

Fremont – The Year in Review – 2023

2023 was pretty much all about the weather for the most part here in Fremont and beyond! January started off relatively mild and seasonably above average. The first serious snowstorm took place on January 22nd & 23rd. It dropped a total of 12 inches of heavy snow over two days, and the wind brought down several trees and branches causing numerous power outages all over town – some that lasted three days or more. We then received another six inches of snow again on January 25th exacerbating the earlier storm just a day or two before.

On Friday, February 3 & Saturday February 4 all the New England States, especially northern New England, experienced **an extremely frigid cold spell that had temperatures dipping to 40 degrees below zero!** The wind blew causing only a few minor power outages fortunately, and just a few downed trees & branches. There were instances of some residents experiencing frozen and burst water pipes due to the extreme frigid cold weather. Surprisingly, most residents survived this cold spell much better than expected.

Fremont held its annual Deliberative Session at the Ellis School Gymnasium on Saturday, February 4th despite frigid cold weather. This was most likely the coldest Town Meeting EVER held in Fremont's 259-year history! Not even the 1993 Town Meeting was quite as cold as this one was, despite postponing it

due to the raging Blizzard of 1993. Forty-one (41) voters turned out for the 2023 Deliberative School District Session which lasted from 9:00 am to 10:00 am, and just 27 attended the Town Deliberative



Session held immediately after the School District Session. By the end of the Town Session only 17 voters were in attendance. These figures, of course, include the regular Town/School District Officials that have to be there to run these meetings. The Town Session lasted from 10:15 am until 1:14 pm.

There were several snowstorms in February, especially during the last week and half. Another heavy snowstorm struck on March 3rd & 4th leaving eight inches. Fortunately, there were no power outages during this storm. The peepers were first heard at least on the northside of Fremont on March 27th...usually a sure sign that spring is around the corner.

Due to a major **Nor-Easter expected on Monday, March 13th which lasted until March 15th**, it was decided to hold the Town Election at the Fremont Safety Complex instead of at the Ellis School Gym since the School doesn't have a back-up generator. The storm dropped 13-inches of heavy snow on Tuesday, March 14th - Election Day – and unlike 80 other New Hampshire towns that postponed their Town Elections until March 28th, Fremont chose not to postpone due to the difficulty of getting enough poll workers able to work an alternate date and the logistics of

accounting for an alternate day on the Ellis calendar. Winds of 40 to 60 miles-per-hour raged during this March 14th Nor-Easter with heavy snow falling all day long. 574 voters trekked to the polls and voted out of 3,376 registered voters. All Warrant Articles PASSED except increasing the Selectboard from 3 to 5 members 439 NO, to 126 YES; and not approving a \$15,000 Capital Reserve Fund Historical Museum Addition by a vote of 290 NO to 268 YES. **Gene Cordes received 487 votes to be re-elected to the Selectboard. Gene is the longest serving Selectman in Fremont's history...**serving intermittently since 1991 for a total of 27 years as of 2023. Until Gene, George A. Bassett held the longest serving selectman title for 26 years! Over 80 NH communities re-scheduled their Town Elections to March 28th. According to some comments on Facebook, there was some resentment in town that the election wasn't postponed, but over-all those that wanted to get out to vote did so. Normally, Fremont has between 700 to 800 voters that come out to vote on March Election days. In fairness, this wasn't one of the more "exciting" election years as there was hardly any competition for elected positions and increasing the Selectboard from 3 to 5 was essentially the only "exciting" topic on the voting agenda. To put election results in perspective...neighboring towns that also held Town Elections on the 14th instead of postponing them were...Brentwood with 891 voters; Epping with 969; Danville with 673; Sandown with 656; and Kingston with roughly 662...thus Fremont had the lowest voter turn-out during this Nor-Easter compared to these adjoining towns.

A total of 4 known Fremont residents died of the Covid-19 Virus during the past three years ending in March 2023. Town Historian Matthew Thomas submitted an extensive & detailed 70-page **FREMONT, NH COVID-19 PANDEMIC REPORT** to the NH State Historical Society in Concord as requested by the Society of all New Hampshire towns & cities. This information will be utilized by present & future historians & public officials in helping to better understand the statewide impact of this most serious pandemic since the Spanish-Flu Epidemic of 1918.

2023 was the 8th rainiest year on record here in New Hampshire dating back to 1868 with over 50 inches of rain falling in various parts of the state. Over 21 inches of rain fell just between June & August making it the wettest summer on record here in New Hampshire. 2023 also had the dreariest and most disappointing summer EVER as it ruined many outdoor activities thus effectively preventing most people from enjoying the outdoors after three-long years of COVID and staying away from crowds. June only had seven or eight pleasant sunny days – all the rest were rainy. July was exceedingly hot, humid, and rainy, even to the point that 4th of July Fireworks had to be postponed due to, or the threat of, rain. The week of July 9th thru 16th was one of considerable heavy downpours, hot sweltering heat & humidity that caused some minor flooding around Fremont, with more severe flooding & damage occurring throughout southwestern, central, and northern New Hampshire towns. **July 2023 was recorded as the HOTTEST EVER in human history – with July 3rd being the hottest day ever recorded on Earth.** Climate change is believed to be the cause of these excessive hot temperatures. Here in the US, the Southwest, Midwest, and parts of the West have suffered extensively this summer with extremely oppressive heat and depleted water supplies all due to some cities & states experiencing 100 to 120+ degree hot temperatures every day for over two to three weeks straight. The weather nationwide was drastic this summer with forest fires, numerous tornadoes, extreme floods, and excessive heat temperatures occurring all around the

nation. It seems like no part of the country was spared. Interestingly, August was mostly a pleasant month with low humidity, but still with several rainy days. Unlike July, August in New Hampshire did not register one 90-degree day-- unlike other parts of the country! **Hurricane Lee** made its downgraded effects known throughout southeastern New Hampshire on Saturday, September 16th. The once VERY SERIOUS Category 5 Hurricane, when in the eastern Caribbean, gradually decreased to a Tropical Storm by the time it went up the Atlantic Coast and reached the eastern shores of New England. Here in Fremont, we had roughly 50 mph winds during much of the day, and just a little rain during the early morning hours. Just a few tree branches fell around town. The day was pleasantly warm during this storm. This was the worst Hurricane/Tropical Storm to hit this area since Hurricane Ida in 2021 and Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011. Autumn colors were primarily dismal this year in southeastern New Hampshire. Very few trees became bright with color until the fourth week of October and by then, most trees were almost bare. It snowed for the first time in Fremont on November 9th -- with just a very light coating of snow. Rainfall was still quite frequent during the months of November & December despite having some unusually mild warm days during those two months. **A heavy Rainstorm with 40 mile-per-hour winds pelted Fremont and the rest of New England on December 18th. Almost 3 inches of rain fell in Fremont during the early morning hours until early evening. At times rain fell with torrential impact creating large pools of water on lawns, roadways, and fields.** The Exeter River partially flooded over on Scribner Road at Cavil Mill Pond, Red Brook flooded at Main Street, and water was pouring violently over Turner's Dam and at Copyhold Dam on the Exeter River off Mill Road located just over the Fremont town line in West Brentwood. Clough's Bridge on Danville Road was flooded up to the top of its banks, and water almost flooded the Bog Bridges on Sandown Road near the Sandown town line. The **Piscassic River on Martin Road** also significantly flooded much of the adjoining farmland bordering it. Normally this stretch of the Piscassic River looks more like a small brook as it goes under the Martin Road Bridge but looked like a good-sized river flowing steadily through the Peterson Family farming fields -- complete with cattle grazing upon slightly higher knolls bordering the flooded banks of the river. A few tree branches fell around town, and power was out on the Northside of town for about two hours or so. No damage to my knowledge happened to any homes in town. Because the ground was partially frozen, the water had no place to go, so it caused rivers, brooks, and small streams to turn into cascading rivers instead of small tributaries. As of December 28: it was still a cloudy, overcast day with intermittent light rain falling. It has, thus far, become the eighth wettest December on record in New Hampshire...in a year that has set a number of weather records. It sure makes one wonder what 2024 has in store for us all.

INTERESTING EVENTS OCCURRING AROUND TOWN IN 2023

The 2023 **Maple Syrup Season** started in February with taps, buckets, and blue sap bags being hung from maple trees all around town. Interestingly, there were not anywhere near as many trees being tapped this year in Fremont compared to 2022. Sadly, many of these old maple trees are dying. There were numerous old maple trees dotting the Fremont countryside only 40 to 50 years ago, but now many are being cut down because of old age, and sadly, few people are replanting new ones in their place. Back in the 1970's Fremont used to look **truly**

spectacular and ablaze in vibrant autumn colors all over town!! Now, way too many of these magnificent maple trees have unfortunately disappeared.

On Saturday, March 18th a highly successful **SPAGHETTI DINNER** sponsored by the Ellis School Eighth Grade Class was held in the Pettingill Hall/Gymnasium. The cost of the meal, which included spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, dessert, and beverages cost only \$5.00 per person, which was extremely reasonable. The cooks had estimated 800 salads which STILL didn't prove enough! Hundreds came out to support the Class and they ultimately ran out of certain food items, which did not disappoint anyone because no one expected such a huge turnout! There were over 60 wonderful Raffle prizes that participants could purchase tickets for. The whole event was a wonderful success and did much to reunite the community since this formerly annual event had not been held since 2019 because of the Covid Pandemic which started in late 2019 and progressed significantly into early 2020.

Little Miss ____ Aubrey of Fremont placed **FIRST** in all event categories in the 2023 Gymnastics Competitions and became the **NH STATE CHAMPION** on March 30th. Her team also placed FIRST in the state!

In mid-April, Clough's Bridge located on NH Route 111A (Danville Road) was reduced to one lane in order to make repairs to this 45-year-old bridge. The north-bound lane was closed so the NH Department of Transportation could repair a deficiency they discovered during a recent inspection of the bridge. The repairs took about one month to complete.

The annual **RENAISSANCE FAIR** held over two weekends in mid-May took place at Peterson's Brookvale Farm for the fifth year since 2018. It attracted nearly 8,000 people from all over the Northeast. The event included over 50 craft tents, a jousting ring, an ax & knife throwing competition, archery competitions, fortune-tellers, several stages where dozens of musical performances took place. There were six or seven food booths (some of which ran out of food) individual costumed singers & performers, a costume rental tent, and literally thousands of people dressed in period costumes of the King Arthur Renaissance period, and in Lord of the Rings costumes. This event wasn't held in 2020 or 2021 due to the COVID Pandemic.

The annual **SNOWMOBILE GRASS DRAGS & WATER CROSSING COMPETITIONS** took place on the Peterson's Brookvale Farm on October 6 thru 8. The weather was very cooperative and crowds of upwards of 45,000 attended this largest event of its kind in the world. The NH Snowmobile Association has sponsored these competitions in Fremont annually since 1985 with the exception of 2020 due to COVID. The first actual competition took place back in 1982, and then it became an annual event starting in 1985.

Eversource Utilities sponsored **archaeological digs** under the Electrical Powerlines at Clough's Bridge in May and throughout the summer and autumn. They were looking for Indigenous artifacts but were unsuccessful to my knowledge. Interestingly, there WAS an Indigenous Trail that followed the Exeter River for many centuries in Fremont and surrounding towns. The trees

and brush growing heavily under the Fremont Electrical Powerlines were mowed down on August 2 & 3 near the South Road and Red Brook Road section. New tall metal Electric Powerline poles were erected in late summer & throughout autumn to replace the wooden poles erected in 1949 when the NORTHEAST GRID powerlines were first built.

Bassett Lane off Scribner Road was paved for the first time ever in mid-July. As of May 2023, there has been just one house built on the northside of this road, a second house was built in late November at the west end of the Cul-de-sac. Six more will follow in due time. **The name of this road was named in honor of the Bassett Family that first moved to Poplin/Fremont in the early 1850's.**

Sandown Road had a double-yellow line painted down the middle in mid-August along with white lines painted on each side of the road. This is the first time in nearly 20 years that lines have been painted down on Sandown Road. It is now the third busiest road in town after Main Street and Beede Road. **(Beede Road was the ORIGINAL name for this road until 1995 when it was changed to Beede Hill Road so as to not confuse emergency units with Beede Road in Epping.)** In keeping with Red Brook Road, Chester Road, Sandown Road, North Road among others, white lines were painted down the sides of South Road in mid-November for the first time by the Fremont Highway Department. **A 15-foot sidewalk extension** was added to the existing sidewalk on the Sandown Road Bridge in Fremont Village (formerly the Black Rocks Bridge) in late July and completed on August 2nd. This is the only sidewalk in Fremont.



Former Arkansas Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson campaigned for the Presidency here in Fremont on November 2nd and spoke before a respectable crowd of listeners many of whom he impressed with his straightforward answers.

Liberty Lantern Estates began construction in May & June on the first of its 13 separate, 55+ senior houses located down off Route 107 (Main Street) just southwest of Copp Drive. **Several new homes were built in Gristmill Estates during 2023** off Gristmill Road near the Brentwood town line. Gristmill Road was opened to through traffic this year by connecting that road with the east end of Copp Drive. Prior to this, for many years the two roads were blocked by gates & bars.

There has been a **large rabbit population increase** in Fremont during the past couple of years. Coyotes still prove a nuisance with their night-time howling. Bears, bobcats, moose, deer, porcupines, raccoons, opossums, beavers, turkeys, coyotes and other wildlife are all still quite prevalent around Fremont.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1973 SPAULDING & FROST BARREL COOPERAGE FIRE

Fifty years ago on December 6, 1973 one of the worst tragedies in Fremont history occurred when the historic 1874 Spaulding & Frost Cooperage Fire destroyed the largest business in Fremont, effectively putting nearly 100 Cooperage employees out of work during a serious recession and just 2 ½ weeks before Christmas! Remember, 1973 & 1974 were years when there was a serious oil & gasoline shortage that caused extremely long waiting lines at gasoline pumps. **The fire was so large that the glow of the fire could be seen 12 miles away in Exeter.** The Exeter Fire Department had to “save” the Fremont Fire Station (located only 40 feet from the three-story end of the 200 foot-long wooden-shingled Cooperage Factory building) with its aerial spray hose, such was the massiveness of the fire & flames that reached 150 feet or more into the sky. Neighbors were hosing down their homes across the street from the downtown Fremont manufactory because the flames were so intense. Who can forget the sadly declining whine of the fire-siren attached to the nearby Black Water Tower as it slowly faded to its silent death overcome by the surrounding heat and flames of the fire. It was like it was knowingly sounding the final death-knell of this truly amazing & unique piece of early American history. **Much to Fremont’s indomitable spirit & determination, it WASN’T a death-knell, but a rebirth of a new and more modern Cooperage business that ironically re-opened in August 1974 – exactly 100 years to the month when the barrel cooperage was first started by Jonas Spaulding of West Townsend, MA.** Two of his sons, Rolland & Huntley Spaulding (later owners & officers in this Fremont Cooperage) became governors of New Hampshire in 1915 & 1927 respectively. The traumatic events of December 6, 1973 are forever seared into the minds and memories of countless residents then living in Fremont during that terrible, unbelievable fire. Such was the devastating impact it had on Fremont with its 1,072 town residents and several company employees from nearby towns. You could cut the sadness felt by townspeople with a knife...that’s exactly how terrible a loss this was to the little Town of Fremont that took immense pride in this, the only white-pine barrel-making Cooperage in the world!

Local historian Matthew E. Thomas published in June the first comprehensive book ever written on ***FORGOTTEN & HISTORIC NH/NEW ENGLAND TOWN POUNDS – Used for Confining Stray Livestock in New England Towns & Cities***. This is his 16th published history book since 1974.

IN MEMORIAM

Sadly, Fremont lost the following longtime residents. Each in their own way contributed to the betterment of our town, state, or nation.

MILDRED “MILLY” (EMERSON) FRYE – Aged 99 (June 13, 1924-February 27, 1923) **was Fremont’s LAST NATIVE WWII VETERAN.** She was one of 68 Fremont WWII Veterans. “Milly” died at the Rockingham County Nursing Facility in Brentwood where she always continued to have a cheerful smile & lifelong kind and good-natured attitude. She served as one of two Fremont female **NAVY WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)** during World War Two – the other being Charlotte Grey – a non-native Fremont veteran. Milly had to have her height waived because she was under five-feet tall, so she was often teased about being a RIPPLE instead of a WAVE! She went to boot camp at Hunter College in the Bronx, NY and was later stationed at Norfolk, VA. The Navy assigned her to work as a hairdresser for the officer’s wives, but she told them “NO,” that she wanted to do something to help the war effort!

They listened and she was quickly reassigned to the ordinance department keeping track of bombs coming on and off the base. She served until 1946. She was justifiably proud of her service and was honored to go on an Honor Flight for WWII Veterans in 2013 to see the impressive World War Two Memorial in Washington, DC at age 90. Her father **Freeman Emerson** (1895-1988) was a veteran of World War I and when he returned from that war in 1919, he started the family tradition of marching in every Fremont Memorial Day Parade starting in 1920 until his death in 1988 at the age of 92. Other Emerson Family war veterans namely Milly, her grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great, great, grandchildren have continued upholding this longtime Fremont Memorial Day family tradition for 103 years!!

ELIZABETH M. "BETTY" RAND – Aged 86 – (September 16, 1936 – March 5, 2023) was a genuinely kind, caring, and thoughtful person who valued her faith and family immensely. She worked tirelessly for many years as a cook at the Ellis School, where she loved the students as much as they loved her. She got to know many of them well, and what they liked for food and what they didn't. She was always positive, patient, and good natured with all the students. She also served many years as a Fremont Supervisor of the Checklist, as well as a longtime Sunday school teacher in Hampstead. Betty was also very dedicated to bringing her late father Theron Young to Fremont's Annual Town Meetings for many years because she knew how important it was to him. Theron made many common-sense points at these Town Meetings, and he often seconded the motion to adjourn Town Meeting. Betty was very proud of her father whom she took good care of in her home for many years. She was the loving wife of Richard Rand and the devoted mother of five children...all of whom grew up to be wonderful adults.

CHARLES D. KIMBALL -- Aged 90 – (April 7, 1933 – July 12, 2023) Charles' family roots in Fremont date back to the mid to late 1700's. He was the oldest of eight children born to Maurice & Pauline (Marcotte) Kimball, and grew up on Sandown Road, attended the one-room southside schoolhouse on South Road in Fremont, and graduated from Sanborn Seminary in Kingston. He enlisted in the US Navy in 1953 and served on several diesel & nuclear submarines as part of the Engineering Department. His sea service lasted from the beginning of the Cold War until the end of the Vietnam Conflict in 1973-- a total of 21 years. He often joked about how he "jumpstarted" the submarines while serving his country. He was quite a prolific storyteller and could hold your ear for hours. He loved to converse with people and passing down his knowledge on a number of subjects. He LOVED to read and learn new things. Charlie served on the Fremont Fire Department for 50 years where he rose to the rank of Captain and spent countless hours at the fire station. He also dedicated 20 years on the Budget Committee serving as Chairman for many of those years. He was also a valuable part-time employee helping out for many years during his retirement as an electrician, appliance repairman, cook, and "classic storyteller" at the Peterson Farm, LCB Transport, and Martin Road Automotive. Charlie was a colorful person, and his stories will be missed by many.

GUERWOOD HOLMES – Aged 83 - (June 9, 1940 – October 10, 2023). Guerwood is another member of an old-time family whose roots in Fremont date back 143 years to 1880 when the first Holmes moved to Fremont from Londonderry, NH. Guerwood first attended the one-room schoolhouses in Fremont before Ellis (Central) School opened in 1950. He graduated from

Kingston's Sanborn Seminary in 1958. Guerwood, like many members of his family, was a dedicated and very proud son of Fremont. He loved the town and served it well in many capacities through the years. In addition to volunteering his equipment and services whenever asked, he also served as Town Building Inspector, Police Officer for four years, and Town Road Agent for 24 years! During his years as Road Agent, he made many useful and necessary improvements on Fremont roads, and dealt with considerable damage caused by the Floods of 2006 & 2007, the December Ice Storm of 2008, and several other seemingly endless natural disasters that took place during the early part of the 21st century. His amazing legacy was literally setting high standards for anyone following in his capable footsteps – especially family who learned directly from his hard work ethic and dedication. He always had a welcoming smile for those he worked with, and for townspeople he met while working on town roads. He was a good-natured man – especially when he was spending time with family & friends. He and his loving wife Mary-Jo also knew how to throw a great cookout and pool party – some that resembled Old Home Day in Fremont where many of the “townies” enjoyed and appreciated reconnecting with longtime family & friends during special occasions. After all, the Holmes are related to several old Poplin/Fremont families including the Wests, Burleighs, Bolducs, Copps, LeClairs, Halls, & Robinsons -- just to name a few.

TIMOTHY P. LAVELLE – Aged 56 – (December 2, 1966 – July 29, 2023). Timothy died suddenly at his home in Fremont where he had been a resident of Fremont since 1993. He grew up in Sandown and graduated from Timberlane High School in Plaistow. He worked his entire life as a land surveyor for the family business, Lavelle Associates. He was a longtime Free Mason, serving as Worshipful Master for the Gideon Lodge # 84 in Kingston. Timothy's extensive knowledge as a land surveyor served him well as a longtime member of the Fremont Planning Board. He was taken much too soon, and his expertise and sense of humor will certainly be missed by all those he served with in various worthy capacities.

JOAN B. LENNON – Aged 88 – (November 24, 1934 – October 17, 2023). Joan was a longtime resident of Fremont dating back to the early 1980's. She and her husband of 71 years John were instrumental in renovating the **historic 1902 Spaulding & Frost Cooperage Forty Pound Shop** on Main Street. They attacked this major undertaking with great passion and did a superb job restoring and breathing new life into this old worn-out landmark. After completing the renovation, John & Joan never failed to landscape & maintain the building, making it very warm and inviting for their family and guests. They also very tastefully decorated this large, impressive building for the holidays each year. Joan was a remarkable self-taught artist, excelling in various mediums that included oil, charcoal, and watercolors. Her artistry also led her to the intricate art of wall stenciling, and her exceptional talent in this craft earned her a prestigious commission to adorn the historic **Bridges Mansion in Concord – the home of many New Hampshire governors while in office**. She performed this work when Governor John Sununu, Sr. held office between 1983 and 1989. Joan also demonstrated her deep faith and commitment to volunteering her services as a Eucharistic Minister at the Colonial Poplin Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Fremont. Joan was the devoted mother of seven children, several of which have played active and valuable roles within the community of Fremont. **John & Joan**

Lennon tie with Revolutionary War Captain Nathan & Tabitha (Clough) Brown (1825) as the longest married couples ever in Poplin/Fremont history – 71 years!!

KELLY JEAN (HOLMES) GALLISON – Aged 59 – (August 9, 1964 – September 8, 2023). Kelly was another proud Fremonter who enjoyed her town and family immensely. She was the daughter of Leon F. Holmes Sr. & Pearl (Davis) Holmes. She was born in 1964 - Fremont's 200th Bi-Centennial Anniversary year. Kelly attended Ellis School and graduated in 1982 from Sanborn Regional High School. She moved to Kingston after her marriage and went to work for Clark Oil also in Kingston. Then she eventually entered the banking industry where she excelled for many years. She loved attending stock car races, especially with her father, and enthusiastically cheered on her fiancé, Jim Storace, at local races. She was a good-natured, determined, kind, and considerate person who left behind a large circle of friends and family that deeply lament her early passing.

DONALD H. BLADES, SR. & DOROTHY M. BLADES – Aged 93 & 87. Donald was born June 24, 1929 and died January 6, 2023. He was an army veteran serving in Germany between 1948 & 1949, and in the Korean War 1950-1951. He owned and operated *Don Blades Plastering* for several decades. He loved bowling on a league, spending time with his family & friends, and also donated to many worthwhile charities that were close to his heart. His wife Dorothy was born September 26, 1935, and died January 7, 2023 -- **just 19 hours after the passing of her husband!** She was an immensely talented and hard-working mother. She always managed to get more hours out of the day than most – somehow keeping up with a wide array of social and parental responsibilities – and seemingly never missing a beat! She was an extremely giving person who gave an immense amount of her time supporting various organizations, worthwhile causes, and charities. Don & Dorothy Blades were longtime former residents of Fremont going back to 1971. They were the proud parents of seven children, all of whom grew up in Fremont, and several either still live in Fremont, or in nearby communities. They lived part of their retirement years in Florida before returning to NH to be closer to their large family.

MANY SINCERE & APPRECIATIVE THANKS to all my fellow Fremonters, and especially to all those that contribute in various ways to the overall betterment & well-being of our amazing & historic community! I cannot tell my friends, family, and neighbors enough of what a **GENUINE BLESSING** it is to live in such a great town where the majority of residents actually put the town's best interests first, over self-serving agendas. **We here in Fremont strive to take good care of each other rather than dividing each other. Hopefully we will all remember this admirable & important fact as we experience together the very interesting year ahead of 2024 – Fremont's 260th Anniversary Year of our Incorporation as the TOWN OF POPLIN on June 22, 1764 -- Renamed FREMONT on July 8, 1854 – 170 years ago!**

Most respectfully,

Matthew E. Thomas
Town Historian



