

# NOW & THEN

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

ISSUE #25

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[slmanl@roadrunner.com](mailto:slmanl@roadrunner.com)

Maria L. Carr, Editor

Past issues may be accessed  
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[stockbridgelibrary.org](http://stockbridgelibrary.org)

## SEDGWICK BOOK GROUP

During the 1800's Catharine Sedgwick was considered one of America's best writers with her work translated into numerous languages. On February 2, Lucinda Damon Bach, president of the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society, explained how that fame gradually diminished during the 1900's. To counteract this literary slight, eighteen people agreed to read two of Sedgwick's novels and get together with Ms. Damon Bach to discuss the books on Saturday, March 23. If you are interested in joining this group, you can borrow *A New-England Tale* at the library desk. Reprints of *Redwood* are available in the Museum & Archives.

For more information, call Barbara Allen at 298-5501.



## CURRENT EXHIBITS

**SEDGWICK BOOKS** – The display case in the Bement room features a selection of very early Catharine Sedgwick books on loan from John Sanderson. The 3 volume set of *Hope Leslie* from the M&A collection is also on display.



**PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS** – In the downstairs lobby is an exhibit of some of the photographs in the M&A photo collection including the construction of the Children's Chimes, Mr. Daniel Williams (referenced in the article on the *Water Co.* pg. 2) and the first train station in Stockbridge (pictured far right).



**HER MORNING TOILETTE** – In the downstairs lobby is a display case featuring items from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries which is part of a collection on loan from Barbara Dowling.

## ORAL HISTORY TAPES AT THE MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Thanks to a grant from the Community Preservation Committee, twenty of the earliest oral history interviews are being transferred from tape to digital media. Eventually, all our tapes will be reformatted. In the meantime, we have begun interviewing current residents about their memories of Stockbridge. This is funded by the Stockbridge Cultural Council and private donations. If you have suggestions as to whom we should interview, please contact Barbara Allen at 298-5501 or [ballen@cwmares.org](mailto:ballen@cwmares.org).

## SUMMER EXHIBIT – MAY to JULY

The M&A is planning an exhibit on Handiwork such as examples of weaving, embroidery, tatting, knitting, crochet, quilting etc. along with the tools used to create them. If you have anything you would like to lend for use in the exhibit please contact Barbara Allen at 298-5501 or [ballen@cwmares.org](mailto:ballen@cwmares.org) no later than the first of April.

**STOCKBRIDGE WATER COMPANY (Cont. from issue #24)**

Research by Rick Wilcox

In our last issue we explored how the Stockbridge Water Company began, using John Feeley to construct a reservoir on the Burns property off Ice Glen Road and create an aqueduct to furnish the center of town with water. We have since learned that John Feeley had a business in Pittsfield and was a man of many talents as his ad shows (pictured right, from the 1875-76 Berkshire County Directory).

In the late 1800's the Stockbridge Water Co. records show fairly frequent issuance of stock and bonds as well as notes being taken out with the Housatonic National Bank in order to pay their bills, pay dividends and maintain their system. (Daniel R. Williams who was president of the Stockbridge Water Co. was also President of the Housatonic National Bank) The Company gradually grew over this period of time. A contract was set up with James O. Root in Nov. 1863 to visit and examine the reservoir and filter, clean out the vent pipe and report back to the Company on a monthly basis. For this Root received compensation of 50 cents per month. In July 1864 an extension of pipe to North Street (Church Street) was made totaling just over \$400 (Note: in 1880 they extended the pipes on Church Street as far as S. A. Kilduff - the 1876 map shows Kilduff to be in the area of 24-28 Church Street).

By 1867 there were 75 customers being billed. In 1871 they voted to do whatever may be necessary to increase the needed supply of water in the reservoir and to relay the pipes in the back street to prevent freezing. The following year they had to make deductions from customer's bills for those that "had been deprived of water a portion of the year because of the freezing of the Co. pipes".

By 1873 their customers totaled 88. The billing covered 22 horses, 13 cows, 7 baths and 5 water closets. During the 1870's they looked at obtaining title to any springs on Patrick Burns' land that could be brought into the reservoir for increased water. Burns offered them title to the land for the spring being used in exchange for letting him tap their main pipe. He also wanted to be given first refusal if the company decided to sell the property. In 1883 they finally agreed to let Burns take water to his barn upon his giving the Company title to the spring.

In 1875 circulars were printed "forbidding the use of the water for gardens and for filling of cisterns". (Note: in the 1980's there was a cave-in on the west-bound lane of Main Street in front of St. Paul's Church revealing a brick lined cistern approximately 10 x 10 x 10 feet in size).

Rate increases happened periodically. As an example, the watering trough at Main and Elm Streets was charged at \$5 in 1878, \$20 in 1886 and \$50 in 1892. (Samples of water bills from 1917 and 1919 furnished by Margo (Anderson) Locke are shown below) In 1881 they were looking at enlarging the reservoir and also the advisability of putting in meters. By April 1883 they had 94 customers and the Stockbridge Library was being charged \$2.

RETURN THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

No. 351 Stockbridge, Mass., July 1, 1919.

Mr. C. S. Babcock  
*C. S. Babcock* Occupant  
*Church* Street.

To the STOCKBRIDGE WATER CO., Dr.

For use of water from April 1, 1919 to April 1, 1920.

This Bill is due July 1, 1919. ALL CLAIMS FOR DEDUCTIONS MUST BE MADE WITHIN 10 DAYS.

/ Family, First Faucet	@ \$ 12	Per year	\$ 120
Additional Faucets	" "	" "	" "
/ Bath Tubs	" 6	" "	60
Additional Bath Tubs	" "	" "	" "
/ Water Closets	" 6	" "	60
Additional Water Closets	" "	" "	" "
Urinals	" "	" "	" "
Set-Tubs	" 3	" "	30
Hose	" "	" "	" "
Additional Hose Faucets	" "	" "	" "
Stores, Offices, Etc.	" "	" "	" "
Stables	" "	" "	" "
Horses	" "	" "	" "
Cattle	" "	" "	" "
Garages	" "	" "	" "
Cars	" "	" "	" "
Water Motors	" "	" "	" "
Other Fixtures	" "	" "	" "

Back Charges

Total *\$430.00* \$430.00

Received Payment *70* 70

STOCKBRIDGE WATER COMPANY

By *C. S. Babcock* Collector.

All bills payable to STEVE C. BURGHARDT, Collector, at the Town Office Building, Stockbridge, Mass. Office hours from 2 to 5 P. M. every week day during July, except Saturdays. Owners of property are responsible for payment of all water rates. In all cases of non-payment of rates TEN DOLLARS extra shall be due and water may be shut off and service discontinued until all charges and TWO DOLLARS additional are paid.

DO NOT DETACH THIS COUPON

No. 351 Paid

Mr. C. S. Babcock  
*C. S. Babcock* Occupant, *Church* Street.

Rate from April 1, 1919 to April 1, 1920, as per Register. *\$30*

**JOHN FEELEY,**

Dealer in First-Class

**Cook & Parlor Stoves,**

ORIENTAL FURNACES, Portable and Brick.

**PLUMBING MATERIALS of all kinds.**

All kinds of WATER WORKS fitted into Houses in the Best Manner.

Tin, Copper, Sheet Iron and Galvanized Iron Works OF ALL KINDS.

ALL KINDS OF JOB WORK AND REPAIRS

Done Well and Promptly.

All works warranted to give satisfaction.

31 North Street - - PITTSFIELD, MASS.

In 1884 an artesian well was sunk to the depth of 660 feet without yielding a sufficient supplementary supply of water. This enterprise caused them to take out a note for \$1000 to pay for the well.

By 1885 they were looking at the feasibility of furnishing water to Goodrich Street and in 1887 four hydrants were attached to the company's mains. By 1888 they were looking at the cost of enlarging the capacity of the reservoir once again.

In a document entitled the "1889 Acts and Resolves of the Commonwealth to include Chapter 430: An act to authorize the Stockbridge Water Company to Furnish Additional Water Supply" it gives the company the right to take land by eminent domain for the use of the water company. In part of the document it gives the Town of Stockbridge the ability to take over the Water Company and make it a public water system. (We haven't discovered why yet, but the town was slow to act on this as it didn't purchase it until 1973)

RETURN THIS BILL WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

No. 110 Great Barrington, Mass., July 1, 1917

Mr. C. S. Babcock  
*C. S. Babcock* Occupant  
*Church* Street

To the STOCKBRIDGE WATER CO., Dr.

For use of Water from April 1, 1917, to April 1, 1918, payable on the first day of July, 1917, to Mr. Adam Schilling, Collector, at the store of Schilling & Noble, Stockbridge, Mass.

Family, First Faucet	@ \$ 12	per year	\$ 120
Additional Faucets	" "	" "	" "
1 Bath Tubs	" 6	" "	60
Water Closets	" 6	" "	60
Stoves, Etc.	" "	" "	" "
Horses	" "	" "	" "
Boilers	" "	" "	" "
Water Rings	" "	" "	" "
Water Sumps	" "	" "	" "
Water Meters	" "	" "	" "
Excess	cu. ft. at	etc. per 1000 cu. ft.	" "
Expenses	" "	" "	" "

Total \$ 280.00

RECEIVED PAYMENT

STOCKBRIDGE WATER CO.

July 1, 1917

Adam Schilling

Water rates are the property of the first day of July in each year. In all cases of non-payment of rates TEN DOLLARS extra shall be due and water may be shut off and service discontinued until all charges and TWO DOLLARS additional are paid. SPECIALS, SPECIALS, SPECIALS - every afternoon from 1 to 4 o'clock, from Sun. to Sat. at the rate of 10c.



### FOLLOW UP

Thanks to information obtained from the Berkshire Botanical Gardens we have determined that it was the greenhouse, not the potting shed,



which the Margaret Rood Rice plaque referred to. Edward Doughty of Williamstown donated his greenhouse to the BBG in 1961; and thanks to the generosity of Miss Helen Rice of Rood Cottage on Prospect Hill Road, it was moved from Williamstown and located on the south side of Route 102 in memory of her mother Margaret Rood Rice. The official opening of the greenhouse at the BBG was September 30, 1961.

### RECENT DONATION

A collection of files thought to be created by Kenneth Milligan have recently been added to the M&A collections. Milligan was the Vocational Agricultural teacher at Williams High School from 1945. It was the only Vo/Ag program in the area and was introduced in 1936 and expanded in 1951. The students attending the Vo/Ag classes came from numerous towns including Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Lee, Lenox, Richmond, Pittsfield, Tyringham, Great Barrington, Alford and New Marlboro. The program allowed students to become members of the FFA (*Future Farmers of America*) and participate in state, regional and national competitions. They spent 4 hours a day on Vo/Ag activities and the remainder of the day in regular classes. The students used the Sprott greenhouse on Yale Hill and also did work projects on local farms. When WHS closed, the program continued at Monument Mountain High where a barn and greenhouse were refurbished to accommodate the classes.



The files donated (*covering a time period of 1949 to 1973*) include clippings, correspondence with students, photographs (*several pictured at the right*) and negatives. The photographs in the collection show students at farms with animals and equipment or in group shots at Future Farmers of America functions.

### INVITATION – Sunday, April 21 at 4 pm

You are cordially invited to attend a **reception at the Library Museum and Archives** to view the newest additions to the museum. Spirits of 19<sup>th</sup> century Stockbridge citizens will guide you to view the portraits of William and Anna Whitney hung over a mantle from Heaton Hall while they talk about the personalities and events of the times.



The Whitneys were farmers owning considerable property on Church Street. William and Anna Whitney, who resided on Main Street, were very involved in Stockbridge town life including the library and the Laurel Hill Association. Heaton Hall was built and owned by the Treadways who also owned the Red Lion Inn (*known earlier as the Stockbridge House*).

Whitney relatives from the past will share family history and gossip; and Mert Plumb (1833-1916) will be on hand to reveal the details of running the hotel.

We hope you will join us to celebrate the new acquisitions and listen to a bit of Stockbridge's history about the Whitney family and Heaton Hall.

### 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.*