

# Leaves

from the Mynderse Library

vol. 2 Issue 1

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## UPSTATE VILLAGE

There is no finer way to celebrate the Bicentennial than to study the history of our own community.

Elizabeth Delavan has given the library a copy of her new book, Upstate Village. How fortunate we are that Mrs. Delavan delights in recording local history and folklore for us to enjoy.

Upstate Village tells, in a sequence of anecdotes, the history of Seneca Falls from 1787 to the beginning of World War I. The pages are interspersed with sketches and photographs of those early days.

In Upstate Village we read of the first settlers, the Seneca Falls trolley, the 1890 conflagration and of a village quite unrecognizable from the one we know today.

Mrs. Delavan writes with a simplicity of style and a gentle wit which appeal to a wide range of readers.

Put Upstate Village on your 1976 reading list. If you have not read Mrs. Delavan's Upstate Family, enjoy a double treat.

Joan Fogg

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Like all printers, Benjamin Franklin was an omnivorous reader even though he left school after the second grade, so, it is not surprising that in 1730 he proposed to his friends that they form a club for their "mutual improvement." Ten men made up the Junto which met every Friday evening for discussion, debate and some writing.

Franklin, in his autobiography notes "this was the mother of all North American libraries . . . It is a great thing for they have improved the general conversation of Americans, made the common tradesmen and farmers as intelligent as most gentlemen from other countries."

So it is to Franklin and his friends we owe a great debt for starting public libraries in the United States and thus preserving the story of America for us all.

Eventually Franklin proposed that they pool their books in the meeting room so that "they inaugurate a subscription library. The first 50 subscribers agreed to pay 40 shillings to start and ten shillings each year for 50 years. Later they obtained a charter and the Philadelphia Library Society was expanded to 100 members.

## Bicentennial Books (cont.)

### Miracle In The Wilderness: A Christmas of Colonial America by Paul Gallico.

"This story was told to me when I was a boy by my great-grandmother on a Christmas Eve by the fire. I always believed that stories told by great-grandmothers must be so, for their old eyes look inward and they recall . . . I never knew whether this was something she had heard, or perhaps read in old letters yellowing in an attic loft, but only that it happened in the wilderness of Britain's colonies in the New World in the long distant past on Christmas Eve".

This heart-warming fable, set in the northwestern wilderness of New York State during the French and Indian Wars, is a story for all seasons, not just Christmas. Gallico is at his best in describing the clash of opposing values in the Indian and white cultures. And the tale's ending, a small "miracle in the wilderness", is a moving victory for humanity.

Given in memory of Elizabeth Spaid by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Radtke, Shirley Glubok's The Art of Colonial America will be enjoyed by both children and adults. The large illustrations and simple prose will appeal to young readers, while adults appreciate the wide variety of distinctively American artistic expression in the years prior to 1776. Paintings both primitive and sophisticated, simple frame houses and Georgian mansions, early churches and interior furnishings all show how the colonists modified the traditional arts of Europe to suit the needs of the New World.

Another memorial art book in keeping with the spirit of the Bicentennial is A Carrot For A Nose: The Form of Folk Sculpture On America's City Streets and Country Roads. Written by M.J. Gladstone and given in memory of Lewis Shuster by Lois Kozlowski, A Carrot For A Nose is a delightful study in how such utilitarian objects as scarecrows, decoys, manhole covers and weathervanes can be among the best examples of good folk art.

"Most streets and highways offer any number of folk figures to anyone who cares to see them. Ponds and pavement blocks, church spires and cornices harbor forms that speak for their maker's skill and imagination and reveal small and real

details about the time they were made . . . You are likely to think of all outdoors as a museum. You can start by thinking of why the snowman has a carrot for a nose . . . and end up with an aesthetic experience".

Other Memorial Books in keeping with the spirit of the Bicentennial:

The Death and Rebirth of the Seneca by Anthony F.C. Wallace.  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Norman A. Swenson  
In Memory of Warren E. Wormuth.

Picture Postcards by Marian Klamkin.  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. John C. Taylor.  
In Memory of Mrs. Dorothy Crane Lawrence.

The Country Auction Antiques Book by Cynthia & Julian Rockmore.  
Presented by Friends and Neighbors.  
In Memory of Mrs. Margaret Rash.

Walking in America by Donald Zochert.  
Presented by The Business and Professional Business Women's Club.  
In Memory of Gary Spencer Adam.

Life in Rural America by National Geographic Society.  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur L. Baker  
In Memory of Allen K. Strong.

These United States by Fred Maroon.  
Presented by Friends & Neighbors.  
In Memory of Mrs. Ada Lattimer.

The Americans: The National Experience by Daniel J. Boorstin.  
Presented by Miss Florence O'Brien  
In Memory of Allen K. Strong.

Founding Mothers by Linda DePauw.  
Presented by Mrs. Leo Krenzer & son, John.  
In Memory of Mrs. Marleah G. McWharf.

Our Hidden Heritage by Eleanor Tufts.  
Presented by Mr. & Mrs. W. Gary Youngs.  
In Memory of Mrs. Georgia Bantuvanis.

# new ARRIVALS



## Fiction.

Blue Meadow, The story of a forbidden love affair and marriage during the American Revolution Mary Wallace.

Green, Green My Valley Now by Richard Llewellyn

In The Beginning by Chaim Potak

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow.

The Winds of Mitamura by John Ball

Curtain by Agatha Christie.

The Unwanted by Dr. Christian Barnard and Siegfried Stander.

Humboldt's Gift by Saul Bellow.

Desmonde by A.J. Cronin.

## NON-FICTION.

The Spirits of '76 by Eric Sloane.

An Outline History of the American Revolution by R. Ernest Dupuy and Trevor N. Dupuy, authors of the Encyclopedia of Military History.

The New York Times Book of House Plants by Joan Lee Faust.

Yankee Weathervanes by Myrna Kaye.

Master of Spies, The Memoirs of General Frantisek Moravec.

## For Teen-Agers.

Founding Mothers by Linda DePauw.

Turn Not Pale, Beloved Snail by Jacqueline Jackson.

Is That You, Miss Blue by M.E. Kerr.

Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree by Robin F. Brancato.

Truth and Consequences by Miriam Young.

## For Beginning Readers.

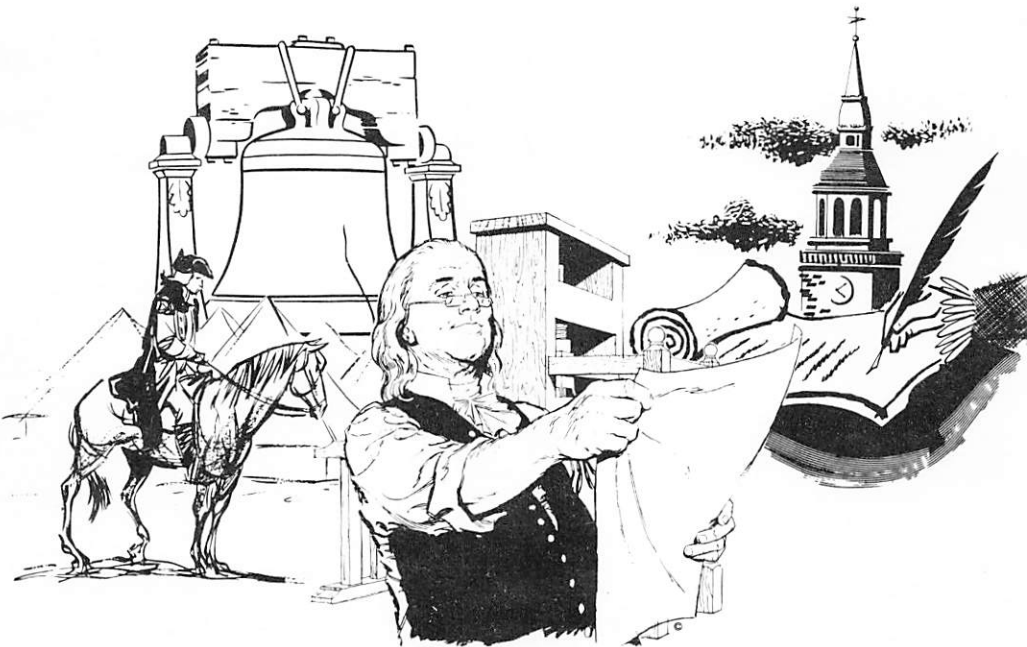
Jeff's Hospital Book by Harriet Langsam Sobol.

The Gingerbread Boy by Paul Galdone.

All About Arthur, an absolutely absurd ape, by Eric Carle.

Louie's Snowstorm by Edmund Wallace Hildick.

Private Zoo by Georgess McHarque.



## Bicentennial Books At The MPL

"While living here we had been so poor that we had only one suit of clothes to our backs, and when Mother wanted to wash them she had to do it while we were abed at night or undressed and go to bed in the day time while she washed and dried our clothes. Many a time I have lain in the trundle bed and looked at her while she washed and dried my clothes by the open fireplace. Minutes would seem hours while I was waiting."

From Through "Poverty's Vale".

Through "Poverty's Vale": A Hardscrabble Boyhood in Upstate New York, 1832 - 1862, by Henry Conklin is a York State Book published by Syracuse University Press. Given in memory of Floyd Olmstead by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Masten, it is one of the best books at the Mynderse Public Library for Bicentennial reading this year.

During the long, cold, quiet Adirondack winter of 1891 - 1892, a Herkimer County farmer and trapper wrote a detailed memoir of his boyhood in the New York backwoods before the Civil War. "It is sometimes forgotten that the greatest threat to pioneer life was not the Indian or the beast of the forest or other colorful forces, but simple

malnutrition and the disease and debility that accompanied it". The farmlands in the foothills of the northern Catskills and southern Adirondacks were marginal at best, and the central theme of Conklin's reminiscences is poverty and the ceaseless struggles of his close-knit family to maintain themselves in the backwoods by forever moving on to what they thought was better land. Though the actual frontier lay a thousand miles to the west, this part on New York was still pioneer country, where families eked out a bare existence by producing their own food and clothing, trapping, and building crude log huts.

Relying only on a few old family letters and his fine memory, Henry Conklin has set down in graphic detail the joys and sorrows of barn raising, sugar making, spinning, fireplace cookery, folk medicine, children's games, illness and death. Like the Laura Ingalls Wilder classics for children, Through Poverty's Vale is both a remarkable and moving narrative and a tribute for this Bicentennial year to the unknown myriads of "little people" who settled each pocket of land so painfully.

**Mynderse**  
**LIBRARY**

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