

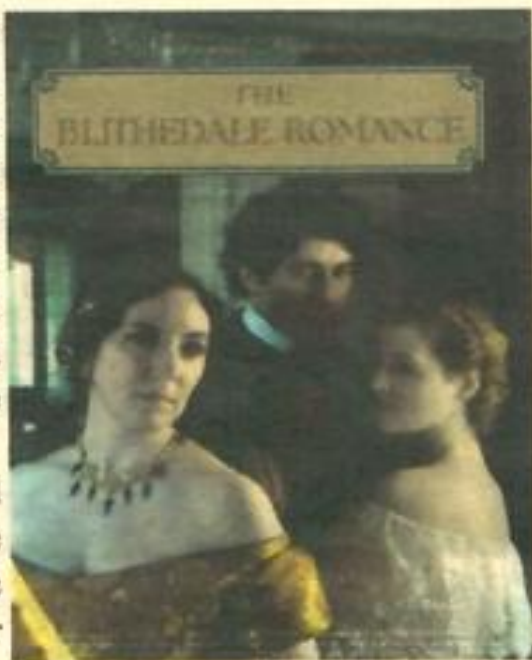
The J-L Public Library and the Walden Woman's Club
present a screening of *The Blithedale Romance*

See Film Made in Walden in Walden

The Josephine-Louise Public Library will host a very special film adaptation of the 1852 novel, *The Blithedale Romance* by American author Nathaniel Hawthorne. It is the third major "romance", as he called the form.

Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne are considered Romantic writers due to their focus on emotion, the supernatural, and human nature. They often explored themes of good versus evil and the darker aspects of the human psyche, aligning with the Romantic period's emphasis on emotion and intuition over logic.

The Blithedale Romance setting is a utopian socialist farming commune based on Brook Farm, of which Hawthorne was a founding member and where he lived in 1841. The novel dramatizes the conflict between the commune's ideals and the members' private desires and romantic rivalries. It is a novel that explores themes of community, identity, and the complexities of human relationships



Lydia Helen, Scot Cooper,
and Emily Lapisardi

through the lens of utopian ideals. The novel critiques the limitations of idealism and the often harsh realities of personal ambition and emotional turmoil.

The plot: Idealistic reformers leave the city for a rural commune, hoping to transform society. Their goals clash with farm life's realities and personal ambitions. As individualism takes over, the dream unravels,

leading to unforeseen consequences.

Director Cody Knotts filmed the adaptation in and around Walden's historical Jacob T. Walden House, using members of the Walden Historical Society as extras alongside the professional actors.

The film will be shown at the Library, 5 Scofield Street, Walden, on **December 18, 6:00pm**. Free admission. Refreshments served. Cody Knotts and guests will be available after the viewing to talk about the film and answer questions. For information, call 845-778-7621. See ad page 24.

Thursday, Dec 18th, 6 PM, Walden Municipal Building, 3rd
Floor Bradley Assembly Room