

Haston Free Public Library
161 N. Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535

November 2020
Volume 2, Issue 9

Haston Highlights North Brookfield Journal (1875-1929) Online

Perhaps you have heard about the triple axe murder that took place in town at the turn of the 20th century, but want to know more. Or maybe you want to know about relatives who lived in North Brookfield in days gone by. Or you might be a baseball fan interested in the career of Connie Mack. Or maybe you have wondered whether the sinking of the Titanic had any impact in this town. Well, now anyone can research these or other topics online using our new Community History Archives from Advantage Archives.

Thanks to funds received through the bequest of Robert T. Salem, the Haston Library was able to send its microfilm copies of the North Brookfield Journal to Advantage Archives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for digitization. Once digitized, the North Brookfield Journal records were added to the Community History Archive, which features searching software and display of the original newspapers. “Intended to serve as a ‘portal to the past,’ [this] platform allows those primary source documents to give an accounting of history as told by the individuals that witnessed it. When stitched together, these pages tell the story of the people, places, and events that shaped the community.”

The software enables keyword searching for specific topics or people, and you can refine your search by adding more terms or limiting by date. You can also enjoy browsing through the issues of a particular decade or year. From your search results you can select an issue and display the full image of the original page of the Journal. Your search terms are highlighted, making it easy to locate the particular article of interest. At this point, you can crop out the article and download, print or share it to Facebook or Twitter. Scholars will enjoy the

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This issue of the NB Journal features the Haston Library dedication in 1894.

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LIBRARY (PANDEMIC) HOURS

Monday:	4 PM—7 PM
Tuesday:	10 AM—1 PM
Wednesday:	4 PM—7 PM
Thursday:	10 AM—1 PM
Saturday:	9 AM—12 PM

Haston Highlights,

Dawn Thistle, Editor

HASTON LIBRARY GOES FINE-FREE—FINALLY!



Like the gentleman in the poem by Shel Silverstein, left, we all have experienced the stress of having overdue library books! At their November 4 meeting, the Board of Library Trustees voted to eliminate patron overdue fines. With this step the library conforms to a 2019 resolution of the American Library Association, which states that the “imposition of monetary library fines creates a barrier to the provision of library and information services.” The fines, which were \$.10/day for library books, had produced very little revenue for the library, while discouraging library use and creating bad feelings. The Haston Library was one of only 41 out of 144 CW MARS libraries that charged fines.

Typically fines have generated less than \$1000 revenue each year in North Brookfield, and this amount decreased significantly in FY20 when CW MARS instituted automatic renewals of library books and other materials.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been difficult for many patrons to get to the library to drop off items they have borrowed. The Haston Library, like many other libraries in the nation, began fine amnesty for overdue materials. Patrons have been very appreciative of this small gesture, and library staff have been happy that they have not had to ask for payment. We’re also glad that we don’t have to handle cash from fines during this pandemic.

Patrons should remember that there will still be some CW MARS libraries that charge fines. And, of course, we want patrons to return library materials when they are through using them. When items are lost, we will expect borrowers to pay for replacement. But —those cases are quite rare, and we believe that we will all be happier now that overdue fines are history!

[For the complete poem and other fun poems and drawings by Shel Silverstein, come check out his books! Call number: J 811.5 SIL]

BE A FRIEND

The Friends of the Haston Free Public Library is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in 1991 to stimulate interest in the services and needs of the library, to enrich the cultural life of the community, and to provide assistance through volunteer help and fund raising that will enable the library to keep pace with the growth of the Town of North Brookfield.

New Friends are always welcome. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:15 pm at the library, or on ZOOM. Please drop by the library to fill out a membership form or just come to the next meeting. Meeting notices are posted in the library

and at the Town Offices. Annual dues are only \$10!

ART IS BACK!

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, December 9 at 6:30, we will once again offer painting instruction by Laura Dusty. Our project will be Elmer's glue watercolor snowflake resist paintings.

Due to the pandemic, we must limit the number of participants to six. Masks are required and social distancing will be enforced. Please call 508-867-0208 to register; if you leave a message, be sure to provide your phone number. Spaces will go fast!

LIBRARY EXTERIOR

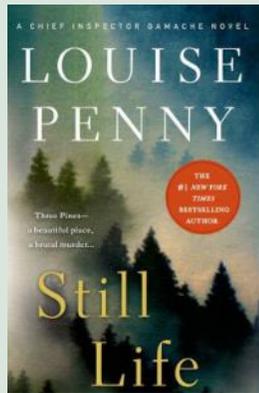
REPAIRS UPDATE

Representatives of Raymond James Restoration were at the library in late October to take measurements for the replacement tower and half-round gable windows. The custom-made windows should be ready for installation by the end of this month.



BOOK GROUP NEWS

The Haston Library Book Group's November selection is *Still Life* by Louise Penny. Copies are available at the library, so stop by and grab yours! We will be discussing the book on December 1 at 7:00 via ZOOM. Call the library for more information and the ZOOM link.



We'll take a break for the holidays, with our next meeting scheduled for January 26. I'll announce the January book in the December *Haston Highlights*.

For more information about the Book Group, please call the library at 508-867-0208.

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ease of collecting primary source documents for their research. To begin your search, go to: <http://haston.advantage-preservation.com/>

Many libraries nationwide have digitized their newspapers and local documents using the Community History Archives platform, and most of these are freely available for browsing. To search another town's newspapers, go to *Directory* in the top menu bar. From there you can select a state, then a city.

If you are interested in history, and especially North Brookfield's history, you will love having this easy-to-use database! We plan to include selections from the *North Brookfield Journal* in future *Haston Highlights* newsletters, so keep an eye out! If you have any questions or need assistance in using the database, just call the library at 508-867-0208.

LEARNING PODS AT THE LIBRARY

If your kids are part of a small remote-learning group, sometimes referred to as a "pod," whether they are being home-schooled or following the school curriculum, we invite you to bring your group for library time.

We can do a story-time format, instruct the students in basic research for specific projects, or just offer guidance in appropriate books to read—just as we have always done!

For social distancing reasons, groups of 6 or fewer are preferred. Call the library at 508-867-0208 to make an appointment or to discuss possibilities.



Happy
Thanksgiving!

Wowbrary

The Newest Stuff at Your Library

So, now that we've had it for a few weeks, how do you like Wowbrary? If you haven't signed up to receive your weekly lists of new library materials, just go to: <https://www.wowbrary.org/signup.aspx> and select the Hoston Library.

Here's a brief introduction to using Wowbrary:

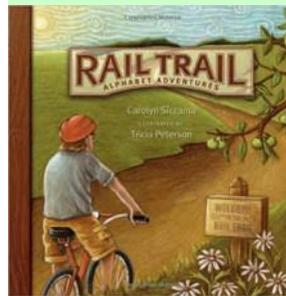
1. Be aware that many items are in *Electronic Format* or *Downloadable Audio*. Clicking on the **Borrow** button will take you to the CW MARS Overdrive pages where you can place a hold. Each record will also tell you how long a wait it will be before you gain access to that title.
2. For physical items, the **Borrow** button will take you to the library catalog, where you can place a hold. (You MIGHT be able to come to the library and put your hands on the item, but that's unlikely. Placing a hold will help you get the book faster than if you don't.)
3. The **More Info** button takes you to Amazon. If you don't want to wait for a hold, you can go ahead and purchase the item. Wowbrary and this library will receive a *tiny* percentage of your purchase price.
4. Below the title/author information you will see starred *Reviews*. Clicking on this link takes you to the GoodReads website, where the reviews are usually quite thoughtful and informative.
5. Some books have a Google Preview button. By clicking it, you can look at several pages of the book.
6. The categories list on the left of the screen enables you to look for specific genres of materials.
7. When you select a genre sub-list, the top of the

display will include a pull-down menu that defaults as *Show All Items*. If you click on the down arrow, you can limit the display to *Show no electronic items* or *Show only electronic items*.

Please let us know how you like Wowbrary! And if you have any questions, just give us a call or email: illnb@cwmars.org.

EQLT STORY WALKS

The East Quabbin Land Trust is starting a new initiative as part of its East Quabbin Book Rangers! They will be holding story walks on their properties, partnering with local libraries which will offer related craft projects for families that participate.



The first story walk is taking place November 14-23 on the Mass Rail Trail, 1700 Hardwick Road, New Braintree (coordinates: 42.341278,

-72.153106). The featured book is *Rail-Trail Alphabet Adventures* by Carolyn Siccama, illustrated by Tricia Peterson.

Rail-Trail Alphabet Adventures is an alphabet book that encourages readers to look around at what they see and find something that begins with the letter on the page, while traveling through the different seasons. It includes illustrations of the sign language for each letter, too.

At the end of the story walk, signage will encourage families to come here to the library, where they can pick up an arts and crafts kit (while supplies last). This is a fun way for EQLT visitors to engage with the outdoors AND their local libraries, even during times of COVID.