

Franklin Historical Society newsletter
April 2021

It is April, it is spring, and it is snowing (or are those little white flakes just an April Fools prank?!). Before long we will all be engulfed by new green growth in the trees, and entranced by bright yellow daffodils in the garden. Small blooming crocus' have already begun to emerge from the matted leaves left over from fall, so easy to miss unless ardently looking, but worth the effort when discovered (they would be open if the sun were shining...)



In last month's newsletter, a question was asked regarding a T-shirt donated by Cathy Fuller. It was unclear as to when it had come into existence. Glenn Morrill was the first to respond, as he was on the committee that designed the wearable collectible in the mid 1980's. It had been created as a fundraiser, and obviously had been successful, as they are now quite rare.



Another question arose last month, and a survey was sent out via email to solicit responses. Is the membership interested in holding remote meetings using Zoom or any other remote meeting platform? Only four replies were received, and they were split evenly—two for, two against. Considering our membership demographics, it was not surprising to me that few responded in the positive. Apart from requiring the member to be comfortable with modern and ever-changing technology, the home computer would have to be compatible with the requirements of the software. For the Society, as host, a subscription to Zoom would be necessary due to the length of a regular meeting, and possibly even the purchase of a new computer to accommodate the memory needs. However, for now, the issue is moot. This

does not preclude the possibility of recording our meetings for later viewing on such outlets as Youtube or the like. This subject will be raised in the future, to ascertain any expense or the degree of difficulty of taping, editing, and transferring. Luckily, the Society has a member well experienced in that field.

Also, Rita Norander brought up the subject of members taking advantage of "virtual" programs offered by NH Humanities. She has tuned in and enjoyed what has been offered, and wanted our members to at least be aware of the possibilities. For further information, members may click on this link:

<https://www.nhhumanities.org/programs/category/humanities-to-go>

April is tax time, and the appropriate month in which to remind members who have IRS accounts and are at the age when mandatory withdrawals (RMD's) are required, that "charitable distributions" are an option to avoid paying any tax, and actually receiving a benefit of a charitable deduction. The Planned Giving program of the Society offers advice to those considering such a gift, and those participating may be eligible for membership in the Planned Giving Society, with your name added to the perpetual plaque hanging in the meeting room, a lifetime membership, as well as a handsome lapel pin to proudly display your generous support of the organization. For details on this program, please go to the Society's website at franklinnhistoricalsociety.org.

April is also the start of the "dues renewal" season. If you have not already sent in your 2021 membership dues (and some have) or paid them early last year, please consider doing so sooner rather than later. Maintaining our checking account balance allows the Society to meet its monthly obligations in a timely fashion. As a reminder, the dues rates and the Society's address is printed below:

Individual Membership - (\$10 Annually)

Family Membership - (\$20 Annually)

Business or Professional Membership - (\$30 Annually)

Student membership - (\$1 Annually)

Individual Life Membership - (\$125 One Time Payment)

Mail check, made out to "The Franklin Historical Society", to
Franklin Historical Society

P.O. Box 43

Franklin, New Hampshire 03235

Thank you!

As usual, despite the restrictive nature of the pandemic, activities at the Society have not ceased. For years, the Society has had inquiries into the records of the NH Home for Orphans from relatives seeking information. The Webster/Tay served as the administration office and superintendent's home since the beginning of the non-profit in 1871, until the home changed ownership and the property was privately sold in 1958 under the auspices of the Spaulding Youth Center, who acquired the Home's records. Subsequently, all those with questions were referred to Spaulding Youth (now Spaulding Academy) in Northfield. Unfortunately, Spaulding has no idea what files have survived the ravages of time, relocation, water leaks, or misfiling. The Society has reached out and recently, because a friend of the Society now has a position there, a proper cataloging of records may be in the offing. Sandy Marshall has graciously welcomed a volunteer from the Society to access these records, which may be done this month. In this process, both the Society and Spaulding Academy will know what still exists, and what questions can be answered.

Donations also continue to be offered, with some real surprises (but that's not new!). A sincere thank you goes to the following for further enriching our archives: to **Sara Tracy** for an 18 x 22 framed photo of J.J. Newberry (remember when there was a Newberry's store on Central Street? Now Marceau Park and Vulgar Brewery); to **Deborah and Jim Rivers (through Jo Brown)** for mementos of the 1978 City Sesquicentennial, including promotional wooden nickels, pin-back buttons, and a small souvenir marble paperweight; and to **Tara Shore from the Belknap Mill** for a dozen copies of the teaching guides printed by the Humanities Council for the Mill's 1998-99 presentation of "Those Inventive Aikens" (for which we had already received the display boards), black and white Xeroxed research materials (copies of patents, correspondence, photos of mill interiors, advertising, even a diary kept by Jonas Aiken) used for compiling the presentation, a panoramic photo of the 1941 Stevens Mill outing, and the real surprise, two original hand drawn maps showing the Peabody and Daniells Paper Mills in 1845(!) and the Franklin Falls Company property with leased lots to Stephen Kenrick, Griffin & Taylor, and the Aiken woolen mill on Bow Street, from 1864! Fabulous finds. Truly "one offs".

Other Society business: the last copy of Elizabeth Jewel's "Franklin Then and Now" has been sold, and with the unanimous consent of the board, 40 more copies have been ordered. The financial shape of the Society, through its investments with Franklin's Independence Financial Advisers, and with the checking account balance held at Franklin Savings Bank, continues to be healthy and sound.

As a reminder, the Congregational-Christian Church is still seeking donations to help restore its church steeple, which has suffered over the years. Recently turned down for an LCHIP grant, funding has become more critical. As a principal historic structure in West Franklin, this is a very worthy project to support, especially in light of the losses over the decades of other significant buildings on that side of the river. If you can, please consider helping when you see or hear of a fundraising event in the coming months. Stay safe, warm, and informed.