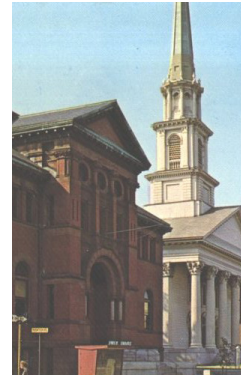


FITCHBURG
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125
years



February



2024

The Public Library – Yesterday and Today

Rodney Wallace Brings “The People’s College” to the City

In a previous newsletter, readers learned that Rodney Wallace was chagrined to have to tell a young girl on the streets of Fitchburg that there was no public library for her in the city. Perhaps this encounter was when he began to imagine a library that was free and contained a reading room and art gallery, open to women and children as well as men.

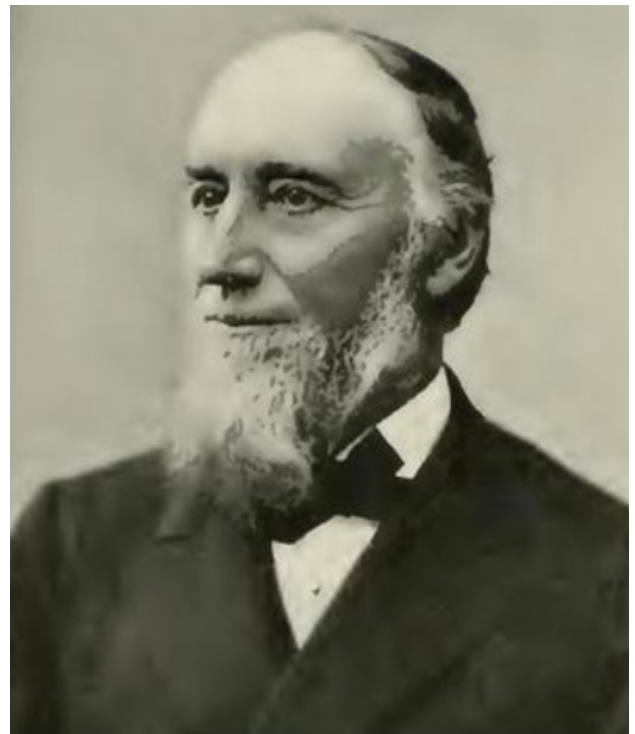
Wallace was a self-made man, born 1823 in New Ipswich, N.H., who started to work at age 12 for a farmer in Rindge, NH, for \$40 per year. The best part of his employment was that he could attend the local school for eight weeks each winter. He had previously attended the New Ipswich schools before his move to Rindge.

At age 16, Wallace began to drive freight teams from Rindge to Boston and back. Four years later, a local doctor and medicine manufacturer hired Rodney to sell his medicinal wares throughout New England. Fitchburg was one of his stops, and the city called to him. Following his marriage at age thirty to Sophia Ingalls of Rindge, Wallace moved to Fitchburg and opened a wholesale business dealing in books, stationary, paper stock and cotton waste.

This business was followed by a partnership to form the Fitchburg Paper Company, which Wallace soon became the sole owner of. As his businesses prospered, Wallace became active on many boards in the city and region; he was also a selectman and later a state representative. With his prosperity, Wallace gave back to the city, including the Wallace Library, called “the people’s college” in the book *Fitchburg, Past and Present*. Wallace was a firm believer that free, city-funded libraries afforded everyone an education.

Not only did Wallace donate the land and money (\$84,000) for the Fitchburg library, but he also did the same for the town of Rindge, NH. His first wife and mother of their sons, Sophia Ingalls, passed away in 1871. In 1894, in honor of her and her family, Wallace donated the land and funds for a library in Rindge. (Wallace’s second wife was also named Sophia, a widow of Fitchburg Congressman Goldsmith Bailey, whom he married in 1876, which can lead to confusion while doing research.) Dedicated in 1895, the library is called the Ingalls Memorial Library.

(continued on pg. 2)



Rodney Wallace

The Public Library – Yesterday and Today

Rodney Wallace Brings “The People’s College” to the City

(continued from pg. 1)

In his speech at the dedication, Wallace said, “When passing the property over to you, I could not help the feeling that I was only making some return for the kind words, the good advice and example, given me by the good people of Rindge, when my home was here among you more than forty years ago. A kind word to a young man just starting in life may be a great help; the beneficent influence of good books is most valuable, and these have been highly appreciated by me.”

Both libraries were designed by Fitchburg’s H.M. Francis, who was the architect of fifteen area libraries in the two states. The Rindge and Fitchburg libraries shared similarities in design. The Ingalls Memorial Library has a portrait of Wallace on its walls, just as the Wallace Library and its replacement did. The Fitchburg portrait, painted by Frederick Vinton and purchased by the original library trustees, has been cleaned, and the frame has been restored in anticipation of the portrait’s placement in the new, renovated Fitchburg library.

Interestingly, in April of 2005, a portrait was found in a box labelled “Old Picture” in the attic of the Old Murdock School in Winchendon. At first mistakenly identified as that of Wheeler Poland, a benefactor to the town of Winchendon, the true identity was recognized by a genealogist from Winchendon and confirmed by the Fitchburg Historical Society as being Rodney Wallace. Wallace was the chairman of the board of the Murdock Trust Fund, which explains why he was depicted presenting the keys to the new school to the town. Over the years, the portrait of Wallace had made its way to the attic of the Murdock School. Once it was clear who the portrait was of, the plan was to present the portrait to the Old Murdock Building, now the Council on Aging, where it once had hung.

The second floor of Fitchburg’s Wallace Library was an art gallery with donations of paintings from local people with the means to do so. Eleanor Norcross donated a painting of hers, entitled “My Studio.” Portraits of famous personages like Charles Sumner, Daniel Webster and Alvah Crocker were also displayed on the walls. Photographs of works by famous European artists were hung, and a Relic Room was filled with artifacts of interest. Since the Fitchburg Art

Museum was not built until 1925, the library’s art museum served the same purpose for the region in the early 20th century.

The Wallace Library was given the nickname of the “Peoples’ College” by many in the city. One citizen stated, “This act of beneficence reaches farther than appears to a casual observer. It secures the city, for all coming time, a ‘Peoples’ College’ where the child of the poorest, as well as of the richest, the toiler as well as the man of leisure, may get a very important education.” As seen in his remarks thanking the people of Rindge for providing him with an education, Wallace knew the effect books could have on someone not able to attend high school or college.

Rodney Wallace died of bronchitis in 1903, leaving two sons, Herbert and George, and a grandson, George Wallace Jr., who continued his support of the library. This story will be told in a subsequent article.

Written By Cynthia Jones



Wallace Library in Fitchburg



Ingalls Memorial Library in Rindge, NH

Today's Library, by Director Deb Hinckle

The library today still has an expansive collection of physical books, DVDs, audiobooks, and music. As part of the CW MARS consortium, your FPL card works at over 150 libraries across Central and Western Massachusetts. With our fantastic statewide delivery network, thanks to the Massachusetts Library System, we can get books sent here from other MA libraries for you to pick up within a matter of days.

Fitchburg Public Library's digital services have expanded: you can download free ebooks, audiobooks, and magazines through the Libby app. The Library also subscribes to Kanopy (movie streaming service), and Freegal (music streaming service), both also free services.

The Library of Things continues to be popular. In particular, the WiFi hotspots are an in-demand item. Check one out and get 2 weeks of free WiFi. Also available for borrowing are board games and a telescope. Not many people know that we have devices you can use at the library to convert VHS tapes, old slides, or LPs to a digital format for free. Don't forget about our Museum Pass Program, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, which allows you to check out passes for discounted admission to over a dozen museums and attractions.

The Youth Library provides story times, crafts, take-home kits, and our growing 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. The Teen Center has regular art nights, teen and tween hangouts, and just started a program where teens and tweens can learn to knit or crochet. For adults, we have a regular book club and knitting group.

In addition to these amenities, local public libraries serve an important role in the national workforce development system. This role has increased since the Great Recession and became formalized through changes in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. Public libraries offer a range of career services, including résumé and cover letter support, job application assistance, interview preparation, training, and referrals to American Job Centers and other support services.

The library community is revolutionizing the way we think about public libraries. Our focus is to transform libraries from simply collections of books to dynamic community spaces that bring people together and promote social infrastructure. Libraries provide diverse community uses and are community anchors that drive economic development and promote social justice.

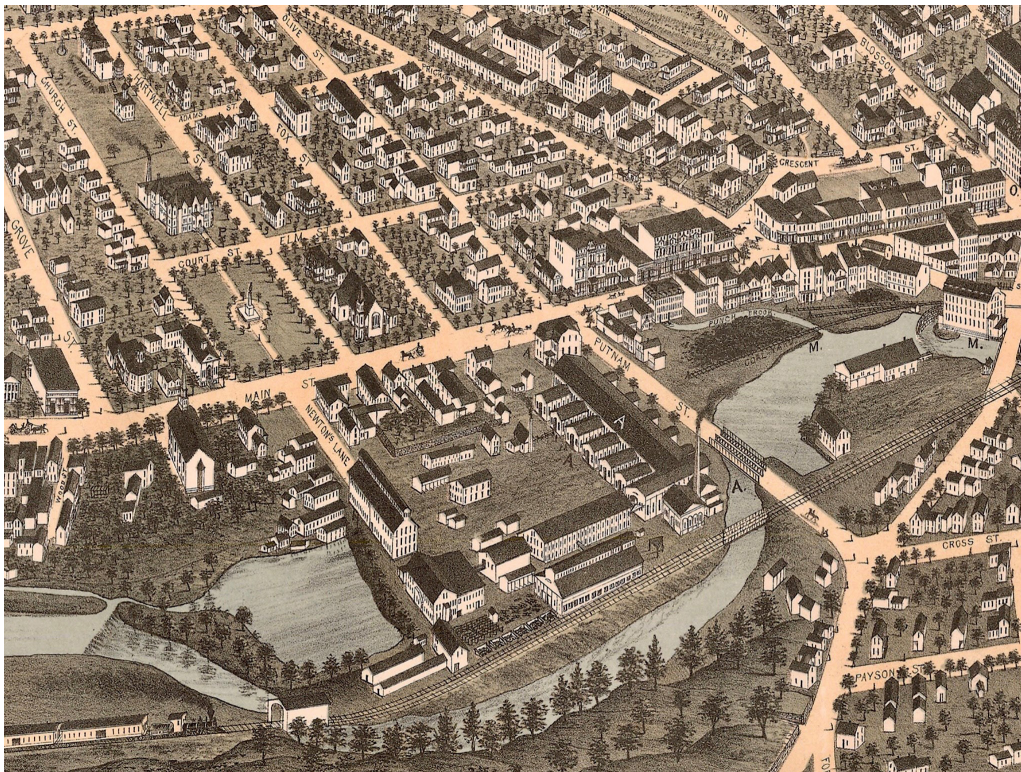
The upcoming building renovation and expansion is ambitious and essential to the future of our city as a "learning commons" and "information hub." The project will encompass two major changes – the renovation of the existing Wallace Building and the creation of an entirely new Youth Library and learning center. This renovation and addition will create an environment where programming for children, teens, and adults can take place simultaneously in bright, comfortable, and safe spaces. This transformation will create a more flexible, welcoming, and sustainable facility to provide the essential place for people to build a sense of community.



To Be Continued...

As we reviewed Cynthia Jones' wonderful research on the history of the first Rodney Wallace Library (of 1885), we noticed other research in our records for the history of Newton's Lane (now Newton Place) next to the library. Originally, we had planned to include that history in a short article in this issue. However, the story of Martin Newton, his home and his textile mill needed to be told in more detail. Especially because the small area around his mill (located along Newton Place and extending down to the Nashua River) incubated more Fitchburg businesses and manufacturers than you can imagine! For example, we have

learned (or at least, been reminded) that Martin Newton developed one of the first cotton spinning machines and one of the first power looms IN AMERICA! This was 1810 and 1812 when he invented, built and installed them in Fitchburg, where his textile factory continued for 30 to 40 years! We are still trying to figure it all out and it will probably end up being a long and detailed article, not a short one. If your own research overlaps with this topic, we would love to hear from you.



The Fitchburg Free Soil Club of 1850

Evidence of Fitchburg Beginning to Resist Enslavement

The Free-Soil Movement was an anti-slavery cause active in the United States before the Civil War. It was not abolitionist, its goal limited to the exclusion of slave labor from those territories to be acquired by the United States in the far west at that time. It fostered the Free-Soil Party, active in national politics from 1848 to 1852, when it was absorbed into the Republican Party. (Above information taken from the Wikipedia entry.)

Evidence of the Free- Soil Movement in Fitchburg is from two documents, in old blue ledger paper. One is an 1852 receipt for rope and linen line purchased of T. C. Caldwell by the Free-Soil Club of Fitchburg, indicating payment in the amount of \$2.79, acknowledged by the signature of that merchant. Caldwell's grocery was located in the building later replaced by the Wallace Block, popularly known as the "Sentinel Building." The Fitchburg Almanac, Directory & Advertiser for 1850 has an ad for T. C. Caldwell as a

Dealer in West India Goods and best Family Groceries, Choicest Teas, Foreign Fruits, Alicant (?), Jute and Manilla Mats, Nuts, Stone and Wooden Ware, also Camphene and Burning Fluid &c., &c. At the Old Stand, directly opposite the Fitchburg Bank. (Camphene and burning fluids were fuel for lamps.)

The other document is the First Annual Report of the Treasurer of the Fitchburg Free Soil Club [for 1848-49],

this records credits and debits, a credit prefaced by to and a debit prefaced by by, in the usage of the era.

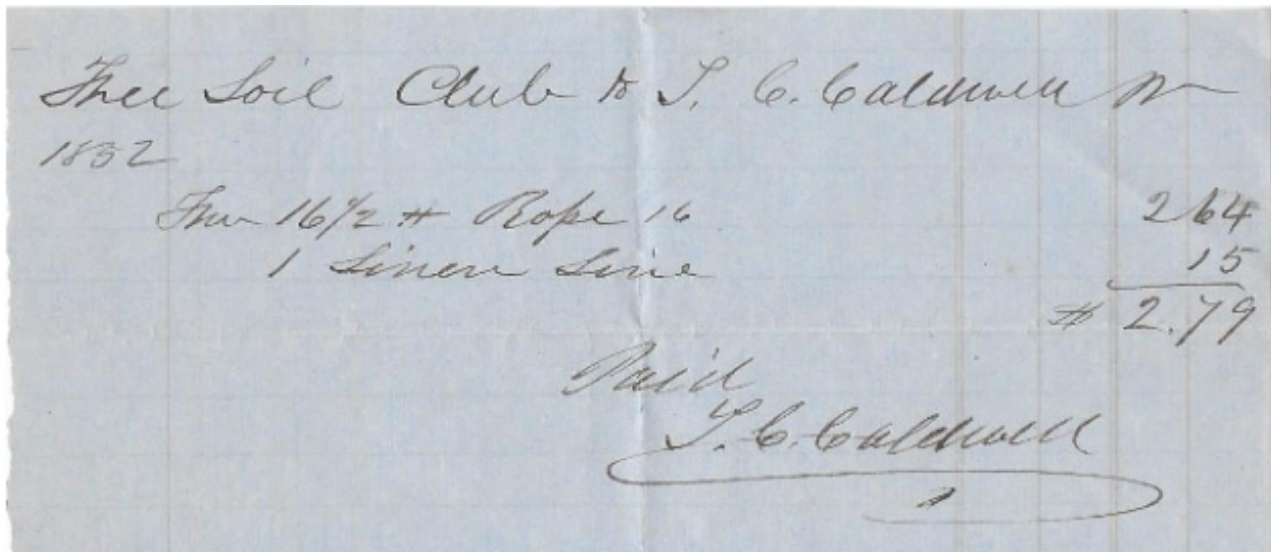
The credits for 1848 record cash paid to the Free-Soil Club by L. H. Goodnow, A. Manning, L. Downe, B. H. Din (?), E. Sprague, L. H. Goodnow, Abel Manning, David Battles, H. P. Messenger, Jacob Haskell, and Norman Stone. In other words, this is probably also a list of the Club's dues-paying members.

The purchases include "lighting", rope and linen. We may be able to assume that these were materials for a nighttime political parade. In the 1840's & 50's, political clubs and parties often marched in torchlight parades carrying painted canvas signs, in order to create support for their cause.

The debits for 1848 are for cash paid C. Tolman for torches as per order for lighting Town Hall, cash paid Paul C. Mason for cash paid out as per bill (two entries), and cash paid to Paul C. Mason for County Committee.

The debits for 1849 are for cash paid D. D. Lowe for (?) as per order, for cash paid C. Mason for cash paid treasurer of 4 district, for cash paid for Jaquith & Comee's bill approved, for cash paid for W. J. Meriam's bill approved, and for cash paid for Daniel Emory's bill approved.

*❧ By Research and writing by
Frank Morrison, with some edits
by Susan Navarre*



A History of Dentistry in Fitchburg



Dr. Thomas Palmer

In Fitchburg, dentistry improved immeasurably after the practice of Dr. Thomas Palmer (1820-1907). He introduced general anesthesia in the form of ether. Palmer had an unusual childhood, as his father was Joseph Palmer, a notorious figure in town. When Thomas was a young man, he visited the Shakers and was impressed by a dentist staying among them. He remained with the Shakers for several months and then went to the Baltimore School of Dentistry, America's first dental college. In 1843, he opened his practice at 250 Main St.

In 1846, he received a letter from Dr. Morton of Ashby who developed the machine to dispense ether. When patients were under its effect teeth could be extracted without pain. In 1847, Dr. Hitchcock of Fitchburg invited Palmer to etherize a patient during an operation. This was the first time ether had been used in this part of the state.

Thomas Palmer had a son, Joseph who followed his father in dentistry. Dentistry began with just four men practicing in 1875, including Thomas Palmer and Augustine Horton who had been a Private in Co. H., 1st Mass. Infantry. By 1900, there were 10 dentists practicing in offices in just two blocks on Main St.,; 206 to 312!

In 1900, the "prophylactic toothbrush" (a curved brush with bristles of variable length) was introduced. Advertisements in the Sentinel tout that "almost every local dentist" recommended it. However, the growth in the number of practicing dentists indicate that residents were not prioritizing oral care.

In 1905, Fitchburg had 12 dentists; five years later 15, 19 in 1915, and then 23 in 1920 and 30 in 1930. As Dr. Joe Cronin and I were researching he came across a dentist named Ross, and believes that he knew a descendent

who was also a dentist. Alfred Ross is listed as having his office at 280 Main Street in 1960, but as we researched further, we found multiple members of the Ross family working as dentists at the same address since 1900. Dr. Joe says, "Dr. Ross was known as the dentist with a dog – he brought his black dog into work with him every day."

Dr. Joe also explored the history of dentistry as a science and reports "the dental drill was developed by Singer sewing machine company. Other improvements were the creation of individual tools for extraction of each tooth. Anesthesia also improved over the years as have artificial teeth, temporary or permanent. Silver fillings were used in the early days. These were replaced by white fillings and then plastics to replace teeth or fragments.

In more recent times, antiseptic measures improved tremendously in the dental operating rooms, including the use of masks, caps, glasses. We now have the materials to whiten everyone's smile. Today, doctors also do oral exams that can uncover many cancers."

Dr. Joe remembers what dentistry was like before fluoridation. "I was a school dentist for several years in the 1960s. We had to examine every student from 1st through 12th grade. As kids got older, their teeth got worse. From small cavities in little kids to full dentures in some of the seniors. Many times we'd ask them to 'open wide and show us their teeth,' and many times they'd take out their dentures and hold them in their hand.

(continued on pg. 7)



A History of Dentistry in Fitchburg (continued from pg. 6)



Dr. Joe Cronin

“Notices would go home to families but unfortunately because of finance, some could do it and some couldn’t do it. But now, public health services are available to everyone.”

Dr. Joe also remembers the fluoridation campaigns. “We had a vote on fluoridation in the mid-70s. Leominster rejected it, and Fitchburg accepted it. As a result, children in Fitchburg subsequently had much better teeth.”

“When I served in the military, you could tell what

part of the country someone came from just by looking at their teeth. Soldiers who came from states where fluoride naturally occurred in the water had fewer cavities. Fluoridation works.”

Dr. Joe concludes, “I worked as a dentist my whole life, and I’m still interested in the history of dentistry. It would

be terrible if you lived during the time of the Civil War and had a toothache. The only painkiller was alcohol, and the only treatment was removing the tooth. There were no ifs ands or buts -- no fillings and no root canals.”

Dr. Joe Cronin received his BA from Loyola College, and DDS from McGill University, Montreal. His son, Dr. Michael Cronin continues his practice in Leominster, MA. Dr. Joe resides at The Gables.

❧ Written By: Sally Cragin and Dr. Joe Cronin



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- Fitchburg Cultural Council
- George R. Wallace Jr. and Alice G. Wallace Foundation
- Rollstone Charitable Foundation
- Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Massachusetts SHRAB
- MassHumanities

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- Rollstone Bank

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- RFK Community Alliance

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Hall of Fame Archives Project Going on Now

Growing up in Fitchburg, local sportswriter Sean Sweeney was only too acutely aware of the athletic history surrounding his alma mater, Fitchburg High School; during his time, the Red Raiders were extremely competitive. And sure, he heard about the greatness of Clarence Amriott and the gift that was Crocker Field, but hearing second-hand stories and actually researching the historical aspects are two completely different things.

Sweeney, the Fitchburg High School Athletic Department Historian since late 2018, is in the process of researching out and further preserving the history of FHS sports. Utilizing the Fitchburg Historical Society’s newspaper archives in the basement, Sweeney is compiling the Fitchburg High Athletic Archives.

“The school doesn’t have a free-standing archive on the premises,” Sweeney told the Historical Society recently. “This project will eventually create that.”

Since August 2022, Sweeney has made weekly visits—and in some cases, multiple visits—to the Historical Society’s third floor workspace in order to accomplish this endeavor. Starting with the Fitchburg High Football program and using the high school yearbooks as a guide, he started to compile a game-by-game log beginning with the 1894 season through 1972, with over 700 games transcribed. Some visits saw him record multiple seasons in his two-hour time allotment per visit, which moved the football portion of the project closer to its completion.

Armed with this information, Sweeney then compiled a record book of touchdown scorers, touchdown passers, etc., and broke the information down, season by season. He finished the football portion through the 1972 Fitchburg High Super Bowl season in mid-July 2023. He also researched out the FHS Tennis team from 1926-53, as well as the first two seasons of FHS Boys’ Soccer, 1971 and 1972.

Sweeney is presently working on compiling the FHS Basketball archive. The basketball program at FHS started in the winter of 1899-1900.

He expects the basketball research to end sometime in early

2025 before he starts baseball, track and field, ice hockey, golf, cross country, and swimming. When he finishes those sports through 1972, he will then move to the Fitchburg Public Library and the microfilm readers there in order to get data from 1973 to the present day.

“It felt exciting to see certain names methodically work their way up the ladder, so to speak,” Sweeney said, “and I’ve found names that I didn’t know who had a profound effect on our programs, too. This project has been a real eye-opener in terms of what we were told, and what’s distinctly more accurate in truth.”

“This is a multi-year endeavor which will take approximately the next decade or so to fully grasp the deep past.”

Sweeney notes that the project serves a number of purposes, outside of creating the Archives: as a member of the Fitchburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, Sweeney is tasked with writing the induction program, and he admits he is learning so much about the deep past of FHS, a part of history which is truly unknown to many.

“This will help the Committee make their decisions,” he said. “The more information I can give, the better.”

Not only that, it will eventually help educate current and future Fitchburg High student-athletes about their places in the school’s vast athletic history. And with the creation of the Archives and the scoring lists, student-athletes will be able to see what they need to achieve as a varsity player to be considered among the school’s historic elite.

“This is, in all actuality, another way of coaching and motivating our kids to perform at a high level,” he said.

The ultimate goal for Sweeney is to eventually share this information with the community at large, whether in a website or a blog.

“This information belongs to the community of Fitchburg High School. There’s no such thing as a Sports Information Director at the high school level. We need this information preserved at the school so future generations can learn about some of the greatest athletes and teams our school has ever known,” he said.



Italian Recipes from Fitchburg Cookbooks

Mary Grace Giordano was born Mary Grace Barbaro in 1912 to Antonio Barbaro and Catherine Barbaro. She attended Fitchburg High School, graduating in 1931. She married Peter Giordano around 1936 when she would have been around 23. Peter served in World War II while Mary worked as a seamstress at home. They lived on 50 Canton Street, and Mary was also a devout member of the St. Anthony of Padua Parish, even serving on the Children's Breakfast Committee in her later years. Mary passed away in 1999. Her recipe for "Stuffed Peppers" is featured in "Folk Foods of Fitchburg", in Giordano's recipe the dish consists of green bell peppers that have been hollowed out and filled with a mixture of rice, cheese, eggs, spices, and ground beef or pork. A tomato sauce is then made and added to the peppers and poured over them to bake until everything is properly cooked.



Stuffed Peppers

By Mary Grace Giordano (Barbaro)

4 good-sizes green peppers	1 large can tomatos
3/4 pound beef or pork meat, ground	1/2 cup olive oil
1/2 cup rice	1 clove garlic
few sprigs of parsley	few basil leaves
2 tablespoons grated cheese	3 eggs
salt and pepper	

Cut green peppers in halves lengthwise. Boil rice twenty minutes, strain dry (do not wash) and allow to cool. In the meantime, mix ground meat, eggs, parsley, cheese, salt and pepper thoroughly, and saute lightly in about 2 tablespoons of oil. Add all this to rice, and mix thoroughly. Then stuff peppers with this mixture. Put about 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a pan and place peppers in it. Cook sauce next in the following manner: place remaining olive oil (about 4 tablespoons) in frying pan with garlic and basil leaves; allow to simmer a few minutes; then add strained tomatoes, salt and pepper, and cook for about twenty minutes, or until thickened. Pour this sauce over stuffed peppers. Cover, and bake in moderate oven 45 minutes to one hour, or until peppers are done.

Serves four.

Concetta M. Piccolomini was born Concetta M. Imprescia in 1926 to parents Fillipo and Filippa Imprescia. Concetta attended Fitchburg High School, graduating in 1944. She married Ercole (Harry) Piccolomini in 1949, and held a number of jobs over the years. She worked as a Stenographer at Fine's Law firm, as well as a clerk at the Independent Lock Company, and later in life at the restaurant Carbone's, owned by her sister and brother-in-law Anna and Luigi Carbone. Like most of her neighbors, Concetta was a member of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, and a lifelong member as well. Concetta's recipe of "Ceci soup Roman style" is featured in "Folk Foods of Fitchburg". Ceci soup is an Italian Chickpea soup, in Piccolomini's recipe containing anchovies, chickpeas, macaroni, and tomato paste in addition to various spices. Ceci soup is a dish originating from southern Italy that typically contains pasta and chickpeas in a broth. This version of the dish is "roman style" because of its inclusion of anchovies, which are not always included in other versions of Ceci soup. *(continued on pg. 10)*



Ceci Soup Roman Style

By Concetta "Connie" Piccolomini (Imprescia)

1/2 cup olive oil	1 can ceci
1/2 teaspoon rosemary	(garbanzo beans or chick peas)
1 clove garlic, finely chopped	1/4 teaspoon salt
3 anchovy filets, chopped	1 cup elbow macaroni
1 tablespoon tomato paste	1/2 teaspoon pepper
diluted in	
4 tablespoons water	

Place olive oil, rosemary, garlic and anchovies in sauce pan and brown well. Add diluted tomato paste and cook over slow fire for twenty minutes. Add ceci beans with liquid and add another can full of water. Add salt and bring to boiling point. Add elbow macaroni and cook eight minutes longer or until macaroni is tender. Add pepper and serve.

Serves four.

Note from the director: From old document to new book

This morning, I read a letter from the book editor Emily Herring Wilson published in *The New Yorker* under the headline “Fruits of Many Labors.” She was recognizing the people who had made her book possible: Wilson thanked the families “who preserved the pair’s letters” and “the countless archivists who make such letters available.”

It is exciting to see our role acknowledged in print. Before someone needs them, our historical records are reposing in a quiet box, resting in the cool of our archives, a mass of untapped possibilities. But then...when a writer, editor and publisher approach us to read them ... our archives fulfill their destinies, as a new book, an article, or a work of art. Because of us, the text will be based on the truth. And the text will be about Fitchburg.

At the Fitchburg Historical Society, we host thousands of original artifacts and documents from at least 300 years of history. In some cases, they are one of a kind, and worth traveling a great distance to see. That’s part of the reason that Fitchburg and the Historical Society are well known within the study of history.

I hope you will be a part of this legacy. Your story is part of Fitchburg’s story, and Fitchburg’s story has been celebrated for many generations. Fads may come and go, but we know that the archives that we watch over will always find their audience, if we care for them and keep them safe. Please support our work to preserve this extraordinary collection as a vital part of Fitchburg’s 21st century heritage.

❧ *Susan Navarre*

Italian Recipes from Fitchburg Cookbooks (continued from pg. 9)

These women shared a few things in common, a love for cooking, and a dedication to their church. St. Anthony of Padua Parish was an important religious and community space for many Italian Immigrants and their families in its early days. Father Pasquale M. Russomanno was the original founder of this Church,

although he left shortly after it was established. Russomanno himself was an Italian immigrant, and took note of the Italian population in Fitchburg, establishing the Church and then passing it onto Father Angelo Carpinella to lead. The Church was built on Salem Street, near the community of many of its congregations’ homes and businesses. St. Anthony of Padua Parish played an important role in the lives of many early Italian Americans and their cultural identity.



❧ *Chosen and researched by Rowan Sloan and Brady Elliott*

❧ *Written by Brady Elliott*

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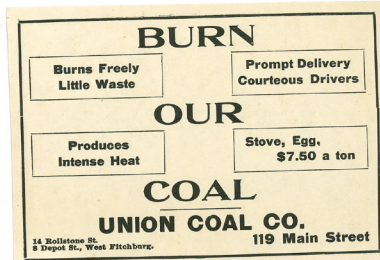
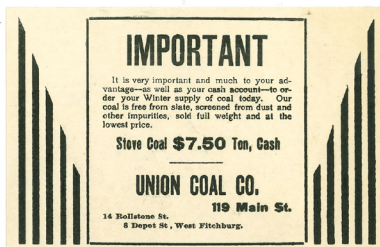
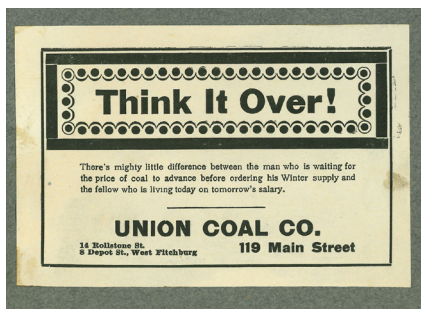
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This beautiful picture recently entered our collection. Intrigued by the young woman we see here, we researched who she was: Winifred Livermore. Winifred lived on Pacific Avenue, and later “Fitch Hill Avenue.” She graduated from Fitchburg High School in 1910. She then attended Fitchburg Normal School and graduated in 1916 with an “advanced degree”, and moved to Englewood, New Jersey in the same year. During her whole school career, there were mentions in the class notes that she was strikingly and unusually tall.

She lived with Frank Livermore, who we think was her father. He was a compositor, later a printer, and eventually a printing teacher at Fitchburg Normal School (now, Fitchburg State University). During that time, he published a textbook on printing that is included in the Historical Society’s records: Notebook of Printing for Teachers and Students, published by State Normal School Practical Arts Press, in 1925. We were also given some examples of his graphic design.



Have you enjoyed reading these stories? The newsletter will be delivered to your mailbox when you become a member of the Fitchburg Historical Society.

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Permit 54

❧ *Save The Date* ❧

• *Saturday, March 2, 12 to 3 pm.*

High Tea with Lucy Fay and Friends

presented by Stratton Players and The 658 Main Street Foundation at the Fay Club, researched at Fitchburg Historical Society. Lucy Fay and some remarkable local personalities in a delightful immersive theatre event, plus a sumptuous repast in the spirit of the Gilded Age. Historical apparel welcome. Tickets, 978-345-4537
\$49 adults, \$22 children. Snow date: Saturday, March 9.

• *Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, Time TBD*

Teas in Time, performed by Rita Parisi

Spring is in the Air! Travel back to 1908 with your hostess, Mrs. Michael Gordon, for a romantic Victorian Courtship Tea. She will regale her teatime guests (the audience) with observations about life at the turn of the 20th century. This is an interactive show where the audience can ask questions and add to the discussion. Funded by Fitchburg Cultural Council

• *May 2024, Date and Time TBD*

Historic Preservation Month Program created by the Fitchburg Historical Commission and Fitchburg Historical Society. Recognition of new and recent preservation projects in Fitchburg.

• *Monday, June 5, 9:00 am. to 5 pm.*

"History is for Everyone" Mass History Alliance annual history conference

co-sponsored by the Fitchburg State University Library Archives. Connect with Fitchburg Historical Society board members and volunteers, who are participating in the annual statewide history conference that is coming to Fitchburg. Visit masshistoryalliance.org