

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham
Historical Society
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

JANUARY 2019



Lecture on
Tuesday
January 8, 2019
At the Former
Bright School

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Term: 2017-2019

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The Waltham Historical Society

Presents

Researching House Histories

With Society Board Member

MARIE DALY

7:00 pm, TUESDAY

JANUARY 8, 2019

260 GROVE STREET IN WALTHAM



Do you know who lived in your house in the past? The houses and industrial buildings of Waltham reveal the history of our community, dating as far back as the colonial era. Ranging from Georgian mansions, Queen Anne “painted ladies”, plain farmhouses, Craftsmen bungalows, and simple workers’ cottages, to even mid-century modern ranches, our city’s architectural heritage appeals to everyone. Whether our houses were built in 1750 or 1950, many of us wonder about the previous histories and occupants. Marie Daly will demonstrate how to research the history of a house and discover the identity of its previous owners and occupants.

Marie Daly is the treasurer of the Waltham Historical Society, a board member of the Waltham Land Trust, and a commissioner on the Waltham Historical Commission. She was the Library Director of the New England

Historic Genealogical Society and founding president of The Irish Ancestral Research Association.

The lecture will begin at 7:00 PM. Light refreshments will be available.

From the archives

Excerpts from the 1952 -- 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 final in a multi-part printing taken from 1952's 50th Annual Report of the Waltham Baby Hospital. We hope you enjoy.



759 MAIN STREET

The First Fifty Years of the Waltham Baby Hospital



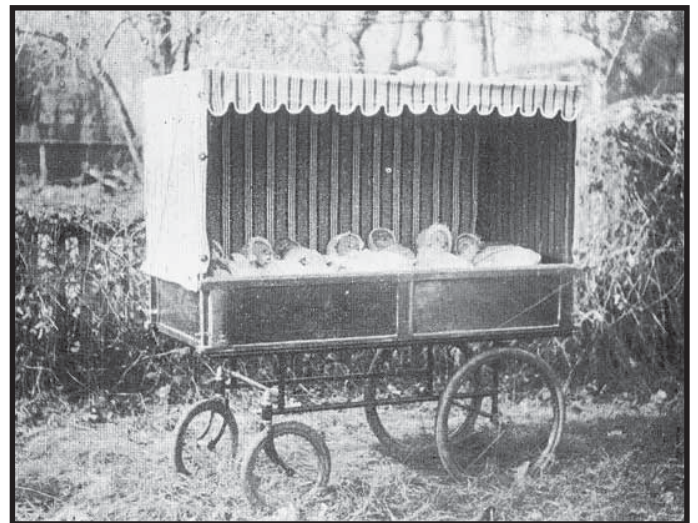
This article is continued from November's edition.

In 1920, after the close of World War I, the shortage of nurses was acute and the number of sick babies at a minimum, so the Hospital was closed to in-patients for a period of eight months. The building was used for meetings of the Well Baby Clinics and also for a branch clinic of the Harvard Infantile Paralysis Commission. However in April, 1921, the regular work of the Hospital was resumed, the meeting place for the Well Baby Clinics was transferred to various school-houses, and conditions proceeded normally until the Second World War. In this interval the number of patients treated annually decreased slightly, averaging nearer seventy-five than one hundred, and it was felt that the Well Baby Clinics were responsible for the prevention of a good deal of sickness, although no marked change in statistics occurred until the late 1930's. By that time many factors contributed to alter the course of the existence of the Baby Hospital: milk was pasteurized; parents who held hospital insurance were sending their babies to larger hospitals who affiliated with the Blue Cross; doctors wanted X-rays and laboratory examinations which the Baby Hospital was not equipped to give; and lastly, the Waltham Training School for Nurses had ceased to train students so that the Baby Hospital had to employ graduates who were becoming increasingly difficult to find, in fact the only available ones were married women who could serve part time. The number of patients dropped to about forty, costs were alarmingly high, and it became necessary to take some action. Accordingly in 1940 it was decided to send all in-patients to a section of the Children's Ward of The Waltham Hospital and to keep the Baby Hospital building only for out-patients.

This arrangement was tried at first as just an experiment. There were advantages and disadvantages. The babies had excellent care and all the facilities of a well-equipped hospital, while the Baby Hospital was relieved of all expense except for paying ward rates and other costs for

each baby and maintaining the Well Baby Clinics. The disadvantages were that many people thought the Baby Hospital had gone out of existence and confusion resulted as to whether a baby was being admitted to The Waltham Hospital or the Baby Hospital; then during the war years the Hospital was so overcrowded that only the sickest patients could be accommodated. However, it was a wise move, for undoubtedly it would have been impossible to staff and maintain the building on Main Street during these extremely difficult times, if for no other reason than that the overworked doctors who remained here during the war were spared from calling at more than one hospital. The experiment thus being justified, and at the conclusion of the war, nursing service being more than ever unprocurable, the arrangement with The Waltham Hospital has continued satisfactorily even to the present time.

Between the years of 1920 and 1940 there appeared on almost every report of the Treasurer the item "withdrew from capital to meet running expenses." This meant, of course, that, although the endowment fund was growing steadily, certain capital funds had to be unrestricted to permit expenses to be met. However, after the number of patients decreased and the in-patients were moved to the Hospital, nothing more was withdrawn from capital, and being fortunate in having the benefit of very wise advice concerning investments, the endowment fund reached a market value of approximately \$72,000. Consequently in 1946 when The Waltham Hospital started to raise a building fund, one objective of which being the construction of a new children's ward, the Baby Hospital voted to give \$50,000 towards this goal. In return for this gift the Waltham Hospital agreed that one floor in the new ward should be known as "The Waltham Baby Hospital" and that all the purposes for which the Baby Hospital was incorporated would be carried on there. The transfer of funds was completed in 1947, and the Main Street property was sold to the neighboring Universalist Church, the proceeds of the sale going to the Waltham District Nursing Association in return for which that organization took over the management of the Well Baby Clinics.



NAPS IN THE FRESH AIR

Now in 1952 the Baby Hospital is carrying on as it did in the last decade, its patients being cared for at The Waltham Hospital, the new ward still awaiting more propitious building conditions, but hopeful of serving the community as well and even better than during its first fifty years. It is impossible here to name all who have been benefactors to this great cause — the doctors, the nurses, the Officers and Directors, members of the Corporation, and friends, the grateful parents, all those who so generously made contributions and left legacies in its favor — their loyalty and devotion has been unbounded. It can only be hoped that they feel as Dr. Worcester did when, at the first meeting of this Corporation, he said "This work makes better men and women of us all. I know I am a better man when I have been through the Baby Hospital and have felt a baby hand clasping one of my fingers. No matter how useless our lives may seem to be, when one sees the confiding smile of a little baby, there always comes the feeling that life still has lovely opportunities."



DAILY WEIGHING

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ENCLOSED

If you have renewed your membership for 2018-2019, we thank you and hope you find membership well worth the expense. Your membership card is enclosed. 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

The First Fifty Years of the Waltham Baby Hospital



In Memoriam

It is with deep regret the Directors record the deaths of five Life Members of The Baby Hospital Corporation in 1951.

Mrs. Arthur Lyman died March third in her eighty-eighth year, having been a member of the Corporation since its founding. Although she took no active part in the management of the Hospital, she was a generous contributor to its support throughout these long years, and her continued interest in its affairs was outstanding.

Mr. William H. Nichols joined the Corporation in 1916, and in the same year, with his wife, endowed a permanent free crib in memory of his son Merwin, who had died in childhood of meningitis. Mr. Nichols died at the age of seventy-eight on August ninth.

Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Worcester, who more than any others, perhaps, were responsible for the starting of the Baby Hospital, died within six days of one another, August twenty-eighth-September third. Dr. Worcester was ninety-six years old and his wife ninety-seven. Together they had organized, supported, and advised to the last. One of the incorporators, Mrs. Worcester was Treasurer of the Hospital from its beginning until 1920, and her meticulous system of accounts is still being used today. Dr. Worcester was one of the first group of "Attending Physicians" and continued to serve in that capacity until he left Waltham for service abroad in the first world war. Thereafter his name has been on the "Honorary" list. Their individual achievements were many, but the Baby Hospital will always cherish the distinction of being the outstanding monument of their combined devotion to the welfare, comfort, and happiness of humanity.

Mrs. Thomas Curley, the oldest friend in years, died in New York City on December 17th in her one hundred and fourth year. She had been a Corporation member since 1903. She, like Mrs. Lyman, had never held office in the organization, but both had daughters who were on the Board of Directors for many years:—Margaret Lyman Parson and Katharine Curley Bogert.

Emphasis has been placed on the loss of these five Life Members in the feeling that this is a most unusual record of long devoted service. The Directors are no less cognizant, however, of the sad loss of four other valued members of the organization, who, by contributing annually over a period of years, have given the Hospital great material support as well as other aid. Mrs. F. H. Hastings joined the Corporation in 1911, Miss Geraldine S. Jones in 1915, Dr. Irving W. Fraim in 1922, and Mrs. F. Van Nuys in 1916.

Many of the present officers and members of the Corporation of the Baby Hospital remember personally and intimately these dear associates of theirs whose names are starred in this year's report. They will not be forgotten next year when their names must be omitted from the lists. In this year of the Fiftieth Anniversary it is appropriate that in loving memory of those who have gone, those who remain dedicate themselves to carry on the work and ideals of their predecessors, and so honor them and their accomplishments.



Lecture Series Sponsor

The Waltham Historical Society is grateful for the sponsorship of this year's Edmund L. Sanderson lecture series by Senior Whole Health, represented by Patrick O'Brien. SWH is sponsoring six of our presentations. Besides the November 2018 and January 2019 lectures, the full schedule is as follows:

- March 12, Jeannine Martin, *A Door To Their Hearts; A Ferro Family Memoir.*
- April 11, Jack Cox, *The Way We Played: Recreation in Waltham 1900-1999*
- May 14, Margaret Sullivan on the *1919 Boston Police Strike*
- July 9, Rail Trail Lecture or the Return of Waltham's Company F
- September 10, Annie Castelnovo-McMullen with the lost graves at Calvary Cemetery
- November 2019, Veterans' Day WWI.



Patrick O'Brien
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SENIORWHOLEHEALTH.COM

If you have a topic or subject you'd like to learn more about, email us at:

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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The Society Bright School location, 260 Grove Street will be staffed on most Saturdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 PM. 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.