



LEEDS LETTER

JANUARY 2014

**This is
your last
newsletter,
please renew!**

**Your dues allow the LCA
to host several community
parties each year, maintain
our walking trails, sponsor
debates and informational
talks, offer educational
scholarships, and
much more.**

Leeds Civic Association
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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014

January LCA Meeting

Tuesday, January 14 @ 7:00 PM
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

February LCA Meeting

Tuesday, February 11 @ 7:00 PM
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge

History & Hot Chocolate Social

Thursday, February 13th
6:30 - 8:30PM
Leeds School Music Room and Hall

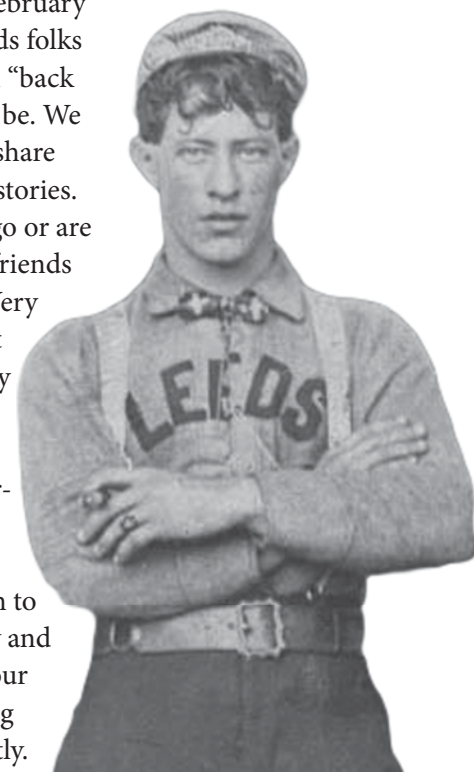
Pizza Party

Saturday, March 8th 4:00 - 8:00PM
Northampton Country Club

History & Hot Chocolate Social by Heidi Stevens

February 13TH 6:30 - 8:30 PM LEEDS SCHOOL MUSIC ROOM

Several of my adult friends have happy memories of growing up in Leeds, from Mill River swimming tales to Muck Hole ice skating stories and so much in between. Leeds is truly a great place for kids to grow up and I know dozens of neighborhood kids who agree. One of my sons told me a few years ago that his Dad and I picked a "winner" when we chose to live in Leeds! The LCA thought it would be fun during the cold month of February to have an informal get together where Leeds folks share and listen to stories about Leeds from "back in the day." It will be as casual as casual can be. We invite you to come and see old friends and share your stories or come to hear other people's stories. Whether you were born here many years ago or are new to Leeds this will be a chance to meet friends over hot chocolate and delicious desserts. Very importantly, we are collecting photos to put into our slide show, and interesting or funny Leeds memorabilia to put on display tables. If you have photos or artifacts we hope you will lend them to round out the visual entertainment. Please call Red Greene at 584-5525 or Heidi Stevens at 585-9923 or heidi@heidistevens.com before January 30th to let us know what you might have for display and to arrange for expert scanning of a few of your old photos. We promise to handle everything with kid gloves and return materials promptly.



Leeds baseball player from the 1880s He's smoking a cigar...they must have won!

Green tip for Leeds by Amy Stamm

Hi folks! Here is a way to make use of the cold of winter to save energy. If you have some ice packs, you can put them outside to freeze up in the winter air and then stick them in your refrigerator to help it save energy keeping your food cold. Rotate the ice packs from the refrigerator to the outdoors and back again for a constant source of natural cold.

Passing the Torch by Deb Jacobs

Looking for a way to give back to the community? Joining the board of the LCA is an easy and fun way to connect with neighbors, explore new ideas and tweak old favorites. The meetings are monthly from Sept. to June. I have lost count of how many years I've been on the board, but it has been around a dozen, and I'm ready to step down. It was well worth my time, and I'm glad I took the chance.

Old Tetraults Store, Leeds, MA by Red Greene

While walking in town one very cold Sunday I came upon two strangers at the end of Water St. and I noticed one of them was painting what is known as the old Tetraults store, which is now an apartment building. I stopped to talk to the woman who was painting this house and she said she was "intrigued by the lines of the house." I explained to her a little of the history of the house.



This house and many others in Leeds were built at a time when there was a large migration into this area of Canadian French and Irish immigrants because the mills were beginning to grow and produce well needed jobs. I went home and copied a picture of the house taken many years ago and brought it to her. She really enjoyed having it. It is always a pleasure to talk with someone who takes the time to look around and really notice things that many of us in our busy lives just pass on by not really looking at our surroundings that we may take for granted.

Characters in Leeds (1940–50s) by Richard Quinn

We never found out how Pete lost his leg, but his peg leg made him an oddity and a rather intimidating prospect as he hobbled about Leeds. This man was probably as harmless as a gentle rain, but kids are very impressionable and anything out of the ordinary was fair game for suspicion. Beyond his appearance, Pete had another reason to remain questionable. He lived in a little eight by ten foot shack attached to a portion of the old button shop. The roof of the main structure was gone and the windows and doors were gaunt openings to a dark and evil looking interior. Three sides of his makeshift, wooden shack backed up to one of the brick walls that still remained standing. Tucked in next to the huge smoke stack; without benefit of heat, electricity, or running water, Pete somehow survived the cold blasts of winter and the suffocating heat of summer. He lived his hermit life out of the main stream of the community and to my knowledge, he never caused any problems. One fateful day, the word spread throughout the town that Pete had died. When my friends and I got the news of his demise, we

hurried to his old shack. This was a place we normally gave a wide berth, but now we had little to fear. Slowly and quietly, we opened the door and peered into the inner gloom.

Inside, we found a cot with a mattress, a small night stand with a kerosene lamp on it and an ice box. This was the sum total a man's life. Inside the ice box, we found one jar with some unrecognizable food item in it and nothing more --- this was the legacy of the man. After a brief search, we found Pete's leg under the bed. Looking back, it seems a bit irreverent, but we each took turns strapping on Pete's leg and stumping around town.

New Timer at Mulberry Park

The LCA and all Leeds residents are lucky to have a Leeds neighbor like Donny Judge, electrician extraordinaire. On a cold December day he installed a brand new timer for the holiday lights at Mulberry Park. The old timer (talking about the electrical devise, not Donny!) had been there for over 15 years and finally stopped cooperating. Before Donny came to the rescue two volunteers had been turning the lights on and off manually, one going in the early morning and the other in the evening. Needless to say, the two volunteers were both enormously grateful for Donny's expertise and generosity!



Don Judge, bundled up and working

Another Note on Lights

Many strands of white lights on the Hotel Bridge were replaced with LED lights in December. The LCA hopes to have the entire bridge lit with LED lights for the holiday display of 2014. Seven adults and three helpful young people took time on that cold Thanksgiving weekend to string lights at both Mulberry Park and on the Hotel Bridge. Nice work one and all!