



**NOW & THEN**  
 at the  
**PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**  
 (Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)  
**ISSUE #45**  
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**MUSEUM & ARCHIVES REOPENING**

Thanks to the many hours put in by Barbara and her volunteer crew, the Museum & Archives will be reopening on **June 25 at 10 am**. Join us when the doors to the redesigned Procter Museum & Archives of Stockbridge History reopen. Ribbon cutting will be at 10 am. Live music and refreshments will be part of the celebration.

An exceedingly generous donation earmarked for the M&A from sisters, Mary Stokes Waller and Carol Fremont-Smith, allowed many upgrades and changes to take place. The tile medallion in the new Museum Gallery was created as a thank you for their generosity.



What has changed at the M&A since it closed over a year ago? The new Museum Gallery (pictured right and featured on page 2) will give space for rotating displays featuring items from the collection as well as material from outside sources. There are new cabinets housing the post card collection in this area (pictured left). The first exhibit in gallery area will be on the Emmet sisters of Yale Hill Road. It will include collection items as well as items borrowed from family members. The Museum's display area is being redesigned with a thematic presentation.

The addition of more shelving has increased the space for archival materials (pictured right). It has also allowed for improved picture storage (pictured right). The storage room has new compact shelving allowing for additional materials and better storage (pictured left).

The addition of a new processing room complete with cold storage for certain parts of the collection will allow Barbara to decontaminate material, if needed, prior to bringing it into the collection (pictured right). The new elevator, for those who were unable to visit the M&A level previously, is available for access to two points of the M&A – the gallery level and the historical display/research room (pictured below left).

As this newsletter goes out, there is still a lot to organize, file and put on display (pictured below). Barbara and her crew of volunteers are working hard to bring it all together for the opening. We hope you can be there to join in the festivities.



**WHY ARE WE KEEPING THIS**  
**Friday June 3 at 7:30 pm**  
 Barbara Allen will give a presentation at the Richmond Historical Society's annual meeting at the Richmond Congregational Church on the care and feeding of a historical collection. The presentation is open to the public.



TILE MEDALLION



The Procter Medallion was created in memory of Hope Procter Stokes (pictured left) and Beatrice Procter (pictured right), mother and grandmother of Mary Stokes Waller and Carol Fremont-Smith. Hope and Beatrice were avid gardeners and lovers of nature.

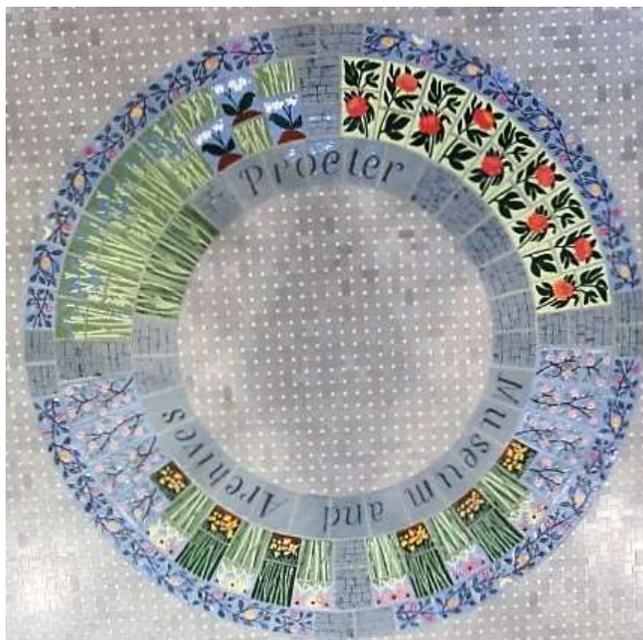
Stockbridge artist, Terry Wise, incorporated their favorite flowers in her design. Ceramic artist, Ben Evans, created the tiles. Ben is also a Berkshire resident. Carol Fremont-Smith described the flowers important to her family:

"The blue flowers are Gentians. They used to grow in the field in front of Mother's house where the damp places in the field were. She referred to them as 'Blue Gentians' and when I did some research I found out their common name is "Marsh Gentian".

The Peonies, known as garden peonies as opposed to tree peonies are a favorite. Granny Procter had a cutting garden filled with them. When Mother sold the house she had them all dug up and moved to her house and other places around the farm. They have to be my favorite flower!

When I was a baby, we moved to Honolulu where Mother fell in love with orchids. When we moved back to the mainland, she brought many with her. They were in the living room in NYC and when we moved to Boston shortly after Mary was born, the orchids had a room of their own complete with lights and humidifiers and heaters to keep the atmosphere tropical!

All the rest of the flowers are self-explanatory!!! Granny Procter won GCA awards for her gardens. Mother loved gardens, flowers and just about anything that grew in nature. Mary and I continue that love of nature."



### CEMETERY TOURS

The popular Museum & Archives Cemetery Tours will be held again this year. Volunteer, Karen Marshall, has put together an interesting schedule starting in June and running through October. They are all held on Saturdays and start at 4 pm at the Main Street entrance to the Stockbridge Cemetery. The tours will be conducted by either Stewart Edelstein or Karen Marshall. Parking is available across the street at Procter Hall. Suggested donation is \$5.

- June 11 – Courageous Crusaders: Women’s Rights, Freedom from Slavery, and Modernizing the Law
- July 2 – The Stockbridge Library: From Market Basket to Building and Beyond
- August 6 – The Red Lion Inn: Stagecoach Stop, Community Center
- September 3 – Stockbridge Schools: Smart From the Start
- October 1 – Stories of Church Street: Home to Both Famous and Memorable

### BUILDING RENOVATIONS OF THE PAST

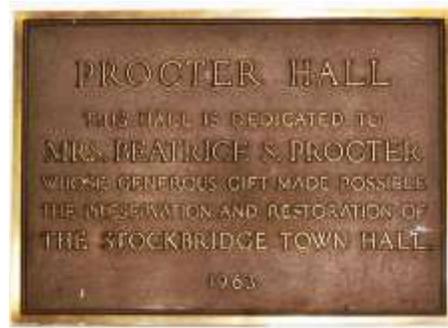
In 1902, after a fire from the explosion of a kerosene lamp caused major damages to the building at 6 Main Street (*pictured right*), the building wasn’t torn down to make room for a new building. Instead, the town leased additional land from the church which gave them the right to remodel, enlarge or rebuild with the exception that it would be no further north (*closer to the road*) than it originally stood. They moved the existing building to the rear of the lot, turn it sideways, facing it east and preserved the front of the building as the entrance to the police department and assessors’ office, then added onto it. The addition included an auditorium (*with a stage*) large enough to seat 500 people. In the pictures below you can see the definite lines of the original building which was moved and turned (*below left would have been the rear of the building and below right the front of the building*).



This newly enlarged building was used until the early 1960’s at which time it was condemned by the State Dept. of Public Safety. At that time, the generosity of Mrs. Beatrice S. Procter allowed the building to once again be renovated. The upstairs hall was named in her honor; and a plaque was placed above the doors leading into the auditorium (*pictured below*). The building has been referred to as Procter Hall since then. Stockbridge is very fortunate that the Procter family has supported the preservation of buildings important to the town.



In 2005 the town voted to renovate another unused building at the other end of Main Street (*the Plain School Building*) to be used for the town offices giving them the much needed additional space for offices, storage and meetings. Since the move, Procter Hall has sat unused. The building has gone through quite a few drastic changes since it was built in the 1800’s. A lot of history is connected with this building and its future is yet to be defined.



### PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES HOURS

**Tuesday 9-8, 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.*