

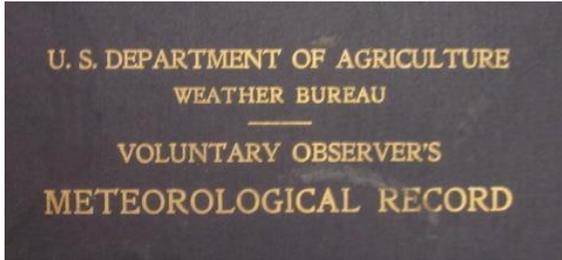


NOW & THEN

at the
PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
 (Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)
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 "NOW & THEN"
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METEOROLOGICAL RECORD OF WEATHER For the Town of Stockbridge

A book of the *Cooperative Observer in Stockbridge* with weather data from 1930 through 1949 recorded by Mr. Bangs was a recent donation to the Museum and Archives from Hoyt Bangs. It includes temperatures, precipitations and maximum and minimum temperatures.

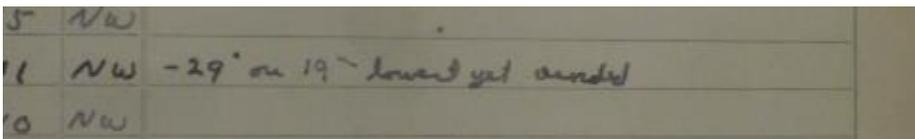
The Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) established in 1890 is an initiative within the National Weather Service (NWS). Its purpose is to collect meteorological data from locations across the United States and its territories. The data collected describes the climate on a local, state and national level. Volunteers register to be cooperative observers and are provided with the necessary equipment and training to record the weather by their local NWS forecast office (*for Stockbridge, the NWS forecast office is located in Albany, NY and Harold French has furnished the data for Stockbridge for the last 10 years*). Cooperative observers report daily values of maximum and minimum temperatures and 24-hour precipitation amounts which include snowfall in many locations. The data is sent to the NWS and then is forwarded to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) for archival purposes. The NWS uses the COOP data primarily for operational meteorology and hydrology, while NCEI uses the data primarily for climatological purposes.

The origins of the COOP program date back to the US Army Signal Corps, who in 1870 were charged with establishing a weather observing and forecasting program. To aid in the expansion of this effort, the

YEAR	TEMPERATURE, IN DEGREES FAHRENHEIT										PRECIPITATION
	Monthly mean	Departure from normal	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date	Greatest daily range	Number of times above 90°	Number of times below 30°	Total	
1930	25.0		57	8.9	-15	24	40		7	2.1	
1931	19.0		45	27	-14	23	44		7	2.4	
1932	33.2		65	12	12	4	39		0	4.2	
1933	31.8		56	17	0	1	36		1	1.9	
1934	24.0		47	1	-8	28	30	35	5	3.6	
1935	18.1		50	9	-23	28	43		11	5.1	
1936	20.1		49	3	-19	24	30	43	8	4.4	
1937	31.0		64	15	4	24	32		0	5.2	
1938	20.9		57	25	-29	19	50		6	4.7	
1939	22.2		52	10	-11	27	33		4	1.9	
1940	15.2		38	15	-11	20	37		11	1.6	
1941	19.7		40	22	-7	30	32		3	1.8	
1942	20.5		54	2	-22	8			10	3.1	
1943	19.3		45	25	-17	9			6	2.4	
1944	22.6		46	27	-13	17			2	1.5	
1945	15.3		53	1	-15	25			10	3.8	
1946	23.4		55	7	-10	28			9	1.9	
1947	27.7		59	30	-6	6, 10			3	3.5	
1948	15.7		37	9	-19	19			13	2.2	
1949	30.2		58	19	0	30			1	4.6	

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Smithsonian Institution set up a larger network of volunteer observers that reported observations as part of the COOP network. The COOP network still thrives today, with over 8700 sites reporting daily.



Brrrrrrrrrr
Valley Gleaner, March 18, 1913
 "The mercury fell in Stockbridge Saturday morning to 16 to 20 below zero."

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD OF WEATHER (Cont.)

The data, which originally was collected for agricultural and military purposes, is available to government, university, and private sector individuals for use in research, operations, and business purposes. Today the data has a wide array of uses. The River Forecast Centers in the NWS use the precipitation data to help forecast how the streams will rise and fall based on the amount of rain received in a given area. The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) relies on this nationwide precipitation dataset to assist with disaster response. They also use the historical record of precipitation to figure out the likelihood, on average, that heavy rainfall will occur in a given area. The precipitation data is also used by the National Weather Service and U. S. Department of Agriculture to monitor droughts. The temperature data can provide a view of how the climate has changed over time. It is used in statistical analysis, and can be used to calibrate weather models to local temperature observations.

Both the data and the stories of those that collect it give a fascinating background of our weather.

DAILY PRECIPITATION FOR JANU

YEAR	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
1930	0.05	0.01	0.18																												
1931	0.01																														
1932	0.30	0.35																													
1933																															
1934	0.18	T																													
1935	0.90	0.05																													
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1942	0.19	0.59	0.47																												
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BLIZZARD OF 1888

The "Blizzard of '88" started on Sunday, March 11, 1888 (131 years ago) around noontime with a light drizzle which gradually turned to snow by early evening. Winds blew at 30 miles per hour and visibility was zero with the temperatures not much higher. By Monday, a foot of snow had fallen with high winds that caused major drifting. Businesses shut down and people stayed at home waiting out the storm. By Tuesday at least two and a half feet had fallen and drifts were over ten feet deep. The temperatures stayed around zero and the snow continued through Tuesday night not letting up until Wednesday afternoon. Altogether, between three and four feet had fallen and the drifts were reported to be as deep as 30 feet. Levi Beebe, whose farm was on top of Bear Town Mountain was well known for predicting the weather. He said there was going to be one of the worst storms of the year and it would arrive on March 12th (*he had been off by one day*). He warned his neighbors to fill their pantries and cellars.

This was a time before large trucks with snow plows and pay-loaders that could deal with such drifts. People were stranded, some without fuel or food. It was also a time without cell phones or computers, restricting their knowledge of where friends and family were. People were found frozen to death where they tried to walk through the heavy snow. Peter Horn who worked at Philips Mill in Adams tried walking home and was found frozen to death lying only a few yards from the nearest building. Even if he had yelled for help, he wouldn't have been heard over the winds. Monday night at State Line several carloads of hogs were stranded in freight cars causing hundreds to be froze to death because railroad workers couldn't get food to the animals until Friday. Farmers had cows that needed milking and shoveling paths and tunnels to get to their barns was a chore. Ropes were rigged from the house to the barn so that they wouldn't lose their way in the blinding snow.

Even the dead had to wait for the storm to let up. E. Prentiss Bliss died of natural causes at his aunt's home on East Street in Stockbridge. The undertaker couldn't get through until the very end of the storm over 24 hours later. It was reported that from Monday evening until mid-morning on Wednesday not a single team made its way through the town of Stockbridge. No mail reached the Curtisville section of the town until noontime on Friday and no milk from the Curtisville dairy farmers reached the people in Stockbridge until Saturday.

ROADS IN STOCKBRIDGE

As winter surrounds us, we appreciate the job our highway department does in keeping our roads open for us to travel, whether it's a short trip to the gas station or the grocery store or something longer. Here's some interesting information about the roads in our town in 1870.

There were 50 miles of road in 1870 and \$2000 was expended for the year on them. There was a road tax back then. There were 3 surveyors. The road material was listed as 'gravel principally'. The number of bridges was listed as 2 wooden, 1 iron and a number of small bridges. Sounds easier to maintain than what we have today; until you consider what technology was used in 1870 to scrape, plow and put sand or gravel down.

"NOW & THEN" CELEBRATES 10 YEARS



This is our 61st issue of the Museum & Archives' bi-monthly newsletter. Ten years ago our first issue was sent out March 2009. It was created as a way to inform the public about the Museum & Archives. Our first issue stated that the purpose of the newsletter was to let you know what was on exhibit, what programs were being scheduled, what items had been added to the collection, news in general about the collection along with tidbits of local history. We wanted to include lots of pictures. We hope that we have met these goals and everyone is enjoying our efforts.

The first issue was only two pages long and was lacking both a name and a logo. By the second issue we had expanded to three pages, we christened it the "Now & Then" and Linda Brazeau created its logo of a quill pen and inkwell. After the first couple of issues were behind us, the back issues were added to the Library's website where they could be accessed by everyone. Articles initially were on the shorter side, but as time went on, they seemed to grow making it necessary in January 2013 to start using a smaller font size in order to keep within the three pages. We have done a fair share of tweaking to the format as the ten years have gone by, but otherwise not a lot has changed. We have been fortunate to have had a number of people do articles now and then, but mainly everything has been done in-house by editor, Maria L. Carr.

It has been ten years of thought, research, writing, editing and gentle reminders to make it happen for you. We thank you for your support and interest and look forward to the years to come. We always enjoy hearing feedback on the newsletter and welcome hearing from you. Let's celebrate ten history-filled years!

EXHIBIT IN PROCTER GALLERY MARGARET FRENCH CRESSON

Her Artistic Life and Legacy in Preserving Chesterwood

Margaret Cresson French (1889-1973), daughter of sculptor Daniel Chester French, was the person responsible for the preservation of Chesterwood. An exhibit highlighting her life will be mounted in the Procter Gallery for the months of March and April in celebration of Chesterwood's 50th anniversary. Scrapbooks, documents, clothing and artwork will illustrate the many facets of her life and her involvement in this town. Donna Hassler, Valerie Balint, and Dana Pilson are curators designing the exhibit. Valerie and Dana will offer two programs in connection with the exhibit. In March, there will be a complementary exhibit in the upstairs lobby of 12 photographs of Margaret growing up during the summer months in Stockbridge as well as her full-time residency up to the end of her life as the "keeper" of Chesterwood.

An opening reception will take place on the evening of March 1st. *Check our website for dates and times.*

BERKSHIRE CHAMBER PLAYERS CONCERT

Friday, February 22 at 6 p.m.

Program will include:

Suite No. 1 in G, BWV 1107 by Bach
Lyric for Strings by George Walker
String Trio in G Minor by Borodin
Incantation for Solo Viola by A.R. Thomas
Bethulia for Solo Viola by Rebecca Malin
String Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 51
No.1 by Brahms

The last concert in our series will be held in the Bement Room on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 6 p.m. *(check our website for details)*

Tickets for both concerts are available at the Library desk.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

3RD Tuesday of February, March & April at 6:30 p.m.

Join us on the third Tuesdays of February through April for this year's series, *Behind Closed Doors*. Each month, two local residents will share stories about their homes and the people who had lived there in the past. We will be looking at a variety of properties ranging from farms to great estates. We might even look at a business building. If you're interested in learning more about the people and places in Stockbridge, join us for Behind Closed Doors at 6:30 p.m. in the Bement Room on February 19, March 19, and April 16, 2019.

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 (298-8190) to check for availability.