

Newspaper Columns by W. E. B. Du Bois
A Supplement

Selections from the New York *Globe*,
the New York *Freeman*
and the Springfield *Republican*,
1883–1885

A Supplement to
The Seventh Son: The Thought and Writings of W. E. B. Du Bois (1971)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

“Great Barrington Items” New York <i>Globe</i> (June 2, 1883)	1
“Great Barrington Notes” New York <i>Globe</i> (September 8, 1883)	2
“A Globe Agent’s Distinction” New York <i>Globe</i> (July 12, 1884)	3
“Great Barrington Notes” The New York <i>Freeman</i> (February 28, 1885)	4
“The Housatonic Festival” The Springfield <i>Daily Republican</i> (September 26, 1884)	5
“The Famous \$100,000 Leavitt Barn Burned” The Springfield <i>Daily Republican</i> (July 8, 1885)	7

Great Barrington Items.¹

GREAT BARRINGTON, May 29.—The Quarterly Meeting services of A. M. E. Zion Church were well attended throughout the day, there being many here from Lee and Stockbridge. The largest attendance was in the evening, when Rev Mr Anderson preached a very effective sermon from Isaiah. On account of the Decoration Day services at Providence, the minister could not remain to attend the supper, which is to be held at the house of Mr Wm Crosley on the 30th inst. This is to be one of the finest suppers the ladies have given for quite awhile, and a very nice time is expected. At the business meeting held after the evening service, it was decided to petition conference to allow the church to remain the same as last year, to have no regular preacher. It is hoped Mr Anderson will have the oversight of the church, as he is very much liked here.² The Lee church is having another wrangle. Rev Mr Aekworth having collected enough money, has paid the mortgage on the church property and the other party refusing to give it up, he broke into the church and then followed a shocking scene. Miss Lottie Coles of Pittsfield died a abort lime ago after a brief illness.

W. E. D.

¹ New York *Globe* (June 2, 1883); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).

² The text of this article in Aptheker (ed.), *Newspaper Columns*, Volume 1, ends here.

Great Barrington Notes.³

GREAT BARRINGTON, Sept 4.—Your correspondent having been away on vacation no items have appeared for some time. During my trip I visited Providence, New Bedford, and Albany, and was pleased to see the industry and wealth of many of our race. But one thing that struck me very forcibly was the absence of literary societies, none of which did I meet in any of the cities. It seems to me as if this of all things ought not to be neglected. The weather is growing cold here now and it seems as if winter is near at hand. A singing school has been organised here with Mrs J. McKinsly as leader. The class meets next Thursday at Mr Mason's. On Thursday, Aug 23, the A. M. E. Zion sewing society took a ride to Lake Buel. On account of its storming in the early part of the evening a great many who intended, did not go, but those who did reported a very enjoyable time. Mrs F. Portland of New York is the guest of Mr Wm Crosley. Mr Egbert Lee took his departure for Springfield last week to attend the Masonic lodge of which he is a member. There is to be a debate soon before the sewing society upon the question "Should Indians be educated at Hampton;" Messrs Cooley and Dubojs, affirmative, Messrs Mason and Crosley, negative. A lively time is expected. Mr Wm Chinn departs Saturday next for Washington, his former home. Your correspondent was pleasantly surprised upon his return, at having his subscription list, for THE GLOBE doubled through the exertions of Mr Crosley, who kindly consented to distribute them during his absence and to whom he wishes to return thanks. Mrs A. Thomson and daughter of Amherst. Mass., and Mrs L. Brown of Providence, R. I., arrived to-day as guests of Mrs L. Sumea. The Rev James Anderson also of Providence is expected here to preach sometime this month. Mr John Williams who has been quite, sick has recovered. DU BOIS.

³ New York *Globe* (September 8, 1883); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).

A Globe Agent's Distinction.⁴

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GLOBE—I desire to secure your kind offices in behalf of your agent at this place, young Willie DuBois, who has just graduated with high honors from the High School at Great Barrington. His modesty prevented him from giving you a description of his graduation, his hard and untiring efforts to provide for himself, during his course of study, and the proud distinction he has won, as the first colored graduate from this school. Du Bois entered school under many disadvantages; being his widowed mother's only support, he was compelled to perform odd jobs between school hours for the friendly neighbors. By persistent, industrious effort he has accomplished the results hoped for, and stands to-day, high up in the estimation of Great Barrington's best citizens, and is considered by all who know him, to be one of the most promising young colored men of the times. Du Bois is the youngest graduate of his class, being only sixteen. At the commencement he delivered an original oration on Wendell Phillips. The production was received by the intelligent audience with evidences of genuine appreciation, and was considered by many the best and most original production of the class. The *Berkshire Courier* comments on the oration in the following well chosen words: "Wendell Phillips was an appropriate subject for William E. Du Bois, a colored boy, who has had very good standing in the school. It was an excellent oration, and provoked repeated applause."

Du Bois has had several offers to go to the Southern States as a teacher, but prefers to take a year's preparatory course prior to entering Harvard College. It is encouraging to the wellwishers of our race that there is an unusually large number of colored boys and girls who have graduated with honors, this year. The colored people of the little town of Great Barrington are quite proud that one of their small number should gain such honored distinction, at the age of 16. J. C. D.

Great Barrington, Mass, July 8.

⁴ New York *Globe* (July 12, 1884); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).

Great Barrington Notes.⁵

Surprise parties have been in order during the last few weeks, Mrs. A. W. Austin and Mesdames Gardner and Newport having been visited. Friday evening, the 20th inst., the ladies of Zion Church gave a dime sociable at the house of W. M. Crosley. There was a large attendance and the time most pleasantly passed. The Sons of Freedom met at the house of the president last evening and elected officers for the ensuing six weeks. Messrs. J. T. Burghardt and W. E. Gardner were elected president and vice. The club will give a short entertainment Monday evening, March 2, for the benefit of the ladies at the residence of Mrs. Newport and Mrs. Gardner. The question, "Which is of the more use to a country the Warrior, the Statesman or the Poet?" will be debated by M. F. Mason, A. W. Austin, W. E. De Bois. Mrs. J. Cooley and Mrs. J. Bowen have been visiting friends in New York and Brooklyn recently. Mr. W. .M. Crosley met with what might have been a serious accident from the explosion of coal gas two weeks ago. His eyes were injured, but are now better. Mrs. S. Smith of Norfolk, Conn., is the guest of Mrs. D. Brown. Many of the colored people will change their abodes this Spring.

⁵ The New York *Freeman* (February 28, 1885); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).

*THE HOUSATONIC FESTIVAL.*⁶

A Large Crowd and a Good Show.

From Our Special Correspondent.

GREAT BARRINGTON, Thursday, September 25.

On the second day of the Housatonic fair the display of horses and colts has been very creditable, many of the best horses in the southern part of the county being on the ground. Good judges estimated the crowd at 15,000. Shethield carried off the boners in the various departments of fruits. Charles Spurr, Zacheas Candee, J. N. Warner. Dwight Andrus, Dwight Boardman and H. Clark all making fine displays of fall and winter apples, while in peaches, plums, pears and grapes R. F. Little, H. Z. Candy, Charles Spurr and Z. Candy received premiums. The potato exhibit is not up to the past, for the crop is poor in this section, but there are about a dozen varieties entered. John J. Hart of New Marlboro displayed the most beautiful specimens of the "Pride of Milford" ever seen on the grounds, weighing two pounds each. In the vegetable department Fred Dellert of Great Barrington, among many other varieties, made an excellent showing of celery and tomatoes. The exhibition of farming tools exceeds that of last year. The visiting delegate from the board of agriculture, Avery P. Slade of Somerset, states that the display of cattle was the best he ever saw at a county fair. To-morrow will be devoted to the exercises in the hall and the award of premiums. George B. Loring will deliver the addresses at 9,30 a. m., on "The Purposes of American Agriculture." The day will conclude with the trial of speed in the open-to all, 3-minute and 2.50 cases. In this afternoon's trial of driving horses the entries were: J. W. Smith of Otis, "Ethan" and matB. Brusie of Great Barrington, "Gold Corn" and mate; W. S. Barnum of Great Barrington, "Doctor" and Mate. Smith received first premium of \$30, Brusie the second of \$20, and Barnum \$10. Time, 2.55. In the 2.35 class were entered: W. H. Gross, "Lady Sealskin"; H. C. Phelps, "Frank Gilman"; J. J. Webster, "Volunteer Wilkes." "Volunteer Wilkes" won, the best time being 2.37. W. H. Palmer's stallion from Alford took the first premium for stallions.

⁶ The Springfield *Daily Republican* (September 26, 1884); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).

Premiums: Five acres winter rye, Frederick Abbey; three acres rye, W. M. Chapin of Sheffield; five acres oats, T. S. Baldwin of Egremont; three acres oats, B. W. Crissey; one acre oats, William J. Warner; three acres multi gated grass, Mrs F. M. Clark of Stockbridge; five acres grass, George F. Wooden of Saudisfield; vegetable gardens, W. H. Gibbons, H. Z. Candy and Dwight Andrus of Sheffield; five acres of corn, J. H. Van Deusen; three acres of corn, W. G. Walker; buckwheat, George A. Stickle of West Stockbridge; acre of potatoes, F. K. Hinckley of Lee and H. L. Rowe of Egremont; mangel wurzels, P. M. Shaylor of Lee; carrots, Oscar Hall; turnips, George M. Gibson of New Marlboro; cabbages, L. Snyder; best variety of garden vegetables, William H. Gibbons; horticultural display, H. Z. Candy of Sheffield; half-bushel potatoes, J. M. Benjamin of Sheffield; 25 pounds cheese, Mrs O. W. Cone of Sandisfield; 100 pounds factory cheese, Joseph F. Lawton of the South Berkshire factory; fall apples and best variety of fruits, Charles Spurr of Sheffield; winter apples, Dwight Boardman of Sheffield; peaches, R. H. Bradford of Egremont; pears, H. Z. Candy and R. F. Little of Sheffield; plums, Zacheas Candee; quinces, R. H. Race; cranberries, E. B. Cross of Egremont; open-air grapes, Charles Spurr of Sheffield and Mrs J. H. Coffing; two-year-old steers, F. K. Hinckley of Lee; yearling steers, Frederick Abbey; grade yearling heifer, W. W. French; two-year-old heifer, Mrs. J. H. Coffing; heifer calf, F. Abbey and Jared Lewis; matched calves, F. Abbey; Ayrshire bull and two-year-old heifer, T. L. Foote of Lee, also for specimens of the stock; cow and calf, William J. Walker; Guernsey stock, best bull, James Rowley of Egremont; bull, bull calf and specimens of the stock, L. V. N. Blakeman of Egremont; yearling Angus heifer, H. A. Tobey; long-will buck, three yearling ewes and three lambs, O. H. Monson of Monterey; South Down buck, Hiram Dings of Alford; three ewes and three yearling ewes, J. A. Kline of Egremont; flock of 10, Samuel Newell; three grade ewes, Martin Brown of Egremont; three grade yearling ewes and flock, J. E. Turner; three grade lambs, H. L. Rowe of Egremont; three fat sheep, Pratt Tobey.

*BERKSHIRE COUNTY.*⁷

Great Barrington.

THE FAMOUS \$100,000 LEAVITT BARN BURNED.

The big barn on the farm of Harry A. Leavitt at Great Barrington, was burned last evening. The cause of the fire is unknown and is supposed to be accidental, since no motive for incendiarism can be alleged. The building was entirely destroyed. The livestock was saved, but most of the other contents, hay, grain, farming tools, machines and the like were burned. The insurance is not known. The barn was a remarkable collection of buildings, including stables, quarters for common and fancy stock, grist-mill, saw-mill and carriage-houses. Although built in 1852, it was always called the biggest and best-equipped barn in the State. Its builder was David Leavitt, grandfather of Harry A. Leavitt, and he spent \$100,000 on it. The Leavitt place, a short distance south of the village, has for many years been the summer home of the family, originally New Yorkers.

⁷ The Springfield *Daily Republican* (July 8, 1885); Transcribed by Daniel Kleven (2023).