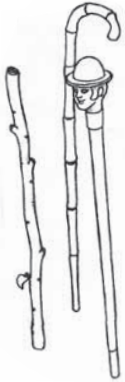

Kite & Key

Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

December, 2006

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



From Pole Raising to Raising Cane!

August 13, 1860

(excerpt from the *All About Franklin* book)

A Lincoln Pole was erected in the village in 1860. These poles were put up in small communities in America when politics was the sport of the day.

Trees were cut and set up in a conspicuous place in the village, draped with bunting and pictures of candidates. Dinner was a free offering by the people of Franklin. Two long tables were set down a vista of apple trees and food in abundance was provided. Everything was ready for the raising of the pole.

When, under the direction of Stephen Durkee, the pole was nearly perpendicular, the cannon which had been loaded for the occasion was fired. It belched forth its terrible contents, but no cannon's roar was heard. It was soon discovered that some Democrats had put several cucumbers into the fusehole of the cannon preventing it from firing properly. There was much confusion until an artilleryman, Sam Locke, brought a ramrod made in a nearby blacksmith shop to solve the problem.

"Stan' back there, me lads! I can draven out the fusehole," said Sam. With every blow of the ramrod, a stream of cucumber pulp blew 10 to 12 feet into the air. Finally, the gun was free from obstruction. Down went the bag of powder. "Ready! Fire!" The ensuing blast shook the ground and toppled the speaker's stand, because, in the confusion an extra load of powder was used!

From the Lincoln pole raising and the Democrats "raising cane," came the fruits of labor from Dr. Henry Cox. Dr. Cox carved a cane from the Lincoln Pole for Cyrennius Wood. Cyrennius was the son of Daniel Wood, an original Franklin landowner. Cox carved the handle of the cane from the 1888 Benjamin Harrison pole raising.

Not just a cane.

One of the proudest possessions an early American could own was a walking stick or cane. It became a tradition to give a prominent person in the community a cane. Once owned, the cane was rarely thrown away and usually willed to a good friend. Cyrennius Wood gave his cane to his grandson, Bert Wood.



Naturescaping

The Historic Society's efforts to highlight native vegetation continued in the last half of 2006. Use of native vegetation in the Village helps maintain the rural character that makes Franklin so unique. The Museum grounds will become a showplace for native plantings that can be used by Franklin residents. Activities this year included:

1. Work days were held at the museum grounds in April and May to clear the grounds of garlic mustard and other invasive plants that must be removed prior to planting desired flowers.
2. A wildflower symposium was held on May 20. Subjects covered included wildflower definition, uses, selection and planting tips.
3. A formal plan for invasive removal and wildflower planting was developed by landscape designer Joanie Slusky. This plan will guide our future efforts.
4. About \$2000 was raised to help pay for the museum site development
5. An October 7th Naturescaping Symposium was held at the Franklin Church. More than 80 people listened to presentations about landscape design with native plants, biodiversity, plant selection and invasive removal.

In the spring of 2007, work will continue on the museum grounds. If you are interested in getting involved, please call Bill Lamott at 248-538-0273.

Museum Capital Improvement Fund Drive Status

In early November, the Historic Society Board mailed a request to residents asking for their contributions to raise \$25,000 to replace the museum roof and upgrade the electrical and heating systems. At this time, almost \$9,500 has been donated. If you've contributed, thanks. If not, please consider adding an additional amount to your 2007 Historic Society membership dues. With the community's help, the Society will continue to achieve its goals.

Historical Society Activities - 2006

- **Ice Cream Social:** On June 11 from 3 – 5 P.M., 250 people enjoyed a sundae and listened to the Straw Hat Band on the Village Green.
- **Genealogy Research:** Ancestry research of early Franklin settlers continues.
- **School Program:** Third-graders from West Maple Elementary and Detroit County Day visited the museum.
- **Stone Oaks Subdivision Meeting:** Residents from Stone Oaks visited the museum and listened to a presentation about the history of their property.
- **Oakland County Historic Societies:** Franklin Historic Society members participated in county wide historic society coordination meetings.
- **Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Annual Meeting:** On June 8th, historic society members met for their annual meeting.
- **Plant Sale:** May 19th over \$5000 in plants were sold to villagers.
- **Ben Franklin Exhibit:** An exhibit highlighting the life and times of Ben Franklin was developed.
- **Historic District Tour:** On November 4th, a walking tour co-sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society and the Franklin Historical Society was conducted.
- **Cemetery Tour:** A Franklin cemetery tour on November 5th highlighted the stories of early residents.
- **Naturescaping:** The Historic Society continued its efforts to promote the use of native plants in the village to maintain our rural character using the museum property as an example.
- **Winterfest:** On December 2nd, roasted chestnuts and historic grounds were available.

Stoughton-Bullock Settlement

Two pioneers, Dillucena Stoughton and Elijah Bullock bought land in the Michigan Territory in 1824. They named their property after themselves! Later it was re-named Franklin.

On November 14th, third graders from Detroit Country Day School learned about these early landowners. They also became acquainted with a tinsmith, teacher, merchant, postmaster, millers, doctors and blacksmiths that lived in Franklin during the 1800's.



From a Financial Point of View

The Franklin Historical Society had a good year in terms of dollars and cents. We ended the 12 month period ending October 30, 2006 with \$1365 more in the bank than we started as shown by the following (excluding capital fund contributions):

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 13,567	
Income		
Dues	\$ 7,572	
Sales	497	
Donations	1,245	
Plant sale profit	2,041	
Interest Income	149	
Total Income	\$ 11,504	
Expenses		
Museum Facility	\$ 5,781	
Kite & Key	1,804	
Ice Cream Social	710	
Other Expenses	1,844	
Total Expenses	\$ 10,139	
Income less expenses	\$ 1,365	
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 14,932	

While the positive cash position is good, many things are yet to be done. Ongoing community financial support is essential to continued growth and development of the organization.



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

A Link to the Past

Not long after the Van Every Mill was completed, Winthrop Worthing asked the millwright, William Pratt, to build another grist mill at the foot of what is now German Mill Road. Worthing owned the privilege of the stream on land he bought from Dillucena Stoughton, and since Pratt was a “genius” at building mills, the two men built the “Oakland County” mill in 1838.

The dam was built on what is now the Crestbrook Condo property south of 14 Mile Road to the German Mill Road. Water was conveyed to the mill via a long millrace to the wheel, through a long wooden tube.

The Oakland County Mill changed hands many times:

- Pratt and Benedict - 1843
- Livingstone and Butler - 1846
- Jonathan White and John German - 1846
- Charles W. Delling
- Hugh McCrumb
- Shackleton’s Mill

The Finnicums, the current owners, found assorted glass bottles and containers on the property which they donated to the Museum. Their discoveries provide a link to the mill properties past.

What could you do with 2 hours per month?

As you make your year-end gift plans and new years resolutions, consider giving your time and talents. Here’s what you could do with very little time commitment:

1. Help with a museum school group
2. Write newsletter articles and help with the mailing
3. Work on museum housekeeping
4. Tend the museum garden
5. Catalog museum archives
6. Sell plants at the spring plant sale
7. Attend the Historic Society monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on the second Thursday
8. Help with Round Up or Winterfest activities
9. Plan new activities
10. Enjoy working together to achieve common goals



List of Museum Acquisitions

The following things were recently acquired by the museum:

1. Old bottles found on the mill property donated by the Finnicums
2. An antique wood toy donated by Lisa Martin
3. A drafting table donated by Arnie Anderson
4. 1970’s slides of Franklin buildings donated by Carmina Tuksal
5. Medicine bottles and ice tongs purchased from an antique dealer
6. An old fashioned washing plunger purchased from a hardware store

Franklin Cemetery Tour

Who was Richard Trick and why was a book written about him?

What tragedy struck the Beatty family?

Why are the initials S.H.D. carved into a boulder outside the cemetery gate?

On November 5th, the curious met at the cemetery to discover the answers. Watch for the next tour in the spring!



Life-long Franklin Resident, Neighbor and Friend...

Maxine Nelson passed away on June 1, 2006. Her husband, Bob Nelson preceded her in death in October 2005.

Maxine, born Viola Maxine Kreger, was born on May 22, 1922. Her father, Art Kreger was well-known in the village as a builder and leader in community activities. He and his wife, Cora, lived in the white farmhouse on Scenic Drive. Maxine and her brother, Robert, were born there.

I loved listening to Maxine talk about her childhood days. I asked her what Scenic Drive looked like when she was growing up. She said, “Well, there was your house, my house and a house across the street. We lived in the country.” With a twinkle in her eye, she would talk about skiing down School Hill and skating on the millpond. She fondly remembered going to the Community Hall (now home to the Fire Department) for school dances. Then, she would catch herself reminiscing and say, “Oh, you don’t want to hear about that stuff.” But, Maxine, I did!

Maxine was related to many of the early Franklin settlers. John and Jane German, Maxine’s great grandparents, came to America from England with their children. They arrived on June 12, 1837 in New York on the ship Brig Lord Ramsay. John opened a mill on the road bearing his name. . .German Mill.

This holiday season, I miss the candles shining in her windows. I miss the phone calls asking if we’d like to go to the Redford Theater, have dinner at Seros or attend a Birmingham concert. At the last concert with the Nelsons, Maxine nudged me and said, “Afterwards, let’s go to Baker’s Square for pie. . .our treat!”

Maxine was a delightful lady, neighbor and friend.

Ann Lamott

And the Band Plays On...

The Franklin Village Band originated around 1880. The early band was a brass and percussion group. There were 16 musicians who wore military type uniforms. They played for political rallies and socials.

Dr. Henry Cox, an army surgeon during the Civil War and long time Franklin resident, wrote the constitution for the organization.

Band members met once a week to receive instruction from Professor Frank Norton of Detroit. Any member absent without reason acceptable to the group was fined 10 cents according to the by-laws.

During the presidential campaigns of Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison, the band was present at the pole raisings in Big Beaver, Birmingham, Farmington and Walled Lake.

Today, the Franklin Village Band plays on Memorial Day and at Round-Up.

Bob Smith, president, has been in the band since 1959. Bob Zimmerman is the conductor. The group consists of 12-15 members. Practice is on the first and third Monday from 7:30 – 9 P.M. at the Franklin Church.

The band is looking for people who play the sax, clarinet or flute. Band alumni from high school or college are encouraged to join the group.

For more information, please contact Bob Smith at 248-626-5474.



Top Row: Frank Gravelin, Arthur Bowden, Edward Smith; Second Row: Jaid Cummings, James Brooks; Bottom Row: George Gordon, Noble Gravelin, Elias Forman.

Awhile Ago In Franklin . . .

Using trails marked by early surveyors with deeply notched trees and posts set in the ground at each quarter section, Stoughton and Bullock made their way to the land they had purchased in 1824. They called their new home the Stoughton-Bullock Settlement.

FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025

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