

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham
Historical Society
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 2018



To commemorate
Armistice Day 1918
and the end the First
World War
Lecture on Tuesday
November 20, 2018

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The Waltham Historical Society
in collaboration with
The Waltham Museum's Jack Vallely
Presents
The War to End All Wars
And a tribute to Brad Bigham

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 20, 2018
7:00 pm
AT THE FORMER BRIGHT SCHOOL
NOW CITY ARCHIVES
260 GROVE STREET IN WALTHAM

Join us as we look back 100 years at an event billed as the War to End All Wars. Listen as the events leading to the American involvement in the war started with National Guard soldiers being sent to El Paso to guard the border with Mexico. Local men who had enlisted in the National Guard were used to protect the American border in order to allow the then limited American army to invade Mexico during their civil unrest.

Learn how these home guard were federalized and deployed to the war raging in Europe.

You will hear about the politics, the tactics, the soldiers, the weapons, and the aftermath of a war that was so terrible and brutal that people believed there would be no more.

See the faces of the Waltham men and women who served, listen to their letters home, and hear of their fates. Some lost on the field of battle, some disfigured and many suffering from "shell shock"

The evening's lecture will be dedicated to Mr. Brad Bigham, a man who spent much of his adult life pursuing the task of contacting any survivor of the war who could add to the story of what happened. Brad reached many of those men who served, including many from Waltham, who could tell their stories. His donation to the Historical Society has enabled us to put together some of the pieces of the puzzle that was World War I.

The lecture will begin immediately following a brief Society business meeting scheduled for 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will be available.

From the archives

Excerpts from the 50th Annual Report on the Waltham Baby Hospital

The Waltham Historical Society has many documents and publications that show some of our forgotten history. Among the items are annual reports from various organizations once flourishing in the City.

The following is the first in a multi-part printing taken from the 50th Annual Report of the Waltham Baby Hospital. We hope you enjoy.



759 MAIN STREET

The First Fifty Years of the Waltham Baby Hospital



At the turn of the century the sickness and mortality of babies was very high, especially during the summer months. Milk was not pasteurized, and among poor families there was no refrigeration. Conditions were pitiful, and the doctors and nurses in Waltham determined to act. Accordingly in 1900, a cottage was hired for two summer months, where nurses cared lovingly for some desperately sick babies. Lack of funds prevented the experiment from being continued, and nothing was done in 1901, but the heat that year was intense and the doctors felt more strongly than ever that lives were being lost needlessly. Hence in the year 1902 the Waltham Baby Hospital came into being, beginning to care for patients in July, buying the property at 759 Main Street in November, and also being officially incorporated that month.

The purpose of the Baby Hospital from its very beginning was a double one. It was not only to care for sick babies, but also for well babies whose parents, for some reason, were unable to do so. It has already been said that there was a tremendous amount of sickness, but there were many homes where either the mother or father was sick, dead, insane, or a deserter, and many instances also of illegitimate babies who literally had no home. The Baby Hospital cared for all who needed attention, sick or well, regardless of pay, and the amount of life-saving done in those early years is incalculable.

At first the Hospital was largely supported by private donations and the work of its Corporation members in raising money. Medical service was supplied gratuitously by the staff of the Waltham Hospital; and the students of the Waltham Training School for Nurses, working under a resident matron supervisor, furnished most of the nursing service. The latter arrangement had a two-way benefit: the Baby Hospital paid minimum rates for the services of these students, and the students received invaluable training in the care of babies.

One of the most important functions of the Hospital had to do with babies' milk. Each formula was put up with the greatest of care, and mothers came frequently to learn the methods of preparation. Often formulas were made up for babies living in their own homes. Whenever necessary, wet nurses were employed, coming sometimes to live at the Hospital for months at a time. The hygienic handling of milk was responsible for a great improvement of conditions, particularly the reduction of "summer diarrhea" which had been so prevalent.

As the years went by the number of patients treated annually was close to one hundred, several times topping that figure. Pneumonia, malnutrition, meningitis, enteritis, colic, convulsions, croup, premature babies, neglected babies, hydrocephalus babies, foundlings — it is impossible to list all the reasons for hospitalization. Parents were always glad to leave their babies in the little hospital that was so home-like, and were pathetically grateful for all that was done; there was never any restriction of visiting hours, mothers came by day and fathers in the evenings to sit with their children. Then, too, more and more families had their baby's milk prepared by the nurses and sent home; in fact one year fifty-six babies had the advantage of this service, twenty-four of whom were supplied free of charge. Naturally the expenses of the Hospital continued to be much greater than the receipts, but the Directors and members of the Corporation were very active in raising money, and entertainments for the benefit of the Hospital were held in Weston, Lincoln and Belmont, as well as in Waltham. So well known did the good work of the Hospital become that legacies began to be made in its favor, and an endowment fund was started.



FEEDING TIME IN THE WINSOR WARD
First Superintendent, Miss Annie B. Melick (in front of fireplace)

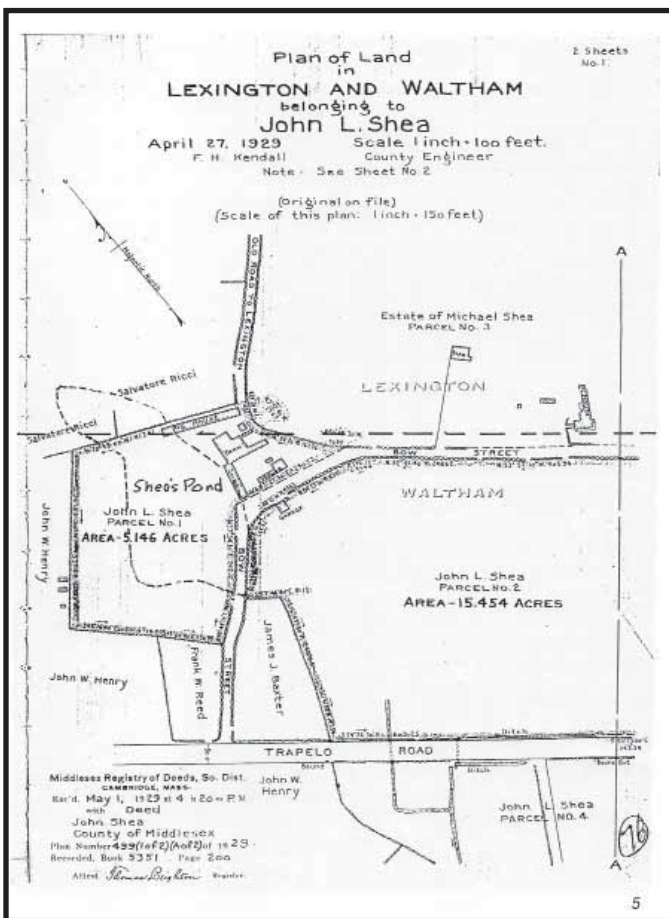
This article will be continued in next month's edition of the Weathrvane.

A contribution from our neighbors

On occasion we receive correspondence that we feel may be of interest to our membership. We recently received a bit of research conducted by a resident at Brookhaven at Lexington for their newsletter *The Voice*. Since the area in discussion covers both Waltham and Lexington we asked permission to reprint the piece in our newsletter.

We want to thank the publishers of *The Voice* as well as Howard Winkler, Registered Professional Engineer. The image referred to is below.

We are aware that in any discussion of property and history there may be discrepancies, but we welcome any and all comments, suggestions, etc.



MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW OVERDUE

We hope you have renewed your membership for 2018-2019. If you have already renewed we thank you and hope you find membership well worth the expense. If you have not renewed please do so as soon as possible to prevent interruption in your correspondences.

Forms are available on our website:

www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org



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October – November 2018

Written by and for Brookhaven Residents

Shea's Pond or What's in a Name?

Soon after our arrival at Brookhaven, Lenore and I found the beautiful Amyas Ames Nature Path. It is wide, and paved with fine gravel, so there are no roots or rocks underfoot. For a short distance along the path, there is an adjacent body of water which my fellow residents call "Green Pond."

Sometime later, when I looked at the Lexington quadrangle map that I used in preparing an article about Totten Pond Road, I thought to look for Green Pond. A pond is shown on the map, but is not named. I enlarged the map of the pond and determined that its area is 3.2 acres, and since 82% lies within Waltham, I assumed that the City of Waltham has naming rights. The Waltham Consolidated Public Works Department is on Lexington Street about three miles from Brookhaven. I drove there, and met Stew LaCrosse, the Assistant Director, and asked him for the name of the pond used in Waltham. He looked through his files, but couldn't find a name. He recommended that I speak to Wade Putnam in the Engineering Department who, he indicated, is well versed in Waltham history. Indeed, Putnam provided information and sent me The Plan of Land in Lexington and Waltham Belonging to John L. Shea, dated 1929.

Putnam, in an email, told me that lately people have been calling it the "Bow Street Pond," but this does not appear on any plans as far as is known to Engineering, and the name "Green Pond" has never been used in Waltham. He said that in Waltham the proper name of the pond is "Shea's Pond."

Shea operated a piggery. Look for the words "PIG HOUSE" under and to the right of the name "Salvatore Ricci" on the Plan on page 5. After Shea closed the piggery, he farmed his land, and created a pond to collect ground water with which to irrigate his crops. The pond drained into a pipe under Waltham Street where Starbucks is now located. At the time, it was the site of a Shell station.

I tried without success to contact the Director of Public Works in Lexington to ask their name for the pond, and next contacted the Administrator of the Lexington Conservation Commission and learned that it is not named on any Lexington maps.

Knowing that Shea's property was about five acres, calculating that his pond is about three acres, noting the location of the Lexington/Waltham boundary line (which I added to the plan), and seeing the location of Bow Street, I drew Shea's Pond (dashed lines) on the 1929 plan. It is, of course, an approximation.

If any reader of *The Voice* has any additional information on Shea's Pond, please let me know.

—Howard Winkler



A New Sponsor for our Lectures

The Waltham Historical Society is pleased to announce a new sponsor for the next six editions of the Edmund L. Sanderson lecture series.

Senior Whole Health, represented by Patrick O'Brien have stepped forward to provide sponsorship for the year's presentations. The schedule is being finalized, but includes the November 20, 2018 lecture by Jack Vallely of the Waltham Museum, and a lecture on the Ferro family at our January lecture.

Other planned lectures for the year include a lecture by Jack Cox on Recreation in Waltham over the years, a talk on the Boston Police Riot, and we hope to hear from the Girl Scout Museum and others. So stay tuned and keep an eye on our website and newsletters to be sure to catch them all.

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The Society Bright School location, 260 Grove Street will be staffed on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 PM for the summer. This will afford the opportunity for the public to visit and view some of the artifacts and documents collected by the Society over the past 100 years. If you would like to join us as a guest or as a docent, please contact us at waltham.historical.society@gmail.com.