



**NOW & THEN**  
 at the  
**PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**  
 (Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)  
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**LIBRARY, MUSEUM & ARCHIVES CLOSED**

It seems odd to realize that the Library, Museum & Archives is closed. All of the people that spend time in the M&A, whether staff or volunteers, miss the "Old Stuff." But remember - history repeats itself.

In 1918 we experienced a different pandemic. Often called the Spanish Flu, even though it did not originate in Spain, it spread worldwide due in part to transport connected to World War I. Locally the Stockbridge Board of Health reported 316 influenza cases. There was one fatal case in town. The Board closed our Library then for most of the month of October 1918.

We hope we can reopen soon. In the meantime, try playing our game, *History's Mysteries*. My thanks to the M&A volunteers and staff for helping pose the questions and remembering the answers. Barbara Allen

**FREEMASONRY IN STOCKBRIDGE**

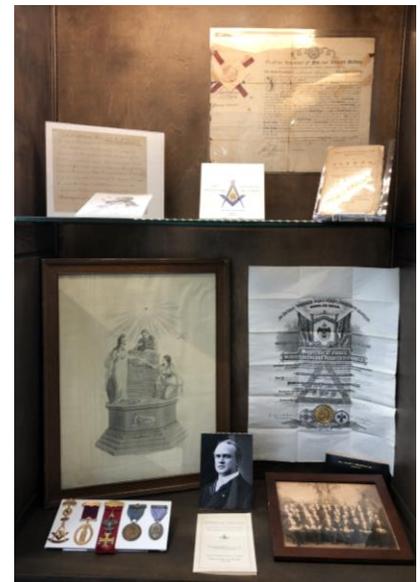
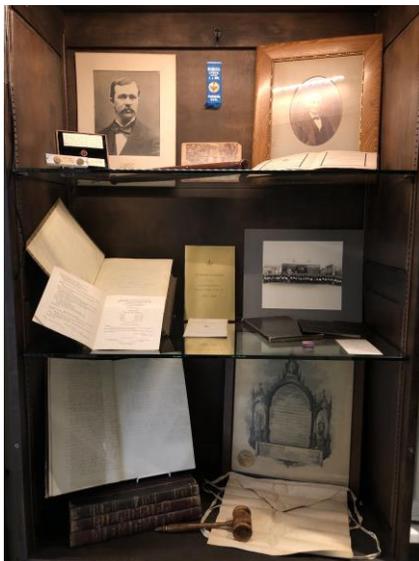
**By Joshua Hall**

We would like to share with you our current exhibit in the Procter Gallery of the Museum & Archives. It is on Freemasonry and celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Occidental Lodge.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in existence, dating back to early medieval times. It traces its origins back to the local fraternities of stonemasons that from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. Over the centuries the organization, due to its secretiveness and its rituals, has dealt with a great deal of negativity. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a third-party political party

known as the *Anti-Masonic Party*. During World War II Freemasons were one of many groups targeted by the Nazi party.

In the United States, Freemasonry has existed since the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first approved Grand Lodge was in Massachusetts. Freemasonry came to Berkshire County in 1777 with the chartering of Berkshire Lodge #5 in Stockbridge but it lasted only until 1792. Freemasonry returned to Stockbridge in 1870 with the chartering of the Occidental Lodge. John H. Burghardt was elected the first Master of the Lodge and meetings were held on the second floor of the Dunham Block (*currently the site of the Lavender Door*). By 1891 the Lodge needed to move and found its new home across the street on the third floor of the Braman Block (*building to the right of the library*). The proprietor, Jason Braman, was a member of the  
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## FREEMASONRY IN STOCKBRIDGE (Continued from Page 1)



Lodge and his son David became a Master of the Lodge. In 1941 the Lodge created the Occidental Club, a social club for Lodge members, where the men could gather for card and other games, have a meal together, and socialize. This organization only lasted five years and was disbanded when their building was sold. Occidental Lodge made one final move in the early 1980's when the Braman Block was sold, moving into the Wisdom Lodge building in West Stockbridge, where it still meets.

Over the past 150 years the Lodge has had a rich and interesting history due to the activity of its membership. In the Lodge's recent history, it has been active in sponsoring local blood drives, helping with various philanthropic activities, and establishing a scholarship named for Past Masters John A. Miller and Paul A. Moore.

### RECOMMENDED READING

Looking for something to read in these trying times? Why not access the library's web site .

1. go to [stockbridgelibrary.org](http://stockbridgelibrary.org)
2. click on Museum & Archives
3. click on Newsletter

Ten years of the e-Newsletters for the Stockbridge Library, Museum & Archives are available. Even if you've received them previously, you might enjoy rereading some of the interesting Stockbridge history that they include.

### SALLY SALMINEN

The October 16, 2019 *Berkshire Eagle* reprinted an article that was published in October 16, 1936 about Sally Salminen, a 30-year-old Finnish kitchen maid in the employ of Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Procter of Prospect Hill Road (Orleton Farm). Sally won a \$1,100 prize for her novel *Katrina*. The article said she "waved goodbye to pots and pans and is now waiting in New York for her return trip to her native Finland and the beginning of a literary career." She came to the United States six years previously and was employed at the Procter estate since May of 1936. She wrote her book, *Katrina* over a two-year period at night in long hand. It was the story of a farm woman who married a sailor. It showed the life of the wife while her husband and sons sailed the seas. Mrs. Procter gave her permission to stay at the Procter's New York apartment at 563 Park Avenue until she sailed for home.



What happened to Sally? According to Wikipedia, Sally Alina Ingeborg Salminen (1906-1976) was an internationally renowned author and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature three times. Her life started as the eighth child of twelve. She worked at the village grocery store and then moved to Stockholm, Sweden to work as a maid. Sally and her sister, Aili, went to New York City in 1930. According to Bernard Drew, she worked for the Procters at their Park Avenue apartment and wrote in her spare time. In 1936 she entered her first and most famous novel, *Katrina*, in a writing contest sponsored by a Swedish-Finnish publishing house and won the first prize for best novel, getting the \$1,100 prize, and publication of her novel. Published that year, *Katrina* was an international success, translated into more than 20 languages. Wikipedia lists ten more novels that she wrote from 1939 to 1963 and four autobiographies that she wrote from 1966 to 1974.

## MARY FLYNN OAK TREE AT GOULD MEADOWS



Gould Meadows, on the corner of Hawthorne Street and Route 183/Interlaken Road, belonged to the Gould family. The meadow, a 94.8-acre tract of undeveloped land overlooking Stockbridge Bowl, consists mostly of open fields with some woods and wetlands, and includes 1400 feet of shoreline of Stockbridge Bowl.

Upon the death of Mrs. Lee H. Gould, the family decided to sell the property. Before listing it on the market, they agreed to offer it to the Town of Stockbridge. The town had until March 1981 to raise \$250,000 to acquire the property. The Boston Symphony Orchestra provided \$10,000 to secure the agreement which would have been forfeited to the Gould family if the town could not raise the rest of the money. The town was eligible for federal and

state grants up to 75% of the cost. At the May 19, 1980 town meeting, Article 19 gave voters the chance to vote in favor of the purchase. They voted overwhelmingly in favor. Bill Napolitano, president of the Lee National Bank, and Henry Williams, president of Berkshire Bank and Trust Co., co-chairmen of the "Friends of Gould Meadows" sought private contributions in support of the purchase. Mary V. Flynn (1919-2013), selectman for the town from 1978 to 1993, was instrumental in helping save Gould Meadows.

On August 19, 1981 a celebration to thank all who contributed to the protection of Gould Meadows was held. It included remarks from Governor Edward J. King, a blessing by Bishop Leo E. O'Neil, and acknowledgement of thanks to Mrs. Silvio O. Conte, Senator Peter C. Webber, Senator John H. Fitzpatrick, Representative Dennis J. Doffing, and local officials. At this time there was a planting (*pictured above left*) and dedication ceremony of an oak tree at the meadow which shall be known throughout time as "The Mary Flynn Oak". It was stated that "Her wisdom, political skills and love of Stockbridge served to protect these Meadows."

If you visit Gould Meadows, there is a bench at its northwest corner in memory of Mary Flynn which has a beautiful vista of the meadow, the lake, and far beyond. An inscription reads – "PAUSE FOR MARY FLYNN AND HER OAK, To a green Thought in a green Shade".

The pictures below show Gould Meadows in 1981 prior to the planting of the oak and in 2017 with the oak tree and bench.

