



PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 22, 1950

MEETING, MARCH 19, 1950

SPRING MEETING, MAY 19, 1950

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BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY
1950

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 1950

PRESIDENT

DANIEL G LACY *

VICE PRESIDENT

MRS. HARRISON G BRIDGE

TREASURER

ALBERT P BRIGGS, 187 Walnut Street

CLERK

GORHAM DANA, 44 Edge Hill Road

TRUSTEES

Dr Harold Bowditch, Miss Elizabeth Burrage, Miss Elizabeth Butcher, J Francis Driscoll, S. Morton Vose and Officers ex-officio.

COMMITTEES

FINANCE—Albert P Briggs, *Chairman*
Edward Dane,
President, ex-officio.

ROOMS—Mrs. Bertram K. Little, *Chairman*
J Francis Driscoll, Mrs. George C. Houser,
Daniel Tyler, Jr

LIBRARY—Miss Elizabeth Butcher, *Chairman*
Miss Elizabeth Burrage, J Francis Driscoll,
Daniel G Lacy

MEETINGS AND PUBLICATIONS—
Dr Harold Bowditch, *Chairman*
Charles B. Blanchard, Samuel Cabot, Francis A.
Caswell, John P Cotton, J Francis Driscoll,
James M. Driscoll, Miss Mary Lee.
President and *Clerk*, ex-officio.

MEMBERSHIP—Gorham Dana, *Chairman*
Charles B. Blanchard, J Francis Driscoll, Miss
Margaret A. Fish, Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Mrs.
Samuel Mixter, Mrs. John A. Reidy, Miss Julia
Shepley

DELEGATES TO THE BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

Miss Mary Davis Bush, Miss Margaret A. Fish,
Miss Mary Lee.
Alternates Miss Grace A. White, *Clerk* ex-officio.

* Died May 6, 1950

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 22, 1950

The annual meeting of the Society was held at the Edward Devotion House on January 22, 1950 at 3:30 P. M. There were about fifty persons present.

President Bertram K. Little called the meeting to order and presided. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting was waived. The President read his annual report which was duly accepted. Mrs. Nina F. Little read a report covering the publication of her book, "Some Old Brookline Houses", which stated that the book had brought in over \$600.00. Mrs. Little then read the report of the Committee on Rooms which included gifts of Devotion letters and an 18th Century lacquer clock now on the stairway of the Devotion House. Both reports were duly accepted.

In the absence of the treasurer, Mr. Little read his report which was accepted.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Rodman reported for the nominating committee the following slate: For treasurer, Albert P. Briggs; for clerk, Gorham Dana, for trustees, Dr. Harold Bowditch, Mrs. Harrison G. Bridge, Miss Elizabeth Burrage, Miss Elizabeth Butcher, Mr. Daniel G. Lacy, Mr. J. Francis Driscoll, and Mr. S. Morton Vose. On motion duly seconded the clerk was requested to cast one ballot for the nominees, which was done, and they were declared elected.

Mr. Dana, for the nominating committee, reported the following persons for membership, and they were duly elected: Kenneth B. Bond, Mrs. Frederick C. Bowditch, Mrs. Henry B. Batchelor, Mrs. Charles C. Collens, Miss Marion Cutler, Mrs. E. W. Furness, Mrs. Frank L. Hadden, Mr. Lindsley Loring, Mrs. Anna P. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Schraff, Dr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Taylor, Miss Margaret Taylor, Mr. William M. Warren.

Mrs. Richard G. Wadsworth presented a paper entitled "Recollections of Edward Atkinson, her father, and Mr. Samuel Atkinson" and read extracts from the diary of Mr. Atkinson, his grandfather. Photographs and documents were displayed, and a rising vote of thanks given to the speakers. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M., to be followed by a social half hour with refreshments.

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

49th ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 22, 1950

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Our membership stands as follows

Annual Members -----	213
Life Members -----	10
Benefactors -----	1
	<hr/>
	224

Being an encouraging net gain of 21 members during the past year

We welcome to new membership Samuel G Atkinson, George V Brown, Jr., Kingsbury Brown, Mrs. John P Cotton, Mrs. James Dean, Mrs. Carl M. Goodspeed, Mr and Mrs. Lawrence Hanson, William J Hickey, Jr., Robert I. Hunneman, Marcien Jenckes, Franklin King, Arthur B. Lamb, Reuben L. Lurie, Mrs. W M. Parker Mitchell, Mrs. Florence P Peabody, Dr Samuel C. Prescott, Mrs. Roger Preston, William T Reid, Jr., Miss Alice Seaver, S. Morton Vose, Mrs. Winthrop Wetherbee.

The following member has died since the last Annual Meeting Miss Ellen Chase in the Fall of 1949.

Two things combine to make the President's report more difficult to write now than the years before 1948—the revival of the publication of the Proceedings and the return to the practice of holding the Annual Meeting in January Both are good developments in themselves, no doubt, but when the meetings held in the earlier part of a Club year are reported fully in print before the next Annual Meeting, and the Annual Meeting is set before another is held, what is your President to report?

Most of you will have read the full accounts in the local press of the Punch Bowl Tavern and of the creation and placing of a tablet memorializing its site by your Society—many will have noted it on the front of the Brookline Theatre. But several things should be reported for our records. The tablets was prepared, and seen through production, by a special committee com-

posed of Mr Daniel G Lacy, Chairman, Miss Elizabeth Burrage and Mr. James M. Driscoll. At brief ceremonies on November 19, 1949, the Chairman presided and introduced Mrs. Morris Sharaff, wife of the owner of the theatre, who spoke inspiringly of such reminders of the past and their importance to the present, Mr Gorham Dana, who told of one of the many incidents connected with the Tavern which made it such a vital part of the community life, and the President, who, after a few remarks about the Tavern and its significance, unveiled the tablet with the hope that passersby might be interested through it in learning more about Brookline's past and find the enjoyment and inspiration such knowledge brings.

Your Trustees have met semi-annually as usual to carry on the affairs of the Society, and their accomplishments, in which they have been assisted by the standing committees and individual members, have been or will be appreciated by us all. They are always happy to receive and consider any suggestions members may have for projects or programs, and are particularly desirous of conferring with any members willing to prepare papers for presentation at meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

BERTRAM K. LITTLE, *President*

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities on hand January 1 1949

U. S. Series G 2½% Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,162.66	
Brookline Savings Bank	3,416.78	
		\$5,579.44

Receipts for 1949

Annual dues collected	406.00	
Donations	3.00	
Sales of Publications	15.25	
Sales History of Brookline	4.00	
Sales Old Houses of Brookline	633.73	
Interest on U.S. Series G 2½%	25.00	
Interest on Saving Bank deposit	68.79	
		1,155.77
		\$6,735.21

Payment for 1949

Postage and Printing—Treasurer	23.50	
Postage, Printing & Typing, Secretary	84.05	
Supplies for Secretary	6.10	
Hiring Chairs	9.00	
Bank charges	4.52	
Printing Proceedings (covers 2 years)	341.52	
Photographs Aspinwall Papers	44.00	
Publishing Old Houses of Brookline	2,900.00	
Refunds on Sale of Old Houses	5.80	
Punch Bowl Tavern, Plate and Setting	107.00	
Dues Bay State Historical League	4.00	
Insurance on Furniture—Devotion House	9.45	
		\$3,538.94

Cash and Securities on hand Dec. 31, 1949

U.S. Series G. 2½% Bond	1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	585.70	
Brookline Saving Bank	1,610.57	
		3,196.27
		\$6,735.21

ALBERT P BRIGGS, *Treasurer*

January 31, 1950.

SOME OLD BROOKLINE HOUSES

REPORT FOR YEAR 1949

SOME OLD BROOKLINE HOUSES was published on June 1st, by the Brookline Historical Society, in an edition of one thousand copies, as it was felt by the Publication Company that such a book would have a slow, but continuing sale, for many years. As their share of the undertaking, Mr and Mrs. Little offered to finance and arrange for the promotion of the book. Accordingly 1000 cardboard mailing containers were ordered, and 500 folders, 300 envelopes and return envelopes were printed, and these were sent out to all members of the Society, other persons believed to be interested in such a publication, and various libraries, bookshops, and other institutions.

On June 4th Radcliffe College held an Open House Day in Brookline, and Mrs. Little spent the day in the John Goddard house displaying the books for the Society, with the help of Mrs. Nelson. Thirty copies were sold which brought in a total of \$120.00, of which Radcliffe received a commission of \$24.00.

To January 1st, 1950, 226 copies have been disposed of, 194 copies paid for. Of the former, 12 were given to the Public Library and its various branches in return for their courtesy in allowing Miss Thayer to handle the mail order sale. We appreciate this help more than we can say. 10 review copies have been sent to magazines and newspapers, and 3 have been deposited at the Society's headquarters, the Devotion House. The book has been reviewed in a complimentary manner by the Boston Globe, the New York Sun, the Magazine Antiques, and a review was promised by Rudolph Elie of the Boston Herald. In addition the author has received a number of pleasant letters, including one from Theodore F. Jones, compiler of our Brookline Land Maps, who is now at New York University. The book has appeared on the following lists: Lawrence B. Romaine, Middleboro, James C. Howgate, Schenectady, McKearin's Antiques, Hoosick Falls, N. Y., all dealers in Americana, the Publisher's Weekly, Westchester Features Syndicate, and New England Quarterly, all of whom requested copies for review, and the summer listing of the Department of Education, New England Division of Public Libraries. For three weeks in December, before Christmas, advertisements were run in the Brookline Chronicle and Brookline Citizen.

In closing you might be interested to know that in addition to a number of bookshops, we received orders from persons in

the following places outside of Massachusetts Willimantic and Suffield, Conn.: Long Island, New York City, Lockport, N Y, Short Hills, N J, Philadelphia, Washington, Spartanberg, S. C.; Cincinnati and Indianapolis. The book has been purchased by the following libraries Boston Public, Boston Athenaeum, New England Historic and Genealogical, Museum of Fine Arts, Harvard College, Newton Free, Concord Free, Lancaster, Providence, Old Sturbridge Village, New York University, Brooklyn Museum, New York State Library, Albany, Rochester Public, Cleveland Public, University of Illinois; Library of Oklahoma Agricultural and Medical College.

Respectfully submitted,

NINA FLETCHER LITTLE

January 22, 1950

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS

FOR THE YEAR 1949

Among those who stopped to see the Devotion house during 1949 were visitors from Maine, Connecticut, and California, and others from Brookline and Boston. College students will drop in late in the afternoon and often they revisit the house and take pictures of the exterior from different positions in the yard. Girl Scout troops have arranged ahead of time to come on their regular afternoon meeting days, usually about twelve girls and their leaders. On June 2nd two of the 6th grade classes in the Devotion School went through the house, and in November all four of the seventh grade classes came with their teachers. We are very glad to have the schools make use of the house in this way, and have found the youngsters very appreciative, and the teachers interested and cooperative. We wish that other schools in Brookline would take advantage of this opportunity to show the children a real old house and its furnishings in combination with their studies of American history. In November both the Hannah Goddard and the Joanna Aspinwall Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution had their meetings here. One visitor, Miss Helen M. Carlin, came especially to see the Devotion portraits.

Gifts to the Society during 1949 for display in the Devotion house, have been from Mrs. Harriet Devotion Terry of White

Plains, New York, who has given us so many Devotion heirlooms. I went again to see Mrs. Terry in the fall of 1948, found that her twin sister had just passed away and that she herself was frail but still very much interested in the old house. She gave me for the Society some further early Devotion letters and some interesting old family photographs, including some delightful ones of herself and her twin as tiny children. At that time she also promised to the Society an 18th century red lacquer tall clock, made in London, which had originally stood in the old Devotion home in Scotland, Conn. Also an 18th century miniature and a later portrait of Jonathan Devotion grandson of Rev Ebenezer who was a Judge of the Court in Norwich. After some difficulty I managed to arrange for the transportation to Brookline of these items, and they are now in the house.

In December we loaned a few pieces of old furniture to the Devotion School to be used in the setting for Dickens' "Christ-Carol." These were much appreciated and well taken care of.

The Town has during the past year made repairs to the hot water heater, and has painted the exterior of the house a fine shade of dark pumpkin yellow with white trim. This is a correct mid-18th century color, and we have had many compliments on it and on the improvement of the garden and fence surrounding the property

In closing I wish again to express to our custodians, Mr and Mrs. Nelson, the Society's appreciation of their interest in, and affection for, the old house, which continues as a living memorial to the Devotion family, and a credit to the Town of Brookline.

Respectfully submitted,

NINA F LITTLE,

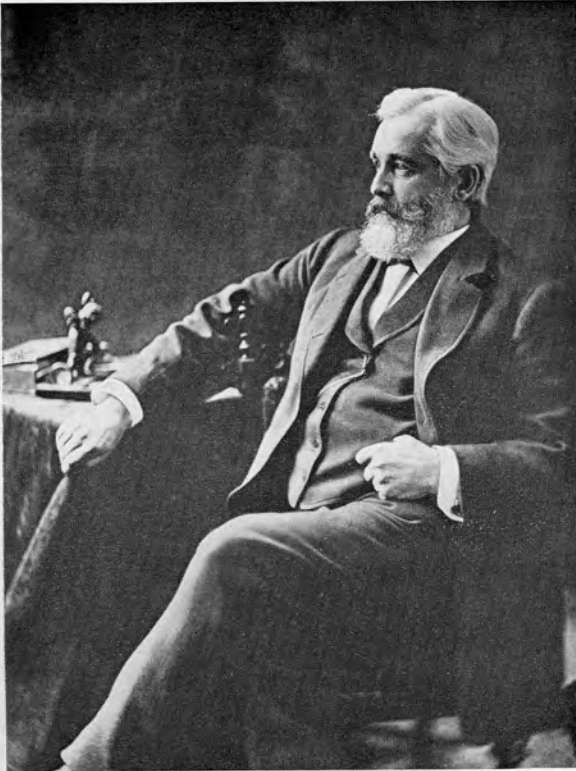
Chairman Committee on Rooms

EDWARD ATKINSON

A sketch of his adult life by his daughter
Mary H. Wadsworth

Edward Atkinson was born in Brookline, Massachusetts on February 10, 1827 and died in Boston on December 11, 1905.

On his grandfather's side he was descended from a tribe of colonial merchants, of whom the most prominent, a great uncle, was Theodore Atkinson of Newburyport and Boston. The family came originally from the north of England, the immigrant ancestor, Theodore Atkinson, came to Boston in 1634,



EDWARD ATKINSON

and his son John settled in Newbury. On his mother's side he was of French Huguenot descent. Owing to the business reverses of his father he was prevented from going to college,

and at fifteen entered the employ of Reid and Chadwick, commission merchants of Boston, in the capacity of office boy. He rapidly rose to the position of bookkeeper, helped his brother through Harvard, and contributed toward the support of the rest of his family. Subsequently he became connected with several cotton manufacturing companies, the Indian Orchard Mills in particular. He was for many years the treasurer of a number of such corporations, but in 1878 left these, to become president of the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co., which position he held—I am told with great distinction—until his death.

In 1855 he married Miss Mary Caroline Heath of Brookline and had seven children, of whom only two now survive—William Atkinson* and Mrs. R. G. Wadsworth, the present writer.

To anything he undertook, Mr. Atkinson brought a creative touch and a tremendous urge to improve and expand, which perhaps especially distinguished him.

From early manhood he showed a keen interest both in town and in public affairs. We still have a letter written when he was a very young man, describing a heated argument between him and Colonel Aspinwall on his way home from the Brookline First Parish church. We can only hope that Colonel Aspinwall was kind to the youthful arguer. In 1894 he was drawn into the abolitionist movement, being a great friend of Mr. Edward Philbrick and a helper for his underground station in what is now Dr. Burrage's house on Walnut Street. Quoting from the late Dr. Carleton Francis: "In 1849 Mr. Edward Atkinson began his anti-slavery work, going around among his friends getting names to protest against the admission of Texas as a state. Later he became so active in this work that the authorities interfered and employed detectives to watch him. At one time he escaped arrest by cutting his hair short and shaving his moustache." My father told me he was in the mob during the famous riot that freed the negro, Burns. Perhaps this is when he became suspect of the police. I am told on good authority that this natural interest in public as well as private affairs was typical among the able men of his generation.

As an example, take his work in the cotton industry. From being treasurer of several mills in New England he grew to be an authority on the cotton textile industry both in this country and England. During Secretary McCulloch's Treas-

* William Atkinson died in April 1950.

urership, the climax of his interest in this particular field was probably reached through the prominent part he played in organizing the Atlanta Exhibition in 1889, the first exhibition of its sort to be held in this country. It was the beginning of the modernization and industrialization of the South. At this Exhibition the governor of Georgia wore in the afternoon a cotton suit for which the cotton was picked the same morning.

In later life Mr Atkinson's main interest was the development of the Boston Manufacturers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co. He had found the insurance companies in a chaotic condition; and he introduced many consolidations, expansions and improvements. He was an extremely good administrator, able to pick good men with ideas, and also especially able to supply good ideas himself, and get them carried out. He enthusiastically advocated the introduction of automatic sprinklers into factories, which is now a *sine qua non*. And here I would like to relate an anecdote Mr Gorham Dana has told me. Mr Dana, when an inexperienced young fire protection engineer, interested in sprinkler protection, went one day, in trepidation, to interview Mr Atkinson on the subject. He was, as he says, "taken into the office of the great man", and had a very satisfactory interview, which emboldened him at the end to ask Mr Atkinson a leading question. This was just *where* he should place the sprinklers in the factory in question. Mr Atkinson looked at him with a twinkle in his eye, and said, "Mr Dana, if we knew in advance where a fire would break out, one sprinkler *Right There* would suffice!" To continue. He greatly improved fire-proofing methods of construction, not only in factories but also in hospitals, of which the Waltham, the Newport, and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospitals are examples. He tried very hard to introduce such improvements into stores and theatres also, and to make the mutual insurance system more generally applicable. If his ideas had been more generally adopted we should not have had any Cocoanut Grove disaster.

Besides being known as an authority on cotton and on factory construction, Mr Atkinson was well known both here and abroad as an economist and statistician. In economics he was chiefly influenced as a young man by Bastiat and Adam Smith. In other words, he believed in free trade, "laissez-faire", the gold standard, and the tariff for revenue only. To his statistical and economic work he devoted much time, and wrote many books, magazine articles and pamphlets which were widely circulated. To all theories he applied his practical Yankee common sense which he had gained through his experience in the business world.

In politics, Mr Atkinson during most of his life was campaigning for two things—a reasonable tariff and sound money. He fought first for the retirement of the green-backs after the Civil War, then against the silver craze in its various forms of Bi-metallism and Free Silver, and was actively involved in all the tariff fights of the last century.

Though a friend of labor and a worker all his life for the mutual interests of labor and capital, he was opposed to tyranny in any form—union as well as any other. He was often called upon to speak on the relations of capital and labor, and did not on these occasions hesitate to announce his views. As these were those of a free trader and individualist, they were not always acceptable to Labor, then just beginning to organize.

Mr Atkinson was for many years concerned in educational problems. During the Civil war he was actively interested in the Freedmen's Bureau and in the negro schools that were just starting up in Washington. Later, he was a friend and helper of both General Armstrong, and Booker T. Washington.

In regard to his own training, he always regretted losing the advantage of Harvard, in spite of the fact that he received, and valued greatly, several honorary degrees later in life. He was one of the original organizers of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and for many years was on its governing board. He left when General Francis A. Welker took over, as he disagreed with the projected policies of what he considered over-concentration on specialties to the neglect of the humanities. He always believed that the most extreme specialist should have a background of general and classical education, and for himself valued highly the little Latin and Greek and mathematics he had learned as a youth. It is interesting to note that the present policies of Massachusetts Institute of Technology are coming back to this basic idea. He obtained several useful grants for private research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in factory construction, fire-proof glass construction, dietetics, etc.

His versatility is shown in a variety of other fields. It will not do to omit mention of his great interest both in agricultural improvements and in dietetics. He was influential in securing the beginnings of pure food and drug legislation. I believe it is not generally known that he first introduced the soy bean in this country, and his experiments with the so-called "Aladdin Oven" and his lectures on dietetics may be remembered by some in this audience.

In politics he started life as a Republican during the Civil War. Later he was a personal friend and admirer of Mr. Garfield; but at the time of Mr. Cleveland, also a friend he became what was called "a mugwump" (an independent voter), and voted for him. During Mr. Cleveland's administrations he was very active behind the scenes. At the time of the Venezuela affair he deprecated what he thought were Cleveland's and Olney's very drastic notes to Britain. Immediately, he got in touch with his friends in England and in the Liberal Party, suggesting mollifying influences which were used on both sides of the ocean. Such influences led finally to the Arbitration Treaty which was later signed with Great Britain. When this treaty was signed he was invited to be present at Washington in recognition of his work. There were also various phases of the Fisheries question and of Reciprocity with Canada for which he worked very hard behind the scenes. In view of our present controversy with Russia, it may be interesting to note that Mr. Atkinson always thought that Beaconsfield made a great mistake in 1878 in preventing Russia from keeping Constantinople. Being a firm believer in the civilizing influence of trade and commerce, he thought Russia needed and was entitled to, a warm water port; and that to deprive her of the fruits of her victory was a major mistake in Great Britain's policy at that time.

He was extremely disappointed in the tariff which was passed under McKinley;—indeed, in his administration as a whole. Toward the close of his career he was much absorbed in the work of the Anti-Imperialist Society, which was organized by prominent men all over the country during the Philippine War. On this I will quote Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson who says "The publication which will perhaps be consulted in coming years as the best periodical of that party in the nation most opposed to the Philippine War will doubtless be the work issued by Mr. Atkinson from June 1899 to September 1900 under the name "The Anti-Imperialist". This makes a solid volume of about 400 octavo pages and was conducted wholly on Mr. Atkinson's own initiative and through his resources, financial and otherwise; though a part of the expense was met by volunteers. There were printed more than 100,000 copies of a series of pamphlets of which the first two were withdrawn from the mail as seditious under President McKinley's administration. The periodical, exerted an influence which lasts to this day." A list of Mr. Atkinson's other publications, which were very numerous—being more than 50 pamphlets and a great many books—also a list of his honorary degrees, may be found in his biography by Harold Francis Williamson.

In regard to local Brookline affairs, he was always active in town meeting. He organized the committee which bought the land which is now the Old Reservoir, to prevent it from going into housetlots. He also bought Pierce Hall from the town, when it was given up as a Town Hall, and organized Miss Ride-out's School there, to which many old Brookliners went. There also he helped organize the "Schoolhouse Club" which got up all sorts of entertainments and theatricals. He was always a member of the famous Whist Club and never missed a meeting. He was one of the original organizers of the Brookline Savings Bank; and in Boston of the State Street Trust Company and the Union Club.

Mr. Atkinson's home life was extremely happy. In my mother he had a companion who sympathized both with his public and his domestic tastes. They lived first in the wooden house still standing on the corner of Chestnut Hill Avenue and Boylston Street; but as the family grew Mr. Atkinson built the house on the top of Heath Hill, also still standing; where most of his life was passed.

Owing to his wide national and international contacts, there was always a stream of interesting visitors coming and going in the Brookline house. Although we lived very simply for those times, the two maids we kept never seemed to rebel at any unexpected influx of my father's friends. He was very hospitable and was always ready at short notice to entertain any number of guests by cooking, himself, a repast in the "Aladdin Oven". This was an improvement over the so-called Rumford Kitchen invented by Benjamin Thompson. Mr. Atkinson, pursued this hobby further, and we had two or three larger cookers at home. He could cook anything in these ovens, even the oldest, most stringy rooster, and make it taste very good, and he was known among his friends as "Cooker Atkinson." He always said anyone could cook—"just take a recipe and add a little 'gumption'".

My father was a very sociable man. He was a good mixer and did not have an atom of racial, national, or religious prejudice. His friends ranged from the millionaire, Andrew Carnegie, to the refugee Russian newsboys who sold him newspapers every morning; from the Buddhist Dharma Pala to the beloved pastor of St. Lawrence's Church, the late Father McManus. It would take much too long for me to enumerate here his many British, French, and other correspondents in various fields. I may, perhaps, mention a few: there was, for

instance, Mr. Watanabe, a Japanese who sent us beautiful samples of Japanese grass cloth before it was on the American market. There was Herschel, of the British Liberal government who came over here to adjust the Bering Sea controversy and with whom we travelled abroad. There was Mr. Czernousky, the Russian savant and economist who lived in Paris, who had the most wonderful collection of Asiatic bronzes that it has ever been my privilege to see. My father was even bidden to an interview with Mr. Gladstone; but as he laughingly told me afterwards "he pumped me dry in half an hour." Sometimes, though as a visitor, we got a dud, as in the case of the English author who came with an introductory letter, spent one night, and left the next day with one of my father's overcoats. In contrast to this, one of the most interesting visitors that I remember was Mr. Booker T. Washington, who had come up to make a speech on the occasion of the unveiling of the Shaw monument, and who came out afterwards to dinner with his wife and two children. My father had been treasurer of the Shaw Monument Fund, and the commission had been given to Mr. St. Gaudens. The artist had undertaken to finish the work in two years; but at the end of two years the work was not nearly done; consequently Mr. Atkinson had quite a time keeping the rest of the committee in good temper, while giving the artist a chance to elaborate his original conception and to complete the work as he finally wished. As a matter of fact, it took twelve years instead of two. Some of the committee became very impatient; also very critical of the artist's conception, as it took shape. One old gentleman in particular objected to what he called "that damned angel."

In appearance I believe my father was considered a very handsome man. As I remember him, he had snow-white hair streaked with gray, keen blue eyes, and a vigorous aspect. He was slightly above middle height, with a swinging gait and the broad shoulders of a Yorkshireman. The three white heads and beards of Mr. Bowditch, Mr. Poor, and Mr. Atkinson in the First Parish Church on a Sunday morning, with the light pouring in on them, was a sight long to be remembered. He always wore a turned-down collar, a small black bow tie, a gray or black coat, dark trousers, and a large watch with a gold chain over his black waistcoat. Hanging on the chain was a Grecian antique coin called a "stater". This was given him by a friend as an indication of my father's concern for the gold standard.

He had certain very simple basic principles which never varied. They formed the background of his mind, having almost the effect of an invulnerable fortress. He was an optimist by temperament and by conviction, which made him serene

and undisturbed in the face of temporary defeats. Yet he was singularly adaptable and always ready to welcome new ideas; though he told me that he never knew that he, himself, had any until he was fifty. He was often called a reformer, but he was neither a doctrinaire nor a "do-gooder". Therefore I should prefer to say that he was an extremely creative, practical organizer and innovator, combining administrative genius with a wide human vision. Although he could be very decided on occasion, he had none of the habitual obstinacy which I understand is often a fault of elderly gentlemen, and as a rule was the most docile of parents. He was an excellent traveler and a delightful companion on the many trips which I took with him, never grumbling or finding fault, and always securing the best of everything without fuss.

He always liked both young and old people and made friends easily. If he liked the looks of any young female person's appearance, he was very apt to introduce himself by saying, "My dear, I am sure I know your grandmother." And he always did! He had a delicious sense of humor and was full of good stories.

I have often thought that many of my father's traits showed his French descent, such as his love of gaiety and of people; his sense of the dramatic and the psychological moment to make a point; his clear thought and love of method in everything; his dislike of waste in any form; his love of beautiful things, of which I have had no time to speak; and last but not least, his skill in cooking which he inherited direct from his Huguenot-descended mother.

In reviewing his life, it doesn't seem to his daughter that there were many important events—whether local, state, national, or inter-national—in which he was not actively interested, and did not have a hand in shaping in some way, from 1865 to the day of his death. Though much of his work was done behind the scenes through his representatives in the State or in Congress; or through correspondence with British and other friends, much also was done directly, as in the case of the Anti-Imperialist pamphlets.

Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson has said, "Looking at Atkinson's career with the eyes of a literary man, it seems clear to me that no college training could have possibly added to his power, or his knowledge, or his worth in the expression of it Though the academic tradition might have added to

these general statements, in each case, some simple address which would bring out clearly to the minds of an untrained audience the essential points of each single theme. When the amount of useful labor performed by the men of this generation comes to be reviewed a century hence, it is doubtful whether a more substantial or varied list will be found credited to the memory of any one in America than that which attaches to the memory of Edward Atkinson."

Mr. Atkinson died as most men would like to die—in full possession of his faculties and engaged in the work he loved so well. While on his way to his office in Boston he was stricken with a heart attack, and passed away shortly thereafter, being spared any lingering illness. Two statements made by him just at the end contain the text which had guided him throughout his life and the hope with which he faced another existence. His regret at leaving the world he found so interesting was thus expressed—"So much to do; so little done." In contemplation of the next world he said, "I hope God has a lot of things for me to do up there. I should not be happy if he didn't."

The Brooklyn Eagle—which had often opposed his views—said, editorially, of Mr. Atkinson's place in public life, "By the death of Edward Atkinson, Boston loses a venerable citizen, Massachusetts an aggressive reformer, the nation a business magnate of integrity and wisdom, and the world a statistician and a moralist who deserved the confidence which he inspired and the attention which he commanded. There was no gathering of great Bostonians that was complete without him. This wise, learned, earnest, and intellectually tolerant American stood for the best type of thought and action which has honored Massachusetts in the past and which honors Massachusetts in the present. There was no service to any worthy cause which he could render that he withheld. There was no appeal to his judgment or to his knowledge which he did not carefully answer. There was no kindness and no courtesy which he did more than requite. He was among the chief delights of one of the most delightful cities and states in the world."

And now we come to his diary—

EDWARD ATKINSON—"HIS EGOTISTIGRAPHY"

— Preface —

Many of my friends have asked me to make a record of the reminiscences of a long and busy life. I have been unwilling to do this, because I think a man can seldom make a just

estimate of his own work. But now that my children have made this request, I have concluded to make an effort to recite my reminiscences in this Edison phonograph and to have them taken off and typewritten.

The listener must therefore picture Mr. Atkinson sitting in his easy chair, and comfortably conversing with him in a desultory way, while he dictates his diary.

EDWARD ATKINSON'S DIARY

I was born in Brookline on the 10th of February, 1827. My father was Amos Atkinson, one of the old Boston merchants of old time, whose firm of Atkinson & Rollins remained longer unchanged than that of almost any other firm in Boston. He was a descendant of Theodore Atkinson, one of the early settlers in Boston, about 1639, a somewhat notable man, apparently of large property, for whom Atkinson Street was named, now merged in another street. He was also one of the original grantees of the district of Muddy River, now the town of Brookline, but he does not appear ever to have lived here; and down to the time when my father moved to Brookline from Boston, in 1822, there was no Atkinson on the town records, nor another of the name in Boston until a much later date. My father was the son of Lieutenant Atkinson, a minute man of the Revolution, present at the battle of Lexington, and a lieutenant in the notable Essex Regiment commanded by Moses Little.

My mother, Anna Greenleaf Sawyer, was a descendant of Stephen Greenleaf, one of the first patentees of the district now Essex County, in which Ipswich, Newburyport, and other towns are now found. He is said to have been of Huguenot descent, the French name being Verte-feuille, migrated a refugee from France to England, where he translated his name.

When my father moved from Boston to Brookline, it was a little country town. The inhabitants were almost all farmers; there were a few merchants who lived out of Boston in order to get the air and exercise in riding or driving to their business. My father drove in and out in a chaise, a vehicle now seldom seen for more than thirty years. Shortly after I was born, he built a house on what was then called the New Lane, now Cypress Street, and there we lived until I was nine years old. *

* This house, now the western half of a double house, has the entrance at 60 Waverly Street.

My first recollection of any event is my father's return from one of his frequent trips to Europe. He had been obliged to go to St. Petersburg in the face of one of the most destructive epidemics of cholera ever known, when no three persons were allowed to stand together on the streets. A vessel in which he was interested was due there and he was obliged to go there to dispose of the cargo. He brought home for my mother a fur cloak which we still have in good condition. I remember he landed at Newport and drove across the country, coming into the yard where I was sitting on the fence. I did not know him. I thought it was one of our relatives, Mr. George Channing.

The next incident was a shameful event. One evening I was taken down to the foot of the New Lane, on what was then Brighton Road, now Washington Street, to look across the open fields, now covered with houses and trees, at the burning of the Catholic Ursuline convent in Somerville by a mob that went out from Boston. It had been charged that the nuns were holding a girl against her will, and the mob went out, drove out the nuns and burned the convent, the ruins of which stood upon the hill for many years down to a very recent period, as a reminder of that event.

The New Lane (Cypress Street), led from the Brighton Road across the Worcester turnpike, now Boylston Street, to the old Sherborn Road, now Walnut Street. It was a narrow lane bordered by trees and shrubs almost all the way, the roadway so narrow that when Daddy Holden with his round-top "one-hoss shay" and his old farm horse got ahead of us on the way to church, there we had to jog along because there was no room to pass. On the west was an open field where the town playground and the high school now are.

Dr. Pierce was the pastor of the Unitarian church on the hill for more than fifty years. He had come here many years before father moved to town. He kept a record of everything. His great ledger, which he began on his first year, gives the figures of the family expenditure of a country clergyman whose salary, I believe, was only \$400 or \$500 a year. It is recorded in the currency of that day the fourpence, the ninepence, and the shilling. It now forms a valuable chapter in the history of prices and has been so used by Carroll D. Wright. He even valued the services of the ladies who came to help when his daughters were married, and also valued all the presents of pork, potatoes, and other articles. On every vehicle he

bought he kept a record of what it cost, of the repairs, and what it brought when it was worn out. He was a great walker, very proud of his long walks and also of his record of events in figures. When after his long life he had reached the gates of heaven, it is affirmed that he took out his watch and said to St. Peter, "Just twenty minutes from Brookline and walked all the way."

Of another Unitarian clergyman who was very fastidious in his choice of society, it is said that when St. Peter opened the gate, he, looking before he entered, remarked "Rather a promiscuous assemblage. Is Dr Channing within?" On being assured that he was, he passed in.

Of my school days I have pleasant memories. My father and six other gentlemen had joined together to build a stone building on the Worcester turnpike, now Boylston Street, where they founded the Brookline Classical School. It is now claimed that athletics and gymnastics are modern, but these gentlemen built another building between the schoolhouse and the road for a large gymnasium, where all the apparatus necessary for gymnastic exercises were used by the boys. There were seven gentlemen on the subscription, but before the building was finished, a commercial crisis failed four of them, and my father and Mr. Richard Sullivan completed the work.

It is difficult for anyone to conceive that at that time Brookline Village was one of the "lovely villages of the plain", filled with picturesque old houses, grand trees—elm and buttonwood. The old Punch Bowl Tavern standing about where Lyceum Hall now is, with its two-story front piazza and its driveway in front. Nearly opposite an old Colonial house, with gambrel roof, in which was the postoffice in one wing, and where the widow White and her daughter lived in the other.

There were about a thousand people all told in the town; there was no public conveyance to Boston for many, many years. The Brighton stage passed through once a week, loaded with drovers on market day. How good it was a boy to be in those days of old Brookline.

I have spoken of the choir in Dr. Pierce's church. I wish we could have it back for one Sunday. The leader of the singers was good old Ben Davis, who chose the tunes; Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Haynes, soprano and contralto. Mr. Flagg of Flagg's

band was the leading musician, playing a clarinet; Mr. Artemas Newell played upon the bombadon—Mr. Brown, the saddler of the village, a tenor trumpet; Dr. Charles Wild, a festive flute, and later Ned Wild a double bass or flute. I can see Dr. Pierce in the pulpit with his hand to his ear, waiting for Mr. Davis to announce the tune, then joining in with a ponderous bass. Oh, if we could only hear that music again, what a sensation it would make in the First Parish!

There were the usual queer people of a country town. Mammy Loker came down from Skunk's Misery in Natick, bringing "yerbs and greens"; Dr. Pierce used to tell us of a man whom he visited in that section who was on his death bed. With a feeble voice the man said to him, being a little out of his head, "Doctor, Doctor, don't let them bury me in Natick; if you do, the sile's so poor I never shall come up." Daddy Hooker came along every week in his white-topped cart with eggs, chickens and vegetables. The town fool wandered about, not so much of a fool as he seemed to be. He would come for cold victuals and old clothes, but he was a vigorous man, and when asked why he didn't work his reply always was "Can't acknowledge", and that was his nickname among the boys.

In those old days life was very simple. In our house we had no furnace, we burned wood in the fire-places, cooked the meats in the tin kitchens, had no ice, hung the meats in dry parts of the well to keep them. We had wood fires in stoves in church, with long pipes and buckets at the end of the pipes to collect the tar and pyroligneous acid. We took foot-warmers in the carry-all to keep our feet warm in the church, and occasionally we were allowed the use of the warming pans when we went to bed on a very cold night. Alas for these moderns! No child of the present day will ever know the luxury of the warming pan.

Of course each family kept a cow and a pig. Every autumn the pig killer came to stick the pig and pack the pork for winter use, as all did in the old farm days. We boys at a later period of life always recovered the pig's bladder. We cleaned it and put it inside of a leather case, making it into a football. We did kick footballs in those days, and we had some fun in the game; it had not deteriorated into a furious struggle of brute brawn and muscle against lighter weights, resulting this year in twenty killed, thirteen injured for life, and accidents by the hundred. My brother says the number is very much larger. There seems to be no fun in any of the games now; nines and

elevens play scientific games, and all the other boys stand round and criticise, muffled in thick clothes. I never wore an overcoat except on Sunday, nor did we wear rubber shoes or boots. We had what were called gum shoes, made by the natives of South America by melting the native gum on a clay body. The women wore these. We boys wore cowhide boots, not rights and lefts, keeping them well greased. We had no woolen underclothes. We were a tough lot, and we lived outdoors most of the time. Many a time on my way to school, when the spring freshets came down the brook and overflowed the New Lane with water and floating ice, I have crept across on the top of the wall and then run on to school.

In those early days we had May parties down in Perry's woods on the old Aspinwall farm where Kent Street now is. There was the cellar of the old small pox hospital where the people of Brookline went to be inoculated by Dr. Aspinwall. Aunt Susan Heath's journal is full of funny incidents of the time they spent there. Young beaux who had already been inoculated came to call in the evening, and in spite of all the discomfort they had very jolly times.

Nearby was the rampart which constituted one of the forts in the siege of Boston. It was on the Muddy River then navigable by boats, situated about where the Longwood Station now is. Over on the Aspinwall Hill, west of our house, lived Mr. Augustus Aspinwall, whose family still owned the hill as well as the Perry or Aspinwall farm.

That is about all that it is worth while to record of childhood. But I must say one word more. How fortunate were those children who were not brought up under the horrible influence of the old pagan, orthodox, Puritanical, blue-life Calvinistic dogma. My father had "come out" before I was born. I was never even christened; but all my children have been. I think it is a lovely service but of no special importance except as a reminiscence. We were brought up on Miss Edgeworth's Parents' Assistant, and on Sanford and Merton, and other good story books which were forbidden in the houses of many of my friends. I never cut a string from a bundle now without feeling guilty and remembering Miss Edgeworth's tale of "Waste not, want not."

I said we did not wear India rubbers. Some people wore what they called gum shoes. They were very valuable to the boys after they had holes in them; we cut them into strips,

then wound them for the inside of our baseballs. We covered the rubber with yarn and then quilted it with strong linen thread. I became a great expert in quilting. They still call rubber "gums" in England.

A town character was Captain Ben Bradley. He was a carpenter of great ability but not of high moral character, who at one time ruled the town through his control of the workmen who lived near the city mills on the mill dam, then a part of Brookline.

Mr. Benjamin Goddard applied to the legislature and had the line thrown this way, thus adding to Boston a large section of what is now the Back Bay district. To spite him, Captain Bradley bought the hill now owned by the Goddard Land Company and built a whole row of houses to cut off Mr. Goddard's view. That gave the name of "Vengeance Hill" (later called Bradley's Hill), which remained the title for many, many years. Captain Bradley, of the Militia, lived there himself and had a large barn on the top of the hill, to which he later added a steeple. When Mr. Bowditch, as they were riding together on the top of the omnibus, asked him why he did so he said, "They have a steeple house on the other side; why shouldn't I have one?" averring that so long as he lived "his steeple house should be the abode of civility, honor, morality and chastity", qualities in which he himself was conspicuously wanting. For a long time in later life he kept his coffin in the steeple house and stored his whiskey in it, offering a drink to the doctor sometimes when he went to call upon him.

In those simple days we had many relatives in Boston. They used to drive out in the afternoon to have my mother's teas, which were very notable. I took my first lessons in the art of cooking, cutting up the loaf sugar, and pounding the spices as she made the cake. It was not thought necessary to have two houses in those days, one for winter and one for summer. The richer people went off for a fortnight or so to Saratoga, the rest of the time remained in the city, taking their country drives through Brookline or Dorchester and stopping on the way at their friend's houses for the friendly tea.

In 1842 my father had bought the hill, now on Walnut Place, ten acres of land. He took the five acres in the rear, and Mr. Benjamin Guild the five acres in front. The land was bought at \$500 an acre. Father had built a house and there we began to live. This house is still standing, 1949, at the end of Walnut

Place. In the spring of 1842, there being again no good school in Brookline, Edward Philbrick* and myself undertook to teach each other. We had one of the rooms in the house and there we studied our French, mathematics, a little German, and played chess together. I perhaps learned as much in that season as I had ever learned before.



THE ATKINSON HOUSE
HEATH HILL—1881

But it became necessary for me to begin my work, and on the 8th day of August, 1842, I entered the dry goods store of Read & Chadwick in Liberty Square. I entered as a boy when the boys did the work that the porters and janitors now do. The life was somewhat strenuous in those days. I had to get up before breakfast, go down and open the store, sweep the floors, in winter build the hard wood fires, get everything ready and then go back to breakfast, returning to pack and unpack the cases, do all the work that the boys of the present day miss entirely; and thereby they miss one of the most necessary lessons in life, gumption. This is an essential factor in the business man's life, which I do not find to be taught in the modern schools—rather the reverse.

* Edward, or "Ned" Philbrick lived in the stone house on Walnut Street, now occupied by Dr. Burrage—it was later a famous underground station.

When I lived at home in Brookline I was still very much interested in music and lectures. Year after year I got up the subscriptions to the Lyceum lectures of old times and engaged the lecturers—Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips, and many others. I settled all the bills. I made arrangements for band concerts in Linden Place and on the triangle near the First Parish Church and also got up concerts at the Hall. The Mendelssohn Quintette Club had been formed. The members were August and Wulf Friese, Rziha, Lehmann and Ryan. They had not succeeded in Boston and thought they might have to break up. I got up a set of concerts in Brookline, and at the end of the season turned over \$66 net for each of the five musicians. I did not allow them to have any extra singers, but trusted wholly to the instrumental part, often choosing the programmes myself. This set of concerts, they afterwards told me, kept them together and established the Mendelssohn Quintette Club which ran its course, I think, for about fifty years. The last member, Tom Ryan, lately passed away. It was very pleasant work. My father and mother allowed me to invite the lecturers, and sometimes the musicians, to come to tea, and we made many pleasant acquaintances, some of which lasted through life.

Those were pleasant times in old Brookline. We had sociables over Seaman's grocery stores with one or two pieces of music. Kid gloves were not permitted, cotton gloves were worn, only frock coats tolerated. I did not possess a dress suit. We borrowed the dishes and mugs from the grocery store, and had for our treat cake, apples, and lemonade. No dancing parties were ever enjoyed more in Brookline than those. The dancing parties in the old Lyceum Hall were more in the way of real parties. The elders came, Mr. Charles Stearns dancing, Mr. Samuel A. Walker, Mr. B. B. Davis—old and young together—; then passing up into the long room above the hall, where seated about the long tables we had what was quite a feast of a supper in those days. These parties will long be remembered, as they always have been by all who are alive who shared in them.

Skating parties in winter on Ward's pond where we all met together and where the girls of our set and the pretty Misses Low of Jamaica Plain were the first of the girls to take part in the amusement. We built our fires on the bank and skated evening after evening, several very pleasant young men coming out to join us. We were enough among ourselves—Ned Wild, Ned Philbrick, myself, Frank Howe and some others, joined by Daniel Gilchrist and young men from Boston,

old and young; Mr. Charles Heath skating as well as any of the rest of us.

We had annual picnics in Brookline; eight or ten carryalls filled with boys and girls and some of the elders; passing over to Spot Pond, to Ponkapog or to Cow Island, enjoying an outing.

There were a very few yachts kept in Boston; and occasionally one took a party of boys for a sail down the harbor. Then for many years we had an annual fishing trip which we greatly enjoyed.

I have spoken of my pleasant relations with my Irish friends. I can give evidence of their great hospitality from a more recent experience. I owned a farm of a hundred acres in West Roxbury which I sold for a Catholic cemetery, taking a mortgage on condition that no graves should be dug on the larger part until the mortgage had been paid. When it was about half paid I wanted some money and I offered it to a Saving Bank under Catholic control, but they could not at the moment take it and I therefore kept it. When the good old treasurer came in to pay the interest he said, with an air of profound rebuke, "You tried to sell your mortgage, Mr. Atkinson." "Yes, I wanted the money. I think it is a good mortgage." "Ah, yes, it's a good mortgage. The Catholics buried twenty thousand last year against five thousand Protestants. It's a good mortgage."—Presently the debt was paid. I handed the papers to the treasurer, upon which he said, "You have treated us like a gentleman, Mr. Atkinson. All that I can do is to offer you the hospitality of the cemetery." "What," said I, "bury a heretic like me in consecrated ground?" "Ah, sir, we'll get a special dispensation, if you'll only let us."

And here ends the extracts from the "Egotistography"—

MARCH MEETING

A meeting of the Society was held at the Brookline Public Library on Sunday, March 19 at 3 P. M. There were about 65 persons present.

President Lacy called the meeting to order and presided. In view of the fact that the minutes of the last meeting will be printed, they were not read.

The membership Committee reported the following persons for membership: Mrs. Franklin White, 142 Middlesex Road, Mr. Hibbard Richter, 73 Marion Street and Mrs. Hugh W. Ogden, Hotel Beaconsfield. On motion, duly seconded, it was voted that the clerk cast one ballot for these names and this was done.

The clerk suggested that volunteers were desired to write papers on the history of the older Brookline churches including Harvard Church, the Baptist and Methodist Churches. Mr. Robert P. Bigelow had already agreed to prepare a paper on St. Pauls Church.

Mr. Dana introduced President Lacy who read an interesting paper on Old Streets in Brookline illustrated by a large map. Mr. Lacy then introduced Mr. Dana, who read a short paper on Captain Benjamin Bradley. Both papers are to be printed.

Miss Butcher gave a short account of the paintings by local artists now on exhibit in the meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 P. M.

GORHAM DANA,

Clerk

"OLD STREETS IN BROOKLINE"

DANIEL G. LACY

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY — MARCH 19, 1950

The subject matter of my paper today is "Old Streets of Brookline."

It has been a most interesting research experience to delve into the early records to find that the original grants of land in the Hamlet of Muddy River were given for the asking and were commonly known as tenant grants. Most of the owners resided in the Town of Boston and rented their holdings in the Hamlet of Muddy River, then a part of the Town of Boston, to tenant farmers. The earliest record of holdings in the hamlet, as shown on the plan of Mr. Theodore Jones (1920) (Brookline Historical Society—1923), reveals that approximately seventy-six grants of land were made over the entire area.

The earliest reference for providing access to the settlement of Muddy River was in August, 1633, when at a Court held in Boston, it was, and I quote, "agreed that there shall be a sufficient cart bridge over Muddy River." This official record clearly indicates that there existed at that time a road in this section, and apparently difficulty was encountered in crossing the Muddy River. However, in 1635, I find that there was not a single designated road in the hamlet. There is no authentic date mentioned in the early records showing the layout of this road, which later became known as the old Sherburn Road, and it is really the first reference to a highway in this area.

In March 1634, a cart bridge was ordered constructed over Muddy River, to be paid for by Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Watertown, and Cambridge. This became a pivotal point of the future travel of the town and the surrounding area.

The date of the actual construction of this bridge does not readily appear in the records, but as one continues his research of the old roads, it is quite apparent that the Sherburn Road followed an old Indian Trail, coming out through Roxbury, continuing and crossing the cart bridge at Muddy River. It then followed along the lines of Walnut Street, a portion of Boylston Street, and still a longer portion of Heath Street, to what was then known as Newtowne. This road lay along the southerly slope of Fisher Hill. The depression between the northeasterly slope of Fisher Hill and Aspinwall Hill (later

designation) formed the bed of the Village Brook beside which now run the tracks of the Boston & Albany circuit.

The earliest map of the Town of Brookline, incorporated in the year 1705, was drawn in 1728 and filed with the Town on May 13, 1728, to find the geographical center of the Town in order to locate the schoolhouse. This map shows only four roads in an area of approximately 4,568 acres of land, viz: Newtowne Road (Road to Watertown Mill—known to us today as Washington Street), Road to Cambridge (known in the present day as Harvard Street), Sherburn Road (now Walnut Street, a small portion of Boylston Street, and a longer portion Heath Street), and a dead end road, unnamed, leading from the Sherburn Road toward the south. Of these the Sherburn Road is generally considered to be the oldest.

The Sherburn Road was an important thoroughfare to bring citizens not only to the geographical center but to the social center of the Town, which we now know as the site of the First Parish Church on Walnut Street.

It may be of interest to note that the traffic in the early days from Boston going toward the west passed out through Newbury Street and Orange Street (a part of the present Washington Street in Boston), over Boston Neck (Washington Street near Dover Street) through Roxbury by a road then called "the Cambridge Road", passing the First Church in Roxbury where the Apostle Eliot preached, to the present day Roxbury Crossing, thence along the highway now called Tremont Street and Huntington Avenue, up through what is now the village, and out Walnut Street and Heath Street, then together with a portion of Boylston Street forming the old Sherburn Road.

About 1640 a committee of the Town of Boston was instructed to lay out a highway from Muddy River to Cambridge, and this is the first direct official layout of any highway in the Muddy River settlement. An early statement in the records that the "Road to Cambridge", so called, which perhaps represented the modern Harvard Street, was to be "blazoned" through trees, gives a vivid description of the woodland that covered the town. Until 1793, there was no comfortable road to the Colleges except this one over Boston Neck through Roxbury and over the Muddy River bridge through Brookline. The only other route from Boston to the Colleges was by ferry to Charlestowne and, thence, over Charlestowne Neck to Cam-

bridge" was laid out by the early settlers between Corey Hill and Babcock Hill. As late as 1843 there were no crossroads, and there were only about fourteen houses on Harvard Street (Road to Cambridge) between Harvard Square and the Brighton line.

What is now Aspinwall Avenue was just a lane running off Harvard Street to reach the Aspinwall House and another house occupied by a family named Perry. It was known as Perry's Lane. This lane led toward the marshes, and, it is thought, met the "Road to the Marshes," so called, which ran along the lines of our Sewall Avenue of today.

Harvard Street of today follows along practically the same lines as it did in 1844.

In 1657 a notice was given to both Watertown and Cambridge that they might "depute some to joyne with ours deputed to lay out a highway from Muddy River to Watertown Mill, the said road to be four rods (66 ft) in breadth and directed by marked trees." This was a real highway, and what is today Washington Street in Brookline and its continuation through Brighton and Newton to the Watertown bridge at the falls. This became a very important road and was used by all those traveling east or west between Roxbury, Dorchester, or Boston and Watertown. This road was laid out by early settlers on the most available land between what was known as Aspinwall Hill and Corey Hill, and had a common starting place with the Old Sherburn Road and the Road to Cambridge at a point later known as Brookline Village.

Repeated references to the Punch Bowl Tavern, which was located near the junction of these roads have been found and, in fact these references actually termed Brookline Village, "Punch Bowl Village."

Although there was no apparent public interest or need for speed regulations along the Watertown Road directed by marked trees and the problem of sidewalks and street watering bothered nobody, nevertheless the sponsors of good roads must have been an active force because in 1661 we read—"It is orderd yt ye surveyors att Muddy River shall forthwyth repayre ye highway to Watertown Mill which is defective."

An old Indian trail, "Eliot's Path to Waban," was laid out in the year 1671. This trail ran between the old Sherburn Road

and Waban, and that portion which ran from the old Sherburn Road to Heath Street is known today as Pound Lane and Reservoir Road. The other portion of the trail ran along much the same lines as the old Reservoir Road to the west of the present day pumping station in Chestnut Hill and continued through Newton.

In 1674 we note a road marked "Road to the Marshes," previously mentioned, which followed along the lines of a portion of the Sewall Avenue of today. Sewall Avenue was constructed much later to give access to the property in that section.

In 1677 the "Road from Roxbury to Newtowne" was laid out, and is known today as Newton Street. In the early records of the Town this road is referred to as the "country road that leadeth from Roxbury to Newtowne through Brookline along by Lt. Gardner's house."

In 1679 a lane, along the lines of our present day Warren Street, was laid out and known as Woodward's Lane. This way certainly ran along the lines of an old Indian trail or else on the path followed by Mr. Goddard's cows to a pasture located on what later became the Howe property on Warren Street. This brings to mind the remark frequently made by visitors to Boston and Brookline, at that time being a part of the Town of Boston, that it would appear that many of the roads had been constructed along the lines of the cow paths.

Returning to the south part of the town, I note Clyde Street as having been laid out in 1715, and according to the records in the Town Clerk's office, it is the first officially laid out street of the town. Although existing in 1715, this way had no name applied to it until it was laid out as an old Town way in the Town Meeting of 1844.

In the south part of the town also was located a lane, laid out before 1745, designated as the "Upper Road to Dedham," and is today known as South Street. In this area also is Cottage Street, one of the earlier roads, laid out as an old Town way in 1841, with its location definitely described as passing the site of Captain Cook's cottage.

Before continuing further the discussion of the early roads appearing in our town, it seems only fitting to mention the mode of transportation of that time, for the transportation.

afforded by the roads of the town, was the important factor in bringing the people closer together and enabling them to communicate with each other. Prior to 1755 a great deal of pride was manifested in many of the records due to the fact that it took only three weeks for a letter to reach Philadelphia from Boston. In that year great reforms accelerated the speed so that only fifteen days were required. The first stagecoach line was advertised in the Boston Evening Post of July 6, 1772 as running from New York to Boston and scheduled to take only thirteen days for the trip. The first scheduled stagecoach line was established in 1783, which succeeded and continued until the days of the railroad.

In the year 1806 we come to one of the great road ventures—the construction of the Worcester Turnpike through Brookline with the proud public announcement that on its completion the turnpike would give the maximum speed in a minimum amount of time because it was laid out on simple mathematical principles that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. The engineers, however, failed to pay any attention to grades and forgot to take into consideration the difficulty to be encountered by the travelers over the long hills as well as the great effort required of the horses pulling the stagecoaches up the hills and holding back the load going down the hill.

I was very much intrigued during my research on the Worcester Turnpike to learn the derivation of the word "turnpike." It is an old English word and is described by the late New England historian, J. S. Edmands, as a gate made of rods or pikes shaped in picket form. These gates were hung on hinges and barred the road until the traffic had paid the required toll. Actually the legal phrase in the early law always designated these roads as toll roads, but in common usage the roads became known as turnpikes.

However, the construction of the Worcester Turnpike seems not to have had too important effect upon the development of Brookline.

This road was not known by the name of Boylston Street until it was so named in 1841 in honor of the Boylston family, who lived opposite the present Reservoir site and was prominently identified with the Town's early history, and, of course, so often referred to in medical history.

The line of the Worcester Turnpike crossed "New Lane" our present Cypress Street, which was laid out in 1720 "to enable

the northend inhabitants of the town to go to the Meeting House."

School Street, known as "Schoolhouse Lane," was one of the earlier roadways of the town and built with the continuous "New Lane" or Cypress Street to make a highway to the center of the town.

These two roads, of course, also connected the three main thoroughfares of the Town: the Road to Cambridge, the Road to Watertown, and the Worcester Turnpike.

Returning to the original layout of the Worcester Turnpike, we find that after it crossed "New Lane" or Cypress Street, the old Sherburn Road was then followed for a time until what was known as Ackers Corner was reached. This is the point where our Chestnut Hill avenue of today meets Boylston Street—Chestnut Hill Avenue having been staked out in the year 1796 and designated the "Country Road to Little Cambridge" and later known as "Brighton Street." The Turnpike continued on downgrade until it came in sight of Richard's Tavern, another famous tavern of the early day. Richard's Tavern was located at a point on Heath Street at Hammond Street, as we of today know the location. To the right of this tavern extended an old highway which existed long before 1700, running toward Watertown. The old highway, which was called "Cross Street" in old Brookline records, has been known as Hammond Street since 1855.

Although of great benefit to the traveling public, the Worcester Turnpike apparently did not prove profitable to its proprietors for in 1832 they petitioned that it be established as a public and common highway. Brookline objected to this proposed laying out because the town would be burdened with the expense of keeping the road in good repair, as well as making the repairs termed absolutely necessary at the time. However, it was then agreed that the Worcester Turnpike Corporation would pay \$500 toward the repairs of the road, and Brookline no longer objected.

During the period 1833-1870 many changes were made in Brookline along the line of the Turnpike road, such as widenings, relocations, changes in grade and other improvements, but none changed essentially the original character of the road. Today, of course, the turnpike or Boylston Street is maintained as a State highway.

One cannot delve into these references to old Brookline without observing the high regard for the Town as a residential suburb of Boston. The early Boston merchants settled here first as summer residents and later as all year-round residents. We find this referred to by the late Edward W. Baker, who stated that Brookline was being settled as a residential area by wealthy Bostonians on account of the excellent roads and beautiful trees which lined the roads.

This brings to our attention the importance of the work of the Surveyors of Highways in the early days. The town was divided into three districts and each surveyor was elected annually and was supreme in his district. For example, if he believed that, after spending the allotted amount of money, that excessively bad conditions existed in the roads, he did not wait until the next Town Meeting, but would make the repairs immediately and send the bill to the Town Treasurer, whose obligation it was to recommend the appropriation at the next Town Meeting. Frequent references are found to the taxpayer, who, with his yoke of oxen, paid his taxes each year by repairing roads as ordered by the Surveyor of Highways.

It is most interesting to note at this time that a comparison of the lines of the old roadways with the lines of the roadways of today would result in the finding that on many miles of our streets the lines are identical.

Returning to the discussion of Brookline becoming known as a residential area, we find that the early Bostonians were anxious to tell their Boston friends that one of the main reasons they liked to settle in Brookline was the numerous hills on which they could build their substantial houses—thereby enabling them to have a better view of the surrounding countryside.

Some years ago, I recall, while walking through the Italian Garden of the Larz Anderson Estate with Captain Anderson, that he stopped at a particular spot in the garden and told me that Mr. Weld, who was the original settler on this hill, would very often on a clear day sit there and look toward Boston Harbor to observe one of his many ships coming in from the East Indies.

In the year 1820 the Town proudly boasted that its population estimated around nine hundred inhabitants and, of these, fifty per cent lived above the Meeting House and fifty per cent

below. The analysis of the population of the fifty per cent living above the Meeting House shows that the streets in the south part of the town dated back, as I mentioned heretofore, to very early days and were really as much used as the roads from Roxbury to Cambridge or Watertown because the center of activity of the residents of the town, social or otherwise, was at the geographic center of the Town.

The year 1822 appears to be the beginning of the end of Brookline being a one hundred per cent farming community and becoming the residential suburb as described above—as shown by the subdivisions of the land from that date. In addition to this change being observed in 1822, we also find that from time on the large holdings of the Sewall's, Sharp's, Davis', and White's began to show subdivisions.

The opening of that part of the Mill Dam, which is now Brookline Avenue, in 1821 was repeatedly referred to as an excellent way for Bostonians to come to Brookline by a good road. However, at first, in spite of this fact, the Mill Dam built from Charles Street in Boston across the bay and over Brookline marshes to Sewall's point had little influence on the Town, for the toll of 6¼¢ hindered travel.

Research in connection with the Mill Dam reveals that in 1868 the Town of Brookline accepted so much of the Mill Dam as lay within the Town limits as a public street called Beacon Street (hereinafter to be discussed); the easterly fork, at what is now Kenmore Square (the river being the Town line), was later accepted as Brighton Avenue, now Commonwealth Avenue; and the westerly fork was designated Brookline Avenue.

In discussing the period 1820-1822 I want to call your attention to the map, which we have here today, which shows the roads and waterways in the Town of Brookline as of 1822. The information on this map was obtained through a great deal of research dating back to the year 1635. Appropriately, this map is entitled "First 200 years of Ye Hamlet of Muddy River as part of Ye Towne of Boston, Massachusetts 1632, incorporated 1705." I sincerely hope that it will be possible for everyone present here today to see it at the adjournment of the meeting.

Proceeding to the Town Meeting held in March, 1841, I note a vote to appoint a committee to name the streets and

Avenues of the Town. The description and names of those at the time connected with the Worcester Turnpike are as follows:

Road from Roxbury to Brighton	Washington Street
Washington Street to Mr. Fisher's corner	Cypress Street
Worcester Turnpike	Boylston Street
From the Post Office by Dr. Pierce's Church to Boylston Street	Walnut Street
From the Worcester Turnpike or Boylston Street to Mr. Heath's to Newton Line	Walnut Street
Heath Street to Boylston Street by Mr. Penniman's	Pound Street

Records, as a result of a survey by E. F. Woodward in 1844 on order of the Town Authorities, give us the first definite locations and names of Brookline streets. The following roads in the Town of Brookline, as surveyed in 1844 by E. F. Woodward, were supported by the Town of Brookline as public streets:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Length (Rods)</i>
Boylston Street	855
Heath Street	612
Penniman's Lane (Pound Lane)	67
Walnut Street	307
Warren Street	379
Cottage Street	112
Clyde Street	290
Newton Street	649
South Street	275
Brighton Street (Chestnut Hill Avenue)	242
Washington Street	528
Harvard Street	428
School Street	56
Cypress Street (New Lane)	150
Cross Street (Hammond Street)	46
(Newton Line to Heath Street)	

The area of the town in 1844 was approximately 4,695 acres, as surveyed by John Kingsbury, Jr.

On Mr. Woodward's map of 1844 we note smaller roads running off the Road to Cambridge, apparently not accepted as public ways at that time.

Washington Place which is now Davis Avenue was built and traversable as far as the Jones Farm or what is known as Emerson Street today.

Harrison Place, one of the early roadways of the Town, is now Kent Street, and was built from Washington Street to

a point where it adjoins Station Street. This was originally nothing but a cart road, leading across the Davis Farm by the old house and barn. It was named in the year 1840 in honor of President Harrison.

What is now Linden Place was formerly an extensive cherry and apple orchard on property of Davis and in 1843 was laid out in lots and sold at public auction. Linden Place is referred to again along with Harvard Place, Vernon Place, as well as Pearl Place, in the report of the Committee on Beacon Street, dated February 25, 1853, when the committee recommended that the Town require streets to be of a certain width before accepting them as public streets. The aforementioned streets were referred to as being the beginning of the establishment of streets of this type, which because of the narrowness, would probably require large expenditures of the town in the future.

Andem Place was not opened until ten years later and was named for Moses Andem.

In 1844 there was not a lane in all Longwood known as a public highway. As a matter of fact, the only public ways made in the Longwood area originally were Beacon Street in 1851, Longwood Avenue in 1857, and part of St. Paul Street in 1873. All other streets in the Longwood area, to the number of about twenty-five, were constructed at private expense.

In passing it is interesting to note, in this area, that when Commonwealth Avenue was built the fill had to be brought from fifteen to twenty miles away in the country, and it cost about forty cents per square foot.

In 1849 after a protracted discussion in Town Meeting, it was by a large majority voted to appoint a committee to oppose the construction of a public road from the northern end of the old Mill Dam, which would be Kenmore Square today, westerly through this Town to the Brighton Line. However, this proposed plan was successful, which brings us to the original layout of Beacon Street, a great event in the history of the Town.

In a report made by the Committee appointed to build the road, it was stated that the Committee believed this road to be the only one which had ever been laid out fifty feet wide and built at the expense of the Town. The farsightedness of this Committee is evidenced by its statement that all streets destined as great thoroughfares should be laid out fifty feet

wide and no street laid out less than forty feet wide should be accepted by the Town. The section of this road west of Washington Street laid out in 1850 and the connection with the Mill Dam in 1851 formed Beacon Street.

Any reference to Brookline roads would be incomplete if mention were not made of the terrific upset caused by private promoters in 1886 when it was attempted to revamp and make Beacon Street into a parkway road 160 to 180 feet in width. The final report, in which the Town agreed to accept \$150,000 from the proponents of this new boulevard plan and to contribute \$465,000 as its share, brought forth the comment in the local newspapers that our Town would hereafter be as much benefited by this wide roadway as the promoters will be in that it would have a fine wide street for the development of the adjacent land for new types of homes etc. The leading promoter in this movement was Mr. Henry M. Whitney. As a result of this action we have the Beacon Street of today.

Electricity was then known to have been used as the power for propelling street cars and promoters of the enterprise promised electric cars on the new Beacon Street boulevard. Thus, after repeated and costly experiments, the first successful electric street railway in the world, on a through way, was provided on our own Beacon Street.

In the early 1870's a committee was appointed to consider the methods and type of construction which the Town should adopt in the maintenance of its roadways. Correspondence was had with various committees in England and Scotland, and it was found that progress was being made in England on the type of road originated by an Englishman by the name of Telford. This type of roadway meant taking quarry stone and laying it pointed upwards and then placing gravel in the interstices on the surface. The stones were not tightly put together. Drainage was furnished by the interstices.

This method was expensive, and further experiments were carried on by a Scotchman by the name of Macadam where quarry stone was crushed in an improvised stone crusher and spread on the roadway six inches thick with gravel, thoroughly rolled in, on top. Water was then applied; the result being the type of road known as Macadam.

As a result of that committee's report, the Selectmen appointed Mr. Michael Driscoll to serve as Superintendent of

Streets in April, 1876, and he served in this capacity until 1925. It was in Mr. Driscoll's administration that the Town first constructed its roads under modern methods. Mr. Driscoll's reputation for good roads was heralded not only throughout the state, but by far distant communities throughout the country, who patterned their work from the method by which Mr. Driscoll built the fine roads of Brookline, which today are a proud heritage of the Town.

In closing my talk today on the "Old Streets in Brookline" which was intended only to acquaint us here with the history and origin of some of the early roadways of the Town, I think it would perhaps be best to summarize my topic by stating that from the very early days the roads of Brookline have been of utmost importance to the Town. Provisions have always been a certain pride in our roads dating back to the early days even prior to the date of the Town's incorporation and has continued to the present day.

TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Resume ————— 1950

Number of miles of public streets in the Town of Brookline—90
 Population of the Town of Brookline—60,000 inhabitants-estimated.
 Volume of traffic through Coolidge Corner in a
 twenty-four period48,000 vehicles.

SEWERS

As of December 31, 1949 there were 107 miles of public sewers in the Town of Brookline.

The brook running past the Brookline Railroad Station and across the Mill Dam Road was laid out by the Selectmen as a common sewer on July 12, 1867. The location, according to a plan by J. Herbert Shedd, was approved by the Selectmen July 29, 1867. This action was approved by the special Town Meeting held September 13, 1867.

A public main sewer from Washington Street to the Charles River was approved by a special Town Meeting January 21, 1877 and provision made for construction of same.

On April 4, 1881, the Town Meeting authorized the Selectmen to lay out and construct lateral sewers.

SURFACE WATER DRAINS

Chapter 99 of the Acts of 1887 (Commonwealth of Massachusetts) authorized the Town of Brookline to provide for Surface Water Drainage.

The construction of Village Brook in 1893-1894 is the first direct reference to surface water drain construction in Brookline except the mention of catch basins draining into Sargent Pond

ROADSIDE TREES

There are approximately 14,000 roadside trees in the Town of Brookline, which include the following:

English Elms	White Mulberry	Flowering Cherry
Elm (White	Liquidambar	Hickory
or American),	Red Oak	Mockernut or Shagbark
Chinese Elms	Pin Oak	Horse Chestnut
Norway Maple	Scarlet Oak	Walnut
Sugar Maple	White Oak	Beech
Red Maple	Black Oak	Red Ash
Sycamore Maple	Swamp Oak	White Ash
White or Silver Maple	White Pine	Mountain Ash
Lindens (American-	Honey Locust	Norway Spruce
European)	Red Cedar	Tulip Tree
Plane or Sycamore	Tupelo	Ginkgo
Willows, all species	Sweet Gum	Lombardy Poplar
Locust	Carolina Cottonwood	Flowering Crab
Catalpa	Ohio Buckeye	

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN BRADLEY

BY GORHAM DANA

Ben Bradley was a picturesque character in Brookline in the early part of the 19th century. He apparently emigrated from Ireland and set up in business as a carpenter and contractor at which he was successful. He was a man of strong likes and dislikes and took unusual methods of showing his dislikes. He had a good deal of ability but not a very high moral character. Before long he was able to make himself a power in town by his control over the carpenters and other laborers. In fact, he seems to have been one of the early labor bosses.

When the Mill Dam was being built between Brookline and the Back Bay he received important contracts and soon took great offence at Captain Benjamin Goddard who had succeeded in having the town line changed so as to give Boston some additional land. It is also reported that when Captain Bradley ran for the office of town constable, Captain Goddard refused to vote for him. At any rate a serious feud developed between the two men, and Ben Bradley proceeded to try to get even with his opponent by one of his unorthodox methods.

Captain Goddard lived on the southerly slope of what is now Fisher Hill, probably near Sumner Road, where he had

a fine view toward Boston. Ben Bradley proceeded to buy land to the east of that location from Thomas Walley and build a row of cheap houses to cut off the view. He added to his holdings until he owned most of the hill between Summer Road and Cypress Street. Some people then named it Vengeance Hill and later it became known as Bradley Hill. He also moved old buildings to this location, including an old barn from the estate of John Warren on Warren Street that was in poor condition. This barn he repaired and enlarged, using part of it as a work shop. He built a steeple on the roof and installed an old pulpit which had come from Father Grafton's church in Newton. From this pulpit he used to harangue his numerous followers in a manner that many good citizens considered sacrilegious. The late Dr. Carleton Francis, in a talk before the Historical Society in 1930, stated that "any one who could drink a glass of whiskey straight could become a member of his (Bradley's) parish." The old barn became known as "Ben Bradley's meeting-house."

Edward Atkinson in his diary states that Bradley boasted that as long as he lived his steeple house "should be the abode of civility, honor, morality and chastity, all qualities in which he was conspicuously wanting." Miss Harriett Woods, in her *Historical Sketches of Brookline* states that "he gathered around him a crowd of the baser sort, mounted the pulpit and held forth in harangues more profane and ludicrous than wise or useful, ending with a treat to his audience." This building was also used as a workshop, and here he built a coffin which he planned to have used for his own remains when the time came. He kept it in the church section and used to get into it occasionally to see whether it still fitted. Finally he outgrew it and built a larger one. He used the old one to store his supply of whiskey which he dispensed freely to his many friends, including his doctor.

Bradley became prominent in town and is listed in the town records of 1828 and 1829 as a collector and constable. He also became prominent on account of his unusual habits. He continued to build shacks and move old buildings to his hill until it became an undesirable slum. He was, however, kind-hearted to those of his tenants to whom he took a fancy, and helped many who were in financial difficulties. In a fire that destroyed the Dana Tavern in Harvard Square in 1816 he is reported to have placed a ladder to reach an upper window and saved the life of a woman and child.

He was much addicted to the bottles stored in the old coffin, and occasionally went off on a spree with some of his boom

companions. They usually did not return for several days, and his horse often came home before he did.

Bradley owned another settlement of slightly better character at the southerly end of town near the present Hart and Cypress Streets. This was known locally as Grab Village, Dublin and Ireland. The term Whiskey Point may also have originated with him.

The old Bradley house and the shacks remained on Bradley Hill some time after his death. The property was sold about 1871 and cleared of the old buildings some of which were moved to Grab Village in the vicinity of Hart Street. The upper part of Bradley Hill then became one of the finest residential areas in town.

Ben Bradley died in 1856 and left \$500 for the poor of the town.

He is reported to have married twice but to have left no issue.

Miss Harriet Woods, in her *Historical Sketches of Brookline*, states that he was sexton of the Unitarian church for thirty years. This is not born out by the church records, which show that Elisha Stone was sexton from 1836 to 1849 and that he was replaced by a man named Whitney. It is possible that Bradley was the sexton for a short time preceding 1836 when his habits were more in line with Christian ethics.

THE FIRST PARISH IN BROOKLINE

Few churches have had such a romantic beginning as did the First Parish in Brookline. The town of Brookline, formerly the village of Muddy River, was set apart from Boston in 1705. The population at that time was about 300, and the nearest church was the First Religious Society in Roxbury, located in Eliot Square about a mile and a half from the boundary of the new town. For about 12 years the Muddy River inhabitants faithfully attended that church, to the construction of which they had contributed over 100 pounds. It is reported that "a female ancestor of some of our most respectable inhabitants has been known to testify that it was her habit to rise early on the morning of every Lord's Day, adjust her head-dress over a pail of water, for want of a glass, and walk five miles to Roxbury meeting."

In November 1705 the Great and General Court "ordered that the Powers and Privileges of a Township be given to the Inhabitants of the land commonly known by the name Muddy River, the town to be called Brookline, who are hereby enjoined to build a Meeting-house and Obtain an Able Orthodox Minister according to the Direction of the Law to be settled amongst them within the space of Three years next coming." But this order was not strictly carried out. Twice the town petitioned the legislature for an extension of time on the ground that it was "such a poor little town", and twice this was granted. A committee was appointed to ascertain by survey the center of the town and to select a lot for the meeting-house in that neighborhood. Caleb Gardner, Jr. offered the town a lot on the north side of Sherborn Road (now Walnut Street), including part of the present parsonage lot and land to the west of it. "where to build a meeting house for the Public Worship of God." This was accepted and the frame of the new meeting-house was raised November 10, 1714. The town had previously voted that the building should be of the same dimensions as the meeting-house in the south part of Roxbury. While no detailed description of the building remains, it is probable that it was similar to the Hancock meeting-house in Quincy, which was about 60 by 40 feet, with pitch roof and a square steeple. The new church was located with the long side near Walnut Street and the main entrance near the center. The high pulpit with sounding board was opposite this entrance, and on each side of the main aisle were six benches, one side being for men and the other for women. Square pews, sold by auction to the more affluent members, were located along the sides, the deacons sitting near the pulpit. As was customary, no

heating facilities was provided. The steeple and belfry were in the west end, but were not built until 1771. The church was gathered in 1717 and the building dedicated in 1718.

A stained old paper found in Deacon White's house when it was torn down in 1809 gives the seating of the meeting-house in 1719. In this list we find many well-known Brookline names (see Note 1). It is an interesting fact that the total seating capacity of the church was only 66 persons, while the number of inhabitants in the town was about 300. When we realize that this was the only church in town and that every taxpayer had to help support it whether or not he attended, it would appear that the percentage of church-goers has not decreased over the years as much as we might think.

The Reverend James Allen was called to be the first minister, and he was installed November 5, 1718. The town had already voted that his salary should be 80 pounds a year, to be raised by "an equall and Proportionable Rate Levyed on the Inhabitants." As the church and the town were one, the town paid the minister's salary and all other church expenses. This continued for over 100 years, for it was not till 1833 that an amendment to the State constitution cut the last bond between the religious and civil interests of the town. The First Parish was organized as the Church of Christ, and like most of the old New England churches was allied to the Congregational denomination.

The Reverend Mr. Allen was considered a "pious and judicious devine." A few of his sermons are preserved in the Brookline Public Library. His preaching was of the fundamentalist type common at that time, and in a sermon preached three days after a serious earthquake he declared that "Thunder and Earthquake are the dreadful visitation of God to a people. That they are evident Testimonies of his Displeasure against a People . . . They are loud calls to Repentance; and the Reformation of this People is the only Method of Safety to be taken by us when we are thus visited." In the "Great Awakening" under George Whitfield in 1735, Mr. Allen at first favored the revival, but later the extravagances which developed caused him to take a stand against it and to state that "those that go to hear them go upon the Devil's ground and will fare better in Hell." A few persons seceded from the church at that time and formed a new society under the preaching of a zealous but illiterate layman from Connecticut, but this organization did not last long. Mr. Allen, after nearly 30 years as minister, died in 1747.

He was succeeded by the Reverend Cotton Brown. He was called in February 1748, but there was some fear that he was not "sound in the faith", so the town voted that Mr. Brown "be desired more fully to communicate his principles to the church and to lay before them the article of his faith." This he did, declaring in part that he believed in "God the Father, the Creator of the world and in his Son Jesus, the only savior of men and in the Holy Ghost by whose influence men are sanctified and comforted." He also believed in the doctrine of original sin and that all persons are unworthy of the least of God's mercies. This conservative belief seemed to be entirely acceptable to the church, and he was duly ordained in October of the same year with a dinner costing the Town 18 lbs—2 shillings. He met an untimely death 3 years later, in 1751, and the church remained without a settled minister for the next four years.

In November 1755, Nathaniel Potter of Elizabeth, N. J. was ordained as minister, but later his doctrines were considered unsound. He desired a dismissal, which was granted him in 1759. During his ministry the church voted to admit members "without public relations", that is, without profession of faith and experience.

The fourth minister was the Reverend Joseph Jackson, a native of Dorchester and a tutor at Cambridge. He proved to be very satisfactory to the church and remained for 36 years—1760 to 1796. Like his predecessors, he occupied a house on the south side of Walnut Street where Cypress Street was later cut through. About 1780 this house was burned. The following year the lower part of the land where the parsonage now stands (just east of the old church) was given to the town by Mrs. Edward Kitchen Walcott, daughter of Judge Sewall. The deed specified that it is "understood that if the dwelling house to be built upon the piece of land aforesaid be made use of for any other purpose than as a Parsonage for the Congregational minister of the aforesaid church, except the trustees shall indulge the widow of a Minister of said church or his child or children to occupy and improve the same until another minister be settled over said church, then the aforesaid land with buildings thereon shall become forfeit and return and belong to said Edward Kitchen Walcott and wife, their heirs and assigns forever." A recent search for all the descendants of this family proved unsuccessful.

The Reverend Joseph Jackson was a modest man, never accepting an invitation to preach on public occasions, or allow-

ing his sermons to be published or to remain after his death. He was, however, a powerful preacher, fearless in denouncing the sins of his day, especially as they appeared amongst his own people. In one sermon he soundly rebuked many of his congregation for sitting up too late at some social function. He is described as a "vigorous pounder of the pulpit cushions", and he probably had little need of a sounding board. There is preserved in the meeting-house a unique petition sent by him to the selectmen early in 1781 reading as follows:

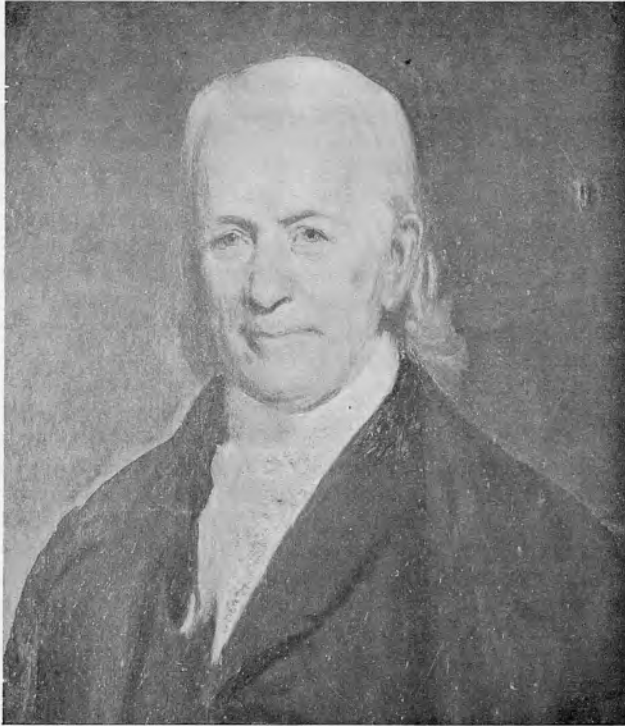
"To the Selectmen of Brooklyn, Gentlemen: Having been obliged to take of my salary for the current year to pay for house rent the last year and part of this, and by reason of the extra-ordinary expense of living, my salary has been inadequate for my support. I would desire it as a favor of you, that a Town Meeting be called to consider the matter and make me what allowance they may judge reasonable. I would wish to have a meeting previous to the March meeting because my year expires at the beginning of February, and at the March meeting there is business sufficient to take up the attention of the Town. I am, gentlemen, yr. very humble Svt., J. Jackson". According to the records, no special meeting was called, but the following year a parsonage was built on the land donated by the Walcott family.

About this time Elhanan Winchester separated from the church. He was one of the first Universalists and held to the old-fashioned form of this belief that all men, whatever their life on earth, would surely be saved. This was considered highly improper by the members of the old organization, so that he left and later joined the Baptist church.

Mr. Jackson died in 1796 after a very active ministry. At his funeral the Waltham minister praised him as "favored with shining mental powers", and called him a man of piety and true devotion.

With the coming of Dr. John Pierce, who was called as minister in December 1796, Dr. William H. Lyon truly remarked in his Historical Sketch "the old order changeth." John Pierce, like his predecessor, was a tutor at Cambridge when called to Brookline, and he enjoyed the longest and most unusual pastorate of 53 years. He was more liberally inclined than his predecessors, and he soon became the most beloved citizen of the town. "His genial and friendly bearing, his interest in every person and institution in the town made him an ideal pastor for such a community." "Though not especially

gifted as a preacher, he was greatly beloved as a friend and pastor." Unlike his predecessors, he stoutly refused to be examined as to his religious views, holding that no man had a right to pass judgment on him in respect to them. Dr. Carleton S. Francis, in a paper read before the Brookline Historical Society in 1930, gives the following stories in regard to Dr. John Pierce: "He not only knew every person in the town, but he was consulted by them on any subject In one case, the question being asked when a certain person was born, and



JOHN PIERCE, D. D.

the questioner being told that Dr. Pierce did not know, said at once 'That settles it. He never could have been born!' The Doctor always did everything by time, knew just how long it would take him to walk from one part of town to another and what the distance was. Some even claimed that after his death, when he should reach the Golden Gate, he would take out his watch and tell St. Peter just how long it had taken him to come from Brookline and how many steps there were in the Golden Stairs."

The congregation in Dr. Pierce's day was made up of farmers and a few mechanics, but with an increasing number of more wealthy folk. It was before sectarian divisions had come to separate and alienate townspeople and when there was a "certain halo of happiness, heartiness, and romance in life." The town was still small, with only about 600 citizens located mostly between the church building and the village. During his long pastorate three important events occurred: the building of a new meeting-house, the establishment of the Sunday School, and the separation of the church and state.

The old church building was over eighty years old when the agitation for a new building began. The old building



SECOND MEETING HOUSE
1806

seated about sixty-six people, but the population of the town had increased to six hundred, and this was still the only church in town. In 1804 a committee was appointed to decide whether it would be cheaper to enlarge the old building or build a new one. The latter course was decided upon, and a new lot of land

was purchased, on the opposite side of the street. Plans were drawn by Peter Banner, an English architect, and he was given the use of the old school house on the triangle opposite the church as a workshop. The new building contained seventy-four pews on the floor and fourteen in the gallery. There was a high pulpit with curving stairway on each side at the end of a broad aisle. The choir gallery was opposite the minister, and a little stairway led from this to a small balcony above, where sat Black Susy, a well-known servant in Captain Croft's family, and "other dark-skinned outcasts". Unlike the old church, this one was heated, there being tall iron stoves in the two rear corners. The church was evidently a success, as Rebecca Boylson wrote her uncle, Edward Boylston, in 1810 that "it was an elegant meeting-house, said by many to be the handsomest in the state." The cost was about \$18,000 plus about \$2,000 for furnishings. The townspeople gave many gifts, including a London-cast bell from the Honorable Stephen Higginson, southern cherry wood for a pulpit from his son, \$400 for a clock by John Lucas, a Bible by Thomas Walley, and a baptismal basin by David Hyslop. Of these, the bell, clock, and baptismal basin are still in use. The new building was dedicated June 11, 1806 before a large congregation.

It was not until 1826 that a Sunday School was established. Dr. Pierce had been holding monthly meetings for the children previous to that date for catechising and religious instruction. The school was projected by Miss Elizabeth Peabody and Miss Alice Sumner, and at first was in session only during the summer. The first superintendent was Lewis Tappan who was followed by L. B. Hubbard and I. B. Whitney. Later we find such well-known names as B. B. Davis, A. W. Goddard, Marshall Stearns, Charles W. Head, and Francis G. Peabody listed as holding the position. Two of the later ministers acted as superintendent before becoming minister,—William H. Lyon, 1872, and Howard N. Brown, 1876.

One of the congregation was an Englishman who came to church elaborately dressed in a highly ruffled shirt bosom and with a rose in his button-hole. He usually slept during most of the service, but on waking had the habit of smelling the rose he carried with great energy. A man who sat near him, named Jerry Davenport, one Sunday leaned over and put a liberal supply of snuff on the rose. When the gentleman awoke he started to smell the rose as usual. "Sneeze upon sneeze followed in spite of his attempts to stop them, and he finally made his way out of the church sneezing till he was out of hearing."

In 1833 an amendment to the State constitution made the Congregational as well as all other religious societies private corporations which could not be supported by town funds. A warrant for a parish meeting was duly issued according to the law. The meeting was held December 18th, with James Robinson as clerk and Deacon John Robinson as moderator. There were twenty-two persons present including many well-known names. (See Note 2.) These twenty-two persons were the founders of the First Parish in Brookline formerly known as the Church of Christ. The act incorporating the Parish was passed March 28, 1834. The pew owners who did not care to become members of the new organization gave up their pews. "Those who remained not only continued to pay their taxes but also made subscriptions for ten years to fill up the deficit caused by the retirement of so many." The estimated yearly expenses were \$1139, including \$850 for the minister; and the estimated income, including the subscriptions, was \$1272. "The faithful pastor of the new Society gave a grant of \$100 and a hearty expression of good-will and confidence."

The important change of set-up did not affect Dr. Pierce much, as he continued to be practically what he had long been in name, minister of the town, beloved and followed. He also continued as secretary of the Overseers of Harvard College, a position he held for thirty-three years.

On March 15, 1847 Dr. Pierce was given a jubilee celebration for the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination. There were then two other churches in town, the Baptist (1828), and the Harvard Congregational (1844), and delegates from each joined with the Parish Committee of the First Parish in arranging for services in the meeting-house, to be followed by a collation and addresses in the town hall. "A service of plate and other gifts were presented to the beaming pastor."

While the Unitarians branched off from the Congregationalists—about 1825—and the members of the First Parish were of the liberal type, Dr. Pierce prevented a formal break such as had occurred in many of the old churches, for he did not like controversy. Nevertheless, the town gradually began to look upon the First Parish as a Unitarian church. There is nothing in the charter or documents to bind it to any denomination, but in due course it was formally listed in the Unitarian column.

The jubilee reminded Dr. Pierce that he was growing old, and he suggested that a colleague would be desirable. Dr. Fred-

erick N. Knapp was, therefore, invited to that office and accepted. This amusing toast was given at a banquet following the occasion, "Dr. Pierce, after 50 years of preaching, has now taken a nap." He was ordained October 6, 1847 and soon endeared himself to the people. He was a man of gentle and lovable temperament but of delicate health. His voice was not very strong, and he found some difficulty in filling the large area, especially from so high a pulpit. Though the town was growing, the new churches took a good many members from the First Parish, and the need of a new and smaller meeting-house was discussed. Plans were drawn by Edward C. Cabot and the building was promptly erected. It was of frame, facing down Walnut Street, with a tall spire at the east end. It contained seventy-six pews but was later enlarged by two transepts. It contained a large new organ and a good heating plant. The contract price was \$8575, but the total cost was over \$10,000. The resulting debt of \$2,100 caused some anxiety, but it was paid off in a few years.

At the first try-out of the new organ Dr. Pierce was carried to the church to hear it. The congregation rose to sing Old Hundred, which Dr. Pierce used to say was the "best tune that ever was written or ever would be." Dr. Pierce was unable to rise and remarked that he no longer belonged to the "rising generation."

Meanwhile, Dr. Pierce's health declined and he died in 1849, soon after the dedication of the new meeting-house. Few men could be missed from the town as much as he. He stood as the marking stone between the old and the new. He was an impressive figure—six feet tall, well proportioned and erect. His long flowing hair had been white since middle life. It is said that he missed but fifteen Sunday from his pulpit in fifty years. No man today could occupy such a commanding position in the larger and more varied town.

Mr. Knapp took charge of the Parish at once and continued for the six following years. He then found that his health was unequal to the task, and he resigned in September 1855. He returned to Walpole, New Hampshire, where he remained till the organization of the U. S. Sanitary Commission early in the Civil War. At the request of his cousin, the Reverend Dr. Bellows, president of this commission, he went to Washington and entered its service. His work there was so outstanding that it was likened to that of Florence Nightingale. Later he was minister at Plymouth and opened the well-known Knapp boys' school at Duxbury.

In 1856 Mr. Knapp was succeeded by Dr. Frederick H. Hedge. He was a man of ripe years, having been graduated from the Harvard Divinity School in 1828. He had been the minister at Bangor, Maine and Providence, Rhode Island. He was a man of great learning and the author of several religious books. He was one of the leaders of the Transcendental movement and a friend of Emerson and his group. His influence upon the life of the denomination was great, and has been compared with that of Channing. Under his scholarly influence the Parish increased in numbers so that it was found necessary to enlarge the church by building two transepts containing twenty pews. From the beginning of his ministry Dr. Hedge occupied the chair of Ecclesiastical History at Harvard (1857-76) and for a few years was editor of the *Christian Examiner*. In later life he suffered from a painful disease and resigned as minister in 1872. He died in 1890.

Mr. Brown said of him, "Dr. Hedge, among the men of his time, was intellectually a giant. He towered far above the rank and file of the Transcendentalists with whom he associated much in his earlier years. In reasoning power he was far superior even to their great man, Emerson, who was his intimate friend. Emerson was essentially a seer and saw many things that he knew how to clothe in exceedingly picturesque phrase. But his thought had almost no logical articulation; while Dr. Hedge built his ideas into great and stately structures of wisdom, which still stands in his books"

Under a somewhat reserved manner he hid from the common gaze depths of feeling and affection which many people never knew he possessed I soon found that he was much admired by all members of the Brookline congregation, which was very proud of having had him for its minister. But whenever he had been with people in sorrow, I found a deeper note. To them he had unlocked the treasures of his sympathy, and they loved him for his graciousness and tenderness I hold his name in reverence as that of one of the wisest and noblest of men."

The Reverend Howard N. Brown, a recent Harvard graduate and the minister of the church at Ilion, New York, was called to succeed Dr. Hedge and was ordained in 1872. He was only twenty-three years old and was assuming a rather difficult position. He brought to the services of the Parish a deeply religious spirit together with sound judgment and executive ability. He entered whole-heartedly into the interests of the Town as library trustee and was active in school work.

In 1875 the meeting-house was renovated and a little later a vestry building was built in the rear. Meanwhile the population of the neighborhood had been increasing, and under Mr. Brown's leadership the church membership grew. The Parish "emerged from its isolation into closer connection with the town in general."

As early as 1886 Mr. Brown urged the enlargement of the meeting-house but nothing was done for several years. Finally the firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge was chosen as architects, and the destruction of the old building was started in 1891. The Bethany Sunday School kindly offered their building at Washington and School Streets to the Parish during the two years of construction, and this offer was gladly accepted.

The new building, the fourth meeting-house, was of stone facing up Walnut Street. It has a large square tower without a steeple. A few years previous the Parish had bought Pierce



FOURTH MEETING HOUSE
OF
THE FIRST PARISH IN BROOKLINE

Hall from Edward Atkinson who had used it for a school. The original plans called for a Parish House in the rear but this was not built at first, and the old vestry building was moved to a location between the church and Pierce Hall.

The new meeting-house was dedicated April 19, 1893, about two years before Mr. Brown resigned, but he had the gratification of seeing his plans brought to a successful conclusion. It was indeed a beautiful structure, and in the years that followed it was made more beautiful and useful by the addition of stained glass windows, memorial tablets, new lighting fixtures, new organ in the gallery, rebuilding of the chancel, and other changes.

During Mr. Brown's ministry most of the subordinate activities of the Parish were inaugurated, except the Sunday School as previously noted. These included the Women's Auxiliary (now the National Alliance) in 1878, Working and Social Club (now the Sewing Circle) in 1889, and the First Parish (Men's) Club in 1894. Meanwhile the Parish grew steadily in size and wealth as the population increased, largely due to the influx of persons from Boston and its suburbs.

On May 12, 1895 Mr. Brown resigned to become minister of King's Chapel, Boston, where he remained for many years, one of the leading figures in the denomination. The Parish then called the Reverend William H. Lyon of All Souls Unitarian Church of Roxbury. He was a native of Fall River, and a graduate of Brown University and of the Harvard Divinity School. He had previously been minister of the Ellsworth, Maine church. He was no stranger in Brookline, as he had been superintendent of the Sunday School in 1872-3. He accepted and was installed May 8, 1896.

Dr. Lyon entered on his duties with enthusiasm, and soon the parsonage was enlarged and renovated, a new hymn book was adopted, and the rest of the debt occasioned by the new church was paid off. Dr. Lyon was an able and popular minister, much beloved by his congregation. Under him the Parish continued to grow in size and influence. In his *Historical Sketch of the First Parish* written in 1898 he stated "Probably no society has more members holding unsalaried positions of trust and usefulness in the affairs of the place, public or charitable. This is also a prolongation of the old ways when the Parish and the Town were one." It was during his ministry that many of the improvements in the church property were made, including the installation of the stained glass windows by Charles G. Weld and the Lowell, Train, Sweetser, and Goddard windows. During this period also most of loyal legion and other memorial tablets were given.

In 1905 occurred the two-hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Brookline. As part of the celebra-

tion a commemorative service was held in the First Parish meeting-house on November 12th, at which service Psalm 100 and Psalm 14 were read from the Bay Psalm Book printed in 1647 and used by the Parish until 1760. The program included a brief history of the Parish up to the middle of the 19th century, a list of ministers and of the original members of the Parish.

The question of building a new Parish House had been under consideration for five years and was brought to a head in April 1905 when the Parish voted in favor of the project. Mr. William S. Cutler and Mr. Joseph Walker were a committee to raise funds and erect the building. Mr. Charles Collens was chosen as architect. The building adjoined the east end of the meeting-house and extended to Pierce Hall. It contained a large Sunday School room, a new minister's room, and a parlor. It was partly stone, and partly stucco and cost about \$21,000. It was completed in October 1906 and was being furnished by a committee of ladies when on November 3rd a destructive fire of unknown origin completely destroyed the new building and damaged the main church. This necessitated suspending the services in the church until Pierce Hall could be made available. Again the Bethany Sunday School building was offered to the Parish and was gladly accepted.

The Parish wasted no time in deciding to rebuild and to make the new structure entirely of stone. The work of repairs and rebuilding was awarded to B. W. Neal and Company, and the floor coverings came from John H. Pray and Company. This called forth the remark that it was a most appropriate combination for a religious building: Neal and Pray. The new building was completed in about a year and dedicated October 10, 1907.

The major improvements for which the Parish had been working for many years were now practically complete, and the Society was blessed with a beautiful and well-arranged plant which thoroughly satisfied the more exacting tastes.

Toward the end of 1912 Dr. Lyon's health was such that his physician advised him to lessen the amount of work he was doing and moderate the pressure of life. He therefore proposed that a colleague be chosen to assist him and be prepared to take full charge when he should retire. A committee of five, headed by Mr. Aaron H. Latham, was appointed to find such a colleague, and after a few months' study they unanimously

recommended calling the Reverend Abbot Peterson, who had been minister of the Lancaster, Massachusetts parish for about six years. He was a native of Jamaica Plain, a graduate of Harvard and of the Harvard Divinity School. He accepted and was installed October 12, 1913 at an impressive ceremony in which the following ministers took part: the Reverend Charles F. Dole, D. D., the Reverend Thomas Van Ness, the Reverend Roger Forbes, the Reverend Edwin M. Slocomb, the Reverend Howard N. Brown, D. D., the Reverend William W. Fenn, D. D., the Reverend James deNormandie, and Dr. Lyon. This selection of a colleague proved most satisfactory to all concerned, and it occurred at an opportune time. Dr. Lyon and Mr. Peterson worked most harmoniously together, and much of the details were gradually taken over by the new colleague.

Dr. Lyon's health gradually declined and he died December 20, 1915, after nineteen years of devoted service to the church. He left the Parish well organized, free from financial burden, and excellently housed. He was a true pastor, and the "light of his kindly smile left a pleasant memory in the hearts of his parishioners." Mrs. Lyon survived for about 28 years, during the latter part of which she was badly crippled, but maintained an active interest in the church and attended the services regularly in a wheel chair. After the services she was surrounded by a group of friends anxious to have a word with her and to be greeted by her sweet smile. A few years later the Sunday School room was re-arranged and redecorated and named Lyon Chapel in honor of the beloved minister and his wife.

Mr. Peterson was well prepared to take full charge of the parish without delay, and he stated in his first annual report that it had been "a great privilege to have been associated with Dr. Lyon, to have profited by the wisdom of his long ministerial experience, and to have enjoyed his unflinching sympathy and firm friendship." This was not long before the start of the first World War, and when this country entered it in 1917 there was a wonderful response by the young men of the parish to the call of duty. At the end of the year there were sixty stars on the service flag that hung from the church tower, of which thirty-eight represented commissioned officers. At the end of the war there were 104 stars, of which eight were of gold honoring the following names: Lieut. Francis R. Austin, Lieut. Albert Lincoln Crocker, Lieut. William St. A. Stearns, Private William H. Jarboe, Ensign William Dennison Lyon, Lieut. Homer L. Ingram, Lieut. Robert Williams, and Ensign Joseph W. Homer. The Parish was very active in the war in

other ways, including a reception committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. George H. Francis, to entertain enlisted men who were strangers in Boston. The Parish House was one of the neighborhood centers for Red Cross work in which many of the ladies of the Parish were active. Many others served on various committees. Mr. Peterson volunteered his services and was commissioned chaplain, serving at Camp Zachary Taylor throughout the rest of the war.

After the war careful consideration was given to the selection of a memorial for the eight young men who gave their lives for their country. The final selection was a new memorial window to replace the large rose window on the front wall of the church. There were eight panels in this window and each was dedicated to one of the heroes. A bronze tablet at a lower level records their names. This memorial was dedicated on the Sunday preceding Armistice Day—on November 9, 1924.

On Sunday, November 11, 1917 the morning service was devoted to a memorial service for Dr. William H. Lyon. The sermon was preached by his predecessor, the Reverend Howard N. Brown, and a memorial tablet, given by the congregation, was unveiled.

Two days later, November 13th, the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Parish was observed in an evening meeting in the church. There were two historical addresses, one by Deacon Charles H. Stearns, then president of the Brookline Historical Society, and one by Edward W. Baker, Town Clerk and Secretary of the Historical Society. The exercises were followed by a reception in the chapel and refreshments in Pierce Hall.

During the winter of 1918 there was a shortage of coal, and the Parish invited the Church of the New Jerusalem on High Street, Brookline to join in Sunday services. This was done from January 20th to March 17th, and in return the members of the Church of the New Jerusalem presented the First Parish with a fine silver vase appropriately inscribed, in affectionate commemoration of the union services.

In his annual report in 1919 Mr. Peterson urged the establishment of an endowment fund for the Parish, a project that had been previously suggested by Dr. Lyon. The idea was accepted at what proved to be an appropriate time, for the Victory Loan was just being launched by the Federal Govern-

ment. With the slogan "Give to your country and give to your church" the parishioners were urged to buy Victory Bonds and donate them to the church. Headed by a generous gift from Mrs. William H. Lyon a fund of over \$14,000 was collected the first year, and in the succeeding years this has been increased to over \$100,000.

This covers the principal events in the first two hundred years of the First Parish, but a brief outline of a few later events may be in order.

In 1921, remembering the serious fire of 1906, a fund was raised to safeguard the plant against fire. An approved automatic sprinkler system was installed in all sections where a fire was likely to start, namely, the basement of all buildings, and the kitchen and stage section of Pierce Hall. Chemical extinguishers were installed and a regular inspection of fire appliances established which resulted in a substantial reduction in the insurance rate as well as good fire protection.

In 1922, the Lyon Guild, a young people's society named in memory of the Lyon family, was organized. Two of the original members, Robert H. Schacht, Jr. and Ransom Carver, later became Unitarian ministers, to be followed in a few years by Abbot Peterson, Jr.

In 1923, a committee studied the question of establishing free pews and giving up the pew rental system. It was found by a postal card vote that the sentiment was then strongly against the change, but twenty years later it was put into effect. The same year the Parish organized Troop 4 of the Boy Scouts under the leadership of Robert H. Schacht, Jr. Three years later Troop 3 of the Girl Scouts was organized by Miss Ruth Pond. Both troops were given attractive quarters in the Parish House.

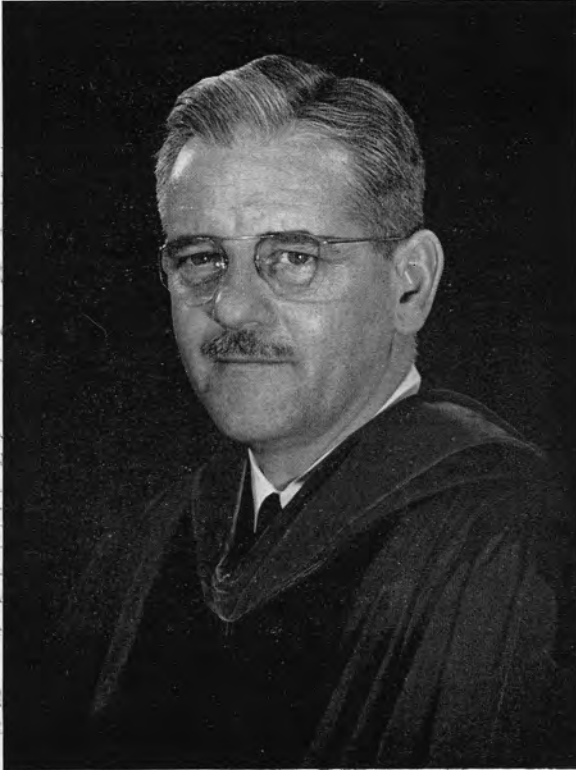
In 1926 the organ was rebuilt under the supervision of Mr. William Bacon who had long been the chairman of the Music Committee.

In 1929 extensive changes were made in the interior of the auditorium, including repainting, a new communion table and reredos given in memory of Mrs. Edward Philbrick, and a new pulpit given by Mrs. Albert F. Bigelow and the sister, Miss Williams.

In 1936 extensive changes were made in the old Sunday School room, transforming it into a beautiful chapel, named Lyon Chapel in memory of the Lyon family.

In 1938 Dr. Peterson celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his connection with the Parish in a special service addressed by Dr. Frederick May Eliot, Dr. Charles E. Park, and Bishop Sherrill.

Dr. Peterson was a chaplain in the Reserves from 1918 to 1931, and from then to 1941 he was Division Chaplain of the 26th Infantry Division, when he was inducted into the Army as Chaplain at Camp Edwards. After Pearl Harbor it



REVEREND CARL BIHLDORFF

became evident that the Army would require his services for the duration, and he resigned as minister in January 1942. He was succeeded later in the year by the Rev. Carl Bihldorff of Louisville, Kentucky.

The Parish was very active during the second world war. The ladies formed committees for Red Cross, refugee, and other

causes. Some eighty members of the Parish served their country, and the following five gave their lives to the cause: Dudley K. Emerson, Sylvester Cunningham, Perry H. Johnson, Charles W. Reid, and Anderson Storey. Thus did the old parish show its patriotism in the fourth great war of its history.

CORHAM DANA,
BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 SPRING MEETING — 1950

The spring meeting was held in Pierce Hall, Walnut Street, on Wednesday, May 24, 1950 at 4 P. M. There were about seventy-five persons present. The vice-president, Mrs. Harrison G. Bridge, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last meeting were omitted as they are to be printed. Mrs. Bridge called upon Mr. Bertram K. Little to read a memorial statement about our late president, Mr. Daniel G. Lacy, which was recently approved by the board of trustees. This statement was adopted and ordered sent to Mr. Lacy's family.

The membership committee presented the following names and they were duly elected to membership: Mrs. Alice P. Hedge, Thomas Duncan, John T. Connor, Daniel R. Weedon, Mrs. Harry M. Goodwin, Mrs. William H. Sweet, Mrs. Benjamin Foss.

Mrs. Bridge then introduced the clerk, Gorham Dana, who read a paper entitled "The First Parish in Brookline 1717-1919" illustrated by lantern slides, photographs, and many interesting historical documents. A mimeographed copy of a list of the stained glass windows, tablets, and other memorials was distributed to those present. The group then crossed the street to witness the unveiling of a bronze tablet marking the site of the first meeting-house. Mrs. Bridge quoted from the Transactions of the Society from 1917 and made brief remarks as she unveiled the tablet. The members and guests then returned to Pierce Hall for light refreshments and a tour of the buildings.

The tablet recorded the following:

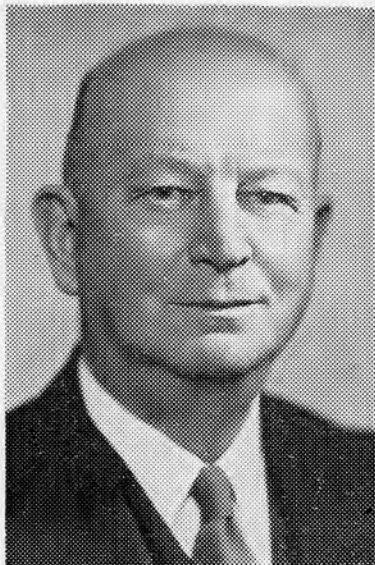
SITE OF THE FIRST MEETING HOUSE
 IN BROOKLINE
 BUILDING ERECTED 1714-1717 CHURCH
 GATHERED 1717 AS CHURCH OF CHRIST
 JAMES ALLEN, MINISTER
 BUILDING REPLACED BY SECOND
 MEETING HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET
 1806

Tablet erected by the Brookline Historical Society 1950

DANIEL G. LACY

The Brookline Historical Society records with deep sorrow the sudden death by heart failure on May 6, 1950 of our President, Daniel G. Lacy. Born in Brookline, he was a graduate of the high school and later took courses in horticulture at Harvard and the University of Massachusetts. He specialized in street and shade tree culture and soon became a nation-wide authority on the subject so that his advice was sought by various municipalities. In June 1949 he received an honorary degree of Master of Horticulture from the University of Massachusetts. He also received citations for the attractive landscaping of the Horace James Circle on the West Roxbury Parkway.

His first Town position was secretary of the Forestry Commission, which was followed by his appointment as Superintendent of Planting and Preserving Trees and Suppres-



DANIEL G. LACEY

sion of Insect Pests in 1909. In 1921 he was given charge of snow removal in the Highway Department, and in 1925 he was made Superintendent of Streets, a position that he held with great distinction until his death. Thus he became the head of several important departments: streets, garbage and refuse collections, tree planting, suppression of insect

pests, and later Superintendent of Wires and Lights. He was a tireless worker and was ready to start work at any time during the night in case of a bad storm. He was a thorough and efficient Town official in all these positions.

Mr. Lacy had long been interested in the Historical Society and had served on the Board of Trustees for more than fifteen years. Last year he supervised the execution and erection of the tablet to mark the site of the Punch Bowl Tavern, and made appropriate remarks at the unveiling. He was elected President on January 31st of this year, and had therefore served only a little over three months; but during that brief period he had accomplished much for the organization. In March he delivered a notable paper on Old Streets in Brookline, which was the result of much careful study of old records, combined with his long experience as Superintendent of Streets. He then began preparing for the erection of a tablet to mark the site of the first meeting-house in Town. He had already selected and set in place the boulder on which this tablet was to be placed, and ordered the tablet. He was prepared to preside at its unveiling on May 24th which, unfortunately, was not to be.

Daniel Lacy was a Christian gentleman, kind and considerate, ever ready and willing to assist those seeking his help. Always patient, co-operative, and sympathetic, he endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact. In his death this Society has lost a true friend and enthusiastic worker; the Town has lost an outstanding and devoted official.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

MARCH — 1950

- Mr. J. Russell Abbott
 Mrs. Daniel DeL Addison
 Miss Julia D. Addison
 Mrs. Edward B. Alford
 Miss Martha A. Alford
 Mr. Selden R. Allen
 Mr. Walter D. Allen
 *Mr. Nathaniel L. Amster
 Miss Lucy Aspinwall
 Mr. Samuel G. Atkinson
 Miss Sybil M. Baker
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Barker
 Mrs. Henry B. Batchelor
 Mr. F Gregg Bemis
 Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bigelow
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Bigelow
 Mr. Charles B. Blanchard
 Mrs. Kenneth B. Bond
 Mrs. Frederick C. Bowditch
 Dr. and Mrs. Harold Bowditch
 Mr. Everett M. Bowker
 Mrs. Edward D. Brandegee
 Miss Sarah F. Bremer
 Mrs. Harrison G. Bridge
 Mr. Albert P. Briggs
 Mr. George V. Brown
 Mr. Kingsbury Brown
 Miss Marguerite Browne
 Mr. and Mrs. Yves Henry Buhler
 Mr. and Mrs. Chester T. Burr
 Miss Elizabeth Burrage
 Mrs. George D. Burrage
 Miss Sally Burrage
 Dr. Walter S. Burrage
 Miss Mary Davis Bush
 Miss Elizabeth Butcher
 Mrs. Samuel Cabot
 Mrs. Sewall Cabot
 Mr. Eugene P. Carver, Jr.
 Mr. Francis A. Caswell
 Dr. Earle M. Chapman
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Clark
 Mrs. Margaret W. Collens
 Mrs. Henry F. Colt
 Mr. John T. Comerford
 Mr. W. Oglivie Comstock
 *Mrs. Emma L. Conant
 Mr. and Mrs. John Page Cotton
 Mr. and Mrs. Phillip E. Coyle
 Miss Marion E. Crocker
 Mr. Arthur P. Crosby
 Miss Mabel H. Cummings
 Mrs. Alan Cunningham
 Miss Marion C. Cutler
 Mr. and Mrs. George B. Cutts
 Mr. J. Linfield Damon
 Mr. and Mrs. Gorham Dana
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dane
 Mrs. James Dean
 Miss Emily G. Denny
 Mrs. Francis P. Denny
 Mr. Walter A. Devine
 Lt. Com. William Griggs Dow,
 USN, Ret.
 Miss Alice Driscoll
 Miss Helen Driscoll
 Mr. J. Francis Driscoll
 Mr. James M. Driscoll
 *Mr. Charles B. Duncklee
 Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Egleston
 Mr. Frederick Marion Estes
 *Miss Mary S. B. Eustis
 *Mrs. Clara B. Fenn
 *Miss Margaret A. Fish
 Dr. and Mrs. Reginald Fitz
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick C. Fletcher
 Mrs. Nina M. Forbes
 Mr. Frederick Foster
 Miss Emily D. Furness
 Mrs. E. W. Furness
 Dr. James L. Gamble
 *Mr. G. Peabody Gardner, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Goodspeed
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Groom
 Mrs. Frank L. Hadden
 Miss Eva May Hadley
 Miss Nancy Hale
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Hale
 Mrs. Gardner W. Hall
 Mrs. Joseph A. Hall
 Mrs. Minna B. Hall
 Mr. Francis W. Hamilton
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hanson
 Mr. Russell Hastings
 Mrs. Parker Hayden
 Mrs. D. Blgelow Heath
 Mr. James H. Henderson
 Mr. William J. Hickey, Jr.
 Mr. Charles A. Hinkle
 Mr. Franklin W. Hobbs
 Dr. James R. Hobson
 Mrs. John Homans
 Miss Louisa M. Hooper
 Mrs. George C. Houser
 Mrs. Lyman H. Hoyt
 Mr. Paul M. Hubbard
 Mr. Henry Hughes
 Mr. Walter Humphreys
 Mr. Robert I. Hunneman
 Mrs. Edwin E. Jack

- Mr. Marcien Jenckes
 Mrs. Herbert S. Johnson
 Mr. Franklin King
 Mr. Daniel G. Lacy
 Dean Arthur B. Lamb
 Rev. Frederick C. Lawrence
 Mr. Frederick A. Leavitt
 Miss Mary Lee
 Mrs. Geoffrey W. Lewis
 Mr. and Mrs. Edvard Lindstrom
 Mr. and Mrs. Bertram K. Little
 Mr. Leon M. Little
 Mrs. Percival H. Lombard
 Mr. Lindsley Loring
 Mrs. Guy Lowell
 Mr. Lea S. Luquer
 Mr. Reuben Lurie
 Mr Theodore Lyman
 Mr. James P. Mackey
 Mrs. Gordon B. March
 Mr. Charles N. Mason, Jr.
 Mrs. Luther M. Merrill
 Mrs. W. M. Parker Mitchell
 Mrs. Samuel Mixter
 Miss Lucy A. Morse
 Mrs. Edward F. Mallowney
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Frederick Nelson
 Mr. Henry H. Newell
 Mr. Charles A. Newhall
 Mr. Francis J. Oakes
 Mrs. Hugh Ogden
 Mrs. George L. Osborn
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Packard
 Mrs. Robert T. Paine, 2nd
 Mr. William D. Paine
 Mr. George S. Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Peabody
 Mrs. Florence P. Peabody
 †Mr. Arthur Perry
 Mr. John C. Poland
 Dr. Samuel C. Prescott
 Mrs. Roger Preston
 *Miss Alice L. Priest
 Mrs. Palmer C. Putnam
 Mr. and Mrs. Leon W. Rand
 Mrs. Paul R. Reed
 Mr. William T. Reid, Jr.
 Mrs. John A. Reidy
 Miss Mabel Sutton Rice
 Mr. Edward B. Richardson
 *Mr. Frederick L. Richardson
 Mrs. Henry H. Richardson
 Mr. Hibbard Richter
 Miss Helena M. Rick
 Mrs. Oliver H. P. Rodman
 Mrs. Ernest L. Ruether
 Miss Alice Seaver
 Mr. and Mrs. Morris Shraff
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 Mr. Charles M. Storey
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 Mr. Arthur M. Wiggin
 Miss Josephine H. Wilder
 Mr. Harold Williams
 Hon. Harold P. Williams
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† Benefactors

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 Thomas Duncan
 Mrs. Benjamin Foss

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 Mrs. William H. Sweet
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