

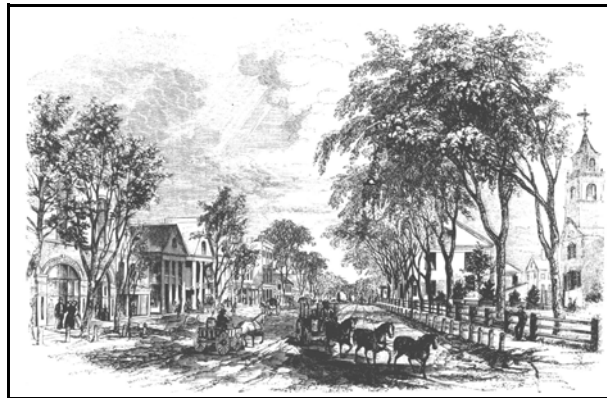
Spring 2005

Volume 2, Issue 1

**The Waltham
Historical Society**
190 MOODY STREET
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS



“The Boston Post Road”



A Slide Lecture Presentation by

Mr. Paul Hogman

Sunday, March 13, 2005 at 2:00 pm

Waltham Public Library

Lecture Hall

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The next meeting of the Waltham Historical Society will be held on at 2:00 pm, Sunday, March 13, 2005 at the Waltham Public Library's Lecture Hall.

Our guest speaker, Mr. Paul Hogman, will fill us in on the significance of the roads and where they lead. The history of these roads date to the 17th century, and Mr. Hogman's knowledge is certain to bring their story to life with a fascinating slide lecture presentation.

As well as serving on the Board of Directors of the Ar-

lington Historical Society, Mr. Hogman's background includes being an original member of the re-activated Menotomy Minute Men. He has also served on the Arlington 350th Celebrations Committee, Arlington Bicentennial Celebrations Committee and Arlington Patriot's Day Committee.

His community involvement includes presenting Living History Programs for schools, narrations of historical battles and re-enactments, and teach-

ing Colonial History in various local towns.

Paul has also written articles pertaining to 18th century history in this area.

We hope you will be there on Sunday, March 13 to learn more about the Boston Post Roads.

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

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***Francis
Alexander
Durivage,
Author***

Traveling east on Trapelo Road, one passes a red shingled house a short distance beyond the National Archives. The "Cardinal Cottage," is the Vol-

unteer Center for the Fernald Development Center. The history of the house predates its current use and ownership. Built by Abraham Sanger in 1849, it was occupied from 1855 to 1862 by the Francis Durivage family. In 1880, the occupant was J. W. Munroe, a farmer, and in 1900, Hardwick Bryant, a milk dealer, rented the house.

The house was also known as the St. Elizabeth's Hospital Farm, served as a retreat for nuns from the hospital. It was named for Cardinal William O'Connell.

The next issue of our Newsletter will contain the complete text on Mr. Durivage as compiled by Society member Marie Daly.

About this issue's featured story

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. We will also attempt to include items of interest that are in the possession of the Society.

This issue contains part one of a previously unpublished work researched and written by Mr. Edmund L. Sanderson, secretary of the Historical Society in the 1930s. Future issues will continue the story.

This article, and the others to come, have been retyped by

students at Waltham High School in the Youth Tech Entrepreneurs class. Led by Ms. Suzanne Bozak (WHS '04) the material is also being prepared for use on the Historical Society web site:

walthamhistoricalsociety.org
We hope you enjoy.

The Ghost of Plympton Pond

By Edmund L. Sanderson
May 1939

"I am the spirit of a
murdered man."

"Who murdered you?"

"Old Plympton, and
my bones are buried
in yonder field, near
that large stone!"

INTRODUCTION

At a meeting of the Waltham Historical Society held May 16, 1922 the subject of the Plympton Pond Ghost was introduced and Mrs. Sumner Milton suggested that the secretary make complete notes of the remarks so that an accurate description of the event might be preserved for posterity.

Mrs. Milton and Thomas H. Armstrong were the principal ones to take part at that meeting but the secretary consulted with Charles F. Stone, Nathan Warren and George L. Johnson, the latter a grandson of the originator of the ghost.

The manuscript made from these notes was placed on file with the Society's collection. It has been shown to a number of interested persons and was read at one of the Rotary Club meetings as an authoritative account.

However the event took place long before the birth of any of the narrators and they could only tell their remembrance of what they had been told. In the secretary's search of the Waltham newspaper files for material for his Waltham History a number of communications in regard to the ghost were found. There were a number in 1875 in which statements made in one issue were corrected in the next and as some of the corrections were made after consultation with the sole living participant the truth in respect to the names of the actors and the sequence of the events seems to be fairly well established. The accurate description mentioned above is therefore superseded by the following account.

*Edmund L. Sanderson. Sec.
May 1939.*

WALTHAM MATTERS

Ghosted. — Years have rolled away since the people of this town were startled by the appearance of an apparition, or, in other words, "ghosted." But a case of this kind which thoroughly aroused and excited the community for miles around ending in a suit at law, is occasionally related by some of the parties who were concerned it, although the principal actors are gone, but are not forgotten.

As is it not in print we will give it briefly: A man remembered for his geniality and worth, Dr. Sherman, had in his employ a man who had seen and dispelled many a ghost without fear, "and a ghost was the hobby of this McClannan."

The doctor thought to frighten him, and some one appeared to "Mac" robed in white one dark night, near his dwelling on Pond Street. The man opened the Bible, and advancing on the ghost, it disappeared. The man told the story and night after night the ghost appeared and hundreds visited the spot; the excitement was intense.

One night the following dialogue ensued between McClannan and the ghost: "are you mortal or immortal?"

"I am the spirit of a murdered man."

"Who murdered you?"

"Old Plympton, and my bones are buried in yonder field, near that large stone!"

Incredulous though it may seem, McClannan was actually found by the owner of the land and others "digging for the bones of the murdered!"

Ghost of Plympton Pond (continued)

Mr. P. by this time had become enraged, and what was started for a harmless joke, had become a serious reality and the all absorbing theme of conversation. The doctor was arrested upon complaint of Mr. Plympton for defaming his character.

The town hall was crowded. McClannan was witness and swore that "What he had seen was a real ghost and no Sherman nor

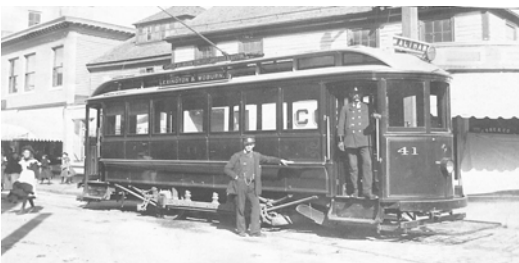
any other man." As the charge could not be substantiated, the doctor was discharged amid the congratulations of many friends, some of whom were in the secret and helped on the joke, the excitement and the scare of the Waltham ghost.

In the next edition of the Society Newsletter:

THE WALTHAM GHOST
The Truth about it.

"What he had seen was a real ghost and no Sherman nor any other man."

M&B Car #41



This car was built in 1901 and served Lexington, Waltham, Woburn, Bedford, Concord, Arlington and Billerica till 1912. After 1912 the car wound up serving more towns till the end of service in 1930, with the last M&B line closed in Newton being the famous Norumbega Park line on Commonwealth Ave. Two trolley car houses still stand

that this car rested in. Trader Joe's building in Newton and the Lexington Public Works building on Concord Ave. After 1930 Car #41 was sold to Mr. McGowen of Natick and turned into a diner, and then Ray's Salvage Store on North Main Street, Natick. On June 18th, 1962 car #41 was loaded onto a flat bed truck and brought to Maine.

The M & B Railway used a logo "Ride the Route of the Minute Men." Many residents rode this trolley to Norumbega Park, Lexington Park, Lake Cochituate, and many other fun spots.

As of Dec. 1st 2004 #41's restoration fund is at: \$52,469.29 and the car needs approximately \$100,000.00.

Donations in excess of \$20.00 should be made payable, and sent directly to: Seashore Trolley Museum, Attn: John Middleton, P.O. Box A, Kennebunkport, ME 04046-1690. In the left corner of the check, be sure to mark that the donation is to be applied to Fund 754 M&B 41.

Smaller donations may be made to the Historical Society, also earmarked for Fund 754, and a single check will be sent to Seashore Trolley Museum for the project.

A Video about the M&B #41 is available through the Society.

House Tour 2005

The 2005 Waltham House Tour is now scheduled for June 5, 2005.

As in years past, we will be in need of volunteers to help make 2005's event even more successful.

Jolene Fish and Joan Sheridan have volunteered to serve on the House Tour Committee, and look forward to increasing the number of homes available on our tour. The Tour is always a great opportunity to get an inside look at some of Waltham's most significant homes and buildings.

If you are interested in opening your home for a tour, please contact us. Our volunteers will then help guide you through the process.

Frank Maloney has graciously agreed to continue soliciting "Business Friends," for mention in our House Tour booklets, and you can help by selling ads, greatly increasing our success.

Copies of the 2004 House Tour booklet are available for use as samples when calling upon local businesses.

We will also be in need of docents to greet visitors to each home on the day of the tour. This is typically a very enjoyable part of the House Tour program. Get to meet some of your neighbors.

To become involved, contact The Waltham Historical Society, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453, 781-891-5815, email waynemccarthy@rcn.com.

2004 Business Friends of the Waltham Historical Society

- | | |
|---|---|
| Albert's Photo Studio | O'Toole Landscape, Inc. |
| Allegra Print and Imaging | Marcou Jewelers |
| Brasco & Sons Memorial Chapels | The Nelson Companies |
| Laura M. Cannon, Attorney at Law | O'Toole the Florist, Inc. |
| The Chateau Restaurant of Waltham | Professional Hearing Aid Center |
| Civil War Roundtable of Greater Boston | Reagle Players |
| Embassy Trophy Company | Regan Management, LLC |
| Gordon's Liquors | Rotary Club of Waltham, Serving Waltham |
| Historic B&W, Color Photos of Waltham & Vicinity by Frank Maloney | Sadies Saloon and Eatery |
| Waltham West Suburban Chamber of Commerce | Stack Chiropractic Office |
| James J. Hayes Oil Co., Inc. | Waltham Land Trust, Inc. |
| Joyce Funeral Home | Watch City TV and Appliance |
| J.P.I. | Stewart Woodward, Visual Talent Group |

Recent and Upcoming Events of Note:



On November 5, 2004 Mr. Caroll Spinney was honored for his contributions to children's television. As you may know, Mr. Spinney, aka Sesame Street's Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch, was born here in Waltham.

It was agreed that Waltham should

recognize the man who has been instrumental in helping provide our young people educational entertainment for many years.

Sponsored by the Waltham Museum, the Genealogy Fair, the Carousel School, and the Waltham Historical Society, Mr. Spinney received numerous accolades and gifts in appreciation of his efforts. Toasted by Mayor McCarthy, and representatives of the sponsoring organizations, Mr. Spinney introduced the audience to Oscar the Grouch, whom he managed to somehow sneak into the event.

Oscar and Mr. Spinney enthralled those in attendance with stories from the early days of Mr. Spinney's involvement with puppetry and Sesame Street, to current events in all our lives.

It was a truly enjoyable evening for all in attendance, with Mr. Spinney indicating he had no idea so many people here in Waltham held him in such high regard.



A few images sent to us "from a website visitor" show a medal from the Waltham Training School, 1905, and a photo of members of the class of 1903 of the Waltham Training School for Nurses.

A number of correspondences have been received via the web site these past few weeks and we are truly appreciative of the kindness.

One was from Mr. Douglas Carrier, Jr., a Project Manager at the Seashore Trolley Museum in Maine. Mr. Carrier is attempting to restore the old Trolley #41 that traversed the streets of Waltham back in the early 1900s. (see page 3)

These are just a sampling of recent correspondences received. We wish to thank those who have contacted us, and would like encourage everyone to continue calling, writing, or emailing the Society.

CALENDAR

Eighth New England Regional Genealogical Conference, March 31-April 3, 2005. ***New England Crossroads*** will be held at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St., Portland, Maine. Details are available at: www.nergc.org. Included are: Social Hour, Ethnic/Interest Groups, and Exhibit Hall as well as workshops on Genealogy, New England Research, Technology, and Photography.

The National Archives Experience, to be held at the Verizon Conference Center in Marlborough, MA on Saturday, July 30, 2005 will be presented by the Massachusetts Genealogical Council and the National Archives and Records Administration. Diane LeBlanc, Regional Administrator for the National Archives and Records Administration- Northeast Region will give the Keynote Address: ***NARA, More Than the Census***. Details can be found at: www.massgencouncil.org.

FGS/UGA ***Reminders of the Past: Visions for the Future*** Conference to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on September 7-10, 2005. www.familysearch.org. The 2006 Conference will be held at the Hynes Auditorium in August-September and be co-hosted by NEHGS.

New Publication to Soon be Available!

Trapelo! Past and Present, A History of North Waltham, Massachusetts 1636-2000 is being readied for publication.

This work, researched and edited by Marie E. Daly, is in the final stages of design and production, and should be reaching the presses in coming months.

With maps and photos, this detailed book promises to provide a wealth of information concerning the North of Waltham during the 17th through the 20th century. We will keep the membership aware of its progress, and notify you when it is available for purchase. Inquiries may be directed to the Society via email, postal service, or phone.