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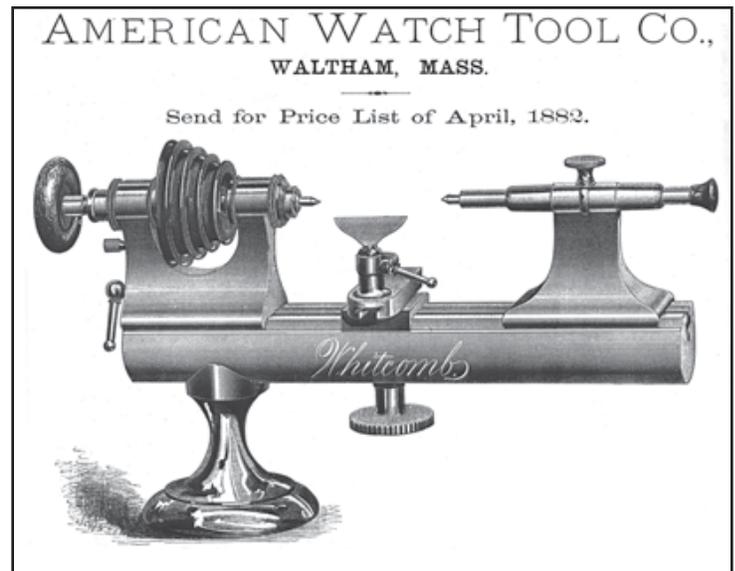
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*The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series*

## Watch Tool Companies in Waltham

*With Andy Dervan*

The establishment of the American Watch Co. in Waltham, MA in 1857, with its goal of manufacturing watches by machinery, ushered in the growth of the American machine tool industry. Supporting the American watch industry's rapid expansion by developing automatic machinery and tooling to fully achieve this milestone, a number of mechanically talented and entrepreneurial individuals: Charles Moseley, John Stark (Sr. and Jr.), Ambrose Webster, John Whitcomb, and Caleb and Frederick Van Norman founded machine tool companies and led this technological revolution. The increased availability of pocket watches in these years increased the need for watch repairmen.



One of the most important watch making tools, developed by Charles Moseley in 1858 while working at American Watch Co. was the watchmaker's lathe. It was made for both watch factories and watchmakers

As the watch industry matured and later declined, the demand for their products decreased. With the decline, these watch tool companies refocused their machine tool expertise by manufacturing specialized machinery and tooling for other industries, or sold machinery and tooling overseas.

Please join us for this interesting lecture by one of our most knowledgeable speakers. The lecture will begin 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 Due*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL — DUE BY OCTOBER 30, 2009  
SEPTEMBER 2009 THROUGH AUGUST 2010**

Please help us continue our work preserving Waltham's history by renewing your membership. Dues are due by October 30th.

**Dues:**  
Individual: — \$25  
Family: — \$30  
Life: — \$150

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

# The Browne Brothers... In Their Own Words

By Maureen Gordon

*This is the second in a three-part series of articles on the Browne Brothers.*

George and Charles Browne were two brothers from Waltham who fought in the Civil War with the 16th Regiment Mass Volunteers. They were killed at Gettysburg in July, 1863 and are buried here in Waltham at Mt. Feake Cemetery.

Four letters, written by the brothers while they were soldiers, were recently located in a library at Louisiana State University (LSU)<sup>1</sup>. Two of the four letters are presented below in chronological order. The first letter is shown in its entirety along with excerpts from the second letter. The last two letters in the LSU collection will be presented in the next newsletter.

The letters were transcribed as they were written, with misspellings and errors in punctuation and capitalization, which were common in soldiers' letters at that time. Some of the letters were written in pencil and having faded, were difficult to read. When a word or phrase could not be deciphered, brackets and a question mark were used to indicate a best guess. The one liberty taken was to leave some space between the run-on thoughts so that the letters are easier to read.

<sup>1</sup> The Louisiana State University (LSU) citation is: Charles L. Brown Letters, Mss. 2423, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.

**First Letter: Sometime between January and March, 1862, Hampton, VA**

The oldest letter and the only one from younger brother Charles was written from Hampton, VA sometime during the early months of 1862. At this point in time, the brothers and the 16th Regiment Mass have been encamped in Virginia since the fall of 1861. They have not yet experienced their first battle. Charles' letter reflects this earlier and relatively easier period of his life as a Union soldier when there was time to observe and write of his impressions of Virginia.

We're reminded in this letter that 22-year-old Charles, the son of a farmer, worked as a carpenter in Waltham before the war.

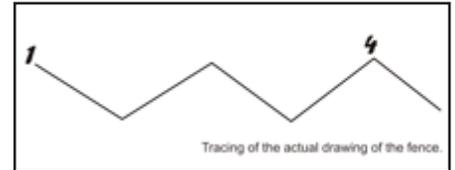
The people mentioned by Charles are his older sisters, Alma and Flora; "Alma's boy" is Charles' nephew.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hampton, Va 4th/62

Dear Mother,

I have recieved a letter from Alma and Alvah this week last week [Molvi-na?] and Flora wrote me. All well. Alma's boy must be a fine one she says it weighs 17 pounds. They complain that you at home do not write them often enough. The weather is quite warm. we have but one slight fall of snow. ice has formed 1/2 inch thick some cold nights. It seldom lasts through the day. This must be a fine locality for farming. There is not a stone to be seen for miles. The soil is fertile. The fields large and level. The Fences are peculiar to this part of the country.



Two or three of us entered in to a little Yankee calculation as to the amount of lumber and ground wasted by this method. This fence is usually from 8 to 10 rails high. laid cob house fashon one stick on another. The fence under consideration was 10 rails high took up a strip of land 8 feet wide from 1 to 4 required 40 rails. but three lengths laid straight would more than extend that distance. so you see at home we should have built a fence quicker, stronger, handsomer. with less than half the lumber. and with one eight of the land. Every thing is done in the same loose disjointed style. poor bridges bad roads. very few pumps. Most of them using wells with the old sweep.

The few white people remaining here are mean objects. There is not a good manly, honest, face amongst the lot. Give me the old Bay state for a home. Though her skyes are less bright. her lands more rough and barren than Va, Massachusetts and in fact all New England raises men, good and true, upright and fearless when battling in a good cause.

Be content Mother let what will befall us. Be assured that we shall do our duty with willing hearts and hands.

With many kind wishes for your happiness Dear Mother I bid you Good Day

Your Son Chas. L

\*\*\*\*\*

## Upcoming Activities and Events of Note

### Second Letter: Seven Months Later, Sept 13, 1862, Alexandria, VA

The second letter was written "in haste" by older brother George some seven months later on Sept. 13, 1862 from a "Camp Near Fort Worth" in Alexandria, VA. George and the 16th Regiment have been away from home now for over 13 months.

Since Charles' previous letter, the 16th Reg't. has participated in some major battles, including Fair Oaks, Glendale, and most recently the Second Bull Run (Manassas). The Regiment has seen many casualties. Younger brother Charles was wounded in the foot at the Battle of Glendale on June 30, 1862.

George, age 30, is now a Second Lieutenant, having been promoted the month before. He writes:

*"a good many of the men are bare footed I never was so near it in my life but I found most a new pair of shoes yesterday so I am all right."*

*"you better believe we was glad to git a clean shirt five weeks since we had one and on the march all the time"*

The brothers are part of the same Waltham company of volunteers, Company H, which left Boston in August, 1861 with 101 men. George corrects the report given in the Sentinel, Waltham's newspaper at that time, of how many men are now left in the company.

*"I see by the sentinel that we have got 71 men fit for duty it is not so. there nent [possibly ain't?] but 52 men here that belong to this co. six of them is on extra duty. there is generally six or eight excused from duty by the Dr. so you see it makes our co rather small"*

There is news in George's letter for the Browne family regarding Charles' recovery from his wound. George writes:

*"Charles came back Thursday night. he is looking first rate. he sayes all the wounded boys are doing well except John Smith he did not see him.*

*yours in haste*

*GFB"*

John Smith, a Waltham resident who had enlisted with the brothers, was wounded at the 2nd Bull Run. Smith does recover and makes it back from the war alive.

***Be sure to look for the next installment of this story in our November newsletter.***

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*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 citations: 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."*

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### Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Civil War Draft Records

Tuesday, November 10, 2009 7:00 pm

RTN Federal Credit Union,  
600 Main Street, Waltham

The National Archives Center in Waltham, MA, will offer insights learned from the receipt of over 1000 volumes of Civil War records previously held in Washington, D.C. These records document of 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.

### 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.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Green 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](mailto:waltham.historical.society@gmail.com) for more information.

# The Grand Opening of the Watch Factory Exhibit



One of the most eagerly awaited events in the Society's recent history was held on July 24th as the Watch Factory Exhibit opened to the public.

A collaborative effort between the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, Watch City Ventures LLC, and the Waltham Historical Society, the Exhibit showcases the story of the first 150 years of the factory's history.

The exhibit explores the various aspects of the factory's impact, from its role in product development, assembly processes, manufacturing techniques, and innovative production practices to its place in the heart of many of Waltham's long-time citizens.

At one point in the evening, it was suggested we ask how many of those in attendance had a relative who once worked on the premises. An informal investigation showed quite a few people who could claim that their father, mother, uncle, aunt, grandfather or other relative had been employed at the factory.

The project took two years to complete, with Charles River Museum Director Dan Yaeger spearheading the effort. Watch City Ventures LLC brought the empty space from bare wood, brick and metal to a state-of-the-art 21st century exhibit space. With Society Co-presidents Sheila FitzPatrick and Wayne McCarthy



researching documents and images, and scanning for the graphic designer, the teamwork could not have been better.

With contributions from Society members Leslie Nesky and George





Collord, III, and members of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors, details of the exhibit were reviewed and adjusted with an eye towards addressing the intended audience. It is planned that school children will be touring the exhibit as part of their learning of Waltham's history.

The space's architectural design was achieved through collaborative efforts with the knowledgeable guidance of Mr. Henry Moss of Bruner/



Cott & Associates, Inc. The space planning, lighting, and exhibit case manufacture was an integral part of the overall texture of the display designed by Mr. Moss.

Every step in the process was overseen by Mr. Eric W. Ekman, Project Manager for Berkeley Investments, Inc.'s redevelopment of the factory. Together with his assistant Angela Davis, their understanding of the overall integrity of the project defined many of the parameters within which the display was created.



The integration of images and text, and graphic design was handled by Mr. Clifford Stoltze of Stoltz Design. Together with Lauren Vadja, their choice of layout, typeface, and colors helped to seamlessly blend the pieces created 100 years ago with their 21st century environment.

With the July 24th deadline looming, the efforts of Boston Sign Company cannot be understated. The crew from Boston Sign arrived two days before the opening and set about installing the images and large graphics.

With everyone contributing to the aesthetics of the exhibit, each piece was placed, moved, elevated, tipped, and adjusted until it made its own statement in the story that has been the Waltham Watch Factory for over 150 years.



We encourage you to visit the space located at 221 Crescent Street. It is open during regular business hours, and is scheduled to be a permanent piece of Berkeley Investments' redevelopment of the property.

Although the exhibit is designed to be self-guided, tours can be arranged by contacting the Historical Society at 781-891-5815, or 617-448-6706, or email us at [waltham.historical.society@gmail.com](mailto:waltham.historical.society@gmail.com).



## Now on Display at 760 Main Street



BARB STANIS, BODDING PARK, WALTHAM, MASS.

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.

During the research for the creation of the exhibit in the foyer of the Berkeley Associates Redevelopment of the Watch Factory, we discovered quite a few very interesting pieces of history in our files. Some of the items were used in the Exhibit, but others were slightly outside the intent and scope of the project.

Those images have been assembled and put on display at the satellite office at 760 Main Street. We have volunteers who open the site on weekends and occasional mornings. Please check our website calendar for days and times we are open.

## 2008-2009 Highlights: Waltham Historical Commission

By Laura Bernstein

This 7-member committee, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, works to protect and promote the Waltham's historical assets. These structures include City-owned properties such as the Robert Treat Paine Estate, and privately-owned structures such as historically-significant buildings threatened by demolition. WHC activities are supported by City revenues. Archie Bennett is WHC's professional staff. David Smith stepped down as WHC Chair in June after serving six years, to be replaced by Angie Emberley.

WHC also provides professional expertise for Waltham's Community Preservation Committee's CPA grants, funded by local real estate tax surcharges and matching State funds. CPA funds are used for affordable housing and open space acquisitions as well as historic preservation.

### **CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES:**

--Much funding for enhancements at the PAINE ESTATE, such as improved historic infor-

mation for the public, is generated by private grants secured by the Curator Ann Clifford. CPA funding for a fire-suppression system has been critical.

--Restoration of the 1779 WEL-LINGTON HOUSE, largely financed with CPA funds, is progressing fitfully.

--The City is considering purchasing the mid-19th c. structure at 385 TRAPELO ROAD, which is surrounded by City-owned land.

**PRIVATELY-OWNED PROPERTIES:** WHC administers the Demolition Delay Ordinance, adopted by the City Council in early 2007. The DD allows WHC to temporarily deny for 6 months the proposed demolition of historically-significant structures, while alternatives to demolition are explored.

-- The first DD imposed by WHC on the original 1914 Metz manufacturing building (the former Raytheon building) at 20 Seyon St--famed for its saw-tooth roof--expired in November 2008. The building has been demolished and the developers are pursuing constructing a BJ's Wholesale Club store at the site.

--WHC imposed its second demolition delay in May 2009 on 546-550 Moody St.

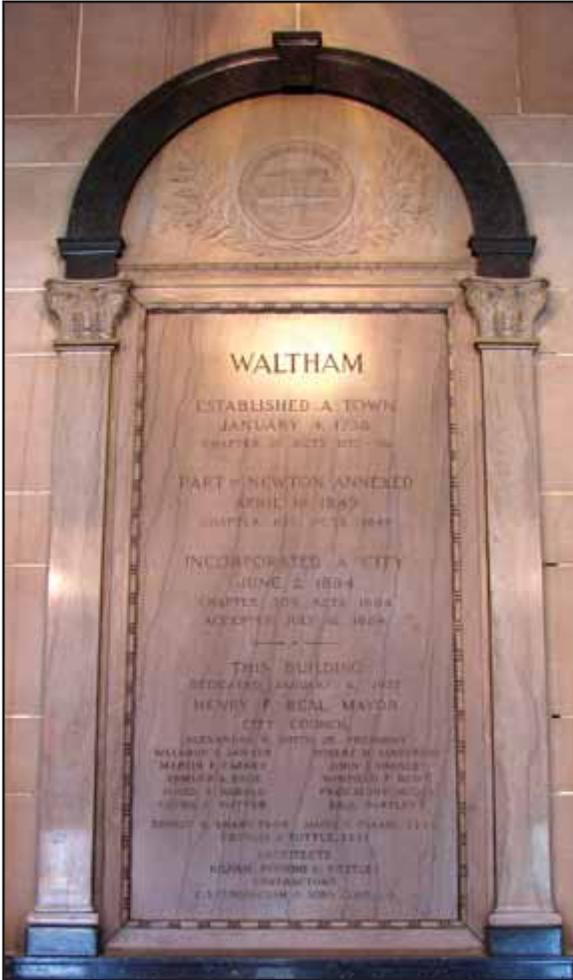
This is the 'Brooks House', one of the oldest structures south of the Charles. In order to construct a banking facility on this site, TD Banknorth is attempting to secure City approval to demolish this building (and others nearby, which are not technically historically significant).

**CPC/CPA ACTIVITIES:** Carl Zinnell, WHC member who also sits on the CPC, reports on the progress of applications for CPA funding for historic preservation projects. Because of the City's budget crunch, CPA funds will be funding much of Waltham's historic preservation in the foreseeable future. A recent Daily News Tribune article attributed the slow approval process of CPA applications to slow response of the City Law Department, due to lack of capacity and other priorities.

--Applications for work on the historic windows of St Mary's Rectory and on the roof of the historic St. Charles Church, are pending.

--CPA funds were used for a fire suppression system at the Gore Estate.

# Historic Waltham Days Guided Tour of Waltham City Hall



The Waltham Historical Society was honored to have two special volunteers help us celebrate the 125th Anniversary of Waltham's acceptance as a City during 2009's annual Historic Waltham Days festivities.

The Honorable Jeannette A. McCarthy not only presented a proclamation to the Historical Society, but she graciously led our members on a tour of City Hall. She explained the process by which Waltham moved from a Town to a City, and pointed out that the date of the tour (July 16th) was the date in 1884 that Waltham's application to become a City was accepted.

The tour included the recently cleaned basement, the various office spaces, and the City Council Chamber. Explanations of the job functions performed at each of the locations helped our members get a better understanding of the workings of the City's government.

City Councilor Kathleen B. McMnenimen assisted in the tour, and then contributed a fascinating account of the City's history as it grew from an agricultural economy to the incubator for the new American Industrial revolution. Historical Society documents used by Councilor McMnenimen were displayed and explained, further demonstrating the importance of preserving these valuable pieces of our City's History.

The Society is extremely grateful to Mayor McCarthy and Councilor McMnenimen for their participation in this exciting evening.



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

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the City’s rich legacy!**



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