

Franklin NH Historical Society News

June 2017

Life “springs” anew and with the specter of drought thoroughly inundated, the vibrant colors of revitalized perennials and the lush green of thick lawns greet our view every morning. With this attractive vision in mind, the Franklin Historical Society is conducting its second annual Plant Sale, Sunday June 4th at the Society’s building at Webster Place (21 Holy Cross Rd., directions available at the Society’s website, www.franklinnhhistoricalsociety.org) from 10 am to 2 pm. The selection will include mostly perennials such as mums, bearded iris, Siberian iris, assorted day lilies including Black-eyed Stella, hostas, sedums, always some surprises, and a limited selection of herbs. All are offered at very reasonable prices, and all proceeds benefit the Society. Once you have made your purchases, you may also wish to tour the museum, as new exhibits have been added and with every piece comes a story, so there is much to learn about this wonderful city. The Society is open every Sunday through Labor Day Weekend from 10-2, so if working up a thirst on the Northern Rail Trail, stop by any Sunday for a cold beverage, ice cream, or snack, and take advantage of all that the Society has to offer.

The June program on Thursday, June 1st at 7 pm, also at Webster Place, will feature Linda Salatiello and Evelyn Auger presenting “MARY BAKER EDDY : An Extraordinary Life Told in Ordinary Terms”. Dressed in period costumes, the two assume the roles of Mary Baker Eddy and newspaper reporter Sibyl Wilbur, exploring through the process of interview the complicated story of this intriguing and powerful woman. Mary Baker Eddy, the woman who lived in more places than George Washington slept... The program is open to all, with no charge, and light refreshments will be offered as an inducement to stay for the always interesting business meeting.

Contributions to the Society’s collections continue to pour in, keeping the president and curator constantly busy updating the inventory (a labor of absolute love and devotion). Newly acquired items include: small flags from many nations used to adorn tables at a 1957 dinner at the Christian Church organized by Rena Kimball; a 1963 Franklin/Tilton and Vicinity phone book which reveals that in the area only Franklin and Plymouth still retained three digit phone numbers (soon to change to the ubiquitous seven digit numbers we know today); folders full of newspaper clippings and supplements, vintage photographs and calendars, Winter Carnival and NH memorabilia; a framed photo of the “kinked tracks” of the Sulphite Bridge caused by the 1980 fire; original Oriental watercolors, both framed and in a portfolio from Helen Frances (Kelley) Hird, daughter of Elmer Kelley, Franklin mayor in 1925-26; vintage Franklin business memorabilia, a photo of the Upside Down Bridge, a long-handled dust-pan from Henry L. Young Furniture, a saucer embellished with an image of the old Franklin High School, and mini-magnets from old Franklin postcards; 1980’s Franklin High School items, an 8x10 of a Minstrel Show at the Opera House, and “I Like Ike” campaign pin-back buttons (Eisenhower visited Franklin personally in the 50’s making for a banner Journal-Transcript headline!); two framed 19th century “Electrographic Portraits” of unknown but very distinguished gentlemen and an 1891 wedding dress worn by Sarah Jane (Fawdrey) Thompson; and a two volume set of Franklin Vital Statistics from 1887-1968.

Heartfelt thanks go to these dedicated and thoughtful donors responsible for the above additions: Myla Everett, Ken Merrifield, Rita Norander, Andy Nadeau, the Clothes Closet

volunteers, Linda Keegan and Patty Robichaud, Mary and Steve Foley, Annette Cain, Bonnie Randall, LoriAnn St. Jacques, plus additional material from Linda Pauwels and Ben Thornton. Thanks also must be extended to those who have volunteered recently, putting in considerable hours sorting and organizing the newspaper, Journal-Transcript photo and negative archives (received from Rob Sargent at the Franklin Public Library), and Franklin town and city records. The efforts of Cheril Maynard of Easter Seals Services and her high school student Logan Gauthier, and Annette Cain who worked with the city and town ledgers, are deeply appreciated.

[The image this month is the sign now at the base of the Winnepesaukee River Trail opposite Trestle View Park to direct hikers to the Upside Down Bridge on the way to Tilton. Also known as the Sulphite Bridge, it is officially Covered Bridge #62 as the sign so designates. Purchased with funds the city generously provides the Society each year in support of its mission, it is intended to bring additional public recognition to the recreational and educational opportunities the city provides. Thanks to Betty Pauwels for bringing it to the attention of the Mayor and City Council, and Brian Barry of Franklin Municipal Services for his invaluable assistance in procuring the signs.]

