

# Andover Libraries

By Ray Mitchell  
For the Beacon

Andover has benefited from good libraries. We have books, videos, DVDs, and computers available to us. The libraries are in two locations: one in Andover Town Hall, which is supported by our taxes, and one on Chase Hill Road, East Andover, which is supported by the William Adams Bachelor Trust. Two librarians, Tay Clark and Mary Sell, and several volunteers maintain the collections and lead programs. We are fortunate to have these resources.

Many town residents are involved in the Fourth of July book sale and the bake sale at the Town Meeting. These are annual activities that get a good response. How much more could we do if we had more people involved?

Keeping the book collections current and in order is an arduous job for one person. If a few volunteers would join one of our librarians for a few hours, the work load would be lightened. "Reading shelves" to be sure all the books are in the proper order is best done as a group activity.

And what about those books? There are some that might interest you. Would you like to join in a discussion of one of them? Recently I read *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. I invite you to share thoughts and reactions to it with me on Wednesday, October 19 at 7 PM in the Andover Library. There is a sign-up sheet posted in both libraries. Let us know if you are interested. Additional copies of the book can be acquired through inter-library loan if you need one.

I hesitate to mention the "m" word, but did you ever know a public organization that couldn't use some more money? Our librarians have ideas and talents that could be developed with more resources. A group called "Friends of the Library" used to offer some assistance. Some of us would like to see that group revived. You will be hearing more about it in future columns.

## OBITUARIES

**EDITH R. RICHARDS**, 98, of Boscawen and formerly of Andover, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, and New Vineyard, Maine, died September 1 at the Franklin Regional Hospital.

She was born in East Andover in 1907, the daughter of G. Robert Robie and Blanche (Hersey) Robie. She grew up in East Andover and was a graduate of Proctor Academy, Class of 1925, Plymouth Normal School (now Plymouth State University), and the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, library training class.

She was employed as a library assistant by the Springfield City Library for 27 years. Upon retirement, she moved to New Vineyard, Maine. She resided in New Vineyard, Maine, from 1960 to 1995, when she returned to New Hampshire.

She was predeceased by a brother, Bernard Hersey Robie of Laconia, in 1986 and a sister, Frances Robie Morse of Bath, Maine, in 2001. She is survived by two nephews, five nieces, a stepgrandson, stepgreat grandchildren, grand nephews, grand nieces, and cousins.

Burial was in the Lakeview Cemetery, East Andover. Memorial contributions may be made to the New Vineyard Library Association, New Vineyard, Maine 04956; or the Andover Congregational Church, East Andover 03231.

**BARBARA COTTON**, 96, of Laconia, died on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005, at the St. Francis Healthcare Center.

Barbara was born in South Ryegate, Vermont, the daughter of Alex and Cecil (Buck) Beaton, a granite quarry owner and postmistress respectively. She boarded in Barre to attend high school and received a B.S. degree in library science from Simmons College in 1930. She was a librarian at Mt. Holyoke College until she married Merton Cotton of Laconia in 1933.

Barbara was director of the Gale Memorial Library in Laconia from 1944 to

1979. She spearheaded the 1957 addition to the library. In the new auditorium, she created the Saturday children's film series and the senior citizen program that is still active. She initiated the bookmobile program in 1958 and purchased a second bookmobile in 1974. She was a leading participant in revitalizing the Laconia Historical Society.

Barbara was honored by the New Hampshire Library Association in 1976 and was presented with the Key to the City of Laconia. In recognition for her service to the library, the Trustees planted white birches on the front lawn of the library in 1981.

Barbara also assisted her husband in the operation of the Opechee Trading Post, a fishing and hunting store opened

in 1944, and assumed ownership upon his death in 1985.

An avid fly fisher, she had many newspaper and magazine articles written about her. A streamer fly, created and named for her, won an original fly competition in 1997 and is now a formal, published fly pattern.

Her surviving family includes her son, John, daughter-in-law, Tina, and grandson Jonathan, all of East Andover. Mrs. Cotton was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Merton L. Cotton, who died in 1985.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Gale Memorial Library, 695 Main St., Laconia 03246 or St. Francis Healthcare Center, 406 Court St., Laconia 03246.

## Escape From New Orleans

By Meg Heckman  
Concord Monitor staff

Ann and Mike Craig wanted to spend [the night of September 6] celebrating their second anniversary at a swanky French Quarter restaurant. Instead, Mike waited in Texas for a northbound flight while Ann stayed with her parents in Andover, marveling at how her decrepit Ford Escort had carried her family, a sweeter-than-he-looks bull mastiff and an anxious cat out of New Orleans alive.

[In the last week of August,] while Hurricane Katrina brewed over the Gulf, the Craigs were welcoming Ann's mother [Mary Sell of Andover], sister and teenage brother for a stay at the couple's apartment a few blocks from the Mississippi. Evacuation orders are commonplace along the coast and, at the time, the storm's path appeared to skirt the city, so the Craigs decided to stay.

"It happens on a regular basis; it never really comes to much," Ann Craig, 26, said. Besides, their options for leaving were grim: The Escort's odometer had just hit 170,000 miles and its engine liked to conk out, holing up in the Superdome seemed like a bad idea, and buses were impossible to find.

The family stocked up on supplies and waited out the storm. Katrina howled for hours, tore siding off the building and sloshed the streets with two feet of murky water. "It was kind of scary, but the hurricane was over and we were okay," Craig said.

When the looting started, Craig and her husband began to plan their escape. They talked quietly, trying not to alarm her mother, her 14-year-old brother or 21-year-old sister who were visiting from Andover. Thieves ransacked pharmacies and supermarkets, fires erupted in nearby warehouses and teenagers on bicycles carried 9 mm pistols.

Power and phones were out. Only one radio station transmitted, and the Craigs found most of the reports centered on

the suburbs. The levies had broken, but they didn't know. Stolen city buses rolled through the streets, crashing into abandoned storefronts. The tired Escort couldn't hold everyone, so Mike Craig chose to stay behind with a well-armed neighbor to guard the couple's possessions.

The days blur together, but Ann Craig thinks it was Tuesday [August 30] when she loaded her mom and siblings into the Escort, hoping its engine would turn and the tires wouldn't blow. She'd heard rumors of carjackings, so Nero – her intimidating but friendly bull mastiff – served as security. For extra protection, Craig's sister tucked a tire iron into her purse.

They drove around the city, finally finding a dry route that carried them to Baton Rouge. Radio reports along the way described the scope of the damage. Phoning her husband was impossible, so Craig used text messages to relay that the levies had broken, help was slow in coming and he should abandon their apartment.

Her brother and sister boarded a plane home in Alabama, and – by some automotive miracle – the Escort made it all the way to her parents' Andover home late. Mike Craig and his neighbor escaped the city in a pick-up truck, spent a few nights on the Texas-Louisiana boarder and Ann expected him to fly to New Hampshire [on September 7].

The Craigs had lived in New Orleans for just more than a year and doubt they'll return to Louisiana, which means they'll have to begin rebuilding their lives here. She's applying to vet school and looking for a full-time job, preferably involving animals. He works for an airline company.

"New Orleans, I loved it," she said. "I hope that someday they'll be able to rebuild it, but . . . I don't want to be anywhere near there."

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### Sunday, October 16th, 11-3 Fall Open House

Please join us for our annual Fall Open House and 9th Annual Apple Pie Contest.

Events include tours of the farm, hay rides, Free Popcorn made on site, Kite Flying, cider, pumpkin painting, cookie decorating, sheep viewing & more.

Apple Pie Entry forms & info available at the Farmstand (526-6253) or online at [www.springledgefarm.com](http://www.springledgefarm.com)



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