

Capital Fund Campaign Status

“Only You Can Prevent Another Fund Raiser” campaign initiated in the fall of 2006, generated \$15,000. We are pleased to announce that a new gas-fired boiler was installed (\$4,250). For environmental concerns, the fuel oil storage tank required for the old boiler was removed.

During the summer of 2007, the roof of the museum was removed and new one put in its place (\$10,000). The generous support of villagers has helped us to keep the museum functioning. Thank you!

The fall of 2007 fund raising campaign is in motion. The theme is “We Can Do It! – You Can Help!” Information was sent to Franklin residents and businesses explaining our projects. Some of the museum needs include:

- Upgrade the museum electrical system
- Expand exhibits on the fire department, archeological dig, early medicine and more
- Remove dead trees and continue landscape development
- Install new gutters
- Replace wood and paint exterior
- Invest in air conditioning

We hope that we can count on you for support! Your contribution is tax deductible.

A While Ago

The Franklin River supplied all of the pioneer’s personal needs. The river is formed by the junction of Big Creek and Little Creek about half a mile north of 14 Mile Road. It winds its way from its outlet in Black Walnut Lake in West Bloomfield Township to join the main branch of the River Rouge on Indian Reservation lands boarded by 11 and 12 Mile roads and Lahser and Telegraph roads. (All About Franklin Book)

Franklin Historic Society Board

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Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

December, 2007

Those who ignore the history of past mistakes are doomed to repeat them.

Ye Old Tavern

Located on Franklin Road is one of the oldest buildings in the village dating back to 1830. The current owner is Les Gorbach. The Gorbach photography studio began with Jack Gorbach, Les’ father, around 1974. During that time, there were two businesses in the structure: the photography studio and a barbershop. Herbert Slonaker rented space from the Gorbachs from 1975-1989. The barbershop was the place to catch up on local gossip. Alan Trammell, former Detroit Tiger, was one of Slonaker’s notable customers.

The building is rich in history. In 1830, Elijah Bullock, one of Franklin’s first settlers, opened a public house on the west side of Franklin Road. The following year, a store was constructed over the tavern. Whether Bullock was prosperous in it, we are unable to say. (History of Oakland County 1877) It was a log structure. Bullock was a blacksmith by trade, then a farmer and a publican. His father served in the Revolutionary War.

Through the years, the building has been reconfigured to accommodate the businesses. Although store front signs have changed, some things have remained the same.

In the basement are the original hand-hewn logs used for support. Some of the bark still exists. Carved into the logs are names of people from Franklin’s past. Particularly noticeable is O.R. Clemens 1922. Research discovered that this deep carving was done by Oscar Raymond Clemens. A WWI draft registration card reveals his birth date 29 October 1875 in Ohio. A 1930 census lists him as a merchant in a general store.

An 1870 census shows John B. Rust as a dry goods merchant. Rust married Emma Midgley. The Midgleys lived two doors north of the store. Today, the home is a dental office. In a small place like Franklin, it was common to marry the girl next door. Albert Rust, John’s brother, was also a merchant. The mansion that he built for his bride is now the home of Prudential Cranbrook Realty.

Herbert J. Broughton was a grocer in the historic building. Herb was a Franklin resident and served as the Southfield Township Supervisor.



Left: Marian Murphey’s Poor Richard Bookstore receives visitors just as did the grocer man who operated a country store in 1900.



Left: The Franklin Hardware & Jeweler circa 1970.

Right: Gorbach Photography Studio & Barbershop circa 1975.

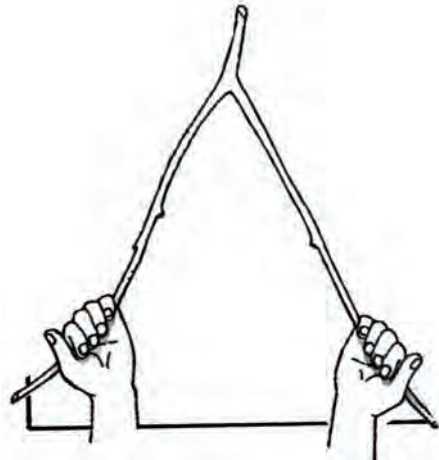


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Water Wizard

When pioneers settled here, one of their first concerns was a source of water. Initially, it was not necessary for Stoughton and Bullock to dig wells. They relied on the river to supply their personal needs. It provided them with water for drinking, cooking and washing.



Divining Rod

As the Stoughton-Bullock Settlement grew, it was important to find other sources of water closer to home. The settlers turned to the land. Rain and melting snow that seeped into the ground formed “pockets” of water. The task of locating these “pockets” was a challenge. People who were lucky, were able to dig out a shallow well with a pick and shovel

and use a rope and bucket to get the water out. But, finding the exact location of underground water and knowing where to dig without being able to hear, touch, smell or see the water was still a big problem.

Locating a well

The art of dowsing, also called water witching, divining and doodle-bugging was accomplished by the dowser who slowly walked across the land holding a Y-shaped twig in his hands. When the twig pointed down, it was the sign of exactly where to dig for water.

Tools for dowsing

The tools for dowsing were very simple. While some dowsers claimed that they had a gift, others thought anyone could learn to dowse. People have dowsed with all sorts of objects, even a sausage, but the most common device was a Y-shaped branch about two feet long and not much thicker around than your little finger. The branch from a willow or a fruit tree was the most popular although any branch worked as long as it was flexible though not limsy. The branch had to be smooth, free of knots, with any leaves and small twigs removed.

Dowsing techniques

The two long ends of the stick were held with the stem of the Y pointed away from the dowser and parallel to the ground. The stick rested in his hands with thumb pointed away from him. Fingers pointed toward him. Palms were turned up.

Just why dowsing worked, no one seemed to know, but it did! Many families would not select the site to build their home until the local water wizard was consulted.

Franklin’s water wizard

William H. Clemons was a water wizard! He was born in New York in 1847. He and his wife Phoebe are buried in the Franklin Cemetery.

Clemons, a second cousin to Samuel Clemons (Mark Twain), lived at 26006 Carol Street. He used a divining rod to find over 300 wells in Oakland County over a period of forty years.

Did Clemons have a special gift or did he just know the lay of the land!



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 provide for accessibility for 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.

The *Kite & Key* and the Society welcome mail at P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025. Our phone is 248-538-0565. Contributors: Bill & Ann Lamott

From a Financial Point of View

The Franklin Historical Society had a good year in terms of revenue and operating expenses, although we ended the 12 month period ending October 31, 2007 with \$2,688 less in the bank. The cause of the decline was due to non-recurring charges of \$9,982 for museum roof replacement and \$4,250 for a new furnace, without which the balance would have increased by \$11,544.

Beginning Cash Balance	\$14,932
Income:	
Dues	6,135
Sales	555
Donations	17,068
Tours	835
Plant Sale Profit	1,652
Interest Income	408
Total Income	26,653
Expenditures:	
Museum Facility	9,946
Museum Roof	9,982
Museum Furnace	4,250
Kite & Key	2,185
Ice Cream Social	679
Other Expenses	2,299
Total Expenditures	29,341
Ending Cash Balance	\$12,244

Franklin Whittling Club



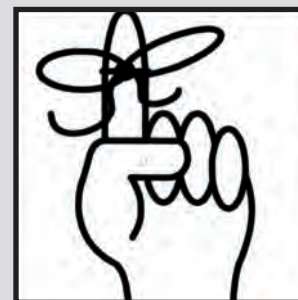
Whittling is the leisure- time art of shaping a scrap of wood into some sort of model or trinket, practical or not. Though whittling may seem like a craft today, Early Americans considered it more of a “social art.”

An Early American frontiersman traveled light, but of the few tools he carried none was more frequently used than his pocket knife. Even when resting from work or travel, the frontiersman would open his knife, pick up a twig and whittle just to pass the time.

Some famous Americans were dedicated whittlers, including Abraham Lincoln, Calvin Coolidge and Will Rogers.

The first Monday of the month, the Franklin Whittling Club meets at 7 P.M. at the gazebo on the village green. The monthly dues is \$1 for Franklin residents and \$1.25 for non-residents, but no dues have been collected thus far.

The group has been whittling since March 2006. Jesse Polan, founder of the club, supplies the dust pan, broom, garbage bag and first aid. The whittlers supply their creativity, conversation and camaraderie.



Franklin Historic Society Meetings
The second Thursday of each month
7 P.M.

Please join us at the museum
26165 Thirteen Mile Rd. • At Kirk Lane

*The Museum is open from
1:00 - 3:00 pm on Saturdays.*

A Work in Progress

The naturescaping project at the museum grounds continues. With the help of master gardeners, Paul and Priscilla Needle as well as landscape designers Susan Campbell and Barb Near, a plan was developed and implemented in front of the museum. We are grateful for their volunteer time and expertise to beautify our property.

Sigma Phi Fraternity lends a hand

Nick Downing, Franklin resident and Lawrence Tech University student, organized a group of his brothers from the Zeta Omicron Chapter to clean up the museum grounds. They cleared out brush, cut up deadwood, dug up buckthorn and pulled out garlic mustard. Many hands made a huge contribution to the look of the land.

Boy Scouts make a difference

About five years ago, Jeff Pulker’s Eagle scout project created a nature path on the museum property. Last summer, Will Asbaugh, also working to be an Eagle scout, extended the path. Both Franklin residents rallied support of fellow scouts from troop 1699 to clear areas and put down wood chips. Take a stroll through the woods and admire their work.

The combined efforts of the gardeners, designers, fraternity brothers and Eagle scouts have made a significant impact on the landscape of the museum.

List of Museum Acquisitions

1. 1997 Master Plan, FCA Files, FHS Files – Jean Dewalt
2. A Pioneer Children’s Dress – Shelley Nepa
3. GM 75 Years and Miscellaneous Franklin Historic Documents – Carmina Tuksal
4. Franklin Related Articles – The Frank Young Family
5. Sewing Machine - Cathy Pikulas
6. Buckboard - Dave Roberts
7. Wooden Wheel Hubs - Carol Klein

The Franklin Historic Museum
offers two programs
for 3rd graders

For more information
or to schedule a field trip,
contact Ann Lamott
248-538-0273

The cost is \$2 per child