

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham
Historical Society

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 2016



SEPTEMBER, 2016
MEETING WILL
BE HELD AT THE
LYMAN ESTATE
185 Lyman Street
Waltham

Begins at 7:00 pm

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Term: 2015-2017

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Mill Girls of New England

With Doug Stewart

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

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. Please join us on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 for this informative lecture.

The Weathervane is the official publication of the Waltham Historical Society
190 Moody Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453
781-891-5815
www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org

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This event is cosponsored by
Historic New England and The Waltham Historical Society.

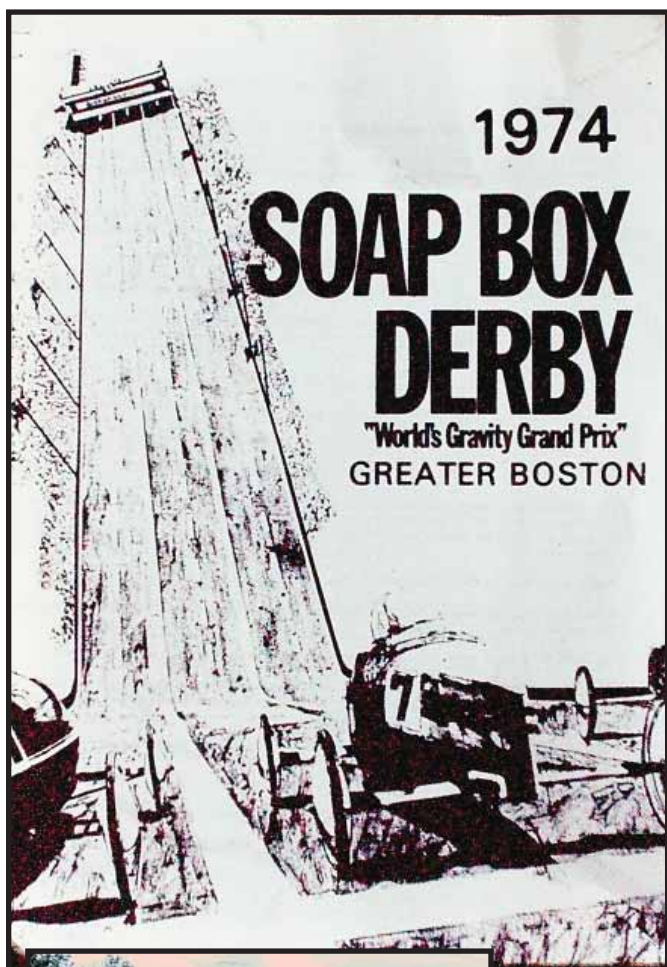
Registration is recommended

\$5 Historic New England and Waltham Historical Society members

\$10 nonmembers / Please call 617-994-5912 or buy online at

www.shop.historicnewengland.org/LYM-LECTURE-3-8614

The 1974 Soap Box Derby



Slides donated by Eve Welts

Awhile back, following a regular meeting of the Waltham Historical Society, we were approached by Eve Welts and asked if we'd be interested in a collection of slides she had. Always looking for pieces of Waltham's history we jumped at her generous offer and took possession of them immediately.

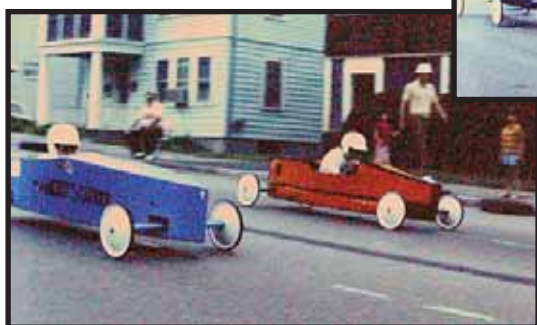
Since then we've been working to scan them to electronic format and have recently found some success.

These images show the efforts spent in making a Soap Box Derby event happen here in Waltham. Can you identify anyone in the photos? Can you identify the location of the race?

These are the types of material the Society is always seeking for our archives. It's our hope to collect these treasures before they end up discarded or otherwise lost. Please consider donating any items you may have taking up space in that closet, attic, or basement! We want to share them!



*Thank you, Eve,
for these wonderful
images*



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.

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 wraparound 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.



Historic Waltham 2016



The Waltham Historical Society was honored to hear Dr. Eric Reines present a lecture about Dr. Alfred Worcester. The event drew a full house with more than fifty attendees. We learned more about Dr. Alfred Worcester with every word spoken by Dr. Reines. The accompanying exhibit included many pieces from Dr. Reines' personal collection and holdings of the Society.



*Dr. Eric Reines and
Society President
Wayne McCarthy*

Special thanks go out to Gail Cormier, Mary Selig, and Mayor Jeannette McCarthy for assistance with design and setup of the exhibit cabinets and lecture hall and for staffing of the display throughout the month of July.

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

The officers of the Waltham Garden Club have planned a special year of meetings and events to commemorate the organization's Diamond 75th Anniversary.

The year launches on the evening of Tuesday, September 20, 2016, with a Dedication Ceremony of the Bright School Gardens designed and planted by members Noreen Cooke and Cathy Gallagher. There will be an opportunity to tour the new headquarters of the Waltham Historical Society as well as hear from its President Wayne McCarthy or Vice-President Sheila Fitzpatrick.

Garden Club President Jane Gibbons will give an overview of the year ahead, and there will be a slide presentation of the club's summer events. In a departure from its usual time, this program will begin at 6:15 PM.

Further information is available on the website at www.walthamgardenclub.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.*