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# Kite & Key

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Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

April, 2007

## The Brick Store

Dillucena Stoughton of Niagra County, New York purchased 80 acres in the Michigan Territory from the federal government on April 2, 1824. The certificate of patent was signed by John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States. Stoughton was the first man to own land in what would become Franklin Village. Years later, the Brick Store would be built on his original property.

Over the years, the property changed hands. In the 1870's, the Southfield Lodge #59 of the International Order of Odd Fellows built their meeting hall on this site. The building burned down a year later. The foundation remained. In 1900, the Brick Store would be constructed on it.

Albert A. Rust opened a general store on the southeast corner of German Mill and Franklin Roads during the Civil War. Tea, coffee, rice, sugar, molasses and crackers were in large barrels. Bolts of calico and other yard goods sold for 6 cents a yard. Nails were kept in open bins. There was a big wood stove in the middle of the floor. George Bingham, Rust's son-in-law, was his partner.

In 1900, George Bingham built the two story Brick Store on the fieldstone foundation of the Odd Fellows Hall. He moved the contents of the Rust general store business here. From 1903 to 1932, it was also the site of the village post office. The shopkeeper served as the postmaster.

The Brick Store has become the oldest continuously run business in Franklin and each succession of owners has taken his place as an important figure in the community.

In 1904, Bingham sold the business to John Currin. Currin sold large quantities of farm tools. His freight was delivered by electric line to a freight house at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake. The first gas for automobiles was pumped

at Currin's store. Gas was brought over from Birmingham by a team of horses and wagon about 500 gallons at a time.

In 1931, Bert Wood, born a farmer who became a builder, embarked on his career as a merchant. Wood acquired the Brick Store from John Currin. He and his daughter Mildred worked side by side. The sign on Wood's General Store read, "We either have it or we'll get it."

In 1940, Wood built an addition on the northside. The following year, Wanda and Les Fraser took over the grocery and meat department under the name of the Franklin Food Shop. Bert and Mildred Wood sold hardware, toys, school supplies, notions and sundries in the addition. The door between the two buildings was sealed. In 1955, Wood sold the store to the Frasers.

In 1971, John Showers was the next person to purchase the Brick Store. The store was called the Golfdale Market. The following year, Ted LaVergne took over the business and changed the name to the Market Basket.

One hundred years after the brick store first opened, the Hakim family runs the Market Basket. Chef Carl has transformed the business, offering gourmet prepared foods, pastries, pizza and sushi as well as grocery items.

The history of the Brick Store includes more than selling goods. It served many purposes:

- The Knights of Macabees were active in the village in the early 1900's. They met above the new Bingham store until they were asked to leave because of their wild parties.
- When the Brick Schoolhouse burned down in 1922, some Franklin students went to classes in the meeting room above the store.
- Before telephones were installed in most homes, Frankinites walked to the Brick Store to make phone calls.

*Continued - pg. 3*



1938



1971



1975

# *A Time for Rememberance*

## *Monday, May 28th 11:00 A.M.*

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves.

It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers by a proclamation of General John Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR).

In 1882, the GAR changed the name of "Decoration Day" to Memorial Day. Members of the GAR wanted to recognize American soldiers who had fought in any war as well as those who lost their lives in the Civil War. The name was also changed to highlight the importance of remembering those people as opposed to decorating their graves.

Memorial Day was a legal holiday in the northern United States. However, the South refused to acknowledge it and chose to honor deceased Confederate soldiers on a different day. Following World War I, southern states eventually began to recognize Memorial Day, but continued to observe a separate day for remembering Confederate soldiers. Still today, individual states in the South set aside a different day designated for this purpose. The Confederate Memorial Day in the South varies from state to state.

Since 1971, when President Richard Nixon declared it a national holiday, Memorial Day has been observed on the last Monday in May by most states.

As you pass by the Franklin Cemetery this Memorial Day, pause for a moment. An American flag is placed at the gravesite of each veteran. Franklinites have served their country since the War of 1812. Make time in your day to remember them. Join other villagers on Monday, May 28th at 11 A.M. by the flagpole in the cemetery to honor our service men and women.

Many paid the ultimate sacrifice. We must remind ourselves that freedom isn't free.

### **Older Isn't Always Better**

The museum's 1954 oil fired boiler met all the criterion for historic designation, but its time had just run out. In late December, it fired for the last time. After careful consideration, it was decided that a new boiler just made sense, so \$4,250 of the recently raised capital funds were spent to buy a new, efficient gas fired boiler.

While we'll miss seeing the old guy (or gal) in the basement, we'll be comforted by reliable heat on cold winter days. Thanks to all the people who contributed to our fund raising effort.



**Old Boiler**



**New Boiler**

**“Their lives were more than just dates and places”**

### **Franklin Cemetery Tour**

Sunday, May 20th  
2 P.M.

Cost: \$10

To hear their stories and to reserve a spot...

Call Bill and Ann Lamott

**248-538-0273**

**Those who ignore the history of past mistakes are doomed to repeat them.**



*Kite & Key* is a publication of the Franklin Historical Society. The Franklin Historical Society seeks to preserve such material, structures and artifacts that help to establish the history of the Village of Franklin and to provide for accessibility for those who wish to study it. The Society maintains a museum and archival area at the Derwich House, 26165 13 Mile Road (at Kirk). Volunteers and donations are most welcome.

The *Kite & Key* and the Society welcome mail at P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025.

Our phone is 248-538-0565.

Contributors: Bill & Ann Lamott

## The Brick Store - Continued

- Village office records and documents were moved to rooms above the store.
- In the 1960's, there was a barbershop above the Golfdale Market.

The next time you visit the Market Basket, look up! The tin ceiling is original and is a witness to the building's rich history. People picked up their mail here, made their first phone calls, purchased farm equipment, got a haircut, attended a meeting, greeted their neighbors, and enjoyed a sundae. The Brick Store holds the giggles, the political debates, and the gossip that took place here. If the walls could talk, we would surely get an earful!

## Museum Donations

The following items have been recently donated to the museum

- A fruit press donated by Anne & Whit Jones
- An antique wash board donated by Jane & Jesse Polan
- A Franklin Players shirt donated by Rose Galley.

Thanks to all who donated. If you have Franklin artifacts that you would like to donate, please give us a call.



## Naturescaping Update

Plans are starting to turn into action related to creating native plant gardens at the Franklin Historical Museum. The removal of invasive plants is continuing and some new native plants will be planted this spring. Because invasives are everywhere on the property, their removal will be a multi-year process and the job continues. A master gardener planning day was held in late March and a work day was held in mid-April. More work days for garlic mustard and buckthorn removal will be held this spring. If you are interested in getting involved, give the museum a call at 248-538-0565.

## Franklin Historical Society Annual Meeting June 14th - 7 P.M.

The FHS annual meeting will be held at the museum at 26165 Thirteen Mile Road (at Kirk Lane.) Please join your fellow members for a short business meeting and refreshments.

## Capital Fund Campaign Status

In January, 2007, the Historical Society launched the "Only You Can Prevent Another Fundraiser" campaign to raise \$25,000 for the museum building boiler and roof replacement as well as electrical system upgrade. We are pleased that almost \$12,000 has been contributed. The new boiler is on place (\$4,250) but the roof and electrical work remain. Please consider sending a tax deductible donation to the Franklin Historical Society, P. O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025.

## The Return of West Maple

One hundred West Maple third graders visited the museum to learn about Franklin during the 1800's. The comments in their thank you notes reflect the learning that took place.

*"What I liked the most was writing my name with a feather (quill.) I used the strawberry ink."*

*"The part I liked the best were the toys. They were awesome!"*

*"It was really fun learning about the blacksmith and tinsmith."*

*"I learned that to get a drink of water in school in the 1800's, you all drank from the same bucket!"*

*"I liked grinding the corn and making it into cornmeal."*

*"I loved all of the things at the museum. I am thinking to come back."*

West Maple, we're glad that you came and we hope to see you again next year!

**2007 new membership dues paid through March amount to \$4800 versus \$7500 for 2006. If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so soon. Thanks to all 2007 members who have generously supported the Historical Society.**

Cut Here - - - - -

**It's not too late to be a 2007 Franklin Historical Society Member. My dues are enclosed.**

( ) Family/Individual \$35      ( ) Business \$50      ( ) Life \$400

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your tax deductible contribution to the Franklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025. Thank You.

## Who Knew?

The dry roasted peanut was invented in Franklin, but *where*?

A slave escaped on the Underground Railroad and came through Franklin, but *who*?

A walking tour of the historic village is coming up, but *when*?

Saturday, June 16th  
10 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.  
Cost: \$10

Call for your reservation, Bill and Ann Lamott  
**248-538-0273**

## Awhile Ago In Franklin . . .

Al Vettraino, a manager of the Market Basket in the 1980's, said his faith in people was restored. The mailman delivered an envelope with three quarters inside and a message which read, "When I was young, I stole from you. I'm sorry, please forgive me."

## Historically speaking. . .

George Washington's favorite food was ice cream. A merchant's record shows that Washington spent \$200 on ice cream the summer of 1790. Thomas Jefferson had a favorite 18 step recipe for an ice cream that resembled a modern day Baked Alaska. Dolly, James Madison's wife, was the first to serve ice cream in the White House.

The Historic Society is sponsoring an ice cream social on Sunday, June 10th, 2 P.M. – 4 P.M. on the village green.

Carvel Ice Cream on Orchard Lake and Maple will be serving up some favorites. Please join us!



## FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025

[www.Franklin-History.org](http://www.Franklin-History.org)

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