

# Bringing the Past Forward

Once upon a time, Franklin had a community hall. Villagers gathered there for dinners, for plays, to dance, to laugh and to share stories. There was much joy. It brought the community together.

One day, the community hall burned down. The people were sad. There was no gathering place.

Fifty years passed by. The 1860's Kreger farmhouse, shed and barn were donated to the Franklin Historical Society. The people were happy again.



The buildings were moved near the village green to become the NEW community center for meeting rooms, barn dances, rest rooms and more!



Villagers would have a new gathering place. But alas! More money was needed to complete the project. The people cared. They dug deep into their pockets. They could see the value of bringing Franklin's past forward. Would villagers once again gather for dinners, for plays, to dance, to laugh and to share stories?

Your support will result in a happily ever after ending to the story.

Tax deductible contributions can be made to the FHS Kreger Fund, P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, Michigan 48025

## A While Ago In Franklin

Throughout Southeastern Michigan, roads were, at best, well-traveled Indian paths. At worst, they were muddy sinkholes, almost impassable in spring and dried in great, deep ruts in summer. Planks laid atop the mud were built later. "As late as the 1840's, Mark Twain failed to smile when he was asked how he found the roads in Michigan. He replied that they would have been extremely hard to find if some scoundrel had not thrown a plank over them once in a while."



Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

December 2009

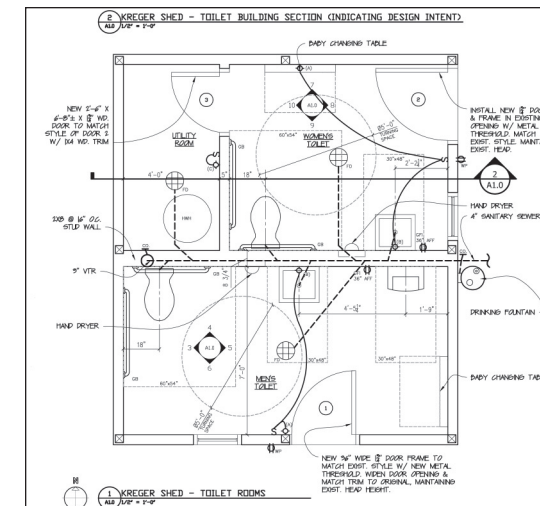
*Do not let spacious plans for a new world divert your energies from saving what is left of the old. ~ Winston Churchill*

## Kreger Farm Restoration Status



Progress on restoring the Kreger buildings and bring them to life as the Franklin Community center continues since the buildings were relocated from Scenic Drive to their current location on December 18, 2008. With the \$160,000 that has been raised, the following has been accomplished:

1. A full basement has been built under the house and perimeter foundations are in place under the barn and shed.
2. Stone has been placed around the perimeter of all three buildings to make it appear that they are resting on stone foundations. Materials for this work were recovered from the basement of the home on Scenic Drive.
3. The two parts of the house have been reconnected and a new roof has been put on the rear of the house.
4. The grounds have been graded and culverts installed to assure that the area drains properly. Fill dirt was moved from the Scenic Drive site.
5. Three new porches have been added to the house – a new wood front porch, a new cement porch off the living room with a higher roof to accommodate ADA access and a reconfigured porch off the kitchen that meets building codes and allows separate access to the basement.
6. Many volunteers have begun painting the buildings.
7. Plans for converting the shed into public rest rooms have been drawn by Gene Hopkins, our historic preservation architect.
8. Thanks to Les Gorback from Gorback Studios for taking periodic photos to document the move and restoration process. Also thanks to Sherwin Williams for providing paint at greatly reduced prices.



Proposed public rest room floor plan.

2010 Franklin Historical Society  
Membership Info Inside

www.franklin-history.org

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

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## Back to Back Events

Fund raising events spurred by the Questers and the Kreger committee raised \$3500 for the Kreger farm project!



The Questers, an international group which encourages the preservation and restoration of existing landmarks, hosted A Night at the Races on October 9th. Four Quester chapters of southeast Michigan supported the event. The ticket price included a potluck dinner, drinks and prizes.

All bets were placed. The horses lined up at the starting gate. At the end of the evening, the winner was the Kreger farm project! Thank you Questers for your continued commitment.

The following evening, the Kreger team sponsored a barn dance and dinner. Cowboys and gals moseyed up to the chuck wagon for a down home dinner and then kicked up their heels on the dance floor. Everyone had a *reely* good time.

## It's a Wrap!

Are you looking for THE gift to greet a new resident to Franklin, a "seasoned" resident who loves the village, a history buff or the young at heart?

These items from the Franklin Historical Society may help:

All About Franklin Book .....	\$15
Franklin Afghan .....	\$50
Franklin fleece cover .....	\$25
Set of 4 tumblers .....	\$20
Note Cards .....	\$7.50
Vintage Post Cards (12) .....	\$12
Drawings of Historic building.....	Prices Vary
Assorted Wooden Toys .....	Prices Vary

For more information, contact Ann or Bill Lamott, 248-538-0273

## What Could You Do with 2 Hours Per Month?

As you make your year-end gift plans and new year's resolutions, consider giving your time and talents. Here's what you could do with very little time commitment:

1. Help with a museum school group
2. Write newsletter articles and help with mailings
3. Work on museum housekeeping
4. Tend the museum grounds
5. Catalog museum archives
6. Sell plants at the spring plant sale
7. Attend the Historic Society monthly meeting at 7 P.M. on the second Thursday
8. Help with Round Up
9. Plan new activities
10. Enjoy working together to achieve common goals

## List of Museum's Acquisitions

The following items were recently acquired by the museum:

- Newspaper Clippings: Carmina Tuksal
- Old Franklin Directories: Anne Jones
- Bowden Family Memorabilia: Jan Statt
- Antique Oval Tub: Jane Polan
- Spinning wheel and high wheel bike: Wally Ross
- Bowden Family Photos: Ted Spicer



*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

## Franklin Historical Society Financial Report

JULY 2008 - JUNE 2009

<b>Income</b>	
Membership .....	\$5,266
Donations .....	\$5,433
Tours.....	\$334
Plant Sale .....	\$2,407
Total Income.....	\$13,440

<b>Expenses</b>	
Building Improvements .....	\$5,568
Museum Operation Expense .....	\$5,958
Printing & Postage .....	\$2,198
Dues .....	\$229
Misc .....	\$2,432
Total Expenses .....	\$16,385

Net Decrease in funds ..... -\$2,945

## Mainstreet Award

The Kreger farm team received the Outstanding Preservation Success Story award in Oakland County for 2009. Thank you to all who supported our endeavor!



Most towns have a Main Street. We have one too! It runs north and south through the heart of the village. It was renamed Franklin Road.

Some streets are labeled after the trees that line the pathways; others for landmarks that are located there. Still others indicate a boundary line, the street's position (north, south etc.) or prominent people in the community

We have Apple Tree, Oakleaf and Hickory Lanes, Birchway, Forest and Willowgreen Drives. Do these species of trees still line the pathways?

Until 1845, Carol Street was called School Road which identified the location of Franklin's red schoolhouse. From 1845 to 1872, the same road was called Maple for a while and then Plank Road.

German Mill was not only named for the location of the "mill," but also after John German Jr., a successful miller in town. In

the early days, roads were rutted, muddy and, in the winter, frozen ruts! Plank Road (Carol) was a popular way for a farmer to take his crop to John German, the miller because it was laid with wooden planks. Travel was less hassle.

Fourteen Mile, once Townline, was the boundary between our village and Bloomfield Township. Prior to that name, it was called Stoughton Road in honor of Dilucenna Stoughton, the first settler to purchase land here on June 7, 1824.

Kelvin Street, in the historic district, connects Carol to German Mill. From 1824 to 1908, for obvious reasons, it was referred to as Middle Street. North and South Greenbriar and West Haverford indicate a street's position within the village as well.

The cemetery on the sandy hill at Franklin Road and Scenic Drive quietly reveals more stories behind the streets. You'll meet the Bingham's. . .George built the Brick Store in 1900! The Pickering's farmed here since Cooper Pickering arrived here from England in the mid-1800's. The Bowdens were blacksmiths and farmers. Andrew Bowden was a beloved custodian at the Franklin School. James McKinney, who farmed at 13 Mile,

was an Irish immigrant. Rosemand Van Every Tibbits was the granddaughter of Colonel Peter Van Every who opened a grist mill in 1838. If you've enjoyed a glass of cider this fall, then you've sipped your way into history.

Wood and Kreger Drives, that intersect within the cemetery, reveal more recent stories in Franklin's history. Bert Wood was a farmer, teacher, builder and historian. In 1931, Wood became a merchant. The sign outside his store read, "If we don't have it, we'll get it!" He served the village of Franklin for nearly 20 years at the Brick Store. Daniel Wood, his great grandfather, was an original landowner. Arthur Kreger was a builder, member of the school board, President of the Cemetery Association, member of the village band and the first grand marshal in the Labor Day parade.

Streets were named after trees, landmarks, boundaries, road position and prominent community members. All reflect Franklin's past. The next time you meander through the village, stroll through the cemetery or jog along the streets, notice their names. Think about their stories. Consider yourself street smart!

## Round-Up 2009

The Historic Society sponsored a photography and writing contest. The kick off date was at the Kreger Barn Raising Event last June.

Participants captured the essence of Franklin in photos and in prose. Here are the winners!

### PHOTOGRAPHY: ADULT

**1st Place:** Garden Toad by Kristen Frick of Franklin

**2nd Place:** Barn Storm by Rod Arroyo of Beverly Hills

**3rd Place:** Porch Geraniums by Cathy Graub of West Bloomfield

### YOUTH

**1st Place:** Franklin Crosswalk by Colton Graub of West Bloomfield

**2nd Place:** Lei and the local hero by Nathan Frankel of West Bloomfield

**3rd Place:** Heritage softail Motorcycle by Colton Graub of West Bloomfield

**Honorable Mention:** Fire Station by Leia Frankel of West Bloomfield

The photos were judged by Franklin's Les Gorback whose studio is located at 32731 Franklin Road.

### WRITING:

#### ADULT

1st Place: Mrs. B. by Joni Wilkinson of Bloomfield Hills

2nd Place: If the Wheel Could Talk by Betsy Hemming

Honorable Mention: The Old Mill by Norman Mallory of Ortonville

#### YOUTH

1st Place: Jane and the Old Library by Skyeler McQueen of Franklin

The writings were judged by the Friends of the Franklin Library.

Leslie Frick, a Kreger team member, gathered "John Hancocks" during Round-Up for the signature scroll to be placed in a time capsule. The capsule will be secured at the 1860's Kreger farmhouse and opened in 100 years! Leslie has worked tirelessly collecting items which include newspaper articles of the Presidential election, a cell phone, photos of fire and policeman and items donated by local merchants.

Thank you to all of the participants in the contests and to those who contributed their thoughts and signatures on the time capsule scroll during Round-Up.

