

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham Historical Society

WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

November 2009



Sanderson Lecture Series

7:00 p.m., Tuesday evening

November 10, 2009

RTN Federal Credit Union

Community Room

600 Main Street

Waltham, MA 02453

Board of Directors
Term: 2009-2011

Co-Presidents
Sheila E. FitzPatrick
Wayne T. McCarthy

Treasurer
Mary Selig

Assistant Treasurer
Jack Cox

Recording Secretary
Leona Lindsay

Corresponding Secretary
Joe Vizard

Curator
Michelle Morello

Assistant Curator
Winifred W. Kneisel

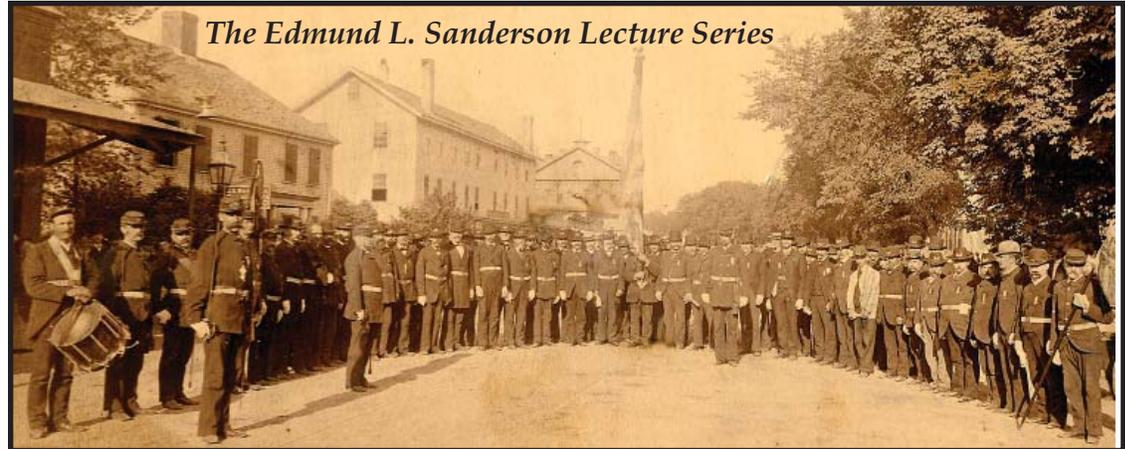
Membership
Carol DiFranco

Board Members
Ruth M. Arena
Marie Daly
Dr. Helene Day
Edna L. Dolber
Maureen Gordon
Louise Hamilton
Virginia Hays
Morton Isaacson
Larry Logan
Barbara Maloney
Frank Maloney
Lou Nocera
Joan M. Sheridan
David Smith
Michael Squillante

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

© Copyright 2009, all rights reserved
Membership in the Waltham Historical Society includes subscription to this newsletter among other rights and privileges.

Articles and images submitted for publication, 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.



Civil War Draft Records, 1863-1865

*Presented by Mr. Joseph Keefe
Archives Staff, National Archives and Records Administration*

The National Archives Center in Waltham, MA, recently announced the receipt of over 1000 volumes of Civil War records previously held in Washington, D.C. These records document the activities of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau, which arrested deserters, enrolled men for the draft, enlisted volunteers, and compiled statistics on the physical condition of recruits and on army casualties.

"These amazing records offer a glimpse into every city and town of New England – the ethnic breakdown, the occupations – and reveal what New England was like in 1863 and 1864," explains Joseph Keefe, historian and Civil War expert on the Archives' staff. "They offer researchers the opportunity to find information on people who otherwise may be lost to history."

Referred to by the Archives as Record Group 110, the volumes provide insight into the Civil War for historians and for genealogists. The Provost Marshal General's Bureau, established on March 3, 1863, kept records covering all the New England states.

The Enrollment Act, enacted by the Thirty-seventh Congress in response to the need to swell the ranks of the Union army, subjected all males between the ages of twenty and forty-five to the draft. There were few who were exempt.

The act divided the United States into enrollment districts along the lines of congressional districts. Col. James Barnet Fry, the new provost marshal general, enforced the unpopular law until 1865, when the bureau went out of business.

Please join us for this interesting lecture beginning at 7:00 pm in the Community Room of the RTN Federal Credit Union, 600 Main Street in Waltham. Plan to arrive early in order to get a good seat. This lecture is free and open to the public. If you have any questions please call 617-448-6706.

Dues are Now Past Due

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL WAS
DUE OCTOBER 30, 2009**

**SEPTEMBER 2009 THROUGH
AUGUST 2010**

If you have not yet renewed, please do so as soon as possible to help us continue our effort to preserve Waltham's history.

Please make checks payable to:
The Waltham Historical Society
And return to Carol DiFranco at
29 Willow Street, Waltham, MA 02453.

The Browne Brothers... In Their Own Words

By Maureen Gordon

This is the third of a four-part series on the Browne Brothers and their Civil War Letters.

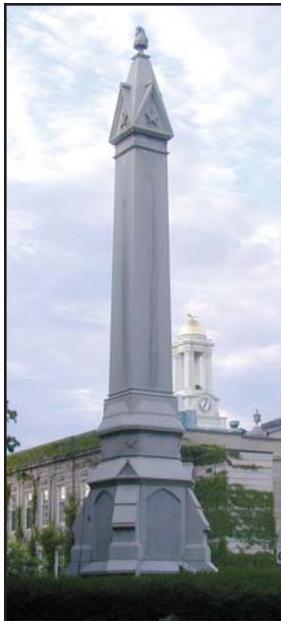
On the Waltham Common behind City Hall stands a tall obelisk shaped monument with the inscription, "To The Nation's Defenders".

This memorial, known as the Soldiers' Monument, was dedicated in 1868 to the Waltham men who died in the Civil War. Among the 55 names engraved on the memorial, can be found the names of two brothers, George and Charles Browne. The Browne brothers fought with the 16th Regiment Mass for two years and were killed at Gettysburg.

The brothers wrote letters from the front to their widowed mother, Lydia, and to their younger brother, LaRoy. At least four of the brothers' letters have survived and recently came to the attention of the Historical Society through an Internet search. The letters are located at a library at Louisiana State University (LSU).¹

The first two letters from the LSU collection were featured in the September, 2009 issue of this newsletter. The third letter from LSU is presented below, with the fourth in the next issue.

The letters were transcribed as written including any spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors. The only



changes made were to leave some space between run-on thoughts so that the letters are easier to read. Footnotes are used to help the reader understand meaning and context.

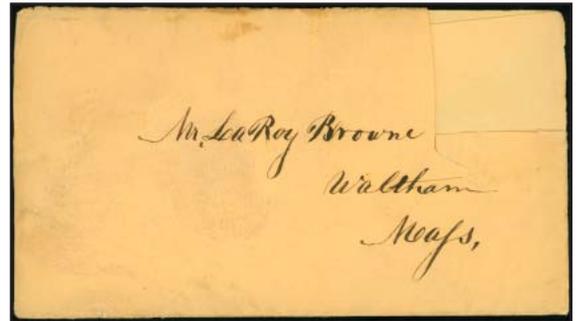
Third Letter:
 December 10, 1862
 Camp Near Falmouth, VA

The third letter in the LSU collection was written by older brother George, now 30 years old, from Falmouth, VA on Dec. 10, 1862. George was just promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant and along with the promotion, he was transferred to Company B of the 16th Regiment.

As the year 1862 is coming to a close, the brothers are facing their second winter away from Waltham. George writes that they are about to embark on another long march to the Pamunkey River on the Virginia Peninsula.

George mentions his watch which was most likely a Waltham watch. We learn that George's mother has been sending items to the brothers. George refers to a "box" which was the term used at that time to mean a package sent to the soldiers from home.

We also learn that George has been corresponding with his older sister Mandana who lives in Waltham and is married to Leonard Greene. It is Leonard who in 7 months time will be travelling to Gettysburg to bring the brothers back home to Waltham for burial.



Camp Near Falmouth Va
 Dec 10th 1862

*Good Morning Dear Mother
 It is a splendid morning here but very frosty and cold. think it will be pretty warm when the sun gits up.
 We are under marching orders once more.*

We received the order last night about eight aclock to be ready to march at a moments notice after sun down to night with four days cooked rations two to be carried in haversack two in waggons. tents to be struck at three this afternoon. we have probably got to start on a night march. I suppose it is about as well for the men cannot sleep much unless we bivouac where wood is plenty. it will be tough any way for there is about two inches of snow on the ground. probably it will not last long.

The report is that we are to march to the Pamunkey River on the Panincular. it will take ten or twelve days at least.

I don't suppose I shall have a chance to send a letter before we git there if I can I will write. you must not worry about us if you do not git a letter for some time I don't think there is any chance of gitting our box now for some time. I am sorry on account of Charlies boots but I suppose he can gitalong with shoes as well as others. The sole has started off from one of my new boots had them one week paid eight dollars.

¹ The LSU citation is: Charles L. Brown Letters, Mss. 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

I received those gloves monday.

Tell LaRoy my watch runs first rate it is a good one.

Tell Malvng I will write her as soon as I have a chance. I write to Mandana and Alvah yesterday.

GFB

Send us some stamps as we cannot git them hear.

Copyright 2009 Maureen Gordon All Rights Reserved.

The Waltham Historical Society is grateful for the generous support of The Louisiana State University (LSU) in providing us permission to publish these articles.

The University has made a request that citation be provided with any reprint related to these documents. In order to facilitate any future search related to this article by University librarians, inquiries directed to the University should provide the following citation: Charles L. Brown Letters, Mss. 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

Please note that their in their reference the name Brown is spelled without the trailing "e."

The Waltham Historical Society would like to congratulate Mr. Connor C. Fay on winning the *Waltham's History, The Nation's History* Essay contest sponsored by Historic Waltham, Inc. and the National Archive and Records Administration.

Mr. Fay's winning entry, *Waltham Farming: Past, Present and Future* was deemed the outstanding submission in the Grade 4 and 5 category.

We have received a request from former Waltham resident Patricia Bush living in St. Louis, MO. She enjoys keeping up with the activities in Waltham, and would love to correspond with someone on a regular basis. If you are interested you can write to her in care of the WHS, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453.

Waltham Historical Commission Meeting of October 5, 2009

By Laura Bernstein

Re: Demolition Requests

Archie Bennett received 29 calls for technical assistance, had 2 site visits with 2 sign offs for demolition: 71 Marivista Road and 385 Trapelo Road

Wellington House

54 meetings held regarding Wellington House. End of October they are hoping to see results in continuing work done at that site.

Archie is currently working with the CPC on St. Mary's, St Charles, 25 Lexington Street and the Wellington House.

Brooks House 546 Moody Street

TD Bank will not proceed with the plan unless the bank has a drive-thru.

TD Bank intends to demolish 7 buildings at 546-554 Moody Street. These lots will be merged to construct TD Bank. If TD Bank did decide to keep "Brooks House", they would want to move it to the middle of the lot. TD Bank projects the cost to move this building \$375,000. There would be no tax credit for saving the building, since it is not deemed "historically significant" by the Mass. Historic Commission.

Attorney Connors appeared before the Commission today to request a sign off on a "development prospectus". June plans are now obsolete because the building has changed. The Historical Commission members finally agreed to sign off on the "development prospectus" with the stipulation that:

It would be signed exactly as the previous request, and would include a note to the Law Department asking for clarification on whether this new plan design would re-start the clock on the demolition delay.

Upcoming Activities and Events of Note

New England History Festival

Saturday, November 14th, 2009 5:00-10:00 pm

Hibernian Hall,
151 Watertown St., Watertown, MA 02472

\$10.00 Trivia, Exhibits, Concessions, Prizes, Souvenirs, Reenactors, Living History

For More Information Call:

339-368-1971 (John) or write to: John Horrigan,
P.O. Box 145, Watertown, MA 02471

Images by H.F. Warren

Now through December

The Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation,
154 Moody Street,
Waltham

View enlargements of photos by Waltham photographer H.F. Warren, including what is claimed to be the last photograph taken of Abraham Lincoln before his assassination. These are images from the collection of the Waltham Historical Society. Call for hours and information 781-893-5410.



760 Main Street

The Waltham Historical Society has a new exhibit at our satellite office that is designed to coordinate with the new exhibit opened at the former Waltham Watch Factory.

We have volunteers who open the site on weekends and occasional mornings. Please check our website calendar for days and times.

Car #41 Trolley Restoration

The long awaited arrival of car 41 to the restoration shop will happen soon. The restoration fund stands at a little more than \$73,000 but more will be needed. Once restored it will be the only passenger turn of the 20th century single truck trolley running at the museum. Submitted by Douglas Carrier, Seashore Trolley Museum, Maine.

The Waltham Historical Society is sad to report the passing of two prominent and well-loved members of the Waltham Community.

Our Sincere Condolences to the families of :

Mrs. Betty Nocera
Mrs. Jean Salvucci
Richard Mullin

Please patronize all our sponsors. Without their support, we would be unable to continue our efforts to preserve Waltham's history for future generations.

Our Business Friends

Nowell Z. Bloomenthal, Attorney at Law
935 Main St. • Waltham 02451
781-899-2400 • nowell@bdlawllc.com

Phil Burke
P.O. Box 541589 • Waltham 02454

The Chateau Restaurant
195 School Street • Waltham 02451

Century 21 Gelineau & Associates
502 Main St. • Waltham 02452

Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston
c/o David L. Smith
3 Waverley Oaks Road, #202
Waltham 02452

Delaney & Delaney, Attorneys at Law
564 Main Street / Waltham
781-893-2233 / delaneylaw@msn.com
bdelaney@delaneylawoffice.com

Fran's Fruit & Flowers
Adjacent to Bldg. 19, Rtes. 9 & 27
Natick, MA • 508-655-8424
www.frans-flowers.com

Bret J. Francis of Harnish, Jenney, Mitchell
& Resh, LLP
564 Main Street, Suite 3W
Waltham 02452

J.J. Hayes Oil Co., Inc.
595 Lexington Street / Waltham 02452-3031
781-893-7145 • jjhayesoil.com

Historical Society of Watertown
Edmund Fowle House & Museum
28 Marshall Street / Watertown 02472
www.historicwatertown.org

Leader Mortgage
Suzanne Dion McElroy
180 Mass. Ave. • Arlington, MA 02474

Marcou Jewelers
Bob & Cheryl Marcou
318 Moody Street • Waltham 2453

Maristhill Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
66 Newton Street • Waltham 02453

Mattinata Productions
62 Upland Road • Waltham 02451

City Councilor Kathy McMenimen

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

Professional Hearing Centers
1101 Beacon St., Suite 8E
Brookline, MA 02446 / 617-232-9182

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

Waltham Land Trust
P.O. Box 54-1120, Waltham, MA 02454

Rotary Club of Waltham
P.O. Box 540262, Waltham, MA 02454

Watertown Savings Bank
Waltham, MA



*fast dependable service
auto • home • industry*

PRIME 
GLASS and MIRROR
60 Arsenal St., Watertown, MA 02472

Larry Logan

Phone: (617) 924-9050
Fax: (617) 924-5182

www.prime-glass.com
email: primeglass101@aol.com



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Greene at home

**The Waltham
Historical
Society's 2010
House Tour
plans are now
underway**

The 2010 Tour is seeking homes interested in being featured on our

annual house tour. Please contact Wayne McCarthy at 617-448-6706 or waltham.historical.society@gmail.com for more information.

**"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.*

Not a bank. A better financial experience.
Now serving all of Waltham.

Savings • Savings Certificates • Free Checking

Personal Loans • Mortgages • Credit Cards
Car, Truck and SUV Loans • Personal Loans

Business Checking • Business Savings
Business Lines of Credit • Commercial Mortgages

RTN Federal Credit Union

600 Main Street • Waltham, MA 02452
1-800-338-0221 • (781) 736-9900 • www.rtn.org



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
LENDER

Café on the Common

coffees, teas, & French pastries



The Lawrence Building • 677 Main Street
Waltham, Massachusetts
phone: 781-647-4019