



NOW & THEN
 at the
LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
 (Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)
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CEMETERY TOURS

The June 6th Cemetery Tour was a big success. They will continue monthly through October. The dates and topics of the tours are as follows:

July 18 Main Street, Stockbridge: The Place, The Idea, and The Image

August 1 Outstanding in Their Fields: Some Surprising Local Experts

September 5 Hidden Populations: African-Americans in Stockbridge

October 3 Above and Below: The Cemetery and the Gravediggers

The tours start at the Cemetery Gates on Main Street at 4 p.m. each Saturday. Parking is available across the street at Procter Hall.

Research for these tours is being done by Karen Marshall, Stewart Edelstein, and Rick Wilcox.

PICTURE THIS

In May, Historian Gary Leveille (*pictured below*), presented a program for the Museum & Archives about postcards and their history. He showed slides of a variety of old postcards, many of the Stockbridge area. Gary and the M&A displayed some of their postcard collections and several of those attending brought their own collections of post cards for display.



INS AND OUTS OF THE CARRIAGE ERA

Many thanks to Mary Waller for hosting the M&A program on carriages at Orleton Farm's Carriage Museum. Mary shared a wide range of information about the carriages, carriage-era etiquette, proper attire, how to ride side saddle, and how to handle the reins when driving a carriage. Everyone had enormous fun looking at



all the carriages, sleighs and horses. A highlight of the program was being able to sit in the carriages and climb on top to see what it was like to travel in an era that you can only imagine.



LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The pictures on this page show how the construction is moving along. Pictured right and left is the new elevator shaft. Below right is the beginning of the new back entrance. Below left is the Jackson wing room looking toward the entrance of the new director's office. Directly below is the lobby looking toward the Bement Room where very little has changed.



ANNUAL BOOK SALE



The annual Library book sale is scheduled for July 10 through 12 on the front lawn of the Library as it has been in the past. Looking at the pictures above of that area, you would wonder at that possibility; but it will happen. The fence will come down, the area cleaned up, and everything will all come together thanks to our contractors, Allegrone Construction Company, and our book sale committee. Stop by and pick up some reading material and help support our Library.

1902 LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

During 1902 an opening was created over the first floor and a wide gallery made around the room. It was felt that this made it much more pleasant and gave more space for books. The work also included taking off the mansard roof, which had problems with leaking water, and putting in a skylight. A gift of \$1000 was received from the estate of Daniel R. Williams, President of the Housatonic Bank in Stockbridge.





PETER I. ADAMS (1864-1931)

Peter Ira Adams moved from Alford to Great Barrington when he was a child, where he worked on his father's farm. In 1885 he married Nina Rewey. Shortly after his marriage he rented the Comfort Farm (*pictured right*) in the Furnace District part of Stockbridge where he grew mainly cauliflower. *This would have included the houses at 44 Glendale Road and 52 (Bonak) Glendale Road as well as land across the road.* One newspaper referred to him as "the cauliflower king." He shipped to the large city markets for a number of years. In



addition to his farm he started a butcher shop in Housatonic in 1887, which he ran for 40 years delivering meat to villagers in a cart. His farm and meat business prospered and he soon was able to buy the farm. Peter and Nina had eight children.

He was extremely active in the town of Stockbridge. He served as selectman from 1910 to 1914 and was a member of the town finance committee. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1916 to 1918. In 1924 he sold his farm, moved to the Glendale section of the town, and ran the Glendale Store (*pictured left*) where he served as postmaster



from 1923 until he died in 1931. After his death his daughter Helen (Adams) Miller helped her brother Albert run the Glendale Store. Helen became Postmaster from 1931 until 1966. Helen's daughter-in-law, Dorothea (Oppermann) Miller, then became Postmaster from 1966 until 1992. Currently Dorothea's daughter, Lois (Miller) Hall, runs the Glendale Post Office. Interestingly, Dorothea's mother, Mabel Oppermann, ran the Interlaken Post Office for many years until it closed in 1958.

Peter I. Adams (*pictured above left and pictured right with his grandchildren*) was a founding

member of Stockbridge Grange #295, which was organized in 1911. He served as a Subordinate and Pomona deputy for the State Grange. He was also involved in the Cincinnatus Lodge of Masons in Great Barrington. Peter was a member of the Housatonic Agricultural Society as well as a member of the State Board of Agriculture. He was awarded a gold medal "for his service to Massachusetts agriculture" at the 13th annual Union Agricultural Society in 1931 shortly before he died. The citation mentioned "the old Adams farm became well known for the quality of vegetables raised there." Peter's sister, Anna, married S. A. Noble of Stockbridge and his brother, Frank, worked in the Housatonic mills and was a selectman for the town of Great Barrington. Joshua Hall, Assistant Curator at the Museum & Archives, whose family research furnished the information for this article, is a great, great, grandson of Peter I. Adams.



MUSEUM & ARCHIVES EXHIBITS

Barbara and a committee are working hard at planning how the exhibits should be displayed in the newly renovated M&A room. You can help. Please take a few minutes and email Barbara (ballen@cwmars.org) a list of the ten people in Stockbridge History that you feel most influenced the town (*any number will do if you can't come up with ten*). It will be a great help to get other people's perspectives in this area.

MUSEUM & ARCHIVES TEMPORARY HOURS DURING RENOVATION PROJECT

The M&A office and display area has relocated to 14 Main Street in the Merwin House. The display area of selected items is open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays from 10-1. For research or donations, please contact Curator Barbara Allen at 298-4703 to make an appointment. (*If you need to contact the Library, call 298-5501*)

INTERESTING FACT

Did you know that Elm Street was referred to as Hammer Street in the 1800s? An excerpt from the August 1854 Laurel Hill Association minutes states – "That Mr. Sidney P. Lincoln superintend the setting of trees necessary for Hammer Street and around into South Street."