

# Announcing a New History of Gill from the Gill Historical Commission

After growing up in Gill, Massachusetts, Jennie Williams Bardwell—wife, mother, and breadwinner—left diaries and letters that reveal her rural and sometimes hardscrabble life in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

**Jennie Williams Bardwell**  
Life in Gill 1860-1950

By Pamela Shoemaker and Lynn Stowe Tomb

Size: 10" x 8" • Binding: Laminated hardcover • Pages: 180  
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**A full-color, hardcover book with more than 200 vintage photos, maps, artwork, and documents.**

**THE HISTORY OF AGRICULTURAL GILL AND GILL CENTER:** The major buildings in Gill Center; the National Register Historic District; Main Road and major farms.

**THE WILLIAMS FAMILY FROM THE 1860s to 1950s:** Jennie Williams Bardwell wrote two years of diaries—1873 and 1876—and hundreds of letters. Annotations describe her neighbors and Gill relatives.

**THE EASTHAMPTON BUTTON FACTORY:** Hundreds of young women gained some independence with factory work.

**TRAIN TRAVEL IN THE 1800s:** Independent railroad companies allowed for travel up and down the Connecticut River valley.

**JENNIE'S NEIGHBORS:** Gill's Main Road families—the Clapps, Blakes, Conants, and Purples—were an active part of Jennie's life.

**FAMILY TREES:** Charts show the connections among Gill's families.

**THE STONEMASONS:** Many men quarried and shaped stone in Northfield and built dams, bridges, monuments, walls and fences, foundations and factories throughout Franklin County and beyond using stone block.

24 Howes Brothers photos used, courtesy of Ashfield Historical Society. Special thanks to the Gill Cultural Council for their grant.

Also available from the GHC: *Riverside, Life Along the Connecticut in Gill, Massachusetts*—full color, hardcover, \$45.00 minimum donation. And *History of Gill, 1943-1993*, hardcover, \$10.00 donation. All three books are also available at Gill Town Hall. Or use the order form below or email: pshoe27@gmail.com.



Jennie's father Francis, 1864



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- History of Gill, 1943-1993: \$10 minimum donation