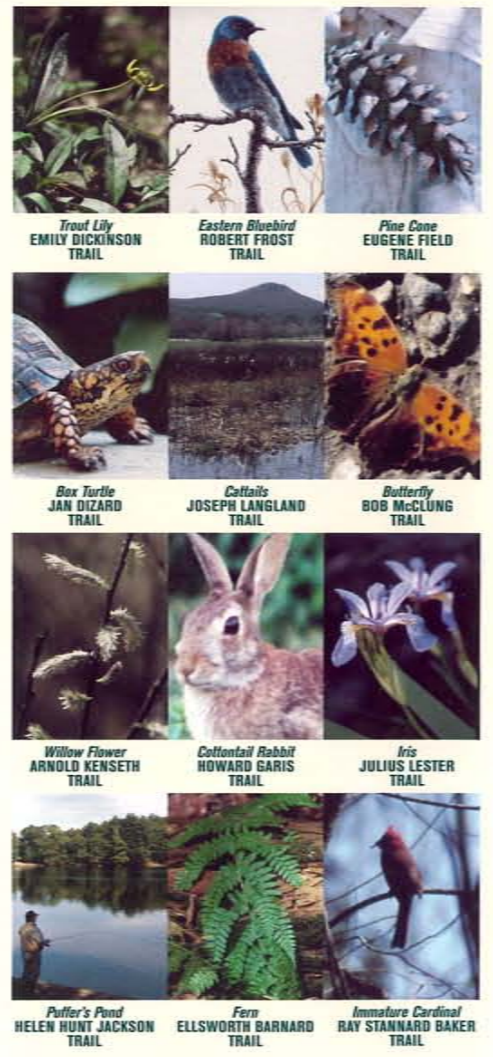


Trail Map



TRAIL NAME	MAIN ACCESS/PARKING
1 EMILY DICKINSON TRAIL	Groff Park, Mill Lane
2 ROBERT FROST TRAIL	Station Road, Pelham Road, others
3 NOAH WEBSTER TRAIL	West of Route 116 in North Amherst
4 EUGENE FIELD TRAIL	East Leverett Road north of the town line
5 ROBERT FRANCIS BRIDGE	State Street
6 JAN DIZARD TRAIL	Station Road (south side)
7 JOSEPH LANGLAND TRAIL	Hulst Road
8 BOB MCCLUNG TRAIL	Hitchcock Center parking, 525 South Pleasant Street
9 ARNOLD KENSETH TRAIL	Station Road (north side)
10 HOWARD GARIS TRAIL	Route 116, Crocker Farm School, West Street
11 JULIUS LESTER TRAIL	Mill River Recreation Area, off Route 63
12 HELEN HUNT JACKSON TRAIL	Pulpit Hill Road
13 ELLSWORTH BARNARD TRAIL	Leverett Road
14 RAY STANNARD BAKER TRAIL	State Street

- LITERARY TRAILS
- OTHER TOWN OF AMHERST CONSERVATION TRAILS
- NORWOTUCK RAIL TRAIL
- NEW ENGLAND CENTRAL RAILROAD



Amherst Literary Trails



Other booklets, guides, and maps are available from the **Amherst Conservation Department**, Town Hall, 413-259-3045, **A.J. Hastings**, 45 South Pleasant Street, 413-253-2840, and **Jeffery Amherst Bookshop**, 55 South Pleasant Street, 413-253-3381, all of Amherst.

Information about outdoor recreation is also available at:

www.amherstarea.com

The Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce

www.Mass.gov/dcr

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

www.mass-vacation.com

Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism

www.amherstma.gov

Amherst Conservation Department

The Literary Trails Project is sponsored by



Amherst Conservation Commission

PeoplesBank



Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce

Jones Library Special Collections

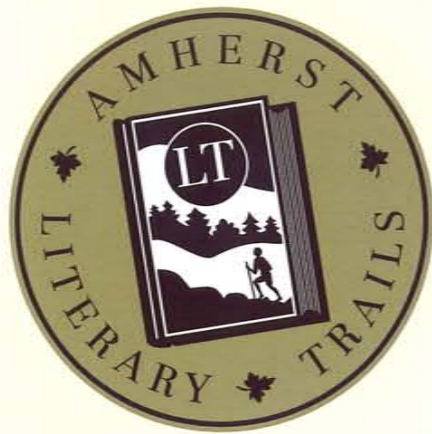
Amherst College

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FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY AMHERST HAS been a center of learning and literary achievement. From Robert Frost and Emily Dickinson to writers like Bob McClung and poet Joseph Langland, Amherst has a long list of authors and poets who have written, taught, or lived in Amherst or have other direct Amherst connections.

Since the 1960s, Amherst has also been fortunate to have a constantly expanding system of foot paths that connect its conservation areas and link it to adjacent towns. There are now more than 80 miles of scenic trails in the system, thanks to considerable town investment and overwhelming public support in the form of volunteer hours and monetary contributions.

The Literary Trail System recognizes the connection between Amherst's literary tradition and its beautiful and diverse landscape. The system began with the 42-mile Robert Frost Trail which originates at the Notch Visitors Center and runs east along the Mt. Holyoke Range and then turns northward towards Amherst. The Trail continues over the Cushman Brook via the Robert Francis Bridge in the Mill River Conservation Area and through several other towns to the Wendell State Forest near Ruggles Pond.

Each trail is now marked by white wooden signs with red letters together with the Literary Trails logo. Detailed maps of the town's entire trail network, including the Literary Trails, are available at local stores, on the Town's website and at the Conservation Department Office, on the second floor of Town Hall. For further information, call the department at 413-259-3045 or go to www.amherstma.gov.

Amherst Poets and Authors



EMILY DICKINSON
Groff Park to Norwottuck Rail Trail, Mill Lane

Though Emily Dickinson today is widely known as a poet, during her lifetime, 1830-1886, only 11 of her poems appeared in print. Dickinson lived in Amherst all of her life, having drifted into a habit of solitude, finding her satisfactions in the hills and sunsets, and her garden. She wrote in the quiet of her room. After Dickinson's death, her poems were discovered by her sister Lavinia, who made the fortunate decision to preserve and publish them. *Poems*, the first published collection of Dickinson's work, appeared in 1890 and launched the poet's critical reputation.



ROBERT FROST
Holyoke Range, South Hadley to Ruggles Pond, Wendell

Frost first came to Amherst in 1916 to lecture and read at Amherst College. From that time until 1963 he was intimately connected with the college, the town, and the Jones Library. One of the country's most read and anthologized poets, Frost earned the reputation as a pastoral poet and was often associated with rural New England. In 1961 Frost recited "The Gift Outright" at John F. Kennedy's inauguration. He received the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry four times, the most times won, for his books *New Hampshire* (1924), *Collected Poems* (1931), *A Further Range* (1937), and *A Witness Tree* (1943).



NOAH WEBSTER
Podick Sanctuary, Route 116, Sunderland Road

For 100 years Noah Webster's first book, *The Grammatical Institute of the English Language*, published in 1784 in three volumes, taught children how to read, spell, and pronounce words, and was the most popular American book of its time. Born in 1758, Webster moved to the quiet village of Amherst to concentrate on his scholarly labors. While here he became interested in local educational needs and helped to found Amherst College. In 1825, after nearly 20 years spent working on it, Webster finished his greatest achievement, *An American Dictionary of the English Language*, which included some 5,000 words not included in previous dictionaries.



EUGENE FIELD
Haskins Meadow Conservation Area, East Leverett Road

At the age of 33 Eugene Field joined the staff of the *Chicago Morning News* where he remained until the time of his death in 1895. His column in the editorial page, "Sharps and Flats," was witty and whimsical, filled with politics, personalities, and children's verse. Known as the "children's poet," Field wrote nursery rhymes, such as "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod," "Little Boy Blue," and "The Duel." After spending several years with an aunt in Amherst, Field published his first poem in 1879. His most successful humorous poem, "Little Peach," was long recited and sung by many comedians.



ROBERT FRANCIS
Robert Francis Bridge, State Street

Born in 1901, Robert Francis moved to Amherst in 1926 to teach high school English. After a year of teaching Francis decided to devote his life to writing. His first book of poems, *Stand With Me Here*, was published in 1936. *Traveling in Amherst: A Poet's Journal* was published in 1986. In 1940 he built his ideal home on Market Hill Road, away from the bustle of the town. Named Fort Juniper by Francis, his house now serves as a residency for poets and writers who seek a quiet place in which to live and write.



JAN DIZARD
Lawrence Swamp Conservation Area, Station Road

Born in Duluth, Minn., Jan Dizard came to Amherst in 1969 to begin a teaching career at Amherst College which has spanned over 30 years. Fascinated by social change and social conflict, Dizard's research and writing has encompassed family life and the complex issues of hunting and gun control. Interested in fishing and hunting, in his book, *Mortal Stakes: The Fate of Hunting in Modern Society*, Dizard analyzes the meaning men and women attach to hunting.



JOSEPH LANGLAND
Elf Meadow Conservation Area, Hulst Road

For over 50 years Joseph Langland has been a presence in American poetry. Born in 1917, Langland joined the English Department at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1959. Langland taught at UMass for 20 years, during which time he materialized his passion for writing by founding the University's MFA program in creative writing. Since 1945, Langland has had many books of poetry published, including *The Wheel of Summer* that earned the Melville Cane Award.



BOB M. MCCLUNG
Larch Hill North, Hillcrest Drive

In 1955 Bob McClung began writing stories about animals in their natural environment and went on to publish more than 65 books. In such stories as *Bufo: The Story of a Toad*, and *Lili: A Giant Panda of the Sichuan*, McClung's readers were given insight into the natural world. McClung moved to Amherst in 1962 and became active in local politics and conservation. McClung's books make young readers aware of nature's fragility and instill sympathy toward living things.



ARNOLD M. KENSETH
Slobody Farm Conservation Area, Station Road

From 1949 to 1989, Arnold Kenseth was minister for the South Congregational Church in Amherst. Kenseth was also a poet, teacher, and activist in local affairs. In January 1946, his poem "Christmas Eve Snowfall" appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*. In 1959, Kenseth's poem "Death and Resurrection" won first prize in the American Scholar Poetry Awards. His collection of meditations, prayers, and canticles, *Sabbaths, Sacraments, and Seasons*, was reissued in 1982.



HOWARD R. GARIS
Fort River Conservation Area, West Street

In a writing career stretching well over a half-century, Howard Garis produced more than 700 children's books and more than 15,000 stories. At the age of 23 Garis found work as a reporter for the *Newark Evening News*, where he stayed for over 50 years. He took time off occasionally to write popular adventure stories, such as the first 35 Tom Swift books and several of the Bobsey Twins books. Garis and his wife moved to Amherst in 1950 where he continued to write Uncle Wiggly stories until his death in 1962.



JULIUS LESTER
Mill River Conservation Area, Mill Street

Julius Lester has published over 25 books and has written hundreds of essays and reviews. Before embarking on a career as professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1971, he was a photographer, musician, activist, and concert organizer. His written work has included children's books, fiction for young adults, and retellings of black folk tales. His book, *The Long Journey Home: Stories from Black History*, published in 1972, was a National Book Award finalist.



HELEN HUNT JACKSON
Puffer's Pond Area, Pulpit Hill Road

Helen Hunt Jackson was born in Amherst in 1831. A life-long friend of Emily Dickinson, Jackson became a writer and political activist. She wrote 30 books and hundreds of articles. Her book, *A Century of Dishonor*, published in 1881, condemned the government's Indian policy. She moved to California where she was appointed as an agent for the Interior Department. The appalling conditions Jackson witnessed there led her to write her popular novel, *Ramona*, one year before her death.



ELLSWORTH BARNARD
Eastman Brook Conservation Area, Leverett Road

Ellsworth Barnard, born in Shelburne in 1907, graduated from the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1928. Barnard left the state to pursue his master's degree, but returned to teach English at his alma mater. In 1998 Barnard published a collection of essays, *In A Wild Place: The Natural History of High Ledges Sanctuary*, which explore the conservation of his family's Shelburne farm. In 1970 Barnard and his wife donated this property, known as High Ledges, to the Audubon Society.



RAY STANNARD BAKER
Mill River Conservation Area, State Street

In the late 1800s, Ray Stannard Baker became a part of the "New Journalism" movement revolutionizing the magazine world at that time. He joined the staff of *McClure's* in 1898 and in 1906 helped found the *American Magazine*. He moved to Amherst in 1910 and continued the David Grayson stories that had helped make him famous. Six years before his death in 1940 he published an eight-volume biography of Woodrow Wilson, of which the last two volumes won the Pulitzer.