



## Celebrate Historic Waltham Days with the Waltham Historical Society

**Thursday  
July 16, 2009  
7:00 pm**



## 125 YEARS OF CELEBRATION THROUGH NARRATION Waltham, Massachusetts

*By City Councilor Kathleen B. McMenimen*

Many events caused the metamorphosis from Waltham Town to the incorporation of The City of Waltham in 1884! The causes, changes consequences and challenges are fascinating. Come catch a glimpse of these events through the eyes of Waltham's "Dean" of the City Council, Kathy McMenimen on behalf of the Waltham Historical Society.



**Join us at City Hall  
for a Guided Tour  
Beginning at 5:45 pm**

Take the opportunity to see inside City Hall with a tour led by a very special member of the Waltham Community.

**Followed at 7:00 pm by  
Councilor McMenimen's Narrative  
at the RTN Federal Credit Union  
Rear of 600 Main Street**

*This event is free and open to the public.  
Please call 617-448-6706 for more information.*



# 125 Years of Celebration Through Narration, Waltham, Massachusetts

By City Councilor Kathleen B. McMenimen



Many events caused the metamorphosis from Waltham Town to the incorporation of The City of Waltham in 1884! The causes, changes consequences and challenges are fascinating. Come catch a glimpse of these events through the eyes of Waltham's "Dean" of the City Council, Kathy McMenimen.



THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2009

GUIDED TOUR OF CITY HALL AT 5:45 PM

LECTURE AT 7:00 PM IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM

OF THE RTN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

600 MAIN STREET, WALTHAM

## History Special This Month!

*Our newsletter special correspondent Maureen Gordon has been researching the famous people, places, and events related to Waltham's history for publication here. We will be running this feature in multiple parts, as more research is being conducted, and more space will be required. Please enjoy Maureen's first installment, and send us feedback or your knowledge of the topic.*

### THE BROWNE BROTHERS ... IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Charles L. Browne. George F. Browne. These two brothers from Waltham are part of our nation's Civil War history. Charles, a 22-year-old carpenter, and George, a 29-year-old painter, were

among the first from Waltham to answer President Lincoln's call in 1861 for a volunteer army from each of the states. The brothers fought for the Union for two years with the 16<sup>th</sup> Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry until their deaths at the Battle of Gettysburg in Pennsylvania in July, 1863.

Older brother George, who had risen to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in Company B, was killed instantly at Gettysburg on July 2 in bloody fighting on Emmitsburg Road. Younger brother Charles, a 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant in Company H, was wounded 3 times on the same day and died some days later in a field hospital.

Leonard Greene, a brother-in-law of Charles and George, traveled down to Gettysburg to bring home George's body for burial in Waltham and to find Charles. When Leonard left Waltham, there was still hope that Charles was alive.

A double funeral was held for the brothers at the church of the First Methodist Society. A funeral procession, led by the American Watch Company band, marched two miles in the rain from the church to Mt. Feake Cemetery where George and Charles were laid to rest side by side.

Recently, while doing an Internet search for Civil War information for Waltham, I happened to find letters written by the brothers to their widowed mother, Lydia, and younger brother LaRoy. The letters, written some 146 years ago while the brothers were soldiers in Virginia, are at Louisiana State University (LSU) at Baton Rouge in the Hill Memorial Library, Special Collections. LSU bought the letters from an individual in Louisiana back in August, 1969.

There are 4 complete letters consisting of a total of 10 handwritten pages. The oldest letter and the only one written by Charles is dated April, 1862 from Hampton, VA.

*We will pick up here in our next issue. Be sure to watch for it in late August.*

We will have a complete report from Laura Bernstein on the recent activities of the Waltham Historical Commission. Space in this issue does not allow us to print the report, but you can find it on our website at [walthamhistoricalsociety.org](http://walthamhistoricalsociety.org).

## Watch for these upcoming events:

Check out the Historic Waltham Days website for a complete listing of events during the month of July!

<http://www.historicwaltham.org/historic2009.html>

### Watch Factory Exhibit!

Keep watching for your notice of the opening of the new historical exhibit currently being installed at the Crescent Street site. Equipment and images will guide you through the life and times of the Watch Factory and its people. Scheduled to open in July, the collaboration between The Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, Watch City Ventures, and the Waltham Historical Society will hold a special preview on Thursday, July 24th from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Admission is free and there will be light refreshments.

If you can't get enough of the story of the Watch Factory stop in to 760 Main Street where images that were not used in the factory exhibit will be on display throughout the summer. Check the special hours at our website: [www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org).

### Images from the Collection of the Waltham Historical Society

View images made by Waltham photographer Henry F. Warren. A special exhibit of photographs from the collection of the Waltham Historical Society will be open for viewing for the remainder of July at the Charles River Museum of Industry. See images of the Watch Factory building in its infancy, as well as images of Civil War Generals N.P. Banks, and U.S. Grant. Also in the display are photographs taken in March of 1865 of President Lincoln and his son Tad. The image of Lincoln is recognized as the last photograph of the President taken before his assassination. Call the Museum for hours 781-893-5410.

Call or email for more information: 617-448-6706 or [waltham.historicalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:waltham.historicalsociety@gmail.com).