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*The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series Presents*

## Many Builders, Many Building Blocks

### *They built it and we came*

David L. Smith, *President, The Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston*

In this presentation, David will discuss the many different movements, and people involved who served the cause of Freedom and Justice during the 19th century. He will touch on circumstances leading up to what we know as the American Civil War. Describing how, despite their different missions, they shared one common thread of purpose...to abolish Slavery as an evil institution in this country.

He will also address The Women's Suffrage Movement, The Temperance Movement, and many of the great Religious and cultural movements which led to that first firing on Fort Sumter.

The lecture will cover The American Anti-Slavery Society and William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglas, Charles Fox Hovey, Harriet

Tubman and many others. While these people and movements would accomplish their goals, they did not solve the inequities of Government.

The role of The Women's Suffrage Movement striving to give ALL women not only the right to vote, but Equality in all matters of our Society will introduce such luminaries as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Abbey Kelley Foster, Lydia Maria Child, and the Grimke sisters, Angelina & Sarah. Many of these women were heavily involved in the movement to abolish slavery as well as the lesser known, and less successful, Temperance Movement.

Newer cultures and religious movements that were becoming more popular in those days also had a profound effect on the times.

As the country grew and prospered, it brought many different people from many different countries who each brought new ideas, new visions, and new Religions. From Transcendentalism, Unitarianism, Congregationalism, Methodism, Lutheranism, and Swedenborgianism, the country was becoming more diverse every day. Along with the increase in Catholics and Jews into this land the diversity began to remove their isolation from the country's Economics and policies.

Doors to this lecture open at 6:30. A brief business meeting will begin at 7:00 and the lecture will begin immediately thereafter. The lecture will be held at the RTN Federal Credit Union, 600 Main Street, (rear) in Waltham. For more information please call 617-448-6706.

### **Your Patience and Understanding are appreciated**

Our apologies to some of our newsletter contributors, but have had to cut some of their contributions for this issue due to some exciting last-minute events. The Historical Society has acquired the keys to space at the Bright School.

As this issue is going to press, we've already moved items into the space, occupying much of our time and resources.

At the same time, we are

in the final stages of arranging our Civil War Cemetery Tour, scheduled for October 15th. (*More details inside*)

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find two forms. First and most important is the dues renewal request. The label on your envelope indicates your membership status, so please check to see if you're renewal is due this month.

The other form is a Friend

Form to help support the Cemetery Tour. It is intended to offer an opportunity for those who have not yet donated to be listed in the newsletter as a Friend or Business Friend of the Historical Society.

***Before you fill out the form and send a check, please see the list of names on the back page to see if you've already contributed by rolling over your donation to our canceled House Tour.***

**MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE IN OCTOBER!**



## Company H of the 16th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry

By JOE KEEFE

On April 12, 1861 Confederate batteries opened fire on the Federal garrison at Fort Sumter located in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina. Following the Fort's surrender, President Abraham Lincoln called for seventy five thousand volunteers from Northern states for three months service to "put down the insurrection in the South." President Lincoln's call for troops unleashed a war upon the American continent which would affect every city, town, farm and hamlet in the United States and last far longer than the three months originally anticipated. The small farming and manufacturing community of Waltham, Massachusetts would find the war brought right to its Main Street.

In 1861, when the Civil War began, Waltham was a town of just over six thousand individuals. When news of the bombardment of Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's call for volunteers reached Waltham, the town rallied to the Union cause. A patriotic rally was called in Rumford Hall, which was the town hall at the time. Many of the city's most prominent residents made

speeches imploring Waltham's men to join the fight for the Union and the crushing of the rebellion. D.R. Murphy, a Waltham minister stated in his speech to the people of Waltham, "Who among our citizens will join this glorious cause, who among you will aid the Government for it is the best the sun has ever shone upon."

Following the rally, a recruiting office was opened on Main Street for the purpose of recruiting a whole company for the regiments then being put together for the State of Massachusetts. Within one week, Waltham had raised over one hundred men who signed up to served for three years. The town meeting of April 1861 voted that the town would provide the new recruits with uniforms and ten dollars per month for five months, with provisions for family support while they were gone. The women of Waltham banded together to sew the recruits their uniforms, on sewing machines set up in Rumford Hall. The women used a cadet gray fabric similar to the uniforms of the cadets at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. The gray uniforms would be exchanged for the more familiar Union blue when the recruits were mustered into service at Camp Cameron, Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Gardner Banks, brother of Massachusetts Governor and newly appointed Union Major General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, was named Captain of the company with William Smith and Francis P.H. Rogers being named First and Second Lieutenants

respectively. The company was given the designation of Company H and throughout the month of May 1861, the Waltham recruits were drilled incessantly. They used Rumford Hall and the Waltham Common to practice and learn the techniques in the manual of arms and how to move as a regiment. The loud and booming voice of Lieutenant Smith, the company's drill instructor, could be heard throughout the downtown area. Large crowds of Waltham residents would come out to watch the company drill and a small military band would often entertain the crowd with fife and drum music.

On June 29, 1861, word reached Captain Banks to have his recruits march to Camp Cameron in North Cambridge for mustering in with the 16th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry. As the regiment assembled on the Waltham Common to march to Cambridge and into the unknown, the citizens of Waltham gathered to send their men off to war. Each man was presented with a copy of the bible in compact form by the Reverend Thurston of the Unitarian Church. Flags and patriotic bunting decorated Rumford Hall and the shops along Main Street. Hundreds of Waltham residents stood along Main Street, all the way down to Watertown to cheer and see the regiment off, knowing that many of the men would never see their beloved home of Waltham again.

*End of installment number one. The story continues in the next edition of the Weathervane.*



## Mass. Memories Road Show in Waltham

On Saturday, July 16, 2011, the Waltham Historical Society along with the Waltham Public Library, the National Archives and Records Administration, and the Waltham-West Suburban Chamber of Commerce joined together and participated in the Mass. Memories Road Show. With over 200 people attending, and sharing over 500 photos, the event was a huge success. Thank you to our gracious hosts, the staff of the National Archives and Regional Director Diane LeBlanc.

Appreciation is extended to co-sponsor Kate Tranquada, the Waltham Public Library and Janet Welch, Friends of the Waltham Public Library. Many thanks to Louise Butler of the Waltham Museum and all the Road Show Roadies. But we are especially grateful to Bobbie Robinson (a member of both the Historical Society and the Friends, who served as Project Manager. She is also the Road Show's number one Roadie!

Thank you to the following members who volunteered their time and energy for the entire day—Marie Daly, Helene Day, Susan Keefe, Joyce Kelly, Claire Kirley, Leona Lindsay, Wayne McCarthy, Joan Sheridan, Mary Spiers, Eric Ward, and Sheila FitzPatrick. And thank you to all those who attended and made the day a huge success.

## A Special Thank You!

The Board of Directors and Membership of the Waltham Historical Society wish to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Phil Burke of P.E. Burke Moving Co., and Mr. Patrick Lundgren of Brookline Moving Co. for their assistance in our move from Main Street to the Bright School.

With the assistance of former Historical Society President Joan Sheridan, we were able to secure the services of these two highly regarded professionals in the moving industry.

We have no reservations in recommending Brookline Moving Co. for any moving job you might have.

***Thank you Phil and Patrick!***



# Civil War Cemetery Tour

Saturday, October 15, 2011

10:00 am to noon

On Saturday, October 15th, The Waltham Historical Society will be conducting a tour of the grave sites of Civil War veterans buried at Grove Hill Cemetery on Main Street in Waltham.

Society member Joe Keefe will walk us through the cemetery and stop at the graves of those men whose stories he's been able to uncover. With more than 100

Civil War veterans buried here, the tour will include men who served in different capacities and theaters.

Many of the sites have been damaged by 150 years of weather, and are difficult to locate, but Joe and Sue have scoured the cemetery for every site they can find.

Through the efforts of WHS Board Member Mr. Joe Keefe, we plan to have the sites identified, will visit them, and reveal stories behind those whose final resting place we will be visiting.

Most members who supported the Society's House Tour by donating as Friends have graciously allowed us to put their donations towards this tour. If you're one of them, we thank you. If you missed the earlier opportunity, and would like to support this effort, please fill out the form below and send it along with your check to the Society. It is important that you clearly list how you would like to be recognized.

If you know of a local business that would benefit by being associated with our efforts, please contact us and we will follow up to ensure they have every opportunity to participate.

Tickets to the event will be available at the next meeting, or can be ordered by sending a check to the Society at 190 Moody Street. Tickets are available to members for only \$15.00 per person. Non-member tickets are \$25.00 per person. Those non-members wishing to receive member price tickets may join the Society on the day of the tour for \$40.00.



Visit the *Postcards from Waltham*

Exhibit at the Waltham Public Library

September 1-30, 2011



## Civil War Cemetery Tour Tickets

*Order your tickets now and avoid the last minute rush.*

Tickets for the tour are \$15.00 per person for Members of the Historical Society. You can mail your checks payable to the Historical Society to 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453. If your reservation arrives in time, we will mail your tickets to you. Otherwise they may be picked up the day of the tour.

This tour is a walking tour, and will last approximately 90 minutes. Parking is on the Grove St. side of the Bright School. We will start the tour from the Grove Street side of the cemetery. Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear.

### The Waltham Historical Society

190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453

Yes. I would like to be listed as a **FRIEND** in the Cemetery Tour Booklet. Enclosed please find a check for **\$10.00** to list my name among the supporters of this event.

Please make checks payable to the Waltham Historical Society, 190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453,

Name as it will appear: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Remember: If your name is listed on the back page, you've already contributed and will be listed in the Tour Book.

We will also happily accept additional donations!

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Name as it will appear: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Remember: If your name is listed on the back page, you've already contributed and will be listed in the Tour Book.

We will also happily accept additional donations!

The Board of Directors of the Waltham Historical Society wishes to express our appreciation for the support of the individuals and organizations listed on this page. They were early contributors to this year's house tour as Friends or Business Friends. Though we were forced to cancel the House Tour we feel it important to recognize their support of our efforts. Most have asked us to put their donation towards our Civil War Cemetery Tour scheduled for October.

We encourage you to thank them for their generosity by patronizing the businesses identified, and by expressing thanks to the individuals. Without this type of support the Society would be unable to continue our work in the community.

Kathy McMenimen, Councillor  
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 Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History  
 Wayne & Roberta McCarthy  
 Esther F. Seeley  
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 Louise Butler  
 Maria Sheehan  
 Norman MacDonald  
 Joyce Gianfelice  
 Mary C. Spiers  
 Jean M. Husson  
 John & Fiona Reardon  
 Chauncey Perry  
 Nancy Perry  
 Gail & Marion Cormier  
 Immanuel United Methodist Church  
 Peggy Nix

Kate Tranquada  
 Russ and Fran Stearns  
 Henry & Patricia Burke  
 Marjorie F. Hartman  
 Virginia C. Hays  
 Eric Ward & Family  
 Leader Mortgage, Suzanne D. McElroy  
 Jeannette A. McCarthy  
 Ron Guertin  
 Beth Guertin  
 Mary Selig  
 John Selig

*If your name is on this list it is because you contributed to our House Tour back in May and indicated your willingness to support our Cemetery Tour. Your check will only be cashed after the event is completed. We appreciate your patience and continued support for our efforts.*

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