



FALL 2015

CONTENTS

THE LONG AND WINDING
ROAD TO “#1” I

LARCHWOOD CELEBRATES ITS
CENTENNIAL I

LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2

HISTORY IN YOUR HAND 3

FROM THE ARCHIVES 4

FACEBOOK STATUS UPDATES—
110 YEARS AGO 5

A PATRIOTIC FEAST 6

CHS’s 110TH
ANNUAL MEETING 8

DARLENE BONISLAWSKI
OBITUARY 8

CHS’s ANNUAL SPRING
BENEFIT 9

2014 ANNUAL FUND DONORS .. 10

CALENDAR 12

The Cambridge Historian

Published by
the Cambridge Historical Society

Editor, Bruce Irving

Associate Editor, Rosemary Previte

Copyeditor, Luise Erdmann

Designer, The Sketchy Pixel

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO “#1”

BY MICHAEL KENNEY

When John H. H. McNamee won the mayor’s race in 1901, running as a Democrat, the *Cambridge Chronicle* called it “a direct challenge to the principle of nonpartisanship in municipal affairs to which Cambridge has held consistently for a quarter of a century.”

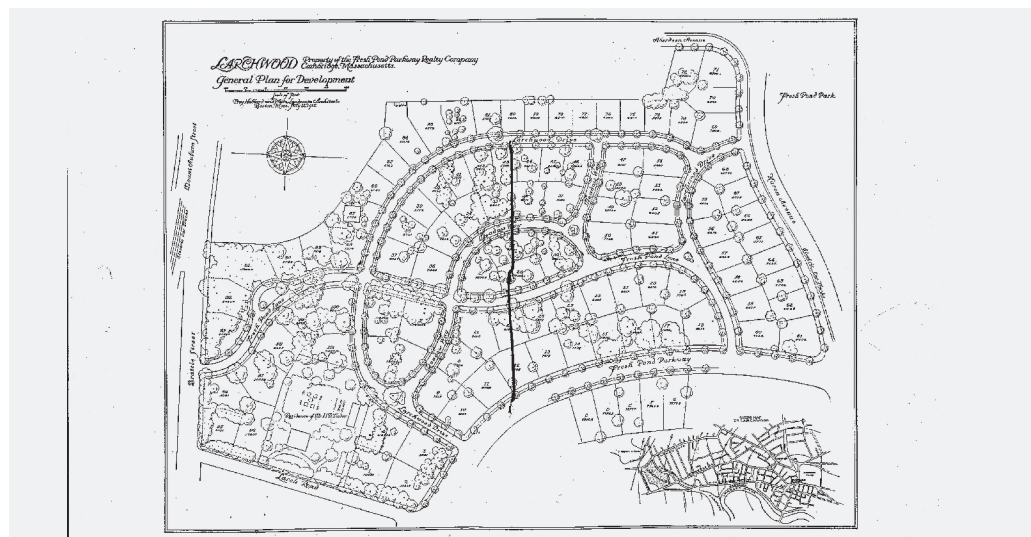
There were citizen groups that held nominating conventions and endorsed candidates but were “nonpartisan” in the sense that they were not affiliated with the national Republican or Democratic party.

McNamee, a Harvard Square business owner, was reelected, but lost to the nonpartisan Augustine J. Daly in 1903. That set off a return to the city’s tradition that lasted, with only a few breaks—like the election of the Democrat Charles Thurston in 1905—until the election of Edward D. Quinn, a Democrat like McNamee, in 1917.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

LARCHWOOD CELEBRATES ITS CENTENNIAL

BY KAREN FALB



The original 1915 Larchwood Neighborhood Plan (Source: Loeb Library, Harvard University School of Design)

On Sunday, September 20, the Larchwood neighborhood marked its 100th anniversary with a parade, block party, and congratulations from Mayor David Maher. Located one mile west of Harvard Square, it includes about 100 houses on Fresh Pond Lane, Larchwood Drive, and Meadow Way, and is bordered by Brattle Street, Larch Road, Fresh Pond Parkway, and Huron Avenue. The celebration began with the unveiling of a memorial at the Fresh Pond Lane cul de sac park, commemorating the development of the neighborhood on the Gray family estate and recognizing the centennial project of restoring its street trees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2015 OFFICERS

TOD BEATY, PRESIDENT
LIZ ADAMS LASSER, VICE
PRESIDENT
CHARLIE ALLEN, VICE PRESIDENT
ANDY LEIGHTON, TREASURER
HELI MELTSNER, CURATOR
BRUCE IRVING, EDITOR
FRANK KRAMER, SECRETARY

2015 COUNCILORS

GREG BOWE
STAN BURROWS
GEORGE CARLISLE
CARL FANTASIA
JAN FERRARA
ROLF GOETZE

2015 ADVISORS

M. WYLLIS BIBBINS
KATHLEEN BORN
THOMAS BRACKEN
ROBERT CROCKER
LUISE ERDMANN
GEORGE HANFORD
TED HANSEN
CHANDRA HARRINGTON
SWANEE HUNT
JINNY NATHANS
LARRY NATHANSON, M.D.
ALYSSA PACY
PAULA PARIS
SUSAN POVERMAN
MAXWELL SOLET

2015 STAFF

MARIEKE VAN DAMME,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ROSEMARY PREVITE,
DEVELOPMENT &
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE
MARK VASSAR, RESIDENT
ARCHIVIST
VICTORIA SEAWELL, ASSISTANT

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members and Supporters,

Settling into a new job is often a challenge, but rarely does one meet a new role with so many friends and such great support. I wish to extend an enthusiastic thank you to all who have so warmly welcomed me into the community, including the Society's Council, advisors, members, and volunteers. I cannot express enough gratitude to those who have given their time and expertise to mold the organization into what it is today.

I particularly wish to thank my immediate predecessor, Gavin Kleespies, for his tireless work bringing the Society into the 21st century. Because of Gavin and his team, I was able to jump in on Day One and start building from their successes.

Today, the Society is on the cusp of a reinvention. This organization, 110 years young, is transforming from an institution quietly contemplating the past to one that actively questions the present. How did our past lead us here? How can our history shape the current conversation? How are we remembering what we've gone through? How do we save these memories for future generations to consider?

We know our role as a historical society is to interpret the present through a lens of the past. To that end, I'm excited to share with you our immediate plans for the future. Beginning next year, all of our programs and activities will have an annual theme, an issue central to the daily lives of Cantabrigians. In 2016, we will be tackling a subject we all know well: housing in Cambridge. While the calendar of events is still being formed, rest assured we will break this issue down into manageable topics to facilitate an important conversation.

I hope you will consider supporting our work. Every gift allows us to research issues shaping our community, gather people together to engage in meaningful dialogue, and preserve our stories around these complex issues to help us better understand our past and present. Any dollar amount helps, and I hope you will give as generously as possible. Funding this year ensures a dynamic series of programs next year.

Your thoughts are important to us. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email (mvandamme@cambridgehistory.org) to share your views on issues influencing our lives in Cambridge. I look forward to your participation!

All the best!



Marieke Van Damme

HISTORY IN YOUR HAND—THE YONWARD MOBILE APP

BY ROSEMARY PREVITE

Yonward is a free mobile app for sharing city and place guides that tell stories, share knowledge, and create unique experiences. Over the summer, the CHS published five of its walking guides on the app, allowing people to discover them on their iPhones.

I recently had the opportunity to sit down for a chat at the CHS with Tom Pounds, a Cambridge resident and cofounder of Yonward.

What is the goal of Yonward?

We want to make it possible for anyone to create a fully featured mobile guide and share it with whomever they choose. We all have stories to tell, tidbits of unique information to share, and dots to connect. As Wikipedia shows, people are willing to commit lots of energy to this!

How did the idea for Yonward arise?

Rhys Jones (a Yonward cofounder) is a talented bluegrass musician and software developer who was tinkering with the idea of designing “soundscapes” of music on his iPhone that would change according to his GPS location. He soon realized he had a much larger idea on his hands, and I agreed to help move the project forward from a business perspective and by anchoring it in Cambridge.

How are Yonward guides created?

This past summer we had four college interns working on developing and entering more than 100 guides around the Boston area, including five CHS guides that have been posted on the website for years. Each Yonward guide contains a group of locations, or “beacons,” with relevant text, photos, audio, or web links.

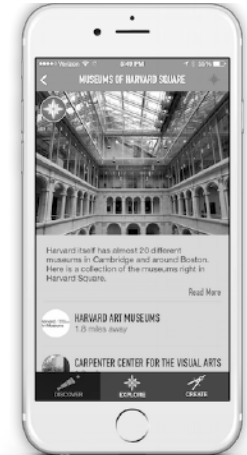
Over time, we’re expecting the guides will be “crowdsourced,” meaning anyone can create them, whether it’s a historical society, a chamber of commerce, a tour guide, an Airbnb host, or a teenager who wants to map and share a family trip. While it’s possible for anyone to create a guide today on a phone, crowdsourcing should take off once we have a desktop version. Daniel Berger-Jones of Cambridge Historical Tours, for example, will just use Yonward as a mobile publishing platform, with his photos and his recorded audio commentary. He won’t need to rely on us or anyone else to enter or publish his own guides.

How do people use Yonward?

Yonward is available for iPhones in the App Store. Once it’s downloaded, you can find guides in a variety of ways. Around Cambridge, it’s pretty neat to just tap “nearby” to see the guides closest to you. For example, sitting here at the



Tom Pounds,
Yonward cofounder



The Yonward App

CHS, we can see that the closest guides are “Tory Row,” a great guide to Brattle Street, “Cambridge and the American Revolution,” a wonderful CHS tour, and several at Mount Auburn Cemetery. You can also view any of these sitting at home, if you’d like.

If you’re more adventurous, you can choose to activate one or several guides and then start walking. If the Tory Row guide is running on your phone, for example, as you walk up Brattle Street and approach the Longfellow House, your iPhone will automatically present you with a brief history of the house, photos of its famous inhabitants and the interior, and an abridged audio reading of “Paul Revere’s Ride.”

Why did you choose Cambridge as your starting point?

We wanted to cover one city with a lot of guides on a variety of subjects so users could understand its full potential. Cambridge has an incredible—but manageable—density of history, universities, architecture, museums, music, and cool, weird sites.

Why did you approach the CHS?

The CHS exemplifies a type of organization that we hope will benefit from Yonward. It has amazing archives and content, but a limited budget and resources, and it’s a perfect model for others to learn from. Frank Reece was incredibly receptive, and Marieke Van Damme has been really supportive. The CHS’s enthusiasm for the project and its allowing us to publish five of its guides have been a great source of encouragement!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

BY MARK VASSAR

As I did in the last issue, I will again highlight one of the earliest gifts to the collection. In October of 1906, a gavel—crafted from the wood of a willow tree and adorned with an engraved sterling plate—was presented to the CHS by Alice S. Worcester. It reads: “Cambridge Historical Society, presented by a descendant of Gov. Thos. Dudley, Oct. 1906, Made from the Pallisade [sic] Willows.” The gavel likely was presented to the CHS for calling meetings to order, as it has some nicks and dents, and one side of the engraved plate was reattached with a screw. (There is documentation that it was used for that purpose at the annual meeting in 1956.)

Governor Thomas Dudley arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony with John Winthrop in 1630 and was one of the prominent founders of Newtowne (now Cambridge), serving four one-year terms as governor of the colony. In 1632 he began to construct a palisade—a fence of wooden stakes or pales—to protect it from attack. The willows stood near his home, near the corner of today’s Mount Auburn and Hawthorne streets, and were the subject of a 19th-century poem by James Russell Lowell titled “Under the Willows,” an excerpt of which appears here.

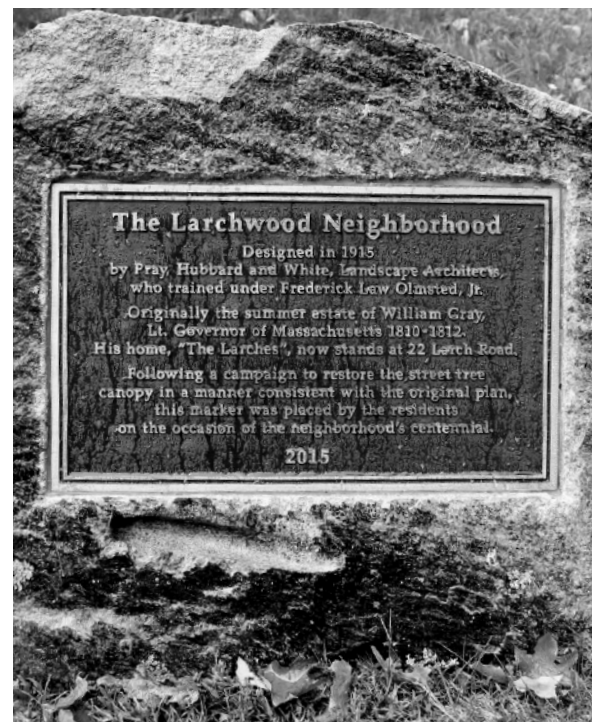


*I care not how men trace their ancestry,
To ape or Adam: let them please their whim;
But I in June am midway to believe
A tree among my far progenitors,
Such sympathy is mine with all the race,
Such mutual recognition vaguely sweet
There is between us.
Surely there are times
When they consent to own me of their kin,
And condescend to me, and call me cousin,
Murmuring faint lullabies of eldest time,
Forgotten, and yet dumbly felt with thrills
Moving the lips, though fruitless of all words.
And I have many a lifelong leafy friend,
Never estranged nor careful of my soul,
That knows I hate the axe, and welcomes me
Within his tent as if I were a bird,
Or other free companion of the earth...*

LARCHWOOD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Gray estate dated from 1808, when William Gray, a wealthy ship builder in Salem and Boston, bought the first parcel of land with a 1751 farmhouse and an unfinished federal-style home to be his summer residence. Gray served as lieutenant governor from 1810 to 1812 under Governor Elbridge Gerry, who was a neighbor at Elmwood, now the home of Harvard’s president. The estate remained in the family until 1915, when Gray’s grandson, John Chipman Gray “the younger,” died and 23 acres of the estate were developed into the Larchwood neighborhood. The mansion and old farmhouse were moved from 245 Brattle Street to their present location at 22 and 36 Larch Road, where they remain in private ownership.

Both the Gray family and the developers had an interest in trees. Gray’s son, John Chipman Gray “the elder,” (a state politician and promoter of agriculture and horticulture who owned the estate from 1825 to 1881) planted a variety of fruit, nut, and specimen trees, including a ginkgo and a European larch. During Gray “the younger’s” tenure (he was a Harvard law professor who owned the estate from 1881–1915), the mansion house was named *The Larches*. His wife, Anna Gray, designed a Colonial Revival fence with larch cone finials that still stands at 22



CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Larchwood Memorial

FACEBOOK STATUS UPDATES—110 YEARS AGO

BY SUSAN MATHESON

The Cambridge newspapers of 110 years ago (when the CHS was founded) included weekly columns listing big and small changes in the lives of residents. The residents themselves would submit these short “status updates” to announce a new baby or to brag about their vacation. Reading these columns is a bit like scrolling through a Facebook news feed:

Henry J. Cunningham has been taking a rest from business cares the past few weeks at Bass Point.

Miss Edith Carter is visiting friends in Provincetown.

Richard B. Harding, who has been so seriously ill with pneumonia, was able to be out yesterday for the first time.

“Win” Adams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Adams of Ellery Street, has been elected president of the freshman class at Brown University.

The large doll at the Y.W.C.A. fair, which was to go to the person who guessed its name, was awarded to Miss Marion Pike, of City Hall. The doll was named Isidore Andrews, after the girl who dressed it.

Prof. C. S. Sargent of the botanical department of Harvard University has sailed for South America to search for botanical specimens for the Arnold Arboretum.

And just as on Facebook, others could comment on a status update. In July 1905, when there were just 150 cars in Cambridge, a new car owner wanted to boast a little: “Earle G. Greenleaf, of Harvard Street, is at Scituate with a handsome new touring car.” But apparently someone was a little resentful of this, because in the same column a few sentences later we read: “Earle G. Greenleaf was fined Monday for overspeeding his automobile in Scituate.”



George H. Stearns, who recently sold his house, 46 Shepard street, to Elmer Billings, of Billings & Stover, Harvard square, has taken an apartment in the Cantabriglia.

Mrs. Miles Washburn is a guest at the Forest Hill house, Franconia, N. H.

Miss Edith Carter is visiting friends at Provincetown.

Rev. Samuel A. Elliot, D. D., is to make an address at the 21st meeting of the Unitarian conference, which will be held in Atlantic City late in September. Rev. S. M. Crothers is on the reception committee.

Miss Eleanor W. Davis is visiting friends at Manchester.

Jackson Palmer is at Onset, where he will be until the first of September.

Rev. Samuel M. Crothers preached at Nahant, Sunday.

Earle G. Greenleaf, of Harvard street, is at Scituate with a handsome new touring car.

Sources: Cambridge Directory 1905 and Cambridge Chronicle, with thanks to Sally Zimmerman, Historic New England

LARCHWOOD, (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

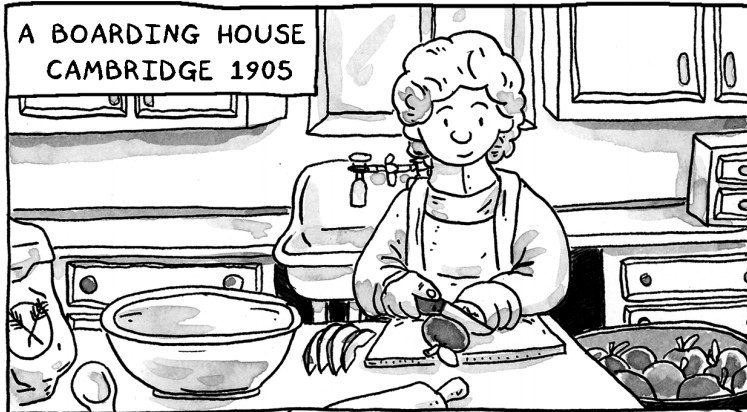
Larch Road. Pray, Hubbard and White, the landscape architectural firm that designed the layout of the inner streets and lots in 1915, included the locations of estate trees in the original plan with the hope that as many as possible would be saved. They also added street trees along the new streets.

Because the Norway maple street trees of the original plan have been dying, the neighborhood has been concerned. In 2011, in anticipation of its centennial, Gale Hunt, Bill Warner, and the landscape architect Tamar Zimmerman worked with the city and neighbors on implementing a master plan of tree replanting. The new trees, including ginkgo, sweet gum, and various oaks, are reminiscent of Gray “the elder’s” original collection. They will not only add color and shade to the streets, but also survive better than maples in the urban environment.

Images of the mansion and the Gray estate trees are in the CHS digital archives at cambridgehistory.org/search/node/Larches.

A PATRIOTIC FEAST

A BOARDING HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE 1905



BUON GIORNO, SIGNORA!
MRS. MCLEOD, WHAT
IN THE WORLD ARE
YOU DOING?



THANKSGIVING IS
TOMORROW. SO I'M
MAKING FIVE APPLE
PIES AND FIVE
PUMPKIN PIES.



DIECI??
TEN PIES??
WHY SO MANY?

THREE FOR THE FAMILIES
NEXT DOOR AND THREE FOR
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH. THAT LEAVES FOUR
FOR ALL THE BOARDERS HERE!



THIS IS MY FIRST
THANKSGIVING, BUT
IN ITALY WE KNOW
HOW TO HAVE A
FEAST! I CAN MAKE
SOME SPAGHETTI WITH
ITALIAN SAUSAGE.

OH, HEAVENS NO! THAT
SOUNDS TERRIBLY
SPICY! THIS IS AN
AMERICAN HOLIDAY
WHERE WE EAT THE
SAME RUSTIC FOODS
THAT THE
PILGRIMS ATE.



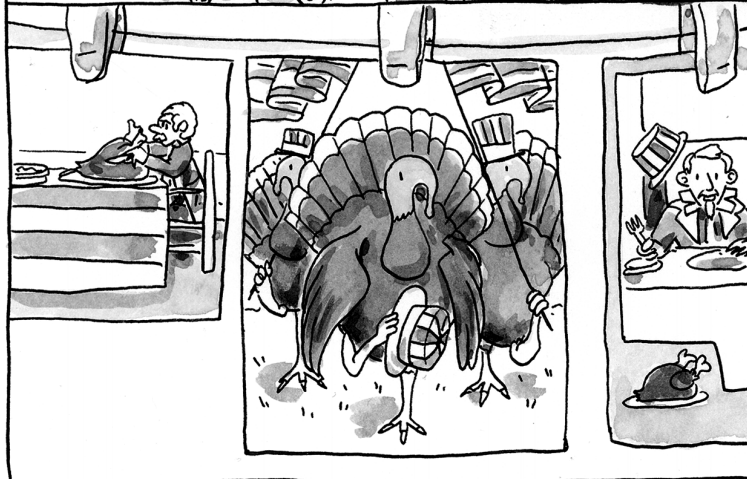
ARE YOU SURE
THE PILGRIMS
ATE THESE?



THESE ARE SOME COLORFUL
POSTCARDS YOU HAVE, MR. MCLEOD.




IS THIS THE
FOURTH OF JULY??
THE PEOPLE WHO
DREW THESE
POSTCARDS ARE
CONFUSING
THANKSGIVING DAY
WITH
INDEPENDENCE DAY!



MR. AARONSON, BOTH DAYS ARE A CHANCE TO BE THANKFUL WE ARE AMERICANS.




ISN'T THANKSGIVING A PROTESTANT HOLIDAY? I'M CATHOLIC.




NO, NO, NO. THANKSGIVING IS FOR ALL AMERICANS—JEWS, AND CATHOLICS, AND PROTESTANTS. AND EVEN SOUTHERNERS!

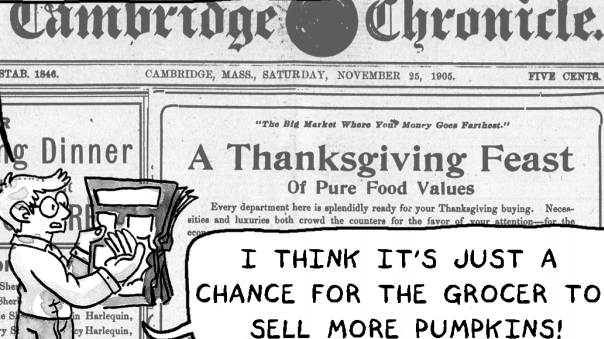


THAT'S RIGHT. A FEW WEEKS AGO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PROCLAIMED IT A NATIONAL HOLIDAY OF THANKS "THROUGHOUT THE LAND."



LOOK AT THE FRONT OF THIS NEWSPAPER! IT ONLY HAS ADVERTISEMENTS FOR FOOD. WHERE IS THE NEWS?







I THINK IT'S JUST A CHANCE FOR THE GROCER TO SELL MORE PUMPKINS!

BUT WHY EAT TURKEY FOR THANKSGIVING?

IS IT EVEN KOSHER?

THEY ARE PESKY CREATURES. I SAW A WILD TURKEY ROAMING THE STREET YESTERDAY AND IT GOT HIT BY A TROLLEY CAR. WHO WOULD EAT THAT?






BEN FRANKLIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE TURKEY MIGHT SEEM VAIN AND SILLY, IT WAS A "BIRD OF COURAGE." HE SAID IT WAS SO COURAGEOUS IT WOULD NOT EVEN HESITATE TO ATTACK A BRITISH REDCOAT IF THE SOLDIER TRIED TO INVADE THE TURKEY'S FARMYARD!

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF...

MR. PACHECO! THERE IS NO NEED FOR THAT. I ASSURE YOU, YOUR ONLY DUTY ON THANKSGIVING DAY IS TO CLEAN YOUR PLATE.



IF ALL I HAVE TO DO TO BECOME AN AMERICAN IS TO EAT TURKEY, THEN I'D LIKE.. HOW DO YOU SAY? I'D LIKE A... DRUMSTICK PLEASE!





THE NEXT DAY

STORY BY:
SUSAN MATHESON
BRUCE IRVING

ART BY:
JOHN CARVAJAL

EDITED BY:
ROHO

SPONSORED BY:
NINTH ART PRESS

© 2015

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 110TH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 15, 2015 | Mount Auburn Cemetery

Despite the downpours, sleet, and snow, this year's Annual Meeting was attended by nearly 70 CHS members (including three former executive directors) at Mount Auburn Cemetery's Story Chapel, an ideal venue for the meeting.

Tod Beaty, president, welcomed everyone and acknowledged the valuable contributions over the past several years of the previous executive director, Gavin Kleespies, in energizing the Society's public programming. He also spoke about the Society's plans for the future, as identified in the strategic plan, which includes the goal of reconstituting the Governing Council. Toward that goal, three new council members—Stan Burrows, Carl Fantasia, and Jan Ferrara—were proposed.

In addition, outgoing council members William August, Harry Irwin, Michael Kenney, Rachael Solem, and Jason Weeks were thanked for their years of service and outstanding efforts on the Governing Council.

Tod also noted that Egmont Associates, which helped us obtain a new executive director, had received more than 40 résumés from candidates.

The officers reporting included Andy Leighton, presenting the Treasurer's Report for 2014, and Heli Meltsner, reporting on the acquisitions that the CHS received over the past year. Bruce Irving, editor, informed the group that the Editorial Board was scheduled to convene on March 23 to plan the next newsletter, the theme of which would be the celebration of the CHS's 110th year.

Frank Kramer, secretary, proposed the slate of officers: Tod Beaty, president; Elizabeth Adams-Lasser and Charlie Allen, vice presidents; Andy Leighton, treasurer; Heli Meltsner, curator; Bruce Irving, editor; and Frank Kramer, secretary. All were unanimously approved.

Next, Frank proposed the slate of new councilors. Stan Burrows, Carl Fantasia, and Jan Ferrara, were unanimously elected.

Frank Reece, interim executive director, introduced Meg Winslow, curator of historical collections at Mount Auburn Cemetery. Meg spoke about how the cemetery has evolved since 1905, when the Cambridge Historical Society was founded, during the past century, and over the past several years.



Photo courtesy of Meg Winslow

**Liz Adams-Lasser, Bruce Irving, Tod Beaty,
and Frank Reece**



Darlene Bonislawski 1948–2015

Former Cambridge resident Darlene Bonislawski died at the age of 67 on July 18, 2015, of ovarian cancer. A longtime member of the Cambridge Historical Society, she will be remembered as an impassioned activist who was dedicated to social issues—about women, workers, and voters. During her life, Darlene worked as a union leader in the Harvard University Employees Representative Association, as a civic leader and a Cambridge election commissioner, and as a lawyer who advocated for workers' rights.

Her daughter, Jennifer, of Watertown, said that Mrs. Bonislawski regarded Cambridge as “a great place to grow up, and a great place to raise children. ... There were so many immigrants, such a strong working class, and she loved that.” Besides Jennifer, she is survived by her husband, Michael, her son Michael, of Somerville, four brothers, three sisters, and a grandchild.

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING BENEFIT

Thursday, June 4, 2015 | Cambridge Boat Club

Nearly 120 enthusiastic guests attended the Cambridge Historical Society's Spring Benefit at the Cambridge Boat Club on June 4, with great food, festivities, and friendship. The event, celebrating the Society's 110th anniversary, was a fundraising—as well as “friendraising”—success, garnering over \$15,000 in revenue for the Society's work in promoting and preserving Cambridge history.

President Tod Beaty welcomed guests and introduced the new executive director, Marieke Van Damme. He thanked the interim director, Frank Reece, and the development and administrative associate, Rosemary Previte, for their work in

keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently during the past several months.

The anniversary program speakers included Professor Robert Allison, who spoke on some of the significant events of Cambridge history at the turn of the 20th century; historian and author Susan Ware, who presented “Centuries of Struggle: Woman Suffrage and Women's History”; and photojournalist Don West, who talked about his newly published book (co-authored by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Kenneth J. Cooper), *Portraits of Purpose: A Tribute to Leadership*.

Special thanks to all who supported this fantastic event! We look forward to seeing you next year!

MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Lead Sponsor

Hammond Real Estate

Benefactors

The Bulfinch Companies, Inc.

Cambridge Savings Bank

The Charles Hotel

Sue Hickey

S+H Construction

Sponsors

Liz Adams-Lasser & Cliff Lasser

The Cambridge Homes

Capizzi & Co., Inc.

Charlie Allen Renovations

George H. Hanford

Irving House

Leavitt & Peirce, Inc.

Lesley University

Mount Auburn Hospital

Siena Construction

Trinity Property Management

AND TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Mr. & Mrs. K. C. Bolton III

Mr. F. Gorham Brigham

Astrid Dodds

Allesandro Doria

Drew Faust

David Herrick

Saj-Nicole Joni

Margaret McMahon

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Meyer

Ellen Moot

Eva Moseley

Larry Nathanson

Dr. Jacqueline Olds

Laurence Palmeri

David Peeler

Beatrice Porter

Adele Pressman

Freema Shapiro

Pamela Turner

Charles & Louise Weed

Ben & Carolyn Woznick



**Historian and author Susan Ware
and President Tod Beaty**



**Rochelle Shokoti (l), Lynette Laveau-Saxe,
and Teye Adusu**

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Ambit Creative Group

The Sketchy Pixel Graphic Design

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF OUR GENEROUS 2014 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Your help enables us to preserve Cambridge's vital history!

Elizabeth Adams-Lasser	Henrietta Davis	Carol R. Johnson	Helen F. Moulton	Alan Steinert
Charlie Allen	Karen Davis	Robin Johnson	Neil Moynihan	Howard H. Stevenson
Blake Allison	Jonathan Detwiler	Ida Jones	Douglas Okun	Charles M. Sullivan
Lindsay Allison	John DiGiovanni	Samer Khanachet	Mark Oliva	Patricia Sullivan
David Altshuler	Richard S. Doring	Janet Kinasewich	Kenneth Osgood	Martie Taub
Holly Ambler	Elizabeth M. Dunn	Judith King	Susan W. Paine	Edward Tierney
Michael Anderson	Frederick Ek	James Koll	Lori Pease	Peter Vandermark
Alex Attia	Ronald Lee Fleming	Frank Kramer	Doane Perry	Karen Vaters
Mardges Bacon	Elizabeth Foote	Katherine Lapp	Steve Pieper	Joseph Vera
Robert Banker	Deborah Gevalt	Kaela Lee	William Poorvu	Francois C. D. Vigier
Charles Batchelder, III	Michael Gilmore	Patrick Lee	Virginia Popper	Renata von Tscharnier
M. Wyllis Bibbins	Nancy Goodwin	Andrew Leighton	Beatrice Porter	Charlotte Wagner
Gregory Bowe	Garth Greimann	Barbara H. Lloyd	Nancy Rappaport	Rolf Wentorf
Mark Boyes-Watson	Barbara Halporn	Henry Lukas	Susan Redlich	D. Bradford Wetherell
Levin H. Campbell, Jr.	Michael Hanlon, Jr.	Paul MacDonald	Robert B. Rettig	Elizabeth B. Wiese
George Carlisle	Ted Hansen	David P. Maher	Daphne Rice	Mary Allen Wilkes
David Carvalho	Chandra D. Harrington	June Margolin	Barbara Rimbach	John Wofford
Lawrence Cetrulo	Sabina H. Harris	Marian Marill	Hugh Russell	Ben J. Woznick
Nicholas Clainos	Bennett M. Heffron	Francis Mastroianni	Ruth Ryals	Benjamin T. Wright
John W. Cobb	Geraldine Herndon	Charles McCannon	Lewis Sargentich	Paula Wright
Kathleen Coleman	Sue Hickey	Hilary McGhee	Erik Scheier	Marjory Wunsch
John Constable	Timothy Hilton	Heli Meltsner	Joanna Scott	Cathie Zuzy
Daniel Coquillette	Bruce Irving	Keene Metzger	Marion Severynse	
Bob Crocker	Harry Irwin	Marilee B. Meyer	Scott Sharp	
Howard W. Crowell	Kathy Jenkins	John Monticone	Charles S. Smith	
Allison Crump	Elizabeth Jochnick	Ellen Moot	Rachael Solem	

CAMBRIDGE SAVINGS BANK IS PROUD TO SUPPORT The CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Cambridge Savings Bank®

Building relationships beyond transactions.™

CAMBRIDGESAVINGS.COM

888.418.5626

MEMBER FDIC | MEMBER DIF | EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

It all marked, as political observer Glenn Koocher put it in *A City's Life and Times* (published in 2007 by the Cambridge Historical Society), “a new chapter in the never-boring” political history of the 20th century—a time of “us versus them politics.” But that “new chapter” also gave rise to a period when political reformers were organizing, never far below the political radar.

The results of their efforts surfaced in 1911. A proposal to revise the city's governing charter, pushed by a committee led by Harvard professor Lewis Johnson, was so narrowly defeated—6,073 to 5,272—as to signal that the political reform fight might be just beginning. A similar fight was also shaping up on Beacon Hill, where in 1915 the Legislature offered cities a choice of municipal charter reforms, labeled A, B, C, and D. Cambridge opted for Plan B, calling for a city council and a strong mayor with hiring, firing, and veto power elected in nonpartisan races.

Wendell D. Rockwood, a businessman backed by the Citizens' Municipal Association, was elected mayor. But in his second inaugural, Rockwood complained that while the new charter had given the Council “ample authority” to reorganize the municipal government, “this expectation has not been realized.” He noted that while no action had been taken on his reorganization proposals, the Council had approved the transfer of the future Memorial Drive to a Metropolitan Park Commission. With barely concealed sarcasm, he commented that “I take this opportunity of congratulating the Council upon this one piece of constructive work.”

Rockwood and his few allies on the Council were swept out of office in December 1917, as the Democrats consolidated behind Edward Quinn, who won by 1,968 votes and would serve until 1929. The *Cambridge Tribune* noted that it “marked the end of nonpartisan rule” for the second time in as many decades.

But by the 1930s, tax increases and corruption charges had tarnished the Democrats, and a new political reform plan was offered by the Legislature. Plan E called for a municipal government headed by a city manager and appointed by the Council, which would be elected under the still somewhat mysterious system of “proportional representation.”

As far as Cambridge is concerned, proportional representation—a system of voting found in some 94 countries—is a misnomer. What Cambridge has is a system—adopted now in Ireland and Malta and a scattering of American cities—whereby voters can cast a “single transferable vote” to a second candidate if their first choice has already been either elected or defeated, by the time their vote is counted.

Narrowly defeated in 1938, Plan E was adopted in 1941 and remains in force today—with “Vote for #1” a lasting symbol on every yard sign and door-knocker.



Hammond Residential

Real Estate



John Bigelow & Bruce Irving Sales Associates

Thinking of buying or selling?
Contact Bigelow/Irving.
We know Cambridge real estate.

617•497•4400
birving@hammondre.com
jbigelow@hammondre.com

hammondre.com | 617-497-4400 | Two Brattle Square | Cambridge

2015–2016 CALENDAR

FIVE SENSES OVER FIVE CENTURIES ►

Live Performances at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House

Thursday, November 19 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5 | 4:30–6:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17 | 6:00–7:30 p.m.

See, smell, and hear the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House like never before, as the second-oldest building in Cambridge comes alive through a performance by Daniel Berger-Jones of Cambridge Historical Tours. Walk in the footsteps of the former residents as you relive Cambridge from the 17th to the 21st century!

Cost: \$20 for CHS members; \$25 for nonmembers
Visit Eventbrite or call 617-547-4252 for tickets

THE CHS HOLIDAY PARTY ►

at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House

Tuesday, December 8 (invitations to come)

THE CHS ANNUAL MEETING

March 2016 (details to come)



THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE HOOPER-LEE-NICHOLS HOUSE

159 BRATTLE STREET

CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

We hope you enjoy and value our fall newsletter. Are you a CHS member? If not, visit cambridgehistory.org to join!

Please be on the lookout for our 2015 Annual Appeal letter!

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUPPORT

OUR WORK AS WE:

Build on our strong foundation

Preserve our amazing assets—the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, the collection, and our archives

Expand our outreach to all of Cambridge with dynamic programs, exhibits and publications