

Out of the Archives

Summer 2006

Issue #1

This publication is created by the Freel Library Local History/Archives Division of the Reference Department to inform students, faculty, staff, administrators and the general public about the ongoing projects in Local History at MCLA. This newsletter will cover new acquisitions (books, videos, artifacts etc.) to the department that are beneficial for research and help to preserve the history of the College and the local community. The newsletter will also inform members of the MCLA community what our students are doing on and off campus.



Recent Microfilm Acquisitions

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Berkshire County on microfilm - These maps were produced during the late 19th and early 20th centuries of industrial cities for fire insurance purposes. This mapping source is useful for tracing changes through time in a city and shows specific details of industrial and commercial buildings. For further information ask at the Reference Desk what Berkshire County towns are available.

With the Hardman Endowment money, the Local History Dept. was able to purchase additional years of the **Transcript** on microfilm. Currently we have the years up and including March of 1922. We will continue to purchase additional microfilm in the upcoming year.

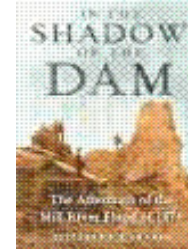
The Department has also acquired the 1930 U.S. Federal census for Berkshire County. We now have a complete run of census for Berkshire County from 1790-1930.

Another recent acquisition for local history is microfilm and microfiche of the **Civilian Conservation Corps camp newsletters** from 1934-1942 for all the Berkshire County camps. MCLA is the only institution in western Mass. that has these newsletters available for research. Ask at the Reference Desk for further information.

New Local History Books

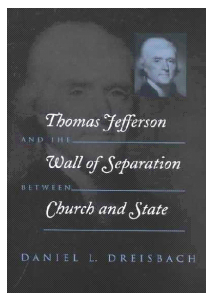
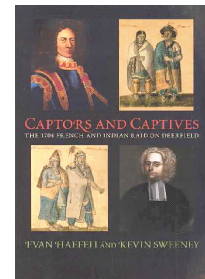
We have been able to purchase new books useful to our students in their pursuit of local history research.

In the Shadow of the Dam : [The Aftermath Of The Mill River Flood of 1874](#) by Elizabeth Sharpe. [SPEC F72.H3 S47 2004](#)



A Directory of Massachusetts photographers, 1839-1900 / research by Chris Steele & Ronald Polito ; edited by Ronald Polito. [SPEC TR24.M4 D57 1993](#) This useful resource helps researchers to date photographs. It publishes numerous photographers locations throughout the state and their dates when they were in business.

Captors and captives : the 1704 French and Indian raid on Deerfield / by Evan Haefeli and Kevin Sweeney. Published Amherst : University of Massachusetts Press, c2003.
[MCLA General E99.A13 H34 2003](#)



Thomas Jefferson and the Wall of Separation between Church and State / Daniel L. Dreisbach. Published New York : New York University Press, c2002. [SPEC F7290.D74 T56 2002](#) References are made to the “Mammoth Cheshire Cheese” sent from Cheshire, Mass. to President Thomas Jefferson.

Videos

‘From Wilderness to Williamstown’ produced, edited and narrated by Dick and Meg Dodds. [SPEC F74.W82 F7 2003](#)

What's Happening with MCLA Students and Local History?

Junior Dawn Morin completed her internship at the North Adams Public Library during the Spring 2006 semester. She worked on organizing the Ruth Browne historical collection and creating a finding aid. She also created an exhibit about the history of ballooning in North Adams in the early 20th c. She also recently had the same exhibit in the Upper Level of Freel Library.

Deborah Calderera, who recently graduated from MCLA in December of '05, has been working with Frances Jones-Sneed on the up-coming National Conference that is part of the NEH grant which has funded the development of local curriculum by Berkshire County teachers on the history of African Americans in Berkshire County. Deb will be working at the BAiT school in Adams this fall teaching 8th grade social studies.

Anne Munn, 2005 graduate from MCLA, is attending Simmons College in Boston, where she is studying Library Science. Anne has worked on numerous projects for the local history collection in the library and on the "African American in the Berkshires" project. She provided some historical research for Bernard Drew's book, [If They Close the Door on you, go in the Window](#), a book about African Americans in southern Berkshire County.

LOCAL HISTORY NOTES

Did you know that North Adams was the ballooning center of the United States ?

Thanks to Dawn Morin's fabulous historical research on ballooning in Berkshire County, she has uncovered that in 1907 North Adams was the ballooning capital of the United States. Several prominent residents from North Adams and across New England helped to establish a very successful ballooning center in Mass. and for New England. You can read all about it in her paper that she wrote while enrolled in MCLA's "***Local History Research Methods***" class in the fall of 2005, ask at the Reference Dept.



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