

THE FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Newsletter



October 2019

The Lower Level

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

This article was originally to be about the completion of the lower level of the museum with a focus on the completion of the floor. It occurred to me that this is really about far more. It is what the members of a community can do when they come together. As we have written about before, a primary intention of our benefactor, Alan Thulander, was the museum serve as a vehicle to further coalesce the community.

This floor expansion of the museum would never have happened without the combined efforts of many:

- The town citizens for voting part of the necessary funds at town meeting.
- Private donors to our trust fund.
- Support from our town officials.
- And especially Francestown Sand & Gravel who contributed equipment, materials and most importantly the willingness to see this through. One photo in particular brought this into focus.



Several times during the process three generations of the Stewart family could be seen working side by side to make this happen – the parents, their children and their grandchildren.

ANATOMY OF A FLOOR

A lot of preparation:

The space had been filled with sand when the museum was built – all of which had to be removed along with digging the entire area down a few more feet to provide ample headroom.



A vapor barrier, 6" of gravel and a layer of insulation were added.



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ANATOMY OF A FLOOR



Truck loads of concrete.



All of which had to be pumped around the building to the rear entry.



Spread and leveled to create a finished floor.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Received by e-mail:

“After reading your recent museum letter I was reminded of the three weather vanes. They all have carved out letters spelling "JAMES". The e-mail went on to say the writer knew of nobody named James ever owning the property and did the Museum have any information concerning them.



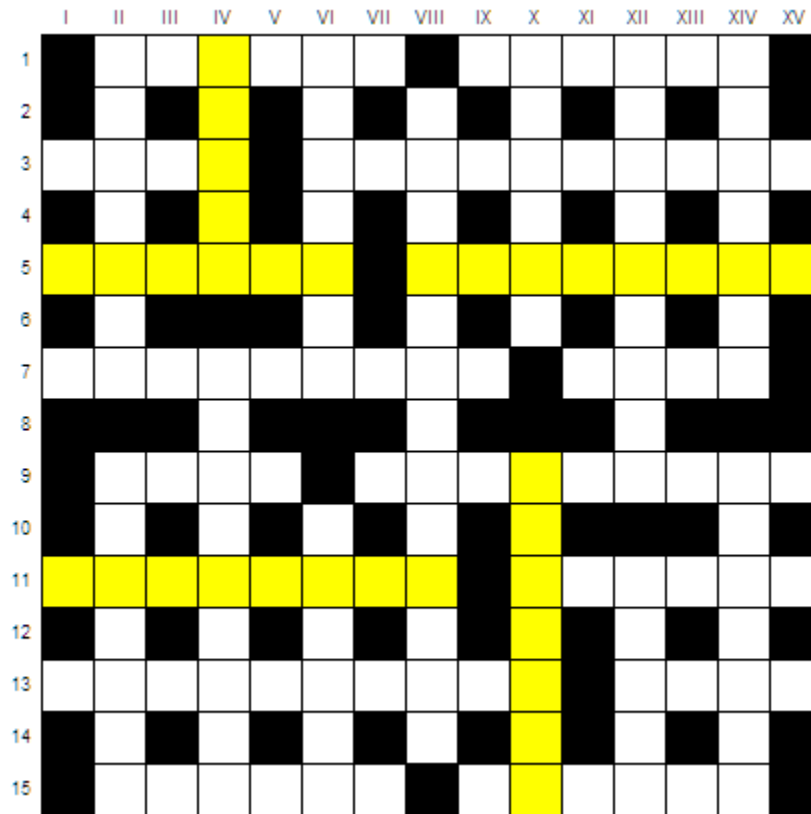
Well the museum never misses an opportunity to dig into our past but came up a bit short here finding only the following:

These barn ventilators with their weather vanes, located at 91 Mountain Road, appear original to the barn. The barns were built by Sidney Winslow (Pres. United Shoe Mfg.) in 1928 as a last attempt at large scale farming in Francestown. The barn has had a few owners over the years. In 1960 the farm was owned by Holman McLean and he sub-divided the original 1100 acres into the parcels that exist today. No mention of a James.

If any of our readers can shed some light on why the vanes have the name James when we can find no record of anyone by that name owning the property, please let us know. We really dislike loose ends.

OCTOBER THEME CROSSWORD

(Yellow blocks contain the theme words)



This is a French grid crossword. There are no numbers in the cubes but rather along the margins. Therefore any one line or column can have multiple words in it. For example line 2 has no three or more open adjoining spaces so there are no words in this line. However, line 1 has 6 adjoining open spaces and also has another 6 adjoining open spaces. This line has two words and in looking at the clues you see there are 2 clues for 1 Across – the first six letter word clue is “Cause to feel upset” and the answer would be ? The second six letter word clue is “Hard cash” and the answer would be ?

Across

1. Cause to feel upset
Hard cash
3. Found by wife in editing this
Mild exclamation of surprise
5. Community _____
Museum new floor material
7. Predicting future by reading hands
Ooze
9. Spiritually excellent
Unrehearsed
11. Museum displays
Not transparent
13. Whale substance used in candles
Sea level change
15. Sphere of activity
Infallible person

Down

- II. Capital of Washington
Six-legged robot
- IV. What's new at the museum
One thousandth of a gram
- VI. Nullifies
Festival of Lights
- VIII. Leading first violinist
- X. Admitting something is the case
Added area makes Museum _____
- XII. Narrow intense beam of light
Caper
- XIV. Exaggerate a performance
Move slowly and heavily

ENJOY