



THE

Gill Newsletter

December 2012 Issue

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Town Hall News

Giving Thanks

The Town wants to acknowledge and thank the Northfield Mount Hermon School for again making a generous \$25,000 gift to the Town. Their donation is used to fund special projects and expenses related to providing public safety and emergency services throughout Gill.

The Town Hall staff wishes to thank our neighbor, Jim Tomasi, for cleaning up the leaves from our front lawn. You did a great job! Thank you!

Winter Parking Ban in Effect

Please be advised that there is NO on-street parking allowed between the hours of 1 AM and 6 AM, November 1 through April 15. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Trash and Recycling Holiday Schedule

With Christmas Day and New Year's Day both falling on Tuesdays, the regular Friday schedule for collection of trash and recyclables is NOT affected by either holiday.

Speaking of holiday recycling, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District has issued the following guidelines:

YES, please DO include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

- corrugated cardboard boxes
- paperboard gift boxes
- greeting cards (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- gift wrap, gift bags, tissue wrap (except those with foil, metallic inks, or glitter)
- paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- catalogs and calendars

NO, please DO NOT include the following items in your recycling mix:

- ribbons, bows, and tinsel
- packing peanuts and Styrofoam (re-usable, contact your local pack and ship store)
- holiday lights
- plastic bags



**Check in with the
Gill Website**
www.gillmass.org
for up to date news,
announcements and
contact information!



Tax Rate

On November 27, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue set Gill's tax rate for Fiscal Year 2013. The new rate is \$15.34/thousand, an increase of \$0.79/thousand from last year. The Tax Collector will mail the real estate and personal property tax bills before the end of December, with a payment due date of April 1, 2013.

The increase in the rate was caused by two main factors. First, the allowed 2½% increase to the levy limit (a.k.a. town spending) accounts for 35-cents. The rest of the increase is primarily caused by declining property values. The average value of a single-family home in Gill was \$208,319 last year and decreased to \$202,615 this year. Property values may be viewed online by following the appropriate link from the Assessors' page at www.gillmass.org.

New Year's Resolution?

The hustle and bustle of the holidays makes it difficult to think about joining a town committee. Just in case your New Year's resolution is to spend more time performing a civic duty, here is a list of committees with openings. If any spark an interest, please contact Ray Purington, Administrative Assistant, 413-863-9347 or administrator@gillmass.org.

Cable Advisory Committee

Composition of School Committee Study Committee (created at this year's Town Meeting)

Conservation Commission

Cultural Council

Energy Commission

Recreation Committee

Zoning Board of Appeals (Alternate Members)

Burning Brush

Burning season is from January 15 – May 1, 2013. Burning brush requires a permit and may only be done during burning season. If a Gill resident would like to burn brush on a given day, please go to the website for Franklin County Burn Permits (www.fcburnpermits.com) and complete the online permit. If you do not have computer access, please call 625-8200, and Shelburne Control will assist you. Please note that permits are only issued between 8:30AM and 1 PM.

Slate Memorial Library

As of November 7, the Slate Library is now open to the public four days a week: Tuesday 2–6 PM, Wednesdays 3–7 PM, Thursdays 2–8 PM, and Saturdays 10 AM–2 PM. Enjoy reading and other services and programs.

*Ray Purington,
Administrator Assistant*

Fire Department

Congratulations to Gene Beaubien and Ken Sears who have received Massachusetts Firefighter Service Awards. Gene has twenty years of service, and Ken has twenty-six. We are proud of their service to the Gill community.

Health News

Coping with a new health diagnosis or ongoing chronic health issue?

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service has a new program: the Medication and Chronic Disease Self-Management Assistance project, which provides direct and supportive assistance to individuals and their family members to be effective managers of their own care.

The program has two self-management foci: medication management and symptom management. Medication reconciliation is an established important first step in medication management. It identifies if the client is taking medications exactly the way they are prescribed, provides an opportunity to screen for adverse drug reactions and other problems, and provides both client and their providers a complete list of current medications taken with dose and frequency. Symptom man-



agement can prevent unnecessary Emergency Room visits and may enhance quality of life for individuals dealing with chronic illnesses such as COPD, Heart Disease, and Diabetes.

Nursing support will be provided to assure a systematic approach that is effective for the client. Self-care interventions that are appropriate for each client will be defined such as disease specific education, self-care checklists, symptom monitoring, use of pill organizers, blood pressure/heart rate monitors, and other tools. The nurse may also provide assistance connecting individuals with additional community resources that may be helpful.

Client visits can be provided both in the home and in community

spaces. For more information, contact Regional Public Health Nurse Lisa White, RN at 413-665-1400 x 114.

Adult Flu Clinic

Gill Elementary Cafeteria
December 12, 2–3 PM

Flu vaccine is available at no cost to all Gill residents (insurances accepted if available) from Regional Public Health Nurse Lisa White, RN through the Board of Health's membership in Franklin Regional Council of Governments Cooperative Public Health Service. An adult only (age 18 and older) clinic will be held at the Gill Elementary School Cafeteria from 2–3 PM on December 12. Gill families still needing vaccine for children under 18 are encouraged to

contact the town nurse directly at 413-665-1400 x 114 to set up an appointment. Both nasal mist and injectable formulas are available.

Energy Commission

Gill Energy Fair

Save the Date- Saturday, April 6
Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.



We have successfully elevated Gill to a Green Community and been awarded a \$139,900 grant to spend reducing Gill's energy use and promoting sustainable practices. Our logo encourages the practices of our Green Community.

The Gill Energy Commission is planning an educational Energy Fair at the Gill Town Hall on Saturday, April 6, to kick off our Campaign to reduce energy use in town 13% in 2013. There will be exhibitors and demonstrations on practices and techniques to track and reduce your energy use, and develop more sustainable lifestyle, live more comfortably, save money,

The Friends Of Gill

Save these dates for events sponsored by the Friends of Gill.

A **Volunteer Dinner** on Saturday, January 26, at the Church.

The **Pancake Breakfast** on Saturday, March 23, also at the Church.

The Friends of Gill will distribute **Fruit Baskets**
to Shut-in Gill Seniors in December.

The **next meeting** of the Friends of Gill will be on December 12 for a Yankee Swap with members bringing their favorite desserts or beverages.



and reduce your carbon footprint. If you are a Gill business and would like to participate, or a Gill resident who would like to join the Gill Energy Campaign sub-committee, please contact Janet Masucci 863-8694 or Pamela Lester 413-222-9674.

Agricultural Commission

Gill drivers will soon see one of the fruits of the Agricultural Commission's labor in 2012.

Actually, this project has been worked on since June 2009 when I was driving through upstate New York. Gill's Right-to-Farm Signs will soon be visible on Main and West Gill Roads. The Ag. Com. thanks Bruce Yukl as the point man on this project.

With the holidays approaching, remember to check out Gill farms for produce, alpaca yarn, ice cream, wool, eggs, cheese, meat, health products from emus, maple syrup, and honey. This is a long, yet incomplete list with new items frequently appearing. Find the current Gill Farm Guide on the web at <http://gillmass.org/pdfs/AgComm/2011-Gill%20Farm-Guide.pdf>. We are currently gathering information for the 2013–2014 Gill Farm Guide.

If you are interested in joining the Agricultural Commission, please come to our next meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 at 6:30 PM at The Wagon Wheel on Route 2.

Steve Damon, Chairperson.

Family Recipe from NMH Head

Chicken Herriseh is a traditional Armenian porridge for the winter season. Although it takes some work, Herriseh will stick to your ribs and be well worth the effort. My family always has this dish during the holiday season, and a pot of it will be on our stove on any given day this winter in Gill. We wish you a happy holiday season and enjoyment of a pot of Chicken Herriseh.

Peter, Rachael, and Sofia Fayroian

Chicken Herriseh (Keshkeg)

- 1 whole chicken,
approximately 3 lbs.
- 8 cups water
- 2 cups whole wheat kernels,
rinsed in cold water and drained
- 2 tsp. salt, or to taste
- cumin
- paprika, optional
- butter, optional

Directions:

1. Rinse chicken. Place in large pot with 8 cups water and salt. Bring to a boil. Then reduce heat to medium. Cook, with lid tilted, for about 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until chicken is cooked.
2. Remove chicken from liquid; place on platter until cool enough to handle. Discard skin, bones and fat. Shred chicken; cut into smaller pieces, if necessary.
3. Strain broth. Measure broth, and add enough water to make the 8 cups needed. (Note: Some of the original amount of water will have evaporated, so this step is important.)
4. Place broth in large pot. Add wheat, shredded chicken, and salt if necessary. Bring to a boil; reduce heat to low. Remove any foam which rises to the surface.
5. Simmer on a very low heat, covered, for about 4 hours -- without stirring! -- until almost all liquid is absorbed.
6. Beat vigorously with a sturdy, long-handled, wooden spoon, mashing the wheat and chicken until they resemble thick oatmeal. Adjust salt, if needed.
7. To serve: place in bowls. Add a pat of butter, if desired. Sprinkle with a dash of cumin or paprika.



Gill Elementary School News

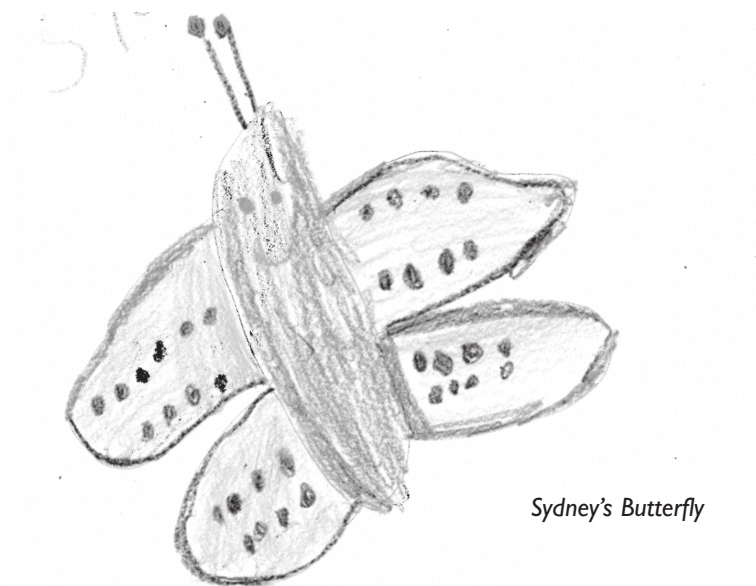
The GMRSD elementary band and chorus are practicing for their winter concert. Everyone is welcome to attend on December 20 at 6:30 PM at the Sheffield building auditorium.

Gill Elementary School is looking for substitutes for grades K-6 for teachers, paraprofessionals, and in art, music, and physical education classes. You can name your days and the preferred position that you could work. Please go to the district web site at www.gmrsl.org for an application. Thank you.

We are also looking for community volunteers to read with students and to teach yoga or dance on Thursdays during our physical education classes. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Adams, Principal at 863-3255.

Butterfly writing and art from Ms. Bharati Shapero's first grade class

As part of the first grade science curriculum, the children studied the life cycle of a Monarch butterfly. We raised a few Monarch caterpillars in our classroom and then observed them as they went from caterpillar, to pupa stage in a chrysalis, and finally to a butterfly. After their wings were fully dry, we released them outside. The children then wrote and illustrated their observations.



Sydney's Butterfly



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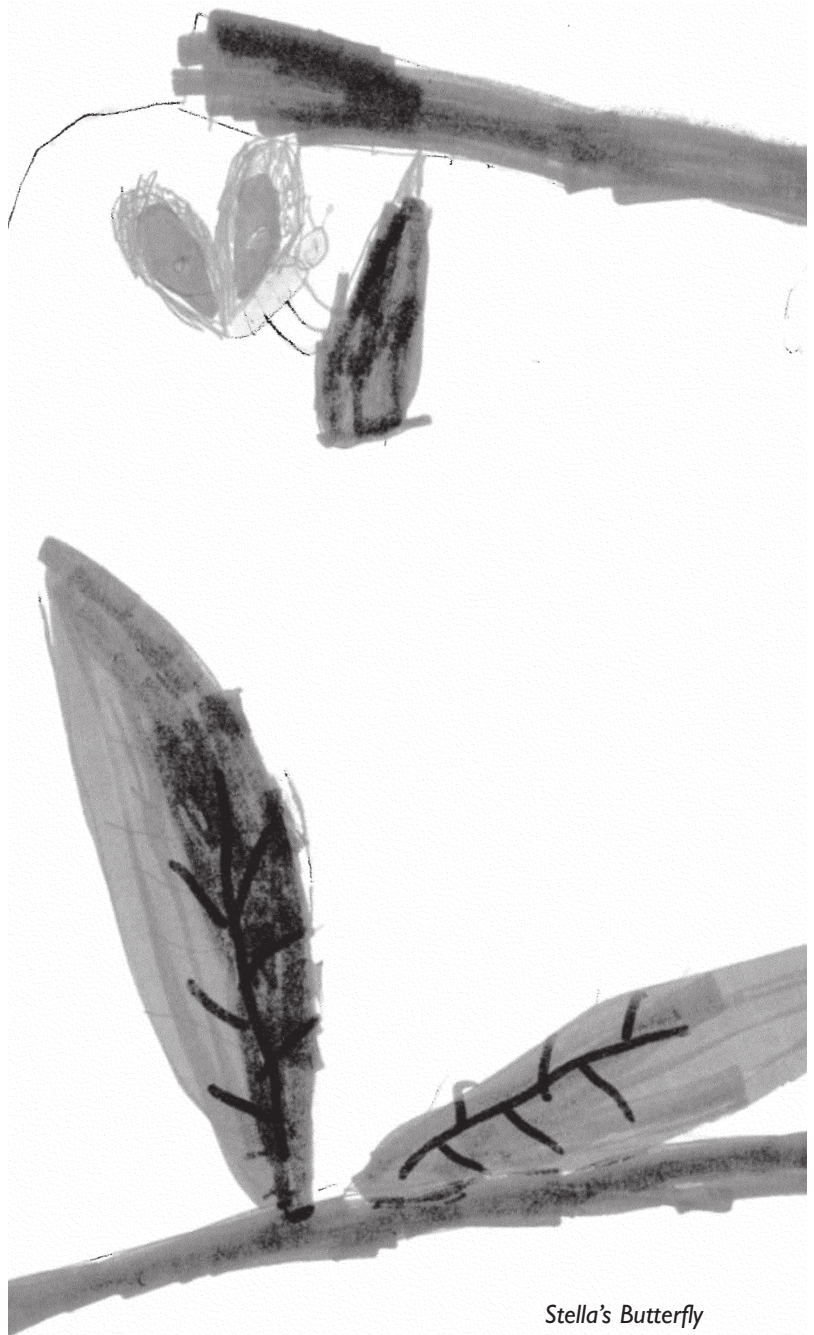
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Stella's Butterfly

Jessica writes, First the egg came, then the tiny caterpillar. Then the big caterpillar. Then the chrysalis, then the butterfly. Then we let the butterfly loose.

Stella writes, First we had caterpillars. Then they went into a chrysalis. In a few days they came out as butterflies. They dried their wings. Then we let them go.



GRADUATION NEWS

Amber Henry received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst this past May 2012. Amber majored in Animal Science and Psychology. Congratulations!

HONORS For Gill Students

Pioneer Valley Regional School First Quarter

Grade 12

Highest Honors: Jaclyn Lafleur
High Honors: Kaylyn Tognarelli and Jennifer Tufano

Grade 10

Highest Honors: Malcolm Crosby
Honors: James Elliott

Grade 9

Honors: Bradley Hastings, Benjamin Tufano and Julia Wallace

Grade 8

Highest Honors: Sophia Margola

Grade 7

Highest Honors: Max van Baaren

Turners Falls High School First Quarter

Grade 12

First Honors: Katelyn Dodge, Timothy Meyer, Brittany Rawson, and Emily Robertson
Second Honors: Bethany Laramie, Nala Vaughn, Kaleb Warren, and Brittany York

Grade 11

Third Honors: Elliot Bertini Franseen

Grade 10

First Honors: Alexander Morin
Second Honors: Leylee Botkin, Spencer Huber, and Nicholas York
Third Honors: Jessica Gaines

Grade 9

First Honors: Mackenzie Phillips
Second Honors: Nadia Hasan
Third Honors: Krystal Cloutier

Great Falls Middle School

First Quarter

Grade 8

First Honors: Gabrielle Arzuaga, Tahner Castine, Bryn Kruzlic, Kaili Lynch, Nicholas Morin and Kate Sprankle
Second Honors: Robert Rinaldi and Jeremy Wolfram
Third Honors: Mitchell Waldron

Grade 7

First Honors: Kyle Kucenski and John Wheeler
Second Honors: Branden Chapin and David Tricolici
Third Honors: Kylee Mason

Grade 6

First Honors: Reilan Castine
Second Honors: Bryce Waldron

FRONTIER REGIONAL

First Quarter

Grade 8

High Honors: Ashley Levasseur

If you are a Gill student who has not been included in this list, please let us know so that we may commend you in the future.

Gill Historical Commission

The Gill Historical Commission (GHC) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM in the Riverside Building on Route 2. The Commission is charged with planning for the preserva-

tion of historical sites and records within Gill. In addition to various projects, the Commission maintains records and artifacts of Gill history in the Riverside municipal building. If you have information or questions about Gill and its history, please contact Kit Carpenter, Bev Demars, Stuart Elliott, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Pam Shoemaker, or Ivan Ussach.


The historical collection has been open on Thursday afternoons this fall, and welcomes have been extended to researchers Robert Herbert, who is studying Roswell Field, and Bob and Carlene Williams, who are collecting information on the Francis Williams and allied families. Others have stopped by to share memories and answer our questions. The Civil War exhibit with letters home from George Barney and Oscar Hale will continue through the spring. The collection will be open again in the spring or by appointment with any member.

The GHC continues to talk with the U.S. Fish and Game Department about the sluice way and dam on Fall River. If the sluice way is open to allow fish to swim farther upstream, the Gill abutment will not be affected. The Greenfield abutment could be vulnerable, however, and we are talking with the Greenfield Historical Commission about preservation issues.



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To commemorate Massachusetts Archaeological Month in October, the GHC sponsored a hike in the Barton Cove area. The Gill Website has a description of the event and a bit of area history. A portion of the website piece by Ivan Ussach and Sarah Doyle is included here.

Highlights from the Dinosaur Track Hike

Several Gill residents, joined by folks from neighboring towns, hiked to the quarry at Barton Cove on October 21, 2012, in search of dinosaur tracks. Organized by the GHC to celebrate Mass. Archaeology Month, the hike was led by Sarah Doyle, director of the Jurassic Roadshow. Jurassic Roadshow is a project of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (Deerfield, Mass.)

After traversing some rugged terrain, the hikers stopped at a constructed platform overlying the site where many tracks were excavated from the sandstone near the Connecticut River. These excavations occurred during the period when the property was part of Roswell Field's farm (1842-1882), much of which is now submerged under Barton Cove, whose level was considerably lower at the time.

The group continued on to a large excavation pit, near which at least one dinosaur track was clearly visible in a large stone block. Discoveries of the 'fossil footmarks' had drawn the attention of Professor Hitchcock of Amherst College in the mid-1830s and played an influential role in his early scientific investigations. Many specimens from Barton Cove may be seen today in the Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College.

Riverside Project

While continuing to research material on Gill Center for a possible nomination to the National Register, the GHC has a current project on the Riverside district. This fall we received the gift of a 1905 Diary kept by sixteen year old Myrtle Jones. Her description of daily life has provided rich details about the Riverside and Gill community to augment what we already know. Born in 1887 with a twin sister Mable, Myrtle was the daughter of Frank D. and



Alice (Lander) Jones, who kept a store in Riverside for many years. Events she attended with family and friends in the Town Hall also demonstrate some of the connections of the time between the two sections of Gill. Some excerpts of the diary are included here and more will be shared in the next issues.

DIARY 1905 MYRTLE LEONA JONES, AGE 16 YEARS.

Sunday Jan. 1

A lovely day. Quite warm. Mabel went to church. I sat out on the piazza and while there Mabel Straham came up a few minutes.

Monday Jan. 2

A nice day. Mamma worked at the store some. Miss Whithed sent Isabel and I each a pretty handkerchief case and card and mamma a Christmas booklet. Clara Perry sent me some homemade candy. Mabel started into school today after a two week vacation.

Clara Perry is probably Clara Smead (Stoughton) Perry, daughter of Timothy M. and Maria Stoughton. Clara was born on 5 July 1861 and in the 1900 census is living in her father-in-law's household (Amos E. Perry) with her husband Frederick A. Perry (age 50). The Turners Falls newspaper notes the following on 23 May 1917:

Died in Greenfield 20 May, Clara (STOUGHTON), wife of Frederick A. Perry, daughter of the late Timothy M. Stoughton, a successful farmer and breeder of high grade Jersey cattle, known and respect all over the state for his abilities and admired for his grace and culture by a never dying element that, believing in democracy, cannot conceal pleasure in coming in contact with a delightful touch of genuine aristocracy.

Married in Greenfield 11 June, Jeannette Stoughton, daughter of Frederick A. Perry, and Herbert Markham Alvord of Turners Falls.

Tuesday Jan. 3

A cold snowy and drifting storm about all day. Papa went to Gill. A letter from John Prichthley saying he might come to see us in the spring.

Wed Jan. 4

It snowed some this morning but it snowed and drifted so much yesterday that the snow is ten inches or more in depth. The gong rung for no school this morning so Mabel didn't go and she staid home this afternoon too as it was drifting so.

Friday Jan. 6

It snowed all day. Papa went to Gill and mamma worked at the store this afternoon. Mr. Lowe sent me a piece of sheet music named "Dan Patch Two Step."

William A. Lowe and his wife Carrie B. are neighbors according to the 1900 federal census.

The music was composed by H.G. Trautretter in 1900 for the International Stock Food Company in Minneapolis and was probably for the piano. Dan Patch was a popular race horse.

Sunday Jan. 8

Squalled a little to-day. Mabel went to church. Freda Hammerle and Mabel Atherton called this afternoon. Will LeVitre called this evening.

The 1900 census shows a Freda Hamerlee, born June 1891 in Germany, living with the John Redling family in Gill. She is described as a step-daughter who immigrated in 1892. A Mary, age 4 and an Annie Hamerlee, age 1, are also in the household of John and Julia Redling, both born in Germany.

Mabel Atherton, born 10 March 1887, would have been the same age as Myrtle and Mabel Jones. Mabel Grace Atherton is the daughter of Alonzo D. and Olive Maria Atherton. Zora Atherton her sister married a Phillips and is referred to in the Simon Cady Phillips diaries.

Will LeVitre is the son of Celia (Williams) and Joe LeVitre. There are other references in the Jennie (Williams) Bardwell diaries. His brothers Rob and Alton appear later in the diary.



In the Turners Falls newspaper an entry for 5 September 1906, announces the marriage intentions of William H. Levitre of Gill and Miss Mabel E. BOYNTON of Wendell have been filed.

Tues. Jan. 10

A pretty good day. Papa went to Gill and to a Mason meeting at the Falls this eve. Mabel went to and entertainment givers by the "Piecers" at the Opera House, with the Connellys (35 cents). It was fine. Maggie C., Mrs. and Anna Johnson and Emilia R. called.

The Conellys are neighbors according to the 1900 census. James and his wife Mary are listed with children Mary C., Margaret (Maggie?) E, Alace A., William R., and Lester J. Conelly.

Maggie is probably Maggie Conelly.

The Opera House is probably the Colle Opera House with a 1000 seat theatre in Turners Falls. The building began in 1872.

Thurs. Jan. 12

A bad rainy day. Mabel didn't have to go to school as the teachers had a visiting day. Mamma worked at home.

Frid. Jan. 13

A nice day. Papa went to Gill and Mamma worked at the store. I

received my pair of stamped pillow cases I got as a premium for getting two subscriptions to the Hearthstone. Alice Connelly called after school.

Sat. Jan. 14

A nice day but awfully cold. Mamma worked at the store this afternoon. Will LeVitre and Rob and Ernest Blake were here this evening and, we had some fun playing "Pitch."

Robert Harland LeVitre, born 3 July 1887 – died 24 September 1945, is the son of Joseph W. and Celia Etta (Williams). He lived with his parents and other siblings including his older brother Will, on Main Road, Gill. His wife is Florence L. (Harris) (1891 – 1986).

Ernest Edward Blake (13 January 1881 – 11 October 1952) is the son of Clesson H. and Emma Josephine (Phillips) of Gill. He married Alice E. (Dolloff) who came from eastern Massachusetts to Gill as a school teacher; their children are Clesson P. and Ruth J. Blake. The Blake farm is on Mountain Road and Main Road in Gill.

Tues. Jan. 17

A nice day. Papa went to Gill and he got me three subscriptions to the Hearthstone at different places. Mrs. Barton called this morning

to invite papa and mamma up to her house Thursday evening to the Thief Protective Association Meeting, and asked mamma to read for them.

Thurs. Jan. 19

Quite a nice day. Quite warm. I sat out on the piazza awhile. Mamma worked at home to-day and this evening she and papa went up to Mrs. Barton's to spend the evening as invited. Had a very nice time and about thirty or so people there. I received a letter from Isabel and Mamma received one from Aunt Etta. Effie Baker called on errand and stopped quite a few minutes.

Fri. Jan. 20

A nice day. Papa went to Gill and mamma worked at store. A Charity Ball is given at the Falls to-night by the Masons but papa and mamma aren't going for they couldn't afford it.

Sun. Jan. 22

Snowed little this morning and walking was not very good so Mabel didn't go to church wrote a letter to Grandma Lander. No one called. Cleared off and was a fine day. Papa went to Greenfield to a Masonic Rehearsal.

Grandma Lander is Mary Elizabeth (Walter) Lander (1828 – 1897).



Wed. Jan. 25

A bad stormy day and wind blowing and drifting all day. Mabel didn't go to school at all and the gong rang for no school this morning. Mamma was at home all day.

Fri. Jan. 27

A nice but cold day. Papa went to Gill and this evening to a Masonic Meeting in Greenfield. Mamma worked at the store this afternoon. Henry Lowe and Ralph Stoughton give and play for a dance this eve but none of us are going. I wrote a letter to Itol.

Mon. Jan. 30

A nice day. Mamma received a letter from Will Glanville. Mamma went over to the Falls and got Mabel some shoes, herself two pair of winter drawers and papa a pair.

Tues. Jan. 31

A bright but cold day. 18 below zero this morning. Papa went to Gill and mamma worked at store. Papa brought Will LeVitre phonograph down and this evening Will came down and run it for me. Ernest Blake came awhile too and went home with Will.



NEXT GILL NEWSLETTER

Copy for the February newsletter should be sent to pshoe27@gmail.com no later than January 30. 2012

The Gill Historical Commission is selling copies from its stock of

THE HISTORY OF GILL 1943-1993, Volume II.

The cost of \$20 a book will be a donation to the project fund of the GHC. To purchase a copy, please see Lynda in the Town Clerk's Office.

The first volume of this HISTORY OF GILL is available for reference only at Slate Library and at the Gill museum.



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The Gill Newsletter will include business card size advertisements of local businesses for a year (six bi-monthly issues) for \$60.00. Please send a copy of your business card and a check for \$60.00 payable to 'Town of Gill' to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors, the organizing committee or town officials and should not be construed as such. Although we work to produce accurate and typographically correct copy, we and our advertisers cannot be responsible for errors or the accuracy of materials submitted to us.

The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased so that our budget is very tight. If you would like to make a contribution to help us meet expenses, we would appreciate your sending a check, payable to "Town of Gill", to Barbara Watson, 143 River Road, Gill, MA 01354.

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