

## Out of the Archives

Fall 2008

Issue #4

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 local history projects at MCLA. This newsletter covers new acquisitions (books, videos, artifacts etc.) to the Local History/College Archives collections that are beneficial for research and help to preserve the history of the College and the local community. It is also our wish to inform members of the MCLA community what our students are doing on and off campus.



### **NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LOCAL HISTORY/ COLLEGE ARCHIVES COLLECTIONS**

Next time you're in the library take a look in the display case across from the circulation desk at some of the new items we have acquired.

#### **Normal School Ring, Advertising Cards, Carte de Vistes, Photograph of James Stevens - Hoosac Mountain Stage Driver c. 1872**

On Sept. 9th, Mr. & Mrs. Gleason of Tennessee donated some historical items to the Freel Library/Archives. Mrs. Gleason's mother, Flora M. Oaks class of 1912, graduated from the Normal School. Among the items: are a 1912 class pin, and essays she wrote while attending school. We also received numerous turn of the century local postcards which will be a nice addition to our existing collection.

### **Recent Microfilm Acquisitions**

With the Hardman Endowment money, the Local History Department was able to purchase additional years of the **North Adams Transcript** on microfilm. Currently we have the paper from the mid-nineteenth century to 1945.

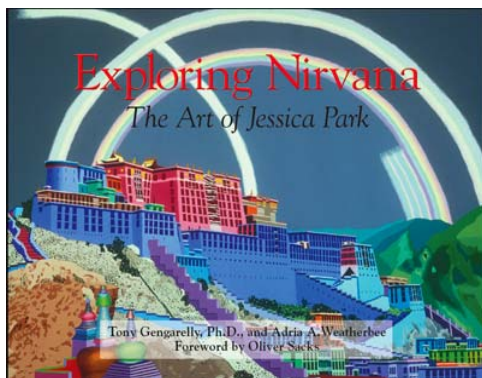
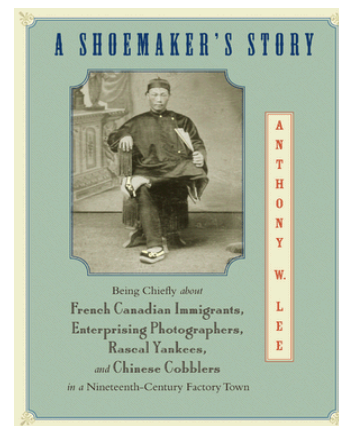


## New Local History Books

We have been able to purchase new books important and relevant to local or regional history.

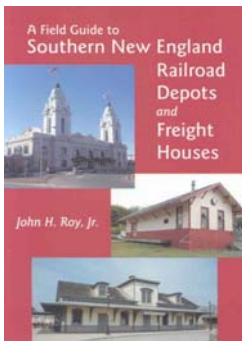
***A shoemaker's story : being chiefly about French Canadian immigrants, enterprising photographers, rascal Yankees, and Chinese cobblers in a nineteenth-century factory town.*** by Anthony W. Lee.

This fascinating book looks at the photographic aspect of the history of the Chinese that came to North Adams in the early 1870's. Professor Lee spent a great deal of time in North Adams conducting his research. He used a photograph from MCLA's special collections for his book. It is worth a definite read.



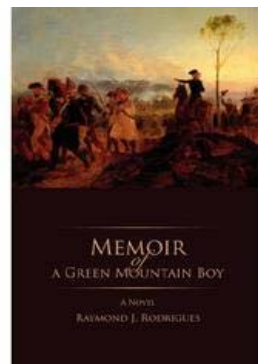
***Exploring Nirvana: The Art of Jessica Park***  
This 95 page book is a visual account of Williamstown resident, Jessica Park's lifelong struggle to overcome the pervasive developmental disorder of autism. Tony Gengarelly, MCLA students in the Fine & Performing Arts program, and many others worked on this project to celebrate her artwork.

***Gail Grandchamp : A fighter with heart pursues an olympic dream.*** by **Mary-Jeanne Filiault** as told by **Gail A. Grandchamp**. Gail was a former NASC boxing coach in the early 1980's. She shares her story about the pursuit of her boxing dream.



***A field guide to southern New England railroad depots and freight houses*** by **John H. Roy, Jr.** Some of the local stations and depots listed for Berkshire County are: Adams, Cheshire, Dalton, Great Barrington, Pittsfield, Stockbridge and Williamstown.

***Memoir of a Green Mountain Boy*** by **Raymond J. Rodrigues** Ray is a former V.P. of Academic Affairs of North Adams State College. This novel is about a young boy who dreamed of being a Green Mountain Boy during the American Revolution.



## Local History News



**Rev. Samuel Harrison House**

On August 22, I attended a ground breaking ceremony for the re-habilitation of the homestead of the Rev. Samuel Harrison in Pittsfield, MA. Harrison was the chaplain for the Massachusetts 54th Regiment during the Civil War. He championed equal pay for the Negro soldiers who were promised the same pay as White troops but were denied.

At the ceremony prominent local and state officials, residents, and many others attended. Recent MCLA Spring '08 graduate, **Dawn Morin** who is working for the Samuel Harrison Society, and Frances Jones-Sneed were also in attendance. For updates on the restoration process and other happenings with the Harrison House go to the Society's website: <http://harrison.lsw.com/page.php?PageID=228&PageName=Home> . Be sure to check out the newsletter Dawn has designed for the Society.

Harrison's house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006 and has received Federal and State funds for the restoration.

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