



Mt. Massamet Shadows

A QUARTERLY PUBLISHED BY THE SHELBURNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Winter 2025—2026

A TRIBUTE TO PAM KELLEHER

For over a quarter of a century, Pam Kelleher has been a valuable member of the Shelburne Historical Society. A respected and well-known member of our community, Pam has been described by her classmates as “gracious and affable.” Pam’s personality has given a dignified warmth to our meetings.

Pam first attended a meeting of the Society in 1997: she attended as a guest on a committee to design a proposed parking lot on the corner of Maple and Church Streets. For two years, she provided meaningful insights and advice to the committee. Recognizing her talents Society members at their annual meeting in 2001 elected her as vice president. Pam dutifully remained in this post until 2008. Thereafter and until her resignation this year, Pam served as a trustee of the Society. As a trustee, she presided over many committees such as the program, nominating and acquisition committees. An alumnus of Arm Academy, Pam was concerned about the deteriorating condition of the flagpole. She spearheaded a drive to have the flagpole painted. In 2017, Pam obtained an estimate to paint the flagpole. Financing proved to be more difficult. Through polite and patient perseverance, Pam secured the needed funding from the town, our historical society, and the alumni of Arms Academy. After eight years, the flagpole was painted this year.

Determined, but polite, Pam is a prized member of our society. And for all that she has accomplished, the Society gives her our gratitude and heart-felt thanks.

President’s Message

The end of the year invites introspection and assessment. With respect to the Arms building and the Society’s collection, commendable progress has been made. Terry Dun and Mahalia Dean have renumbered and entered over 8,000 articles into Past Perfect, our computer program, as well as onto our web site. While doing so, they found documents bearing the signatures of John Hancock and Sam Adams. Terry also is in the process of refiling the Society’s extensive genealogical records and thereby making them more accessible to the public. New electrical wiring has replaced the old knob and tube wiring. This replacement allowed the Society to keep its personal liability insurance. The new wiring also made it possible to blow insulation into the attic. Mass Save paid for the installation. Seeking to further reduce heating costs, two mini-split heat pumps have been installed in the office rooms as well as in the basement agricultural room. Repair and painting of all classroom windows on both floors has been completed. Graham Warder, at no cost to the Society, has scraped and repainted both porches and as well as the cellar windows. He also has repainted the Maple Street entrance and stairwell and has started to paint the east wall of the main classroom on the first floor. Pam Kelleher’s persistent leadership and a donation from the Society made possible the repainting of the Arms flagpole. Recently, a much-needed doorbell has been installed on the Maple Street door.

Much more needs to be done. At present, the Society is preparing for the nation’s 250th anniversary. The trustees hope that younger trustees and energetic volunteers will help make this possible.

2026 Dues

The Trustees of the Shelburne Historical Society have suspended dues for 2026
Please consider a tax deductible donation
P.O. Box 86 Shelburne Falls, MA 01370



The very best to all for 2026

In Remembrance of Deane H. Jones

1904-1988



Deane Jones was an individual who I have always respected. He possessed a manner and unassailable character that demanded admiration. My research and review of his life strengthened my respect for him.

Born in 1904, Dean lived his entire life in Shelburne Falls, a village he loved and served. He graduated from Arms Academy in 1920. His classmates noted that honesty was the most distinguished feature of his character. Graduating at the age of sixteen, Dean immediately became employed at Lamson and Goodnow. He started work as a stock boy. After fifty-four years of employment, Deane retired as production manager and vice president of Lamson and Goodnow.

Employment at Lamson and Goodnow did not deter Deane from becoming actively engaged in numerous town organizations. He was a founder and trustee of Trinity Church when it was founded in 1952. Perhaps, this explains why he was my Sunday school teacher. For many years he was active in the Mountain Lodge of the Masons. He also served as a director of the Shelburne Falls Saving Bank. In 1956, he started a long tenure as treasurer of the Arms Academy Scholarship Fund. Finally, Deane, was president of the Arms Cemetery for forty-five years. It is not surprising that in 1980, a local newspaper praised Deane as "the community's most respected and prominent citizen."

Active in town affairs, Deane and his wife, Margaret, found time to become involved in the Shelburne Historical Society. The couple were charter members when the Society was organized in 1963. While his wife served as treas-

urer of the Society, Deane helped wherever possible. Pressing civic commitments to other organizations apparently compelled Deane to limit his responsibilities to the Shelburne Historical Society. Thus, while never president of the Society, Deane became a honorary trustee of the Society. He as a colleague remarked, was "a faithful attendant and advisor" for the Society's board of trustees.

In sum, Deane remains an exemplar of civic responsibility.

Jerry Hoyt



MY EXAMINATION PRAYER

Oh inspiration! come to me;
Upon me cast thy light,
And let the glory of thy smile
Induce my pen to write.
Shed full upon my tired brow
The radiance of thine eyes,
And help me to convince the world
That I am truly wise.
Oh! help me with this hard exam;
With knowledge fill my brain,
And from my teachers, all of them.
Let good marks fall like rain.
Oh! send to me the best of luck,
I'll need it, you know well;
But now I must stop praying
For there's the closing bell.

Gertrude Pierce. '27

Editor's Note: Student writings in this edition are from the 1925 Arms Yearbook, 100 years ago.

A GLIMPSE OF SHELBURNE FALLS IN 1893

The pages of The Deerfield Valley Echo provide readers with a view of Shelburne Fall in the late nineteenth century. J.F. Temple, the paper 's editor and publisher, started the Echo in 1891. His office was located across from the Union block. After several changes in ownership, the Echo ceased publication in 1919.

Reading several months of the Echo gives one a sense that Shelburne Falls was a growing and bustling town. The ripples of the February panic of 1893 appear to have little effect on the village's economic life. Although the owners of the New England cutlery left town in 1893, Jacob R. Foster in that year started construction of a three-story wooden peg factory. An abundance of birch trees attracted Foster to the town. In the spring of that year Edwin Baker and J.F. Canady purchased and subdivided a lot on Bridge Street. The lot was in front of the Echo's office. The enterprising men sold one-half of the lot to A. Vice who paid \$1,000. The purchase made possible the construction of the three-story Vice block which began later that year. Confident of the town's economic future, F.H. Amden closed his dry goods store in Athol and consolidated it with his store in Shelburne Falls. At about the same time, Michael Gerry purchased a "stand" from George Innis and opened a blacksmith shop. In May, W. H. Ashman opened a new soda fountain at his store on 5 Bridge Street. The livery of Grifford and Frank Wood also enjoyed the town's economic prosperity. In April they sold 30 horses from their stable on Exchange Street. Soon afterwards, they took a train to Michigan and purchased two train loads of horses. During this time several houses also were built. In June, A.J. Amstein purchased a building lot on Ashfield Street In that same month, Freeman Davenport moved into his \$1,550 house on High Street.

The town's social life appeared to be as vibrant as its economic life, In April of 1893, the ladies of the Schubart's Lodge #304 gave their annual dance. This was followed by a dance sponsored by the Universalist Church. Over 200 young people attended the dance. Present were Ruth Amsden and Willie Patch who enjoyed a "Cupid Frolic" dance. Later that month, the Shelburne Falls held a concert

at Union Hall located on the corner of Bridge and Water Streets. Entertainment also could be found on the streets. Two Italians with a bear amused residents on Bridge Street. Bicycles enjoyed great popularity, especially after the reinvention of the pneumatic bike tire in 1888. A race between a bicycle and a horse and buggy took place on the road from Charlemont to Shelburne Falls in June of 1893. Of greater attraction was the World's Fair in Chicago. Opened by President Grover Cleveland, the Fair offered a new attraction, the Ferris wheel invented by G.W.G Ferris of Pittsburg. The Fair also introduced to Americans the first commercial movie theater and the belly dance. Several residents, including Mrs. C.W. Hawks and F. Pratt attended the Fair. Without a doubt, Shelburne Falls enjoyed what later became known as the "gay nineties"

The town's medical care remained limited. Lacking hospitals or nursing homes, the family was the primary health provided. Not surprising, the Echo frequently advertised medical drugs of dubious value. For example, Dr. Kelmer's Swamp-Root promised to provide relief for frostbites, "chilblains" and headaches. Or Dana's sarsaparilla insured readers a cure for eczema and scrofulous. 'Another ad praised "Electric Bitterroot" as a cure all ailments of the stomach, liver and kidney. Edwin Baker advertised and sold Dr. King's "New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, Lung, Throat, and Chest trouble". These elixirs provided needed security for families confronted by an uncertain medical future.

This brief glimpse of Shelburne Falls reveals a simple truth. Whie technology changed, basic human needs did not. The need for comfort and security, social interaction and good health remained the same. The mode of attaining these needs changed.





IN THE APPLE ORCHARD

It stood far down in the corner of the orchard close to the old stone wall, a beautiful old apple tree. Its far-spreading branches were easily supported by the huge trunk. It was a tree that would awaken the admiration of a casual observer and invite hopes of fine fruit in the autumn.

As the fragrant spring days approached, it never failed to shake forth its bounteous supply of leaves, shimmering and lustrous in the warm sunshine. Then came the blossoms, the pink and white emblems of future fruit.

Nevertheless—how exasperating a word—despite its promising appearance, and its plenteous array of blossoms the old tree, to those who knew it, was nothing but a source of mortification. It was referred to as an excellent example of deceitfulness. For although it brought forth beautiful leaves and blossoms it never bore fruit! It merely promised.

Doris Cardwell, '25

All Arms Academy Yearbooks have been scanned, are searchable, and available on our website:

<https://shelburnehistoricalsocietyma.org/>

We Need your Email—Please send to:

admin@shelburnehistoricalsocietyma.org

(Please ignore if we already have yours)



Avery Bates Residence 1812



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