

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON!

Warren Barber, 5th Michigan Infantry, enlisted as a bugler on 12 July 1863. Little did he know that “blowing his own horn” would impact his entire company. His comrade, John Allen Bigelow, both with Franklin roots, would let soldiers know when to wake up, go to sleep, to charge and to retreat. There were 26 bugle calls that organized a soldier’s daily life. It was imperative to “listen up.”

The United States government recognized the importance of buglers and drummers during battle. Music dictated movements on the battlefield. It also impacted morale.

In May 1861, the U.S. War Department approved that every regiment of infantry and artillery could have a brass band with 24 members while a cavalry regiment could have 16 members.

Music helped pass the time, entertain, rekindle memories from home and comfort weary soldiers,

Musicians were often given special privileges. Union General Phillip Sheridan gave his cavalry bands the best horses and special uniforms. He believed that “music had done its share and more than its share in winning the war.”

Songs were sometimes played during battles. At the Battle of Five Forks, General Sheridan ordered musicians to play Nellie Bly by Stephen Foster. At the Battle of Williamsburg, Samuel P. Heintzelman, Commander of III Corp, saw many musicians standing at the back lines and ordered them to play anything. Music rallied the forces.

It was said that music was the equivalent of “a thousand men on one’s side.” Robert E. Lee stated, “I don’t think we could have an army without music.”

Musical duets between both sides were common. At Fredericksburg, Va. in the winter of 1862-1863, a union band started playing patriotic songs like Yankee Doodle and Battle Hymn of the Republic. A southern band countered with Dixie and Maryland, My Maryland. It went back and forth until both sides played Home Sweet Home and cheers erupted!

In the years after the war, many small communities formed military style bands. Some musicians were former Civil War vets, some were relatives of vets and others just had a sense of patriotism that extended from the war. The village of Franklin was no exception.

The Franklin coronet band, dressed in military uniforms, performed at political and social rallies. Henry Cox, a Civil War assistant surgeon, wrote the constitution for the organization. According to the by-laws, members were elected by

ballot. They met once a week. Any member absent without reason was fined 10 cents.

The venue of the Franklin band

included a contest at Pontiac with bands from Oxford and Davisburg. During the presidential campaigns of Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison, the band was present at pole raisings in Big Beaver, Birmingham, Farmington and Walled Lake. The bands last engagement was at the Redford races on 4 July 1895.

In the Franklin band, there were no Civil War veterans, but there were certainly connections to them! Frank Gravelin was a laborer in the Bigelow brickyard. He played the snare drum in the band. His father-in-law was Christopher Klein, 15th Michigan Infantry.

Noble Gravelin, Frank’s brother, married Florence Isabella Bigelow. His wife was the cousin of John Allen Bigelow, 5th Michigan Infantry. Bethune Bigelow, a fellow band member, was also a cousin to John Allen.

Two other brothers that played in the band were Andrew and Arthur Bowden. Their father was Joseph who served in the 10th Michigan Cavalry. William Leet married Louisa Van Every. She was a cousin to Joseph Van Every who also enlisted in the 10th Michigan Cavalry. Andrew Bowden’s father-in-law was William Henry Clemons who served in the 161st New York Infantry.

Franklin was a close community before the war and it continued afterwards. Whether related to a veteran townspeople banded together to make music.

The coronet and military uniforms are history. The members, their talent and patriotism are not. They are a part of Franklin’s living history.

From the battlefield, to the camp sites, to the communities across the country, the band truly did play on!



Franklin Community Center Update

The Franklin Historical Society has completed renovation of the Kreyger farm house and out building and they have been turned over to the village government. The barn remains a work in progress. The barn floor has been repaired. One structural beam needs to be repaired and the doors need some work. There is also a desire to reconfigure the commons area between the buildings to make it more user-friendly. A couple landscaping proposals have been reviewed, but are not acceptable. We continue to look for a simple plan that provides functionality while keeping the historic character. Hopefully in the spring of 2016, a final plan will be developed and there will be sufficient money to complete the project.

Since the fall of 2008, nearly \$350,000 has been donated to the project by people like you. Thanks for your support. With a little more time and money we are confident that the project will be completed soon.

A While Ago in Franklin

Before the 1860’s, Americans did not have the “newspaper habit,” but because of the need to read about the Civil War, the newspaper became an important tool. They read about the war in great detail, including lists of dead and injured in battle.

(From the All About Franklin Book)

STREET SIGNS!

The Franklin Historical Society formed a committee to research street signs and purchase them for the historic district. They followed in the footsteps of the pioneers by selecting cedar to construct the posts. Cedar resists rotting, deters insects and, besides, it adds to the charm of the village!

In 2002, the new posts were installed. Recently, the FHS has given them new life. You should be seeing clearer now as you travel along Franklin Road and in the historic district. The reflective paint makes the street names "pop!"



HAY! DID YOU SEE THE SCARECROWS?!

Hungry birds were always a problem for farmers. Sometimes birds ate so much corn or wheat that a farmer and his family would not have enough food to last throughout the winter. The scarecrow became a friend to the farmer and a foe to the birds.

Immigrants who came to the United States in the 1800's, built a variety of scarecrows. The body was usually a wooden cross and the head was a pumpkin or mop. At one end of the field stood a man dressed in overalls, long sleeved shirt, straw hat and kerchief around the neck, while at the other end of the field, a woman was donned with a long dress and sunbonnet on her head. They guarded the farmer's crops.

In our village, a firefighter and a police officer guarded either end of Franklin Road. In between them stood scarecrows, each with their own personality, eliciting smiles by passers-by.

On September 26th, the Franklin Historical Society sponsored a build your own scarecrow workshop. The event was a fund raiser to help restore the Kreger barn. What a flurry of fun as families picked outfits and stuffed them with straw to finish their one of a kind creation. Forty seven scarecrows were born that day!

Scarecrow genealogy is rooted in a rural life style. Franklin started as a rural community. The FHS brought history to life with scarecrows!

FRANKLIN BARN

Barns are community landmarks that make our past our present. Tucked in here and there are remnants of our rural heritage. Did you know that there are 9 barns hidden in plain view along Franklin Road from Scenic Drive to 14 Mile Road? They represent two different styles. The gable roof with two equal sides meeting at a peak is the earliest roof design in America. Settlers arriving in Michigan in the 1820's and 30's mostly came from New York and New England. They brought the tradition of the one story gabled barn with them.

A barn with a gambrel roof became popular in the late 1800's. Gambrel means the bent of a horse's leg. It is a symmetrical two sided roof with two slopes on each side. It creates an efficient use of space because each side of the roof consists of two angles instead of one.

Pioneers didn't build barns. They raised them! Villagers helped one another and sometimes a little tansy bitters motivated them. Tansy bitters raised the grist mill (Franklin Cider Mill), the old community hall and even put a roof on the church!

The story of a barn unfolds as your eyes capture its construction. Hand hewn logs indicate that the work was done prior to sawmills. Sawmills could create wood planks. The use of fieldstone is usually a sign of an early barn. Stone would have been readily available on the land. A concrete slab would indicate that the foundation was added later. Wooden pegs were the glue in early barn construction while square nails held barns together at a later date.

Our past is our present. Our village is the charming, quaint place that we call home because we have honored our history.



Gable Roof



Gambrel Roof

MINDING THEIR OWN BUSINESS

'Closing' was the word on the Franklin Village Boutique window in June. Final days beckoned shoppers to make one last purchase in a store where Jane Roberts and Judy Shagena worked. The dynamic duo who were business women in Franklin for years, decided to pursue a new path.

Judy Shagena grew up in Franklin. For several years, she was proprietor of the Town Crier Antiques. She and Jane managed the Apple Tree on the west side of Franklin Road. When Jane moved to the east side of Franklin Road, Judy was right at her side.

Jane opened the first tea room in Franklin in 1975. Besides serving tea, the Village Tea Room served soups, salads, sandwiches and sundaes. A favorite was the date nut sundae. Who could resist chunks of dates and walnuts suspended in a warm, gooey brown sauce and poured over French vanilla ice cream?

After five years serving tea, Jane crossed Franklin Road to open the Apple Tree. It was a successful retail shop. While the

building was being remodeled, Jane once again crossed the street to temporarily run her shop. After the renovations were complete, she returned to the west side of Franklin Road and the Apple Tree. A building across the street became available so with the help of Dave, Jane's husband, she relocated to the east side of F. Rd. Dave politely told his wife that this was the last time he was going to move her back and forth across Franklin Road :)

So, what's next for this twosome? Jane is going to help transition the new owners. She's anxious to do some decorating around the house. Just a little heads up Dave! Going up north is part of her plan and getting back into meetings at the Questers and Garden Club.

I have not been successful in connecting with Judy. I suspect that she is doing whatever she wants!

Thank you ladies for your service to the village and for keeping the customer happy. Best of luck to you!

Franklin Historical Society Final Financial Report 2014 Fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015)

	FHS	Kreger	Total
Beginning Balance	\$17,639	\$22,571	\$40,210
INCOME			
Membership	\$5,265		\$5,265
Donations	\$5,550	\$13,714	\$19,264
Grants	\$1,264		\$1,264
Programs	\$788		\$788
Fundraising	\$867	\$3,043	\$3,910
Interest	\$8		\$8
Total Income	\$13,742	\$16,757	\$30,499
EXPENSES			
Museum Related			
Utilities	\$1,390		\$1,390
Insurance	\$1,402		\$1,402
Lawn Maintenance	\$645		\$645
General Maintenance	\$7,728		\$7,728
Security	\$409		\$409
Total Museum Related	\$11,574		\$11,574
Printing & Mailing	\$1,881		\$1,881
Miscellaneous	\$150	\$678	\$828
Technology	\$1,391		\$1,391
Construction		\$10,638	\$10,638
Furnishings		\$4,353	\$4,353
Loan Payment		\$2,500	\$2,500
Total Expenses	\$14,996	\$18,169	\$33,165
Ending Balance	\$16,385	\$21,159	\$37,544



Kite & Key is a publication of the Franklin Historical Society. The Franklin Historical Society seeks to preserve such material, structures and artifacts that help to establish the history of the Village of Franklin and to make it accessible to those who wish to study it. The Society maintains a museum and archival area at the Derwich House, 26165 13 Mile Road (at Kirk). Volunteers and donations are most welcome. *Kite & Key* and the society welcome mail at:

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DONATIONS

Antique framed doily - Deb & Gary Roberts

Ladder, pitch fork, cranberry rake - Jeanne Graham

Wooden shipping box, antique tools - Mary Jane Major

Ken Bristol art work - Ted Spicer