



BRIGHT LEAF

BOOKS THAT ILLUMINATE

AN IMPRINT OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS PRESS



ABOUT BRIGHT LEAF

Launched in 2017, University of Massachusetts Press's Bright Leaf imprint publishes insightful and entertaining books about New England. Written for a popular audience, Bright Leaf explores a range of subjects that highlight the history, culture, diversity, and environment of the region. Imprint titles have been reviewed and covered by such venues as *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, the *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, NPR, WGBH, NEPM, Vermont Public, *Down East*, and more.

In the pages to follow, you'll find more information on all of our Bright Leaf titles. For more details on upcoming releases and events, please visit www.brightleafbooks.com or www.umasspress.com.

CONTENTS

New Books	1
Award Winners	13
Bright Leaf Backlist	14
Sales Information	inside back cover

COVER ILLUSTRATION by Coni Porter, *Redwing Blackbird*, © 2022. From *Playing God in the Meadow*, by Martha Leb Molnar, p. 1. Background photo by Kiwihug on Unsplash.

Playing God in the Meadow

How I Learned to Admire My Weeds

MARTHA LEB MOLNAR

\$22.95 bt paper

978-1-62534-687-2

"In funny, thoughtful, and provocative musings, Molnar continues the story she began in *Taproot* . . . Fledgling and experienced land tillers alike will be captivated by the action that ensues, starting with the author's never-ending struggle against non-native invasive species (aka weeds) . . ."

—*Booklist*

"I don't think 'meadow' and 'meditation' have the same root, but perhaps they should—Molnar's book is a lovely reminder of how you can see the world in an acre."

—Bill McKibben, environmentalist, author, journalist, and cofounder of 350.org





Trail Running Eastern Massachusetts

BEN KIMBALL

\$22.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-635-3

"In his pocket-size paperback, *Trail Running Eastern Massachusetts*, Ben Kimball guides readers through a variety of the most scenic, rewarding, and fun trails that eastern Massachusetts has to offer . . . this information is useful for anyone looking to explore nature."

—*Greenfield Recorder*

"[A] guidebook detailing more than 50 trail-running sites, ranging from Massasoit State

Park, North Hill Marsh, and Myles Standish State Forest to the south, Mount Pisgah, Upton State Forest, and Callahan State Forest to the west, and Ward Reservation, Willowdale State Forest, and Ravenswood Park to the north."

—*Boston Globe*



Traveling the Old Ski Tracks of New England

E. JOHN B. ALLEN

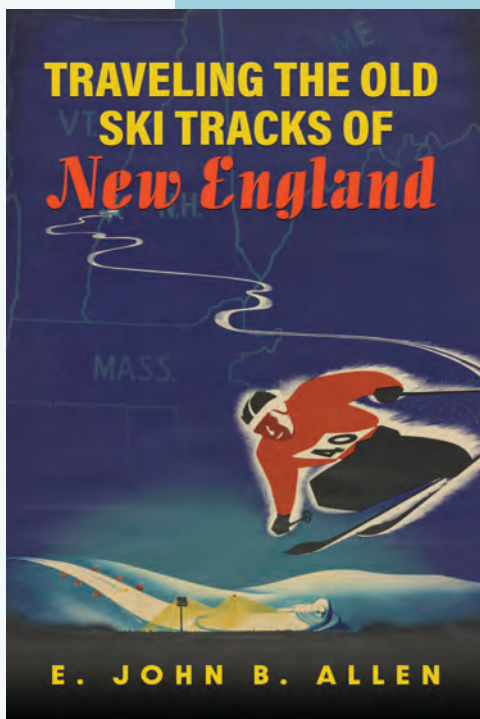
\$24.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-673-5

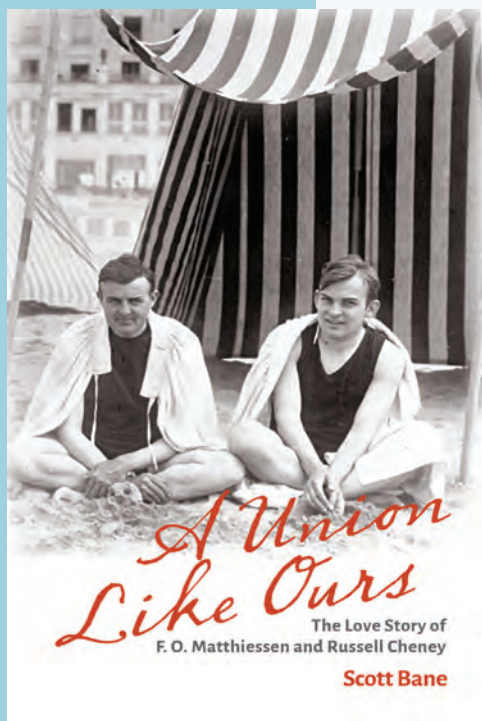
"There's such a depth of information in these pages that manages to keep skiers connected to their past. Allen delivers context to the historical factors and people that are found on trail maps across the region. There is a satisfaction in understanding what helped build the slopes we ski today."

—Eric Wilbur, coauthor of *Thirty Years in a White Haze: Dan Egan's Story of Worldwide Adventure and the Evolution of Extreme Skiing*

"The stories Allen tells cover a lot of early ski history that is not well known to the skiing public today. With different chapters covering different regions, this book will appeal to a wide readership."

—Jeremy K. Davis, author of *Lost Ski Areas of the Berkshires* and founder of the New England Lost Ski Areas Project





A Union Like Ours

The Love Story of F. O. Matthiessen and Russell Cheney

SCOTT BANE

\$24.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-637-7

“Scott Bane shows the relationship between F. O. Matthiessen and the painter Russell Cheney as an example of how two men could—precariously and passionately—live together and love each other in the America of the 1930s and 1940s. His book enriches our knowledge of the gay past.”

—Colm Tóibín, international best-selling author of *The Magician: A Novel*

“In *A Union Like Ours*, Scott Bane carefully tracks both men’s careers through the changes in American culture that they were either reflecting or contributing to . . . [A] smart, sensitive study.”

—*Gay & Lesbian Review*



The Combat Zone

Murder, Race, and Boston's Struggle for Justice

JAN BROGAN

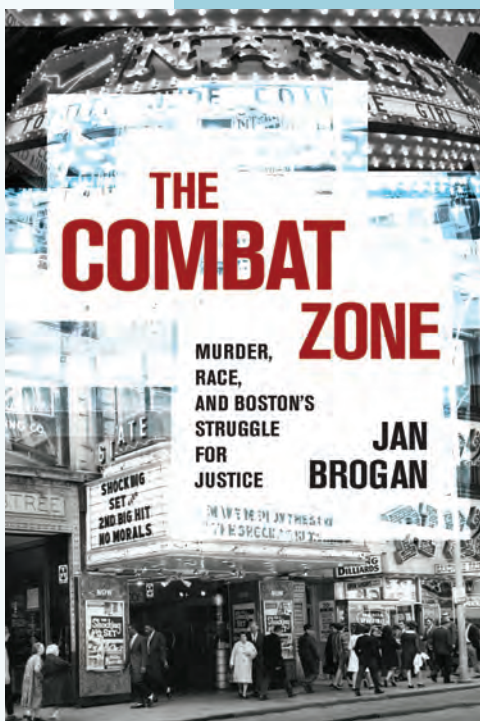
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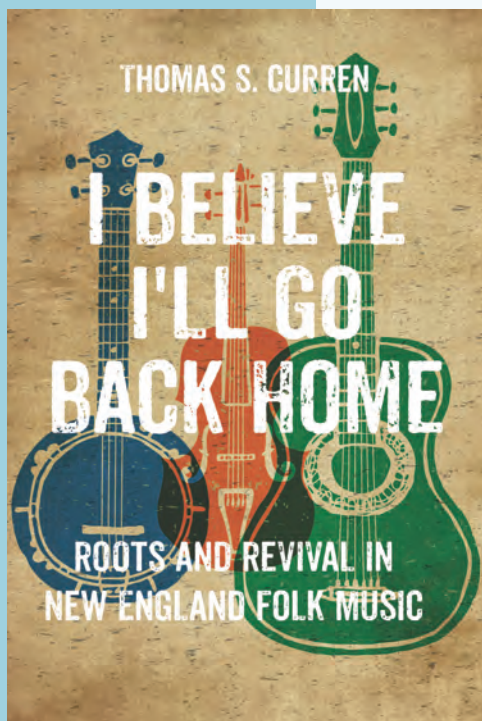
"Brogan's background as a journalist shows in her careful reporting and historical context . . . The grim history of racism in Boston, the crime and corruption of the Combat Zone, and the legal permutations of the case take up the bulk of the book. But its heart lies in a character who wasn't even in the Combat Zone that fateful night—the victim's brother, Danny Puopolo."

—*Providence Journal*

"A great strength of Brogan's book is the broad context that she provides—one of overlapping divisions of race, class, and geography—to make sense of how the legal proceedings unfolded . . . Brogan writes with empathy for all involved in the events she so capably explores."

—*DigBoston*





I Believe I'll Go Back Home

Roots and Revival in New England Folk Music

THOMAS S. CURREN

\$22.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-565-3

"The author covers the folk scene with diligent analysis, an archivist's eye for detail, and anecdotes aplenty, capturing the imagination and engaging the intellect . . . Curren's work is both historically important and vital reading for the present moment. Our need for a spiritual and cultural revival is, it would seem, as essential and natural as our need to sing. Highly recommended."

—*Library Journal*

"[A]uthor Thomas S. Curren pairs an evident love for traditional music and the region, detailing the figures and the history of the folk movement in Boston and Cambridge in the early 1960s . . . It's an accessible history of a region and a moment in music."

—*Boston Globe*



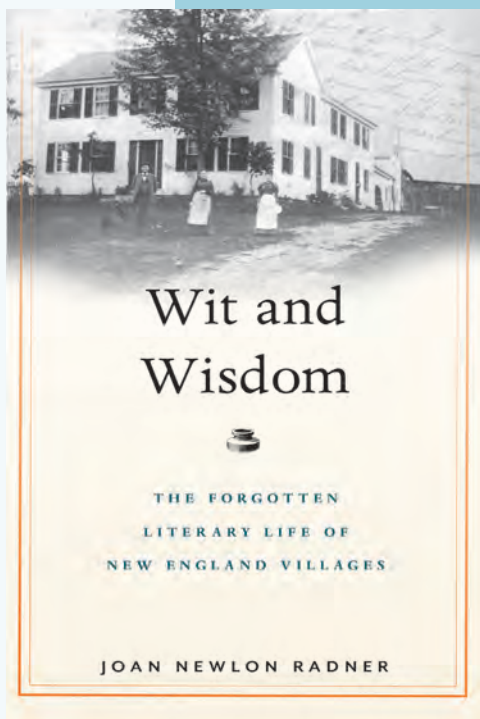
Wit and Wisdom

*The Forgotten Literary Life of
New England Villages*

**JOAN NEWLON
RADNER**

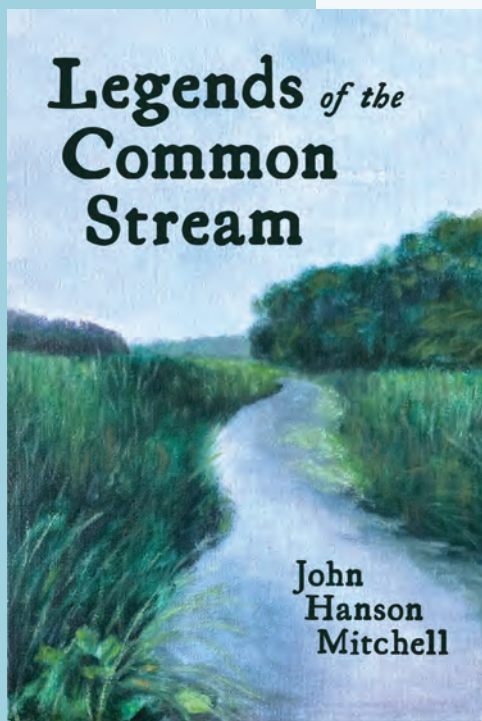
\$25.95 **bt paper**
978-1-62534-738-1

In the 1800s, rural New Englanders—ordinary men and women, farmers and intelligentsia, selectmen and schoolchildren—came together to write and perform poetry and witty parodies and debate a wide range of topics, from women's rights and temperance to slavery, migration, and more. *Wit and Wisdom* takes readers inside the village lyceum, offering new access to the vibrant voices, surprising talents, and understated humor on display across Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts.



"Revealing inhabitants' values, literacy, humor, hopes, fears, and much more, Radner skillfully draws on her extensive research and her informed historical imagination to bring the reader into the lyceum, where the audience clapped, whistled, and stomped its feet."

—Joseph A. Conforti, author of *Imagining New England: Explorations of Regional Identity from the Pilgrims to the Mid-Twentieth Century*



Legends of the Common Stream

**JOHN HANSON
MITCHELL**

\$22.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-581-3

“John Hanson Mitchell has spent decades exploring Beaver Brook, a stream that winds behind his home in eastern Massachusetts. With a near-daily practice of visiting the brook and interacting with it in such ways as wading through its shallows, navigating it by canoe, skating its meanders, and chatting with its other visitors, he has a rich storehouse of experiences that clearly show through in his new book, *Legends of the Common Stream*.”

—*Northern Woodlands*

“Mitchell weaves history, natural history, culture, environmental issues, myths, folklore, religion—in powerful, dynamic ways, all while visiting intimate Beaver Brook. I have not read another book that so intimately ties together so many strands so effectively. Mitchell takes these strands and braids a beautiful book.”

—Sean Prentiss, author of *Finding Abbey: The Search for Edward Abbey and His Hidden Desert Grave*



Letters from Red Farm

The Untold Story of the Friendship between Helen Keller and Journalist Joseph Edgar Chamberlin

ELIZABETH EMERSON

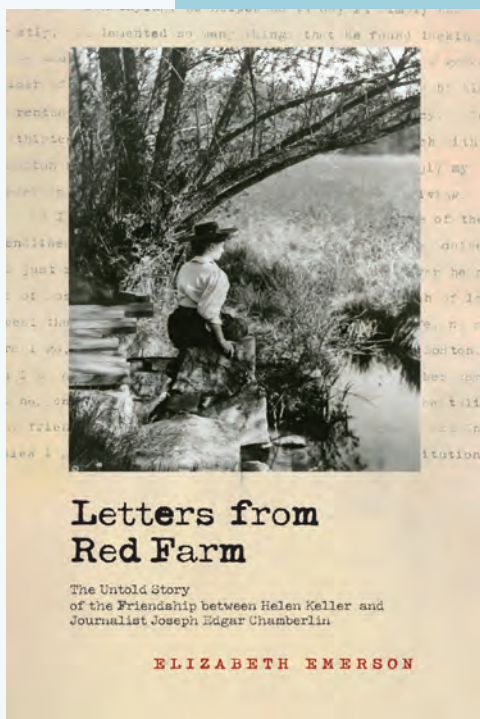
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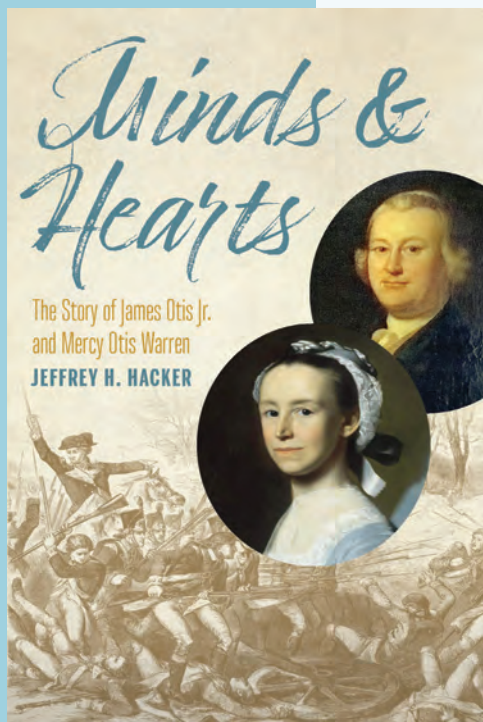
"Adds new perspective on Keller, and gives glimpse to an enormously important figure in her education, development, and life."

—*Boston Globe*

"Most people only know Helen Keller (and her teacher, Annie Sullivan) through the clichéd account of the so-called 'miracle' at the water pump when she was six years old. This book is a riveting supplement to the familiar narrative—telling the fascinating story of the friendship between Helen and the journalist Joseph Edgar Chamberlin who was in many ways more of a kindred spirit to Helen than Annie herself."

—Max Wallace, *New York Times* best-selling coauthor of *Love & Death: The Murder of Kurt Cobain*





Minds and Hearts

*The Story of James Otis Jr.
and Mercy Otis Warren*

JEFFREY H. HACKER

\$22.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-574-5

"James Otis Jr. and Mercy Otis Wilson are thus studied best together . . . For those who are not versed in their story, Hacker's newest work serves as an admirable introduction to it and many other details of New England social, political, and religious life in just over two hundred pages."

—*Journal of the American Revolution*

"Historical writer Hacker turns his attention, with this dual

biography, to two of Cape Cod's most noted colonial figures. Barnstable's James Otis Jr. was a firebrand attorney and political agitator who helped to shape colonial resistance in the decades leading up to the American Revolution, but was hampered by mental illness. Younger sister Mercy Otis Warren took up the patriotic cause by using incendiary plays and poems to rally colonial opinion, and chronicling the period in a way that made her America's first female historian."

—*Cape Cod Times*



Rescuing Ellisville Marsh

The Long Fight to Restore Lost Connections

ERIC P. CODY

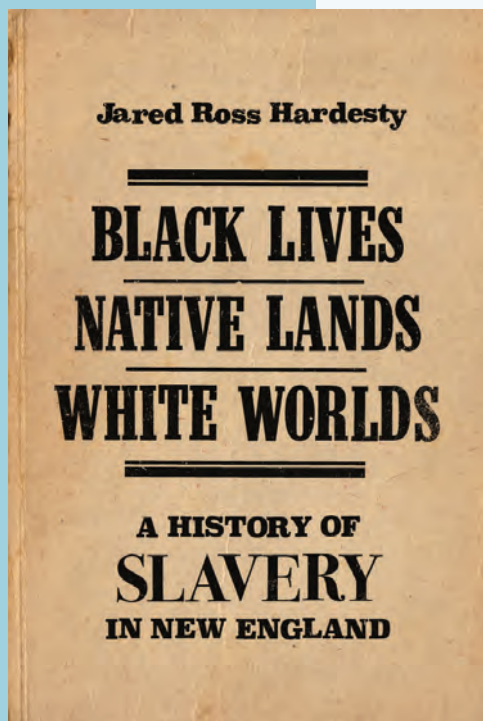
\$26.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-677-3

Recognized as one of the most ecologically valuable places in Massachusetts, Ellisville Marsh is home to a diverse array of wildlife and a range of habitats. Cody tells the powerful story of a community that banded together to save this estuary, revive tidal flows, and revitalize fisheries and wildlife.



“Cody offers an intimate portrait of this place, its history and people, and the natural life in and around the marsh. The side stories of the community near Ellisville Marsh, the joys of monitoring work on the marsh, and the battles to win permits and keep the inlet open, are compelling.”

—Tim Traver, author of *Sippewissett: Or, Life on a Salt Marsh*



Black Lives, Native Lands, White Worlds

*A History of Slavery in New
England*

JARED ROSS HARDESTY

\$22.95 bt paper
978-1-62534-457-1

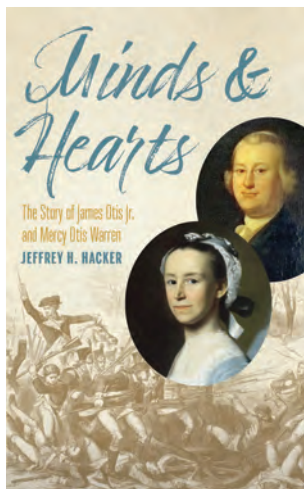
“Arresting and enlightening . . .
[t]he book looks at the origins
of slavery in the region, the
kinds of labor enslaved people
did, as well as their private
lives and their modes of
resisting slavery.”

—*Boston Globe*

“[A] meticulously researched
history that turns on its head
the notion that New England
was beyond reproach with
respect to slavery.”

—*Portland Press Herald*





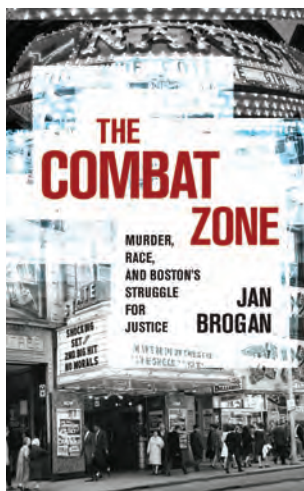
**FINALIST FOR THE
2022 George
Washington Prize**

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The Story of James Otis Jr. and Mercy Otis Warren

JEFFREY H. HACKER

\$22.95 bt paper, 978-1-62534-574-5



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**FINALIST FOR THE
2022 Anthony Award
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or Nonfiction Work**

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Murder, Race, and Boston's Struggle for Justice

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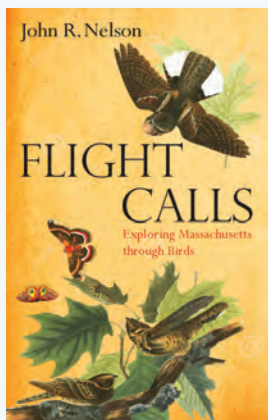


Went to the Devil

A Yankee Whaler in the Slave Trade

ANTHONY J. CONNORS

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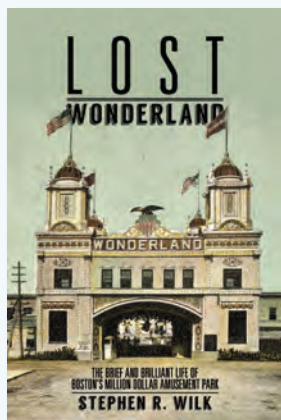


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Exploring Massachusetts through Birds

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The Brief and Brilliant Life of Boston's Million Dollar Amusement Park

STEPHEN R. WILK

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At Home

Historic Houses of Eastern Massachusetts

BETH LUEY

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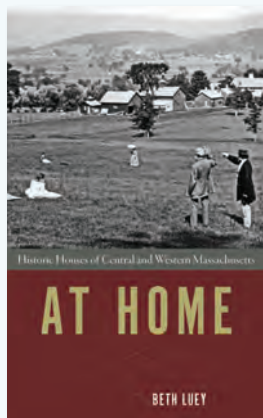


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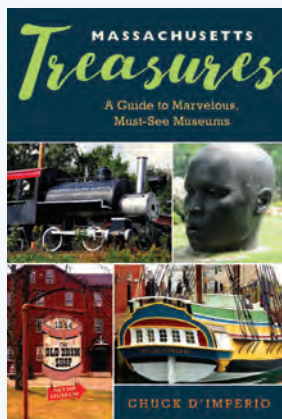


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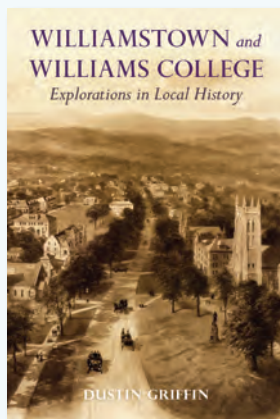


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A Guide to Marvelous, Must-See Museums

CHUCK D'IMPERIO

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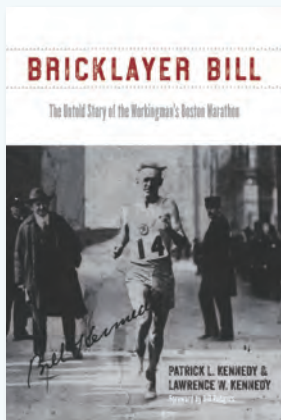


Williamstown and Williams College

Explorations in Local History

DUSTIN GRIFFIN

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Bricklayer Bill

The Untold Story of the Workingman's Boston Marathon

**PATRICK L. KENNEDY AND
LAWRENCE W. KENNEDY**

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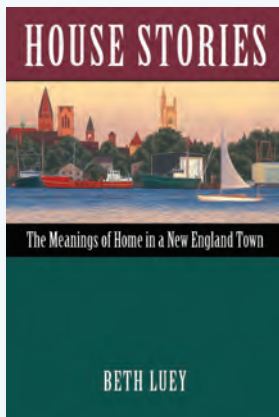


Concrete Changes

Architecture, Politics, and the Design of Boston City Hall

BRIAN M. SIRMAN

\$22.95 bt paper, 978-1-62534-357-4



House Stories

The Meanings of Home in a New England Town

BETH LUEY

\$22.95 bt paper, 978-1-62534-311-6

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