

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham
Historical Society
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 2016



NOVEMBER, 2016
MEETING WILL
BE HELD AT THE
BRIGHT SCHOOL
260 Grove Street
Waltham
Begins at 7:00 pm

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The Weathervane is the official publication
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The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series

Presents

Wedgwood in New England, 1760—1800: Highlighting the Barnes Bowl of Waltham

With Lorraine Horn and Jeremy Hagger

Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bright School, 260 Grove Street, Waltham, Mass.



Pictured is the Society's "Barnes Bowl" as it was displayed at the Wedgwood Club's 1965 exhibition at Slater's Mills in Rhode Island

Join the Waltham Historical Society for an interesting lecture on Wedgwood pottery in New England in the period of 1760-1800. Lorraine Horn and Jeremy Hagger will explain the significance of Wedgwood in local history and will showcase a piece from the Society's collection. The Barnes Bowl of Waltham will be on display and will be a topic of conversation at this interesting event. Society Board Member Jeremy Hagger has been instrumental in assisting with the Society's collection recently and has enlightened us as to the significance of various pieces of our holdings.

The lecture will be held at the offices of the Waltham Historical Society at the Bright School (2nd floor), 260 Grove Street, Waltham, MA, and attendees may also view the exhibits of the Historical Society. Light refreshments will be provided. This event is free and open to the public and will follow a brief business meeting of the Society.

This event is supported in part by a grant from the Waltham Community Foundation.
Please call 617-448-6706 or e-mail Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com with any questions.

Glass negatives in our collection



Trees and a broken fence on Trapelo Road



Hardy Pond from the east shore

Recently, through the efforts of Mr. Jeremy Hagger and Mr. John Morrison, the Society's collection of glass negatives has begun being scanned. This collection dates back to the earliest days of the Society and contains images of Waltham taken by Mr. Edmund Sanderson and cataloged by Mr. John Morrison.

The work being done records not only the images but also the identifications included on the sleeves in which the negatives have been stored. As you can see from this small sampling this City has changed over the year. As time progresses we will be adding more and editing them to display at the Society's headquarters.

The negatives must be handled very delicately and recorded on a high resolution camera using backlighting. John and Jeremy have been meticulous in their record-keeping and have provided a rich treasure trove of new and interesting images to our already large collection. Watch for notice of an upcoming special exhibit showcasing their work.



Corn stalks

Society Special Offer to Recent Purchasers of Historic Homes

Excerpt from Mort Isaacson's Driving Tour Books

Waltham Historical Society Board Member Morton S. Isaacson has been working for years in documenting some of the most important historic homes in Waltham. The samples to the right are contained in one of the five Driving Tour Guides. The titles include:

- *A Self-Guided Driving Tour of the Architectural Gems of North Waltham*
- *A Ramble Through Waltham's History on the Great Country Road*
- *The Architectural and Social History of the Lyman Street Area*
- *Manors, Parsonages, and an Outstanding Gallery of 19th and Early 20th Century Homes*
- *In the Heart of Greek Revival Waltham: The Architecture and Social History of the Church and School Streets Area of Waltham*

These publications may be purchased by sending \$25.00 for each to the Waltham Historical Society, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453.

The Historical Society is making a special offer to **New Historic Home Owners Only**. By completing this Membership Application, and sending it to us with your check for the level of membership you desire, we will double the term. For an individual membership the regular price is \$25.00 per year, but by joining through this special offer we will extend your membership for an extra year. Be sure to include this page with your mailing.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town/Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

- \$25.00 for an Individual Membership
- \$30.00 for a Family Membership
- \$150.00 or more for a Life Membership

Please complete and mail the above with your check to:

The Waltham Historical Society, Inc.
190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453



90 Church St.,
Smith-Pope House,
1830-1854, Greek
Revival

This house is an excellent example of one of the typical Greek Revival house styles found in the area. Its distinguishing characteristics include a three-bay-wide, gable-end façade with a side-hall entry, a pedimented attic, and a full entablature. The wrap-around porch with turned porch posts is probably a later replacement.

The house was built by Luke Smith sometime before 1854, and was one of the earliest houses on the street. Reverend George Simmons, who followed Reverend Ripley as the minister of the Independent Congregational Church, boarded in this house, along with some of the students who attended the Harvard preparatory school run by Reverend Ripley and his wife in their parsonage on Pleasant Street. Between 1871 and 1890 the house was the home of Daniel Pope, who ran a grocery on Main Street.

70 School St., Josiah
Beard House, 1844,
Greek Revival



The Josiah Beard House is an excellent example of the many gable-end-façade, side-hall-plan Greek Revival houses that were built in Waltham in the mid-nineteenth century. It retains many of its original features and finishes: a pedimented attic, full entablature, an unusual spade-shaped detail on the paneled corner boards, floor-length window architraves on the first floor, and an encircling portico supported by fluted Doric columns. The various ells on the south and west, the cross-gabled two story bay on the east, and the double front door are all probably later additions.

This house was apparently built in 1844 by Josiah Beard, the year Beard bought the property from Lewis Smith. At that time the lot included the whole corner lot at School and Church streets and this house was built facing Church Street. Josiah Beard reportedly invented the bottle cap; he also held a number of public offices including that of selectman, bank director, and representative to the General Court in 1862. Beard died in 1885, and the property was sold to Thomas P. Smith, a printer who lived elsewhere on School Street. In 1888 Smith moved this house around the corner to its present location on School Street and built an apartment building, the Hotel Kilby, on the corner lot. The house was then rented.





The Waltham Historical Society is Proud to Support the Waltham Garden Club's Diamond Anniversary



The officers of the Waltham Garden Club kicked off their year-long celebration of the organization's Diamond 75th anniversary at the Society on September 20th. The Society was pleased and honored to host the event in our new meeting room at the former Bright School.

Following a brief ceremony dedicating the garden outside the building the group moved indoors to conduct their official meeting.

Garden Club President Jane Gibbons gave an overview of the year ahead, and a slide presentation of the club's summer events.

The Society is proud to support the Garden Club on this special occasion!

Nominations are now open for positions on the Board of Directors of the Historical Society. See Carol DiFranco or Ron Guertin for details on how to become more involved. Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com

“Thank you” to the Waltham Historical Society for preserving the City's rich history.



As a proud member of the Waltham community for nearly 70 years, we look forward to serving the members of the Society.

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Examination of the Society's Mission and Vision for the Future

Members of the Waltham Historical Society Board of Directors have been meeting recently to examine the Society's mission and vision for the future. Led by Ron Guertin and Gary Rogers, very informative and exciting ideas have been generated to help us focus on our next initiatives.

We need volunteers to staff the Bright School location, 260 Grove Street. We would like to establish a regular schedule of Saturday morning openings to the public. Please contact us at Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com.