

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

January 2020

CONSTANT FLUX

2020 – TO BE A YEAR of CONSTANT FLUX -

2019 was a busy year at the museum with new exhibits, an increasingly popular newsletter (we are now approaching 250 readers on our mailing list), and the concrete in place for our new lower exhibit level.

So why is 2020 predicted to be a year of constant flux – glad you asked. While we now have a lower level in the building –



it is more reminiscent of a bowling alley than a museum. So 2020 will see the final part of this expansion with the adding of some lighting, getting rid of the two concrete piers in the middle of the building and relocating exhibits into the space. Further down the road we would like to add an interior finish to the walls and ceiling.

Also planned for 2020 is the start of a program to host seminars dealing with the history of our area. The first of these will take place at the Town Hall on February 23rd. The Frankestown Heritage Museum and the Mont Vernon Historical Society will co-sponsor a presentation of the Second New Hampshire Turnpike and its impact on the people

and towns of the ten communities it passes through (there are actually thirteen communities but three of them have only very little of turnpike in their area). A slide presentation will take you on the 55.4 mile journey both then and now. Then being in the 1800's – you all of course know that the turnpike was chartered in 1799 and completed in 1801. Perhaps today's road builders could take a few lessons from our ancestors – how many years have they taken to improve I93 south of Manchester or Rte. 101 East of Concord????

As a test of your current knowledge of the turnpike, can you identify this bridge built in 1800 and still in use today – it is part of the 2nd NH Turnpike.



No luck? Well surely you all know the story of the "bucket handle"? No? Well you all better mark 2/23/2020 on your calendars and attend the program in the Town Hall. See you all there!

HOW ABOUT A PROGRAM ON TRAINS??

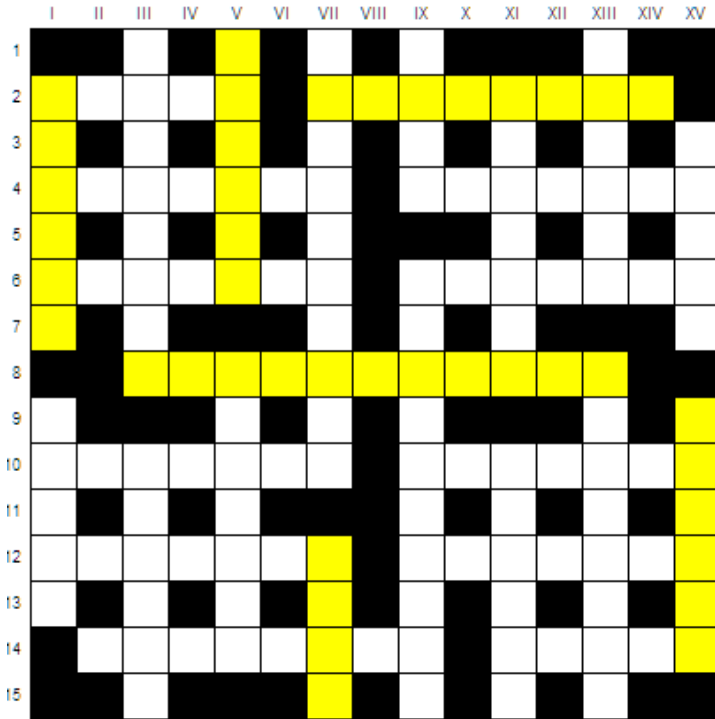
Their importance in the development of the country and impact on our ancestors can't be denied.



See page 3 of this newsletter.

THE JANUARY CROSSWORD

In keeping with our theme of **change**, a new type of crossword is offered for your befuddlement. This is a French grid crossword (it's not that hard – we did this once before last year). There are no numbers in the cubes but rather along the margins. Therefore any one line or column can have multiple words in it. For example line 1 has no three or more open adjoining spaces so there are no words in this line. However, line 2 has 5 adjoining open spaces and also has another 8 adjoining open spaces. This line has two words and in looking at the clues you see there are 2 clues for 2 Across – a “Port city on the Arkansas River” would be “Tulsa”. The second nine letter word clue is “New Museum program topic” and the answer also happens to be one of the theme words.

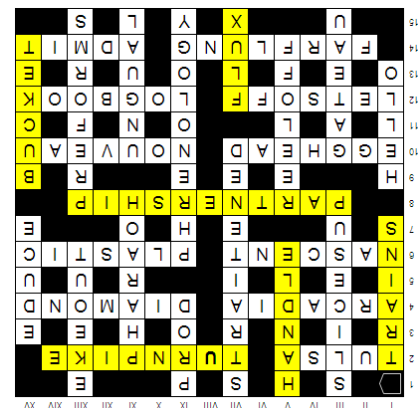


Across

- 2. Port city on the Arkansas River
New Museum program topic
- 4. A region of rural happiness
Baseball need
- 6. Beginning or budding
Eco-unfriendly product
- 8. Jointly sponsored Museum program
- 10. Highly academic person
Modern or up to date
- 12. Allows to go free
Place to record details
- 14. Out of the way
Confess

Down

- I. Future Museum program topic
Greeting
- III. Divides
A rich cake
- V. With bucket - a section of the 2nd NH Turnpike
List items in quick succession
- VII. Destitute
It may be constant for the Museum in 2020
- IX. Goad someone
Study of skull contours
- XI. Ruler of ancient Egypt
Relating to a nail
- XIII. Make up for deficiencies
Shapes something beforehand
- XV. Give rise to
First word with V. down



GRANDDAD

Many may remember their grandfather or father out in the shop or barn sharpening tools or household knives, etc. on the old grinding wheel. You know, the one with an old can full of water with a small hole in the bottom, dripping onto the grinding wheel. Well thanks to a generous donor the **Fracestown Heritage Museum** now has one to help you recall.



OXEN YOKE

A while ago the museum received a donation of a really fine Ox Yoke but alas it was missing some pieces and had one damaged yoke. The question was, where does one go to get an ox yoke repaired? Seems like these days there is a place for everything. Fortunately one is to be found in



nearby Loudon (who knew) which is the home of Sanborn Farms. For those unfamiliar with this organization, Sanborn Farms is a non-profit operating a sustainable New England farm in order to preserve folk life skills and agricultural knowledge. The having working saw and grist mill

as well as a woods operation. These and the farm are worked with their own oxen. They have also added a large barn where guest can stay while attending their many workshops geared toward training folks and preserving traditional skills. The rear page of this newsletter has a brief summary of some courses available to the general public and other pertinent information. For those living in the Monadnock region, the Sanborn Farm courses are taught in a manner similar to the fabric arts courses in Harrisville at the mill, i.e. hands on. Anyone interested in getting more information for a course or signing up for one can contact Molly Bolick, Program Director at molly@sanbornmills.org.

A TRAIN PROGRAM CONT.

The intent would be to provide details of the impact on our ancestors and community brought about by the coming of the railroad to this area. The program would be presented in a space where model train enthusiasts could display their favorite hobby. Fracestown had the Turnpike but Greenfield got the Railroad. Both had a significant impact on the towns, the citizens and the area as a whole.

Needless to say, if such a program is to work we need volunteer train enthusiasts to be willing to take the time to set up their trains (gauges "N", "H.O." or similar size) and be present for the actual program to demonstrate them. Anyone with a model train layout who would like to participate should contact wfm03043@comcast.net. It is anticipated that the program would be held February 2021.



SANBORN MILLS FARM – 2020 WORKSHOPS

2020 Workshops will include Blacksmithing, Fiber Arts, Basket making, Herbalism, Foraging, Farming with Draft Animals, and more. You can also book a stay at the farm during all of the workshops. A sample of the offerings in April and May:

April 3rd through April 5th from 8AM to 4 PM

Blacksmithing Basics – a 3 day course for all skill levels

Blacksmithing Basics is for students who are new to blacksmithing and those with some experience looking to improve their skillset. All students in the course will work with a traditional coal forge and mild steel.

Students will begin with an introduction to body mechanics, metallurgy, and safety. Once in the studio, students will learn to start and manage a coal-fired forge. Attention will be given to how to maximize draft, prepare and manage the coal-fuel, and distinguish the right temperature for various forge processes. Hammering techniques will be demonstrated.

As the workshop progresses, different forging techniques will be covered including drawing out, upsetting, punching, slitting, drifting, and forge welding. Students will then apply these skills to create a gate hook, trivet, and chisel. If time allows, additional projects can be explored, such as a fire poker or toasting fork.

Those who have some previous blacksmithing experience are welcome to undertake a special project for more in-depth instruction. All special projects must be discussed with instructor Kalajian before the course.

April 11th through April 12th from 8 AM to 4 PM

Oxen Basics – a 2 day course for all skill levels

Are you considering an oxen team for your farm but wondering where to start? Join us for a two-day workshop to learn what you need to know about bringing a pair home, finding the right equipment for them, and learning how to work them. Our experienced instructors will train you in a safe and productive environment.

May 10th from 10 AM to 1 PM

Crafting Through the Wheel of the Year: Spring Rejuvenation! Jump into Spring with Wild Spring Greens & Tonics– a 3 hour course for all skill levels

“Crafting Through the Wheel of the Year” with Sara M. Woods Kender, Clinical Herbalist & Wild Food Forager. This 4-part series takes you on a trip through the plant world as we shift through the seasons.

May 16th through May 17th from 9AM to 4 PM

Rug Hooking

Included in registration cost is a pattern, material, and a rug hook. Join us to learn Rug hooking, a traditional New England fiber art that beautifully combines artist expression and function. In this course, students will learn the core skills of rug hooking and make a 16” x 16” piece. Designs will utilize a “hit and miss” approach to color.

HAPPY NEW YEAR