

# THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

November 2018

## The Woodsy Issue

It has been an eye opener how many comments I got on the last newsletter in regard to the Crossword Puzzle clue “Give a hoot – Don’t pollute” to which the answer was “Woodsy”. So many had no idea who Woodsy was. So for those who were not exposed to US Forest Service public service announcements or led a sheltered life, I invited Woodsy to visit the museum and evaluate our collection.

Woodsy was a US Forest Service icon whose target audience in the 1950’s was children 5-8 years old. But we will let Woodsy speak for himself as he first did as the Forest Service icon: ***“Hello! I’m Woodsy Owl. I hope you will join me to learn how to “Lend a Hand — Care for the Land!” Do you know what that means? It means that if we all work together, the Earth will have clean air and water and will be a healthy place to live for trees and plants, fish, animals and birds like me!”***

There is a general thought that this modern generation is doing far more to pollute than did our ancestors. So Woodsy did an evaluation of some of the Museum’s artifacts with a resulting interesting conclusion.

### THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAND TUB



This hand tub was originally purchased by the Elsworth, ME fire department which quickly learned it was not large enough for their growing city. This hand tub with hose cart was returned to the manufacturer in Boston and reconditioned. Frankestown then purchased it in 1850 for \$400 plus \$2<sup>45</sup> to ship it here from Boston. It includes four leather pails, suction hoses and play pipes (nozzles).

### 1937 JOHN DEERE MODEL B TRACTOR



This 1937 unstyled “B” tractor was one of the last of the tractors that needed to be manually started by turning (“cranking”) the flywheel by hand. It also has two fuel tanks – this tractor was started using the fuel in the gas tank and once warmed up was switched over and ran on the fuel in the kerosene tank (kerosene was a much cheaper fuel in those days).



Woodsy was overjoyed by this. Not only was it operated by hand but it used no chemicals to extinguish a fire, just water. Of course to our volunteer fire department water stands for **“Wonderful And Total Extinguishing Resource”**. But from Woodsy’s point of view, it not only didn’t pollute but could be used to save the forest from fire (very important to an owl who lives in the forest).

So **A++** for our ancestors on this one.

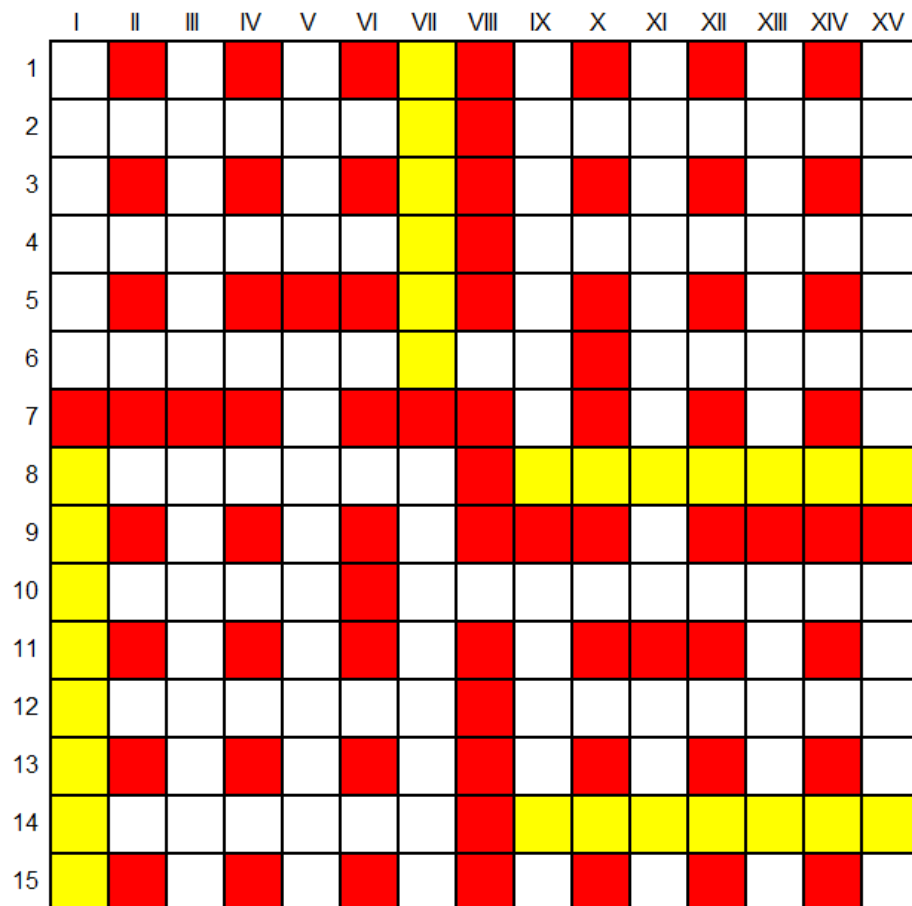


Woodsy was not impressed. In fact, he was appalled. Bad enough that it burned gasoline. But to run on kerosene, which is an even greater pollutant, was just beyond the pale.

Afraid our ancestors got a solid **F** on this one.

Continued on Page 4

## THIS MONTHS CROSSWORD THEME IS WOODSY'S POLLUTION EVALUATION



The grid in this month's puzzle is a bit different in that this style grid is known as a "French Grid".

Numbers appear only in the margins at the head of the lines. If there are more than two words in that line a red break separates the words. If there are two words in a line, the clue for that line will have two definitions – the first definition will be for the word at the top or left side of the line and the second definition will be for the second word in that line.

Only red squares are breaks and the yellow boxes contain the theme words.

Enjoy!

### THIS MONTHS PUZZLE CLUES

#### Across

- 2. Official ban on trade  
Portable cooking grill
- 4. Held in high regard  
Exuberantly plentiful
- 6. Mosses  
A large, heavyset mammal
- 8. A citadel within a Russian town  
A Woodsy A++
- 10. Restore  
Inexperienced
- 12. Sawtoothed edge  
Eager to get
- 14. Most tidy  
A Woodsy "F"

#### Down

- I. Sound reflection  
Woodsy's least favorite fuel
- III. Office of an abbot  
Heavenly
- V. Courage and resolve  
Person escorting a coffin
- VII. Forest Service owl  
Fill with revulsion
- IX. Jerk to the head injury  
Sworn loyalty to a lord
- XI. Disgusted loathing  
Person in charge
- XIII. Familiarize  
Move quickly in a spiral
- XV. Dangerous problem if not addressed  
Old person

## A WELCOME GROUP of GUESTS

The museum staff has always worked toward encouraging students to visit and ask questions.

On November 8<sup>th</sup> we were happy to have the Francestown Elementary School fourth graders pay us a visit.



The museum exhibits fit well with this particular class as the fourth grade syllabus includes New Hampshire history. One thing the museum has is history.

The museum provided the class with a visitor's guide prior to making their visit. Students were then asked to select an item they wanted to know more about when they came to the museum.



The class lines up to try their hand with the old crank corn sheller. This corn sheller was manufactured in Boston, MA by Nourse & Co. The unshelled corn was placed down the small chute at the top as the crank was turned. The interior mechanism would shell the corn from the cob and drop the kernels to a receptacle placed below and the cobs were expelled through the opening in the end.

Invented by Joshua Armsby (his name appears lettered on this device) and patented January 7, 1851 (patent # 7881).



At the end of their visit, the class was called to order and the students asked to sit at their desks. In this case the old desks from the Francestown Academy were pressed into service.

The Francestown Museum would like to thank Principal Katherine Foecker for making this all possible and to Laura Seale, the fourth grade teacher whose ability to focus the group and provide direction was a real plus. Thank you most of all to the class members for their good questions and enthusiasm.

Answer to this month's crossword puzzle

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
1	R	A	G		W		W	A	A	T					
2	E	M	B	A	R	G	O	H	I	B	A	C	H	I	
3	V		B	I	O		I	H	Q		M				
4	E	X	A	L	T	E	D		P	R	O	F	U	S	E
5	R		C			S		L	R	A		B			
6	B	R	Y	O	P	H	Y	T	A		R	H	I	N	O
7				A			S		E		N		M		
8	K	R	E	M	L	I	N		H	A	N	D	T	U	B
9	E		T		L		A			C					
10	R	E	H	A	B		U	N	F	L	E	D	G	E	D
11	O		E		E		S		E		Y		O		
12	S	E	R	R	A	T	E		A	T	H	I	R	S	T
13	E		E		R		A		L		E		A		A
14	N	E	A	T	E	S	T		T	R	A	C	T	O	R
15	E		L		R		E		Y		D		E		D



## PRIVY SEAT



If nothing else, the **Francestown Heritage Museum** tries to present a diversity of artifacts. Where else can one find a selection of privy seats? Of note is the three holed throne model. An essential part of life in our ancestors' time.

We know that families tended to be close in the "olden" days, but really! Did "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears" ever contemplate such an arrangement?

As Woodsy's home is in the woods he is familiar with the habits of the wildlife. So while he did not totally buy in to the idea that burying raw waste was a good idea, he had to concede that it was better than the method used by his pals in the forest.

His thought here was that perhaps our modern-day method of treating waste in plants that could render it clean enough to later drink (well maybe not in Francestown - what treatment plant?) was perhaps superior to either our ancestors' method or that of his pals in the forest.

The upshot was a **B+** for our ancestors' method. But an **A** for our modern treatment plants.



## TWO-MAN SAW



A two-man saw is designed for use by two sawyers. Two-man saws were designed to cut in both directions. Careful tooth design was necessary to clear the sawdust during the cut. Using a two-man saw involved a sawyer standing at each end. Together the sawyers would alternate pulling the saw through the wood.



What is a bird to think? As Woodsy lives in a tree he is not a fan of things that can be used to cut them down. However, his good friend "Smokey the Bear" reminded him that cutting trees in a sustainable forestry way resulted in healthier and better trees for the future. And using a two-man saw with no gasoline emitting fumes was certainly better than the modern gasoline chainsaw.

So another **A** for our ancestors. While not perfect, our ancestors did pretty well at holding pollution in check. Our thanks to Woodsy for his insight. Now fill in that crossword correctly.

**THANKS FRANCESTOWN  
GOT TO GO NOW**

