

# THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



**Newsletter**

**The Heating Issue**

**October 2018**

This year's Farmers' Almanac is out and predicts a snowier than average winter with warmer than average temperatures. Then again "warmer than average temperatures" may be open to interpretation and we can pretty much bet on some darn cold weather. With that in mind thoughts turn to the need to prepare for winter – especially staying warm. These days that may include having your heating contractor service the central heating system, changing the batteries in your programmable thermostat and checking that the storm windows are ready. Maybe even order some cordwood or pellets.

But let's go back a couple hundred years – the Francestown Heritage Museum is good at that. Wood was the fuel that kept most people warm. So what did one do to prepare for the onset of winter to avoid freezing *to death*:

- Obtain wood which translated into first cutting down the tree. Forget the chain saw – the tool of choice (not that you had any) was the two-man saw. The Francestown Heritage Museum has several.



So grab a buddy and head for the woods.

- So now you and your buddy are out in the forest with this large tree lying on the ground. How to get it back to the house – bring on the ox and hitch him to the fallen tree. And do not forget the yoke as the ox is not likely to take kindly to having just a rope tossed around its neck. Francestown Heritage Museum to the rescue - we have a number of different yokes for you to view.



This is a two oxen yoke with one of the bows removed



- The tree length log is probably not going to do you much good until cut into manageable lengths for your fireplace or stove. What you need is a good buck saw (and your buddy – and a little hard cider might not hurt either). Would you believe, the Francestown Heritage Museum also has a couple of bucksaws for you to see? Sorry, no hard cider.



- All this wood ought to be handy to the house so you don't have to be outside too long to get it in. So stacking this wood in neat cords is a good idea. So just what is a cord? According to Eric Sloane a noted author on early American life, it is:

The amount of wood comprising a pile 4'x4'x8' tightly stacked so as to prevent a squirrel running through.

Bring on Old Man Winter – all that had to be done now was burn it. In what? Originally of course was the fireplace but soon stoves of various design were available. Would you believe the **Francetown Heritage Museum** has still got you covered – come see some of these stoves.

#### FRANCESTOWN'S OWN SOAPSTONE STOVE



Soapstone is able to stand extremes of heat and the intensity of direct flame. It is excellent at storing that heat and then it radiated it gently and comfortably back into the room for hours after the fire had gone out. Unfortunately these stoves do not have a great deal of mass so they can only do this for a few hours after the fire is extinguished. However, size for size they outperform iron stoves and others. This ability to hold and gently release heat for hours also made soapstone ideal for foot warmers and cooking devices. The Eskimos used soapstone slabs to cook on directly – the first non-stick pans.

#### GLENWOOD BASE HEATER

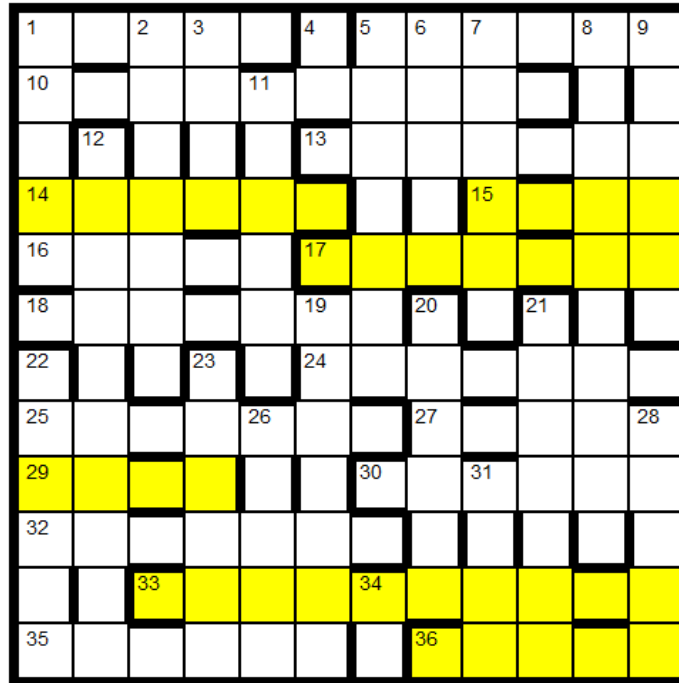
A base heater from the Glenwood Stove Company in Taunton, MA. These were introduced in 1905 and were considered to offer the highest performance as an indirect fired, revertible flue stove. It could burn wood or coal and was offered in two sizes.



While our heater needs some cosmetic upgrades it is intact with no broken parts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The October theme crossword is a bit different as it is in the form of what is known as a “barred” puzzle vs the more traditional American form. Theme words spaces are highlighted.



#### Across

- 1 Bloated
- 5 She starred in Love Story
- 10 A roadie's burden
- 13 Northwest African kingdom
- 14 Where to find old stoves
- 15 Burned for heat
- 16 Baffled
- 17 Warming devices
- 18 Scammed
- 24 Positive
- 25 Hollow head cavities
- 27 Grief
- 29 Parachute part
- 30 Seat of Montana's Lewis and Clark County
- 32 Out of the ordinary
- 33 Type of metamorphic rocks
- 35 African antelopes
- 36 Kitchen appliance

#### Down

- 1 Beta follower
- 2 World Chess champion
- 3 \_\_\_ gin fizz
- 4 Word used showing possession
- 5 Tertiary epoch period
- 6 A powder used in ceramics
- 7 Increase in size or amount
- 8 Related to a concertina
- 9 Give a hoot-don't pollute owl
- 11 Large lizard
- 12 Relating to genetic change
- 19 Polar regions of the planet
- 20 Devoted
- 21 Italian province or its capital
- 22 Sponge aperture
- 23 Southern NH town
- 26 Small group of people
- 28 Bring up
- 31 Booty
- 34 Pedro's "yes"

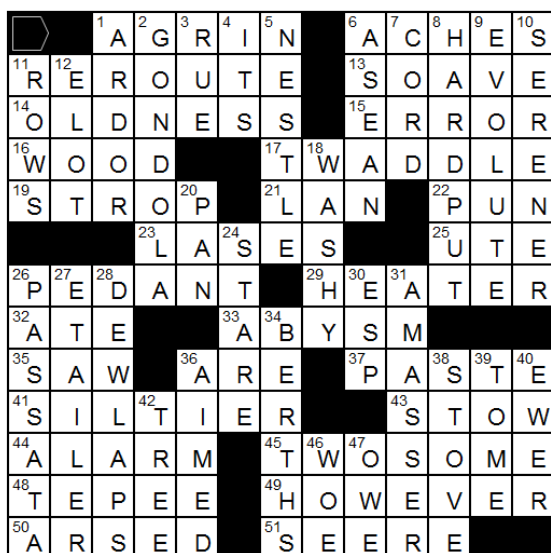
## GLENWOOD PARLOR STOVE



This Glenwood was made in Taunton, Massachusetts between 1850 and 1920. Its roots went back to 1836 when the first "air-tight" stove was made. The castings of the Glenwood included intricate details such as cherubs and fancy scroll work and were then crested with a brass baroque urn. Unlike the fireplace that threw more light than heat, these stoves made not only the parlor but other rooms in the home more comfortable. In a bedroom it was known as a "four o'clock" stove – you had only to stoke it before bed and it would keep you warm till four o'clock. The urn on top was intended to be not only decorative but functional. It could be filled with water to help humidify the room and aromatics could also be added to mask the odor of hot iron.

Glenwood did not rest on its laurels and in 1879 they started making the iconic Glenwood kitchen stove that was found in many homes kitchens.

### SOLUTION TO LAST MONTHS CROSSWORD . . .



## ENERGY HARVESTERS STOVE



This was a mystery stove for the museum. When donated, we were told it was a stove that had been manufactured at a foundry in New Ipswich, NH. However, we were unable to find any historic record of a foundry in New Ipswich, NH. Cast into the metal side is a scene of what we understood to be Mount Monadnock so our search was expanded to "on line" (where else these days). We should have left well enough alone as it turns out. The stove was indeed manufactured locally. However, rather than in New Ipswich, the foundry was located in Fitzwilliam. Still, pretty close to home. That foundry ceased operations in the 1980's and this was one of their last model stoves. We also learned that the casting in the side is Mount Chocorua and not Mount Monadnock. Be all that as it may, it is still a somewhat unique and local stove so we hang onto it. So stop by the **Francetown Heritage Museum** and see for yourself.

### SOLUTION TO THIS MONTHS CROSSWORD . . .

