
Kite & Key

Franklin Historical Society Newsletter

MAY 2016

A PORTRAIT OF KEN BRISTOL

It is likely that you have experienced Ken Bristol. You may not have met him personally, but you have seen the village through his eyes. Anyone who walks in the door of the Franklin library is greeted by his watercolor of the village. Although the painting depicts Franklin Road around 1875, I suspect that you will recognize several of the buildings.

Ken never ventured far from his beloved home. He was born in 1913 at the cheese factory on the northeast corner of Franklin and 14 Mile Road. It was operated by Fred Warner, former governor of Michigan. For a short time, Bristol lived in Farmington. From 1936 to 1972, he and his wife lived no more than a 1,000 feet west of the old cheese factory in the historic Barnum house located at 26265 14 Mile Road.

It is no surprise that Bristol focused on the village that he adored. The vibrant colors of the watercolor in the library illustrate Franklin Road from north to south ending with the cemetery. His birthplace is portrayed in the lower left corner of his work. Next to it is the Van Every whiskey distillery. Neither of these buildings exist today.

As your eyes travel down the east side of Franklin Road, you'll notice the Temperance hotel, Congleton Buggyworks, Congleton house and the Slade residence. Take a left at German Mill and you'll discover the Methodist church and the John German home. Further up the hill is the red schoolhouse.

The white building standing all alone in the distance is the Kreger house that was moved to the village and serves as our community center.

Coming from the cemetery, on the west side of Franklin Road, you're greeted by the Broughton house (village offices), Sammy Green's dairy farm (village green), Bullock's tavern, Franklin hotel, the Thomas Midgely house and the Van Every Mill.

During the library renovation, the Bristol watercolor was stored at the Franklin Historical Museum. The FHS took this opportunity to replace the glass with new UV glass and the

mat and backing with acid free materials. This treasure will be preserved for future generations.

The next time you check out a book, make certain that you check out the watercolor hanging above the fireplace in the library.

And, speaking of the library. . .

It's been nearly 50 years since the last changes to the Franklin Library building were made so, in view of its changing uses, it's time to update the building. The growing need for flexible gathering space for the many programs offered was the driving force for the expansion. About 400 square feet will be added and many other less visible things will be done. Electrical service to the building will be under ground. Interior electrical & heating systems will be upgraded. New wood windows will be installed. A new ADA compliant restroom will be added.

When completed, the library will have flexible meeting space for up to 50 people. It will also have renovated office space and a small study room.

All of the work that is done complies with the U.S. Secretary of Interior Guidelines for Historic Preservation. We are pleased that the changes will increase the building's flexibility while maintaining its historic character.



FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN 1893

(a letter from Henry Cox, Civil War veteran to his sister in England)

“At Farmington, they have what us old soldiers call a Grand Army Post (similar to a masonic lodge) made up of all the survivors of the rebellion and yesterday was a grand day at Farmington. It is called Memorial Day which is a national holiday and all the people turn out in procession with all the surviving soldiers and march with martial music to the cemetery carrying flowers to decorate the graves of our dead comrades.

How sad!! But, it is a loving duty we take upon ourselves to do all over this broad land. I have never attended but one procession because we have 10 soldiers buried in our Franklin cemetery so I have for the last 25 years placed flowers on their graves.”

The Franklin Historical Society is conducting a cemetery tour on Sunday, May 22nd at 1 P.M. We will walk in the footsteps of Henry Cox and pay homage to the ten soldiers where he diligently placed flowers. Their stories deserve to be remembered.

The cost is \$10. To reserve your spot, call Ann Lamott at 248-538-0273. We will meet at cemetery gate on Scenic Drive.

NEW TECH FOR HISTORICS

The Franklin Historical Society is entering the age of technology through archiving, scanning, Facebook, local hop and our website.

Barb Louie, an archivist, has been sorting through and organizing our boxes and boxes of historic files. She is preparing the information so that we can start to scan the material.

Karl Lieder, a Franklin resident and owner of Leader Business in Oak Park, has generously given us a scanner to continue the work that Barb has begun. Our plan is to make scanned documents available to the public using optical character reading software.

We have recently established a FHS facebook page. Like us and keep up with our activities.



Local Hop is a community based calendar for your smart phone. The Franklin Historical Society, Community Association, library, mobile watch and village government are all members of local hop. If you're looking for something to do in Franklin, download the app. These organizations post their upcoming events. It's as easy as that!



Visit us at franklin-history.org to learn about the museum, upcoming events or to purchase prints, afghans, glasses, All About Franklin book and other items.

ALL ABOUT FRANKLIN AUTHOR

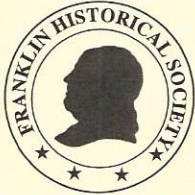
Bettie Waddell Cannon wrote the All About Franklin book in 1979. She chronicled the history of Franklin from pioneers to preservation. Bettie passed away in November of 2015.

DONATIONS

Reverend Dunlavy's journals, sweater and other family items, Bowden photos by Jan Stagg (granddaughter of Dunlavy, relative of Bowden family)

Franklin painting by Connie Ettinger

Scanner by Karl Lieder, owner of Leader Business in Oak Park



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

MAYFAIR 6-3131

Does that number ring a bell? In the 1960's, Mary and Dick Nelson, hosts of the Hunter's Whip, would have taken your reservation to dine in an early American atmosphere at 32325 Franklin Road. Today we know that structure as the Broughton house or Village offices.

The land was originally purchased by Elijah Bullock on 7 June 1825. The Greek Revival home was built in the 1830's probably by Benjamin and Charlotte Worthing. The Worthings donated land to the cemetery. Benjamin was justice of the peace.

Robert Kyle was a notable resident. He was a merchant, church leader, cemetery society board member and a Civil War soldier serving in the 14th Michigan Infantry.

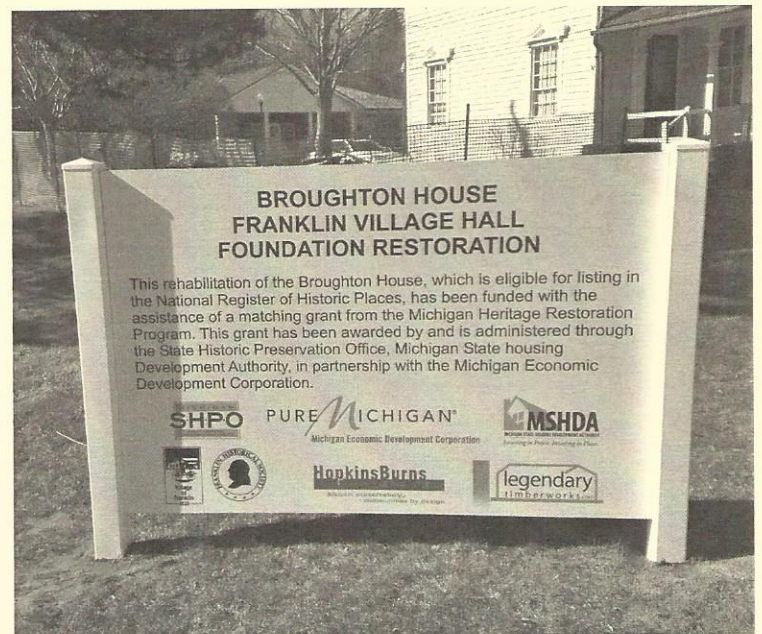
In 1866, Daniel Broughton bought the home. He made fine wagons and buggies for the wealthy. Broughton lived and worked in Franklin until 1885. Jane German, the widow of John, became the next inhabitant. The couple came from England in 1837. They not only lived on German Mill Road (their namesake), but John's mill was also located there. The Ger-

mans are the great grandparents of Maxine Kreger Nelson, the last resident of the Kreger house.

Later usage of the building included the Hunter's Whip restaurant, the police headquarters and the Village offices.

The age of a building, its inhabitants and events that occurred there, all contribute to its historic significance. In 1969, Franklin became the first historic district in Michigan to be listed on the national register of historic places. The Broughton house, along with eighty other structures in the historic district, create the special place that we call Franklin.

Last fall, the Franklin Historical Society and the Village qualified for a \$120,000 grant to stabilize the foundation under the south portion of the building. The work began in March. The project involves removing and reconstructing the existing historical stone foundation under the south wing. This is required because sections of the stone foundation have failed and shifted which compromises support of the building. As caretakers, we will breathe life back into a building that has been a Franklin landmark for nearly 200 years.



www.franklin-history.org
Like us on Facebook!

AWHILE AGO IN FRANKLIN

June 24, 1849

"After a protracted voyage, we arrived safely at our destination on the 20th making our passage of eight weeks and five days. We sailed for the first night with a fair wind then it came to blow a gale which lasted for several days." (Henry Cox's description of his journey from Bristol, England to New York)

He would later become a doctor, a Civil War assistant surgeon, school board member, justice of the peace and cemetery society board member. He lived at 26111 Carol Street in Franklin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20th - Plant Sale

May 22nd - Cemetery Tour

June 2nd - Detroit Country Day field trip to the museum

June 4th - 5K run, walk, strut your mutt, kid's dash and pancake breakfast to support the

Kreger Community Center project

June 7th - FHS annual meeting

Annual Plant Sale

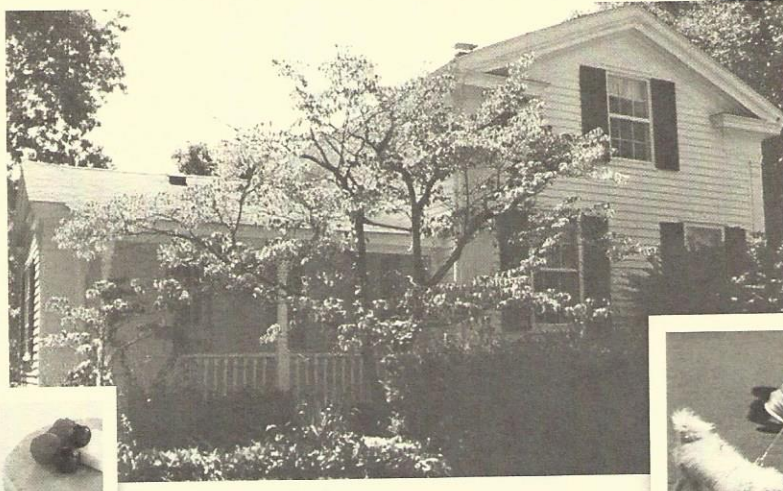
It's a Perennial Thing!

The plant sale is by pre-orders only. You can download the order form at ww.franklin-history.org. Orders must be placed by May 13th. Pick up or delivery is on May 20th.

Like us on Facebook!
ww.franklin-history.org

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

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SATURDAY, JUNE 4th, 2016
Eighth Annual

Franklin Community Center Fund Raising Event

FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN

The 5K run, walk, Kids Dash, strut your mutt and pancake breakfast to raise funds for the Franklin Community Center is Saturday, June 6th. Registration forms are available at www.a2racemanagement.com or at the Franklin Village Offices (32325 Franklin Road). You can also register the day of the run beginning at 7 A.M. The Kids Dash begins at 8:00 AM - \$15 per kid includes Dash, one breakfast and a kite.

The run/walk begins at 8:30 A.M. in front of the Franklin Community Center at 26225 Carol Street just west of the Village Offices. The cost is \$35 which includes a T-shirt and pancake breakfast. Fees are \$5 less if you choose a vintage shirt rather than a new one. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place males and females.

The strut your mutt commences at the same time as the run/walk. The cost is \$15 per dog and includes one breakfast and a goodie bag for the first 25 participants. Pick up a registration form at the Village Office or sign up on a2racemanagement.com. For information on these events please contact: John Pulker 248-538-0183 or Ann or Bill Lamott 248-538-0273.

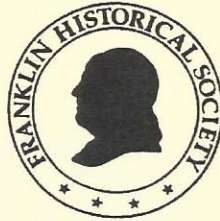
The pancake breakfast, a cooperative effort between Boy Scout Troop 1699 and the Franklin Bingham Fire Department, consists of pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee prepared by the Scouts and held at the fire station on Franklin Road. Scouts will be cooking from 8:30 – 11 A.M. Adult tickets are \$8, children ages 4-12 \$5 and children ages 3 and under are free. For additional information on the breakfast, please contact: Gary Roberts 248-626-0219.

So, come run, walk, dash or strut your stuff and finish off the morning with pancakes or just come have a family breakfast at the fire station.

For updates and upcoming events on the Franklin Community Center visit the website www.franklin-history.org or see us on Facebook.



WWW.FRANKLIN-HISTORY.ORG



P.O. Box 250007 Franklin, Michigan 48025

- Create a Fire Department exhibit
- Work with Village Center business and property owners to enhance the historic character.
- Complete the Kreger Farm barn restoration and commons area.
- Continue the Historic Franklin school group and public speaking programs,
- Continue genealogical research of early Franklin residents,
- Continue documenting the history of village center businesses
- Conduct historic downtown, barn and cemetery tours,

Please fill out the bottom of this page and return it with your tax-deductible contribution.

Thanks for your help.

I want to become a 2016 member of the Franklin Historical Society.

Family/Individual Membership \$35 Business Membership \$50

Life Membership \$400

I also want to contribute \$ _____ the Community Center project fund.

I have photos or artifacts to contribute. Please contact me.

I would like to contribute my time to work on Society projects. Please contact me.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please mail this form and your tax-deductible contribution to the Franklin Historical Society, P.O. Box 250007, Franklin, MI 48025.

Headquarters and Museum: 26165 W. 13 Mile Road @ Kirk Lane