

Williamstown Historical Museum

Newsletter

Williamstown, Massachusetts

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Broad Brook School

by Gail Burns

Opened in December of 1869, Broad Brook School on Sand Springs Road in the White Oaks section of town was the very first instance of school consolidation. It



Broad Brook School, c. 1920

brought together pupils of the stone school, still standing at 681 Simonds Road, and the Oak Hill School, which sat on a now discontinued road connecting Ballou Lane with Henderson Road. It was a one-room and then

a two-room schoolhouse as the population grew.

During the early years of the 20th century the State Normal School at North Adams, now Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, used Broad Brook as a "school of observation and practice." This initiative provided some state aid through the Normal School to pay teachers and buy curricular materials and supplies above and beyond what the town supplied, but it offered no assistance with building repair and maintenance.

The Normal School Catalog and Circular for 1908 described the school thusly: "The Broad Brook School is located in a farming district and is definitely a rural school, with the

usual social problems pertaining thereto. The building is without modern conveniences, but the yard is roomy and the view magnificent. In each of



Broad Brook School classroom, c. 1920

the two rooms is a school of 35 pupils, the oldest grade being the sixth. The school is about five miles from the Normal School and is reached by electric cars."

In 1922 "modern sanitary facilities" were added to the building because the "present accommodations there are too small and very unsatisfactory."

Broad Brook School continued on page 5

Celebrating 100 Years of Service and Support

**The American Legion
and Post 152 of Williamstown**

by Paul Guillotte

March 15 -17, 1919 are dates when the Legion was founded in Paris, France during a meeting of the representatives of the various outfits that made up the World War I American Expeditionary Force. The American Legion was chartered by Congress on March 15, 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization, which has evolved into one of the most influential non-profit groups in the United States.

The American Legion Preamble states that its purpose is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of



1935 Memorial Day Color Guard, pictured L to R: Merton Odell, Henry Ogert, Horace Haley, G.W. Schryver, Ernest Roberts, and William Bryant

the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

100 Years continued on page 4

Cricket Creek Farm

A Cornerstone of South Williamstown

by Gail Burns

While farming overall is having a welcome renaissance throughout the country, dairy farming in New England remains at a much lower ebb than a century ago. Now there are just two working dairy farms in Williamstown. The Galusha family has single-handedly kept Fairfields Farm afloat since 1905. Cricket Creek Farm, owned by the Sabot family since 2001, has a much more varied history and owes its current existence to a series of remarkable men and their families.

The 20th century history of Cricket Creek began in 1924-1927 when professor emeritus of international law



Philip Marshall Brown, c. 1940

at Princeton and noted diplomat, Philip Marshall Brown (Williams 1898) and his wife Jane Yuile Brown bought a property on Oblong Road that they christened Brownfields. The land was watered by the Dixon and Young streams, which become Field's Brook at their confluence. It had been settled by European immigrants since the 18th century and was traversed by the private Johnson Pass Road, built in 1813 so that the noted "bonesetter" Dr. Samuel Porter could visit his New York state patients.

The Browns were active at the Second Congregational Church and in the community. An article in *The Transcript* from 1931 makes reference to one of the many community parties hosted at Brownfields. "The Mount Hope Orchestra, with Nelson A. Roberts [the manager of Mount Hope Farm whose biography Professor Brown later wrote] swinging the baton, was among the featured entertainers. It offered a program of instrumental selections and later played for square [dancing] sets. John J. O'Brien told some Irish stories in his inimitable brogue and also staged a jig or two. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Welch danced together in a number of intricate steps and were heartily received. George N. Blair and Mr. Roberts appeared in a program of clog dancing."

In 1939 the Browns sold 274 acres, including the 17-room main house and other buildings, to Rhode Island Governor William Henry "Bill" Vanderbilt and his second wife. The Browns retained some abutting land and a "cottage" where they lived until Professor Brown died in 1966.

The parcel of land Vanderbilt bought had 1,385 feet of frontage on "Long Oblong Road" and was 7,741 feet deep going back to the New York State line at the top of the Taconic Range. In January 1940 Vanderbilt christened his farm



Current Cricket Creek Farm sign

Cricket Creek, for reasons unknown at the time. We can be relieved that the Brownfields moniker was retired.

The Vanderbilts used Cricket Creek as a summer place from 1939-1949, except during World War II while Bill Vanderbilt served in the Navy. After the war he sold the family estate in Rhode Island, and Williamstown became the family's permanent legal residence.

Vanderbilt substantially expanded the farm. In 1945 he bought 40 adjacent acres on the east side of Oblong Road from Robert Steele, owner of the Modern Dairy, and in 1949 he purchased the milk route of Henry L. George of Glen Street and a herd of purebred Guernsey cattle from the Alfred farms at Burlington, Vermont. Cricket Creek became famous for its Golden Guernsey Milk. With the completion of a new barn, the farm was one of the first in the country to be operated on the pen-stable system, wherein the cows were kept in a large "loafing room," instead of being chained in stanchions, where they could feed at will. The barn also included a milking parlor and equipment for immediate pasteurization. A heifer barn was built later.

In 1951 Vanderbilt and his brother established the Two V beef cattle ranch in Englewood, Florida, where South Williamstown farmer Norris Phelps worked for two years during the reclamation and development stages of the ranch. George Clark, Jr., an official of the Massachusetts Selective Breeding Association, was appointed manager of the dairy operations at Cricket Creek Farm at that time, and Harold W. Guiden was the herd manager.

Like the Browns the Vanderbilts were active in town life. They gave \$3,000 to the Williamstown Public School to create the Vanderbilt play area and outdoor theatre on the Mitchell School grounds, and \$1,000 for the development of a play area at South Center School.

The family sold the house on Oblong Road in 1956 and



The Store at Five Corners, c. 1950

moved to the Florida ranch, but they repurchased the home in 1965, along with the Steele's Corners Store, which they rechristened The Store at Five Corners. Janet Cum-

mings, who had managed the store for the Steele family, stayed on, and Bill Vanderbilt was often seen pumping gas out front. He died in 1981 but the store remained in Vanderbilt hands until 1985 – the same year the family sold

sold the home on Oblong Road to Richard "Dick" Sabot, a newly arrived member of the Williams Economics Department, and his young family.

When the Vanderbilts moved to Florida in 1956 they sold Cricket Creek Farm to Philip Harnes, formerly of North Adams. At that time the farm was more than 1,000 acres, making it one of the largest properties in Northern Berkshire, surpassed in Williamstown only by Mount Hope.

In 1958 Harnes sold to Norris and Betty-Jim Phelps. The Phelps family goes back seven or eight generations in South Williamstown, New Ashford, and Lanesborough. After graduating from Williamstown High School in 1937, Norris Phelps spent two years at the Purdue University School of Agriculture before returning to operate the family farm on Sloan Road. Beginning with 28 cows on 77 acres, over the years he purchased several contiguous farms and merged them with his property on Woodcock and Oblong Roads.



Norris and Betty-Jim Phelps

The Phelpses kept as many as 400 cows at Cricket Creek Farm. At one time, Phelps was the largest landowner in Williamstown, except for Williams College, with 985 acres of farmland.

In 1994 the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, the Trustees of Reservations, the town, and the state departments of Environmental Management and Food and Agriculture acquired 626 acres of Phelps' 967 acre Cricket Creek Farm. This move guarded against development, enabled the Phelps family to continue farming and ensured access to the Taconic Crest Trail. Two years later the Vanderbilt children donated money to help these entities preserve the farm, but the Phelpses were ready to retire and a permanent solution for the farm was needed.

In March of 2001 Norris A. and Betty-Jim Phelps sold Cricket Creek Farm to Dick and Jude Sabot and the Cricket Creek Nominee Trust, formed for the Sabots' four children. At that time the farm was estimated at 400 acres, and the property included two houses, three silos, two ponds, a gambrel-roofed old stone barn, the large dairy barn, and other farm buildings.



Dick Sabot

For the first two years of the Sabots ownership, James Galusha of Fairfields Farm had an agreement to raise hay and corn on the property and to let some of his 500 cattle graze there.

By 2002 the Sabots' purchase was complete and work was started on a plan for moving forward. Since

much of the land was in Agricultural Protection, it had to be maintained as a working farm. After visiting Shelburne Farms in Northern Vermont, also once owned by members of the Vanderbilt family, the Sabots decided to continue with dairy farming, and to add cheese making and an educational component.

The existing state-of-the-art "loafing barn" and milking parlor designed for Vanderbilt in the 1950s was set up for a large, grain-based operation. The Sabots planned a significantly smaller milking herd of 50-60 cows. Architect Patti Seidman designed the new facility, which consisted of a New Zealand style swing parlor, post-and-beam event room, and cheese-making rooms.

Milking operations resumed at Cricket Creek in the spring of 2004, but in the summer of 2005 Dick Sabot passed away very suddenly. After some years of restructuring, the Sabots' son Topher (Williams 1999) took over management of daily operations in 2009 while his mother learned artisanal cheese-making.

Today Cricket Creek Farm is a small, grass-based cow dairy, producing raw milk, grass-fed beef, and whey-fed pork, plus seven different styles of artisanal farmstead cheeses. The owners currently milk between 35-40 cows at a time, and care for about 80 animals in total.

President's Remarks

Dear WHM Friends,

I know we are all enjoying the early days of spring, and here at the museum we look forward to our expanded April through November hours (see box on page 7 for details). As our hours expand we are in need of even more volunteers, especially those who greet visitors. If you have a few hours to share for that purpose, or want to learn about other volunteer opportunities, please contact the WHM.



**Kathy Thompson
Board President**

One of the highlights of our winter season was Dusty Griffin's lecture on January 17, 2019 when nearly 70 people gathered to learn more about *Parmalee Prentice: Mount Hope's Polymath*. We are proud of our ability to provide the entire community with several talks a year on Williamstown history. If you have ideas for future subjects, or speakers, please let us know.

Looking ahead, we are making plans for our second annual Hay Day country fair on August 11, 2019. Last year's event was a great success, with community members and passersby gathering for games, pony rides, good food, and crafts.

Thank you, as always, for your generous membership contributions. It is only through your gifts that we can continue to carry out our mission and achieve our goals.

I wish you all the joy that springtime brings,

Kathy Thompson

100 Years, continued

The Williamstown Post #152 was organized early in October 1919 after the last of the veterans had returned from overseas in World War I. Charter members were Howard E. Barrett, Earl O. Brown, John J. Danaher, Roy B. McClean, Daniel P. O'Conner, William N. O'Conner, William D. O'Connors, Patrick O'Keefe, James Quinn, Frank J. Roberts, Richard A. Ruether, George W. Schryver, John Steele, Oliver D. Swain, and H. Courtland Walden. By year's end, the Post's membership exceeded 200. In June 1920 more than 100 of its members graduated from Williams College. Early years were spent establishing the organization in town. The Post joined in with the existing Memorial Day exercises that were held by the members of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1921, Post 152 furnished representatives for the re-burial procession of Colonel Ephraim Williams, founder of Williams College, whose remains were removed from the original grave, near Glens Falls, New York and placed in a vault beneath Thompson Memorial Chapel in Williamstown.

In May 1922, the Williamstown Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary was organized by Mrs. Alice Stiles of North Adams, wife of Frank R. Stiles after whom the North Adams Post was named. The Auxiliary has been instrumental in supporting the work of the American Legion.

In 1957, the American Legion Post 152 honored a charter member by renaming the Post for Richard A. Ruether.



Richard A. Ruether

Ruether was born in Williamstown in 1895 and served in World War I as 1st Sergeant, attached to the Headquarters Troop 76th Infantry Division National Army. He enlisted on November 21, 1917 and was honorably discharged on March 19, 1919. Ruether was elected a Massachusetts State Representative with a campaign motto of "He keeps his word - and gets things done - Always at Your Service." He was owner of Ruether & Company that sold fresh and smoked meats and poultry. He lived at 12 Moorland Street and passed away at age 62 on July 2, 1956.

Guiding the American Legion's work are the Four Pillars: 1. veteran's affairs and rehabilitation, 2. national security, 3. Americanism, and 4. children and youth.

Post 152's work focuses on these pillars in numerous ways. As commander of Post 152 in 1920s, Wilson A. Roberts set out to ensure that no veteran went hungry when coming through Williamstown. He cooperated with Link & Jink restaurant to feed anyone sent to the restaurant by the commander. Roberts also planted elm trees in front of the Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity House to replace destroyed trees.

On July 4, 1968 several members of the Legion

discussed the possibility of forming a drill team. The group participated in Fall Foliage Day Parades in North Adams, Veterans Day Parades in Pittsfield, and the Veterans Day celebration in Northampton.



Legion members stand on the steps of the post office on Spring Street on Memorial Day in 1968

The Honor Guard of Post 152 has participated in funeral services for veterans and Memorial and Veterans Day events for many years in Williamstown and surrounding towns, and presents US flags to families of deceased members of the Armed Forces. The Honor Guard travels throughout the region and has honored up to 70 veterans in one year and averages more than 30 in other years.

Williamstown Post 152 has been a supporter of young students by funding educational and leadership events and trips, and by presenting scholarships to students at Mount Greylock Regional, Drury, and McCann high schools. A popular and successful 62-year-old program called "Need-A-Lift" assisted students in finding scholarships and funding to attend college in all 50 states. Today, students can find information about funding online.

Post 152 members have been generous supporters of fellow veterans, offering rides to appointments and ensuring they have safe places to lay their heads at night. Ferman Turner, a past Commander of Post 152, donated his house on Simonds Road to the Post, which converted it into a residence for veterans in need.

J. Michael Kennedy has compiled a large collection of material about the many men and women of Williamstown who have served in the Armed Forces. The collection is located at the Williamstown Historical Museum and represents service members from nearly every war in which the United States participated. It includes references for members of the Armed Forces for nearly every military event involving residents of Williamstown. Post 152 has continued to fund the wartimes display at the Williamstown Historical Museum, and all are encouraged to commemorate the 100 years of the American Legion by visiting this display.

After 100 years, the mission of the American Legion is still being carried out as membership evolves and members from recent wars look for camaraderie and support from the dedicated vets at Post 152.

Broad Brook School, continued

By the 1920s the two-room wooden schoolhouse was sorely in need of repair and updating. *The Eagle* reported in May 1929 that the building was “inadequate for modern school needs” and that the state inspector had condemned the structure because it had only one exit. At this point discussions were at a fever pitch with School Committee members, Selectmen, and School Superintendent Francis V. Grant, all speaking in favor of a new building.

A letter to *The Transcript* in January of 1930, signed by “A Parent,” made a strong case for the construction of a new school building, urging all voters to approve an appropriation at town meeting: “The lighting systems, both natural and artificial, are antique, absolutely no ventilation, except through the numerous cracks and crevices in the building; no cellar under the structure, meaning cold floors and chilled feet for teachers as well as little children, and last but not least, a heating system that will not heat this sort of a shell regardless of how much coal is used and how long you run it wide open.”

Members of the Broad Brook PTA and other residents of the White Oaks first requested an appropriation of \$50,000 for a new building at the February 1930 town meeting, a request that engendered a lengthy discussion. The Rev. J. Franklin Carter, former Rector of St. John’s Church, made a motion that a committee of seven be formed to study the project, obtain plans and estimates, and present them to a session of town meeting. At that session, held in May, plans for the new building were



Broad Brook School, 1936

clearly outlined and an article was passed to raise and appropriate \$48,000, with \$5,000 to be paid the first year and the remaining \$43,000 paid over the next ten years in equal installments.

A special Broad Brook School Building Committee, chaired by Professor Samuel E. Allen, approved architectural plans by the Warren E. Holmes Company of Lansing, Michigan, which had been commissioned by the Works Progress Administration. A few weeks later the contract for the building was let to Williamstown contractor David McNab Deans. F. H. Sherman was hired to install the “modern” plumbing and heating system, and the Mayhew Electric Company hired to do the wiring.

Williamstown resident Ben Greenfield, who bought the 1931 building in 2017, said: “Broad Brook was a model

school. Holmes was about 15 years into his career specializing in schools. The school is extremely modern with all its thinking. Holmes’s design was crafted so it could be expanded to any scale - 14 stories or 1 story - the layouts would work at any size, you would just need more materials.”

At the dedication ceremony in 1931 Mrs. Leo N. Beverly, former president of the Broad Brook PTA, said, “We of this community are very proud of our new school. We needed it, we worked for it, we watched its construction, and we are here tonight at its dedication. We hope it may always be a source of joy to us and to our children.”



Mr. and Mrs. Field stand with School Superintendent Francis V. Grant (left) and Rev. Dr. Phillip Frick at the memorial to the Fields’ son

Twenty years later the baby boom hit, and the Williamstown public schools struggled to keep up with the burgeoning enrollment. In 1953 abutters Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Field donated three acres of land, much of

which was used to create a playground dedicated to the memory of the Fields’ son, Lieutenant Herbert Allen Field, a Broad Brook alumnus killed in action in World War II. The dedication plaque can still be seen mounted on a stone in the playground.

That extra acreage also made it easier to consider building a much-needed addition to the school. Discussions had started in 1952. By 1953 the entire Broad Brook second grade was being bused to Mitchell School, which itself was bursting at the seams.

The new four-room addition was supposed to be ready for the start of school in 1954, but the opening was delayed until November, necessitating some movement of the Broad



Broad Brook School, 1954

Brook kindergarteners between Mitchell and the newly built Grant School. The addition was estimated to cost \$75,000-\$100,000 and Gordon and Sutton of North Adams was the general contractor.

The baby boom of the 1950s gave way to the baby bust of the next generation. By the 1979-1980 academic year Broad Brook was the last remaining “neighborhood school” — South Center having closed in 1962 — and plans were afoot to close it down due to dwindling enrollment. By that time the school housed only 87 students in grades

Broad Brook School continued on page 6

Broad Brook School continued

1-3. The kindergarten and upper grades were already attending the “central schools” on School Street.

A School Consolidation Study Committee determined that the education of the current Broad Brook students would not be adversely affected by the closing, that no teachers would lose their jobs, and that class sizes would remain the same. Another bonus was that the teachers of art, music, and physical education would no longer have to commute to Broad Brook and would be able to spend more time in the classroom. School Superintendent Dr. John R. Madden said there had been little opposition to the proposed closing.

Meanwhile a citizens’ committee discussed whether to demolish, sell, or renovate the building. Some wanted to move the town offices there and sell the Municipal Building on North Street. Eventually the committee voted to recommend to the Selectmen that the building be demolished and the playground expanded.

But town meeting had other ideas and in May 1980 voters agreed to close Broad Brook and permit the town to sell the building. But after a Connecticut based developer expressed interest in buying the school and turning it into “high quality” apartments or condominiums, the town voted in June of 1981 to approve a protective covenant in the school’s deed that stipulated future uses of the building. The covenant prohibited a buyer from seeking a variance from town boards for light industrial use.

The condominium deal fell through, and Broad Brook School was sold in 1982 to Broude Brothers Ltd., a sheet music publishing firm, which owned it until 2017 when it was purchased by Greenfield, who has nearly



Original doors and cabinetry in Broad Brook School as they appeared c. 1930 photo on left and during 2018 renovation on right

Broude Brothers employed a very small staff and made almost no alterations to the building during their 37-year tenure, so when Greenfield opened up the building he found a virtual time capsule dating from 1980. Good-bye messages from students were still scrawled on the blackboards and faded art projects still adorned the bulletin boards and sat preserved in glass display cases.

Upcoming History Book Group

Have you read a good book lately? Would you recommend it to a history group? Would you like to learn about other good history books? Please join the Williamstown Historical Museum’s gathering of friendly readers who meet for discussion about books with historical themes on the first Thursday of each month, 1-2:30 p.m. For June 6, 2019 the group will discuss *The House at Sugar Beach: In Search of a Lost African Childhood* by Helene Cooper. The group welcomes new participants to share observations and ideas. Do come!

Genealogy at the WHM

by Cynthia Payne

Here at the Museum we offer wonderful resources for people doing genealogical research. We have a number of books that people can examine, including *Williamstown: The First 250 Years 1754 – 2003* by Robert R. Brooks (which is also available for sale), plus *Williamstown and Williams College* and *Origins in Williamstown: A History*, both by Arthur Latham Perry. We have school yearbooks that are fun to look through for relatives. If your ancestors were married in this area, you may find them listed in the “Berkshire Genealogical Notes and Marriages up to 1850,” which also covers marriages in some surrounding areas, such as Pownal, Vermont. Another interesting resource is the *Gazetteer of Berkshire County MA 1725 – 1885*.



Under construction—Broad Brook School during 2018 renovation

finished converting the building into eight live/work apartments.

“I’m trying to do as little as possible to the school but make it suitable for living and/or working,” Greenfield explained. “Each classroom will be a single unit with a kitchenette and a bath. Then I combined the remaining space into an eighth unit that I will use to pursue my own ambitions.”

Perhaps you're interested in joining the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Sons of the American Revolution through a revolutionary ancestor. The museum has two comprehensive resources for veteran ancestors. You can search the *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. We are particularly grateful to be in possession of Mike Kennedy's large collection of binders that contain records of all Williamstown veterans from the Revolutionary War up to the 1980s.

There are some very limited town records that date back to the 1700s. These records include the official town records that began in 1860 and the Massachusetts archives from 1841 to 1910. The Museum also has a copy of *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe 1607-1657*. We are very fortunate to have access to extensive Williamstown cemetery records online: <https://williamstownma.gov/services/cemetery/>. The cemetery records can also be accessed from your home.

Besides books, we have some genealogy records on file. You may be lucky and find that your family has already been researched. Many people are able to discover the addresses where their ancestors lived in town, information that can lead to old photos and history of the houses. If your Williamstown house is more than 100 years old, we probably have some information on your house in our files. If your house was here in 1876, come in and see what surrounded it on our F.W. Beers map. Researchers can use the street directories (1928-1983) to look up their families.

The Williamstown Historical Museum has a subscription to *Ancestry.com* so research can be done here without having to buy a subscription. On our computers you can look up draft registrations; census records; and birth, marriage, and death records. If using *Ancestry.com*, as with any family research, come in with as much information as possible. For starters, you will need your ancestor's name, the approximate birth date and location, and the approximate death date and location. Even better is to have the names of the spouse, parents, grandparents, and children with the birth and death dates and location for each. The more detail, the better. There are many people with the same first and last names, especially if you've been cursed with an ancestor named John Smith.

The museum is fortunate to have two experienced genealogists, David Primmer and Paul Guillotte.

Other volunteers may also be able to assist you. The museum receives three to four genealogical research requests per month. Our researchers can help people with their genealogy both in our files and in local archives. The museum charges \$15/hour for staff and volunteers to do research for you, an amount that is considerably less than charged by other organizations! Members of the museum are entitled to two hours of free research. If your ancestor is already well documented it may only take four or five hours to get the information you want. If you need more detail, if your ancestor is hard to find, or if our researchers need to go to town hall or elsewhere, the research will take a lot more time. Often genealogists just run into what is called a "brick wall" and only find limited or no information. New information becomes available online all the time, so genealogists can continue researching the same individual for years. Local people and visitors alike are welcome to come in to the museum during regular hours or by appointment to do genealogical research.

For more information visit our website:

<http://www.williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org>

Visit us this spring!

April through November Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

We are also available by appointment.

Please call or email if you would like to visit outside of regular hours.

413.458.2160 or

info@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org

Join us this summer...

WHM Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 23 at 3 p.m. at the WHM

Hay Day 2019

Sunday, August 11, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the WHM
Games! Vendors! Silent Auction!

**Williamstown
Historical
Museum**

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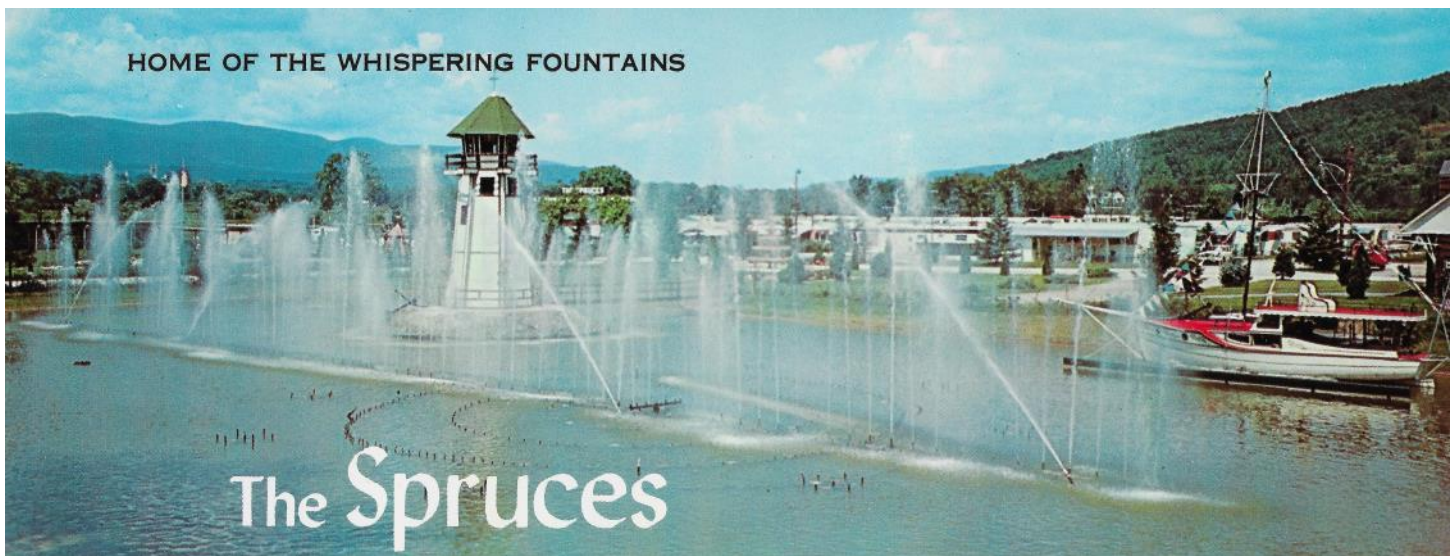
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April - November Hours:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10 - 2

Saturday and Sunday, 12 - 4

Also open by appointment



Do you recognize this pond and the land behind it? From the 1960s to the 1980s, the “Whispering Fountains” at postcard of The Spruces boasted “a gigantic water display of 1000 gallons per minute capacity and 1500 jets and sprays - some of which operate to the tune of music - operates daily during the season, weather permitting, for one hour at 2 p.m. and again just at dark. At the evening display 220 floodlights totaling 18,000 watts of various colors produce all shades of the rainbow. The display is in the Lighthouse Pond” pictured here. The pond still exists, but The Esperance (the boat on the right) and the lighthouse no longer occupy the pond. Do you have photos or memories of The Spruces to share? Please call or email.

413-458-2160 or info@williamstownhistoricalmuseum.org