



NOW & THEN
at the
PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
(Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)
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WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LIBRARY

We are currently in Phase 1 of the reopening of libraries in Massachusetts. Upstairs at the Stockbridge library we are serving the community with curbside service. For the month of June, the Museum & Archives will function as an on-call reference desk only. We will try to answer any questions and assist with research through email or over the telephone. Staff will be available from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. But the room will not be open to walk-in visits until a later date. *(Museum & Archives room pictured right with no visitors – we are looking forward to the time when visitors can once again enjoy the collection on display)*

In the meantime, we are holding a few oral history interviews about living with a pandemic. Jenney Maloy, our children's librarian, is collecting material from children and teens about the current situation. Together, these will become part of a future collection to record our part within a global epidemic.

On a lighter side, our History's Mysteries will continue throughout June or until we return to normal hours and business. We are optimistically planning on holding our monthly 'On the Town' walks in July, August and September. Check the Library's website for scheduling as the state's phased reopening plan evolves.

Barbara Allen



ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

The historical collection contains over 100 oral history interviews done over the last 60 years. They are mostly by people who were born and grew up in Stockbridge or others who describe an organization they have been part of. However, few of them capture the importance of experience brought to Stockbridge by people who moved here as adults – sometimes as full-time residents and sometimes as part-time home owners. These are people who brought their skills and backgrounds to enrich Stockbridge such as those that established the estates during the Gilded Age or, more recently, Jack and Jane Fitzpatrick who played a part in shaping the town.

Our newest project while everyone is at home is a series of Zoom or Skype interviews about how people came to Stockbridge and how they became part of the community.

If you would like to be part of this project call us at 298-8190 or email at ballen@cwmares.org.

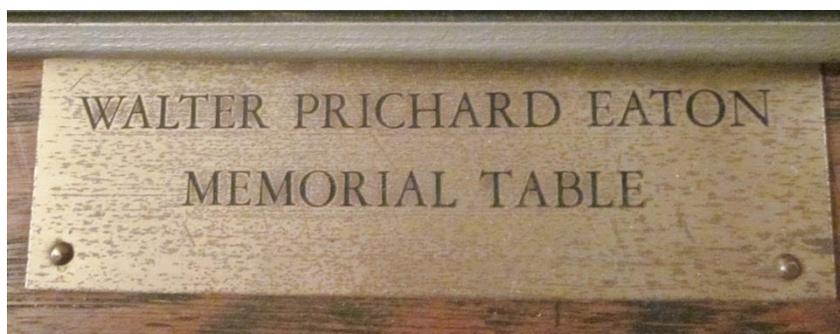
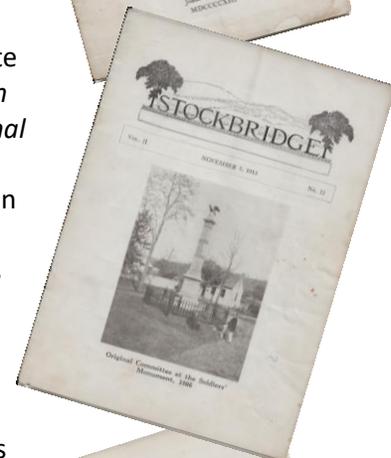
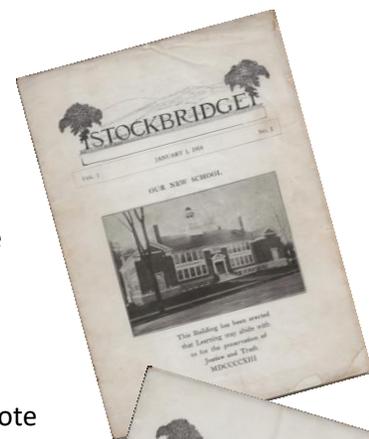
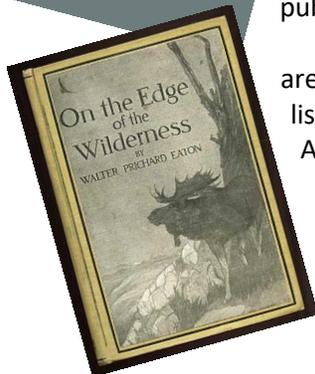
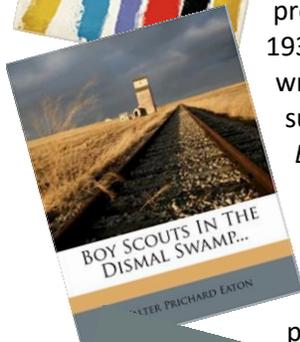
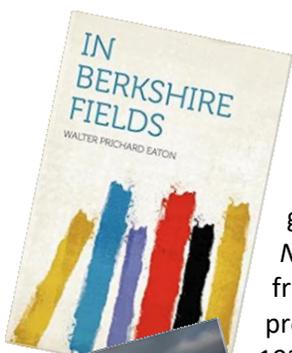
WALTER PRICHARD EATON

Although Walter Prichard Eaton (1878-1957) only resided in Stockbridge for a few years, he left his mark on the town. Eaton was a graduate of Harvard University and worked in the drama department at the *New York Tribune* from 1902 to 1907, was drama critic of the *New York Sun* from 1907 to 1908; drama critic for *American Magazine* from 1909 to 1918, professor of playwriting heading the Yale University Drama Department from 1933 to 1947, free-lance drama and theater critic, and author. Eaton not only wrote numerous books on the theater but was an outdoor enthusiast and wrote such books as *Barn Doors and Byways* (c. 1913), *The Bird House Man* (1916), *In Berkshire Fields* (1920), *Boy Scouts of Berkshire* (1912), *Boy Scouts in the Dismal Swamp* (c. 1913), *On the Edge of the Wilderness* (1921) and many more.

Moving to Stockbridge in 1910, Eaton and his wife rented a house on Main Street from Brown Caldwell which was part of the old Jonathan Edwards place and now part of Austen Riggs Foundation property. He was part of The Three Arts Society with Daniel Chester French, Austen Fox Riggs and Frank Crowninshield, which was headed by Walter L. Clark and organized to save the old Casino building and promote cultural activities.

Eaton was a friend of Richard R. Bowker, President of the Library's Board of Directors. If you visit the Museum & Archives exhibit area, there is a large display table with a plaque in memory of Eaton. Within the archives of the M&A are copies of the monthly magazine, *Stockbridge*, published in 1914 and 1915. Eaton was its editor and creator.

Eaton moved to Sheffield in 1917. Although he left Stockbridge there are still references of him, as in the Laurel Hill Association book where he was listed as one of the speakers for the annual Laurel Hill anniversary day on August 23, 1950.



MAIN STREET ACCORDING TO MISS GALPIN

Among the archives at the Museum & Archives is a paper prepared for the Tuesday Club of Stockbridge and read by Anna C. Lufburrow on March 18, 1930. Although the document tends to jumble the dates, it paints a verbal picture of the buildings along Main Street long ago. The following is a transcription of the document starting on page 21.

"I shall close with a little reminiscent sketch written by my aunt, Miss M. T. Galpin, at the request of Miss Mary Goodrich, and now in Miss Goodrich's scrap-book, which will eventually be in the Stockbridge case. It is an account of the buildings and homes as one would see them in a walk through the eastern part of Main Street. Miss Galpin says - - -

About 1845 it was my privilege to live at the Tavern now called the Red Lion Inn. It was kept by my uncle R. E. Galpin. An old-fashioned tall swinging sign stood on the corner as one went down South Street. A lion and the name R. E. Galpin were on the sign. My Uncle came to Stockbridge in 1818 and conducted a store on the corner where now stands St. Paul's Church. I think the Tavern came into his hands from the Kingsley family, who kept it for a time. Back of the Tavern and belonging to it, was a fine old-fashioned garden, with a walk down the center and divided into four large square beds; the first one at the right was bordered with flowers, with the center filled with small vegetables grown for the table. Farther down the walk was a grape arbor, large clusters of larkspur, several plum trees and peach trees, and at the end, across by Dr. Fowler's house were current and raspberry bushes. Along the street side were bushes of syringa, lilac and wood honeysuckle.

The old Boston stages, owned by Mr. Kingsley, used to come in from West Stockbridge road, and at the corner by the Edwards monument, the driver would blow his horn to announce the arrival of the stage and mail. The corner room of the Tavern was used as a rest room where people warmed themselves while waiting for a change of horses, then went on to Lee. The stage was one of the old-timers, red and yellow, with three seats inside, and often one rode on top. Next [to] the tavern was the bank, as at present. It has had various alterations since those days. Major Edward Burrell was the president and J. D. Adams cashier. In the next building Mr. Waters had his tailor shop, on the second floor. The building has been moved to Church Street. I think Marcus Miller had a shoe shop on the first floor.

I cannot remember just about the brick store that came next. The town building is of a much later date and took the place of what was Chauncey Curtis' store. Where the library stands was Cyrus Williams' store and it was the store of the county, afterward kept by Daniel Williams and Henry Plumb. Then it was moved on Elm Street and at last torn down.

The Bidwell house beyond was the home of Timothy Woodbridge, and later, of D. D. Field. Then there was a gap until one came to the Lincoln house. There were not many houses on what is known as East Main Street. The Lincoln house belonged to a family named Pease and the Buhler house now Dr. Klein's, belonged to Mr. Lincoln. The little house below, where the water ran down was the home of the Roots. On the Corner where one turns to go to Yale Hill was a wee house almost under the big elm tree, where a Miss Thompson lived. [*At this point she has crossed the street and is heading back toward the center of town*] Council Grove is of a later date, first owned by a Mr. Daniel Stanton of New York. It then came into the hands of E. H. Owen, a paper manufacturer, son of C. M. Owen, of Owen and Hurlburt, paper men. Mrs. E. H. Owen was a Miss Chittenden of Guilford, Conn., and afterward married H. D. Cone of the Housatonic Mills.

The Dr. Riggs' Place was Major Edward Burrell's and later became the property of Judge Byington. Then came the J. D. Adams place, now owned by Mrs. Evans. Next was Mason Van Deusen's and his blacksmith shop. Colonel Prentice Williams, father of Daniel Williams, lived next door, and dear Aunt Walkley, sister of the Colonel, lived with them. There were three daughters, one of whom married Thomas Selby, one of the early settlers of California. Then we came to the little home of Deacon William Whitney. Mrs. Whitney was sister of Miss Electa Jones. Next was Deacon Ingersoll's hat shop, where now is Miss Agnes Canning's house. The little brown shop stood out nearer the street. Then came the Ingersoll home, of which there is a photograph in the library. It was a funny little house; next it was Daniel Williams' home, much the same type. Afterward the two places came into Mr. Williams' hands, and he built the present Charles Hull home, where he resided many years. The old Pilling house used to stand where the Treadway house is located, and I went to school in one part of it. Next to that was a little old one-story red house, with a piazza across the front, where the Kingsley family lived. Mr. Seth Seymour's was next, now St. Paul's rectory. Then came Seymour Rockwell, the village postmaster, and then station agent for years. The next building was Judge Byington's law office, neighboring Miss Child's millinery shop. We then pass the office of the Weekly Visitor and arrived at the store and post office on the corner now occupied by St. Paul's Church.

"This is a very hasty and imperfect survey, but an abridged sketch must be imperfect. Let us, in remembrance of the past, keep up the ideals set by the pioneers, and localizing Calvin Coolidge's plea, "have faith in Massachusetts," continue to have faith in Stockbridge."

A. C. Lufburrow.