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**By Susan Denault
MCLA Archivist
s.denault@mcla.edu
662-5325**

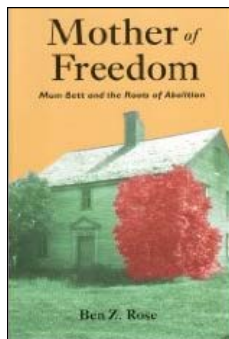
Out of the Archives

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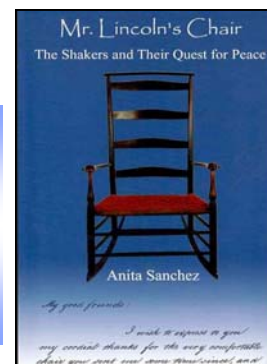
This publication is created by the Freel Library Local History/ Archives Division of the Reference Department to inform students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the general public about the ongoing Local History projects at MCLA. This newsletter covers new acquisitions (books , videos, artifacts, 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 or staff are doing on and off campus.

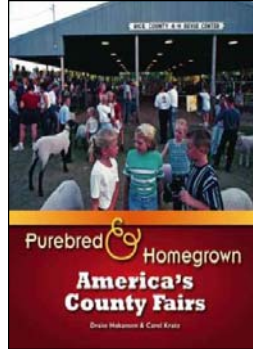
New Local History Books



Mother of freedom : Mum Bett and the roots of abolition / Ben Z. Rose. Waverley, Mass. : TreeLine Press, c2009. This book is about Mum Bett's pursuit of her journey to win her freedom as a slave in Sheffield, Ma. through a lawsuit with the help of Theodore Sedgwick a prominent local attorney.

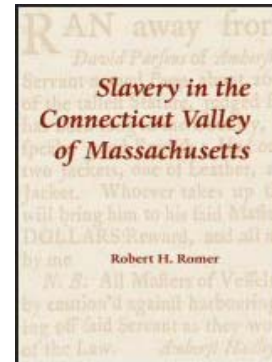
Mr. Lincoln's chair : the Shakers and their quest for peace / by Anita Sanchez ; illustrations by Joan Jobson. Granville, Ohio : McDonald & Woodward Pub., c2009.





Purebred & homegrown : America's county fairs / Drake Hokanson & Carol Kratz. Madison, Wis. : Terrace Books, c2008. The first agricultural fair in the United States took place in Pittsfield in 1810. This book covers the history of many fairs, including those in Berkshire County.

Slavery in the Connecticut Valley of Massachusetts / Robert H. Romer. Florence, Mass. : Printed and published by Levellers Press, 2009.



New Local History CD's & DVD's

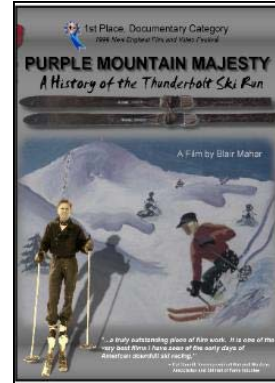
Panoramic Maps of the United States and Canada - This 3 cd set includes 19 th c. historical bird's eye maps of larger cities in New England and throughout the U.S. These colorful maps show how cities looked around the time of the industrial movement and westward expansion. Some Berkshire County towns included are North Adams, Adams, Pittsfield and Great Barrington.

1904 Atlas of Berkshire County by Farnham on cd-rom - We now have available on cd-rom this early atlas of Berkshire towns. This will help to protect our large print edition. This atlas is great for historical research when looking at Berkshire County towns and cities around the turn of the 20th century.

(cont. on page 3)

New Local History CD's & DVD's (cont.)

To go along with the Library exhibit 'Schuss it, if you can!', we have purchased Blair Mahr's exciting historical documentary about the Thunderbolt ski trail. This film documents the historical development of the trail and some of the people who conquered this difficult ski slope. It follows the locals who were passionate about this trail and its importance to them and the town of Adams.



***New exhibits
in
Freel Library***

**Schuss It, If You Can!**

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the first Thunderbolt ski race on Mt. Greylock in Adams, a commemorative race was held on March 13, 2010. I have organized a display of materials about the history of this class "A" slope built by the CCC, its role in the development of the ski industry in Berkshire County, and its past champions.

Sue Denault

The American Zylonite Company and Early Plastics in Adams

This once thriving manufacturer called the American Zylonite Company, was founded in 1881 Adams, Mass. During its brief existence it produced novelty items such as mirrors, collars, billiard balls, and other everyday items from **zylonite**, a predecessor to our modern day plastics. Included in the exhibit are original items made of **zylonite**, a panoramic map of Adams during the late 19th c. and views of the American Zylonite Company buildings then and now.



Frances Jones-Sneed and five of her senior seminar students have been working this spring semester on documenting the history of African Americans in North Adams, 1790-1930. Students have been using the federal census and city directories available in Freel Library. They will present their findings at the MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference on April 22. On Tuesday May 4th at 6 p.m., they will talk about their research at the North Adams Public Library. The presentation is free and open to the public. This is an event sponsored by MCLA History Dept., Freel Library, the North Adams Public Library and the North Adams Historical Society.

*(See announcement flier
on next page)*

**African Americans in
North Adams, Massachusetts
1790 -1930**



Unidentified African American couple by H.D. Ward's North Adams, Ma.

**Tuesday May 4, 2010
6 - 7:30 p.m.
North Adams Public Library
3rd Floor
Light refreshments will be
served.
Free and open to the public.**

MCLA students will present their research findings on documenting African Americans living and working in North Adams from 1790 -1930's. Student research is based on U.S. Census records, city directories, and other public records.

This project is part of the African Americans in the Berkshires documentation project.

MCLA Student Presenters:

Jeannie Gilson — 19th c. Interracial marriage in North Adams

Christopher Hess — William G. Massey, former janitor of the North Adams National Bank

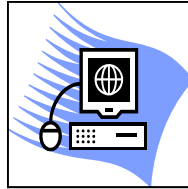
Kailey Maloy — African American occupations in the North Adams during the 19th & 20th c.

Kenneth Recore — African Americans servants in post-emancipation Massachusetts

Jared Sprague — African Americans in North Adams 1790 -1930's

*Sponsored by the MCLA History Dept., MCLA Free Library,
North Adams Public Library, and the North Adams Historical Society.*

Local History News in Freel Library



The Reference Department now has a computer dedicated to local history research. The reference staff has been working on compiling finding aids for some of our local history and archival collections that have not been catalogued.

So far we have indexing for:

- Urban Renewal in North Adams (scrapbook collection of newspaper articles) -1966 -1977
- Local History vertical files by subject
- Hoosuck Community Resource Project/Newspaper Files -1972 -1978
- Railroad pamphlets relating to the construction of the Hoosac Tunnel
- College history timeline - 1894 to present
- African Americans in the Berkshires documentary project - indexing for our vertical files collection.

Over time we will continue to add other finding aids. We are currently in the process of indexing older clippings that pertain to the college in local newspapers. This computer will also be used to run several cd-roms , map programs, and other local history data that we have.

Ask Linda Kaufmann or Sue Denault for more information and assistance.