



# HEATH HERALD

## Heath's First Newspaper

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### God's Angel

When you hear the word mother-in-law what thought comes to mind? Does it make you smile or frown? I smile. My mother-in-law was Hannah Elizabeth Landstrom Burrington. Some of you were lucky enough to have known her, so I hope that this writing will renew your memories of her and make you smile. For those of you who never knew her, all I can say is I am sorry. You missed knowing someone very special. I doubt that I can do her memory justice, but let me try to tell just a little bit about her.

As teenagers, her son Paul and I spent many Sunday afternoons at their house with the family, listening to music, making fudge on the wood cookstove, going for a walk, or sometimes just hanging out. Their home was a warm and friendly place.. a happy place where there was always room for one more at the table.

I was really young when we were married and looking back, living with my in-laws for the first two-and-half years was a very happy time, filled with special memories and lots of lessons I didn't even realize I was learning.

Life was busy living in a small rural town. Everyone shared in the work of preparing for the New England winter. We had little money, so wood for the stove and furnace, the syrup we made, the produce from the garden, and the livestock we raised were vital to our lives. Everyone helped, but Mom was the force behind getting it all done and teaching us that feeling of richness that comes from having a full woodshed and a larder ready for those cold snowy days and nights.

Mom had a day for each job she had to do—cleaning, sewing, washing and ironing, mopping, baking, along with seasonal chores like making her own soap. She went to Grange, Ladies Aid, taught Sunday School and played the organ in church every week. She seemed to hit the floor running in the morning, but by the middle of the day she would begin to run out of steam, so after lunch she'd go to her room, take a fifteen-to-twenty minute nap, then be refreshed and ready to go again.

One thing about Mom that I will never forget is her special way of making a bed so it was the most comfortable bed you ever slept in. In winter with no heat in the bedrooms, she'd place several layers of pads on the mattress, flannel sheets and two or more blankets, and top it off with a quilt, then send a hot water bottle to bed with you to complete the job of keeping you cozy warm. To this day, any of her family that ever slept in

bed she made remembers that wonderful feeling of "Grandma's beds."

Speaking of hot water bottles, she would make flannel covers for them, and if a grandbaby was having a fussy time she'd put the hot water bottle on her knees, and lay the unhappy baby on its tummy, and to this day I can still see her sitting there and her hands firmly but tenderly rubbing the little one's back. Almost always the baby would quiet down and fall asleep.

Mom had a wonderful sense of humor. Because of her positive outlook, she could see humor in just about every situation. When she laughed, she would laugh until tears would start and she'd have to get her hankie out to wipe her eyes. Her sense of humor didn't always kick in until well after the fact though, like the time she was getting supper, having just put a bowl of juicy blueberries on the table when her young son threw a ball that splashed right into the bowl and sent blueberry juice everywhere. Her son got a look that spoke volumes. It took awhile for her to get to the point where she could laugh about that one.

Maybe Mom wasn't a saint, but in my book she was one of "God's angels." She had a way of being where she was needed.

She'd say, "Let me get up with the baby tonight, so you can have a good night sleep," or "I'll baby-sit so you and Paul can go out." On several occasions she came to our home to take care of my family when I was sick. "Just rest, I'll take care of things." I'll never forget the day of my own mother's funeral, turning from the grave to find Mom two steps behind me. She stepped forward, put her arms around me and said, "I thought you might need me." That was Mom, always opening her heart to others.

("God's Angel" continued on page 2)



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(“God’s Angel” continued from page 1)

Mom had a deep faith in God that she lived everyday, setting an example for us all. She would sit at her piano playing the hymns she loved, and, at age 95, almost completely blind and in a nursing home, she could still play any hymn the other residents asked for. After having a mini-stroke she had great difficulty talking. Afraid we would lose her, much of her family spent three days by her bed. One of her granddaughters started reading some of her favorite passages from her Bible that she had marked during years of nightly readings. Mom’s face lit up with a smile and, clapping her hands, she let us know her pleasure.

Mom’s faith was so strong it saw her through a two-year period when she experienced one loss after another, starting with a brother and continuing with her husband, her mother-in-law, a sister, sister-in-law, another brother, and a daughter. She told me, “I feel like a boxer who keeps getting hit. Every time he tries to get up he gets hit again.” However, she kept her positive outlook, held tight to her faith, and came through that dark tunnel to go on with her life as she felt she was meant to. She believed she was still here because God had work for her to do. I guess He did, for she did a great deal of His work in the years she had left.

After Mom went to live at the nursing home she got into the habit of going from room to room every morning, cheerfully visiting with all the other residents. She would sit holding a hand and visit, hoping to make a smile come. She laughingly said, “Some of them don’t act too pleased to see me, but I visit with them anyway.” We called her “Pollyanna.”

Over the years I grew to respect Mom very much and to love her completely. At her death I wanted to celebrate her life but, selfishly, I grieved her going. She was my mother, my teacher, my friend, and an inspiring example on how to live one’s life.

~ Nancy Burrington

*Note: Hannah Landstrom Burrington, daughter of Victor and Anne Matilda Larsen Landstrom, originally of Sweden, was born in Waltham in 1901. Her parents moved to Heath in 1911 to work for Ethel Moors. Hannah and Frederick William Burrington were married in Heath in 1929 and had five children, Lawrence, Catherine, Jane, and twins, Paul and Erma. Frederick died in 1961, Hannah in 1997.*

## Ham -n- Bean Supper

Saturday, Feb. 21 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Heath Elementary School

Adult \$5.95 Seniors \$4.95

Kids (7-12) \$2.95

Under 6 free

Fresh Goods also for Sale

Take out available

Proceeds to benefit church building fund

### Menu

Baked Ham w/ raisin sauce

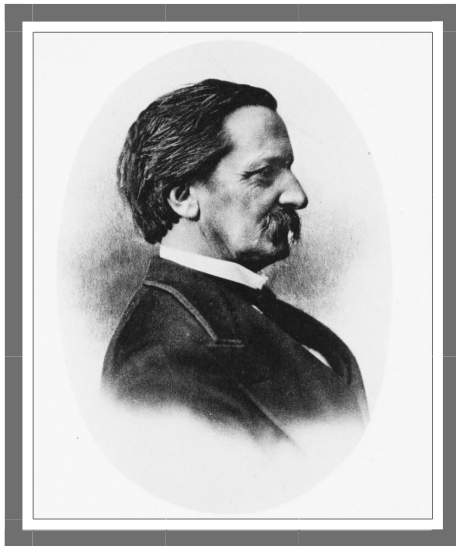
Baked Beans

Brown Bread & Corn Bread

Coleslaw

Fruited Jello - Pineapple upside down cake

Coffee, Tea, Milk, Water



## Josiah Gilbert Holland

### Part 2

Mr. and Mrs. Holland were settled in a home in Springfield while he continued in his position as the assistant editor of the *Republican* daily newspaper. While there he began to write what ended up to be a lengthy two-volume *History of Western Massachusetts*. It was first published in installments in the paper beginning in 1854. In his writing he covered the history of each town in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties.

Heath was included, covering approximately six pages of text. About the original settlement of the town he devoted a lengthy paragraph to the first settler and his wife. "Jonathan Taylor...seems to have been the first settler of what is now Heath. He found a tract of land that appeared to him to have the characteristics of meadow land, and there he built his log house.... But Mr. Taylor found his meadow a cold swamp, and was unable for years to raise any rye or corn...."

Today, many readers would not think of an historical text as including such speculative comments as what Holland wrote, "Mrs. Taylor, putting a just value upon one of

the gifts of her sex, became apprehensive, from her seclusion, that she should become unable to converse with her own sex, and so used to go out, and hold conversation with the trees, In this manner, she retained her conversational powers, which are represented to have been remarkable."

Holland also recorded the account of the difficulties that arose between the Rev. Mr. Leavitt and the towns of Heath and Charlemont. The differences of opinion finally ended in a lawsuit against the two towns. After an appeal to the Supreme Court, the towns were required to pay seven hundred pounds to Mr. Leavitt. In the effort to collect the additional tax burden Holland noted, "Many families were deprived of their only cow, which was taken to pay their share of the tax. "

This book of local history was only the first of many more published works. Over the rest of his life, Josiah published twenty -two written volumes, mostly prose but also including novels and collections of advice letters that had been printed in the newspaper. He also composed a biography of Abraham Lincoln following the President's death.

His first truly successful books were the three long narrative poems. The first of these, *Bitter-Sweet*, was published in 1858 followed by *Kathrina* and *The Mistress of the Manse*. With the popularity of his books Holland began to be invited to speak at various functions and lectures and toured as far west as Minneapolis, MN.

In one biography of Josiah, it was written (in 1930), "Holland's verse means little to us of the twentieth century. But in its day it served an invaluable purpose: it brought the muse to multitudes of persons who scarcely knew even Longfellow or Whittier."

At this time in American life, according to H.H. Peckham, there were only two notable novelists, Cooper and Hawthorne, in the country. Readers still relied on the English authors for their fictional pleasure. After Holland had become a respected author because of his poetry he also published novels that made him another American author whose fiction was in great demand.

One of Josiah's jobs at the newspaper was to write a column of letters giving advice to "young men, young women and young married people." As with more modern advice columns, he assumed a pseudonym of Timothy Titcomb. The readers of the day greatly looked forward to each column to glean what words of wisdom were contained therein. Some advice included, "Young men are very apt to get into a morbid state of mind....They go out to tea as if they were going to jail." And to the female population, "A woman who deals only in superlatives demonstrates at once the fact that her judgment is subordinate to her feelings, and that her opinions are entirely unreliable."

Being of a literary inclination, both Mr. and Mrs. Holland struck up a friendship with Emily Dickinson at some point during the 1850s. This relationship continued and grew as visits between the two homes occurred on a regular basis. These visits also included Emily's sister, Lavinia, and at times, their father. When visits were not possible, Emily and Mrs. Holland corresponded frequently writing of family news in terms of endearment. Most of the letters to the Hollands have been compiled and published by a granddaughter of the couple.

Once Josiah found his true calling in life, he settled down to a very productive and rewarding life. He was supported by his wife, Elizabeth, throughout their lives, and together they had three children, Annie, Kate, and Theodore. In 1870 he and his family moved to New York City when he assumed the position of editor in chief for the newly formed *Scribner's Monthly* magazine. His death on October 12, 1881, dealt a great blow to the literary world of the time. Besides the funeral, many memorial services were held around the northeast in honor of his life. Josiah Gilbert Holland was another son that the town of Heath helped to raise.

~ Hilma Sumner

Sources: *Josiah Gilbert Holland in Relation to His Times* by H.H. Peckham; *Titcomb's Letters to Young People* by Timothy Titcomb; *History of Western Massachusetts* by J.G. Holland; *Emily Dickinson's Letters to Dr. and Mrs. Josiah Gilbert Holland* by Theodora Van Wagenen Ward; *Josiah Gilbert Holland* by Mrs. H.M. Plunkett.



## Connections

### Elsa Bakalar - Neighbor and Gardener



By Pat Leuchtman

As a single, young teacher in England during WWII, Elsa Bakalar was sometimes sent to serve in ways other than teaching. One of those tasks was to hand out blankets and hot drinks at a railroad station in Kent to those rescued after the Dunkirk evacuation (France, 1940-41). Elsa said "It is possible that one of the people I handed a blanket to was the man who was to become my first husband." Erwin Weinberg was a German Jew fleeing France and escaping to England with the evacuees.

After they were married her husband wanted to come to the United States so in 1947 they landed in New York City. As advised Elsa then checked in with the British Foreign Service office in Washington, DC. Soon she was working for the British Information Service as a liaison with American students arranging for a year abroad. Erwin was a painter and he and Elsa were a part of the exciting post war art world in New York City, but they soon separated.

In 1953 she met Mike Bakalar and within a year they were married. "At that time Mike and I were both working in Rockefeller Center. His windows looked north and mine looked south so we could wave to each other during the day." After their marriage they moved to W. 13th St and Mike's 13-year-old son, with his snapping turtle and dog, came to live with them until he set off for Earlham College.

It was in 1957 that they first came to Heath. They responded to an ad Tish Goodell placed in the *New York Times*. She rented them the Hosmer Road hillside cottage which at the time was barely more than a room and fireplace. They knew almost immediately that they wanted to keep that house and three years later they did purchase it and put on one addition. Tish was also responsible for introducing Elsa to the Head of the Ethical Culture School in New York. "Although I was a certified teacher I didn't have a teaching degree as it is calculated in the United States. However, the Head was a great Anglophile and she bent every rule to allow me to teach at the school. I started with second graders. I had never worked with young children before and I was afraid I'd step on them. Eventually I taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grade and then taught at Fieldstone, the Ethical Culture High School. I taught English, mostly very dense literature courses."

While teaching at Fieldstone, she often brought groups of her students to Heath for a weekend treat. "The girls thought it was lovely and loved picking flowers. The boys poked bees' nests and fell out of trees breaking their bones." Because of the boys' propensity for danger and injury, when she started a summer camp, it was for girls, although younger siblings including brothers sometimes visited on weekends. The girls called it a camp for kids who didn't like camp. It was to provide for the campers that an addition was built with an extra bathroom and sleeping space. "Mike had a PR business at that time, so the girls and I would be alone in Heath all week. Mike would arrive on Friday nights. Everyone was allowed to stay up, and he got a real hero's welcome.

"For eight weeks we took field trips around Greenfield and got involved with Heath town events. We got to know the Musacchios at the open air market. Dominic couldn't believe the girls had never had fresh figs and he cut them open and handed them out. We had ice cream cones at Howard Johnson's and went to the Willamstown Theater Festival and Jacob's Pillow. We were well-known there. We made our own variety shows, and swam in the pond and cooked our own dinners." Elsa did have some help. Her New York housekeeper came up some weekends and Susie Pazmino helped sometimes, especially weekends when the parents came up. The camp ran for about 11 years.

It was in 1977 when they left their apartment and came up here full-time. The Heath house was never winterized so for many years they spent winters at their friend Flora Sampson's house in Charlemont while she was in Florida. Later they bought a house in Ashfield.

Mike first started a placemat business that advertised local businesses, but Elsa says with a smile that it lost a lot of money. Then she laughs when she says "You can't say we didn't learn from our mistakes" as Mike prepared to start the *Shelburne Falls and West County News*, another iffy financial venture.

In her own attempt to make some money, Elsa once picked buckets of the daffodils that bloomed behind the Heath house and took them to sell at the Farmer's Market. Risky Case saw Elsa looking tentative as she pulled them out of the car and started hawking them. "She told me come in to see her at Greenfield Community College, and I became her assistant." While Elsa was at GCC organizing workshops and special events, she instituted and taught the first study and travel course, taking the class to England for a garden tour in 1983. She also started teaching garden workshops at the Heath garden.

*("Neighbor and Gardener" continued on page 5)*

Careers don't necessarily develop one step at a time. When Mike had the placemat business she wrote bits of garden advice for it, and later wrote a garden column for the *West County News*. While at GCC she also started giving talks locally about gardening, designed gardens, and maintained them for a lucky few, as well as growing perennials to put in those gardens. Those beautiful borders gained a local fame but Elsa said they were not to everyone's taste. She laughs when she remembers the time Heath historian Ed Calver came up to visit. She said he took one look around at all the blooming perennials and said, "Ah, I see you are into gaudy," and turned around and left. Ed's gardens, of course, were elegant and restrained. A very different aesthetic.

And as she gardened, Mike built stone walls and took wonderful slides of the plants and gardens. Then all of a sudden she became known nationally for her lectures which were filled with information, but delivered with her engaging wit and humor. After speaking at the big Williamsburg Garden Symposium in the spring of 1986 and again in 1987 she was deluged with requests to speak all across the country, from the Whitney Museum in New York City to Vancouver, Canada. Mike and his slides accompanied her everywhere. Elsa and I wrote an article "Color in the Garden" that appeared in *Horticulture Magazine*. Before she knew it she was engaged in writing her book *A Garden of One's Own*, illustrated with Mike's photographs. Virginia Sullivan worked with her to produce a videotape and she even appeared with Charles Osgood on Sunday morning national TV.

Always the garden was busy. Garden workshops continued and numerous garden parties were held to benefit the community including the Valley Community Music School and The Friends of the Heath Library. "I've loved doing the workshops and classes, but really I've loved everything I've done," Elsa said.

Since Mike's death in 2000 the garden has been quieter, and in the fall of 2003, Elsa sold the Heath house and garden to Scott and Nanette Prior and their family of Northampton. The Priors, both well-known artists, are avid gardeners. Elsa acknowledged that selling the house has been difficult. It's where her heart has been for decades, but she says, "Selling to the Priors has made it all right. I can think of the life of this family going on in this house." Once again young people will be frolicking in the pond and new gardeners will discover the delights of Elsa's garden while they find their own garden vision.

Elsa will now be concentrating on the garden in Ashfield. It was intended to be a lower maintenance garden, but I have watched it grow in scope over the past few years. As she surveys it across the snow, she is already thinking of ways to unify the different sections and make it more interesting. For Elsa the amount of maintenance has never been an important issue, but only the interest and pleasure that her garden has brought her and her friends.

**The Herald encourages all Heath writers and those who have never thought they could but have been itching to give it a try to submit their creative efforts on any subject of their choosing.**

## Heath Cultural Council News

This year the Council allocated \$2600 in grants, down from \$3495 last year due to statewide budgetary woes. Much of the money went to perennial favorite beneficiaries and ongoing programs. The Council chose to support several projects with only partial funding in order to give assistance to a greater number of applicants.

Grant recipients are: the Arms Library, for a performance by the Mettawee River Theatre Company; Ashfield Community Theatre, for an evening of one-act plays; The Deerfield River Watershed Association, for the RiverFest; the Heath Elementary School, for stringed instrument instruction; Hilltown Folk, for its concert series; the Juniper Initiative, for the Writers in the Schools program; the Mohawk Trail Concerts, for its chamber music series; Pothole Pictures; the Academy at Charlemont, for a production of *Much Ado About Nothing*; and the *Heath Herald*, for printing costs.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council allows us to fund projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences, and our strong inclination is to give priority to projects which originate in Heath or clearly benefit the people of Heath.

Anyone contemplating applying for a grant may learn more about the process at [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org) or by talking with Michael Wilmeth (337-5754; [fullcirclefarm@earthlink.net](mailto:fullcirclefarm@earthlink.net)). The deadline for applications is October 15..

~ Michael Wilmeth  
Chairman

## Church News

Work is continuing on our basement renovation project. The two bathrooms are about ready for the final plumbing work and installation of the fixtures. After 164 years the church will have indoor plumbing! Everyone is eagerly anticipating the day when the first flush will take place.

The Fund-Raising Committee has scheduled a public supper to be held on February 21 at the school to continue raising funds necessary to continue our building project. The menu includes ham, homemade baked beans and, brown bread as well as other culinary delights. Take-out dinners will be available during the dining hours of 5:00-6:30. Reservations for either dining or take-out may be made by calling Dot Sessions at 337-4896.

Sunday services continue each week at 10:00 a.m. Thus far this winter we have only had to cancel once because of the snow storm we had the first weekend of December. Currently the worship theme is focusing on the "I am" statements of the Lord Jesus that are recorded in the Gospel of John. This series will lead up to the Lenten season and Easter. Everyone is welcome to join us during our services.

~ Hilma Sumner  
Pastor



## **A Christmas Story**

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By Bill Lattrell

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It seems that all families have stories that are told over and over again. Sometimes they are poignant, sometimes they are embarrassing, and sometimes they are funny. These stories seem to grow over time and sometimes they even take on a life of their own. The story about to be told here is very recent. I just wanted to set the record straight before the story is grossly exaggerated to my personal disadvantage.

Our family was looking forward to Christmas this past year. Brendan our oldest would be home from college. Liam, his younger brother, although still living at home, would be more available due to his brother's presence. My dear mother would be visiting from South Carolina, an event that does not occur every year. There would be the usual exchanging of gifts and the big Christmas dinner. There would be memories of Christmases past, and hopes for ones to come. Christmas is largely a predictable event in our household, and we cherish the yearly routines as much as the day itself.

Christmas 2003 would not prove to be such a predictable day.

I was talking to my sister on the phone, when my wife Maureen ran through our kitchen door. The expression on her face bore a decided look of concern. In retrospect I should have paid more attention to that expression but I was busy exchanging long distance Christmas greetings and my mind was not focused on the here and now. She interrupted my phone conversation, something Maureen never does, and suggested that there was something outside that might need my attention. I casually said goodbye and handed the phone to my mother so that she and my sister could do some catching up. I sauntered into the kitchen to see what all the fuss was about; after all it was Christmas day and I didn't have a care in the world. Maureen, in an unusually animated fashion, told me that there was a raccoon in our woodshed, and oh, by the way, it was growling. She had evidently encountered it while fetching wood, and after hearing the bandit threaten her in no uncertain terms she sped back to our safe and sound kitchen at warp speed!

Not to worry I thought, I'll go outside and shoo the critter away. It was warm outside, I reasoned, and it was probably aroused from a deep sleep by the warm weather and was in search of food. As I was about to go outside, as a last minute thought, I decided to take a gun. No real danger out there, I thought, so I grabbed the most easily available gun, a 12-gauge single shot and two number six shot magnum turkey loads. As I went out the door I spotted the raccoon running by the stoop and around the corner of the house. Good, I thought, problem over. He's decided there are better pickings somewhere else.

Let the fun begin!

Curious as to where the raccoon was running I walked around the corner of the house. No raccoon to be seen! Not enough time had elapsed for him to disappear yet, where could he be? Just then I heard a scratching noise over my head, looked up, and saw a raccoon dropping down from the side of my house. It sure looked intentional at the time. The raccoon looked like a masked kamikaze pilot as he plummeted down apparently ready to land on my head. These are times when we are all better off letting our natural instincts take over, rather than trying to figure out the best course of action. I reeled to my left and let the raccoon ricochet off my right side. He actually bounced off of me, fell on the ground about 10 feet in front of me and turned to face me. Like Old Yellar in the movies, he was foaming at the mouth, his back hunched high in the air with the hair standing on end, and growling in a fashion that could lead to no other conclusion that this was very serious business. I swung the barrel of my shotgun up to my shoulder, aimed the sight on the gun barrel directly at his body, and promptly noticed he was standing directly in front of a 100 gallon propane tank (somewhere in the back of my mind I pictured myself trying to tell Mike Smith, our Fire Chief, just how it happened that I blew up my house). At this point he was coming in my direction gangbusters, and my only choice was to run as fast as I could around the corner of the house. I turned to take aim once again, only to see that he had lunged, was in midair, and the only thing I could do was to club him in the head with the barrel of my gun. And club him I did, as hard as I could, and with all the conviction that I could muster. He fell to the ground and started to lunge again. Still too close to fire the gun I hit him a second time, stepped back and fired the 12-gauge round directly into the poor fellow at a distance of about four feet. Instinct had me reloading the single gauge, and just as I closed the breech he lunged at me again, this time directly at my face. The gun went off at point blank range killing him in a manner that no one would describe as fastidious.

And then there was the silence. All of this had occurred in just a few seconds, and as I stood there looking at his carcass the world seemed suddenly very quiet. My first observation that he was merely an average-sized raccoon, about 20 pounds. I would have testified in court that he was about the size of a Doberman pinscher. My second observation was that at this moment he looked a heck of lot better lying there at my feet than he did in midair during his voracious attack.

*("A Christmas Story" continued on page 7)*



## **Town Nurse Notes**

### **Benefits of Water Consumption**



By Joanne Fortune, RN

Are you drinking enough water? Here are some documented facts about water consumption.

About three-quarters of Americans are chronically dehydrated, and in half of those, the thirst mechanism is so weak that it often mistaken for hunger. Even mild dehydration will slow down one's metabolism for as much as 3%. One glass of water shuts down midnight hunger pangs for almost 100% of dieters.

Lack of water is the number one trigger of daytime fatigue. Preliminary research indicates that 8-10 glasses of water a day could significantly ease back and joint pain for many sufferers. A mere 2% drop in body water can trigger fuzzy, short term memory trouble with basic math and difficulty focusing on the computer screen or printed page.

Drinking five glasses of water daily can decrease the risk of colon, breast, and bladder cancers. Water is free and it tastes good! How about a nice tall glass?

Due to the closing of the Community Hall, I will be available in the Town Hall, on Tuesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. If you, or anyone you know, would like a home visit, please call me at 774-2958. Thank you.

*("A Christmas Story" continued from page 6)*

I looked up towards the back door and saw my family members staring at me through the storm door window. They had not witnessed the entire set of events and were more than curious as to what had just occurred. Later, my poor dear mother would tell me that she had not seen me exit the house with the gun and had no idea what was going on. She heard me outside swearing loudly "You rotten #\$%~##\$%!", followed by a loud BOOM as the gun went off, and then she heard me swear again, "You dirty #@#\$~!", followed by a second BOOM. She was on the phone with my sister at the time, and said, "My god, I think Bill's lost his mind, he's out there shooting someone!" Thank goodness we were able to straighten that out. I later reasoned with her that I would never shoot anyone on Christmas day.

It didn't take Maureen long to figure out that the raccoon had wounded my right hand. Unfortunately, his head was now severely impaired and could not be tested for rabies. There was no doubt in my mind that rabies is exactly what caused him to be so crazy so I had no other choice (after consulting with three separate Doctors) but to begin the rabies vaccination series that Christmas day. The good news was that the rabies treatment is no longer the horror show of years past that we have all heard about. The bad news is that I am a power-weight lifter and, as such, a pretty large fellow. The number of shots on the first day is determined by your body size. My body size dictated that I begin the vaccination series with 10 shots! Five more shots and three weeks later I am nearly done with the rabies vaccination series. A piece of cake.

So that's my Christmas 2003 story. Next year our family will relive the incident with moderate exaggerations, but by the year 2010 my bet is that the story will have changed significantly to my disadvantage. And that's why I'm setting the story straight. Right here and now!

### **Community Hall/Council on Aging and Senior Center News**

The Community Hall was closed on January 1, 2004, due to the upcoming renovations. There will be a public hearing on February 10 at the school on this project, and bids will be due on February 26.

The Community Hall Committee and the Council on Aging are working closely with the Town on the renovation project. We hope that it will be completed by September 30, 2004. At that time, we will resume the senior meals.

The Selectboard has appointed Ray Pettengill to serve as Senior Center Director, his duties to be clarified in the future.

The Town put out to bid the hall's cookstove and the double stainless steel sink, both of which were sold.

Once again, both committees wish to thank the members of the community for their support in making the hall truly a COMMUNITY HALL!

*~ Val Kaempfer  
Community Hall Committee and  
Council of Aging*



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

"This publication is supported in part by a grant from the Heath Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency."

## Selectboard's Report

The Selectboard meets every other Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall and more often when necessary.

**Business** - In addition to the regular business, the Board has been working on employee reviews and preparation of the FY05 budget for approval of the Annual Town Meeting. We are also about to review and upgrade the Town's personnel policy.

**Community Hall** - Construction bidding documents for the renovations to the Community Hall and the new Senior Center have been completed. The project is about to be advertised for bids. Filed sub-bids are due February 18 and general bids are due February 26. A public hearing on the CDBG grant covering this project is scheduled for February 10.

**Senior Center Coordinator** - The Board has recently appointed Ray Pettengill as Senior Center Coordinator. Ray will work with the Council on Aging and the Hall Committee to operate and manage the Senior Center programs and facility. A complete description of duties and responsibilities will be developed over time. Currently the position is voluntary and not compensated.

**Sawyer Hall** - Construction on the Sawyer Hall project is complete except for minor punch list repair items and the exterior painting that will be postponed until the spring. The completion of this project brings our town offices into full compliance with state and federal accessibility requirements. Carpeting has recently been installed in the downstairs hall and on the stairs.

**Yankee Atomic Trucking Campaign** - The decommissioning of the Yankee Atomic Plant in Rowe has moved into the demolition stage. Most of the debris was intended to be trucked away from the site through the Town of Heath because of load limits on other routes through Charlemont and Vermont. The Board met with Yankee officials and their attorney to try to come to an agreement on limiting the traffic through town, reducing the size and weight of the loads, and repairing any damage that may result from the truck traffic. Yankee officials were asked to attend meetings where residents expressed their concerns and asked questions about the campaign. The Board has been informed that the volume of truck traffic will be reduced, no tandem trailers will be utilized, and trucks will be rerouted to avoid busses during school hours. Discussions with Yankee will continue throughout the campaign.

**Heath On-line** - Take some time to visit the Town's home page [www.townofheath.org](http://www.townofheath.org). You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The home page is a work in progress. Thanks to the computer committee for getting this project up and running. Contact the Board at [BOS@townofheath.org](mailto:BOS@townofheath.org). Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail, or visit the Heath home page.

*~ Heath Selectboard  
Thomas Lively, Chair  
Brian De Vriese  
Sheila Litchfield*

## Upcoming Election Information

This will be a busy year for clerks and election officials all over the country with another Presidential primary and election on our doorsteps. **February 11** is the deadline for registering to vote in the Massachusetts primary to be held on **March 2**. It is also the deadline for voters to change their party affiliation. If someone is currently unenrolled in a political party, they may remain so and request the party ballot they would like at the primary.

Our Town Election will be held on **May 7** this year. The following is a list of offices that will have expiring terms for which individuals may take our nomination papers: Selectman, Assessor, Finance Committee, Planning Board, School Committee, Library Trustee, Dog Officer, and Constable. Nomination papers must be taken out by **March 17** and the completed papers must be filed in my office by **March 19** in order for a person's name to appear on the ballot.

*~ Hilma Sumner, Town Clerk*



*Signs of the times!*





## Sawyer Hall, a Brief History

In 1890, the state legislature passed "An Act to promote the establishment of free public libraries." Donations were received to build a library in Heath, and in 1897, Sawyer Hall was built on the site of the Old Red House tavern (erected in 1798) which had been bought for \$25 from Hugh Maxwell IV, great-grandson of Colonel Hugh Maxwell, a founder of Heath.

Maxwell also contributed considerable funds for the new building as did Felicia Emerson Welch and her sisters, daughters of Dr. Joseph Emerson, the principal physician in Heath from 1806 until he died in 1842. "Newly returned to town in 1897," Mrs. Welch "not only gave generously to the library, but secured from a relative, Ellsworth Sawyer, an even larger amount," according to Heath historian Edward Calver. For his \$500 donation for the construction costs, the new building became Sawyer Hall. Total costs were \$1382.91. Mrs. Welch set up a book purchase fund and left in her will, books from her own collection. (Also she donated Fort Shirley to the Heath Historical Society).

In addition to housing the library, Sawyer Hall was used as a social center for meetings, plays, and dances. (There was even a "private pool room.") The town records were moved from the Old Town House to Sawyer Hall into the town business offices. From then on, the building became known as the Town Hall. According to Calver, the town invested a "good-deal of money in it."

In 1902, a dining room annex was added, and in 1918, gaslight fixtures were installed, electric lights, in 1925. About 1979, Sawyer Hall was remodeled to serve its present function. New bathrooms were installed and the two rooms to the right on the ground floor were thrown together to form the present library. A new brick-faced foundation was added as well as a fire stair from the second floor. For handicapped access, the right hall of the front porch (facing) was ramped to ground level thus producing needed access without damaging the integrity of the building.

*Compiled from articles for the Heath Historical Commission by Delores Viarengo and Frederick Burrington with help, as always, from Ed Calver's Heath Massachusetts A History and Guidebook*

## GeneticallyModified

I am sure everyone has heard or read about "GeneticallyModified" foods. Foods that have been modified with genes that are not naturally found in the food that is in question.

The problems that will arise from these GM foods are not immediately apparent. In the haste to sell new seeds and food that will have a longer shelf life, or for whatever reason the food and feed giants seem to think is justifiable, American consumers are again being fooled into thinking that all is safe that is put before them in the food chain.

In the Nov./Dec. issue of *Countryside & Small Livestock Journal*, on page 21, is an interesting and enlightening article that I will quote. It is entitled "Identifying GM foods in the Supermarket."

"Although those who produce genetically modified (GM) foods are not willing to identify it, there is a way the consumer can avoid buying GM fruits and vegetables. You will notice in the produce section of your supermarket that the fruits and vegetables have stickers on them with a four-digit code. This code identifies the fruit or vegetable for the store's computer system. If the four-digit code is preceded by a "9", it is organically grown. If the four-digit code is preceded by an "8", it is genetically engineered or modified. If you don't want to use GM food, look for these codes and don't buy items with an "8" code on the sticker."

I haven't checked this out, but I hope you will if you are interested in safe food for your family. Perhaps this is a way to boycott the food giants.

~ Douglas Stetson

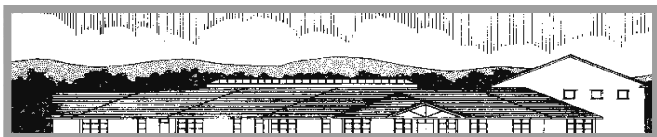
**IF MEN ARE TO BE PRECLUDED FROM  
OFFERING THEIR SENTIMENTS ON A MATTER  
WHICH MAY INVOLVE THE MOST SERIOUS  
AND ALARMING CONSEQUENCES  
THAT CAN INVITE THE CONSIDERATION  
OF MANKIND, REASON IS OF NO USE TO US,  
THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH MAY BE TAKEN  
AWAY, AND DUMB AND SILENT  
WE MAY BE LED, LIKE SHEEP  
TO THE SLAUGHTER**

~ GEORGE WASHINGTON 1732 - 1799

**AS I WOULD NOT BE A SLAVE,  
SO I WOULD NOT BE A MASTER.  
THIS EXPRESSES  
MY IDEA OF DEMOCRACY.  
WHATEVER DIFFERS FROM THIS.  
TO THE EXTENT OF  
THE DIFFERENCE, IS NO DEMOCRACY.**

~ ABRAHAM LINCOLN 1809 -1865

## Heath Elementary School News



By Susan Todd

As I am writing these words for the *Herald*, the Heath Elementary School staff has just completed a three-hour planning meeting with Ted Watt and Jane Wegschieder to prepare for our spring interdisciplinary project. Last September the school was awarded a second Creative Schools grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to produce "A Book You Can Walk Through, A Community You Can Touch." The purpose of this grant is to carry the Heath Heritage Mural Project still further by celebrating our local environment in words and images on standing wooden "pages" that can travel and be installed at the fairgrounds or other gathering places. It is meant to be a community art project that reflects our students' study of the people and enterprises that we value here in Heath. We will be working on it all through the winter and spring, contacting many of you to help us along the way. There will be a special culminating presentation on Friday, June 4, at 6 p.m., and we hope many of you will join us at the school then to enjoy the fruits of our labors.

**Community Resource Database.** In conjunction with this project the school is collecting information from those in our school and town communities. This information is being collated and entered into a database by Mary Vilbon so that our teachers are made aware of the talents, skills, and experiences of all the people at our fingertips who might be able to enrich our teaching of children. If you haven't yet filled out a form and would be willing to do so, you may find one at the Post Office, the Library, or the School. Thank you to all who have already shared your background and interests with us.

**New Faces.** For those of you who didn't know, a number of wonderful, new people have joined our school this year. Marilyn O'Brien is our new sixth grade teacher. She has brought many great ideas to Heath, including a Holiday Shopping Spree in December, which served as a fund-raiser for their class trip to Nature's Classroom in Ocean Park, Maine, this April. The Shopping Spree enabled all children in the school to purchase gifts for their family members, making their own carefully considered choices and financial transactions. The adults seemed to love the Spree as much as the children! Sandy Carte has broadened the world of music for our students, offering a variety of musical experiences that range from movement, rounds, to songwriting. Judy Berger is our new Physical Education teacher and is helping us offer a truly quality program by revitalizing our equipment and focusing on the skill development that will enable our children to participate in a lifelong enjoyment of physical activities. Polly Anderson has engaged students in exciting art projects that fit beautifully with the curriculum of their particular grade level. Stephanie Ostrom-Halwachs is our new After School Coordinator. She has done a terrific job

organizing our new Ski Club program this year. We also welcome Sarah Graves, a recent graduate of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, who is working as an instructional assistant in Mr. Bechtel's class.

**Strings Program.** Our strings program is in its third year with Diane Kraichnan returning to teach our students. We are grateful for grants from both the Heath and Rowe Cultural Councils to support this important opportunity for children and community members to incorporate the learning of violin in their academic life. If you are interested in studying with Diane, please call the school.

**Winter Enrichment.** Once again, we are thrilled to be able to skate at the Cattle Barn at the fairgrounds this year for our Winter Enrichment program. Last year the children just loved the experience. Many thanks to Bob DeLisle for all his work to make this possible. Thank you to our PTP for their generous contributions to defray the costs and for their purchase of snowshoes for all our children to use in years to come.

**Hilltown Community Poetry Series.** As part of the Creative Schools grant, graduate students from the University of Massachusetts have been working at Heath and Mohawk under the WITS (Writers in the Schools) program. In addition to offering classroom writing support, the WITS students, along with poets James Tate and Galway Kinnell, will be reading their poetry as part of a series for young people. Noy Holland has organized the event in collaboration with Todd Sumner at The Academy at Charlemont, where the readings will take place at 4:00 p.m. The dates are as follows:

February 6	Jocelyn Heaney and Dottie Lasky
March 9	Pallavi Sharma and Juliette Lee
April 9	James Tate
April 30	Galway Kinnell

These should be lovely events, a unique celebration of writers in our rural neighborhood.



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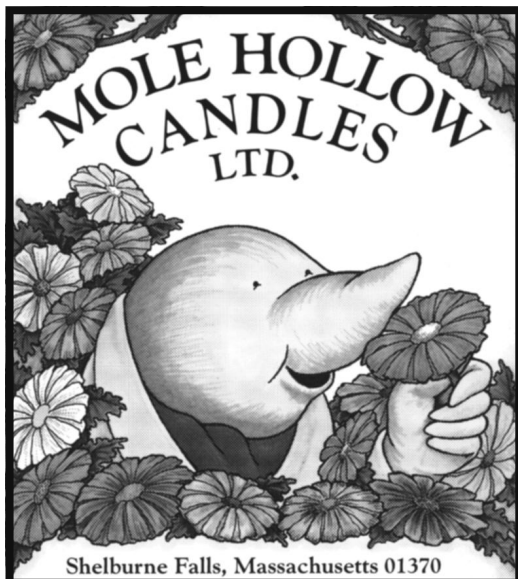


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## My 10-Gallon Hat

When I was a kid around nine or so, my great hope in life was to be a cowboy (not a cowgirl, please note). I already had a double holster and a pair of cap pistols—one gun wasn't nearly enough, I figured. And my Mom gave me old dress-up gloves, navy blue I remember, that I wore as the leader of the Black Hands Gang. (It would have been dopey to call us the Navy Blue Hands Gang). All I lacked was The Hat.

Now this was back in the days when the milkman brought bottles of milk to your backdoor, with those little ruffled caps and then the cardboard stoppers with the lift-up tab. So it happened that the milk company had a deal for a genuine 10-gallon Hopalong Cassidy hat. You only had to save 87 million of those little cardboard stoppers (so big did the number seem to me then) AND you had to send in the nearly impossible sum of \$1.50. This was when my weekly allowance was 25 cents. But I was driven—I had to have The Hat!

Here comes the hounding part. Three times each week, I would trot around my neighborhood, hot on the tracks of the milkman. The bottles had hardly stopped clanking in his wire carrying rack before I'd be at a neighbor's door. "Have you finished your bottles of milk so I can have the stoppers, please?" I'd implore, trying to look hopeful and innocent, not like my real tough Black Hands Gang self. And save my pennies, I did. To be truthful, I diverted most of the sum usually expected for the Sunday collection basket into the Hat Fund—I figured God would understand something important like this.

While I thought the collecting part for my mail order was long, it was nothing like the endless wait for The Hat to arrive by return mail. Time crept and all but stopped. No package in the mail. Glacial pace, like waiting for an Ice Age to end. And then one wonderful, grand day, The Hat arrived! It was all I had hoped for and more—smooth, rich, thick, black felt, high and round. It really did look like it could hold 10 whole gallons, and it felt and looked just perfect perched on my head. I loved that hat!

In what seemed like no time, both then and now, my little sister Ellie decided to borrow my hat and go exploring with two of her buddies, Jimmy and Bobby, from across the street. Had she asked to borrow it, I think I would have been heartlessly stingy and said no, but I didn't even get the chance. So, off they went, to get lost following a little brook that ran through our neighborhood and then on to whoever knows where.

When Mom realized that five-year old Ellie was missing, she frantically canvassed the neighborhood, and then called the police. A few hours passed, everyone was desperate and searching. The radio had an announcement about looking for three lost children. I could tell that Mom and Dad were sick with worry, and our home felt weird like it had never felt before. After what seemed like forever, they turned up when a man more than a mile away found three little wet, tired kids wading along a stream at the back of his land. The little girl was crying and she said something about losing a hat

stuck in a wire fence that ran across the brook.

The police brought Ellie home, and everyone was weepy and happy and rushed all around her in joy and relief. This was when I learned about mixed emotions. I really, truly was happy to have her found, but I was also madder than a hornet; and nobody but me gave a damn about my wonderful, special hat that was gone forever.

~ Kathy Stein



## Rays of Interest

### The Wind She Blew

By Raymond Pettengill

Once, several years ago, I helped one of my neighbors build a sawdust bin out in back of his barn. It was about ten-foot square in area with only three sides. The sides were three-feet high framed with two-by-fours and covered with rough one inch boards. Because he wanted to fill it with a dump truck the lid was made to fit down over the top frame so it could be lifted off. The lid was made with rough lumber two-by-sixes, 16 inches on center, covered with one-inch boards with sheet metal roofing to keep the water out. It was a two-man job to lift but we put some hefty rocks on top to hold it down as we knew the wind could blow a little in Heath.

My neighbor worked and lived most of the time in New York, NY, but spent as much time as he could at his farm next door. One winter day he stopped in for a visit and as we were sipping on our coffee, kind of offhand like he asked me if I had anything to do with his finding his sawdust bin lid standing up against a tree some 50 feet from the bin. I was a little bit taken aback but I have been known to pull a leg or two so was not too much offended. I tried to convince him that I had nothing to do with the act but was not too sure he believed it until a couple of years later, after a good wind blow, he found most of the metal roofing that he had nailed solidly to a woodshed roof scattered all over the neighborhood. I think that convinced him that the wind could have been the culprit that tore off the lid to his sawdust bin.

Heath is a great place to live, especially with good neighbors like I have, even if the wind does blow a little now and then.

Please do not ask me why I refer to the wind as being a she.

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## ***The Way It Is In The Country***

*"If it's old, works well and has a purpose in life, don't change it."*

### **About Dedication**

By Carroll Stowe

In the early winter of 1962 I had a lot to learn about caring for winter roads. We had perhaps a foot of snow and a lot of wind to move it around.

There were some people living out past the fairgrounds and the road out there was level full. The town of Heath at that time had a small front wheel drive bucket loader. This unit was very serviceable but was limited only by having two wheel drive. Also it had no cab so the operator was out in the elements. Those people were stranded out there past the fairgrounds. Francis Galipo attacked that road full of snow and battled his way out to give these newcomers to Heath a way out. I never saw the entire task that Mr. Galipo completed. When he got them shoveled out he told them they had best follow him out to the main road so that if the wind continued to blow their vehicles would be out on the main road.

These flatlanders did not heed his advice and the next morning they were again trapped. This time Mr. Galipo plowed them out with the crawler tractor with vee plow and wings. When he had the second time provided these folks with a road out to the main road they felt that their three Volkswagon bugs would not be able to make it out on their own so they wanted him to pull their cars out as he went back to Branch Hill Road.

They were all prepared. They had their transportation all tied one to the other with clothesline. When the old tractor tightened the first rope it broke and Father Galipo kept on going. I don't recall how they got out. That's dedication.

### **Heath's Open Space and Recreation Plan**

Heath now has a recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This project has been underway for a few years and with the help of many individuals and committee members, we now have a finished plan. The Planning Board, the Conway School of Design, the Conservation Commission, the Board of Health, the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Selectboard were all instrumental in the completion of this project.

The intention of the plan is to preserve the rural character of Heath by analyzing and mapping Heath's natural and cultural resources and documenting areas of need. Based upon the 1999 Visioning Study and the OSRP analysis, residents' concerns fall into three major categories: protecting open space, especially cleared land and scenic and historic resources; protecting water quality; and increasing community connections and recreational opportunities.

The OSRP has developed a five-year Action Plan which lays out specific steps Heath can take to achieve the identified goals and objectives. Actions include recognition of Heath Center as a Historic District, establishment of a town-wide trail system, and open land preservation. Additional actions include and preserving water quality, protecting scenic corridors, promoting agricultural land use, documenting wildlife corridors and health of habitats and species, and encouraging opportunities for public social gatherings. The specifics for achieving these goals are outlined in the plan.

In order to carry out and oversee their implementation, the Town of Heath must create an Open Space and Recreation Committee. This committee would be comprised of 8-12 members and would meet approximately once a month. It does not require

professional credentials, just an interest in accomplishing the objectives of the plan. Volunteers are essential; if you believe in the importance of these issues, please consider volunteering for this committee. Copies of the plan will be available at the town office and the library.

Please call Deborah Phillips at 337-8513 for further information.

*~ Deborah L. Phillips  
Planning Board*



---

## Thinking of You.....

Special thoughts for **Paul Burrington**, Heath native now of Charlemont, who will undergo double-knee replacement surgery at Cooley Dickinson Hospital on February 9. Best wishes Paul!

And for **Karen Brooks** and her family following the house fire. We wish them all well. Work bees are being held to assist Karen in making the new studio habitable, and a benefit concert is being planned for a future date.



### Milestones

**James R. McReynolds, Jr.** of Heath, died December 19, 2003. Born in Ann Arbor, MI, on June 17, 1952, he was the son of James R. and Shirley Scranton McReynolds.

He was a 1970 graduate of Wellesley High School and attended the University of Miami in Florida. At the time of his death, he was employed as a custom service manager by Hardigg Industries in South Deerfield. Formerly he had worked for C&S Electric Motors in Greenfield and for Heritage Bank in Greenfield and Amherst.

Mr. McReynolds and his wife Patricia A. Giard McReynolds served as foster parents for over 50 children for fourteen years. They were recipients of the Horizon of Hope Award for Outstanding Support given by the Massachusetts Department of Social Services in 1993 and 1999. In 1998 they received the Award of Appreciation from the Franklin Community Action Corporation, and the following year were given the All-Star Foster Family Award by Governor Paul Cellucci.

In addition to his wife and his father, James R. McReynolds, Sr. of Northampton, he is survived by two stepsons, Jon E. Poisson of Bakhampstead, CT, and Christopher M. Poisson of Fruita, CO; one stepdaughter, Melanie A. Poisson of Colorado Springs, CO; three adopted children, Brianna, Destiny, and Aaron McReynolds of Heath, two brothers, Jeffrey McReynolds of Batavia, IL, and John McReynolds of Natick; a sister, Martha Martel of Delmont, PA, and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held December 23, 2003, at the Heath Union Evangelical Church with burial in the South Cemetery, Heath.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Academy at Charlemont, Mohawk Trail, Charlemont 01339.

**Caroline Crosby Smith**, a longtime resident of Heath, an active member of the Heath Historical Society, and a founder and editor of the *Heath Herald*, died on January 5, 2004. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Newland F. Smith.

Born in Brookline in 1912, she was a graduate of the Windsor School in Boston and of Marot Junior College. She then attended the Sorbonne in Paris for a year.

She was first introduced to Heath in 1928 and met her husband-to-be while visiting a Windsor classmate, Helen Nichols

Malone, the older sister of Dana Malone. Caroline and Newland were married in 1935. They spent summers in Heath until Newland retired, thereafter living full time at Oxbow-East until they moved to Hanover, NH, at the opening of Kendal in 1991.

She was a very active volunteer in each place the couple lived, in the Women's Circle of the Abington, PA, Presbyterian Church, at the Greenwich and Hartford, CT, hospitals in the public schools on a one-to-one basis in various cities, and at the information desk in Historic Deerfield. At Kendal, she was a volunteer at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital and was active in the Hanover Historical Society with the gravestone conservation program. She loved to garden and had a love for Heath and for Chatham on Cape Cod.

In addition to her husband, survivors include her sister, Priscilla Hickman, of Ojai, CA; two sons, Newland F. III of Evanston, IL, and Lawrence C. of Edina, MN; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service is being planned at the Heath Union Church in June followed by burial at the West Branch Cemetery in Colrain. Memorial donations may be made to the Heath Historical Society or to the Mary Lyon Foundation, Shelburne Falls.

**Frederick A. Smith** of Greenfield, died November 28, 2003. Born in Heath on September 26, 1913, he was the son of K. Paul and Edith Gilbert Smith.

He attended local Schools and graduated from the former Charlemont High School in 1931. Upon graduation, he worked as a carpenter for the Clark Brothers, a well-known contractor in west county at that time.

He served in the Army Air Force in World War II and was honorably discharged on October 30, 1945, having attained the rank of sergeant. Smith was then employed at the former Kendall Mill in Colrain for 28 years, retiring in 1975. Prior to living in Greenfield he lived in Heath for most of his life.

His wife, the former Margaret Clark, died in 1988. Survivors include his second wife of 12 years, the former Ruth Cromack; two sons, Stanley of Port Jefferson Station, NY, and Stephen of Garland, TX; two stepsons, Joseph Smith of Cushing, ME, and Robert Smith of Wallingford, CT; two stepdaughters, Marilyn Harris of Kensington, CT, and Peggy Keppel of Leyden; four brothers, Louis of Heath, Floyd of Berlin, NY, Daniel of Chesterville, ME, and Donald of North Sebring, FL; two sisters, Vivian Hazlett of Guilford, ME, and Lucy Burnette of Sun City, AZ, and eight step-grandchildren.

Burial was in West Branch Cemetery in Colrain. Memorial contributions may be made to the Covenant House Foundation for Homeless Children, 346 West 17th St., New York, NY, Suite 10011-5002, or to the Special Olympics, 1325 G St., NW, Suite 770, Washington, DC 20005-3104.





## "In Memoriam"

### Caroline Smith 1912 - 2004



It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the recent passing of a wonderful friend and former neighbor, Caroline Smith. As an active member of the Heath community, first as a summer resident, then as a full-time Hosmer Road resident with her husband Newland, Caroline dedicated her life to the family, friends, and the community that she loved.

As one of the founding members of the *Heath Herald*, she had an amazing capacity for organization. Her vision was to provide quality, newsworthy material on a consistent basis and to inform the general populace of happenings in the area. She guided a series of articles on old homes in Heath, gently nudging the owners to delve into the history of their places and record it for posterity. She must have made a thousand phone calls over the years, reminding each and every contributor that the publishing deadline was near or, had already passed, and could they possibly complete the article right away!

Working with Caroline and Newland on the *Herald* was always a pleasant task, but the best was always yet to come, for the meetings and parties at their beautiful home were the fruits of our labor. There was an exact order to each meeting, commencing

with the review of the last issue and ending with what would be on the front page of the next issue. And in between the discussions, Caroline would slip away to the kitchen and magically appear with mouthwatering cookies and hot chocolate in the winter or deliciously cool, mysterious beverages brimming with mint and ice cubes in the summer. She planned celebratory parties to commemorate the longevity of the *Heath Herald* and to mark its progress with pride and enthusiasm. There are many fond memories of gatherings in front of the fireplace in the winter or on the porch in the summer, soft Heath breezes and summer sunsets enhancing her favorite view of Monadnock.

Caroline's energy was boundless. I remember one summer Saturday afternoon our families hiked around the Oxbow together. Tired after the long walk, I dreamed of lounging in the hammock with a good book. Not Caroline! She exclaimed that she wanted to play tennis before a swim in the pool! Newland and Caroline generously shared their tennis court and swimming pool with friends and neighbors alike. Many a phone call from Caroline declared that the pool was, alas, going to be empty for the day and wouldn't we like to come and use it. When my daughter Betsey graduated from sixth grade, it was Newland and Caroline's swimming pool that was the highlight of the overnight party. Their generosity was boundless!

Caroline's gardens and home were always right out of a page from *House Beautiful*. They personified country living at its best. She seemingly effortlessly took care of the smallest detail and with Newland at her side, together they created a lovely permanent home from the summer place that had been in the Smith family. Newland and Caroline shared many happy memories in that home, walking through the fields and in the woods, entertaining guests from far and wide, playing tennis and swimming. She was an elegant lady who will be sadly missed by her friends and family, and especially by the Heath community for which she did so much.

~ Susan B. Silvester

### REMEMBERING THOSE OF US WHO DIED DURING THE PAST YEAR AND HONORING THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

RUSSELL E. JOHNSON	1915 - 2003
PHYLLIS TABER WOOTEN KADES	1915 - 2003
KENDALL DUANE LITCHFIELD	1925 - 2003
JAMES R. MC REYNOLDS, JR.	1952 - 2003

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## Heath Deed Transfers

William Grant Adam to Lorin Gowdy and Kathleen E. Stein, Mohawk Estates, Lot 37. \$1,000.

Elsa Bakalar of Ashfield, to Scott and Nanette V. Prior of Northampton, 101 Hosmer Road. \$150,000.

James D. Baird and Jeffrey S. Baird of Greenfield, to Steven and Laura Labonte of Hadley, 7 Papoose Lake Drive. \$13,000.

Robert D. and Kara L. Ballentine of Shelburne Falls, to Scott J. Underwood of Shelburne, 12 Long Hill Road. \$61,000.

Sander H. and Corinne G. Bergstrom to William J. and Heather M. McGuirk, 27 Shawnee Dr. \$117,500.

Laura C. Bickford of Los Angeles, CA, and Jewelle Bickford, Nathaniel J. Bickford, and Emily B. Lansbury all of New York, NY, to William C. Wooten of Las Vegas, NV. 50 Colrain Stage Road. \$1.00.

Boulter Family Trust of Norfolk, Richard W. and Lorraine Boulter, Trustees, to Jeffrey S. Peck and Jennifer R. Day, 5 Vincent Road. \$38,000.

Charlotte E. Bryden of Springfield to Charlotte E. and Thomas W. Bryden III of Springfield, Mohawk Estates, Lot 25. Less than \$100.

Paul F. and Nancy T. Burrington of Charlemont, to Daniel V. Harris of Florence, 55 Route 8A. \$200,000.

June Irene Carrington Estate, Warren G. Carrington, Executor, David P. Carrington and Earl K. Carrington, Jr. all of West Springfield, to Joseph M. Gingras of Springfield, 6 Waterfall Drive. \$11,000.

Pamela K. Centilli of Worcester, to Wayne R. and Robin C. Clark of Hawley, 92 Branch Hill Road. \$140,000.

Cersosimo Industries Inc. of Vermont, to Rotima SA, Inc. of Shelburne Falls, West Oxbow Road in Charlemont & Heath. \$59,500.

Chittenden Trust Co. of Burlington, VT, to Jason L. Underwood of Charlemont, 16 West Main Street. \$65,000.

CitiMortgage Inc. of Ballwin, MO, to United States of America Housing and Urban Development, 2 Waterfall Drive. \$1.

John T. Clark Sr. of New York, NY, to John T. and Nancy P. Clark of New York, 341 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$1.

Linda V. Cloutier of South Windsor, CT, Daniel Veilleux and Michael Veilleux of Glastonbury, CT, Donal Veilleux of San Francisco, CA, and Rene Veilleux, Jr. of Los Angeles, CA, to Linda V. Cloutier. 51A Taylor Brook Road. \$1.00

Linda V. Cloutier, Daniel Veilleux and Michael Veilleux, all of Connecticut, and Donal Veilleux and Rene Veilleux, Jr. of California, to Elizabeth G. Maddern Dehoyos, 120 Taylor Brook Road. \$160,000.

Edmund J. Croteau of Greenfield, to Susan M. Croteau. 77 Route 8A South. \$1.00.

Susan N. Croteau, to William C. Blackmore, Jr., 77 Route 8A South. \$137,000.

Brian J. Desautels, by CitiMortgage Inc. to CitiMortgage Inc., 2 Waterfall Drive. \$84,884.

Eric A. and Dianne D. Grinnell to Michael D. and Crystal A. Smith, Sadoga Road, Lot A. No consideration.

John E. Henry and Deborah Porter to Brian DeVriese and Pamela Porter, Number Nine Road. \$1.00.

Donald E. Hillman to Jeffrey M. Hayer of Greenfield and Jeffrey King of Colrain, Sumner Stetson Road, parcels 1 to 4. \$230,000.

Kathryn Hanlon to Jason R. Endicott and Laura A. Iskyan of Manhasset, NY, 21 Jacksonville Stage Road. \$235,000.

Phyllis T. Kates, by attorney, Jewelle W. Bickford, Attorney, and William C. Wooten of Nevada, to Charles M. Fox of Scarsdale, NY, 50 Colrain Stage Road. \$425,000.

Daniel J. Kelly of South Hadley, to David E. Ruffner of Westfield, Mohawk Estates, Lots 20 to 24, 37 and 38. \$1,250.

Daniel J. Kelly to David E. Ruffner, Mohawk Estates, Lot 35. \$1,250.

Daniel J. Kelly to David E. Ruffner, Mohawk Estates, Lots 33 and 34. \$1,250.

Steve and Laura Labonte of Hadley, to Debora N. Cavalier of Berlin, CT, 13 Shawnee Drive. \$10,000.

Louise LaMontagne of Southington, CT, to Stanley Fadziewicz. 36 Cascade Drive. \$7,000.

Florence Leyland Estate of Elmont, NY, Fred Leyland, individually and executor, to Nicholas C. Tatro, 198 Branch Hill Road. \$85,000.

Madaquam Funding Trust, Richard C. Bishop, Trustee, to Marina M. Atwater, Oxbow and East Oxbow Roads, 185 acres, land also in Charlemont. \$1.00.

Jonathan Julius Mark of Sausalito, CA, to Vaughn D. and Joanna V. R. Robinson, 15 Swamp Road. \$129,000.

Helen and William J. McGoldrick IV to James J. and Beth S. Kelly, Underwood Hill Road, Lot 6. \$24,000.

James R. Jr, and Patricia A. McReynolds, to Susan J. Shauger of Buckland, 199 South Road. No Consideration.

Patricia A. McReynolds to Susan J. Shauger of Buckland, 199 South Road. No Consideration.

Lucille L. Mercier to Jared P. Joseph, Mohawk Estates, Lots 31-34. \$19,000.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to David Kratt, Mohawk Estates, Lot 39. \$1,800.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc. to Jodi R.Z. Chaskes, Mohawk Estates, Lot 19. \$1,800.

Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association Inc., to Steve and Laura Labonte of Hadley, 13 Shawnee Drive. \$1.

John J. Nicholson to John J. and Bernadette D.B. Nicholson, 23 Knott Road. No consideration.

Peck Realty, LLP of Westfield, to DW Forestry Consultants, Inc. No address given. Just Colrain to Heath. (land also in Colrain). \$213,000.

Edward S. and Mary E. Perkins to Phineas R. and Johanna S. Fiske, 24 Avery Brook Road. \$130,000.

Cecile M. Roy of Enfield, CT, to Richard and Molly M. Benetti of Smithfield, RI, 37 Sherman Drive. \$25,000.

Flora N. Sampson Funding Trust of Fort Pierce, FL, Flora N. Sampson, Trustee, to Monte D. and Wilma Chandler of Amherst, 319 Avery Brook Road, land also in Charlemont. \$240,000.

Susan J. Shauger of Buckland, to James R. and Patricia A. McReynolds, 199 South Road. No consideration.

(*"Heath Deed Transfers"* continued on page 19)

(“Heath Deed Transfers” continued from page 17)

Lee F. and Donna L. Shepherd to Robert Gear and Jane E. McHale, Rowe Road and Route 8A, Lot 1. \$55,000.

Michael D. and Crystal A. Smith to Eric A. and Dianne D. Grinnell, Brunelle Road, Lot B. No consideration.

Robert L. and Marian Spritzer, by EMC Mortgage Corporation to EMC Mortgage Corporation, 32 Deer Run Path. \$80,750.

Floyd and Elizabeth Trombley of Hinsdale NH, to Debora N. Cavalier of CT, 15 Shawnee Drive. \$10,000.

Leslie D. and Laurie M. Underwood to Douglas C. Finn, 9 Wigwam Dr. \$78,000.

~ Compiled by Pegge Howland

## “Making it organic - a Seminar for Food Processors and Growers”

There will be seminar entitled: “Making it organic - a Seminar for Food Processors and Growers” to be held at the Greenfield Community College, Wednesday, February 11, 2004, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A panel of experts will outline the key steps to becoming a certified organic processor and getting your products to market. Topics will include an overview of the organic movement, navigating through the National Organic Program, and marketing organic products. Presenters include industry experts and experienced small and medium-sized processors providing insights into working with the new organic standards.

Confirmed speakers include Holly Givens, Communications Director for the Organic Trade Association; Bob Burke, Principal, Natural Products Consulting Institute, expert in organic product marketing; Don Rosenberg, President, Real Pickles; Frank Carlson, Carlson Orchards, organic cider maker; Don Franczyk, Certification Administrator, and John Weaver, Purchasing Manager, Fairfield Farm Kitchens, makers of Organic Classics and Moosewood brand organic products.

Sponsors include the Massachusetts Independent Certification (Baystate Organic Certifiers), Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Franklin County Community Development Corporation - Western Massachusetts Food Processing Center, Organic Trade Association, Northeast Institute of Food Technologists, Massachusetts Specialty Foods Association, and the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship.

For seminar information and registration, contact: Herb Heller, Program Manager, Western Mass Food Processing Center, 324 Wells St., Greenfield, 413 - 774-7204 extension 108 or [www.foodc.org](http://www.foodc.org)

## HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM FY 2004

The Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority is preparing a waiting list for the Housing Rehabilitation Program for local towns including Heath.

The 0% interest, deferred payment loans are available as an affordable means for homeowners to bring their homes into code compliance, do needed repairs, and weatherize their homes. Other examples of work this program will address are: de-leading, handicapped accessibility, septic system repairs, and much more.

“Deferred Payment” means there will be no monthly payments. The loan amount is due, with no interest, upon the sale or transfer of the property. These loans are secured by a mortgage lien, placed on the property. Owners are eligible for loans up to \$25,000.00.

Homeowners and any tenant families must have an annual gross income equal to or less than the following amounts:

# In Household	Gross Annual Income
1	\$33,750.00
2	\$38,600.00
3	\$43,400.00
4	\$48,250.00
5	\$52,100.00
6	\$55,950.00
7	\$59,800.00
8	\$63,700.00

In anticipation of the award of these grants, a list of interested residents will be compiled. Please call Charity Day at (413) 863-9781 ext. 132, by March 1, 2004, if you are interested in this Housing Rehabilitation Program.

## Attention Current and Prospective Heath Business Owners

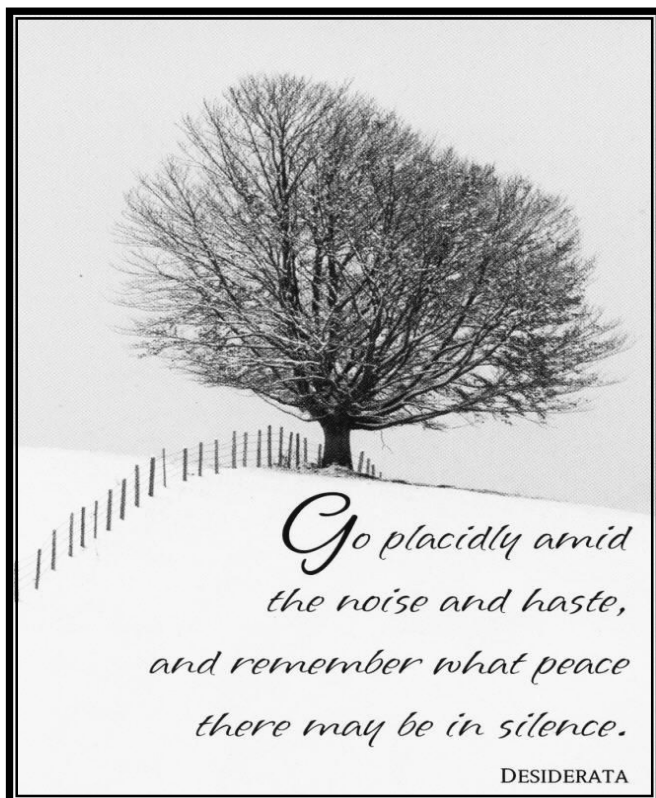
Meetings to provide information helpful to small businesses have been scheduled for Mondays from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in February, March, and April. Meetings are free and are open to Heath business owners and prospective Heath business owners.

On February 23, business owners are invited to exchange tips on record keeping. On March 29, business owners and those planning a business venture are invited to attend an information session on health insurance options for the self-employed, and on April 26, two longtime Heath business owners will share their experiences.

All meetings will be held at the Heath Elementary School, in collaboration with the Franklin County CDC, and the Shelburne Falls Area Business Association, with support from Community Development Block Grants. Participants are urged to call ahead so that in case of bad weather cancellations they can be called. For more information, and to RSVP, please call Suzanne Castello in business technical assistance at the Franklin County CDC: (413) 774-7204 ext. 107, or [suzannec@fccdc.org](mailto:suzannec@fccdc.org).

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## Heath Emergency Services News

The following calls were answered since the last issue of the *Herald*:

11/10/03 - West Main Street - Medical  
11/29/03 - Papoose Drive - Medical  
12/09/03 - Rowe Road - Medical  
12/17/03 - Papoose Drive - Accident  
12/19/03 - South Road - Medical  
12/20/03 - South Road - Medical

We ended the year with 45 EMT calls, breakdown as follows:

39 Medical, 4 Accident, 2 Standby

~ Timothy Lively, EMT

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Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.