

# Franklin Historical Society Annual Meeting June 10, 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.

## Save the Date

The morning of Saturday June 12th  
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

John Mentor, an Oakland County resident, received the Medal of Honor. It reads:

Sergeant, Co. D, 5th Michigan Infantry at Sailor's Creek, Va. 6, April 1865 Entered service at Detroit, Michigan, birth New York, date of issue 10 May 1865, Citation: Capture the flag.

Mentor was married to Alice Lee, daughter of Harvey Lee, the Gretna Green of the neighborhood. He is buried in the old plat in the Franklin Cemetery.



Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

April 2010

## The Parents Said, "No" – The Couple said, "I Do."



It was a blustery, snowy March evening in 1856. The snow had drifted into enormous banks making the roads almost impassable. A young lady in the Van Every home was preparing to meet her

beau and elope! The mansion sat on top of a hill on the east side of Franklin Road.

Everyone knew the Van Every family! The father, Peter, was a veteran of the War of 1812. He and his wife Amy raised 14 children in their home. Peter had a successful grist mill that beckoned farmers as far away as Howell to bring in their grain. He also owned a distillery and a potashery. He was a member of the Michigan Constitutional Convention. Colonel Peter Van Every was a pillar in the village of Franklin.

As the story goes, that March evening, a young man harnessed a team of horses to a sleigh and headed to the mansion to take Miss Lovinia as his bride. The suitor had been a clerk in the Van Every store. When Peter realized that a friendship with his daughter had blossomed into a romance, he discharged the young man. Little did he know, the twosome met secretly and this fateful night they intended to make their lives together.

The young couple stopped at Squire Lees who lived in a stone house just east of the bridge on Townline Road (14 Mile.) Harvey Lee had a tannery. Peter Van Every was one of his best customers. He mended boots for the family and belts for the mill.

Lee was also considered the Gretna Green of the neighborhood. Gretna Green refers to a small village on the west coast in the south of Scotland on the Scottish-English border. Since 1754 it has been famous for being the place people eloped to from England to get married. Why? Because the English Marriage Act stated that if either party was under 21 years of age, they couldn't marry without parental consent. However, this law didn't apply in Scotland. Therefore, many young couples traveled to Scotland to elope – a tradition that has lasted for hundreds of years.

Squire Lee had married couples that didn't have parental permission. However, he was also a long time friend of Peter Van Every. He could not marry the couple in good conscience and turned them away.

Knowing that Squire Lee would alert the Van Everys, the couple hastened a mile down the road to another justice of the peace, Lewis Adams. He had also been a friend of the family and refused to marry them. They took off for Birmingham where an obliging justice wed them.

In the meantime, one of Colonel Peter Van Every's search party was stuck in a snowdrift and unable to catch up with the runaways. . .and that was how the story went.

Who was the courter? Some say it was Daniel Broughton. He would later live in the building housing our village hall and open up a buggy works across the street where the current post office is located. However, a marriage license dated March 4, 1856 shows a Thomas Broughton wedded to a Lovinia Van Every. Were Daniel and Thomas one and the same, were they brothers, was the story inaccurate? Were the newlyweds disowned and banned from the village? According to the Oakland County Michigan Vitals, Lovinia and Thomas had at least two children, Emma and Wells. An 1860 census record reveals that Thomas was a merchant. He and his wife Lovinia were living with Amy Van Every, Peter's widow. Tragically Peter had died the year before in a mysterious buggy/robbery incident.

It is known that Daniel Broughton arrived in the United States from England in 1857. . .that would be the year after he supposedly married Lovinia Van Every. Records indicate that he married Susan Bailey in 1866. He started a family in Franklin as well as a buggy works business. The Broughton lineage is traced throughout the history of Franklin. Their stories lie with them on cemetery hill.

So, what is the story? Did statistic takers write down the wrong groom? Was the wedding date incorrect? Could Daniel have arrived in the United States in 1856 and eloped with Lovinia and perhaps married Susan Bailey ten years later? This is a mystery of history. It happened one wintry evening that young lovers took their destiny in their hands and have left us only to wonder about that wintry night in question.

Franklin Historical Society Annual Plant Sale  
*It's a Perennial Thing!*  
The Historical Society plant sale is on May 21st. An order form is enclosed in this issue of the Kite and Key. Be sure to select your plants from the list and return it as soon as possible to FHS, P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025.  
*Plant the Past*  
When the pioneers settled here, they found violets, wild grape and cowslip along the roadside. Deep in the swamps were Indian pipestem and watercress. These plant varieties grew well because they were native! Be sure to check out the list of native plants on the order sheet. Planting the past makes sense for future garden growth.



www.franklin-history.org

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

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# Hot Dogs & Art!

**Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Featuring prints of local artists:

- Max Altekruze
- Ken Bristol
- David Courtney
- David McCall Johnston
- Frank Lohan

Prints will be available for sale.

Cost: \$25 per person, \$50 per family includes the Art show, hot dogs, chips and soft drink

The proceeds benefit the Franklin Historical Society.

Tickets will be on sale at the Village Hall and The Village Boutique, 32716 Franklin Road.



*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



# Kreger Farm Barn Raising Event

**Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

The Kreger Farm Barn Raising Event is Saturday, June 12th in Franklin.

The morning includes a pancake breakfast at the Fire Station, a 5K run through Franklin, a 1 - 5k Fun Walk and Strut Your Mutt to raise funds for the restoration of the Kreger Farm Buildings and their ultimate use as community gathering spaces.

Enjoy old fashioned pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee prepared by the Boy Scouts. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11:30 AM at the Franklin Fire Station. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, and free for children under 3. Advanced tickets can be purchased at the Village Hall and the Village Boutique located at 32716 Franklin Road.

The 5K run begins at 8AM and loops through the village. The cost is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and breakfast. Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third place winners for men and women.

After the runners have left their mark, the 1 - 5k Fun Walk will begin. The cost for each walker is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and breakfast.

The next event is Strut Your Mutt. Bring your pal and show him off as you "strut" 1 - 5k through Historic Franklin Village. The cost is \$10 per individual or \$25 per family. It includes a doggy goodie bag.

Lace up those shoes, grab that leash and dive into an old fashioned breakfast! We hope that you can join in the festivities on June 12th to help support the continued renovation of the Kreger Farm buildings for our community use.

For continual updates on the event, check our website at [www.kregerhouse.org](http://www.kregerhouse.org)

It's not too late to be a 2010 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.

# Oh, Could They Speak!

Civil War battle flags spoke to the soldiers in the field. The flags were carried in battle by men known as "color bearers" and were used to communicate with the soldiers in the regiments. They would look to their flag to learn if they should advance in battle, hold their ground or retreat.

Upon the capture of an enemy site, the victors raised their flag, as described in General O.B. Willcox's report about the capture at Petersburg in 1865:

At 4:28 the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters was raised on the court house and that of the 2nd Michigan on the custom house a few minutes later.



**Infantry battle flags**, or colors, were six feet wide by 6 1/2 feet tall so they were easily visible by the soldiers in the regiment. Each flag was attached to a staff that was nine feet ten inches tall! The flags were generally made of silk and were surrounded by gold fringe. Regiments were given two flags: one was the national color based on the red, white and blue stars and stripes, and the other was the regimental color which was blue silk and decorated with the hand-painted arms of the United States or the state's coat of arms.



**Cavalry battle flags** carried a single silk standard which was a smaller version of the infantry's regimental flag. These flags were two feet three inches high by two feet five inches wide and trimmed with yellow silk fringe.

Since the cavalry did not fight together as a regiment, each company within the regiment also carried a flag called a guidon. Because of their shape, they were called swallow-tail guidons. With the "V" of fabric cut away, the flag was lighter to carry.

Also, it flew better in the air as the horseman galloped.

Some flags were made by women in the communities. Other communities raised money to buy a commercially made flag. Flags were a link between the war and the home front.

Those who carried or defended the flags in battle suffered the highest mortality rates of the war.

On July 12, 1862, Abe Lincoln signed into a law to award a medal of honor to noncommissioned officers and privates who distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier like qualities during the present insurrection (Civil War.) Capturing the flag was worthy of a medal of honor.

As you pass the Franklin Cemetery, take note of the flags placed beside the graves of our veterans. Join other villagers at the flag pole on Monday, May 31st at 11 A.M. to bow your head in honor of those who gave so much to their country.

## Our Boys Remembered Franklin Civil War Cemetery Tour

**SUNDAY, MAY 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM**

**COST: \$10**

Who...  
 was a bugler?  
 received the Medal of Honor?  
 was a POW?

Where...  
 did they come from?  
 did they serve?

What happened to them?  
 Why we should care...

**Contact: Ann & Bill Lamott**  
**248-538-0273**