

The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series presents

A Look Back at Cornelia Warren 100 Years After Her Death, 1857-1921

By Dee Kricker

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
7:00 pm via Zoom



Cornelia Warren as a young woman. Image from a Waltham News Tribune story, December 10, 1958. Made from a painting of Cornelia in Paris by Alexandre Cabanel in 1871.

June 4, 2021 marks the centennial of the death of Cornelia Lyman Warren, a woman widely known in her time, but who has been largely forgotten except for those ragtag Cornelia history buffs who are intrigued

by her life's story based on the scattered remnants of what remains can be

found. I count myself as a member of the anonymous CW fan club having collected bits and bobs of the tattered tapestry for years. With each

new thread gathered, the portrait becomes both more complex and more convincing that hers was a life of distinction deserving of recognition. This year, one hundred years after her death, is the time for her hometown of Waltham to look back with gratitude and to bestow honor on one of its amazing citizens, Miss Cornelia Warren.



My own curiosity about Miss Warren began in the 1990's when I became involved with the Waltham Field Station site. First as a community gardener, and later as

a member of Waltham Fields Community Farm, I learned about Cornelia's bequest resulting in the dispersion of her 200-acre Cedar Hill Estate to be used as non-tax-



Dee Kricker is a 40-year Waltham resident who has been active in several community groups over the years including Waltham Fields Community Farm, Waltham Land Trust, Grow Community Gardens, and WATCH, Inc. She is a retired public school teacher, an avid gardener, and an art-maker.

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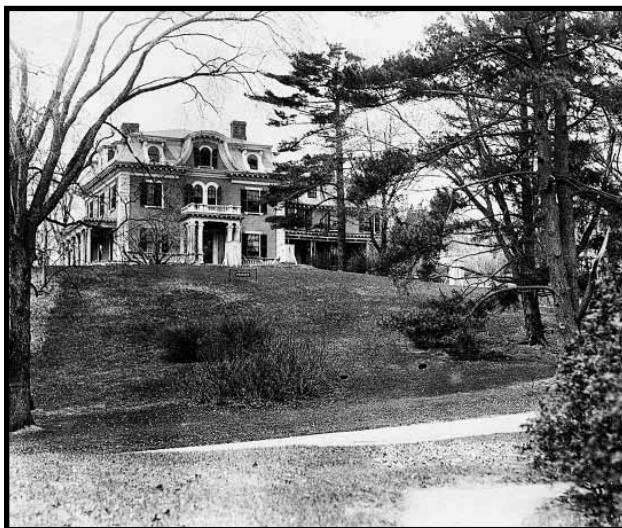
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Cornelia Warren

Continued from page 1

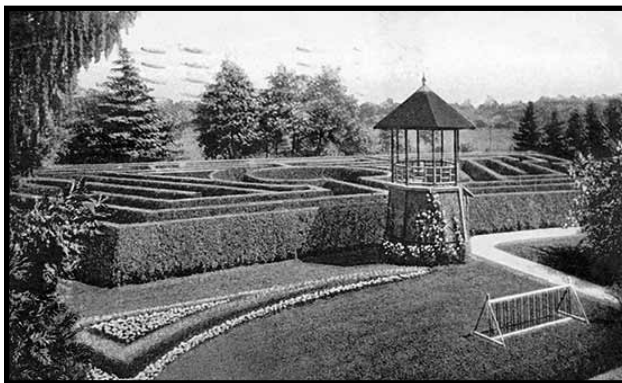
able properties for the public good. The Beaver Street parcels included what is now: Cornelia Warren Park, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, the Waltham Field Station, and Waltham Woods. Features included a three-story Mansion



Cedar Hill Mansion

Courtesy of Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts

house, farmhouses, barns, a carriage house and stable, as well as, greenhouses, orchards, pastures, gardens, and a unique Victorian maze. Little did I realize at that time, that this gesture was only one fraction of the benevolent contributions Cornelia extended throughout her adult life.



Cedar Hill Maze postcard

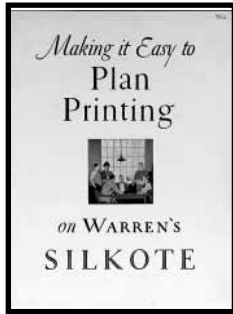


Samuel Dennis Warren

At the turn of the century, Cornelia was once one of the richest women in Massachusetts; one who contributed the wealth she inherited from her father's paper manufacturing business to numerous charities

and institutions. However, what intrigued me most was learning about Cornelia's social activism and her close association with a cluster of some of the brightest, most accomplished women of her era. Grounded in her religious convictions and her astute moral philosophy, she chose to use the advantages of her privileged life to alleviate conditions resulting in poverty, ignorance, poor health and injustice. Cornelia's life was devoted to improving social welfare and advocating for progressive causes.

From Beaver Street to Beacon Hill; from Waltham to Westbrook, Maine, Miss Warren left a trail of good deeds, both small and large. Much of my presentation is based on contemporary documents and accounts about Cornelia's life, including some directly from her pen. Additionally, I will offer my personal impressions regarding key factors that influenced her development and values.



DUE TO CONCERN FOR MEMBER HEALTH & SAFETY THIS LECTURE WILL BE HELD USING ZOOM. A LINK TO REGISTER WILL BE SENT PRIOR TO MAY 11.

By-Laws Update

The following By-Laws reflect changes approved by the Board of Directors for a vote to adopt by the General Membership on May 11, 2021. Please review and compare with the 2007 By-Laws currently posted on the Society website:

walthamhistoricalsociety.org.

The Waltham Historical Society, Inc.
Waltham, Massachusetts

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

MAY 2021

190 MOODY STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02453

www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org

ARTICLE 1. NAME

The name of this corporation shall be The Waltham Historical Society, Incorporated.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this society shall be to educate, stimulate and aid research in the local and general history of Waltham, by collecting and preserving such manuscripts, documents, mementos and relics as relate thereto; by collecting and preparing genealogies of Waltham families; by preparing or causing to be prepared from time to time, papers and records relative to those subjects which are or may be of general interest; by aiding in the preservation of buildings, monuments and other objects of historic interest, and by such other means as shall be deemed fitting.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP AND FEES

Any person who, at the time of the first meeting of this corporation after its charter is received, is a member in full and regular standing of this association known as The Waltham Historical Society, Inc., may

become a member of the corporation by signing the membership roll, and shall be designated a "Charter Member."

Any person interested in the purposes of this Society may become a member eligible for reduced fees for events and publications of the Society by completing an application, choosing a membership level and paying the corresponding membership fee for the current year as determined by the Board, due and payable annually.

Individual Membership

An individual membership is one to which a person pays dues annually and is entitled to one vote at any regular meeting of the Society and one copy of any notice.

Family Membership

A family membership is one to which people living at the same address pay dues annually and are entitled to one vote at any regular meeting of the Society and one copy of any notice.

Business Membership

A Business Membership is one to which a Business is recognized by the Society and shall include all the voting privileges of individual membership and benefits extended to include a designated representative.

Life Membership

A Life Membership shall include all the privileges of an individual membership and beginning the second year as a Life Member, the Life Member shall be exempt from all future dues. It may also be conferred by a vote of the Board.

ARTICLE 4. OFFICERS

The officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, and not fewer than ten nor greater than twenty Directors who, with the above-named Officers, shall constitute the Board of Directors.

The officers, and Directors shall be elected biannually beginning with the annual meeting of the odd numbered year.

ARTICLE 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The Board of Directors shall have general management of the affairs of the Society, subject to the votes and orders of the Society.

The following officers shall have, in addition to those powers and duties commonly associated with the respective offices, the following powers and duties and shall constitute an Executive Board:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and shall be Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The Vice President If the office of President should become vacant, or the President is unable to perform the duties of President the Vice President shall have all the powers and duties of the President until a successor has been duly elected to fill the vacancy.

The Recording Secretary shall be the Clerk of the Corporation and keep a record of all meetings, shall have custody of all records of the Society and must be a resident of Massachusetts.

The Corresponding Secretary shall give notices of meetings required by these By-Laws and shall answer communications addressed to the Society.

The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds of the Society and may, subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and the provisions of these By-Laws, draw upon the funds of the Society for the payment of any legal obligations of the Society, and may invest and reinvest its funds.

ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Tuesday of May in each year, or on such other date as the Board of Directors may determine.

Regular meetings of the Society shall be held on such day in the months of March, May, September, and November as the Board of Directors shall determine. Special meetings may be called at any time by order of the Board of Directors and shall be called on the written request of seven members. Notices of each meeting shall be given by mail or email to each member at least five days before the day of the meeting.

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time as the Board shall determine.

At the annual meeting of the Society, reports of the President and other officers shall be presented, and such other business may be transacted as may be specified in the call of the meeting, or as may be authorized by these By-Laws.

The Treasurer shall submit a written report at the annual meeting of the Society, showing the financial condition of the Society.

ARTICLE 7. COMMITTEES

The President shall, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint committees of three or more members each, on Membership, Programs and Publications, and may appoint such other standing or special committees as the Board of Directors shall deem necessary.

The Board of Directors shall propose to the annual meeting of the Society, the names of three members of the Society, for election to the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE 8. WITHDRAWALS

Any member may withdraw from membership by giving notice in writing to the Recording Secretary of his or her desire to do so.

If a member fails to pay his or her dues for a period of two years, he or she may be dropped from membership after tendered notice in writing, sent to him or her by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 9. QUORUM

Eleven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the annual or at any regular or special meeting of the Society, but if twenty percent of the membership is present, they shall constitute a quorum, though fewer than eleven.

ARTICLE 10: ELECTION VOTING

All ballots cast on any motion must be cast in person, BY mail, EMAIL or electronically at a virtual meeting. A motion to delay a vote may be made to provide sufficient notice to all stakeholders of the intended vote. In such event proof of written notice of delivery to all members at least two weeks in advance of the vote must be shown.

ARTICLE 11. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Society, all of its assets and property, after the payment of all indebtedness, shall be transferred to a non-profit corporation or society, which, in the determination of the Board of Directors, has aims and purposes substantially similar to those of this Society.

ARTICLE 12. AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended, altered or repealed at any regular meeting of the Society, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting, provided notice of the intended amendment, alteration or repeal be given in the notice calling the meeting.

On Piety Corner: An idyllic place to grow up.

The Weathervane newsletter is constantly seeking content for our members to enjoy. This issue brings a short piece written by Leslie Nesky on what it was like growing up in Piety Corner. She hopes others will write about their neighborhoods and submit it for publication. Thank you Leslie, for sending this piece and for supporting the work of the Society in preserving our History.

Images: Amy Burgess, Totten Pond, Whittemore greenhouse weather vane, and the Piety Corner Club.

Memories:

I grew up on Worcester Lane in the Piety Corner area of Waltham. As a child I thought everyone grew up in such an idyllic place. On one side lived Miss Amy Burgess, a retired art teacher.

I loved going over to visit her. She had a clock that had a mirrored pendulum, which my dad kept in working order and later inherited.



The Rando family who lived on the other side of her had a farm. The adults only spoke Italian so they could not ask what caused the “rainbows” that played along the wall. Years later their children found out that it was the sunlight reflecting off the mirrored pendulum next door. When the farm was sold Rando Circle was developed as was Totten Pond Road.



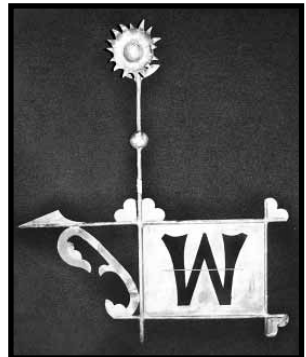
Before Totten Pond Road was open to cars, my mom, Helen Kneisel and I would bike along it to the bowling alley over Route 128 to have an ice cream.

On the other side of us lived the Nathan Towne family. They had a huge backyard where all of the neighborhood children gathered for games. What wonderful memories I have of the hours spent in that field! In the summer Nate would take us for walks through the woods or to Buttricks for ice cream. During the Christmas season he would take us caroling. Peggy, his wife, had hot chocolate waiting for us when we returned.

Dr. Fuller owned the next house down. His housekeeper would give us candy and homemade cookies. The tree in his yard was one of the best places to collect chestnuts.

Beside them was Helen’s grandfather, Harvey Whittemore. Helen lived upstairs with her parents and brother. Behind the house was Harvey’s garden and greenhouses. The children of the neighborhood were

allowed to wander around the greenhouses. A ditch in the yard would fill with water when the snow



melted. We were able to ride the raft we built. Beside the ditch there was a lean-to. There we played games that Susan Sparks, another of Harvey's granddaughters, invented. She was one of the oldest of our group and very creative.

I remember a house being moved from Lexington Street to Bacon Street or the other way around. It was impressive to see it crawl ever so slowly to its new destination. Another local building had been moved—the Piety Corner Club. It had been a school before it was moved to its present location.



The club offered an abundance of wonderful activities including a place for meetings, dinners, dances and scout gatherings. Once a year they held a picnic at Green Acres.

I have not lived in Waltham since the mid 70's but it is still a very special place to me.

—Leslie Nesky

Editor's note: One with a sharp eye and great memory would note that the Weather-vane logo used in this newsletter is a digital remaster of the weather vane shown in the story. It was donated to the Society by long-time assistant curator Winifred Kneisel. It spent many years indicating wind direction from atop the Whittemore greenhouses.

Keep your eyes open for information about a special Exhibition of weather vanes scheduled to begin in June 2021 and run through January 2022 in New York City. We hope to

put together a bus trip to visit the exhibit. Many of the exhibits include weather vanes made in Waltham.



Visit the Folk Art Museum website to learn more about the exhibit by scanning the above QR code.



The Society newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council.

Thank you for your support!

Use the QR code to visit our YouTube Channel!!



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Vote for Board of Directors 2021-2023

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF WALTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 TO SERVE THE TERM OF 2021-2023. **BALLOT MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MAY 10, 2021**

Special Instruction: As there is only one candidate for each office you only need to return a ballot if you are voting for a write-in candidate. Check the box for the Office, cross out the printed Candidate's name, and write in the name of your preferred candidate on the blank line.

PLEASE MAIL BALLOT TO:
 Waltham Historical Society Nominating Committee, c/o Mr. Bruce Moran, 30 Ellison Park, Waltham, MA 02452

Office	Candidate	Write-In
<input type="checkbox"/> President	Vacant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President	SHEILA FITZPATRICK	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary	JANIS MARCHESE	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary	JEREMY HAGGER	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	MARIE DALY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Treasurer	JACK COX	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Curator	Vacant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Assistant Curator	Vacant	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director, Membership Chair	GAIL CORMIER	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	RUTH ARENA	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	WALTER BEEBE-CENTER	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	JOE CONNORS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	DR. HELENE DAY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	KELLY DUGAS	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	TRACEY GOODWIN	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	JAMES GRENIER	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	ALAN D. HUMBERT	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	MORTON S. ISAACSON	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	RACHEL MALLEY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	WAYNE MCCARTHY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	BRUCE MORAN	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	CHAUNCY PERRY	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	AL SMITH	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director	DAVID SMITH	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Director		_____
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