



- *Scholars have written about civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois.*
- *An award-winning biographer has written about W.E.B. Du Bois.*
- *W.E.B. Du Bois himself has written three autobiographies.*
- *Now a local historian has written about native son W.E.B. Du Bois — and included all the good stuff the others left out!*

DR. DU BOIS REBUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE

reveals a man's adoration of his home town.

DR. DU BOIS REBUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE

describes his frustrating attempt to restore his grandfather's house in Great Barrington.

DR. DU BOIS REBUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE

probes the community's love-hate affair with its most famous son over the past century-plus.

Freedom activist **William Edward Burghardt Du Bois** (1868-1963) romped with neighborhood children, swam in the Housatonic River, excelled in school, performed odd jobs, attended town meetings, kept time at a construction site, reported news for out-of-town papers and began to take social and political notice in Great Barrington. A thoroughly annotated local history, **DR. DU BOIS REBUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE** examines the bustling 1880s Main Street environs of Du Bois's teenage years, with emphasis on prominent men who, in the absence of a father, were role models.

Du Bois in the late 1920s attempted to salvage his grandparents' rural homestead—a 60th birthday gift from friends at the NAACP—for a summer retreat. Correspondence in the archive at the University of Massachusetts reveals his negotiations with a distinguished architect, his pleas to his pipe-smoking locem tenens to pay invoices for roof shingles.

Great Barrington admired Du Bois in his day. But as he became a more political figure, he became estranged from townfolk. Opposition to a memorial park surfaced in 1968—and

lingered in 2005 when the regional school committee refused to name a new elementary building in Great Barrington for Du Bois. That decision stoked embers to flame. Voters appropriately acknowledged their famous native son's remarkable achievements with commemorative signs at highway entrances to town.

In the spirit of Eric Hodgins' *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*, this book follows Du Bois's frustrating efforts to refurbish a tumbling old house. With never-before-tapped resources from Du Bois's own papers, along with decades-old newspaper anecdotes and recent interviews, author Bernard A. Drew crafts an unusually personal portrait of the American who has twice appeared on commemorative postage stamps. Drew writes Berkshire history and popular literature reference books. He has contributed to *The Berkshire Eagle's* "Our Berkshires" column for a decade. He is a member of the Great Barrington Historical Society's board of directors and is past president of the Berkshire Historical Society.

- **DR. DU BOIS REBUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE** • 128 pages, 6x9-inch paperbound, photos, drawings, index. • ISBN 0-941583-30-9 • \$17.50

Companion volume: IF THEY CLOSE THE DOOR ON YOU, GO IN THE WINDOW: ORIGINS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SHEFFIELD, GREAT BARRINGTON & STOCKBRIDGE

offers fresh archival research enhanced with anecdotal newspaper articles and interviews, to create a rich tapestry of how the African American community in southwestern Massachusetts escaped the bonds of slavery and thrived over two and a half centuries. Author Bernard A. Drew researched this book with the support of a Bay State Historical League grant to the Sheffield Historical Society and The Trustees of Reservations. The research inspired the summer 2006 exhibit at the Old Stone Store in Sheffield.

- **IF THEY CLOSE THE DOOR ON YOU, GO IN THE WINDOW** • 128 pages, 6x9-inch paperbound, bibliography, index. • ISBN 0-941583-29-5 • \$15

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