

## Franklin Historical Society Annual Meeting June 11, 7:00 pm

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. The revised by-laws are enclosed. Please review them in preparation for their approval at our annual meeting.

## Save the Date

The morning of Saturday June 13th  
Kreger Farm Barn Raising  
in downtown Franklin  
Pancake breakfast at the Fire Station,  
fun run, walk, strut your mutt  
and other activities.

## A While Ago In Franklin

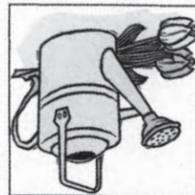
May 9, 1879 Eccentric

The "Franklins" played their first game of the season against the "Sooners" of Birmingham. Our boys were young fellows mostly from our school, while the "Franklins" were the best players around Franklin, including boys from Old North Farmington team: Hosner, Wood, Riley, Kellogg, Adams, Watkins and Porter. Result: Tie Game.

Please check out the Franklin Historic Society Plant sale on Friday, May 15th! The order form is enclosed in this issue of the Kite and Key. We appreciate every order!

*Every Thing's Coming Up ... Annals and vegetables  
Every Thing's Coming Up ... Perennials and hanging plants  
Every Thing's Coming to Franklin for you and for me!*

*Every Thing's Coming Up...*



www.franklin-history.org

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025



Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

April 2009



## The British Invasion

In the spring of 1826, Josiah Barkley wrote a letter to his sister in New York. He was excited about purchasing 400 acres of land from the federal government northwest of Detroit a year ago. He had plans to plant beans, corn and melon. "Get the word out," he wrote. "Tell people to come west. We need blacksmiths, wagon makers and coopers."

Like Barkley, other pioneers wrote letters home encouraging people to come to Michigan. Purchasing land for \$1.25 an acre lured many to start a new life in the Michigan Territory. Farmers came first, followed by tradesman. Franklin became a milling town. The blacksmith, tinsmith, wagon maker, cooper and tanner fulfilled the needs of a growing village.

After the first big wave in 1830, immigrants into Michigan slowed. By 1849, Governor Epaphroditus Ransome appointed Edward H. Thompson as an agent for Michigan. He was assigned the task of persuading European and British immigrants to settle in Michigan. They were needed as voters, laborers, farmers, land-buyers and investors. Some of the newcomers from Britain settled in the area around Inkster and Thirteen Mile Roads. It was known as "Little Britain."

At the age of 25, Henry Cox left his English homeland and settled in Michigan. He found work in Detroit as a wagon maker. He studied medicine in England and at the University of Michigan. Grace Trick, a native of Southfield Township became his wife. They had five daughters. After the death of his wife, he joined the Union Army and served as an assistant surgeon during the Civil War.

Not only did Cox practice medicine, but he was also a member of the school and cemetery boards and wrote the constitution for the Franklin Community Band.

Cox was a beloved figure in the village. He could be spotted in the same pew at church on Sunday wearing his spectacles on the top of his head. To delight children, he would carve a spider out of a potato!

Cooper Pickering was born, reared and married in Lincolnshire, England. He was a shepherd, having charge of large flocks of sheep.

On June 10, 1852 Cooper and his wife Elizabeth arrived in New York aboard the ship the Guy Mannering. Both of them found employment, he as a farm hand and she, as a domestic. Later, the Pickering family farmed in Oakland County.

In 1855, John Lock and his family arrived in the United States. He was a farmer. While Henry Cox was serving in the Civil War, the Lock family cared for his one year old daughter Graci.

Daniel Broughton came to the United States in 1857. He was also part of the British invasion. By 1860, he had settled in the village of Clarkston working as a wagonmaker. Later, he operated a buggy works located where the current Franklin post office stands.

The familiar clickety-clack of the wagon wheels on the roadway was easily recognizable as a Broughton buggy.

Richard Cummings was a young boy when his family came to Michigan in 1859. Cummings opened a carriage and blacksmith shop. He was an officer and member of the Franklin Community Band.

The British invasion made an impact on our village. In 1855, there were 100 people living here. By 1865, there were 400 people!

The Cox, Pickering, Lock, Broughton and Cummings families were enticed to come to Michigan and seek a better life. Their journey across the pond not only enhanced their lives, but also the lives of the people in the small village.

We can still feel their presence! The little red schoolhouse on the east side of Franklin Road was once Dr. Henry Cox's office. The Pickering homestead and barn is on Franklin Road just north of 14 Mile Road. John Lock's home is on the south side of Scenic Drive near the cemetery. Daniel Broughton's homestead is the Village Offices and Richard Cummings blacksmith and buggy works are now the Franklin Grill. It's no wonder that Franklin is called the Town That Time Forgot!

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 4  
BIRMINGHAM, MI

## The Bases Are Loaded With History

Unravel an old sock to get yarn, wind it into a ball, cover it with leather from an old shoe, grab a table leg to use for a bat and head out to the ball field! There was always time for a Saturday game, at the William Barnum place near 13 Mile and Inkster, Sammy Green's cow pasture on the Village Green or the flat land by Haverford Street.

Back in the seventies, the 1870's, baseball was a popular pastime in Franklin. The Wood boys, Milton and William, played for the "Franklins." The brothers were the grandchildren of Daniel Wood, an original landowner in the village. It was young men, not children, who played baseball in the early days.

The rules were different back then. It was a gentleman's game. Matches were conducted with the highest standards of sportsmanship, gentlemanly behavior, courtesy and respect for others. There was no swearing, spitting, scratching, chewing tobacco or wagering. Comments on the umpire's judgment were not allowed. An umpire could ask players and spectators for assistance in making decisions.

Outs were called hands. Runs were called aces or counts. The first team to score 21 of them won. Pitches were thrown underhand. The batter called for the pitch he wanted. .high, low or waist high and the pitcher had to deliver it.

There were no catcher's mitts. Player's hands would puff up so they could only catch for a few innings.

It was common for the community band to play music between innings. One baseball player, Franklin Adams, also was a member of the band!

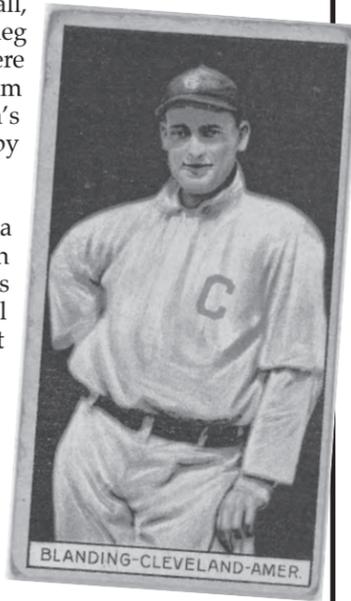
The game was played for fun. Jason Reed, a hometown boy, was a pitcher. The community raised funds to send him away to learn how to throw curves. When he came back and was exhibiting his stuff out in the center of the roadway, the fans were awestruck to see that the ball really curved!

Around 1900, the local club was called the Franklin Unions. They competed with teams in nearby towns. Will Leet, whose home is still on Romany Way and George (Puss) Fleetham who lived in a little house at the base of the hill on Franklin Road, were formidable teammates. Fleetham developed a curve ball, but had difficulty keeping it under control. Will Leet and Howard King were on Michigan League teams. Franklin Adams was a pitcher. He also owned a fruit farm at Telegraph and 14 Mile Roads.

Harry German became a pitcher for the Toledo Mudhens from 1902-1904. His home, on 14 Mile west of Middlebelt, still stands. Later, he was a banker in Carleton and a mayor of Northville. The German family dates back to 1837 to a mill on the Franklin River. A street bears the family name.

Although Fred Blanding was born in California, his roots were in Franklin. He lived here as a young boy with his mother and grandparents. He was a descendant of the Sly family, early pioneers. Blanding went to the University of Michigan. He was a right hand pitcher for the Cleveland Indians from 1910-1914. In the 1920's he was a manager of a garage in Lansing and in the 1930's, he was President of a Ford-Lincoln dealership in the same city.

Today, the rules have changed. Players receive salaries. The ball diamonds are groomed. Games are on Sundays. Bats are regulated for weight and length and a baseball has a limited lifetime. The old playing fields in Franklin have changed, but the history 'round those bases will live on forever.



## Kreger Farm Relocation and Restoration Update

The Kreger Farm buildings were moved from Scenic Drive to the Village Green on December 18th, 2008. Donations received and pledged so far amount to \$116,295.

The following services are complete and have been paid:  
Moving cost - \$36,000  
Architectural and engineering fees - \$23,500  
Printing, postage and other costs - \$2,600

The three buildings were winter-proofed and are awaiting placement on their permanent foundations. We have solicited bids from five builders and, by mid-April, will select one to construct the basement under the house and footings under the barn and shed. We hope that this work will be done by mid-May.

The following events are currently being planned:

On June 13th, there will be a fund raising pancake breakfast, fun run, walk and strut your mutt in addition to other activities in the downtown area.

Several residents are planning small information/fundraising functions in their homes.

The old foundation stones will be sorted to get enough small stones to create a fascia around the bottom of the house and shed so they appear to be on the original foundation.

A dinner on the Green fundraiser is being planned for late summer.

We still have a long way to go to meet our financial target that will allow full renovation of the buildings and expansion of the barn. If you are interested in getting involved in this project, please contact Bill or Ann Lamott at 248-538-0273. We'd love to have you join us and continue our efforts to accomplish our vision.

## Made in Franklin

### Mucky Duck Mustard



The origin of the name is explained on the back of each jar. It comes from a London Pub called the Black Swan, or more affectionately called by its clientele, the Mucky Duck.

The mustard itself has its roots in Franklin! In the 1980's, Michelle Marshall began making it in her home at 32965 Franklin Court. She cooked it, bottled it, and in most cases, delivered it. Michelle had three employees. Her husband did all of the bookkeeping.

Marshall explains, "I think it's unique because it's hot, but its sweet- a flavor most mustards don't have. There's also no salt or preservatives."

The sweet yet snappy mustard that offers a delicious little kick to keep your taste buds craving more can still be found in markets. Mucky Duck truly does cut the mustard!

### The Dry Roasted Peanut

In the 1940's and 50's, Samuel Buel Slade, grandson of Dr. Julian Buel, developed the first dry-roasted peanuts ever made in a shed behind the family home at 32710 Franklin Road.

It is reported that Mr. Slade's doctor told him to stop eating peanuts due to their fat content. Perhaps this advice served as a motivation for his invention!

Slade marketed his product with Franklin Foods Inc. His edible invention was called "the royal gem peanuts with no grease."

They were sold in prestigious stores in Chicago, Seattle and San Francisco.

The company was sold to American Home Products.

It's not too late to be a 2009 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.

## Memorial Day Remembrance

Monday, May 25, 2009  
11 A.M.

In 1966, the first Memorial Day ceremony in the Franklin Cemetery was initiated by Arthur Kreger. He was a builder, who with his wife Cora, lived in Franklin working with children's groups, veterans and the Board of Education. He was President of the Cemetery Board, a village officer and a member of the Franklin Band.

Kreger was concerned that after he was gone, would others dedicate themselves to the cemetery? He would be pleased! The tradition has continued!

American flags are placed at each veteran's gravesite. The boy scouts present the colors, speeches are made and patriotic songs sung. There is a firing squad salute to the departed and taps.

Each Memorial Day in the Franklin Cemetery, there is a moment when the past shares the present, when time stands still, and those who have gone before touch the lives of the living. (Carmina Tuksal)



*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