THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**October 2021**

HOW SMART ARE WE?

A DONATION. . . . . . .

From our "We get ~~letters~~ e-mails" department – a reader wrote:

". . . .how do we know which school was # 4 ? How are we able to identify where and what number the school houses were. . . . . . "

This came about as a result of a recent donation to the museum. It seems that local resident Mary Frances Carey nee Pettee had a grandmother who was a teacher in Francestown's old school house #4. The museum received a donation from Mary Frances of the school bell used in #4 by her grandmother back in the 1800's.

Along with the bell are photos of the teacher and her class (the back of which lists the names of all the students). Most of these bells have long since disappeared and we are fortunate to have received this donation.

SCHOOL IN THE 1800's . . . .

Before we answer Mary Frances' question about identifying schools, here are few miscellaneous bits of information related to schools in Francestown.

- In very early Francestown (circa 1771 – 1818) there were no school houses. Folks had very large families as the children were needed to help with the work of running the farm. In early Francestown it was the practice for several families in each area of town to get together and arrange for schooling of their children by a regular teacher. One family would dedicate a room in their house or the barn for use as the classroom and their children went there for class. There is a report in the history records that in one area of town there were five contiguous farms and they each sent 10 children to the school.

- As the town grew, the 1800s saw tax dollars (The School Tax) initiated and the first school house was built (the first one cost $25 to build).Ever the frugal Yankees this first school was described as a "low, unpainted hovel, consisting of a single room". These buildings were known as "school houses" and the town ended up with 12 of them.

- A law passed in 1827 required all teachers to meet certain defined standards.

Remember that in those good old days the children had to walk to school. Surely you all remember the tales told by your grandparents or great grandparents of how they had to walk five miles to school through rain and snow and it was uphill both ways. Well that may be a bit exaggerated but they did have to walk so having many school houses did cut down on the walk.

ANCESTRAL ANECDOTE . . . . .

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I can't speak for your grandparents but my wife tells of how they handled this in upper Michigan where she first attended school. At the end of the school day if it was snowing hard the teacher lined the class up and wrapped around their waist a long rope in the order starting with the child whose house came first on the path home, then the second, then the third, etc. The teacher then took the rope and led the trail of students through town with each student dropping off at their house as they wound through town.

Well once again, I've managed to get completely off track here. Back to the schools and the original question of how do we know where the schools in town were and which one was which?

There did not seem to be any one record that answered all this but an old map from the 1800s was found that identified all the businesses, houses, mills, etc. in Francestown by name. Included were the schools. So on pages 4 and 5 (the centerfold if you will) of this newsletter you will find a copy of that map and an accompanying list of the school houses and their location.

HOW SMART ARE WE?

Another aspect of education in the 1800s is the time that could be devoted to this. We already noted that families had large numbers of children as they were needed to help on the farm. This also limited the time they had for school. Especially as they grew older and were able to do more and harder jobs on the farm. As a result most children only attended through 8th grade at which time they graduated. Given this, how much knowledge do you suppose they gained? It was known that the eighth grade students had to pass a final exam to graduate. Now wouldn't you know that the Heritage Museum has a copy of such an exam. It consists of five areas of learning each with a time limit – in all a student had five hours to complete the test so they could graduate.

While it is lengthy, it seemed worth while to reproduce that test in this issue of the Newsletter. Let's see how the 8th graders in the 1800s stacked up against folks today.

So here goes:

8th GRADE FINAL EXAM

Grammar (Time, one hour)

1. Give nine rules for the use of Capital Letters.

2. Name the Parts of Speech and define those that have no Modifications.

3. Define Verse, Stanza and Paragraph.

4. What are the Principal Parts of a verb? Give Principal Parts of, lie, lay and run

5. Define Case, Illustrate each Case.

6. What is Punctuation? Give rules for principal marks of Punctuation.

7. Write a composition of about 150 words and show therein that you understand the practical use of the rules of grammar.
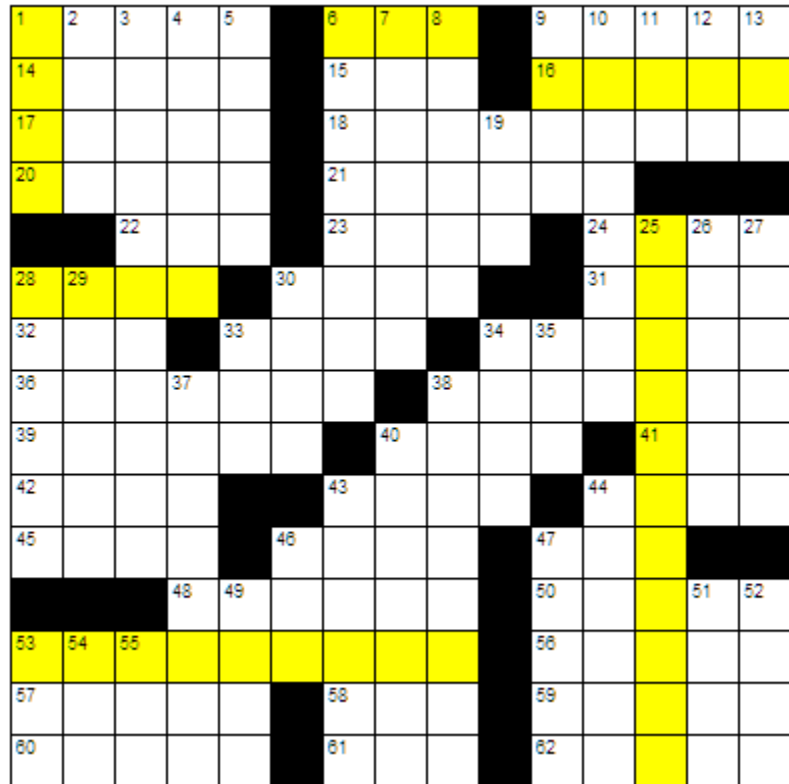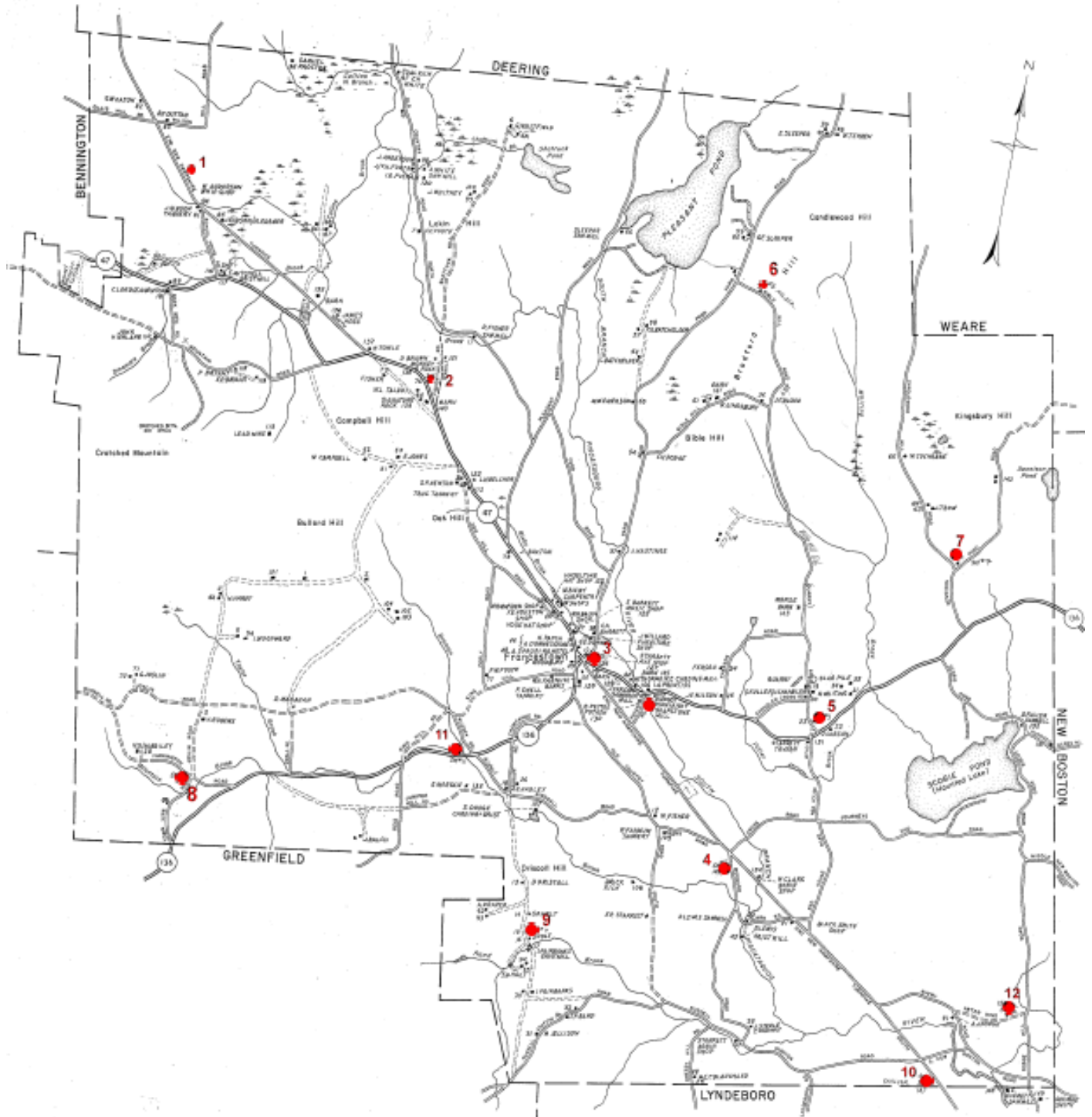
OCTOBER THEME CROSSWORD

Across

1. Fiesta fare
6. BLUEPRINT
9. Aviary sound
14. Computer financial transaction
15. Assent
16. SHACK
17. Anatomical dividers
18. Derision
20. Put to the test
21. In installments
22. Set down
23. Bank claim
24. "Check this out!"
28. WHAT TOLLS
30. Animal with wart
31. Advil target
32. Baseball stat
33. Communicate silently
34. Being above
36. Simultaneous musical notes
38. Halo
39. Some Russians
40. "... or ___!"
41. Aged
42. Swerve
43. Bottom of shoe spike
44. "Not to mention ..."
45. At one time, at one time
46. Traditions or legends
47. ___ Wednesday
48. Per annum
50. Hindu loincloth
53. FIELD FIGURE
56. Bewail
57. Command
58. "The ___ Daba Honeymoon"
59. Bad lighting?
60. Pal
61. Grassland - Var. Sp.
62. Demands

Down

1. MAKEUP, e.g.
2. Maple genus
3. Fine blood vessels
4. Bony
5. Disreputable
6. Study of fungi
7. Lasting indefinitely
8. Gasped for breath
9. Pal
10. Starting point of a website
11. "The Three Faces of ___"
12. Moray, e.g.
13. Layer
19. Bolivian export
25. BELL IS FROM #4
26. Mollusk cases
27. A shipworm
28. Carry oneself
29. Desk item
30. Anchovy containers
33. "My boy"
34. Corn wrapper
35. Anger
37. Possible feigned suffering
38. Passage between buildings
40. Ring locale
43. Capture
44. On dry land
46. Anita Brookner's "Hotel du ___"
47. Pitcher, of a sort
49. Mysterious: Var.
51. Put one's foot down?
52. Getaway spots
53. Blubber
54. French vineyard
55. Annex

FRANCESTOWN SCHOOL HOUSE – LOCATION MAP

FRANCESTOWN SCHOOL HOUSE – MAP INDEX

LOCATION of FRANCESTOWN SCHOOLS

SH#1   Schoolhouse Road @ Bennington Road

SH#2   Bennington Road @ Fisher Hill Road

SH#3   New Boston Road @ Poor Farm Road

SH#4   2nd NH Tpke So. @ Woodward Hill Road

SH#5   New Boston Road @ Bible Hill Road

SH#6   Poor Farm Road @ Bible Hill Extension

SH#7   Dennison Pond Road @ Candlewood Hill

SH#8   Farrington Road @ Town Line Road

SH#9   Driscoll Hill Road @ Rand Brook

SH#10   2nd NH Tpke So. @ Lyndeboro Town Line

SH#11   Greenfield Road @ Muzzey Road

SH#12   Dodge Hill Road @ Peter King Road

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50 cts. Per bu, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of $35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at $50 per month, and have $104 for incidentals?
5. Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at $6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of $512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at $20 per meter?
8 Find bank discount on $300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at $15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

So are you thinking that perhaps this isn't quite as easy as you thought it would be??? Let's tackle a couple more sections . . . .

U. S. History (Time, 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U. S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relate the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of NH.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, and Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, and 1865.

Orthography (Time, one hour)

1 What is meant by the following: Alphabet, phonetic, orthography, etymology, and syllabication?
2. What are elementary sounds? How classified?
3. What are the following, and give examples of each: Trigraph, sub vocals, diphthong, cognate letters, and linguals?
4. Give four substitutes for caret 'u!'.
5. Give two rules for spelling words with final 'e.' Name two exceptions under each rule.6. Give two uses of silent letters **in** spelling. Illustrate each.
7. Define the following prefixes and use in connection with a word: bi, dis, mis, pre, semi.
8. Mark diacritically and divide into syllables the following, and name the sign that indicates the sound: card, ball, mercy, sir, odd, cell, rise, blood, fare, last.
9. Use the following correctly in sentences: cite, site, sight, fane, fain, feign, vane, vain, vein, raze, raise, rays.
10. Write 10 words frequently mispronounced and indicate pronunciation by use of diacritical marks and by syllabication.

So are you still feeling even less confident here? Let's tackle the last section . . . .

Geography (Time, one hour)

1. What is climate? Upon what does climate depend?

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2. How do you account for the extremes of climate in Kansas?

3. Of what use are rivers? Of what use is the ocean?

4. Describe the mountains of North America.

5. Name and describe the following: Monrovia, Odessa, Denver, Manitoba, Hecla, Yukon, St. Helena, Juan Fernandez, Aspinwall & Orinoco.

6. Name and locate the principal trade centers of the U.S.

7. Name all the republics of Europe and give the capital of each.

8. Why is the Atlantic Coast colder than the Pacific in the same latitude?

9. Describe the process by which the water of the ocean returns to the sources of rivers.

10. Describe the movements of the earth. Give the inclination of the earth.

So how did you stack up against an 8th grader from the 1800's?

Here with 100%? You can contact MENSA at: www.mensa.org

Or here with a Slightly lower Score?

Answer sheets are available at the Museum. We are open in October on Friday afternoons from 4-6 PM concurrent with the Farmers Market.

Well we've managed to do it again here. We've gone from a simple description of a donated bell to an analysis of school houses in Francestown and an eighth grade graduation quiz to make many of us realize that maybe we are not as smart as we thought we were.

WHAT'Z IT?

As this issue of the newsletter seems to have a focus on what we know, or don't know as the case may be, try your hand at this "What'z It".

It measures 7" long, 3" wide and the wooden wheel is 2.5" in diameter. The string is approximately 20' in length and wound onto the small wheel which has a deep groove in it.

Send your response to wfm03043@comcast.net and winners will receive a coveted free pass to the Heritage Museum (not to be diminished by the fact we don't charge admission to anyone).

T	A	C	O	S		M	A	P		C	H	E	E	P
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REMEMBER THESE FROM LAST HALLOWEEN?

FIRST PLACE

TIED FOR SECOND PLACE

TIED FOR THIRD PLACE

TIED FOR FOURTH PLACE

Once again the Francestown Recreation Department will sponsor a scarecrow contest on the common. Plan now to get creative and construct your entry. Winners are chosen based on your vote which can be cast at the Farmers Market or the Francestown General Store. Contact Dawn Kirlin for details at kingsburyhillfarm@gmail.com. Win or lose, you'll have a frightfully good time. You don't have to enter to vote, so everyone cast your ballot. The scarecrows should start appearing on the common any time now.