

Poem for Adele

SORT OF A POEM FOR
ADELE ROBERTSON, B.1901

One thing I like about Kitty Robertson
is she always looks as though she has come fresh
from some exhilarating tussle
with the weather – a blizzard,
or an hour under the big hot marsh sky
with the greenheads.

I see her, mostly,
standing in front of the post office
so I associate her with the trees there
when they are in bloom. She
always seems in bloom.
On the radio
her voice of amused indignation breaks
into a startling crackle, like somebody
stepping on a strawberry box. In print
she gets better and better; more
and more herself.
Town conscience and rememberer,
she tells us where we live.

She tells us
to cheer us up and shape us up but mostly (I
feel) she wants us to enjoy the same
direct and if necessary contentious contact
With reality she enjoys.

The Bible
suggests that three score and ten
is correct allocation but in Kitty's case
it clearly isn't nearly enough.

--John Updike

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Participating Discussion Groups

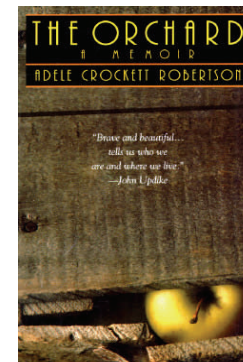
Caldwell Nursing Home & Oak Hill Elderly Housing	March 29
High School/Middle School Book Group	April 11
Cable Gardens Elders	April 12
General Discussion in Library	April 14
Sisters of Notre Dame	April 14
Cape Ann Literary Guild Book Club	April 19
Ipswich Arts Cooperative	April 23
General Library Discussion	April 25
Doyon & Winthrop Schools Group	April 25
General Library Discussion	April 26
The Neck Book Club	April 27
Elizabeth Kilcoyne Group	April 28
Ipswich Historical Society	May 2
Ipswich Public Library Book Club	April 14, 25, 26



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IPSWICH READS One book!



2005

During the month of April the Ipswich Public Library will host Ipswich's first One Book initiative. **Ipswich Reads... One Book!** is a town-wide reading and discussion program that encourages all residents to read the same book at the same time. *The Orchard: A Memoir* by Adele 'Kitty' Robertson was chosen for spring 2005.

Please join your friends and neighbors in reading the book and participating in the varied programs listed in this brochure.



The Orchard: A Memoir by Adele 'Kitty' Robertson was first published in 1995. The unfinished manuscript for this book was discovered by Kitty's daughter, Betsy Cramer, under a

pile of newspapers and newsprint after her mother's death in 1979. It tells the story of a woman's attempt to survive The Great Depression on her family's farm in Ipswich, Massachusetts. It is a beautifully written memoir filled with local color. Kitty's determination to succeed in making a living from her apple orchard carries the story forward. In this book you will meet people of all types who lived and worked in this community. Many of their children and grandchildren still live here. Much will be familiar to readers in this story, although life in suburban Ipswich today seems far removed from the more rural and insulated town of the 1930's.

We hope that **Ipswich Reads...One Book!** Will become an annual event in this community. We encourage you to enjoy the programs and activities included in this brochure, but especially to savor this quietly lyrical account of life in this town in the 1930's.

Victor Dyer
Director
Ipswich Public Library

Kick-Off Day: Saturday, April 2nd

- 🍏 Copies of *The Orchard: A Memoir* will be available for borrowing
- 🍏 Buttons will be given to people who borrow the book
- 🍏 Sign-up for the Russell Orchards Tour & library book discussions
- 🍏 Reading Lists will be available
- 🍏 Betsy Cramer will speak about her mother and the discovery of *The Orchard* manuscript at 11: 00 AM in the Collins Room

Calendar of Events in April

Farming in Ipswich: A Panel Discussion (Appleton and Marini Farms & Russell Orchards)	6	7 PM
Slide Lecture on Ipswich in the 1930's with Bill Varrell (Ipswich Historical Society)	11	7 PM
Library Book Discussion with Carla Panciera, Discussion Leader	14	11 AM
Russell Orchards Tour with Miranda Russell (Children must be accompanied by an adult)	22	10 AM
Library Book Discussion with Carla Panciera, Discussion Leader	25	2 PM
Library Book Discussion with Carla Panciera, Discussion Leader	26	7 PM
Jane Brox will discuss her writings about farm life	27	7 PM
Family Day with Special Guest Johnny Appleseed	30	11 AM

🍏🍏🍏 Please remember to pre-register for the Russell Orchards Tour & the Library Book Discussions.



Crockett Home, Argilla Road
Ipswich, Massachusetts

“Dr. Crockett was an enthusiastic farmer...He also planted an extensive apple orchard, the operation of which was sometimes a trial for the Doctor himself at first and later for most of his family. It still exists today but is no longer operating commercially.”

From *Upon the Road Argilla* by Sidney Nichols
Shurcliff (Boston: Privately Printed, 1958)