



## *The Historical Society of Watertown, together with the Waltham Historical Society, will present a Special Guest Speaker September 26th*

The next meeting of the Society is scheduled for Sunday, September 26, 2004 at the Gore Place Carriage House, beginning at 1:30 pm.

The Historical Society of Watertown will join us in bringing a special speaker to our meeting. Diane Rapaport will present a lecture and slide show titled

***“Scots for Sale” The Fate of the Scottish War Prisoners in Seventeenth-Century New England.***

Ms. Rapaport has spent years tracing the fate of the 17th Century Scottish war prisoners, and her articles have appeared in *New England Ancestors* maga-

zine and other publications.

Please join us for this colorful presentation. Free parking is available, and tartan dress is encouraged but optional.

Contact Sheila FitzPatrick 781-894-0062 for further information.

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## ***The Society welcomes new members...again!***



The Raytheon Credit Union RTN, under the guidance of Mr.

Joe Connors at the Waltham branch, has recently increased our membership once again. The program, offers membership in the

Society to those wishing to establish and conduct banking at the Credit Union. Thirteen new members took them up on the offer this month, and we are pleased to welcome them to the Society.

To those new members, welcome to the Waltham Historical

Society. Please come to our next meeting on September 26th and get to know us better.

Sheila FitzPatrick and  
Wayne T. McCarthy  
*Co-Presidents*



*Recent  
Donations  
To our  
Collection*

Recently the Waltham Historical Society was one of the beneficiaries of the estate of Marjorie (Moore) Blanchard who died in March at the age of 101 years. We received 2 large framed portraits of two of her great grandfathers, a framed “Amy Burgess” map of Waltham, a red perfume bottle, a silver tray and pitcher inscribed to Horatio Moore (see obituary on page four), several

photos and documents, plus a financial bequest. We appreciate Marjorie’s generosity, and the items will soon be accessioned.

Joan Sheridan and Winnie Kneisel have been busy accessioning items received in the past few months. These include 3 scrapbooks containing clippings of local theater activities from the 1930’s, several items of clothing from the late 1800’s/early 1900’s, individual graduation photos from 1895 and 1901, a scrapbook of the Junior Women’s Business Club (1967/68), advertising items from local businesses, a baseball uni-

form from the Watch Factory team, several large framed photos, booklets and programs of Waltham organizations, and several maps. The accompanying photograph is of a watchman’s clock found and donated by City Auditor Dennis Quinn. Also this month, the large sign marking the Cottage Crest restaurant was donated by Ms. Elaine DeVincent Millerick.

These are just a sampling of what has been donated recently. If you wish to donate items related to Waltham’s history, please call, write, or email the Society.

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## About this issue's featured story

The Waltham Historical Society's Newsletter's intent is to provide information on historical, current, and upcoming events in which the Society is involved. We will also attempt to include items of interest that are in the possession of the Society. As an example, the following text is the last of

three excerpts transcribed from *Publication No. 3, Waltham Historical Society Incorporated, "WALTHAM COMMON."* The pamphlet was published in 1926 by Mrs. Sumner Milton in memory of Mr. George Arthur Milton. The complete title of the Pamphlet is *WALTHAM COMMON Its Ownership*

and History by Thomas H. Armstrong. *Reminiscences of Homes and People by Sumner Milton.* This is an excerpt of the reading given at a meeting of the Waltham Historical Society on March 17, 1914. The drawing by then Society Secretary, Edmund L. Sanderson is available in the two previous issues.



Early Boston Manufacturing Company

## The Common

By **Thomas H. Armstrong**

The following condition were made: "That the Rumford Institute, a Society for Mutual Improvement, of more than twenty years standing and which has been heretofore and is now of great service to the Inhabitants of said Town in diffusing useful knowledge among all classes shall for five years from the first day of April now next ensuing, free of charge, have the control of a Room in the Southwest corner of the second story of the Rumford Building, so called, standing on the premises above conveyed, known as the Library Room, and as an equivalent therefore the Inhabitants of said Town shall have the right to the use of the Library of the said Institute upon the same terms and subject to the same regulations as members of the Institute and also the said Institute shall have free of large the use of the large hall in the said Rumford Building, with the Committee Room in the Northwest corner thereof and also of the small hall when necessary with such incumbrances as it now has, being occupied as an armory for three days in each week during the aforesaid period of five years from the first day of April now next, and the Town authorities and the officers of said Institute shall at the commencement of each year of said term fix and agree upon the days in each week that the said Institute shall occupy the said Halls and Committee Room, it being howso-

ever understood that in case the Hall should be wanted for public town meeting on one of the days that the Institute claim it by agreement that the Institute shall relinquish its claim to it for that day and shall have some other day allowed to it in lieu of the day so relinquished."

A warrant to the title was given except as to the claim of the Rumford Institute.

"And it is the understanding and agreement between the parties to this conveyance that the said grantor is to retain the use and possession of the buildings upon the above described premises until the first day of April now next."

Signed by Boston Manufacturing Company by J. Pickering Putnam, Treas. Crop. Seal. Approved by J. A. Lowell, A. Appleton, Eben'r Hobbs and J. Pickering Putnam, Directors. Date of deed June 19, 1854.

A few years passed by and in 1859 the Second Religious Society sold their lot on Main street to the Inhabitants of Waltham, they having no power to sell, but probably doing so by agreement with the Boston Manufacturing Company, which at the same time also conveyed the lot to the Inhabitants of the town, upon substantially the same terms, which follow: --

"A certain lot of land situated on Main street, in said Waltham and bounded and described as follows, to wit: Beginning at the Northeast corner of the premises on Main street, at other land of said Inhabitants thence running Southerly along the other land of said Inhabitants 195 feet to a corner and

other land of said Inhabitants, thence Westerly along other land of said Inhabitants 96 feet to a corner and other land of said Inhabitants, thence Northerly along other land of said Inhabitants 195 feet to Main street, then Easterly along Main street 96 feet to point of beginning, being the same premises conveyed to the Second Religious Society in Waltham by deed of said Company dated Jan. 8, A. D., 1836. "to be used as a place of Meeting for Public Worship and for no other purpose." And this conveyance is made upon the following conditions, to wit: that no building shall ever be erected on the lot of land above described or the land adjoining the same owned by the said Inhabitants and conveyed to them by deed of the said Manufacturing Company dated June 19, A. D. 1854, and that both of said lots shall be forever after be kept open as and for a common for the use of the said Inhabitants of the Town of Waltham. But this condition shall not attach or be held to apply to so much of the Northeast corner of the land conveyed by said deed dated June 19, 1854 as is now used for and in connection with the Rumford Building, so called, and the small shop in the rear of the same, being bound on the West and South sides by the fences and lines of said small shop as they now stand."

The deed given for a consideration of \$6,000 by the Second Religious Society contains the following: "This conveyance is made upon the condition following, to wit: That the land above granted

"consider, and even dwell upon, the foresight and wisdom and sacrifice of those fathers who so wisely furnished us this place to be a joy forever."

*The Common (continued)*

together with the land adjoining that above conveyed owned by said Inhabitants and known as the Common shall be forever after kept open as and for a Common for the use of the Inhabitants of the Town of Waltham, and that the said Second Religious Society hereby reserves to itself the right to enter into and upon the above released premises at any time within six months from the day of this conveyance and to remove there from the house now standing on the said premises together with all brick and stone with which the basement of the said house in constructed." Date of deed Aug. 1, 1859.

It is upon this deed that the restrictions upon the use of the Common, about which so much as been said, rest. It is worthy of note that the grant of the greater part of the common comes under a deed in which no conditions exist, and probably if there should be a breach of the conditions, so that there could be a forfeiture of the

land, the only parcel that could be forfeited would be the tract 96'x195' sold to the Second Religious Society.

The next purchase of land for the Common was in 1886, when the City purchased from the Boston Manufacturing Company the balance of the tract lying between the then common and the Railroad. This was purchased for a location for a city hall, which as never yet been built. The tract was soon graded and laid out as a part of the Common, and has never been seriously considered for the ostensible purpose for which it was purchased. It was purchased for that specific purpose, because that was the only purpose for which the city could then purchase it, and the City has since been released from the obligation to locate a city hall there.

Most of us remember the condition of that part of the land before its purchase: the location of the Agent's house on Moody street where the Elm trees stand, the broad walk down to Carter street, then legally known as Lowell

Place, and the long block with its attendant buildings, so long an eye sore to the people. Contrast it with the beautiful slope of green sward that now greets the eye of the passer by on the railroad, or the denizen as he or she returns from a busy and dusty day in the city.

There is one other circumstance of record connected with the common of which I may properly speak. The Boston Manufacturing Company, from which the land was purchased, is no more. Peace to its ashes. It has been succeeded by the Boston Manufacturing Company 1901, to which it sold all its lands west of Newton street, and all its *rights of entry*. These rights of entry included the right to enforce the conditions of the deeds to the common. It is however a principle of very ancient law that such rights cannot be transferred, and that if attempt to so transfer them is made, that act operates to destroy them.

However, we have the common, and here's hoping we shall ever have it. It is an ornament to the city, almost the only one to which

**"the Boston Manufacturing Company conveyed another portion of the farm to the Inhabitants of the town for a common. "**

we can point with pride when we show our visiting friends about the city. With its smoothly clipt sward, kept fresh and green with the care of the superintendent, few spots are more attractive, and few return a greater dividend, when we regard the wide circle of people who pass or cross it and reap pleasure and help from it.

In the recent years it has been kept in order by the use of the lawn mower, but before such mowers became common, it was mowed just the same as any hay field, and it was a proverbial remark, "It always rains when they mow the common."

End of transcript.

## House Tour

Another successful House Tour was held on Sunday, June 13, 2004. Six lovely homes plus the Temple Beth Israel were on the tour. Special thanks are extended to Joe and Carol DiFranco, Jim and Laura Dixon, Jim and Jolene Fish, Jim and Megan Foresi, Carl Foster and Lori Koehn, and Al and Lill Movsessian for opening their homes. Congratulations to the Congregation of the Temple on the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their incorporation, and thank you for allowing us to be a part of your celebration.

Many thanks to our volunteer docents: Patricia Bentley, Anne Channell, Marie Daly, Virginia Hays, Jean Husson, Joyce Kelly, Winnie Kneisel, Barbara and Frank Maloney, Mary "Mush" McManama, Esther Seeley, and

David Smith. Each person spent 2 hours at the door of a home welcoming the tour participants and aiding the homeowners where needed.

And thanks to Connie Braceland of the Chart Bank for allowing us to use their parking lot, Jolene Fish for her help in finding homes, Lynn Lord for the floral arrangement for the Temple, Frank Maloney for help in soliciting "Business Friends," Kathy McMennen for the citations from the City Council to the homeowners, students in the Graphic Communications course at Waltham High School for setting up and printing tickets, flyers, and booklets, and Joan Sheridan and Sheila FitzPatrick for the myriad of tasks involved in "putting it all together."

If you are interested in receiving

a copy of the 2004 House Tour booklet, please send \$2.00 (to cover postage and handling) to the Waltham Historical Society, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453



### ***Business Friends of the Waltham Historical Society***

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# The Walter E. Fernald Development Center

Article contributed by Marie Daly  
Continued from the Fall edition

In addition to being incarcerated, abused, poorly educated and malnourished, many of the Fernald residents were unwitting participants in medical experiments, such as the "Science Club" children who were fed radioactive isotopes with their oatmeal. While the doses were probably too small to harm the children, they had not given their consent, and had been given disproportionately large rewards for their participation. Consequently, these experiments violated the Nuremberg Code, ethical principles for medical experimentation established after the Nazi Holocaust.

But the reports of the conditions of the 1950s do not reflect the current care. In 1972, parents, guardians and advocates for the disabled sued the Commonwealth in federal court. The judge ordered increased state funding, and better treatment of the disabled. As a result of federal court order, many residents were placed in community residential facilities, and the care of the remaining residents was vastly improved. A sprawling, one-storey cottage complex was built to provide more intimate and home-like residences for those who remained. By 1979, the number of residents had decreased to 1,161. The Fernald Center now houses 248 residents, the majority of whom are profoundly disabled.

Most of the nineteenth century buildings were designed by one architect, William G. Preston, who advocated a cottage concept laid out, not in a "checkerboard" fashion, but rather dispersed amid a largely preserved landscape of rolling hills. Preston designed many of the buildings in a Queen Anne style with Romanesque or Craftsman overtones. The buildings have fieldstone foundations, red brick construction, sandstone trim, corbelled cornices, overhanging slate roofs and decorative brickwork. In the 1930s, another

architect, Clarence P. Hoyt designed buildings in the colonial revival style common to state institutions of that era. Since the 1950s, construction at the institution has possessed no architectural design of merit and has greatly disturbed the landscape. But with its tree-lined parks and hilly landscape, the oldest part of the campus has the ambience of a New England village. Candace Jenkins, the state consultant who nominated the campus for the National Register of Historic Landmarks, said "The Walter E. Fernald State School possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations."

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## Horatio Moore Obituary

Although