

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter



December 2017

Happy Holidays

BEEHIVE MUSEUM OPENS IN TIME FOR LABOR DAY

This begs the question: How does a small town like Francestown come to have two historical museums? Certainly Good Fortune but more to the point they each focus on different aspects of the town's history. A town is nothing without its citizens and the citizens rely on the day to day necessities to live.

The **HERITAGE MUSEUM at the BEEHIVE and HOME of FIHS** focuses on the things that made the town – the historic items pertaining to the founding of the town, the academy, the turnpike, the mills, world wars and the people and politics of our past.

The **HERITAGE MUSEUM at the THULANDER BUILDING** focuses on what made life possible – the implements that were part of agriculture to supply the food, the equipment to fight fire, the modes of transportation, the domestic necessities to ensure shelter and the tools of commerce.

The term “focuses” is key as some of our exhibits do overlap, but to this end, the heritage museums have been trying to better align our exhibits with our mission and indeed the entire Francestown Historic Common. Several examples of this would include:



FRANCESTOWN POST OFFICE CANCELLATION MACHINE

When FIHS moved from the Police Station to the Beehive this machine was found in the Beehive collection. Since it related to the day to day lives of the citizens it is now being displayed in the Thulander Building. The adjustable date stamp in the machine is set to September 10, 1911 when the Post Office was a part of the Coburn Store whose final note in history was a devastating fire that threatened the entire village.



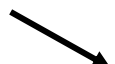
FRANCESTOWN GRANGE MEMORABILIA

Grange Memorabilia such as books, charters, podiums, etc. were residing in the storage loft at the Thulander Building as it really didn't fit in with any of the exhibits. The Grange being an integral part of the town history, these items have been transferred to the Beehive.



FRANCESTOWN EAGLE

For any who are not aware, the eagle atop the town hall is a replica of the original eagle which was badly damaged from years of exposure. When renovations started at the Town Hall the original eagle was transferred to the Thulander Building where the podium was reconstructed and the very fragile wooden eagle now resides. Here it has attracted much attention and is seen and appreciated by many. The window backlighting makes for a truly majestic bird.



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PAGE #2

THE CHEESE PRESS . . .



This is new to our collection. The Heritage Museum has an existing collection of implements and items that were used as aids to the daily running of the household – the Domestic Collection. The cheese press illustrates yet another of the many tasks necessary to operate the family home.

The cheese press works by pressing the prepared curds into the hard cheese (the press generates approximately 50 pounds of pressure). This force keeps the curds pressed together and is known as knitting. While the cheese press provides the force, the actual hardness is determined beforehand by the size of the curds, the temperature and moisture content when they are stirred or prepared for the press.

WINTER at the HERITAGE MUSEUM

As our museum is not heated, winter is not the best time to view the exhibits. As such we are seldom open. However, if anyone has family or others visiting, etc. and would like a private visit, please call and we will try to accommodate your schedule.

Bill McAuley @ (603)547-8320

Bob Abbott @ (603)547-6894

Jennifer Vadney @ (603) 540-3000

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING . . .

On December 3, 2017, FIHS sponsored the annual Christmas tree lighting on the Town Common. Both of the museums were open.



Santa Claus joined the tree lighting ceremony much to the delight of young and old. Mr. Claus was seen earlier in one of the sleighs we have on display courtesy of the Place family.



IT'S COMING!!!

But we will still open if you would like a private visit.

