

The Fossil

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Past President's Message

Welcome Dave Goudsward, New Fossil President

by Ken Faig, Jr.

BECAUSE OF continuing health problems, I have decided to resign the Fossils presidency as of June 10, 2025, while retaining for the time being my board membership. Fortunately, board member Dave Goudsward agreed to assume the presidency for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term, and John Horn ratified my choice of Dave.

I hope our membership will welcome Dave as our new president. He brings with him an impressive resume as a researcher in multiple fields. His book on H. P. Lovecraft's travels

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. But for now I think our focus should be welcoming President Goudsward. ♦



Ken Faig, Jr.
Fossil President 2014 - 2025

in Florida is forthcoming from Audrey Parente's Bold Venture Press. His article on Lovecraft and Tarzan for the April 2021 issue of *THE FOSSIL* is one of the most visited in the history of our website. He has also written extensively on C. W. "Tryout" Smith and was instrumental in getting a marker erected on Smith's grave.

My understanding is that Dave, as president, will automatically carry over to the 2026-2028 board. I do not intend to stand for re-election to the 2026-2028 board. In fact, if Dave and the other members of our leadership team are able to identify a qualified replacement, I will step aside as a board member to make way for the new choice.

I intend to maintain my membership in *The Fossils* and to support our organization in any way I can. I believe that my stepping aside as president at this time will help our organization reach Guy Miller's goal of celebrating our 125th anniversary in 2029. Little did those first Fossils back in 1904 know what they were starting.

Presidents of The Fossils

1904-1905: Charles H. Young	1947-1948: Edward H. Cole
1905-1906: Charles C. Heuman	1948-1949: Albert E. Barnard
1906-1907: Frank J. Martin	1949-1950: Frederick F. Thomas, Jr.
1907-1908: Carl Figue	1950-1951: Harry T. Cook
1908-1909: John F. Walsh, Jr.	1951-1952: Julian T. Baber
1909-1910: John Edson Briggs	1952-1953: Wesley H. Porter
1910-1911: Louis Kempner	1953-1954: Clement F. Robinson
1911-1912: William T. Scofield	1954-1955: George W. Macauley
1912-1913: William K. Graff	1955-1956: Walter J. Held
1913-1914: William L. Terhune	1956-1957: Harry L. Lindquist
1914-1915: Gustave Weinberg	1957-1958: William F. Haywood
1915-1916: Joseph M. Salabes	1958-1959: Horace L. Lawson
1916-1917: George M. Huss	1959-1960: F. Earl Bonnell
1917-1918: G. Heidel Louden	1960-1961: Charles H. Russell
1918-1919: Henry L. Bryan	1961-1962: L. Verle Heljeson
1919-1920: Charles H. Fowle	1962-1963: Sheldon C. Wesson
1920-1921: Charles R. Sherlock	1963: Helm C. Spink
1921-1922: Joseph Dana Miller	1963-1965: Leland M. Hawes, Jr.
1922-1923: William G. (Will) Snow	1965-1966: Thomas B. Whitbread
1923-1924: William J. (Will) Eldridge	1966-1967: Jeffrey H. Jennings
1924-1925: Charles W. Darr	1967-1968: Harold D. Ellis
1925-1926: Arthur Seitz	1968-1970: Emerson M. Duerr
1926-1927: Leonard E. Tilden	1970-1972: Carla Patsuris
1927-1928: Dr. Charles W. Richardson	1972-1973: Jeffrey H. Jennings
1928-1929: James M. Beck	1973-1974: Stan Oliner
1929-1930: Charles H. Class	1974-1977: Eunice M. Fontenot
1930-1931: Evan Reed Riale	1977-1978: Hyman Bradofsky
1931-1932: Edwin B. Swift	1978-1979: Harold Smolin
1932-1933: F. W. Koch	1979-1980: Karl X. Williams
1933-1934: Michael F. Boechat	1980-1985: Edward Sherman Cole
1934-1935: Truman J. Spencer	1985-1986: Richard (Dick) Fleming
1935-1936: Fred H. Bowersock	1986-1987: J. Ed Newman
1936-1937: Edward A. Oldham	1987-1988: Joseph W. Curran
1937-1938: James F. Morton	1988-1990: Victor A. Moitoret
1938-1939: William Cogger	1990-1994: Eula Lee (Merry) Harris
1939-1940: Josephus Daniels	1994-1995: Guy G. Miller
1940-1941: Edward D. Stair	1995-1996: Gary T. Bossler
1941: Herbert C. Parsons	1996-1998: Jack G. Swenson
1941: Owel M. Jefferds	1998-2000: Joseph W. (Bill) Snodgrass
1941-1942: Anthony F. Moitoret	2000-2012: Guy G. Miller
1942-1943: Willard O. Wylie	2012-2013: Jack G. Swenson
1943-1944: Frank Roe Batchelder	2014: Gary T. Bossler
1944-1945: Frederic F. Heath	2014-2025: Kenneth W. (Ken) Faig, Jr.
1945-1946: Dwight Anderson	2025-: David Goudsward
1946-1947: Louis C. Wills	

Irreplaceable Ken

by David Goudsward

MY FIRST message as incoming president of The Fossils is to express my gratitude and fondness for the outgoing president, Ken Faig. Anyone who refers to me as his “replacement” has no idea how irreplaceable he is. At best, I’m partially filling a void left by his departure.



President David Goudsward

Ken and I met in person at the first Necronomicon in Providence in 2013. We had been corresponding, but face to face, it was like meeting a longtime friend. He was as uncomfortable as I was with the lobby crowd and noise, so we found a quiet restaurant close enough to walk to, far enough

away from the convention that the black magic goths and metalheads were nowhere to be seen. We had dinner, exchanged gift books (it was his birthday), and talked shop about Lovecraft in Amateur Journalism. I didn’t know it yet, but I had been recruited into The Fossils.

I had first emailed Ken Faig back in 2012. I was wrapping up my book on Lovecraft’s connections to Haverhill, Mass. And I had questions. My book had burgeoned into a regional look at Lovecraft in the lower Merrimack Valley. This means that, in addition to Tryout Smith, suddenly Myrta Little and Edgar Davis were added to the equation. And if you’re talking about those three AJ icons, you’re already on Ken Faig’s turf. That was the start of a long email exchange that continues to this day. With his advice and encyclopedic knowledge, I was able to research Amateur Press figures such as Edith Miniter and the tragic story of her husband. I was to reprint Frank Belknap Long’s aunt Cassie’s travelogue, edited by Long and Lovecraft, and printed by Paul Cook.

My books and FOSSIL articles pale compared to Ken’s body of work. Not including the deep dives that continue to appear in THE FOSSIL and other AP zines, Ken’s bibliography is nigh impossible to list. There are two volumes of his cozy mysteries featuring the case-books of Wilmott Watkyns. He has edited four volumes of Edith Miniter’s collected works, a volume of David V. Bush’s work, and a collection of his short fiction (which reprints the highly sought-after “Tales of the Lovecraft Collectors” series. And, most useful for a researcher, multiple volumes collecting his earlier re-

search from various older/defunct AJs make that work available again.

Edward H. Cole, former Fossil and National Amateur Press Association president, issued a special issue of his amateur journal, *The Olympian* (Autumn 1940), as a tribute to Lovecraft. It included his heartfelt memoir “Ave atque Vale!” The relevant part reads:

Barlow, who knew him very intimately, and who lived with him daily during two summers, ventured the thought that Lovecraft’s true talent lay in essay-writing. On one occasion he had expressed that idea to Howard himself. Lovecraft had partly agreed. “Why don’t you publish your essays, then?” Whereupon Lovecraft had replied, “Because my best work is for my friends. What I do for pay is done because I must live, but it’s hack-work, and my heart’s not in it. I put myself into what I do for my friends.” If there is any finer expression of the amateur spirit, I have yet to hear it.

Lovecraft considered himself an amateur writer who occasionally published in professional markets. I think that also describes Ken Faig. And those who carry the amateur spirit are better for it.

These will be mighty big shoes to fill. Fortunately, Ken has agreed to stay on the board to fill my spot. I have also given Ken a rolled-up copy of the National Amateur to whack me on the nose if I start wandering off our well-established path. I expect rhinoplasty in my immediate future.

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In 2029, The Fossils celebrates its 125th anniversary. It may seem early, but I’d like to start thinking of something we can do to mark the date. Any commemorative publication needs time to discuss, compile, and, more importantly, underwrite. So if any Fossil has any ideas or suggestions, please pass them along.

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The big news from Hippocampus Books is that the final book in the collected correspondence of H.P. Lovecraft will be *A Sense of Proportion: The Letters of H. P. Lovecraft and Frank Belknap Long*. Due out in August, this 856-page hardcover shelf-breaker has a pre-publication discount on the publisher’s website. Frank Belknap Long had a brief involvement in amateur journalism, so I anticipate some insights into his earliest publications through the UAPA. ♦

A Successful President

by Dave Tribby

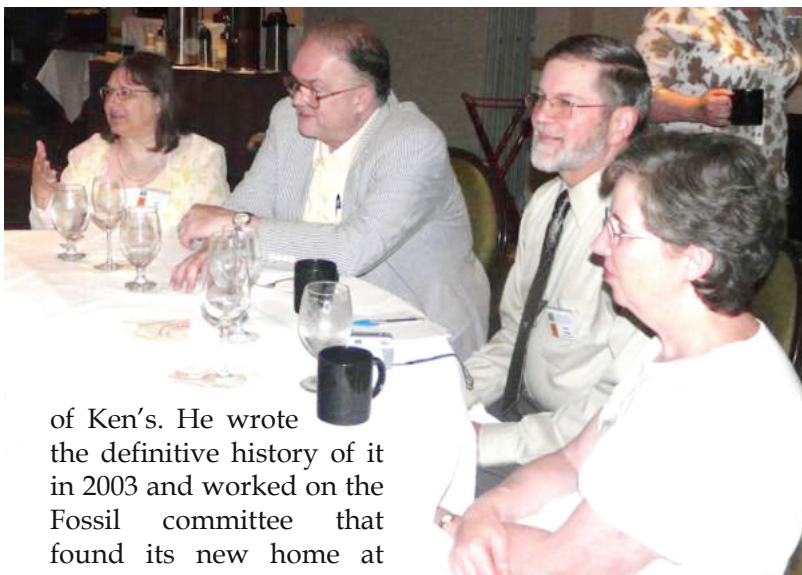
KEN FAIG served as President of The Fossils from September 30, 2014, until June 10, 2025 — second in length only to his mentor Guy Miller (1994-1995 and 2000-2012). Ken took over the top spot at a fragile time in the life of the organization. Jack Swenson became president upon Guy's unexpected death in September 2012. At age 85, Jack was dealing with his own health issues, but when his wife, Mavis, suffered a fall he became her primary caregiver. He had little time for hobbies, and it was difficult to get responses to email sent to him. Just 13 months after assuming the office, Jack resigned and Gary Bossler became president.

Gary worked behind the scenes and stabilized Fossil record keeping, finances, and the membership renewal process, but was not comfortable as president. In his April 2014 presidential message he wrote, "I don't seem to have the vision nor the gumption to pick up an organization like The Fossils and envision a way to keep it moving the way Guy Miller did." After less than a year in the job, as he approached his 79th birthday, Gary resigned as president but stayed on the Board. Neither John Horn nor I, the other Board members, were interested in being president, and were overjoyed when Ken Faig accepted the job.

Ken had edited THE FOSSIL from 2004 to 2012, producing the largest volumes ever and amassing an amazing total of 916 pages in his 32 issues. Those issues were fueled by his passion for research and an excellent amateur journal collection, much of it given to him by longtime ajays Bill Groveman (1924-2010) and Stan Oliner (1938-2012). But after eight years, he wrote, "I regret that the continuing demands of fulltime employment make it necessary for me to surrender the editorship." In recognition of his accomplishments as editor, Guy awarded Ken the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award For Service to Amateur Journalism.

But in 2013 Ken found himself facing retirement after working as an actuary for forty years. The change in employment status eventually led to downsizing and moving from his home to an apartment. He donated his collection of journals to the University of Iowa (where it requires 78 linear feet for storage).

The offer to become Fossil president came as an opportunity for him to focus renewed energy on the hobby of amateur journalism. His early actions included The Fossils' participation in establishing the Leland M. Hawes Memorial Endowment Fund to support the Library of Amateur Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The LAJ was a long-term interest



Carol Faig, Ken Faig, Dave Tribby, and Liz Tribby at the AAPA/NAPA Concurrent Conventions in 2010.

of Ken's. He wrote the definitive history of it in 2003 and worked on the Fossil committee that found its new home at UW-M in 2004. As Fossil president he spent considerable energy helping to organize a successful Amateur Journalism Conference at UW-M in 2016 that drew over fifty attendees.

As editor, I always appreciated the submission of his presidential messages well before the deadline — and these were substantive articles filling multiple pages. His messages covered a wide range of topics, some related to subjects he has studied for years, others from something he recently read. Starting in 2023, a number of his columns used genealogy tools to explore the lives and family histories of nineteenth century amateurs. I would supplement these with my own research from newspapers.com and my personal collection of amateur journals. Ken's subjects led me to a number of interesting discoveries, some that I turned into full-blown supplemental articles. I felt Ken and I made a good team.

His presidential duties involved a lot of behind-the-scenes work, such as keeping in touch with officers and members and ensuring the organization was meeting its obligations and running smoothly.

Ken entered the world of amateur journalism through an interest in noted horror writer H. P. Lovecraft, who belonged to first the United and later the National Amateur Press Association from 1914 until his death in 1937. In *The Lovecraft Annual* for 2017, scholar S. T. Joshi reviewed *Lovecraftian Voyages*, Ken's manuscript written in 1973 but not published until that year. After noting, "Kenneth W. Faig, Jr., is only now secur-

ing the credit he has long deserved as perhaps the most pioneering and forward-thinking Lovecraft scholar,” Joshi shared a story that reveals Ken’s passion for research:

Ken Faig came to Brown University as a graduate student (in mathematics), but became so enraptured with Lovecraft that he neglected his classwork and pursued Lovecraft research relentlessly for two years, until he was compelled to leave the campus. In those remarkable two years he performed more, and better, scholarship than anyone has done since that time. I know for a fact that this is so, for when I came to Brown as a cal-low undergraduate, I could have benefited from a glimpse of the manuscript of *Lovecraftian Voyages*: it would have saved me enormous amounts of leg-work in which I essentially duplicated (and rarely for the better) work that Faig had already done. (I also recall that, very early during my own haunting of the John Hay Library as a freshman, I was sternly warned by the curator of the Lovecraft collection, John H. Stanley, not to follow Ken’s course and keep on doing my normal school-work.) ...

Faig—who did not seem to have any formal training in literary or biographical research—developed a keen intuitive ability to tease out facts or to make plausible conjectures based on the materials he had at hand. ... Faig pored over this material—especially the 2000 or so letters by Lovecraft in the collection—and ferreted out vital information from it.

The Fossils has been lucky to have an individual of Ken’s renown, capabilities, and interests as our president, and we hope for his continued participation. He has several articles for THE FOSSIL in the pipeline.

We also welcome Dave Goudsward as our new president. He has been a member of The Fossils since 2012 and on the Board of Trustees since 2022. As did Ken, Dave came to our organization after studying H. P. Lovecraft and trying to understand his connection with the hobby of amateur journalism. The author of more than a dozen published books, he is a careful researcher but is not afraid to also deploy his sense of humor.

Dave has written numerous major articles for THE FOSSIL, and I look forward to working with him.

You can find out more about Dave on his website

<http://goudsward.com/dave/>

and in FOSSIL articles “From Social Outcast to Published Author” (No. 376 for July 2018) and “New Fossil Trustee: David Goudsward” (No. 392 for July 2022). Both of these issues are available on The Fossils’ website <https://www.thefossils.org/fossil>. ♦



H. P. Lovecraft panel at Amateur Journalism Conference 2016:
S. T. Joshi, Ken Faig, and David E. Schultz.

A Beau Ideal Scholar

by Sean Donnelly

AS A TEENAGER, long ago, my reading tastes shifted from science fiction to “weird” fiction. There isn’t a fine line between the two genres, though, and the ways in which they complement one another are exemplified by the work of ajay alum H. P. Lovecraft. When I like an author’s work I delve into their lives as well, and Lovecraft gives one much to explore biographically.

As I waded into the numerous Lovecraft books and articles I came across the name Kenneth W. Faig, Jr. time and again—in dedications, anecdotes, citations, acknowledgments and on by-lines. Ken is ubiquitous in the field of Lovecraft studies going back to the 1970s. Little did I know that through the fraternity of amateur journalism, to which I was introduced by Leland Hawes, I would meet Ken; first by email and eventually in person at a joint AAPA/NAPA convention outside Chicago.

Over the years, Ken answered countless questions, helped with my research on W. Paul Cook, collaborated with me (he did much of the work) on two Edith Miniter collections, and sent me complimentary copies of his many private publications (which I cherish). Ken is my beau ideal of a scholar. In his work he is precise and comprehensive. With colleagues who aspire to his high standard he is generous and encouraging. Everyone interested in amateur journalism and its alums are greatly indebted to Ken for his sterling scholarship.

I’m sure the shades of Lovecraft, Edith Miniter, and all the other ajays of yesteryear he has written about join us in thanking him. May our gratitude and affection repay him in some measure for all he has given and done for us.

Former Fossil Sean Donnelly recently began a blog, “Cabinet Obscura: Out of the dark, into the light,” found at <https://cabinetobscura.blog/>

in which he “hopes to connect with other bookish people on subjects that interest us.” He includes numerous amateur journalism references. ♦

Residences of Edith Miniters

by Ken Faig, Jr.

ON MAY 19, 1867, Edith May Dowe was born in the house below, which her maternal grandfather Edwin Lombard Tupper (1815-1901) had purchased at 307 Mountain Road in Wilbraham, Mass. about 1847.

Edith's mother Jane ("Jennie") Elizabeth (Tupper) Dowe had been born in Wilbraham in December 1840, and lived there until her marriage to William Hilton Dowe (1840-1875) on June 29, 1864. After her marriage, Jennie lived first in the home of her



husband's parents in Charlton, Massachusetts. However, W. H. Dowe and his family removed to Worcester by 1870, and the 1870 and 1871 Worcester directories listed W. H. Dowe, carpenter, with house at 9 Mason Street, now the site of Ostrow Electric:



Worcester directories 1872-1875 listed William H. Dowe, carpenter, with house at 13 Mason Street. Like 9 Mason Street, this address now longer exists. The site of the former houses at 11 and 13 Mason Street is occupied by a parking lot for nearby businesses, and the house to its right is 15 Mason Street:

William H. Dowe made his will on June 6, 1873, leaving \$100 to his daughter Edith May Dowe and all the rest of his estate to his wife. William died in 1875. Jane continued to be listed at 13 Mason Street through the 1891 Worcester directory. In



the 1880 U.S. census, her daughter Edith was noted to be studying at home.

After her marriage to John T. Miniters (1864?-1900) in Worcester on Sept. 19, 1887, Edith and her husband removed to Webster, Massachusetts (address unknown) to conduct the *Worcester County News*, the weekly newspaper they had acquired. Edith returned to Worcester to live with her mother at 13 Mason Street in 1890. The 1890 Worcester directory listed Mrs. Edith M. Miniters, publisher of the *Worcester County News*, with office at 164 Front (now occupied by a modern building) and house at 13 Mason. In 1891, Jennie sold her home at 13 Mason Street in Worcester and went to reside with her parents in Wilbraham, remaining through the death of her mother in 1896.

Edith, separated from her husband, liquidated her weekly newspaper in 1891 and went to Manchester, New Hampshire (address unknown) to engage in newspaper work. She had a first sojourn in Boston (address unknown) from August 1892 to February 1893. At one point, she shared quarters with Ella Maud (Murray) Frye. I do not know where Edith lived from February 1893 to December 1893, but in December she returned to Boston, to remain for more than thirty years. During these years, she became the guiding light of the Hub Amateur Journalists' Club, which had been founded by Mrs. Frye on Mar. 10, 1890.

The 1895 Boston directory listed Edith Miniters, editor (for the *Boston Home Journal*) at 220 Devonshire (room 14), boarding at 431 Columbus Avenue:



Built-out stores obscure much of the original frontage of this building—note the central entry for the residences. Giacomo's Restaurant (green awning) bears number 431.

By Christmas 1895, Edith resided at 119 [East] Berkeley Street in Boston. Currently occupying this address is a building which is dated to 1899 online. Here are two views of it:



Perhaps Edith lived in a building which was demolished to make way for this impressive structure. In 1896, after the death of her mother, Jennie Dowe came to Boston to live with her daughter. Beginning about 1897 and continuing until 1906, they lived in a third-floor walkup at 77 [East] Berkeley Street in Boston:



Here is detail of their doorway:

During the period 1893-1906, Edith worked at the society weekly the *Boston Home Journal*. By 1901, the *Journal* offices had removed from 220 Devonshire (room 14) to 147 Summer Street—like the Devonshire Street address, now occupied by a modern office building. After she left the *Journal*, she and her mother acquired the house at 17 Akron Street in the Roxbury section of Boston, where they lived through the fall of 1918 (see picture at the top of the next column).

Here they entertained both Boston amateurs and visitors. They called their hillside home “Stately Stairways,” and it took twenty-five steps to reach the porch.

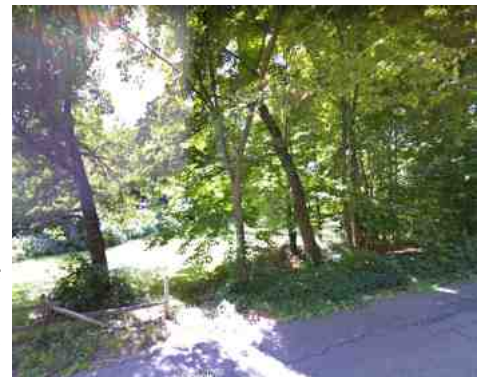


The entrance was adorned by two welcoming carved pineapples (no longer present), symbolizing hospitality. Also in their day there was an octagonal rooftop “observatory” affording a great view of Boston where Edith accomplished much of the writing of her novel *Our Natupski Neighbors* (Henry Holt, 1916). In *Memoriam: Jennie E. T. Dowe* (1921) included (opp. p. 64) a photograph of 17 Akron Street when its observatory or cupola was still present:

Their most frequent visitor at 17 Akron Street was undoubtedly John Leary Peltret (1874-1938), who also accompanied Edith and her mother at “Meadowbeck” (303 Mountain Road) in Wilbraham. When Edith acquired this property (which had been the town poor farm in the mid-nineteenth century), it was in ruinous condition, and the summertime campers used the building only for storage of their equipment. I doubt that 303 Mountain Road any longer exists; 301 Mountain Road seems to be the house site north of the Tupper house (307 Mountain Road). It is possible that this property next to 307 Mountain Road was the site of “Meadowbeck”:

Edith and her mother and John Leary Peltret used a photograph of their tent pitched at “Meadowbeck” on the cover of their chapbook *Fireflies to Crickets*:

Reduced finances and Jennie’s declining health forced the sale of both “Meadowbeck” and 17 Akron Street in the fall of 1918. Edith and her mother took up residence with Charles and Laurie Sawyer at 20



Webster Street in Boston (adjoining both Allston and Brookline). Today this site is occupied by a modern apartment building:

Jennie died at the Sawyer home on Mar. 6, 1919. By 1921-22, Edith was living with Charles A. A. Parker and his wife at 19 Imrie Road in Malden, Massachusetts:



This building is actually a duplex, with number 21 on the left and number 19 on the right.

Edith attended her final NAPA convention in Boston in July 1924. The 1924 Malden directory listed Edith at 30 Waite Street, probably still with the Parkers, at a new address (30-32 Waite Street, like 19-21 a duplex):

The 1925 Malden directory indicated that Edith Minter had removed to Allston, probably to live once more with the Sawyers. However, by later in 1925, Edith, in declining health, decided to return to Wilbraham. She had offer of hos-



pitality from her friend and remote cousin Evanore Olds Beebe (1858-1935), a noted collector of antiques and local politician, in her home at 782 Monson Road. Miss Beebe's home was originally built by George Mixer (b. Jan. 7, 1795 Monson, Massachusetts, d. June 8, 1878 Somers, Connecticut) in 1832 for use as a tavern and store. The following photograph from Chauncey E. Peck's *The History of Wilbraham, Massachusetts* (1913) depicts 782 Monson Road (dubbed "Maplehurst" by Miss Beebe) as it appeared about the time of the Wilbraham sesquicentennial celebration in 1913 (p. 354):



The following photographs from Peck (pp. 356-357) depict the antiques-filled interior of Maplehurst in 1913:



Mrs. Minitier helped Miss Beebe guide sesquicentennial visitors through the collection in 1913. The following modern exterior photograph of 782 Monson Road derives from Google Maps' Street View:



H. P. Lovecraft visited Mrs. Minitier and Miss Beebe here for a week in the summer of 1928. His hosts shared with Lovecraft much of the local lore and legendry, including the legend of whippoorwills lying in wait for departing souls. If they caught the soul, they sang in jubilation, while they remained silent if the soul escaped. Lovecraft was fascinated by the huge swarms of fireflies which lit up the pastures opposite the Beebe household at twilight. The view to the westward today is probably still similar to what Lovecraft saw:



In her later years Mrs. Minitier suffered from asthma and heart disease. She felt well enough to attend the Glendale Memorial Day celebration on May 31, 1934, but died suddenly at the Beebe house late in the afternoon on June 4, 1934. She was buried in a unmarked grave in the Tupper lot at Woodland Dell Cemetery in Wilbraham on June 6, 1934 following a funeral service at Glendale Church. Miss Beebe followed her in death the following year. She was buried in Glendale Cemetery across the road from Glendale Church (disbanded in 2006 and subsequently demolished). The photograph at the top of the next column depicts the church and the cemetery about 1914.

Not long after Miss Beebe's death, her collection of antiques was auctioned on August 1-2-3, 1935. The fol-



lowing advertisement appeared in the *Hartford Courant* for July 28, 1935:

ANTIQUES AT AUCTION

EXECUTRIXES' SALE

Old China, Glassware, Furniture (Over 3500 Items)
 Estate of Miss Evanore Olds Beebe at her late home, "Maplehurst,"
 North Wilbraham, Mass.
 (Located on Monson-North Wilbraham Road)

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, August 1-2-3, 1935
At 10 A. M. D. S. T., Each day—Under Cover, Rain or Shine

Many outstanding items: Rare Portland Vase, undoubtedly made by Josiah Wedgwood about 1790. Pair General Washington Battersea Enamel Mirror Knobs. Antique China Sets. Pink Lustre, Copper Lustre, Old Blue China. Historical Cup Plates, Lowestoft, Majolica, Bennington Ware, Staffordshire. Over 1000 Pieces Glassware. Some Sandwich. Flip Glasses, etc. Ludlow and other Old Bottles. Historic Flasks. Sandwich Glass Lamps. Collection of Pewter. Windsor Chairs. Boston Rockers. Dropleaf Tables. Windsor Settee. Cradle, many Mirrors. Hitchcock Chairs. Pine Case Tall Clock. Slant Top Desk. Chest of Drawers, C. and I. Prints, Paisley Shawls. Andirons, and many other items too numerous to mention.

LENA M. CALKINS, LENORE M. ROBLEE, Executrices

AUCTIONEERS' NOTICE: Miss Beebe was a collector for over 55 years and this sale represents her collections found mostly in the old homes and farm houses of Ludlow, Monson, Wilbraham and vicinity.
 CIRCULAR ON REQUEST FROM

Robert M. Reid & Son, Auctioneers
 201 Main Street, Manchester, Conn. Phone 3193

Edith lived a busy life, with her own share of happiness and sadness. The places depicted are some of the places she called home. While the majority of her adult life was spent in the Boston area, there remains no question that Wilbraham, where she shared her final years with Evanore Olds Beebe, was home to her.

The lack of correspondence files for Mrs. Minitier inhibits research on her residences. Her places of residence in Boston prior to her listing at 431 Columbus Avenue in the 1895 Boston directory are not really known. Our best estimates are: 431 Columbus Avenue (1893?-95), 119 [East] Berkeley Street (1895-97), 77 [East] Berkeley Street (1897-1906) and 17 Akron Street (1906-18). Likewise, all her residences in 1918-25 are not known, but were probably mostly with the Sawyers in Allston and with the Parkers in Malden. It is possible that further research in local resources including the contemporary journals of the Hub Club may yield additional information.

Note: Except as otherwise noted, photographs of residences come from Google Maps. ♦

Kenneth R. Davis, Sr.

February 23, 1936 – March 18, 2025

by Dave Tribby

KEN DAVIS joined the American Amateur Press Association in April 1968. It didn't take



Ken Davis

long for monthly issues of his *Stylus* to appear in the bundle, for he had already been mimeographing issues for his family and friends. At a time when letterpress printing set the standard for quality, and "mimeoslop" was

poo-pooed as barely legible, his clean typography and clever illustrations set his work apart.

In 1969 *Stylus* won laureate awards in the Non-Letterpress Printed Journal category as well as Journal of Overall Excellence — in fact, Ken won 27 laureates for writing and publishing between 1969 and 2005 using a variety of titles: *Writing at Leisure*, *Elusion*, *Sally*, *Ka-Pow*, and, most recently, *Ken's Lightsome Journal*.

The April 1971 masthead describes *Stylus* as, "Published, with all good intentions, on a monthly basis — but bi-monthly or quarterly whenever a lack of time, money, or ambition prevails." His breezy writing style was on display in this excerpt from "Ken's Den" in that issue:

I guess no one will argue that my son Kenny, age 5½, isn't a "chip off the old block." For Christmas this past year his presents included a desk, typewriter, stapler, and other office supplies too numerous to mention -- all items he specifically requested.

When I mentioned to wife Charla that I had the same interests at that age, she laughed and said: "I hope when he gets married, that he and his wife make sure they buy a house large enough to have an extra room that can be used as an office!"

You see, we have a three-bedroom home, and with two children, that means I have the *Stylus* Amateur Publications office set up in our bedroom: a desk, filing cabinet, etc. I do all my typing, writing and mimeographing there.

It has one advantage because after



Some of the titles Ken Davis published for the American Amateur Press Association

a bit over 9 years of marriage, I can honestly say that that particular room still holds many surprises and a lot of excitement for me. Amateur journalism is an exciting hobby!

+ + +

For an anniversary present, Charla gave me two cans of mimeograph ink, and warned me not to get any more on the curtains.

In that same column, Ken totaled up the number of pages *Stylus* published in the previous three years. The June 1968 (no. 29) through April 1971 (no. 52) issues included 520 pages. Although he couldn't keep up that pace every year, he remained one of AAPA's most productive members over the next half century.

Ken's strong publishing record led to his being selected by The Fossils to receive the Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award For Service to Amateur Journalism in



Ken & Charla Davis

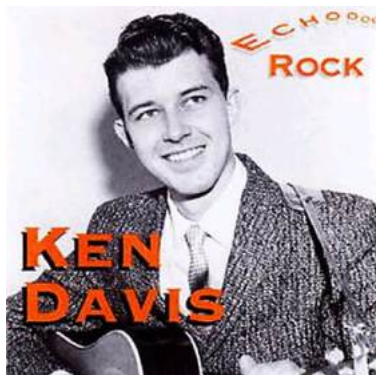
2011. Ken joined *The Fossils* at that time and remained a member until 2017.

Kenneth Richard Davis was born on a snowy night in Racine, Wisconsin, the only child of Albert Davis and his wife, Marie Anne Kressig. He grew up in Racine, graduating from Horlick High School in 1954, then finding employment as a Linotype operator, which led to a nearly 50 year career in the printing industry.

Ken admired the music of Elvis Presley and put together his own rockabilly band in which he sang and played guitar. His first record, "Sittin' Pretty"/"Bundle Of Lovin'," came out on a small local label in early 1958, and later that year he released "Uh Huh That's Right." Soon after came his biggest hit, "Shook Shake (Like A Big Mixed Cake)," which continues to be popular among rockabilly fans, particularly in Europe. He released one more record, "Gone Again," in 1959.

Ken was inducted into the U. S. Army in October 1958 and served two years at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Afterward, he returned to Racine and married Charla M. Ostwald on December 9, 1961.

He never lost his love of music, and in the mid-1960s he formed the Ken Davis Trio to play locally, mainly at wedding receptions. At the urging of friends in the music business, he put together a group of musicians and returned to the studio in August 1998 to record some of the rockabilly



songs he had played 40 years earlier. The resulting CD, *Echo Rock: His Complete Recordings*, was released by Eagle Records in Germany and distributed worldwide. Its 24 tracks include 10 remastered recordings from 1958-62 in addition to the entire 1998 session.

Ken's other interests included comic books (he was a founding member of the Southeastern Wisconsin Comic Club in 1977), gardening, photography, and walks in the park. He wrote about all of these in the amateur papers he continued to publish into 2020.

Ken is survived by Charla, his wife of 63 years, children Cyndi, Ken Jr., and Mary, and grandchildren Tyler, Casey, and Brayden. ♦

From THE FOSSIL No. 350, October 2011

Following A Dream

by Ken Davis

Recipient, Russell L. Paxton Memorial Award
for Service to Amateur Journalism

IT BEGAN almost 70 years ago. At the age of six I was cutting out pictures and photographs from magazines and newspapers and pasting them into my own little "zine."

I continued having dreams of one day becoming a writer/printer/publisher over the next twelve years during the days of grade school and high school. A hectograph and a Swiftset press introduced me to "real" publishing.

Learning to operate a Linotype in high school led to my landing a fulltime job in a commercial hotmetal print shop just two months after graduation. Thirty years followed working as a Linotype operator/compositor. When the shop went out of business I moved to a modern shop, operating the paper cutter and doing bindery work. I retired in 2002.

I seriously took up the hobby of amateur journalism in 1968 when I discovered and joined the American Amateur Press Association. Over the last 43 years almost 500 journals of various titles have been published, more than 300 of them distributed through the AAPA monthly bundles.

What a thrill it's been to have those youthful dreams become reality. Through amateur journalism not only did I get the chance to use my writing and graphic arts skills but also offered other writers and even budding young artists a chance to be published.

Amateur journalism offers one the opportunity to create something personally unique, along with enjoying the satisfaction of accomplishment. ♦

Myrta Alice Little Davies and Her Family

IN THE FOSSIL No, 383 for April 2020, Dave Goudsward wrote about Myrta Little, the United Amateur Press Association Historian of 1921. After joining UAPA in November 1920 she struck up a correspondence with H. P. Lovecraft. In June and August of 1921 he took the train from his home in Providence, Rhode Island, to visit her and her family in Hampstead, New Hampshire. The following May Lovecraft visited the Littles when they rented a house in Merrimac, Massachusetts. Myrta was interested in writing professionally and dropped out of UAPA after only a couple of years.

When Myrta married Rev. Arthur R. Davies on May 5, 1923, she was 35 and he was 52. Their son Robert was born April 24, 1924.

Dave Goudsward came across the photo of the Davies family while shooting footage for the documentary *Strange Magick* in Hampstead.

The director of the Historical Society had seen an article by the Haverhill radio station on my involvement in the project. She dropped me a note saying they had material on Myrta if I was interested. We had planned to film drone footage of the Little House in Hampstead during a one-day sweep of Hampstead and Haverhill locations. While the crew readied the drone, I reviewed the Little family file. This picture was the most important thing, although the newspaper clippings fill in some gaps in Myrta's life.

Robert was born with health issues, limiting Myrta's opportunities to continue writing. Arthur left the ministry for the stability and better pay (comparatively speaking) as a teacher, then an administrator in the Hampstead school system.

The other fascinating find was a family history that identified Myrta's maternal grandmother's maiden name as Peaslee. This is relevant because the protagonist in Lovecraft's last major work, "The Shadow Out of



Time," was Nathaniel Peaslee of Haverhill. Now I need to consider whether the name choice was another of HPL's inside jokes only understood by AJ members.

Robert lived until 1953 (age 29 years), Arthur until 1956 (87 years), and Myrta until 1967 (79 years). ♦

With The Fossils

FOSSIL Pam Wesson reports that she met Bernard Groveman for lunch in a London suburb in April.

"Bernsie," son of Bill and Gerry Groveman, was quite young in the '70s, a pesky bright little brother to sister Helen ("Susu") whom I knew very well at the time. They were a brilliant family and their progeny equally so. Bernie was interested early on in our life in Japan and learned Japanese. His daughter did too and lived in Japan for a stretch.

Bernie, Helen and I lost touch in the '70s but lunched in New York City in the '90s to catch up. He has been at First Manhattan portfolio management for forty years and is a partner there.

Their dad, Bill Groveman, was a book dealer so not

surprising he was bookish. He and Dad would let drop a few words at Ajay meetings of their war experiences in Germany.

Lunch was very funny and lasted four hours!



Condolences to Fossil Bill Boys upon the death of his wife of 61 years, Ruth, on February 24 at age 83. Although Ruth did not join any amateur journalism group, she attended many national and local group meetings after Bill joined NAPA in 1964, and many amateurs counted her as a friend.

After many months of downsizing, Bill recently completed moving into a retirement home. He is still located in Columbus, Ohio. ♦

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**Note: The Fossils Board of Trustees granted life membership
to Martin M. Horvat.* ♦

The Fossil

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