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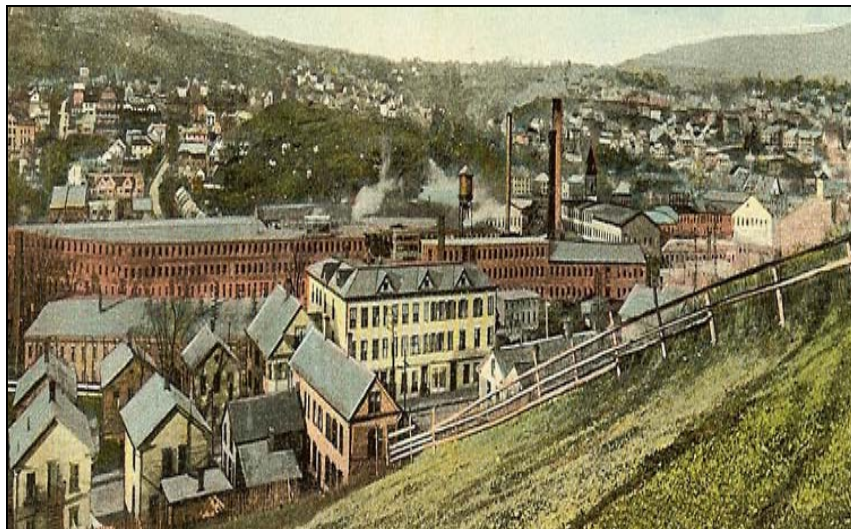
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Freel Library

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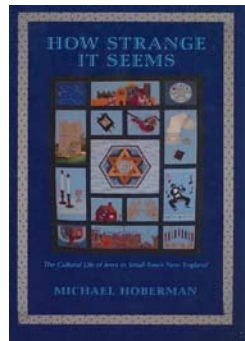
This publication is created by the Freel Library Local History/ Archives Division of the Reference Department to inform students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the general public about the ongoing Local History projects at MCLA. This newsletter covers new acquisitions (books , videos, artifacts,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

The Sprague Log: Preserving a Company Newsletter A Hardman Library Grant Project



Freel Library announces the launching of a new online digital collection. The *Sprague Log*, a company newsletter from 1938 to 1985, has been microfilmed and digitized by the Library. The project was funded by the Hardman Fund for Local History. All the images can be found at <http://www.mcla.edu/library/spraguelogs/>.

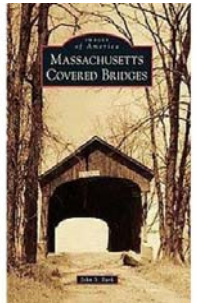
New Local History Books



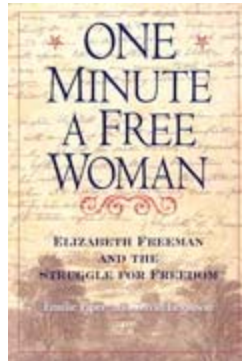
How strange it Seems

This book reveals the stories about Jewish lives in rural New England. Several Berkshire families are featured including the Shapiro and Kronicks of North Adams, and a farming community in Sandisfield, Ma. where many of the Jewish immigrants settled.

Forgotten patriots : African American and American Indian patriots in the Revolutionary War : a guide to service, sources and studies / Eric G. Grundset National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, c2008

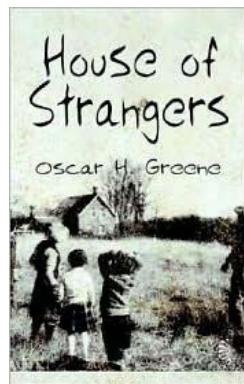
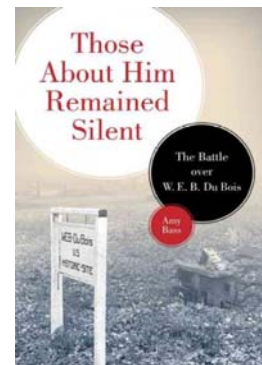


Massachusetts Covered Bridges
This book documents through photographs the many highway and covered bridges throughout Massachusetts that have since been lost or are in a state of disrepair. There are several entries for the Berkshires.



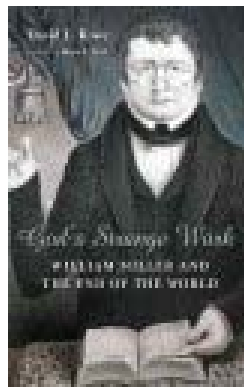
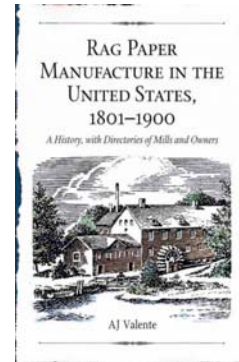
Local authors Emilie Piper and David Levinson have explored much deeper into the life of ex-slave Elizabeth “Mumbet” Freeman. Mumbet in the late 1700’s sued for her freedom and lived with the affluent Sedgwick family of Stockbridge until her death in the 1829.

Amy Bass explores the hidden racism, biases, and politics involved in the quest of some to preserve and remember the civil rights activist W.E.B. DuBois of Great Barrington. Many in the town were opposed to the idea of DuBois’ connection to Great Barrington and fought to suppress any ties with him.



Former Williamstown resident Oscar Greene reveals what it was like for an African American family living in a predominantly affluent White community during the Great Depression.

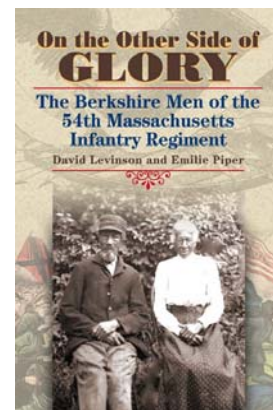
This book outlines the early history of the paper industry from 1801-1900. Several mills from Berkshire County were included because of their importance to the paper industry, especially the Crane Paper Mill which still turns out the paper that our U.S. dollars are printed on.



'God's Strange work William Miller and the end of the World' by David L. Rowe

William Miller was a Calvinist Baptist preacher who was the first prominent American to popularize the use of biblical prophecy to determine a specific time for Christ's return to earth. The connection Miller had to Berkshire County was that his father settled in West Pittsfield in 1747 and established a farm in the vicinity of what is now Hancock Shaker Village. Miller was born in Pittsfield in 1782.

This book was recently published by local authors David Levinson and Emilie Piper to pay tribute to The African American men from Berkshire County who served in the Mass. 54th during the Civil War. Their research follows not only their service but their lives after the war.



FYI
Information

New
Civil War
Exhibit !

*“Berkshire
County during
the Civil War”*

New Library Exhibit

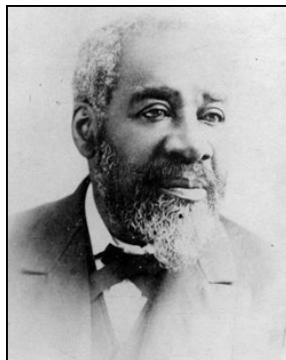
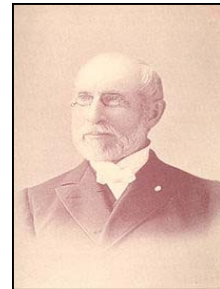


Please come visit the new Civil War exhibit on the upper floor of Freel Library. This past April the United States began commemorating the 150th anniversary of the War between the States. Many Berkshire County residents, male and female, served in different capacities such as nurses, doctors, generals and soldiers. Service also included many men of color. Local businesses also contributed to the local war efforts by producing the wool for uniforms and iron ore for the ironclads in the Navy.



Sanford Blackinton
Local manufacturer and owner of the Blackinton Mills expanded his company to meet the increased demand for wool for Union uniforms.

George Root - Composer
Wrote many Civil War songs that were used to recruit soldiers and to inspire men from the North to fight for the cause.



Rev. Samuel Harrison
Harrison was from Pittsfield who served as Chaplain for the Mass. 54th regiment. He championed for equal pay for the colored soldiers who were denied the same rate of pay as the white soldiers.

Gifts

The Freel Library Local History Department would like to acknowledge a recent gift from Mrs. Charles Sanquet. She donated some items of her husband's, Charles Arthur who was a member of the Class of 1953. The following items included are a 1953 Commencement program and some issues of a former college news publication called the "Taconic Columns".

April 1951 – Vol. V No. 6
May 1951 – Vol. V No. 7
Nov. 1951 – Vol. VI – No. 1
Dec. 1951 – Vol. VI – No. 2
Apr. 1952 – Vol. VI – No. 4
Nov. 1952 – Vol. VII – No. 1
Dec. 1952 – Vol. VII – No. 2
March 1953 – Vol. VII – No. 3
April 1953 – Vol. VII – No. 4
June 5, 1953 – Vol. VII – No. 5



We also received a unique ledger book which contains expenditures of the Order of Calanthe of the Knights of Pythias. What is interesting about this artifact is that it lists the African American female members of the 'Sunflower' Court of North Adams from 1922-1926. This group was one of many Mutual Aid societies that were established during the late 19th and early 20th c. to provide relief to sick members, cover funeral expenses, and other needs. We were excited to receive this gift because it mentions many of the women that are being researched as part of the ***African American in the Berkshires Project***. Margaret Hart's mother was one such member.