

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE 1860 CATALPA TREE THAT ONCE STOOD BEHIND THE FRANKLIN LIBRARY

Anticipation was high. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and a warm breeze was in the air. Villagers were gathering on the grassy green, selecting the best viewing spot to watch the first match of the season! The Franklin coronet band was prepared to start the festivities with the Star Spangled Banner and provide rousing music during the event.

As the **cranks** (the spectators) spread their blankets on the grass and settled in, the **ballists** (ballplayers) took their assigned positions on the grassy field. There was the **hurler** (the pitcher) warming up on the mound with the **onion** (no, not a real onion! That's what the ball was called), and the **behind** (catcher) was behind the **dish** (home plate), ready to catch the underhanded throw with his bare hands. The **short scout** (short-stop), with hands on his knees, was prepared for any ball that would come his way.

There were no mitts – this was 1860s baseball!

There were rules that needed to be followed. This was a gentleman's game. There was **no spitting**, **no swearing**, **no wagering**, **no chewing tobacco**, and **no arguing** with the **judge** (he was the umpire). Games were never played on Sunday.

Matches were nine innings. The hurler had to throw the ball where the **striker**, as the batter was called, *requested* it!



A fly ball that was caught was an out. A ball caught on one **bound**, or bounce, was also an out. Three hurled balls that a striker swung at and missed was an out.

This was an old-timer's game at its best!

Franklin had two teams: the Franklins and the

Franklin Unions. They competed with surrounding communities in friendly games.

Now, **let's play ball** with a resounding HUZZAH!



H U R R A H !

The next competition is Saturday, June 27, at 1 P.M.

The Royal Oak Wahoos vs. The Wyandotte Stars

On the grassy Village Green • Bring a Lawn Chair!

Hot Dogs, Chips, and Drinks available for purchase

Music by the Peace Jubilee Civil War Band

A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Sixty years ago, a Memorial Day ceremony in the Franklin cemetery was initiated by Arthur Kreger, a WWI veteran. He was the 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 have been pleased! The tradition has continued.

Veterans from the War of 1812 to current conflicts are recognized. American flags are placed at each veteran gravesite. The Boy Scouts present the colors, "In Flanders Fields" and the Gettysburg



Arthur Kreger

Address are recited, speeches are made, and patriotic songs sung. There are volleys in remembrance of our veterans and taps.

With the 250th year celebration of America's independence, the Franklin Historical Society is honoring Franklin veterans with banners on the light posts along Franklin Road.

Each banner is a quiet salute to their sacrifice and the freedoms we enjoy.

Scan the QR codes on the posts to hear their stories. Let them speak to you – and answer back with gratitude.

250 YEARS OF AMERICAN SPIRIT!

For 250 years, the American spirit has worn many uniforms. Before a single word is spoken, clothing tells the story.

As the scarecrows dress for the occasion this fall, they step into moments that are familiar to us, each one reflecting a different chapter in time.

Look for the hearty, the driven, the hopeful, and the whimsical, all gathered as one family.

Perhaps you will recognize a piece of yourself in them.

Every figure has a story to tell. Scan the QR code to discover each one's uniqueness.

History is not only found in books. Sometimes, it stands quietly beside the road, wearing a straw hat, and waiting to be noticed.



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 for those who wish to study it. The Society maintains a museum and archival area at the Derwich house, 26265 13 Mile Road (at Kirk). Volunteers and donations are most welcome. ***Kite & Key*** and the Society welcome mail at:

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sat., June 27 | 1860s Baseball Game
on the Grassy Village Green |
| Wed., July 22 | Music on the Green (FCA & FHS) |
| Wed., July 29 | Music on the Green (FCA & FHS) |
| Wed., Aug. 5 | Music on the Green (FCA & FHS) |
| Wed., Aug. 12 | Music on the Green (FCA & FHS) |
| Sat., Sept. 26 | Build a Scarecrow & Crow to Go
10 AM–12 Noon at the Kreger House
Cost is \$10.
Check www.franklin-history.org
for details as the event gets closer |

LOST AND FOUND

The wooden crates slept for decades in the big, red barn on the Pickering farm. They were scattered everywhere in no apparent order. They found comfort in their environment and had abandoned their original purpose. Some slats were split, others missing altogether. Some had names stenciled on them.



The big, red barn on the Pickering farm

Their existence was sparking curiosity as if they were eager to tell their story and find a new purpose.

A bit of investigation was in order. Follow the clues they were sharing and put the story together.

The Pickerings had an apple orchard. Apple orchards needed crates to store the fruit. The fruit had to be distributed.

Why not stencil names on customers' crates?



Two of the crates found in the Pickering barn



Who were Broughton, Bingham, and German, whose faded names were barely visible? They were prominent villagers in Franklin. Broughton was a buggy maker, Bingham, a merchant, and German, a miller.

The crates had spoken. Could they continue their journey, and speak to a new generation?

They have not been discarded, but rather repurposed at the Franklin Historical Museum in a hands-on discovery exhibit.

Each crate offers a window to our past through hands-on activities. The crates are stacked with intention and hold the items to create a pioneer project:

- Grab a baby food jar, put cream inside, secure the lid, and shake to make butter!
- A canning lid, a pattern, a hammer, and a nail can create a tin-punch project.
- Shaving soap, a popsicle stick, and a mirror offer a clean shave.
- With a turkey quill and homemade strawberry ink, write a note. Then fold the note to make an envelope.
- Wash clothes 1850s style!

Our history is not behind glass, merely to be observed. It is in crates to be picked up, explored, and experienced with your own two hands!

FOLLOW THE FOOTPRINT!

This is a self-guided walking tour of the Historic District along Franklin Road. Thirty-six stopping points are featured. Simply scan the QR code and read the narrative.

Booklets will be available at the Village Hall, the Library, and the Franklin Historical Museum.



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GARY ROBERTS



Let us honor Gary's legacy by preserving an important piece of Franklin's history for generations.

WHY THE HISTORIC SOCIETY *MATTERS*

For newer residents, it's a way to get to know the Village more deeply. To understand how the place came to be, why it looks and feels the way it does, and how to be part of its future with respect and care.

**We moved here because it felt right.
Let's share our stewardship by becoming
a member of the Franklin Historical Society.**

A WHILE AGO IN FRANKLIN

Will Leet had the misfortune of breaking both bones of his leg, just above the ankle, while playing in the baseball game at Franklin last Saturday. This is the second accident that has occurred on the ball ground in less than 3 weeks. This game was played in the 1880's with no mitts. Leet was the grandson of Peter Van Every Sr., the miller.