



# NOW & THEN

at the  
**LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**  
(Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)

ISSUE #18

**JANUARY 2012**

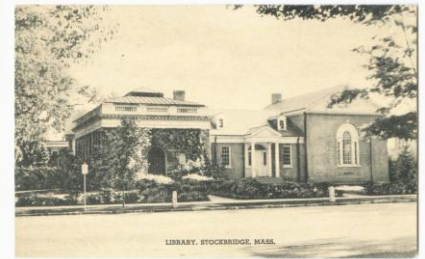
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## 75th ANNIVERSARY

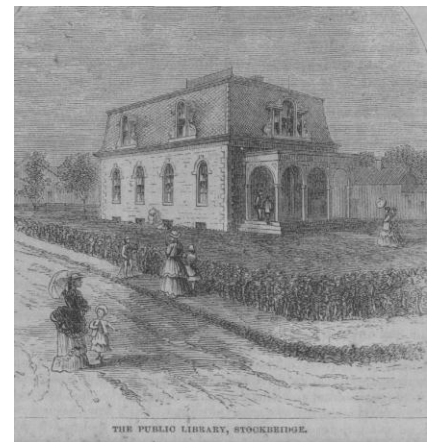
This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Stockbridge Library Museum and Archives which opened to the public in 1937. With the major expansion of the library which included adding the central entrance hallway and the Bement wing (*pictured right*), the additional basement area was designated to become the home of the "Stockbridge Collection". The Collection, consisting of original documents, early newspapers, books by local authors and numerous artifacts that illustrated the town's history, was started much earlier. Many items including the Jonathan Edwards desk were displayed in the library prior to this expansion. It was a vision as early as 1865 to preserve the history of the Town of Stockbridge and items were gradually acquired with that mission in mind.



The Museum and Archives has had only 3 curators since it opened. The first was Grace Wilcox who was the assistant librarian at the time and had the additional responsibility for the collection. In 1940 the decision was made to have her concentrate solely on the collection; and thereby she became the first official curator (*pictured left in the Historical Room*). She spent 30 years caring for and expanding the collection. During her tenure she set up an accession log in 1939; and in 1943 created a clipping file of residents involved in fighting in World War II. Also in

1943 it was decided to house the historical records of organizations in Stockbridge including such groups as the Laurel Hill Assoc., the Red Cross, the Tuesday Club and early records of the two main churches.

Things have changed a lot since 1937, not only to the collection, but also to the area it is housed in. During this year we will feature articles about the Historical Collection. Also watch for special events that will be held during the year to celebrate this milestone.

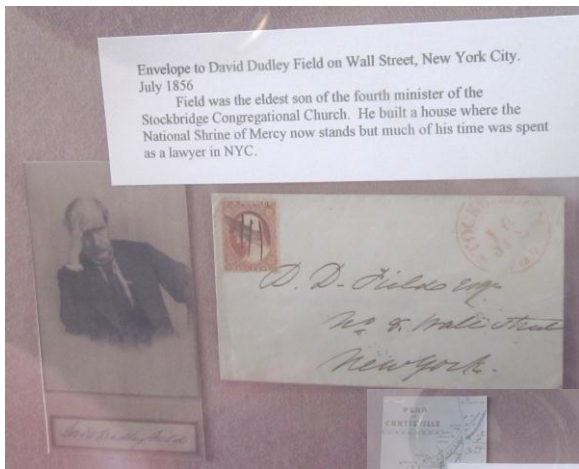


### KICKOFF MEETING – Jan. 11 at 11 am

One of the events planned for the upcoming year (Apr. – Sep.) is a monthly Cemetery Walk. The Jan. 11 meeting is a planning meeting to determine dates, graves for the tour and logistics. Help is needed with the setup work as well as research work. Also volunteers willing to conduct tours are needed. Plan on attending the meeting and find out more about the event and what you can do to help make it a success.

### 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBRARY

The Stockbridge Library Association was formed in 1862 and opened its doors in 1864 with 3000 volumes on its shelves (*pictured above*). This was during the time of the Civil War (1861-1865), which makes it a remarkable feat considering all that was happening during that period. As the Museum and Archives celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Library is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be events and displays in celebration starting this year through 2014.



## EARLY POSTMARK EXHIBIT

Dr. Ruth Markovits' collection of early Stockbridge postmarks is on display in the Bement Room through the end of January. Stockbridge had the earliest (1792) Post Office in Berkshire County. Part of this collection is a picture (right), made entirely of cancelled postage stamps, which is on display in the Museum & Archives.



## 'COOKING IS NO SMALL THING....'

(on display through January)



The exhibit on display in the downstairs lobby features cookie cutters on loan from the collection of Maria Carr along with local cookbooks from the Library's Historical Collection and aprons loaned by Claire Williams and Kathy Beebe.

The word cookie is from the Dutch *keokje* meaning "little cake". It first appeared in print as long ago as 1703. Cookies were brought to this country by British and Dutch immigrants.



## GLENDALE DRUM CORPS

The Glendale Fire Department had a Drum Corps (pictured below). The drum (shown below right) and the picture are on display at the Glendale Fire Department. The book Berkshire Bands Encore, A Pictorial Review from 1860 to 1995 (a copy of which is in the M&A) shows the same picture of the corps on page 12 with a date of 1902.



## TUESDAY CLUB CELEBRATES 120 YEARS

This year the Tuesday Club, established in 1892 will celebrate 120 years of existence. The Club was established for the purpose of broadening the horizons of village life by fostering interest in literature, art, music, history, science and civic affairs as well as promoting cordial relationships among members and sponsoring and supporting programs for the welfare of the community. (The Tuesday Club records are part of the M&A Archives)

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## **ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

### **CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**

Work was begun on the church in 1860 and completed in 1862 as a Mission. Seven of the window panels were created in Lorraine, France by Valentin Bousch who was known for his windows in the Cathedral of Metz. Of the 7 windows, 3 were destroyed before 1877 by "the ravages of time and the revolutions." The Sacristy was added in 1875 by Miss Jane Sedgwick who was a convert to Catholicism. She is buried to the right of the church along the south wall (pictured below). Her headstone bears the inscription "Haec est Victoria quae vincit mundum, fied nostra" - "This is the victory which overcomes the world, our faith". St. Joseph's remained a Mission Church until 1922 when it was declared an independent parish. In 1923 the parochial residence was acquired by purchasing the adjoining property owned by Bernard Tracy. The tract of land at the rear of the church was purchased to enhance the beauty of the grounds. On this tract the Shrine of Our Lady of the Assumption was built in 1927 and was dedicated in the memory of servicemen who had lost their lives during World War I. In 1939 a major remodeling of the inside of the church was undertaken which took 3 years under the direction of master craftsman Antonio Guerrieri of Stockbridge.



## **ECHO LAKE PAVILLION**

Echo Lake (*also known as Lake Averic*) today is the Stockbridge town water supply located in the Curtisville (*Interlaken*) section of the town. The town acquired the lake and surrounding area from Stephen Curtis who had a mill complex on the small stream which comes from the lake.

According to Freda Bell, longtime resident of the Curtisville area, Dr. John Burghardt, a dentist, built a pavilion at Echo Lake. There were picnics, boating and dancing in the pine grove and it was located just past the bridge. Later a wash house, 2 cottages and a barn for horses were added. In 1888 an Inn named San Sousi was built. She also stated that there were notices in the Lee Gleaner that Mr. Burghardt would cater to the public. The August 22, 1888 Lee Gleaner stated "Picnics at Echo Lake, the moon light drives and fine roads make the summer season delightful."

The Berkshire County Directory (1875-76) lists John Burghardt under dentists for Curtisville, Stockbridge. (*I wonder where his office was located.*)

A 1975 map by J. D. Hatch has a notation on it "***To Echo Lake Pavilion (Jenny Lind sang there) 1850***". Jenny Maria Lind (1820-1887) was a Swedish opera singer who was the illegitimate daughter of a schoolteacher, Anne-Marie Fellborg who married Niclas Lind, a bookkeeper, when Jenny was 14 years old. Jenny came to the US for a nationwide tour under P. T. Barnam (1850-1852). In the book, *Lenox*, it states that Jenny Lind was at the Curtis Hotel for the Festival week-ends which brought notables from the four corners of the earth. It goes on to state "Charles Sumner came often from the Senate in Washington to stay with the Wards, and Jenny Lind, when his guest, *sang in the open while passing a little lake whose echo charmed her and it is called Echo Lake today.*" It's unclear whether this means she sang in her carriage while passing the lake or that she actually performed at the Echo Lake Pavilion. Jenny Lind is also mentioned in a newspaper clipping as staying at the Curtis Hotel.

The Pittsfield Sun mentions "A large party from Lebanon, NY, last week visited "Echo Lake" and frequent picnic parties are held by many others from neighboring towns". Another article states "Echo Lake has been the centre of great attractions, plenty of crinoline on runners being one of the most notable. (*Sounds like sleigh rides on the lake.*)

The lake today (*pictured below c. 1920-30*) is a quiet peaceful spot with no canoeing, fishing (much to the chagrin of local youth) or swimming; and passing it you would never suspect that such activities went on or around it.

*The Museum and Archives has all of the Lee Gleaners (1857-June 1944) on microfilm. They are currently in the process of being indexed for any articles pertinent to Stockbridge.*



## **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.*