

NOW & THEN

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

ISSUE #7

MARCH 2010

TO SUBSCRIBE TO
"NOW & THEN"
e-newsletter
contact

simanl@roadrunner.com

Maria L. Carr, Editor



SPECIAL EXHIBIT

An exhibit to celebrate the **100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America** will be on display in the downstairs lobby through the end of March. Stop by and check it out.

In April there will be an exhibit to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Stockbridge Grange #295

Stop and see some of the “**pretties**” from the Historical Collection on display in the Bement Room.



The exhibit which is scheduled to be on display from April to July will be in commemoration of the **100th Anniversary of Stockbridge Grange**. Barbara is looking for items/photos/memories pertaining to the Grange that anyone would be willing to loan for the exhibit (deadline March 23rd).

RECENT DONATIONS

A **Glendale baseball uniform** (undated) was donated to the collection by Doug Goudey.

A **collection of deeds and documents dating in the 1700's and early 1800's pertinent to Elnathan Curtis** was recently donated by Michael Churchman of Kansas City, MO. Mr. Churchman received them in 1948 from Walter Booth Curtis who was a direct descendent of Elnathan Curtis. Elnathan Curtis was the founder of “Curtisville”, the north westerly section of Stockbridge as well as deacon at the Congregational Church. When Mr. Churchman's family left this area in 1838 to move westward, the papers were kept in the family and passed down through the generations.

The **dollhouse, which was made by Elsie Handberg** and which was on display during the recent Holiday Exhibit, has been donated to the collection by Elsie's daughter, Anne Oppermann. Many of the tiny furnishings were made by Elsie. To go with the dollhouse, Anne has put together a brief history of the many dollhouses that her mother constructed through her lifetime.

DID YOU KNOW?

*The following quote is from a document in the archives written by Carl Wurtzbach -- “During this time, the early 1870's, baseball became the national sport. The influx of machinists, molders, etc. from Lee and Troy brought several good players. The “**Mechanics**” team was organized becoming one of the best nines in the county. Those I can recall were George Trask, catcher, Tom Doyle, pitcher, George Cain, Martin V. B. Wheeler, Edwin Webster, Bill Congden, Cy Trask and I think Charles and Edward Burghardt. The nine was good enough to meet and defeat nines from Albany, Pittsfield and Springfield.”*

(Note – Baseball at Doubleday field was in 1839; Baseball at Pittsfield (article in newspapers summer of 2004) was in September 5, 1791; the First Professional team was 1859)

SPORTS GABFEST SCHEDULED FOR MARCH

A Gab Fest on “**Sports**” will be held this month. It is scheduled for Wednesday, **March 31 at 4 pm** in the Bement Room at the library. Please drop by and tell us about your experiences with ice skating & sledding, caddying or playing golf at the Stockbridge Golf Course, Little League, Babe Ruth or adult Baseball teams, horseback riding, ice fishing, or any other organized or unorganized sports activities. Anyone having suggestions of topics and/or people to invite to the GabFests, please contact Barbara at 298-5501.

I REMEMBER -- CARLTON PARSONS



Carlton Parsons who lived on Train Hill Road never owned a car or drove, he walked every place he needed to go or was given a ride. Carlton managed quite well by doing odd jobs for people in the neighborhood. My grandmother hired him in the summers of the 1950's to do work in her vegetable garden and paid Carlton \$1 an hour. He also worked for Mr. Uhler doing similar work; but Mr. Uhler didn't pay him as much for doing almost the same type of work. This didn't bother Carlton, as he told my grandmother – "I just work a little slower for him". Carlton died January 10, 1967 at age 70.

Maria Carr

UNIDENTIFIED BUILDING

The image at the left is taken from a framed photograph in the collection. It's taken from the north westerly end of Stockbridge Bowl.

Barbara is trying to identify the building in the foreground? (It isn't Shadowbrook) Does anyone have any ideas of what it is?

(298-5501 or ballen@cwmars.org)



THE CHURCH IN STOCKBRIDGE – PART 2

As we stated in our last newsletter, the church which was organized October 29, 1734 started with John Sergeant. The **first church building, a 2 story church 30 x 40 feet**, was built on the green approximately where the Children's Chime Tower now stands. The first service was held Thanksgiving Day in 1739. In this church Mr. Sergeant preached 2 sermons each Sunday to the Indians and 2 to the colonists. During the winter one sermon to the colonists was omitted and in warm weather he added an hour of familiar instruction to the Indians. At the close of Sergeant's pastorate, Stockbridge contained 50 Indian families and 12 English families. Mr. Sergeant died in 1749 and Rev. Jonathan Edwards was installed in 1751. Edwards left in 1758 and Rev. Stephen West was ordained June 13, 1759 and ministered to the parish for sixty years. One source states that the first church building **"was two stories high, built of wood with 3 doors: one at each end and one on the south side. There were two aisles in this church."** As time went on the church needed repairs and the book "Stockbridge 1739-1939" states **"near the burying ground, the meetinghouse demanded attention, and alterations were being suggested. Stockbridge was growing steadily and needed more church room. New pews were put in, the building was reclapboarded and new windows inserted."**

Our next issue will take a look at the second church building built in the town.

RESOURCES

The Archives has in its collection, some of the original handwritten sermons by Rev. Stephen West from the 1700's.

JULY SHADES -- NEW FORMAT

The **Shades of Stockbridge** (*Spirits of Stockbridge Past*) is making a return visit this coming summer. They will congregate on the porches of some of Stockbridge's historical houses to chat about how the individual neighborhoods have changed. Mark your calendars and plan to attend – **July 31, 2010**.

Mary Balle, chair

Barbara is looking for volunteers to do some research using the old issues of the 'Gleaner' which are in the collection on microfilm. She needs articles printed out that are pertinent to the different neighborhoods (Prospect Hill, Main St., Interlaken, Glendale, East End and South End). The material will be used in preparation for the July Shades program. Anyone who has some time please contact Barbara – 298-5501.

INDIAN BURIAL GROUNDS

The “**Indian Burying Grounds**” located at the south-westerly end of Main St. (just before the golf course) represents a small portion of the area that was once used by the Stockbridge Indian tribe for the internment of their dead. There is some evidence that it actually extended around the entire embankment from the east side of Proctor Hall, south behind the Congregational Church and then west to the Ryan (Dwight/Tuckerman) property and around to the second green of the Stockbridge Golf Course. In 1930 while a sand trap for the second green on the golf course was being dug, human remains were discovered. Native American remains were also found directly above the Stockbridge Golf Club Pro Shop after a washout exposed a burial site in 1988. The Stockbridge Past & Present book states that *‘In 1784, in preparing the ground for a church in this place many human bones were found; and at different times within a few years, the last time during the present autumn, (1853) similar remains have been discovered on what was the “Settle Lot” of Joseph Woodbridge, in and near the yard to his dwelling.’*



The Stockbridge members of the Mohican Tribe represent an important part of the history of the Housatonic River valley and the care of the Indian Burying Grounds, a visible symbol of that history, has been neglected over the last 40 years. In **Feb. 2009** a **Community Preservation Grant** was applied for by Rick Wilcox, at the urging of Jack Spencer, to do basic landscape maintenance and restoration work at the site. Sherry White, the **Tribal Historical Preservation Officer** for the Stockbridge Munsee Tribe did a site visit in **Sept. 2009** to determine what work could be done and made several suggestions. The Tribal Council approved the proposed work and expressed their gratitude.

The Community Preservation Committee approved **\$2000 in community preservation grant funds** toward the rejuvenation of the Indian Burial Grounds. In **2010 the work will include** clearing brush, level any sink holes from previous burials, attend to any trees that need removal of dead limbs etc., work on sod replacement as needed, clean and repair the monument as deemed historically appropriate and attempt to create a historically accurate history of the property. In **2011 the work will consist** of repairing the stone steps on the north side (photo above right), replacing the stockade fence on the property line, uncovering and marking property markers and any additional tree work.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Annual Cleaning Day

Scheduled for:

Tuesday, April 13th

and

Wednesday, April 14th

Please call Barbara in advance to pick a time slot to help

298-5501

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.

Museum & Archives will be closed April 13-14 due to the scheduling of the annual cleaning days.