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# The Pen and Scroll

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VOL. XXVIII, NO. 3

LENOX, MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER, 2019



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## Letter from the Editor

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Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Lenox School,

Another October, another enjoyable and successful LSAA reunion. Great weather, terrific fall colors in the Berkshires, many friends, a superb dinner at the Lenox Club.

And a very significant business meeting.

The main topics of the meeting were the results of a second challenge grant and a firm decision concerning the LSAA's future... or part of that future.

First, the money. For yet another year, we were challenged to meet an ambitious donation hurdle. Last year, we met a challenge grant posed by two generous alumni. And again for this year, another alumnus posed an even more aggressive challenge, which we met and exceeded. You will read Bob's and Ed's words, both of whom elaborate on the generosity of our classmates – so I won't belabor it here.

Second, still the money. For several years, LSAA Board members have grappled with difficult questions on a topic we'd all like to avoid: how to wind down the LSAA activities and physical presence. We're not getting younger, and nobody's graduating from Lenox School to take our place. At some point, we need to let it go. When? When should we slow down? What do we do with our collected archives? What do we save (and who wants it)? What do we discard and what do we keep? If we keep precious items, where do we store them? What should we do with our scholarship donations and our remaining money?

This discussion, a bit formless at first, has come into slightly clearer focus. The LSAA "stuff" falls into four major categories: The physical items, such as jackets and other paraphernalia; important documents, including yearbooks,

newsletters, photographs, and corporate documents; incidental papers and documents (some significant, some trivial, and some private); and..... the money.

A group of folks, including Randy Harris, Bob Sansone, Ed Miller, Paul Denzel, John Schneiter, Keith Simpson, and even my wife Carole (a trained and experienced archivist) have been gnawing on this issue. We don't have all the answers, but we do have many suggestions and ideas. We're working on it. More in future P&S issues as answers and plans are resolved. Clarity is on the horizon.

We do have an answer for the money, however, and that was the central theme of our business meeting. Jeff Smith, Fritz Eckel, Ira Colby, and Paul Denzel, through hard work and appropriate due diligence, recommended that the LSAA engage a local trust management firm that specializes in non-profit charitable fund management. You will read much about the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF) in this issue. The LSAA voted at this year's business meeting to allow BTCF to manage our legacy foundation on an ongoing basis according to our mission statement to them.

Please read more about the BTCF in the following articles and consider how you might help the LSAA legacy continue to provide scholarships in our name after we're gone.

I note that my letter in last year's December issue bemoaned the devastating and deadly fires on the west coast. Sadly, this year is no different. We pray that all our friends and families have escaped that nightmare and wish the best for others who have been impacted by that ongoing disaster.

We wish all LSAA members, family, classmates, and friends a safe and healthy holiday season and a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Don Foster '63 *Don*

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Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

## The President's Message



**The Lenox School Class of '69 Thunders Back!**

What a tremendous turnout we had this year! The Lenox School Class of 1969 arrived in tremendous numbers with the same enthusiasm they displayed back in the day.

To top it off, it was a historical event for the LSAA, as we accomplished some major initiatives with the help of the voting members at the business meeting. As usual, we owe a great debt to our friends at S&Co who were again warm and inviting hosts.

We had the great benefit of having the following masters in attendance: Mr. Paterson, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. Dostourian, and Mr. Kline.

The business meeting was in my opinion the most consequential one we have conducted due to the far reaching



**Nol Putnam '51 & Master Confers with Bob Kline '48 & Master and Charlie Daniell '48, while Zoe and Elizabeth Maintain Order.**

implications of the path forward we have defined. More details about this later in my message.

The luncheon and dinner served as a wonderful opportunity for classmates and alums to review the assembled memorabilia, reacquaint, and reminisce about their Lenox School days. Perhaps most touching was Mr. Paterson's reading of Howard Prestwich's Lenox School Reunion Prayer.

Following the business meeting, we were again treated to Allyn Burroughs recitation of the St. Crispin's Day speech from Shakespeare's Henry V as a prelude to the raising of our flag. Every year, Allyn's presentation and the words strike me as profoundly appropriate for our Lenox School band of brothers ("...But we in it shall be remember'd; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers...")

With Thanksgiving approaching as I write this, we have much to be thankful for as an organization. The response to our appeal for fundraising to meet the challenge grant was beyond expectations! As of this writing, our target was to raise \$12,500; and members responded with over \$19,000! We are humbled and grateful for the overwhelming support.

**"Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end." — Seneca**

As I alluded in the first paragraph, history was made at the reunion this year, and more specifically this history was created at the business meeting.

We have been discussing for several years the future course that we need to take to fulfill our mission to the memory, history and legacy of the school as the relentless march of time reminds us we only get so many trips around the sun.

**"Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It's the courage to continue that counts." — Winston Churchill**

It is not unusual during the reunion for some of the talk about Lenox School to reflect on why it was successful and then why it failed. The interesting and positive aspect at this reunion is that members demonstrated the courage and flinty determination to create a path forward to share the essence and legacy of Lenox School with countless future generations.

Determined to write a new chapter for Lenox School, the LSAA members, in a sense, rectified the closing of the

# The Pen and Scroll

school by supporting the establishment of a trust that will keep the history and legacy of Lenox School vibrant and ongoing in perpetuity.

We did this with the unanimous support of the voting members present. As a result, we were able to initiate The Lenox School Alumni Association Fund with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

And so, we are now able to reopen the school (albeit virtually) to others through the future donations and scholarships that will be made in our name from this trust and from a Website that will tell the Lenox School story, contain digitized information and images on the school's history, yearbooks, Pen & Scrolls and other memorabilia, etc.

Perhaps we'll need a new flag and make an addendum to the historical plaque! Maybe we just tell folks we took a 48 year hiatus!

Berkshire Taconic specializes in supporting exactly the type of activity we desire after we are no longer an active entity. The members voted to invest \$30,000, thanks again in large measure to the incredible generosity of one alum who provided a \$12,500 challenge grant along with the humbling generosity of other alums who donated well beyond our target challenge goal.

Our plan is to leave this fund to grow through the years ahead (while we're still active) by affording alums and others the opportunity to make tax deductible donations or establish bequeaths in their wills to The Lenox School Alumni Association Fund. Berkshire Taconic will be guided by the fund mission statement we provided them and input from the LSAA board members (who will be advisers to provide additional input and guidance). The Fund Mission Statement that we provided to the Berkshire Taconic is detailed elsewhere in this Pen & Scroll.

Once The Lenox School Alumni Association Fund reaches a critical mass, the trust will then be able to fund scholarships in our name with the investment gains (rather than eroding the principal). They will make donations in our name consistent with those we have made in the past and provide financial support for maintaining a Website that will portray all the important school documents, digitized yearbooks, Pen & Scrolls, images of other memorabilia, etc.

Let me be very clear here on what has been accomplished and what it means:

- We have created the means by which we can reflect

the tenets of our motto and honor our debt to the men who founded the school and to those headmasters, masters, faculty, staff, family, trustees and friends who selflessly sacrificed and dedicated themselves to Lenox School and to those of us fortunate enough to have attended.

- Establishing the trust ultimately allows the story and legacy of Lenox School to endure beyond our time.

## Which brings me to the other point I need to make:

- **We're still an active organization!** We plan to be active for several years into the future while the fund is concurrently allowed to grow through investment gains and donations from members.
- As such, we will still need funding (via tax deductible contributions to the LSAA) for the next few years to support our administrative costs (printing the P&S, making donations, awarding scholarships, etc.).
- Thanks to the incredible generosity of members, the LSAA is on good financial footing for this (see Treasurer's Report) but we will still need to rely on the generous support of members to allow us to carry on.

Here is the way to continue donating to the LSAA for the above stated purposes:

Donations should be made out to the LSAA and sent to either Ed Miller or Bob Sansone at the following address:

Bob Sansone  
69 Mount Sumner Drive  
Bolton, CT 06043

Ed Miller  
6130 N Via del Tecaco  
Tucson, AZ 85718

Donations to the Lenox School Alumni Association Fund are also tax deductible and should be sent to the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation made out to **The Lenox School Alumni Association Fund at the address provided below**. Donations made to the Lenox School Alumni Association Fund will be added to the fund as they arrive but will be allowed to accumulate until we authorize disbursements in several years when the fund will have grown to the point where it is self-sustaining.

Rather than try to spell out the specifics of how, where, why, etc. to donate to the fund as well as the potential beneficial tax considerations for supporting the fund (espe-



cially if you happen to be in a position of having required minimum distributions from any of your IRAs or 401Ks; or wish to bequeath to the fund in your will), we encourage you to contact Berkshire Taconic directly to discuss donations and tax benefits for such actions. Our point of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation contact is Kara Mikulich:

Kara K. Mikulich | Chief Philanthropy Officer  
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation  
800 N Main Street | Sheffield, MA 01257- 9503  
o: 413.229.0370 x124 | d: 413.429.8404 |  
f: 413.229.0329

Please see the related article that Kara has been kind enough to write for this P&S as well. It explains the various ways in which you can help keep the history and legacy of the school alive through your donations.

We wish everyone a joyful and peaceful Christmas and Hanukkah and a prosperous New Year.

**Next Reunion – October 16 & 17, 2020 - “Be There!!”  
Class of 1970, 1965, 1960, 1955, 1950 and 1945 ... where  
are you?**

Bob Sansone '68



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## Letters to the Editor

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Dear Pen and Scroll,

About a week ago, I got a phone call from somebody who went to Lenox, who had read my narrative in the most recent P&S, and -- I heard this faintly -- would like to reconnect. Problem was, (1) the call was fairly faint, sounded maybe tired a bit; and (2) we had had a record number of scam calls that day, I was feeling a little off-balance myself, and a split second too late -- just as I had my finger on the key to disconnect, I realize now that I was hearing the term “Pen & Scroll”. Too late indeed -- I had canceled out with an all-too-ready finger stab.

So, nothing. Any suggestions? I wouldn't mind if the kabamx@aol.com were to be in the next P&S or even our 585-244-3192 number. (Why am I saying that? He obviously had researched the number... Maybe just to emphasize my apology and an invitation to reconnect?)

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

Thanks and sorry again (to he who remains nameless) for my oversight. Not sure about reunion this time around.

Hope springs eternal...

Bruce Beardsley

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*Editor's note: We received the following email from Mr. Clifton Cook, whose father attended Lenox in years past. Mr. Cook and his wife attended this year's reunion.*

Dear Pen and Scroll,

My father attended Lenox in the early 1940's. He didn't complete his education there nor graduated for reasons I'm not aware of. I've been a reader of the Pen and Scroll for several years and have provided some input to the it's members from time to time. It is a very informative paper.

My wife and I would like to visit the school as it sits today at your next reunion on the Oct 19th weekend. We aren't golfers so we won't be involved there but would like to be included in the tour on Saturday afternoon. I've seen the list of places to stay and understand that due to the late date, my options have become limited. I will check with the different locations to find a place to stay. In any case, who should I contact to get our names on the list and what are the best directions to get to the school?

I have the agenda for the weekend as shown on the school's site and the last addition of the Pen and Scroll and if there is further items I should be aware of please send them to me.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing where my father went to school.

The Pen and Scroll organization has been very helpful already providing yearbook history and other information about my father's history when he attended the school. As one who attended Saint James and my grandfather being one of the founders of Saint Andrews who used both Lenox and Saint James as a model to setting up Saint Andrews, I'm familiar with the boarding school system and much of it's history. It's too bad Lenox isn't open today.

Clifton Cook

*Ed: And we received the following email from Mr. Cook after the reunion:*

My wife Betsy and I'd like to thank the LSAA for having us to your recent reunion. We enjoyed meeting everyone and seeing the school. While I know it was a blast from the past and it has been almost 80 years since my father attended as well as almost 50 years since the school closed, there are still some aspects of the campus that show the heritage that the school represents as well as the alumni members. We enjoyed meeting them and found some connections we didn't realize existed such as Don Foster who is working at the university that Betsy and I attended.

I also was glad to see how you are keeping the school spirit alive by voting to create the foundation. In addition to the digitizing of the documents and history, making it available to future generations, it's also good to know that the foundation will have some time to grow before being drawn upon, since the current process for supporting scholarships and other activities that the LSAA does will continue in parallel with the current alumni. As membership starts to draw down there will be a turnover time frame and how that will be managed is to be determined but the value of the foundation will have grown considerably. It may turn out that, at some point, the alumni will contribute each year to the foundation what they can and the remainder to support the programs can start to come from the foundation. Since the whole amount won't come from the foundation it won't be reduced as much and be able to continue to grow just at a bit slower pace. My estimate, seeing the health of the current alumni, is you have another 10-15 years before this conversion will begin. That is a lot of time to grow and add to the value of the foundation.

I did have several thoughts, not that this is my business. The first is you are currently giving to Miss Hall's School to support scholarships. My thought is something may happen to this school in future years and there should be a broader definition of giving grants or scholarships. For example relatives of alumni who attended Lenox may be eligible to apply when attending similar schools as well as possible looking at schools that are still in operation and paralleled Lenox for many years. Two in mind would be Saint James and Saint Andrews. The same criteria would apply where needy students would be the focus and the final decision would be by the foundation vs the schools. To have the schools be able to recommend to students to apply for a scholarship based on need, could continue the Lenox legacy just elsewhere like it is being done at Miss Hall's. This would also help provide some advertising of the foundation's work representing Lenox's heritage. There may be other options that could be included schools other than Miss Halls. This is all up to you I'm just recommending considering a broad spectrum to permit the

momentum as this goes forward in 50 plus years. I don't know if this is to be focused on only pre-college scholarships or if you want to include scholarships at the college level.

The second thought I had was to have a third party audit the foundation's work at some interval, say every 5 years. This would permit an independent evaluation of how well the foundation is maintaining the intent of the LSAA and keep it focused as well as address new aspects that may come up like technology and options. It isn't that the managers aren't trusted, just put in some checks and balances to help it be sustained.

The third comment is something my wife has learned with an organization she belongs to and awards scholarships. They don't give the money directly to the school in the student's name but rather to the student. The reason is when the schools receive these funds, it becomes part of the equation for financial aid and other resources a student may receive. There's a check and balance in place with the student before they receive the money in that they have to complete a semester in the school and have good standing. They can use the money as they please for books, computers or even travel to and from the school. Bottom line they have to pay these expenses anyway and it helps teach them how to manage the money without penalty for receiving it.

We enjoyed the tour of the campus and I've created an account on Shutterfly.com with all the photos we took while there. I'd like to share these with you. You can access them by going to Shutterfly.com and enter the account name, which is:

bdccgc@gmail.com  
password; Alumni2019

Don't worry about using this email account. It's an old one I have and I can forward anything that comes with respect to this account. You can also change the email address and share it with others associated with the school to include creating one of your own on gmail, yahoo or any other free email service. This way other alumni can log into the Shutterfly account and upload photos in future years. It's also a good way to provide support to the Pen and Scroll paper.

Feel free to use my photos as you wish. I can say I couldn't keep up with which building was used for. Most were dorms and I was surprised to see how spread out the campus was. The original gym, which is not the theater for Shakespeare & Company, was obvious but from there it

got confusing. St. Martins was very interesting and if those walls could talk, wow what they could say. I thought capturing this today and use it where possible could help you with digitizing of the school's history then and now. Best of luck. We hope to make another reunion.

Clifton Cook  
Son of Alumni Philip Cook Jr from '38-'42.

\* \* \*

Dear Pen and Scroll,

I believe if you check with Trinity Church in Portland Oregon, you will find Chad Minifie was an ordained Episcopal priest. Don't know where he went, or when, but I remember many years ago seeing a strangely familiar face looking back at me from the pulpit and, upon checking the daily "menu," discovering he was a fellow Lenox alumnus.

I regret that I did not follow up that meeting, but I think it noteworthy that even a brief crossing of our paths long ago left such a deep impression.

Dick Williams '61

\* \* \*

Dear Pen and Scroll,

My wife and I were discussing what to do with the Lenox School memorabilia and she had a good idea. Why not gradually auction off the stuff at the reunions. I know I would love to have some of the material and I'm sure others would as well. It would raise money for the scholarship fund and get the material into the hands of those that still care about it.

Another idea for some of it is a corner stone (time capsule) in St. Martins if they ever finish remodeling it. Maybe none of this is new as I'm sure you guys have kicked this around a lot but I thought I'd share the idea. GREAT P&S. Thanks so much for all your hard work. I look forward to reading it every time.

I'm currently looking at the eight hour trip from Onancock VA to Lenox and wondering if I'm up to it, but I so enjoy the reunions. Thanks again for the P&S.

P.S. I keep checking the death dates in the P&S obits... so far so good -- I still have a few years left.

Niall B. Finnegan '65

\* \* \*

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

Dear Pen and Scroll,

I have remarried as of 10 November 2018. She is from Romania, her name is Simona, she is younger than me and has a ten year old daughter, Ramona, who is now living with us. [Instant family!] They are both learning English from their excellent ESL teacher [me :-)] and are improving rapidly. We have moved to the following address: 3 Shawmeadows Bay SW, Calgary, AB, Canada, T2Y 1A1. If anybody wants to contact me, I can be reached at nchapin@engineer.com. I am still working at the Shawnessy Library in Calgary, AB, Canada, where I met my future wife for the first time last June while I was "teaching" ESL at the library!

Nick Chapin '64  
403-616-8597 (cell)

\* \* \*

Dear Bob,

Thanks for all the work you have done, and continue to do, on behalf of the Lenox School fraternity. It's great to read about the history and updates of so many students and faculty. And thanks to all who work so hard to make the Pen and Scroll a fine publication. I look forward to each issue.

I was very interested in the April '19 issue, because there was a letter from Dick Sawyer, a former teacher at Lenox. I attended Lenox for only one year, as a PG, in the year '55-'56. I remember Mr. Sawyer very well, as he was the basketball coach. I played all three sports that year (not particularly well in any of them), and he coached us in football and basketball. I remember more vividly our basketball season, mainly because I played that sport throughout high school. He had a tough job putting together a team, whichever sport, but we gave it our best. And of course, with a school that size, the relationship didn't end with sports. I remember when it came time for me to choose a college, it boiled down to (1) Colby – Bob Kline's school, and (2) Kenyon – Dick's school. I finally chose Kenyon, I guess basically because it was a small men's college and was outside of New England. Beautiful campus.

Keep up the good work. Please find enclosed a small check to help wherever it might be needed. If it will help with the challenge, great. Thanks again for keeping us all up to date.

Pete Spaulding '56

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Ed: Below is a thank-you note from Ayla Wallace, Miss Hall's student and one of the recipients of the LSAA Mansfield Pickett Scholarship sent to Bob Sansone on October 1, 2019:

Mr. Sansone,  
I just wanted to take the time thank you and the Lenox school alumni association for bestowing upon me, a wonderful and generous scholarship. As someone who has huge hopes, dreams, and aspirations, this gift was a huge honor and a huge step towards me reaching my goal of achieving success. I very much enjoyed hearing you all recount the great memories of your time at the Lenox school. It felt so honored and special to be apart of such a wonderful legacy. Thank you for selecting me to be apart of it. Best,  
Ayla W.

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Ed: Below is a thank-you note from the Senior Warden at Trinity Church sent to Bob Sansone on October 20, 2019:

Oct 20, 2019

Dear Mr. Sansone -  
I am writing to thank you and your fellow alumni of the Lenox School for your generous gift to Trinity Parish. We are grateful for your continuing support. Please be assured that we will do our utmost to put the money to good use, and we look forward to welcoming you back in future years.  
RJ Burke  
Senior Warden

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## Treasurer's Report

First, the big news. Thanks to the generosity of our members, we were able to create an initial \$30,000 account with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF), which will manage and distribute LSAA moneys in the future, probably after the LSAA concludes its present operations, in two or three years.

In addition to the \$30,000 in Foundation money, we currently have the following amounts on deposit with the Community Bank, in Northfield, Vermont:

Checking:	\$ 21,951.97
Savings:	\$ 8,241.81
Total:	\$30,193.78

We haven't yet received a bill from the Lenox Club for our recent Reunion dinner, notwithstanding several requests. As such, you can subtract about \$4,500 from the checking account for a more accurate picture. In addition, I'll be sending the Lenox Club a \$500 deposit toward next year's dinner, so our checking account is really about \$5000 less than I'm reporting here.

Bob's President's report goes into more detail about our relationship with the BTCF and how to contribute to the Foundation to ensure a continuing Lenox School legacy. Suffice it to say that we still need funds to pay for our ongoing Association obligations, and we welcome continuing tax-deductible contributions to the LSAA by sending contributions, payable to the LSAA, to me at 6130 Via del Tecaco, Tucson AZ 85718. Your tax deductible contributions to the BTCF should be sent directly to them at 800 North Main St., Sheffield MA 01257, noting that the contribution is to the LSAA Fund.

It has been a pleasure looking after your Association money for many years now. I'm confident that the spirit and goodwill of Lenox School will be continued for many more years.

Happy holidays, and best wishes for the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Edward A. Miller, Jr. '66  
LSAA Treasurer  
November 11, 2019

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## Other News

### Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

800 North Main Street  
Sheffield, MA 01257-9503  
t: 413.229.0370 | f: 413.229.0329  
www.berkshiretaconic.org  
info@berkshiretaconic.org

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PRESIDENT  
Peter Taylor



Certified in compliance with  
the national standards of excellence  
of the Council on Foundations

November 5, 2019

Mr. Robert J. Sansone  
Lenox School Alumni Association  
69 Mount Sumner Drive  
Bolton, CT 06043

Dear Bob,

Welcome to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation! Thank you very much for the Lenox School Alumni Association's generous gift of \$30,000.00 and establishing the Lenox School Alumni Association Fund with us. Enclosed is an executed copy of the fund agreement.

Our partnership with the Lenox School Alumni Association and other local nonprofits is critical to us, and we are so pleased to assist you in the management and growth of the fund.

With over \$40 million in combined assets, nonprofit agency funds gain access to our highly diversified portfolio, world-class investment managers and expert local investment committee who together are producing results that routinely outperform our benchmark. It is our aim to efficiently handle administration of your fund and provide you with superior results, so that you can focus on your mission.

We are delighted to have you as part of our philanthropic family. Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Taylor  
President

*Please note: The Foundation has not provided you with any goods or services as a result of your donation. We acknowledge these funds came from the Lenox School Alumni Association.*

cc: Edward A. Miller, Jr.

*Thank you for your  
partnership - And to  
look forward to  
meeting you.*

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## About the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is pleased to welcome the Lenox School Alumni Association to our family of fundholders. We are delighted that you have chosen to partner with Berkshire Taconic to ensure that the Lenox School's legacy will continue in perpetuity and benefit future generations.

Our staff is available to work with LSAA members who are interested in contributing to the Lenox School Alumni Association endowed fund. There are a variety of ways to help build the endowment, both during and after your lifetime – and, depending on your individual situation, many types of gifts can confer significant tax advantages.

If you would like to make a gift to the endowment now, a few options include:

- **Contributing appreciated assets:** If you have appreciated assets, such as securities, that you have held for longer than one year, you can avoid capital gains tax, and you may be able to claim a fair market value tax deduction, by donating them to the LSAA Fund at Berkshire Taconic.
- **Giving from your IRA:** Beginning when you turn 70½, the IRS requires that you start taking withdrawals -- the required minimum distribution -- from your traditional IRA. A tax-efficient way to meet that requirement is to make a charitable gift, or qualified charitable distribution. You can make a gift of up to \$100,000 to the LSAA Fund at Berkshire Taconic, and the gift will not be counted as income, thus providing a strong benefit to many donors.

There are also a number of ways that you can contribute to the endowment in the future:

- **Charitable Bequest:** Leaving a bequest to the LSAA Fund at Berkshire Taconic can be as simple as adding a few lines to your will. You can choose to leave a percentage of your estate or a set amount, or you can include in your will a residual or contingent gift to the LSAA Fund at Berkshire Taconic. We can provide you or your estate attorney with the appropriate language.
- **Retirement Assets:** Naming the LSAA fund as a beneficiary of your retirement assets is as easy as adding a sentence or two to your IRA beneficiary form: "I leave x% of my assets to Berkshire Taconic Community Founda-

tion (BTCF), a nonprofit corporation of Connecticut, to be used to enhance the Lenox School Alumni Association Fund."

- **Life Insurance:** Giving a life insurance policy is another way to make a substantial contribution to the LSAA Fund at Berkshire Taconic. You can list the LSAA Fund as a beneficiary on a new or existing policy, or make a gift of a paid-up life insurance policy for the benefit of the LSAA Fund.

We are here to help with any questions that you or your professional advisor may have. Please feel free to email or call Kara Mikulich, Chief Philanthropy Officer. She can be reached at [kmikulich@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:kmikulich@berkshiretaconic.org), or call her directly at 413.429.8404. You can learn more about Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation at [www.berkshiretaconic.org](http://www.berkshiretaconic.org).

*~ Kara Mikulich, Chief Philanthropy Officer  
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*

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## LSAA Makes Historic Decision To Solidify The Lenox School Legacy: New Challenge Grant Established

At the Business Meeting on October 19th, LSAA members unanimously approved a series of related motions that established a managed Lenox School legacy fund; appointed Berkshire Taconic, a well-respected local philanthropic fund manager, to administer the Fund; and transferred \$30,000 (approximately half of the money in LSAA's current accounts) to the Fund. These votes mark the beginning of a new chapter in LSAA's purpose and mission and are the culmination of two years of diligence and over a decade of LSAA member interest in ensuring that the spirit of the School, embodied in its scholarship program and its remarkable array of Lenox School photographs, plaques, memorabilia and artifacts, endure long after the LSAA itself ceases to be active.

In the immediate future, as the Fund continues to accumulate capital, it will be jointly administered by Berkshire Taconic and a committee of the LSAA Board, pursuant to a Mission Statement (reprinted below), which was approved at the meeting. The Fund will continue to be the vehicle through which the LSAA scholarship program is funded and other gifts to community-based organizations, such as Trinity Church and Shakespeare & Company, are made. In the longer term, the Fund will be independently overseen by Berkshire Taconic, under their rigorous internal protocols, consistent with their emphasis on local community development.

To be meaningful, and to generate sufficient income to avoid erosion of capital, the Fund will have to increase substantially in size over the coming years. It is available to receive tax-deductible donations now, either directly or as a pass-through from the LSAA itself, through LSAA Treasurer, Ed Miller '66. The Fund is also an appropriate vehicle to receive bequests or other donations through traditional estate planning means.

The original transfer of money to the Fund, with enough reserved in the LSAA accounts to run day-to-day LSAA operations, was made possible in large measure by the generosity of two anonymous alums, who provided matching grants that were each met by gifts from LSAA members.

A new anonymous challenge match was established immediately after the Reunion that will get the Fund to \$50,000. Under this challenge, donations made in the next year up to \$10,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by the challenge donor. Those combined donations would increase the corpus of the Fund from \$30,000 to \$50,000 by the next Reunion and put the Fund well on its way to long term success.

~ Jeff Smith '70

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## The Lenox Fund Mission Statement

**WHEREAS**, the Lenox School was founded and chartered as a Massachusetts educational corporation in 1926, and began doing business shortly thereafter in Lenox, Massachusetts.

**WHEREAS**, the motto of Lenox School, stated in Latin on the shield in its coat of arms, is "Not to be served, but to serve."

**WHEREAS**, during its period of active operation, the Lenox School sponsored and participated in many community outreach and betterment programs, locally, nationally and internationally.

**WHEREAS**, during the period of active operation of the Lenox School, which ceased in 1971, approximately 1,250 boys graduated and became members of an organization then known as the Lenox School Alumni Association (the "LSAA").

**WHEREAS**, after a period of dormancy following the closing of Lenox School, the LSAA began actively seeking out its members and with former members of the Lenox School faculty in order to rekindle the fellowship and sense of pur-

pose that had shaped, sustained and inspired LSAA members during the time they were Lenox School students.

**WHEREAS**, in furtherance of these objectives, the LSAA formally incorporated as the LSAA, Inc. in 1990, elected a Board of Directors, obtained not-for-profit status under the Federal Internal Revenue Code, and began sponsoring the annual reunions in Lenox, which continue to this day.

**WHEREAS**, the LSAA Board of Directors, at the urging of LSAA members, established several scholarship funds, named in honor of former Lenox School masters and funded by donations from LSAA members, to assist current secondary school students of proven need who had established a record of service, combined excellence in academics or athletics.

**WHEREAS**, having awarded such scholarships annually for 15 years, typically to students attending schools in the Berkshire County area, and having determined that these scholarships were deeply meaningful for the recipients and their families and allowed LSAA members to publicly reward the ethos of service and achievement characteristic of Lenox School students at their best.

**WHEREAS**, the LSAA membership voted in 2019 to extend and broaden this program of giving so that it might reach beyond secondary school scholarships to other activities worthy of recognition that would perpetuate the spirit of Lenox School.

**WHEREAS**, the LSAA Fund for Lenox School ("The Lenox Fund") was established by vote of LSAA members.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it is declared that The Lenox Fund has the purpose of:

Generating and maintaining in perpetuity financial resources through which students with demonstrated need, who have shown a commitment to service of their schools, communities, family, or country or to the wellbeing of people in other countries, coupled with a record of achievement in academics or athletics, may be recognized. The Lenox Fund is intended to allow such students to continue their education or training, irrespective of any financial constraints of their own personal circumstances, in the spirit of service that was the founding principle of the Lenox School.

In addition, The Lenox School Fund is to be used to provide financial support for the Website containing the history, important documents, and memorabilia of Lenox School.

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## School Happenings 50 Years Ago According to the P&S – March 21, 1970

This edition of the Pen and Scroll was only the second one published for the 1969-1970 school year. In place of the usual masthead was the headline 'At Last, the P&S Is Here!', while the usual masthead ran down the left margin. Consequently, it covered events from the fall and winter terms, including the results of the athletic teams from both seasons.

The edition led off with an entire front page interview with Alice Brock of Alice's Restaurant' in Stockbridge and the 1969 movie of the same name. Her opinion of private schools: "...they can be a lot more exciting than public schools. Education is a process of making all the tools available and encouraging people to be creative. Some teachers have a twisted idea of education, they think they are dolling out education to ignorant kids." And on Lenox School dances: "I like reality, your dances are fantasy and insane. Your dance ideas are ridiculous..."



**Alice Brock of 'Alice's Restaurant' (1970)**

The school welcomed its first Chaplain, Mr. Gasson, who came to Lenox at Mr. Montgomery's request after working with him at the Virginia Episcopal School in the same capacity. A Georgetown graduate, he taught 16 plus year at St. Paul's School. He will teach theology for the lower forms and be the coordinator for the chapel and church programs. See the article 'Chapel Reform Success?'.

There was a change of policy in the workings of the school's Disciplinary Committee to make its operation more transparent to the students. A fifth form representative to the committee will be elected by the student council to serve a half-year term, joining the senior prefect as a member of the council. His will serve as a liaison between the committee and student body to convey student thoughts and ideas to the committee. The committee also adopted a more advisory role.

The major events covered in this edition are as follows. At 7:45, on November 11th, St. Martin's Day, a school holiday named Irrational Ronald's Day was called and the Head-

master absolved all Disciplinary action in affect at the time. Students were allowed to come to lunch dressed as informally as they wanted, as long as they paid a quarter to the Saint Martin's Society. Students came in anything, masters waited on tables, and Joe Hatch rang the announcement bell and did a wonderful satire of them. Next, came the judging of various categories of costumes by the faculty wives, with Rev. Whitman in his kilt winning prettiest; Dave Skeeter's Tarzan most daring; and Scott Ingram and Keith Simpson tying for most original.

In the fall term, a new Human Rights Committee was formed with a twofold goal. First, as a means of involvement for those who are conscious of the nature of activities in our country and then beyond into the world. Second, as a source of information to the less aware sector of the student body. At the beginning of the winter term, after a year of inactivity, the Debating Society came to life again, consisting of eight students. They chose topics and conducted internal debates with the hope of debating groups from other schools.

One February 22, the Four School Council (Lenox, Cranwell, Foxhollow, Miss Hall's) met at Miss Hall's to discuss the following topics: scheduling a combined picnic/dance at Miss Hall's; pooling resources to hire a name-band for the Lenox Spring Weekend; the possibility of closer coordination of the schedules at Miss Hall's and Lenox for the following year; and the expansion of the ongoing exchange program between Miss Hall's and Lenox.

In early March, the Dramatic Society presented 'The Glass Menagerie' in the gym to a disruptive student audience who made a mockery of drama at Lenox. The play starred Keith Simpson, Lucy Cornwell, Kate Higgins and George Cleveland. The disruptive behavior consisted of misplaced and rude laughter and remarks that got worse once the heater had to be turned off. The P&S staff offered its apology to Mr. Wood on behalf of the school.

There were two editorials -- one letter to the editor and a poem by Langston Hughes. The first editorial dealt with the lack of a P&S edition for many months, feeling that it was delayed due to a lack of student input and the unwillingness of the staff to simply publish the views of the editors. A second, lamented that despite changes in the administration and school policies, the senior class had not lived up to the expectations of making a difference in the school, having been content with just getting by, rather than moving forward. Now that it's spring and college hassles are over, it's time to get something done.



The letter to the editor focused on a student's application of what he'd learned. Though a Lenox education bestowed a degree of prestige, is its education all that better than a public school's? Will too much emphasis on sports and church help him later? And what about the lack of free time precluding the pursuit of other endeavors? The Langston Hughes poem was entitled 'Junior Addict' and reflected the futility of today and the hopelessness of tomorrow.

In fall athletics, Varsity Football fielded one of the strongest teams ever, going 5-1 under the leadership and running of Captain Roger Hoefler and the coaching of Mr. Corrigan. The team featured a superb offensive line, great quarterback play and a stingy defense, losing only to Wilbraham 22-14. JV Football had a good season despite its small size and some extreme weather, going 2-1-1 with wins against Darrow and Cranwell. Third Football went 4-0, led by top scorer Chris Payne and Captain Ben Towne, with a first-ever win against Eaglebrook.

Varsity Soccer went 3-8-1 losing many games by a single goal scored late in the game. The first line was strong with leading scorer Jeff Gulick, Laube and Clark, aided by fast and aggressive halfbacks. JV Soccer had a slow start to its season, but pulled itself together to win three games in the second half of the season to go 3-4-2. III Soccer went 2-6-2 with one win against Salisbury and another by forfeit.

Varsity Cross Country went 4-4 under Coach Hackett, which did not include a win at the Classic New England's and a third in the Berkshire County Run. Leading performers were Chris Higgins, Mike Kent and Ian Larson. A strong JV Cross Country Team, led by Mark Apone, had one of their finest seasons ever at 6-0, with three perfect-score races.

In winter sports, the Varsity Hockey team went 8-7-1, winning their last five games and beating the Alumni 9-6. For the first time ever, the school fielded separate JV and Third teams instead of picking a JV team from club-league all-stars. Despite having more time to practice together, after winning their first two games, the JV team lost their last five to go 2-5.

Led by Co-captain and high scorer Roger Hoefler and Co-captain Chris Higgins a strong Varsity Basketball team went 5-5, due in large part to the absence of Hoefler at the beginning of the season. The team is extremely well balanced with key contributions from Jody Haddow, Jeff Smith, Jim Hinson, Len Shepard, Les Ellison, Mike Stanley and George Morgan. Captains Chris Woodward and Sam MacKenna lead a strong Varsity Fencing team with five

returning lettermen that won its first match against St. Peter's 27-0.

~ Randy Harris

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## Chapel Reform Success? An Article from 50-Years Ago in the P&S March 21, 1970

*Note: I selected this article to share because it shows just how much and how quickly things familiar to students of the past, were changing in the school's last several years. Of course these changes were welcomed by most students as evidence that the school was willing to listen to them and change its policies when change was for the better. It should also be noted that the student body was growing smaller and smaller in the school's last two years, eventually ending up at about 130 students or almost one-half of its former size. ~ RH*

Early in December the chapel system at Lenox was reviewed. Chapel attendance had been required traditionally at Lenox five times a week. During the weekdays chapel was at 5:30 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The traditional Sunday service was at 5:00 at Trinity Church. Mr. Montgomery, after reviewing this system, decided to make chapel attendance required two days a week on Monday and Thursday. Thayer Hall is now our new meeting place as opposed to Trinity Church. Occasionally we do go back to Trinity Church hymn sings. Students now have a choice on Sunday to go to either a morning service at Thayer Hall at 9:45 or to vespers at 5:00. This choice is indeed advantageous to the student. It gives those boys who want to sleep after breakfast the chance to. The boys who want to work during the afternoon can get their chapel obligation out of the way early. Student reactions to all facets of this chapel reform have been extremely favorable.

Thayer Hall is only halfway up the hill as compared with Trinity Church. This is a relief in the old Berkshire weather, however. The atmosphere at Thayer Hall is not conducive to prayer. After Christmas vacation Thayer Hall suffered a face lifting. It is now painted with various blatant colors which make it appear more like The Electric Circus than a chapel. Thayer Hall as it is now painted would make an excellent discotheque, but its décor leaves much to be desired as a chapel meeting place.

Student and faculty chapel talks have been good which is some consolation for a psychedelic atmosphere. Any student who wishes to speak to the school in chapel may do so. All that is required is that he speak to a member of the

chapel committee composed of two masters, Mr Gasson and Mr. Corrigan and three students, Steve Kelsey, Peter Guthrie and Russell Jenkins. Such participation is encouraged by the committee.

Chapel Reform is a radical change for Lenox School. In the last three years the chapel system has come increasingly under fire. Some attempt at the broadening of the format was attempted last year, though the time requirements remained the same. Both format and time requirements have changed substantially this year as can be noted above. This reform exemplifies the new air of change at Lenox and the ability to change. In previous years questions as to school policies and reform were seldom discussed in open forum of any type and if you did discuss them you were labelled a radical. Lenox today is sensitive to the demands of the students and is able to listen to our demands. Lenox has to change with the generation of youth it wants to teach. It is on the way toward achieving that end.

~ Randy Harris

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## P&S Headlines From The Past (60, 70, 81 and 90 Years Ago)

### 60 Years Ago: Tuesday, December 15, 1959

**Mr. Keiper Speaks On Project Vanguard:** An exhibition of and discussion on some of the latest scientific instruments for the conquest of outer space. Vanguard was the U.S. response to Russia's launch of Sputnik two years earlier. **School Receives \$6,000 Gift:** From Mrs. Walter H. Godsoe guardian of Allen Gordon '50 in gratitude for his education. **School Sets Up New Clipston Library:** New books, magazine subscriptions and six study tables and chairs added. Open for study and research with faculty wife proctors in the evening from 7:30 – 9:30. **Mr. Rutledge Establishes Art Seminar:** First of its kind held on Saturday's third and fourth periods in Clipston Library focuses on appreciation and significance of various art forms. **Press Club Created:** Acts as school's first publicity office under Mr. Butler. Prepares sports and social features for local and hometown newspapers. **Hockey Opener Sees 3-1 Defeat Of Darrow At Williamstown:** No natural ice at either school requires game to be played at Williams College's artificial rink.

### 70 Years Ago: Friday, December 16, 1949

**School Chef Dies After Long Illness:** Mr. Leo Sanderson dies after 6 years at Lenox, Mr. Stanton Roberts takes over. **Giant 'Cherry Picker' Swings Gym Roof Trusses:** Headmaster says new Gym will be in use by January as roof goes Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

**on. Glee Club Revived: Will Hold Concerts:** After a 3-year absence it lives under new director Mrs. Spencer Kennard. **Rev. Robert S.S. Whitman '33 Instituted As Rector of Trinity Parish (Nov 12, 1949):** Reception at Mrs. Bassett's expansive mansion Sundrum House across from church (Bassett Hall). **School Secretary Announces Engagement:** Miss Jacquelin Murphy of Pittsfield to wed Mr. James McFerran of Detroit at St. Stephan's Church service in June to be officiated by Rev. Curry.

### 81 Years Ago: Thursday, December 15, 1938

**New Building To Be Named St. Martin's Hall:** Rev. Monks says perpetuating the name of the school's patron saint has a great deal of appropriate significance. **School Feasts In Evergreen Decked Halls As Thanksgiving Snow Storm Rages:** Mrs. Hubert and the MacLeans prepared 12 huge turkeys for the school which were served by the masters at the beginning of a 24-hour blizzard. **Dramatic Club Presents Two One-Act Plays:** Club president Cabell Souder starred in 'Submerged', while Holden Findlay and Jay Mullen starred in 'Be Home At Midnight'. **Lenox Crushes Millbrook 58-0:** Team avenges its first five losses.

### 90 Years Ago – Friday, December 6, 1929

**Buildings Named:** Main building (Sunnycroft) named Griswold Hall and the dining hall named Thayer Hall. **First Major Athletic Awards:** First time Lenox teams competed against the 'First' Teams of other schools and a 6" block chenille letter 'L' was awarded. **School Music:** Under Mr. Moxon, each boy receives 45 minutes of music per week and every boy is tested for the Glee Club. **Sport Highlights – Touch Football Leagues Formed:** six-boy teams plus master play between fall and winter seasons.



Giant 'cherry-picker' swings Gym roof trusses. (1949)

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## Update on Shakespeare & Company and Former Campus Buildings

Once again, Steve Ball, the General Manager of S&Co, owners of a 33-acre portion of the former southern campus, has been kind enough to answer our questions on S&Co's status in its 42nd year, their activities and programs, and the condition and future of the former campus buildings. His answers and words form the basis of this article.

Steve reports that the three-year Strategic Plan, representing the vision of management and the board, was ratified at the August, 2019 board meeting, after a longer-than-expected but fruitful process of engagement amongst the board and staff. It concentrates on financial stabilization and program enhancement as well as preparing for capital campaign(s) afterwards.

S&Co had another successful artistic season this summer with box office receipts remaining near all-time highs with 65-66% of available seats sold and their confidence is high that they are positioned to continue to achieve this rate each summer, while work continues to top it. The number of productions this year will likely be similar to last year's schedule, but increase by 3 special events, for a total of 3 Shakespeare 4 non-Shakespeare and 4 special events including a Halloween program. The additional special events are due to this year's extra week between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the program's continued expansion into the summer's shoulder seasons in the spring and fall.

Among the tasks from the new Strategic Plan for the property/infrastructure committee was to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) with the goal of gaining some collaborator(s) on the property that would enhance the property for S&Co and its patrons and enhance the financial well-being of S&Co and, presumably, the new collaborators as well. An associated task was to assess issues that would be asked by potential collaborators (land use and/or zoning restrictions, asbestos and/or lead issues, etc.).

The RFP is out and tours of the property by interested parties should result in letters of interest by the deadline in November. Approximately a dozen individuals or groups have explored the property so far, and they were provided with reports of zoning and other restrictions, recent civil engineering reports, etc. The interest stemming from the RFP will help S&Co to shape or dictate the plans and options for the property and buildings, but it is too early to know what will come of this process. Other tasks specified by the plan for the committee were to explore other

"monetization" opportunities such as solar installation, and develop a plan for MCC Facilities Fund grant money that would maximize their return on investment of such funds.

All of last year's required maintenance projects were completed thanks in part to the receipt of \$200K from the State Cultural Facility Matching Grant program and matching funds. No new projects for next year have yet been scheduled; awaiting budget discussions and the receipt of grant funds. An upcoming effort will create a small property maintenance fund through the addition of a "facilities fee" or similar \$2 per ticket charge throughout the summer next year, to support smaller-scale projects. They will apply for another state grant in January to raze Monk's Hall and the Pool Building; and possibly to create a new space for meal service, both for the public and for the company. Other ideas are being explored.

There have been no major changes to the condition of the former campus buildings. St. Martin's is still in a "keep intact/maintain the envelope" status so that it is a possibility for future development. The clearing out and cleaning up of St. Martin's continues. Repairs needed include improving drainage around the building; getting the basement of the south and center portions dry; and the hauling of furniture and other larger trash pieces by a "1-800-got-junk" type vendor, but awaiting donation of services for this, anyone?.



**Monks Hall is scheduled to go**

Monk's Hall and the Pool Building (built by 'The Bible Speaks' and near the Lawrence Hall-side entrance road to the Bernstein Theatre (Sports Center) catty-corner from the former Hockey Pond) are destined to be razed, hopefully with funding from next year's State Cultural Facility Grant. The specific goal of this is to create some green space and/or new views and vistas to engender some new ideas about how the buildings on the property relate to each



other. The Coop, Field House and Infirmary are not likely to ever be habitable again, but there is some talk of exploring how the architecture or shell or façade of one or more of these buildings may be interesting to retain, but there is no funding to support this at all yet.



### 'The Bible Speaks' Swimming Pool to go

In regards to former campus buildings not owned by S&Co: the 2.2 acre Clipston Grange property remains a private residence. Spring Lawn (Schermerhorn), which appears to have sat idle for some time, may have completed their funding stage and nearly completed their permitting stage and may start renovations as early as the spring of 2020. The Kemble Inn (Bassett Hall) added a third business, a bar in the old butler's pantry or servant's kitchen at the southeast corner of the building, in addition to its rooms and restaurant. The private residence next door (The Carriage House) added a freestanding 2-car garage out front and a large veranda out back. The construction work on the former Walker House Inn (before that the Jones House) has been completed and it is now called the Walker House Residences, featuring long-term apartments.

Adult Training program attendance is holding steady, poised for growth. The residential month-long training program continues as do the training workshops, including the NYC 10-day program and weekend programs in a few other cities, with new cities Raleigh, NC and Dallas TX. There are new Public Speaking weekend programs led primarily by Tina Packer and geared towards non-actors; while the fund for scholarships to encourage diversity and teachers to be participants in their programs continues to see moderate growth. Two scholarships to the summer month-long training program were awarded this past

summer, and they anticipate two more scholarships being awarded for this winter's month-long program.

All the Youth Education programs continue and this year are doing even better than in recent years. The students are receiving the same programming but the parents and schools are signing up for them sooner, paying for them sooner, and they are going to more schools and reaching more students with the annual tour, which this year features *Comedy of Errors* and *Macbeth* and 17-18 weeks of performances and workshops in 75 schools. More people are auditing the S&Co Education Artists' training sessions in order to bring S&Co's aesthetic and methodologies to their communities, while in-school residencies have grown, including a 7-week residency in Israel. The Fall Festival of Shakespeare remains at maximum capacity and it and the Teacher's Professional Development Workshops are first out of the gate for replication elsewhere and/or expansion outside of Berkshire County.

If you're interested in scheduling or supporting S&Co contact: [education@shakespeare.org](mailto:education@shakespeare.org) to schedule S&Co Youth Education programs; [www.Shakespeare.org/support](http://www.Shakespeare.org/support) to contribute to their scholarship fund, new Facilities' Maintenance Fund or to learn about Planned Giving opportunities; and [steve@shakespeare.org](mailto:steve@shakespeare.org) to donate a registerable, inspect-able car for education artists' use.

~ Randy Harris

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### 'Twenty Questions and Answers About Your Son's Education' – Rev. Monks

*Note: The author of this document cannot be absolutely determined because we don't have the original or confirmation from another document of its existence. It's attributed to Headmaster Monks, but if it wasn't written by him, then it was written by a close associate of his, who was familiar with his philosophy and who undoubtedly wrote it in coordination with him. This is because it is a perfect reflection of Rev. Monks' capstone manuscript 'Lenox School: Educational Ideals and Methods'. Apparently it was written during the war years and distributed to parents of prospective students in addition to the school catalog. The answers Mr. Monks provides are perhaps the clearest and most concise view of his vision of what the school stood for and the type of education that it provided that exists. As you read through it, how many times do you see your parents asking the same questions on your behalf?*

~ RH

Visiting Parent: As Headmaster, you must have many parents anxious to find just the right school for their boy, but a little uncertain how to go about it. The difficulties of travel and the general uncertainties of the day seem to make it harder than ever. Perhaps you can help me.

Mr. Monks: I should be delighted to help you toward a wise decision in any way that I can. You are quite right in thinking that many parents feel as you do. Therefore it occurred to me that your questions and my answers might prove helpful to others as well. Would you object to my using them for that purpose?

Parent: I would be delighted if my experience could be of value to others similarly perplexed. For a start, could you tell me what sort of boys attend Lenox School?

Mr. Monks: They are probably a pretty fair cross section. Mostly they live in New England, New York or New Jersey, but happily we have always had a scattering from west and south, as well as missionaries' children from the Far East. At least half are from professional families, but a wide range of home background and economic status is represented.

Parent: There are a confusing number of schools that seem much alike. What do you consider distinctive about Lenox?

Mr. Monks: I hate to lay claims to being distinctive or to speak for others. For ourselves, I think a good guide is the verse describing the boyhood years of Jesus as being marked by a fourfold increase: "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." One can't go far wrong on such a program!

Parent: I notice that while you mentioned in your catalogue growth in wisdom, you apparently do not think of passing courses as the chief purpose of education. This is a welcome sign to me.

Mr. Monks: I am glad we agree on that point. Our concern is the growth of the whole personality. This does not mean that any valuable emphasis is left out; happily, it is not a case of "either-or," but of "both-and."

Parent: My boy is bright enough, but his teachers have always said that he had never learned how to study. Can you help him?

Mr. Monks: This is a very common situation; correcting bad study habits and forming good ones is not such a simple or

automatic process as adjusting the engine of a balky car. But there is much that can be done, and especially in the lower forms, we have had many gratifying successes.

Parent: Our family has always gone to [Dartmouth?], and naturally we would like our boy to go there, too. Does Lenox prepare boys for any special college?

Mr. Monks: We have a number of graduates there. But many other colleges, too, are frequently selected. I do hope you have not made a final decision on the matter just yet. It is our job, not simply to prepare a boy for entrance, but to help him to make a wise choice as to where he will go. Some should be dissuaded from going to college at all.



**Headmaster Monks talks things over (1940s)**

Parent: How are you able to meet such a wide variety of entrance requirements with the limited number of courses a small school can offer?

Mr. Monks: In practice, this is not as difficult as might appear. We have found that we can adjust our program to meet individual needs, and give pretty definite assurance that a boy who does satisfactorily in his work here will not only be able to get into the college of his choice, but, perhaps more important, will do commendably while there.

Parent: I am interested in hearing what you are doing in the way of a war program?

Mr. Monks: Who of us is not affected by being in a world at war? I know some schools are turning their programs

upside down to meet the emergency demands. It is my sincere conviction that we, at any rate, can make our greatest contribution to the country by pursuing roughly the same lines as before, but trying to do a better job. I explained my feelings on this point a bit more fully in the catalogue.

Parent. How about sports? Have you had to cut them out for the duration?" My boy is fond of them, and I believe they have great value.

Mr. Monks. There need be no anxiety on that score. While we have had to re-duce our outside games, and while we have never taken sports in quite the life and death fashion of some schools I know, they have always had a large place in the life at Lenox and they still do.

Parent. I understand that Lenox is a self-help school. Just what does this mean?

Mr. Monks. The boys not only take care of their rooms, wait on the tables, wash dishes, clean the corridors and grounds, etc., but also assist in various supervisory and executive capacities. In brief, anything the boys can do, the boys do. We believe that the educational gains from this experience are very profound and far reaching in producing the sort of character we are after.

Parent. But doesn't it take too many hours from the all too short time available for other things?

Mr. Monks. It does take time, of course; half an hour a day suffices on the average, but boys are constantly volunteering for jobs that take somewhat longer. I think you would be amazed how smoothly and easily the system runs, and how highly the boys value the feelings of self-respect and self-sufficiency which it gives.

Parent. Aren't a lot of schools undertaking this sort of thing as a war measure?

Mr. Monks. Yes, indeed, and they are finding great virtue in it, too. We, who have always been enthusiastic about the system, and have never favored it primarily as a money saver, cannot help smiling at the way so many others are now getting excited about discovering values we have been finding all along! .

Parent. What part do your masters have in the life of the school?

Mr. Monks. I am glad you asked about that. Of course, a master has a job to do in the classroom, but that is where

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his responsibility starts, not where it finishes. He is the counselor and elder brother, if you will, who is helping a youngster in the process of growth. Every boy is assigned to one as an adviser. Of course, he will probably come to know many others well, too, but this does at least guarantee that no boy gets lost sight of.

Parent. Yours is a church school, is it not? Our family is not Episcopalians. Frankly, I am afraid we are not very much of anything, but we do recognize the importance of religion and want our boy to be more familiar with it than we were at his age.

Mr. Monks. I like to think that we are deeply, but not narrowly Episcopalian. Members of other denominations are completely at home here, but frankly I would hope that someone with a completely materialistic outlook on life would feel a bit like a fish out of water. We make no apologies for taking religion seriously, but we are convinced that forced feeding is a very poor way to promote religious growth.

Parent. Aren't large schools able to offer a lot more in the way of advantages than a small school?

Mr. Monks. If one is looking for prestige, buildings, equipment and "eye appeal," of course there can be no comparison. It is further true that some boys do better in the highly competitive atmosphere of a large school, but many who would surely have been lost in the crowd in a large group, have blossomed out in very gratifying fashion at Lenox. For a small school provides more personal attention, and just because the competition is less exacting, our boys have a much greater chance to occupy positions of some prominence and responsibility in some field, for there are, in proportion, more such positions.

Parent. I am a strong believer in democracy. Aren't there great advantages in having my boy rub shoulders with all types in public school?

Mr. Monks. I yield to no one in my enthusiasm for true democracy. Many public schools are doing a perfectly grand job, but I am afraid that too often their democracy is really a leveling down, rather than a leveling up process. Such a small proportion of high school graduates go to colleges of high standing that a public school is often really not justified in giving such boys the intensive attention or exacting standards they really need.

Parent. What do you feel about country day schools? Such an arrangement allows a child to keep the influences of home, in addition to getting a well-rounded program of school activities.



Mr. Monks. True. The right country day school, if it is available, is often the best answer for a younger boy. But we feel that most boys will develop better if some time before college they have the experience of being on their own twenty-four hours a day, day after day. Boarding school is sometimes not the ideal answer, but is often much the best answer available.

Parent. Frankly, how do you manage to operate when most schools charge a good deal more than you do? Have you an endowment, or some sponsor to fall back on?

Mr. Monks. No, we have neither sponsor nor endowment, and I imagine we have our share of financial problems. But we do have the advantage of having, from the beginning, deliberately run the school on a simple scale. Every year we manage to cover our operating expenses by the tuition fees the parents pay.

Parent. What you say makes me doubly hesitant to ask about scholarships. I like what I hear about Lenox, but the expense is a bit beyond what I can handle.

Mr. Monks. The first decision must be whether the education Lenox offers is what you wish for your son. If that decision is affirmative, I would be glad to go into the whole financial situation fully and frankly with you. We do operate a modified sliding scale to make it possible for just such boys as your son to come here. Once we have covered our budget, the more we can help the greater number of people, the better we are doing the job we have set ourselves.

Parent. Thank you for giving me so much of your time. I have a much clearer picture of things now, and I think you will be hearing from me further.

Mr. Monks. I realize that Lenox is not the answer for all educational problems, and it may not be the answer to yours, but I have known a very large number of parents for whom it supplied just what they wanted. If you decide you want your boy to come to us, we will try to do all we can to assist him on his way, and from what you say, I feel we can do much.

For further information, write  
The Rev'd G. Gardner Monks Lenox School Lenox, Mass.

~ Randy Harris

*Editor's note: These days, you may need a higher address for The Rev'd G. Gardner Monks.*

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

## Rev. George Monks Appointed Washington Cathedral Canon

### Lenox School Head 20 Years

The Rev. George Gardner Monks of Cohasset, former headmaster of the Lenox School for Boys, has accepted appointment as a canon of Washington Cathedral, it was announced yesterday by the Rt. Rev. Angus Dun, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Washington.

Mr. Monks served for nine years as a member of the standing committee of the diocese of western Massachusetts. He is a member of the board of examining chaplains of that diocese and currently is in his second term as a member of the children's division of the Christian education department of the church's national council.

### Harvard Graduate

Born in Boston, he attended St. Mark's School and was graduated from Harvard College in 1921. He later studied at Union Theological Seminary, took his M.A. at Columbia University and received his B.D. degree from Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge.

He also has studied at Balliol College, Oxford, and holds an honorary M. A. from Trinity College in Hartford. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1925 and first was curate of All Saints Church, Worcester.

From its founding in 1926 until his resignation in 1946, the new



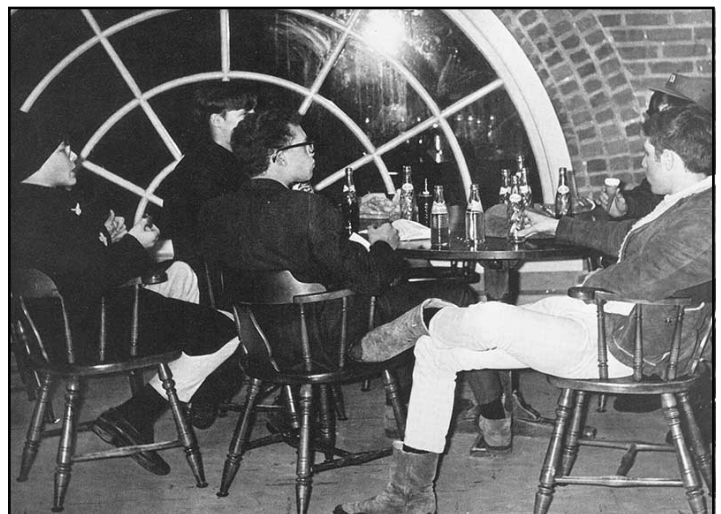
REV. GEORGE G. MONKS

canon was headmaster of the Lenox School for Boys in Lenox. He is a member of the Harvard Club of New York, Cohasset Golf Club and Cohasset Yacht Club.

He married Katherine Knowles in 1925. They have four children. Mr. Monks will assume his new duties Oct. 1.

### Life after Lenox for The Rev. Monks

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Hanging out at the Tuck Shop

## Trivia Questions

Academic excellence was one of Lenox School's founding principles and for this edition I thought it might be interesting to look back at some of the academic requirements and related documents that determined if we would become Lenox School graduates or not and perhaps the best, if not the most refreshing, part of each morning's class schedule.

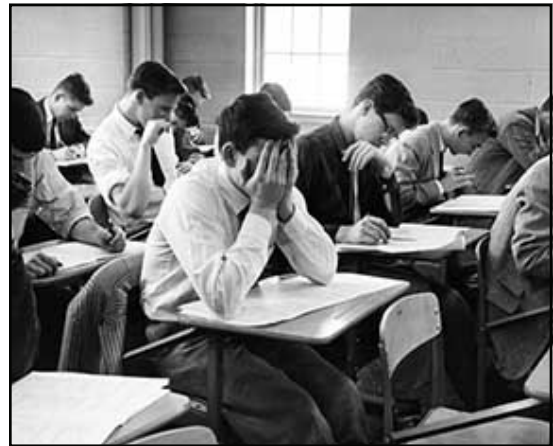
- Which of the following are true about the always welcomed, but short, weekday morning recess period?
  - Was only twelve minutes long.
  - Occurred between the third and fourth (10:08) or fourth and fifth (10:49) class periods.
  - Was usually held in the basement of St. Martin's Hall.
  - Consisted of a bottle of milk or fruit drink and a small snack.
  - All of the above.
- At graduation, a student may receive?
  - A General Diploma (16 credits, but didn't achieve 12 core classes).
  - A Diploma (16 credits including 12 core classes).
  - A Certificate of Attendance (Less than 16 credits, good citizen, contributed to school).
  - All of the above.
- Which are differences between the Rev. Monks' era Report Cards (1926-1946) and the Rev. Curry era Report Cards (1946-1969)?
  - All course grades, plus advisor's and headmaster's comments on a single sheet.
  - Study habits and performance as a member of the community ratings, rather than just a single citizenship rating.
  - Less room for individual course instructor's comments.
  - Student placed in one of nine ranked groups with the number of students in higher and lower groups indicated.
  - All of the above.
- How frequently were 'Report Cards' prepared and sent to parents?
  - At mid-year and year-end.
  - At monthly intervals and at mid-year and year-end.
  - At six week intervals with the mid-year and year-end reports being matters of permanent record.
  - None of the above.

- How many years of each of the following courses constituted the mandatory 'core curriculum' required for a graduation diploma? [Match the course to the number.]
 

a. English	1
b. Mathematics	1
c. Laboratory Science	3
d. One Language	4
e. Two Languages	3
f. U. S. History	4

~ Randy Harris

\* \* \*



The academic pressure was always on

\* \* \*

## Among the Missing...

We continue to be on the lookout for missing LSAA members. August newsletters to the alumni or readers below were returned as undeliverable. If you know the whereabouts or have an address for any of these folks, please let us know.

Richard Alisch  
Frank Danforth Baker  
Donald Cleary  
Richard Cohen  
Curtis Creasy III  
Maryann Ebitz

Theodore Lloyd  
Paul Munson  
Alexander Piranian  
Russell Spring  
Joseph Zavattaro

\* \* \*



## 2019 LSAA Reunion Attendees

Attendees who signed in at the Saturday morning business meeting or the Saturday evening dinner are listed.

*Ed. -- If we've misspelled your name, then a thousand pardons. We do the best we can deciphering the hand-written signatures. Also, if we've missed a guest's name, our apologies once again, though we list whomever you wrote to the best of our ability.*

Joe Baker (Berkshire Taconic)  
 Floyd Ballesteros '69  
 Michael Benson '69  
 Paul Blatz '69 & Michaelle  
 Bill Blount '69  
 Bob Brownlee '61 & Lynn  
 Thomas Calhoun '69  
 Ira Colby '67  
 Clif Cook (son of Phil Cook '42) & Betsy  
 David Curry '65  
 Charlie Daniell '48 & Zoë  
 Paul Denzel '67  
 Ara Dostourian (Master)  
 Fritz Eckel '65 & Meridith & Gail Bonner (friend)  
 Jon Eckel '66  
 Earl Engelmann '69  
 Jim Fawcett (Master) & Eugenie  
 Don Foster '63 & Carole  
 Patrick Gable '69  
 Mark Germond '69 & Kate  
 Dennis Gillanders '69  
 Sky Goodrich '64  
 Ed Griggs '69  
 Pete Hansen '60  
 Stu Hardy '64  
 Doug Hardy '62  
 Joe Hatch '71  
 Jack Hill '62  
 Dan Hinckley '69  
 Bill Homans '68  
 Rick Horton '67  
 Chris Kinchla '66  
 Bob Kline '48 (Master) & Elizabeth Thompson  
 David Knight '63 & Jeannie  
 Maurice Leavitt '66  
 Gareth Lewis '69  
 Frank McCoy '70  
 Kent Methven '71  
 Kara Mikulich (Berkshire Taconic)  
 Ed Miller '66 & Sarah  
 Bob Mitnik '62

David Nathans '68  
 Fred Nicholaev '69 & Maggie Brown  
 Jim Paterson (Master) & Kay  
 Don Pfretzschnier '69 & Barb  
 Nol Putnam '51 (Master)  
 John Risley '67  
 Charles Rogers (Master) & Teresa  
 Bob Rush '62  
 Bob Sansone '68  
 John Schneiter '68  
 Toby Seamans '65 & Stella Mae  
 Keith Simpson '70  
 Gil Skidmore '68  
 Pete Spaulding '56  
 Kimberly Sporbert (S&Co)  
 Dave Tracy '61  
 Stephen Tracy '68  
 David Voorhees '69  
 Bonnie Wilson (S&Co)

\* \* \*

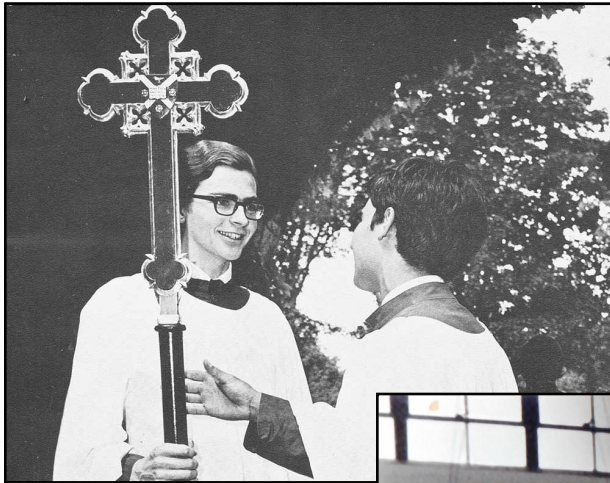
*Editor's note: Randy Harris always includes a collection of interesting pictures with the articles he prepares for the P&S. Usually, these pictures have some relevance to the articles, but sometimes not. We try to include relevant pictures alongside the articles -- and use the others to fill in those empty spaces that occur when we can't "shoehorn in" part of an article (without creating dreaded "orphans and widows").*

*On this and the following page are several random pictures to bring back memories.*



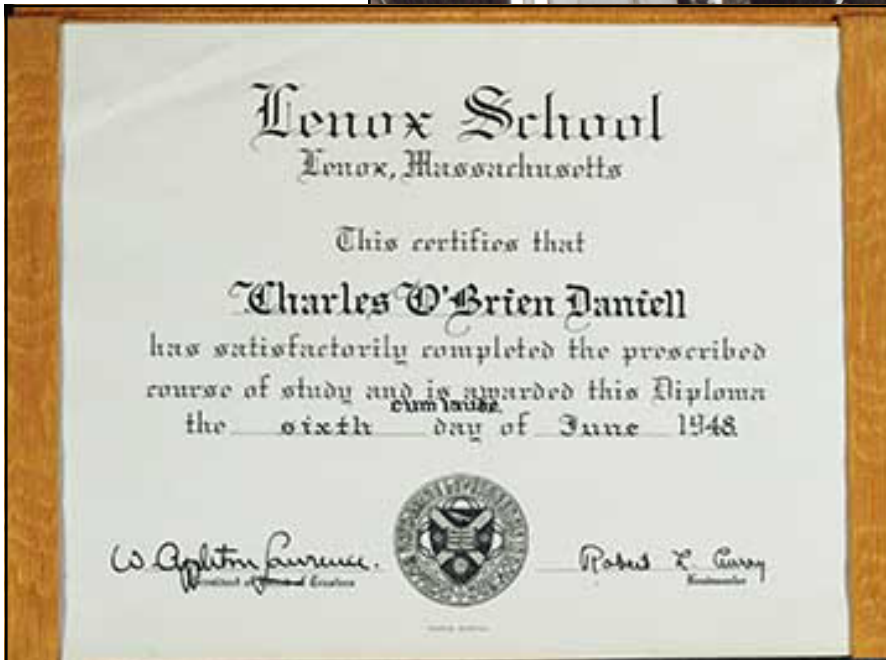
Service in St. Martin's Chapel



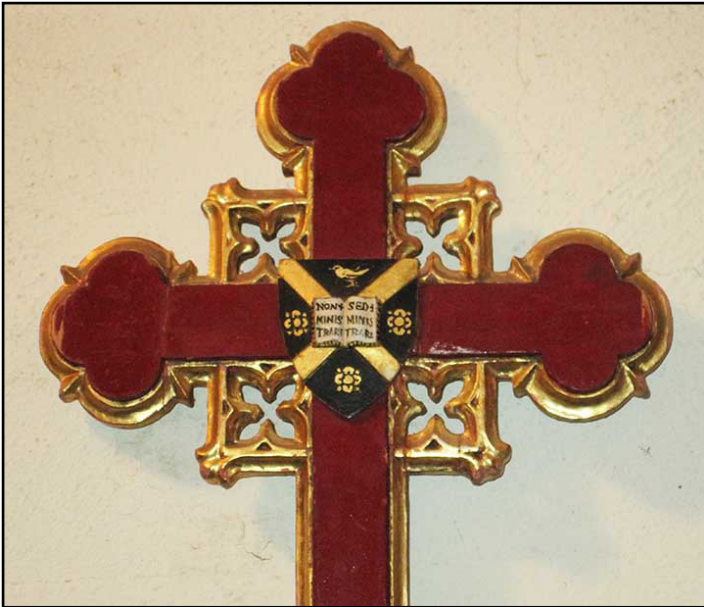


Class of 1961's Lenox School Cross

Then that day finally arrives,  
Graduation – 1964



The reward,  
a Lenox School Diploma – 1948



## In Memoriam

### David D. Berndt '57 October 19, 1938 - March 29, 2019

David D. Berndt, 80, of Penacook, New Hampshire died March 29, 2019 in Concord, NH.

Formerly a resident of Bedford and Litchfield, NH, he was predeceased by his wife of 19 years, Claudette (Marchand) Berndt.

Born in Massachusetts, David was raised in Providence, RI and Newton Lower Falls, MA. He was a graduate of Lenox School for Boys in Lenox, Massachusetts and attended Randolph Macon College.

His career was spent as a Bank Trust Officer, largely with Indian Head and Amoskeag Banks. Summers were spent at Camp O-At-Ka in Sebago, ME where he was a Camper, Counselor, member of the Order of Sir Galahad, the Board of Directors and the Corporation.

He leaves behind his brother, William of Harwich, MA, and two sisters, Barbara of So. Berwick, ME and Lee of Centerville, MA. He also leaves three children, David Berndt, Jr.

Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

of Honolulu, HI, Kenneth Berndt of Sebago, ME and Pamela (Berndt) Mark of Concord, NH, two Stepchildren, Robert Marchand of Methuen, MA and Melissa (Marchand) Mahony of Milford, NH along with seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

At David's request, there will be no services. His ashes will be scattered privately.

Donations in his name can be made to the "Dennen Week" fund at Camp O-At-Ka, 593 Sebago Rd., Sebago, ME 04029

\* \* \*

### Edward Gilman Williams '44

Edward Gilman Williams, 93, of Hamden, husband of the late Barbara Thompson (Russell) Williams, passed away on October 22, 2019 at Benchmark Senior Living at Hamden. He was born in Ware, MA on April 11, 1926 to the late Carl Emmons and Susan Helen (Gilman) Williams. He leaves his son Thomas Clarke Williams and his wife Linda of New Canaan, daughter Susan Williams of MD, and grandsons Thomas Holbrook Williams and Robert Thompson Russell Williams.

After graduating from Lenox School in 1944, Ned joined and honorably served in the U.S. Navy receiving the WWII Victory Medal and campaign medals for the American Theater, Asia Pacific, and Philippine Liberation. He earned his B.A. in Economics and History from Trinity College in Hartford.

Ned started his banking career at Union & New Haven Trust Company in the Income Tax Department in 1951. From



1972 to his retirement in 1989, he served as Executive Vice President and Vice President of Northeast Bancorp, Inc. He enthusiastically served the Greater New Haven Community on many boards including Easter Seals Goodwill, Edgerton Park Conservancy, Whitney Center, the English-Speaking Union, the Shubert Performing Arts Center, New Haven Colony Historical Society Board, and the Church of the

Redeemer as Trustee and Deacon. He served on the New Haven Lawn Club's Board and as President.

An avid traveler, Ned made every opportunity to travel with his family on vacations, adventures to Great Britain, and dozens of trips to see the beauty of America. He never missed opening day in April for trout season, took his son Tom on every fishing trip possible, and enjoyed meeting new people at every turn.

Memorial Contributions in Ned's name may be made to the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 70, care of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840. For on-line condolences, or to share a memory with Edward's family, please visit: [www.beecherandben-nett.com](http://www.beecherandben-nett.com).

\* \* \*

## Robert B. Gibson '48

Robert B. Gibson died November 8, 2011, at his home in King, N.C. He was born on April 22, 1930, in Reading, Mass., and prepared for college at Reading High School and Lenox School. He was vice president of the student council at Bowdoin and a member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He went on to study at Temple University.

After a career in human resources, he retired as director of human resources at the Export-Import Bank of the United States in Washington D.C. He served to sergeant in the Army during the Korean War and was a member of the Lions Club for many years. In retirement, he enjoyed delivering meals for senior citizens.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nadine Rak Gibson; daughter Joanne "Jody" Gibson; sons Robert Bartlett Gibson Jr. and Matthew Dodge Gibson; sister Mary Cubelli; three grandchildren, and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by brother Ralph D. Gibson '50, and grandson, U.S. Army Sgt. Kenneth Bartlett Gibson, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq.

*Ed. note: This obituary is from the Bowdoin College Magazine and published in 2011. Mr. Gibson graduated from Bowdoin in 1952.*

\* \* \*

## Susan (Curry) Barnett 1945-2019

Susan Curry Barnett of Florence, Massachusetts, passed away quietly at Hospice of the Fisher Home In Amherst on October 25,th 2019. She was surrounded by close friends.

Sue was born on March 27,1945 in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of The Rev. Robert Lewis Curry and Elizabeth Moulton Cartwright Curry.

After graduating from Northfield School and Tufts University, Sue built a career at The Northampton School for Girls and the Williston Northampton School between 1968 and 2011. She held many different positions as an educator: coach, dorm parent, teacher, administrator. She most loved coaching the girls soccer, hockey and softball, stating "I am still in touch with hundreds of them. I have seen them grow up, fail, pick themselves up again, succeed, raise families. That is what I love from start to finish."

Sue met Roger (Gus) Barnett at Williston. They were married in Phillip Stevens Chapel at Williston in December of 1987. They celebrated their love of travel, good times with family and friends, and a willingness to work long and hard in their yard. Roger died in September of 1998.

At the age of 8, Sue started attending Fleur de Lis Camp in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. Her mother had been Director of the Water Front. Her grandmother had been the camp nurse. Susan was a camper, a Counselor in Training, a Counselor, and the Camp Director during 1972, 1973, and 1976.

As with her Williston students, Susan enjoyed watching the campers grow and become adults. Many girls from school and camp were friends right through the end.

Susan is predeceased by her husband, Roger Barnett; her parents; and her step son Geoffrey Barnett. She is survived by her brother David and his wife Sandra, and her three nieces, Rebecca C. Aupperlee and husband, Phil, and Heather Curry. Also surviving are her two step daughters, Amy Hinton and Alexandra Erickson and her husband David and Geoffrey Barnett's wife, Roxanne.

Please share your favorite story and photographs regarding Sue at Williston's website, under the Alumnae tab, 'In Memorium', as LEAVE A COMMENT.

It would be appreciated if no flowers were sent. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the Fleur de Lis Camp Sue Curry Endowed Campership, 120 Howeville Road, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, or the Williston Northampton School Sue Curry Barnett Endowment for the Girls Softball Team, 19 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027

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## Trivia Answers From The August 2019 Edition

1.(f) The following are true of students' access to spending money for necessary expenditures: no boy should carry more than a dollar or two at any time; all parents must place \$100 in an Incidentals Account at the start of the year to be accessed via a student's school checkbook; boys may use the checkbook to pay fees, for services, and to purchase items at campus stores and designated businesses in the Town of Lenox; checks must be countersigned by the house master or in an emergency, by the duty master, periodically audited, and approved by parents if above \$5.00, unless for books and supplies; and at regular periods, the school office will give boys a small allowance for the Candy Store and permissions [authorized trips] to Pittsfield.

2.(e) Students were not allowed to use checkbook-accessed funds: at food stores, eating places, and newsstands (printed matter); for model kits, games or other 'unnecessary' items; or anywhere in Pittsfield; to obtain cash from the school office or authorized stores in town unless authorized; to purchase something from another boy; and to contribute to gifts for faculty and staff members.

3.(c) Students bought non-game-uniform athletic clothing like socks, T-shirts, sweats, etc. at the Athletic Store housed in several different locations on campus over the years.

4.(g) The following items with school crests on them were typically purchased at the Bookstore: plastic-coated textbook covers; lined paper filled notebooks; inlaid, mother-of-pearl mechanical pencils; circular or shield-shaped blazer patches; decals; bumper stickers; and school rings after the mid-1950's, before then the Lenox 'L' lapel pin, which was too small for a crest.

5.(b) The 'Tuck Shop', the 150-person student lounge on the top floor of the Field House, where refreshments were sold, got its name from the British word meaning 'Here-Food' (fast food), usually cake or candy served as a snack to children in school.

~ Randy Harris

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Don Foster  
5 Tinkham Lane  
Lakeville, MA 02347