



City of Methuen

Office of the Mayor

41 Pleasant Street, Suite 306 • Methuen, Massachusetts 01844
TELEPHONE (978) 983-8505 • FAX (978) 983-8973

William M. Manzi, III
Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 28, 2009

CONTACT:
Matt Kraunelis
978-983-8508

POET'S GRANDDAUGHTER VIEWS RARE ROBERT FROST ITEM FOR THE FIRST TIME
Frost's 1893 Methuen Attendance Register is viewed by his granddaughter, Lesley



Before giving a presentation to teachers at the Lawrence Library on October 23rd, Dr. Lesley Lee Francis stopped to have tea with Matthew A. Kraunelis, Mayor William Manzi's Chief of Staff and a co-founder of both the Robert Frost Foundation and the Grey Court Poets. The two spent time reviewing the only remaining evidence of Frost's brief time as a Methuen teacher, his 1893 attendance register. The register was recently discovered in Methuen and rescued from imminent flood damage. See:

http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_314015433.html/resources_printstory

Dr. Francis was pleased to see the book which contains not only the handwriting of her famous grandfather, but also the writing of her great-grandmother, Isabelle Moody Frost, Robert Frost's mother who was also a Methuen teacher. Dr. Francis remarked that she had never seen the document before and later mentioned the register in her talk for area teachers.

Since discovering the register, the Manzi Administration has made an effort to restore and preserve it. The city has had the document studied by preservation experts at the Northeast Document Conservation Center and has applied for a restoration grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A special fund was also set up at the Methuen Historical Society and they are currently accepting donations that will be used to restore and protect the document.

Photos of Dr. Francis with the register will be use in an exhibit regarding Frost's time in Methuen once the register is fully preserved.

Lesley Lee Francis is the granddaughter of Robert Frost. Having retired from the professional staff of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) in Washington, D.C., she continues teaching and writing. Currently she lives in Arlington, VA; her three daughters and six grandchildren live nearby. Dr. Francis received her A.B. degree from Radcliffe College and her Ph.D. in Romance Languages from Duke University. She became a professor of Spanish language, literature, and history at a number of colleges and universities and ran a summer program in Spain. She has lectured and published extensively on her grandfather.

Anyone wishing to donate to restoration project may send a check made payable to Methuen Historical Society – Frost Account c/o the Mayor's Office, 41 Pleasant Street, Suite 306, Methuen, MA 01844.

###