



NOW & THEN
 at the
LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
 (Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)
ISSUE #11
NOVEMBER 2010

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simanl@roadrunner.com
 Maria L. Carr, Editor

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PRESERVATION PROJECTS

At the May Town Meeting, Stockbridge approved Community Preservation Committee monies for all 3 projects submitted by the Museum & Archives. The first item is the very early **daguerreotype of Agrippa Hull** taken by Anson Clark which has faded to the extent that it can barely be seen. It is Barbara's hope that the image can be brought back to some degree. The daguerreotype was used for the painting of Agrippa Hull that is in the collection. The second item to be restored is the large **1855 map of Stockbridge and West Stockbridge** which is backed with linen. It was originally encapsulated but has come undone. It will be digitally copied; after which, it will be encapsulated once again for safer access. The third item to be restored is the **Brown book of deeds (1769-1812, 165 documents c. 1800)**. The deeds, which deal with westward expansion (land speculation and development) by Stockbridge residents, are bound in book form. Many of the deeds have scotch tape on them and are ripped and crumpled. They will be taken out of their binding, cleaned, repairs done as necessary and reorganized in folders. The work on these 3 items will be done during the next year.

INDIAN BURIAL GROUND



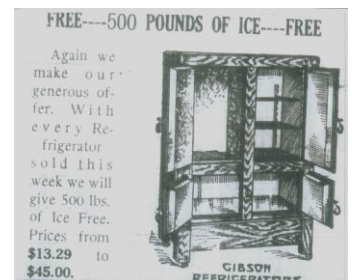
In Issue #7, March 2010, we featured an article on the proposed renovations for the Indian Burial Ground. A great job has been done in clearing the brush, replacing the fence and repairing the steps.
(before and after pictures show work done)



BARBARA'S LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS

Dear Santa – I have taken good care of the Stockbridge Historical Collection this past year. I hope that puts me on the **'Nice' list** because I want to ask for a few things to add to the collection. If you could find any of these things in your sack, they would make our story of the town's history so much better and me very happy. I would like:

- An ice box to go with our ice harvesting equipment (*see pictured example*)
- Photographs, blueprints, contracts or anything that would help us understand how some of the buildings in Stockbridge were moved (i.e. St. Paul's Rectory, houses on Main Street & Lincoln Lane etc.)
- Farm ledgers (people forget that this was a farming community)
- Children's things (particularly early toys, games or a magic lantern)
- Antique clothing worn by Stockbridge residents
- Works by recent Stockbridge authors (We have an impressive collection of early local authors; but we need to bring it up to date.)



FERDINAND HOFFMANN & EDWARDS PLACE

On Sept. 4th the Berkshire Eagle ran an article by Carole Owens about Ferdinand Hoffmann (1827- 1906) in which she mentions how he came to Stockbridge *by mistake*. In looking through the extensive collection on Hoffmann in the Museum and Archives you become aware of how much the town would have lost if he hadn't come to Stockbridge. When Hoffmann came from Germany to New York, he was a German speaking immigrant who knew no English. A 13- page document entitled "Reminiscences Dictated by Papa" tells of how he left Germany and eventually ended up in Stockbridge *by mistake*.



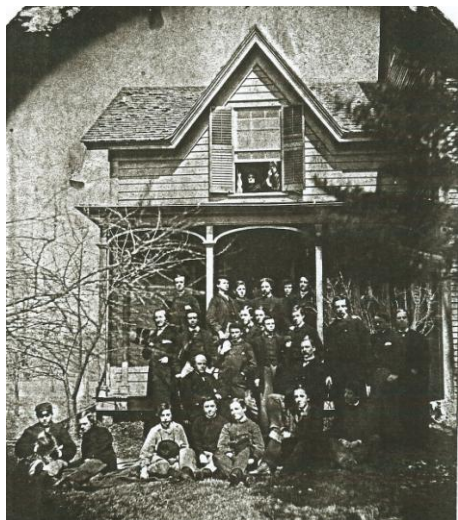
Edwards Place School, which was founded by Ferdinand Hoffmann and Jared Reid, Jr. in 1855, was a boys' school located on Main Street (*it was originally known as Berkshire Family School, Edwards Place, Stockbridge, Mass.*). A marble sundial on the lawn of Austin Riggs (*pictured left*) marks the spot where the house (*pictured below*) once stood. The school name was derived from the fact that the school building and property was the original home of

Rev. Jonathan Edwards. They paid \$2600 for the old Edwards place (\$600 down, which they borrowed, and the remaining \$2000 given by notes). The former owner of "Edwards Hall" was Henry Carter. One of the many Edwards Place catalogues in the Museum & Archives collection states "It is situated in the quiet and beautiful village of Stockbridge, Mass., where the pupils, while enjoying the advantages of its refined and highly-cultivated society, can be free from the restraints necessary in a larger town." Its object was to educate the boys so they were qualified for "entrance into any College, Scientific School, or for the

pursuits of business-life".

The school covered 7 acres

and included a Gymnasium, Bowling Alley, Play-Ground and Garden as well as Dwellings and School-House. The catalogue states that "Six liberally-educated men bestow upon *forty boys* their whole time and energy, supervising manners, mind and morals". One letter from a former student in the collection mentions "I also recall the Mr. Waters who was postmaster and had a very good looking daughter by the name of Dottie who made the post office quite a resort for the boys." (*Students at Edwards Place pictured left*) Jared Reid left the school in 1863; and after several replacements for Reid proved unsuccessful, Mr. Hoffmann closed the school in 1874. After which Mr. Hoffmann circulated leaflets stating that "he continues to receive a limited number of boys and young men with the view of privately fitting them for any college or scientific school, for Annapolis or West Point, for active business life or for European travel".



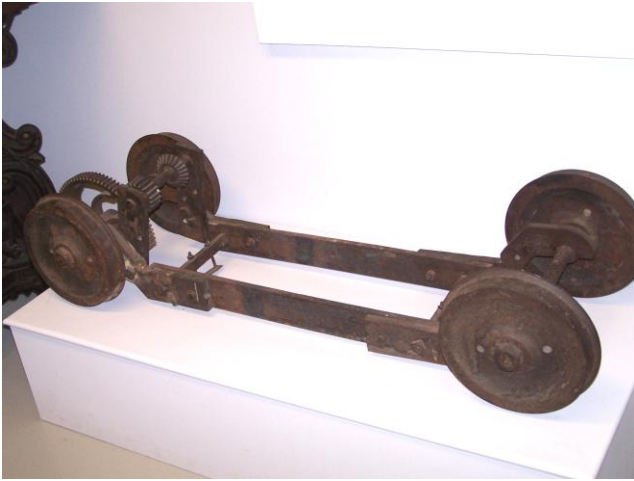
The *Edwards Place* and *Hoffmann Family* Collections at the Museum & Archives includes pictures, clippings, letters, scrapbook, books and catalogues. The school must have published a paper entitled, "Edward's Place Gazette", as there are several in the collection. A newspaper article stated that Hoffmann assisted Henry D. Sedgwick in the organization of the casino and was its first vice president. He was a member of the Laurel Hill Association and a trustee of the Jackson Library. It goes on to say that he induced the Housatonic Railroad to build the classic stone station in Stockbridge. It also states that through his acquaintance with his German-speaking compatriot, Albrecht Pagenstecher, the first ground wood pulp was produced at Curtisville. Hoffmann was agent for the project.

Ferdinand Hoffman's son, Bernard Hoffmann, was married to Irene (Botsford) Hoffman who founded the Berkshire Garden Center having donated 8 ½ acres of their land in the Larrywaug district of Stockbridge as well as some of the buildings. Bernard Hoffmann actively participated in town affairs. The collection also includes extensive letters and clippings on a 1941 Traffic Committee for the town, as well as papers regarding a by-pass for Stockbridge, Town Planning papers (1939-1947) and a Stockbridge Traffic Highway Study.

The town is very fortunate for the *mistake* that brought Ferdinand Hoffmann to Stockbridge.

TROLLEY

When Betty Angelini's mother, Margaret Babcock Truran, was in the first grade she went on a field trip and took a trolley ride. This was the first electrical trolley car ever constructed in this country. It was built in 1880 by Stephen Dudley Field (*son of Jonathan Edwards and Mary Ann (Stuart) Field and nephew of David Dudley Field*). Stephen D. Field



was an inventor and had the trolley set up on a track in his yard behind his house (2 Pine Street). He would invite his neighbors over to ride on it. It was 4 feet high, 10 feet long, had a gigantic headlight, was equipped with seats for two and spun about his yard easily and with considerable speed. The electrical current was supplied by a third rail between the tracks and was taken up by a shoe which fitted the bottom of the car.



Field was also the inventor of an electric motor which antedates both that of Edison in America and of Siemens in Germany. *The Museum & Archives collection contains 3 books of Stephen Dudley Field's patents (1873-1884)*. He had over 200 of his inventions listed at the patent office including the hotel annunciator, the electric elevator, the first central station for light and power, the police patrol telegraph and an electrical stage illumination to name a few.

The wood work on the car was burned; but the metal parts were saved. The chassis from the trolley (*see pictures*) is part of the Museum's collection and is permanently on display in the downstairs lobby. Due to the fact that the trolley was on private land, Stephen Dudley Field isn't credited with the invention of the electric trolley.

SOME RECENT DONATIONS

A half pint milk bottle from Cherry Hill Dairy, J. S. Turner, Stockbridge, Mass. was recently donated by Alexander Wegner.

Two letters dated 1903 written by Stephen Dudley Field regarding "his water not being potable" have been donated by Russell Carpenter, a Field descendant.

Mickey Johnson presented the Museum and Archives with this interesting piece which came from the old Town Hall (*pictured below*). The writing on the front is "ENSE PETIT PLACIDAM SUB LIBERTATE QUIETEM" (which is Latin for "BY THE SWORD WE SEEK PEACE, BUT PEACE ONLY UNDER LIBERTY" which is the motto of the state of Massachusetts).



DECEMBER WINTER SPORTS EXHIBIT

The exhibit being planned for December in the downstairs lobby will be "Winter Sports".



Unfortunately, Barbara doesn't have any items in the collection to depict the subject with the exception of pictures. If anyone has any items that they would be willing to loan for the duration of the exhibit, please contact Barbara (ballen@cwmares.org or 298-5501) by November 16th. She is looking for any item of equipment, clothing, pictures or printed material that would depict Winter Sports – skiing, skating, ice hockey, sledding, sleighing, snow man building, etc. etc.

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-5, Thursdays 9-1 and Saturdays 9-2

If you plan to spend time researching, it is always a good idea to call (298-5501) to check for availability.