



Board of Directors
Term: 2019-2021

President
Wayne T. McCarthy

Vice-President
Sheila E. FitzPatrick

Treasurer
Marie Daly

Assistant Treasurer
Jack Cox

Recording Secretary
Janis Marchese

Corresponding Secretary
Jeremy Hagger

Curator
Vacant

Assistant Curator
Vacant

Membership
Gail Cormier

Board Members
Ruth M. Arena
Walter Beebe-Center
Thomas Casey
Joseph Connors
Dr. Helene Day
James Grenier
Ron Guertin
Morton Isaacson
Rachel Malley
Lou Nocera
Chauncy Perry
Gary Rogers
Al Smith
David Smith

The Weathervane is the official
publication of the
Waltham Historical Society
190 Moody Street
Waltham, Massachusetts 02453
781-891-5815
www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org

© Copyright 2020, all rights reserved
Membership in the Waltham Historical
Society includes subscription to this
newsletter among other rights and
privileges.

Articles and images submitted for publi-
cation, unless otherwise specified, become
the property of the Waltham Historical
Society. Authors submitting material
for publication are requested to sign
articles and include name, address, phone
number, e-mail if any, and release to print
images of any individuals depicted.

The E.L. Sanderson Lecture Series Presents Reverend Ripley's Prophecy: Samuel Ripley, His Son Ezra, and the Fight for Abolition

*With Matthew Patrick Ahern
Interim Engagement Site Manager
The Old Manse*

**Tuesday, July 14, 2020
at 7:00 pm**

260 Grove Street, Waltham

***Due to the on-going pandemic advisories
we plan to conduct this lecture through
use of virtual technology. Please watch
for an e-mail invitation with instructions.
If your e-mail has changed since October
2019 please update it now.***



In an 1843 letter to his sister, Mary Moody Emerson, Reverend Samuel Ripley wrote that he did not believe he would live "to witness the glorious event" of emancipation but concluded with the prophetic prediction that "the next generation will see slavery banished from our land." It was in this world, with this promise, that Samuel's youngest son Ezra grew up. Having watched his father's own transformation on the question of slavery, the young Ezra was thrust into a world where the names Emerson, Thoreau, and Alcott dominated and where figures like John Brown were revered

as heroes. Challenged by his own mother Sarah and inspired by the success achieved by one of Concord's free persons of color, John Garrison, when the Civil War began, there was not a question as to what Ezra was meant to do. Picking up his rifle, Lieutenant Ezra would join the Union Army against the wishes of his family in order to maintain a nation that "Offered freedom and equal rights to all."; Helping to fulfil the predication his father laid out nearly two decades earlier and giving his life in the pursuit of this promise.

Matthew Ahern received his BA in history and English with minors in American studies and medieval and renaissance studies from the University of Massachusetts Lowell, and is currently pursuing a public history certificate from Salem State University. Over the last three years since entering the museum field, Matthew has worked at the New England Pirate Museum, the Robbins House, and Addison Gallery of American Art in various roles. He currently works at the Old Manse where he serves as Lead Interpreter and is responsible for overseeing site interpretation and conducting research related to new projects.



Images from the Jack Cox collection on *The Homefront 1939-1945*



*The Exhibit is at the former Bright School location
260 Grove Street, Waltham, MA
Hours for viewing will be announced as soon as
re-opening the facility is deemed safe.
Visit us on-line at
Waltham.historical.society@gmail.com*

WE ARE CARRYING ON!

***The Society is still working to help
researchers and historians utilize
our resources!***

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 our archive. Inquiries through the website have not slowed down.

One impact of this pandemic on the Society has been a restriction in our abilities to raise funds. At the moment we are working to create a new website allow us to offer for sale items from the Society's store including tour books, mementos, pictures, ornaments and more.

As we approach dues renewal time, your mailing will include the opportunity to pay dues and hopefully include a donation in addition.

With limited fund-raising opportunities donations to assist us in covering the bricks and mortar expenses will greatly help cover the cost of protecting our collection.

We are asking you to consider a donation, to help us through these very difficult times. With no shortage of worthy causes to support, we have held off an appeal in deference to those more vital to our collective recovery. But we must also consider our own survival by asking for your support.

Watch for the imminent launch of our new website offering the ability to purchase items or make donations.

Or you can help immediately by sending a check to us at Waltham Historical Society, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453.

We promise to put it to good use and repay your generosity through more and better offerings in the COVID-free future.

***Please stay safe and healthy,
and as always,***

Thank you for your support!