Appendix F. *A History of the Upper Housatonic River Corridor*

Bernard A. Drew, June 2008

1. SUMMARY

The land and river corridor described in this overview, which includes a 13-mile stretch of the Upper Housatonic River and a portion of the eastern slopes and forests of October Mountain State Forest, shares Berkshire's rich cultural, industrial, agricultural and natural history and excels in many aspects. It falls within the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, designated by Congress in 2007. A popular fishing area for native Mohicans, the river valley followed traditional patterns of colonial settlement and agricultural activity, was innovative in literary and industrial endeavor and set itself apart in large-acreage land preservation. If divided into thirds, the area today is a comfortable mix of suburbia and farming remnants in southeast Pittsfield, light industry and village in east Lenox and northeast Lee and outdoor recreation in the gone-back-to-wild uplands of west Washington. The Housatonic River curves through and unifies its length.

2. METHODOLOGY

This overview was prepared as a reference document for a coalition of citizens and organizations interested in documenting some of the historic values of the Upper Housatonic River Corridor. It was compiled from respected secondary sources including published town and county histories, guide books, gazetteers, maps and atlases, also land records, municipal and state reports and contemporary news accounts. Berkshire County has long cared about, collected and recorded its history, thus an abundance of material is available to document land-use changes in the past three centuries. Most of the material is at the Berkshire Athenaeum's Local History Room in Pittsfield. Some is at Lee Library. The rest is in the author's collection. A bibliography appears at the end.

3. NATIVE INHABITANTS

Native Americans migrated seasonally to Berkshire from the Hudson Valley in New York in the Late Archaic and Transitional Archaic periods (2,700 to 3,700 years ago) and continued here in the Early Woodland era through the time of first contact with European settlers (Henry Hudson in 1609).

3.1 LIFESTYLE

At the time of the first encounter with Europeans, according to historian Shirley W. Dunn, the Mohicans "had devised routines to raise crops and store food which, as a rule, prevented hunger. To achieve this success, Native Americans in the Hudson

Valley utilized their environment. Indians gradually degraded any area where they lived by collecting wood for fuel; by harvesting bark, reeds and saplings for houses; by taking plant materials for nets, canoes, weapons, and food containers; by using weeds, stones and earth for dyes and medicines; by killing and processing a selection of wildlife; by gathering edibles; by clearing land; by raising and storing crops; by occupying living spaces; by making cooking and storage containers; and by the other activities of living. They occasionally moved to pristine locations, allowing their previous settings to return to a natural, but altered, state...."

"Their lives were rooted in the woodlands in which they lived," we learn from a Mohican Nation Stockbridge-Munsee Band history. "These were covered with red spruce, elm, pine, oak maple and birch trees. They were filled with black bear, deer, moose, beaver, otter, bobcat and mink, as well as turkey and other birds. The clean rivers were filled with fish. Usually the native people built their homes near rivers, so they could be close to food, water and transportation.... While women planted gardens in the spring, the men fished for herring and shad which swam up the river in large schools. From dugout and bark canoes, the men speared or netted fish. During late summer and fall they hunted the animals which were so plentiful in the woods. After the harvest, dried meat and vegetables and smoked fish were stored in pits dug deep in the ground and lined with grass or bark."

3.2 DEPARTURE

European settlers persuaded the larger village of Mohicans (from *Muh-he-con-nuk*, meaning great waters) to consolidate into a mission in 1734. Indian Town (Stockbridge) intermingled Dutch and English families and Mohicans, Mohawks and free and enslaved blacks. The Rev. John Sergeant (1710-49) was the first missionary. Natives living in Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee and environs were not part of the experiment that ultimately failed, as white settlers took advantage of the Mohicans, trading liquor and illegally securing their lands. The Indians moved to New York. Captain Jehoiakim Mtocksin left in 1788, the last Mohican in Berkshire, according to historian Lion G. Miles.

3.3 ARCHAEOLOGY

Amateur collectors scuffed hundreds of projectile points from the shores of Onota and Pontoosuc Lakes and Richmond Pond. Collections given to the Berkshire Museum included a mortar found in the town of Washington by Mrs. Eleazor Motter. Pittsfield historian J.E.A. Smith said a major confirmed site was "at Unkamet's Crossing, around the Canoe Meadows," where "upon the eastern bank of the river, rises a knoll which was once used as a burial-place by the Mohegans, who, after they were collected in one community at Stockbridge, were accustomed to make pious pilgrimages to this spot, leaving the birch-canoes, in which they had ascended the river, in the Meadows to which they thus gave name."

Archaeologists are reluctant to reveal specific sites, including any that may exist within the area covered by this report, so amateur arrow hunters won't be tempted to loot them.

A major professional dig at Kampoosa Bog in Stockbridge led by Eric S. Johnson in summer 1993 uncovered some 25,000 artifacts. Findings are indicative of activity at Canoe Meadows. "We found evidence," Johnson wrote, "from the archaeological

sites and the bog sediments that the documented forest management practices of the Native people of New England may go back as much as 4,000 years. At that early time, people who hunted and gathered wild animals and plants were using their knowledge and hard work to manage, maintain, and improve the productivity of their environment."

4. COLONIAL SETTLEMENT & GROWTH

European settlement of Berkshire, in westernmost Massachusetts, was slowed by fears of Indian attack at the time of King Philip's War. By the 1690s, Dutch farmers seeking to avoid the harsh rents charged by the New York state patroons began to scratch the soil in what became the town of Mount Washington. New York and Massachusetts sorted out their mutual boundary in the early 1700s. By 1725, English migrated from Westfield and Northampton to settle the Upper and Lower Housatuhnuk land grants, the area of Sheffield and Stockbridge. More Dutch came from Kinderhook. Sheffield became the first incorporated Berkshire town in 1735, Stockbridge the next in 1739.

4.1 PITTSFIELD

Col. Jacob Wendell and John Stoddard acquired Pontoosuc Plantation land, and settlement on the first 40 lots began about 1745. Solomon Deming brought his young bride, Sarah, from Wethersfield—she was the first white woman on the plantation, and bore the first child born in town. There were 200 inhabitants when Pittsfield incorporated in 1761. The citizenry grew tenfold by the eve of the American Revolution, and, sparked by Fighting Parson Thomas Allen, the agrarian community took an active role in achieving the break from Great Britain. Except for a sprinkling of merchants and tavern keepers, the community was agrarian. Sheep became a popular herd animal and Pittsfield pioneered with the Merino breed in 1807. The wool triggered a textile industry. Lemuel Pomeroy established a musket works in 1816 and supplied weaponry to the federal arsenal. The town became a city in 1891, and within short time electrical inventor William Stanley established a manufacturing facility. Entering the 20th century, the city boasted makers of electric pianos and voting machines, automobiles and trucks, ledger paper and cloth and more. The Rev. Samuel Harrison was chaplain to the famed Massachusetts 54th all-black regiment in the Civil War, the conflict that saw vigorous leader Major William F. Bartlett lose a leg. Lt. Col. Charles W. Whittlesey won the Congressional Medal of Honor as commander of World War I's "Lost Battalion." Downtown Pittsfield became the county's commercial hub, home to banks, insurance companies and retailers including family-owned England Brothers department store. Pittsfield was home to one of New England's first ski areas, a natural history and art museum and stage and movie theaters. A city ordinance in 1791 regulating the playing of "base ball" within 80 yards of the meeting house, uncovered in municipal records by family historian Don Lutes Jr., gave the city a claim to be the first to play the sport. One city resident, Heidi Voelker, represented the United States in the Calgary Olympics. Another, Stephanie Wilson, became a NASA astronaut.

4.2 LENOX

Lenox's first white settlers were Jonathan and Sarah Hinsdale, who uprooted from Hartford, Conn., in 1750. Hinsdale kept a store on what is now Stockbridge Road and took in guests. As settlement grew, the area was divided in two in 1767. The western portion became Richmond, the eastern Lenox. The early inhabitants were subsistence farmers, but Lenox's rich mineral deposits — limonite and quartz sand and limestone/marble — would soon instigate iron making and glass making and quarrying along the river. Although one citizen, Gideon Smith, was a stubborn Tory, most in town favored rebellion, and some 230 men served in the state militia. Col. John Paterson was a strong leader of the time, and was called back to service to quell outbreaks during Shays' Rebellion. Lenox was Berkshire's second shire town (beginning in 1787), ceding to Pittsfield in 1871. Berkshire's first "cottage," Samuel G. Ward's Highwood, was built just south of the town line in Stockbridge, but Lenox became synonymous with Newport as home to elegant mansions and lavishly gardened grounds, summer home to Carnegies, Fields and Morgans, Woolseys, Tappans and Aspinwalls. Today Tanglewood is world famous for its classical music performances, Shakespeare & Company for its depictions of the works of the great bard. Fanny Kemble Butler lived here, as did Henry Ward Beecher and Edith Wharton. Photojournalist Stefan Lorant had a home in Lenox, conductor Serge Koussevitsky too. The *Massachusetts Eagle*, forerunner of today's *Berkshire Eagle*, began publication here in 1833. In the last decade, Canyon Ranch spa and Kripalu Center set a new tone of spiritual and physical health for the tourism trade.

4.3 LEE

Lee was cobbled from parts of five land grants. Some 250 residents in 1777 petitioned for incorporation. The town's limestone substrate would prove a marketable commodity and Lee Marble quarry is still active today. But Lee's largest employers would be paper mills, beginning with Samuel Church's in 1806 (later known as Owen & Hurlburt, and since 1957 operated by Mead Paper). "The first North Lee mill, and the third built in the county, was put up by Lyman Church, in 1808, on ground covered now by the Smith Paper Company's 'Eagle Mill,'" according to Hamilton Child. Elizur Smith, and his nephews Wellington and DeWitt came to own Valley and Centennial Mills, both near the railroad tracks and Housatonic River and within the proposed protection area. Lee developed a thriving downtown and a variety of machine shops, flock and shoddy mills, sawmills and cider presses and paper collar manufactories. Sawmill owner Levi "Beartown" Beebe, who had a home on the southwest highlands, offered weather predictions that in the case of the Blizzard of 1888 was surprisingly accurate. Still-active High Lawn Farm is an eminent Jersey dairy farm. Berkshire Street Railway's now-gone Pleasure Park was a horse racing course. Greenock Country Club remains a popular golfing venue. Dutch Queen Wilhelmina took refuge at an estate in Lee during World War II, among her visitors Franklin D. Roosevelt.

4.4 WASHINGTON

Once called Hartwood, Washington, incorporated in 1777, lacked the rich farmland, abundant natural resources and fast-moving waterways that brought growth and prosperity to its neighbors. Two of its Revolutionary War soldiers, Gideon Bush and

John Walker, escorted British Gen. John Burgoyne's German mercenaries to Boston, following the American victory at Saratoga. Many of the fields laboriously cleared for farming reverted to forest, the farmers drawn to richer soils in the Midwest. Washington's ponds provide water to neighboring municipalities. The Western Railroad crossed the northern part of town. George H. Hubbard settled near the Becket depot in 1873, and found on his property water of particular medicinal value. He served it to boarders at his guesthouse. Scotsman John B. Watson outshone his neighbors in raising Shetland ponies in the 1920s, while Leland M. Stone in the same decade took pride in his herds of Mammoth Bronze and White Holland turkeys, Flemish giant rabbits, White Leghorn hens, Hungarian pheasants and Italian bees. A native son, E.D. Morgan, became New York governor in the 1860s. The Appalachian Trail navigates Washington's mountains. More than a third of the town is subsumed by October Mountain State Forest, which, with 16,500 acres, is Massachusetts' largest. Film and television actor Wendell Corey's folks lived in the community. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie has a rural home here. That alone sets the town apart.

5. LAND AS A RESOURCE

Remote from outside markets in Springfield, Hartford or Hudson, early settlers were of necessity subsistence farmers. Small-scale rural endeavors provided necessary goods to exchange in what was, until the early 1800s, largely a barter economy. Settler families were eager for cloth and clothing, buttons and kerchiefs and knives and tools, plates and pots, lamps and furniture and books. They needed cash.

5.1 COLONIAL AGRICULTURE

Historian John T. Cumbler categorized New England farms of 50 acres as "subsistence based, dependent upon cooperation and sharing with neighbors, fishing, hunting, free-range pasturing, and long fallow periods." That's how the first Europeans here lived.

Farming lost its luster. Berkshirites either moved west, where they could purchase larger and more fertile tracts, or, with the advent of the industrial age, found better pay laboring in village factories. In Berkshire by the Civil War era, only the larger farms continued. Until the 1840s and the arrival of the Housatonic Railroad, most farms had pigs and sheep, a cow, oxen or horses. The rails were a link to outside markets for cheese, butter and milk and by the 1850s, farmers increased their dairy production.

5.2 RURAL INDUSTRY

Waterpower privileges were carefully granted and monitored along the river. A 1783 plan of Pittsfield shows Ebenezer White's Mills below Unkamet Crossing, near the Elm Street bridge. Other maps show grist and saw mills on Mill Brook (of course) in Lenox. The skilled miller there supervised the grinding of corn and grains into meal. Most early Berkshire sawmills "were of the up-and-down, or vertical blade, type," according to researcher John S. Wilson. "Indeed, this was the most frequent type of sawmill in North America until the mid-nineteenth century. The circular sawmill was invented in the 1820s and did not appear in significant numbers until the 1860s...." Any community of size made potash during the late colonial era. The strong alkali

came from burning hardwoods and leaching the fine ash with water to create lye. Potash was used to make soap, glass and gunpowder, to process (full) wool, to dye fabric and to fertilize fields. It also was an export commodity.
In bloomery forges, the operator heated ore in a charcoal fire inside a chamber then hammered the soft, spongy metal to drive out impurities. The process was repeated until there was a usable metal "bloom." A blacksmith could reheat the wrought iron and make it into utensils, tools and weapons.
Small-scale quarries abounded. Plaster mills rendered limestone into powder. Presses each autumn squeezed juice from apples for cider, which with age became vinegar or hard cider. Carding mills prepared wool for spinning. By the 1870s, dairy production engendered cheese factories, including one on Mill Brook in Lenox.

5.3 ABANDONED FARMS

Pittsfield ranked eighth among 348 communities in Massachusetts in agricultural production in 1885, according to a census report. "There were almost 4,000 farms in Berkshire County in 1880," Carl Nordstrom wrote in *The Berkshire Eagle*. The figure today is 401 farms, dairy numbering the highest followed by greenhouse and nursery crops, according to Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources.
The loss of farms was rampant in the late 19th century. *The Boston Daily Globe* in 1889 noted the abundance of deserted hill farms in Berkshire County, and reported "a movement has been started in Pittsfield, the county seat, to see what can be done to repopulate these towns and cause the soil again to bring forth abundance… There are many good unoccupied farms, some of which are excellent, scattered all through the hill towns of Berkshire…."
This was opportunity for men of means such as Fred S. Pearson in Great Barrington and West Stockbridge or William C. Whitney in Washington (See 10.1 THE ANTLERS) to amass large tracts in the late 1890s and early 1900s for private game preserves.

5.4 ABBY LODGE FARM

Pittsfield native Dr. Eugene O. Brielman (1885-1974), a graduate of Chicago Veterinary College, opened a practice just before World War I. He purchased Abby Lodge Farm on Holmes Road, across from Arrowhead, in 1926, and operated it as a dairy farm while he treated animals large and small. At one time he had 1,000 White Leghorn chickens, according to his daughter, Dr. Marguerite Gulick. The chickens were housed across the Housatonic River. Brielman's holdings extended two-thirds the way up the mountain opposite. When a flood took out the bridge near the sewer beds, making it difficult to reach that land, her father sold it, Gulick said.
Brielman cut lumber on his property and hired contractor Edward J. Tierney to build a new house in 1938. Its furnishings were fixtures from old area mansions including the Zenas Crane house in Dalton and Cortland Field Bishop's "Big House" on Old Stockbridge Road in Lenox.
Brielman strongly resisted a Pittsfield Department of Health edict in the mid-1930s that raw milk couldn't be distributed to the public. He kept his herd, but ended his dairy business in 1941. He gave up farming entirely when the barns burned a few years later. Brielman continued Abby Lodge Veterinary Hospital until autumn 1973.

The family still owns the property.
(See also 6.4 MEADOW FARM)

5.5 TWEENBROOKS & PULPIT ROCK FARMS

Still active are George W. Noble Jr.'s Tweenbrooks Farm and Wellington Butler's Pulpit Rock Farm. The former is surrounded by suburbia, the latter is sandwiched by post-war housing and EPRI's High-Voltage Transmission Laboratory.

George Noble in 1978 inherited the farm between Sykes and Sackett Brooks his grandfather began in the early 1900. His uncle milked about 100 head of Holsteins and Jerseys. Noble raises sweet corn, butternut squash and hay. Besides the farm's 110 acres, he leases another 300 acres for crops. Noble was among the first farmers in the commonwealth to join the Conservation Security Program, which rewards participants for historic conservation activities. Noble entered the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction program in 1999.

Tweenbrooks and Pulpit Rock Farms both back up to the Housatonic River. General Electric in 2007 purchased 60 PCB-contaminated acres from Noble for $600,000 and nearly 40 acres from Leona Alice Butler for $450,000.

Wellington Butler accepted a Conservation Restriction on his property in 2007. The Butlers have long had a small dairy herd at Pulpit Rock Farm, at the Pittsfield-Lenox line. Wellington and Leona A. Butler's mother, Leona Briggs Butler, had been born on the Whitney Preserve in 1904. Their grandfather and great-uncles had been gamekeepers there. (See 10.1 THE ANTLERS, also 12.1 MARGUERITE BRIDE.)

6. COUNTRY HOMESTEADS OF NOTE

Two of Berkshire's 19th century literary lights lived on the rise west of the Housatonic River in Pittsfield, on Holmes Road. Here and on East Street, Lenox, thrived large stock farms and one Berkshire "cottage." Today one driving along either side of the Housatonic River would encounter new streets and vigorous post-World War II housing, particularly on the east side in Pittsfield.

6.1 HOLMESDALE

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "There's no tonic like the Housatonic."

Descended from Pittsfield proprietor Oliver Wendell and father of the eminent associate Supreme Court justice who shared his name, Holmes was a professor of anatomy and physiology and a famed man of letters. The essayist and poet in 1848 inherited Canoe Meadow in Pittsfield. He made alterations to the house, which sits on a knoll with a fine view of the river. Henry Ward Beecher in one of his "Star Papers" in the *New York Independent*, "A Walk Among Trees," observed, "Oliver Wendell Holmes spends his summer months upon a beautiful farm near Pittsfield on which are half a hundred acres of the original forest trees, some of them doubtless 500 years old… It is said that Dr. Holmes has measured with a tape line every tree on his place and knows each one of them with intimate personal acquaintance."

Catherine Drinker Bowen wrote in *Yankee From Olympus*, "The house was called Canoe Meadows and the Holmes children loved it. From the wide front porch you could see Greylock Mountain and the Housatonic River. The hillsides were wild with scrub and pine, high pastures where granite rocks showed rough and grey, warm

under a boy's bare foot at noontide. Before the house a great single pine tree spread its branches… Dr. Holmes was always busy somewhere about the place, fixing and mending, making small contraptions for his private use...."
John A. Gernochan called the house Holmesdale after he purchased it in 1872. His widow and her second husband, William Pollock (1863-1916), built Grey Towers, an adjacent summer estate. The Pollocks entertained lavishly; baritone Cecil Fanning sang for a large gathering at the estate in 1911. Two years later, the horse breeder suffered a $30,000 loss when the Holmesdale horse stables burned. Donald Weston (the son of Lt. Gov. Byron Weston and a descendant of Dalton's pioneer papermaker Byron Weston) and his wife, Ruth Church Weston (the daughter of Monument Mills president George H.C. Church), acquired the Grey Towers property in 1928. An occasional visitor in Mrs. Weston's day was a niece, television's French chef, Julia Child. Zenas Crane Colt purchased the Holmesdale mansion in 1949, while Mrs. Weston retained the second home until her death in 1996. Both dwellings still stand.

6.2 ARROWHEAD

Herman Melville (1819-1891) wrote *Moby Dick* at his desk at Arrowhead on Holmes Road, Pittsfield, the view of Greylock to the north affording inspiration. He equally appreciated the Housatonic River valley and the mountains beyond. Melville named October Mountain in his short story, "Cock-A-Dodle-Doo!" In the 1853 piece, Melville describes "a densely-wooded mountain, which I call October Mountain, on account of its bannered aspect in that month."
Melville first visited Pittsfield in 1833, and stayed with his uncle Thomas Melvill at the farm Broadhall, now Pittsfield Country Club. A writer of South Seas adventures, Melville brought his family here in 1837, when he purchased the Robert Melville farmhouse. Herman Melville renamed it Arrowhead and in it he wrote *Pierre, Israel Potter, The Confidence Men* and *Piazza Tales*. When he abandoned Pittsfield, Melville left the property to his brother, Allen Melville. From him it passed to Maria Melville Morewood. The family sold it in 1927. Berkshire County Historical Society acquired the property in 1975 and opened it the next year as a house museum. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
(Arrowhead is at the edge of the proposed ACEC, but its restoration helps define the neighborhood's 19th century character.)

6.3 ABBY LODGE

Col. Richard Lathers (d. 1903), a millionaire commission merchant in the South, defended the Union during the Civil War and hoped his Northern connections would help revive the Southern economy after the war. In that effort he failed. In 1874, he sold his mansion in Charleston and moved to Winyah Park in New Rochelle, N.Y. He soon "purchased nine farms in Berkshire, Massachusetts, about equidistant between Pittsfield and Lenox, and erected thereon a neat villa, having a library and picture-gallery, called, after Mrs. [Abby Thurston] Lathers [d. 1904], 'Abby Lodge,' which became a popular social centre of Western Massachusetts, and, perhaps, made more so by the beauty of the scenery, having nearly a mile of the mountain-margined Housatonic running through the lovely meadows and skirting the mountains on the east of it, with views from its piazzas of the surrounding country,... Here, with his family and his numerous friends in and out of the State, he passed the summers of

fifteen years, and their dinner- and garden-parties became a leading feature in that part of Berkshire," according to an autobiography Lathers prepared as condition of membership in the Grand Army of the Republic.
Abby Lodge on Holmes Road, recalled Henry G. Morewood, grandnephew of Herman Melville, "was built like a small European Castle. I recall that it had a music room with a sky-blue ceiling, stone terraced gardens and beautiful flowers. It had a beautiful view, unobstructed, of the western mountains, as the site has today, right down to the railroad track. The whole property was sold about 1900 to a Mr. Arthur Cooley, a wealthy man who raised orchids that won international awards. He used the property for a stock farm and raised prize cattle." The mansion, Morewood said, burned in the early 1900s. (See 5.4 ABBY LODGE FARM)

6.4 MEADOW FARM & MISS HALL'S SCHOOL
Col. Walter Cutting (1841-1907), a New York native with a distinguished service record during the Civil War, married Maria Pomeroy of Pittsfield in 1869 and settled on an estate on Holmes Road, Pittsfield. His Meadow Farm became a major supplier of milk to city customers. Cutting was active on the Berkshire Agricultural Society and Berkshire Athenaeum. Cutting at one time also owned Abby Lodge and part of Canoe Meadows (See 6.1 HOLMESDALE and 10.3 CANOE MEADOWS).
Mira Hinsdale Hall (1863-1937), a Smith College graduate, took over a small independent school begun by her aunt, Nancy Hinsdale, a school once known as Pittsfield Young Ladies' Seminary and by 1898 called Miss Mary Salisbury's School for Girls on South Street. Miss Hall in the next 37 years brought the girls' boarding school to solid footing. In 1908, she acquired Cutting's estate and the school relocated there. A fire in 1923 destroyed the house. It wasn't the first such tragedy on the property; a severe fire in 1907 wiped out barns, silos, boiler house and the dairy herd. A new school corporation built a new handsome Georgian building that remains at the heart of the campus today. Margaret H. Hall guided the school for 10 years after her aunt's death. The school's ninth head, Jeannine Norris, has held the post since 1996.

6.5 EASTOVER ESTATE & RESORT
Harris Fahnestock (1869-1939) and Mabel Metcalf Fahnestock (1870-1930) constructed one of the last great Lenox estates, Eastover, on East Road in 1910. Fahnestock's family made its fortune with First National Bank of New York. The grounds were gathered from several farmsteads, 930 acres all told. Besides the mansion there were a coach barn, ice house, garden sheds, superintendent's house and chauffeur's house, garages and various outlying houses and barns from the previous farmsteads. Francis L.V. Hoppin designed the brick main house in Georgian style, according to Richard S. Jackson and Cornelia Brooke Gilder in *Houses of the Berkshires 1870-1930*.
Following the death of the Fahnestocks, the property was sold at auction. Benne Virgillio acquired it in 1943 and leased it to Duncan School for Boys. In 1946, two years after the school went bankrupt, George J. and Paul J. Bisacca and Fred M. Noble of Stamford, Conn., purchased the derelict buildings and 500 acres for $41,000 and revived it as a resort. George Bisacca (d. 1983) was principal operator with his wife, Ruth (d. 1976). Born in Italy, Bisacca was a circus roustabout and

streetcar motorman in his younger years before entering the wholesale and retail gasoline business. He was a Civil War buff and had a military museum in basement rooms of the mansion. Bison still roam the grounds. Family members operate the resort today.

7. INDUSTRY

Water privileges along the Housatonic River in Lenox Dale spurred three large-scale 19th century industries that produced iron, glass and paper. Commercial businesses and light industries filled in along the riverfront in the 21st century, Donovan gravel bed, County Concrete, GL&V, Daley & Son, Dufour, Borgnis Lumber, Lenox Oil, Lenox Machine, Sheet Metal. Co. and Industrial Welding Co. among them. Smith Paper pioneered in production of pulpwood paper. General Electric acquired land in the 1958 for lightning resistance and other experiments. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its Office of Dam Safety is responsible for inspecting dams on major waterways today, including the one at Woods Pond.

7.1 LENOX FURNACE

Lenox Iron Works, established in 1765 near the Housatonic River, turned out pig iron until 1881, according to industrial historians Herbert C. Keith and Charles Rufus Harte. The furnace heated iron ore with charcoal harvested and smoldered in outdoor kilns on adjacent October Mountain and brought by wagon to the ironworks.

Job Gilbert established the works but sold it in 1783 to Elisha Martindale and Zephraim Hollister, who sold it back to Gilbert two years later. Judge William Walker and half a hundred investors rescued the business the next year, according to town historian David H. Wood. Owners raised the original 28-foot stack to 35 feet 4 inches when they converted the furnace to hot blast in 1839. The bosch remained 9 feet in diameter. Hiram Pettee was ironmaster at Lenox Furnace in the 1850s, succeeded by his brother, Seneca Pettee. Demand during the Civil War kept the furnace busy, but the scarcity and increasing cost of charcoal forced it to close. A grist mill and blacksmith shop were located near the furnace.

One of the richer veins of ore to supply the furnace ran beneath the commercial center of town. Sink holes in 1862 were a startling reminder to townsfolk of past industry. One house settled into a forgotten mine shaft up to its second floor windows. “Wallace Seeley was cutting across lots heading for Main Street when the ground opened and swallowed him,” *The Berkshire Evening Eagle* said. “He had been returning from a social call and it was late at night, but his cries brought help and he was lifted unhurt from an old shaft which had caved in under his feet.” At least one resident, J. Curtis Arnold, and probably others, “brought suit against the Lenox Furnace company for damages to his property caused by this settling of the earth about his buildings,” the *Sunday Morning Call* reported.

7.2 LENOX GLASSWORKS

One of the original Lenox land grants was the Glassworks Grant, a strong hint there was raw material in the ground that would support an industry. According to local historian Charles Flint, quartzite sand from the town of Washington was some of the highest quality in the country, and was even shipped to Sandwich Glass for its famed

products. Established in 1765, Lenox Glass Works laborers brought the sand down the mountain in carts and wagons. John Franklin and investors ran the glassworks near the iron furnace, on the Lee side. It eventually failed.
The Berkshire Evening Eagle said William A. Phelps, an ironworks owner, and Oliver Peck re-established a glassworks in 1853-54. Phelps and Peck had money to invest; they had already built a hotel in the center of Lenox in 1837. It became the Curtis Hotel and is in housing and retail use today. Seneca Pettee supervised the glassworks after his brother Hiram left to work at the Briggs iron furnace in Lanesborough. A fire closed the enterprise within a few years.
James N. Richmond organized Lenox Glass Co. in 1855. Artisans poured oven-heated molten glass onto flat tables, rolled and cooled it, Mary E. Averill told *The Eagle*. Richmond failed. There were more false starts, more fires, until Lenox Plate Glass Co. organized in 1866. Lenox Glass Co. succeeded that business in 1869.
The huge facility "was situated between the main highway in Lenox Dale and the railroad tracks and is now owned by the railroad company," *The Eagle* said in1937. "The company had a large market throughout the country, supplying plate glass, crystal and rough plate. In spare time the employees manufactured several novelties made of the glass, including paperweights and canes." Investors toward the last included Theodore Roosevelt, father of President Theodore Roosevelt, and his brother James, grandfather of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
The Lenox glass works closed in the panic of 1872.

7.3 SMITH PAPER

Elizur Smith (1812-1889), an owner of Ingersoll & Platner's Turkey Mill in Tyringham, partnered with George Platner to acquire Pleasant Valley Mill north of Lenox Furnace in 1855. They produced writing paper from 1835 to the 1890s—50 tons a day. Smith purchased the Housatonic Mill in 1858, and rebuilt it after a fire. The company built the Columbia Mill closer to the center of Lee in 1867, the Niagara Mill in 1903.
Smith built a large house and barns at High Lawn Stock Farm, on the west side of town, and retired. Wellington Smith (1841-1910) succeeded him. Smith Paper took a risk. It purchased wood pulp from a grinding facility in Interlaken. The first wet pulp was made in this country March 5, 1867, and was transported to Smith's Centennial and Niagara mills and turned into paper — paper that would become the standard for newspapers and inexpensive magazines. The first seven shipments weighed 13,605 pounds, less 55 percent allowance for water, yielding a net of 6,123 pounds, for which the charge was $489.89.
Peter J. Schweitzer of New York City purchased part of Smith Paper in 1954. Kimberly-Clark came to own Smith's Valley mill. That building was sold and became a warehouse in 1984. The sale, to Thomas R. Garrity, included 30 acres and the Woods Pond dam. Schweitzer-Mauduit in 2008 closed its Greylock, Eagle, Columbia and Niagara mills in Lee and Lenox.

7.4 LIGHTNING LABORATORY

Dr. Karl B. McEachron (1890-1954) was a brilliant electrical engineer. He worked for General Electric in Pittsfield for three decades, researching natural and artificial lightning at laboratories in the city and at the Empire State Building in New York

City. In May 1929, McEachron engineered a demonstration of a million-volt, man-made bolt of lightning. The lightning struck a power line. The power line survived. McEachron's specialty, you see, was in lightning arrestors. He found ways to make electric wires and insulators and poles serve longer. He supervised demonstration of a 10-million-volt thunderbolt at the New York World's Fair in 1939.
General Electric in 1958 purchased land in Lenox, on East New Lenox Road south of the Butler farm, and constructed a new research facility. GE transferred that facility to nonprofit Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in November 1984. On the grounds is an accelerated aging chamber and equipment to evaluate icing performance of insulators, also an installation to determine what causes manhole covers to blow off underground electrical conduits. In 2006 it published the third edition of the highly regarded *Electric Line Reference Book*.

8. RAILS

Railroad tracks weave along and over the Housatonic River through Berkshire.

8.1 HOUSATONIC RAILROAD

The Housatonic Railroad opened its line from Bridgeport, Conn., north through Great Barrington to West Stockbridge and connected with the Western (later Boston & Albany) at State Line in 1842. For an improved link with towns to the northeast, the Stockbridge & Pittsfield Railroad Company secured a charter and placed track through Stockbridge, Lee and Lenox. The Housatonic Railroad leased the line. It first carried passengers in June 1850. It later became the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Penn Central acquired the tracks in 1969 but ended passenger service in 1971. A new Housatonic Railroad took over freight service in 1991 from Guilford Transportation.
There were three depots in Lenox. The original 1850 Lenox Station was at the intersection of Housatonic and Crystal Streets. It burned to the ground in 1896. Plans of the NY, NH & H to consolidate service at Lenox Dale (that depot stood where the post office is today) momentarily flustered "cottagers," who were not keen on disembarking in the town's industrial heart. Sloanes, Bishops, Westinghouses and others rode their carriages instead to the Lee depot. The railroad constructed a new 82-foot-long Lenox Station in 1903—of unusual half-timber, half stucco style and with a little park next to Woods Pond — and soon closed Lenox Dale.
The third station was at New Lenox, as much a general store as depot, operated independently by Oscar R. Hutchinson. Located at the most convenient crossroad to reach the heart of October Mountain, it was demoted to a flag and freight station in 1922, and soon closed.
Riding the New Haven line was an adventure. One autumn day in 1920 a bull moose wandered out of the Whitney game preserve and delayed the morning express just north of Lenox Station. "The big, ungainly animal was stalking between the rails when first seen by the engineer, who stopped his train, and the crew after much persuasion drove him away," *The New York Times* reported.

After the railroad abandoned Lenox Station, the building became an auto repair shop and warehouse until it was donated in 1986 to Berkshire Scenic Railway, which maintains a museum and runs occasional excursion trains. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.

8.2 BERKSHIRE STREET RAILWAY

Berkshire Street Railway served the length of the county, though not without some controversy. In Pittsfield, noted horseman William Pollock sputtered he would sell Holmesdale if the line ran down Holmes Road. In Lenox, "The cottagers have been opposed to having any trolley line run through the town," *The New York Times* reported in 1901, "but as the Berkshire company presented a plan of a route through the east side of the town, away from any important highway, it was acceptable…." Streetcar tracks followed Holmes Road to Chapman Corner, went through New Lenox, and braided the railroad and river into Lee. From Lenox Dale, a connecting short line went to the center of Lenox. The first car to roll over the tracks in August 1902 was No. 22. The last car ran on the railway in 1930.

9. FRESH WATER, WASTE WATER, RUNNING WATER, FOUL WATER

Sites within the proposed Area of Critical Environmental Concern provide Pittsfield drinking water, and accept and purify its wastewater as well.

9.1 FARNHAM RESERVOIR

Drought years in 1908 and 1909 spurred drastic measures in Pittsfield, which even diverted flow from Roaring Brook into its Mill Brook supply. Nudged by the state, as well as demanding users, City Council in 1910 at the request of Mayor William H. MacInnis authorized creation of a study committee that suggested "construction of a large storage reservoir on October Mountain," according to historian Edward Boltwood. The site was at the headwaters of Mill Brook, in Washington. Public Works engineer Arthur B. Farnham championed the location, and eventually lent his name to the result. Winston & Co. of New York gained the contract. A 900-foot dam impounds up to 440 million gallons of water. Hiram A. Miller of Boston was chief engineer. Construction was completed in November 1912. Pittsfield Department of Public Utilities maintains Farnham and other reservoirs.
(Lenox and Lee reservoirs are on October Mountain, but south of the proposed protected area.)

9.2 PITTSFIELD SEWER BEDS

Pittsfield with 1890 enabling legislation began construction of a sewage system. Trunk lines from city neighborhoods sent discharge that previously emptied into the West Branch to new filtration beds adjacent to the present wastewater treatment plant, near the East Branch below Brielman Swamp off Holmes Road. The system was improved in 1915, 1937, 1963, 1976 and 1989.
The Lenox Wastewater Treatment plant is also near the river, on Crystal Street diagonally across from the train station.

9.3 RUNNING WATER

Bridges over the Housatonic River were wood-constructed until the industrial revolution and the advent of iron, about the time of the Civil War. There were hundreds of bridge design patent holders in the 1870s, among them Hezekiah S. Russell (1835-1914), one-time Pittsfield mayor. Through his firm Clary & Russell, he built a handful of metal truss bridges for Pittsfield, including an 83-foot span at Holmes Road. It stood until the early 1960s.

A bridge near the Pittsfield Wastewater Treatment facility never was replaced in the 1940s, and it took a half-century for a new Woods Pond bridge after the old one deteriorated and was removed in the 1950s. The new pedestrians-only bridge was completed in the early 2000s. It is included in a proposed Lenox bike path.

Berlin Iron Bridge Co. of Connecticut came to dominate the market by the 1880s and two of its pony truss spans were in service, at Valley Mill in Lenox Dale (replaced in the 1970s) and Golden Hill Road in Lee (replaced in the 2000s). The bridges were based on the 1878 lenticular truss patent of William O. Douglas's (no relation to the later Supreme Court justice). The old Golden Hill Road bridge survives, disassembled but in the collection of 19th century bridges at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, supervised by Alan J. Lutenegger, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering. (See 12.3 WOLDEMAR NEUFELD)

9.4 FOUL WATER

Berkshire's district attorney filed an unusual indictment against Smith Paper in January 1882, "for alleged public nuisance in maintaining a dam at its Pleasant Valley Mill, which, by setting back water over a large tract of land above it, alternately drawing and flowing it, caused malaria along the river banks," *The New York Times* said.

The Housatonic River had first been dammed below Woods Pond in about 1790, and had been rebuilt five times by 1870, when it was also elevated a foot. With the last alteration, as water was drawn down, pockets of backfill water became brackish. Neighbors came to believe it was the cause of an unusually large number of malaria cases in Lenox Dale. The legal action caused a stir among manufacturers, frightful of the precedent, and prompted lengthy courtroom arguments about the causes of malaria and the responsibilities of companies. A jury dismissed the charges that autumn. (Mosquitoes hadn't yet been identified as the carriers of infection-bearing parasites.) (See7.3 SMITH PAPER)

10. LAND CONSERVATION & RECREATION

This stretch of Housatonic River has a long tradition of private and public preservation activities, beginning with the land acquisitions of the Whitney game preserve.

10.1 WILLIAM C. WHITNEY'S THE ANTLERS ESTATE & GAME PRESERVE

Who was mysteriously buying up all the abandoned farms on October Mountain in the town of Washington? Patrick T. Carty was the first to sell his farm, to Thomas Post, an out-of-town lawyer and agent, in 1895. By 1896, Post had quietly acquired 42 farms.

The unknown buyer, it turned out, was ex-Secretary of the Navy William Collins Whitney (1841-1904), a corporate counsel in New York and an active fighter against the Tweed Ring. He assembled his fortune largely through investments in street railways. He modernized the U.S. Navy during his tenure 1885-1889 in Grover Cleveland's administration. Whitney wanted to create a game preserve and woodland retreat. He had discovered the mountain expanse one day while on a carriage ride with his wife, Flora Payne Whitney (1842-1893). Mrs. Whitney charmed society at Lenox during five seasons at Vent Fort, Ogden Haggerty's Italianate villa, while her husband toiled for the government.

Whitney put carpenters to work building a shingle-style "cottage" called The Antlers on top of the mountain. Frederick Law Olmstead assisted with garden design. Laborers also had to hastily construct a honeymoon "camp" for Whitney's son Harry Payne Whitney, who was about to marry Gertrude Vanderbilt. Lower on the social rung, Whitney's head gamekeeper, Charles R. Briggs, bedridden with severe illness, recovered and in 1903 married the woman who nursed him back to health, Marie Campbell.

Whitney imported bison and moose, partridge, Belgian hare, Virginia deer, grouse, quail, angora sheep and more, releasing them into an 800-acre wire-fenced area. Whitney lost interest after the death of his second wife, Edith Randolph, in 1899 of injuries suffered in a horse riding accident. Whitney himself died after an operation for appendicitis in 1904. He left a $21 million estate, including $7 million in Standard Oil stock and $4.7 million in Consolidated Tobacco shares.

Harry Payne Whitney (1872-1934), who became a noted horse breeder, kept the preserve going for several years, but eventually had most of the exotic animals collected and shipped away — all but the elusive Old Bill, who evaded capture until shot illegally by a hunter in 1920. Bill's mounted head is in the Berkshire Museum's collection. The Antlers dwelling burned in 1929. The outbuildings, 24 houses and 30 barns, eventually fell in or were razed.

10.2 OCTOBER MOUNTAIN STATE FOREST & THE CCC

Kelton B. Miller, publisher of *The Berkshire Eagle* and ex-mayor of Pittsfield, and Cortland Field Bishop of Lenox undertook public subscription in 1915 to acquire the Whitney estate from Harry Payne Whitney. Pittsfield had already instituted eminent domaint proceedings to secure some 3,000 acres for Farnham Reservoir. When the new transaction was complete, the document ran for 36 pages. October Mountain State Forest was born.

But it was little used until the Great Depression and rampant unemployment spurred President Franklin D. Roosevelt to propose a Civilian Conservation Corps. Several companies were assigned to October Mountain. The recruits developed the state forest for recreation. Much of their activity was on the forest section closest to Lenox Station. "New roads have opened this portion which has been developed more intensively than all the rest," *The Berkshire Eagle* reported in 1935. The men built bridges, cleared campgrounds, put up log cabins, axed trails, dammed streams and cleared fire roads. They dug fire ponds, made parking areas, dug latrines, rip-rapped streams and eradicated gypsy moths.

Alec Gillman, ranger at Mount Greylock Reservation, compiled this list of camps at October Mountain:

Camp S52, Company 120 (1933-1934), Becket Camp on Washington line;
Camp SA52, Company 125 (1933-1936) Yokum Pond Camp in Becket;
Camp SP11, Company 120/124 (1934-1935) Becket Camp;
Camp S93, Company 120 (1935-1939) Becket Camp;
Camp S93, Company 120 (1940-1941) Becket Camp
Camp S83, Company 1168 Veterans (1935) Lenox Camp, Farnham Dam Road;
Camp SP28, Company 1168 Veterans (1935-1937) Lenox Camp; and
Camp SP28 Company 1105 Veterans (1938-1941) Lenox Camp.
(The S designations mean state-managed, A is for agriculture, P is for parks.)
The commonwealth was proud of the work. A 1941 recreation guide, *State Forests and Parks of Massachusetts*, pointed out, for example, "Tory Glen, about 500 feet from the boundary of the forest north of Roaring Brook in Lenox, is a singular outcropping of quartzite with a cave 10 feet deep and 4 feet high where Gideon Smith and others of the unruly Lenox Tories hid. Just above it roaring Brook makes a 10-foot waterfall, a finishing touch to a spot of much beauty."
A state inventory of CCC remnants in 1999 found two chimneys but little other reminder of the actual camps or picnic sites, though at Felton Lake an earthen dam is still in use, as is a stone arch bridge.
October Mountain State Forest is a popular camping and hiking destination today. Musician James Taylor and Gov. Duval Patrick turned out in May 2008 at a trails work bee to pick up trash and clear trails on October Mountain.

10.3 CANOE MEADOWS & MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON

Some 220 acres of Canoe Meadows, part of a larger tract owned in the 1700s by proprietor Jacob Wendell, became Massachusetts Audubon's Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in 1975, thanks to a gift from Cooley Graves Crane.
In the decades between Wendell and Audubon, this northern acreage was part of the Gravesley estate and there are hints of an old carriage road visible from the hiking trails today. Some Crane acreage was separated out for building lots, to help establish an endowment. Dr. and Mrs. Edward F. Olchowski gave an adjacent strip of land to Audubon in 1980. Ben and Barbara England donated another 40 acres in 1983. The property was noteworthy both as being a rare wildlife reservation within a city's boundaries, and for offering space for community gardens.

10.4 GEORGE L. DAREY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs in May 2004 named the 818-acre Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area for George L. Darey of Lenox, longtime chairman of the state Board of Fisheries & Wildlife. Darey had worked to assemble the preserve, which stretches from the Lenox-Pittsfield line at New Lenox Road north in a jagged pattern to the Holmes Road bridge near Canoe Meadows, and with an additional section above Morewood Lake. There are four canoe access points within the floodplain habitat. The area was designated originally in 1968.

10.5 POST FARM

Just south of the Housatonic Valley Wildlife Management Area the former Lenox town dump. Now known as Post Farm and managed by the town's Conservation

Commission since the early 1980s, the 200+ acre property is habitat to numerous bird and other species.

11. RIVER JOURNEYS

This section of Housatonic River is unusual in its many literate observers over the years. Early geologists remarked on the waterway's many features. Men and women of letters paid tribute. Add to them recreationists who paddled it and you have a diverse body of literature.

11.1 LYDIA HOWARD SIGOURNEY

Lydia Howard Sigourney (1791-1865) acknowledged the river in a verse, "The Housatonic," included in her 1845 collection, *Scenes in My Native Land*. The Hartford resident was a leading figure in the rising feminist literature of the day. She first encountered the Housatonic while visiting her good friend, novelist Catharine M. Sedgwick. As Sedgwick often lived at her brother's place in Lenox, it's not a great stretch to imagine Sigourney wrote about the river as it flows through that town. She apparently composed it while making a rail journey to the county.
The verse begins:
O gentle River winding free
Through realms of peace and liberty,
Who that thy mode hath seen
You shall pool mid thickets green…

11.2 CLARK W. BRYAN

A Springfield publisher who acquired *The Berkshire Courier* in Great Barrington in 1879, Clark W. Bryan (1824-1899) also wrote Berkshire travel guides, including one commissioned for the Housatonic Railroad, *Through the Housatonic Valley to the Hills and Homes of Berkshire* (1882). His description is from the perspective of riding the rail line alongside the river, though for this section it becomes more a catalog: "…on to Lenox Furnace, a manufacturing hamlet only, and still on, a mile or two, to Lenox Station, and we have yet two miles before we reach [by carriage] the proud old town of Lenox… From Lenox station the track of the Housatonic railway takes us quickly to Pittsfield, the county seat of Berkshire, a thriving and beautiful town of inhabitants sufficient to entitle it to be called by the ambitious name of a city…."

11.3 HENRY PARKER FELLOWS

Henry Parker Fellows came out from Boston to row a skiff the length of the Housatonic River. In *Boating Trips on New England Rivers* (1884), he bluntly remarked on the discolored water he found below Pomeroy's lower woolen mill on West Housatonic Street, on the west branch, and below the Columbia, Eagle and Housatonic mills in Lee. Mostly, he wanted to have a good time and see what there was to see. After he navigated the canal at Woods Pond, he wrote of a paper factory nearby. "The mill belongs to the Smith Paper Company, and is known as the Pleasant Valley mill. Paper is made here one hundred inches wide, on the largest machine in the country." He observed remains of Lenox Furnace, had to do a carry-

around at a grist mill. “A high bank made it awkward to launch the boat, and the stern dipped some water.”

11.4 CHARD POWERS SMITH

Chard Powers Smith (1894-1977), a poet and fiction writer as well as historian, wrote *The Housatonic: Puritan River* for the Rivers of America series. He noted the Lenox Glass Works, which “was said to cover more area under one roof than any other building in the world.” He noted the building was long gone in 1946, but “What remains of its machinery is sometimes grotesquely visible in the river, where it was jettisoned.”

11.5 MORGAN G. BULKELEY III

Morgan G. Bulkeley III (b. 1913) wrote a weekly “Our Berkshires” column on nature and history for *The Berkshire Eagle* from 1960 to 1973. The Yale graduate kept close tabs on the Housatonic River, and eventually relocated from his Mount Washington potato farm to a home on the Holmesdale estate. In a trio of “River Reports,” published as “Our Berkshires” columns in 1961, Bulkeley articulated the condition of the river as he found it, from a canoe. He and a companion launched from the Holmes Road bridge. “We shoved off into the miasmal morning mists as though down the river Styx. The three headwaters of the Housatonic had picked up their complement of civilization; the water was a dirty gray-brown, slithering between slimy banks strewn with assorted rubbish.” Bulkeley revisited the river in 1978, after he had retired from regular column writing, and assessed the work of the Housatonic River Watershed Association, Berkshire Natural Resource Council, the Pittsfield River Committee and others. “This old river rat who had his first ‘Housatonic baptism’ as a schoolboy just 50 years ago, can only conclude that things are looking up.”

11.6 OTHER EXPLORERS

One can’t begin to catalog the newspaper and magazine articles that have been written about the Housatonic River, including this stretch. John Coleman Adams (1849-1922) in 1889 observed, “Here in our Housatonic, is a noble example of how hard a river dies. It keeps up a magnificent fight against the vandal powers of the human race, as they fetter it with dams and degrade it in sluiceways and millponds….”

James and Margaret Cawley described their river adventures in a 1978 book, *Exploring the Housatonic River and Valley*. They found, for example, “Woods Pond is a natural sanctuary for waterfowl and, as we paddled along, several specie of ducks took wing as we passed. We passed several areas of wetlands back of which, on the east shore, were a beautiful range of hills. They stayed with us until we reached the foot of the pond.” They noted progress in cleaning the river—of trash and pollution from textile and paper mills.

Housatonic River Watershed Association, Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission and Housatonic Valley Association singly or in combinations have published three editions of *A Canoeing Guide to the Housatonic River in Berkshire County*. Each booklet has included maps and historical nuggets. The 2001 version notes access points from south Pittsfield to northern Lee: John F. Decker Canoe

Access, New Lenox Road; Housatonic and Crystal Streets at Woods Pond, Lenox Dale; and the bridge at Golden Hill Road.
Charles W.G. Smith in *Water Trails of Western Massachusetts* describes the natural delights to be encountered by canoe around Woods Pond, also on Felton Lake, October Mountain Lake and Schoolhouse Reservoir on October Mountain, and down the Housatonic from New Lenox Road to Woods Pond.

11.7 UNEXPECTED RIDE
Not all water experiences were planned. William Ingalls, 42, a stone mason, "tripped on a rope while at work on the Niagara Mill headgate in Lenoxdale yesterday and fell into the raceway, which is a swollen and swiftly moving current by reason of the Housatonic River having been turned into it while a new dam is being built," *The New York Times* reported in June 1903. Ingalls rode "250 feet down the race through the wheel pit of the mill into the tail race, and thence across the river and came out alive." He went a quarter mile in less than a minute. "When Ingalls realized what he had been through he fainted."

12. ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS
An unusual mix of artists has depicted the landscape here. They show the artistic eye that has grasped the landscape.

12.1 MARGUERITE BRIDE
Artist Marguerite Bride, a Berkshire resident since 1995, trained at Worcester Art Museum, Interlaken School of Art and Berkshire Community College. Her watercolor *Berkshire Farm in Winter* captures the rambling New England connected architecture of Pulpit Rock Farm (See 5.5 TWEENBROOKS & PULPIT ROCK FARMS). Her *Lenox Flats*, *Housatonic Reflections* and *On the River* paintings depict landscapes along the Housatonic in Lenox Dale.

12.2 J.L. GARDNER
Pittsfield photographer J.L. "Jeff" Gardner's snapped *Frosty Farm on Winter Day* at the DeVos farm in winter 2004, a year before the buildings there were razed. The scene is from the East New Lenox Road bridge over the Housatonic River, with October Mountain in the background.

12.3 WOLDEMAR NEUFELD
"My father didn't want me to be an artist. He wanted me to be an engineer and I wanted to build bridges. But in the 1930s, engineers were peddling apples. So I studied art and naturally my favorite subjects were bridges," Woldemar Neufeld (1909-2002) said. Born in Russia, raised in Ontario, active in New York, thriving in New Milford, Conn., Neufeld painted scenes of every bridge over the Housatonic River as an American Bicentennial project. The 65 paintings have been exhibited at the Berkshire Museum and the Housatonic Valley Association. "Bridges Across the Housatonic" includes Golden Hill Road, Walker Street, Valley Mill Road, Housatonic Street, New Lenox Road and Holmes Road.

12.4 BILL GRIFFITH

Bill Griffith began his artistic career drawing cartoons for the *East Village Other*. Active in the underground comix movement of the 1970s, he brought his Zippy the Pinhead character into legitimacy and national newspaper syndication in 1976. The Connecticut resident frequently works roadside diners and natural curiosities into his daily strip stories. “Copping a Plea,” which appeared in *The Berkshire Eagle* and other publications 17 January 2003, shows Frog Rock “somewhere in Lenoxdale, Mass.,” in a monologue about loneliness. This leads to…

12.5 PETER J. TYER

…Frog Rock, itself a piece of art. Peter Joseph “Uncle Pete” Tyler (1864-1942), an outdoorsman with a keen wit, worked for Smith Paper for 55 years, the last as superintendent. He had charge of the manufacture of fine tissue papers, and was known for his sensitive eye for color. He lived in mill housing across from the Centennial Mill. Tyer one day found a boulder in the river just below Valley Mill dam that to his eye resembled a giant frog. He had Amos Washburn, an artist and house painter, render the boulder green and give it eyes. The frog became a popular sight from passing trains. “The Sage of Frog’s Landing,” as Tyer came to be known, in 1915 accepted appointment to the Mount Everett Commission. Other hands have maintained his stone frog since his death.

12.6 “TH”

Proud of its accomplishments in bring its state forest system into shape, the Massachusetts commissioner of conservation, Division of Forestry, in 1935 issued *Massachusetts State Forests*, with descriptions of each park. The publication includes a tri-fold black-and-white elevation drawing of virtually the length of the proposed ACEC area, looking east, as a hawk would see it. It spans Roaring Brook in the north to East Lee in the south. Washington Town Hall is evident in the distance. The artist is uncredited, but used an initial form that may be “Th.”

13. AUTHOR

Bernard A. Drew, a journalist, local historian and author of reference books, prepared this history. A Great Barrington resident, he is a past president of the Berkshire County Historical Society and Great Barrington Historical Society, is a member of the Upper Housatonic African American Heritage Trail, is on the steering committee of Friends of the Du Bois Homesite, is a past member of the board of the Upper Housatonic National Heritage Area, is a property steward for Berkshire Natural Resource Council and belongs to The Trustees of Reservations, the Society for Industrial Archaeology and the Thoreau Society. He is an “Our Berkshires” columnist for *The Berkshire Eagle*. He has written *Berkshire Forests Shade the Past* (2007), *The Berkshire Photo Album* (1999) and 25 other published Berkshire histories.

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