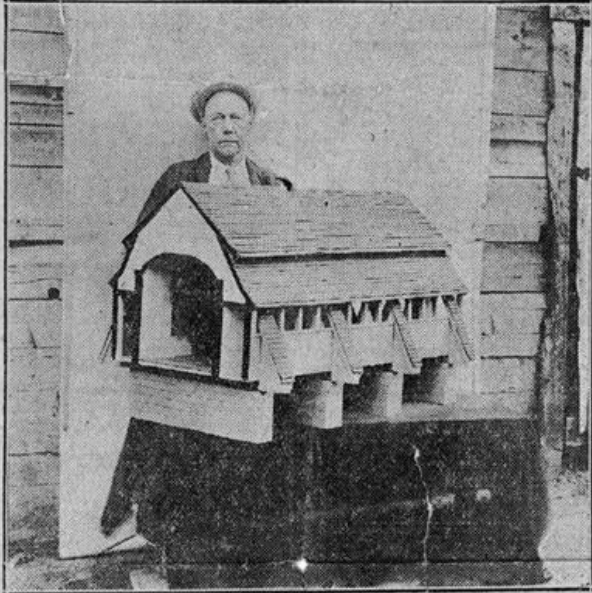
In the "Curator's Corner", the Society's grateful appreciation goes to the following for their magnanimous donations: to the **Service Credit Union** who, after redesigning their lobby and meeting rooms, gave thirteen framed 11 x 17 photos of historic subjects (the images of several which had come for the Society) as these pictures have now been incorporated as elements of wall murals and are visually stunning (go by and visit!); in memory of **Daniel Carow** of the Recovery Center, for two three-ring binders of 8 x 10 B&W photos of the Home for Orphans, the surrounding area, the Elms Farm, and Daniel Webster himself; to **Rita Norander** for a stone "plummet" or "sinker" Native American artifact held by the LaPlante family for generations; to **Annette Cain** for a zippered suit bag from Decato's clothing store; to **John Benham** for several 2003 newspapers featuring the demise of The Old Man of the Mountain; to **Kathy Fuller** for a print out of the responses to the question of when a race track existed in West Franklin in the 1960's (it did), and some vintage (1957-59) Better Homes and Gardens magazines collected by the Clothes Closet; and to **Linda Pauwels** for her always incredibly informative and useful newspaper articles and obituaries. Thank you, one and all.

As an interesting sidenote, Kevin Murphy of the newly resurrected Tilton Historical Society came across an old newspaper article about a man who recreated a model (albeit a shortened version) of the Republican Bridge after its demolition, from salvaged parts of the original bridge. Mr. Murphy posted the article on FaceBook, where it was found by Linda Pauwels and forwarded to the Society (see below).

*The is made to me*

THE UNION, MANCHESTER, N. H. THURSDAY,

### Model of Old Republican Bridge at Franklin Made From Salvaged Material



—Photo by J. F. Sleeper

Model of Old Republican bridge, made from material salvaged from historic bridge, recently torn down. Henry L. Smith, who built model is shown behind his handiwork.

farce, "The Knight of the White Apron," presented by members of the entertaining grange.

Tonight at 8:30 o'clock a supper was served by the ladies of Piscataqua grange. At the evening session tonight the fifth degree was exemplified in full.

#### Canadian Corn.

REGINA, Saskatchewan. (A.P.)—The North American corn belt, once the exclusive property of the mid-west, has pushed into prairie provinces of Canada. The prairies grow corn of different varieties and of high quality. Prize exhibits this year were the best in history.

Special to The Union.

FRANKLIN, May 13.—Henry L. Smith, a Main street carpenter, who held the old Republican bridge in reverence for 55 years, decided when the wrecking crew started to tear down the ancient structure a few weeks ago, that he would have a souvenir which would be a real reminder of the old bridge. Securing one big pine plank he got his neighbor, Benjamin Judkins, to saw it into "dimension stuff" and drafting a set of plans he constructed one of the best models of the bridge yet exhibited.

It is 3½ feet long, 22½ inches wide and 21 inches high. The familiar lattice work of the old bridge is imitated by lathes fastened together by pegs whittled from pieces of the old structure, 144 of these pegs being required. Tanned paper of a proper color was secured to imitate the weather beaten shingles which covered the old bridge. There are 6,542 of these imitation shingles. Supporting the bridge are blocks painted to resemble granite, there being 432 of these blocks used.

The wood in the Republican bridge was all old growth pine, excepting the oak pegs. Every particle of the miniature bridge of Mr. Smith is pine with the exception of the roof and the few small nails and tacks. The painting is likewise similar to that of the old bridge. A storage battery furnishes electricity to light small auto head lights to illuminate the interior.

Mr. Smith put in 85 hours building this clever replica of the old covered bridge. It is being exhibited in a window of the Benjon company on Main street.

The Franklin Historical Society has a copy of an original card mounted photo of the image used in this article, attributed to J.F. Sleeper (whose photographic studio was not listed in the Franklin directory in either 1929, or 1939, so must not have lasted but a few years. This photo would have to date to c. 1931). The Society even has the original glass negative (with a reversed image), although many of Sleeper's negatives, sold to Irving Cote in the 1940's, may have disappeared forever. Such is the fate of so much of the ephemera of history, not properly assigned for safe keeping to an appropriate depository, for all to appreciate.

To the members, families, and friends of the Society, may your Holidays be filled with love, and the joy that most precious of emotions brings. Be kind to yourselves, and to others, in the spirit of the season, but be not limited to this one month. Let us continue to carry that spirit forward to a better, and more universally compassionate, future for all of us.