



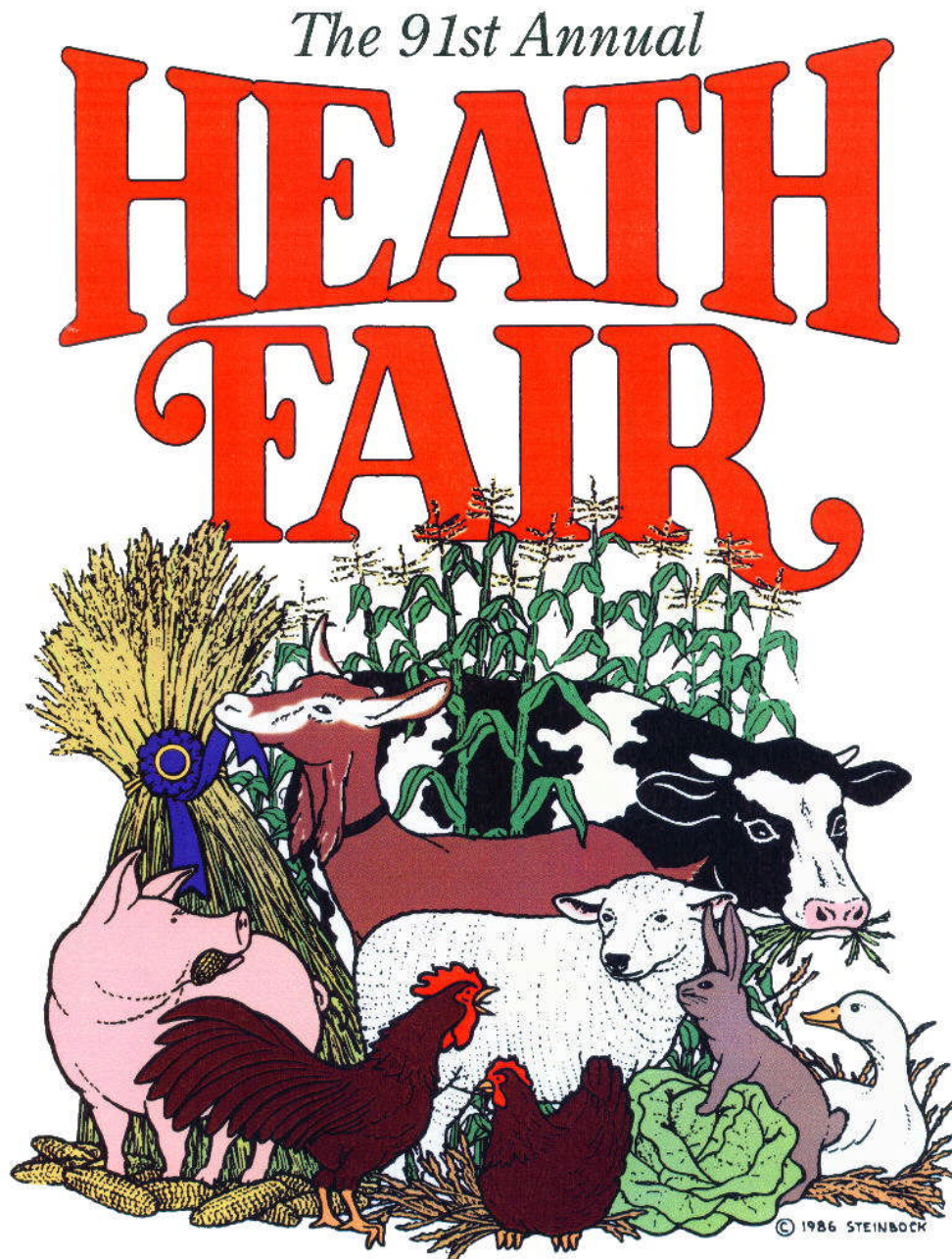
HEATH HERALD

Heath's First Newspaper

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August/September 2008



Friday * Saturday * Sunday
August 15, 16 & 17
2008

Heath Herald

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Terri Pettengill, Pam Porter, PTP, Susan Samoriski,
The Selectboard, The SFBA, Kathy Sprague,
Douglas Stetson, Eileen Tougas, Jane Wegscheider

Heath Union Church News

Once more, on July 6, the congregation enjoyed a potluck dinner with good fellowship afterwards, and in June the movie *Facing the Giants* was well received. The 2nd Annual Church Picnic was held on July 13 at the Smith's home. August 24 will be a Fun Night so check the Church bulletin board for the details. Crystal Smith is the organizer of our monthly get-togethers. Also, remember the church service Sunday, August 17, will be in the tent at the Fairgrounds.

Our young member Justen Brooks begins classes in August at Universal Technical Institute in Norwood, MA. His courses will be Auto Technician, Diesel Technician, and Ford Fact. We wish him well!

Adult Sunday School is cancelled until fall.

As always:

Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study - 6:00 p.m. Thursday at Dot Sessions' home

Pastor's hours - Thursday, 4:00 -6:00 p.m.

Church telephone - 337-4019, Pastor's - 413-648-9077

~ The Deacons

View From the North Forty

Seasons bring change and human activity changes, too. We have sold our 1810 home on Main Street in Chester and moved into a handicapped-accessible ranch house to accommodate Beverly's MS.

March was a bittersweet month with my mother celebrating her 100th birthday on March 6. Then on March 29 my best friend "Primo" died of cancer. We had been best friends for over 50 years.

July 10-12 I was in Bartlett, NH, for a Classic Car Club Grand Classic event at which I was the Head Judge. This is one of the most prestigious car events in the United States. Forty-two cars were judged – Rolls Royces, Mercedes, Packards, Pierce Arrows, Cadillacs, etc. from 1925 to 1941.

August is Heath Fair month – please get those blueberry recipes and articles entered in the "Jack's Favorite" contest. See you at the Fair.

~ Jack Cable

The Heath Herald is a nonprofit newspaper staffed by volunteers and published six times a year. Donations are tax deductible and are greatly appreciated.

THE HERALD DEADLINE FOR THE October/November 2008 issue is September 10, 2008. All articles are the property of the Heath Herald unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Call (413) 337-8594 or E-mail Jane at jdeleeeu@crocker.com.

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"A Table Set For Forever"

- a portable, multi-media installation
Questions for the community by artist
Jane Beatrice Wegscheider:

What does the word "sustainability" mean to you?
What are some of the things you do to live a more sustainable lifestyle? (I'm interested in the "small" things that people do, as well as the "big" things.)
What are some of the challenges of living a more sustainable lifestyle?
What ideas and solutions for sustainability have you considered? (These could be dreams or inventions you have in your mind but haven't tried yet...or things you'd like to do but don't know how to yet.)
Do you feel motivated to live a more sustainable lifestyle? (And if so, what or who has motivated you?)
Do you have any questions that would challenge people to think about sustainability in a new way? (For example: "How much is enough?")

E-mail responses to artofsustainability@gmail.com OR mail to me at 4 Union Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370. And thank you!

New England Storm September 22, 1938

**“A 100 mile-an-hour hurricane”
“Worst storm in 115 years”**

The Great Hurricane of 1938 swooped across Long Island Sound and smacked New England mountains, valleys, urban sprawl – nothing stopped it. The Hurricane was more terrible than anything New England had ever experienced.

Rains from the western side of the eyewall drenched the already waterlogged Connecticut River Valley and Western Massachusetts causing flooding. Up to 19,000 tons had fallen in Connecticut and Massachusetts in five days. If the rain had been snow, New England would have been buried under 10 feet.

Placid streams became rushing rivers. Floodwaters washed away roadways and railways. Valley towns were cut off. The rivers crested. The Deerfield River rose more than 20 feet. (from *The Sudden Sea, the Great Hurricane of 1938*)

SF Torrents Cut Shelburne Falls from Nearby Towns

Shelburne Falls – This village early today (9/22/38) stood completely cut off from its neighboring towns and villages. On the north there was no communication beyond the Griswoldville bridge which was swept away in the rush of the North River.

On the west, Scot's Bridge was impassable and little could be learned about those along the Deerfield River. Concern was felt for the Charlemont covered bridge and the plight of the hill towns of Rowe, Monroe, and Heath which, is thought, were directly in the path of the hurricane. (*Greenfield Recorder-Gazette*)

Shelburne Falls State Police Visit Isolated County Towns, Seek Routes West.

The troopers traveled over roads that appeared to be impassable. Deep holes and stones covered the majority of back roads. They made their way into Heath up Avery Brook Road and found the settlement in good condition. No injuries were reported by anyone at the Center and no property damage.

From Heath to North Heath and into Rowe the road was reported badly washed but passable. The police advised no one to use the roads unless under extreme emergencies.

The roads are being repaired as fast as possible but are not good enough for travel for several days. It was reported that the Dell Road leading into Colrain was completely gone and would never be used again. Many bridges were washed out in parts of Heath.

(*Greenfield Recorder-Gazette*, 9/24/1938)

Rowe was completely isolated. The townspeople built a way out through Cyrus to N. Heath to Heath Center to E. Charlemont. Considerable traffic out of North Adams going to Boston by way of the Trail was rerouted to Rowe, to Heath, to East Charlemont, and back to the Trail.

It was remarked that they never expected to be the main road from Boston to Albany!

Mrs. Homer Tanner and Mrs. H. S. Stetson both reported on Heath conditions. According to Mrs. Tanner, Heath was badly damaged.

She reported:

- A terrible washout at cement bridge at Orlo Hager's on the Charlemont side so traffic from the Mohawk Trail to North Adams had been routed through Heath
- Shelburne Falls Stage Road was hopelessly impassable
- Many little brooklets from off the hill swelled Avery Brook to flood proportions
- The road from distance below Royer's turn was utterly beyond repair, wiped out entirely, it was 3 feet or more below the surface of the brook.
- All the bridges on Colrain Road were washed out as well as the high one near Adelbert Stetson's and two near Herbert Stetson's
- Coates Grist Mill, used by Dr. Charles Gilbert and his son for a wood-working mill, was washed away along with all the valuable tools. The bridge near to Dr. Gilbert's washed out badly at one end. Dr. Gilbert built a temporary span and was able to get his car out
- The wind did more damage in the western part. It twisted and uprooted as many trees at Jesse Thompson's and Wallace Churchill's as the storm earlier in the season.
- Victor Vreeland had cut and piled fifteen cords of wood for his winter supply. All vanished.
- Two flocks of seagulls seen, one at Medric Lively's, the other at Frank Gleason's
- Lawrence Smith, Jacksonville Stage driver, kept his customers supplied with mail. It took 103 miles to cover his territory that was normally 28 miles. He left Jacksonville for Readsboro, through Rowe, then back to Heath center, down to East Charlemont, and west to Charlemont.

Mrs. Stetson reported that a large crew of men and trucks were filling washouts with rocks and gravel. They built three temporary bridges, one near R.L. Stetson's at the old Fairbanks Mill and two beyond Herbert Stetson's.

- The Cross Road toward R. S. Bolton's was impassable, washed out in many places to a depth of 15 feet with only large rocks in sight.
- Many fine sugar maples and timber lots were uprooted and broken down. Some fruit trees were ruined.

“Although Heath suffered heavy road and bridge damage, it was fortunate that no lives were lost and no one injured.”

Reeling from the effects of the Great Depression and then from this calamitous event, these stalwart people were to face, in a short period of time, the onset of World War II, all times of extreme testing and challenge which they met with great resourcefulness and courage.

(Thanks to the Heath Historical Society and to Ruth Johnson for access to the newspapers of the time)

(Editors Note: We thank faithful writers, Lois Stetson Buchiane, Ruth Landstrom Johnson, and Douglas Stetson for giving us their memories of the Great Hurricane of 1938).

Memories of the Hurricane of '38

I was 9 years old and my sister Pearl was 13 when the "big storm" hit. It had been raining for three days so the ground was saturated, which probably led to so many trees being uprooted during the storm. My dad and our hired man were threshing oats in the barn at the Manse so we had been told to stay at school (South) to wait for a ride home. After the men picked us up we had to stop about ¼ mile from home because trees were blowing down. Dad picked a spot in an opening for the car, and we started to hurry home, Overbrook Farm. As soon as possible we went out into the hay field, away from the trees, and continued hand in hand as fast as possible down to the house where mom awaited. It was very scary.

We were fortunate to have the barn attached to the house so we could get to the stable to tend the herd without going out in the storm.

During the storm, the top of the silo blew completely over the three-story barn and landed in the back yard. A four-bay open shed was completely lifted off its foundations and moved westward 3-4 feet.

In the next few days we explored far and wide to view the damage. A large area of huge pines on the Manse property was flattened as if by a giant mowing machine. Many board feet of lumber were harvested afterwards.

My sister Ada was in high school at Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls and was living on Water Street at the time of the storm. The family had to evacuate and go up the street to the Academy because the river was going over its banks. She remembers carrying her landlady's canary in its cage up the hill to safety. She remembers walking over the bridge to Buckland and having to jump over a chasm to reach the other side.

We later took a walk on the Dell Road and where there had been a road it looked like a riverbed. The bridges were all out in the area so one had to go up into Vermont to go east to Greenfield or wherever. The Long Bridge in Charlemont was damaged and Scot's Bridge on Rte. 2, which crossed the river between Buckland and Charlemont much lower than the present bridge, was completely destroyed..

Although I am a lover of walking in the wind, it took a long time for me to be comfortable in any stiff breeze after going through that "big storm."

~ Ruth Landstrom Johnson

Today's news is so full of the stories of the tremendous floods in the Midwest that it brings back so many memories of the great flood that devastated our local region in September of 1938.

It started off with the usual northeast heavy rains and the rains continued to pelt us for a long time. I recall the roads being gullied out as the culverts were unable to carry all of

the water. The Branch Brook which ran close to our farm was a sight to behold and hear. It was a swirling massive noisy torrent. The sound of huge boulders rolling downstream was a scary earthshaking roar.

When the rain finally let up, and we were able to survey the damage, it was another world. So many trees down, so many wires broken, Roads had huge gullies in them, it was hard even to walk in the remnants of the roads. Electricity and phones were out of order for a long time as the whole area around us was devastated.

As the town officials assessed the damages, it became apparent that Heath was isolated. Only one road out of Heath was accessible by car or truck as all the bridges were either washed out or made unusable by reason of washouts. From Heath Center south on Burrington Road to Avery Brook Road in Charlemont being the only way out of Heath.

In today's world the situation would be a major catastrophe, but with a bit of Yankee ingenuity and community effort, things got done in a hurry. No one had to have a group of highway engineers come to file a mountain of reports or apply for disaster relief. (That could come later).

Jesse Thompson, Max Churchill, Dad and other local residents put their heads together and soon had a plan figured out. Dad had a good pair of work horses and a sawmill. Neighbors had crosscut saws (pre-chainsaw days). And soon several long logs were spanning the brook at the foot of the hill on what is now 8A in North Heath. Logs were sawed into heavy planks that were fastened to the long wood graders that spanned the brook. A lot of grading (again with work horses) and dump carts and horse dump scoops completed the rough detour that became a passable highway for public transportation.

All the main bridges were rebuilt as soon as bids and contracts were awarded. I believe the Lane Construction Company rebuilt them. Eighty years later most of them remain still in good repair with some maintenance over the years.

Many other hurricanes have left their paths of destruction in Heath over the years, however, none as vivid or devastating as the Hurricane of '38."

~ Douglas Stetson

— . . —

I remember the hurricane of 1938, or at least the aftermath of the wind and rain. I was in eighth grade at the Branch School and my youngest brother and I walked to school. Because all the bridges on either side of our farm, on what is now called Route 8A North, were washed out, my father walked us (or carried) us over the Branch Brook as it crossed under the road where Brunelle Road intersects with 8A. He must also have met us on our homeward journey as well. It was quite some time before a temporary bridge was installed for foot traffic, at least.

I also remember that a fully loaded milk truck was stranded at our farm and we had the benefit of all that additional milk from which my grandmother made cottage cheese and butter.

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane



Green Thoughts

Past Fairs - Parades

By Pat Leuchtman

We attended our first Heath Fair as Heath residents in 1980. Almost every fair has been memorable for one reason or another. Of course, I was thrilled to prepare entries for the Exhibit Hall, but the prize ribbons for eggs, green beans, green tomatoes, raspberry jam, oatmeal cookies, and dahlias all seem to run together from one year to another. It is the way we mark the growth in our family by different fairs that are so vivid.

There was granddaughter Tricia's first fair, in 1986 when she was about three weeks old. That year the Heath Fair T-shirt was a big blue ribbon, and as we showed her off to our friends we thought there was no doubt that Tricia was already a First Prize Person.

The Parade has allowed our family and our friends lots of scope to exercise their creativity. For example one year, our neighbor Catherine Heyl spoke wistfully about her desire to gather together some nymphs, like those in an Italian painting she liked. That was all the inspiration we needed to organize *The Young Goddesses*. That year, in 1992, we had our granddaughters Tricia and Tracy here with a friend. Young Eva Van Aken also brought a friend, and the Senior Goddesses helped deck them out in flimsy old dresses, silk scarves, veils, beads, and bits of lace, wove garlands of meadow flowers and vines, and gilded their beautiful faces with eye shadow and a touch of lipstick. As a senior feminist I tried to get the girls to march with a sense of their power, but I think it was Catherine who got her wish for floating nymphs as they strolled down the midway.

Literary allusions have abounded in our parade entries which is understandable since we have often been sponsored by one library organization or another. In 1998 one daughter, four granddaughters, an infant grandson, and young Samantha Wessman dressed up in turn of the (20th) century dresses with garden hats and parasols, rode on a flatbed trailer driven by Bruce Kain. That year the reference was *Anne of Green Gables* and our sponsor was the Heath Ladies Literary Society, as I called our book club.

In 2002 *The Fellowship of the Ring* was all the rage and under the leadership of Wanda Musacchio *The Fellowship of the Egg* marched down the midway. There was quite a crowd that year because Wanda mobilized all the Friends of the Heath School Library.

The granddaughters have all gotten older and shyer, but now we've got a cohort of five grandsons, all born within two years of each other. A couple of years ago they marched as *Tom Sawyer* characters. Since the Parade theme was Friendship that year, husband Henry, known as The Major to the grandchildren, marched as the fence that Tom got all his friends to whitewash for him.

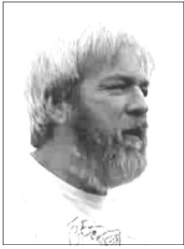
Literature is not our only theme. One year, in 1991, the 10th anniversary of the Heath Gourmet Club, we got our granddaughters, Greg Nichols, Eva and Nick Van Aken, and a few

others to dress up in vaguely ethnic togs to represent the next generation of Heath Gourmets. Greg as a numchuck Ninja chef was unforgettable. The motto on the banner was *10 Years of Serving Ourselves* which prompted some people to ask if we did catering. The Gourmet Club does not, although we have occasionally performed culinary public service at civic events.

These 'floats' are never planned in advance. There are pickup conversations during the Fair on Saturday and after supper comes the question – Well? A decision is made and there is a scramble for make-do costumes that are vaguely reminiscent of something or other, and the banner makers get to work. We leave it to the imagination of the parade watchers to fill in any necessary authentic details.

Who knows what will be special about this year's Fair? The only sure thing is that it will be memorable!



**Wild Ramblings****A Once Mighty Tree**

By Bill Lattrell

The roar of my Stihl chain saw is deafened as I hit the kill switch. To my right hand side I see neatly sawn lengths of sugar maple each about a foot and a half in length. The hard maple branch broke off a tree that recently died. It is identical to another branch, located to my left, that was cut up earlier in the day. The butt of each 60 foot branch is two feet in diameter and the main trunk of the tree, still standing, is about five feet in diameter. As I look at the sugar maple trunk I am chilled by the sight of a huge stump broken off about 12 feet above the root crown in a jagged, uneven shape. I am looking at the corpse of a once mighty tree.

I first noticed this tree during the winter of 1975, the year that I purchased this land. It was strong and healthy with long extended branches reaching out over 50 feet in each direction. The tree dwarfed the rest of the pole stand, trees averaging about 10 to 12 inches in diameter. Around the base of the tree hay-scented fern, sugar maple saplings, and a few hobblebush shrubs grew. The forest in this area is dominated by sugar maple, most likely the descendants of this enormous tree. I was in my early twenties then, and I remember thinking that the tree would outlast me. Sadly, it didn't.

A tree of this size is probably about 300 years old. It could be a little younger if it has had good growing conditions: the right soil, the right aspect, the right amount of sunlight. At some point, likely about 200 years ago, someone cleared the woods for sheep pasture. They probably took one look at the trunk of the 100-year-old sugar maple and a second look at the length of the blade of their crosscut saw and decided that it would be a fine tree for shade. With most of the forest cleared around it, the tree blossomed! Its branches grew out wide like wings, collecting the sunlight during the warm months. It put as much energy growing in breadth as in height. It grew in the open pasture for about 100 years and then everything began to change, again. The pasture was abandoned, and the fields were covered with goldenrod and asters. After about ten years shrubs and saplings began to dot the open area, and eventually the saplings grew into trees, all about the same age. When I came upon this piece of land the pole stand was about 50 years old; it is now about 85 years old.

This tree is not far from our house, perhaps 300 yards. It was close enough that over the years I sought it out as a place to go and sit, even if it were just for a few minutes. I sat there after I was married to my wife, Maureen. Our marriage ceremony was not far away. I remember sitting there soon after the birth of each of my two boys. I sat there after losing my dog Hickory. I sat there after my father died. And I sat there after my mother died on a cold winter day, only two and a half years ago. To me it is a hallowed place, and it was a very special tree.

Perhaps my fondest memory of this tree happened on a June day in 1987. My oldest son, Brendan, four years old, and I were wandering about the woods and we happened upon this tree. It was one of those special days when the sky was blue with big, white, blustery clouds. Strong winds blew that day moving clear, cool air through the forest that filled our lungs with life. I sat with my back against the tree and Brendan sat next to me. He was pretty frisky that day and our walk had tired him just enough to still him for a few moments. Brendan has always been an observant soul, and on this day he cupped his hands into two fists, opening them just enough so that he could peer through his small hands like binoculars. He flopped down on his back into the mat of hay-scented fern and suddenly was still, studying the view above him. He was quiet for a moment, and I was enjoying the peace, when suddenly he cried out, "Dad, the tree is holding up the sky!"

At first I didn't know what he was talking about, but I lay down on my back and looked up through the branches of the huge sugar maple. As I focused my eyes I could see the same thing he was seeing. There were gray branches, and on each branch there were hundreds of bright green leaves. The sun shown through the leaves creating a bright silhouette around each leaf, and behind each leaf was a brilliant blue sky. Indeed, it looked just like this mammoth tree was holding up the sky.

Brendan jumped up, outstretched his arms as far as they would go like the branches of a tree, and spread each finger on his hand like the branchlets that hold each leaf. "I am a mighty tree, and I am holding up the sky!" he shouted. I jumped up, extending my arms, outspreading out my hands and shouted "I am a mighty maple, and I am holding up the sky!" I then bent over, lifted Brendan so that he could ride on my shoulders, and he extended his arms declaring he was a mighty tree holding up the sky over and over again.

About a decade ago, the tree lost its first large branch during a winter ice storm. That summer the leaves were poorly developed and pale. I knew that it was the beginning of the end, but I chose not to think about it. Last year, the tree lost two more large branches. You could see where the branches broke off the tree that it was full of decaying wood. I knew the end was near, but I really didn't want to dwell on the fact.

(*"A Once Mighty Tree"* continued on page 10)

Heath Memories - Part I

Every once in a while it's fun to take a look at how things come to happen in your life. This is a look back at the important role a place called Heath played in my life and how that all came about.

Coming to Heath

Late August 1964, Don Dekker, a friend I had met through another, just happened to be on his way to Europe but decided to stop by in New York City at my *Penthouse* (actually the old servants' quarters) at 760 West End Avenue. We had other acquaintances in common who had a summer place in Massachusetts, and they invited us up for a visit. Since we liked it so much they suggested we might want to look for a place to buy, suggesting a realtor who then took us to what turned out to be a magic spot in Heath.

To find Heath we took a road that wound up the mountain from the valley called Long Hill Road, very impressive because it was covered with a canopy of trees whose branches met above the road. At the top of the hill we went about ¼ of a mile down a dirt road past a meadow to a cabin in a wooded area surrounded by three large white pine trees. This property had just come up on the market and we were first, perhaps, to come along to see it. In the woods in front of the house a variety of huge ferns everywhere blanketed the area.

We liked the cabin, though we realized it would take a lot of work to put it in shape but since it included 17 acres of surrounding wooded land, a lovely meadow, and a house for only 3, 500 dollars, we decided to take it. We, of course, had to take out a loan from a local bank for a mortgage. As we stayed overnight in the cabin, we came to the first realization that Heath is quite cold even in late August. We didn't have any blankets and had to sleep in our clothes. Subsequent years would teach us a new definition of cold that New York City folk only read about.

Cabin Stories

The next time we came up to Heath a person I taught with in Levittown High School, came with us to see the house. We had a large bowl of apples on the kitchen table and as night came on the flying squirrels, that, to our surprise, were living in the attic of the house, came down and started eating the apples, the first of the flying squirrel/apple stories!

The house was almost completely furnished. This was one of the things that attracted us to it in the first place. There were a number of splendid items, a large round wood dining room table with six chairs, a kitchen table, and several rocking chairs, one a large wicker rocker I call the devil's chair, since it has knobs, like horns, protruding up from the back top edge. There were two brass beds and a chest of drawers, a Shaker chair, and a straight chair as well as a chest for sheets or blankets, etc. It is interesting to note that, in this day of rapid consumption these antiques, so well constructed in their day, are still in terrific shape.

Down in the woods in front of the house, the local beavers just happened to have constructed a pond. At first we could hardly see it for the trees, until the leaves fell in the fall. In

spite of Don's objections to mechanistic solutions such as bringing in a bulldozer, I decided to dig us a pond. Now Don loves it, too. Looking down from the house you can watch the sun set through the trees that surround the pond and see its light reflected on the surface. Growing near the pond still today are hay-scented ferns, a favorite of Henry David Thoreau that he mentioned in his book *Walden Pond*.

In summer I brought goldfish to add to the pond and then, using a method of conditioning, taught them to come to the surface, by feeding them while whistling *Yankee Doodle*. We demonstrated this for our friends and neighbors and people were surprised to see a swarm of gold rising on cue to the surface of the dark water. Ducks came to the pond and once the great blue heron, that was usually down on the beaver pond, came for a visit. On another occasion we were walking down by the pond and a ruffed grouse came out of the woods and performed a mating dance at our feet.

As time went along we did a lot of work on the cabin, covering the outside with cedar shingles and the interior walls with barn boards. Don built a kitchen on the north end of the house and before it was finished we found a large "Home Comfort" woodstove with two gas burners at one end. We moved it into the kitchen before closing up the walls. There is a loft above the kitchen where now Don sleeps in winter, and we put a bedroom on the north end next to the kitchen for other seasons and another one on the south end of the long front porch that adjoins the existing bedroom. Next we added a Danish fireplace in the living room and found it wonderful to have in the fall and winter. For the other room adjoining the kitchen on the north end of the house, where Don has his loom (We call it the loom room!), we bought a Franklin stove which is great in the winter.

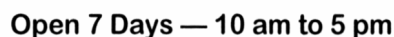
At Christmas we would go into the woods and bring back a tall cedar tree and would place it in the living room and decorate it with strings of popcorn and cranberries and hang actual apples from the branches. The tree with its white star at the top was quite a sight and, of course, attracted the flying squirrels. Once, when we arrived in Heath earlier in the day, it was snowing hard and by late evening there were several feet on the ground. Friends had come up from Amherst to spend Christmas eve with us and their car became stuck in the snow so they could not return until the roads were plowed the next day. They went home with an unforgettable story to tell!! Gathered around a late supper dinner table that night we heard rustling outside in the deep snow and suddenly realized that a black bear had approached the cabin window and, perched on its hind legs, was peering in. But that wasn't all!!

It was also was the night the ghost got in! We had gone to bed with the guests sleeping on a roll out bed in the living room and I on a cot nearby. Suddenly just as we were getting to sleep we heard Don cry out from his bedroom. As it turned out he claimed he had seen a boy in a buckskin jacket standing at the foot of his bed and when he shouted out the boy disappeared. He insisted he had not been asleep and that it was not a dream, but we found it difficult to believe that a ghost had actually visited our house in Heath.

(*"Heath Memories"* continued on page 10)



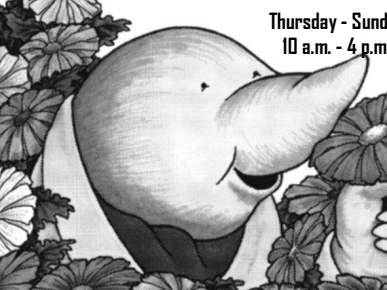
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Memories of Newland Smith



Commenting on the passing of Newland Smith on June 5, 2008, at the age of 96 cannot be done without mentioning Caroline in the same breath. We first met them in the 1960s after we purchased the former Peon farmhouse in Heath Center. The house was a weekend place for us. Harriet and John Read, who owned Plover Hill next door where the Viarengos now live, were weekenders too, as were the Smiths on Hosmer Road in the house now occupied by the Carrs. Our recollection is that we met Newland and Caroline at a small gathering hosted by the Reads where drinks and lively discussions engendered our life-

long friendship. The Smiths had a swimming pool that Pegge enjoyed and a tennis court. Newland and Caroline loved to play tennis, and I was just taking up the game, so they became sort of a mentor/coach team for me. The three families eventually became full-time residents of Heath.

Newland never did things halfway; his enthusiasm was infectious but sometimes it wasn't always appreciated. He was a fountain of ideas and was willing to commit to carrying them out. After Newland and Caroline retired they participated in the Church, the Heath Historical Society (HHS), and town affairs. (As president of the HHS, Newland wasted no time in obtaining our membership!) Three accomplishments stand out in our memory. One is Newland's initiating the passing of a bylaw establishing a Heath Finance Committee. Secondly, Newland and Caroline were instrumental with the founding of the *Heath Herald*. Again, at one of the small gatherings at the Reads, and yes, it was a late afternoon cocktail gathering, the idea came about that some sort of information vehicle of local activities would be helpful to the Town. A subsequent organizational meeting was held in the winter of 1979 at the Howland's house with the Reads, Smiths, Mike Bakalar, Alli Thane, and Terry Pettengill in attendance. Thus, the *Heath Herald* was born! (A warming fireplace and drinks took the chill off!) Thirdly, Newland with Caroline's help did an inventory of all gravesites in Heath's four cemeteries after which he organized the data alphabetically with cross-indexing on his computer. The result was a publication by the Heath Historical Society in 1990 entitled *Heath Gravestone Records*. It is not only a wonderful historical record, but is sought after by those with genealogical interests. The book is now in its third printing.

Newland and Caroline moved to an assisted living facility in the mid-1990s in Hanover, NH, where we visited them

from time to time and even played some tennis. Caroline passed away in 2004. I continued to call on Newland occasionally for his input when a local issue arose. Newland and Caroline are and will be sorely missed.

~Dave and Pegge Howland

Newland Smith was an active participant in the Heath Union Church for many years. His financial expertise was most helpful and he was a valuable member of the Bylaw Revision Committee in 1976. Our church congregation fondly remembers the dedication Newland and his wife Caroline had for the Heath Church.

~ Ruth Johnson, Deacon

Newland was one of the founders of the *Heath Herald*. He and I both served on the first staff, and I found him a pleasure to work with.

He was a driving force on the paper and worked in most every capacity to keep it going. Newland and his wife Caroline were very gracious hosts for most of the meetings during which they offered many constructive ideas for the articles and features of each issue.

They were sorely missed when they sold their home in Heath and moved to New Hampshire.

~ Terry Pettengill

Newland was a dear friend, former neighbor, and special cousin. Our families have always been inextricably intertwined. From the days of summering in Heath with only the beaver pond and woods between us, to the recent treks to the hills of New Hampshire to visit him at Kendal, he has been a steadfast companion through this journey of life.

Newland's passing marks the end of an era. It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to a man who was ahead of his time, yet steeped in the past. Newland's love of local history, his passion for technology, and his dedication to his family and friends are legendary. His devotion to the town of Heath was exemplary.

Along with a host of other good souls, he and Caroline initiated the *Heath Herald*. When we moved to Heath permanently, Newland drove into the yard as we were setting up a swing set and declared that I would be working on the *Herald*, and by the way, the next deadline was in a few days.

And so it came to pass that we became immersed in newsworthy events about Heath's past, present, and future. Long *Heath Herald* work days drifted into longer nights. At first the copy we received was handwritten; then it was typed. Newland ushered in Heath's computer age with great gusto, printing volumes of text for us to read, correct, and revise. No story was left uncovered. *Heath Herald* staff meetings at the Smith's were as much

(“Memories of Newland Smith” continued on page 10)

(*"Memories of Newland Smith"* continued from page 9)

fun as the myriad of parties. There were always scrumptious appetizers and delicious drinks – ranging from hot chocolate in the winter to root beer floats in the summer, always over a healthy dose of gossip. The twinkle in Newland's eye was as bewitching as the quick turn of Caroline's head as together they presided over the publishing empire of our little newspaper.

There was a distinct humorous side to Newland. With a straight face he once told me that he had filled his swimming pool that spring by emptying my beaver pond in the nearby woods. In disbelief, I had to check it out. April Fool! Newland appreciated the beauty of the woods and meadows that surrounded his home and always called when there was a newborn fawn in the field or large cat tracks in the road.

Newland took great pride in erecting the still-standing history markers around town to designate specific sites. Between our two homes he ceremoniously planted the Arad Hall Rake Shop sign. Conceived and designed by Newland, then aided by the expertise of Dominic Musacchio, the signs have become a symbol of Heath's proud past.

The many visits to see Newland in New Hampshire were always a special journey. He would sometimes arrange for me to spend the night at the guest house beside Kendal, a lovely renovated farmhouse designated for company. As he and Caroline gradually downsized from the spacious apartment to a smaller one at Kendal and ultimately Newland was alone in the cozy one room suite in Vinning, he maintained his sense of humor and profound perspective on life. The evening meal at Kendal was in an elegant dining room, and much like a restaurant one could dine buffet style or be served at the table. Everyone knew and respected Newland, and whether we dined with the former head of Middlebury or a current Dartmouth professor, there

were always great conversations and elegant cuisine to top off a lovely evening. Newland maneuvered the conversations through political, economic and philosophical topics.

One of my favorite memories was a visit to New Hampshire to take Newland and Caroline to dinner at the Hanover Inn in celebration of their 90th birthdays. Newland insisted on driving, so I sat in the back seat (with my fingers crossed) while he vividly described his latest ventures with the in-house Kendal television station. He drove and talked, happy to have company and full of the insatiable energy that comes from holding onto a passion in life. I wish I had brought a camera that night to capture that slice of life when they were both so happy, so vibrant. Caroline asked for a straw to sip her champagne, and Newland looked at her with obvious love and affection. They were a special couple, and I miss them both very much.

~ Susan B. Samoriski

Editors' note- Newland Smith sent this letter on March 28, 2004, on the occasion of the Heath Herald's 25th Anniversary.

Jane,

Congratulations to you and the Staff of the *Heath Herald* on keeping the paper going after 25 years. I remember after 10 years, Caroline and I thought it was a long time when we stepped aside in 1989.

Ed Calver, our authoritative Heath historian, gave us one year to exist when he heard of the venture in 1979. He was basing that on his knowledge of a previous Heath publication by the Grange many years ago, intending to give the news of the Town. The paper soon went out of existence.

So, if you have made it to 25, I'm sure you will be publishing in 2079! Keep up the good work.

With best wishes,
Newland Smith

(*"A Once Mighty Tree"* continued from page 6)

About two weeks ago, during the night and after a large thunderstorm, Maureen and I heard a very loud, extended creak, and then a loud, long crash. At the time I wasn't sure where it came from, but it was very, very eerie. Now I know that I witnessed the last gasp of life for this proud and magnificent tree.

I stand here at the remains of the sugar maple trunk. I look to the east through thick forest and shrubs. I look to the west where a young sugar maple stand abounds! I look to the north and south and I see a vibrant and healthy forest filled with life and hope. But there are no other trees in this part of the forest anywhere near the size of this once, mighty tree. And I wonder what will now hold up the sky.

(*"Heath Memories"* continued from page 7)

As it turned out, during the night the squirrels that had somehow gotten the apples up into the rafters began eating them. We could hear the crunch, crunch, crunch as they chewed

At first we thought the crunching sound was someone walking around the house in the snow. Running for the

flashlight we searched out the window but saw no footprints in the snow. Back to bed! But once under the covers in the dark we soon realized the source of the sound was coming from above. Lights on! We saw what looked like blood on one fellow's forehead, but it was simply red apple peels. The squirrels had begun spitting peels down onto our beds below! Our guests shoveled their car out and left the next day and never came back to visit us again.

~ Jim Morriss

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Carolyn Armstrong & Family



Recycle and Save Heath Money

Recycle and save money? By recycling, Heath residents save the town money on trash disposal. The town pays over \$75 for every ton of trash. In 2007, the Heath Transfer Station shipped 250 tons of trash at a cost of almost \$19,000 to the town. For every ton that is recycled instead, the town saves money. An added bonus is that the Springfield Material Recycling Facility actually pays the town \$40 for every ton it recycles there. That means that every ton of paper and containers recycled is worth \$115 to the town (\$75 saved and \$40 earned).

A review of the last five years of data shows that the Heath Transfer Station has increased trash tonnage by 15% (220 tons to 250 tons). At the same time, recycling tonnage has barely changed (65 tons to 68 tons). In 2007, Heath's recycling rate was only 28%. The average recycling rate for the 21 towns in the Franklin County Solid Waste District is 35%. If residents recycled another 7% of the town's trash it would save almost \$1400 in disposal fees and generate another \$720 of income from the Springfield recycling facility!

Recycling also saves natural resources and energy. Recycling one ton of steel saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. Recycling one ton of aluminum saves 8,000 pounds of bauxite and 1,500 pounds of petroleum coke and pitch. Most notable now during our oil crisis are the oil savings for recycling one ton of: aluminum - 32 barrels; steel cans - 3.5 barrels; mixed plastics - 4 barrels; newspaper - 3 barrels, and paper/cardboard - 2 barrels. Using recyclable materials instead of virgin materials saves 95% of the energy needed for aluminum; 74% of the energy needed for steel; and 64% of the energy needed for paper. That's a lot of savings!

The following items can be recycled: newspapers and inserts, junk mail without plastic wrappers, magazines, envelopes with and without windows, phone books and paperback books, with covers, corrugated and "flat" cardboard, clean pizza boxes, brown paper bags, all colors of glass bottles and jars, aluminum cans, steel/tin cans, and plastic bottles and tubs. For a complete list, contact the Solid Waste District at 772-2438 or visit our Web site at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Heath is one of only four towns in Franklin County that does not have a pay-as-you-throw trash program. This program requires residents to purchase a town bag for a set price (typically \$1.50) for their trash. The Selectboard has not chosen this system yet but increasing trash tonnage and flat recycling rates could signal that only an economic incentive will encourage residents to generate less trash and more recycling.

Take a few minutes to set up a bin or bag for your recyclables. You'll save the town money, you'll save oil, and you'll save natural resources. That's a big return for a small effort!

For more information, contact the Solid Waste District at 772-2438 or info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Upcoming Events: Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

ANNUAL HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION –
Saturday, September 13, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
the Rte. 2 Park & Ride, Charlemont

The collection is free to Heath residents. Businesses must submit an inventory of their wastes and will be charged for disposal.

To participate, residents must preregister by September 3. Registration forms will be available in local newspapers, at local town offices, at most town transfer stations, and at: www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. For a complete list of acceptable items, refer to the District's Web site: <http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html>.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

– Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Staples, 250 Mohawk Trail, Greenfield

The paper will be recycled after shredding. There is a per person shredding limit of one recycling bin full of confidential papers. Staples and paper clips do not need to be removed.

Shredded paper may also be recycled in local recycling programs. Place in a paper bag; no plastic bags.

ANNUAL BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

“Clean Sweep” – Saturday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
– Buckland Recreation Facility, Rte. 112 South

Heath residents may bring a wide range of large items that are typically difficult to get rid of. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. There is no need to preregister, however, there are charges for disposal. For fees and other information, contact www.franklincountywastedistrict.org. Businesses may participate.

Recycling Facts

Recycling one aluminum can saves the energy equivalents of one cup of gasoline.

Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 full-sized trees and 380 gallons of oil.

Five recycled two-liter PET bottles make one square foot of carpet.

Each glass bottle produced in the U.S. contains around 30% recycled glass.

Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place

Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread

- We are now taking orders for the 2008 crop, and we welcome inquiries about PYO as well.
- Our Annual Wild Blueberry Jubilee will be held on Saturday, August 2, from 2 - 8 p.m.
- Wonderfully Wild Blueberry Spread is available locally. Visit our website for locations.
- Come walk this beautiful land anytime. Please call ahead.
- Farm transfer and preservation efforts continue. Do ask us about this.

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(413) 337-5340, www.bensonplace.org



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p.m. for Friday pickup at:*

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Colrain, MA 01340

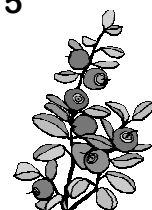
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cheese at farm prices.

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Sweet, Wild, Lowbush
picked, cleaned freezer ready
10 lb or 20 lb boxes

Available August 5-15

Call to reserve
413-337-4964



This section is free to Heath Farmers, and is made possible by the sales of Carroll Stowe's compilation "The Way it is in the Country." Agricultural producers should submit their information to *The Heath Herald*, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346.

Heath Fair News

New at the Heath Fair This Year

A Mom's and Dad's Tent for a quiet, shady place to change and feed your little ones.

Many thanks to our sponsor Baystate Franklin Medical Center for funding the tent.

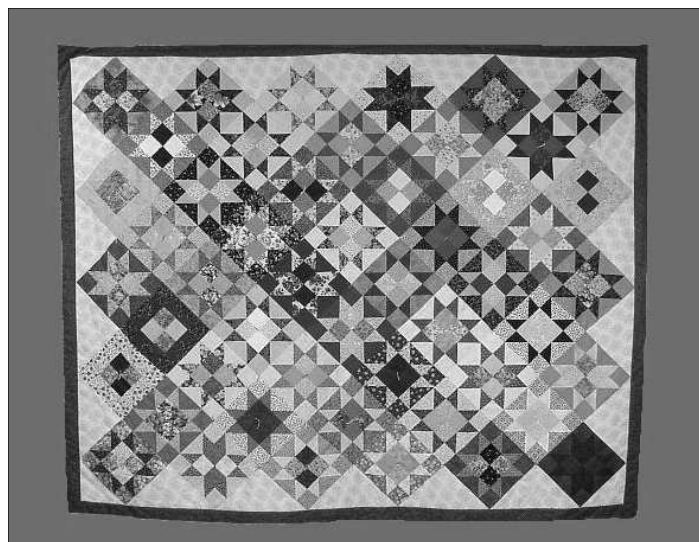
~ Lyra Johnson

During the Heath Fair the **Heath Historical Society** will be manning the Solomon Temple Barn as usual on Friday, August 15, from 5:00-9:00 p.m.; on Saturday, August 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and on Sunday, August 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

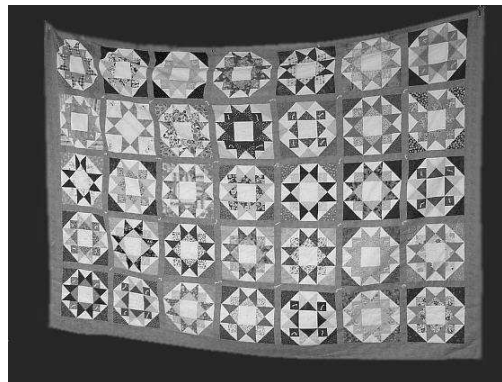
The **Heath School PTP** will have a strong presence on the midway at the Heath Fair with a booth featuring arcade-style games as well as the PTP/Heath Preschool Raffle. Our popular Heath School "Hoodie" sweatshirt and tees will also be on sale. It is very important for the success of the Raffle to presell as many tickets as possible. Please contact Lorena Loubsky-Lonergan at 624-3842 for tickets. With generous donations from local artisans and businesses, there will be something for everyone.

Heath Ladies Aid Cookbook

The Ladies Aid Cookbook will be on sale at the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library Book Sale tent during the Fair.



LADIES AID RAFFLE



The raffle drawing for the 2008 Ladies Aid Quilt will be held at the Heath Fair on Sunday, August 17, at 3:30 p.m. Until then, tickets, 1 for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00, will be available from the Ladies Aid members:

Caroline Booth, Ruth Corey, Catherine Cromack, Grace Crowningshield, Jane deLeeuw, Esther Gallup, Beverley Gleason, Ruth Johnson, Ann O'Brien, Teresa Peters, and Alli Thane-Stetson.

LOOK FOR THE 2008 HEATH FAIR T-SHIRTS ON SALE IN THE EXHIBITION HALL.

The Heath Herald will be on sale during the Fair at the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library Book Sale tent.

Heath Ladies Aid Cookbook Order Form

I would like to order _____ @ \$12.00 each= _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to: Heath Ladies Aid
Box 116
Heath, MA 01346

Finance Committee Report**New Fiscal Year - New Leadership**

The Heath Finance Committee starts a new fiscal year with new leadership but a big loss in our experience base as Dave Howland has stepped down after many years of guiding the town's fiscal affairs. We will miss him; indeed, we already miss him.

The backgrounds and life experiences of Finance Committee members are diverse and wide-ranging. Among the immediate problems the committee faces are how to schedule and finance significant capital outlays by the town as various facilities and items of equipment near the end of their useful lives; how to hold down Heath's already high tax burden in what are likely to become increasingly difficult times in the national and global economies; and how to function effectively within the framework of laws and policies developed by a distant state government that is dominated by the interests of a large metropolitan area and imperfectly understands the particular needs of small towns.

But perhaps our biggest challenge is doing our part to sustain the matchless quality of life here in Heath, created more than two centuries ago by our forebears and preserved by generations of Heath residents, while maintaining the town's attractiveness for newcomers. That challenge obliges us to be in close and constant touch with the residents of our town, to be alert to new ideas for better serving their needs, and to find the most effective ways possible to use Heath's scarce and hard-earned tax dollars. We will do our best.

Here are capsule biographies of the Finance Committee's current members:

Jeff Simmons has been a member of the Finance Committee for four years. He also serves the town as a member of the Fire Department, a town constable, and a member of the Board of Health. He works full-time as a paramedic in the metropolitan Boston area, and is also a member of Citizens for Limited Taxation and the National Taxpayers Union. Jeff, his wife Jeanna, and their children have lived in Heath since 2002.

For the last 11 years, **Ned Wolf** has worked as a nurse aide at the Farren Care Center in Turners Falls, and has lived in the Heath house his parents bought in 1946. For the preceding 20 years he taught college mathematics. Ned is a graduate of Cambridge High and Latin School, and holds degrees from Amherst College and Brown University. He enjoys gardening and has exhibited produce at the Heath Fair. Ned is secretary of the Heath Historical Society and serves on the Local Education Council. He has been secretary of the Finance Committee since 2001.

Jan Carr and her husband Cal moved to Heath in 1999 after what Jan reports as a "love at first sight" experience with their house on Hosmer Road. Jan and Cal relocated to Heath from Asheville, NC. Before that, they lived in Dedham, MA, where Jan had her own business, Legal Graphics, and freelanced, mainly preparing trial exhibits for the office of the United States Attorney in Boston. She attended art schools and graduated from Northeastern University. Jan, in her third year on the Finance Committee, serves as a Library Trustee, as treasurer of the Heath Agricultural Society, and on the boards of the Friends of the Heath Free Public Library Inc, the Friends of the Heath School Library, and the Heath Historical Commission.

In her spare time, she gardens and keeps up with her two golden retrievers.

Dave Gott has lived in Heath since 1999, managing a wild blueberry farm at The Benson Place and seasonally employing local youth, as well as adults. He also consults with farm families and others as a social worker. Dave works part-time at Mohawk Trail Regional High School through Community Action Youth Programs, and does volunteer work for the Heath Public Library and the Heath Elementary School. He enjoys the outdoors, making music, and spending time with his partner Ted Watt and their extended families. Dave has been a member of the Finance Committee since 2007.

Don Freeman, a retired English professor, moved to Heath in 2002 with his wife Margaret. Don taught at several universities, including the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where he founded the linguistics department and was associate dean of humanities and fine arts, with responsibilities for planning, budget, and research grants. Don is a graduate of Mount Hermon School, Middlebury College, Brown University, and the University of Connecticut. He also serves on the Heath Historical Commission and sings with various amateur choral groups around the Pioneer Valley. Don is new to the Finance Committee, and currently serves as chair.

New Director of SFBA

Mary Vilbon of Heath succeeds fellow Heathan **Art Schwenger** as the Executive Director of the Shelburne Falls Business Association.



From left to right; Mary Vilbon, Art Schwenger and Andrew Baker the first Executive Director of the SFBA.

A Heath resident for fifteen years, Mary brings to her new position a wealth of experience. She has worked locally for the Mohawk Trail Regional School District as a grant and program coordinator and for the Mary Lyon Foundation as well as in the private sector. She will complete her B.A. in Business/

Community Development and Organizing at the University of Massachusetts this summer.

Mary officially started on July 1, and she said that she looks forward to the challenge of the position.

Outgoing Director Art Schwenger, who held the position for six years, is moving on, and, at present, is investigating possible avenues to challenge his considerable talents.

The Friends of the Heath Free Public Library Inc.



Photograph courtesy of Jan Carr

The Friends held their annual meeting on July 24 at the Carrs on Hosmer Road followed by well-attended potluck supper.

The agenda included the reelection of the following officers: Don Dekker, president; Pat Leuchtmann, vice president; Jan Carr, Secretary, and Jane deLeeuw, treasurer.

Plans were firm for the annual Book Sale at the Heath Fair. There will be a wide selection of books on sale and, as usual, a raffle of items generously donated by local craftspeople and merchants.

The Book Tent will be open Friday, from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

A sign-up sheet for Book Tent clerks will be in the library.

Historical Society News

* The Historical Society invites you to join us for our **Annual Meeting and Supper on Saturday, August 23**, in the Community Hall. The buffet supper will be held downstairs in the Senior Center at **5:00 p.m.** and will feature the delicious French-Canadian meat pies we all enjoyed so much last year. We have to guarantee the number of persons, though, so reservations are an absolute must. Please call Jane deLeeuw at 337-8594 or sign up at the Fair in the Solomon Temple Barn. The cost for an adult is \$10.00 and children under 12 eat for \$4.00. **You may pay at the door, but you must make a reservation!**



The historic William A. Johnson pipe organ built in 1851
(Printed with permission of the Heath Historical Society)

* The Annual Meeting and raffle drawing will be held in the **Heath Union Evangelical Church at 6:30 p.m.** followed by an interesting talk about its historic William A. Johnson organ that was built in 1851. The speakers will be **William Czelusniak**, organ builder and restorer, and **Scot Huntington**, specialist in tuning and maintenance of pipe organs. Sounds like an exciting evening and we hope you all can attend our 108th year of events.

- Our **annual raffle** will feature as First Prize, a gorgeous 100% wool queen-size blanket; as Second Prize, a beautiful handmade quilted wall hanging by Marcia Tiernan, and as Third Prize, your choice of 2 of the HHS books. You may purchase tickets at the Solomon Temple Barn during the Fair or at the Annual Meeting before the drawing. Single raffle tickets will sell for \$1.00 or you may purchase seven tickets for \$5.00. You do not need to be present to win but we look forward to seeing you all at the drawing.

* We want to remind you that the **Fort Shirley Site** has been mowed and cleaned up for the season. We invite you to take a walk and learn more about this historic place in Heath. Welcome!

- **Remember: Reservations for the supper required by August 18 – call 413-337-8594***

For the Society's Fair hours, see *Heath Fair News* on page 13.

Senior Moments



Mary Johnson discussed the Circuit Breaker Program.



Cheryl Richardson explained about the Shine Program and what assistance is available to Seniors.



The Heath Elementary School "Strings Group" entertained diners with a concert..



Spaghetti Dinner A REAL SURPRISE – THANK YOU

I thought a spaghetti dinner sponsored by the Senior Center was a fine idea and Pegge and I looked forward to



a quiet evening right here in Heath with people we knew. No driving miles and miles, no tipping, no menu, a modest contribution and I knew it would be nicely done. (It was really good!) I was completely

taken aback when Eileen Tougas presented plaques to Henry Leuchtman and me with Certificates of Appreciation for our long service to the Town of Heath. I was speechless. I haven't been surprised like that in a long, long time. I do thank everyone and especially Eileen, Val Kaempfer, Teresa Peters, and Jane de Leeuw, who put the affair together.

~ Dave Howland



A recycling presentation was given by Amy Donovan, Program Director from F.C.S.W.M.

June and July were busy months at the Senior Center. It is our hope that we can continue to offer programs that will be enjoyable, informative, and helpful to the luncheon group as well as to anyone else who wishes to attend.

Please check the bulletin board in front of the Community Hall for notices of future events.

~ Eileen Tougas
Senior Center Coordinator

Heath Business Directory

Bald Mountain Pottery

625-8110

The Benson Place

Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread

337-5340

Fred Burrington

Artist

337-4302

Dave Cote Builders

Branch Hill Road

337-4705

Robert Delisle

Electrician

337-5716

Russell E. Donelson

Design/Construction/Cabinetry

337-4460

Jerry Ferguson

Home Improvement

Lic. Electrician

337-4317

Earl M. Gleason

Fire Equipment

337-4948

Heath Brook Studio

Glass and Baskets

337-5736

Maple Ledge Goldens

AKC Registered Golden Retrievers

337-4705

John Mooney

Custom Remodeling

337-8344

Wanda Mooney

Realtor

337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries

Taylor Brook Road

337-4964

Paul Turnbull

Janice Boudreau

Commercial/Wedding Photographers

337-4033

Bonnie Wodin

Custom Gardens & Landscapes

337-5529

Support Your Local Businesses

If you would like more information about the Heath Enterprise Council, please call Alicia Tripp at 337-4964

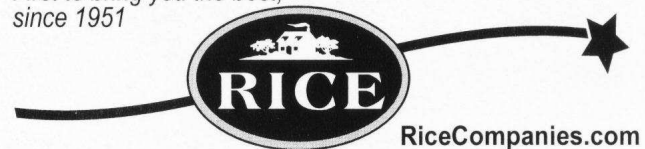

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Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License #E22622

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Reward your friends and relatives with a restful night's sleep high in the hills of Rowe. They'll awake to a hearty homegrown breakfast in a 200-year old inn and family farm. See the stars, breathe clear fresh air, relax in the quiet beauty of spectacular views of the Berkshire Hills.

Lodging and Breakfast from \$60. Call for Reservations.

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David Cote
413-337-4705

Franklin Community Cooperative

Serving Your Community with *at the Bridge of Flowers!*
Deliciously Healthy Foods
with two co-op stores...

Green Fields Market

144 Main St., Greenfield

M-F 8-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5

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School Days

Sharing memories with three other “elders” at the recent Historical Day celebration on the Common prompted me to relive those days at the Branch School in North Heath where I spent some of the best years of my life. It was the largest of the four remaining one room school houses in Heath. The building still stands at the corner of Route 8A and Sumner Stetson Road but is now a private dwelling. It was one mile from our home farther north, now just a cellar hole marking the fire which destroyed the early 1800s cape where my great-grandfather Squire Benson settled years before.

Of course, my brothers and I walked the uphill mile in all kinds of weather with me tagging along well behind my brothers, reported Mrs. Gleason who phoned my mother every day to reassure our safe passage! When my brother Ken was in the 7th or 8th grade he was entrusted with the task of going much earlier to start the woodstove fire before the teacher arrived. He may also have had water-gathering duty, carrying buckets of water from the spring across the road near the Branch Brook.

Students from Number Nine Road were transported by horse-drawn wagon in good weather and by covered sled in the winter. I believe it was one of the Lively men who supplied this transportation. In mud season we often had as many as three weeks vacation because the roads were barely navigable. These weeks coincided with maple sugaring time so we could supply labor for these operations.

A typical school day began with the Pledge of Allegiance, a reading from the *Book of Psalms* and singing *America*. I remember also that one of our teachers would read from books such as *Winnie the Pooh* sometime during the day, probably after noon recess to settle us down. Since all eight grades were housed in this one room with one teacher we learned early on to concentrate, but the younger students absorbed much from the upper grades and the older students helped the first and second graders. I remember that there were as many as 40 kids sharing the two-person desks; little ones in the front, of course. The teacher’s desk was up front where she could keep an eye on us when she had time to sit during our busy time studying or writing. What impressed me most in the earlier years were those huge geography books I coveted. I could hardly wait ‘til I was in 7th grade!

Recess time (15 minutes each in the morning and afternoon) and one hour at noon. We brought our lunch, though those who lived close enough went home for lunch. In the wintertime my brothers brought thermoses filled with soup which was heated up on the woodstove. But usually we had sandwiches, sometimes trading with another kid. (I gave that up when one day I exchanged mine for what turned out to be a lard sandwich! Ugh!) After lunch and at recess we played “Kick the Can” or tag, or “Fox and Geese” in the winter across the road which is now part of a gravel mine. In my eighth grade year we had a volleyball net put up to add to our exercise time.

Since there was no indoor plumbing in the early years we had two “outhouses” and a sink with a basin in the entry room that also provided for a place for our boots and to hang our coats and hats. The older grade students were assigned (or volunteered) duties, such as cleaning the blackboards, “clapping” the erasers, raising and lowering the flag, and sweeping the floor at the end of the day. We had no art teacher but Friday afternoon was devoted to drawing of some kind, always instructed to make a border (black) before we began. Where was the creativity?? Also one afternoon a week was devoted to music with our roving music teacher, Mrs. Mills. One teacher during those eight years had us listening to a radio broadcast by Walter Damrosch devoted to sharing classical music, understanding the various musical instruments in an orchestra, and following his narrations in our workbooks. It was there that I began my appreciation of classical music. There was also a visiting nurse who discovered health issues and conducted eye tests- she found out that I was nearsighted and needed glasses. That explained why I was always being disciplined for talking angrily to my brother Doug who sat behind me teasing and annoying me, and, because I couldn’t see the teacher watching me, I got into trouble! Speaking of discipline, with one of our teachers, the ruler ruled; a whack on the knuckles or on the head was not uncommon.

The end of the school year was celebrated with an all-school picnic at Mt .Sugar Loaf Park in South Deerfield. Mr. Peters of Peters Store had a big truck with side boards onto which most of us piled for the ride. (Now it would be considered child endangerment and forbidden!) After the picnic we went to Old Deerfield for a tour of one of the historic houses. And the graduation exercises in the evening were held at the Community Hall at which the eighth graders put on a pageant or recited patriotic speeches. My graduating class of 1939 consisted of three- Leona Peters, Tom Leise, and myself. Sadly, I am the only surviving member.

Over the eight years I was there the teachers were: Jessie Flanders Smith, Elizabeth Bond, Blanche Ziegler, Betty Marshall, and Ruth Gleason. It was to Miss Gleason that I am most grateful for inspiring me to do my best and continue learning beyond high school. I have to say that this one-room school experience provided the best of all my educational years. By 1937 a second room was added, a second teacher employed, and bathrooms installed. And eventually a kitchen was provided for the school lunch program. But that’s for someone else to narrate.

~Lois Stetson Buchiane

Selectboard's Report

Summer Meeting Schedule

The Board will meet every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall for the summer and early fall unless posted otherwise. The tentative meeting dates are 8/04, 8/25, (Tuesday at Heath School), 9/09, 9/22, 10/06 and 10/20.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. on June 23, 2008, for the purpose of transferring money from accounts with surpluses to accounts with deficits for the FY 2008 budget. This is what is known as an end of the fiscal year "housekeeping" meeting. There were eight articles on the warrant; all passed unanimously.

Another Special Town Meeting

The Board will be holding another Special Town Meeting to raise and appropriate the funds to pay the salaries of the Board of Health and Assessors Clerk positions. The Board inadvertently neglected to do this when the positions were reauthorized at the Annual Town Meeting. The Meeting is scheduled for **Monday, August 25**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath Elementary School.

Appointments

Stephanie Burton was appointed to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Becky Finn. Rick Osburn was appointed as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission (ConCom). This is a nonvoting position but provides an opportunity to learn the business of the ConCom. Alternate members are likely candidates for appointment to fill future vacancies.

Resignation

Dawn Peters has decided not to seek reappointment to the Board of Health after more than 20 years of service. We owe her a debt of gratitude for her many years of dedication to keeping the town in compliance with the rules and regulations of the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Environmental Protection.

Energy Committee

The Board voted to establish a Town Energy Committee which is charged with helping to negotiate and monitor a contract with an energy service company for the purpose of implementing a program for improvements that would reduce energy consumption by town facilities. Bill Gran has agreed to be the first chair of the Committee and will be approaching others to serve as members. The energy savings program is being administered by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for its member towns. Siemens, an international company with many years experience in the field, has been selected to provide the audits and implement the energy saving strategies with the towns that choose to participate. All costs are guaranteed to be paid for by the savings in energy costs.

New Projects

A new fence is being erected at the Transfer Station. Funds on account with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District from town recycling receipts will be used to pay for the new fence.

The Board is considering using a portion of the Chapter 90 grant to purchase a new grader. Our grader is 25 years old and in need of more than \$35,000 in repairs. The manufacturer is no longer in business and the availability of replacement parts is not certain.

Boston Post Cane

The Selectboard has been trying to locate the whereabouts of the Boston Post Cane which historically has been awarded to the oldest resident in Town. Anyone who might have information about the location of the cane should call Gloria at the Town Offices 337-4934. Please leave a message if you don't get through.

Heath Online

Take some time to visit the Town's Web site at www.townofheath.org. You'll find Selectboard meeting minutes, school information, and much more. The Web site is being updated. All comments and suggestions are welcome. You may address them to Gloria Fisher at towncoordinator@townofheath.org. You may contact the Board at BOS@townofheath.org. Send messages to any board or individual via the e-mail address, or visit the Heath Web site.

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



John Clark's French Horn Workshop Players.

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Library Lines

The Library At the Heath Fair



By Donald Purington

Look for the Library at the Heath Fair. Our display in Exhibit Hall, following the Fair's theme of "Local Harvest," will celebrate books by local authors. The Friends of The Heath Free Public Library will be at their Book Sale Tent on the midway, selling used books and raffle tickets for many great prizes. Children will be marching in the parade on Sunday with their animal masks and puppets made at the Library's Summer Craft Program.

Thanks to Jan and Cal Carr for hosting a potluck supper for the Friends of The Heath Free Public Library. Great friends, great food, and great music (thanks to Karen Brooks) under the shelter of the old sheep barn.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski, *Hit and Run* by Lawrence Sanders, *This Night's Foul Work* by Fred Vargas, *Last Patriot* by Brad Thor, *All We Ever Wanted Was Everything* by Janelle Brown, and *Illegal Action* by Stella Remington.

Adult Nonfiction Books: *West of Last Chance* by Peter Brown and Kent Haruf, *Tanglewood: A Group Memoir* by Peggy Daniel, *When You Are Engulfed In Flames* by David Sedaris, *How Strange it Seems: the Cultural Life of Jews in Small-Town New England* by Michael Hoberman, and *How To Pick a Peach: the Search For Flavor from Farm to Table* by Russ Parsons.

Books on CD: *Dreams From My Father: a Story of Race and Inheritance* by Barack Obama and *Wolf at the Table: a Memoir of my Father* by Augusten Burroughs.

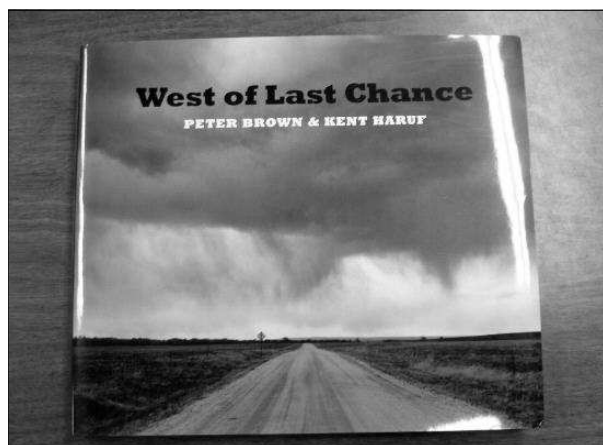
Books on Tape: *Friday Night Knitting Club* by Kate Jacobs, *Ordinary Life* by Elizabeth Berg.

Young Adult Books: *Battle of the Labyrinth* by Rick Riordan and *Time Paradox* by Eoin Colfer.

Children's Picture Books: *Kindle Me a Riddle: a Pioneer Story* by Roberta Karim and *The Firebird* by Jane Yolen.

DVDs *John Adams*, *The Bucket List*, *Great Debaters*, and *Pete Seeger: the Power of Song*.

West of Last Chance



Renowned photographer Peter Brown, a longtime summer resident of Heath, has presented to the Heath Library a signed copy of his new book, *West of Last Chance*, an impressive compilation of his photographs with prose pieces by author Kent Haruf.

This beautiful book, offered by distinguished publisher W.W. Norton, has been critically acclaimed.

Author accolades include "An achievement of sublime alchemy. By its end, my notions of beauty, space, and time were irrevocably altered." (Mark Spragg); "A major book whose implications and historic significance will increase for years to come." (Rick Bass), and "Somehow his pictures inhabit the viewer's brain, take up residence there...the latest chapter in a magnificent body of work." (Geoff Dyer).

Kent Haruf's books, *Eventide* and *Plainsong*, as well as Peter's earlier books, *Seasons of Light* and *On the Plains*, are in the Heath Library's collection.

~ Jane deLeeuw

Milestones

Madyson Erica Lynde, daughter of **Matt and Laura Lynde** of Heath, was born on May 19, 2008. She is the granddaughter of the late Heath Police Chief Lorin Gowdy and Sandra Crowningshield of Readsboro, VT, and Brian and Vicki Lynde of Colrain.



Dorothy M. Barton Quinn, formerly of Colrain, died on July 17, 2008. Born in West Leyden on October 18, 1915, she was the daughter of Gilbert and Mildred Denison Barton.

She attended Leyden Center School and graduated from the former Northfield High School and received her three-year elementary school diploma and her B.S.E. degree from Fitchburg State Teachers College.

Mrs. Quinn taught all eight grades in Guilford, VT, rural schools and fifth grade in Brattleboro, VT, prior to teaching for 24 years in Colrain. She held positions as principal and head teacher as well as full-time fifth grade teacher before retiring in 1973.

She was predeceased by her husband of 49 years, Harlan L. Quinn, a daughter, Harlene Betsy, and a granddaughter, Jillian Lou Gilbert.

Survivors include five daughters, Betsy Temple of Worcester, VT, Donna Noyes of Colrain, **Joan Gilbert of Heath**, Lou Ann Quinn of North Adams, and Susan Sanderson of Readsboro, VT; ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts may be made to the Colrain Community Church, Main Road, Colrain, MA; the Shelburne Senior Center, 7 Main Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370, or the Sweet Brook Transitional Care and Living Center, 1561 Cold Spring Road, Williamstown, MA 01267.

Mary B. Smith Churchill of Heath died on May 31, 2008. Born in Greenfield on September 20, 1948, she was the daughter of Ernest P. and Mary B. Ladd Smith.

A graduate of Whitingham (Vermont) High School, she was employed by Judd Wire of Turners Falls. Prior employment included BJs Wholesale Club, Greenfield; Geka Brush, Turners Falls; the Buckley Nursing Home and Charlene Manor of Greenfield, and the former Kendall Co. of Griswoldville.

Her husband, Ralph E. Churchill, died in 2005. She is survived by her mother, **Mary Smith of Heath**; her son, Max E. Churchill of Gardner; a sister, Tena Shippee of Buckland; a brother, **Roy C. Smith of Heath**, and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on June 5 with burial in Heath's North Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway Street, Suite 2, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Newland Farnsworth Smith Jr., former Heath resident, died on June 5, 2008. The fourth great-grandson of Major Hezekiah Smith and son of Newland Farnsworth and Helen Sisson Smith, Newland was born in Danville, KY, on October 7, 1911, and graduated from the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina. He then attended Massachusetts Institute of

Technology where he earned degrees in Electrical Engineering and Master of Science. In 1935 he was married to Caroline Crosby whom he met on a tennis court in Heath several years previously.

Newland's career in the development of television broadcast equipment and networks began with his work on cathode ray tubes as a graduate student at M. I. T. He held positions with Philco in Philadelphia, with RCA in Camden, NJ, with WOR-TV in New York, and with Gray Manufacturing in Hartford, CT. Before retiring in 1974, he served as a senior engineering consultant at CBS-TV Network.

Newland's parents purchased the Sullivan Taft house on the East Oxbow in 1921. Newland helped his father, who was a physics professor at the Citadel and hence had the entire summer to be in Heath, put in the plumbing and the dirt tennis court. Upon Newland's retirement in 1974 he and Caroline winterized the house and deepened their involvement in Heath. Between 1974 and 1991, Newland and Caroline invited a number of people to come and play tennis on their court and stay for a swim in their swimming pool. He also spent considerable time cutting trees and hauling them up to the house where they would be split and stacked in the woodshed for the fireplaces and wood burning stoves, work for which he would enlist his two sons and their families.

Newland became the typography member of the staff of the *Heath Herald* and was an active member of the Heath Historical Society. He was also involved in gravestone restoration not only in Heath but also at the cemeteries in the Hanover Township, New Hampshire, including the Dartmouth College cemetery.

He and Caroline moved to Kendal at Hanover in 1991. At Kendal Newland helped develop KTV5, the local access information channel and spent many hours working in its studio. He loved playing tennis and climbing in the Green and White Mountains.

Survivors include two sons, Newland F. III of Evanston, IL, and Lawrence C. of Edina, MN; three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Burial on August 19 will be at the West Branch Cemetery in Colrain, followed by a gathering at the former Smith home on Hosmer Road now owned by the Carrs.

Memorial donations may be made to Kendal at Hanover Cadbury Fund, 80 Lyme Road, Hanover, NH 03755 and to the Heath Historical Society, Heath, MA 01346

The cremated remains of **Rebecca "Polly" Pollard Boykin Wayne**, who died on October 30, 2006, will be buried in the Rowe East cemetery on August 28, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. She was the wife of the Reverend David Wayne of Rowe and sister of Dorothy Gary of Heath.

Polly had directed that her body be donated to the Albany Medical College for medical training and research.

The family has extended an open invitation to all interested in attending the service.

Requiescat in pace

Heath People in the News

At the Mohawk Trail Regional; High School graduation, the following scholarships and awards were presented:

to **Justin Begin**, the Carl H. Neiman Scholarship, the Linda Neil Memorial Music Scholarship, and the Heath Ladies Aid Scholarship;

to **Christopher Wilkins**, the University of Maine Dean's Scholar Award, the Arms Academy Scholarship Fund Trust, the Carl H. Neiman Scholarship, the Fred W. Wells Fund Scholarship, and the Heath Ladies Aid Scholarship;

to **Ashley Williams**, the Women of the Moose and the Heath Ladies Aid Scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Pam Porter has recently accepted the position of Home Care Program Director in which capacity she supervises the program that provides assistance for people so that they can stay in their homes as long as it is safe and comfortable for them to do so.

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Looking for regular or occasional rideshare to Northampton (M-F workday hours). I have flexibility with specific arrival/departure times. I will drive, ride or share. Looking to minimize cost and environmental impact. Contact me at kevin.maloney@stantec.com or at (413)584-4776x117.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>
From May 11, 2008	1 ¾"
June	2 ½"
To July 10	1 ½ "

In this reporting period:

After the precipitation from the winter months, the month of May turned out to be fairly dry. The first heat wave of the summer season came on the 7th of June and ended on the 10th. Temperatures during this "wave" ranged around 88- 92 degrees. A warm and humid day on the 16th brought with it a tremendous hailstorm that damaged a lot of flower and vegetable gardens. It also made school choice parents and visitors, (who were attending the 6th grade graduation at the school) comment that it looked kind of winterish in certain spots along the roadsides and around the school building. The last part of June and the first week of July had many days that were sunny in the morning, but by the afternoon had a threat of showers and storms, causing a late start to the haying season.

~ Timothy Lively

Community Calendar

August 2008

August 07 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

August 14 - Fair Exhibits accepted between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m.

AUGUST 15, 16, 17 - HEATH FAIR

August 21 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

August 23 - Heath Historical Society Annual Supper, Senior Center, 5:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting & Raffle Drawing, Heath Union Church, 6:30 p.m. followed by Speakers.

August 25 - Special Town Meeting, Heath School, 7:00 p.m.

August 28 - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Early release, Mohawk, 11:45 a.m.;
Heath School 12:45 p.m.

August 29 - Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Full Day
Heath School, Early Release 12:45 p.m.

September 2008

September 01 - LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL

September 02 - Full Day of School for All Grades

September 04 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

September 10 - School Committee Meeting, MTRHS

September 12 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

September 18 – Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.
Heath School Open House

September 26 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.



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*~ Charles Dudley Warner
1829-1900*

*American essayist and novelist
From My Summer in a Garden*

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