

GALE FORCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF GALE FREE LIBRARY FGFL.ORG

Gale Free Library: Opening doors for over 125 years.

January 2015, Vol. 25, No. 1

What do the Friends do?

The Friends of Gale Free Library (FGFL) is exactly like the school PTA. We exist to make a community institution better, giving it resources and services that go beyond what the annual operating budget can provide. In this issue, you will read about two new services that would not be possible without Friends support: the recently opened young adult space in the library basement and the Freegal Music streaming service, now accessible through a link on GFL's website (galefreelibrary.org).

In past issues, you read about the museum pass program, started by the Friends in 2013, which has proved so popular that it has been expanded—again, thanks to the Friends. Also in 2013, the Friends received a grant from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation as part of our 125th Endowment Fund campaign. That money was earmarked for two online genealogical databases and an online resource of continuing education courses. Accessible on the library's website, these initiatives are also very popular.

In the future, watch for more new services and programs. Meanwhile, you can help the Friends continue to make our wonderful library even better by becoming a member or by renewing your membership. Just fill out the enclosed reply envelope and include your check!

Young Adults Have a Room of Their Own

BY VIRGINIA POWELL-BRASIER

WHAT'S NEW at the Gale Free? The young adult room, that's what. The brainchild of library director Susan Scott and Veronica Bejune, young adult librarian and head of technical services, the new young adult room grew out of a critical need for space where the young adult collection can grow and where teens can spread out, read, relax, and enjoy themselves.

Located in the library basement, the young adult room is actually a large inviting alcove with wireless access, study tables, and a computer catalog. The new furniture is not only comfortable, but also physically durable and easy to clean. The room has only been open

since the fall, but already young adult circulation is up fifty percent over one year ago!

Veronica notes that the project involved minimal expense. The library already had generous holdings in both young adult fiction and nonfiction, so all that was required was to move the collections to a new location and purchase furnishings. Veronica has also made sure that the young adult collections are current and reflect the region's public and private school curricula, especially in science, math, and English.

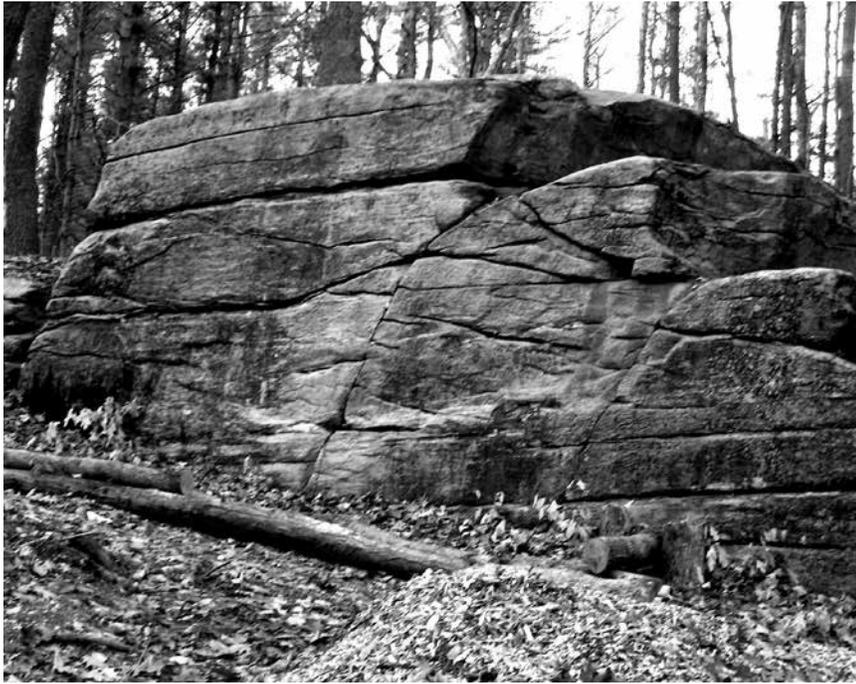
Now all that's missing is a name. If you have an inspiration for what to call the new young adult space, leave your suggestion at the circulation desk.

8 Million Songs Now Available!

THANKS TO THE FRIENDS and Gale Free Library's Special Gifts Fund, millions of songs are now available through the Freegal Music streaming service—everything from Elvis to Beyoncé to Yo-Yo Ma. GFL cardholders can download up to three songs per week and stream up to three hours per day. Go to galefreelibrary.org and look for the Freegal link. For help, ask at the reference desk or call 508 210-5569. Happy listening!

**Become a 2015
Member of the Friends!
Join or renew today using the
enclosed reply envelope.**





LEFT: On May 2, 1676, Native Americans met the English at this boulder, now called Redemption Rock, to negotiate the return of Mary Rowlandson. (Photo by Janet Knapp.)

RIGHT: Mary Rowlandson from *A Narrative of the Captivity, Sufferings and Removes of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson* (Boston, 1770). The musket is a fanciful detail.

Mary Rowlandson, Captive and Writer

BY MARGARET WATSON

ELEVEN MILES due north of Gale Free Library, on Route 140 in Princeton, is a rusting state historical marker with the following inscription:

Upon the rock fifty feet west of this spot Mary Rowlandson, wife of the first minister of Lancaster, was redeemed from captivity under King Philip. The narrative of her experience is one of the classics of colonial literature.

Mary Rowlandson was the first woman in America to publish an account of her captive life among Native Americans, which occurred during King Philip's War, named for the Native American leader Metacomet, called King Philip by the English. Her work, *The Sovereignty and Goodness of God: His Promises Displayed; Being a Narrative of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, appeared in 1682, six years after her release. The Puritan cleric Increase Mather had urged Mary to publish her account, to which he wrote a preface, calling her "a worthy and precious Gentlewoman, deserving commendation and imitation."

The book immediately became a bestseller.

It was published in England, as well as in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with several editions following the first. The copy belonging to the Gale Free Library, *The Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, is the National Bicentennial Edition commissioned by the Town of Lancaster and copyrighted in 1975. This reprint does not include Increase Mather's preface, however.

In her narrative, Mary recounts the Indian attack in February 1675/76 upon Lancaster, then a town of approximately fifty families. Mary and her three children were taken captive. One child died a week later of her wounds, and the other two were separated from their mother. Mary was sold to Weetamoo, King Philip's sister-in-law and a sachem (chief) squaw in her own right. Mary traveled about 150 miles in nearly twelve weeks, reaching as far south as New Braintree and as far north as Chesterfield, New Hampshire, carrying burdens for her mistress and foraging for food. She also made use of her skills in sewing and knitting for trade, although she does not tell us how she obtained the cloth or yarn.

Early in her captivity, an Indian gave her a Bible. Mary then read biblical passages, especially from the Psalms, applying them to her own trials. At first she preferred death to

captivity, but then she interpreted her capture as the will of God, benefitting her spiritual growth.

She regarded the Native Americans as heathens to be converted, calling them savages, ravenous bears, and wolves. She mistrusted even the converted Indians, although two of them assisted in negotiating her release, which was effected at a Nipmuc gathering place off what is now Route 140 — a place known ever after as Redemption Rock. Mary herself was not present. She was later reunited in Boston with her husband, Joseph Rowlandson, former minister to the church in Lancaster. Her two surviving children were shortly reunited with their parents. Further details of Mary Rowlandson's life can be found in *The American National Biography*, Vol. 19.

Mary's narrative was written initially as a private document, perhaps as a catharsis for the difficult memories of captivity; she called these memories her "demons." Her work was the first of the captive narratives, a genre that became popular for the next century and a half. For example, see *Captive Histories: English, French, and Native Narratives of the 1704 Deerfield Raid*, edited by Evan Haefell and Kevin Sweeney (University of Massachusetts, 2006). Also, Cotton Mather, son of Increase,

tells the story of Hannah Dustin and Hannah Swarton in *American Captivity Narratives*, edited by Gordon M. Sayre (Riverside, 2000).

In the colonies, captives were taken to be absorbed into the Native American community, since the Indian populations were diminishing. Many captives, including children, adapted to the Indian way of life and refused to return to the English when ransomed. In these situations, they also turned their backs on the Christian religion, according to Jill Lepore in *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity* (Knopf, 1998).

King Philip's War still ranks as one of the bloodiest conflicts ever waged on American soil. One-tenth of the English settlers perished in the struggle, and severe economic conditions followed, as fields and crops were destroyed. Scott Weidensaul describes the brutality of this war in *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery, and Endurance in Early America* (Houghton Mifflin, 2012). Not only was Mary Rowlandson a survivor of these terrible conditions, but she is also the first published writer of a new genre, contributing to our knowledge of colonial life and the effects of the struggles with Native Americans in seventeenth century New England.

Behind the Scenes at The Book Cellar

BY JAMIE CHASE GALVIN

LOCATED IN Gale Free Library's basement (where else?), The Book Cellar is a gently-used bookstore whose proceeds go directly to benefit the library. Thanks to a dedicated volunteer staff, the store is heading for its third anniversary this summer.

Since founding The Book Cellar in June 2012, Roberta Bodwell has been instrumental in its smooth operation. She notes that "we have had many of the same volunteers since 2012." They "say they will be there and they are. It's amazing!"

Roberta specifically credits the efforts of Sue Albertini for the store's smooth operation. Sue is in charge of coordinating and sorting donated books. Book sorters range from high school students to retirees, and Sue ensures that the books are well-displayed and easy for patrons to find. Sue herself talks of how it is a "dedicated group of volunteers that show up,"

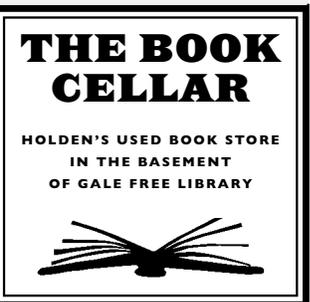
noting that it is a great opportunity for both "working and socializing."

Roberta and Sue also credit the creativity of Natalie Marsh, display organizer extraordinaire. Every month Natalie designs an artistically arranged display table, keyed to a seasonal theme. Natalie decides which books go on the table to correspond with that month's signature subject.

For those looking to congratulate these unsung heroes on their hard work, or to check out the wonderful assortment of gently-used books and interesting items for sale, you'll find The Book Cellar open on Tuesdays from 2–4 pm, Thursdays from 4–7 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am–12 noon.

And if you are interested in joining this happy crew, just stop by the store during operating hours, or leave your name and contact information at the library's circulation desk. See you at "The Cellar"!

**BANISH THE
WINTER DOLDRUMS!
TAKE A VISIT TO**



**COOKBOOKS
SPORTS
MYSTERIES
BEST-SELLERS
GARDENING
LITERATURE
BIOGRAPHY
DVDS
AND MORE!**

FGFL Officers & Board of Directors

Roberta Bodwell, *President,*
Book Cellar Coordinator
Karen Cavan, *Vice President,*
Treasurer
Karen Shapiro, *Clerk*
Sue Albertini,
Book Donations Coordinator
Chuck Skillings, *Membership*
Richard Maurer, *Gale Force*
Edna Sexton, *Publicity*
Sandra Hakkarainen,
Webmaster
Stephanie Adams
Norman Mills
Stephen Perkins

Friends of Gale Free Library
is a non-profit 501(c)(3)
organization.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOLDEN, MA
PERMIT #11

PLACE MAILING LABEL HERE

Better Than Cable!

BY STEPHANIE ADAMS

I AM AN ENTERTAINMENT JUNKIE. I love reading books, listening to music, going to the movies, and watching television. I also work full time, am a single mom to a wonderful teenager, and serve on a number of boards and committees. So in order to indulge my habit, I have to be an excellent multitasker.

One thing I have found is that television, especially cable television, has some of the most brilliant, entertaining shows that have ever been produced. There is a television renaissance happening now. One of the reasons has to be the excellent source material: books. At one time, many great books were thought to be impossible to turn into movies. But as television producers have shown, especially on cable where they have more freedom, books adapt very well.

The sad part is that many people can't afford all of the cable channels or other sources, like Netflix, that have this excellent original programming. So when I ask friends if they have seen the latest *Game of Thrones* and can they believe what a jerk King Joffrey is, they look at

me with a blank stare, and simply say they don't have HBO. This is such a shame, and yet there is an excellent and free remedy to this horrible deprivation: take the book out of the library!

We are blessed in Holden with a wonderful library full of great books, many of which are the basis for these great shows. Never catch *True Blood*? Lucky for you, GFL has *A Touch of Dead: Sookie Stackhouse the Complete Stories* by Charlaine Harris. If you prefer e-books, *The Vampire Diaries* and *Dearly Devoted Dexter* are available electronically.

Below is a partial list of TV series that are based on excellent books. As pretty much everyone knows, the books are almost always better than the movies or television series, so have a read. The next time someone asks you if you prefer vampire Bill or vampire Eric, you will be able to give your opinion, cable or not.

Don't Miss This:

Among her multitasks, Stephanie Adams is the producer of "Holden Happenings" on Holden Community Television. To watch her recent episode on GFL, go to www.hctv11.com/watch.html and search for "Holden Happenings."

- TRUE BLOOD**, based on *The Southern Vampire Mysteries* by Charlaine Harris
- VAMPIRE DIARIES**, based on *Vampire Diaries* by L.J. Smith
- DEXTER**, based on *Dearly Devoted Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay
- BOARDWALK EMPIRE**, based on *Boardwalk Empire* by Nelson Johnson
- SONS OF ANARCHY**, based on *Pronto* by Elmore Leonard
- GAME OF THRONES**, based on *A Song of Ice and Fire* series by George R.R. Martin
- THE LEFTOVERS**, based on *The Leftovers* by Tom Perrotta
- OUTLANDER**, based on *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon
- THE STRAIN**, based on *The Strain* by Guillermo Del Toro and Chuck Hogan
- HOUSE OF CARDS**, based on *House of Cards* by Michael Dobbs

