

FHS Annual Plant Sale

It's a Perennial Thing!

Order forms are available at

The Village Hall or at

franklin-history.org

Must be submitted by May 11th

It's Never Too Late...

To become a member of the Franklin Historical Society! Your membership is tax deductible. You can download a form from our website at *franklin-history.org*

Franklin Community Center Project Update

We're on the verge of completing the Kreger House part of the Franklin Community Center. During the last few months, the basement stairs were finished, electrical and plumbing have been roughed in, plaster has been repaired and the kitchen sub-floor was installed. To receive a certificate of occupancy, the electrical and plumbing needs to be finished and the kitchen & bath floors need to be laid.

Wallpaper has been purchased and will be put up as soon as volunteers complete painting interior trim. The hardwood floors will also be refinished.

We still don't have enough money to buy a refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, central air conditioning and living room furniture. If you'd like to contribute or sponsor one of these purchases, please let us know. You can contact Gary Roberts (248) 626-0129 or Bill & Ann Lamott (248) 538-0273.

Thanks to all the 575 donors for making this project a huge success. It won't be long until we can all enjoy it.

Check out the new Franklin Historical Society Store offering Franklin logo merchandise at *www.franklin-history.org*

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025
www.franklin-history.org



Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

May 2012

200th Anniversary (1812 – 2012)

Two hundred years ago, the United States was engaged in a war against the British, Canadians and Native Americans. The War of 1812 is sometimes called the second rebellion against the British.

The United States declared war because of the trade restrictions that were enforced with France. Britain had an ongoing war with France and did not allow America trade with them. Secondly, there was the imprisonment of American sailors into the Royal Navy and lastly, the British support of American Indian tribes against American expansion.

The Treaty of Ghent, signed Dec. 24, 1814, restored relations between the United States and Britain, released all prisoners and restored all lands.

On May 28, 2012, five veterans of the war that are

buried in the Franklin cemetery will be honored.

William Adams was born in 1784 in New York. He was a private in Carr's Regiment, New York Militia. Also born in 1784 was Samuel Bassett from Connecticut. He served in Captain Daniel Eldridge's Company 19th New York Regiment for two months and earned eight dollars a month! Harvey Lee was a shoemaker. He was born in Connecticut in 1798. He was a private in Brainerd's unit of the 1st Regiment of Connecticut. I have not confirmed the units that Pitts Phillips or Peter Van Every served. In 1795, Phillips was born in Vermont. Van Every was born in 1795 in Ontario, Canada.

More research on the last two War of 1812 Veterans is needed. Stay tuned!

Fourth Annual Barn Raising Event

The 5K Run, Walk, Strut Your Mutt and Pancake Breakfast to raise funds for the Franklin Community Center is Saturday, June 9th. Registration forms are available at *active.com* or the Village Offices, 32325 Franklin Road. You can also register the day of the race beginning at 7 A.M.

The race begins at 8 A.M. in front of the Franklin Community Center at 26225 Carol Street just west of the Village Offices. The cost is \$25 by 4/30, \$30 by 5/25, \$35 thru 6/9, which includes a T-shirt and pancake breakfast. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place.

The 1-5K walk begins immediately after the start of the race also in front of the Community Center. A T-shirt and pancake breakfast is included in the cost which is \$25 by 4/30, \$30 by 5/25, \$35 thru 6/9. The Strut Your Mutt commences at the same time as the walk. The cost of Strut Your Mutt is \$10 by 4/30, \$12 by

5/25, \$15 thru 6/9 per dog and includes one breakfast and a goodie bag for the first 25 registrants. Pick up a registration form at the Village Office or sign up on *active.com*. For information on these events please contact: John Pulker at 248-538-0183 or Ann or Bill Lamott at 248-538-0273.

Come run, walk or strut your stuff and finish off the morning with pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee prepared by Boy Scout Troop 1699 held at the fire station on Franklin Road. Scouts will be cooking from 8:30-11:00 A.M. Adult tickets are \$8, children ages 4-12 are \$5 and children ages 3 and under are free. For additional information on the breakfast, please contact Gary Roberts at 248-626-0219 or Madeline Haddad at 248-855-3390.

For updates and upcoming events on the Franklin Community Center visit the website: *www.kregerhouse.org*

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A History of Helping

The Territorial Council enacted a measure making each township responsible for the education of their children. Elijah Bullock, second original landowner, accepted that responsibility. Bullock purchased 240 acres from the federal government from 14 Mile Road to Scenic Drive and Franklin Road to Inkster Road. He donated land to build the first school in the township. The log school house was located south of the Broughton house near the current police station.

Bullock's generosity may have been motivated by his inability to read or write since his signature does not appear on any land dealings. Whatever his reason, he saw a need and paved the way for an educated society.

As the settlement grew, there was need for a bigger schoolhouse. Winthrop Worthing filled that void by deeding land for a frame building to be constructed in 1845 on Franklin Road across from the Broughton house. The school would educate youngsters until 1869.

The Franklin Cemetery is situated on a sandy ridge at Franklin and Scenic Drive. An acre of land was donated by

Bullock. It was his "deed of gift" which gave the village its graveyard. Bullock and his family arrived here in 1824 and moved to Lapeer County in the 1840s. Although his residence here was short-lived, his impact on the village remains.

In 1848, twenty years after the original cemetery was established, Charlotte and Benjamin Worthing donated additional land. Albert Rust, a merchant, and his wife Elizabeth German, deeded more space for the graveyard.

In the early days, church services were conducted by circuit riders. Services were held in the school house or someone's barn. In 1859, William and Emily Kyle deeded land to construct the church on German Mill. It is currently a private residence.

Did you know that our green was platted and zoned in twenty-four lots for commercial development? George Wellington Smith, who owned the property, owed the Internal Revenue Service. Smith sold the property to Ed Green, Bob Hampson, Donald Green and B.A. Kronlund. These four citizens then sold the land to the village for the same amount that they had paid Smith. Today, the green hosts concerts, picnics, ball games and other leisurely activities. Here is another example of residents seeing a need and unselfishly stepping up to the plate.

In 2008, the Kreger house, barn and shed were donated to the Franklin Historic Society by the Craig Bauer family. The plan to move the structures next to the Broughton house was executed and the fundraising to renovate was begun.

Almost six hundred people have contributed money to turn a former pig sty into public restrooms and nearly complete the house for community use and event rental.

The Franklin Community Center's future has been in the hands of its contributors. Some individuals have contributed multiple times. We thank you! Groups that have recognized a need are the Baseball league, Franklin Foundation, Garden Club and the Questers. We thank you!

Craftsmen have donated their time as well as expense. The John E. Green Company has donated the plumbing for the restrooms and house. Mike Sifter, the plasterer, was touched by the restoration project and donated four to five days of his time to refurbishing the walls. Walls that he said had never been painted! Dan Clancy from Perlmutter's helped select wallpaper and gave the materials to us at cost. He also helped us pick coordinated paint for trim and ceilings. John Luscombe, owner of Tile Time, enlisted boy scouts to remove an old tiled floor and lay down a cement sub floor.

Bob Smith, a dedicated villager, devoted his time to planing cabinet doors so they no longer stick, caulking windows, painting porch lattice work and putting the railing to the basement steps.

Jan and Mike Stagg, relatives of the Bowden family, searched for metal grates and purchased light fixtures for the house. A young girl gave us 38 cents for the project at a Music on the Green concert.

The expertise of the community center committee for architectural advice, grant writing, thank you writing, artwork, clerical work, public relations and countless ideas have kept the project going.

Though not in search of accolades, the generosity of our pioneers laid the foundation and structure to our community. Their torch has been passed to us to continue the commitment of using our resources, time and talents to keeping Franklin thriving. We can all be proud to live in a community with a history of helping.

A While Ago in Franklin

Happy 175th birthday to the mitten state! Michigan joined the Union on January 26, 1837. It became the 26th state. Detroit was its capital. Ten years later, the title was assigned to Lansing. The first elected governor was Steven T. Mason, nicknamed the Boy Governor.

Who Would Have Gessed!

Located on 14 Mile Road is an unassuming structure dating back to the 1830s. The blue house with yellow and burgundy accents was built across from the Van Every Grist Mill (Franklin Cider Mill.) Imagine the hustle and bustle on 14 Mile Road as farmers lined up with their wagons full of corn and wheat waiting patiently for the miller to grind their crop!

For the Barnums, who lived here, this sight would have been commonplace to them. The Van Every's also had a distillery and potashery nearby. Some of the abundant crop was used to make flour; some went to the distillery.

The Barnums would have smelled the mash cooking in the boiler and seen the smoke rising from the chimney. The swift current of the Franklin river at this point would have helped to drown out the noise of the wagons and farmers as they attended to business.

Inside the home, the history of Franklin was evolving. William Barnum and his wife Ruth Stoughton were from New York. William was a farmer. He had a beautiful bass voice and always occupied exactly the same seat in the choir on Sunday. Ruth was the sister of Dilucenna Stoughton,

the first landowner in Franklin. William and Ruth had a daughter named Emily and a son named Charles. Charles served in the 24th Michigan Infantry Company K and died from disease.

According to the 1860 Census, Ruth's brother William, also an original landowner, and his son William Jr., lived with the Barnums. William Jr. enlisted in the 5th Michigan Infantry Company F. He survived the war.

The house at 26265 14 Mile Road is the most recent structure discovered in our area where a Civil War soldier resided! In this case, there were two soldiers who lived here, Charles Barnum and William Stoughton Jr.

Our village has 14 other buildings still standing that once housed a Civil War soldier. Take a journey with me on Sunday, May 20th at 1 P.M. to discover these historic sites and hear about the men that served to protect the Union.

The cost is \$10. Please contact Ann Lamott 248-538-0273 to reserve your place in history!

All Aboard!

The Underground Railroad was a secret network that helped slaves from the South gain freedom in Canada. Stations were every 10 to 15 miles on a route. Slaves were referred to as packages and agents led them along routes to safe houses to spend the night.

Could Franklin have been part of the Underground Railroad? It is possible that escapees were taken along the Rouge River as it wound its way through our village. Routes followed rivers and streams, along back fences, through swamps and woods.

There is an oral history of someone who was born into slavery. His name was Henry Parker. He worked on the Benjamin Cooper farm in western Virginia. In October 1859, he left with his mother and two sisters and headed north. He crossed the Ohio River, the Big Hocking and Little Hocking Rivers.

Parker traveled to Franklin and worked on the William German farm until April 1860. William was the brother of John, a miller in town. The June 1860 census shows Parker living in Pontiac.

Nathan Power, a Quaker from Farmington, and many of his relatives were active in the Underground Railroad. The Powers' house at 11 Mile and Power Road is seven miles from Franklin. Nathan's nephew George married Emily Barnum, William Barnum's daughter who grew up in the house on 14 Mile Road. Could Nathan's nephew have been a link for our village?

Dr. Silas Paddock from Pontiac would make his rounds to

Franklin, Southfield and Farmington. After attending his patients, he would drive his rig into a farmer's barn, stay for a noon meal and leave with one or two runaway slaves hidden in the back seat.

We have not confirmed a house or barn in Franklin where slaves may have been hidden. It is likely that some did hide out or travel through. Perhaps, if we close our eyes and listen closely, we can imagine slaves wading through the water, walking through the woods, barely taking a breath in fear of being noticed and hoping that all who came through, did gain their freedom.

Upcoming Events:

May 18th – Plant Sale

May 20th– Civil War Cemetery Tour 1 pm. Cost: \$10

May 26th– Franklin the Civil War Walking Tour 1 pm
Cost: \$10

May 30th– Detroit Country Day 3rd Graders At The Museum

June 2nd– Work Day at The Museum 1 pm–3 pm
All are invited!

June 9th – 4th Annual 5K Run, Walk, Strut Your Mutt and Pancake Breakfast

June 14 – Historic Society Annual Meeting 7 pm



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 make it accessible to 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. **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