



NOVEMBER
MEMBER MEETING
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2019
7:00 PM

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Term: 2019-2021

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The Waltham Historical Society

Presents

Living History: The 104th Timberwolves

With Living History Re-enactor

Mr. Davis Kenyon

And with the support of

Mr. Jack Valley

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2019
7:00 pm

AT THE FORMER BRIGHT SCHOOL
260 GROVE STREET IN WALTHAM



WALTHAM REUNION aboard a Coast Guard assault transport somewhere in the Atlantic. Back row, left to right: Henry J. Duhney, BM 2/c; Pvt. Jose Valley, Miles Sweeney, F 1/c, and Tom Heaslip, Y 2/c. Front row: Pvt. Ralph Joyce, Joe Naise, S 1/c, and Pvt. Tudi LaCava.
Photo that appeared in different Boston area newspapers shortly after D-Day. They were taken about 3 weeks before D-Day on board a transport ship heading to England. As was the practice of the day, such photos were embargoed until the invasion was well under way. ALL WALTHAM GUYS, including Jack Valley's Uncle Joe who served with the 104th Timberwolves.

Join us as World War II re-enactor Davis Kenyon portrays a young soldier waiting to be re-assigned at the Canp Lucky Strike disembarkation/reassignment camp.

Mr. Kenyon is a member of the group who portray a 104th Infantry Division (Timberwolves) unit. He reenacts a Pfc. from the 415th Regiment (Old Faithful). He has participated in the Collings foundation event this year and for several years past as well as many other events/venues including volunteering at the SS Massachusetts in Fall River.

Over 5000 of Waltham's citizens served in WWII, at least 3 of them served with the Timberwolves and much of their equipment was designed and made in Waltham

Three members of the Timberwolves were from the Waltham area:

Paul McCarty (413/G) Born in Waltham, found a calling in the Jesuit Ministry after the war. Beloved Chaplain for both the National Timberwolves Association and it's successor the National Timberwolves Pups Association. Served locally both with the Campion Center in Weston and with the Marists in Framingham

Jacob Baboian (414/C) Longtime Watertown optometrist. Longtime member of the Waltham American Legion Band with whom he attended 50th anniversary celebrations of VE day both in England and Russia.

Joseph Valley (413/L) Lifelong Waltham resident. After the war he continued his prewar career as a machinist at Raytheon. where he also served as his union's president. Lived to see some of his work go into space and probably to the moon!

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

An Upcoming Exhibit of Note

The past few weeks has seen much activity at the Society's Bright School location. The dismantling of the World War I exhibit that accompanied the 100th Anniversary of that conflict has been completed, and the beginning of our next exhibit has begun.

The exhibit, *Education in Waltham: A view from the hold-ings of the Waltham Historical Society* will open sometime between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

With the help and guidance of Carol Simeone, Regina Pacitti, Sheila FitzPatrick, Marie Daly, Mort Isaacson, and Bruce Moran, the exhibit draws from items found in the archives of the Society, collected over more than 115 years. Pictures of staff and students taken between the late 1800s and 1990s provide snapshots of how education has been viewed, appreciated, and documented over the years.

Contributions from former teachers and administrators have helped us tell a story that mirrors the evolution of education from a time when students were taught by ministers from the pulpit, or women who were well-enough educated to take on a task that was as challenging in the 1800s as it is today. Often facing the same circumstances.

With the coming of industry to this Country, beginning right here in Waltham in the form of the Boston Manufacturing Company, education was transformed from a primarily theocratic practice to one that sought to improve the efficiency of the industrialization of society while enhancing the quality of life for economically challenged immigrants.



Immigrants are still occupying a large part of life today. We're all aware of the immigrants who arrived in Watertown in 1630. Puritans leaving a home country to adopt a new life in a hostile land could be considered the first wave of immigration to hit our shores. But with the birth of the American Industrial Revolution, the next wave of immigrants were women, girls, and children.

The economic climate at the turn of the

19th Century found a surplus of women and children and a shortage of workers for the textile mill. The young natives of agricultural Waltham became the immigrant to the factory world. With people seeking economic relief, a move to company housing close to the mill could be considered the second wave of immigration to impact Waltham.

The mill work enticed more economically distressed people to come to Waltham in search of work and a better life.

It was the issue of immigration that impacted the direction of education in a number of ways. Beginning in 1843, school committees were required to create Reports on the condition of the schools. In that year in Waltham,

two reports were issued. One report produced by a minority on the School Committee pointed out the failings of teachers in some of the schools to maintain proper classroom management. The report accused teachers of not controlling the class, students of behaving badly, and parents of bad parenting for not properly bringing up their children.



1954 Bright School-Grade 5

A second report produced by the Majority of the School Committee pointed out that cultural differences were in part a reason that the classes seemed disrupted. It was noted that there was a discrepancy in the funding of the schools contributing to the problems. Those schools were understaffed, short of supplies, poorly ventilated and lit, and in some cases outright unhealthy.

The two reports provide a window into the evolution of education in Waltham, not unlike today's discussions on testing Vs. practical problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

The two reports make for fascinating reading and will be available at the new exhibit.

Pieces of the exhibit will display books and subjects being taught, types of technology introduced through the years, and perhaps most importantly,

the role of women in education.

There will also be a section where you can look at class pictures from various years, including staff photos where you may see classmates, relatives, a favorite teacher, or even your own face!

Please watch for notice of the opening on Facebook, Twitter, or in newsletters and e-mails from the Society.

Rules of the Schools !

At the last meeting of the School Committee it was voted to add the following to the list of "Rules and Regulations of the Public Schools of Waltham."

Teachers are expected, both from inclination and from a sense of duty, to abstain from all course or otherwise improper expressions in the school room. The use of nicknames and of all opprobrious or degrading epithets applied to the pupils is strictly forbidden. Violations of this order will be regarded by the committee as good cause of removal from the school.

Per order of the Committee,
R. B. THURSTON, Chairman.
Waltham, Nov. 21, 1862. 47-3w

ends for which our schools are established is that they shall teach public spirit. You may teach children what public spirit is, but you will make small headway in teaching them to exercise it while the public concerns with which they are most familiar receive no attention from anybody except the occasional one who has a grievance. Friendly visitors are a greater help to the schools than they realize. Undoubtedly, however, many more people feel a live interest in the schools than ever visit them. Anything which calls out, unifies, and directs this interest will render a great service to the schools and the city.

VACATION SCHOOLS.

The support given the vacation schools last summer was an exhibition of such interest. About eight hundred dollars was contributed, nearly all in small sums, to be used in an experiment the propriety of which was questioned by many. Attendance was wholly voluntary, but was kept up to the full limit of the accommodations throughout. Forty-eight boys and sixty-four girls from ten to fifteen years of age were given occupation three hours a day for six weeks during the summer vacation, and about fifty little children were gathered in a kindergarten. I think there can be no question of the beneficial influence of such schools for pupils who find the vacation so idle as to make them wish for occupation, and the testimony of parents, particularly of the kindergarten children, was both hearty and grateful.

AN EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

But more important than the success of this particular experiment is the evidence that so great a number of our people are moved by public spirit both to give and to work for the welfare of the children. The vacation school question is only one phase of the larger question of the attitude of the public toward all the educational work of the community. I welcome the formation of a society to be devoted to the study of educational questions, and I hope by its means teachers and parents may be

brought together to consider their mutual responsibilities, and that citizens who are not parents may be led to see that their support is needed in ways in which parents sometimes fail by very reason of their being parents. Such a society ought to provide a forum in which criticism of the schools may be heard, demands upon the schools urged, information about the schools obtained, and suggestions for the schools given. And its field is not limited to the day schools and the evening schools. It may deal with all the educational forces of the community.

HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING.

Last year a portion of my report was devoted to the question of a new high school building. I will not go over the ground again regarding the need of a new building. I think that is fully recognized. The needs of the grammar schools are also pressing, and schoolhouses are not the only buildings of which the city stands in need. When a succession of burdens is clearly foreseen it is better thrift to meet one at a time and meet it well than to leave many to be met together when it becomes impossible to do any well. During my brief term three several reports have been made by sub-committees to whom the question of high school accommodations had been referred, each recommending a different scheme, one for remodelling, two for new buildings. Each of these in its turn has been cast aside and the acceptable one is yet to come. We are still in the old building and we are now carrying on the school in two parts.

This reduces the numbers present at any one hour nearly to the original capacity of the building, and is perhaps the most satisfactory temporary arrangement that can be made. It reduces the working time of teachers, too, but scatters it, for some of the teachers, over a greater portion of the day. It reduces school time for the upper three classes about one-fifth and for the fourth class about one-fourth. This shortening could be made up in either of two ways. The school could be extended eight or ten weeks into the summer, or the course could be extended to five years. I do not offer these as recommendations.

News from the Society

A Recent Donation of Significance from the World War II Museum in Natick

The Waltham Historical Society was the recent recipient of a donation of five exhibit cases from the World War II Museum in Natick. Unfortunately the Museum has closed and will be relocated out of state. Items they are not taking include some top of the line Guenschel exhibit display cases. We are extremely grateful to the Museum for the generous donation.



Special thanks must be given to Alan Humbert who volunteered to help pick them up and move them from Natick to our headquarters. Mr. Humbert's efforts must be applauded because the weight of the cases, combined with sacrifice of an entire day in the effort, made it possible.

Thanks also to Alan's friend Barney Stearns and Jack Valley. As always additional thanks must be extended to Mr. Larry Logan of Prime Glass and Mirror in Watertown. Mr. Logan is always there when needed and very generously loaned us the use of one of his trucks for the move.

All in all, the Society has been the very lucky recipient of a very generous donation. You will be able to see them when the Education Exhibit opens in the next few weeks.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW OVERDUE

We hope you have renewed your membership for 2019-2020. 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

“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 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.