



LEEDS LETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2013

Light Up the Front Street Park

Saturday, November 30 (rain date, Sunday Dec 1st), 3:00-5:00 pm.
Please come and lend a hand stringing holiday lights. We'll meet at the base of Front Street.

December 10 LCA Meeting

Tuesday, December 10 @ 7:30 pm,
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge
Please come - all welcome!

LCA OFFICERS AND BOARD

LCA elections were held on November 12th. If you are interested in becoming a board member, there are two spots ready to be transferred. Please come and join us at the December 10th meeting (see time above).

President Sue Carbin

Vice President Heidi Stevens

Secretary David Rondina

Treasurer Amy Quinn

Board Members Earl Meunier,
Deb Jacobs, Stephy Cho, Penny Geis and Tom Quinn

LOST AND FOUND

Black Gloves with "Head" brand lettering in red were found at the Pumpkin Party. If these are yours, please call Amy at 586-0283. The **Blue Bowl** that held a pasta salad at the Block Party is waiting to be picked up. Call Heidi at 585-9923.

Leeds Civic Association
P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053
leedscivassoc@gmail.com
www.leedsciv.org

Pumpkin Party Wrap Up, by Rowan Hodgson

It was funny that Linda Butler's pie, the first-place prize for the pumpkin carving contest, went to Jim Montgomery. That's because Jim is Linda's husband. His pumpkin, called "self-portrait," had garlic for teeth and pears for cheeks. (His pumpkin didn't really look like him, but it was cool).

There were 41 pumpkins entered. Tom and Amy Quinn's Leeds hot air balloon won second place, and Jim Mias came in third with his forest trick or treaters. In the kids' category, Mason Tait and Siggie tied for first. In the youth category, Curtis Casey won first place, and Ryan Cheevers-Brown came in second. Marisah Helems won a jar of candy corn because she made the closest guess of the number of candy corns in the jar (there were 436).

Shawn Gundersen gave rides to the kids on a quad in the new Beaver Brook development, where it was dark and bumpy, but fun.

There was a pumpkin roll, and Leo Geis and Celia Goldsmith won that contest. All the kids who participated in the pumpkin roll got goody bags of stuff like Leeds buttons and Halloween rings.

Shawn Gundersen also built a catapult with pumpkins for ammunition aimed at pumpkins painted like pigs from "Angry Birds." The targets didn't get hit, but the ammunition smashed on the pavement and exploded.

There were all kinds of soups, breads, and sweets to eat. There were Halloween music, a fire pit in the Ever-Hale's yard, and a Burning Man made and set on fire by Jim Montgomery, who does not really have garlic teeth and pear cheeks.



Yikes! All LCA memberships expire on Dec 1, 2013. If you haven't yet renewed, please consider doing so...soon. Your LCA membership dues and donations help us keep you informed with the Leeds newsletter, the LCA website, Candidate's Nights, and History Nights. Your dues help celebrate and maintain the beauty of Leeds with village holiday lights, several village flower barrels, and litter pick-ups along the river and walking trails. Your dues help fund community events like the

September Block Party, the Pumpkin Party, Spring Pizza Party, Memorial Day Ceremony and Village Tag Sale Day. With your support the LCA will continue providing information, opportunity and fun gatherings to the entire Leeds community!

Annual family dues of \$10 or annual business dues of \$25 may be mailed to:
Leeds Civic Association, P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053

High Flying in Leeds by Jim Mias

Over the past few weeks a number of Leedsians have reported eagle sightings. The reservoir seems to be the most likely permanent setting for this amazing 7 foot...YES!... 7 foot wing-spanned bird. The thinking is that a nest could be in the back corner of the reservoir towards newly paved Kennedy Road. Several other sightings have been reported as well. The ball players at Leeds School witnessed the eagle flying overhead as did several folks along the upper Mill River above the Top Dam. This sighting, particularly nice - an arching white birch tree, its leaves yellowed, the eagle perched, facing upstream in search of its main diet - fish and trout which are still observable in our very own Mill River and caught from time to time by those who know the nooks and crannies of one of Leeds' most precious resources.

So, get yourselves outside and take a look around, up and down, and you'll be surprised at what you just might find.

From Feeding to Reading by Heidi Stevens

Years ago George Quinn asked his friend, Dean Williams, to build him a large two decker bird house that had a spacious open gazebo lower level and up top a snug peaked room for birds to nest. This beauty of a birdhouse stood in George's yard on Front Street until after his death when his son, Tom Quinn, decided to give it a new purpose.

Tom and his brother, Eddie, renovated the birdhouse gazebo level by adding Plexiglass windows and a large front door and topped it off with a copper roof. It is now located near the road's edge outside of his house at 57 Upland Road and... it's Leeds' first Little Free Library!

The library recently passed its weather test and is open to the public 24-7. Kids and adults can drop off a donated book and/or take a book to read.

Tom Quinn's creativity and sense of community is a fine tribute to both his dad, George, and his dad's friend, the original craftsman, Dean, both long time Leeds residents, now gone, yet not forgotten. To learn more about the Little Free Library project check out: LittleFreeLibrary.org

Green tip for Leeds by Amy Stamm

It's starting to be that season when windows get drafty, and you just want to stop the cold air. One way to help seal drafty windows in the winter is to use rope caulking inside all of the window cases and along the cracks of the outside window frame. It is a seasonal measure because you can't open and close your windows once you do it. Products like Seal and Peel peel off after winter with no residue.

Another way to keep the draft out is to purchase inexpensive kits at any hardware store made up of plastic sheets and

double-sided tape. You put the tape around the window, press the plastic in, and use a hair dryer to shrink the plastic so it's taut and practically invisible.

A more permanent solution that requires some handyman skill is to install Advanced Repair Technology (607-264-9040, advancedrepair.com) Easy-Stop kits to block air and make old windows as airtight as newer models. These kits are much less expensive than purchasing new windows and allow you to maintain the beauty of old wood windows. The quality of the wood in old windows is almost impossible to reach with new windows, and getting rid of their draft can save hundreds of gallons of heating fuel per year.

Gazette Series about Leeds, by Alice Manning, 1975, Warner Tavern

There are many old houses in the village, some of them dating back well over 100 years. One of the most beautiful of the old-time buildings was the Warner Tavern which stood at the junction of Haydenville Road and Florence Road.

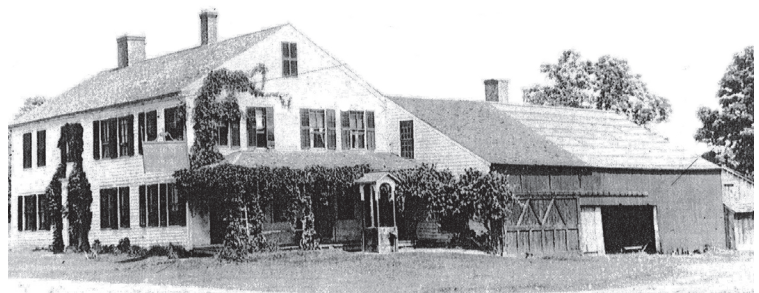
The spot was about halfway between Boston and Albany and was a popular stop on the stage coach runs. Built in the area known as Bear Hill, the house with its half dozen outbuildings and barns was a familiar landmark. The tavern, which was comprised of 16 rooms, retained all the architectural features of old time hostelry. There was an old fireplace with huge ovens for baking bread and hams. Three of the first floor rooms extended the entire length of the house. In olden days weaving was done in this house and wheels were arranged in the attic. The old organ, which added to the cultural life of the occupants and visitors and was a status symbol of its day, is now in the Skinner Memorial Museum in Holyoke.

The building was demolished in 1924 but not without a wrench of the heartstrings of many who had enjoyed its hospitality, or just the sight of it standing proudly by the wayside. In establishing the hospital for Veterans, the government took over 288 acres of farm and wood lot, along with the tavern, a story-and-a-half cottage, and a wood mill.

-To be continued in next newsletter

A Note of Thanks

The Leeds Civic Association is grateful to have creative and energetic volunteers who share their time and talents at our Leeds community events. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



Solomon Warner Tavern once stood along Route 9 across from the intersection of Florence Road. Photo by Robert P. Emrick, 1922