

NEWSLETTER

TOWN OF LEVERETT www.leverett.ma.us

JUNE 2022

Notes From Around Town

- Volunteer and paid opportunities in Town! See the last page of the Newsletter.
- Need the police? Messages left at the Police Station (548-4994) are for business only. If you need the police in an emergency, call 911. To reach an officer for non-emergency call Shelburne Control at 625-8200 and they will page an officer for you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

1 October 2022

1 December 2022

Send news items and strawberry rhubarb pie to: Lisa Stratford P.O. Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054. Call 548-9150 for information and guidelines. Email: townclerk@leverett.ma.us

Select Board

Annual town meeting April 30 proceeded smoothly. Elections were the first order of business and I welcome Patty Duffy as our newly elected select board member. There was a single hold on the proposed budget, that hold used by a resident to emphasize the desire to continue with home delivery of the paper version of the town newsletter with Annual Town Meeting information. The proposed budget of \$6,837,324 passed unanimously and is an increase of \$249,199, or 3.8% over the FY22 budget. This results in an estimated \$0.59 increase in property tax to \$19.43/\$1,000 appraised value, or an estimated increase of \$177.55 on a \$300,000 house.

The town voted unanimously to raise and appropriate funds for the purchase of a new hybrid police cruiser, a new medium-size dump truck, assessors mapping software, and tax collection software. The town also voted to support various other items and town services as detailed in the warrant.

The town also voted to table indefinitely the sale of the Bradford M. Field Memorial Library (also known as the Field Museum and the Old Library). The town did approve a Community Preservation Commission recommendation to use \$30,000 in CPA funds for an historical preservation consultant to prepare a comprehensive historic preservation plan for the Bradford building. However, public discussion is ongoing around ultimate use, or

reuse, of this building as well as its net value, versus strictly historical, value to the town. An ad hoc committee or ad hoc facilitator is being discussed as a possible precursor to hiring an historic preservation consultant.

Neighborhood groups from two separate areas of town have approached the board about roads where hazardous driving occurs on a regular basis. Stuart Olson and other neighbors living at or near the base of Shutesbury Hill have long observed speeding, inattention to YIELD signs and reckless driving, while neighbors living on Two-Mile Road observe routine speeding along straight sections of the road. Matt Boucher, Highway Superintendent, plans to transform the base of Shutesbury Hill Road from all-YIELD into a three-way STOP while leaving sufficient room for tractor-trailers to negotiate the turn. Warning signage leading to the intersection as well as road paint also will be added. Along Two-Mile Road, Matt plans to add a series of speed humps in response to concerns expressed by Amy Gaubinger, although Michael Pistrich and other neighbors on that road will be meeting with the Select Board to discuss additional hazardous conditions around Two Mile Road curves.

Continuing with roads, after the town received a Municipal Vulnerability Planning grant for \$258,750, Town Meeting passed a motion to approve raising an additional \$214,000 needed to pay for construction of a cement culvert to be installed under Shutesbury Road near Number 6 Road. Kenefick Corp. will begin construction of the culvert and will deliver the structure when the Highway Department is prepared to install it. Matt hopes he and his crew (RJ and Doug) can install the culvert and the Shutesbury Hill 3-way STOP transition during the same period, minimizing traffic disruption on Shutesbury Hill.

Select Board has been busy appointing new members to town committees: Seth Heminway and Julia Firl have been appointed to the Conservation Commission and Gordon Fretwell and Kip Fonsh to the Capital Planning Committee. Also, Brian Emond was appointed to serve as

Leverett representative to the Pioneer Valley Veteran's District. Many thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve the town in these important roles.

Tim Shores and Jya Plavin of Town Common Research provided an update on their Council on Aging grant-funded "needs assessment" research being conducted on behalf of seniors living in Leverett. Data from a Life Path survey, individual interviews and group discussions are being combined and analyzed and will be presented to COA and the board by the end of summer.

Richard Nathhorst and Tim Shores offered an update on the Planning Board's Comprehensive Plan work and specifically on efforts to complete Phase 1 as well as submitting a grant proposal for funding to continue with Phase 2 of the effort.

The board voted to opt out of the deadline for the state Mosquito Control program for 2022. "Opting-Out" requires actively applying to the state for permission to do so. Melissa and Richard Nathhorst together prepared and submitted the application prior to the deadline.

School Committee member Becky Tew asked if Will Stratford, Facilities Maintenance and Grounds Maintenance Manager for the town, could provide consulting support to the school for 15 minutes every other week. This was approved. Becky also asked if the town would consider making permanent, and paying for, childcare during town meeting. During this past town meeting funds raised by the Social Justice Committee were sufficient to pay for childcare; however, Becky asked if the select board would pay to have Jacob Laney, an invaluable contributor to the childcare effort during this past town meeting, prepare a guide for coordinating childcare for town meeting for future town meetings. The board approved. Patty further agreed to brainstorm with the School Committee to come up with a long-term solution.

Potential for a shared fire chief between Leverett and Shutesbury was discussed with Brian Cook, Leverett Fire Chief. Brian was enthusiastic about the two towns working closely for fire and emergency response. The idea was raised because long-time Shutesbury fire chief Walter Tibbetts has announced his retirement and Shutesbury has formed a hiring committee and currently is advertising for a full-time replacement. I spoke with Shutesbury select board chair Rita Farrell and she has added the subject to their upcoming meeting agenda.

Rita is familiar with our successful intermunicipal arrangement with Wendell for shared police coverage.

Patty has offered to serve as the select board rep to the Wendell/Leverett Police Committee, and Melissa has offered to serve as select board rep to the Affordable Housing Committee. I will continue to serve as liaison to the Safety Complex and select board rep on the Emergency Planning Board and now also on the Personnel Board.

Tom Hankinson, for the Select Board

Public Library Updates

It is hard to believe that summer is already knocking at our doors. Whether you are hosting, traveling, or enjoying the gifts of the season right here in Leverett, the library has something for you. Check in and have some fun with us!

Free Summer Reading Program for kids and grown-ups alike.

This summer we invite everyone to get involved with our summer reading program. It includes the popular Music on the Patio series, performances by Li Liu, acrobat, and Wild Kat Hoops. This year we introduce our reading (and listening!)-based giveaways that are free and available to everyone. Starting on Wednesday, June 22, you can enter the giveaway of your choice when you stop in the library. Leave book or movie reviews for unlimited additional entries. Prizes include gift certificates for the Leverett Coop, Cushman Market, and the Toy Box. Can't get to the library? We'll also have an online book review form so everyone can participate. More details are forthcoming on our website. <https://leverettlibrary.org>

Toys and museum passes that you can borrow.

Are you hosting kids this summer and wondering how to keep them entertained? We have toys like Lego kits, Snap Circuits, science experiments, puzzles and more that you can borrow. Don't forget our array of available museum passes including Magic Wings, Holyoke Children's Museum, and Mass MOCA. Thanks to the Friends of the Leverett Library for providing these passes to our community.

Use our resources even when travelling.

If you haven't used your library card to access audio and ebooks through Libby, now is the perfect time to start. We are hosting two Libby trainings in June. Libby is the

library app for audio, ebooks, and magazines. Already use Libby? Join us for the Deep Dive on June 23.

Wednesday, June 22 1:00 p.m. Libby Basics

Thursday, June 23 1:00 p.m. Libby Deep Dive

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/leverettlibby> for the link and/or a recording of the training.

As always, your library card includes free access to streaming video at Kanopy.com. Make an account today and watch movies wherever you are.

Curious about job opportunities at the Leverett Library?

Our jobs are always posted in Town Hall and on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners job board: https://mbhc.state.ma.us/jobs/find_jobs/

Curbside Pickup and Home Delivery

We will deliver library materials to those who can't get to the library; we also offer Curbside Pickup by request during our open hours. Email us at leverettlibrary@gmail.com or call us at 413-548-9220 and we'll get your items to you.

P.S. Stop by and see Judith Inglese's new mural.

*Wishing you a smooth transition to summer,
Hannah Paessel, Library Director*

Friends of the Leverett Library

Summer is the perfect time to take advantage of all the museum passes available at the library.

The 2022 mug featuring the art of Susan Valentine is available for purchase for \$10 at the library. Many thanks to those who purchased theirs at Town Meeting.

Last year a few people asked if they could donate completed baskets for the annual Holiday Basket Auction. We welcome baskets of various themes...food, hobbies, crafts, books, special interest. Details will be available in the fall town newsletter.

Leverett Cemetery Association

Take a walk in a Leverett Cemetery. Explore the history of earlier town residents. The lawns are mowed, flowers are blooming, and memorial flags are still waving at the graves of our veterans. If you have family members in one of the Leverett cemeteries, you are part of the Leverett Cemetery Association. Annual dues (\$25 per year) plus any additional contribution helps with the cost of upkeep and beautification of our cemeteries. These expenses are not town sponsored; your Leverett taxes do not support our cemeteries. The Trustees greatly appreciate you sending what you can to Leverett Cemetery Association, P.O. Box 224, Leverett, MA 01054. If you are interested in obtaining a plot, half-plot, or green burial location, contact Sharon Raskevitz, and she can discuss options with you 413-548-9205.

Community Preservation Committee:

The Community Preservation Fund has money ("CPA funds") available for historic preservation, open space preservation, recreation and affordable housing. This money has been collected through town taxes and matching state funds, and the amount in the fund is currently approximately \$1.3 million. Over the years, town residents have voted to devote CPA funds to a variety of projects in each of the four permissible areas. Do you have an idea for a project in town that might fall within one of those categories? We welcome your ideas and inquiries. The application deadline for the upcoming year is October 1, 2022, and is available on the Town website. Call or email Danielle Barshak, Chairperson of the CPC, at 548-8139 or Daniellebarshak@verizon.net with any questions.

Danielle Barshak, Community Preservation Committee

POND BOAT LOAN PROGRAM

Last summer The Friends of Leverett Pond built a boat rack, stocked it with canoes and kayaks donated from town folks, built and filled a storage bin with life preservers, and made all this available to town residents. For Free. The response was overwhelming. The freedom to go where you want and see things you never saw before is pretty special. This year we're at it again.

Each Saturday from June through September the FLP will make these boats available to our residents. You will pick up your key at the Leverett Library each Saturday from 10-12. This is a change of location and timing from last year and the library has generously made space available to us. The whole process takes about 5 minutes. You can keep the key for 1 week, free to use your boat when it works best for you. Don't miss this opportunity to experience one of Leverett's treasures.

Historical Commission with the Leverett Education Association is excited to present:
10-to-1 Interviews with Leverett Scholars Who Attended One Room Schoolhouses Outhouses, Woodstoves, and Sledding to School

Recollections of One Room Schoolhouse Scholars in Leverett 2022. Is a new 319-page book 10-to-1, Interviews with Leverett Scholars Who Attended One-Room Schoolhouses; it is published through local Amherst publisher "Off the Common" Books and Levellers Press. Copies are available through the Leverett Library.

Please Join the Leverett Education Foundation & Historical Commission to Celebrate Education in Leverett

Saturday June 11, 2022, 1pm Leverett Library Community Room (in case of rain we will hold the celebration in Town Hall, 9 Montague Road)
Refreshments, Entertainment, Scholars and Student Interviewers will talk about their experience

Leverett Municipal Light Plant (LMLP)
Internet Service Provider (ISP) to change in December 2022

The LMLP has voted and signed a contract to switch ISP services to Fibersonic, which is the ISP part of the South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD). The LMLP likes the fact the SHELD is also a municipal light plant, not profit based, closer to Leverett, and still associated with Holyoke Gas & Electric, so that the network side of LeverettNet's services will not change.

We expect that there will be minimal (if any) changes to your service. Your landline phone numbers will remain the same, and your LeverettNet email addresses will not have to change. The monthly costs for standard internet and phone service will remain the same. Phone service users will have to set up their messages and answering service again with the new provider.

In order to avoid a transition during the winter holidays, expect the transition to occur in early December 2022.

If you want to research the new provider, here is a link to their services: <https://www.fibersonic.com/>

There will be more details as the changeover date approaches.

Otelco changed into GoNetSpeed

Otelco recently experienced a rebranding transition and changed their name to GoNetSpeed. All communications with them are now done under the GoNetSpeed name. We believe that phone numbers have stayed the same. GoNetSpeed will be handling all ISP services for Leverett until the transition to Fibersonic in December, so if you experience an outage or have any problems with your phone or internet service between now and December, please call GoNetSpeed at 877-643-6246.

Do Not Move the ONT

The ONT and the fiber cable should not be removed, rerouted, or otherwise disturbed. The glass fiber inside the ONT housing is fragile and it can be easily damaged. If the fiber is broken the home owner can expect the cost to repair to be on the order of \$1,000 and it is the owner's responsibility to pay for the repair.

If you need to remove the ONT on your house, please contact us before your house project begins at 413-548-9699 and we will arrange to have a trained electrician move it and put it back on your house after the project is complete at MLP expense.

Information on Website

Please visit the LMLP page on the town's website for information about LeverettNet and also look in the F.A.Q. section for information about questions people have expressed.

<https://leverett.ma.us/p/33/Leverett-Municipal-Light-Plant>

*Rob Brooks (Chair), George Drake and Robert Heller
Margie McGinnis, Manager*

Call for Volunteers
Bradford Field Building

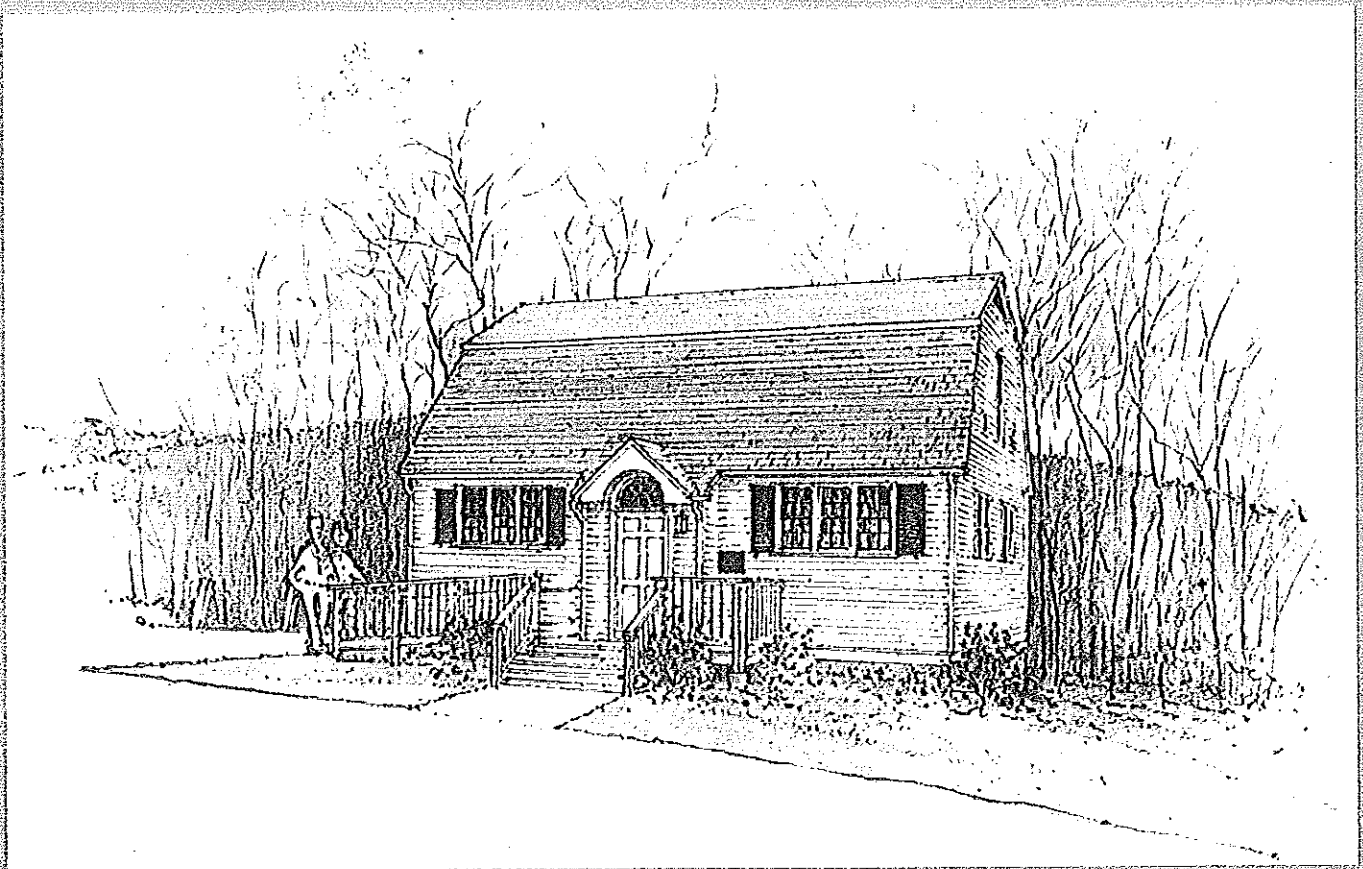
The Select Board is asking Leverett residents with an interest in the future of the Bradford Field Library [aka the old library, or the Field Family Museum] to consider joining an *ad hoc* committee charged with the responsibility of consolidating public opinion concerning:

1. The value, real and perceived, of the building as a town asset, and;
2. The potential of the building for future use, either as a town-owned asset or as an historical asset for the preservation of the history of Leverett.

All interested parties please leave your name and contact information with our Town Clerk, Lisa Stratford, at townclerk@leverett.ma.us. We will be in touch with you soon with further information. We hope to move this forward with all deliberate speed.

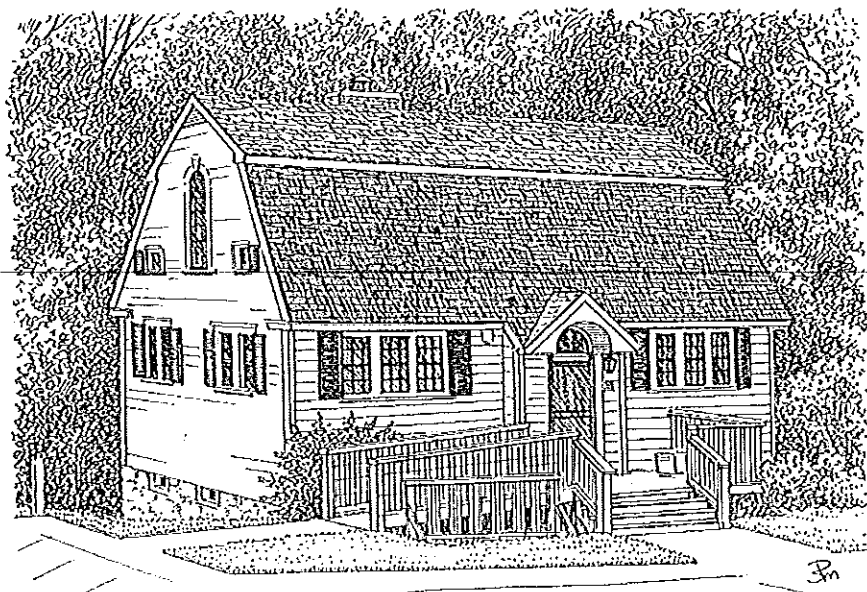
Emergency Management Director Needed

Interested in emergency response and Emergency Planning? After many years serving as the Town's Emergency Management Director (EMD), Jim Field is stepping down from the position and the Selectboard is interested in finding a local resident who would like to serve in this capacity. The EMD assures town preparedness for all emergency and disaster events, coordinates planning efforts with local and county emergency planning committees and advises the Selectboard and Administrator on emergency planning issues and during emergency events. Pay is \$1,500 per year. If you are interested, please reach out to the Selectboard office at 548-9150 or at selectboard@leverett.ma.us.



Leverett Family Museum, Leverett, Massachusetts

(c) John Bednarski, 2008



Bradford M. Field Memorial Library

Leverett, Massachusetts

A year ago I was elected as one of the trustees of the Field Memorial Library. It was in the deed that the second floor could not be used for an assembly room or for anything except historical purposes. It was piled, however, with new books that had not been catalogued, discarded books, library necessities and a few historical articles from a few of the Field family before 1924, but not arranged for exhibition. The basement had a dirt floor, remains of an old coal bin, and some more old and discarded books. The library, which is on the first floor, is very over crowded.

The first thing was to clean out the second floor and have some book shelves made where we could put books of value that could only be used at the library for reference. We sorted out the books and some were given away, some sold, some placed on the new shelves. The floor, which is a nice hardwood floor, was polished and historical items placed so as to exhibit them. With all extraneous items disposed of it looked quite nice.

We next tackled the basement. Some of the books had been there for 40 years and a wall had leaked. As a result some of them were quite moldy and only fit for the dump. We had the coal bin torn out, the floor dug down some and a good cement floor put in. Wiring, which had been put in when the town first had electricity in 1924, had to be replaced and a new service plus overhead lights and a few wall plugs. The holes were cemented and it now is a very pleasant, well lighted room. The furnace, unfortunately, is right in the middle of the room. This will not really interfere, however, with using the place for a display room. The result is we now have twice as much space for museum purposes as we have for a library. The new ceiling will be finished next week and then we can start moving things from the tavern.

Tools and items such as a broom corn stripper, a cheese press, some maple sugar equipment such as wooden buckets, a copper boiling kettle and old style spigots can go there. We also have equipment for making "pump logs" and in digging up our water supply we found some pump logs that were in as good shape as when they were first put in, at least 150 years ago. We have old hogs-heads that were used as long as Edward's father can remember in which grain was stored.

On the second floor we have put the display case from the tavern, which can be padlocked, in which are many small items. We also have quite a few old clothes, the short breeches, for instance, and children's clothes of over a hundred years or more. We have numerous toys and a very few books printed before 1840 that were in the family as well as an old cradle, both doll and baby, old carriages, both doll and child. We also have a very old quilt that was cousin Georgie's but no story with it as it is one cousin Caroline gave us and she didn't know where it came from.

Then Elizabeth Field gave the library to the town, land was not very valuable and yet she just gave enough for the building with about 20' on each side. The back line of the library is the back line of the lot. We are therefore giving the town $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 acres so there will be room for a parking area and an extension of the library if it can be arranged. That will be our next problem. We know there are ways of getting a grant, on a matching grant, either through the State or federally, but we haven't figured out yet how to start. We have talked with our State Representative and he has promised to look into it. As yet we haven't heard from him and will have to nudge him I guess. At the time we talked with him he was as ignorant as we.

Now you know what progress the Field family has made in Leverett. The annual report should also soon be in the mail, according to Marlaine Antes Hall. You will note we held our meeting, for the first time, in another town than Leverett, and where we had a very interesting meeting. The coming meeting should also be a very interesting one and we regret you live so far away.

Sincerely,

Ruth Field

Exclusive Interview with the Leverett Family Museum

Interviewer and Photographer: Gabrielle Holme-Miller

Gabrielle: Hello Leverett Family Museum. Thank you for taking the time to do this interview with me.

Leverett Family Museum: No problem. The pleasure is all mine. What can I do for you?

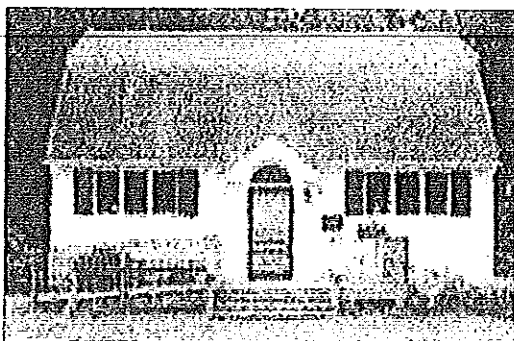
G: Well, I have a few questions for you about your past and present. Is it true you were not always called the Leverett Family Museum?

L: Quite right. I used to be called the Bradford M. Field Memorial Library.

G: Is that so? Why did you change your name?

L: It's a bit of a long story...

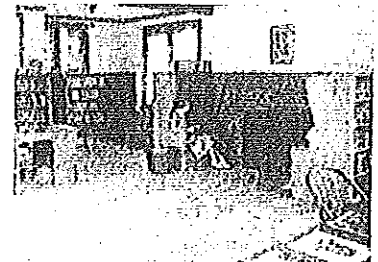
G: I don't mind. We have all the time you need.



The Leverett Family Museum

L: Okay...Well, in 1916 I was built in memory of Bradford M. Field, who

had died in 1913. I was to have my first floor be a library and my second floor be a Museum.



The original setup of the Bradford M. Memorial Library*

"In 1916 I was built in memory of Bradford M. Field."

G: Who presented the idea of having you built?

L: Elizabeth Judson Field presented the idea to the town in April of 1916. In May, I was accepted by the Library Board of trustees, and Lizzie was going to pay for me. I was finished and dedicated to Brad by September, that same year.

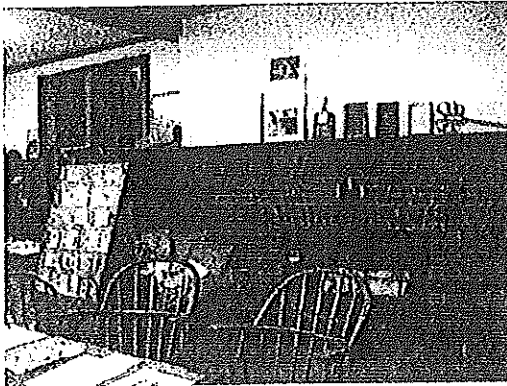
G: Well that was quick construction. Who was you architect and/or designer?

L: I'm not quite sure. Descendants of the Field family believe it was Roswald Field Putnam, a local architect who has designed several buildings for Smith College. But Lizzie had a lot of input on the design, and specifics on what she wanted my purpose to be.

G: Like what?

L: Well, first off all, my first floor had to be a library. The second floor was supposed to be a museum, containing memorabilia from the Field Family. That family has

*This is a photo of a photo kept at the Leverett Family Museum



Fireplace

been in Leverett for ages. Also, it was decided that I was to be located near where Lizzie lived. I'm right in the center of town at 1 Shutesbury Road, so I'm easy to find and access.

G: Now, earlier you had mentioned that you were dedicated to Bradford M. Field. Who was he?

L: Well, he had been a farmer in Leverett, but he became the head postmaster from 1863 - 1913, which was a very important job. After he died, Lizzie donated me to the town in memory of her father.

"They realized that if they changed anything, they would have to bring me up to code."

G: That was very kind of her.

L: I know. There is a plaque above the fireplace that has, "DONATED IN HONOR OF BRADFORD M. FIELD, 1916," engraved in it, although it is difficult to see from a distance.

G: We're getting a little off track. Now I know why you were called Bradford M. Field Memorial Library, but why did you change your name?

L: Well, in 2003 a new library was built.

G: Oh, I'm sorry. That must have been hard for you. What happened to you after it was decided you would no longer be Leverett's library?

L: Well, life goes on. That wasn't the first time a building has been demoted like that. In fact, when I was built, there had been 7 or 8 libraries in private homes since 1891. When all of their books were sent to me, I'm sure they felt the same way I do now.

G: So the new Library has all of your books?

L: Not just the books. I had my DVD's, videos, and even a bunch of furniture taken, such as desks that had been resting on my wooden floors since I was built. That library was allowed to take anything it wanted. I was furious.

G: I'm terribly sorry. What has been going on since then?

L: Well, because Lizzie gave the money to the town, I am considered a town building. In 2004, they held an informal committee meeting, trying to decide what to do with me, because they still have to pay for electricity and heating.

G: What did they decide to do?

L: Well, not much of anything. They realized that if they changed anything, they would have to bring me up to code.

G: What would that include?

L: Well, you know. The basics, really. A bathroom, parking, outlets. And it would probably have been necessary to make improvements to my heating system.

G: What's wrong with it?

L: Well, I have a furnace in the basement that heats the downstairs where the museum is now, but the upstairs where the storage is doesn't have that. It has gas heating, which is rarely used. There were ideas about turning me into a cafe or candy shop, but they didn't go very far because of having to meet the codes.

G: What happened next?

L: Well, two years after that meeting, a more formal committee meeting was held. The committee was appointed by the town, and has been having meetings since then to decide what to do with me. But they didn't do a heck of a lot until 2009.

G: What was so special about 2009?

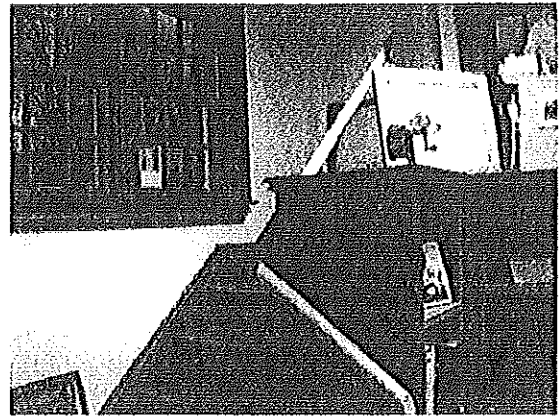
L: In 2009, I came under the umbrella of the Historical Society in Leverett.

G: Wow. That must have made you feel old. But don't worry, you don't look your age.

L: Why thank you. Yes, I believe I've stayed in pretty good shape for my age, and been well maintained.

G: Have you had many renovations since you were first built?

L: Nope. The only big changes were adding the furnace and making the windows double paned. There weren't originally double paned, which looked nicer, but it wasn't effective for regulating my temperature. We also added railings



Stairs up to the second floor

going up from the first to the second floor. And there is this one patch of ceiling near the fireplace that might need some work soon. But other than that...

"I believe I've stayed in pretty good shape for my age, and been well maintained."

G: So, tell me more about yourself. What architectural style are you?

L: I'm Dutch Colonial.

G: Do you think you could elaborate on that?

L: Gladly. Dutch Colonial is a style from the Colonial Revival era. I have a side gabled gambrel roof, which the Dutch Colonial style is characterized by.

G: What is a side gabled gambrel roof?

L: It was originally designed to increase both roof span and usable space.

G: How so?

L: In order for there to be more space on my upper floor, each side of the roof has two slopes. The lower slope is steeper, and the upper slope is flatter. This provides the advantages of a sloped roof while maximizing headroom on my upper level.

G: Very clever. Your architect was able to create a space for the museum on the second floor, but keep the building at a minimum height, cutting costs.

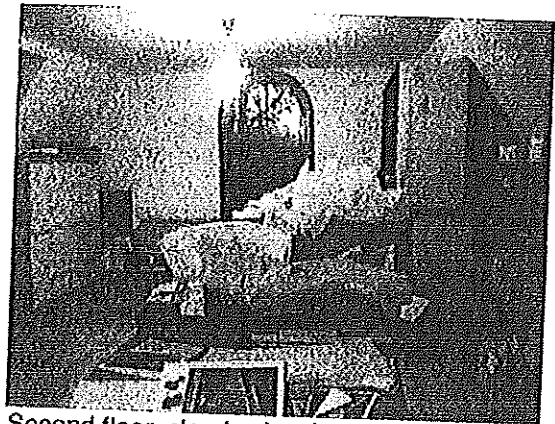
L: Exactly!

G: Now, your windows are few and small. The panes are not very large either. What image was your architect trying to convey?

L: Well, because I used to be a library, I was a little exclusive. Not like libraries are today. They were trying to send a stately yet protected image. The librarians used to have a say in who was allowed to check out my books. If you had a bad reputation, you couldn't. I admit it, I used to be a little snobbish. In fact, when I was being renamed I was almost called Field Family Museum, instead of Leverett Family Museum. That would have been even more private, but the Historical Society didn't want to be rude.

G: Your door sends a similar message.

L: Well, I guess you could say that. No double door and all. However, and I forgot to mention this earlier, we've recently had a ramp added to make me more handicap accessible. So I'm becoming less exclusive over time.



Second floor, clearly showing the gambrel roofing from the inside.

G: Good for you. But your upper floor is still not handicap accessible. The only thing to help you is a wooden railing.

L: That's true. But seeing as it's currently only being used for storage, not many people need to get up there now.

G: That's true. Now, you don't have a parking lot. What does that imply?

L: Again, I'm a public building but I have a private personality. I didn't want scores of families wreaking havoc on my library, and being loud and obnoxious before, and I don't want scores of families wreaking havoc on my museum now. I like it quiet.

G: I believe along with many others that for any building to be considered well built it must meet three conditions, Commodity, Firmness, and Delight. Do you believe you meet the condition of Commodity?

L: Definitely. I served as a Library for many years for the town of Leverett,

housing hundreds of book. My warm fireplace was a great place for people to sit around on the built in benches. My built in bookshelves were excellent for storing books.

G: What about Firmness? How have you been aging?

L: What a rude question! How have I been aging? You've seen for yourself, and said

earlier that you thought I didn't look my age.

But if you must know, I am very solidly built. My stone foundation has kept me

strong, and my wide wooden beams support my structure. The fact that I haven't been renovated proves how well I was built, and not being renovated means there have been no compromises made to the



The stone foundation, in the basement

quality of the construction materials that I was originally built with.



One of the exposed beams on the second floor

G: What do you think of your physical appearance?

L: Well, I have to admit, I'm a little self conscious about my looks. I'm not very flashy, and I don't try too hard to look good. Just simple white clapboard and black shutters decorating my tiny windows. The only thing I like about my outward appearance is the arch above my doorway and my side gabled gambrel

roof. But I don't think that looks are everything.

G: What do you mean?

L: It's what's on the inside that really counts.

G: Are you saying you have inner beauty?

L: Yes. I believe that the dark strong, dark brown colors of my wood and the dark bricks around my fireplace are beautiful. They match the yellow paint on my walls. I think the exposed beams on my top floor, which create a warm feeling.

G: Wow, that's deep of you. You seem like a strong and powerful building.

L: Thank you.

G: No, thank you. It has been a pleasure talking to you. Thanks for taking the time to do this interview with me. It's been a pleasure.



A sketch of the Leverett Family Museum, on display in the building