

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter

Vol. 9, No. 10



October 2023

LITTLE WONDER

THE SEPTEMBER WHAT'Z IT



A DIE

A TAP

The September What'z It is a tap and die used to cut the threads on a bolt and nut. Remember that our ancestors did not have steel nuts and bolts as we do today. Back then, wood and other materials were fastened together with wooden pegs, crude nails and eventually crude bolts and screws. Wooden threads were first cut by hand, holding the piece of wood in one hand while twisting it past a knife held in the other.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TAP AND A DIE:

- A tap is used to cut or form the female portion of the mating pair (e.g., a nut). The process of using a tap is known as tapping.



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LABOR DAY at THE MUSEUM –

Unlike 2022, this year's Labor Day festivities were rain free and many visitors enjoyed the folk, old-time bluegrass, country, Celtic and blues music of Green Heron sponsored by the Heritage Museum and The Country Café.

This Labor Day the Heritage Museum offered several new exhibits to our visitors:

- as we had hoped, the residential pump organ donation arrived just in time. This is a Mason & Hamlin, 1860's residential pump organ.



This upright, resonant case organ features five stops and a double reed.

- Also on display for the first time was the 1853 metal "tin plunge tub" featured in the July issue of this newsletter.



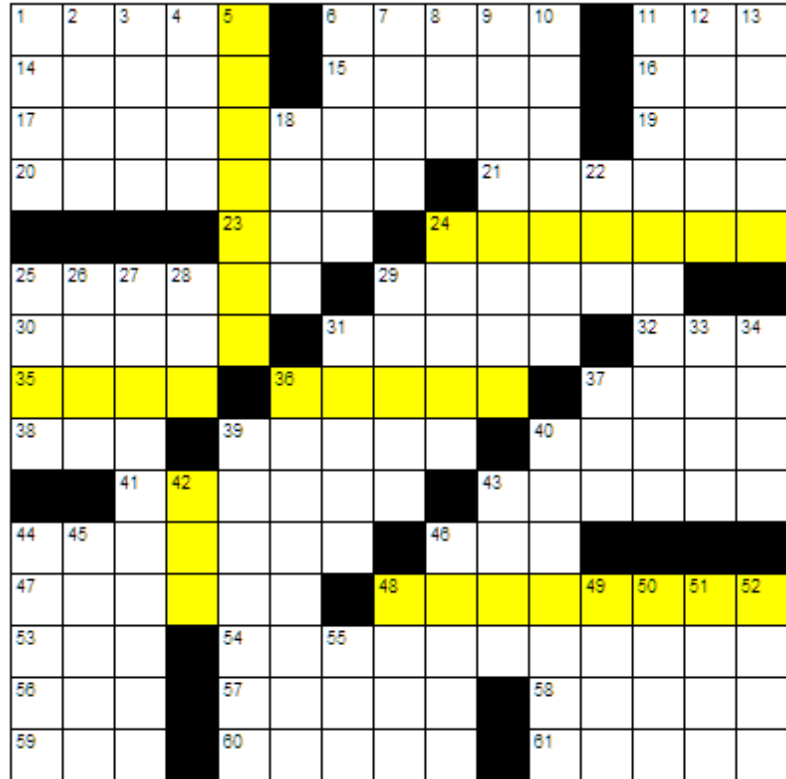
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OCTOBER THEME CROSSWORD

The **yellow** blocks contain the theme words and all come from the text of this newsletter. Enjoy!

Across

1. Are able to (archaic)
6. Bounded
11. Chair part
14. Ancient reference marks
15. Object of many prayers
16. "Much ___ About Nothing"
17. Walk around
19. "Dear" one
20. Drools
21. Boosts
23. Victorian, for one
24. With 36 across - a joint in wood
25. Converted, in a way
29. Assimilate
30. Desktop pictures
31. "The Crucible" setting
32. ___ Today
35. Adz relative
36. With 24 across - a joint in wood
37. Jewish month
38. "For shame!"
39. Couples
40. ___ whale
41. Having sharp projections
43. Blood poisoning
44. "ER" extras
46. Marienbad, for one
47. Queen Elizabeth II has had over 30 during her reign
48. Halloween costume
53. Bank offering, for short
54. Capable of being applied
56. Clairvoyance, e.g.
57. Month after Adar
58. Art-class subjects
59. Thing that is subject of litigation
60. Self-stimulating behaviors
61. Layers



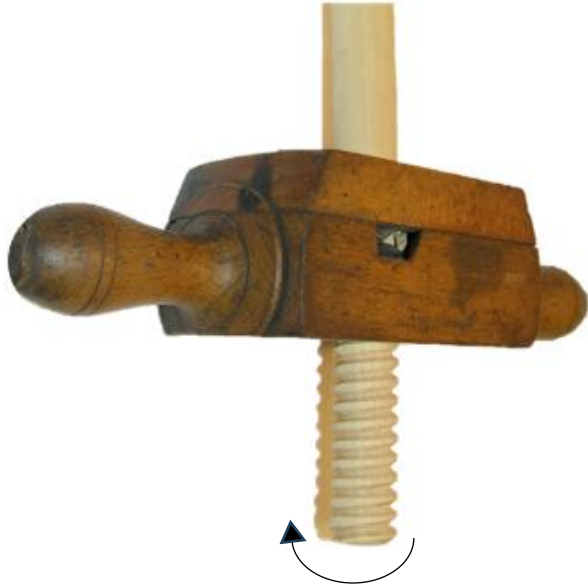
Down

1. Police
2. Biblical shepherd
3. "I, Claudius" role
4. Concrete section
5. Joined by 24 & 36 Across
6. Mrs. Bush
7. Building additions
8. In the style or manner of
9. Causes disease
10. Formula to be proven
11. States of lacking energy
12. Cleans up, in a way
13. Highland plant
18. European capital
22. "___ alive!"
24. Director Forman
25. Break
26. Light beige

27. Loop on the rear of hiking boots
28. "___ moment"
29. Hunky-dory
31. ___ Roebuck & Co.
33. Hindu women's dress
34. Kind of dealer
36. One who rotates a Bar-B-Que rod
37. Software program, briefly
39. Oval, spiny tropical fruits
40. Caulk or putty
42. Hold 24 and 36 Across together
43. Plan to a standard
44. Less cordial
45. Like Eric the Red
46. Hides
48. Brickbat
49. Decorative case
50. Ocean response to the moon
51. "Your turn"
52. 1987 Costner role
55. Ψ in Greek alphabet

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- A die is used to cut or form the male portion of the mating pair (e.g., a bolt). And the process of using a die is known as “threading”.



Turning this die (which holds the cutting knife) down over the wooden dowel cuts the threads in it.

A CLOCK WINDER’S TALE

In last months issue of the Newsletter, we set the background for a mystery story, we asked our readers to send us the next chapter. We only received a couple of responses, so rather than badger folks for more ideas, it is probably best to just let it go for now. However, one proposed response is paraphrased here:

We wrote:

“For years the old clock winder had wound the 150-year-old tower clock. This time the clock winder slowly climbed the stairs to the tower clock room as he had done every week for the past 40 years. Patiently he wound up the heavy weights that ran the clock. Repeatedly he turned the rusty old crank and slowly the weights rose toward the clock room. The first thing to come into view was the human arm hanging loosely from the weight box” . . .

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LABOR DAY at THE MUSEUM –

- Another new addition was a double basin Soapstone Sink made here in Francestown.



- The other new exhibit consisted of 16 pieces and they are on loan to the museum from the private collection of Bob Abbott.

In our ancestors days, Francestown boasted a thriving ice business (detailed in the Heritage Museum’s Newsletter for February 2019).

This collection includes some 16 items used in the harvesting of ice which took place every winter on our various ponds. At its peak, this ice was sent to Boston and put on sailing ships for delivery to ports in hotter climates as far away as India. Since it was packed in sawdust in the holds of these old ships, most of the ice made the journey with little loss.



It is not too late to visit the museum and see these and our many other exhibits. We will be open every Friday afternoon from 4-6PM concurrent with the Farmers Market. Ω

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A CLOCK WINDER'S TALE

The response is:

. . . . with its index finger pointing accusingly at the clock winder. Never-the-less he kept on cranking and soon another arm appeared, this one ending at the wrist. That was enough for the clock winder – he clattered down the stairs and ran across the street to the Police Station. “Officer, you won’t believe your eyes!” The officer on duty followed the clock winder up into the bell tower, The officer surveyed the grisly scene and said, “To be honest, I’m not surprised. I wouldn’t expect a big old clock like this to have a second hand.”

So we will leave this mystery on the above lighter note and move on. Ω



September crossword solution:

1	P	2	E	3	A	4	T	5	R	6	A	7	I	8	D	9	A	10	M	11	E	12	B	13	A	
14	U	15	N	16	C	17	O	18	O	19	N	20	C	21	E	22	L	23	I	24	25	26	27	28	29	R
17	P	18	E	19	R	20	U	21	T	22	O	23	O	24	L	25	P	26	S	27	28	29	30	31	32	M
20	A	21	M	22	E	23	R	24	I	25	C	26	A	27	N	28	F	29	L	30	31	32	33	34	35	A
23	L	24	Y	25	S	26	I	27	S	28	T	29	A	30	C	31	I	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	30
28	S	29	L	30	A	31	W	32	S	33	T	34	A	35	V	36	E	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
33	E	34	G	35	O	36	M	37	A	38	N	39	I	40	A	41	C	42	E	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
38	B	39	A	40	R	41	M	42	Y	43	S	44	T	45	E	46	R	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
43	I	44	M	45	A	46	M	47	P	48	E	49	N	50	N	51	I	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
47	K	48	I	49	N	50	A	51	S	52	E	53	S	54	T	55	A	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
51	E	52	N	53	G	54	L	55	A	56	N	57	D	58	E	59	F	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
57	I	58	N	59	D	60	E	61	F	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	
61	A	62	M	63	I	64	C	65	E	66	C	67	A	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
68	N	69	O	70	N	71	E	72	S	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
68	C	69	A	70	N	71	S	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90



Good Job!

LITTLE WONDER

Visitors to the museum often comment on the museum building itself, and the large timbers in it.

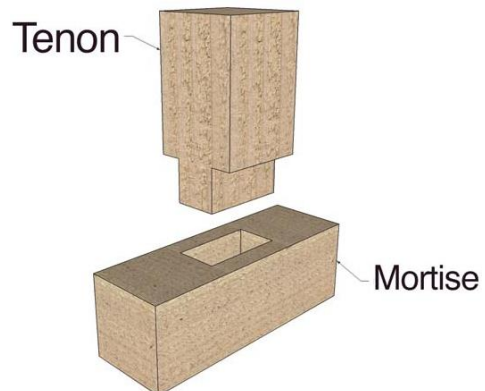


THE MUSEUM BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION

As large and sturdy as those timbers are, equally important is a component of the timber frame that will fit in your pocket, for these timbers cannot stand alone. Their strength relies on all the timbers acting as one and together providing the structural skeleton for the building.

As with your body where all the bones, held together by muscles and tendons, support you, the museum support relies on all these timbers acting in unison to support the structure.

While your bones are held together by muscles and tendons, the timbers are held together primarily by mortise and tenon joints.



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LITTLE WONDER

These joints are extremely strong, but over time changes in temperature, humidity, seasoning of the wood, etc. could cause a joint to separate and those timbers would be acting in unison rather than as a part of the whole. To prevent the separation of the joint once assembled, a hole is bored through both the mortise and the tenon and a wooden peg inserted that will prevent the joint from separating.



So it is the wooden peg that is a “little wonder”. These pegs stabilize and secure all the connections ensuring the structural integrity of the frame as a whole.

The pegs can be driven flush with the timber or left “proud” (protruding from the timber) which many feel is aesthetically pleasing.



PEGGED MORTISE/TENON JOINTS IN MUSEUM

Pegs can be made from most any wood but Oak and Birch are the most common and

wooden pegs have been found in India made from bamboo.

It is believed that timber framing dates back to the 200 BC's and examples from that period can be found in India.

As with most things, if our colonial ancestors needed something they often had to make it themselves. Long time readers of this newsletter have no doubt guessed that I am not going to leave this topic without telling you how to make a peg.

- 1) Go out in your wood lot and cut down a tree, season the wood and cut some 12” lengths out of a limb.
- 2) Make sure your “froe” is sharp – if you are not familiar with a froe stop by the museum and we will gladly show you one.



- 3) Once you have sharpened your froe, take same in one hand and your wooden mallet in another. Position your froe on the wood and strike with the mallet to split and drive it through. Keep repeating this until you have a pile of 12” lengths of wood about 1” square.



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LITTLE WONDER

4) Get comfortable on your shave horse.



SHAVE HORSE

DRAW KNIFE

Should there be any doubt, both the shave horse and the draw knives can be viewed at the Heritage Museum.

5) Now using your draw knife, shave these 1” squares of wood into a 1” diameter circle.



6) You will now be able to secure the mortise and tenon connections in your timber frame building. So let the construction begin – send us photos when you are done. Ω

SOLUTION TO THE OCTOBER CROSSWORD

1	C	A	N	S	T	8	L	E	A	P	T	11	L	E	13	
14	O	B	E	L	I	15	A	L	L	A	H	16	A	D	O	
17	P	E	R	A	M	18	B	U	L	A	T	E	19	S	I	R
20	S	L	O	B	B	E	R	S	21	H	O	22	I	S	T	S
23	E	R	A	24	M	O	R	T	I	S	E					
25	R	E	B	O	R	N	29	D	I	G	E	S	T			
30	I	C	O	N	S	31	S	A	L	E	M	32	U	S	34	A
35	F	R	O	E	36	T	E	N	O	N	37	A	D	A	R	
38	T	U	T	39	D	U	A	D	S	40	S	P	E	R	M	
41	S	P	U	R	R	Y	43	S	E	P	S	I	S			
44	I	N	T	E	R	N	S	46	S	P	A					
47	C	O	R	G	I	S	48	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N	
53	I	R	A	54	A	P	P	L	I	C	A	T	I	V	E	
56	E	S	P	57	N	I	S	A	N	58	N	U	D	E	S	
59	R	E	S	60	S	T	I	M	S	61	T	I	E	R	S	

A FARMERS MARKET + + + +

As many locals already know. The Heritage Museum has been working with the Farmers Market. This relationship has proved very satisfactory for the Museum in that we are opening for visitors concurrent with the Market hours (Friday’s 4-6 PM). What many may not know is the Market has a new Director, Pam Berry (yes, the same Pam Berry who owns Cards by Pam).

She has been working to make the Francestown Farmers Market unique from others by expanding the offerings each week. Folks are familiar with the traditional market being the go to place for fresh produce and other farm products from baked goods to maple syrup. Those staples are still available at the market. But most of the goods available still require you after leaving the market, to go home and prepare the nightly meal. How about an already prepared fresh main course that you can watch being cooked and leave with your dinner ready to serve?

This Friday, September 29 will see the first of various food trucks to join the market. So stop by Bubba Franks Bar-B-Que. You can pre-order by contacting Frank or Becky at (603)562-7385 – voice or text. They can also be found on the web at: <https://bubbafrankscatering.com/>



Attached is a supplement to this newsletter that further outlines the market program. Ω

