
SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY Quarterly

Volume 20 Issue 1

Spring 2013

John Case of the Fourth Generation in Simsbury Part 1: In the Mid-1700s, a Young Man Begins an Account Book

When he started making entries in his first ledger in 1739, John Case was a twenty year old bachelor. Beginning his own account book signaled that he was striking out on his own and that his earnings would no longer be recorded as part of the accounts of his father, John Case Sr. Whether or not he was also establishing a separate domicile is a matter for conjecture. The law at that time frowned upon single men living alone and specified a fine of twenty shillings a week for living outside his parental home unless, of course, he was someone's apprentice or servant. The law *did* allow a single man to set up his own household if he was a public official and/or had a servant, and if he had the permission of the admitted inhabitants of his town.¹

John Case met the first qualification when he was appointed to the first of his many town offices at the Simsbury annual town meeting on December 9, 1739. He was selected, along with Capt. James Cornish, Joseph Phelps Jr., and Isaac Dewey, to be a lister. Similar to today's assessor, a lister determined the value of all taxable property owned by each household in his assigned area. He turned his list over to the rate collectors who collected the rates, that is, the taxes. One collected the town rates and one the colony rates.

Significantly, John Case's forty-five-year-old father was perennially one of Simsbury's five selectmen and often the moderator who conducted the town meetings. He served as one of several haywards, the officials who inspected all grains that were to be sold and certified them as being of acceptable quality.² He also was one of four or five pound keepers, officials who impounded stray livestock and horses with no identifying earmark or brand when they were found wandering about the town. A pound keeper cared for the animals until they were either claimed and redeemed or declared abandoned. At times the older John Case was a surveyor of highways, an official that made sure that the cart paths in his area were kept free of brush and other obstacles, and he served on numerous special committees.

Earlier in 1739 the younger John Case had made his first purchase of land. According to the deed recorded on March 23, John Case Jr. bought from Stephen Terry Jr. property in the Terry's Plain section of Simsbury that was bounded by the highway, land owned by his father, land owned by Jonathan Buttolph and

About the 18th Century Simsbury Account Book Series

A series of occasional articles on 18th century Simsbury account books began in the Winter 1998/99 issue of this Simsbury Free Library's quarterly publication. Thomas W. Sharpless, Pricilla G. Bergethon, Robert B. McComb and Mary Jane Springman contributed articles to the series until the Fall/Winter 2004/05 issue. At that time, the John Case account book was deemed too fragile to be handled. Now, thanks to digital photography, all the pages in the book have been photographed. Author Springman is most grateful to the Simsbury Historical Society for allowing her to do this. After the publication of the second part of this article, the photographs will be available on disks at the historical society and the library, along with an index of John Case's patrons.

The other account books that were analyzed were those kept by Noah A. Phelps, David Phelps, Elisha Cornish, John Owen, Goodwin & Bigelow, Isaac Ensign, William and Eliphalet Mitchelson, The Terry Family, Simeon Higley and Ephraim Howard. Back issues of the Quarterly are available at the library. The account books themselves are preserved in the archives of the Simsbury Historical Society, Salmon Brook Historical Society, Connecticut Historical Society and the Connecticut State Library.

land owned by Stephen Jr. and Solomon Terry. He paid "fifty-four shillings" (amounting to £2.14.0) for "Forty Two Rods of Land."³ The roughly pie-shaped lot he bought was about a quarter of an acre and a great deal less land than his father recorded the same day, a purchase of land from Timothy Woodbridge for £400. Through inheritance, grants from the town, and purchase, John Case Sr. was by then one of the largest landowners in Simsbury.

Inside the back cover of his new account book the younger John Case wrote, "December 17th 1739 came dudly Case to work for me." Dudley Case was his sixteen-year-old first cousin.⁴ So, at the age of twenty, John Case held a town office, owned a bit of land and had an employee. He also recorded in his account book a respectable income that came from a variety of enterprises.

The enterprise that generated the most entries in his ledger was his shoe business. Over the years he made and mended hundreds of shoes. Hand and hand with that, he soon established a tanning business and then began producing leather goods and equipment, as ordered by his customers for themselves and their animals. When he became a constable, he began collecting the town rates and charging for serving legal papers. Farm products like wheat, rye and apple cider brought in income, as well as carting goods for people and charging them for the use of his pasture land, his horse, his oxen and many other things. He seems to have ventured into shop keeping in a small way, too, buying and selling some imported items like fabrics.

Also, like all males over sixteen, Case trained with the local militia. He advanced in rank throughout the years until in 1762 the Connecticut General Court made him "Captain of the 3rd company or trainband in Symsbury in the 1st regiment of this colony."⁵ He retained the title of Captain for the rest of his life. Moreover, he was Simsbury's representative to the General Court, later called the General Assembly, in seven of its May and October sessions between 1761 and 1769. But that was well in the future for the young man who began to record his business dealings in 1739.

Like all businessmen in colonial Connecticut in the mid-1700s, John Case engaged in "money barter." That is, he wrote in his account book in pounds sterling, shillings and pence the cash value of all the goods and services he provided to customers whose credit was good. When his customers provided him with goods and services, he credited them with cash value of those.⁶ His ledger does not contain all his business dealing, however. He certainly had many transactions that were true barter, things of equal value that were swapped on the spot without need to record them.

Because coins and paper money were in short supply—a situation engendered by the British government to inhibit trade in the colonies—Case could not expect to be paid in cash, although he does record some cash payments. Whenever it was time to settle accounts, he and his customer compared the records each had written in his own book and came to an agreement about whether or not one owed the other a sum to make the books balance. The goods and services that changed hands afford a look at what life was like in this corner of New England in the mid-1700s.

Shoemaker and Prospective Tanner

Young John Case was a shoemaker or, in the terminology of the day, a cordwainer. He must have served an apprenticeship, but who his master was is not recorded. There are indications that others in the Case family followed that trade. His great-grandfather John Case's estate inventory in 1704 included "Coblers lot with the 12 acres upland adjacent £06 00 00."⁷ The young John Case paid his younger cousin Jonathan Case Jr. in 1745 for making forty pairs of shoes, plus a single shoe.⁸ His younger cousin Zaccheus Case in 1751 produced seventeen pairs of shoes for which Case paid him eight shillings per pair.⁹ He also paid him for "closing a shoe," that is, stitching together the vamp and quarters, the upper parts of a shoe.

In the first few months, most of John Case's business came from making and mending shoes. Those are the two good four-letter Anglo-Saxon words he always used, make and mend. He never used the French-

derived word "repair."

It is interesting to discover from his accounts that, in his time, pieces of leather for various parts of shoes were regularly traded as commodities. If John Case didn't have on hand the proper sole leather or upper leather to make a pair of shoes for a customer, he could go to a number of people in town and buy what he needed. Sometimes the customer provided the leather that he wished to have used for the uppers or soles of his shoes, or both. The leather in question might be a hide or skin from the customer's ox, cow or calf earlier tanned by Case himself. Even the thread used to stitch together the shoe was a separate item for which he added an additional charge if it wasn't supplied. For example, in 1739 John Hill Jr. paid six pence for "shoe thrid for a pair of shoes" and six shillings, six pence for having the shoes made. At that low price, Hill probably provided the needed leather.¹⁰ That same year Joseph Smith had to pay seventeen shillings for his shoes, presumably a pair for which Case provided all the materials.

It was the shoemaker's job to make the last, the wooden form the size of the customer's larger foot upon which the upper portion of the shoe was fitted. It was similar in function to a dressmaker's dummy. Case probably kept a collection of the lasts that he made for each customer. Case made straight lasts; it wasn't until much later that shoes were made to fit either the left or right foot.¹¹ A careful person put his shoes on the opposite foot each morning so that they would wear evenly.

Shoemakers used thread of differing thicknesses in the making of shoes. The heavier thread might be hemp, but the finer thread was linen. Households produced most of the textiles they used so, in addition to keeping sheep for wool, most farms in Simsbury grew a field of flax. It was a lovely sight each spring when the blue blossoms opened. In later years, Case recorded many debits and credits having to do with flax seed, harvesting and processing.

Case also kept a bee hive, shown by his charging his brother Noah £1.0.0 for a "half swarm of bees." In addition to the benefit of having bees to pollinate his crops, provide honey for sweetening, and wax for candles and for barter, he needed wax for shoemaking. Shoemakers coated their thread with it to waterproof the holes they punched into the leather with curved and straight awls. These punched holes made it possible to stitch together several heavy layers. Case kept swine, too. He would have spun a boar's bristle onto each end of his thread to use as a needle and would have coated the bristle with wax.

When a customer brought him shoes with worn-out soles or heels, Case replaced them. He would also add taps, pieces of leather, to the part of a sole or heel that was beginning to show wear. (These should not be confused with the metal taps that came into use much later to prevent wear.) He put caps over the toes of shoes, too. At times he charged people for upper leather with which he or another shoemaker would fashion the top part of a shoe. An entry in 1753 mentions just the vamp, or the portion of the shoe that covers the foot from the toe to the instep.

The standard shoe in his day for both men and women had a high vamp that was crossed by a strap and closed with a buckle. Only a few buckles are mentioned in his records; in 1746 Jonathan Buttolph paid Case ten shillings for a pair of shoe buckles. Presumably old buckles were reused on new shoes. Most of the hundreds of shoes that he made and mended over the course of the twenty-five years recorded in his first ledger were probably this type of buckled shoe, but Case simply calls them "shoes." However, he carefully recorded when he made other types of footwear.

Boots are notable for the lack of them in his records. Of his more than 260 customers, just ten of them brought him boots to be mended or resoled. Another needed garters for his. Only two men bought boots from Case. In 1750, probably in exchange for medical services, Isaac Goff needed boots for Doctor Isaac Phelps of Windsor, so he paid Case £6.0.0 for a pair. In 1754 John Christian Miller Jr. bought boots for himself for £8.00. A person could buy five or six pairs of shoes for the price of a pair of boots.

In the early days of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, boots were one of the items of apparel regulated by sumptuary laws. Like silks and laces, the wearing of boots was restricted to the wealthy. By the mid-1700s in the Connecticut Colony, it was mostly military men and those who regularly rode horses who needed the protection that boots afforded. James Fenimore Cooper was historically accurate in his *Leather Stocking Tales* when he dressed his hero of the French and Indian War, Natty Bumppo, in a buckskin outfit complete with leather leggings and moccasins. Between 1741 and 1763, John Case recorded making and mending lots of moccasins for men and boys in Simsbury.

Stitchdowns were another type of shoe that the men and boys bought from him. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, a stitchdown is a shoe "on which the lower edge of the upper is turned outward and stitched on to the sole." The stitching would be visible on the outside of the shoe and would seem to be easier to make because he charged less for them than for the standard shoe. He made fewer stitchdowns than he did standard shoes, but more than moccasins.

After the standard buckled shoes, pumps were in most demand. These were the low cut, light weight dress shoes worn by young and old, men and women. Some were flat and some had raised heels. They were elegant and good for dancing. Channel pumps were ordered the most, followed by turned pumps. For the former, the seam that attached the upper leather to the sole was sunk into a channel, or groove, cut into the sole. A turned pump was stitched inside out. The stitching would then not be visible after it was turned right side out. One customer, Isaac Goff, ordered a style called "German pumps."

Beginning in the 1750s some fashionable women in town began to favor shoes with white rands. The rand is a strip of upper leather that, like the heavier welt, serves to attach with stitching the upper portion of a shoe to the sole. A journalist writing in 1823 said of this leather strip, "Fifty years ago, it was between the sole and the upper-leather, and the white rands were bestowed as a delicacy on girls' shoes."¹² Another writer was pleased to find in a 1772 painting of her grandmother on her wedding day that "white rands encircle the soles of her high-heeled pike-toed shoes."¹³ The Simsbury men who paid for women's shoes with white rands were Jonathan Case Jr., Micah Case, Hezekiah Phelps, and Andrew Robe. Other men who paid for rands that were not specified white, but may have been, were Isaac Goff, Daniel Hoskins, and Daniel Hoskins Jr.

Not all the shoes Case made had leather uppers. He jotted down on several occasions that he had made "cloath shoes." Unfortunately, he didn't record the type of fabrics he used. A few times shoes were returned by his customers and a few times they bought "old shoes." Josiah Riley paid him for "cutting 3 pare of shoes." This may mean that someone else sewed pre-cut shoes together. This finds a parallel in the fee Case paid to seamstress Widow Elizabeth Woodbridge for "one day to cut out Cloathes at my house."

John Case and his young cousins were not the only shoemakers in Simsbury. Case recorded in his account book that he paid Noah Humphrey Jr. "for making 16 [pairs of] shoes as Journeyman...£8.0.0." A journeyman is a qualified tradesman who works for others rather than running his own shop. He called

FOOT-GEAR, THOMAS CLARK, MERCER'S ROW, NORTHAMPTON				
<i>Men's</i>			<i>Bespoke</i>	
	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Best Calf-skin Boots	16	0	20	0
Double Channel Pumps	6	0	7	0
Single Channel Pumps	5	6	6	0
Neat-stitched Heels and Pumps	5	0	6	0
Neat flat Shoes and Pumps, waxed or black grain	4	3	5	0
Best flat Shoes and turned Pumps	4	9	5	6
Strong plain Double or Single sole Shoes	4	0	4	9
<i>Women's</i>				
Everlasting and Calimanco . . .	3	9	4	6
Superfine do. lined with Linen or Leather Socks	4	3	5	0
Neat and strong Leather Pumps	2	9	3	2
Neat and strong Leather Shoes .	2	6	2	10
Black Leather Clogs	—	—	2	6
Toed Clogs	—	—	3	10

Advertisement for Footwear Published in 1764 in
Northampton, England

Benoni Buttolph a journeyman when he credited him with £3.0.0 for making six pairs. Jonathan Buttolph made twenty-one pairs and mended one. Case paid Abraham Ates (or Ataes) for making a total of twenty-one pairs of shoes. Ephraim Griffin was paid £5.0.0 for making ten pairs of shoes. John Higley's account is credited with making eleven pairs of shoes. (Higley bought from Case a last, three awl blades and shoe leather.) John Barber also made Case several pairs of shoes. Barber was one of the first settlers of the outlying area that is now the town of Canton, but was then called West Simsbury. He probably found a ready market for shoes in that cluster of family farms. And he became Case's brother-in-law in 1745 when Case married his sister Sarah.¹⁴

By Mary Jane Springman

The next installment of "John Case of the Fourth Generation in Simsbury" will tell of his tanning operation, including the many types of animal hides and skins he tanned and curried, and of his other enterprises. Special attention will be given to customers whose credits in the account book reveal their trade, such as blacksmith, cooper, spinster or weaver.

Notes

1. *The Code of 1650, Being a Compilation of the Earliest Laws and Orders of the General Court of Connecticut...* (Hartford: Andrus & Judd, 1833), 65.
2. Bruce C. Daniels, *The Connecticut Town: Growth and Development, 1635-1790* (Wesleyan University: Middletown, CT, 1979), 74.
3. Simsbury Land Records, 6:443. Found in the Simsbury Town Clerk's office and on microfilm at the Connecticut State Library.
4. John Case never made another notation concerning his cousin, but Dudley Case may have continued in his employ until Dudley married Dorcas Humphrey on April 14, 1743. That couple settled in West Simsbury, now Canton. See Ruth Duncan, comp., *John Case and his Descendants* (Simsbury: Simsbury Free Library, 2000), 20.
5. *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 12:10.
6. John Case obviously knew of the accounting practice of putting debits on the left and credits on the right of a double-page spread, but he was not always careful to do this. Also, probably because paper was so expensive, he filled in pages that began with earlier accounts, but had blank spaces, with later accounts, so his records are not entirely chronological. He recorded some transactions on loose slips of paper, to which he makes reference and a few of which are still tucked between the pages his account book.
7. Probate records for John Case, the first through the fifth generation, are available on microfilm at the Connecticut State Library, History and Genealogy Unit.
8. Jonathan Case Jr. (1723-1805) was the son of his father's brother Capt. Jonathan Case and Mary Beamon.
9. Zaccheus Case (1728-1812) was the son of his father's brother Sergt. Daniel Case and Penelope Buttolph.
10. Entries in the ledger kept by a Suffield shoemaker show that his customers, too, sometimes provided him with leather when having their shoes made. See page six in "Account Book of Elijah Sheldon, 1771-85, and his son, Martin Sheldon, 1785-98," which is preserved in the Kent Memorial Library in Suffield.
11. The article "The 'Mysterie' of a Cordwainer" by D.A. Saguto has an in-depth explanation of how buckled shoes were made in the 18th century. A reader of that article recalled, "When I was a very young man in the U.S. Cavalry, they decided, as an economy measure, to use up old stores and we were issued boots, dating back before the turn of the [20th] century. They were black with a fairly square toe and were made to fit either the left or the right foot. The instructions with the boot told us to stand in pails of water or in a stream until the boots were thoroughly wet. Then we were to walk in them and they would take the shape of the foot." See pages 117-129 in *Selections from the Chronicle: The Fascinating World of Early Tools & Trades*, edited by Emil and Martyl Pollak for the Early American Industries Association (Mendham, New Jersey: The Astragal Press, 1991).
12. *The British Critic: A New Review* (London: Printed for F. and C. Rivington, 1823), 21:604. Google Books
13. Bathsheba H. Morse Crane, *Life, Letters, and Wayside Gleanings* (Boston: James H. Earle, Publisher: 1880), 27. Google Books
14. Donald S. Barber, *The Connecticut Barbers: A Genealogy of the Descendants of Thomas Barber of Windsor, Conn.*, (Middlefield, CT: D. S. Barber, 1992), 12, 27.

The illustration on page four is taken from *The Victorian History of Counties of England*, William Page, editor (London: Archibald Constable & Company, Limited, 1906) 2:323. Google Books

The First John Case in Simsbury

Three generations of men named John Case had left their mark on Simsbury before the young man of that name featured in the preceding article began his account book. The first John Case to live in the Colony of Connecticut emigrated sometime before 1658 from England to Windsor.¹ He married Sarah Spencer of Hartford and they had five children in Windsor and five more after moving to Massaco, as the frontier area west of Windsor was called. By 1669 the Case family was situated there, along with about twenty other families who had settled on grants of land on both sides of the Farmington River. These first settlers, and others who came in the next few years, were recognized by the colonial government as the company of proprietors.

When Massaco plantation qualified as a permanent settlement, the General Court appointed John Case to be its first government official—its constable. This was in October 1669. Under the Code of Laws of 1650, being the constable required him to apprehend all miscreants and bring them for trial before a magistrate. The code identified as wrongdoers not only murderers, robbers, thieves and the like, but also Sabbath breakers, profane swearers, liars, night walkers, runaway servants and so forth. At that early time, a constable could summon juries and was required to collect the rates (taxes) levied by the colony.²

The next spring the settlers sent John Case and Joshua Holcomb to the May session of the General Court to petition for full recognition as a town to be named Simsbury. The legislature ruled in their favor and set the 1670 boundaries of the town. Beginning at the west boundary of Windsor, the town stretched ten miles to the west. From the boundary with Farmington (now the Avon boundary) it stretched ten miles to the north. Therefore, colonial Simsbury included today's Simsbury and the present towns of Granby, East Granby, Canton and northern Bloomfield. John Case and his fellow proprietors were eligible to receive grants throughout this area as long as they or members of family settled on them or improved them within a given time.

All was well until the outbreak of King Philip's War in 1675. In the spring of 1676, the residents of Simsbury, which by then had about forty houses, were warned of extreme danger from the warring Indian tribes and they retreated to the relative safety of Windsor. On Sunday, March 26, all the houses in the town, along with barns, fences and other improvements, were burned; by which tribe has never been determined.³ Simsbury was the only town in the Connecticut Colony that was totally destroyed.

Within a few years, most of the original settlers returned to rebuild and John Case was one of the prime movers of the resettlement. The Case family house was in West Weatogue.⁴ Throughout his remaining years, Mr. Case served the town in many capacities. He was on the five-man committee vested with the power to reconstruct the town records that had been lost when they were accidentally burned sometime between June 1680 and October 1681. His fellow townspeople sent him to represent them in the General Court numerous times. According to Simsbury historian Lucius I. Barber, they entrusted into his keeping the deed of town lands from the Indians and elected him to many town offices.

John Case died February 21, 1703/04. In his study of eighteenth-century Connecticut Colony probate records, historian Bruce C. Daniels found that Case's estate of £562 put him in the "Prosperous" category, below "Wealthy," but above "Middle" and "Poor."⁵ His wealth, service to the community and status as a proprietor of the town of Simsbury would benefit his descendants into the fourth generation of his family and beyond.

Like the first John Case, succeeding generations received grants of land. For example, in 1723 when the heirs of the original proprietors and the admitted inhabitants of the town divided among themselves 22,623 acres of common land, John Case's son and namesake, John, was one of ten men who were given 300 acres, the largest grants awarded. His other sons received no fewer than 266 acres and his adult

A Fishing Venture

In colonial times, abundant salmon and shad swam up the Farmington River each spring to spawn and the General Court carefully regulated the building of dams, mills, weirs and anything that might impede the fishes' passage. In May 1744 John Case decided to try his luck at fishing for profit.

Joseph Fowler bought sixty-three shad from him that month, Joseph Smith bought twenty, Joseph Humphrey bought ten and Jonathan Barber six. Noah Pettibone only wanted five shad, but he purchased the largest salmon that Case had for sale, a 10½ pounder. Barber, Humphrey and Joseph Alderman also bought a salmon each. Case charged Pettibone seven shillings for the salmon, and for the shad he charged between five and nine pence each. Apparently he cleaned some of the fish, but not others. He also must have salted or smoked some because in September Joseph Fowler bought another nine shad from him and in December Nathaniel Bacon bought twenty-four.

Case paid Joseph Alderman, who lived near the river in the Turkey Hills section of Simsbury (now East Granby), for helping him with fishing and for some salmon. Altogether Alderman earned seven shillings and two pence. After that one fishing venture, Case turned to other pursuits to increase his income.

Speaking of wild game, his accounts say nothing about his selling pigeons, but in 1643 he sold a "pigeon net" to blacksmith Serajah Stratton for ten shillings. The flocks of now-extinct passenger pigeons sometimes darkened the sky in his time. Also, John Higley paid him ten shillings in 1747 for "one day to look for venison."



Simsbury Free Library Board of Trustees

James P. Flynn
Chairman

Tara D. Willerup
Vice-Chairman

Paul F. McAlenney
Secretary

Martin Geitz
Treasurer

Richard Schoenhardt

Mary Jane Springman

Arthur House

Thomas J. Donohue

Melissa McKeen

Richard D. Wagner Jr.

grandsons received no fewer than 100 acres. His heirs benefited from later apportionments, too. Also like him, his descendants served the town in public office and helped to settle outlying areas of Simsbury that later became separate towns.

By Mary Jane Springman

Notes

1. The genealogy *John Case and his Descendants*, compiled by Ruth Duncan and revised by her in 2000 (Simsbury: Simsbury Free Library, 2000), says on page one that John Case was born in Aylesham, England. The "Case Family Ancestral History" published in the *Encyclopedia of Connecticut Biography* (Boston: American Historical Society, 1919) 4:264, says that he is believed to be the John Case who came on the ship *Dorset* from Gravesend, England, in September 1635.
2. For online access to the 1650 Code of Laws, go to Volume 1 of the *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, pages 509-563, at <http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu>.
3. In his book *History of My Own Times*, Simsbury native Rev. Daniel Barber (1756-1834) published a much-quoted account of the burning of Simsbury as he heard it from adult children of the settlers who lost their homes.
4. In her 1936 study "A Record of Some of the Old Homes of Simsbury," Abigail Eno Ellsworth reported on page 290, "The home of John Case Sr., one of the earliest settlers, was in West Weatogue on the east side of the present highway between Still Brook and Russell's Brook (Wolf Pit Brook). This is now the property of Mrs. E. M. Dickenson."
5. Bruce C. Daniels, "Probate Inventories as a Source of Economic History in 18th Century Connecticut" in *The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin*, vol. 37, No. 1, January 1972, p. 3. Simsbury resident John Higley's estate, probated in 1714, was £605 but still in the "Prosperous" category. Jonathan Westover's estate, probated in 1748 and valued at £1,278, was also "Prosperous" for his time period. Historian Daniels' study was a sampling and did not include all estates probated in the 1700s.

Upcoming Programs at the Simsbury Free Library

ART EXHIBIT AND RECEPTION—The Simsbury Arts Academy will display twenty-seven paintings from artists in Grades 4, 5 and 6 from their after-school program. The exhibit will be on display during regular hours from June 6 through June 13. The library will host a reception for the artists on June 6 from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. All are invited. Refreshments will be served.

DROP-IN BOOK CLUB—June 11 at 11:15 a.m., *Rules of Civility* by Amor Towles

DOCUMENTARIES

Sweetgrass—June 25 at 1:00 p.m. and June 27 at 11:15 a.m. This 2009 documentary captures the stark beauty and danger of the Western landscape as modern-day shepherds on horseback herd their sheep through Montana on the long trek into the Beartooth Mountains.

Gasland—July 23 at 1:00 p.m. and July 25 at 11:15 a.m. This Academy Award nominee for best Documentary explores the practice of hydraulic fracturing—or fracking—for natural gas and its effect on the environment. From the Dallas Morning News: “An exhaustive and eye-opening look at natural-gas drilling and its potential dangers.”

FIRST CLASS

SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY
Simsbury Genealogical and Historical Research Library
749 Hopmeadow Street • P.O. Box 484
Simsbury, CT 06070
860 408-1336 E-mail: info@simsburyfreelibrary.org
Web site: www.simsburyfreelibrary.org
Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Second & Fourth Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
And by appointment Closed major holidays.
Mary Jane Springman, Editor, SFL Quarterly

