

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter

August 2014

THE HUNNEMAN #383



Our Hunneman hand tub has served two departments over the centuries. It was originally purchased new in 1850 by the Ellsworth, Maine Fire Department. As Ellsworth grew into a city their needs increased and they purchased a large pumper, trading in the #383. It was refurbished and sold to Francestown for \$450 plus \$2.45 shipping from Boston to Francestown.

In August of this year Chief Richard Tupper of the Ellsworth Fire Department came down to see their old hand tub in its current retirement and take photos for his stations.

Below is a photo of #383 just after it was purchased by Francestown.



THE MUSEUM

The driving force behind this museum was a local resident – O. Alan Thulander. Without Alan's support and vision, the museum would not exist today. The intent of the Museum is to provide a means for bringing the citizens of Francestown together and enhancing the community. The Museum is charged with preserving and making available to everyone, items related to the Town's vehicular and transportation heritage.

It was decided to incorporate this vision into the Town's greater plan to establish a Historic Common consisting of the Francestown Academy (The Town Hall), The Horse Sheds, The Francestown Academy Dormitory (a/k/a The Beehive) and the Francestown Heritage Museum. These Collective buildings would be known as:

- The Town Hall at the Academy Building
- The Francestown Improvement and Historic Society at the Beehive Building
- The Francestown Heritage Museum at the Thulander Building
- The Horse Sheds at the common

PRESERVING the COACH



Our Concord Coach was built ~1845 by the Abbot-Downing Company in Concord, NH. While the company no longer exists, The Abbot-Downing Preservation Society is still active. Peter James from the Society paid a recent visit to provide advice as how best to preserve this piece of history.

He indicated that the coach portion is one of a very few left that is original and it should be preserved rather than restored. The carriage however does require restoration due to the deteriorated leather on the springs and deteriorating paint.

We have retained the firm of Bruce Hamilton Historic Restoration to evaluate the coach and submit a proposal for completion of the work.

The Francestown Improvement and Historical Society expressed a willingness to participate in this preservation in hopes of having the Coach completed and ready to be drawn in the 2017 Labor Day Parade in celebration of the FIHS 100th anniversary.