



HEATH HERALD

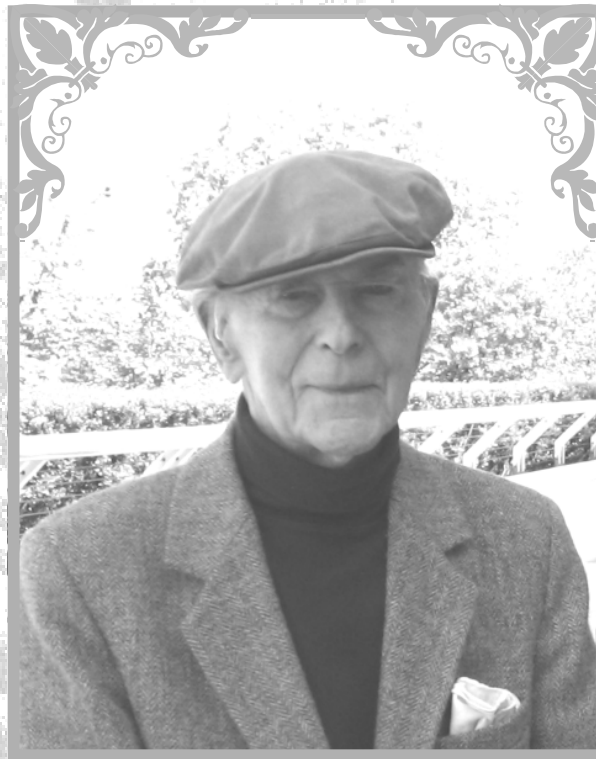
Heath's First Newspaper

\$1.50

Volume 33, Number 6

February/March 2012

ALASTAIR MAITLAND (1916-2012)



*"As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls
and birds and winds singing.
I'll interpret the rocks, learn the language
of flood, storm, and the avalanche.
I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers
and wild gardens and get as near
to the heart of the world as I can."*

~ John Muir, American Naturalist

Heath Herald

Design and Layout Editor/Photographer

Copy Editor

Typographer

Business Manager

Advertising & Circulation

Coordinator

Technical Advisor

Columnists

Eileen A. Tougas

Jane de Leeuw

Jane de Leeuw

Jan Carr

Jan Carr

Dianne Cerone

Henry Leuchtman

Eric Glazier, Bill Lattrell, Pat Leuchtman,

Donald Purington, Claire Rabbitt

Contributors

Lois Buchaine, Charlene Churchill, Lizz Davin,
Jonathan Diamond, Finance Committee, Heath School
Staff & Students, Heath Union Church, Dave Howland,
Ruth Johnson, Justin Lively, Tim Lively,
Alastair Maitland, PTP, Dave Ouellette, Deb Porter,
Hazel Porter, Laura Porter, Pam Porter,
Selectboard, Kathy Sprague, Hilma Sumner,
Eileen Tougas, Ned Wolf

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 April/May 2012 issue is March 10, 2012. 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE ~ One Year: \$8.00 (payable in advance by check or money order).

ADVERTISING RATES ~ Display ads: \$5.00 per column inch. Contact Jan Carr at (413) 337-5747.

CLASSIFIED ADS ~ Free.

Send all correspondence to:

Heath Herald

P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346-0054

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

HEATH HERALD

For only \$8.00 a year, 6 issues of the Heath Herald will be delivered to your home.

Name _____

Address _____

- Keep abreast of local happenings
- Give it as a gift to friends or family
- Support your local paper

The Heath Herald, P.O. Box 54, Heath, MA 01346

Heath Union Church News

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service was well attended. After Christmas Sunday we moved down to the lower level of the Church for our morning Sunday services until Palm Sunday. If all goes as planned, our restored Johnson Organ will have been reinstalled and ready for the Easter Celebrations.

Our Annual meeting was held on January 10. As we begin another year we again welcome any members of the community to join us at our worship services and other activities in the Church.

Adult Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10:00 a.m.
Bible Study and Prayers	Thursdays, 6:00 p.m.
Pastor's Hours	Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Church phone: 337- 5367; Pastor Phill: (413) 648-9077

Deacons:

Richard Gallup	337-5367
Ruth Johnson	337-4367
Walt Gleason	337-4479
Alli Thane-Stetson	337-4852

~ The Deacons

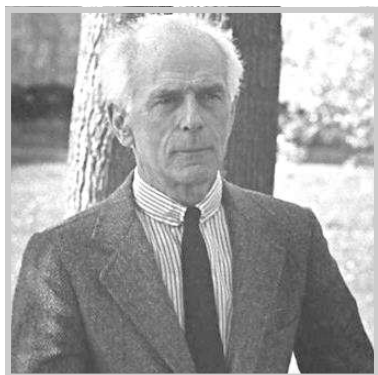


(Reprinted from "The 200-Year-Old House")
written by Hazel speaking for the House in the December 2008/January 2009 issue)

One day a white-haired lady knocked on the door asking to borrow a book. My master invited her in and served tea and cookies. He talked for a long time telling her what the book was about so she left no longer needing the book. She later confided in me that she was so impressed with the man that she did not remember much the book was about.

Alastair began to visit the lady. After several meals in her home and several movies and parties together, she began to come to me and parked her car in the barn. She spent the night. After a few seasons these two were married (December 1986) in her house and had a reception in my living room. This made me very proud. Since then they have set up living together in my very nest, even though she has a home in Heath. They care for me, and I feel warmed by them and their friends.

Alastair G. Maitland
1916 – 2011
Kampala, Uganda – Heath, Massachusetts



Alastair George Maitland, C. B. E., died in his home, the beautiful red farmhouse on 8A, on the morning of December 21. The day before, he and Hazel Porter, my mother, had celebrated their 25th Anniversary. He was, to the end, loving, considerate, incredibly dignified, and very deeply loved by all of his combined family and the community around him.

Alastair was a small man in physical stature, but I knew of no one who thought he could be dismissed as insignificant. His work throughout the world was much like his work in Heath: quietly effective and deeply resounding in its impact upon all of us. He was in many ways an incredible role model for what it means to be a full human being, responsible and aware of his own consequence in the world, both its limits and its power. He expected to be treated with respect and that was how he treated others. When he conversed with someone, he truly listened to their words and meanings. My nephews and niece truly love him and know that he cherished them. Alastair's generosity of spirit in these relationships is perhaps the greatest gift he could leave them.

Alastair's love of the land and his respect for nature came to him honestly through both his parents. His sense of responsibility to all humanity also came to him honestly. When his mother took him, his older brother, and two younger brothers to Scotland so that they could go to good schools and have the advantages of the British educational system he directed his efforts to do the same, taking the highest honors possible in French, Spanish, and diplomatic studies at the University of Edinburgh and earning a scholarship to the Sorbonne, in France. When he sat for the two weeks of exams required for consideration for entrance into the Foreign Office of the British government he was placed so highly that he was offered the two top spots to choose from: India or the United States. We are very grateful that he chose to work with us in the U.S. When he was posted in New York, his first wife, Betty, an avid skier, searched for a home to which she and Alastair could retire. She traveled throughout New England, searching for just the right spot, where Alastair could work at being a gentleman farmer and she could reach the ski slopes. She saw the red farmhouse on Route 8A, in Heath, and fell in love. There are wonderful pictures of Alastair in those early years, working in the woods with his dog by his side, clearing underbrush and cleaning up the deadfalls and making paths for folks to walk and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Alastair's gift to the Franklin Land Trust of 40 acres of beautiful woodland, as well as an endowment to assure that The Betty Maitland Memorial Forest would always be cared for properly are indicative of who Alastair truly was. Alastair would not give a white elephant – a gift that would be more burden than joy. He made certain that the land could be supported and could support the education of the local citizenry. He encouraged not only the building of the Heath Elementary School, but also invited the school to make use of the forest for teaching the children about the land that surrounded them. He even hired a local aspiring young artist, Fred Burrington, to create the signs for the entrance to the land.

Alastair loved not only the land of Heath, but the people, too. His appreciation of the work of the Heath Selectboard was always evident. His support of the rebuilding of the Bissell Bridge and his adamant stance regarding the need for zoning laws in Heath were what he considered his duty as a citizen of this town. He was always a clear-thinking man, with layers of experience that most of us would have considered the stuff of fiction..

He was, at one time, offered a knighthood for his service to the British Crown. He turned it down, thinking it would only cause more grief with the troublesome Irish Republican Army that picketed and protested his consulate in Boston. He suggested that it be given to Alistair Cooke, (British/American author and television personality) instead, for his years of service to US-British relations. Hazel and Alastair were some of the last guests Alistair Cooke had visit him before he died in his home in New York City.

Little known facts about Alastair? Alastair was the "handler" for the spy (and author), Roald Dahl, when Dahl visited New York at the beginning of World War II, as a hero fighter pilot, with the mission to try to win the United States over to the cause of Britain – to join in the fight against Hitler. Alastair raced from New York to Montreal when Winston Churchill came to visit Canada and muster American sympathy and support for Britain's valiant effort against Hitler. Although Alastair loved nature, he also had a great love for cars. We have a picture of him with a 1926 Rolls Royce in Jerusalem. It has a handle in the front to crank start it!

This quiet, introverted man saw his responsibility to the people of the world at large and took up his burden without complaint, without shirking or finding excuses or ways to avoid it. He was very much a model of humanity that we were blessed to have and with whom we were delighted to share our hometown.

I never thought anyone could cause my heart to love them as much as I loved my father, but Alastair Maitland has carved a niche in my heart just as big and as strong. I have been extraordinarily blessed by the gift of this wonderful man in my life and in my mother's life and heart.

We love you, Alastair.

~ Laura Porter

("Alastair Maitland" continued on page 4)

("Alastair Maitland" continued from page 3)



New Owners for the Red House

1969. The red house is being sold...again. Who will the new owners be? What will they be like? Even as teenagers we had

already had a neighbor with a pet monkey that carried a most unpleasant odor. (The monkey, that is.) Horses came next with owners who drove their sports cars past the house at unprecedented speeds. So, who next?

The word came soon enough that our new neighbors were to be a middle-aged couple in British service. One weekend, soon after they moved in, our family trekked up the road to greet this couple and welcome them to Heath. What ensued for the next 43 years was a relationship of mutual respect, admiration, and true Heathan neighborliness. When our parents were invited to the red house, now owned by the Maitlands, so were we. Alastair and Betty would always make a point to talk with us and inquire as to our activities and interests.

One summer when we were both still in high school, we decided to earn money by doing interior painting and wallpapering. When the Maitlands got wind of this venture, we were hired to paper a large walk-in closet. The amusing thing was the style of wallpaper that they chose. It was the early '70s when patterns and colors were bold and bright. Thus, the selection of what seemed an out-of-character design from two reserved English folk.

Alastair's respect for each individual was evident in his daily life. He always had a cordial greeting for those he saw about town. Quietly he stood by his convictions, whether it was traveling three miles to get his mail at the Heath Post Office or in the preservation of acreage by gift to the Franklin Land Trust that he had groomed with walking trails to be enjoyed by everyone. Although Alastair did not attempt to fill any town office, he knew the heartbeat of Heath and its residents. He faithfully came out for every election and town meeting and board meetings when there was a subject matter that concerned him. Any comments reflected his love for the continued well-being of Heath and its residents.

A common sight for our family was to see the dogs being walked each day and usually more than once. It was obviously Alastair's duty as he was the one we saw every day. At times he would be accompanied by, first, Betty, and, later, by Hazel. It was a comforting sight as they walked down to our brook, crossed the road, and walked back home. Alastair's appearance came at the same time each day. Looking out the window to see our sure-footed neighbor and four-footed, beloved companion was an indicator that life in Heath was continuing as it should be: ordered, peaceful, and quiet.

At the service to celebrate Alastair's life, Leighton McCutcheon spoke of the thread of friendship and conversation that the two of them had woven over the years. With each of us who knew him, there was spun another thread of relationship. And Alastair took all the threads and wove a beautiful tapestry that was his life and legacy.

~ Charlene Churchill and Hilma Sumner

Alastair

(Editors' Note: Reprinted from *Herald's Valentine issue*, February-March 2009)

AH ...

The red Mercedes

Still proud after more than thirty years of service to its owner
Pulls up to the stately red house that has maintained its
same place for two hundred years.

The door opens slowly

And out pops

A spry young man of ninety-three,

A little on the skinny side and a little slower than in his prime

But still dapper with his familiar chapeau

Left over from his days in Paris, I'm sure.

You can still see the twinkle in his eyes

Eyes that have seen so much

Eyes that have seen the world in so many places

Eyes that have met so many people.

People who he has touched

People who he has met,

Be it the Pope in Rome

Or his neighbors down the Dell

There is no difference

No change in how this man

Treats or views others.

Always with compassion

Always with kindness

Always with respect

He expounds dignity and grace.

He radiates warmth and joy.

He holds passionately to his beliefs

Save this bridge !

Save that forest !

Save what is right in this world

And bring it peace,

Peace that he has worked so hard to foster.

He never looks down

Only up

Up to the future

Up for the good of all

Up for the help he gives to so many

Up for the many he touches.

He is a man of love

Love for his companion and partner in life, with whom
he has shared his last twenty-five years

Love for his families that have surrounded him

Love for the children and grandchildren that have adored him

Love for the friends and community that have embraced him.

For as much as he has Loved

He is Loved

By us all !

Written by Dave Ouellette

A Man of the World

The excitement in the children was palpable as they listened intently to the story *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen. Inspired by the story, my k/1 class had gathered at school on this moonlit winter night to venture out in the Betty Maitland Forest for our own owl walk. We had been in the forest several times that year and the children were excited about the prospect of seeing it at night. Our day had been spent practicing owl calls, walking silently and staying together, and with one last reading of *Owl Moon* we were all ready to go. We knew we might not see an owl but as the book said, to go out owl hunting, all you need is hope and that we had. As we ventured forth, I thought about the first time I walked in the Maitland forest. I was with both Alastair and Hazel, and Alastair was giving our whole family a tour of the woods that he had so lovingly preserved. At one point, with a sweep of his hand, he spoke of a day when the children of the Heath School might study and enjoy the woods. Though this was before the school was built, the tone of his voice as he swept his hand across the landscape told of the hope he had as well; that soon we would have a school in Heath where children would learn about the special place they lived in.

If you knew Alastair, you know that he was a man of the world. Throughout his life he worked and traveled all over the globe and continued to avidly read the news and stayed up-to-date about worldwide issues and events. But equally, Alastair was a man of the land, steadfastly loving and caring for, not just the space around his own house, but the woods, the land, and the people throughout Heath. I believe in fact that The Betty Maitland Forest is the only privately owned property in town that has been preserved for the enjoyment of all.

Well, we didn't see any owls that night, but it turned out the magic of walking silently on a moonlit night was experience enough to sustain a deep interest in owls throughout the year that culminated in the creation of the large owl that hangs in the Open Space at the school today. Before and since that night, I have taken many children into the Maitland forest and it never ceases to capture our interest and deepen our learning. Whether examining the creatures of the vernal pool, imagining the bear that left claw marks in a large beech tree, or just strolling along the trail, we all come away from the woods knowing better the beautiful place we live in. I never set out on these adventures without taking a moment to silently thank Alastair for sharing this wood with us and for passing on his love for the land.

~ Deborah Porter

A Gentlemanly Man

Alastair was the most gentlemanly man I have ever known; gracious and gentle, with a sly sense of humor and a twinkle in his eyes.

One of my last visits in their home was when Hazel was recovering from her broken ankle and I had taken a meal for them. He hovered around and refused to sit until I was ready to leave, and then he escorted me safely out the door, into my car as he watched for traffic.

The stately old maple, now truncated, stands as a reminder of his steadfast love for his home with its deep roots in the history of Heath.

~ Lois Stetson Buchiane

Dear Friend



Alastair was a dear friend. He and Hazel traveled to Rochester, New York, following my brother John's sudden death to support me, my parents, John's daughters Emily and Catherine, and their mother Julietta. Back in Heath Dad enjoyed talking with Alastair on what is now my porch about family, land, the Town, the country, and foreign affairs as they related to his diplomatic work.

I'm grateful to Alastair for his constant encouragement, yes, even prodding, to put my land in the Franklin Land Trust. Whether we were meeting at the Post Office or he was watching grandchildren at Pond Sydney near my house, he would remind me of the importance of preserving my land. When the paperwork was complete, he congratulated me and pumped his fist in celebration.

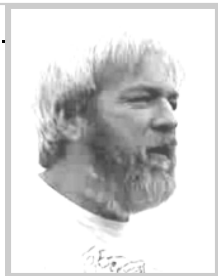
Alastair sprinkled our conversations with wry humor and fascinating insights. He wrote for the *Heath Herald* of an Historical Society trek through the woods from Fort Shirley in Heath to Fort Pelham in Rowe. It reminded him of certain couriers in ancient Greece with the twist that these Heathans found tasty treats at the end of their hike. When the Board of Directors of the Historical Society sponsored an event at Fort Shirley to coincide with the publication of Michael Coe's book on the line of forts, Alastair furnished Eric Grinnell with a Union Jack flag to fly over the site of the fort.

During the early years of our friendship I was teaching mathematics at various colleges and universities around the United States. In moving from one campus to another, say from Marshall University in Huntington, WV, to the University of Lowell in Lowell, MA, I liked to compare the two communities. Not only was Alastair an attentive listener, but he would tell me things I hadn't known about those places and hadn't expected to learn from a former British diplomat.

He was disarming in his politeness. As we approached the ramp of the Post Office, he would gesture for me to go ahead. I admired his patience and courage when his mind remained quick and active but the rate of his speech had slowed. I will miss the smile of such a kind, delightful person.

~ Ned Wolf

(Alastair Maitland" continued on page 11)

Wild Ramblings

Thoughts in a Forest on a Warm January Day



By Bill Lattrell

It is January 7, 2012. The forest I walk in is quiet. The first light of dawn creeps over the horizon and filters through the forest chasing the dark into corners and crevices that even my imagination cannot locate. The leaves that once filled the voids in this forest lay on the ground. Their decomposition will feed plants during the growing season. I look across the landscape. I can see much greater distances through the defoliated trees. It is as if I am getting a glimpse of the heart and soul of the forest.

I feel alive and thoughts bounce around in my head like a steel ball in a pinball machine. And yet despite these random thoughts I see so much beauty around me. Tall vertical hardwood trees cast long shadows. Old stone walls, covered with still green lichen, dissect the forest giving me a sense of space and time. Leaf litter, disturbed by the hooves of last night's white-tail deer, forms a trail leading to a hemlock grove. The deer likely lay there watching me. I like being seen and not seeing. It makes me feel comfortably insignificant.

It is early January and there is still no snow. Yesterday it was nearly 50 degrees. And although I find the travel through this steep and difficult terrain easy as compared to how it would be with two feet of snow, I wonder what these changes will mean for this forest I love. Humans are funny that way. When we love and care about something we worry about what might happen. At least that is what I do; worry and make plans to ease my mind.

Since the beginning of the 20th century the interior, mountainous landscape of New England has been undergoing a gradual but total change. As agricultural pursuits waned in the latter 1800s, land, previously used for grazing, mowing, and crops, went fallow. Large areas of land, once rich with sheep, cattle, mowed fields, and crops ready to be harvested, turned to fields of goldenrod, aster, milkweed, mullein, and a variety of old field plant species. Huge tracts of brambles, primarily blackberries, appeared on mountainsides, along rivers, and over hill and dale. The brambles were replaced with shrub communities for a decade or two. Silky dogwood, arrowwood, hazelnut, alders, elderberry, gray dogwood, and many other shrubs filled the landscape and out-competed the old field plant species. Eventually saplings from the few nearby tree stands invaded the shrubby fields. Capable of reaching for sunlight and shading the shrubs our landscape transformed to forest. In the late 1800s New England was 80% cleared land; by the 1990s 80% of that same land was forested. It was a complete reversal of ecological fortunes.

The transformation did not end there. Young forest began maturing into older forest. In the 1970s and 1980s the forest industry became a major industry in the six New England states. Logs commanded a high price and there was money to be made for landowners, loggers, log scalers, lumber mills, and the forest supply industry. Lumber became a significant commodity. A source of wealth for few but a legitimate income producer for many.

Much of the New England forest is deciduous or mixed conifer and deciduous. Temperate deciduous forests are not as common on this planet as one might think. The northeastern one-third of the United States and southern Canada, western Europe, and eastern coastal areas of the Far East hold the majority of temperate forests on this planet. Temperate forests require unique temperature regimes and both cold and warm seasons. Temperate deciduous trees can survive 100 degree Fahrenheit temperatures in the summer but require average daytime temperatures in the 70-80 degree range. They can survive winter temperatures as cold as 40 degrees below zero (Fahrenheit) but really need averages to be in the 15-30 degree range for sustainable health. They also require plentiful water. The deciduous forest is very water-dependent. Temperate deciduous forests need rainfall that is greater than 30 inches on average, but prefer something in the 40-inch per year range. It also likes precipitation in the warmer seasons to be evenly distributed. Extended drought for several months for several years in a row can wreak havoc on a mature temperate deciduous forest.

Central interior New England wears the temperate deciduous forest much like many people in New England wear a Red Sox hat. We identify with the forest as we do our favorite team. It is as much a part of our history and identity as our neighborhoods, our families, and our local histories. It is as a big part of who we are. We are surrounded by trees, although some do not seem to notice, and their erect nature towers over us. Perhaps we should see them as our Eiffel Tower or Empire State Building. Perhaps not. Perhaps we should just recognize them for what they are, magnificent trees.

These temperate deciduous forests give us life. They sequester carbon dioxide, combating the gluttonous sins of the human species; they give us oxygen; literally providing clean air to enrich our lungs, our hearts, and our brains. They make our landscape green and they shield us from the wind. Our broadleaf forests provide habitat for a plethora of animals including gray squirrels, chipmunks, red fox, coyote, black bear, fisher, white-tailed deer, raccoons, opossum, voles, deer mice, and many others. They provide shade for understory plants. Our forest floors are graced with dolls eyes, goldthread, wintergreen, many different ferns, Dutchmen's breeches, spring beauty, cardinal flower, wood asters, and nearly countless other woodland wildflowers. The variety

(*"Thoughts in a Forest"* continued on page 7)

(*"Thoughts in a Forest"* continued from page 6)

of trees growing in our deciduous forests is dependent upon soil conditions and aspect but include red and sugar maples, red and white oaks, white, green, and black ash, black cherry, American beech, American elm, hop hornbeam, American hornbeam, shag bark hickory, pignut, butternut, yellow, black, gray, and white birch, and other less common tree species. Our deciduous forests are living laboratories for those who care to study them, endless playgrounds for those who choose to enjoy them, museums of both natural and human history for those who choose to examine them, and sources of income for those who choose to utilize their economic resources.

Our identities are wrapped within these boundless ecosystems. Those of us who choose to live in rural areas are from the forest. We live within shadows cast by tall trees. Their shade provides sanction from the busy, industrious world.

But things change. Some of our ancestors cut nearly endless areas of forest down nearly two hundred years ago. Men and women with crosscut saws and axes ventured to the edge of the woods and took one tree at a time clearing land for lumber, felling trees to make fields, and bringing these natural behemoths to the ground for fuel. The change that is taking place now is apparent and different but no less the result of human activity. Climate change threatens our temperate forests in the present day and age. But this time the threat is different. This time the change may not be able to be reversed. This time the change may result in not only how we live but where we live. Let me explain.

Our climate is warming. The Earth's average temperature has increased by nearly 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit in the last one hundred years. This doesn't sound like much but this is a megachange when it comes to natural and ecological systems. The 20th century's last two decades were the warmest the planet has seen in at least 400 years. Eleven of the last twelve years are the warmest recorded since 1850. Arctic ice is melting at both the south and north poles. These cold temperature areas are critical to weather patterns across our planet. Wind patterns, upper atmosphere steering currents, ocean currents, and other weather are totally impacted by our cold-est regions. We are losing our coral reefs due to warming ocean temperatures. These reefs are the breeding grounds for many fish and may hold the secret to diverse populations of fish and other creatures in our oceans. And perhaps the worse impact of our warming planet is the thawing of our billions of acres of tundra. As the tundra melts it releases millions and millions and millions of metric tons of methane; a far heavier and more dangerous greenhouse gas than carbon.

We have likely all noticed the changes in weather not only in our region but across our planet. Extreme drought plagues regions like central and western Africa, the south central and southwestern U.S. and large interior regions of Asia. As a result megafires have cropped up all over our planet, erasing large and vast areas of plant life and habitat for wildlife. Violent storms like tornadoes, hurricanes, and typhoons dominate our news. Without a question erratic weather has become part of the norm. Flooding in some parts of the world, from concentrated and extended rainfall, has redefined some of our floodplains, made unusable large areas of prime agricultural land, and threatened and extinguished human life and property. And unseasonable storms, like record October snowfalls

followed by extremely warm winters, may be viewed as more than a simple curiosity.

And all of this impacts our temperate forests. One study predicted central New England would have the climate of northern Georgia in less than a hundred years. Although this is a wild prediction, at best, it makes one pause when it comes to how it could change our landscape. While it is now apparent that weather and even climate can change much faster than we previously had realized, ecosystems cannot. It takes centuries, even thousands of years for our plant communities to adjust to new temperature regimes. If temperatures rise too steeply in too short a time many of our northern deciduous trees will perish. And what will follow? If we wait for trees to migrate north there will be barren landscape dominated by grasses and plants that are capable of really divergent temperature regimes. Our forests will be ripe for wildfires. Some of our wildlife will move on. Certainly black bears and fisher will find different digs more suitable for their own needs. And the remaining trees that haven't burned will stand for a while, like headstones in a graveyard, until they tumble to the earth; lost symbols of a once great and healthy planet. Where will we get our clean air to breathe? And what will sequester our carbon?

There is still much we can do to curb global warming and climate change. Given it is already upon us there is little doubt that we cannot stop it in its tracks. But by conserving energy in every aspect of our lives, by encouraging appropriate alternative energy that REALLY reduces carbon emissions into our atmosphere, by being active in encouraging, even demanding, that our legislators recognize this overwhelming problem and start dealing with it, and by educating everybody we come in contact with about what is going on relative to the changes to our beautiful planet I believe there is still hope. Perhaps we can stem the tide of climate change. Perhaps we can slow it until we have complete and total freedom from our carbon-producing lifestyle.

By way of example, in the late 1960s seventy-five percent of the freshwater lakes, rivers, and streams in the United States were not swimmable and did not support good wildlife habitat. In 1972 our federal Congress passed the U.S Clean Water Act. By the 1990s a complete reversal had already occurred. Seventy-five percent of our lakes, rivers, and streams once again were both fit for human contact, including swimming, and supported valuable and important wildlife habitat. This is proof that legislation can reverse human environmental degradation. There is reason for hope.

This forest that I wander today has an uncertain future. At my age I should realize that there is no certainty in life. But I just can't accept the fact that this change is inevitable. I keep hoping against hope that human culture will change. I just don't know if that is possible. I want this forest to stay as it is, at least for a while, at least until my future grandchildren can see the beauty of these hardwoods. I need to share the miracle of an acorn sprouting a new seedling that will turn into a giant. I need to teach future generations the art of tracking wild animals in the snow. I need to sit under a tall American beech tree with my own flesh and blood and look up at the sky and watch the wind blow swaying branches and witness the clouds flying over the tall treetops. I need to teach them the beauty of this planet.

That is why I am here.



By Eric Glazier, principal

Halfway Through the Year...

I am happy to welcome Veronica Smead back to our building. Veronica is joining us as a general classroom paraprofessional and working in multiple classrooms throughout the building. We are fortunate to have her back.

Our illustrious drama club is hard at work on their next production. This year they will be presenting a rendition of the historical drama, *1776*. Over 70% of our Middle and Upper students are participating in the play this year. They recently traveled to Boston on a field trip to walk the Freedom Trail and to participate in a historical reenactment at the Old South Church in Boston. I would like to thank Jonathan Diamond and his countless volunteers for all of their hard work. This year's play will be on Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see some of you there!

Our 6th grade class has been hard at work on their fundraising efforts. The class will be attending Nature's Classroom on the Cape in May. This past fall the students held a very successful spaghetti supper that was very well attended. Just before the holiday vacation, the students hosted a shopping spree during which students were able to purchase small items to give to their family and friends.

Our Prime Red class (grade 1/2) has been hard at work on identifying natural features on a map including: oceans, lakes, rivers, mountains, valleys, and plains. They are also working on skip counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, and 25's. The second graders are continuing to develop their money-counting skills, such as adding two digit money amounts and recognizing the value of coins. Our Middles Class (grade 3/4) has just completed their mapping of Colonial Massachusetts and has now begun to study mythology and the solar system.

I am very proud of the community service that our students have been participating in. Several of our classrooms have taken field trips to Good Neighbors to volunteer time helping our community members in need. We are hoping that by having students perform community service as children, it will foster a lifelong commitment to helping those in need!

I am also pleased to announce that we have been awarded several enrichment grants for the 2011-2012 school year. Our students will be exposed to the maple sugaring industry through a grant from the Massachusetts Agricultural Council written by Camille Freeman. We also received two Heath Cultural Council grants to bring outside presenters into our building to work with out students.

I continue to enjoy my time as the principal of Heath Elementary. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me at the school.

Heath School Drama Club

Bringing together students, families and the greater Heath community, the Heath School Drama Club will perform an adaptation of the musical comedy *1776* on **Friday, March 2, and Saturday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m.** Each year the collaborative spirit of this project has grown. Students are embracing every element of the dramatic process from set design to music, choreography to acting. This year's play offers more opportunities than ever for faculty to integrate the material into the curriculum as the Revolutionary War is taught in both the fifth and sixth grades. What's more, this period of American history is embedded in the collective unconscious of every New Englander regardless of his or her age, especially those of us fortunate to live in Massachusetts where so many of these historic events took place. We are following last season's ethnic odyssey that transported us to a land 2000 miles away with an adventure that takes place much closer to home, albeit 236 years ago. Come join and support our revolution in three acts!

If you visited one of the rehearsals here is what you might have seen. Thirty cast members pushing a dozen spools in the mud and the snow from one end of the playing fields to the other as they reenact General Knox's capture of fifty-nine cannons at Fort Ticonderoga that he and his men hauled over the Adirondacks, dragged across Lake George, and through the Berkshires to General Washington at Bunker Hill. And it would be hard not to notice the half dozen 7th and 8th grade Heath Drama Club alums spotting them!

Typically our production costs run between \$3,200 and \$3,800. More than two-thirds of our budget goes towards training and workshops. Put another way, a gift to the Heath School drama program is the gift that keeps on giving. In 2011 we pumped nearly \$2,800 into the local arts community! These monies were distributed among musicians, choreographers, voice and movement instructors from Northampton's Chrysalis Theatre to Amherst's Serious Play! Ensemble to Colrain's Wholesale Klezmer Band. And, of course, our friends and drama family at Double Edge Theatre in Ashfield.

Another way to support the Heath Elementary School's production of *1776* is to purchase one of our **Independence Bars** on sale now at the Heath Free Public Library, Mocha Maya's, Mo's Fudge Factor, Elmer's Store, and other locations throughout the Heath metropolitan area! Company members are also selling them to friends and neighbors. At least they're supposed to. Unfortunately, they're so good some families just cut a check to Drama Club and eat 'em themselves!

~Jonathan Diamond, Director

**"I hope I shall possess firmness and
virtue enough to maintain what I
consider the most enviable of all titles,
the character of
an honest man."**

George Washington

Green Thoughts

Deer-Resistant Plants



By Pat Leuchtman

Over the years we have suffered more or less from deer damage. One winter they ate a beautiful nearly five-foot *Chamaecyparis* I had planted in the spring. One spring they nibbled almost every single rose bush on the rose walk. I have fought back with 'white things', white lawn chairs placed near the berry patch and white milk jugs hung around the vegetable garden, as well as with repellents like Deer Off and Liquid Fence. My theory about 'white things' is that in the dawn and evening gloaming the deer don't recognize what they are looking at and fear ghosts. My own theory. Commercial deer repellents are all about noxious smell and hot peppers. Deer have very sensitive smell and taste buds.

This past year, for the first time, we had trouble with bunnies. Rabbits. Too late I learned that rabbits are repelled by many of the same things that deter deer. Now I am fighting on two fronts, but I found a new weapon, plants that are not only unattractive to deer, and often rabbits, but plants that can *deter* deer and rabbits.

Most of my problems are in the vegetable garden. Suddenly I realized that there were few depredations in the ornamental gardens. That mystery was solved when I received a copy of Ruth Rogers Clausen's informative book, *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants: The Prettiest Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs and Shrubs that Deer Don't Eat* with stunning and useful photographs by Alan L. Detrick, published by Timber Press. A quick look through the different categories in the book showed that my gardens are full of deer-resistant plants.

Deer have become a greater problem for gardeners, even in suburban locales, because the deer population has increased about twenty times over in just the past decade. At the same time towns and suburbs have spread out into deer habitats. The deer have retaliated by refusing to give up their habitats without a fight. Even my brother in a New Jersey suburb battles deer. At least I can leave my land open for hunters who I have always found to be respectful and happy to enjoy my woodlands, even if they don't bag a deer. I also wish that the hunting season were longer, especially since natural predators like coyotes seem to be in a period of decline.

Clausen has provided a generous list of deer-resistant plants that can be used in a varied garden. While she says that no plant is completely deer-proof, generalizations can be made. Deer seem to find plants with fuzzy leaves such as lamb's ears, and licorice plant unappealing. I have to admit that although my summer squash have hairy leaves this did not entirely deter the deer this year.

Deer also find some plants like euphorbias and hellebores poisonous. The castor oil plant can make a glamorous statement in the garden, in the ground or even in a pot, but the deer will keep their distance.

Highly scented plants like culinary herbs or fragrant flowers like lilac and lily of the valley confuse deer enough so they don't stop to nibble. Deer apparently find highly scented plants like catmint and *Agastache* so noxious they avoid the areas where they are planted. At the same, deer apparently know that plants with tough foliage like peonies and Siberian iris, as well as ferns and grasses, will likely be indigestible.

We are fortunate that so many beautiful plants are of absolutely no interest to deer. Let me list some of the perennials I have in my garden that are deer-resistant: peonies, yarrow, lady's mantle, astilbe, *Brunnera*, *Cimicifuga*, monkshood, salvias, Siberian iris, *epimedium*, and I'm trying real hard to get a false indigo, *Baptisia australis*, going. I also have daffodils, snowdrops, ornamental onions like the allium 'Globemaster,' and autumn crocus. My herb garden is deer-proof with basil, oregano, rosemary, sage, and thyme.

Clausen gives information about hardiness zone for each plant as well as size, cultural information, and, most helpfully, a deer-resistance rating. "A rating of 7 indicates that deer sometimes nip off flowers but leave the foliage alone; 8 indicates that just one or two flowers may be nibbled or destroyed, but the plant is otherwise left alone, as with peony; 9 indicates that deer occasionally browse young spring foliage, but mostly ignore the plant, and 10 indicates that deer very seldom browse foliage or flowers and usually avoid the plant altogether" as with Japanese painted fern.

Inspired by this book, I have been thinking about sprinkling alliums, *Agastache* (hyssop), catmint, *Tagetes tenuifolia* (marigold) and some of those other plants that deer really don't like around and near the vegetable garden. For example, I have already planted my garlic at one edge of the vegetable garden, and in the spring I will plant my onions along another side. Rabbits do not like onions!

Rutgers University has an excellent Web site that lists a large number of deer-resistant plants with ratings, <http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/default.asp>.

This year my plan is to arrange things so that the plants will help protect each other.

Honor the sacred.

Honor the Earth, Our Mother.

Honor the Elders.

***Honor all with whom we share the Earth—
four-leggeds, two-leggeds, winged ones,
swimmers, crawlers, plant and rock people.***

Walk in balance and beauty.

Native American Elder

Jerry Ferguson

Insured - Honest - Reliable - Fully Licensed
"Spark your imagination"



ELECTRICIAN &



HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTOR

Phone: 413-337-4317 Fax: 413-339-4839

MA Lic. #21493E MA Reg.#142164 MA Lic. Const.#96880

PLANTS FOR PLEASURE

"Your Full Service Florist"

15 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-6066

Carolyn Armstrong & Family



Osterman
Propane

**339 Amherst Rd.
Sunderland, MA 01375**

800-287-2492

www.ostermangas.com

Joe Kovach
Joan Schoenhals
Annie Skillings

BIRCH GLEN STABLES

**WESTERN OR ENGLISH
RIDING LESSONS**

**\$25.00 Half hour private
\$40.00 Hour private
Save with a package
(Buy 5 get 1 free)**



25 Groll Road, Rowe, MA 01367

Phone: 413-337-4044

E-mail: birchglenstables@verizon.net

Web site: www.birchglenstables.com

Matt's Trucking

Matt Lively

Excavating-Loam-Sand-Fill 337-4331

- Screened Loam A Specialty -

Richard A. Sumner

Journeyman Electrician

Mass. License #E22622

30 Royer Rd., Heath, MA 01346

(413) 339-8357

A.L. AVERY & SON



GENERAL STORE

Charlemont • 339-4915

Blackmer

INSURANCE AGENCY, INC

SINCE 1934

Protection • Selection
Great Service • Competitive Pricing

(413) 625-6527

1147 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne MA

Richard C. Bishop

Elder Law Attorney

Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona

P.O. Box 121, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-2574 / fax 625-8321

40 School St., Suite 5, Greenfield, MA 01302

413-773-1818 / fax 773-1881

("Alastair Maitland" continued from page 5)

Valentine

Reprinted from 2009 February/March Heath Herald

It's being a lover that makes a person a sweetheart and Alastair Maitland is both. He is a lover of courtesy, wit, and humor, a keen observer of human society. He is a lover of learning, good company, and intelligent conversation. His dining room table is backed by a reference library and it is not unusual for him to get up in the middle of a dinner party to check the meaning of a word or a historical point of fact. He is a lover of truth, good government, and fair dealings, a devoted servant of the common good. His engagement in the world's affairs has been a constant in his life, his correspondence with our leaders and representatives continuing through his long retirement. He is a lover of the world and has lived and served in many of its cities, including Los Angeles, Ottawa, Paris, New Orleans, New York, Boston, Cleveland, Jerusalem, and Cairo.

Alastair is a lover of beauty, culture, and poetry. He is a fine writer and a devotee of jazz. He is a lover of fine things, beautifully crafted and engineered. He is a lover of history and a student of it. He has been shaped by a diligent knowledge of it and his disciplined tending, likewise, has shaped it. He is a lover of the forest and the natural environment, witness the care he gives and the pleasure he takes from The Betty Maitland Memorial Forest. He is a lover of Heath and follows the events and challenges of our little community with the same interest, energy, and insight he has brought to the Middle East and the larger world.

Alastair is a lover of his home, the house itself, the lands surrounding it, and the great maple that shades it and that he has so lovingly preserved. His is a lover of his family, especially Betty with whom he enjoyed 38 years and raised two sons and a daughter, and Hazel with whom he recently celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary. Through Hazel he has also become the de facto patriarch of an adoring hoard of Porters.

A lover is someone who devotes himself to the happiness and prosperity of his beloved with passion, intelligence, discipline, and all the best of himself. In all this Alastair Maitland is a consummate lover and it was a happy, happy chance that brought him into our lives.

~ Pam Porter

A Whiff of Elegance

(Reprinted from Heath Herald August/September 1985)

By Alastair Maitland

Newland Smith's multi-billion dollar High Frontier time-machine was once again put to good use on Sunday, June 30, when we were transported back to the Edwardian (well, sort of) Era., in a magic house set in an enchanted garden in the hills of South Heath – The Manse, built for Parson Jonathan Leavitt in the late 1760s and now the property of James Coursey (now that of Doug Mason and Nina Marshall).

The sense that we were rolling back the scroll of time was immediately conveyed by the denial of the ordinary vehicular access to the scene of operations. The Present, in the shape of the ubiquitous automobile, had been banned. We were delivered in installments, by shuttle, from a launching pad at the Fairgrounds to a site where, in keeping with the Edwardian spirit of the occasion, the only visible vehicle was horse-drawn.

James Coursey had been kind enough to open up his splendid house and to allow a small army to tramp through it. One wished that, as Jonathan Swift said, the walls had tongues, for they would have had an intriguing tale to tell. Does the ghost of Parson Leavitt still linger there? I think not. An altogether more generous and kindly spirit now inhabits the place. Nonetheless, it was possible to imagine that the parlor still faintly resonates with the sound of the Parson's voice as he rehearsed his weekly sermon before a captive congregation of wife and children.

Outside, under the ancient maples, the tableau that presented itself (there were hints of the Ascot scene in *My Fair Lady* and of *Sunday in the Park with George*) could in all candor scarcely lay claim to being authentically Edwardian. But one could recognize the intent and aspiration. Sartorially, the overall style was what art historians call Eclectic – ranging from the Flapper Era through Edwardian and what might be called Edwardian-punk to Victorian, Indiana Jonesian, preppy seersucker and just plain nondescript. And yet, the spectacle of the ladies in their flowered hats and ample skirts, carrying their parasols, and the gentlemen in cutaways and silk hats or chapeaus melons, swinging their silver-topped canes, as they chatted and strolled on the lawn and in the walled garden beyond, could hardly fail to provoke a slight twinge of nostalgia. To one elderly male observer the rustle and sway of the ankle-length skirts recalled the lines of the poet Robert Herrick: "Whenas in silks my Julia goes, Then, then, methinks, how sweetly flows the liquefaction of her clothes!"

Is there a moral to all this? We all, of course, profess a preference for substance over style. But, as one contemplated the scene in that country garden and mentally contrasted it with the prevailing tastelessness and dreariness of the sartorial landscape in the real world outside, where the hucksters and admen have converted us into a nation of perambulating billboards, with our T-shirts, baseball caps and designer jeans, one could not help feeling that a touch of elegance and grace here and there might well give a lift to the spirit.

The Party was truly an occasion for young and old. The seven ages of man (and woman) were represented from great-grandmothers to infants, and there was plenty to occupy the small-fry, from horse-drawn carriage rides to rolling hoops, croquet, and, in one case, a game of badminton played with all the passionate intensity of a McEnroe. The proceedings were enlivened by the peppy brass and strings of the Pioneer Valley Orchestra under Robin Stone, as well as by a bevy of wood nymphs (or nymphets), led by Marisa Housner, who performed a series of informal demonstrations dances and who would have been seen to better advantage had there been some more clearly defined focal point for the *fetes champetre*, where music and dance could have been more closely related.

("A Whiff of Elegance" continued on page 12)

("A Whiff of Elegance" continued from page 11)

No account of the Party would be complete without a word about the slaves who labored unseen – though not unappreciated-in the kitchen (Elsa Bakalar, Flora Sampson, Beverley denOuden and others) preparing and delivering a non-stop supply of Edwardian delicacies to a large number of people with modern American appetites. According to a well-placed source no less than 1400 cucumber sandwiches disappeared within the first hour.

I can hardly wait for the Tricentennial.

Brigadoon, OH 43056

(Reprinted from *Heath Herald* August/September 1987)

By Alastair Maitland

A couple of years ago, in connection with the Town's Bicentennial, the HEATH HERALD and the Heath Historical Society undertook a joint project to identify "all the places named Heath." (The quote is from the June/July issue of the HEATH HERALD).

They came up with one Heath in England, one in Texas, two Heath townships in Michigan and Pennsylvania respectively, and a Heathsville in Virginia. Such was the assiduity and the professional skill with which this Enquiry was conducted that it has until now been universally accepted that the tally was definitive.

However, travellers who have recently ventured into the Western Reserve have brought back reports of the existence of another Heath, which is said to be located in Licking County, Ohio. Photographs purporting to corroborate these reports have been furnished and one of them, showing what appears to be a water tower is reproduced herewith.

The Lewis and Clark of this particular expedition were Phyllis and Chuck Kades. And the occasion was Phyllis' 50th (surely not!) Class Reunion at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. They had expected to be assigned a room in the University. But since they were accompanied by their dog, they were invited to find quarters elsewhere, and that is how they just happened to discover a place called Heath, which, they say, possesses its own Post Office and Zip Code, as well as a Holiday Inn.

I have never been one to challenge the tales of travellers. But the circumstances of this particular journey are such as to inspire a certain caution, and not to say downright skepticism.

Was Heath, Ohio, then merely an illusion? The photographs suggest otherwise. But we know that photographs can be doctored.

In the first place, it is hard to believe that the Heath which Phyllis and Chuck discovered in Ohio could have escaped the notice of the meticulous Bicentennial researchers. Secondly, and more important, class reunions are notoriously emotional and misty-eyed affairs. They are occasions for regret for all the might-have-beens: the career choice that was not made, the unpursued or unfulfilled love affair, the stand that might have

been taken when the chips were down. They are imbued with the special poignancy that Edward Fitzgerald expressed in the lines: Alas, the Spring should vanish with the Rose! That Youth's sweet-scented manuscript should close! In short they conduce to all sorts of imaginings and flights from reality.

Some of my more prosaically minded acquaintances have advanced the theory that the Heath Phyllis and Chuck Kades saw was in fact a sort of Potemkin village. (Potemkin was a Russian commander-in-chief and favorite of Catherine the Great. Once on a tour of his grandiose colonizing project in southern Russia he attempted to impress his Sovereign by constructing a series of neat, but fake, and empty, villages along the route of the Royal Progress.) The theory is that Heath, Ohio, was in fact nothing other than an elaborate hoax on the part of the Denison University top brass who, wishing to pay a special tribute to one of their most distinguished alumnae and her Heathen consort and to make them feel thoroughly at home, built a fake New England town for them to stay in and gave it the name of Heath.

Having been much influenced in my own youth by J. M. Barrie's *Mary Rose* I am inclined to reject the Potemkin hypothesis and to believe, instead, that Heath, Ohio, exists somewhere in that twilight zone between reality and fantasy. It may perhaps be compared to Ripton, the New England town which has figured every now and then in local press reports but which does not appear on any map. And, I seem to remember that, when Judy Garland eventually made her way to OZ, she was accompanied by her dog.

[*Editors' Note:* The above article was to have been accompanied by one or more photographs, selected from a series supplied by Chuck Kades. A number of witnesses can swear to having seen the photographs. But the entire series has – unaccountably – vanished!]

General Heath, An Enigma

(Reprinted from *Heath Herald* April/May 1985)

By Alastair Maitland

There was an abundance of delicious and decorative (as well as highly caloric) birthday cake at the Bicentennial Potluck Supper last February 14 (Incorporation Day) at the Community Hall. And I am sure that cake-bakers and cake-munchers alike agree that the real icing on the cake was the delightfully humorous, provocative and enlightening after-supper talk given by William Wolf on the subject of Major General William Heath, the Revolutionary War general from whom our town took its name.

It seems that there are divided opinions about General Heath. On the one hand are the HEATHEN- an acronym adopted by a mysterious organization identified by Bill Wolf as Heath Enraged Against Town of Heath Enacted Name. Members of this school appear to question whether the Town was indeed honored by its association with a general who, despite his successful role in

("General Heath" continued on page 13)

("General Heath" continued from page 12)

pursuit of the British from Concord on April 19, 1775, received a public reprimand from George Washington himself for his failure to take Fort Independence in January 1777. The Fort was then garrisoned by some 2000 Hessians, whose first sally created public panic amongst Heath's forces, so the General was obligated to withdraw.

According to Bill Wolf, however, Washington's public rebuke was followed by a reassuring message to General Heath in which he seemed to be reaffirming his confidence in him. There is thus an opposing school of thought – Townspeople who are not at all enraged by the Heath label and for whom the General is a pretty decent guy, and a wholly acceptable eponym. It was to the elaboration of this viewpoint – some might call it revisionist – that the bulk of Bill Wolf's remarks were addressed.

But Bill emphasized that there was still further research to be done. And he has not by any means closed the book on General Heath. So we should all stay tuned. Meanwhile the fruits of Bill Wolf's explorations will be available in the forthcoming Bicentennial Book of the Heath Historical Society.

Elegy

(Reprinted from *Heath Herald* April/May 1987)

By Alastair Maitland

There cannot have been many among us who were not affected by Carroll Stowe's moving tale of the life and death of an ox. (HEATH HERALD, February/March 1987) I myself cannot lay claim to any close acquaintance with Tony. But I used to admire his and his workmate from a respectful distance. The farther away the better, for they were an intimidating pair, with the warily menacing look of a brace of Sumo wrestlers.

They were, of course, at their most impressive when on the job. It was then that one could see what can happen when man and beast are in harmony and when they share a measure of mutual respect. The almost insolent ease with which the twin bovine colossi strolled through their assigned tasks was hardly less striking than the magisterial control of their handler. Is it utterly fanciful to suggest that Tony and his comrade took a certain pride in their performance?

As Carroll Stowe said: Who would be friends with an ox? And yet there is no doubt that Tony's death has left a void, and not only in the purely physical sense. There is a special edge to the grief that we humans feel at the loss of a companion whom we choose to call a dumb animal. To those in search of solace at such times, I commend the story *Platero and I* – a celebration of the intimate bond between man and beast – told by the Spanish poet, Juan Ramon Jimenez. Platero is a burro, a little trotting donkey, "hard as steel, soft as a silvery moonbeam, [hence his name], with eyes like mirrors of black glass." He accompanies the poet on his travels and is the confidant of his most intimate thoughts.

Platero and I, although the work of a poet, is not a piece of

verse but rather a prose poem, in some 130 cantos, chronicling the partnership of a man and his four-legged companion as they face together the vicissitudes of a life in an Andalusian village. There are occasional flights of lyricism. (One day, the poet tells us at the hour of the Angelus, he and Platero return home. The sky is glowing with color, and the little clouds look like roses. Platero's eyes, in which the last rays of the sun are reflected, look like roses too). But the prevailing tone is one of melancholy for, as everyone knows, nature is less than even-handed in the life spans accorded to man and beast. The intimations of mortality are there from the start.

And so it is that one morning the poet comes to rouse Platero. But the burrito no longer has the strength to pick himself up from his bed of straw.

A little late the poet writes: This evening I went with the boys of the village to visit Platero's grave, which lies at the foot of the ancient round pine tree in the orchard of La Pina. All around us April has decorated the moist earth with a host of lilies. Up above, in the sky-blue cupola, the birds were in full throat. The elegant mockery of their song carried far and wide through the golden air of the balmy evening like the bright dream of young love.

The boys, as we drew near to the place, suddenly fell silent. Then, softly and solemnly, their flashing eyes looking into mine, they plied me with anxious questions.

"Platero, my friend, I said to him as I looked down on his grave, "if, as I believe, you now live in the lush pasture in Heaven where you carry cherubs, instead of me, on your velvety back, perhaps you have forgotten me. Tell me, Platero, Tell me, do you still remember me?"

And, as though responding to my question, a delicate white butterfly, which I had not noticed until that moment, appeared and began to flit, just like a soul, from lily to lily.

Footnote: Juan Ramon Jimenez wrote *Platero and I* in 1916. In 1956 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.



Support Heath Agriculture



Benson Place

***Wonderfully Wild
Blueberry Spread***

Made from sustainably grown low bush blueberries, organic cranberries. Lightly sweetened with honey.

***Wonderfully Wild
Blueberry Juice***

Pressed from 100% sustainably grown low bush blueberries.
Available at the farm and at many local markets.

Visit our Web-site for the locations.

Come walk this beautiful land!
182 Flagg Hill Road, Heath, MA 01346
(413) 337-5340, www.bensonplace.org



Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple Farm Heath, MA

Single-Batch, Single-Crop maple syrups in Italian glass from our family farm. Our small-batch methods produce varied and distinctive maple flavors in every bottle. Come taste something new drawn from maple's long history. Our recipe brochure includes meat, fish, vegetable, and salad dishes. Available at our farm stand on Route 8A, by order, and at fine arts & crafts shows. Farm visits are welcome.

(888) 576-2753 or BerkshireSweetGold.com

Freeman Farm

Grass-fed beef for your freezer.
Reserve a beeper in the spring.
Maple syrup, field brush hog mowing,
and hay also available.

**20 Town Farm Road
337-4766**

Wild Native Blueberries Burnt Hill Farm



**Pre-picked 10 lb & 20 lb boxes
Available late July to mid-August
Call to order**

Blueberry Hotline: 413-337-4454

118 Flagg Hill Rd, Heath, MA



Raw Milk For Sale Hager Bros. Farm

Farm Fresh High Quality Available by
order at 413 624-3200 or hagersmp@mtdata.com.

*Order by Sunday p.m. for Monday pickup or Thursday
p.m. for Friday pickup at:*

11 Merrifield Lane
Colrain, MA 01340

Also available, a full line of maple products and Cabot
cheese at farm prices.

Tripp's Blueberries 64 Taylor Brook Road Heath, MA

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



**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

Whenever the subject of the Heath Fair arises in conversation with friends or acquaintances I am met with an exclamation: "Really...Already?!" "Yes," I say, "The Heath Fair doesn't stop."

As 2012 delivers winter - albeit somewhat belatedly - and the Ice Rink takes shape at the Fairgrounds, the Heath Agricultural Society continues to deliberate upon the upcoming Fair. With seven months remaining in which to organize our image of the Fair it seems as though we should be able to relax. And to be honest, I suppose there is not the pressure to get things done that we will experience in August...still...seven months means only seven meetings and that notion is somewhat daunting.

Given that the winter months feel far from August, the Heath Agricultural Society has been taking time to reflect upon some larger ideas and plans for the Fair: Exploring the viability and implications of attaining nonprofit status and adapting the bylaws that were originally drafted in 1969 by a handful of Heathans (the Crowningshields, Gleasons, and several others); we are beginning to design a 5-year plan for the 100th anniversary of the Fair.

Though it has been educational, important, and fun to work on these larger ideas, there are more prevalent details to consider and in only a few months those details will need to take front seat: a theme for this year's Fair; a new Car Parking Czar (with whom I will be working); and volunteer projects around the Fairgrounds. If any of you reading this care to volunteer your opinion or yourselves, then consider this acknowledgment of those aforementioned 'details,' the first of many more invitations to do so...

Before ending this, there is one acknowledgement that I'd like to make: Thanks to Conrad Halberg's dedication to the Fair and his interest in promoting its quality and health, the Heath Fair has been honored with four awards from the Mass Agricultural Fair Association: 1) Third Place, Web Site. 2) Second Place, Posters. 3) First Place, Newspaper Advertising. 4) Third Place, Brochures. Thank you, Conrad, for submitting our work to the Agricultural Fair Association. Thank you to Rachel Porter whose sense of aesthetics helped to make the awards possible. Thank you to the Canalis, Gloria Fisher, and Susan Smith for their respective work on the Web site, media publicity, and brochures.

And thanks to all for your continued support of the Fair.

~ Justin Lively, President

REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE



Library Lines

Winter Raffle



By Donald Purington

The Library's Winter Raffle ended on January 21. Ten prizes were up for grabs, including books and homemade foods. The beneficiary of the raffle was the Good Neighbors Food Pantry. We collected \$98 and 26 non-perishable food items. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and purchased raffle tickets.

A Few of the New Items at the Library:

Adult Fiction Books: *The Rope* by Nevada Barr, *Breakdown* by Sara Paretsky, *Believing the Lie* by Elizabeth George, *How it All Began* by Penelope Lively, *A Charitable Body* by Robert Barnard, *Private Games* by James Patterson and Mark Sullivan, *The Odds* by Stewart O' Nan, *1222* by Anne Holt ("the godmother of Norwegian crime fiction")

Adult Nonfiction Books: *Wind Turbine Syndrome* by Nina Pierpont, MD, PhD, *Stephen Hawking: an Unfettered Mind* by Kitty Ferguson, *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern* by Stephen Greenblatt, *The Coming of the Train: Volume II 1910-1922* by Brian Donelson, *The Longest Winter: Scott's Other Heroes* by Meredith Hooper, *50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants* by Ruth Rogers Clausen

Books for Young Teen Readers: *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, *Girls Don't Fly* by Kristen Chandler, *Around the World: Three Remarkable Journeys* by Matt Phelan, *Ripley's Believe It or Not: Strikingly True*

Children's Picture Books: *Mary and Her Little Lamb: the True Story of the Famous Nursery Rhyme* by Will Moses, *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature* by Joyce Sidman, *Someone Walks By: the Wonders of Winter Wildlife* by Polly Carlson-Voiles

DVDs: *Downton Abbey Season 2*, *Bears of the Last Frontier*, *Pirate Radio*, *Justified Season 1*, and two musicals that will be performed locally this spring: *1776* (Heath Elementary School is performing this in March), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Mohawk is performing this in March)

The Community Hall

The building we now know as the Community Hall was originally built in 1872 to serve as a Methodist Church. The lower level of the building was rented out and used as a store. By 1892, the population of the Town had diminished so much that a decision was made to merge the Methodist and Congregational churches into the Heath Union Church. Services were held in the Hall for a year, but when the merger between the churches did not prove satisfactory, and there were now so few Methodist parishioners, a decision was made to disband and turn the building into secular use.

At an Annual Meeting held on August 31, 1923, it was noted that summer residents had pooled together and contributed a sum of money for the purpose of purchasing the building and donating it to the Heath Historical Society for use as a community house. The Historical Society accepted the generous gift and maintained the building for 31 years. In 1955 the Historical Society transferred ownership to the Town of Heath.

Over the years, the Hall has been fortunate to have many faithful committee members, each one dedicating hours of service; holding bake sales, craft fairs, dances, and the like. They constantly worked to raise donations to be used for improvements to the building.

The once dark and old Hall has come to life once again. New curtains adorn the windows and stage, adding a warm glow to the room. The Hall is now equipped with a sound system for the stage and also an electrical upgrade that transforms

the once dimly lit hall and stage to a bright and well-lit areas. The new lighting fixtures hanging from the ceiling look as they have belonged in the building all along.

While there are still things to be accomplished, the Hall Committee has made a great deal of progress towards their goals.

We are planning to dedicate a wall below the balcony for framed and mounted historical pictures. Anyone who has pictures and/or documents that could be used for this purpose, please contact Eileen Tougas at 337-8558.

~ Eileen Tougas



Heath Business Directory

The Benson Place
Wild Blueberries & Blueberry Spread
337-5340

Fred Burrington
Artist
339-0030

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

Paul Turnbull
Janice Boudreau
Commercial/Wedding Photographers
337-4033

Bonnie Wodin
Custom Gardens & Landscapes
337-5529

John Mooney
Custom Remodeling
337-8344

Wanda Mooney
Realtor
337-8344

Tripp's Blueberries
Taylor Brook Road
337-4964

Heath Brook Studio
Glass and Baskets
337-5736

Support Your Local Businesses

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

413-625-6623

HAIR BY HANA

102 Bridge Street - Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Please Support our Advertisers

Support Local Agriculture

Free 1 inch advertising space for local farmers.

Send copy to: *The Heath Herald*
P.O. Box 54
Heath, MA 01346

*Supported by a special grant made available
through the Dickinson Fund*

**LIVELY
CARETAKING**

Tom Lively

Phone 413-337-4061

Cell 413-325-1065

Email: Lively1@crocker.com

Carpentry - Repairs, Remodeling,
Mowing, Snow Removal, Painting



PO Box 55 Heath MA 01346



THE BRIDGE OF FLOWERS BUSINESS CENTER

Office Space, Work Stations, Desks
3-month leases starting at \$75/month

Business Class Internet, Commercial Quality Networked
Printer/Copier/Scanner

Conference Room, Kitchen, Shower, Fax, Shredder, Land Line
Serious Security by: Detectogaurd

"Where People Go To Get Things Done"

www.bridgeofflowersbusinesscenter.com

Origin of the Heath Historical Society



The history of the Heath Historical Society (HHS) is indelibly linked with the Old Town House built in 1834 by David Snow as a result of the Massachusetts Legislature's passing the 11th Amendment to the State's Constitution separating Church and State. Town Meetings were held there until about 1897 when Sawyer Hall was built in response to earlier State legislation promoting the establishment of free public libraries. (Heath's Free Public Library was established in 1894 in Henry Kirk Smith's house at 15 South Road now occupied by Bob Bourke and Kara Leistyna.) In addition to the new library, the facility provided sufficient space for meetings (and occasional dances) and Town offices. In 1898 and 1899 there were proposals to sell the Old Town House, but there were stirrings to establish a historical society primarily led by Flora and Mary White. At a Town Meeting on November 7, 1899, it was voted to perpetually lease the "Old Town House" to a proposed historical society as soon as such society should be formed. There were conditions "that such society should put and keep the building in good repair, and it

should not be used for any purposes foreign to the objects of the society." With this incentive the Heath Historical Society was formed on August 11, 1900, by the following Charter Members:

William H. Burrington	Edward Payson Guild	Henry Kirk Smith
William A. Dickinson	Hugh Maxwell	Felicia E. Welch
Laura E. Emerson	Daniel Edward Miller	Flora Jane White
		Mary Abby White

The Town then leased the Old Town House to the Society on August 31, 1901, for a period of 199 years after which the Society filed for incorporation with the State. On August 18, 1902, that application was approved.

An organizational meeting was held at the home of Miss Mary Abby White on June 23, 1902, to adopt a Constitution and Bylaws and elect officers as follows:

President - Mr. Edward Payson Guild, Reading, Mass.
 1st Vice President - Mrs. Felicia Emerson Welch, Amherst, Mass.
 2nd Vice President - Mr. John Barber White, Kansas City, Mo.
 3rd Vice President - Mr. William A. Dickinson, Heath, Mass.
 Treasurer - Mr. Hugh Maxwell, Heath, Mass.
 Secretary - Miss Mamie E. Maxwell, Heath, Mass.
 Executive Committee - Miss Flora J. White, Concord, Mass.
 " " - Mr. William H. Burrington, Heath, Mass.
 " " - Mr. D. Edward Miller, Springfield, Mass.
 " " - President and Treasurer, ex-officio.
 Custodian - Henry Kirk Smith, Heath, Mass.

(The officers were then duly sworn in by Justice of the Peace Henry Kirk Smith)

The first Annual Meeting was held the next month on July 26 in the home of Miss Mary Abby White at 8:00 p.m. The Constitution provided that Annual Meetings were to be held in July or August, a practice continued to the present. The first Annual Meeting to be held in the Old Town House occurred on August 21, 1903. It was reported that the Old Town House was in need of repairs to its exterior and interior, the latter involving restoration and furnishings.

~ David F. Howland, Treasurer

Note: The above information was gathered from a special report prepared by the Society entitled "The Heath Historical Society" dated October 1900, an article entitled "Heath and its Families" by Pearle Tanner in the Sesquicentennial Anniversary of the Town of Heath, minutes of first meetings, and Edward Calver's Heath, Massachusetts – A History and Guidebook, 3rd Edition, 2009.

Maple House



The house on the hill with the view of yesteryear
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 \$80. Call for Reservations.

Middletown Hill Road (413) 339-0107 Rowe, MA 01367

RUSSELL E. DONELSON

61 Sumner Stetson Road
Heath, MA

Design/Construction/Cabinetry

To New and Existing Buildings

413-337-4460

Licensed/Insured

A College Preparatory Day School for
Grades 7-12 and Postgraduate



1359 MOHAWK TRAIL, CHARLEMONT, MA 01339
tel: 413.339.4912 - www.charlemont.org



Rowe Camp & Conference Center

PO Box 273 Rowe, MA 01367

413-339-4954

www.rowecenter.org

A magical place to explore new horizons, heal,
make new friends, have fun, be a part of
community or find your place in the world.
We offer weekend conferences on a wide variety
of topics as well as space for private retreats.

Retreat • Relax • Reflect • Relate • Revitalize

- Custom Homes
- Additions
- Renovations

Phone: 413.337.8344
Fax: 413.337.8304
137 Burrington Road
Heath, MA 01346



Wanda Mooney, CRS GRI, SRES

413 337-8344 x 1

413 625-6366 x 13



Wanda
MOONEY



UPTON-MASSAMONT
REALTORS®

WWW.WandaMooney.com

Franklin Community Cooperative

Serving Your Community with
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

(413) 773-9567



at the Bridge of Flowers!



McCusker's Market

3 State St., Shelburne Falls
Open Daily 7-7 (413) 625-9411



**The Baker
Pharmacy**

Tel: 625-6324

Week Days 8:30AM - 8PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 5PM

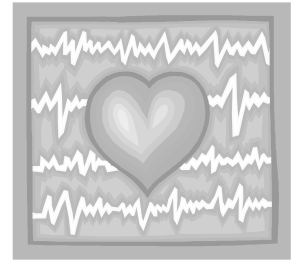
Holidays 9AM - 12 Noon

52 Bridge Street

Shelburne Falls

Town Nurse News

Heart Health



By Claire Rabbitt, RN

The February issue of *Prevention Magazine* has an article called, "Make Yourself Heart Attack Proof". It is in four sections: One about "super foods," that are good for your heart; the second about exercises to "boost" heart health; the third about alternative treatments that reduce stress, and the fourth about commonly prescribed heart medications. I personally don't think anyone could be "heart attack proof," but I think there are a lot of good suggestions in the article, that go a long way to improve heart health. This month I will give a condensed version of the section on beneficial foods.

Starting with **oranges**, it says oranges "reduce blood pressure, cholesterol and heart failure." It says that "the potassium in orange juice helps counterbalance salt, keeping blood pressure under control." (Be careful with this idea, as I have cared for a lot of people with hypertension, who drank orange juice. Many people with heart disease also have to be careful of potassium.) It also says the pectin in the pith and pulp of oranges, (you get more in juice with pulp or eating whole oranges), helps lower cholesterol, as well as neutralize a protein called galectin-3, that causes scarring of heart tissue, leading to congestive heart failure.

Next, **kale** is recommended for its antioxidants, omega 3 fatty acids, fiber, folate, potassium, vitamin E, and lutein. A study in Los Angeles, related it to protection against early atherosclerosis.

Garlic extract was shown to slow the progression of plaque buildup and help reduce blood pressure. I don't know how much garlic you would need to eat to equal the 250 mg tablets used in the "trials," but use it generously!

Red wine, (in moderation), helps increase HDL, (good cholesterol), and reduce clotting risk. However, more than one glass a day increased breast cancer risk in women, and chronic heavy drinking damages the heart.

Dark chocolate contains flavanols, which improve blood vessel flexibility, but again moderation is key, due to sugar content.

Sardines have high levels of omega 3 fatty acids, that help lower triglycerides and raise HDL more than the vegetable omega 3 found in flax, kale, and nuts. Personally, I can't bring myself to eat sardines, but I do like salmon and tuna.

Legumes, such as **lentils**, contain lean vegetable protein and fiber, as well as folate, magnesium, and potassium. Good for heart health.

Almonds contain plant sterols, which help reduce the absorption of cholesterol. The unsaturated oil they contain help reduce LDL and increase HDL. The article states a study "found major declines in fatal arrhythmias with two servings of nuts a week," including almonds, walnuts, pistachios, and peanuts. A serving of nuts is 1/4 cup and be careful to eat unsalted nuts and mindful that they add significant calories.

Pomegranate juice, with "unique antioxidants," is said to block plaque buildup and even reversed some of the buildup when patients drank 8 oz a day for a year.

Including these foods in your diet will be beneficial if you also limit animal fats, refined sugars, and carbohydrates. Here is a daily prescription for healthy living:

Do something physically active.

Do something that needs doing that you don't want to do.

Do something for someone else.

Do something that lifts your spirits.

- from *University of Virginia, Health System.*

I continue to have office hours on Tuesdays, 12:15-1:15 p.m. and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and am available for appointments and home visits. You can reach me at 337-8309



Selectboard's Report

Fall/Winter Meeting Schedule

The Board has resumed its regular meeting schedule of every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in Sawyer Hall unless posted otherwise.

Current Business

The Board has been working with the Finance Committee on the budget for FY2013. Budget requests are due and being reviewed in January and February in anticipation of the next Annual Town Meeting on May 12.

Annual reviews for Town employees will begin soon.

Special Town Meeting

The Board voted to hold a Special Town Meeting on February 28, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Heath Community Hall to consider a moratorium on commercial wind and solar projects in Town until the Planning Board is able to draft a bylaw regarding such developments. Articles for transfers of funds to accounts with deficits will also be considered.

A public hearing on the proposed moratorium will be held on February 15, 2012.

Conservation Commission

Seajay Spencer has resigned from the ConCom leaving three vacancies on the Commission. A minimum of three members must be present at a meeting to have a quorum.

The Selectboard has appointed Tom Lively and Brian De Vriese to the Conservation Commission to fill the vacancies and ensure that a quorum is present. These appointments are expected to be temporary until volunteers can be found to serve on the Commission. The Board has expressed its appreciation for Seajay Spencer's service to the Town.

The ConCom has three vacancies to be filled. Anyone who might be interested in serving on the Commission is encouraged to contact the Town Coordinator or the Selectboard. The Selectboard is also looking for a clerk to assist the Conservation Commission with scheduling, mail, correspondence, public notices and application forms and filings. Please contact the Town Coordinator at 413-337-4934 if you are interested in serving on the ConCom or as clerk to the Commission.

School Committee

Rebecca Allen has resigned from the Mohawk School Committee. If anyone is interested in serving on the School Committee or could suggest a good candidate, please contact the Selectboard.

Board of Health

The Board of Health is down one member. A volunteer is needed. Please contact either the Board of Health or the Selectboard.

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. 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. The new Web page is up and running. Please have a look and let us know what you think.

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

Finance Committee

The Heath Finance Committee has begun work on the Town budget for the 2013 fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2012. The final budget proposal will go before the voters at the Annual Town Meeting on May 12, 2012.

In an effort to enhance the transparency and effectiveness of this year's budget process, the Finance Committee and Selectboard have adopted new procedures. We have distributed to Town department heads customized budget request forms in both hard-copy and electronic format, and, for the first time, as far as we know, the Finance Committee has offered direct assistance by its members to department heads in preparing their requests.

We have already begun the process of revenue projection, assembling data on total property valuations, abatement requests, state aid, balances in Stabilization and Free Cash, etc. The State Department of Revenue has certified Heath's Free Cash for FY 2012 at \$148,283, an amount that includes the Town's reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the expenses incurred in the ice storm of December, 2008.

After we have projected revenues as closely as we can, the Finance Committee will begin a series of weekly joint meetings with the Selectboard to develop the budget. These meetings will include hearings on department budget requests as needed, and on any proposals for special projects and capital-outlay requests.

The Selectboard and Finance Committee will develop successive drafts of the Town budget as the process goes forward. So that townspeople can keep closer watch on the evolution of the budget, we will for the first time be posting these drafts on the Town Web site, www.townofheath.org.

As a result of this new budget process, we hope, voters will have more and timelier information about how their town government proposes to spend their money.

The Heath Finance Committee
Don Freeman, Chair
Ned Wolf, Secretary
Janis Carr
Dave Gott
Jeff Simmons

Milestones

Gale Elizabeth Bush Fleming of Holyoke died on December 24, 2012.

Born in Westfield on January 2, 1938, she was the daughter of Curtis and Marion Bliven Bush.

A resident of South Hadley most of her early life, she lived in Holyoke for the past 38 years. She was a certified nurse's aide. Gale and her husband of 38 years, James E. Fleming, were faithful supporters of the Heath Union Church and its many activities.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her brother Curtis C. Bush of Montgomery and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial gifts may be made to Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society, P.O. Box 6307, Springfield, MA 01101.

On Saturday, January 14, an overflow throng of family members and friends came together to remember and honor **Alastair G. Maitland** who died on December 21 at his home in Heath.

Born on January 30, 1916, in Kampala, Uganda, he was the son of Wilhelmina Sarah Dundas and Thomas Douglas Maitland. He was reared in Edinburgh, Scotland, graduating from Edinburgh University and then attended the Universities of Grenoble and Paris and the Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris before joining the British Foreign Service. His was a brilliant career that lasted 37 years and took him to many cities, here and abroad, in consular posts, and, lastly, to Boston where he served as Consular General and to New York City as Director-General of Trade Development. The recipient of several honors, he was appointed by the Queen to be a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

On his retirement in 1975, Alastair and his first wife, Betty Hamilton Maitland of Ottawa, Canada, settled in Heath and became naturalized citizens in 1980. From 1975-78, they divided their time between Heath and Paris.

Alastair was active in the affairs of his new home, seldom missing a Selectboard meeting when in town. Committed to the preservation of Open Land and Forest, he served on the Board of the Franklin Land Trust to which he donated land in Heath which he christened The Betty Maitland Memorial Forest. He was up-to-the-minute on current worldwide affairs and was a strong supporter of the Democratic Party.

Beginning in the February/March 1985 issue of the *Heath Herald*, he was a regular contributor and then joined the paper's staff, first as editorial assistant and then as copy editor, which position he held through December 1989. His wide-ranging and keen interests, his devotion to Heath matters, as well as his dry wit and an erudition, seldom encountered in these days, were all reflected in his columns.

Elizabeth Maitland died in 1981. On December 20, 1986, Alastair and **Hazel Margaret Porter**, also of Heath, were married. In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Ian Maitland of St. Paul, MN, Angus Maitland of New York City, and Anne Maitland of Washington Depot, CT; three stepchildren, Jenella Porter of Freetown, Laura Porter of North Attleboro, and John Porter of Delmar, NY; three grandchildren, and five step-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his three brothers, Douglas, Ian, and Sir Donald Maitland, all of the United Kingdom, and a stepdaughter,

Emily Porter of Albany, NY.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Franklin Land Trust, P.O. Box 450, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

Ann O'Shea O'Brien of Heath died on January 23, 2012. Born in 1932, she was the daughter of Edward and Margaret Coughlin O'Shea of Warren, RI.

A graduate of Warren High School, she was employed by the New England Telephone Company and later until retirement by G. Fox & Company. In 1956, she and the late Gerald D. O'Brien married and made their home in Enfield, CT. for most of their married life.

A skilled quilter and needle worker, for a time she attended the Heath Ladies Aid, contributing to their sale wares.

Survivors include her children, Patricia Urban of Oldsmar, FL, Kelly Tencza of Meriden, CT, William of Manhattan, NY, and **Mary Vilbon of Heath** with whom she made her home; two sisters, Margaret Rabbit of Rehobeth and Helen Gauthier of Brooklyn, and five grandchildren.

A celebration of Ann's life was held on January 27 at the Heath Union Church. Memorial donations may be made to the West County Relief Fund (WCRF), c/o SFABA, P.O. Box 42, Shelburne, MA 01370.

Lucianna Gladney Ross of St Louis, MO, and **Heath**, died on January 25, 2012, in St. Louis. Born in 1915, she was the daughter of Frank and Katherine Graves Gladney of St. Louis.

Mrs. Ross was a graduate of Smith College, cum laude, in 1936, and of the Sorbonne in Paris where she spent her junior year. After college she worked for the St. Louis Post Dispatch and thereafter devoted her life to philanthropy and preservation.

She and her brother and sister were heirs to the 7-Up fortune.

The owner of two houses in Heath, she made two visits annually to Heath, as long as her health permitted. Several years ago, she gave two acres of land to the Heath Center Cemetery and put the hayfield and woods surrounding her properties into land trust to preserve Heath.

Mrs. Ross is survived by her two daughters, Lucianna Ross Natkiel of Hill, NH, and Helen Griffith Ross of McLean, VA; her son, John Franklin Ross of St. Louis; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Requiescat in pace

Die when I may, I want it said by
those who knew me best,
that I always plucked a thistle and
planted a flower where I thought a
flower should grow.

~ Abraham Lincoln

Presidential Primary, Town Election, and Annual Town Meeting

Presidential Primary

February 15 - Last day to register to vote or change party enrollment for the primary.

March 6 - Primary voting 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Senior Center

Town Election - Seats up for election, length of term, and deadlines

Selectman	Sheila Litchfield	3 yr.
Assessor	Richard Gallup	3 yr.
Town Clerk	Hilma Sumner	3 yr.
Finance Committee	David Gott	3 yr.
	Edwin Wolf	3 yr.
	Janis Carr	3 yr.
	Donald Schnelle	5 yr.
Planning Board	Ann Pacino	3 yr.
School Committee	Vacant	1 yr.
	Deborah Porter	3 yr.
Library Trustee	Robert Tanner, Jr.	1 yr.
Dog Officer	Jeffrey Simmons	1 yr.
Constable	Robert Tanner, Jr.	1 yr.

March 20 - Last day to obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk

March 22 - Last day to submit nomination papers to the Town Clerk

April 20 - Last day to register to vote for Town Election and Annual Town Meeting

May 11 - Town Election, 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m., Senior Center

May 12 - Annual Town Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

Heath's Monthly Precipitation (inches)

(Observed by Heath School Staff and Students)

	<u>Rain</u>	<u>Snow</u>
From November 11, 2011	1.25"	5"
December	2"	2.25"
To January 10, 2012 - Seasonal temps and Quiet		

In this reporting period:

The second half of November and most of December was a relatively quiet spell and was mild for this time of year. We had both rain (2") and snow (2") on December 8 and the "first coldest" temperatures of 8 degrees on the morning of December 18.

~ Timothy Lively

Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012

February 01/02 - MCAS, High School Biology, Mohawk

February 02 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

February 08 - School Committee Meeting, Presentation of Budget, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.

February 09 - LEC Meeting, Heath School, 2:30 p.m. Open House, Mohawk, 6:30 p.m.

February 10 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

February 13 - Heath School 6th Grade to Good Neighbors

February 14 - **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

February 15 - School Committee Budget Hearing, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.

Last Day to Register to Vote or Change Party Enrollment for Primary

Public Hearing, Community Hall, 7:00 p.m.

February 16 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

6th Grade Chill Winter Dinner, Heath School, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m..

February 20 - **PRESIDENTS' DAY**

February 20-24 - **FEBRUARY SCHOOL VACATION**

February 24 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

February 28 - **Special Town Meeting**, Community Hall, 7:00 p.m.

February 29 - MCAS ELA Retest, Mohawk
School Committee Vote on the Budget, Mohawk, 7:00 p.m.

MARCH 2012

Women's History Month

March 01-06 - MCAS High School Retests, Mohawk

March 01 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

March 03, 04 - **Heath School Drama Club Production of 1776**, 6:30 p.m.

March 04 - Afternoon Cabaret, Mohawk, 1:00 -3:00 p.m.

March 06 - **PRIMARY ELECTION, SENIOR CENTER**, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

March 08 - **International Women's Day**

March 09 - Early Release Heath School. 12:30 p.m.
Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30- 11:30 a.m.

March 11 - **DAYLIGHT SAVING BEGINS**

March 13 - 6th Grade Parents Night, Mohawk, 6:30 p.m.

March 15 - Senior Luncheon, Community Hall-Senior Center, 11:45 a.m.

March 16, 17 - **Mohawk Annual Musical, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers**, 6:30 p.m.

18 - **2:30 p.m.**

March 20 - **VERNAL EQUINOX - WELCOME SPRING!**

March 20 - **Last Day to Obtain Nomination Papers from Town Clerk**

March 22 - **Last Day to Submit Nomination Papers to Town Clerk**

March 23 - Preschool Story Hour, Heath Library, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

March 20-30 - MCAS, Grades 3-10

***LIVE A GOOD LIFE.
IN THE END IT 'S NOT THE
YEARS IN A LIFE,
BUT THE LIFE IN THE YEARS.***

Abraham Lincoln



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."

PETER'S GENERAL STORE

Debbie and Paul Plante, Proprietors
Number Nine Road, Heath
337-5501

- ◆ Fresh Produce
- ◆ Freshly-baked pies
- ◆ Blue Seal products
- ◆ Family Videos
- ◆ Penny Candy
- ◆ Soda, Grinders, Ice Cream
- ◆ Beer, wine, liquor
- ◆ All food essentials



STORE HOURS

Monday – Saturday, 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

HEATH HERALD

Box 54
Heath, MA 01346-0054

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

Permit No. 305
Greenfield, MA 01301



24 West Main Street, Heath, MA 01346 p/f

**Our Customers are
our greatest asset.**

*Serving the financial needs of Western Massachusetts
for over 20 years.*



The Bank of
Western Massachusetts

A division of **Peoples United Bank**

413.781. BANK- bankwmass.com - Member FDIC