

# **NEWS and NOTES from the HASTON LIBRARY**

**NOVEMBER 2025**



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## OCTOBER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- October was a month of lively Story Times at the Haston! We started off with a fun sidewalk chalk story and activity, and everyone made lovely drawings outside (and even played some hopscotch!) The following week, Ms. Karey showed us how to make a beautiful, leafy “Happy Fall” banner, which we hung up in the library. And as it got closer to Halloween, we did a mask-themed story time--everyone really got creative with their masks! On Halloween, Mr. Josh read a story about pumpkins, and the kids assembled some plumply, dumpy pumpkins for themselves! (For those of you who are keeping track, we averaged 6.8 children per Story Time in October.)



- We also hosted Erin Moulton at the FELCO Room of the Homestead, and she presented a fascinating program about community cookbooks and genealogy.
- Author and historian Kevin Graffagnino returned to Franklin to give a talk at the Town Hall, which concerned the St. Albans Raid and the Kentuckians who took part. It was fascinating to learn about what transpired during and in the aftermath of the raid, and the lives of the participants in the following decades.



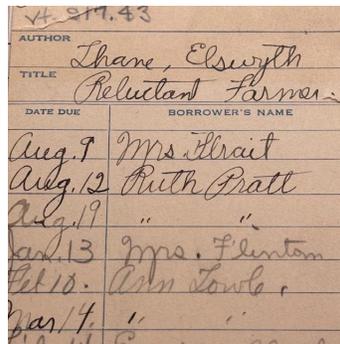
- The library participated in Trunk or Treat again, and we were the Addams (Haston) Family! We even had a Thing at our table, passing out books and candy to all of the little ghouls and goblins.



- Other highlights of the month included a jaunt over to the Carriage House with the Crossroads Library Club. The kids shared their

Halloween poems (and lots of candy!) with the residents, who really seemed to love having the children there! We also had our usual meetings of the Knitting Group and the Book Discussion Group. This month's book was The Mighty Red, by Louise Erdrich.

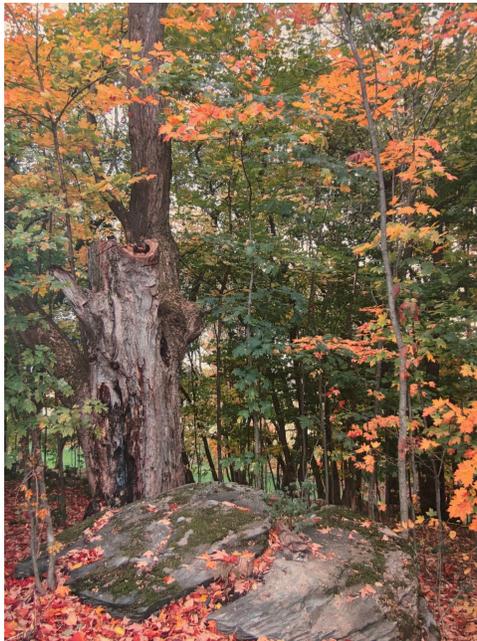
## THE FUTURE OF THE WRITTEN WORD



Is cursive handwriting doomed? What is the future of the art of the pen? Late in 2024, writer/woodcarver/former NPR essayist Tim Brookes, author of the new book *By Hand*, made a strange and dismaying discovery. As the founder of the Endangered Alphabets Project, he was well aware that some cultures around the world are reviving their traditional forms of writing, and thereby supporting their sense of culture and identity, by teaching calligraphy. But at the same time, in the United States in particular, the so-called First World is abandoning handwriting in favor of the keyboard—but at what cost? And is this connected to the fact that a startling number of people are now ashamed of their own handwriting?

Consulting neuroscientists, calligraphers, and ink specialists, he took a deep dive into the nature and value of handwriting, even to the point of writing most of the book by hand, and in the process discovered astonishing evidence of the value of keeping a journal. He is now visiting Vermont libraries to talk about his book and his discoveries, and to run a writing workshop—that is, a handwriting workshop—with patrons. Tim will be at the Haston on Saturday, November 8th from 11 AM to 1 PM. Bring notebooks, journals, and specimens of your own handwriting, whether you are proud or ashamed of it!

## **CROSSROADS PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB**



Stop by the library to see the creative output of this talented group of photographers, led and advised by our intrepid Trustee David Pratt! The photographs will be on display over the fireplace for the month of November.

## **BOOK SALE AT THE VENDOR FAIR**



It's almost time for the Vendor Fair at the Town Hall again, and this year, the library will be part of it! We'll be having a book sale there, with all items available for sale by donation. Stop by on Saturday, November 22nd between 9 AM and 1 PM--there'll be lots of books, DVDs, and audio books to choose from!



## HOLIDAY CLOSINGS



The library will be closed on Tuesday, November 11th in honor of Veterans Day. We will also be closed on Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We are grateful to our veterans for their service, and we wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES!**

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