

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter



September 2023

Vol. 9, No. 9

TAVERNS

A CLOCK WINDER'S TALE

Well we heard from a good number of readers commenting on last month's article on clocks and bells. The article seemed to strike (pun unintended) a chord with many who shared their comments. Being a British mystery fan, the thought came to me while up in the spire, "what a great setting for a murder mystery". I know, I can sense you all now thinking, "where is he going with this"? Good question. How about a challenge for all our readers who are aspiring authors?



In 100 words or less, compose what will be the next paragraph in this budding mystery.

"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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WHAT'Z IT -

A two-part What'z It this month.



TOP VIEW

SIDE VIEW

The What'z It can be taken apart to reveal the interior.



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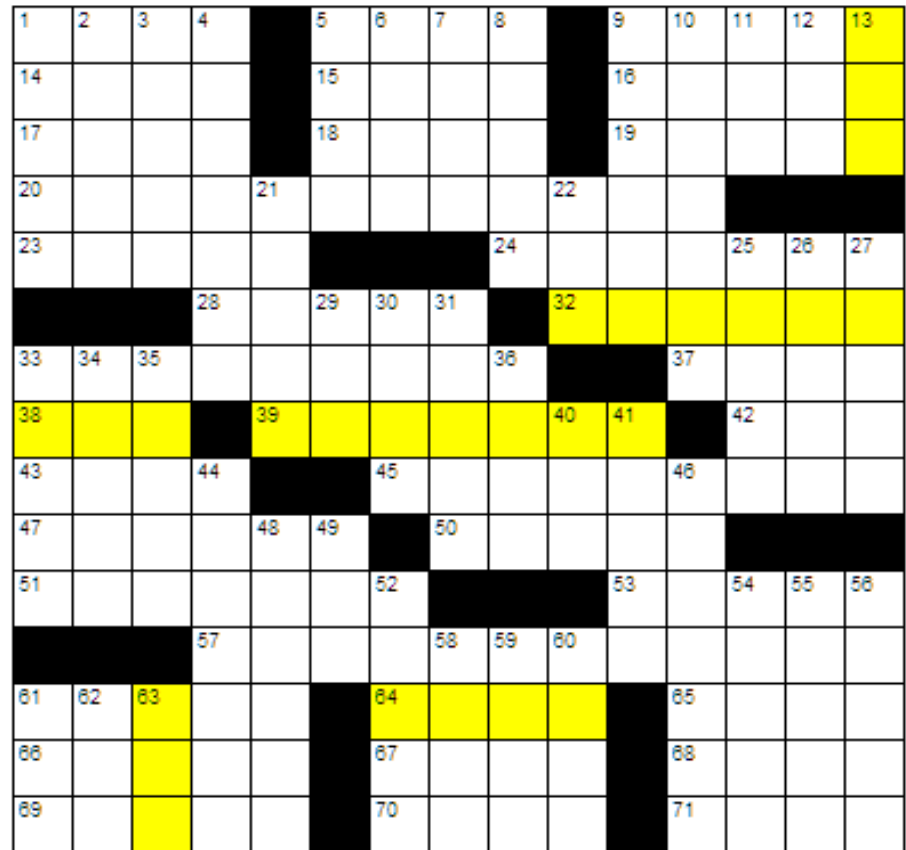
SEPTEMBER THEME CROSSWORD

The theme words are in yellow.
The answers will appear in next month's newsletter.

ENJOY!

Across

1. ___ moss
5. Attack enemy suddenly
9. Single sell animal
14. Eerie, in Edinburgh
15. "___ bitten, twice shy"
16. Carafe size
17. Andean land
18. Saw, e.g.
19. Church song
20. "Old Glory"
23. Cell dissolution
24. Roman Historian
28. Barbecue side fare
32. FOUND IN 63 DOWN
33. Self-centered person
37. Therefore
38. FOUND IN 32 ACROSS
39. CLOCKTOWER ARM
42. Stitch
43. Mosque V.I.P.
45. Broke
47. syn - phosphokinasi
50. Wood post driven in ground
51. Country part of UK
53. Discharge or excrete
57. Acted in a way that cannot be defended
61. Priestly garment
64. A type of 32 across
65. Barnes & Noble buy
66. 3PM church service.
67. Elevator name
68. Bound
69. Are able to (archaic)
70. The remainder of
71. Barely gets, with "out"



Down

1. It follows larval
2. Foe
3. "Green ___"
4. Travel for pleasure
5. Campus military org.
6. Buffalo's relative
7. Clickable image
8. Dutch pottery
9. Petting zoo animal
10. Be apprehensive
11. An airport guess
12. ___ canto
13. CLOCKTOWER BUCKET FIND
21. Muhammad's religion
22. Back muscle, familiarly
25. Brusque
26. Impulses
27. "The _____ of Kilimanjaro"
29. "___ calls?"
30. Bit of smoke
31. Fills
33. Eco-friendly 2 wheeler
34. Street urchin
35. Big ape
36. One penny
40. Confused with DNA
41. "Holy cow!"
44. Feelings of spite
46. Easily read
48. Most reasonable
49. Conclusion
52. Designer's concern
54. Amazon download, e.g.
55. Incline
56. Little ones
58. Destiny
59. Auspices
60. Home for the birds
61. Mandela's org.
62. Bygone bird
63. MAY INCLUDE A 32 ACROSS

WHY IS A BAR CALLED THAT . .

It is probably a safe bet that most of our readers are familiar with the term bar – referring to a public place where liquor is served. Now, how many of you know why it is called a bar – how did this term originate? Well, you have come to the right place.



HANCOCK INN & TAVERN

Back in colonial times these places were referred to as taverns and they could be found in many inns where they could be enjoyed by weary travelers. If you had ever spent the day in a horse-drawn stage-coach bouncing over dirt roads, you would appreciate the term weary traveler. Many of you also know that Frankestown was a major stop on the Second New Hampshire Turnpike which was a part of the main route between Boston, MA and Montreal, Canada. We also had our share of inns, taverns and other establishments to help weary travelers part with their money.



OLD BIXBY HOTEL

One such inn still stands in the village and has been extensively restored by the current owners. This would be the old Bixby Hotel across Main Street from the Village Store. Long time readers of this newsletter will no doubt recall the article on the smoke chamber concealed behind one of the fireplaces. This was also in the Bixby Hotel. A recent step in the renovation of this establishment was a recreation of the tavern that was located in the hotel. A focal point of this tavern was the liquor serving area which now has a fully restored “cage bar”.

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The "cage" or "frame" bar was a standard element of 18th-century colonial taverns. A closet-sized space walled off with panels of wood and bars, it protected the stores of whiskey, rum and wine, etc., while offering a secure storage space for other valuables and fragile items like punch bowls, glasses and decanters. Like modern hotels where the front desk has a safe to store guests' valuables, the cage bar was also available to travelers to store their valuables at night. Our thanks and appreciation to the owners of these two restored tavern areas for allowing us to photograph and write about these impressive restorations.

When the bar was open the proprietor would unlock the door and raise the bars so patrons could be served. At night after service was over he would just lower the bars, lock them in position, and exit the cage, locking the door behind him.



FRANCESTOWN CAGE BAR



HOLLIS CAGE BAR

Of course Francestown was not the only place where the public got served from a cage. Another such cage bar was just restored by the owner of an old tavern in Hollis.

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CAGE OPEN



CAGE CLOSED

So now you see where we are going with this. Our ancestors stored and served their liquor to the public from a cage bar. Today we no longer serve the public from a cage so we dropped the word cage and now just serve the public from a bar.

While it is true you could get a drink in these inns, taverns, etc., you could also get a meal. Here in Francestown, not only was the cage bar restored but also the restaurant. Period tables and chairs are set with period place settings.



FRANCESTOWN



HOLLIS

Both with the obligatory fireplaces -

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FRANCESTOWN



HOLLIS

We'll close with one final word on taverns:

The following paragraph was provided to us by Freddi Olsen of the Hollis Historic Society.

“Folks should know that taverns were not just for drinking. They were places where news was exchanged, people visited, played games, often got their mail there and since many taverns were built before there were court houses and town halls . . . sometimes court was held in taverns, as well as political discussions and business meetings. Some women, especially young unmarried women didn't always want to be in the tavern with men. So some taverns had ladies' parlors and separate gentlemen's meeting rooms.”

While both the Francestown and Hollis Tavern recreations are located in private homes the owner of the home in Hollis will give private tours by appointment. Not only was her home a tavern but also an inn with overnight guests and a dance hall. In addition to the tavern, and post office, she has a ladies' parlor and gentlemen's room which she has also restored. Freddi gives a very informative tour and has recreated these spaces in minute detail. To arrange for a private showing of the Hollis site, call Freddi Olsen at 603-465-2884.

We thank Freddi for letting us photograph the tavern for this article and for her summary of the other uses of the tavern. Located in the heart of Hollis village, a visit to her home is a must see.

Sad to say the Heritage Museum lacks a tavern exhibit but we are working on that.

In the meantime, Here's to you!



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A CLOCK WINDER'S TALE

The goal here is to complete this emerging mystery. Do not try to solve this mystery in the next paragraph. Our impartial editorial board will select one of the paragraphs submitted and add it to the one written here.



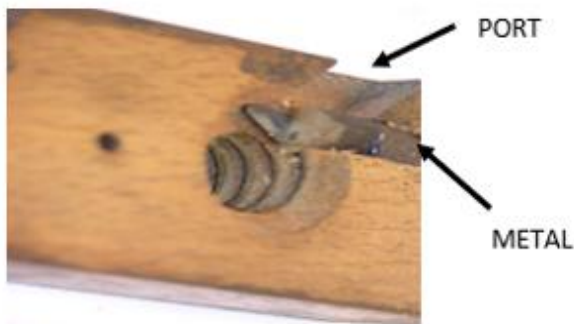
In no time we shall have written a best seller. Ω



CONTINUED FROM PAGE # 1

WHAT'Z IT –

This What'z It photo is your clue as to what this tool is. Note the long metal piece extending into the hole and the port at the side.



We mentioned at the beginning that this month's What'z It had two parts. So what is the other part. . . .

Made of steel, the dimensions are 3" long with the end being 3/4".



While this and the previous item are separate and distinct tools with distinct uses. They are most often used in unison.

The previous item is primarily made of wood, while this item is steel.

Their use will be revealed in next month's Heritage Museum Newsletter's theme article.

As always, the first to correctly identify what these items are will win one of our coveted Life Time Passes to the Heritage Museum entitling them and their families to free entry to the museum. The value of this is not diminished by the fact that admission to the museum is free to anyone at all times. Ω



105th FIHS LABOR DAY CARNIVAL

Saturday, September 2nd, 2023

- Tennis Tournament, 8AM
- Dance with DJ Dan Trow, 6-9PM @ Town Hall

Sunday, September 3rd, 2023

- Tennis Tournament, continues 8AM
- 28th annual Mud Volley Ball Tournament, starts 10 AM @ Town Rec Fields
- Vespers, 5PM @ Old Meeting House

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GREEN HERON



Scott and Betsy Heron return to Francestown's Labor Day celebration.

The Country Café and Heritage Museum have joined together to welcome Green Heron back for another Labor Day of old-time, folk, bluegrass, country, Celtic and blues music.

Their last visit at the Museum literally had folks dancing on the grass, much to the delight of those enjoying lunch at the Country Café.

They have appeared on such local favorites as WMUR's "New Hampshire Chronicle Show" and NHPR's Sunday evening "Folk Show."

So join us again this year on Monday, September 4th at the Museum.

They released additional CD's since their previous visit and these will be available at the performance.

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105th FIHS LABOR DAY CARNIVAL

Monday September 4th 2023

- Francestown 5K Road Race, 9 AM and children's run, 9:45 Register at OMH
- Baked Goods, Plants, White Elephant, open 10 AM @ Horse Sheds
- Rummage, 10 AM @ Town Hall
- Heritage and Beehive Museums 10 AM to 2 PM
- Bixby Memorial Library, 10 AM - noon
- Book Sale, open 10 AM @ FIHS Lodge
- Dunk Tank, Town Common
- Ice Cream Social, 10:30 AM to 2 PM @ the Old Meeting House
- Information Booth & Raffle Tickets, in front of Town Hall

TAGS – available from the TAG TEAM on Town Common

PARADE – "When I Grow Up", 2 PM Main St. (Parade registration, 1:15 PM @ Post Office)

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE & PARKING – Park @109 New Boston Rd. and Francestown Elementary School. Shuttle to Town Common @9:30 AM – 1:30 PM and return 3 PM to 4 PM

~FOOD~

Country Café – 11 AM @ the Museum lawns (Sandwich wraps, Salads & Beverages)

Country Kitchen – 11 AM @ The Horse Sheds (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sodas and much more)

ENTERTAINMENT

11:00 - Green Heron – Old-time, bluegrass, folk, country, Irish and blues music @ The Heritage Museum

11:30 - R. P. Hale – harpsichord & dulcimer @ Old Meeting House

Noon - Wildlife Encounters @ Town Common

3:00 - Temple Band @ Town Common

PARADE PRIZES, 3:45 @ Town Hall