



LEEDS LETTER

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 3

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

February LCA Meeting

Tuesday, February 12 @ 7:30
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

Annual Leeds Pizza Party

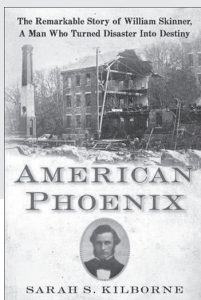
Saturday, March 2
Northampton Country Club
4:00-8:00

April

Trail Clean up Dates TBD

Winter Reading Suggesting

Sarah Kilborne, family ancestor of William Skinner, has written *American Phoenix*. The book chronicles the important contribution made by Skinner to the American silk industry, the devastation our area suffered from the Mill River Flood, and the Skinner silk business's eventual return to prosperity in the city of Holyoke. Ms. Kilborne spoke earlier this month at Meekins Library and read from her new book. Her style of writing is fresh and full of interesting details. If you are looking for a new book to read during the winter months, you might want to try "American Phoenix."



FREE PIZZA • RAFFLE PRIZES • GAMES
ADULT'S CASH BAR • KID'S FREE DRINKS

THE LCA INVITES YOU TO THE
BREAK THE WINTER BLUES

Pizza Party

MARCH 2
4:00-8:00

NORTHAMPTON COUNTRY CLUB

LCA MEMBERS ADULTS \$5
CHILDREN 5 -12 YEARS\$3 (max \$20 per household)
NON-MEMBERS ADULTS\$10
CHILDREN 5 -12 YEARS....\$5 (max \$40 per household)

Break the Winter Blues Pizza Party

By March 2nd most of us will be tired of the cold days and nights, and be longing for Spring. Attending the winter PIZZA PARTY is a way to recharge and reconnect us once again through the last sprint of winter. This year the fun event will be held in the newly renovated Northampton Country Club, a very warm and relaxing venue.

Party planning begins 7:30 pm on February 12th at the LCA meeting held in the Leeds School teacher's lounge. We really do need more volunteers to make the event a whopping success. Please consider donating your time, a raffle prize, dessert or side dish. We hope to gather a pile of raffle donations such as gift certificates to local stores and restaurants, gift baskets, and especially the holiday gift you received that might be perfect for someone other than you! If you have something you would like to contribute please contact Heidi Stevens at 585-9923 or email heidistevens.com.

All Leeds residents of every age are invited to this fun event, so please mark your calendars for Saturday March 2nd and join us for an evening of warm and relaxing mid-winter fun.



Nice Ice in Leeds

If you haven't been skating on Dimick Pond this season, what are you waiting for? The ice is nice! Several Leeds families have been taking advantage of the shoveled skating rink nestled in the woods off Dimick Road. The O'Connors are often there making up new games like ice golf and shuffle ice. Mike and Steve Rockett, both raised in Leeds, have terrific memories of many winter days skating as kids on Dimick Pond. They both return often to the favorite place from their childhood and play hockey with their adult friends. The front part of the pond is generally where the hockey action takes place. There is also plenty of space for figure eights and practicing fancy footwork at the back part of the pond. If the temps are below freezing anytime of day is good for skating. Some folks even like to skate in the moonlight. Just writing this makes me want to grab my skates and warm socks, throw a clementine in my pocket and head down to Dimick! Maybe I'll see you there.

3 Gazette Series about Leeds, by Alice Manning, 1975,
Continued from December newsletter

Other men and their families followed Calvin Clark fairly soon after his arrival for it is recorded that Joseph Burnell established a sawing mill on the Mill River there in 1800. The establishment of a sawing mill is an indication that there was a demand for building materials. All through the history of the region, the first mention of a sawing mill is the signal to look more closely for a community about to be born.

Williamsburg had finishing mills going back to 1793, so it is only natural that shrewd business minds would look with

new eyes toward what possibilities lay along the river just to the south.

A small cotton mill was erected in Leeds in 1808 on the site of the old sawmill. In 1812 David and Daniel Hayden built a two story wooden building, installed 128 spindles and began the manufacture of cotton yarn. This seemed to have prospered for a while but gradually declined and in 1818 was given up entirely. At time two other cotton mills operated here.

The first fully developed factory on the Mill River in Leeds was Shepherd's woolen mill, which was established in 1809. In 1813 a woolen factory was established in Leeds by Sidney Brewster. This really could not be called a true factory in its early years, but rather a supplement to household production. In the early days many local factories employed workers in the home to augment those who were working in the factories themselves.

Down river from Shepherd's mill Brewster ran his mill until it was purchased by James, Chester and Calvin Cook Jr. This firm operated under the name of Cook Brothers. This building was destroyed by fire in 1823 but was immediately rebuilt and operated until it failed in 1827 when it was acquired by Shepherd Mfg. Co.

In 1828 J.D. Kellogg built a shop for the manufacture of hammers, screwdrivers and the like which was successful.

In 1870 the Northampton Emery Wheel Co, moved from Florence into part of the old woolen mill. This was destroyed by fire in 1872 and the company moved into the brick building on the opposite side of the river.

... To be continued in next newsletter