

The Waltham Historical Society  
190 MOODY STREET  
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series

A Brief History of Waltham Clock Co.

Mr. Andrew Dervan

Tuesday,  
May 12, 2009

7:00 pm in the Community Room  
at RTN Federal Credit Union  
600 Main Street, Waltham

In 1890, Walter J. Dudley and Walter K. Menns began work on an electric (battery powered) clock in John Starks shop in Waltham, MA. They convinced a group of Natick, MA investors to form the Waltham Electric Clock Company in New Hampshire on June 5, 1890. A factory was setup in Natick and the first clock was sold in early 1891. In April 1891 a group of Waltham investors took over the company and moved it back to John Stark's shop in Waltham.

In January 1893 Waltham Electric Clock Co. introduced a weight driven precision regulator clock. American Waltham Watch Co. purchased an early regulator for the 1893 World's Fair exhibit to control the watch making machinery. In June 1894, the Board of Directors voted to change the company's name to the Waltham Clock Company. The company quickly acquired a reputation for manufacturing high precision weight driven regulators that were used by many companies, including American Waltham Watch Co., as their master clocks.

At the January 1897 Board Meeting all investors agreed to drop out (except for John Stark) because the company continued losing money. Several days later the Waltham

Clock Company held another board meeting and agreed to sell the business to William Henry. John Stark would become President of the new corporation and William Henry would become the Treasurer and Manager.

In November 1898, the Waltham Clock Company reorganized and elected new officers: John Stark, President; William Henry, Treasurer and Business Manager; and Thomas W. Shephard, Mechanical Superintendent. The company was ready to introduce a new Hall Clock designed by Mr. Henry and a new synchronized time system, and planned to offer a complete line of regulators, and office and marine clocks.

This new partnership appeared very successful, because many newspaper articles and other publications highlighted the company's success. Waltham Clock Co. chiming hall clocks became a big seller for the company, along with large and small regulators and Willard banjo clocks.

The Company continued until the death of William Henry in January 1913. After William Henry's death John Stark and Thomas Shepherd purchased his interest of the business. On February 27, 1914 they signed the papers transferring all good will, stock,

Andrew H. (Andy) Dervan

Andrew H. (Andy) Dervan began collecting antique clocks in 1997. Two of the first clocks he purchased were banjo clocks from the Waltham Clock Company. Reviewing the published literature of the time revealed very little information on them or on the Waltham Clock Company. The lack of real information on these clocks prompted him to initiate research on the topic. With encouragement from a few collector friends, he began serious study on the subject.

Mr. Dervan grew up in Dedham Massachusetts, graduated with B.A. in Chemistry from Bridgewater State College. After graduation he moved to Kentucky, and then to Michigan, where he received a M.A. in Chemistry from the University of Detroit.

Mr. Dervan's professional career has spanned over thirty years in Research & Development with Celanese Corporation, Ford Motor Co., and DuPont Performance Coatings, developing a variety of OEM automotive coatings. He has been awarded 32 U.S. patents for new coating resins and paint formulations.

Mr. Dervan emphasized the importance of the role played by his wife, Linda, in supporting and encouraging his research projects. Her patience with his research has contributed to his success.

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## Waltham Clock Company

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completed and in-process materials, and machinery to Waltham Watch Company.

Waltham Watch Co. increased its product offerings and maintained Waltham Clock Company as a separate department to capitalize on its recognized name for quality. After the 1925 Waltham Watch Co. reorganization, the separate clock department was abolished.

**Please note: Doors to the Credit Union will open at 6:30 pm, and will be locked at 7:15 pm. Please, arrive before 7:15 to avoid missing this informative lecture.**

For information call  
617-448-6706 or email  
waynemccarthy@rcn.com.

### Waltham Historical Commission

April 13, 2009

Submitted by Laura Bernstein

Archie Bennett's report:

--no demolition signoffs of historically-relevant properties

--CPA/CPC funding of Wellington House, St. Mary's Church, & St. Charles Church continues in process.

--Fernald School. It appears that the state (DCAM) is purposefully neglecting appropriately securing these buildings, with the possible intention of having them demolished & thus saving mothballing costs.

WHC voted to write DCAM & MHC protesting this situation, and also to write the Mayor's Office, warning of risks to Police & Fire Depts.

--546 Moody St. Developer has requested permission to demolish this & 6 other near-by structures to build a Federally-chartered bank. Application for demolition will probably trigger a Federal review of 546 Moody St. If not, the Demolition Delay Ordinance will probably be applicable. WHC will write a letter of comment to MHC.

—Carl Zinnell's report on CPA/CPC: Backlogs continue; there are 24 recent applications with the City Council.

—David Smith's report on 2009-2010 WHC budget: TERRIBLE! The squeeze on Waltham is particularly acute. No non-emergency projects; cuts will come out of Stonehurst. Stonehurst's rental rates, which the Mayor controls, were discussed at length.

—There were 3 non-controversial zoning changes/cell tower applications signed off on.

## House Tour 2009: We Need Your Home!



Our Annual House Tour is now in the final planning stage! Last year's homes were unique and the homeowners were enthusiastic throughout the event.

Please consider having your home included on this year's tour. Call us and we will have a member of our House Tour Committee contact you with details. Waltham's treasure trove of homes always generates an interest in preserving the fine examples of historical architecture and modern tastes in design and decorating.

Our House Tour books have become collectors' items that provide snapshots of the City's homes every year. Please consider becoming a Friend of the Waltham Historical Society by making a donation using the enclosed form, or referring us to a local business that can benefit by having their information listed on our web site, in our tour book, and in every issue of the Historical Society's newsletter for a year.

Enclosed with this newsletter are forms to show your support by becoming a Friend or Business Friend for this year's Tour. Fill out the form and mail it back to us with your check as soon as possible, and we will list your name in the Tour Book.

There are many other ways you can help us. Open your house as a stop on the tour, or serve as docent at one of the homes on the day of the tour.

If you prefer a professional listing, or advertisement please contact us and we will gladly create an ad. Our membership mailing goes to 300 members, ensuring that your name will be seen by them six times, as well as being posted on the Society's web site.

Once again this year, Mr. Joe Connors and the RTN Federal Credit union are to be commended for their generous support of this popular event.

### Business Friends of the Waltham Historical Society

Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels  
Belmont / Waltham

Chateau Restaurant  
195 School Street  
Waltham, MA 02451-4545

Civil War Round Table of Greater  
Boston  
3 Waverley Oaks Road, #202  
Waltham, MA 02452

Community Mapping, Inc.  
872 Mass. Ave., Suite 1-6,  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Constructions Collaborative, Inc.  
P.O. Box 541015  
99 Hammond Street  
Waltham, MA 02454-1015

Laura M. Cannon, Esq.  
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685 Main Street  
Waltham, MA 02451

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564 Main Street / Waltham, MA  
781-893-2233  
J.J. Hayes Oil Co., Inc.  
595 Lexington Street  
Waltham, MA 02452-3031  
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Marcou Jewelers  
318 Moody Street  
Waltham, MA 02453

Kathy McMenimen  
City Councillor

New England Historic Genealogical  
Society  
101 Newbury Street  
Boston, MA 02116  
www.NewEnglandAncestors.org

Stack Chiropractic Office  
Dr. Roberta Stack  
42 Weston Street, Waltham, MA  
02453 / 781-891-1722

Waltham Land Trust, Inc.  
240 Beaver Street  
Waltham, MA 02454



## ***Lill Movsessian Dinner a night for memories!***

The Waltham Historical Society's fundraiser in memory of Lillian Everett Movsessian was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 in the Green Room of the Chateau Restaurant. The evening's festive intent was dampened by the notice that Lill's husband, Al, passed away on the 25th, just three days before the event.

The room was filled with some of Waltham's most prominent personalities, some of whom contributed to the evening's program by recounting some of their memories of Lill. Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, Councilors Kathy McMenimen and Sally Collura each spoke of Lill's contributions to the community.

Waltham High School Principal John Graceffa and Centennial Scholarship Foundation representative Gail Cormier spoke of Lill's organizational skills and her work to bring scholarship opportunities to many student graduates of Waltham High School.

Frank Everett recounted family memories, and the Salvation Army Captains Valerie and Steven Lopes reminded us of Lill's spirit of giving. Connie Koutoujian spoke of Lill in terms of endearment.

Master of Ceremonies Lou Nocera drew on his memories of Lill to make the event even more personal and touching.

Also in attendance on Tuesday were Councilor Joe Giordano former Mayor and Mrs. William Stanley, Bill Walsh, former City

Clerk Peter Koutoujian, as well as many other long-time community dignitaries.

A plaque created in the Career and Technical Education programs at Waltham High School was presented in memory of Lill to the Chateau Restaurant and the Nocera family.

The event was supported through individual donations, a raffle, and by receipt of 100% of the proceeds from the meals made by the Chateau and the Nocera family.

The Historical Society would like to extend to all in attendance our sincere appreciation for your support and for the support of the following Boosters and Raffle Prize Donors:

### **Boosters:**

Honorable Jeannette A. McCarthy  
 Mr. Wayne F.X. Brasco  
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 Mr. & Mrs. David Chadbourne  
 The Waltham West Suburban Chamber of Commerce  
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 Ms. Louise Hamilton  
 The Kiwanis  
 Winifred Kneisel  
 Ms. Julia F. Middlebrook  
 Mr. Alexander Movsessian  
 Mr. Arthur Nelson  
 Ms. Mary L. Selig  
 Arthur & Inge Uhlir

### **Raffle Prize Donors:**

The Chateau Restaurant  
 The Grille @ Hobbs Brook  
 Doubletree Guest Suites, Waltham  
 Catherine Cannon  
 The Wayside Inn  
 The Reagle Players-Waltham  
 Margarita's Restaurant  
 The Waltham Centennial Scholarship Foundation  
 Merry Maids-Waltham  
 Sally Collura / The Tea Leaf  
 Mary Ellen Annese  
 Randy's Car Wash  
 Kevin Shea, Artist, Newburyport, MA  
 The Boston Red Sox  
 The Medieval Manor—Boston  
 Frank Maloney  
 Passaretti Photography

## ***Election of Officers for 2009-2011!***

This month's meeting is the Waltham Historical Society's Annual Meeting. All officers are responsible for submitting Annual Reports at this meeting. Also, an election will be held for Officers and Directors of the Corporation to serve the 2009-2011 term. Please support your Historical Society! It's not too late to have your name placed for consideration at the May meeting on May 12. If you know anyone interested in becoming a Director please contact us at 781-891-5815 and we will follow up with that person.

### ***Sponsorship Opportunities Available***

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Waltham Historical Society and any of its activities, please contact Co-presidents Sheila FitzPatrick or Wayne McCarthy and learn of the possibilities. We have numerous events offering sponsorship opportunities that allow for contributions at many different levels. Call us at 781-891-5815 or 617-448-6706.

**“Thank you” to the Waltham  
Historical Society for preserving  
the City’s rich legacy!**



As a proud member of the Waltham community for 63 years,  
we look forward to serving all members of the Society.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
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***Upcoming Society Calendar***

***Late May / Early June***

Waltham Historical Society, the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, and Berkeley Associates

***Watch Factory Exhibit***

*Visit the Waltham Watch Factory on Crescent Street and view the new exhibit of images and objects pertaining to the history of the Waltham Watch Company. Official date to be announced.*

***Thursday, July 16, 2009***

Waltham Historical Society

***Historic Waltham Days Lecture by City Councillor Kathleen B. McMenimen***

*Tour City Hall at 6:00 pm with Councillor McMenimen and Mayor Jeannette McCarthy before moving to the RTN Federal Credit Union for a lecture by Councillor McMenimen. The topic of the lecture will be the 125th Anniversary of Waltham becoming a City. Free and Open to the Public. Doors to the lecture open at 6:45. Refreshments will be available.*

***Friday, July 24, 2009***

Waltham Historical Society, Charles River Museum of Industry and Berkeley Associates

***Waltham Watch Factory History Exhibit***

*Waltham Watch Factory, Crescent Street. Exhibit open with guides from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.*

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