

The Official Newsletter of

The Waltham
Historical Society
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 2015



Sanderson Lecture Series

7:00 p.m., Tuesday Evening

NOVEMBER 10, 2015
RTN Federal Credit Union
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Waltham, MA 02453

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EDMUND L. SANDERSON LECTURE SERIES

Presents

Dr. H el ene R. Day

With the Story of Lafayette's Hermione Voyage 2015



For more information contact
Wayne McCarthy at
617-448-6706 or email
waltham.historical.society@
gmail.com

Dr. H el ene R. Day was granted a Doctor's Degree from the Foreign Language Department of Boston University; and has been a member of the Boston University chapter of the Honorary Society of Phi Sigma Iota.

In 1974, she founded the French Saturday School in Boston for children of 4 years and up, and by Ordinance of His Serene Highness, the Prince Sovereign of Monaco, she was appointed Consul of the Principality in New England.

Recently, she was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Boston Civic Symphony, and by Ordinance of HSH the Prince Sovereign of Monaco, Dr. Day received the medal and title of "Chevalier de l'Order du M erite Cultural" (Knight of the Order of Cultural Merit).

The lecture is free and open to the public. It will begin immediately following the November meeting of the Waltham Historical Society. Seating is limited. Please plan to arrive before 7:00 PM.

The Waltham Historical Society and Historic New England presents

The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England

Lyman Estate
185 Lyman Street
Waltham, Mass.

Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



For many people today, Christmas is the most important holiday of the year. But many of the customs that we take for granted as part of today's holiday festivities and religious celebrations are actually a product of more recent history. This illustrated lecture traces the development of the celebration of Christmas, from when it was outlawed in seventeenth-century New England through the beginning of the twentieth century, when all the trappings of a traditional Christmas were in place.

Kenneth C. Turino, manager of community engagement and exhibitions at Historic New England, tells the story of how Christmas was transformed from a rowdy celebration to a family-centered event. Learn how Christmas trees became popular, halls were decked, and Santa Claus came to town. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

\$5 Historic New England and Waltham Historical Society members and \$10 for nonmembers

Registration for this lecture is required.


**Waltham Historical Society members must call to register.
Please call 617-994-5912 or:**

Register on-line at:

<http://shop.historicnewengland.org/LYM-CHRISTMAS-9188/>



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Mt. Feake Cemetery Tour with Mr. John Duffy

On October 17, 2015 Mr. John Duffy, former Superintendent of Cemeteries for the City of Waltham led a trolley tour of Mt. Feake Cemetery.

The tour kicked off after boarding the Tick Tock Trolley at the Bright School headquarters of the Society and traveled to Mt. Feake with Mr. John McCarthy as our driver.

The tour began at the World War I Veterans lot and proceeded for over an hour through the cemetery with Mr. Duffy sharing his vast knowledge with our full trolley.

We were able to see the grave of former Mayor G. Chauncey Cousens and F. F. Martin. The Martin monument is quite unique, being erected in the mid 1930's and is a giant ball finished as a perfect polished sphere.

The grave of Byron Johnson, the first Mayor of Waltham was also on the tour. Special and ornate statues and monuments included those of Mr. Obed Shepherd the large brown obelisk marking the four lots of the International Order of Odd Fellows.

The grave of Effie Carlton was also included on the tour. Mrs. Carlton was the composer of "Rock-a-bye Baby".

The grave of George Maynard, the only Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from Waltham was also viewed.

Of interest during the tour was the Caldwell lot. Several of the Caldwell sons served in either the U.S. Navy or

the U.S. Marine Corps. One of the sons was lost at sea. The Longitude and Latitude of his loss are marked on the monument. It was off Cape Horn, at the southern tip of South America.

The grave of Dr. Alfred Worcester, a pioneer in the use of sterilized operating rooms and instruments and credited with starting the Waltham Hospital and founding of the Waltham Training School for Nurses was an interesting site.

The graves of George and Charles Browne were on the tour and we learned that. George was killed at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 and Charles was wounded the same day, and died from his wounds two weeks later.

We also had the Buttrick Monument identified and Pointed out to us. Francis Buttrick left a bequest to the City, which was used to construct the Waltham Public Library.

We concluded the tour by stopping at the World War II Veterans lot.

Everyone indicated that the tour was quite enjoyable and some folks even asked us to expand upon it in future.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to both Mr. John Duffy for his most excellent narrative and Mr. McCarthy's careful maneuvering in very tight spaces in the cemetery. Thanks also the City of Waltham for the use of the Trolley.

Keep your eyes open for our next tour we hope to hold in the Spring of 2016.



We need volunteers to staff the Bright School location, 260 Grove Street. You can choose the days, dates and times and we will work to establish a regular schedule of openings to the public. Please contact Joan Sheridan or Wayne McCarthy if you can assist with this important effort.

The Board of Directors of the Waltham Historical Society wishes to express our appreciation for the support of the following for their donations. They have been very generous to the Historical Society this past year and we encourage you to thank them by patronizing the businesses and expressing thanks to the individuals. Without this type of support the Society would be unable to continue our work in the community.

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