

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2020

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

A GLASS TRAP -

Flies, wasps, etc. are not a plague found only today. Apparently they have been around since the beginning of time but our Victorian ancestors decided to do something about it beside arm themselves with a fly swatter. Behold the fly trap recently donated to the Museum –



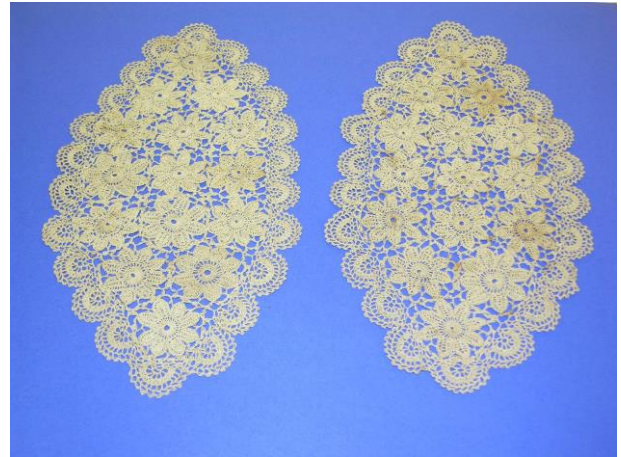
We cannot attribute this device to any one region or country. In Victorian England they were referred to as wasp traps, in France as fly traps, etc. Regardless they made their way to the colonies. This trap, made of blown glass, has a hole in the bottom. The sides of the hole form a reservoir inside at the base of the bottle.

The reservoir is filled with a liquid of your choice that is irresistible to wasps, flies and bugs in general. We are told that sugar water seems to work well and hummingbird nectar is also effective. For the ecology minded we are told that adding a couple of drops of vinegar to the mixture protects the honey bees as they will not go near it. Apparently drawn to the sweet liquid within, the insect flies up the hole in the bottom and invariably drowns in the liquid. You can hang it from a branch, a handy nail or wherever the bugs are bothering you.

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TATTING -

A recent unusual donation led to an even more unusual donation. The first donation was this example of tatted lace



Surely as a young child you remember seeing such items on the dress of your grandmother or great-grandmother and wondered through your child eyes why grandma was wearing doilies on her clothes?



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A GLASS TRAP – (From Page 1)

There is no maintenance other than to remove the cork and empty the trap, clean and refill it with your liquid of choice.



Don't be silly – of course you can see this at the Francestown Heritage Museum.

STONEWARE CANNING JARS –

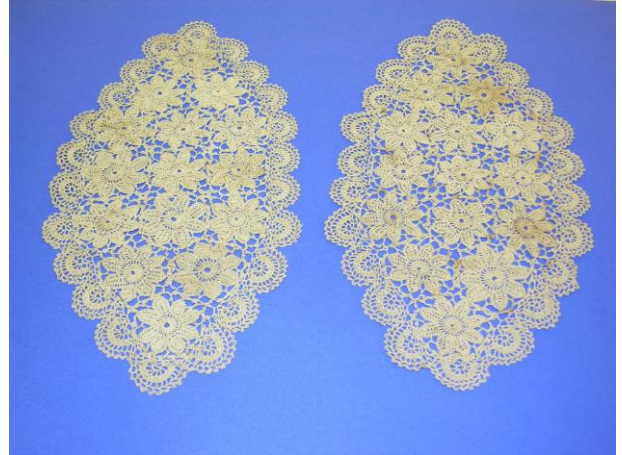
The Mason type glass canning jars have become a staple in more recent time. However, earthenware jars were the norm back in the 1800's.



CONTINUED ON PAGE #4

TATTING – (From Page 1)

Doilies indeed – these are fine examples of tatted lace motif.



Tatting is used to make lace items and is a handcrafting technique where the lace item is formed by a pattern of rings and chains through what is known as double stitching.

So what even more unusual items did this donation elicit? How about a tatted lace coffin cover?



After seeing the original tatted motif, my wife recalled that she had some of this tatted lace from her grandmother. She was able to locate the package which turned out to be the above coffin cover. While she was able to quickly locate this 100+ year old package, she swears she had not been plotting my demise.

While tatting is associated with genteel ladies it is believed to have had its origin with sailors and fishermen working on netting and ultimately led to their passing time at sea making motifs for girlfriends and wives.

Of course both of these tatted lace items can be seen at the Francestown Heritage Museum.

THE NOVEMBER THEME CROSSWORD

This is a coded puzzle - there are no clues. The answer words in the diagram are represented by numbers. Each number represents a different letter of the alphabet and all of the letters of the alphabet are used. When you are sure of a letter put it in the **Code Key Chart** and cross it off in the **Alphabet Box**. A group of letters has been inserted to start you off (that entire word is a bit far-fetched so this should also help with that entire word). The theme words are in the yellow blocks. The answer will appear in next month's newsletter.

17		5		11		2		12		26		12		13	
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CODE KEY CHART

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			H					E		T		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					O							

ALPHABET

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

STONEWARE JARS – (From Page 2)

The lids of the jars on display in the Heritage Museum exhibit the lettering:

No. 2
THE WEIR PAT MAR 1st 92' APRIL 16th 1901



The Weir Pottery Company was located in Monmouth, IL and was the maker of these jars. In 1903 the H. J. Heinz Company (yes they of the 57 varieties) ordered 1,000,000 of these jars for preserves and apple butter. Given the dates, these jars may well have been part of the lot made for the H.J. Heinz Company. In 1905 the Weir Pottery Company was sold and became Plant 2 of the Western Stoneware Company.

It appears I have put the cart ahead of the horse here. So first, do you know the difference between stoneware and earthenware? Both were made in the Frankestown area. Stoneware, earthenware and porcelain are the names applied to different types of pottery with the principle difference being the quality of the clay used and the temperature at which they are fired. Earthenware is the least expensive and least durable while porcelain is the most durable and expensive. The easiest way to distinguish between these types of pottery is texture. Stoneware will appear to have a somewhat gritty or sandy texture. It is strong and chip resistant, often used for mugs and other kitchen items.

CONTINUED 

Earthenware will feel chalky with only the bottom appearing glazed and shiny. It is commonly used for pots and other plant holders – terracotta is an example of earthenware.

When this newsletter gets back to our series on the various mills in our area in the 1800's, one of the mills we examine will be that of the Peter Clark Pottery site on Clarkville Road.

Finally let's not forget the other notable stoneware product – the ubiquitous jug so often associated with the moonshine business.



Wouldn't you know - the Heritage Museum also has a couple of these for your viewing pleasure.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



A TRULY BAD COMBOVER

NOVEMBER ISSUE SUPPLEMENT

A NEWSLETTER CENTERFOLD?

The Frankestown Heritage Museum Newsletter is breaking new ground with this issue. On the following two pages you will find our first centerfold. That may be a scary thought. So with Halloween just over we thought we should test you on what you learned about Halloween and thus we offer some Halloween Trivia.

1. In which country did Halloween originate?
2. What was the name of Dracula's sidekick?
3. What does the name Dracula mean?
4. Which phobia means you have an intense fear of Halloween?
5. Out of which vegetable were Jack O' Lanterns originally made?
6. According to superstition, if you stare into a mirror at midnight on Halloween, what will you see?
7. Transylvania is a region in which country?
8. What is the significance of seeing a spider on Halloween?
9. According to superstition, a person born on Halloween has what particular ability?
10. How many people were hanged during the Salem Witch Trials?
11. Who is said to haunt the White House Rose Garden?
12. What's the color order of a piece of candy corn, from the base to the point?
13. In Agatha Christie's mystery novel *Halloween Party* how does the girl die?
14. Where does Halloween spending rank compared to other holidays? Is it first, second, or third?
15. What two countries are widely credited with originating the idea of wearing costumes on Halloween?
16. What is the traditional role of Black Cats in Halloween and Occult Lore?
17. What region are Vampire Bats from?
18. Apart from sucking human blood, what do vampires and bats have in common?
19. How much is spent on pet costumes for Halloween annually?
20. What type of vegetable is disliked by vampires and is used to frighten them away?
21. What bone is often used as a symbol of Halloween?
22. Unscramble the following word: BINLOG in order to reveal an ugly, short, green creature that is usually dangerous to humans?
23. Complete the following chant, normally said by witches: double, double, toil and ...?
24. What does it mean to hear an owl's call on Halloween?



*The answers are found
following the centerfold*

WHAT TO DO IN A SMALL RURAL TOWN DURING A PANDEMIC?

Why make scarecrows and vote for the favorite of course!



2nd



1st

- This competition was sponsored by the Francestown Recreation Department. Folks could vote and drop their ballots off at The Farmer's Market or Village Store. Folks were able to select their favorite from the seven entrants. After a laborious hand count of the ballots, the favorite was
- The Headless Horseman
 - Tied for 2nd were the witch on the pole and the minions
 - Tied for 3rd were the 4H and the scaredy crow
 - Tied for 4th were the Great Pumpkin/Charlie Brown and the RBG Ghost



3rd



2nd

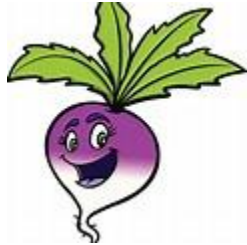


4th



The Halloween trivia answers:

1. Ireland
2. Renfield
3. Son of the Devil
4. Samhainophobia
5. Turnips



6. Your future husband or wife
7. Romania
8. It is thought to be the spirit of a loved one watching over the person who finds the spider
9. The ability to see and talk to spirits
10. 19
11. First Lady Dolly Madison
12. Yellow (base), orange (middle), and white (top)



13. She drowned in an apple-bobbing tub.



14. It's second. Christmas is the largest consumer holiday, although Halloween is bigger than Valentine's Day
15. Scotland and Ireland.

16. They were infamously known for being witches' familiars and some witches were burned alongside their cats during the Salem Witch Trials.



17. Southern Argentina
18. They only come out at night
19. \$300 million
20. Garlic



21. Skull
22. GOBLIN
23. Trouble
24. Owls were thought to be witches and to hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.

