

# THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

**Newsletter**

Vol. 8, No. 12



**December 2022**

**PRESERVING THE PAST**

## A SECOND HERITAGE MUSEUM BUILDING?



Well, more along the lines of a clone.

A hundred or more years ago, the now Heritage Museum building was located in Weare, NH and was home to many dairy cows. As is often the case in New England, the dairy farm ceased operation and the property was obtained by a developer who envisioned a residential development. The barn was doomed, or so it seemed but for our benefactor, Alan Thulander, who obtained the barn in 2007 with a plan to relocate it to Frankestown and create a place where the town could store its many old horse drawn vehicles and other items from our past.

At about the same time in Hollis, NH an historic old barn on the Lawrence property was facing an uncertain future. With some nudging and much work, the Hollis Heritage Commission worked with the town to obtain, relocate and repurpose the barn.

From this point on the two barns in different towns were relocated and repurposed as an example of our heritages. While the two towns took somewhat different approaches, the end

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## A DECEMBER WHAT'Z IT . . . .

This is a “semi-what’z it. I’ll tell you up front it is a plane. Your challenge is to figure out what it is used for (type of plane)) and why is there an intricately carved serpent in the top of it.



This tool was chosen, not because of what it is, but rather the workmanship.

As you know, a constant theme in the newsletters is to make it clear how maybe not so good, were the “good olde days.” The needs of life were fulfilled by hard work and toil in most everything they did. Many tasks involved a tool specific to accomplishing that end. It was an age of craftsmanship where workers took pride in not only being able to produce an item but to also make it well. This pride often carried over into the tools they used which they often fashioned by hand themselves to meet their specific job needs.

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# DECEMBER CROSSWORD

It's the holidays. Sit down with your younger children or grandchildren and do the youth crossword below. Answers on page 3. Enjoy the puzzle and your progeny.

## THE YOUTH CROSSWORD

CLUES:

1. What is fun to play with



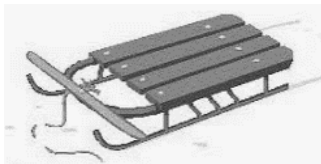
2. Who sometimes comes down the chimney



3. What tastes really good



4. What do you use to go sliding on the snow



5. What are fun to play with



6. One of Santa's helpers



7. What you find wrapped under the Christmas tree



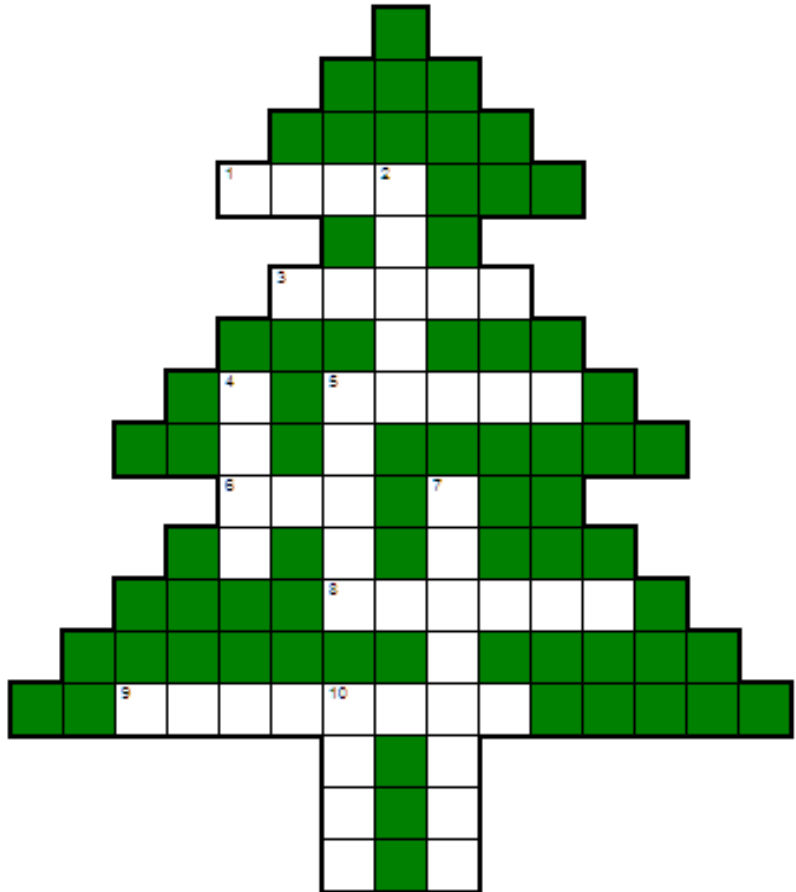
8. What Santa rides in to deliver presents



9. They pull Santa's sleigh



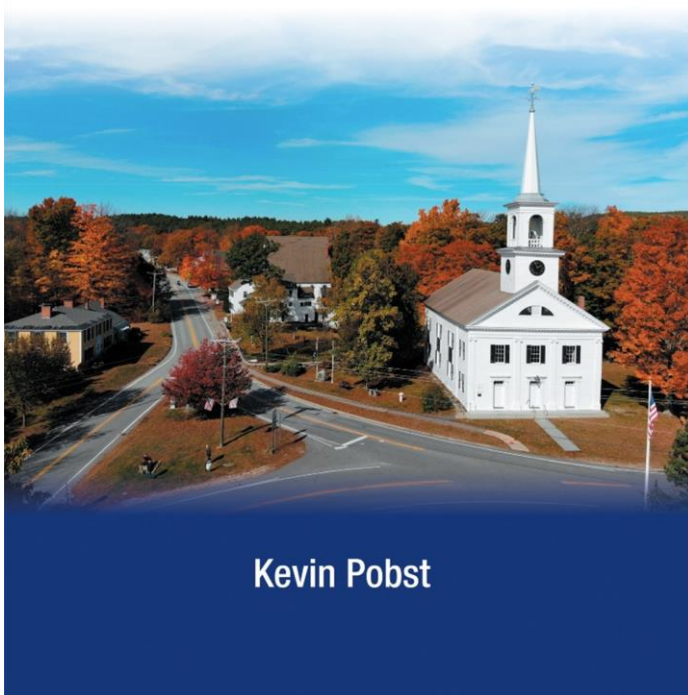
10. Small model of a human



THE FRANCESTOWN SESTERCENTENNIAL –

# Francetown

FIFTY YEARS OF GROWTH AND CHANGE  
1970–2020



As the 250th year of our founding winds down, one last tribute is at hand. Kevin Pobst has labored the entire year to write a book in the vein of Cochran and Schott. The Schott book was published in 1972 and leaves off at that date. The Pobst book picks up at that point and takes us through the next 50 years (1970-2020). The work represents countless interviews and exhaustive research into the events of those years that made Francetown what it is today.

The book is being published by Kindle Direct Publishing and is 234 pages in length. It is available for purchase through Amazon.com for \$16.00. Also for pickup or delivery at [ftown2020@gmail.com](mailto:ftown2020@gmail.com) or by calling (603)933-2636.

Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to local non-profit organizations including Francetown's Improvement and Historical Society Museum and the Francetown Heritage museum.

## FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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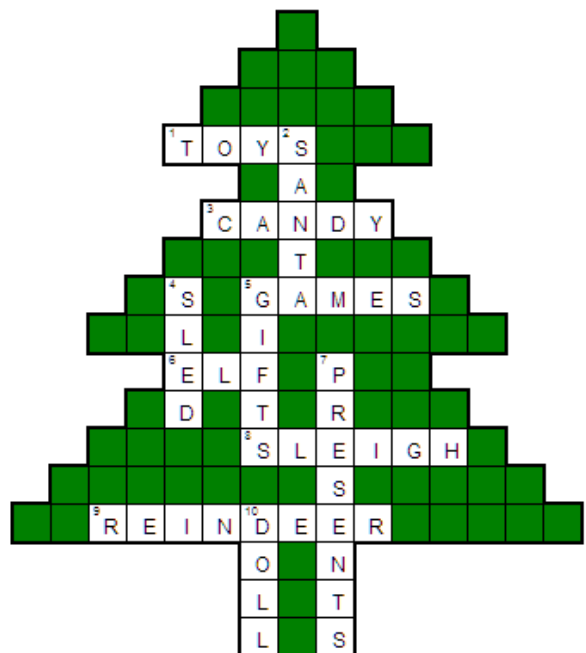
For any of the following contact Bill McAuley at:  
[wfm03043@comcast.net](mailto:wfm03043@comcast.net)

**Distribution** – if you would like to be added to the distribution list and receive a copy monthly, or:

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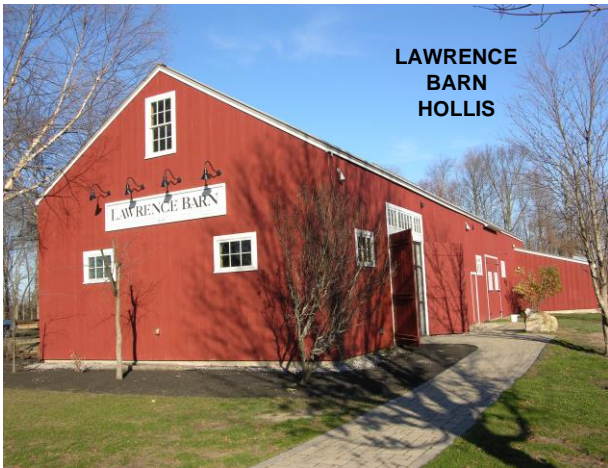
**Receive a Past Issue** - they will be sent upon request. An index of past issues is also available. Ω

## PUZZLE SOLUTION



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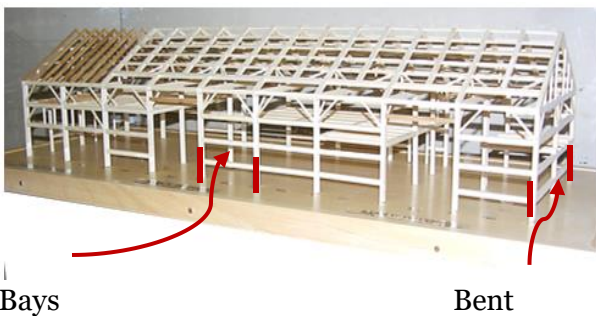
result was the same - preservation of pieces of our past.



The Hollis structure is larger than the museum but both are timber frame construction.

The Hollis barn being a 9 bay, 10 bent structure while The Francestown Museum is a 6 bay, 7 bent structure.

So what is a “bay” and a “bent”? Well you should ask. These terms refer to timber frame construction terminology. Timber-frame structures are typically erected in boxlike sections, called **bays**.



On the other hand, a **bent** forms the end wall in a bay. The above model was made to represent the Hollis structure. One for the Francestown Museum would look the same except there would only be six bays as opposed to the nine bays in the Hollis structure.

The following photo shows the bays and bents

of the Francestown Museum building.



Once Francestown and Hollis had obtained the old barns they followed a different course. Members of the Francestown Volunteer Fire Department disassembled the old barn, then moved and reconstructed the barn on its new site.



While Hollis chose to hire professionals to re-erect their barn.



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In Francestown the goal was to have a historic structure in which to store and display the town's old horse drawn vehicles. Thus the building only needed bare essentials.



Hollis on the other hand intended to make their historic barn into a town facility available to anyone for functions, meetings, etc. It therefore required a much more extensive interior fit out.



In either case, folks visiting the buildings will be able to view these historic buildings and the craftsmanship that went into these timber frame structures.

So how did we come to find out about the Hollis

structure? By chance. We were asked by the Hollis Historic Society to attend one of their meetings and present our "Journey Along the Second New Hampshire Turnpike" program. Never one to pass up such an invite we did just that. The presentation took place in their historic Lawrence Barn in Hollis.

The presentation was greatly enhanced when Dave Sullivan, a member of the Hollis Historical Society offered to bring his 1895 Sanborn Carriage to the meeting as an example of the type of vehicles that would be found on the turnpike in the 1800's.



We have not been able to find any significant information about the Sanborn Carriage Manufacturing Co other than an old flyer that indicates that it was located at 15 Park Street in Manchester, NH. Ω



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**THE DECEMBER WHAT'Z IT . . .**

Such is the case with this month's WHAT'Z IT. A more detailed photo of the top of this tool reveals a painstakingly carved serpent.



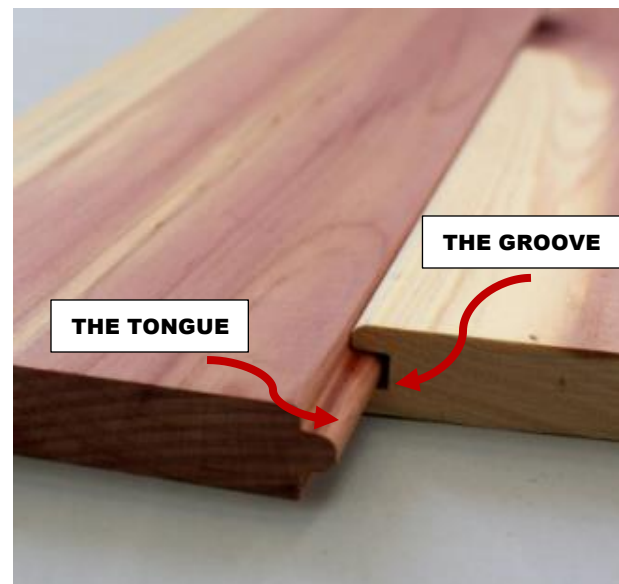
The question then becomes, why would a person who has to labor all their life just to survive and support his family take the time to carve a serpent's head into his tool? No definitive answer to this could be found but one possibility rests on another trait of our ancestors: that being a strong connection to the church and faith. A serpent has long had many different interpretations as to what it symbolizes. Among these are that it represents transformation, rebirth and renewal. Perhaps our god-fearing colonial ancestor viewed his plane as a tool that could transform a piece of wood and renew or give new life and use to that piece of wood on which it was used. Seems like a stretch but remember, these were back in the days of the Salem Witch Trials – religious symbolism and zealotry had a pretty strong hold on our ancestors.

If anyone has some other interpretation or knows why the serpent head is carved on this tool, please let us know and we'll print up everyone's idea in a future issue of the newsletter.

But once again we have digressed. You were

supposed to be identifying what specific task this tool was used for. So as to not keep you in suspense over the holidays we reveal all here:

One popular method of joining two wooden boards together to form a strong, interlocking bond between them was to utilize a "tongue and groove," one board having a groove cut along the side of it while the other board had a tongue cut along the side. Then by meshing the two together with the tongue of one inserted in the groove of the other you had a long, continuous, strong seam.



Now cutting a groove into the side of a board is easy. But how do you cut a perfectly sized and smooth tongue in the other board? Grab your trusty WHAT'Z IT and go to it. Ω

