

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter



EAGLE(S)

JUNE 2021

A SURFEIT of EAGLES –

Now many towns have an eagle displayed on their town hall or elsewhere in the town. But how many can boast two such eagles? Well Francestown for one –



THE EAGLE ON THE TOWN HALL



THE EAGLE IN THE HERITAGE MUSEUM

You say they look the same? They are in fact identical as the Town Hall Eagle was made from a mold taken of the Museum Eagle. The Museum Eagle was not always such for at one point it too graced the top of the Town Hall.

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MAY WHAT'Z IT TOOL . . .



We received a number of responses as to what the tool was. Most were close in that they thought it was some kind of spoke shave. It is a shave but one that is specific to its task and its user. This tool is used by a wheelwright when he is making the spokes for a wheel. It is not a multi-purpose shave but one designed to ensure that all the spokes are uniform and not irregular as they would be if cut free-hand. This tool also has a specific name, that being a “Jarvis Tool”. Of course you know the museum has one of these for you to see. It is solid hardwood with a U-shaped metal insert in the center belly of the tool. A cutter is attached by two bolts that center the blade in line with the U-shaped belly in the main tool. The knife can also be adjusted to set the distance between the blade and the bottom of the belly insert.

COMMUNITY MARKET

The Francestown Community Market opened early this year with the first market held April 2nd. The Horse Sheds remained the venue for the market which was open from 4:00 – 7:00 PM. As the Heritage Museum is virtually next door we have partnered with the Market and will be open with our hours coinciding with those of the market. Please plan to come down to the Common on Fridays and take advantage of the many fine products in the market all made and/or grown locally. You will be supporting the local economy but will also have the opportunity to visit the museum and immerse yourself in the past. A time when life itself depended on the local community.

So here is the eagle's story of loss and rebirth. Much of the detail in this article comes from the January 1974 New Hampshire Profiles Magazine and a story by John Schott updated to include the eagles' new role.

In 1847 the eagle which is now on display in the Museum was hoisted to the top of the Francestown Academy who numbered among its graduates such notables as President Franklin Pierce, Supreme Court justice Levi Woodbury, et al. The Academy building eventually became the Town Hall and the eagle remained perched on top. For over a century this bird with the 5' wingspan overlooked the village.

Life up on the tower was not all roses as a winter storm in 1880 tore off a wing. This was met with the Academy's schoolboy wit in the form of "Odes to our Academic Eagle" -

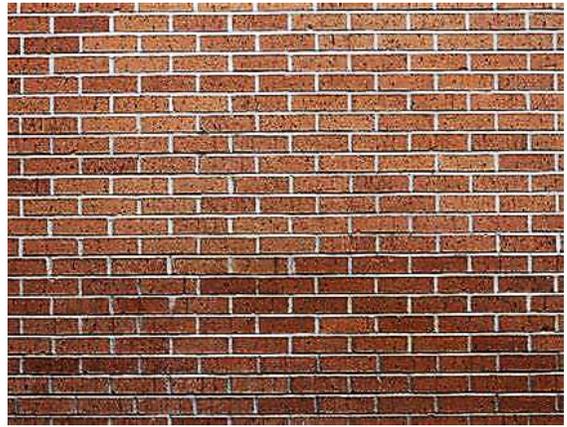
*Leave me not wingless here,
I deserve help from a few;
Wing me, gild me, give me cheer,
Then behold me good as new.*

Made of hand carved soft pine the bird had originally been covered in gold gilt. As decades passed the poor bird was beginning to look a bit weathered - i.e., the gilt was about worn off. Given the price of gold gilt "Yankee frugality" prevailed and several times the eagle received coat after coat of bilious yellow paint. As if that was not enough of an indignity, frustrated hunters began to unload their buckshot on the bird who was soon pock-marked and starting to rot when yet another shot took off its beak. And so its decline continued until

Events began to align. In the spring of 1970 one of the town's most prominent citizens, Rev. William "Bill" Rice died. The community began talk of a suitable memorial to him. Coincidental to this, New England was being gradually swept by new respect for old things and a restorative zeal had begun. Soon restoration of the eagle, which had begun as a

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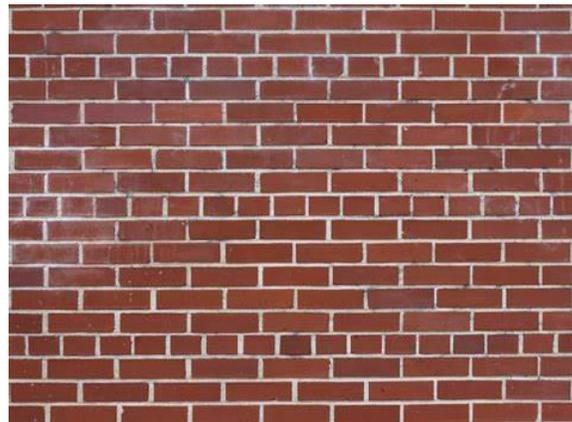
WHICH IS THE REAL BRICK WALL . . .



WALL 'A'

In a wooden building with a brick veneer on the outside that brick is purely decorative. A wooden wall structure behind the brick is what is holding up the floors and roof of the building. The single course of brick is held to the wooden wall behind by metal clips that are not visible.

In a true brick wall the floors and roof of the building are held up by the bricks. Since a single course of bricks would not have the strength to do this, they lay up multiple courses of bricks one behind the other. In order to hold these multiple courses of bricks together, every six rows they will lay the bricks sideways so the brick spans two rows of bricks and holds them together.



WALL 'B'

So wall 'B' is the real brick wall that supports the building (notice the rows of brick ends showing every sixth row).

private memorial, became a civic challenge. With the town's Bicentennial anniversary about to be celebrated the necessary money was soon raised. Money in hand a number of questions needed answers:

- 1) How do you get it down from its lofty perch? A steeple jack and crane appeared to be the answer.
- 2) Who does work such as this? A local artist and cabinetmaker in Peterboro was contacted (Richard Johnson) who examined the eagle closely through binoculars and a few hair-raising climbs up the town hall bell tower. The news was not good and was beyond the skills of the local artist. The eagle was declared "unrestorable". Determined none the less, a search continued for somebody who could save the eagle. This search found a Winslow Eaves whose past accomplishments included restoration of the eagle on top of Vermont's Woodstock Inn.
- 3) What do you do with it once it is down? The initial plan was to repair the damage done to the eagle and then have it regilded. Winslow declared that plan unrealistic and proposed a new solution. A fiberglass replica.

So the eagle was taken from its perch and the dismembered remains were taken to his shop in North Andover, NH. The first step was to replace the rotted, buckshot pocked sections and carve a new beak for the bird. The entire surface was then smoothed with a putty-like substance.



The first step was to then make 33 separate plaster castings of the original carved wooden eagle.



The next step was to take these plaster castings of the original carved wooden eagle and prepare them for molding by applying polyester resin.



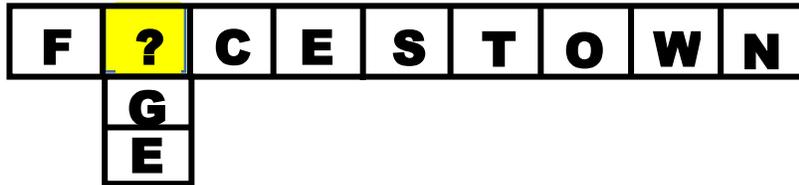
Once the molds were complete all the molded sections were joined into one large hollow mold that was an exact replica of the original eagle.

Once the eagle was completed, Winslow sent it back to Richard Johnson to have the gold gilt applied. Richard first applied two coats of epoxy paint. The first coat was blue and the second coat was gold. This was done so that once the eagle was back in place atop the town hall you would easily be able to tell when it needed to be regilded as the blue epoxy would start to show.

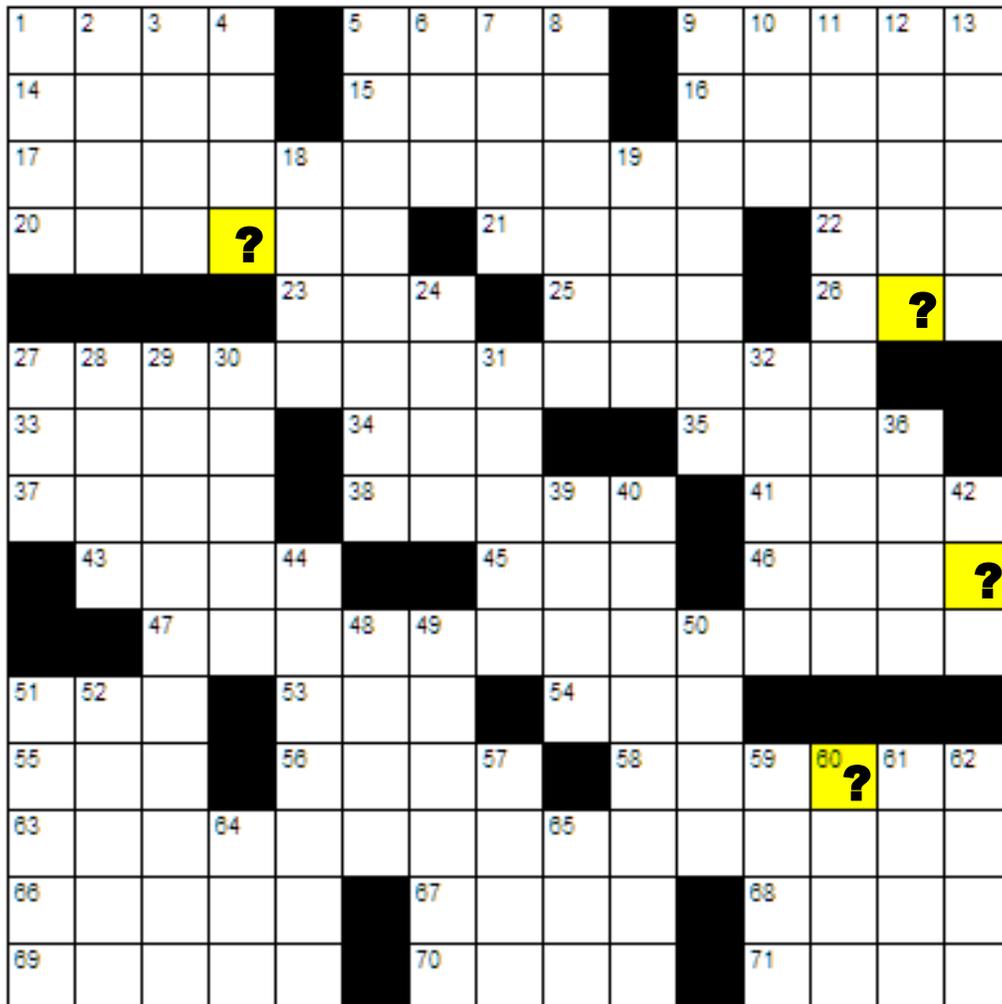
JUNE CROSSWORD

This month we have a twist – A CROWDED SQUARE PUZZLE. While this appears to be a traditional crossword there is one “slight” difference. Wherever you see a yellow square, that square represents 3 letters. Also each yellow square represents the same three letters in the same order. For example, if you had a word going across whose clue was “where is the Heritage Museum located”, you would know the answer is Francestown. At the same time, if the definition of the word going down was “the kitchen stove” you would know the word was range. The only way that will work is if the question mark represents the three letters “RAN” in that order. See how easy that is? And you would now know that wherever you see a ? in that puzzle, that block is the three letters RAN.

EXAMPLE



So here is the June crossword



CROSSWORD CLUES**Across**

1. Hand tools for cutting
5. Keats, for one
9. Rock band guitarist
14. Beethoven's "Archduke ____"
15. In doubt
16. Sleep disorder var.
17. Ship with planes
20. Syn of glycerol
21. Exclusive
22. Computer monitor, for short
23. Technology in customers hand
25. Black gold
26. Maples
27. Non-catholic christian doctrine
33. Brain area
34. Part of AT&T
35. "That was a close one!"
37. Pepsi, e.g.
38. Long-billed wading bird
41. Diva's solo.
43. Catchall abbr.
45. Corn serving
46. One of Alcott's "Little Men"
47. Childhood viral disease
51. Degree from Wharton
53. A hand
54. Handle clumsily
55. "A jealous mistress": Emerson
56. High-hatter
58. Magician
63. French Credit Union
66. Came to
67. Ticket info, maybe
68. Egyptian fertility goddess
69. Pertaining to an arm bone
70. Cut down
71. Fender mishap

Down

1. Alone
2. Husk
3. Strong and lean
4. Assn.
5. Piano players
6. Amiss
7. New newts
8. Powerful business person
9. Cleft lip
10. 30-day mo.
11. Single legislative chamber
12. One who punctures
13. Pastry case with filling
18. Houston university
19. Came down
24. "Let it stand"
27. Public limited company
28. Study, say
29. Duty or commitment
30. Bait
31. Roswell crash victim, supposedly
32. Herringlike fish
36. Soave, e.g.
39. Light
40. Repository
42. Type of deciduous tree
44. Act more crudely
48. Coal site
49. Embraces
50. Missing from the Marines, say
51. City west of Hong Kong
52. Noisy fight
57. Be hopping mad
59. Bust, so to speak
60. Red
61. "____ Brockovich"
62. Medical advice, often
64. Calypso offshoot
65. ____ green

While some old saws refer to “gilding the lily”, Richard Johnson set about “gilding the eagle”. For forty hours he pains-takingly bent over his workbench and applied the tiny, three-inch-square fragments of gold leaf. This arduous task requires a room in absolute stillness for even the breeze caused by moving your hand could flutter the tiny fragments of gold leaf.

The Town of Francestown now has a new eagle. Weighing only 75 pounds – the old wooden eagle, now in the museum, weighs in at 225 pounds.

Once again the steeple jacks were called in. This time to place the new eagle atop the Town Hall Tower.

As the Phoenix from the ashes, the new eagle had risen.



Unrelated factoids concerning our eagle are reprinted here from the Heritage Museum September 2017 edition:

The eagle which is our country’s symbol, is depicted holding an olive branch (symbolizing peace) in its right talon, while in its left talon it holds arrows (symbolizing battle).

The original US eagle symbol was looking over its left wing, possibly symbolizing the revolutionary war of the time. However, in 1945, at the conclusion of the Second World War, then President Harry Truman authorized a new version of the symbol with the eagle looking over the right wing (the side holding the olive branch) and the symbol of our country has remained that way ever since.

The original Francestown eagle dates to the building of the Town Hall in 1846. It depicts the eagle of that time (the one looking left). So no, the Town of Francestown has not declared war. We are only being true to the history of that time.

LETTERS. . . .

Or to be exact e-mails. A reader wrote and included some photos he had taken in an area wetland just off Russell Station Road in Greenfield.



Mention was made in the Heritage Museum newsletter on bricks that careful attention had to be paid when firing the bricks to keep those closest to the fire from being damaged.

Your editor here remembers back when he was a kid (yes that would be a long term memory recall) there was an old brick yard that belonged to the Horse Heads Brick Company (long abandoned) that made "Horse Head" bricks. There was a big double "H" cast into each brick. At any rate they had an old scrap pile next to the drying yard where there were a lot of bricks like this. I recall somebody saying that these were the bricks that were stacked next to the actual fire in the drying ovens and it was so hot it would warp the brick and also carbonize parts of it. Thus the irregular shape (the curved face on this brick) and the blackened portion. The broken portion may also be attributable to this as the heat cracked the brick also.

Answers to this month's CROWDED SQUARE PUZZLE

Each of the yellow blocks with a question mark represent the three letters **CER** in that order.

1	S	2	A	3	W	4	S	5	P	6	O	7	E	8	T	9	H	10	U	11	12	13	T
14	T	R	I	O	15	I	F	F	Y	16	A	P	N	I	A								
17	A	I	R	C	18	R	A	F	T	C	19	A	R	R	I	E	R						
20	G	L	Y	?	I	N	?	S	O	L	E	?	C	R	T								
					23	C	I	S	?	O	I	L	?	A	?	S							
27	P	R	O	T	E	S	T	A	N	T	I	S	M										
33	L	O	B	E	?	?	T	E	L	?	?	P	H	E	?	?							
37	C	O	L	A	?	?	S	T	I	L	?	?	A	R	I	?	A						
					43	M	I	S	?	?	E	A	R	?	?	D	A	N	?				
					47	G	E	R	?	?	A	N	M	E	A	S	L	E	S				
51	M	B	A	?	?	A	I	D	?	?	P	A	W										
55	A	R	T	?	?	S	N	O	B	?	S	O	R	?	?	E	R						
63	C	A	I	S	?	?	S	E	P	O	?	?	P	U	L	A	I	R	E				
66	A	W	O	K	E	?	?	T	I	E	R	?	?	I	S	I	S						
69	U	L	N	A	R	?	?	S	L	A	Y	?	?	D	E	N	T						

DATES TO REMEMBER

On Page 8 of this Newsletter you will find the schedule for The **Old Meeting House** summer series of events. The Heritage Museum will participate in two of these events –

- June 6th The History Stroll
- June 20th Fire Department

These and the other Sunday events should add enjoyment to the summer season.

Looking toward the end of summer (Labor Day) the Frankestown Heritage Museum will offer Folk and Bluegrass music by Green Heron. This folk duo will entertain you with harmonies accompanied by fiddle, banjo, guitar and mandolin.



Sundays at 4

The Old Meeting House, Francestown

May 16	Mostly Jones	Marybeth, Jonah and Nicky sing \$15
May 23	Main Street Art Walk	Studios and gallery, local arts & crafts
May 30	Patriot Fife and Drum Duo	Patriotic music for Memorial Day \$15
June 6	Francestown History Stroll	Tour of Main Street & Museums Free
June 13	Harvey Reid and Joyce Anderson	Singer song writers \$15
June 20	Francestown Fire Department	Chief Kullgren, fire truck Free
June 27	Zydeco Revelators	Lively Cajun music, dancing \$15
July 4	Lonesome Train	Rock and Roll, Tony Ludwig \$15
July 11	Suzuki Strings	Young violinists' concert. Free
July 18	Sixties Invasion	Rock and Roll band, dancing \$15
July 25	Winchester Saxophone Quartet	Jazz favorites \$15
August 1	Monadnock Music	Classical concert Free
August 8	Three Fifths	Eclectic rock and pop music Free
August 15	Jacob MacKay	Classical cello music \$15
August 22	Meet and Greet	Neighbors old and new come together
August 29	Susie Burke and David Surette	Folk and Americana music \$15
Sept. 5	Vespers (time TBD)	Labor Day community celebration
Sept. 12	Electric Earth	Classical music Ticketed by EE
Sept. 19	Jamie Laval	Celtic fiddle music \$15

Every Sunday at 4, all summer, on the lawn, bring a chair and wear a mask.

Inside in case of rain, socially distanced. Children always welcome and free.

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM



Newsletter

June 2021

VENDOR PROFILE

MEET RICH STADNIK AT PUP'S CIDER COMPANY



WHAT DO SOFTWARE ENGINEERS DO FOR FUN?

Grow apples of course!

It was back in 1995 when programmer Rich Stadnik decided he needed a diversion from the keyboard. He began researching the history of apple growing in New England and searching for old and forgotten varieties. He grafted some of the cuttings he collected from around the area and planted his first trees. The grafts survived and more were added every year. Soon he found himself with a thriving orchard. Rich remembers, "I asked myself, what now? Did you know the average tree produces about 400 pounds of apples per year? What was I going to do with all of this fruit?"

After working through the hurdles of obtaining an alcohol license, Pup's Cider Company was born. A few years later Rich added imported beers, wines, and spirits. One thing led to another and before long he was brewing his own beers and on his way to becoming a professional brew master. "Software was a distant memory," he said with a grin.





Today Rich still operates **Pup's Cider Company** and the **Houndstooth Brewery** out of his barn in Greenfield. His ciders are dry, gently sparkling, and made with 100% locally grown fruit. His beers are brewed in small artisan batches, around 50 and 60 different flavors each year. Many of the recipes feature native heirloom hops.



You can find Pup's Cider Company ciders in New Hampshire State Liquor Stores. Beers and ciders are available each week at the Frankestown Community Market. Rich is a wealth of expert knowledge about apples, cider, and specialty brewing, and he always has an interesting story to tell. Stop by on Friday afternoons from 4:00 to 7:00 and say hello.