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## Letter from the Editor:

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Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Lenox School,

Spring is here. In the northeast, we've had a thankfully mild winter and a warm, promising pre-spring. One never knows if that means triple-digit August temperatures or a miserable next winter – or both. Climate change may be upon us, though opinions vary. And sometimes those opinions vary heatedly.

As some know, I signed up for temporary duty as the Associate Editor while our esteemed Editor-in-Chief Mark Gottsegen is attending to his book and other demands. Please be kind as I stumble through this... and wish Mark well, so that he may complete his tasks quickly and return to active duty!

We are thinking of a new section for the P&S called “My Town” and already have a draft entry from our Editor-in-Chief for the summer edition. All are invited to submit a brief reflection of your community on a first-come, first-published basis. The length should be 200-250 words, or thereabouts. The editor will edit.

Randy Harris describes recent additions to the LSAA memorabilia collection, the Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman’s recollections of Lenox School and life, and a view of the Bordentown/Lenox School. Our thanks go to Randy.

The class of '62 is organizing for their 50th reunion this fall... a brief notice follows in the P&S.

**Remember to mark your calendars with the dates for the LSAA reunion: October 12, 13, 14.**

And now a personal question. We all no doubt remember trudging to the infirmary with sore throats. The nurse would “paint” throats with a vile orange liquid. I always suspected it was battery acid. But it worked! Infection stopped in its tracks (or in our throats).

What was that stuff? And is it used today?

Nasty as it was, it worked – and I'd gladly trade 30 seconds of that misery for two weeks of a sore throat.

With regards,  
Don Foster, '63

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## THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

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*“Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade.”* Charles Dickens.

Dickens probably never experienced a winter (or lack thereof), which we just enjoyed here in the northeast! I’m not complaining mind you, I didn’t miss replacing the shear pins on my snow blower at all. But now comes what looks to be an early spring, accompanied by prematurely blooming (and probably confused) flowers, and what I fear will be swarms of bugs that didn’t have to endure hard freezes or shake off any winter chill. They will likely be our uninvited guests through summer. However, in a total surprise, it snowed today (March 31st), so March is determined to go out like a lion.

So, we have to turn our hope and attention to fall for a welcome respite and our upcoming Lenox School reunion. Perhaps Steve King had it right:

“But then fall comes, kicking summer out on its treacherous ass as it always does one day sometime after the midpoint of September, it stays awhile like an old friend that you have missed. It settles in the way an old friend will settle into your favorite chair and take out his pipe and light it and then fill the afternoon with stories of places he has been and things he has done since last he saw you.”

Now we're talking! Unlike Mr. King, however, we mark not September but our October calendars, when we get the opportunity to reconnect, settle back, remember, and fill a few days with our own stories of Lenox School at our reunion.

October is that special time to visit the campus that served as home; to examine the school memorabilia on display of our days gone by; and to spend time reflecting on our years there and since with classmates, alums and the masters who dedicated their lives to the notion of service. Reunion is how we honor that little school that we had the privilege to attend, the one that launched us on our life's journey, and for which we keep alive that special, inexplicable essence that is the magic and spirit of the Lenox School experience.

We're also hoping that we are witness to a reunion within a reunion again whereby our friends affiliated with KEEP (aka “The Improbables”) come back to reconnect with members of the class of '62 who made that incredible trip to Japan 50 years ago.

Other LSAA activities going on this spring of note are the scholarships we are going to bestow at both Miss Hall's and Berkshire Country Day School, and of course we are always seeking appropriate candidates for the Curry Scholarship.

So, mark your calendars! **The reunion dates are October 12, 13 & 14.** The legacy years for our 2012 reunion are 1942, '47, '52, '57, '62, and

'67. I already know first hand that '62 has had a head start in planning for a great reunion. Last year we set a record for attendance at the dinner in the Lenox Club. Nothing would be more gratifying than to top this! See you all back at school!

Bob Sansone  
President, LSAA  
Lenox '68

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## Letters to the Editor

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Jud Fisher, '63, writes:

Memories of Lenox – My most enduring memory is of passing by the hockey pond on the way from the Church (after evening chapel) to dinner...the pond stunk! It smelled so bad that I was certain that it was the worst smelling thing I'd ever come across. (I learned differently when we came across some abandoned leaching ponds near Buffalo -- I still wonder what was in those ponds that prevented them from freezing even if it was below zero.) And, Ed Gleason's Newfoundland, Katie, used to love to go swimming in the pond when the days got warmer...and she would then smell to high heaven too. I liked her very much, stink and all. She was very friendly. I can remember holding her bowling ball sized head in my left hand while patting her and trying to untangle her tangled and matted fur, which sometimes had fragments of floating pond debris embedded in it. To this day, I think that matted and entangled fur (she had two layers, a long coat and a dense short coat, with some reddish black ends) hurt her skin because she liked me to fuss with it and would come over to see me when I'd walk by to get a pat and her hair disentangled.

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Milo Dailey, '63, writes:

Memories of Lenox – The 6th Form Commons Room was upstairs on the campus side of the old gym. It wasn't much. A main room had some worn out furniture facing a black and white television. There were tables to play ping-pong or bridge.

The usual suspects were there at 7 p.m. Oct. 22, 1962. Play quickly ground to a stop as the grainy tube showed the face of President John Kennedy as he told the Soviet Union and the world how close we were to war.

Those who smoked did; perhaps forming their evening cloud more energetically than usual. Our concerns brought talk, but not as much as might seem likely among teens today. As the cleanup and keyholder for the room, I seem to recall ashtrays a bit more full than usual.

For myself, I was more than aware that Massachusetts was so much closer to a Russian missile shot from Cuba than where I called home on the Northern Plains. I'm sure similar unspoken thoughts struck others.

Just 13 months later I was back on the plains. That day our college lit class came to a chair-scuffling halt. Our angry professor returned from a mission to quiet hallway noise with his face as pale as death – and word the President had been shot.

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### In Memoriam

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Matthew Charles Gottsegen, 61, class of '69, died unexpectedly on April 1, 2012. He lived in New York City and was a partner at Franke, Gottsegen, Cox Architects in Brooklyn, NY. Mr. Gottsegen attended Lenox School, Washington University in St. Louis, The Architectural Association in London (UK), and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from which he received his M.Arch A.S. His early training as an architect was with Hugh Stubbins and Stelle Gluckman Architects. He practiced

independently before forming a partnership with Erika Franke and Norman Cox. Mr. Gottsegen was a devoted, loving father and is survived by his daughters Francis and Sarah, his brother, Mark David in Chagrin Falls, OH, Susan Laufer, Alice McCourt, and numerous cousins and friends. He will be missed by all and lives on in our memories. Memorial contributions in his name can be made to the charity, New Destiny Housing, 12 W 37th Street, 7th Floor, New York NY 10018, or online at [www.newdestinyhousing.org/donate-now](http://www.newdestinyhousing.org/donate-now)

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Charles Kendrick “Ken” Capon, 79, of Kittery Point, Maine, passed away September 29, 2009 at York Hospital, York Maine. Ken Capon was in the class of '50.

After Lenox School, Ken served in Korea and in the Coast Guard and attended Boston University and Keene State College, where he earned a Master's in Education. Ken also attended Bangor Theological Seminary and was a lay minister at All Saints Episcopal Church in Peterborough, N.H. Ken was a teacher of English and sociology at a number of schools in New England and in Europe.

Ken leaves his beloved wife of 31 years, Susan Emery; daughters Victoria Capon of Phoenix, AZ and Abigail Capon of Concord, NH; sons Dana Kendrick of Worcester, VT and Trevor Capon of Charlestown, MA; and grandchildren, nieces, and a nephew.

*(Obituary was excerpted from that published in the Oct. 6, 2009 edition of the Portsmouth Herald, Portsmouth, NH.)*

\* \* \*

Carl Haskell Williams, 91, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Jan. 13, 2012, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan.

He was born Dec. 19, 1920, in Ware, Mass., the son of the late Helen and Carl Williams.

Carl is survived by his wife of 64 years, Elizabeth "Ibba" (Beebe) Williams; their three sons, R. David Williams and his former wife, Susie Williams, both of Butte, Mont., Peter B. Williams and his wife, Nancy, of Newmarket, N.H., and Douglas Williams and his wife, Jessica, of Carrabassett Valley, Maine; his brother, Edward "Ned" G. Williams and his wife, Bobbie, of Hamden, Conn.; eight grandchildren and their spouses, Shelly and Sean Cleverly, Erik and Dina Williams, Shannon and Bradley Calabro, Alexe Williams, Jesse Williams, Chase Williams, Helena Williams and Briggs Williams; four great-grandchildren, Emily and Allyson Cleverly and Jake and Joseph Briggs Williams; many nieces and nephews; and his friends and neighbors, whose friendship he dearly cherished.

Carl graduated from The Lenox School in Lenox, Mass., in 1939 and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Trinity College in 1943.

*(Obituary was excerpted from that published in the Jan. 19, 2012 edition of the TriCorner News, Lakeville, CT.)*

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The Lenox School community extends its profound condolences to the families and friends of loved ones lost.

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## Other News

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### **Class of 1962, from Doug Hardy:**

Fifty years! Can you imagine? This year marks the 50th anniversary of that gorgeous spring day in May of 1962 when we graduated. Many of us have not seen one another since. This October, beginning Friday the 12th, will be a great opportunity to re-connect and see the town and surroundings in the peak foliage season by attending the LSAA reunion.

The Lenox School reunion offers us the following:

- Friday Oct. 12:
  - The LSAA golf tourney, starting around 11:30 a.m.
  - The 19th Hole, Dinner at Cork & Hearth around 6:30 PM or Separate Class of '62 Dinner (Time/Location TBD)
- Saturday Oct. 13:
  - Annual LSAA business meeting, starting around 9:30 a.m.
  - LSAA luncheon at noon.
  - Campus tour of grounds and buildings, starting around 2:00 p.m.
  - Hymn sing at Trinity Chapel around 5:00 p.m. (at the risk of demerits – stomp our feet during "Onward Christian Soldiers")
  - The annual LSAA cocktail and dinner event at The Lenox Club, starting around 6:00 p.m.

TB Boyd, Jack Hill, Bob Rush, and I attended last year's reunion and had a great time. The class of 1961 brought so many alumni back for their 50th that a new attendance record was set at the Saturday evening dinner. The class of '61 also instituted a Class Dinner on Friday night. Maybe we should continue this tradition.

We have formed a semi-coordinated team to encourage a large attendance. Several classmates have already begun contacting us and expressing an interest in attending. We need to find the "missing." TB Boyd (trustin@hotmail.com) has agreed to be the point man for centralized contact. We need to hear from you.

We are suggesting The Gateways Inn (1-888-492-9466) close to Trinity Church as Class lodging HQ. We will keep you all informed as plans evolve via email and the P&S but want to hear from you as well. We hope to see you this October.

The LSAA Website also has info on the reunion: [www.lenoxschool.org/reunion/](http://www.lenoxschool.org/reunion/)

See you in October. TB Boyd, Jack Hill, Bob Rush, and Doug Hardy

### Recent Additions to the Memorabilia Collection

Below are descriptions of the items donated during the 2011 reunion weekend, along with some comments on how they tie into the School's history and experience. Our sincere appreciation to Ed Ockenden '43, Walter Vail and Pete Baker '61, Doug Macfarlane '63, and Romi and Sally Whitman. These items will be added to the existing collection inventory on the LSAA Website. We are still five yearbooks short of having a complete set, and are looking for those from '44, '49, '52, '53, and '61. Reportedly, '63 was never published. Additional items are always welcome as are any recollections of the items described below.

**Original McKim, Mead & White Architect's Scale Drawing of St. Martins:** this handsome color drawing by the designers of Penn Station in NYC, the East and West wings of the White House, and scores more buildings, shows St. Martins with both wings. Rev. Monks envisioned a single "fireproof" building in which all school functions would occur (sleep, eat, classes, locker rooms) so that boys wouldn't have to go outside in cold or inclement weather. The building, one of the first made of molded architectural concrete, opened on September 20, 1938 amid torrential rains from a hurricane. The total cost was between \$141K and \$160K (center section \$71K and the South Wing \$47K), but lack of funds precluded the North Wing from being built until 1956 at a cost of \$165K. Funds for the North Wing were primarily donated by and it was named for Trustee Mr. Albert W. Rice. When the building was new, Rev. Monks added the rear wings by cutting the largest pheasant coop from the Bishop Farm (Field House and playing fields area) in half and moving it up the hill.

**Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman's '33 Collection of Memorabilia:** consists of a superbly organized notebook and some additional larger pieces totaling 40 separate items including correspondence, photos, postcards, a scrapbook and VHS tapes. Excerpts from the letters are included in the "Some Familiar Recollections" article also in this edition.

**Bordentown/Lenox School Catalog (Brochure):** its contents are summarized in the article "A View of the Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS)" in this edition.

**Lenox School Class Ring (1963):** provided since the reunion by Doug Macfarlane '63 who previously provided his white cardigan letter sweater now on display at Shakespeare & Company. The ring has the rounded edge design of the 1960s version, rather than the square-face design of an earlier version that I've seen. Class rings were not always available and I wonder how early this tradition began?

**Lenox China – Dinner Plate:** this is the final piece of one complete place-setting in the collection. All pieces have black and yellow trim and the letter "L". The collection has several other cups, saucers and cereal bowls. All we need now is one of those dented aluminum pitchers.

**Lenox School Stein:** this handsome stein is black with trim, crest and lettering in gold and is from the late 1950s or early 1960s. Another similar one has been promised.

**Lenox School Black and Yellow Scarf (60" x 8"):** this combination wool and manmade fiber scarf with tassels on each end joins a woolen ski cap already in the collection. It was a favorite of many, and most useful when going to and from classes, chapel and meals in the darkest days of winter.

**Lenox School Book Covers:** these plastic-coated covers were sold in the bookstore which had several locations over the years in the basement of St. Martins. On its face is the School crest and on the rear the St. Martins bell tower. It was sold in a packet of 4 (2 Lenox and 2 Elmira College) for 39 cents.

**Schermerhorn Hall Laundry Bag (26" x 16"):** this white laundry bag resembles a pillow case with aluminum grommets and a drawstring attached at the top. It has Schermerhorn Hall handwritten in laundry pen and the student's name affixed in several locations at its top in ink stencil/stamp. Unfortunately, exactly how the laundry worked, as well as anything about haircuts, are two things that I draw a complete blank on.

**Lenox Felt Banner (2' x 3')**: this is the second one in the collection and is seen in many photographs of student's room.

**Autographed Paperback Edition of "A History of Trinity Church, 1763-1966" by John Allen Gable '61**: this was the noted Theodore Roosevelt Historian's first history of the Church, followed in 1993 by "The Goodness That Doth Crown Our Days," which was a more detailed history of the Parish, including several references to Lenox School and its Headmasters.

**1961 Alumni Directory**: a new addition to the existing 1965 and 1970 versions.

**Four Programs for the**: St. Paul's College A Capella Choir (Apr 12, 1959); Baccalaureate Service (Jun 7, 1959); Graduation (Jun 4, 1961); and the Drama Club's "Devil's Disciple" by Bernard Shaw and Five Lenox In Portrait Calendars.

**"The Ghosts of Company G" – A True Story About Men in a National Guard Company Who Fought in the Pacific by Edward Ockenden '43**. Though primarily a memoir of his service in the Pacific, Ed also recounts his time at Lenox and recalls ironically, that he was wounded at almost the same location as the prior home of his classmate George Wilner, the son of the Episcopal Bishop of the Philippines, who though trained by the Army to return there, was instead sent to Europe and subsequently killed in the Battle of the Bulge. One of 26 Lenox Alumni killed in Action during WWII. After the War and getting out of the hospital, Ed returned to Lenox to brush up on academics before attending college.

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### **Some Familiar Recollections About Lenox School and Life**

The recently donated Rev. Robert S. S. Whitman's '33 collection of memorabilia contains numerous latter-year letters between and material from members of the Class of 1933. The following recollections gleaned from this collection, voice feelings that are probably similar to those of most

alumni and provide a few glimpses into Rev. Whitman's unique personality.

**Being Away from Home**: "Even at the ripe old age of 16 I was very insecure when I arrived at Lenox. No one told me to go to Pittsfield instead of leaving the train at Lenox Station – a good hike from the School, especially with a heavy suitcase. Mr. Monks told my parents later that he had never seen a more homesick student." (Jacob Mosser '33)

**Meaning of a Lenox Education**: "Lenox School means more to me than any other period of my life. I owe much to Mr. Monks and his faculty and staff... For many reasons these three years at Lenox were certainly among the most important of my life. I will forever be grateful for Mr. Monk's faith in my potential – something I would have hardly done on my own. There is a definite advantage for some of us attending a small school." (Jacob Mosser '33)

**Masters Were More Than Just Teachers**: "In loving memory of Spencer P. Kennard, my Master/Mentor/Friend/Father/and my oldest Brother. It was because of him that my life followed the course it did." (Peter M. Morris '50, note on a donation letter from Trinity Church) Referring to Rev. Robert L. Curry: "It is a tribute to him that that so many of the "boys" return to Lenox each year for a reunion more than 25 years after the school closed. He and the faculty did much and succeeded to make responsible men out of the "boys." Our son matured and benefited from Bob's tough but fair supervision." (School Trustee on a donation letter to Trinity Church)

**Yet Lenox Didn't Prepare You for Everything**: "We got an excellent basic education. Alas, it didn't prepare me for the excitement and freedom of Harvard, so I got kicked out which was the worst and best thing that ever happened to me. In a strange way it was responsible for our having a very interesting life, which proves the truth of what St. Paul wrote: 'all things work together for good to those that love GOD'." (Whitman '33) "Although I made some good friends and acquired a fairly good education, I was pretty well lost in the crowd at Dartmouth." (Jacob Mosser '33)

**A Diploma Wasn't Essential to Future Success:** "Unlike me, my sister... has a Master's degree from Columbia. I did not graduate from high school or from my boarding school. I did get a certificate saying that I had been there for five years. During World War II I did graduate from Merchant Marine Officer's School... When I was 75 years old I got my first A in a course of "Creative Writing" from Bridgewater State College. It will be interesting to find out what grade I will get on this potpourri of facts, humor and history." (Raz Parker '33, boatyard owner and mariner's introduction to his Scrap Book)

**On Getting Older:** "I can still do a day's work, but it takes me three days." (Raz Parker '33)

**On Using Computers:** "I don't want to know how to use this machine for anything more than to type and it is easy to do that. One good thing about it is that it spots typos and shows [them] to me so that I can correct them. For example, it told me that I spelt "nothing" in the 6<sup>th</sup> line with an "m," but I decided to leave it to show you how intelligent this machine is." (Whitman '33; arthritis caused him to begin using a computer for his correspondence, but apparently he was never fond of them.)

**Rev. Whitman's Wit:** Remarking that "things can almost always be worse" when writing about his diminishing vision in one eye and Raz Parker's almost total loss of eyesight to macular degeneration, his wit was evident as ever: "Do you remember the joke about the man whose friend told him that and so he cheered up and, sure enough, things got worse!"

**About the LSAA:** "There is remarkable spirit among the alumni... (Jacob Mosser '33); A friend could hardly believe that there is so much enthusiasm for a school which folded almost thirty-five years ago." (Whitman '33)

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## A View of the Bordentown/Lenox School (BLS)

The donation of a BLS catalog/promotional pamphlet at the recent Reunion provides the opportunity to glimpse back at this one additional year ('72-'73) when the Lenox School Lenox, Massachusetts 01240

legacy lived on after the School had closed and the campus sat idle for a year. Many, as had I until several years ago, may be unfamiliar that this School even existed, albeit but for a short time, or perhaps believed that it existed somewhere other than on our former campus.

The catalog has 14 pages, eight of which contain pictures, with a simple blue and white cover with no crests or emblems of any kind. It's ironic that this catalog was published since Lenox had tried, I believe without success, to publish one in its last years to encourage enrollment. In the early 1930s and 1940s Lenox did have a simple catalog (an example of which is on the LSAA Website) but from the early 1950s on relied upon the annual "Lenox In Portrait" calendars, a de facto catalog with pictures and School information, for both fundraising and to advertise the School.



Eagle archives  
Junior ROTC cadets, above, from the Bordentown/Lenox School formed one of the marching units in the Oct. 23, 1972, Veterans Day parade in Pittsfield. It was the first time the 28-cadet contingent took part in the ceremonies at which Bordentown Headmaster John B. Hewitt was the main speaker.

The BLS catalog states that: the new School was created in the fall of 1971 though the merger of Lenox and the Bordentown Military Institute (BMI) (1881) of New Jersey; was incorporated in 1972; "combined the best features of these two great schools"; included the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades which Lenox hadn't had since 1958 and 1964 respectively; highlights the school's library, superb athletic fields, and its \$1.3M

Sports Center, “unequaled by any school or college in the area”; and stresses the many benefits of the local area (e.g. “an outdoor paradise,” large artistic community, and the Springfield-Albany corridor).

It also stresses that the School was Coordinated (Coed) with the Foxhollow School for Girls to provide “academic, social and recreational programs to bring boys and girls together on both campuses adding to the enrichment and normalcy of both student bodies.” Lenox had first begun to share classes with Miss Hall’s in 1969 and looked at the possibility of merging with Foxhollow as a method of surviving, as did BLS, but neither school ever did. It’s of interest that during this same timeframe, almost all the private schools that did survive merged with their nearby coed counterparts.

The catalog describes many attributes of the new school that would be familiar to any Lenox student: “a living/learning community”; “a diverse student body”; “a concern for spiritual development” (though there were less formal religious activities); and “faculty/students sharing beliefs.” Its curriculum offered a “broad combination of mandatory and elective courses”; and “a developing program of dramatics, music and art,” which undoubtedly was a step behind what Lenox had offered.

Likewise, athletics continued to be of great importance, but were now joined by voluntary military programs (the old Field House became the armory) to “teach the importance of giving of oneself to the success of the group, while learning the meaning of loyalty and commitment and developing leadership capabilities.” Just how much things changed is evidenced by the accompanying photograph of 28 BLS cadets marching in the 1972 Pittsfield Veterans Day Parade.

Although four pillars of Lenox stayed on as faculty members: Mr. Hinman (Head of the Math

Dept), Mr. Pickett, Mr. Southworth (Dean of Faculty), and Mr. Wood; and many faculty and students came from BMI; the school did not succeed because in one of our master’s opinion, “the attempted merger of two school philosophies and cultures simply did not work.”

The school had financial difficulties from the start, struggled to get a sufficient number of students, received less than expected from the sale of their New Jersey campus, and closed after its first and only year. A copy of the catalog and more details on BLS, contained in White Paper #1, are available on the LSAA Website.

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**The next number will be published  
Summer 2012**

Send your news today!

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