



NOW & THEN

at the
PROCTER MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
(Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)
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FAREWELL FROM BARBARA ALLEN

For a long time, I had a screen saver that read "History is the record of Progress." People often think of history as something static, preserving what has been. But, every once in a while, you have to take a fresh look at what was, is, and can be. For me, now is that time – time to move on.

The Library holds an amazing collection of documents and artifacts ranging from the collaborative mission that was set up here to the community that inhabited Alice's Restaurant. It includes the first post office in the Berkshires, the earliest photography in Western Massachusetts, examples of the transatlantic cable, and a flip phone. Writings include Catharine Sedgwick's *Hope Leslie* to Rachel Field's *Hitty*.

It has been my honor to be the caretaker of all of the "good old stuff". It has been so enjoyable to work with all the others who understand the importance of maintaining the real story within local history. Thanks to those who have lent their collections for exhibit. To those who have donated material to the collection, to all the volunteers who have helped preserve it, and to Josh, Cathy, and Kathy who have helped protect and share it – many thanks. Continue having fun.

NOW & THEN e-NEWSLETTER

One of our M&A volunteers has a favorite word – penultimate (*meaning next to the last*). I am very sad to announce that this is the penultimate issue of the *Now & Then*, as we know it. M&A Volunteer and *Now & Then* editor, Maria Carr, will also be moving on after the December issue which will mark 11 years and 72 issues of publication.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL

A series of celebrations and observances to pay tribute to historical events leading up to the creation of the independence of the United States of America were held in the mid-1970s across the country. The Stockbridge Bicentennial Committee under the leadership of Chairman Chris Pigott planned events held during 1975 and 1976. A Bicentennial Ball held in the Stockbridge Plain School gymnasium was held May 3, 1975 with people dressed in period costumes (*Chris and Helen Pigott pictured right*).

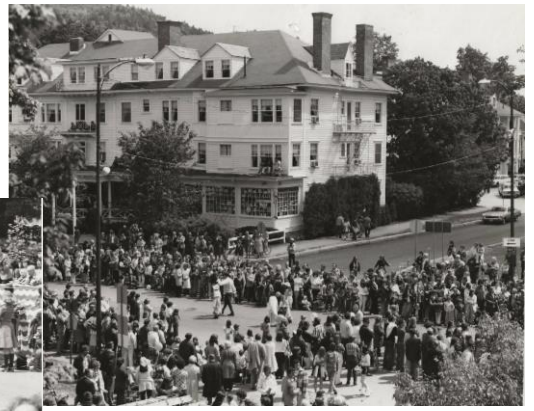
The weekend of May 21 through May 23, 1976 held more events. Some of which included a Children's Parade on May 21, a Bicentennial Ball on May 22, and a Bicentennial Parade honoring Norman Rockwell on May 23 featuring floats based on bicentennial events and Rockwell's illustrations. The parade, described as the highlight of the bicentennial weekend, included 2000 marchers. The route of the parade, which was lined with over 10,000 spectators, went from Church Street east on Main Street, passing the reviewing stand across from the Cat & Dog Fountain, and ending at the Berkshire Playhouse on the corner of Yale Hill Road.

Parade pictures on pages 2 and 3. All pictures courtesy of Chris Pigott.





BICENTENNIAL PARADE



Chris Pigott and daughter, Christine



Norman Rockwell on Reviewing Stand



