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CONCERN FOR
MEMBER HEALTH AND
SAFETY THIS LECTURE
WILL BE HELD USING
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The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series presents

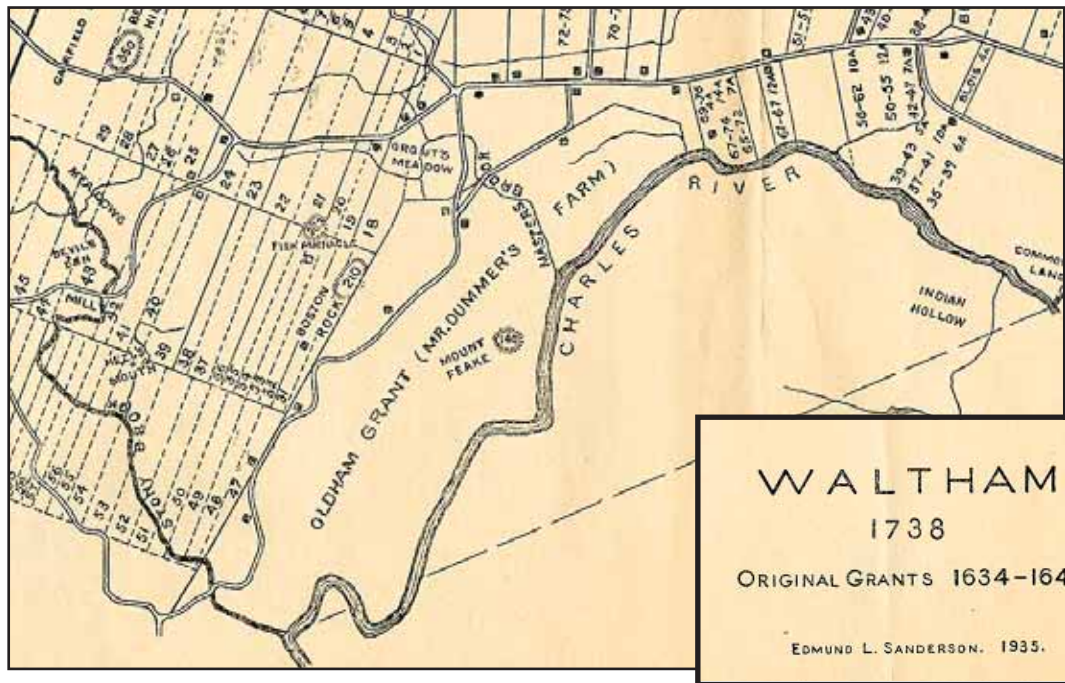
SURVIVAL 1630-1635

By Mr. John Morrison

*President of the non-profit
Partnership of the Historic
Bostons, Inc.*

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

7:00 pm via Zoom



Survival 1630-1635

Landing on the Shawmut Peninsula in the fall of 1630 in a flotilla of seven ships, how did the Puritans survive the first winter, found the first four towns, and build a robust economy by 1635? How had they prepared for their exodus, what were the challenges they faced, internal and external, religious and political, and how have their solutions come down to us today?

¹The house is sadly now demolished so the intersection of Totten Pond Road and Lexington Street can be improved.

John Morrison, now living in Arlington, is a Waltham Historical Society member and former Waltham resident who grew up in the 1820's Sanderson-Bemis house, 380 Lexington Street¹. With a lifelong interest in history, John is the President of the non-profit Partnership of the Historic Bostons, Inc.



The Partnership tells the stories of Boston and New England in the 17th-century and commemorates our historical connections to Boston, Lincolnshire, UK, where many of the early leaders hailed from.

His talk, "Survival 1630-1635", walks us through the early years and introduces the historical actors -- their antagonisms and their achievements. And we will meet an original Waltham resident, John Oldham, whose land grant is now Mt. Feake Cemetery.

Special contribution from Society Board Member Jeremy Hagger

The following story and pictures were submitted to the Society for inclusion in our current exhibit:

School Matters: Life and Learning in Waltham.

Due to the current pandemic guidelines the exhibit is open by appointment only with attendance restricted.

On Pond End and Ms. Ellen M. Jones

Gifts to the Society are always greatly appreciated and eagerly received. Sometimes the most humble appearing contain the best stories. Recently, the Weston Historical Society, through its President, Ms. Pam Fox, gave our Society a small, creased and brown envelope containing 4 faint and faded photographs and one postcard with its corner missing where some long ago philatelist had torn off the stamp.



The photos shows us an image of Waltham's old Pond End School (c. 1860-1914) with a girl scholar standing outside near the "girl's entrance (the boys entrance was opposite), one of "Tottens' Pond and the field opposite the school," and another labeled, "The Pond End School in the background," but mainly showing the dirt road leading up to



it. The Society already has a number of excellent images of the School, which as many of you know was sawed in half, moved and still stands now located at Lexington Street and used as the Piety Corner Club House. The girl's entrance was closed in and used as the location for an inside telephone. So far so good, but now we come to the torn postcard which bears the image of the old and new Pond End Schools as they were on February 11, 1914 when the postcard was mailed.



The sender was none other than Waltham's premier historian of the time, Edmund L. Sanderson, machine shop owner, pioneer photographer, tennis player, active member of the Piety Corner Club, and direct descendant of two of the city's earliest residents, the two Deacon Sandersons.

He wrote this message on the card: "The Old and the New.' I am very pleased to accept the invitation of the teachers of the Pond End School for February 14, 1914."

Now as we know, Edmund Sanderson was a bachelor and never married, but this invitation is for a Saturday party, from the female teachers at the school (and you may know that until after World War II, woman had to be unmarried to teach in Waltham schools) and of course it is a Valentine's Day party!



The recipient, Ellen M. Jones, Pond End School, Winter Street, Waltham, R.F.D. [rural free delivery - in Waltham no less], was just as interesting as the sender. [Ellen is 2nd from left with her family - these pictures courtesy of the Weston Historical Society] Ellen ("Ellie") M. Jones was from Weston where she lived her entire life in what used to be called "The Jones House," but



it is now known to many of you as the Josiah Smith Tavern which is located across from the Weston Common flanked by St. Julia's on one side and the old Weston Library (now the Arts & Innovation Center) on the other. The Tavern is the home of the Weston Historical Society and is about to undergo a multimillion dollar public renovation.



Ellie was born in 1858 and grew up in the Josiah Smith Tavern which her grandfather had purchased in 1842. Her father, Theodore, had a carriage painting operation which was housed in the attached barn.



When Ellie was 4 she began school at the Weston East Central School on Crescent Street. Since her father knew all the local stage drivers and teamsters, it was arranged that she should be picked up each day at the Tavern by the stagecoach. More than 50 years ago, Ms. Rebecca McKenna described Ellie's daily travel to school in the Bulletin of the Weston Historical Society: "Each morning the stagecoach driver on his way from Marlboro to Stony Brook Station would rein in his 4 horses in front of her house to take on the small Ellen. All starched and be-frilled in sedate mid-Victorian mode, her father would help her up to her lofty seat by the driver. One can picture her on a sunny spring day in Weston, full of childish joy as they rumbled down the Post Road. Her blue eyes sparkle, she clutches a dinner pail on her lap, her feet dangle, the ribbons on her corn-colored pigtails and on the back of her round, straw hat fly in the breeze as she sits in demure dignity beside her kind Yankee driver."

When she grew up, Ellie became a teacher and at some point became employed in Waltham at the Pond End School. She lived all her life with her sister in the Jones House and taught for 50 years both day school and Sunday school. Ms McKenna added, "Ready to retire, Ellie mystified her young pupils by the question, 'Fifty years in day school and fifty in Sunday school; how many years have I taught?'"

Also when she did retire, someone said, 'Now you can do what you want to do.' Her reply, 'I've always done what I wanted to do - I wanted to teach.'

At present, Ellen M. Jones is the only Pond End teacher from the old school that we have been able to identify. I hope that our readers may be able to help us by identifying other women who would have been Ellie's colleagues. Since first seeing this torn and somewhat bedraggled postcard, I have wondered how the Valentine's Day party went and found myself speculating as to the various scenarios that might have unfolded for Edmund L. Sanderson and Ellen M. Jones if they had gotten better acquainted! —Mr. Jeremy Hagger



WE ARE CARRYING ON!

Even though we are all impacted by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic our volunteers have continued to work from home, and on rare occasions in isolation or socially distanced at the archives. Inquiries and digital donations through the website have not slowed.

Fund-raising is still a challenge under these circumstances. We have been updating our website and social media to share some of the holdings of the Society and are now able to offer items for sale on-line. Please keep in mind that

all items are in limited supply, so plan to order early to ensure we have sufficient inventory and delivery times will not interfere with your gift giving.

Thank you for your membership renewal and for making a donation. **Your card is enclosed!**

As the new year begins we are hoping the arrival of a vaccine finds you in good health and that 2021 is brighter and more prosperous than 2020. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts.

The Whitcomb family lived at 88 and 82 Plympton Street from the 1850s until the 1980s. Horace G. Whitcomb and Ellen Caughey Whitcomb had five children, Ella, John, Anna, Earnest and Susan, and lived at 88 Plympton Street.

Horace fought in the Civil War and at one time took 13-year-old John with him to help with his horse.

John married Eva Draper in 1893 and built the house at 82 Plympton. Warren, their only child, was born in 1895 and lived in that house until his death in 1978. Warren married Neva Owens of Texas and had four children, Doris, Frances, Richard and Susanne, all of whom attended Waltham Schools.

John kept foxhounds and was a fox hunter and fisherman. A one-room club house was built on the property on the Hammond Street of the property where he met with friends who were also fox hunters. These friends kept posters listing where foxes were killed and by whom. They also took trips together to other hunting areas and clubs. John worked at the Watch Factory and was a volunteer fireman at the Prospect Street firehouse.

Warren was an entomologist at the Beaver Street Field Station of the University of Massachusetts.

Story and images submitted with the Whitcomb Hays donation from Susanna Whitcomb Hays, November 2020.



WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
1935 - 1945

THE BIRTH

A brief note in the diary of Gilbert Harris indicates that several members of the Golden Rule Brotherhood met at the home of Carleton Owen on the evening of September 13, 1935, to discuss means for encouraging membership. The diary does not mention what was said at this meeting, but the fact that informal bowling sessions by several Brotherhood men were held on the following October 8, 15 and 23 is very suspicious, if not positive, evidence that "strikes and spares" entered at least a part of the discussion. These informal bowling sessions evidently "touched off the spark" which was kindled into the Golden Rule Brotherhood Bowling League soon after.

Being President of the Golden Rule Brotherhood at the time, Les Davis assumed the direction and thus became the official Daddy of the Bowling League.

THE GROWTH

On October 30, 1935, the Brotherhood Bowling League grew into a reality with the organization of 6 teams known as A, B, C, D, E and F. Matches were rolled at the Waltham Alleys on Elm Street and because there were only 4 alleys, one pair of teams rolled at 7 o'clock while the other 4 teams rolled at 8 o'clock. After about two months, this arrangement proved undesirable, and during the last part of the season one match each week was bowled at the Kitty Patrick Alleys on Main Street. Evidence of the enthusiasm for the League is shown when the schedule, which was originally made up for 3 rounds to end on February 26, was extended for a fourth round and ended on April 2.

On October 1, 1936, the league moved to the Brentwood Alleys on upper Main Street, where they made the acquaintance of Ike Allen. Six teams were organized, and again they were called A, B, C, D, E and F. A schedule of 25 matches of 6 rounds was completed on April 8, 1937. Bowling on the new alleys at Brentwood generally brought lower scores and Secretary Wale's report showed that the average of 30 out of 35 bowlers dropped approximately 4 points from that of the previous year at the Waltham Alleys where the "dished plates" frequently added to the pinfall and a strike from a quarter hit on No. 6 pin was considered good bowling.

The 1937-38 season was opened on September 30 at Brentwood, where the League has continued to operate. Six teams were again entered but in respect to the new President, Harold E. White, a

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The Society newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the Waltham Community Foundation.

Thank you for your support!

We will announce re-opening as soon as COVID guidelines permit.

Meanwhile, visit us on-line at

Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com

