

## TFHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S NETOP

April 2016

### TFHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

<http://tfhs.gmrtd.org/?pID=11999>

The purpose of the TFHS Alumni Association is to promote a sense of community by providing information, opportunities, and connections with its members.

It is our desire to establish a lifelong relationship with alumni and friends, promote interaction with and among alumni, highlight achievements of alumni, and to provide our members with rewarding opportunities to serve TFHS and its students, our future alumni.

#### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

We are desperately searching for someone with webpage knowledge and skills who could help us set up our own website where we can publish minutes, newsletters and information.

If you can help us, please contact [tfhsalumni@gmrtd.org](mailto:tfhsalumni@gmrtd.org).

#### OUR NEWSLETTER!

We need your help to keep this newsletter alive. As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we need your submissions to fill our pages!

We will do our best to publish newsletters more frequently, but it is up to you—TFHS Alumni—to provide us with articles. Our newsletter is comprised of:

*Milestones* – birth, marriages, anniversaries, deaths

*Achievements* – recognition of alumni accomplishments

*Remember When* – stories about your school experiences

*Class Reunions* – information about upcoming reunions, articles on reunions, reunion committee information, help in finding classmates, etc.

*School Events*

*Other?*

Without your help and contributions, there is no newsletter. Please send us your ideas and articles for future newsletters by using the contact information found at the end of this newsletter.

#### CONTACT US

Send your ideas, thoughts, comments, etc. to:

**Doug Brown:** [dpbrown233@comcast.net](mailto:dpbrown233@comcast.net)

**Karen Collins:**

[golfinggirl101@yahoo.com](mailto:golfinggirl101@yahoo.com)

**Sheryl Jablonski:** [sheryljab@gmail.com](mailto:sheryljab@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

#### ASSOCIATION BOARD

The TFHS Alumni Association was formed by a small group in 2006. Board currently consists of the following alumni:

Deb Benoit – Class of 1973  
Douglas Brown – Class of 1971  
Karen Collins – Class of 1974  
Lesley (McCord) Cogswell – Class of 1994  
Eric Czernich – Class of 1994  
Sheryl Jablonski -- Class of 1975  
Barb (Dion) Kuklewicz – Class of 1970  
Ron LaRoche – Class of 1947  
Kevin McCarthy – Class of 1974  
Steve Prokovich – Class of 1973  
Matt Robinson – Class of 1979  
Bob Avery-Faculty Alumni

The Association meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month (with the exception of January and July). All are welcome to attend.

## *Milestones*

### *Engagements*



Mary Gardner of Montague is pleased to announce

the engagement of her daughter, **Natalie Gardner**, to Clifford Spatcher, both of Bernardston. Spatcher is the son of Holly and Ken Spatcher of Leyden. Natalie is also the daughter of Gary Gardner of Montague

The future bride graduated in 2003 from Turners Falls High School, in 2005 from Greenfield Community College and in 2008 from Westfield State College. She is an employment coordinator at Community Enterprises.

The future groom graduated in 2005 from Pioneer Valley Regional High School, attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and graduated in 2009 from Greenfield Community College. He is the fire chief in Leyden and is employed by Osterman Propane.

A Sept. 17, 2016 wedding is planned.

### *Marriages*



Cross — Pielock  
Kerri Lynne  
Cross and *Jacob*

*David Pielock* of 290 Montague City Road were married July 25, 2015. The bride is the daughter of Sharon and Russell Cross of Greenfield. The groom is the son of Rosemary and David Pielock of Montague. The 4 p.m. ceremony and reception took place at Chandler's in South Deerfield with Justice of the Peace Dick Colgan officiating. The bride was given in marriage by her father. Lindsey Savinski, best friend of the bride, served as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Samantha Crowningshield and Allyson Brissette, cousins of the bride, and Tonya Massey, friend. Lilliana Miller, friend of the couple, was flower girl. Michael Graffius, best friend of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Nicholas Cross, brother of the bride, and Kyle Christenson and Alan Fish, friends. Ring bearers were Liam Pielock, son of the couple, and Carter Savinski. Pure Energy provided music at the reception. The tuxes and gowns were from Aliber's Bridal Shop. Kristen Goodwin made the flower arrangements. The wedding cake was from Atkins Farm. The newlyweds took a wedding trip to Bermuda. The bride is a graduate of Greenfield High School and earned an associate's degree from Greenfield Community College in Early Childhood Education. She is a lead teacher at Ja Duke Preschool in Turners Falls. The groom is a graduate of Turners Falls High School. He is a merchandiser at Frito-Lay. The bride will use the name Kerri Pielock.

## *Anniversary*

### **Lenois — 50th**



Linda and Ronald Lenois Sr. of Turners Falls celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends took them to the Whately Inn for dinner.

The couple have two sons, Ronald Lenois Jr. and his wife Edie of Greenfield and Darren Lenois and his wife Katie of Montague. They also have five grandchildren: Vanessa Process and John (husband), Brandon, Ryan, Derek and Daniel Lenois, and a great-grandchild, Ethan Process. Lenois and the former Linda Blanden were married on July 10, 1965 in Topeka, Kan., in Most Pure Heart of Mary Church. Lenois retired from the UMass Physical Plant. He enjoys golf, watching western movies, gardening, and camping. Mrs. Lenois retired from the phone company. She enjoys Bingo, reading, camping and going to the beach.



## The TFHS Alumni Closet



View of the closet from the hall.....



View of the closet with the door open.....

Welcome to the TFHS Alumni Closet. This closet is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the High

School. **Jeffrey Jobst**' technology class made us this very cool sign. Items have been donated from teachers and former students. The contents include such things as Yearbooks, Netops, newspaper articles, scrapbooks, old band uniforms and football blankets.

The contents of the closet are available to lend out to any Alumni. If there is anything you would like to borrow or you have things you would like to donate to the closet, please contact Karen Collins, [golfinggirl101@yahoo.com](mailto:golfinggirl101@yahoo.com), Doug Brown [tfhsalumni@gmsrd.org](mailto:tfhsalumni@gmsrd.org) or Sheryl Jablonski at [sheryljab@gmail.com](mailto:sheryljab@gmail.com) to make arrangements.

Here is a list of the closet contents:

Yearbooks	Quantity			
1934	2			
1935	2			
1936	3			
1937	3	Plus 1 Advertising Section		
1938	2			
1939	1			
1941	1			
1942	1			
1943	1			
1944	3			
1945	3			
1946	3			
1947	1			
1948	1			
1949	1			
1950	1			
1951	1			
1952	2			
1953	1			
1954	2			
1955	1			
1958	1			
1962	2			
1963	4			
1964	1			
1968	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1969	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1970	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1971	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1972	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1973	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1974	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1975	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1976	2	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1977	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1978	2	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1979	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1981	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1982	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1983	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1984	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1985	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1986	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1988	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1989	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		
1991	1	On loan from Matt Robinson		

NETOP				
1929	1			
1933	2			
1931	3			
MISCELLANEOUS				
2010	Hall of Fame guidelines			
1977	Ticket Stub--Kiss me Kate			
1970	Guys and Dolls program			
1964	Olive Little's Scrapbook. Former teacher. Retired in 1964.			
1954	Junior Scribe Index			
1953	35 Year Reunion Announcement Class of 1953			
1935	Class of 1935 Reunion Booklet from 1985			
	Article about Douglas Smith by Michael Foster			
	Vintage TFHS band uniforms			
	Vintage TFHS Football blankets			
1953-54	1953-1954 Powers Institute "The Pendulum Echo"			
Miscellaneous items on Loan from Matt Robinson:				
1992	Graduation Program (2)			
1989	Awards Night Program (4) Grad Program (5) News clippings			
1988	Awards Night Program (2) Grad Program (4) News clippings			
1987	Graduation and Awards Night Programs			
1986	National Honor Society Program, Awards Night Program (3) Grad Program (3)			
1986	Clipping: The Hawks Nest			
1985	Natl Honor Society Prgm, Awards Night Prgm (2) Grad Prgm, News Clippings			
1984	Awards Night Program (2) Grad Program (4) Netop, News Clippings			
1983	Awards Night Program, Grad Program (2) Netop, News Clippings			
1982	Awards Night Program, Grad Program (2), Netop, Mrs. Robinson Card			
1981	Awards Night Program (2) Grad Program (2)			
1979	Awards Night Program (2) Grad Program (3) Spring Concert Program			
1979	Madrigal Concert Program (2) Netop			
1978	Alter Ego			
1977	Alter Ego (2)			
1977	Madrigals Program			
1977	Bye, Bye Birdie Program			
1974	Alter Ego			
1973	Alter Ego			
1972	Alter Ego			
1971	Alter Ego			
1969	Alter Ego			
1968	Alter Ego			

**Class  
Reunions**

**Save the Date!**



**60<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
TFHS CLASS OF 1956!**

**WHEN???** SATURDAY, August 27, 2016  
**WHERE??** ST. KAZIEMER'S HALL, TURNERS



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR—IN INK!!**

Watch for finalized plans in the mail later in the Spring  
Meanwhile, be gathering memorabilia to share

**Keep in touch!**

**Committee Co-Chairs:**

**Teresa Greenleaf Miner and Eleanor Clark Santos 413.567.3046**

**ecsantos@comcast.net**

Joyce A. Phillips

Gill-Montague Education Fund

Alumni Newsletter

"Jukebox Memories"

From sold out performances in Atlantic City; Branson; Foxwoods Resort & Casino; Nashville; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; and Canada; to the stage at Turners Falls High School. On Saturday, April 30, at 7:30pm, the Gill-Montague Education Fund welcomes tribute artist, Brian McCullough performing as the legendary Roy Orbison and Conway Twitty at their 12th Annual Gala, "Jukebox Memories. Also, on stage, The American Longboards, one of the nations leading rock and roll bands, entertain with a high-energy tribute to American rock 'n roll featuring music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's.



Brian McCullough is incredible. His vocal talent and spot-on portrayal of Orbison has won him respect from insiders who knew the star both personally and professionally, and acclaim from Roy's fans who come to see Brian time and again. "You know that Orbison song, 'You Got It'?...well, Brother Brian, you got it"! Gordon Stoker, tenor in the legendary vocal group "The Jordanaires"

Tickets for the GMEF 12th Annual Gala are on sale March 19th at the World Eye Bookshop, Greenfield; Scotty's Convenience Store in Turners Falls by calling Sandy at the TFHS 863-7296; or at the GMEF website – [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org). Advance tickets are \$20 – At the Door \$25.

Be a tier-giver and join the Board of Directors, Underwriters and Sponsors for the pre-show reception at "The Jukebox Junction". Sample the savory 'Assorted Pinwheels', seasonal Fruit Kabobs with French Cream or crisp Veggies & Dips from "The Checkerboard Counter". Satisfy your 'sweet tooth' at "The Dessert Station" while you enjoy a cold beverage or root beer float from our "Fountain Favorites".

For more information about "Jukebox Memories", how you can support student enrichment and be a guest at the pre-show reception, please go to the GMEF website – [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org)

## Obituaries

1938

### Marie V. (Kopec) Richards (1921 - 2016)



GREENFIELD - Marie V. (Kopec) Richards, 94, of 501 Countryside died Friday, March 4, 2016 at home. She was born in

Millers Falls on March 25, 1921, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Bozek) Kopec. She attended Highland School in Millers Falls and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School class of 1938. She married her husband Linwood Sept. 22, 1945 in St. John's Church in Millers Falls. She had been a longtime resident of Erving prior to moving to Greenfield in 1997. Marie was a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church. She was a homemaker. Marie enjoyed polka music, cooking and was a wonderful hostess. Among her survivors, Marie leaves her nieces and nephews Mary Gilmore (Arthur - deceased) of Millers Falls and South Hadley, Carol Markowitz (Lenny) of Roslindale, MA, Henry Dymerski (Janice) of N. Largo, FL, John Dymerski (Lucia) of Greenfield, MA and her beloved kitty ""Beans,"" one great-niece, two great-nephews and several great-great-nieces and nephews. She also leaves her caregivers, Cindy, Arlene, Carol, Deb and Lisa. Marie was predeceased by her husband Linwood Richards in 1997, her sister Sophie Dymerski in 1998 and her brother Henry Kopec in 2002.

1941

### Leon A. Piecuch (1922-2016)



Turners Falls - Leon A. Piecuch, 93, a lifelong resident of Turners Falls, died Wednesday 3/9/16 at the Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield after a period of declining health. He was

born in Turners Falls on October 3, 1922, the son of Leon and Sophie (Ortyl) Piecuch. Leon attended local schools in Turners Falls and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School Class of 1941.

Leon served in the United States Navy during World War II, obtaining the rank of Radioman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. While serving in the Asiatic-Pacific theater in 1945, Leon's ship participated in the invasion of Iwo Jima where, from his ship in the harbor, Leon witnessed through his binoculars the famous raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi.

Leon was a clerk at the Polish Co-op Store in Turners Falls for 28 years before his retirement in 1987.

He was a faithful communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church in Turners Falls. His many duties in the parish included serving as president of the parish council, usher, lector and altar server. He was a member of the church's Gentlemen of St. Joseph's Society and the Knights of Columbus #737 in Turners Falls. Leon was a former president and an officer of the St. Stanislaus Society in Turners Falls since 1950 and was also a member of the St. Kazimierz Society since 1940.

Leon enjoyed traveling, gardening, and the outdoors as well as watching the Red Sox and Patriots over the years. He was very active in his church and club activities and extremely proud of his Polish heritage.

Among his survivors, Leon leaves a son, Stephen L. Piecuch and his wife Valerie of Lynnfield, MA; a daughter, Janet A. Graves and her husband Tom of Erving; two grandsons, Adam Graves and his girlfriend Amy of Montague and Kyle Graves and his wife Stacy of West Springfield; two brothers-in-law, Walter Kownacki of South Deerfield and Kenneth Saleski and his wife Diane of Hingham, MA; and many loving nieces and nephews.

Leon was predeceased by his beloved wife, Sophie J. (Salisiewski) Piecuch on October 12, 2011; a sister, Cecelia Gloski and a brother, George Piecuch.

### **1941?**



#### **Doris H. (Luippold) Gile (1923 - 2016)**

GREENFIELD - Doris H. (Luippold) Gile, 92, of Greenfield, died peacefully, surrounded by family and

friends on Saturday (03-12-2016) at the Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility. She had lived life to the fullest, in her home until only two weeks before her passing. Born on November 30, 1923 in Montague, she was the daughter of John A. and Henrietta M. (Schmidt) Luippold. She was a graduate of Turners Falls High School.

She married Hugh E. Gile, Jr. on June 7, 1947 in Turners Falls. Doris was a very active member of the 1st Congregational Church of Greenfield well into her 80s, as

well as the church secretary for many years. She was president of the Women's Fellowship, deacon, member of the prayer shawl ministry and many other roles over the years, and was known as Grandma Doris to many people. She loved animals, antiques and Snowbabies.

Survivors include her daughter, Ruth-Mary Gile of Holden, her nephew Kenneth Luippold of Gill, grand-niece Christina Luippold and grand-nephews Robert and Raymond Luippold. She also leaves Glenda Provendencia of California, who she thought of as a daughter, her husband Jireh and their children, Yanna and Samuel, and Susan MacLeod, who was also thought of as a daughter. She was predeceased by her husband Hugh in 1957.

### **Donald Kenny Sr.**



Havre — Donald Kenny Sr., 92, died March 4 at home in Havre less than two months after the death of his beloved wife Louise Webb Kenny.

They had been married nearly 60 years. A Military Graveside service will take place Monday, March 21, at 11 a.m. at Highland Cemetery in Havre. Condolences for the family may be left at Don was born Sept. 26, 1923, in Turner to Clara Anderson Kenny and Edward Kenny. He graduated from Turner High School and then joined the U.S. Army shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. He fought in the Pacific Theater, including on Guam and in the liberation of the Philippine Islands. After World War II, he worked in the wholesale and retail grocery business. On April 21, 1956, he married Louise in Great Falls. They moved to Havre where they owned and operated Marra Grocery for many years. Later, Don worked for Havre

Distributors until his retirement. He was an avid fly fisherman and enjoyed hunting and gardening. He loved to share his backyard produce with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; children Donna Lou Magis and Greg Kenny; his sisters Thurza, Margie and Viola; and sister-in-law Donna Webb. Survivors include his son Don Kenny; daughter-in-law Lucena Kenny; grandson Christopher Magis; and brother-in-law Hal Webb. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews and many friends.

**1944**

### **Marion R. Breault**

TURNERS FALLS — Marion Ruth (Haeussler) Breault, 89, formerly of Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls and The Arbors in Greenfield died Tuesday (2-2-16) at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield.

She was born January 12, 1927 at 32 Central St. in Turners Falls, the daughter of William and Mary (Bitzer) Haeussler. Marion attended local schools in Montague and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School, class of 1944. Marion continued her education and graduated from the Franklin County Public Hospital School of Nursing in 1947. After graduation, she worked for one year at the Franklin County Public Hospital, and then was employed for four years for Dr. John E. Moran.

After raising her three children, Marion returned to work for 20 years at the Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. After her retirement, she was a volunteer at the Franklin Medical Center in the endoscopy unit.

Marion was a communicant of Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls and a former member of the Catholic Women's Council of St. Mary's Church.

Marion married Russell S. Breault Sr., of Turners Falls, on April 12, 1951 at St. Anne's Church in Turners Falls. During their 52 years of marriage, Marion and Russell raised and showed German Shepherds for several years and enjoyed traveling the United States attending dog shows. Marion loved spending time with her family and watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's sporting events. She also loved to travel to Ogunquit, ME for vacation and enjoyed reading and knitting.

Among her survivors, Marion leaves two daughters; Mary Jane Prasol and her husband Frank of Turners Falls and Susan Thurber and her husband Donald of Conway, a son Russell Breault Jr. and his wife Darlene of Erving. Eight grandchildren, Daniel Prasol, Elizabeth Tyler, Thomas Prasol, Jacob Thurber, Emily Thurber, Teresa Munson, Brandon Breault and Breanna Breault and eleven great grandchildren. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and special caregivers.

She was predeceased by her husband Russell, a sister Christine Stebbins and an aunt, Grace Vinten.



### **Phyllis Schneider Smith**

MONROE, NC — Phyllis Schneider Smith, beloved daughter, sister, mother and grandmother died peacefully in Monroe, N.C. on Dec. 3, 2015. Phyllis was born in Montague, MA to Mildred (Maynard) Schneider and A. Louis Schneider in 1926. Her older sister, Shirley Crowell Jones, died in 2004. Her younger

sister, Carol Gurney, lives in Braintree, MA. Phyllis, happily raised in Riverside, graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1944 and attended Mass State, Amherst. After graduating from Bridgewater Teachers College she taught classes and coached girls sport teams at Greenfield High School.

In 1950 she married her high school classmate Varick "Pete" Smith.

After working locally for a few years the couple toured all 48 states in their trailer before putting down roots in Colorado where Pete's brother, Dr. Stuart Smith had a medical practice. Now, retired, Stu and his wife live in a mountain top house in Colorado where he is writing a book. In those early days, Phyllis kept busy gardening, canning and learning to cook whatever hunters brought home. She taught school, painted signage on trucks and helped Pete edit, print and distribute a weekly community newspaper. One popular feature was her cartoon strip "Mr. Moon", is a character based on the octogenarian, John Equi, famed candy and ice cream maker who employed her during her high school years. At B.T.C. Phyllis is remembered for her athleticism, her posters, breath taking dance decorations and for the generous "care packages" Mr. Equi sent to the dormitory. The esteemed 4S award she received is a commendation for scholarship, sportsmanship, stability and service. A fifth "S" might have been added for "sweetness" because the shared fudge, caramels and peanut squares surely sweetened campus life for everyone.

Three children were born to Phyllis and Pete. Emphasis was always on the great outdoors. For years television was banned and avid readers developed, none more than Phyllis to her dying day. Her teenagers ran a horse farm where even their grandfather

learned to ride. Phyllis preferred painting horses to riding them. Everyone worked hard during the week but weekends were spent camping at Willow Creek, reflected in many of Phyllis' paintings. She loved beauty in every form and captured it in drawings, oils and wood carvings. Her Riverside parents planned their summer around motor trips west, once loaded with a swing set. Often the travel was enriched by visiting national parks in route or delivering church collected clothing to the Rose Bud Indian Reservation. Sometimes young passengers made the return trip to experience Cousin Camp in Riverside.

Her children survive her; Marcy Stanton in Lyndeborough, N.H., Earl Smith in Fort Worth, TX and Andrea Stevens in Monroe, N.C. who shared her home with Phyllis these last eight years. Her surviving grandchildren are Morgan Stanton in Germany and Patrick Stanton in Boston. Her beloved grandson, Justin Stevens, died in 2014. She leaves many cousins, nieces and nephews and lifelong friends and art work that chronicle her journey. She will be remembered for her talent, leadership and personal integrity.

Plans are being formulated for her 'homecoming' in early summer when her cremains will be buried in the family lot at the Plainview Cemetery in Leverett, MA.

## 1948

### **Rolland J. Paulin (1930-2016)**

Rolland Joseph Paulin, 86, passed away on February 15, 2016 in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.



Rolland was born on February 4, 1930 in Montague, the son of the late

Lucien H. and Alice (Perinet) Paulin. He was a 1948 graduate of Turners Falls High School. Rolland served his country in the United States Army, in the Military Police, during the Korean Conflict. He received an honorable discharge, attaining the rank of Corporal. Prior to his retirement, he was employed for 42 years by Hano Business Forms, Springfield. Rolland was a parishioner of the former Nativity BVM Church and attended St. Anthony of Padua Church, Chicopee. Rolland was a member of the Chicopee Sportsmen's Club, a life member of the N.R.A., and also a blood donor. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and canoeing. He is survived by his 3 sons, James Paulin of Agawam, Richard Paulin of West Springfield, Kenneth Paulin of Florida; 2 daughters, Lorrene Paulin and Jennifer Paulin of Chicopee; 4 grandchildren, Caitlin Paulin, Michael Paulin, Kevin Paulin all of Agawam, Amanda Gevry of Chicopee; one great grandchild, Conner Turkowski of Chicopee; and his former wife, Helen (Corrigan) Paulin of Chicopee.

**Helen M. (Sojka) Walichowski  
(1930 - 2016)**



TURNERS FALLS - Helen M. Walichowski, 85, formerly of The Mill House in Greenfield and Keith Street in Turners Falls died on Monday, February 22,

2016 at Scalabrini Villa Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Kingstown, RI. She was born in Turners Falls, May 11, 1930, the daughter of Joseph and Josephine Sojka. She was educated in Montague schools and graduated from Turners Falls

High School in 1948. She married Francis L. (Yans) Walichowski on September 2, 1950 and they shared 58 years together until his death in 1998. Helen worked for many years at Millers Falls Tool Company in both the Millers Falls and Greenfield locations. She was also employed as a bank teller at the former Franklin County Trust/Shawmut Bank. A wonderful friend and loving sister and aunt, Helen enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. She loved the holidays, the beach, shopping, bus trips to the Casinos and the "snowbirding" years in Florida with Yans.

Over several decades she played cards on Wednesday afternoons with her friends from Turners Falls. Moving to the Mill House in Greenfield, she made many new friends and enjoyed their outings, card games and Friday evening get-togethers.

Helen is survived by her sister, Eleanor Cheney, of Bernardston, MA. and Joanne Budzinski and her husband, John, of Warwick, RI. Helen took on the role of sister, mother, aunt and grandmother to her sister, Joanne and her family. Helen is also survived by many nieces and nephews and their children with whom she shared a special bond. Helen was predeceased by 3 brothers Edwin, B. Walter and Eugene and 2 sisters, Irene Flynn and Regina Anderson. The family would like to thank the staff at Scalabrini Villa, Home and Hospice of Rhode Island and Charlene Manor as well as all the family and friends who showed so much kindness during her illness.

1949

### Jean R. “Turkey” Emond



ERVING — Jean R. “Turkey” Emond, 86, of River Road, passed peacefully on Monday, February 1, 2016 at home, following a period of declining health. A native of Montague, MA, he was born on December 9, 1929 to Harmel and Antoinette B. (Lepine) Emond. He attended the former St. Anne’s Parochial School, Turners Falls Public Schools and was a graduate of TFHS in the Class of 1949 where he was a standout varsity football player playing offensive and defensive tackle.

Jean was employed for over thirty years for the former Millers Falls Tool Company and their successor, Ingersol Rand Corporation in Greenfield. He later worked for the Winter Panel Corporation in Brattleboro, VT, retiring in 1992.

He had numerous interests that included vegetable gardening and hunting & fishing. He enjoyed candle pin bowling at the French King Bowling Center where he was a member of his son Alan’s team the “Steamrollers” for several years. He also enjoyed playing basketball and was an archery enthusiast. He was one of the founding members of the Greenfield Archery Club. Jean followed all of the Boston sports teams and was an avid fan of the New England Patriots. He was a gifted carpenter. He built (2) homes for his family and enjoyed tinkering around his house and tending to the yards. He also enjoyed playing cribbage and horseshoes.

His greatest joy came from the unconditional love for his family, children and in particular his grandchildren and great

grandchildren. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Jeanne E. Emond, his son Kerry H. Emond, his brothers, Marcel, Maurice and Norman Emond, his sister Claire Emond and Thomas Beauchesne, who was like a son to him.

He is remembered by his loving and devoted wife the former, Jeanette R. (Housman) Martin, whom he married on February 21, 1986 in Erving, MA. They would have celebrated their 30th anniversary later this month. In addition to his loving wife, he leaves his devoted children: Alan N. Emond of Colrain, MA; John R. Emond and his wife Pamela of Portland, ME; and Nancy M. Pomfrey and her husband Richard, of Hinsdale, NH. Jean will be missed by his step-children: David R. Martin of Turners Falls, MA; Michelle Welcome of Montague Center, MA and Lynne Podlesney and her husband James of Leyden, MA. He also leaves his brother, Laurent Emond and his wife “Cy” of Palm Bay, FL. Additionally, he leaves 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren, as well as several nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews who will never forget him.



### Jean A. Surprenant

GREENFIELD — Jean Ann (Strange) Surprenant passed away peacefully with close friends and family by her side at Poet’s Seat Health Care Center in Greenfield, at the age of 84 on February 17, 2016. Jean was brought into the world on June 26, 1931 in Turners Falls, MA by Elliott Strange and Antoinette (Tetreault) Strange. In her lifetime her three greatest loves were Raymond Surprenant, Edward H. Lamory, and George L. Asselin, Sr. She leaves behind her children; Michelle (Lamory) Rubin, Phil (Diane) Lamory, Adrian (Connie) Asselin, George Asselin,

John (Jody) Asselin, her grandchildren; Jayna Rubin, Maxfield Rubin, Abigail Rubin, Shaun Lamory, Alison (Charles) Washkalavitch, Kevin Lamory, Alyssa Asselin, Rachal Asselin, Keyara Asselin, Cameron Asselin, Brendan Asselin, Brooke Asselin, Betty-Anne (Lamory) White and Daniel Lamory, five great grandchildren, one great-great grandchild, and her cat Pretty Girl. She was a mother and grandmother to countless other people who are not forgotten by her.

Jean graduated from Turners Falls High School, class of 1949, and went on to Salem State Teacher's College to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a teacher. Though she left school early to marry Raymond Surprenant, she taught unconditional love and life lessons to everyone who had the honor of knowing her. After marrying Raymond, the two opened the American House, a hotel, bar and restaurant. Her next venture was bartending at various locations, her favorite being the Rendezvous in Turners Falls. After giving and receiving life lessons at the bar, she took her career to an educational setting at Deerfield Academy in 1985. Here she enjoyed her time with the students, (one of which became the King of Jordan), and spent time with friends working in the mailroom and dormitory halls. Upon retiring from the Academy in 2000, she continued as a caregiver in people's homes until she was 82. Jean's work ethic and dedication is inspirational and something we can all hope to someday achieve. It didn't matter what jobs she had during her lifetime, she was a teacher and caregiver until the end.

She loved collecting hatpins, eating good food (and dessert), especially ice cream, taking trips to the beach, spending time with animals, being part of her grandchildren's achievements, going on adventures with

them, and was happiest doing things for others. A helping hand, a role model, and the best friend you could ever have. That was Jean. She will reunite with those who have predeceased her including her sister Myrna Mae Strange, Raymond Surprenant, Edward H. Lamory, and George L. Asselin, Sr. and many beloved pets, especially Princess.

Jean's family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Poet's Seat Health Care for taking care of Jean and making her last days as comfortable as possible.

### **1950**



### **Gertrude "Puddy" S. Waryas**

ERVING — Gertrude "Puddy" Sarah (LaMountain) Waryas, 85, of 8 Park Street, passed away peacefully at home on

Sunday, January 31, 2016.

She was born in Erving on November 17, 1930, the daughter of Dolphus and Dorothy (Tipton) LaMountain. She attended local schools in Erving and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School Class of 1950.

Gertrude was employed by Haigis Trucking in Turners Falls in her earlier years. She worked at the former Millers Falls Paper Company in Millers Falls, MA and Strathmore Paper in Westfield, MA. She retired in the Spring of 1993.

She was an avid Red Sox, Patriots fan, and Turners Falls High School sports fan. Gertrude enjoyed traveling with her husband, Bernie and family, throughout New England especially York Beach, Maine. She loved Christmas and made it a holiday to remember.

Among her survivors, Gertrude leaves three daughters, Sandra Niedzwiedz and husband Francis of Erving, Cheryl Pienkos and husband Dan Sanuita of Westfield, and Chanda L. Waryas and fiancé Michael Welles of Turners Falls, five grandchildren, Amy Eichorn and husband Kurt, Megan Niedzwiedz, Todd Sanuita, Audrey and Ella O'Keefe and two great-grandsons, Samuel and Andrew Eichorn.

In recent years, Gertrude attended the GVNA Adult Day Health Center in Greenfield, MA and was cared for so diligently by the staff. Her Personal Care Assistants, Gloria and Laurie, brightened her days with love, laughter, and fun. Betsy and Deb from Hospice of Franklin County provided her with loving care to make her last days comfortable.

Gertrude was predeceased by her husband, Bernard S. Waryas on March 21, 2015.

## **1952**

Carl Everett Tompkins Sr.

TROUTMAN, N.C. - Carl Everett Tompkins Sr., 81, of Troutman died Feb. 8. He was a 1952 graduate of Turners Falls High School.

## **Year Unknown (1953?)**



Joyce A. (Yarmac) Barber  
(1935 - 2016)

GREENFIELD - Joyce A. (Yarmac) Barber, 80, of 345 Chapman Street died Thursday, March 10, 2016 at the Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. She was born in Montague on August 17, 1935, the daughter of Edward and Helen (Kuninski) Yarmac. Attended

local schools in Turners Falls and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School. She was an Insurance Agent at the A.H. Rist Insurance in Turners Falls for 35 years. Prior to that, Joyce worked at Couture Brothers in Turners Falls and was a seamstress at Aliber's Bridal Shop. She lived most of her adult life in Greenfield. Joyce was a communicant of Holy Trinity Church in Greenfield. For fourteen years, Joyce enjoyed volunteering at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in the gift shop. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren in CT. She loved gardening, sewing and knitting. Among her survivors, Joyce leaves a daughter, Sandra Barber, of Windsor CT; her granddaughters; Ericka and Olivia Biagioni, also of Windsor CT, Susan (Barber) and her husband Tedd Olson of Belmont, MA, Janet Barber of Medford MA and Mary Barber of Medford, MA; and a daughter in law Elizabeth (Brady) Barber of Medford MA Joyce was predeceased by her husband, D. Wayne Barber in 1990 and her son, Donald M. Barber in 2006.



**George Francis Momaney**  
**August 25, 1934 ~ March 16, 2016**

Resident of Alamo George Momaney passed away peacefully on March 16, 2016, at 81 years old, surrounded by his loving family. George grew up on a fifty-acre farm in Montague, Massachusetts, the seventh of ten children. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the [Army](#) and was stationed near Munich, Germany, where he attended Administration School during his service with the Army. He graduated and returned to Greenfield, Massachusetts. Back in the United States,

George got a job as the purchasing agent at a local hospital. It would be his stepping-stone in life, both personally and professionally. This is where he met his wife, Helen, who was the hospital administrator's secretary. They married two years later and were married for fifty-eight years. Within the first year of his job as a purchasing agent, George accepted a position with McKesson, a pharmaceutical distribution company, where he worked for thirty-three years. When the company moved from New York to San Francisco in 1973, George and his family moved to California where he held many positions, the latest as Executive Vice President of McKesson Marketing Companies. During this time, he also served on the Board of Directors for the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. After his retirement in 1989, George continued to work as a consultant for many years. George was passionate about volunteering and has done so for most of his life. Most seniors knew him as "Mr. Bocce" running the Thursday morning Danville Senior Bocce at Sycamore Valley Community Park. While raising his four children, George sat on the Board of Directors for the San Ramon Little League, was a Little League Manager, and served as a coach in CYO Boys Basketball League. In recent years, he managed the San Ramon Senior Center Bocce Courts, coached bocce for Special Olympians, served lunches for Loaves & Fishes in Concord, and managed Danville's Senior Bocce Leagues.

George is survived by his loving wife, Helen; devoted children Terry Pisano (Charles) of Alabaster, AL, Jeffrey Momaney (Terri) of Livermore, Brian

Momaney (Sheri Ann) of Concord and Paula Campbell (Chris) of Brentwood, seven Grandchildren, Kelly Studebaker, Jason Momaney, Jamie Carter, Matthew and Ryan Campbell, Hannah and Rachel Momaney and two Great-Grandchildren, Silas Carter and Aubree Momaney. He is also survived by his brothers Ernest Momaney of Turners Falls, MA and William Momaney of Brentwood and many nieces and nephews. A special thank you to Hospice of the East Bay and Brightstar for their wonderful care.

### 1954



Christian H. "Chris" Fritz (1936 - 2016)

TURNERS FALLS - Christian ""Chris"" H. Fritz, 79, of Park Villa Drive died Sunday, March 27, 2016 surrounded by his family at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. He was born in Montague on July 3, 1936, the son of Christian and Alice (Brunelle) Fritz. He attended local schools in Montague and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School Class of 1954. He was a receiver for the school's varsity football team. Chris served four years in the [U.S. Air Force](#) during the [Korean War](#), obtaining the rank of A/10 (P). He loved telling his family and friends stories about his time stationed in Labrador, Canada. He then served two years in the Air Force Reserves. He met his wife, the former Mary Joann McDonald, on New Year's Eve in Washington. They were married July 27, 1957 in Spokane. Shortly after, they moved back to Massachusetts to be closer to family. Chris spent many years taking care of Mary after she was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. She predeceased him on October 19, 2011. He worked in the service department at the L.A. Kohler Company for many years. He was a member of the Lions Club, [Elks Club](#) and the Franklin County Stamp Club. He was also

a member of Our Lady of Peace Church in Turners Falls.

Chris enjoyed collecting stamps and coins, fishing, and was an avid reader, especially the history of U.S. presidents. He was a sports fan, especially during March Madness. This year, he was rooting for Villanova. Mostly, he enjoyed spending time with his family.

Among his survivors, Chris leaves two daughters, Anita Fritz of Greenfield and Dorothy Adams and her husband Joe of Turners Falls. ""Topsy"" will be greatly missed by his six beloved grandchildren; Kelly Gauthier and her husband Dan, Daniel Abrahamson, Jay Niedbala and his wife Jessica, Kim Hawkins and her husband Steve, Jeremy Abrahamson and his wife Allie, and Christina Williams and her husband Oliver; and the eight great-grandchildren he cherished so much, Kaela, Thaddeus, Justin, Lexi, Amelie, Owen, Travis and Lindsey.

Chris was also predeceased by his sister, Alice Wickline.

## 1960



### John J. Kopinto

NORTHFIELD — John J. Kopinto, 74 of Lyman Rd. Northfield, died Friday (2-19-2016) at home.

He was born in Montague, Ma. on June 18, 1941 the son of John S. and Mary (Klepacki) Kopinto. John was a graduate of Turners Falls High School in 1960. He then served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1960-1964. On August 14, 1971 he was married to the former Teresa Mello in Turners Falls, Ma. He was employed as a Conservationist for the Commonwealth of Mass working at the Bitzer Fish Hatchery in Montague for 46 years. He loved farming operating his own small farm in Northfield. He enjoyed woodworking and building, and built his own home. He enjoyed attending car races at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, NH with his son. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

He is survived by his mother Mary of Greenfield, Ma., his loving wife Teresa of 44 years, and his children: John Jr of Northfield, Ma. and daughters: Martha Cook of Winchester, NH. and Mary Kopinto of Orange, Ma. He is also survived by his sister Nancy Dion and her husband Gary of Montague, Ma. and his grandchildren: Joseph, Anna, and Mary Cook.

## Year Unknown (1970?)



### Dale Marcia (Aubrey) Stone

MONTAGUE — Dale Marcia (Aubrey) Stone, 64, of 18 West St., Montague, MA, died January 27, 2016 at the Center for Extended Care in Amherst, MA. She was born in Greenfield, MA on December 7, 1951 to Albert Aubrey and Marjorie (Buckmaster) Aubrey. She was educated in the Montague Center Grammar School and Turners Falls High School. She lived in Montague her whole life. She was co-owner of Stoney's Excavating.

Being a Mom, Grandma and Great-Grandma was her biggest and most fulfilling full time job. She loved to put together parties with family and friends. Dale also was an avid race car fan attending Monadnock Speedway weekly as she watched her family for many years. She enjoyed traveling to her Florida home during the winter, crocheting, cooking and special projects with Sammy.

Mother of four, 3 sons, Tracy Stone and his wife Pamela from Montague, Travis Stone and his wife Samantha from Palm Coast, Fl., Shawn Stone from Montague and 1 daughter Laura Lacey from West Palm Beach, Fl.; her grandchildren, Alan, Ashley, Meghan, Joel, Sammy, Lexi and 2 great-grandchildren, Cameron and Paisley, a sister Pat Ludwiczak from South Deerfield, MA, a

brother Barry Aubrey from Amelia, Ohio, a special friend James Paddock.

Her father Albert Aubrey, mother Marjorie Aubrey, grandson Nicholas Stone and granddaughter Emily Stone predeceased her.

### **1971**



Eugene C. Kennedy III  
(1952 - 2016)

Port Saint Lucie, FL

Eugene "Bud" / "Gene" C. Kennedy III, 63, of Port St. Lucie, FL, died February 4, 2016, at home surrounded by his loving family, following complications after a courageous battle with brain cancer. He married his dearly loved wife of 40 years, Maverette (May Tatro), on August 9, 1975, at St. John's Church in Millers Falls, MA. He was born November 12, 1952, in Brattleboro, VT. He was the son of the late Eugene and Norma Joan (Carignan) Kennedy of Lake Pleasant, MA. He graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1971. He was a past volunteer firefighter for the Lake Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. He played the accordion, keyboard, and sang in the Bobby Lee Franklin County Road Band.

He was an avid fan of the New England Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and Turners Falls High School football team. He loved a competitive game of horseshoes, bowling, and telling a good joke. He loved time with his family, especially at the beach and on Grammy & Papa nights. He worked at Winn-Dixie as the Assistant Produce Manager until his diagnosis. He was

previously employed by Food Mart, Dillon Chevrolet, Judd Wire, and Food City in Massachusetts. He was a student at the J.R. Roy Martial Arts Studio in Greenfield, MA, starting in 1981 and achieving his Black Belt 3rd Degree-San Dan in 1996. Sensei Buddy was involved with many adult and youth Karate programs until moving to Florida. He leaves his beloved daughters, Christine Hunsicker and husband Timothy, Jennifer Figueiredo and husband James, and Sabrina Kennedy, along with his precious grandchildren, McKenzie, Emelia and Christian Hunsicker, Abigail, Matthew and Jayden Figueiredo; all of Port St. Lucie, FL. His dearest friends, Norm Levesque, Debbie and Paul George, Mickey Brantley, and Pastor Michael Brown. He leaves siblings, Deborah Gooch, Diana Rhynehart, Ronald Kennedy, Darlene Amatruda, and Charlene Cloutier. He leaves 10 brother in-laws, 7 sister in-laws, many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, February 20, 2016, at 12:00pm at The Gathering, 1735 SW 24th Avenue, Okeechobee, FL. Pastor Michael Brown will officiate.

### **1976**

#### **Francis P. Kopec**

SHELburnE — Francis P. Kopec, 57, died on Wednesday (2-10-2016) at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. Born on May 18, 1958 in Springfield, he was the son of Frank and Julia (Martin) Kopec. He was a 1976 graduate of Turners Falls High School, and continued his education at Greenfield Community College. Francis was employed at Bete Fog Nozzle in Greenfield, and then at G.S. Precision in Brattleboro, VT. He married the former Nancy Cowles

on May 24, 1980. Francis was a member of the Turners Falls Athletic Club, and enjoyed Fantasy Football — the Minnesota Vikings. He loved golden retrievers and his 1971 Chevy Camaro. Survivors include his wife Nancy, two daughters and their husbands: Jennifer and Craig Cadran of Turners Falls

and Julianna and Anthony Leccese of Stowe, VT and his grandson Robert Goff. He also leaves his sister Janice Bennett and her husband Mark of East Lyme, CT, his uncle Hank Martin of Utah and several nieces and nephews.

## ***Doug Smith, The Moonlight Graham of Millers Falls***

Fans of the classic baseball book *Shoeless Joe* by W.P. Kinsella and the movie based on the novel (*Field of Dreams*) are familiar with Archibald “Moonlight” Graham who appeared in one game as a right fielder on June 29, 1905 for the New York Giants but we have our own local version of Moonlight Graham thanks to Millers Falls native Doug Smith who made one relief pitching appearance for the Boston Red Sox in 1912.

Douglass Weldon Smith was born on River Street in Millers Falls on May 25, 1892, the sixth child of Judah and Elizabeth Moore Smith. The family lived on a small farm and Doug’s Dad worked for the Millers Falls Tool Company.

The seven Smith children attended the Millers Falls Grammar School and the boys played neighborhood ball at the makeshift field just up the street from their home as well as at the Millers Falls town diamond.

Doug entered Turners Falls High School as a gifted athlete graced with speed, agility, and a natural-born passion for the game. By the age of 16, Doug was the undisputed ace of the Turners Falls nine, regularly striking out 15 or more batters in an afternoon.

High-school baseball was big in Franklin County and when Doug took the mound for Turners Falls, shopkeepers closed their doors and joined the thousands of baseball fans who turned out to cheer their team on.

Even in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Greenfield was Turners’ biggest rival and folks across the river knew about Doug Smith. The competition between the two towns was huge, so much so that a representative of the Greenfield High School Athletic Association tried to get the Turners pitcher to pitch for Greenfield.

The Greenfield Booster wrote: *“I don’t know you very well, and you don’t know me either. But just the same I’m going to give you a piece of advice that you can take or leave. I have heard that you were thinking of coming over here to school, and I would like to show you the advantages of such a school. I’m telling you, Smith, you’re making a big mistake if you stick to a jerk team like [Turners Falls]. It’s only going to hold you back.- Leave your studies be the last of your troubles because we can fix that here, too.”*

Of course Doug had no intention of pitching for any high school other than Turners Falls but that didn’t stop him from accepting other opportunities, especially when money was involved. Doug often traveled into eastern New York to pitch semipro and community ball.. Teams paid by the game and Doug was in demand because of his talented abilities. He often hurled two games for Turners during the week, took a train to a small town in upper New York for a Saturday game with a touring semipro team and then returned to Turners Falls in the wee hours of Sunday morning to pitch that afternoon.

During the summer of 1911, Doug accepted an invitation to pitch for semipro Cohoes (near Albany) in a series of exhibition contests against local New York State League all-stars. Doug was beaten once but he mowed down the all-stars in the remaining three contests, scattering nine hits and striking out an eyebrow-raising 50 batters in a three-day stretch. It easily shattered the standing record and caught the eye of several big league scouts.

The Boston Braves sent a scout to Turners Falls to watch Doug pitch. Doug’s older brother William handled negotiations and during the spring of Doug’s senior year the eldest Smith accepted an offer on Doug’s behalf from the Phillies (not the Braves). William cemented the deal by signing a statement on the back of a National League contract, promising Doug’s services to Philadelphia.

Elected captain of the high school team in his senior year, Doug focused on his final season with Turners Falls. In the fifth game of the year, against Athol, Doug tossed a no-hitter and struck out 20 and while his team was defeated four times that season the Indians easily outdistanced its Franklin County League opponents to earn a trip to the Connecticut Valley High School championship.

The Indians faced Athol and after splitting the first two contests of the series there was no question who would take the mound for Turners Falls in the series finale in Athol. Doug pitched well but Athol won the game 2-1 to take the championship. The season and Doug's high-school baseball career came to a heartbreaking end and a few days later Doug received his diploma from Turners Falls High School and set his sights on the majors.

The Phillies thought they had the talented youngster signed to their organization but in early June former Red Sox manager-turned-scout Patsy Donovan came to Millers Falls to watch Doug pitch for the town team. He struck out 18 opponents and after the game Donovan persuaded Doug to abandon Philadelphia and come to Boston. Liking the idea of joining a strong club nearer to home, Doug readily agreed.

The Phillies contesting the legality of Boston's claim on Smith and Philadelphia appealed to the National Commission to nullify Doug's Boston contract but the request was denied, ruling that an unsigned contract pledging a brother's services to Philadelphia constituted no contract.

The twenty-year-old hard-throwing left-hander and the pride of Turners Falls High School made the 85-mile trek by train to Boston. He was hardly physically imposing, standing only 5-feet-8 and weighing in at 168 pounds but his appearance was deceiving because Doug was as tough as nails and would stand toe-to-toe with anyone.

It was a hot New England summer in 1912 and the Red Sox were just as hot with a 53-24 record and a 6 ½ game lead over second place Washington on July 12th. Sensing a sweep over the Browns and the club's 11th straight victory, Sox manager Jake Stahl tabbed Hugh Bedient to take the mound on a day when the temperature topped 97 degrees.

St. Louis pounded Bedient and two Boston relievers and comfortably led 8-2 in the seventh inning when Miller Falls native Doug Smith took the mound in his major league debut at brand new Fenway Park. The youngster was a bundle of nerves but he kept his cool and held his own. He cruised through the seventh and eighth, scattering three hits without yielding a run but in the top of the ninth Doug was lit up for a triple and a sacrifice fly for the 9-2 final.

Sportswriters who saw the game were impressed with Smith's talents and effort and little did anyone realize that the day would mark the beginning – and the end – of Doug Smith's big-league career – his Moonlight Graham moment.

It wasn't a big surprise when Doug was shipped to the Lowell Grays of the Class B New England League. Boston's pitching roster included veteran left-hander Ray Collins and keeping a rookie left-hander on the bench in the midst of a serious run for the American League pennant made little sense.

Doug was back with the Grays the next season and he made his first 1913 appearance in the second game of the season, allowing two hits with three strikeouts, a walk and a hit batsman in the final three innings of a 12-4 defeat to Portland. Six days later he was nicked for two hits but no runs in one inning of relief work in an 8-7, 11-inning victory over Fall River. On May 13 he was shelled over 5½ innings, giving up seven runs on nine hits, two walks and a hit batsman in a 12-5 loss. Two weeks later, on May 30, 1913, he gave up a walk and a hit but recorded no outs in the four-run Lawrence sixth.

Doug had given up 11 runs in nine innings over four appearances and some might have thought that was why his name disappeared from the Lowell Grays roster but two weeks later the *Brockton Times* revealed that (against his doctor's advice) Doug had quit the Grays and joined the Eastern Association Springfield Ponies "on account of a weak heart."

Like so much of what was passed off as fact in the local sports columns during the era – such as sportswriters' routine use of "malaria" to explain the sudden absence of players who had contracted a sexually transmitted disease – the *Times*' claims that Smith quit Lowell voluntarily suffering from an unfortunate physical ailment were pure myth. The truth behind Doug's departure from Lowell may have had nothing to do with his health and everything to do with his family.

A sinister story rooted in small-town gossip began to circulate that someone in Franklin County penned a letter to the Red Sox alleging that Doug had no right to play in Boston, Lowell, or any other big-league city based on his "black blood."

It was quietly well-known that Doug's father, Judah, was different. He was an imposing figure, well over 6 feet tall and family historians have determined that he descended from southern Connecticut River Indian tribes, probably a mix of Narragansett/Nehantic and/or Pequot. Judah was raised by his Indian mother and his stepfather, a dark-skinned man of Pequot and African lineage. Tribal history shows that these tribes were clearly tri-racial (Indian/white/black).

Certainly the letter writer and Red Sox investigators were able to locate Smith's extended family, many of whom were dark-skinned, to raise the color barrier issue. That might well have been more than enough for the Red Sox to put an end to Doug's professional career.

Family members claim that the decision to terminate Doug's contract was based purely on second-hand information that Doug was part black and therefore he was let go by the Sox. It remains unclear whether this is simply family lore and that the real reason was because the Pride of Turners Falls struggled in his 1913 Lowell appearances.

"Duggy Smith has got the build and the heaving ability of a good mound artist but there seems to be something lacking in his work," the *Lowell Sun* wrote. "If he shut his eyes he could come as close to the plate as he did last Friday [May 30, 1913]."

Perhaps indeed there was no conspiracy and Smith was truly let go not because of a question of race but his family was never quite sure of the actual truth as to why Doug was out of major league baseball, especially since no other major league club (including the Phillies) picked him up.

After a brief stay with the Springfield Ponies during the summer of 1913, Doug jumped to the Meriden (Connecticut) Hopes and the following summer he signed on with the Colonial League Springfield Tips. When he wasn't pitching for Springfield, Doug could usually be found on the mound for Millers Falls or hurling semipro ball for Billy Lubby's Twin State League team at the Park Villa Driving Park in Turners Falls.

Doug had made good money over the years throwing against a variety of Class B New York State League clubs. In the spring of 1916 he signed on with the Syracuse Stars of that league and the highlight of the season (and quite possibly his career) came on a warm afternoon in July when Syracuse played an exhibition contest against his former teammates and baseball's reigning world champions: the Boston Red Sox who were passing through on their way to Cleveland. Syracuse tapped Doug to take the mound.

Trailing the New York Yankees by 1½ games with a 19-game Western swing looming, Red Sox manager Bill Carrigan sat most of his regular lineup including Babe Ruth who was

rested and ready to take the mound but Carrigan opted to sit Ruth for the meaningless contest in favor of Ernie Shore.

Syracuse fans anticipated a great game and they weren't disappointed. Both pitchers threw well and the first score didn't come until Boston pushed a run across in the fifth. When Carrigan pulled Shore in favor of 23-year-old Sam Jones, it was all Syracuse from there on. The Stars pounced on Jones for four runs in the fifth and that proved the difference in Doug's 5-2 victory for the Stars

. "Douglass Smith twirled baffling ball throughout," the *Post-Standard* lauded the next day. "The Syracuse left-hander... fairly covered himself with glory."

It was clearly sweet revenge for the Sox cast-off. In later years, Doug's relatives claimed that Doug didn't want anything to do with the Red Sox and was a Yankee fan.

After a fall of local and semipro ball, Doug signed on with Bridgeport, Connecticut of the Eastern League. In May 1918, he was drafted into the Army. The Eastern League season was canceled and on May 26th Doug reported to basic training at Camp Upton, New York. Most young men were hustled through training and shipped off to Europe but shortly after he arrived at camp, Doug was ordered to don a baseball uniform and pitch for the 152nd Depot Brigade. He received rave reviews traveling from camp to camp entertaining soldiers in need of a diversion from the daily drudgery of preparing for war.

On June 5, 1919, just over a year after he entered the military, Private Smith received an honorable discharge and he returned to the civilian mound, throwing for the Union Bag and Paper Company in Hudson Falls, New York, against other company teams (International Paper Company, International Wall Company, G.P. Cement Company), as well as against town teams in the region.

Doug remained with Union Bag and Paper through 1922, never shy about slipping out of town for a quick trip back to Millers Falls to pitch for a local nine in need of his services.

In May of 1922, thirty-year old Doug was sidelined by appendicitis. The appendectomy was successful but the stress of pitching affected his body. Doug sat out for two years and in 1924 he felt well enough to try a comeback. In a game in Erving, Doug pitched into the sixth inning against Chappie Johnson's Colored All Stars but when he awoke the next morning the pain was so intense that he couldn't get out of bed. Doug Smith's playing days were over.

Doug married twenty year old Millers Falls native Gertrude Schworm in 1921 and he landed a full time position with the Millers Falls Paper Company after leaving baseball in 1924. Doug remained with the company for the next 38 years, retiring in 1962 at the age of 70. Doug and Gertie had no children but his siblings married and there were plenty of nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews all within walking distance of Doug and Gertie's home.

Doug's appendectomy knocked him out of competitive action at the age of 32 but the baseball bug never left him. He skippered the Millers Falls town team for the next three decades and he followed major-league baseball, cheering on his New York Yankees. Doug's arm remained limber well into his 70s, and he always made it a point to "burn a few over" to neighborhood boys while offering encouragement and advice.

Gertie died in 1967 and six years later Doug was taken to the Franklin Nursing Home in Greenfield. Doug's nephew David Brule (now a local writer and author) remembered:

*"As we wheeled him up the walk to the home, a number of the residents were out on the veranda taking the sun. Wouldn't you know, one of the old timers recognized him and called out, "Well, Doug Smith! What are you doing here?" Automatically Doug's fingers went up to touch*

*the visor of his cap, his face brightened in the old winning smile, much as the day he walked off the Field of Dreams for the last time.”*

On September 18, 1973, Doug Smith passed away at the age of 81 and he was laid to rest in the Highland cemetery in Millers Falls two days later.

Prior to 2004, Boston Red Sox fans blamed ‘The Curse of the Bambino’ for the team’s inability to win a World Series after 1918, suffering tough season ending losses in 1946, 1949, 1967, 1975, 1978, 1986, and 1993 but maybe, just maybe, it was actually the curse of Millers Falls native *Doug Smith* that caused the Sox so much grief!

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947 when he debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers. It would be another 12 years before the Sox fielded a black player (utility infielder Pumpsie Green in 1959, after passing on Willie Mays in 1949) and Sox Star Reggie Smith complained about his treatment in Boston when he left for St. Louis after the 1973 season (the same year Doug Smith passed away!)

Whether it’s simply family lore and conjuncture as to what led to Doug Smith’s abrupt departure from a major league baseball career, the Millers Falls native remains the Moonlight Graham of Franklin County and his name appears in the Major Leagues record books:

### **Douglass Weldon Smith**

**Position:** Pitcher

**Bats:** Left, **Throws:** Left

**Height:** 5' 10", **Weight:** 168 lb.

**Born:** [May 25, 1892](#) in Millers Falls, [MA](#)

**Signed** by the [Boston Red Sox](#) as an amateur free agent in 1912.

**Debut:** July 10, 1912 (Age 20.046, 3,726th in MLB history)

**Team:** RedSox 1912

**Last Game:** July 10, 1912 (Age 20.046)

**Died:** [September 18, 1973](#) in Greenfield, [MA](#) (Aged 81.116)

**Buried:** Highland Cemetery, Millers Falls, [MA](#)

Submitted by Wid Perry (TFHS '75) from an article written by Michael Foster for the Society For American Baseball Research, with credits to David Brule (“From Millers Falls to Fenway, 1912, The Montague Reporter, May 4, 2006), clippings from the Smith Family collection, and an article by Neil L. Perry (Baseball still love for Old Sox farmhand, Greenfield Recorder).

David Brule has written three local books – West Along the River – Stories from the Connecticut River Valley (Parts 1 and 2) and in 2015 he published “Looking For Judah – Adventures in Genealogy and Remembrance”, a half memoir-half novel based on Doug Smith’s father, Judah.