

**HISTORICAL** from page 1

who lived on the east side of Main Street (at the site of the Noah Alvord house, near the Minnechaug driveway) was appointed group leader of the first 29 people to gather as a Glendale parish. Chauncey Peck recalls in his 1913 text: "Mr. Kibbe was a very large, portly man, full of enthusiasm and religious zeal, very fond of singing and with a voice like a trumpet." He goes on to describe how Mr. Kibbe walked from his home in the evenings to attend meetings in Glendale and upon his descent down the western side of the mountain, "he would break forth into song, and the sound of his voice rolled far down the mountain side and could be heard for quite a distance along our Main Street."

**George Washington**

Peck used to like telling stories about people in town who might have been considered to be "characters". While watching a streaming TV documentary about George Washington on Prime recently, I remembered something else that Peck wrote about when asking, Did

**64 Years Ago**

**Lions Club Builds Rink**

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From the January 1961 edition. "Another step to provide outdoor recreation for this community by the Lions Club is the ice rink in back of Spec Pond at the site off Boston Road.

Members were out Saturday working on the installing of side boards and flooding of the area is expected to take place in the near future. The Lions Club is underwriting the cost of the material for the rink."



Abel Bliss said, as a young man, he saw George Washington come through Wilbraham. (Times file photo)

George Washington travel through Wilbraham?

Here's a story about early Wilbraham settler Ensign Abel Bliss that was passed down to Peck, a Civil War veteran. It also sheds some light on the old Bay Path that runs through North Wilbraham that we mentioned in last month's column.

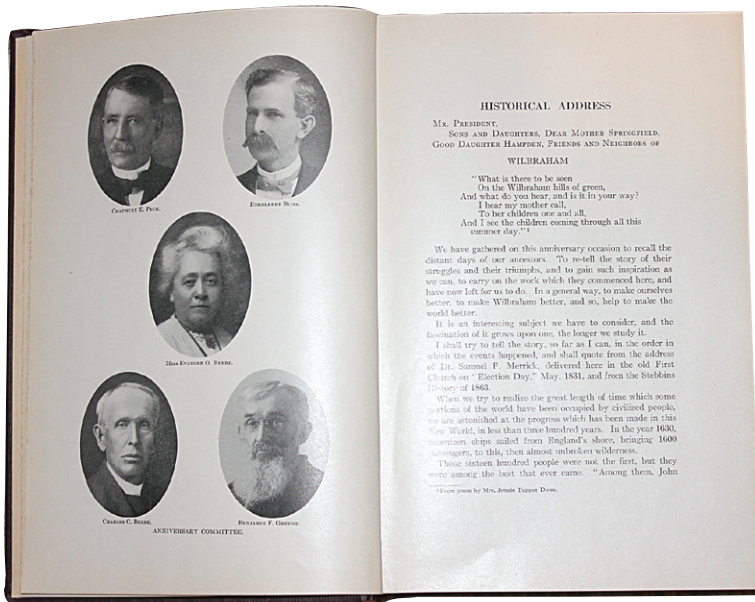
Abel Bliss built a log cabin on the Mountain near Ridge Road. The house was left for his son Oliver, from Oliver to his son John, from John to his daughter Catherine, according to Peck.

She told Peck that she had heard her father say that when he was a boy, he went out on the Bay Road, sometimes called The Bay Path (now Boston Road) and was honored by a bow from General George Washington, as the General was passing along the road on the way to Boston.

Peck wrote: "General Washington, writing in his diary about his passing along the Bay Road at that place, says, 'it was rough and rocky.'" That particular part of the Bay Path is now abandoned, noted Peck.

**Dwellings**

The dwellings of early settlers were all log cabins. The house that I



Pages from Chauncey Peck's 1913 "History of Wilbraham".

grew up in at 603 Main St., right next to the turkey farm, was built by my dad, Francis Bennett in 1953 on the site of the first house in town built by first settler Nathaniel Hitchcock in May of 1731.

When they dug the foundation of the new house, they bumped into the remnants of Hitchcock's old foundation, which was known to be a log cabin.

The house next door to Hitchcock, which became the farmhouse for the Bennett Turkey Farm in the 20th century, was the home of Deacon Nathaniel Warriner. Warriner's house was eventually made into a tavern and became famous for housing drunken rebel soldiers on their way to Shay's Rebellion. All these early dwellings were located just down from the Minnechaug driveway.

Local historians said that the early houses were all made of logs. But the first house made of boards (sometimes called clapboards) was built in 1754. It was said the boards came from a sawmill in Sixteen Acres. Another sawmill was built in 1750 on the Scantic River, now in Hampden. And, then another on 12 Mile Brook in North Wilbraham.

tion era. He was born Dec. 18, 1745, and was the first person baptized in the Wilbraham Meeting House. He was what we call "A Minuteman" and marched to Concord and Lexington on April 20, 1775 to face the British troops. He served there for two days. Back then, it was called "The Lexington Alarm".

Sources: "History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963" edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote "The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. "Military Rolls of the Outward Commons - Soldiers of Wilbraham, Massachu-



Charles Brewer from Wilbraham responded to the 1775 "Lexington Alarm". (Americana Corner illustration)

When the Charles Merrick "History of Wilbraham" was written in 1963 it said that only a few houses in Wilbraham retain their pre-Revolutionary War appearance, inside or out. "The number of homes destroyed by fire is appalling" they said.

**Serving as a Soldier**

From time to time, we like to honor those from Wilbraham who served their country and thank Bruce Tingle for doing the research on this. This month we remember Charles Brewer from the American Revolu-

sets 1730 - 1840" by J. Bruce Tingle. Available at the Old Meeting-house Museum Gift Shop. Google and Wikipedia.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Athenaeum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Town of Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Hampden Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 6 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA, for those interested in the petition of Eric Ainsworth, owner of EDA Sports, to appeal the decision of the Building Inspector regarding a Cease and Desist order dated October 15, 2024 under Section 7.12 (4) "No noise, vibration, smoke, dust, odors, heat, glare, unsightliness or other nuisance is produced" related to his home occupation located at 308 Somers Road. The Board will also hold a visit of the site, including weapon discharge sound comparisons, on February 19, 2025 at 1 PM at 308 Somers Road, Hampden. The public may attend but may not comment or ask questions at this visit.

The petition and related materials are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be viewed during normal business hours.

For the Board, L. Jed Berliner, Chair Zoning Board of Appeals 02/06, 02/13/2025

**Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing**

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 6:30 PM** in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Hampden Veterinary Clinic Realty, LLC (28 Somers Road) for a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval under Section 6, Table of Use Regulation 4.26, for the expansion of the existing parking lot located at 28 Somers Road within the Business District. The properties are currently owned by Hampden Veterinary Clinic Realty, LLC, Dr. Penny Peck (28 Somers Road, Parcel 12-038-000) and 16 Somers Road, LLC (16 Somers Road, Parcel 12-039-000). Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal busi-

ness hours. Madison Pixley, Chair Hampden Planning Board 02/06, 02/13/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **February 21, 2025** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle : **2014 BMW XI** VIN: WBAVLIC59EVY17128 COLOR: Gray LKO: Ludero Monterio 67 Fuller St Apt 1 Brockton MA 02301 R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374 02/06, 02/13, 02/20/2025

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Centerline Communications LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 7 Somers Road, East Longmeadow, Hampden County, Massachusetts 01028. The modifications will consist of the collocation of antennas at a centerline height of approximately 59 ft above ground level on the 71-ft tall building. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 041538-PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822. 02/13/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P0250EA Estate of: Lucien Joseph Michaud Also known as: Lucien J Michaud, Jr.**

**Date of Death: 12/08/2024 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons: A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joseph J Michaud of West Brookfield, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joseph J Michaud of West Brookfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE** You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/06/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

**UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: February 06, 2025

**Rosemary A Saccomani,** Register of Probate 02/13/2025

**WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:00PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to modify regulation of Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Energy Systems by amending Sections 10.7.7 and 10.7.13.

The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board).

All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/231896485> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 231-896-485). James Rooney, Chair 02/13, 02/20/2025

**WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING**

In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 5, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024 at 5:45PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on a proposed amendment to the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to adopt regulations for Retail Sales of Used Automobiles and Trucks and modify related regulations for Retail Sales of New Automobiles and Trucks by amending Sections 3.4.5.20, 6.5.2, 6.5.3 and 6.5.7, and by adding a new Section 6.5.11. The complete text of the pro-

posed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at [www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board). All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/231896485> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 231-896-485).

James Rooney, Chair 02/13, 02/20/2025

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

**St. Cecilia Women's Club awarding scholarships**

WILBRAHAM - The Saint Cecilia Women's Club is awarding \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are members of St. Cecilia Parish and who will be attending a two- or four-year college.

The selection criteria are academic achievement, character and leadership. Applications are available at Minnechaug Regional High School and at Saint Cecilia Parish.

Applicants may also contact the chairperson, Linda Hitas at 413-537-0014 or [lindahitas1@gmail.com](mailto:lindahitas1@gmail.com) for an application.

The deadline for receipt of the application is March 10 and should be sent to Saint Cecilia Women's Club, Saint Cecilia Parish, 42 Main St., Wilbraham 01095 or dropped off at the parish office.

**NOTICE** ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

**Public Notice CHANGES**  
Deadline has changed to **FRIDAY at 3 p.m.**