# The Edge of Hawley

Volume XLII, Number 1 **WINTER 2022** 



1846 Meetinghouse

# Home of The Sons and Daughters of Hawley

## **Officers and Board of Trustees 2022 – 2024**

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	Pudding Hollow		
	Rd.		
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		executive	
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	Travers		

*Each board member's term ends in the year shown.* 

# THE EDGE OF HAWLEY Volume XLII Number 1 Winter, 2022

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*The Edge of Hawley* is the quarterly journal of The Sons and Daughters of Hawley, the historical society of Hawley, Massachusetts. It is edited by Suzy Q Groden. Contact her at suzyqgroden@gmail.com or *The Edge of Hawley*, P.O. Box 206, Hawley, MA 01339.

Editorial Advisory Board: Elizabeth Sears, John Sears, Pamela Shrimpton.

## A Message from the Editor

In June and July of 2021, the number of new COVID-19 cases in the U.S. dropped to the point where it seemed reasonable to expect the pandemic to be officially declared "over" by 2022. The Board of the Sons & Daughters of Hawley was meeting in person at the Grove. We were planning an almost-traditional Hawley Day and Annual Business Meeting for August, and there were hopes that a return to our full cycle of annual gatherings would soon be possible. We confidently planned a December Illumination Party for the lighting of the oil-burning globes in the central chandelier of the now fully restored Meetinghouse.

However, contrary to everyone's expectations, come autumn, the country was overtaken by the Omicron variant, which caused a steep spike of new cases everywhere, including Massachusetts, Franklin County, even Hawley. And so, once again the September Harvest Supper had to be canceled, as well as the November Apple Fest and the December Illumination Party.

As we write this, in late January, the daily reports are beginning to give us reason for hope: though there continue to be new cases every day, the numbers are decreasing. So, in this issue of the Edge, we are again publishing a calendar that lists the events we'd LIKE to hold in 2022; we will send out notices as decisions are made.

Suzy Q Groden, Editor, The Edge of Hawley

# 2022 Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location	Time
Board Mtg	3/17/22	TBD	5:00pm
March Mud	TBD	TBD	4:00-
Party?	(?)		7:00pm
Beautify	4/1-4/30/22	Collect trash	
Hawley's	(?)	from	
Roads?		Hawley's	
		roads	
Board Mtg	4/21/22	TBD	5 :00pm
Board Mtg	5/19/22	TBD	5:00pm
Board Mtg	6/16/22	TBD	5:00pm
Giant Tag	6/18-	Grove	9:00am-
Sale?	6/19/22 (?)		3:00pm
Board Mtg	7/21/22	TBD	5:00pm
Hawley Day	8/14/22 (?)	Meetinghouse	10 am-
			3:00pm
No-Bake	September	Online & mail	
Bake Sale	-	donating	
Harvest	9/11/22(?)	Stump	4-7pm
Supper?		Sprouts	
Board Mtg	9/15/22	TBD	5:00pm
Board Mtg	10/20/22	TBD	5:00pm
Apple Fest?	11/6/22 (?)	Poudriers'	4-7pm
		Pond Road	-
Illumination	12/11/22(?)	Meetinghouse	4 – 5pm
Party?		_	

# *The Sons & Daughters of Hawley Board does not meet from November through February.*



Photo by Rich Cook

# EVENTS OF THE COMING SEASON

We will hold the following spring events, if they can be held safely.

March Mud Party. In late March S&DH members come together to share food, drink, and local news, and celebrate the loosening of winter's grip. The host household provides the main dish and everyone else brings an appetizer, salad, or dessert, whatever they like to drink with their meals, and a hearty appetite.

**Hawley Road Clean-Up.** Throughout April, members of the S&DH collect plastic bags, tin cans, and other forms of detritus that have gathered along Hawley's roads during the winter months.

**Giant Tag Sale.** We are very hopeful that we will be able to bring back this extremely popular event, though several issues remain undecided (all hinge on the state of the pandemic by mid-June, 2022). The Tag Sale will take place on the Father's Day Weekend (June 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>). It will be mounted inside the Grove unless that seems unsafe, in which case, the items for sale will be arrayed on tables in front of the Grove. The state of the pandemic at that point will also determine whether people will be required to wear masks.

# **COMMUNITY AND TOWN**

**Our Hawley Town Clerk has moved on.** Pamela Shrimpton, Hawley's long-serving town clerk, and trustee and corresponding secretary of the Sons and Daughters of Hawley, has moved, with her husband, Craig Shrimpton, to Greenfield. The news was met

this fall with a mixture of sadness and well-wishing from Hawley residents, who have come, over the past 9 years, to depend on Pamela Shrimpton's reliably accurate attention to detail in her work with town records and election



procedures, and to enjoy her cheerful, friendly presence in Town Hall, when they need to register to vote, list births, marriages, or deaths, get licenses for their dogs, or do other types of official business.

She is being replaced by Liz Billings, a graphic



designer, who moved to East Hawley with her husband, Shawn, and their daughter, Rachel, in 2016. Taking over officially on December 1<sup>st</sup>, Liz Billings has enjoyed getting to know her Hawley neighbors, learning their names, and becoming adept at

handling the various kinds of records and documents that a Massachusetts town clerk handles. Her office hours at Town Hall will be 9:00 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays. She can be reached at 413-339-5518.

**More Changes at Town Hall.** Abigail Drew, who replaced Cass Nawrocki as Hawley administrative assistant last June, has left. Cass returned temporarily in January to fill in and train Tinky Weisblat, who will take a turn as Hawley Town Hall admin, starting in February. Office hours at this time are -- necessarily and understandably -- flexible and somewhat irregular, so the best way to reach the town office is to leave a message on 413-339-5518 or send an e-mail to <u>info@townofhawley.com</u>.

Broadband Service. Lark Thwing has provided the following updated information. The wi-fi signal outside of the Grove is strong and can be used by people sitting in their cars, but the building, which is unheated, has to be kept locked. Most of the people in and around East Hawley have service if they want it. A new pole is scheduled to be erected this spring, near the Meetinghouse between the Plainfield pole and the pole near Elvira Scott's property. There are now 105 customers using the broadband service, and others are being added. Some households have chosen not to get the service, but they are being asked if they will allow WiValley to install the hardware anyway, so that their houses can get the service should they change their minds or sell to a homeowner who wants it. The WiValley contract is

9

based on their being able to deliver service to at least 95% of the residents in the 4-town consortium (Florida, Hawley, Monroe, Savoy). Individuals who wish to request service or who have questions can reach Lark Thwing at 413-339-0124 or <u>kthwingjr@gmail.com</u>. WiValley is working in a variety of ways to improve their system, and are finding ways to get stronger signals for customers and make the network faster, more resilient, and easier to service.



# SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF HAWLEY

**The Restoration of the Meetinghouse.** With great joy we can report that the restoration of the 1848 East

Hawley Meetinghouse the home of the Sons and Daughters of Hawley – is finally finished. Many people collaborated on this 40year process, some of whom, sadly, did not live to see its completion. It could not have happened without a grant for the overall project from the 1772 Foundation, a generous gift from Maurice Chassé and a Go Fund Me drive for the ceiling,



and the generous contributions from our members to the S&DH building fund over the decades.

A crew from the Franklin County Jail did some of the painting on the exterior walls and David Noonan plastered and painted the interior walls and ceiling.

But none have been as continually and dependably instrumental, throughout the process, as Lark Thwing, to whom we offer thanks for finding the people to do the work, working with them as needed, leading fund-raising drives, and tirelessly guiding the process to its ultimate completion.



Photo by Lark Thwing

# **BYGONE YEARS IN HAWLEY**

In 1987, Norman Myrick, who grew up in Hawley, wrote this piece for *The Edge of Hawley*. In his cover letter to editor Harrison Parker, Myrick expressed the hope that, although it would "not go down with the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm or the Gettysburg Address as [a] great contribution to literature," his piece would "tickle the chords of recollection in a few folks."

# Fishin' By Norman Myrick

Whenever Hawley talk gets around to fish talk the fish is invariably a trout. That is as it should be because the trout is the wonderful speckled



excitement that is the final decoration of the golden Hawley brooks. But there are or were other finny creatures in the streams, not endowed with the coat of many colors that are the trout's but fair game and enticing game to youthful anglers, nevertheless.

Trout we caught with hook and worm. Suckers we caught with snares. Suckers are a philosopher fish. Not for them is the dash at passing tid-bits that is the wont of a trout. No indeed. Suckers lie on the bottom and wait for the current to bring the gustatory morsels to them. A sucker's energy is not to be wasted in a sudden charge and a swirl of foam. Be patient. The passing waters will bring the worm to you.

There was a huge rock on the bank of the river just below the place where Uncle George's Brook joins the Chickley. I should point out that there was a clear distinction between what was a "brook" and what was a "river." The stream that came down from the hill past Uncle George's was a brook. The Chickley, although in reality a large brook, was, in our geographical lexicon, a river. Come to think of it, the official maps label the Chickley as a river also. But, no matter, the "brook" was a Brook and the Chickley was a River and the rock was a magnificent gift from the glacier, clean and massive and endlessly friendly.

The river ran smoothly by the rock as rivers will when the water is a little on the deeper side. Few things in life offered more pleasure than lying on the rock in the warm sun of a July morning, watching the suckers on the bottom, impudent in their somnolent luxury. The water was so poignantly clear that every scale, every filmy movement of fin and tail were as though seen through the most transparent of glass. Snares we made from copper wire. All we did was fashion a loop out of the wire and attach the standing end to the fish line. The idea was to slip the loop or noose over the sucker's head as he, she or it lay on the river bottom. There was a degree of skill involved and a large amount of luck. Despite their sluggishness the suckers did not accept the snares with whole hearted cooperation. The snare often turned in the current so that the loop was parallel to the fish instead of at right angles. The loop might bump against a sucker warning him of impending danger. Somebody might lose their place on the rock and fall into the water. That, of course, was great fun but not good for snaring suckers.



However, when the fates that reward the efforts of twelve-year-old boys were in a favorable mood the snare would slip over the head of the sucker. When the pole was yanked up and the snare tightened the fish would come flopping out of the water.

I suppose it was not a very nice way to treat suckers and besides they weren't good to eat. My cousin Kenneth always said that they were cat food which is how they ended up when we got them home.

It was some years before I got out of the blood thirsty stage and learned to sit on the great rock and watch the suckers and feel the wonder and the beauty of water, stone and basking fish. But the rewards of that state of personal evolution did not last long. The bellowing hurricane of 1938 ripped through the valley and what the flood didn't destroy the engineers did. A couple of power drills and ten pounds of dynamite shattered the patriarch of 20,000 years and left a dismal pile of ragged debris in its place. But the negative was not without its positive – the suckers, at least, can now lie on the tumbled stones of the river bottom, unmolested in their philosophical elegance.



# **OBITUARIES**

**Ralph D. Clark,** 60, passed away on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at his group home in Hadley. Born on January 9, 1961 at the former Farren Memorial Hospital in Montague, he attended school at Hawlemont and Mohawk Trail Regional High School. He worked on the family dairy farm, loved going to the fair and riding his bike around the neighborhood. He was very much loved by his family and friends. He lived at home for fifty-six years before moving to the group home in Hadley.

Survivors include his mother Juanita and partner Gene Poissant of Hawley; 2 brothers: Wayne (Robin) and Kevin Clark, all of Hawley; 2 sisters: Pamela Clark of Charlemont and Angela Clark of Hawley, and several nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles. Ralph was predeceased by his father, Darwin Clark, Jr., sister Sarah Sessions, niece Andrea Belval, and grandparents Darwin and Dorothy Clark, Sr.



**Esther White Purinton**, 85, died on December 13, 2021 at Vero Health & Rehab of South Hadley with the love of her husband, family and friends focused on her. Her sons were by her side.

Born on March 16, 1936 in Hawley, and raised on the family farm, Esther was the daughter of Robert and Ethel (Neary) White. Educated at Charlemont High School, she went on to Franklin County Public Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1956 as a registered nurse. She was united in marriage on July 22, 1956 to her high school sweetheart, Raymond Alvin Purinton at the Charlemont Federated Church. They began their life together in Georgia while Raymond served in the Army. Later, they returned to Charlemont to build a home in which to raise their three sons. While doing so and working full-time, she continued her education at Fitchburg State College, taking classes part-time for many years to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Esther worked at Franklin Medical Center from 1965-1998 in various positions, retiring as Director of Performance Improvement and Risk Management. She was a leader for several organizations including the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Red Cross, and various nurses' associations. After retirement, she became certified in School Nursing and worked at several local schools until 2012. She worked for many years with county family courts, supervising family visitations. During this time, she explored her love for history while working at Old Deerfield Village as a curator. Her passion for nursing led her on a multi-faceted career of caring for others through volunteering her time or support to libraries, flu clinics and other local causes. She fluently shared the history and collection of quilts to many audiences. In every area of her work, she connected personally with the people she met.

Esther was a member of the Charlemont Federated Church. In her later years she organized a prayer shawl group, donating hundreds of handknitted prayer shawls and lap robes. Esther's ability to quilt, knit, choose the perfect flower, embrace a solo weekend with her grandchildren, research the perfect trip, envision a new space, see the right color, brave advancing technologies and excite others to enter into it was matchless. She patiently taught her passions to friends and family. She dearly loved reading, her cat Archebella, the valley she lived in, camp in Vermont and the Sugar House in the spring.

In addition to her husband Raymond of Charlemont, survivors include her three sons, Douglas (Julie) of Norway, NY, Scott (Ellen) of Hawley, and Barry (Marie) of Charlemont; 7 grandchildren, Jordan (Katelynn) of Norway, NY, William (Cecilia) of Portland, OR, Kiersten Gregory (Cody) of Abilene, TX, Nicole of Greenfield, Evan (Stephanie) of Farmington Hills, MI, Nathan (Sonja) of Norway, NY and Justin (Tess) of Greenfield; 10 great-grandchildren; her cherished friend, Phyllis Herrera of Shelburne Falls and many longtime friends. She was predeceased by both her parents and her in-laws.

**Kenneth H. "Skip" Chaffee, Jr.,** 81, of Plainfield Road, Hawley, passed away Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. Skip was born in Greenfield on June 26, 1940, the son of Kenneth and Marjorie (Decker) Chaffee. He graduated from Greenfield High School in 1958.

Skip was a proud veteran of the Vietnam War. He first enlisted with the U.S. Marine Corps. in 1962, serving time in combat. When he was honorably discharged from the Marines in 1966, he enlisted with the U.S. Navy; after serving in Danang and then being honorably discharged from the Navy, in 1967, he enlisted with the U.S. Air Force, where he spent the next 15 years of his military career. He was an Air Traffic Control Technician, first at Elmendorf AFB in Alaska and then at Maxwell AFB in Alabama, until his retirement in 1984. Among the citations MSGT Chaffee earned in his 22 years of military service were the Vietnam Service Medal with 4 Devices, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal with 5 Devices, AF Commendation Medal, AF Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device, and Meritorious Service Medal.

In his retirement, Skip was able to enjoy his interests in woodworking, hunting, fishing, and researching family genealogy. He was a member of the Ashfield Rod and Gun Club and the Shelburne Falls Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, and he worked for the Postal Service on a rural route in West County.

Survivors include his wife Sheila (Scott) whom he married on August 18, 1979, a son Kenneth (Sherry) Chaffee of Colrain, daughter Lisa (Monte) White of Washington, Terri (Dan) Peters-Gray of Northfield, Brenda (Shawn) Gravelle of Turners Falls, brothers Frederick Chaffee, Gil (Kathy) Chaffee, sisters Marla Bresciano, Audrey Thompson, Peggy Harris, and Marjorie Thompson, 9 grandchildren, 12 greatgrandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and a good friend, Bob Root, who would get together with Skip every Thursday for a piece of pie.

Skip was predeceased by granddaughter Chelsea Gravelle and brothers Bruce and Donald.



# LAND TRANSFERS

Barbara S.Weeks to Vincent D. Frano and Isa Wang. 71 Dodge Road. \$160,000.

Andrew F. Graves and Ashley L. Adam to Lien Vuong. 124 East Hawley Road. \$325,000.

Craig Shrimpton and Pamela L. Shrimpton to Adam L. Littman and Kristen L. Kellenberger. 10 Forge Hill Road and 12 Forge Hill Road. \$690,000.

Robert H. Wagner Estate and Daniel E. Wagner to Adin Maynard and Llama Maynard. West Hill Road. \$28,000.



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The Hawley Grove

The Hawley Grove is a low building with a new kitchen, handicapped accessible bathrooms and ramp, and a large 1000 square foot hall adjacent to the kitchen. Doors lead out the back to a large field. The kitchen is predominantly for refrigerating, warming, and serving preprepared foods.

It is available to members of the Sons and Daughters of Hawley for social gatherings. To rent this facility, contact Serra Root, Treasurer, at 330 East Hawley Rd, Hawley, MA 01339, or call 413-339-5592, or e-mail robertroot@hughes.net. Rates are extremely reasonable.

You too can be listed here! *The Edge of Hawley* reaches more than 200 readers four times a year with information designed to keep our community informed and close knit. If you would like to help sponsor *The Edge of Hawley* and promote the vitality of private enterprise in our community, contact Pamela Shrimpton at 508-735-5548 or pam@forgehollow.com, for details.

Please support our sponsors in whatever way you can.

# Links to Related Websites

# SONS AND DAUGHTERS' WEBSITE <a href="http://sites.google.com/site/sonsdaughtersofhawley/Home">http://sites.google.com/site/sonsdaughtersofhawley/Home</a>

#### SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWLEY-HOME/ FACEBOOK

#### TOWN OF HAWLEY WEBSITE www.townofhawley.com

#### MOHAWK & HAWLEMONT SCHOOLS WEBSITE www.mohawkschools.org/



## Membership Form 2022

Sons & Daughters of Hawley, PO Box 206, Hawley, MA 01339

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Individual	\$10	
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Contributing	\$15	
Sustaining	\$25	
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Harrison Parker			
Hawley Bicentennial Cookbook, 1792-1992 by The Sons and			\$5.00
Daughte			
Cottage Piety Exemplified, a	biography of Martha	S. Taylor of	\$11.00
Hawley published by Rev. Rufus Taylor (3 <sup>rd</sup> son)			
Home to Hawley Scrapbook; a collection of works from various			\$7.50
s	ources		
Tales of Hawl	ey, by Maida Riggs		\$5.00
The 1989 Guide to Historica	Il Sites in the Hawley	State Forest	\$7.50
Prepared by the Town of	Hawley Historical Co	mmission	
Pudding Hollow Cookboo	ok by Tinky "Dakota"	Weisblat	\$30.00
History of the Town of Hawley by Williams Giles Atkins			\$9.00
Town of Hawley Bicentennial Program Book 1792-1992			\$7.00
A summary of	200 years in Hawley		
Rediscovering Hawley's O	<i>ld Town Common</i> by .	John Sears	\$5.00
Hawley Story or My Memory Garden, by Minnie Harris Billings		\$5.00	
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