

A person in a red and black wetsuit is swimming underwater, holding a tablet. The background is a light, hazy blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

HOW DO WE GET TO THE FUTURE?

JESSAMYN WEST

<librarian.net/talks/ashfield>

Hi and thank you for having me. Happy 100th anniversary to the library. I'm here to talk a little bit about the future. I'm a librarian and "technologist" from Central Vermont who works heavily with libraries and have watched them change from the mid nineties when I graduated from library school until now when I'm seeing them hiring digital strategists and telecommuting librarians for their virtual branches. Interesting times.



Talking about the future is a bit of a mug's game because a lot can change between then and now. People often ask me to talk about "the future of libraries" and then get dismayed when I don't think things are really going to be terribly different in ten or twenty years. There are a lot of misconceptions about the future, and how fast it's approaching. I have no special knowledge, I just pay attention and can be a bit mouthy about my opinions.



100 years ago give or take a few years, the MA State Library looked like this. Stacks, paper, long skirted women who worked there (they were originally hired as library workers because they could be paid less than men, I wish I were joking) and lovely cared for spaces.

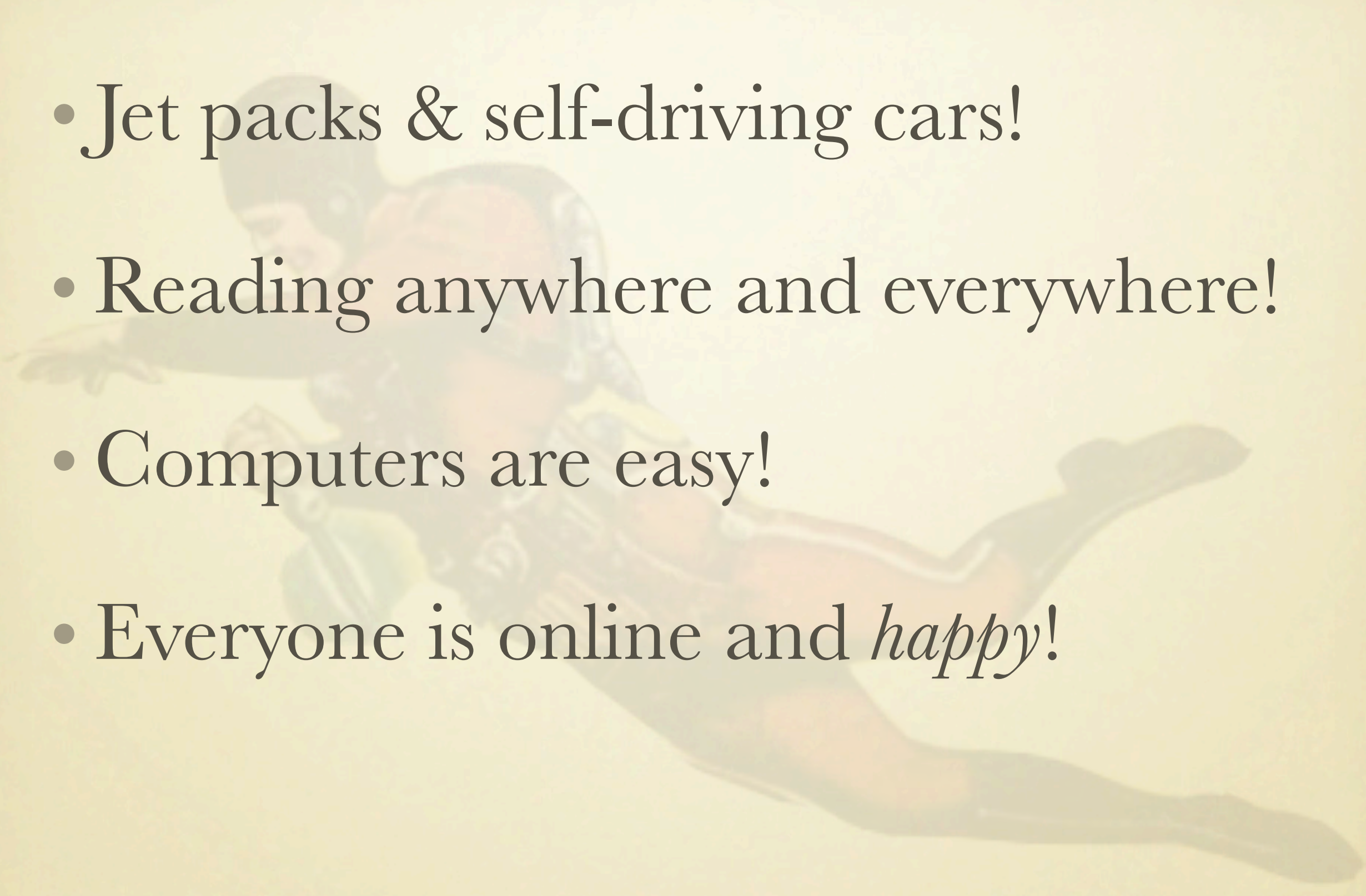


Now that was in an urban location. In rural locations like here or where I'm from in Randolph, there might have only been a traveling library, or a bookmobile. The caption on this photo from 1921 says "Fortunately the rural sections without permanent libraries are not deprived of books. Some day this hamlet will have its own permanent structure." With all the talk of "pop-up" businesses and virtual spaces potentially replacing expensive "brick and mortar" buildings, we're looking at coming full circle. Or are we?

A person in a red and black futuristic suit is flying through the air, holding a device. The suit has a yellow stripe on the back and a black helmet. The person is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, suggesting speed and movement. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“PROMISED” FUTURE

So let's talk about what people thought the future was going to get us, at least technologically.

- 
- Jet packs & self-driving cars!
 - Reading anywhere and everywhere!
 - Computers are easy!
 - Everyone is online and *happy*!

This is a simple top of my head list. I'm sure everyone has their own additions.



Lots of people are great at having visions and giving a lot of advice on how things should be. It turns out it's a lot easier to envision a glorious future than to figure out how to get there from where we are right now. We see this in libraries, enduring institutions that evolved a certain way. Everyone can imagine a great and different way for libraries to BE but not how to get them there.



WHY WE DIDN'T GET IT

There are reasons, good ones, why some of this stuff hasn't happened yet.

- 
- Insurance! Lawyers! Social Pressure!
 - Capitalism!
 - The free market!
 - Capitalism and geography!

1. jet packs and self-driving cars are expensive and incredibly dangerous. Cars specifically require rewriting of an awful lot of laws. Building the car is the easy part. Figuring out what happens when the car runs someone over is not.
2. You can now read most places electronically but there are still a lot of competing standards for ebooks. More on that in a bit.
3. People want a computer to do a few dozen things simply, but they can't agree on what those few dozen things are. So computers do a few thousand things and people get stressed out that they don't know how to do the other 975 things it does. Plus they're expensive to fix, and maybe touchy.
4. It's expensive to deliver broadband to people in rural areas. One of the first states in the US with almost total broadband coverage? Oklahoma. It is flat.



I'm not trying to be a rabble rouser by talking about economic systems, just trying to state a fact. People think that the free market takes care of a lot of this stuff ... and it does for the majority of people most of the time. However the hardest to serve remain the hardest to serve and if your goal is to serve everyone, they become a huge problem. Put another way: we've had cable TV for decades now but what the MARKET wants is a la carte channels. McCain even lobbied for this. It's tougher than you think.



So where I live they are laying cable, in some cases, with draft horses and hoping that the severe winters don't compromise them. We're rural enough that when a new part of a street gets broadband, it makes the newspaper, in print.

Meanwhile in Singapore you can get 100MBPS (2000x the speed of dialup) for what many people pay for a land line.



An advertisement for M1 MEGA DEALS. The ad features a white background with orange and blue accents. At the top right is the M1 logo. The main headline reads "M1 MEGA DEALS" in large, bold letters, with "LIMITED PERIOD ONLY! SIGN UP AT ANY M1 SHOP NOW." below it. A blue handwritten-style note says "Beat the COMEX queue!". The main offer is "FIBRE BROADBAND 100 MBPS AT JUST \$39/MTH", with "AT JUST" in a smaller font. A blue arrow points to the price with the handwritten note "It's a steal!". At the bottom, there is a line of small text: "FREE Fixed Voice for your home with rental of a Residential Gateway at \$2/mth • FREE unlimited local calls • 30% OFF IDD 002 and 021 services".

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A person in a red and black wetsuit is swimming underwater, holding a book. The background is a light, hazy blue. The text "WHERE WE ARE NOW" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

So I just want to talk a bit about where we are now, while we talk about how to get to the future. Libraries enjoy a special place relative to the market economy because we're legally allowed to share things. Books, music, space, content. It's really terrific and one of my favorite things about America, specifically New England which has always had a really proactive library culture even in rural spaces.

COPYRIGHT



FAIR USE



CREATIVE COMMONS



PUBLIC DOMAIN



Sharing books is easy. Moving to sharing digital content is a bit more difficult. In the US we have "right of first sale" which means that if you buy a book you can do what you want with it. This is not true for digital files. So people--librarians, patrons, publishers, authors--have to familiarize themselves with the legal landscape as well as the literature landscape. Things like copyright, and fair use and alternative licensing schemes are all things to know about.



And books, ebooks, become an exercise in being able to distinguish content (the thing the author writes) from container (the thing you read it on) and while digital files have very few restrictions on what you can do with them, there are artificial restrictions placed on them by publishers and sometimes authors. If you can copy a digital file 1000X, how can an author still make money off of it? This gets us into the world of metaphors. We don't all agree on what a "book" actually is now. This is confusing for tech novices and frustrating to those of us trying to work in sharing economies.

Four ways to get more out of (or into) your computer

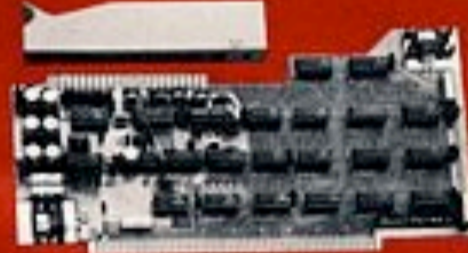
Here are four of our most popular computer peripherals. They let you do a lot more with your Altair 8800 or IMSAI 8080. They are simple to use and simple to install. And they all have the combined quality and low price that has made Cromemco the leading name in microcomputer peripherals. Cromemco's delivery is prompt, too. Watch this space for other exciting new Cromemco products to come.



The easy way to put programs into PROM. Cromemco's bytesaver™ gives you a place for up to 8K of PROM memory using 2704/2708 PROMs. Also gives you a built-in PROM programmer (saves buying one separately). Enough memory capacity to hold powerful programs such as 8K BASIC. Kit (Model 8KBS-K): \$195. Assembled (Model 8KBS-W): \$295.



Let your color TV be your display terminal. You can have a full-color computer display terminal at unbelievably low cost with the Cromemco TV Dazzler™. You can display multi-colored charts, graphs, educational material, games. Requires only 2K-byte memory for 128 x 128-element picture. Kit (Model CGI-K): \$215. Assembled (Model CGI-W): \$350.



Fast analog I/O with 7 channels. Couples your digital computer to an analog world. This advanced board lets you input 7 channels of analog to your computer and output 7 channels of analog to feed to output devices. Also has an 8-bit parallel I/O port. Very fast conversion — only 5 microseconds. Kit (Model D-7A-K): \$145. Assembled (Model D-7A-W): \$245. JOYSTICK ALSO AVAILABLE: Kit (Model JS-1-K): \$65. Assembled (Model JS-1-W): \$95.



Low-cost Optical Data Digitizer: This small, rugged camera is useful for image recognition, process control, and other industrial applications. Has f2.8 25-mm lens. Uses image sensors that produce 1024-element (32 x 32) picture. Controller boards also available to give software control of exposure, frame rate and memory allocations for picture storage. Camera kit (Model 88-ACC-K): \$195. Controller kit (Model 88-CCC-K): \$195. Camera assembled (Model 88-ACC-W): \$295. Controller assembled (Model 88-CCC-W): \$295.



Cromemco

Specialists in computer peripherals

2432 Charleston Rd., Mountain View, CA 94043 • (415) 964-7400



1976-2013 computer ads then and now

Why aren't computers easier? Back in the day, you'd have a computer if you were an electronic hobbyist. Nowadays, we're told, they're for everyone. People want a computer to do a few dozen things simply, but they can't agree on what those few dozen things are. So computers do a few thousand things and people get stressed out that they don't know how to do the other 975 things it does. Plus they're expensive to fix, and maybe touchy.

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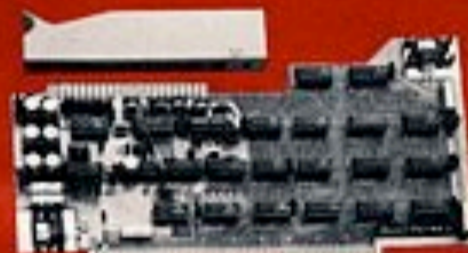
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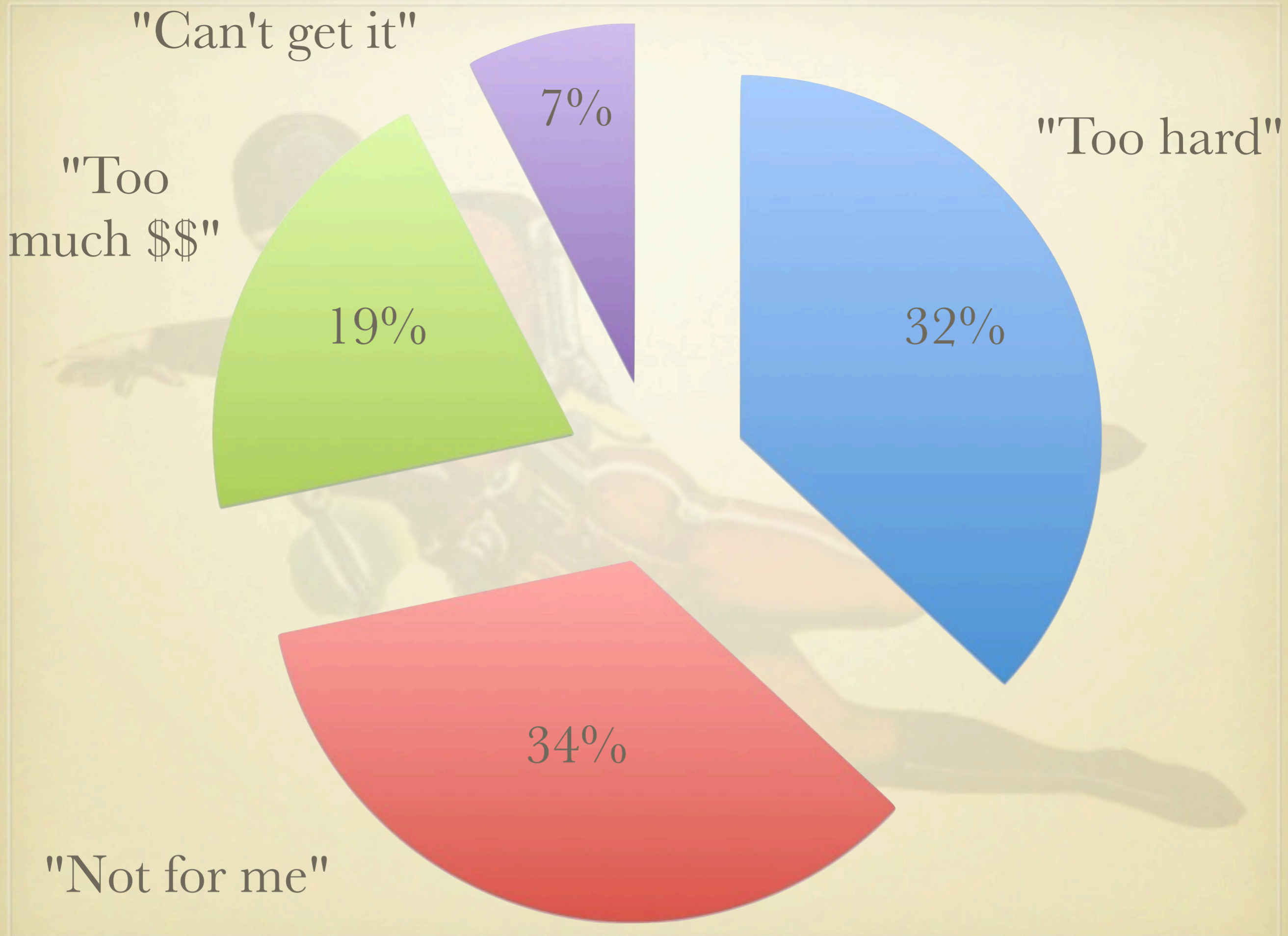
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“DIGITAL” DIVIDE

Cyberpunk author William Gibson has said "The future is already here — it's just not very evenly distributed." I think most of us are aware of social issues like poverty and people living without health care. The more and more people need to use computers to interact with their jobs and their government, the more people's lack of skills and knowhow becomes an issue of disenfranchisement and less just happenstance. And we don't know so much about these offline people. There's very little money in studying the digital divide.



IRS was one of the original organizations (along with the FCC) to study offline America (sidebar: why) and they found that people were pretty evenly split. Two (at least) divides with subdivides originally

1. Can't get access (can't afford, not available)

2. Don't want access (fear, stubborn)

Nowadays? Ten years later. About the same, a little more nuanced.

- 34% "Internet is not for me" (fear, stubborn, who knows)
- 32% "Internet is not easy to use" (need help, have challenges)
- 19% "Too expensive" (need access or need computer)
- 7% "Can't get it" (regulation is helping with this, but slowly)

The can't get access category is rapidly shrinking and is replaced by the "Don't get it" "Can't use it" category. This is progress?

COMPETING MESSAGES

The internet
makes you
more
productive!

23%

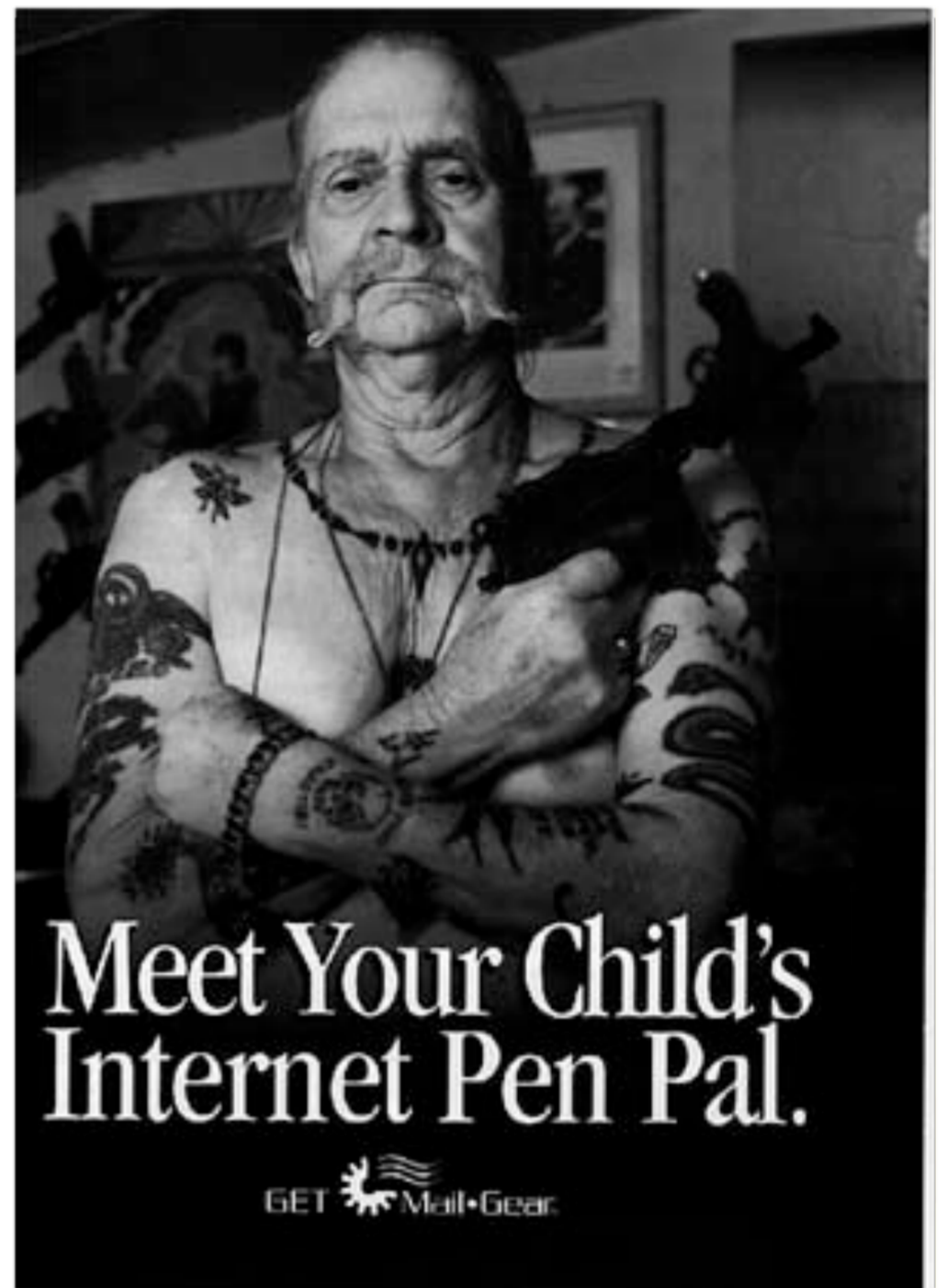


And the messages you get about the internet if you're offline are skewed. Pew's project for excellence in journalism did a study on what people thought about the internet from just reading the news about it. First was ...

COMPETING MESSAGES

The internet
is not secure.

18%



But quickly followed by this... People's feelings are real and if they feel like they're increasing their level of risk just by getting online, some people will just choose to stay offline. And this is a larger percentage of offline people every year.

OFFLINE AMERICA



- 25% share a home with an online person
- 14% used to use the internet but stopped
- 92% are not interested in getting online
- 63% say **they would need help** getting online

THREE DIVIDES

- Economic
 - Usability
 - Empowerment
- 



William James, about a hundred years ago, wrote a lot about making choices, in his case the "will to believe" or choose a religious path but I look at it as referring to things you must take on faith generally. He talked about creating genuine options for people, that work with them in their real lives, not forcing them to be someone else in order to make those choices. be live, be forced, be momentuous



REFLECTING A BETTER FUTURE

aka “what does help look like?”

One of the things we learned in library school is that people won't go to the library first when they have an information need, they'll ask their friends (even if their friends have no particular expertise) or maybe they'll Google something.

By the time they're at the library in many cases they've tried and discarded other options. In my world it's people who have new grandkids, who need to apply for jobs or unemployment or food stamps, or who want to meet people, buy things, sell things. There are a lot of tipping points that push people towards an uncertain future with technology.

One of the things I try to do is help people's early experiences be good ones. Sometimes this means getting them using the tools before they are forced to.

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HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF ASHFIELD, MASS.

VOLUME I.

BY BARNABAS HOWES,

ASHFIELD.

*Who will send a copy, postpaid to any address upon
the receipt of Twenty-five cents.*

WM. G. ATKINS, PRINTER,

WEST CUMMINGTON, MASS.

1887.

HISTORY

OF THE

TOWN OF ASHFIELD

FRANKLIN COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS

FROM ITS

SETTLEMENT IN 1742 TO 1910

BY FREDERICK G. HOWES

ALSO A

Historical Sketch of the Town

WRITTEN BY

REV. DR. THOMAS SHEPARD

IN 1834



9659
PUBLISHED BY THE TOWN

From a passive content perspective each librarian has tricks, things they show people online that make online seem interesting and non-creepy. This can be an aerial view of someone's house (not always creepy!) or a way to find something on sale with free shipping that costs a ton of money or involves a long car ride, or maybe it's just something about themselves or where they are...

"A FEW ANBODOTES of practical value have often been told me. A Mr. Allen was walking about near the top of Pumpkin Hill, and saw a black bear coming up its very steep east side directly towards him. Fortunately he had presence of mind to start a rock rolling down, which struck the bear against a large tree and killed the ferocious beast. Such were the dangers to which the early inhabitants were exposed, and such were the providences that delivered them."

"In 1810, an association called the Second Social Library was formed in town. Tradition says, and the name would imply that a library existed prior to this, but there are no records and no definite information regarding it, although there is some evidence it was in South Ashfield."



One of the simplest things you can do is start with a scanner, or even a camera and encourage people to digitize things, their things (or your things). It sounds techie when you say it that way but it doesn't have to be. Scan photos or documents. Send people home with a copy. Offer to show them how to email or store that photograph online. People who don't feel comfortable with the technology can assist in the organization or the metadata (just don't call it metadata). People think they have to create huge digital archives when really, putting 12 photos on Flickr this month is 12 more photos than were on Flickr last month. And they're your photos!

DIGITIZATION IN THE REAL WORLD

Lessons Learned from
Small and Medium-Sized
Digitization Projects

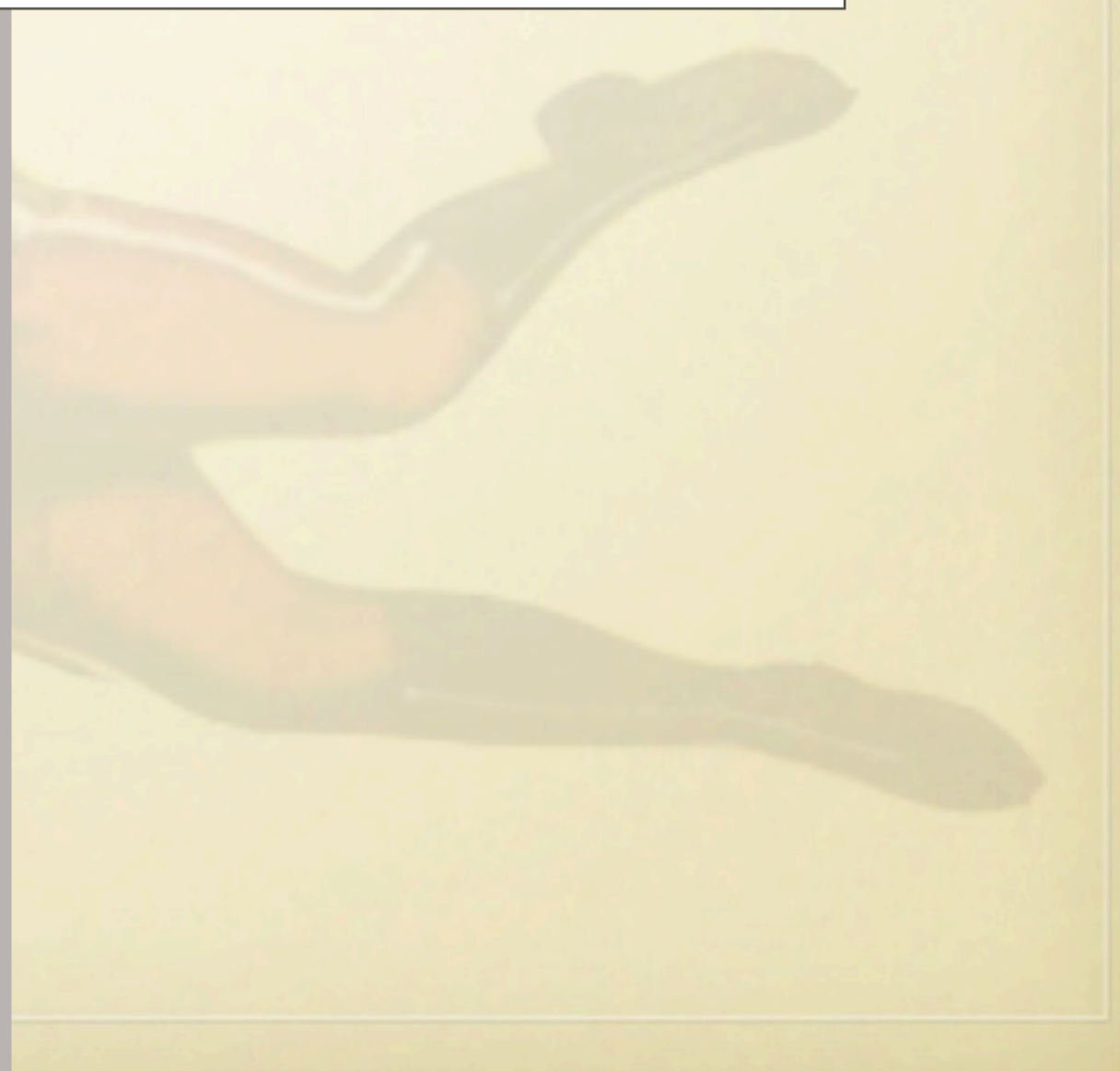


Edited by
Kwong Bor Ng
& Jason Kucsma



and you don't have to reinvent the wheel, no one wants that. But it's folly to presume that you're the only organization with tight budget and resources. Other people have done it, learn from their stories.

Local Objects, Local People, Local History: Creating the Wisconsin Decorative Arts Database



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Digitization on a Dime: How a Small
Library and a Big Team of Volunteers
Digitized 15,000 Obituaries in Just Over
a Year

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Cemeteries of Brant County

In the summer of 2010 the Library employed a Summer Student who spent time photographing a
Originally published at ourbrant.wikia.com, these images are now included here for ease of resea

We found 449 matching items.

Sort by:

Page 1 of 12 **1** 2 3 ... 11 12 Next →



Fairfield Cemetery Headstone
3-4



Fairfield Cemetery Headstone
8-1



Fairfield Cemetery Headstone
16-7



Maud Hamilton



Fairfield Cemetery Headstone



Joseph Dutcher



William Sulman

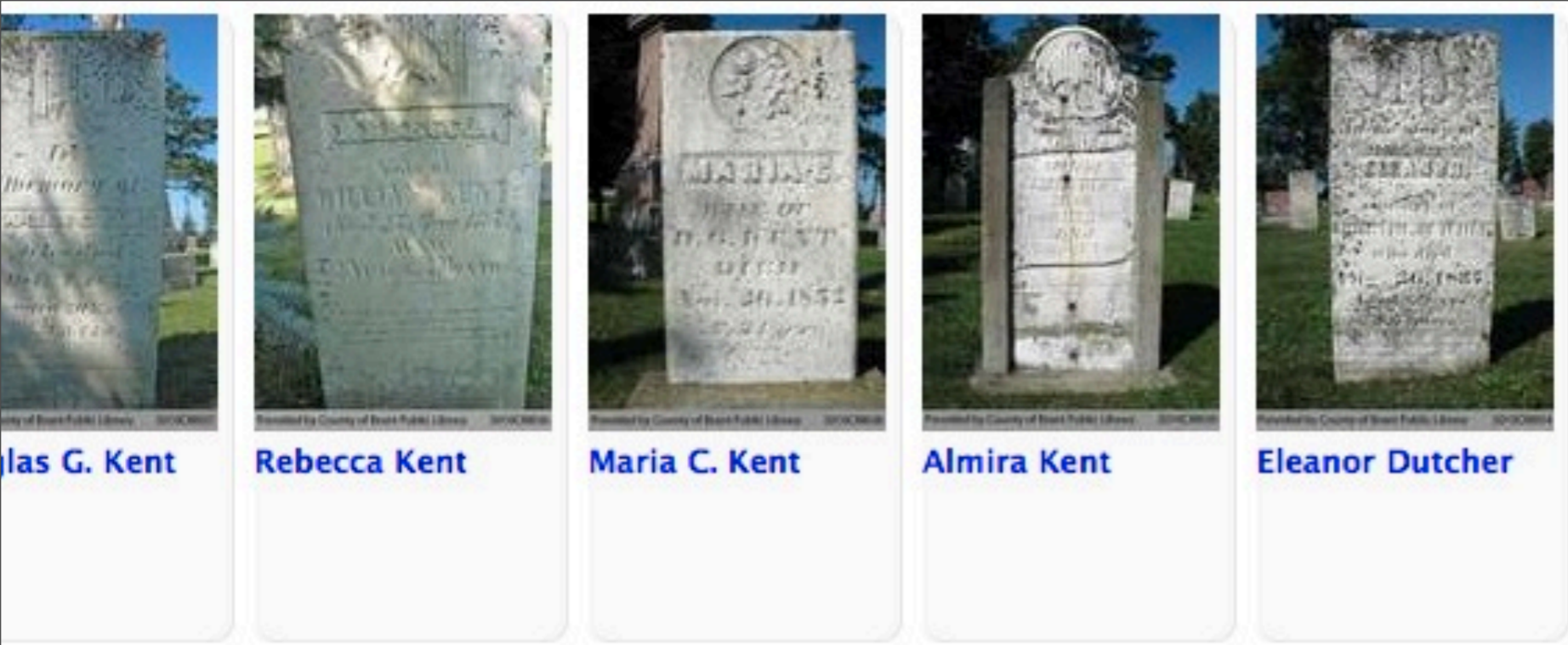


Jessie Spiller Retter



William A. Hoggard

Sometimes I'll start with simple brainstorming. "What information do we have here in this building that other people might want access to?" "How can we share it beyond our borders?" "Can we do this legally and ethically?" A lot of people start with old family photos or, in some cases, those old cemetery records that you keep in a binder. I grump about computers sometimes but one of the things they do really well is sorting. This is a project of Brant County in Ontario, about half the population of Franklin County. One summer they got a kid to photograph, map and type in the cemetery records from the towns. Then they put it online.... Now people who are looking for relatives in cemeteries can search by date, look on a map and find a grave even if they are nowhere near Ontario.



Thomas G. Kent **Rebecca Kent** **Maria C. Kent** **Almira Kent** **Eleanor Dutcher**



Johnathan Freeman **Catharine Freeman** **Caroline McIntosh Freeman**



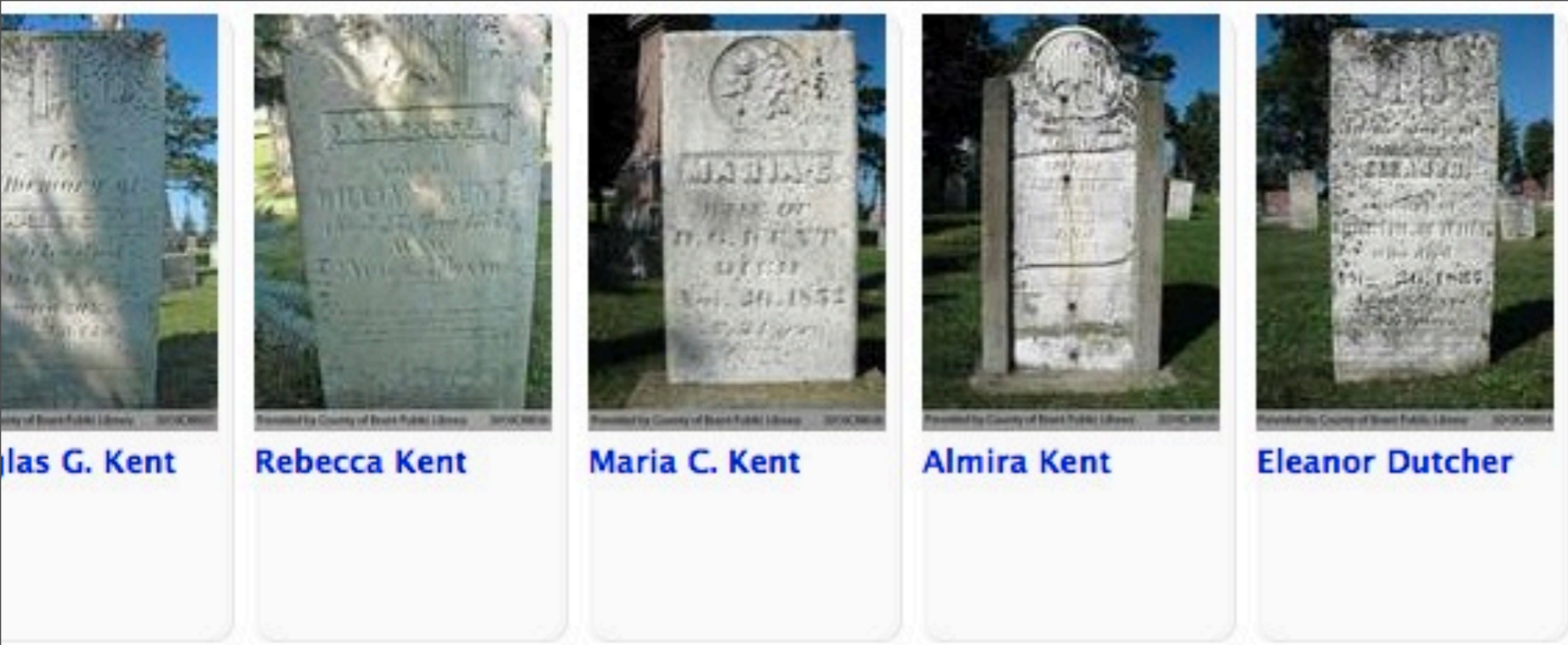
Family Headstone (9) **Wingrove Family Headstone (Range 4-10)** **Wingrove Family Headstone (Range 4-12)**

1850s	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855
1860s	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
1870s	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875
1880s	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
1890s	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
1900s	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
1910s	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
1920s	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
1930s	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1940s	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1950s	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
1960s	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1970s	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
1980s	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
1990s	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
2000s	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
2010s	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015

Map

Map of locations associated with these balloons to do a geographic search.

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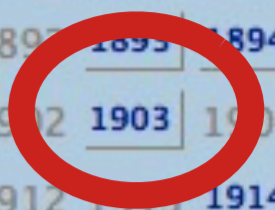


Johnathan Freeman Catharine Freeman Caroline McIntosh Freeman



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1890s	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895
1900s	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
1910s	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
1920s	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
1930s	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935
1940s	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
1950s	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
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Scan and Share your family history for the community 0



By [Michael-Allan Marion](#), Brantford Expositor
Wednesday, October 26, 2011 7:04:35 EDT PM



**Bookmark
and Share**



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Brantford - ST. GEORGE - Those interested in preserving the more human aspects of Brant County history can attend a Scan and Share Event at the St George Branch Library on Main Street, on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The public is invited to dig through photo albums, the attic, linen closet or hope chest for family memorabilia, old photos, land deeds, personal letters, or anything else that connects a family's history to the history of the community.

Bring in what is considered appropriate, enjoy some refreshments and watch while an archivist scans the items and enters them into the online South Dumfries Collection.

The project is supported by an Ontario Trillium Grant.

For more information, call reference librarian Christine MacArthur at 519-442-2433, or email reference@brant.ca.

mamarion@theexpositor.com

One of the neat things about this project is the "hey help us out" aspect. In a few ways. They solicit contributions with "scan and share" events. Brant County has even put up a how to essay called Digitization without Fears.

Don't know who is in a photo? Don't let that stop you, you can "tag" the photo as a "mystery" and then people can click through and leave a comment if they have more information.

I know it seems like a pretty big deal and maybe a lot of work, but the secret (besides some grants) is partnership. Working with the other little organizations in the region to get resources, or volunteers or space or whatever.



Principal Symons and Teachers



1966-67 This photograph depicts the Glen Morris Central School in the 1960s. Frances Kingston during a Digital Preservation Day event in 2011.



St. George Hockey Team



[ca. 1964], This photograph depicts the early 1960s. The original photo was provided at a Digital Preservation Day event in Glen Morris.


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I know it seems like a pretty big deal and maybe a lot of work, but the secret (besides some grants) is partnership. Working with the other little organizations in the region to get resources, or volunteers or space or whatever.

Principal Symons and Teachers



966-67 This photograph depicts

These Digital Historical Collections were made possible by the incredible contribution of a number of local historical organizations as well as donations by private members of our community. The County of Brant Public Library is proud to have partnered with so many valuable historical groups: The Paris Museum and Historical Society, Heritage Mount Pleasant, The Canadian Military and Heritage Museum, The South Dumfries Historical Society and the Salt Springs Church Historical Society. Without the tireless efforts of these groups this collection would not have been possible.

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"crowdsourcing" as it's often called can be useful to make historical discoveries as with this photo which was uploaded to photo sharing site flickr, though to be a whaling photo until someone said "I think that might be Phineas Gage..." I have sort of a soft spot for this sort of thing because I used Google (and a Google Books view of a book about the history of Princeton MA) to find a photo of my great grandfather as a boy about a hundred years ago. This was a lucky grab because he happened to be friends with the kid whose dad owned the famous hotel.

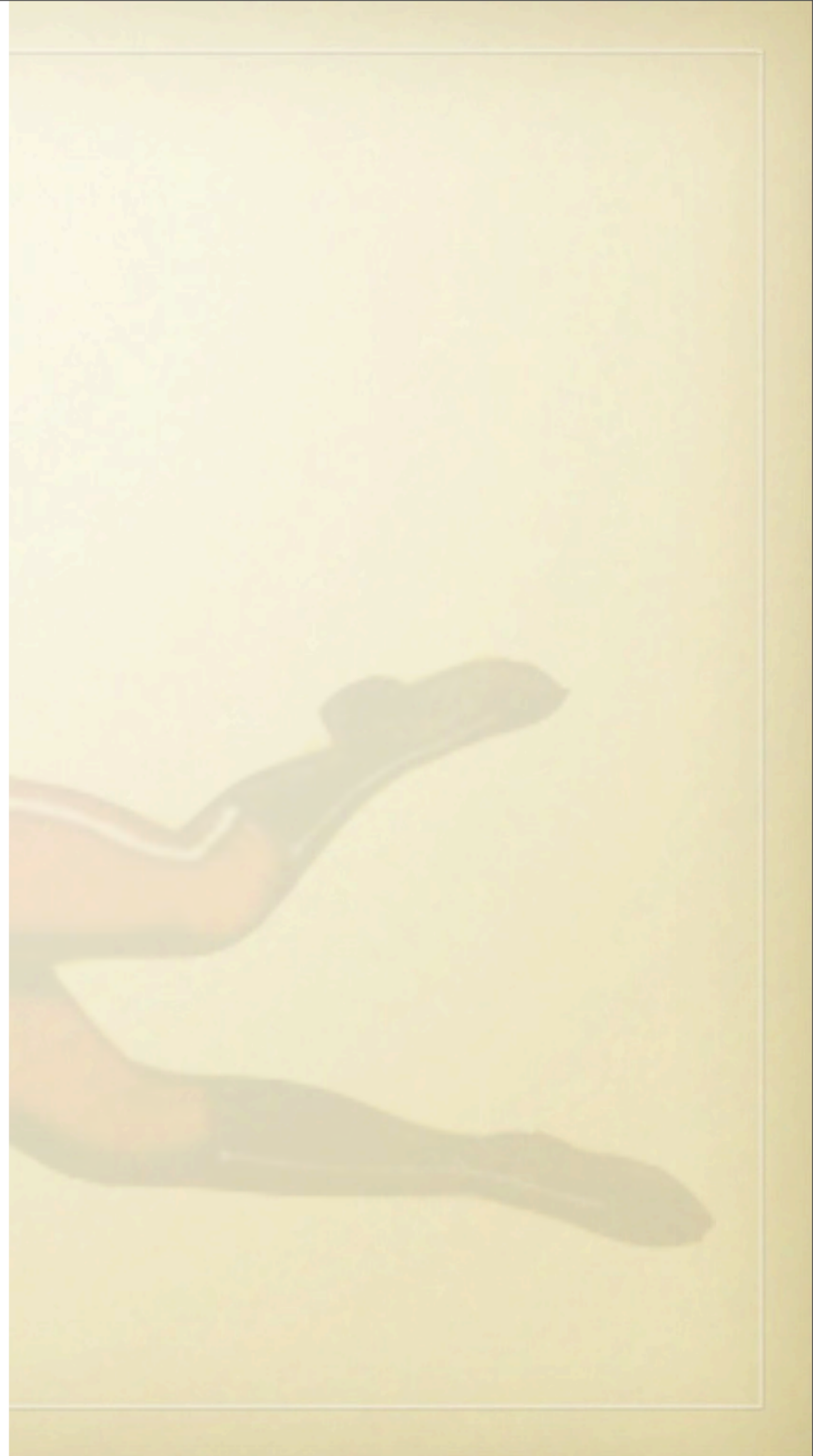


<http://brightbytes.com/phineasg>
Wilgus Collection

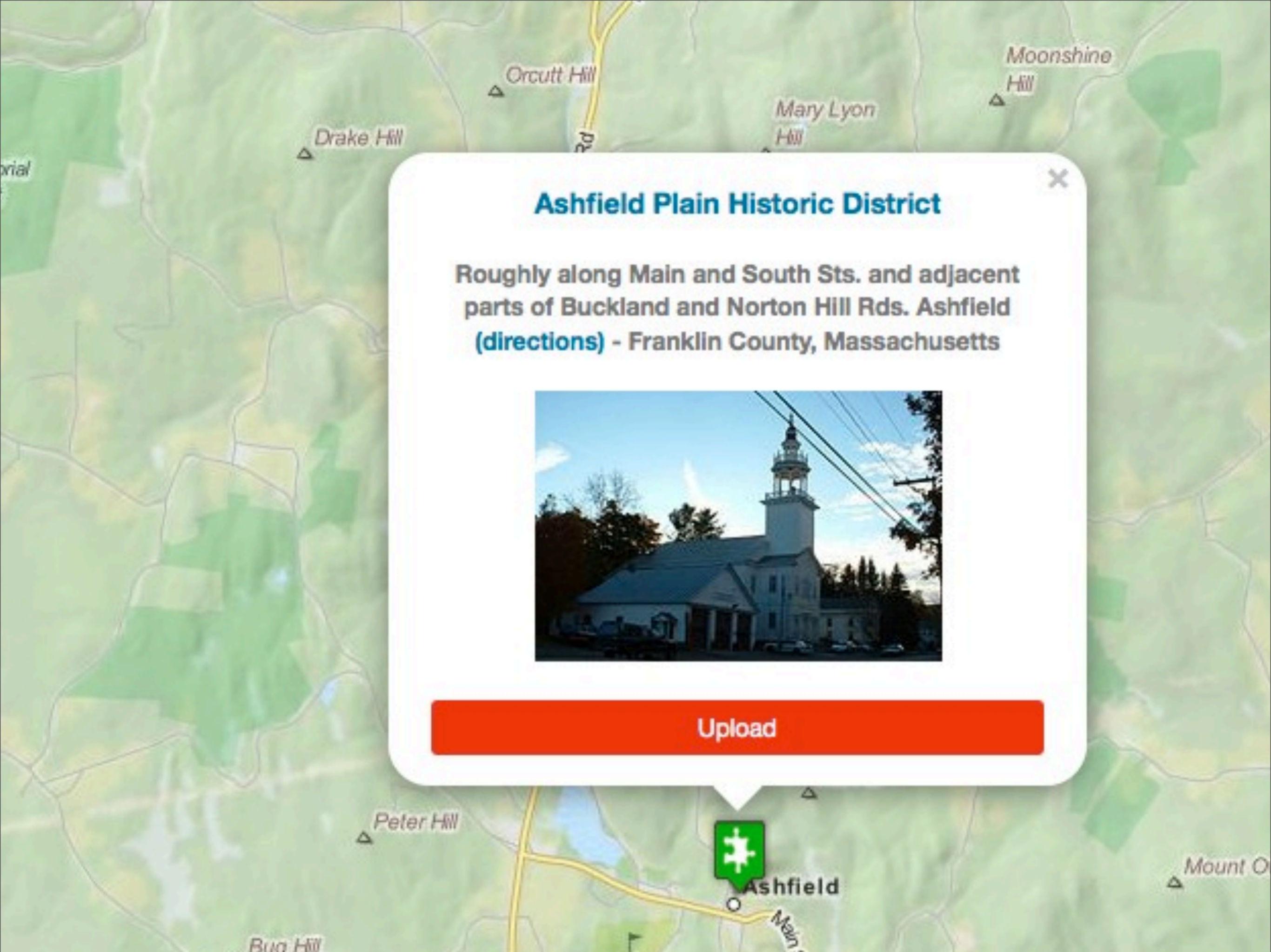


Pictured in the early 1900s, Ralph Beaman (right) and his friend Jo near the second Summit House. Summit Pond supplied water for wa Water was pumped to a holding tank on the second floor of the ho also supplied ice that was stored in an icehouse on the shore. Drink a spring a mile down the road. (Courtesy of the Princeton Historic

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If you don't want to start your own project, maybe you can just contribute to another one. One of my favorite annual projects is the Wikipedia summer of Monuments which is a push (with prizes) to get people to upload images of places on the National Historic Register. These can be in your area ([click](#)) or just a place you've been. They're especially looking for pictures from the American south.



Ashfield Plain Historic District

Roughly along Main and South Sts. and adjacent parts of Buckland and Norton Hill Rds. Ashfield [\(directions\)](#) - Franklin County, Massachusetts



Upload

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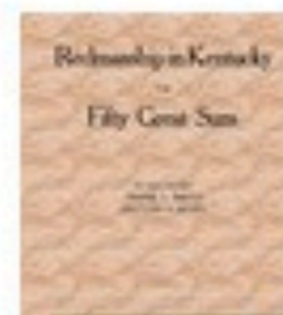
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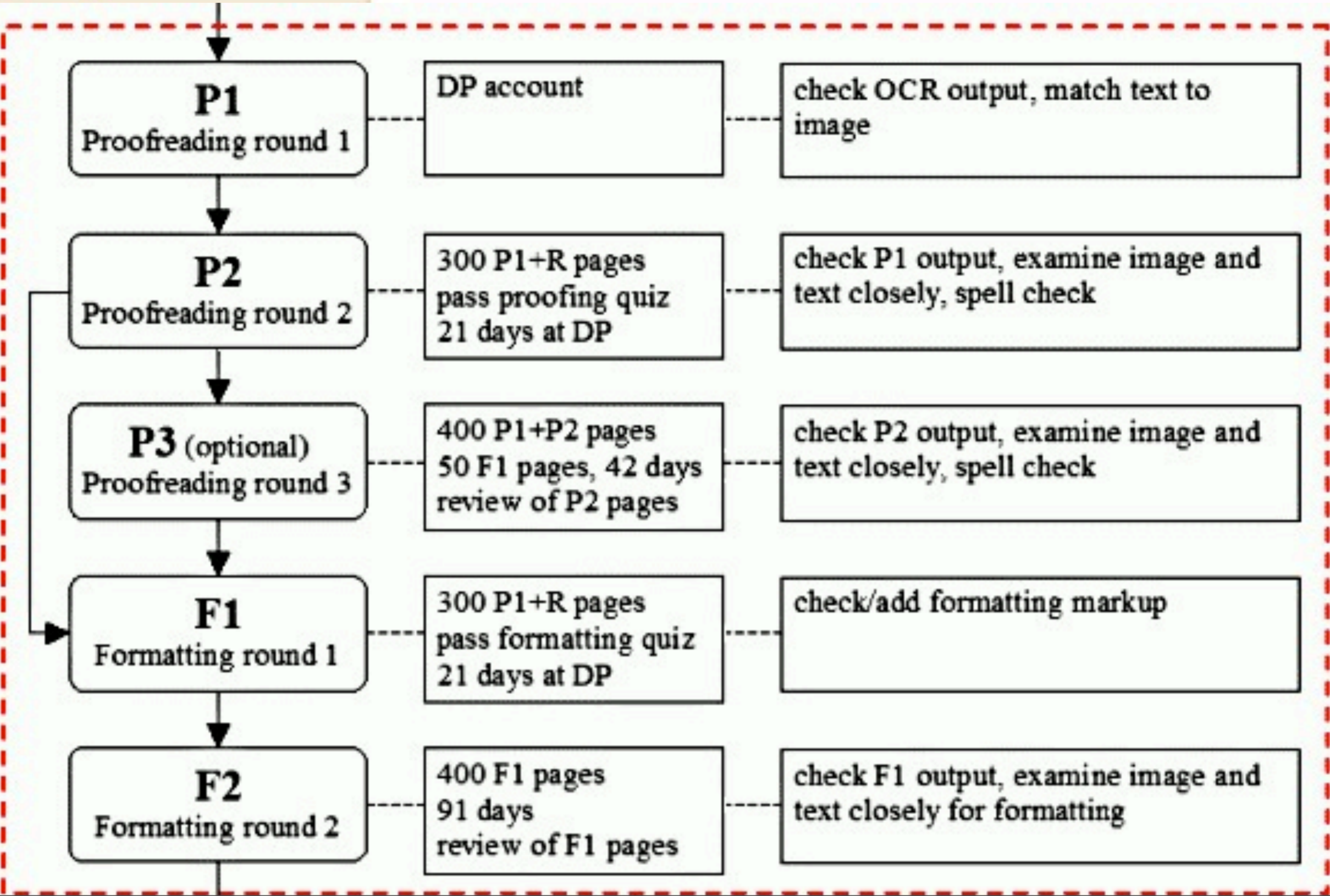


Redmanship in Kentucky for Fifty Great Suns

Project Gutenberg is an online archive of public domain texts. You can read them, download them, put them on your device, whatever. They're pretty high quality. According to the Atlantic, "100,000 people around the world have taken part in a massive proofreading project to correct the electronic texts of 25,000 free ebooks on the Gutenberg site." If you're a born nitpicker like I am this is actually fun. It's a little less fun to grapple with the interface and so while I like to use it as an example, it may not be the best way to get started....

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The Rounds (at the DP website)



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Transcribe museum records to

TAKE NOTES FROM NATURE

START TRANSCRIBING

4

Collections available

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Total transcriptions

5,803

Users contributing

ORNITHOLOGICAL

from Natural History Museum

NEW ROW

19

1945.

11

1

Lophoceros melanoleuco gaboensis

Boma Hills

2

Turdus leucotis leucotis

..

3

Strix woodfordii bohnendorffii

Magichot,

4

Collections available

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Help The New York Public Library improve a unique collection!

We're transcribing our historical restaurant menus, dish by dish, so that they can be searched by what people were eating back in the day. It's a big job so we need your help! [Learn more.](#)

We need you!

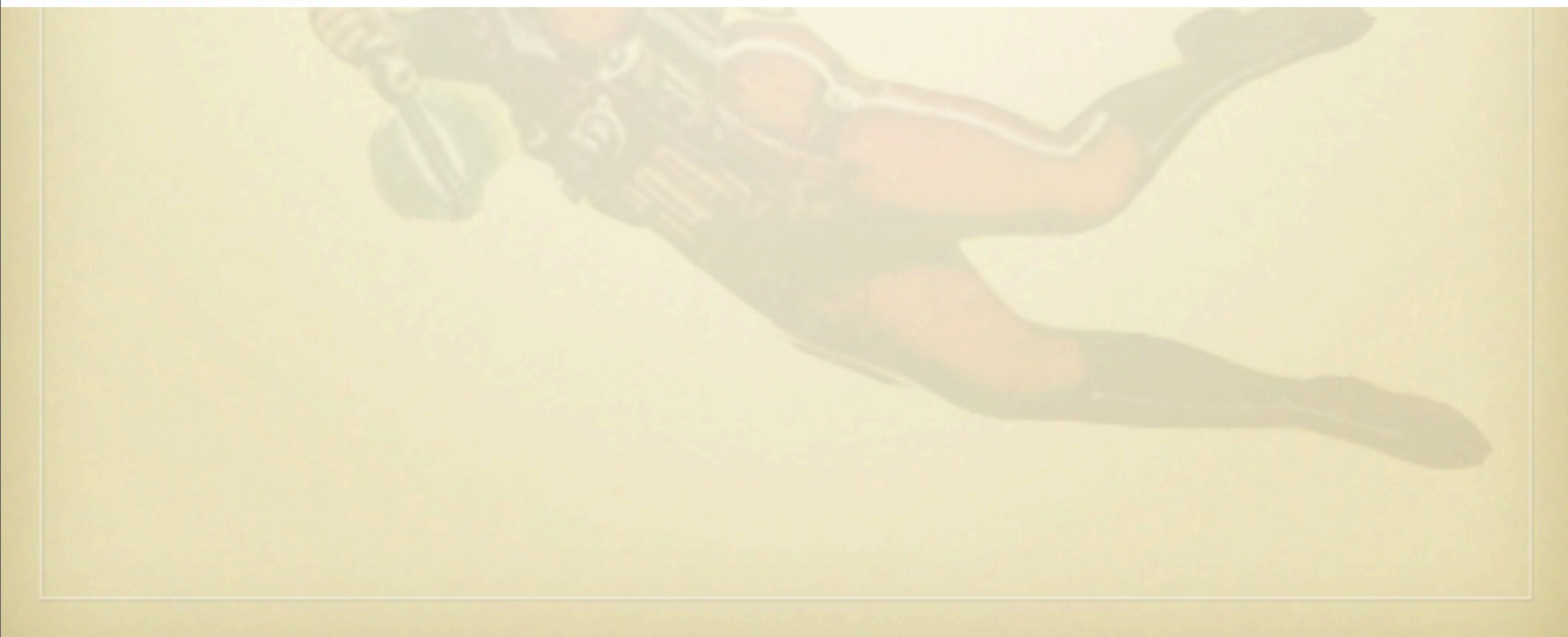


Help transcribe



It's easy! No registration required!

So far: 1,288,783 dishes transcribed from 17,242 menus



... and maybe people haven't heard of Project Gutenberg. It's possible. But they've probably heard of NYPL, right? They have a menu review project that is perfect for someone who knows a lot about food in the ... early 1900s? Menus from a hundred years ago. Now searchable online. This helps us learn more about food, food prices, food while traveling, hotel history, home economics, a lot of stuff. And humans put it together.

What's on the menu? Menus

Menus	Dishes	Data	Blog
-------	--------	------	------

All 1850's 1860's 1870's 1880's 1890's 1900's 1910's 1920's 1930's 1940's 1950's 1960's 1970's 1980's 1990's

All 1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1897 1898 1899

1890's: 1,482 menus Show: All | New | Under Review | Done



Balmoral Hotel
1899
34 dishes

Hotel Metropole
1899
24 dishes

New Gladstone
1899
40 dishes

Manufacturing
Chemists'
Association Of The
Ub...
1899

New Gladstone
1899
38 dishes

New Gladstone
1899
36 dishes



Casino Union
1899

Jerusalem Chapter
No 8 R.A.M.

Santa Fe Route
Dining Car Service

Hotel Savoy
1899

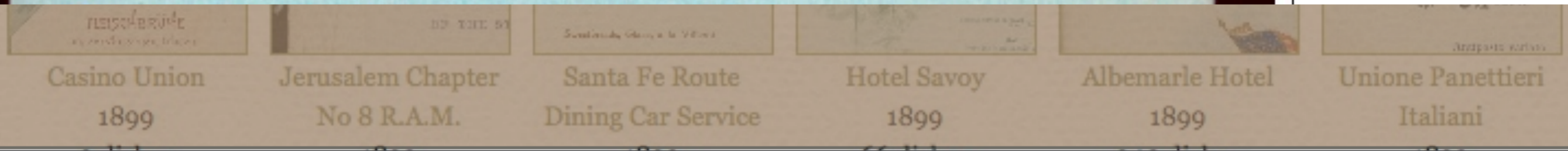
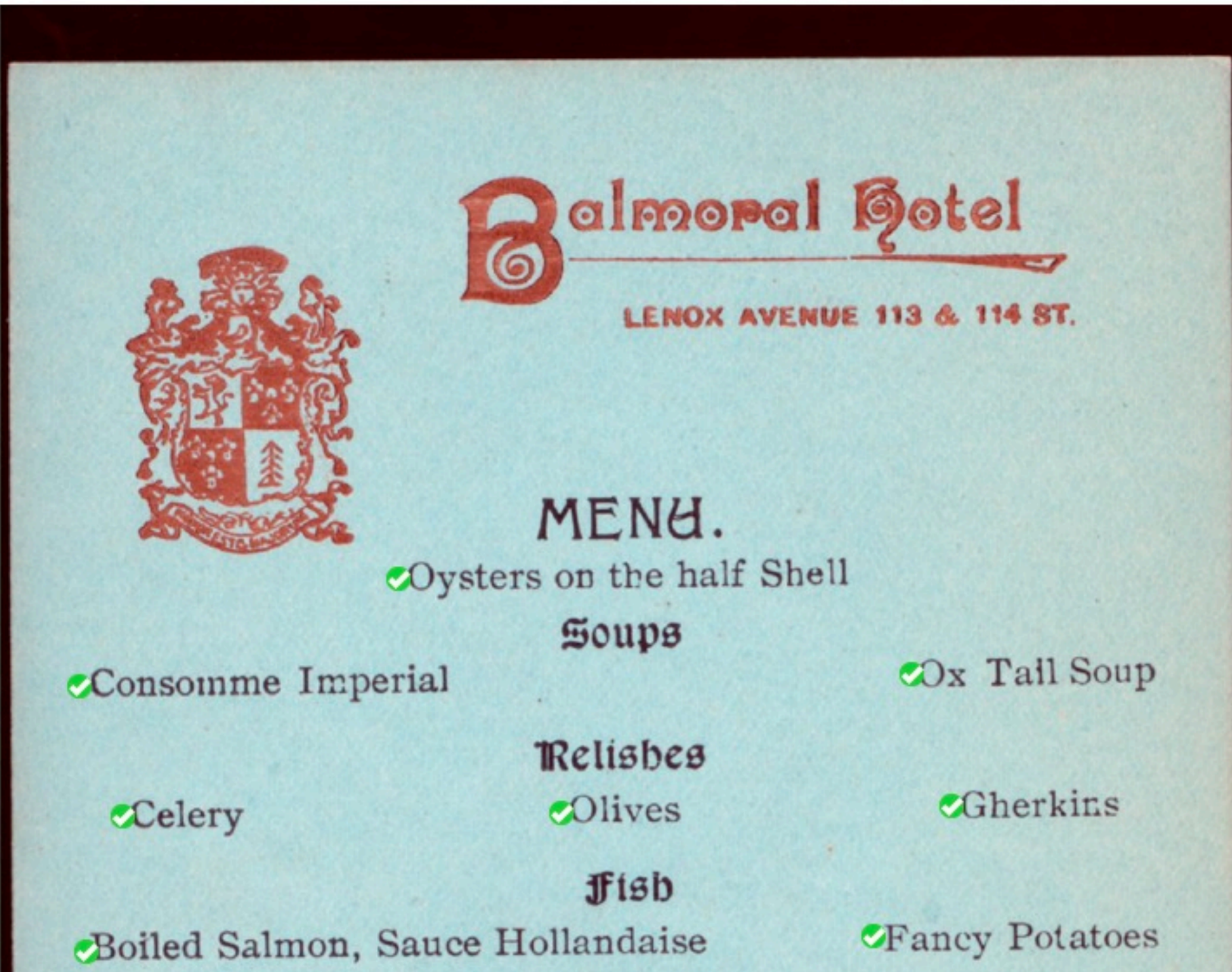
Albemarle Hotel
1899

Unione Panettieri
Italiani

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Dish	Price
✍ Oysters On The Half Shell	-
✍ Ox Tail Soup	-
✍ Consomme Imperial	-
✍ Gherkins	-
✍ Olives	-
✍ Celery	-
✍ Fancy Potatoes	-
✍ Boiled Salmon, Sauce Hollandaise	-
✍ Ham, Champagne Sauce.	-
✍ Croquettes Of Sweet Breads A La Godard	-
✍ Pineapple Fritters A La Mountmorency	-
✍ Quail On Toast	-
✍ Ribs Of Prime Beef	-
✍ Turkey With Chestnut Dressing, Cranberry Sauce	-
✍ Mashed White Potatoes	-



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Metropolitan Life Insurance
Representatives



En Route
Dedication of the Tuberculosis
Sanitarium for Employees

we can even keep with the theme and see what the Metropolitan Life Insurance Representatives en route to the Dedication of the Tuberculosis Sanitarium for Employees ate on the train. And while I was looking up this example, I also proofread this menu!

ROAST SPRING LAMB, MINT SAUCE

ROAST PRIME RIBS OF BEEF AU JUS

BOILED POTATOES

BRUSSELS SPROUTS IN BUTTER

FRESH ASPARAGUS, DRAWN BUTTER

COMBINATION SALAD, FRENCH DRESSING

ICE CREAM

ASSORTED CAKE

NEUFCHATEL CHEESE

TOASTED CRACKERS

TEA

COFFEE

MILK

we can even keep with the theme and see what the Metropolitan Life Insurance Representatives en route to the Dedication of the Tuberculosis Sanitarium for Employees ate on the train. And while I was looking up this example, I also proofread this menu!



Charlmont 149.



Charlmont 150.



Charlmont 151.



Charlmont 152.



Charlmont 153.



Buckland 154.



Shelburne 155.



Shelburne 156.



Shelburne 157.



Shelburne 158.



Shelburne 159.



Greenfield 160.

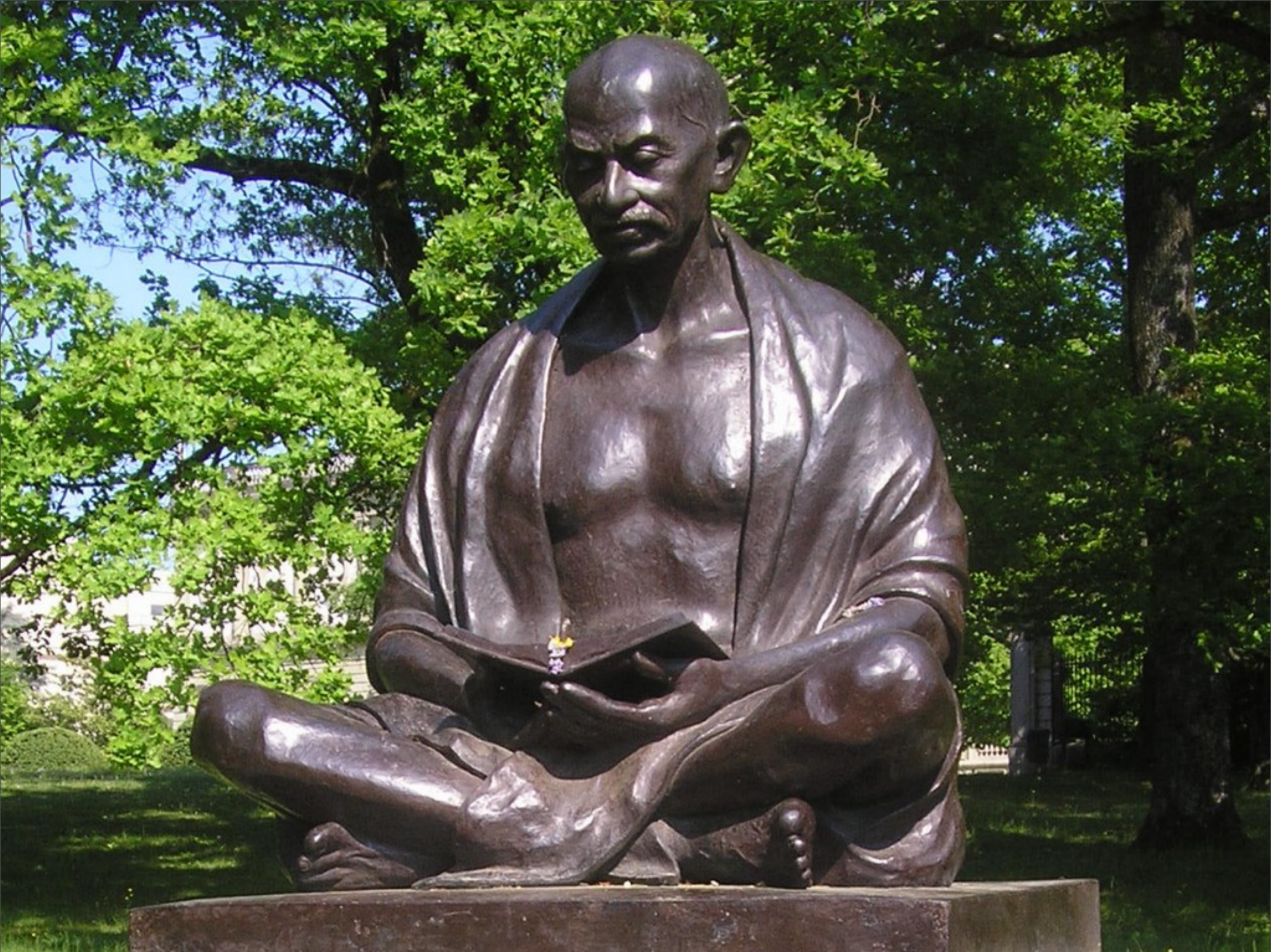
Now clearly these are some examples that appeal to me. My interests, my hobbies and my internet. But my larger point is that there's a "my internet" out there for everyone. With the things that they like and the topics that they want to learn about. It doesn't need to be some all-encompassing thing. Some people never take to the "online world" and that's totally fine. My favorite thing I found while researching this talk was this set of old "highway" photos of Massachusetts from 1892-1893. They are up on the photo sharing site Flickr. And they went along with a report on the Massachusetts state roadways, a report which I found at the Mass State Archives. Sometimes just one photo of a kid near a bicycle on a muddy road can give you more of a sense of place and time than reading any book. And the library, the public institution, is the way to consolidate those community memories.



Shelburne 158.

Shelburne 159.

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In closing,

Gandhi is quoted a lot as saying "Be the change you want to see in the world", but it's a bit of a paraphrase of his longer statement.

"We but mirror the world. All the tendencies present in the outer world are to be found in the world of our body. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him.... We need not wait to see what others do."

So the future, such as it is, is all around us and what we make it, is what it is.

A person in a red and black flight suit is shown in a dynamic, flying pose against a light, hazy background. The person is wearing a helmet and has their arms extended forward. The overall image has a soft, slightly desaturated aesthetic.

THANK YOU!

<librarian.net/talks/ashfield>