

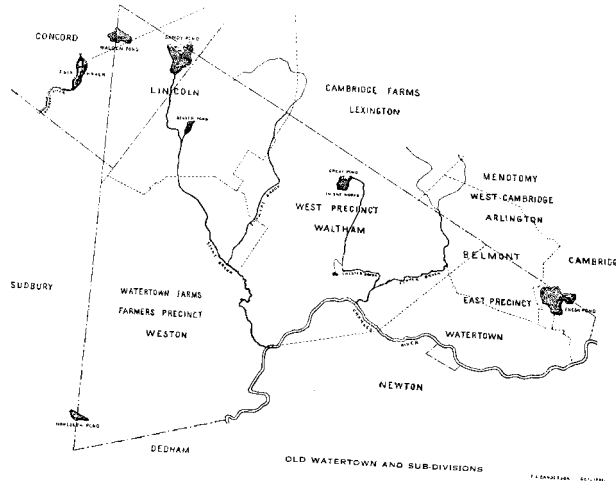
The Waltham Historical Society
190 MOODY STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

“Exciting Times for The Waltham Historical Society”
The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series
7:00 pm , May 16, 2006 at the Waltham Public Library

“Early Watertown 1630-1738”

Audrey Jones Childs

**Tuesday, May 16, 2006,
7:00 pm in the Lecture
Hall of the Waltham
Public Library**



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Audrey Jones Childs, Assistant Treasurer of the Historical Society of Watertown, will present the first lecture entitled Early Watertown 1630-1738. It will detail the establishment of Watertown, its activities, and the reasons that Waltham broke away in 1738. The lecture will begin at 7:00 pm in the Lecture Hall at the Waltham Public Library on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

Admission is free to the public, and donations are always welcome.

For more details contact us at 617-448-6706, or on the web at:

walthamhistoricalsociety.org, or email

waynemccarthy@rcn.com.

The May 2006 meeting will

be the start of our new Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series.

Named in honor of a long-time secretary of the Society, and sponsored by RTN Federal Credit Union, this series will cover local history, chronologically, beginning with the first settlers along the Charles River, and continue to cover current events. Topics are scheduled to include King Philip's War, activities related to the American Revolution, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, watch and precision machine tool manufacturing, the World Wars, Raytheon, and more.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheila FitzPatrick at 781-894-0062 or email Wayne at waynemccarthy@rcn.com.

About the speaker:

Audrey Jones Childs is a third generation resident of Watertown and a Watertown historian. She serves as the Assistant Treasurer and grant writer for the Historical Society of Watertown and is a member of Watertown's Historic District Commission. She has given many lectures on the history of Watertown and helped to lead an historic walking tour of Watertown's East End and an accompanying historic photo display after interviewing many East End residents. She has served on many other Watertown committees including Watertown's 375th Celebration Committee during 2005.

**From last Issue:
Can you identify this
Waltham Location?**

*This is the curve known as
Meeting House Walkway on
Beaver Street*



About this issue...

The intent of The Waltham Historical Society's Newsletter is to provide information on historical, current, and upcoming events in which the Society is involved.

This issue contains a letter written a month after the Great San Francisco earthquake of April 18, 1906.

Written to Miss Nellie Graves of 107 Russell Street,

Waltham, from Aunt Emily in San Francisco, it was post-marked May 19, 1906.

On this, the 100th anniversary of the great quake, we thought it might be of interest to reprint it here. It was contributed by the Graves family.

Also in this issue is information about our Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series (p. 3) and the possibility of acquiring

space at 25 Lexington St. (p 4).

These events are keeping us busy here at headquarters. If you are able to volunteer your assistance, we can greatly expand our efforts to keep moving the Society forward. Let us know you would like to help.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter, and encourage your comments at 781-891-5815 or through our web site.



Letter to Miss Nellie Graves

From Aunt Emily

Letter to Miss Nellie Graves
107 Russell Street, Waltham, Massachusetts

From Aunt Emily,
1674 Page Street, San Francisco, California

May 19, 1906.

My Dear Nellie,

Your very welcome letter came and I hope you will excuse my being so long in replying, but I have had so much hard work, and so many letters to reply to that I could hardly find time (only at night), for we have no lights only candles, and it is hard to see with them, but we expect to get our gas in soon, perhaps today. I have heard from Etta and from Edgar; they have been very kind and solicitous, and offered to help us financially. We feel very grateful to them but fortunately we don't need it and shall not unless we have further trouble, which I trust we may not. Aunt Charlotte, also offered to help financially—it was so good of her. You have all been so good to us in our trouble. I shall not soon forget your kindness. We have water in our house and have had since the 10th day after the quake. We also have sewer connec-

tions now. When we get gas in again, we will be able to cook in the house, but as yet we all cook out in the street. When we get gas, we can do without our chimneys for a while, until we can get them rebuilt, which will be sometime yet. I imagine Phil is back into a shanty on his old place. They will rebuild as soon as possible. Like every other place, the fire destroyed it. The fire was the most awful calamity that ever befell any people. Over 26 miles in circumference is the extent of the burnt district—450 square blocks. Out of 450,000 population, 250,000 were made homeless. The earthquake damages could soon have been repaired, but the fire was terrible in its extent and destructiveness. They dynamited for three days and nights in their efforts to extinguish it. In some places the fires are burning yet in the ruins. Cars are running again and have been in some places since the 28th. The tenants on my middle flat moved out after the quake—went to Los Angeles. If I had the chimneys built, could have rented again at once. Give my love to your Mother and brothers and sister, and reserve for yourself a very large share.

Yours truly,
Aunt Emily

RTN Federal Credit Union Steps Forward to Sponsor the Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series



Edmund L. Sanderson

In our last issue we announced the Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series in this space, seeking a sponsor to ensure it would be a series with a sense of continuity. As most members know, we currently lack a home suitable for all our endeavors, and are thus reliant upon the good will (and scheduling fortunes) of the Public Library, the Gore Estate, or some other community-oriented entity. Since our last publication, Mr. Joe Connors at the RTN Federal Credit Union, long a supporter of the Historical Society's House Tours, stepped forward with an offer for the Society to use their new Community Room in the RTN (Buttrick) Building at the corner of Main and Elm Streets.

Edmund L. Sanderson graduated from Waltham High School in 1883, and went on to research and document much of Waltham's history. Previous issues of this newsletter have contained some of his works, and many others are still awaiting available space. His name appears on many of our most prized possessions, and his research has been cited in numerous areas of significance to the History of our City.

Topics of the Series are scheduled to include King Philip's War, activities related to the American Revolution, the beginnings of the American Industrial Revolution, watch and precision machine tool manufacturing, the World Wars, Raytheon, Polaroid, and more.

Series Schedule

A list of the upcoming lectures in the Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series is as follows:

May 16, 2006 (Waltham Library)
Audrey Jones Childs:
Watertown to 1738

July 11, 2006 (RTN)
Paul Hogman
King Philip's War 1765

September 12, 2006 (RTN)
Dr. Sam Forman
Dr. Joseph Warren

November 14, 2006 (RTN)
Dr. Tony Howes
King George III, the King who lost America

January 9, 2007 (RTN)
Paul Hogman
The Henry Knox Trail, General Henry Knox

With an eye towards continuity, the RTN offer allows us to schedule the Lectures on a regular basis. All lectures will be held on the second Tuesday of every second month, with the first lecture being May 16, the second July 11, third September 12, etc, with the intent to present in chronological order.

It is hoped that this consistency will help people interested in attending the entire series, arrange their schedules more easily.

House Tour 2006

The 2006 Waltham House Tour is NOW. If you would like to offer your home for inclusion, or know someone who may, please contact us at 617-448-6706 as soon as possible.

Please let us know if you can serve as a docent the day of the event, June 4, 2006 from noon to 4:00 pm.

Have your name or business listed for an entire year in our newsletter by making a donation as a Friend. A form is enclosed with this newsletter, or call us at 617-448-6706.

2005 Business Friends of the Waltham Historical Society

Allegra Print and Imaging	The Regan Family
Brian Aucoin	Radio Station W R C A
Charlesbank Estates	Stack Chiropractic Office
Delaney & Delaney, Attorneys at Law	Waltham Land Trust, Inc.
"Hayes" Oil Co., Inc.	Lizzy's Ice Cream
Marcou Jewelers	The Nelson Companies
City Councillor Kathy McMenimen	Professional Hearing Aid Center
New England Historic Genealogical Society	Rotary Club of Waltham, Serving Waltham Since 1925
John C. Peacock, Executive Director	Sadies Saloon and Eatery

Recent correspondences:

Bob Howett, a volunteer at the Charles River Museum of Industry, would like to be in contact with anyone with pictures of bicycles, people, and Bicycle Park from the 1890's through the 1920's. Please contact Bob at 781-275-7921 after 6:00 p.m.

I am conducting research at the Gore Place on an area in the servants chambers, which is thought to be a drying chamber. I was wondering if the Waltham Historical Society has any records or photographs related to Christopher and Rebecca Gore, the Gore Place, Walter F. Starbuck's ownership, or the Country Club? Thank you.

Could you tell me where the former governor Nathaniel P. Banks attended church in Waltham? He was in office from 1858-61. He died on September 1, 1894 in Waltham. He is buried at Grove Hill Cemetery in Waltham, MA.

I am working on an essay/article hopefully for the Waltham Daily News Tribune. Recently a friend and I walked the abandoned railroad tracks from Waltham to Peakham Road in Sudbury. It was a beautiful walk! I would like to include in this article some historical information about those tracks. Do you have any ?

My mother and my aunts are trying to recall what was the structure on the corner of Prospect and Main Streets during the 1940s - on the same side of the street on which the Waltham Supermarket was - where the BayBank eventually was built. Should you be able to answer that question, it would be much appreciated.

If you have any information on these inquiries, or would like to become involved in any of the activities mentioned, please contact us at the headquarters 781-891-5815, and we will be delighted to put you in touch with the individuals involved.



The Waltham Historical Society is grateful for the continued support of the RTN Federal Credit Union.

Calendar

May 1-31, 2006

Waltham Historical Society display at the Waltham Public Library. Images from the collection of the Historical Society will be displayed for the month of May.

June 4, 2006

11:30 am—3:30 pm House Tour tickets available in RTN parking lot on Elm Street; cost \$20. Call Sheila

July 11, 2006

***King Philip's War.** 7:00 pm at the RTN Federal Credit Union's Community Room. What took place that caused the colonial people of New England to fear for their lives and the lives of their families? Come hear Paul Hogman describe the fast-moving events and legends of those fourteen months!*

July 15-16, 2006

***Watertown Treaty Days.** 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturday and Sunday at O'Connell Field, Rt. 16, Watertown, MA*

August 30-Sept. 2

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference Hynes Auditorium, Boston, MA. Information at www.fgs.org or call NEHGS 617-536-5740.

September 12, 2006

*7:00 pm at the RTN Federal Credit Union building. Dr. Sam Forman will present on **Dr. Joseph Warren** and his role in the early days of revolutionary Boston*

Not Really Back Page News!

In the past few weeks, the Historical Society has been attending meetings of the RFP Committee of the Waltham City Council. The Mayor and City Council are discussing the feasibility of the Waltham Historical Society occupying two rooms at 25 Lexington Street, in exchange for some archival research and cataloging of materials belonging to the City currently store there. The space, though far too small to house a fraction of our holdings, would allow us an opportunity to put a face to the Historical Society that is visible to the public.

If we are successful in this endeavor, we will be seeking volunteers to staff the office on a regular basis. At this time, plans call for a minimum of two to three hours every Saturday, and possibly one evening per week.

Should you wish volunteer, please make us aware of your interest and we will begin training sessions as soon as the logistics with the City are finalized.

Also, some work making the space habitable will be necessary. If you are, or know, any in the building trades who would be interested in helping us fit-up the two rooms, please contact Co-presidents Sheila FitzPatrick or Wayne McCarthy as soon as possible. They can be reached at 781-891-5815 or 617-448-6706.