

## The Waltham Historical Society, Inc.

### Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series



## Big Band Great Gene Krupa

Come and listen as Mr. Stephen Taddeo explores Gene Krupa's recordings and innovations regarding modern drumsets with recollections by Jazz Great Paul Monat

**Tuesday**  
**July 8, 2014**  
**7:00 pm**

*To Be Held At:*

**RTN**  
**Federal Credit Union**  
**600 Main Street**  
**Waltham, Massachusetts**

*This lecture is free and open to the public.  
617-448-6706 for information*

## The Curator's Corner

*by Joseph Keefe*

Our work continues at the Bright school as we continue to process our collection. Two new collections were processed since our last news letter. The first is a collection of material from the Compo Shoe Machinery Corporation. The collection documents the activities of the Compo Shoe of Waltham, Massachusetts, manufacturers of shoe machinery equipment. During the 1950's, Compo was the largest manufacturer of Shoe related products in the United States and this valuable collection gives valuable insight not only into the shoe business but also the beginnings of the Route 128 technology highway in the 1950's. The collection consists of engineering records, legal records, research and development records, employee/personnel records, correspondence, company catalogs, product literature, advertising materials and news paper clippings related to Compo's time in Waltham. The material is for the years 1954-1967, when Compo resided in Waltham and was at the height of its business.

The second collection is from the Waltham Family Service League/Association. This organization secured and managed endowment funds, the income of which was distributed to charitable organizations in the City of Waltham. The organization also helped local residents who could not afford proper counseling on topics ranging from child care, old age, terminal illness and marital troubles. The original organization was begun in 1912 by Mrs. Arthur Lyman to conduct social services within the city. The materials are for the years 1914 to 1976 when the organization effectively ended operations. The collection consists of financial records from the organization, audit reports, correspondence, material related to services offered to families in Waltham, services for returning veterans of World War II and Korea, Waltham War Fund collections during World War II, executive committee meetings, annual reports, board meetings, financial statements, investments, general disbursement vouchers, donation letters and personnel records. There is also material related to the Waltham Emergency Unemployment Committee which was set up in 1933 to help residents effected by the Great Depression. The highlight of the collection is the material related to Waltham during the Great Depression and World War II and the services offered by the organization.

We have also begun to process a wonderful collection of books generously donated by board member David L. Smith. We have begun to sort and catalog the collection which has topics ranging from colonial history, the Revolutionary War, the American Civil War and a great collection of material on early photography during the Civil War. There are also many books of letters and memoirs from participants in the Civil War which will add to the Society's already wonderful collection of

material. A special note of thanks to David for his very generous contribution.

We have also received several donations over the past few months. Board member Marie Daly donated an early photograph of the Barns twins from the family who once owned the Arrigo Farm. Louise Hamilton donated several pictures of historic Waltham landmarks including photographs of the Governor Gore Lodge, the Middlesex Medical School (now part of Brandeis University), Nutting's Dance Hall and the Waltham Watch Factory. Also donated were Waltham High school yearbooks for the years 1946-1950, some Waltham High school class of 1950 reunion material and several grade school class pictures from various Waltham elementary schools. Eileen O'Halloran donated four panoramic pictures from World War I and World War II of men from Company F from Waltham at Fort Devens. Board member Joan Sheridan donated a "Waltham" wrist watch. The watch is from the late 1950's and is under the "Waltham" brand name, it is an excellent example of how important and valuable the Waltham Watch name was after the watch factory closed.

A very special collection of material was donated by Waltham City Councilor Kathleen McMenimen and School Committee member Margaret Donnelly of the Waltham Women's College Club. The Waltham Women's College Club was founded in 1913 to foster fellowship among college women and promote education, community service and charity in the city. It also awarded a scholarship to a Waltham student each year. The organization operated until its disbandment in 2008. The collection will be processed and made available for research in the coming months. A special thank you to Councilor McMenimen and Marge Donnelly for this very generous donation.

We would like to thank everyone for their donations and remind members that if you find some Waltham related materials in your attic or basement to think about donating it to the Waltham Historical Society where we can preserve and protect our city's heritage.



*Waltham City Councilor Kathleen McMenimen, School Committee Member Margaret Donnelly donate the collection of the Women's College Club to Waltham Historical Society Curator Joe Keefe.*

## Women's College Club donation

On June 26, 2014, the archives of the now defunct Waltham College Club were presented to the Waltham Historical Society in a brief ceremony at the Bright School.

The Waltham College Club was founded in 1913 to foster fellowship among college women and promote education, service, and charity in the community. It also awarded a scholarship to a Waltham High graduate each year. The detailed minutes and program books provide a glimpse into life of Waltham women for almost a century. Many of Waltham's most well-known women served as officers in the organization. The officers reluctantly disbanded the Waltham College Club in 2008.

The presentation was made to Waltham former Presidents of the Waltham College Club, City Councillor, Kathy McMenimen and School Committee member, Margy Donnelly. Providing additional support and archival material were Past Presidents, Regina Pacitti and Jackie LeClair.

"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 Waltham Historical Society, Inc.  
190 Moody Street  
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