

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham  
Historical Society  
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 2016



MAY 10, 2016  
MEETING WILL  
BE HELD AT THE  
RTN FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNION  
600 Main Street, Waltham  
Begins at 7:00 pm

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EDMUND L. SANDERSON LECTURE SERIES  
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**“WALTHAM’S WATCH”**  
The  
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Documentary Motion Picture Short  
On The Golden Age of  
**Waltham’s Watch Factory**  
During the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

With it's Filmmaker

*Jonathan A. Boschen*

MAY 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7:00PM  
**WALTHAM RTN CREDIT UNION**  
- 600 MAIN STREET WALTHAM MA -



JABMS  
JONATHAN A. BOSCHEN  
MEDIA SERVICES



Please join us on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 for this informative lecture.

The lecture will follow immediately upon the completion of the Historical Society's May meeting. This event is free and open to the public and light refreshments will be available. Please plan to arrive early as seating is limited and the doors will be locked once the meeting is underway. Entrance to the lecture is at the Osborne Community Room doors located at the rear of the RTN Federal Credit Union, 600 Main Street in Waltham. All are welcome. Call 617-448-6706 with any questions.



Report on the lecture held on Thursday, April 7

## **Waltham in the Early Republic: A Time of Transition**

With Jack Cox

When George Washington was inaugurated as our nation's first president in 1789, the Town of Waltham was a small agrarian village located along the Great Country Road just nine miles west of Boston. Over the next 40 years, economic and social developments fundamentally transformed Waltham, creating a community inhabited by yeoman farmers, factory workers, small business owners, and wealthy Boston families. This presentation examined the changes that took place in Waltham from 1789 until 1825, and the reasons why these changes occurred.

This lecture was well-attended and drew questions from the audience that enlightened everyone on a period in Waltham's history that has previously been unexplored.

Jack explained the impact that the establishment of The Boston Manufacturing Company had on the city, from the purchase of 400,000 bricks to be delivered to the site.

He also discussed prominent visitors to the City and some of the political activities surrounding Governor Christopher Gore and President Madison. Visits by Vice-President Elect John Adams and George Washington also figured in the talk.

Descriptions of the landscape of the day included stone walls lining the streets and the types of architecture found in places along the Great Road.

Jack's lectures are always informative and entertaining with questions that people pose find a ready and thoughtful response. It's not a surprise why students at Waltham High School find his class one of the best offerings of the school experience.



We hope that Jack will continue to create and present lectures of such high quality. He is truly a gem when it comes to exploring this city's jewels.



***Due to a confusion on the part of the editor the following lecture was incorrectly listed in our last newsletter. Apologies to our readers.***

**Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**



### **Mill Girls of New England**

With Doug Stewart

Lyman Estate, 185 Lyman Street, Waltham, Mass.

Join Doug Stewart for an illustrated talk about the mill girls of New England. In the 1830s and 1840s, thousands of unmarried New England farm girls flocked to newly created cities like Lowell to earn money in the cotton mills. At first, the mill towns were seen as industrial utopias, where the young women wrote poetry and took piano lessons.

The reality was grimmer. Protests organized by New England's "mill girls" set the stage for both the American labor movement and the women's rights movement. Stewart is an Ipswich freelance writer who has written more than 100 feature stories for Smithsonian and National Wildlife magazines. His stories have also appeared in Time, Discover, New Scientist and American Heritage. All are welcome.



## *From the Mailbag:*



*We need volunteers to staff the Bright School location, 260 Grove Street. You can choose the days, dates and times and we will work to establish a regular schedule of openings to the public. Please contact us at Waltham. [historical.society@gmail.com](mailto:historical.society@gmail.com).*

*We are often contacted by folks seeking information about relatives, buildings, businesses, or other Waltham-related issues. Recently we received a correspondence from Nancy Skedgell as follows:*

*My great grandparents (Evans) lived in Waltham by 1888. I am trying to find information about an old professionally taken photograph I have of my grandmother (c.1915), in which she is with a group of 7 girls (possibly high school age), all holding basketballs. The initials on the front of their 'dresses' are S-W-B, with the W being a slightly larger letter. It*

*looks like a girls basketball team - it's a striking photograph!*

*Gertrude Evans was born on Aug. 10, 1890 to Thomas Evans and Isabelle Soper Evans. I know her dad had a blacksmith shop on Main Street. I estimate she would have graduated around 1908 - 1909. There is no photographer's name on the photo.*

*Evans was her maiden name (Richardson married name). I don't know exact graduation date, guessing 1919-20. No photographer's name is listed.*

*We agree! The picture is indeed striking!*

*The Board of Directors of the Waltham Historical Society wishes to express our appreciation for the support of the following for their donations. They have been very generous to the Historical Society this past year and we encourage you to thank them by patronizing the businesses and expressing thanks to the individuals. Without this type of support the Society would be unable to continue our work in the community.*

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**Martha L. Creedon and Leo P. Keightley**

*Your name can appear on this page for a full year with a donation to the Waltham Historical Society.*

**Don't miss our special July 12 lecture and month-long exhibit by Dr. Eric Reines. The subject will be the work of Dr. Alfred Worcester and will include a special exhibit to run at 260 Grove Street beginning July 1. More information will be available as we finalize details.**

### **CWRT of Greater Boston**

DBA The Civil War Round Tables of Massachusetts (est. 1957)

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