

AND, THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS!

WITHIN MY RINGS

(recollections from the catalpa tree near the library)

Around the start of the Civil War, I was knee high to a grasshopper. I learned colorful ditties like that one from the early settlers. Their sayings had a way of hitting the nail right on the head!

If you recall, I was a catalpa tree on the village green near the current library. Of course, the library wasn't there when I started putting down my roots. At the time, Franklin was only about thirty-five years old! In those days, due to my height, my view was limited. I may not have seen a lot that was going on, but I certainly stored what I heard.

Most of my memories are first hand; however, I didn't disregard second-hand stories that happened before I was here. I just internalized them. So, that's a snapshot of my beginnings. What will follow are experiences from the horse's mouth. There's another settler saying I picked up along the way!

There wasn't much to Franklin in the early days. I was rooted on the very northeast end of the green. Farms were all around me! Farmers were making hay while the sun shined! One of the first buildings north of me was the Franklin hotel managed by George Green. Now this was built twenty years before my arrival, but that doesn't mean I never heard about the rowdy parties and ruckus that took place! Then there was Bullock's tavern (current wine shop.) I never had the opportunity to meet Elijah, our second landowner. He moved on to Lapeer County before I was a babe in arms. At the northwest corner of 14 Mile and Franklin roads stood a most prosperous structure. It was the Peter Van Every mill. I never knew Peter Sr. either. He passed away in a carriage accident, but his legacy continued for two more generations. He was at the wrong place at the wrong time. Suspicion surrounded the mishap.

Old Doc Buel and Ebenezer Raynale kept us well. An apple a day kept the doctor away or so the saying goes. The Albert Rust store was built a stone's throw away from me and the church behind it. The pastor tried to keep some civility in our everyday life. And so, that was our life, simple!

George Congleton was the only carriage maker in town when I was a young'un. In 1849 he set up his blacksmith and buggy works (Franklin Grill) and moved into the house next door (Déjà Vu) with his wife with child, four other children and his mother-in-law. It would be another seventeen years until Congleton would meet with some competition. You see, a fella named Daniel Broughton, also a carriage maker, would come to the village with his wife and one-year old son Thomas Edward, "Eddie," to set up his business. He moved into a house on the other side of the green where I had a bird's eye view of him.

Broughton built a two-story brick structure caddy corner from his residence (current post office.) He did present competition to Congleton, but, in reality, they catered to a different customer. Congleton built buggies for the common folk while Broughton built them for the wealthy.

I'm going to dwell on this English carriage maker for a bit. He left England in 1857 and settled in Clarkston where he worked as a wheelwright. He met Susan Bailey who became his wife seven years later. They not only had Eddie, but also Herbert who was born a few years after his brother.

The Broughton house, as the structure became known (village offices now), was more then a residence. If the walls could talk, they would have lots to share. Fortunately, I can do that for them!

This was one of the original structures in our quaint village. Cemetery Society meetings were held here. A Civil War soldier resided here. There were births that occurred here, funerals and marriages! Both happy and sad events took place.

In 1867 the Broughton's second son was born. He and his brother Eddie were just a hop, skip and a jump from the Brick school across the street from them. Their dad was even closer to his place of work. It was common to live nearby your business.

In 1881, the wake of Guy Van Every, a mere seventeen years old, was held in the front parlor. His classmates gathered here and joined the procession to the Van Every home and then the church. He was the son of Peter Jr. who was first a miller and later a hotel keeper at the Temperance hotel.

In 1886, Eddie Broughton passed away. There was another wake in the front parlor. I counted one hundred five carriages in the sad procession to the cemetery.

Happier times did take place. On 12 January 1887, Herbert Broughton, Eddie's brother, married Lizzie Pickering in the same parlor. On 18 December 1888, Charlie Johnston (descendant of an original landowner) and Millie German (daughter of John German, the miller) married as well. And, on 24 March 1978, Herbert Broughton, grandson of Daniel, married Beverly Tretice. Life went on. Time heals all wounds or so they say. Perhaps the happy events sooth the sad ones.

There you have it! The Van Every grist mill was the northern most part of my story and the cemetery the southernmost. In between were just some of my memories with a light shone on one of Franklin's more prominent families, the Broughtons!

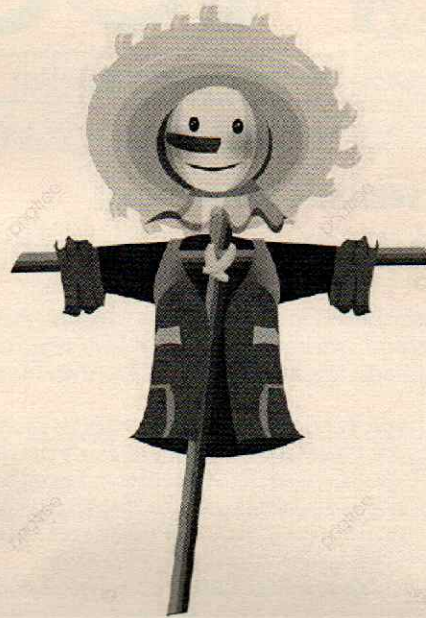


BUILD A SCARECROW OR CROW TO GO!

It's your choice! Both events occur on Saturday, September 30th from 10 to Noon by the Kreger barn. The difference is that the Crow to Go is a pre-order via e mail. If you want to reserve a scarecrow to make on your own time, then send an e mail to info@franklin-history.org We will bag up your scarecrow and have it ready for pick up at a date and time that works for you or. . .

If you would like to build your scarecrow on that day, just show up, pick your clothes and accessories from the clothesline and make it on site.

You have plenty of time to make your decision. You can build your scarecrow on that day or reserve one, pick it up and build it on your time. It's a build now or crow to go! Your choice!



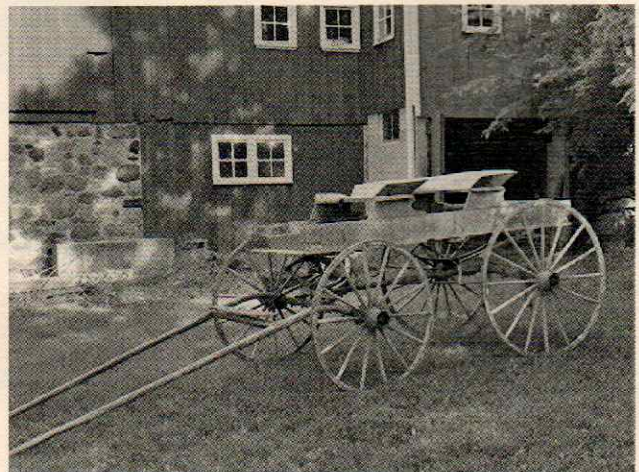
A WHILE AGO IN FRANKLIN

This wagon is an original Daniel Broughton built in Franklin in the 1870's. The brass name plate verifies its authenticity. You can see the wagon at the Franklin Historical Museum at 26165 Thirteen Mile at Kirk Lane on Saturdays from 1 to 3 P.M.

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:



P.O. Box 250007
Franklin, MI 48025
Email: info@franklin-history.org
Contributors: Bill & Ann Lamott



FRANKLIN'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 2024-2025

It's not too early to start shopping for your party hats! April 2024 marks the beginning of Franklin's 200th birthday! We have aged quite well!

Dillucena Stoughton and his family left Niagara County, New York for the Michigan territory. Stoughton bought 80.6 acres of land for \$1.25 per acre on the east side of Franklin Road from 14 Mile to Scenic Drive. He paid for his parcel with \$63.08 in silver and \$35 on a note from the Bank of Michigan.

Six weeks later, Elijah Bullock and his family, also from Niagara County, New York, headed to Oakland County in the Michigan territory. Bullock originally bought 80 acres on the west side of Franklin Road from 14 Mile to Scenic Drive.

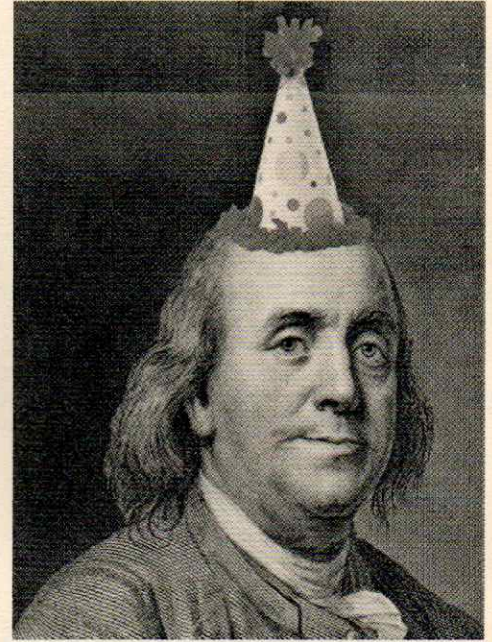
The two men appropriately named their new home the Stoughton- Bullock Settlement. That's how we began.

Preparations for our celebration have begun! The settlers bought their land in 1824, but did not receive their land deeds until 1825. So, we decided to celebrate our heritage for an entire year!

The Franklin Historical Society is taking the lead in contacting other village organizations to take part in the festivities. We have three major events in the planning process: A barn dance and dinner on the green in the spring, a 200th birthday party in July and activities during Round-Up in the fall. Interspersed between these major events are fun to do things at existing events during Music on the Green, Movies on the Green, Frankenstein, Oktoberfest and the Block Party to name a few.

We don't want to spill all of the beans just yet. This is a celebration for all villagers. It is a time to celebrate our history and each other. Participation is key to attend the events as well as help plan and volunteer. We have a whole year to come together and celebrate us! Who doesn't love a party?!

If you're interested in learning more about the Bicentennial celebration and want to get involved, send an e mail to info@franklin-history.org



WHAT'S NEXT!

We spent the past three years with a clean- up, fix up, paint up campaign at the museum followed by creating new exhibits with artifacts acquired from Franklin descendants. It seemed a monumental task, but we were excited for the challenge. Now that our mission is complete, we're not scratching our heads as to what to do next. Our next step is to create a carriage house that is next to our blacksmith shop just as our original blacksmiths and carriage makers did.

We've taken that nod from George Congleton, who brought his family from the east in 1849 and built his buggy works (Franklin Grill) and home (Déjà vu) here. In 1866, Daniel Broughton, an Englishman brought his wife and infant son and moved into a house that now bears his family name, the Broughton house. His shop was across the street.

Not only did we get inspiration from them, but also original artifacts from their places of business to create an authentic buggy works. How cool is that?!

In the brick-covered walls of the smithy, is the actual bellows, lathe, wheelwright bench, wheel rim bender and anvil. We focus on obtaining artifacts that not only reflect our past, but are our past!

The museum garage will become the carriage house. This is where the vehicles were built as well as painted. The Broughton wagon, a cutter and a carriage will be displayed. We plan to clean them up a bit, but leave a *little* of the historic dust on them. We want to maintain their character and show their use.

The walls will reflect the times with yokes, wheels, a harness, tools and posters of auctions and types of carriages. We are in the brainstorming stages. Anything is possible. The goal is to make it true to Franklin.

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FRANKLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025

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UPCOMING TOURS

Walking Tour: Saturday, June 17th,
1 – 2:30 P.M.

They Lived Among Us!

When the Civil War began, Franklin boys heeded the call. Three of them enlisted at the Rust general store on German Mill and Franklin roads. Many of them lived among us and many of their homes are still with us. Walk in their footsteps and hear their stories. The cost is \$10. We'll meet on 14 Mile and Franklin roads.

Cemetery Tour: Saturday, July 8th,
1 – 2:30 P.M.

In Their Own Words

The Cemetery Society formed in 1852. The original minutes create a timeline of who served, where they served and decisions they made. Get the inside scoop! The cost is \$10. We'll meet at the cemetery gate on Scenic Drive.

To reserve a spot for these tours,
send an email to:

info@franklin-history.org

FHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2022-23

DOCUMENTING HISTORY

Publishing two Kite and Key newsletters
Improving computer access and security
Communicating with descendants of ancestors through correspondence, visits and oral histories

Designing a buggy works exhibit in the museum garage
Continuing research on Franklin settlers

MAINTAINING MUSEUM GROUNDS

Creating pathways on the museum property
Landscape maintenance and general clean up
Rebuilt patio steps and added a hand rail
Fixed the roof fascia

PLANNING EVENTS

The Horseshoe Caper
Behind the Scenes tour and Women Behind the Men cemetery tour
NEXT visit to the museum
Quester's meeting at the museum
Crow to Go
Night at the Museum and museum open house
Planning Franklin's Bicentennial 1824 – 2025

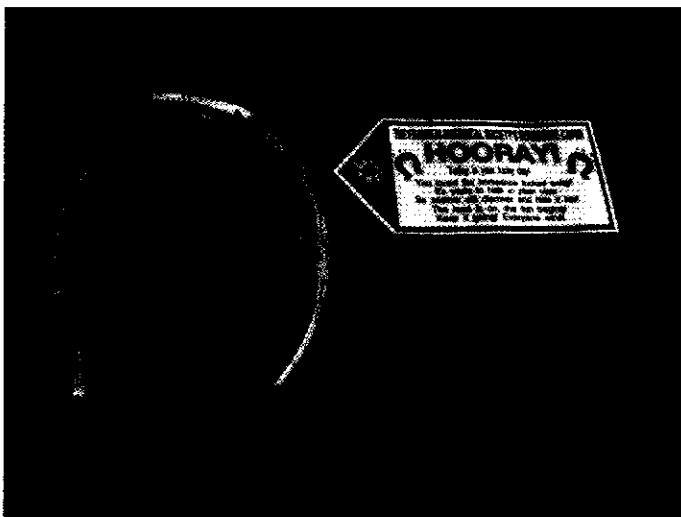
DONATIONS

Donations are the heart of our exhibits! Through the generosity of village descendants sharing artifacts from their families, we are able to tell their stories. They are authentically Franklin!

- Comcast internet service through the Cable Board
- Garden Club maintenance for the Kreger fund
 - Shally Williams donation from her Will
- Photo album from Don Shepard – a Pickering family descendant

THE HORSESHOE CAPER!

The Franklin Historical Society launched the horseshoe caper a few years ago. The golden horseshoe is hidden somewhere on the village green in plain view so that it can be found. Instructions on the horseshoe explain what to do next. Let's keep the hunt going.



GOOD LUCK!

Where is the horseshoe?
Does anyone know?
It's been hidden all winter,
All covered with snow!

But now it is Spring,
With flowers in bloom,
Surely it is uncovered
And will be found soon!

The lost can be found
And hidden again,
This is a challenge
That never will end!
Are you up for it?