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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1951

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES 1951

PRESIDENT

MRS. HARRISON G BRIDGE

VICE PRESIDENT

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

TREASURER

ALBERT P BRIGGS, 187 Walnut Street

CLERK

GORHAM DANA, 44 Edge Hill Road

TRUSTEES

Lea Luquer, Donald K. Packard, 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,

PAPERS 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,
Lea Luquer, 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.

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 23, 1951

The fiftieth annual meeting of the Brookline Historical Society was held at the Edward Devotion House on January 23, 1951 at 3:30 P.M. There were about forty-eight persons present.

The vice president, Mrs. Harrison G Bridge, called the meeting to order and presided. In the absence of Mrs. Bertram K. Little, Mr J Francis Driscoll read the report of the Committee on Rooms which told of the use of the building during the year. This report was accepted.

Mr Gorham Dana, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported that an application blank, containing a brief statement of the purposes of the Society, had been prepared and copies sent to the members of the committee. He reported a list of eleven names that the Committee recommended for membership, as follows. Mr Roger B. Tyler, Miss Hilda W Williams, Rev Carl Bihldorff, Mrs. Edward J Wyluda, Mr James Arnold Lowell, Mr Sturtevant Burr, Miss Mary Oxenham, Mrs. Marion J Baker, Mr Guy E. Morgan, Mr Scott McNeilly, and Mrs. Charles M. Storey. On motion duly seconded, these were voted in as members by a single ballot cast by the clerk. While Mrs. William Hedge's name was omitted from last year's printed list, it was stated that she was duly elected at the May meeting.

In the absence of Mr Briggs, the Clerk read the Treasurer's annual report which, omitting receipts from Mrs. Little's book "*Old Houses in Brookline*", showed a slight profit for the year. The balance on hand was \$3,432.94.

Mrs. Bridge read her annual report as vice president which was accepted.

Miss Mary Davis Bush and Miss Margaret A. Fish, delegates to the Bay State League, made brief reports on recent meetings of the League.

In the absence of Mr Bertram K. Little, chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr Dana read the report of that committee as follows

"The Nominating Committee has the honor to present the following names for officers and trustees for the ensuing year. For *Treasurer*, Albert P Briggs, for *Clerk*, Gorham Dana; for *trustees*, Dr Harold Bowditch, Mrs. Harrison G Bridge, Miss Elizabeth Butcher, J Francis Driscoll, Lea S. Luquer, Donald

K. Packard, S. Morton Vose. (Signed) Charles B. Blanchard, Mrs. Ives H. Buhler, Bertram K. Little.”

On motion duly seconded the Clerk cast one ballot for the nominees and they were declared elected.

Vice President Bridge then introduced Rev Ashley Day Leavitt, who read a delightful paper on the History of Harvard Church. This was followed by some personal reminiscences of the speaker Dr Leavitt was given a rising vote of thanks.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 and was followed by light refreshments in the adjoining room.

GORHAM DANA, *Clerk*

ADDRESS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
50th ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 23, 1951

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Since our last annual meeting we regret to report that the following members have died

DANIEL G LACY
 MRS. VIRGIL C. POND
 MRS. DANIEL TYLER, SR.
 MRS. GORHAM DANA
 MRS. EMMA L. CONANT, (*a life member*)

We have received one resignation, that of Mrs. Theodore Bremer

However, during the same period we have welcomed fifteen new members, elected at the last annual meeting, and seven new members who were elected in May. As the names of these members have been published in the membership list of our 1950 Proceedings, I shall not include them here.

Our present membership stands as follows

Annual members -----	225
Life members --- -----	10
Benefactors -----	1
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A total of ----- 236 members

This is a net gain of sixteen members during the past year—our second consecutive year of increased membership. We are very desirous of enlarging our life membership class and would welcome any who are interested in helping build up a back-log for our Society

During the past year the trustees have held four meetings. We regret that our president, Mr. Lacy, lived only a few months after his election to office. Before his death on May 6, 1950 he was able to make detailed plans for the erection of a memorial tablet to mark the site of the first meeting-house on Walnut Street, including the selection of a stone on which the bronze tablet was placed. The work of erecting the memorial was completed by the Town Engineer, Mr. Walter Devine, and it was dedicated May 24th, subsequent to a meeting held at Pierce Hall.

The trustees elected the usual committees and made arrangements for future meetings. At their meeting on March 1st they accepted a gift from William H. Young of a letter describing

the marriage of Samuel May and Mary Goddard. On May 18th a memorial statement on the death of President Lacy was read, and this was approved at the meeting of this Society May 24th and published in the Proceedings.

The trustees voted to print the Proceedings for 1950 and to include the four papers presented during the year, namely, Edward Atkinson—a sketch of his adult life by his daughter, Mary H. Wadsworth, Old Streets in Brookline, by Daniel C. Lacy, including an interesting map of Brookline as it was in 1822; Captain Benjamin Bradley, by Gorham Dana, The First Parish in Brookline, 1717-1919, by Gorham Dana.

These detailed records contain material of considerable value to those who are interested in the History of Brookline, and will be permanently on file in the Brookline Public Library

It is our hope and aim to have three Society meetings yearly one in the Fall, the Winter annual meeting, and a Spring meeting.

Once again we invite all members to bring to our attention any topics of interest or suggestions of papers that might be prepared for this purpose, and especially urge old-time residents of Brookline to give us the benefit of their "I remember when" stories so that we may preserve as much as possible of our town's personal history

RUTH POND BRIDGE

Vice President

THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities on hand January 1, 1951

U. S. Series G 2½% Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	764.90	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,668.04	\$3,432.94

Receipts for 1951

Membership Dues	512.00	
Gifts	103.25	
Sale of "Old Brookline Houses"	26.80	
Sale of "Proceedings"	1.50	
Interest on Series G 2½% Bond	25.00	
Interest on Savings Bank Deposit	33.65	702.20
		\$4,135.14

Payments for 1951

Secretary's Expense

Typing	\$22.00	
Printing	27.42	
		\$49.42
Treasurer's Expense, Postage		17.30
Collation—Devotion House	10.24	
Chairs Rental	5.25	
		15.49
Restoring Portrait of Jno. Devotion		100.00
Membership Dues, Public Reservations		5.00
Bay State Historical League		4.00
Insurance Premium Devotion House Furniture		7.50
Bank Charges		1.15
		199.86

Cash and Securities on Hand Dec. 31, 1951:

Cash and Securities on Hand Dec. 31, 1951:		
U. S. Series G 2½% Bond	\$1,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company	1,208.59	
Brookline Savings Bank	1,726.69	
		3,935.28
		\$4,135.14

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT P BRIGGS,

January 11, 1952.

Treasurer

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS

No repairs or interior decoration were undertaken in the Devotion House during the last year by the Historical Society or the Town, as such extensive work had been done in the two previous years.

The Annual Meeting, held on January 22, 1950 was the only meeting of the Society held in the house during the year

In March the annual spring visits of the fourth and fifth grades of the Edward Devotion School were made. This takes two mornings, two classes coming before recess, and one class after

Patriot's Day was celebrated as usual on April 19th, and during the summer Miss Gallivan of Simmons College Faculty brought an interested group of students to see the house. As usual during the year we have had representative groups of Boy and Girl Scouts to visit.

The Joanna Aspinwall Chapter of the D. A. R. met in the house in November, and the Hannah Goddard Chapter held two meetings, in April and November. A meeting with movies and birthday cake to celebrate their first annual meeting was held on November 3, by the Children of the American Revolution, affiliated with the Hannah Goddard Chapter. About fifteen youngsters ranging from eight to fifteen years of age attended with their mothers.

At Thanksgiving we again loaned a few furnishings to the school to assist with their play

Respectfully submitted,

NINA F LITTLE,

Chairman Committee on Rooms

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
OF THE
BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AT THE ANNUAL MEETING— JANUARY 23, 1951**

The Nominating Committee has the honor to present the following names for officers and trustees for the ensuing year:

For Treasurer, ALBERT P BRIGGS

For Clerk, GOHRAM DANA

For Trustees

DR. HAROLD BOWDITCH

MRS. HARRISON G BRIDGE

MISS ELIZABETH BUTCHER

J FRANCIS DRISCOLL

LEA S. LUQUER

DONALD K. PACKARD

S. MORTON VOSE

By the Committee

BERTRAM K. LITTLE, *Chairman*

CHARLES B. BLANCHARD

MRS. YVES H. BUHLER

AN ACCOUNT OF THE FOUNDING AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HARVARD CHURCH, BROOKLINE, MASS.

BY REV ASHLEY DAY LEAVITT

Delivered January 1951

On January 30, 1844, a meeting was held at the home of Mr Samuel Craft in Brookline. This meeting had been called as a meeting of the inhabitants of Brookline in favor of forming an Orthodox Congregational Church. There were eight persons present at that meeting,—Samuel Craft, John Dane, Rev Jonathan E. Woodbridge, Horace Cousins, John Heath, Moses Withington, Otis Withington, and Samuel Robinson.

There were at that time two churches in the town, the First Parish Church at Warren and Walnut Streets, and the Brookline Baptist Church at Harvard and Prospect Streets. The First Parish Church had been located at what in 1713, had been determined as the center of the town. In a census taken in 1844, by order of the Selectmen, it was found that there were eighty-eight houses and one hundred families above this center, and one hundred and twenty-four houses and one hundred and fifty-six families below the center. In all there were two hundred and twelve houses, two hundred and fifty-six families, and about thirteen hundred people. At that time there was nothing but a high gravel bank above the road where now stand the Town Hall, Police Station and Public Library. There was no conveyance to Boston except by stage, via Roxbury Neck.

This meeting of eight persons at the home of Samuel Craft to consider the forming of a church was a typical instance of the "gathering" of a church, a practice that has prevailed among persons following the Congregational way, from the beginning. Churches so formed by interested people have always been referred to as "Gathered Churches." The word has been used to distinguish such churches from established churches. The word is taken directly from a saying of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 18, 20,—*"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* That makes a church in the minds of persons of this persuasion. There is no need to ask anyone's permission. No higher authorities must be consulted, no specifications of faith and order to be accepted and adopted. The theory is as free as that. In practice there have been some safeguards. Ministers and representatives of other neighboring churches have often been called to sit as a Council, and "advise" those considering the forming of a church. For instance in Harvard Church during the ministry of Rev J Lewis Diman, in the late 1850s, a large group of the members of

the church were dissatisfied with the preaching of Dr. Diman. Thirty-six such members asked that a "Council" be called to advise them in the matter of forming another church in Brookline. The Council met and decided that the action was uncalled for, and the new church not needed.

I have not found any record of any Council being called by the group interested in the forming Harvard Church. There may have been some preliminary consultations with representatives or other churches. It would be surprising if it were not done. It is a good old Congregational custom. But when the group of eight had their meeting on January 30, 1844, they went right ahead with their project.

It may be interesting to consider just why these people were interested in having a new church in Brookline. There were two churches already existing in the town, and that might seem to be adequate spiritual provision for the 1300 residents then living there. In the first place it is a fairly important fact in the history of Harvard Church that it was not the result of the tension between the Unitarian and the Orthodox Congregationalists, at least not directly. It was not a group leaving the First Church that started the new church. As a matter of fact many of the founders had been members of a church in Brighton. Also in the year 1840 several families with young children moved from Boston to Brookline. These were members of the Old South, Park Street, and Mt. Vernon Churches, and they joined with the members of the Brighton Church in the new movement. They simply wanted a church, to their liking, nearer home.

At that meeting of the eight men there is no record that they considered whether or not they wanted a new church, or whether it was feasible to start one. They proceeded at once to the business of getting one started. They subscribed to 35 shares of \$100 each, for the purpose of raising a fund to build a house of worship. On February 9th of the same year a building committee was chosen, and in March a contract was entered into to build a meeting house for the sum of \$7700. On May 27 it was voted that the Society be named the Harvard Congregational Society, taking its name from John Harvard the Founder of Harvard College. This is further evidence that there was no Unitarian-Orthodox tension in this new enterprise. There seems to be a delightful naiveté in the way in which this group, setting out to form an orthodox church, gave it the name of the founder of Harvard. Perhaps it was their theory that Harvard started all right but was later corrupted by the Boston influence.

A lot of land was secured on the North side of Washington

Street, at the junction with Cypress Street. The lot consisting of 20775 square feet was conveyed for the price of three cents a square foot, amounting to \$623.27. Ground must have been broken and construction begun at once for the building was completed in the summer, and the date fixed for its dedication was August 24. The early fall saw the Harvard Church and the Harvard Congregational Society successfully organized, its meeting house completed, furnished and dedicated, and the new church of twenty-seven members formed. This membership came from thirteen different families, and all brought letters from the church in Brighton, and other Boston churches.

Then steps were taken to secure a minister. So far as the record goes, the initial steps, the first and later meetings, the organization of committees, the raising of funds, the building and furnishing of the house of worship, the choice of a name, all these things were accomplished without guidance and direction of any minister attached to the enterprise. It makes one wonder what happens to all that lay initiative as soon as some minister is put in charge. I was present at the three hundredth anniversary of the Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, in 1920. Charles W. Eliot addressed an audience of ministers from all over the state. He recounted the beginnings of the colony, and the formation and carrying on of the church. In his cold and precise tones he said "It was three, or was it four years before they had a settled minister, and those first years were the most fruitful and most harmonious years in the life of the church."

The efforts of the new church to find its first minister were not at first successful. At least two men were honored with a call to this pastorate who declined the invitation. After a year of searching the committee discovered young Richard Salter Stores Jr., just graduated from Andover Theological Seminary. He had an unusual family background. He was the third in succession to bear that name. His grandfather and his father before him were ministers, and together rendered a service of one hundred and forty-five years of eminent and distinguished work in Christian churches. Their ministries covered the period from 1785 to 1895. Young Richard Stores became the first minister of Harvard Church in Brookline. As an indication of the cost of living in 1884, the first minister invited to come to the pastorate was offered a salary of \$600 per annum. He declined. The second minister sought was offered \$800 for the first year, \$900 for the second year, and \$1000 for the third year, if he stayed. He declined. Richard Stores was offered \$1000. He accepted. On October 22, 1845, there was a service for the installation of this first pastor. A Council of Churches was called to carry out the service of installation. Some of the

churches invited were the First Church of Braintree, the Second Church in Dorchester, Dr John Codman, Pastor; Park Street Church, Boston, Old South Church, Boston, Dr George Blagden, Pastor, Union Church, Boston, Rev Nehemiah Adams, Pastor, Mt. Vernon Church, Boston, Rev Edward Edward N Kirk, Pastor, also churches in Jamaica Plain, Brighton, Cambridge and Roxbury. It was a very distinguished group of men, and the occasion gives us even now, as it gave to those present, an impressive evidence of the fellowship of the churches in this region.

This first pastorate was a short one. The third Stores gave early evidence of having inherited the ability and oratorical power of his immediate ancestors. He had been at Harvard church but one year when he attracted the attention of the Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn, N Y. He accepted this call and for more than fifty years served that church. Dr. Stores had become a fast friend of the new church in Brookline, and visited his first pastorate many times through the years.

There were no long pastorates in the first twenty-five years. Nor were there any of particular distinction. Mr Edward Sharp in his paper, read at the seventy-fifth anniversary of Harvard Church, summed up the five men who followed Richard Stores in one short paragraph. Mr Charles B. Dunklee in the paper he wrote for the One Hundredth Anniversary is even briefer. The names of the five were Rev Joseph Haven, Rev Mason Meyer Smith, Rev J Lewis Diman, Rev C.C. Carpenter, Rev C. Maurice Wines. These all must have been faithful servants, for these were years of healthy growth in the young church. If we should examine the years as a woodsman examines the rings of a tree we should find good growth in each year, with no evidence of drought or blight.

The initiative and courage shown by the members in that first year of organizing and building did not fade out with the coming of trained ministers, and there are many names of men and women, both, who would grace any honor roll containing the names of strong Christian characters and church workers. I suppose it is a characteristic of our changing suburban communities that we have almost no continuing families in public life and even in the more intimate life of our churches and social organizations. There is in Harvard Church no descendant of any of the original founders, and no one to whom the names of that early period would have any personal significance, but the people who know and love Harvard Church, to whom it has been a true spiritual home, feel that the idea and spirit of the church was there from the beginning, and has

taken strength and character from all who have made up its life through the continuing years.

In 1859, after fifteen quick years, it became evident that the church building was inadequate to accommodate all the people who wished to work and worship there, and without delay this forward looking church had a committee appointed to study the needs and suggest plans which might meet those needs. Two plans were presented to the church for alterations that would help the situation temporarily, and another plan for selling the property on Washington Street and building a new church in some other locality. One of the plans for making alterations was adopted and the seating capacity was considerably increased. In 1861 the first definite steps were taken, looking to the erection of a new house of worship by the appointment of a committee of five to consider and make definite recommendations. Then came the Civil War, and no definite steps were taken until 1870.

In 1870 Harvard Church was still worshipping in its old church on Washington Street, later known as the Bethany Building. The population of Brookline at that time was 6,600. The church membership was 220, and the Sunday School numbered 200. The treasurer of the Harvard Congregational Society reported for the previous year as follows

Pastor's Salary	\$2500
Music	350
Total expenditures	4307
Total receipts	3913
	<hr/>
Deficit	394

The minister at that time was Rev. C. Maurice Wines. He was in the second year of his pastorate. He presented his resignation on February 24, 1870 to take effect May first following. Here again was a chance for the church to undertake some important work without the encouragement and inspiration of a settled minister. In the same month that Mr. Wines departed, a meeting of the church was called to choose a committee "for the supply of the pulpit and other important business." The important business was the building of a new meeting house. Immediate action was taken, and a subscription paper started that evening. The committee on subscriptions was H. S. Burdett, C. W. Scudder, Edward I. Thomas and Martin Hall. In another month they had raised \$25,000 and voted that it was expedient to sell the old meeting house and property for the purpose of building a new house of worship in another locality.

The new site, corner of Harvard and Marion Streets, containing 40,000 square feet was approved and soon purchased

from Geo. F. Mudge at a price of thirty cents a square foot. One month later plans not to exceed \$60,000 were authorized for submission to the society. We are still watching this church at work without the leadership of a minister. When there was a big piece of work to be done they seem to have waited for an interim between pastorates. Early that fall a building committee was chosen, made up of Martin L. Hall, Charles W. Scudder, Horatio S. Burdett, Silas W. Merrill and Henry Mason. The record reads that this committee was given full powers to proceed with the erection of a house of public worship agreeable to the plans of Edward Tuckerman Potter, architect, provided that the same can be completed for the sum of \$60,000, exclusive of the tower and spire. As the plans for the new building developed, the enthusiasm of the members of the church increased. This showed itself at a meeting in February 1871, at which time it was voted that all restrictions heretofore made as to the cost of the building be rescinded, and said building committee be authorized to proceed with the erection of the meeting house without restrictions or conditions.

The old church property on Washington street was sold in 1873 for \$24,000. This money was not used for the construction of the new church, but set up as The Bethany Fund, still held by the church, the income used for the church school.

Farewell services were held in the old church on April 27, 1873. The New church was dedicated on the evening of May 8, 1873. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Richard Salter Storrs, Jr., D.D. of Brooklyn, New York, the first minister of the church.

An important date in the history of the church is June 8, 1874. On that date a special meeting of the Society was held at which the Prudential Committee reported a total cost of the church building to be \$135,000, of which \$60,000 was debt. That debt was promptly wiped out, by a gift of \$40,000 from Martin L. Hall, chairman of the building committee, who had exercised personal supervision over every detail of the building of the church. To this was added \$3000, a gift from Dr. Lynde C. Ferris, an Episcopalian, who lived at the corner of Alton place and Harvard Street, and other gifts totaling \$17,000 from different members of the parish.

In 1873 Matthew McNeilly was appointed sexton, "in sole charge of everything inside and outside the building." This began a unique succession. He served until his death, for 23 years. His son Frank McNeilly succeeded him, and served until 1949. He in turn has been followed by his son Frank McNeilly, Jr. who might easily make it 100 years, grandfather, son, and grandson, of beautiful service in the care of the church.

Now the church was ready for another minister. The members of the church had not gone through this important period of nearly four years, with its building and raising of money, with the maintaining of services and keeping the organization intact, without any concern over the matter of securing a settled minister. As one chronicler puts it,—“The building of the new church did not consume all the attention of the parish in the early years of the seventies. They extended calls to several ministers, who declined.” Perhaps the idea of beginning a pastorate when a church was in the midst of a great building campaign did not seem too attractive. There is no indication as to how active the search for a leader was, and there is no hint in any records that there was any anxiety over the lengthening period that the church was without a minister. It was truly a pretty competent organization, capable of carrying on its work by itself.

Then as though the time and the place and the man had come together it all happened as though it had been providentially arranged. It was seemingly accidental, as providential arrangements often are. It was in 1874 that a member of the church made a suggestion that an English clergyman, visiting this country for a rest, be invited to occupy the pulpit for a Sunday. He accepted and made so favorable an impression that he was invited to preach a second Sunday. This he did, arousing great enthusiasm.

This was Ruen Thomas, of Wyclif Chapel, London, England. On October 19, 1874, the Church and Society extended a unanimous call to Dr. Thomas, then in England. He accepted this call in December, stipulating that he should remain only five years, and that his salary should be paid in Gold.

As a matter of fact Dr. Thomas remained with Harvard Church 32 years, finishing his life and work here in Brookline. It is difficult to appraise a relationship like that which developed between Harvard Church and Dr. Thomas, in an historical paper. Here was this organization whose members had shown great vision, courage, faith and ability. The church up to this time had not had any impressive record in the matter of leaders it called and obtained. Still it grew, forged ahead in the undertakings necessary to make it a vital religious influence and force in the community. Then as by accident it found the minister who fulfilled its vision of what a Christian minister should be. And the minister, perhaps not too impressed at first, as witness his stipulation of a five year limit when accepting the call, finds here a church that fulfills his vision of what a church should be, one in which he became increasingly happy to give the best years of his life.

Whether Harvard Church had a personality before Dr. Thomas came, I do not know. It had the makings of a truly fine personality, certainly, as an eager, high minded, richly endowed youth may have them, before coming to his real stature in maturity. It has been my conviction that Harvard Church came of age with Dr. Thomas' leadership, became in fact a church of character and quality, with a spiritual influence, apart from things said and done, that has moulded the lives of many people. Dr. Thomas was an eloquent preacher. We are apt to think, in this country that English preachers have greater warmth than our own men possess, without losing their intellectual force. Dr. Thomas had that warmth, making religion more than a matter of rule and reason, making it a living thing of power and beauty.

With its new building and Dr. Thomas, the church grew in numbers and influence. Its activities expanded. The Bethany Sunday School, 1875, was started under the leadership of John Knox Marshall, "one of the most if not the most valiant Christian, Harvard Church ever enrolled." It was not exactly a mission, but it had something of that character. At the beginning a weekly prayer meeting was organized and met in Goddard Hall over Guild's block just below the B. and A. railroad bridge on Washington St., Brookline village. This developed into a Sunday School, having at the start 25 members. Practically all the teachers were members of Harvard Church. In 1885 the school celebrated its tenth anniversary. It had then an enrollment of 219 members. In 1887, the organization having outgrown Goddard Hall, members of Harvard Church bought back the old Harvard Church building, repaired it and turned it over to this flourishing Sunday School organization. Five years later the enrollment was 450. Dr. Thomas took a deep interest in this part of the work of the church.

In 1880 the chime was given to the church, and installed in the tower. It was an anonymous gift of gratitude that Dr. Thomas was staying beyond his five year period. In 1889 the church had outgrown its seating capacity, and the Sunday School needed more room. A chapel was erected, and pews were installed in the south transept, throwing this transept into the main auditorium. This was done at a cost of \$33,331. Again in 1893 there was need for a larger seating capacity. So the north transept was added at a cost of \$23,000. The general picture of the life of the church during these flourishing years, is that of a wide variety of activity adapted to the interest and needs of all the groups in the parish. The Harvard Church Brotherhood was organized. A mothers and teachers Association came into being. The young people had their society, with a special name,—“The Church Porch.” In 1895 the first assistant

minister was called. Dr Oliver D. Sewall was the first to so serve in Harvard Church. He gave 12 years of service. A new organ was installed in 1896. Who can write the history of a normal healthy family? Most family records contain nothing but the list of births, marriages, and deaths. The life that goes on within a normal household expresses itself in simple, unself-conscious conduct and development.

Dr Thomas' 25th, and then his 30th anniversaries were marked by generous expressions of devotion, and affectionate tributes. The end of this happy and inspired relationship between a minister and his church came suddenly in 1907. The faith and courage which Dr Thomas had helped to build up in his people, kept them steadfast and united under the shock of bereavement. Of course such a church would face the future with gratitude and hope.

Another committee to seek a minister was in order and quickly appointed. Out of a long list of available ministers, well recommended, Dr. Ambrose Vernon, then a professor at Yale Theological Seminary, became the choice of the committee, and he was given the call to become the eighth minister of Harvard Church. He accepted the invitation, and was duly installed January 28, 1909.

Dr Vernon's ministry began auspiciously. He had fine gifts and personally attractive qualities. He has always been a great teacher. As was written by one of the members of the church thirty years ago, "his attractive and sensitive face, his cultured and gentlemanly bearing, his faultless english and perfect diction, and above all his evident deep earnestness and spirituality won all who heard him."

The crowning achievement of Dr Vernon's ministry was the building of the parish house. The old pastor's room was entirely inadequate. The chapel was not large enough for the Sunday School and the choir had no room at all. There were very limited facilities for serving even cold suppers and no opportunity at all for the church and its various organizations to sit down together at a banquet. Dr Vernon had the vision. He knew what we needed for a building and notwithstanding indifference or opposition on the part of many who felt the Church could neither finance the building nor the running expenses after it was built, with insistent courage and a will that would not be thwarted, he persisted until the building was erected and was fully paid for at a cost of \$66,000 when it was dedicated on October 24, 1916.

Doctor Vernon completed his ministry in Harvard Church at the close of the First World War, and soon began a new

career at teacher. There followed for him many years of distinguished and original work, notably at Dartmouth College.

In the latter part of 1918, and in 1919 Harvard Church was once again seeking a new minister. At least in the Congregational denomination Harvard Church was regarded as one of the strong and influential churches of the country. It offered an attractive opportunity to any minister who might be chosen. A committee of nine was appointed, with Edward C. Mills as chairman, and authorized to choose and call a minister. The choice fell on the writer of this paper, and was gratefully accepted, in the spring of 1919. The new pastorate began in September, 1919, and continued for nearly thirty years, practically down to the present time.

A good historian needs detachment and perspective. I have neither in respect to Harvard Church, and so shall not attempt a detailed record of events in the last three decades of its history, nor an appraisal of their significance. It has always been a church to delight the heart and fortify the soul of its minister. The years of the twenties were years of large and continual growth. In many of those years one hundred and more new members were added to the church. Like a strongly growing tree there was normal expansion in every direction. There were no dead branches.

On Tuesday the twentieth of October, 1931, beginning in the early evening and lasting far into the night, occurred the outstanding dramatic event of the second decade of Dr. Leavitt's pastorate, and perhaps of the entire history of Harvard Church. In the early evening of that day the church building was completely destroyed by a devastating fire. The fire started about five o'clock, and by six thirty the entire plant had been gutted. Flames continued to burn here and there until late into the night. By morning nothing was left but the outside walls and the spire. While the flames were still burning word was passed around among the Harvard Church people lining the streets watching the fire, the telephone was used and at nine o'clock over one hundred members gathered in the parsonage at 35 Vernon Street to receive assurance that the church still lived, and to make plans for the immediate future. While this group were deliberating, many messages of sympathy and encouragement were telephoned in. Among these messages was one from Rabbi Samuel Abrahams, who after expressing deep sympathy stated that his Board at Temple Ohabei Shalom supported him in extending an invitation to Harvard Church to use their Temple for Sunday services, indefinitely, and without expense. That invitation was accepted in the meeting then going on. For sixteen months the Sunday morning services were held in the

Temple on Beacon Street. The Communion and other special services were held in St. Mark's Methodist Church. The Harvard Church Brotherhood held its monthly meetings in the Brookline Baptist Church, where also Church suppers were carried on. The Parish house of the then Unitarian Church on Sewal Avenue was engaged for the Church School and the activities of the Women's Guild. The whole work of the Church seemed to go on without a break.

Very soon plans were under way for the building of the new church, and by December 1932 the Parish House was ready for occupancy, and on Easter Sunday, 1933 the first service was held in the new auditorium. The whole experience strengthened and united the members of church and parish.

In the fall of 1944, plans were made for a fitting celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of Harvard Church. The exercises were held November 26 through December 3. This latter date was given over to a recognition of twenty-five years of continued ministry by Doctor Leavitt. For the Centenary service of the Church many memorials were given to the Church, and the whole celebration with its recognition of a fine spiritual heritage seemed to express a faith and a dedication for a second century of worship and service, worthy of the first.

The Spring meeting was held on May 28 in the Hancock Room of the John Hancock Building, 200 Berkeley St., Boston on invitation of President Paul F. Clark of the John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company

Mr. Clark read this paper entitled

HISTORY OF HANCOCK VILLAGE

by PRESIDENT PAUL F. CLARK

May, 1951

It is a very great pleasure to welcome you here and to have as the occasion for this meeting an opportunity to tell you something of the history of Hancock Village which for many months claimed a great share of my attention and my deepest interest. The truth of the matter, of course, is that only the first chapter of that history has been written. In years to come a story may be told to the children and grandchildren of the families who may come to spend portions of their lives in the Village, of the events that will have happened there, of aims achieved, of prosperity and disappointment, and of joys and griefs. That story, as it unfolds, will be the history of Hancock Village.

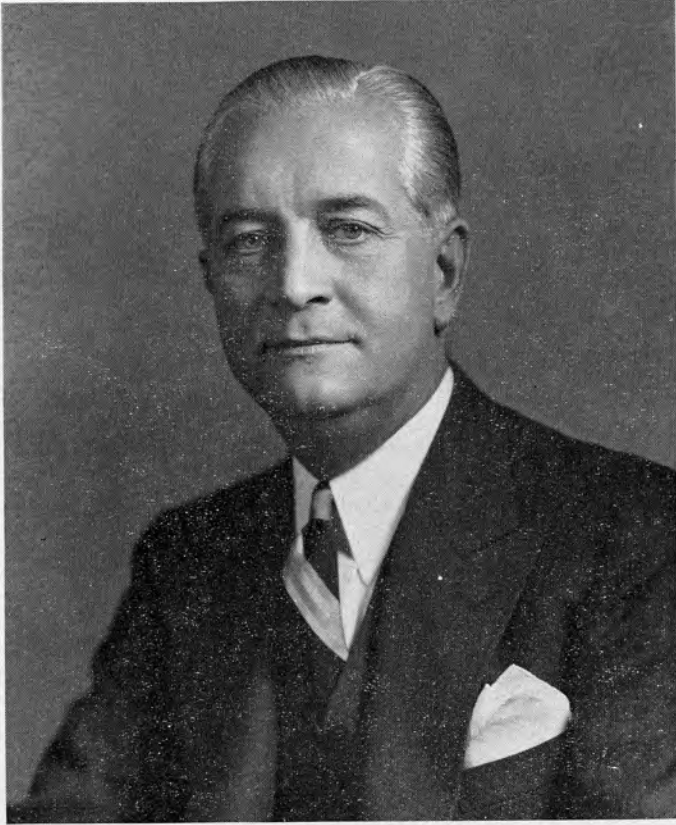
It is not the usual thing for the operations of a great corporation to be so closely and personally blended into the lives of the people it serves. Whatever the resources of our Company invested in private enterprise may contribute to the opportunities and prosperity of American life (and our contributions are manifold), they are generally less directly perceptible, and it is particularly gratifying to us who have been closely associated with this enterprise to have seen its far reaching effects at such close hand and to be able to appraise in some measure its social and economic implications.

The early history of Hancock Village stems from an elementary human need. I need not tell you of the numerous contributing factors by which the nation was caused to be critically short of housing at the end of the Second World War. I am sure all of you recall the desperate plight of our young families at that time.

Not only, however, was there a shortage of shelter, but farsighted planners had anticipated that with the discharge of thousands of men from military service to civilian pursuits and the termination of war production, there might well arise a vast and critical condition of unemployment. The Town of Brookline

had in 1943 appointed a Long Range Planning Committee to study that situation and to propose projects which would help to absorb the expected unemployment and cushion the transition to peace-time activity. I was privileged to serve on that Committee, and the well-known architect, William T. Aldrich, was our chairman.

With many schemes as possibilities, our thoughts turned inevitably in the direction of the provision of homes, both to



PAUL F. CLARK

create employment and to provide needed shelter. There were clearly two ways in which housing could be undertaken. A program of slum clearance was one approach, but it was found that the costs of acquisition of slum areas would be practically insurmountable without government subsidies, and would be in fact self-defeating to the extent that we would be obliged to

destroy some of the supply of existing dwellings, however bad, before we could replace it with new. The better way was for private enterprise to act courageously and undertake to meet the need with new housing. Our Committee published a report in January 1945, containing the recommendation that the Selectmen take such action as they could to induce insurance companies to build housing in Brookline, and our Planning Board urged that John Hancock consider a first development there.

The way had already been explored by one of the great New York insurance companies which had, with favorable legislation, been active in housing for many years. Our Company accepted the challenge, and we began a study of the steps that would have to be taken before we could make an investment in this field.

Investments of insurance companies are strictly regulated, and at that time, the laws of Massachusetts did not permit us to buy land and build buildings except for home office use. The first step was the introduction of new legislation to widen our powers. As a result of discussions in the Long Range Planning Committee and with the co-operation of the Brookline Selectmen, a bill was presented to the Massachusetts legislature, which promptly passed an enabling act that was signed by Governor Tobin in June 1945.

The site of the Weld Golf Course, most of which lies in Brookline, had been proposed to the Long Range Planning Committee by our town engineer, Mr. Walter Devine, and was a location of immediate interest because of its size, central situation with reference to highways and transportation and availability. It was believed to be unique in the Greater Boston area. This property was held by the Engstrom interests with whom we opened negotiations.

Preliminary sketches for the planning of the site were made. It was clear that our development of the land would be inconsistent with existing zoning regulations, which restricted its use to single family houses. The attitude of the town on the question of amending the zoning by-law became a matter of next concern.

Certain persons and groups in Brookline, and particularly those residing near the golf course, were vitally interested in the proposals that we were to make. The common impression of a "housing project" was, perhaps, derived from the fact that in this Greater Boston area stood certain severe, multifamily buildings, erected under Federal housing programs and characterized by conspicuous laundry and service arrangements. Hancock never contemplated such an enterprise, but was early

interested in low, openly planned types known as "garden villages," of which examples were to be found only by visiting Washington, Pittsburgh or more distant places. Officials and residents of the town were very properly determined to safeguard the community character. It was important that John Hancock make clear to these people how our development would be designed and operated by us and its probable effect on the neighborhood and on the value of adjacent real estate.

The Putterham Committee gave us opportunities to explain our program in December of 1945 and January 1946. Sketches of our tentative site plan and building scheme were presented



AERIAL VIEW HANCOCK VILLAGE

for the first time to them. It was agreed that we would preserve a "buffer strip" in single family zone along the side of the land toward Russett and Beverly Roads.

It was believed probable that the golf course land would be developed by others, if we did not buy it, as a conforming but relatively undesirable community of monotonous prefabricated single houses, or on a purely speculative and sporadic basis. It was generally admitted that a well-organized and high-grade garden development in strong financial hands and under permanent single management would be a more desirable operation, and would produce more tax revenue for the town.

Our consultants' studies indicated that post-war building costs were well above those at which most garden developments

had been built, and that we must adopt methods which would give us the most building for the lowest price if we were to keep rentals at reasonable levels. We later sought out as advisers, firms which were experienced in the design and operation of large-scale garden villages.

In November 1945, on a trip to Washington, I visited some of the outstanding projects, and there met Colonel Gustav Ring, the builder and operator of several developments, whose organization became our project managers.

A Board of Design was established in our Company to concentrate on housing problems, and we set our schedule to prepare studies of a really workable scheme for submission to the Planning Board and the Town Meeting. We were gratified that the Town appreciated our objective and amended the zoning by-law at the March meeting in 1946. During the spring and summer of 1946 our consultants concentrated on the completion of the working drawings for the Village, and we were able to hold a ground-breaking ceremony on the afternoon of September 3rd. It is strange now to identify the grassy knoll where our tent stood on that warm September afternoon as the lawns and landscaping of the courts south of Thornton Road. The occasion was a memorable one, attended by officers and directors and their guests. Mr John Dobbs, then Regional Housing Expediter of the National Housing Agency, and James Love, a Silver Star Veteran of World War II, helped me turn the first turf.

Within a few days ponderous earth-moving machinery rolled in, and the undulating fairways became anthills of activity. Brush was cut, surveying parties laid out roadways and building sites, the broad outlines of the plan commenced to appear. Materials flowed in and eventually brick walls began to arise.

Many difficulties had to be faced at different times during the work. Weather, as always, was a hazard for outdoor operations. One of the heaviest winters that has been known in many years in this area blanketed the operations with heavy snow throughout the late winter of 1947-48.

In the early stages, particularly, materials were available only after exhaustive search, and the quantities we required were hard to come by. Some features of the design were determined by this condition. It was found that buildings with concrete subfloors, a durable and fire-resistive construction, could be built at about the same cost as with wood framing. We are fortunate in having better buildings on that account and were able to incorporate the advanced feature of radiant heat by pipe coils in the concrete. Our interior doors were bought only after a trip to the West Coast to find a satisfactory prod-

uct. Brick could not all be furnished by the same manufacturer and it was difficult to get a good match.

Labor was in such high demand that one of our greatest difficulties was to locate and keep on the job a sufficient force of brick masons. It was essential that this trade proceed at a predetermined pace in order that the walls might be built to receive the second floors and roofs and to permit the heating, plumbing and electrical contractors to work. Strikes, fortunately of only a few weeks' duration, twice interrupted the work.

Arrangements had to be negotiated, of course, with both Brookline and Boston in which our property lay, to determine the position of roads and underground services. Existing sewer and water lines traversed our site; and in the Brookline section, mains had to be relocated. Since part of the Village is below the grade of the gravity sewer, we found it necessary to provide a pumping plant for the lower Gerry Road section. In order to hold building costs at the lowest possible level, a number of provisions of the Boston and Brookline building codes, which had never visualized a community of this sort, were modified through their respective boards of appeal, and their cooperation saved us substantial sums without detracting from the safety and stability of the buildings.

Gas and electric services had to be enlarged to bring to the Village the capacity required.

Availability of materials, costs, and local preference were all factors that our designers took into account in determining the form of Hancock Village. Foremost, of course, was the interpretation of human wants and the development of the amenities that this type of community can provide so much better than a typical apartment house. The combination of these factors dictated certain of the features which give Hancock Village its special charm.

The site constituted at the same time one of our difficult problems and one of our greater assets. It was a problem because it was irregular and underlain in part with pudding stone and granite, which made the layout of streets at comfortable grades difficult to achieve and the construction of underground utilities very expensive, or the sub-surface material was peat, in pockets, some of which reached 40' in depth. While peaty land forms good golf fairways, it is unsuitable for building foundations, and we found it necessary to leave nearly half of our total acreage as wood and park land, so far as we know now, it will always be maintained in this form.

On the other hand, the rolling topography and the outcropping of bold rock forms necessitated the planning of housing to take advantage of the changes in level and provided opportunities for exploitation of natural charm. From the outset, special care was taken to preserve the fine trees that stood upon much of the property, and these lend an atmosphere of established and permanent occupancy

The architectural treatment was consistent with local preference. Low land coverage, allotting only ten families to the acre, leaves generous exposure to sunshine and the four winds. A modified interpretation of colonial motives and simple proportions produce on this irregular site, pleasant effects in mass and color

The site plan made use of super-blocks which do away with minor streets and much traffic hazard. Shoulder parking provides a convenient place to leave automobiles at their usual location at the roadside, and eliminates the need of special parking courts among the houses, which would have been unsightly, congested, and impossible to clear of snow. A continuous "U" arrangement of houses avoids dead-end streets and the intrusion of traffic. By planning for deliveries to the street doors, service drives and back yards were made unnecessary. The provision of laundry rooms for washing and drying, together with avoidance of backdoor service, made all our interior courts available for park purposes, with privacy

All the living rooms and bedrooms of our houses open toward these park areas, where each tenant has his own terrace. A visit is sufficient evidence that we have not misjudged the appeal of these interior spaces, shut away from the noise of the street and passing traffic, to the inhabitants of our community. From the moment when the grass begins to turn green in the spring until late fall, the pattern is one of sport costumes, sun tan, brightly painted furniture, and relaxation by all members of the families, with many spots of gay color where amateur gardeners take pride in their flowers. I believe this is an unusual feature in large scale housing developments and unique in this area.

A problem less weighty, but no less troublesome, was the naming of the Village and its streets. Such was our interest in the project that these questions were actively debated. The name "Hancock Village" was chosen only after a dozen others had been proposed and discarded. It was natural to seek out some historical analogy for the names of the streets, but we were confounded to find that either Boston or Brookline had already named streets for so many famous men. We were happy,

at last, to find "Independence Drive" not in use and available for our main through way and to be able to identify our private streets with Elbridge Gerry, Roger Sherman, and Mathew Thornton, signers of the Declaration of Independence from New England.

Construction of the Village continued in sections through two summers and two winters. The first portion to be completed was what we called the "heart shaped area", the land between Independence Drive and Thornton Road. That unit containing 91 houses was opened in the autumn of 1947. On October 15, 1947, our first tenants moved into their new home. The last house of the last section was occupied in March, 1949.

The Shopping Centre was in the meantime receiving our attention as a necessary feature of a community of over 2000 persons. The only suitable area was on the edge of one of our great peat pockets where the distance to a good foundation was in some places thirty feet or more below the surface. That building, of a strictly functional and modernistic design, rests on concrete piles. We started construction there in February 1948 and tenants began to move in in the following autumn, though the building was not completed until the summer of 1949. It accommodates our management office, maintenance shops, a private medical clinic, 16 stores and a motion picture theatre of 1002 seats.

Various accessory buildings were needed and built as the project advanced, such as rental garages, laundry buildings, and storage units, and we have more recently provided tennis courts, wading pools and other recreational features.

Hancock Village, from the construction standpoint, is finished, but we will undoubtedly have occasion to improve and modify some features as it matures. Other agencies have during this period supplied much of the housing shortage, and with building and operating costs soaring, it is not likely that new garden villages can be built for investment while so many disturbing conditions prevail.

The early history of Hancock Village is now recorded in our memories and our archives. But, "the moving finger writes and having writ moves on;" henceforward Hancock Village history is being written from day to day in the lives of its people. We dedicate our future efforts toward the comfort and happiness of all its residents.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

The fall meeting of the Society was held in the meeting room of the Public Library on Sunday, December 2, 1951 at 2:45 P.M. and was largely attended. The hall had been decorated by a committee, headed by Miss Mary Lee and Miss Elizabeth Butcher, with a remarkable collection of old Brookline photographs and pictures which created much interest after the meeting.

Mrs. Arnold of Newton gave a brief account of the Jackson House in Newton which is being used as an historic centre where visitors will be welcomed.

Miss Alice Priest, a descendant of the Devotion family, presented to the Society an old Devotion towel.

Mr Bertram K. Little gave a very interesting history of the Society

The clerk, Gorham Dana, showed about fifty lantern slides from the Baker collection showing pictures in Brookline of the period when the Society was formed. He stated that the first Annual Proceedings of the Society showed a membership of 150, of which only four were now with the Society, namely

CHARLES B. DUNCKLEE 18 Vernon Street
 MISS MARY B. EUSTIS 1064 Beacon Street
 JOHN F FLEMING 30 Williston Road
 HENRY WARE 82 High Street

Mr Ware was the only one who was able to be present and who holds the distinction of being the only one now living in the same house as he did fifty years ago.

At the close of the meeting the President cut a large birthday cake on which was an illustration of the Edward Devotion house. Pieces of the cake were later sent to the four surviving members of the original group.

FIFTY YEARS OF THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by *Bertram K. Little*

On the twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and one, the Secretary of this Commonwealth of ours set his official signature and the seal of the Commonwealth to the Charter of the Brookline Historical Society, thereby making fifteen forward-looking citizens—twelve men and three women—their associates *and successors*, an existing corporation under the name of the Brookline Historical Society for certain clearly set forth purposes. In celebrating today the fiftieth anniversary of this establishment, it is interesting first to look back and consider how much those purposes have been realized.

As set forth in the Charter, the purposes of this Society are “the study of the history of the town of Brookline, Massachusetts, its societies, organizations, families, individuals, and events, the collection and preservation of its antiquities; the establishment and maintenance of an historical library, and the publication from time to time of such information relating to the same as shall be deemed expedient.”

The first of these—“the study of the history of the Town”—has, quite naturally, been carried on largely through the preparation of brief historical studies by various members. Judging mainly from the list of papers read at meetings, compiled by our present devoted Clerk and published in the Proceedings of the Society for 1948, some seventy of them concerned general aspects of the Town, while thirty-five were divided between the five suggested sub-divisions as follows: ten concerned the Town’s varied organizations; eleven traced one or more of its outstanding families, twelve gave word pictures of famous individuals—that is if we count “Brookline’s First Locomotive” as an individual, as we no doubt should—and two described special events. It is significant, however, that a large proportion of the papers grouped here under “general” were actually concerned with specific early houses and the persons and events centering in them and the part they played in the Town’s history and progress.

As the seal of our Society attests, the Edward Devotion House, now numbered 347 Harvard Street, was one of the first concerns of the new corporation in carrying out the second of its stated purposes—the collection and preservation of Brookline’s antiquities. The seal, in case you do not remember, carries a view of the Devotion House in its center, which was drawn by a citizen of the Town from a photograph and engraved by

another citizen, and the design as a whole was adopted in the first months of the Society's existence. For many years the Society has cared for the interior of this fine little house through its Committee on Rooms, aided by most cooperative custodians, while the Town has seen to the main structural elements and exterior painting and details since the beginning of the arrangement with the Society, and in recent years has helped tremendously with restoring and refurbishing of the interior as well.

The Society's collections in the house are headed by three exceedingly interesting 18th-century portraits — the pair of the Reverend Ebenezer Devotion and his wife Martha Lathrop, and the double portrait of Nathaniel Seaver and his wife Susanna White. The artist of the latter is still to be determined but the Devotions were painted by Winthrop Chandler, who produced before, during and after the Revolution, such a number of portraits of the leading citizens in outlying New England towns and communities, most of whom, by the way, were relatives of his, that someone has called him "the Copley of the country cousins." The Reverend Ebenezer appears sitting staunchly in his Scotland, Connecticut library. The books on the shelves behind him are so clearly limned that one can read many of the titles. A selection of those very books from his library are today a part of the Society's exhibits in the Devotion House, together with the Devotion family red lacquer-cased tall clock, highboy, and various Devotion heirlooms.

A number of other well-known Brookline families are represented through pieces of furniture and furnishings and various smaller antiquities and memorabilia which are to be seen by visitors to the Society's headquarters. While there is a natural limit to what can be collected and preserved in such a comparatively small house, the Society has through its members continuously urged and encouraged the preservation of antiquities throughout the Town, and the special exhibition here today is one evidence of this fact. Where antiquities could not be collected and preserved, the Society has at least helped in the erection of tablets to preserve the memory and mark the site of them, and within the past two years has sponsored one showing the site of the famed Punch Bowl Tavern and another memorializing the site of the First Meetinghouse in Brookline.

Without the continuous cooperation of succeeding Librarians and their staffs, the third stated purpose of our Society — the establishment and maintenance of an historical library — would scarcely have been possible. As it is, here in the Public Library of Brookline the serious student may refer to the Society's collection of manuscripts, documents, publications,

books, pictures and other historical material, all of which have been carefully and expertly catalogued and prepared for use. Here also is preserved the famous collection of lantern-slide views of early Brookline formed by the late Edward W Baker, who was the first Clerk and Treasurer of the Society and the leading spirit of it for many years.

Which brings us naturally to the fourth, or, if you will, the last element in the one increasing purpose of the Brookline Historical Society—the publication from time to time of such information relating to Brookline as shall be deemed expedient, because the first of the three books sponsored by our Society—*History of the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts*, by John Gould Curtis—was produced as a Memorial to Edward W Baker. Five years later, in 1938, the Society combined with the Committee for Planting Trees in publishing "*Brookline's Trees*," by Emma G Cummings. The latest of our Society's independent ventures in publishing is the study of "*Some Old Brookline Houses Built in this Massachusetts Town Before 1825 and Still Standing in 1948*," by Nina Fletcher Little.

In addition to these three books, the Society has published a series of thirty-three Proceedings, which appeared annually between 1902 and 1931, and were resumed in 1948, six separate Publications, and a large Historical Map. The Proceedings make more widely available a number of the papers read at meetings and include also the President's Annual Address, which is often full of historical notes not recorded, or at least not gathered together, otherwise. Incidentally, it should be remarked that many of the papers read at meetings which do not appear in the Proceedings may be seen in manuscript form here in the Library.

The six Publications set forth the longer historical studies prepared by members, and among them are two which are definitely recognized as outstanding contributions in the field of local history. The earlier of these—"*Burials and Inscriptions in the Walnut Street Cemetery of Brookline, Massachusetts, with Historical Sketches of Some of the Persons Buried There, Compiled by Harriet Alma Cummings*"—first appeared in the Proceedings for 1916, 17, 18 and 19, and then the four parts were brought together to form Publication No. 4.

Publication No. 5, issued in 1923, exhibits its importance on its title page alone—

Land Ownership in Brookline From the First Settlement

Illustrated by Six Maps,
1636, 1667, 1693, 1746, 1786, and 1822
By THEODORE F JONES, PH.D.

Continued by Four Maps 1844, 1855, 1888, 1916,
 By Brookline Surveyors
With Genealogical Additions
 By CHARLES F WHITE

Few local historical societies can boast of such a model publication as this "*Land Maps*," and its value will never decrease. It could almost be said that if this Society founded a half century ago had nothing else to show at this anniversary, this Publication No. 5 would amply justify our existence, because beyond its local significance, its emphasis on research among real source materials—deeds, inventories, wills, journals, accounts, diaries, letters and contemporary newspapers—is both an object lesson to the beginner and a constant reminder to the more advanced student of local history, of the basic stuff they should seek and deal with.

But this Golden Anniversary is not only a time to look back and congratulate ourselves on our accomplishments, although this is the traditional role of a speaker on such an occasion. No, it is also the time to look around us. Most of us are all too conscious that the twelve months we pass at fifty might well be termed, in modern parlance anyway, the psychosomatic year. We continuously feel more tired than we ever have before, or will probably in the future, we are continuously more conscious of pains and strange symptoms, and we even at times develop a certain pessimism about survival! Well, as far as our Historical Society goes, there may be some in the body politic of it that experience somewhat these same psychosomatic uneasinesses. That's why it is good today to reassure ourselves by realizing that the Society is still in vigorous existence—it has a full complement of officers, trustees, working committees, and our founding fathers provided in the By-Laws for such a condition to continue, and we could easily remark that their provisions have needed very little alteration to adapt to changing times, so well and simply did they draw them. The number of members has been a concern from the beginning, and is in this fiftieth year. But we are no less than we have been, and it would seem, although some may not agree—indeed in the historical and antiquarian field there is always disagreement—it would seem better to have members really and actively interested though fewer in numbers than a large membership of those who for the most part support the Society only because it is a worthwhile community activity. Incidentally, this observation must not be construed so as to discourage such support!

So, today, we look around and feel satisfied that our Society will survive this being fifty years old. We pay deserved and

sincere tribute to all its officers past and present whose names are recorded both in our Minutes and our hearts, and to all members who have prepared papers and publications and served on committees to carry on its aims and purposes. We feel especially grateful to those members who have been hosts to the Society in their homes. Surely this recent development of Garden Party Meetings in the Spring of the year recent, that is, in the historical sense) is one to cherish because it patently strengthens the appeal and activity of the Society, and we should take new confidence at this time that members will continue to offer this privilege to their fellow members.

And while we are looking around, we can feel particular satisfaction that the annual membership dues in the Society are *no higher* than provided for in the original By-Laws fifty years ago. That's making history for you!

But this occasion would not be complete unless besides looking around, we did not also look forward. We can look forward to more papers being prepared and read at meetings for two good reasons—first, because this brief survey has shown areas in the history of the Town that have not been fully treated. Take for example, the fact that there do not seem to have been papers dealing with the societies in the Town—its social, fraternal, hobby and special interest groups—surely there would be material in their formation and development. And the second reason for confidence that the supply of subjects for meetings will not dry up, is because the history of Brookline is a living, developing, continuing thing. There are already recent developments and changes to be recorded—similar to the story of Hancock Village about which a meeting within the year centered. There are always worthwhile Reminiscences to be gathered, fresh finds of original material to be edited, and subjects already treated to be brought up to date or expanded through additional material not available to the first writers on them. If the press and speed of present day affairs militate against members having time to develop full papers, it has already been proved that most interesting meetings can be made up with several persons presenting short sketches on either related or differing subjects, and that for those members who do not wish to read their own studies there can always be found some officer or member who will do so for them.

We should look forward to more careful documentation, as it were, of our Town's changes and developments in every area—architecture, topography, government, business, life, manners and customs—and we can feel encouraged by the spread and growth of interest in the arts, crafts, photography and social sciences that will make this possible, and by the fact that the

Society has continually encouraged its members to study, writing and publishing in the historical field.

One final thought — this meeting was provided for fifty years ago — remember, the corporation that is our Society was composed of fifteen charter members, their associates *and successors* — successors — that's you, and you, and all the present members *and* all the members who are yet to be elected. In other words, this Society has been, is now, and will continue to be carried on by human beings — individuals who are not only interested in local history but who are also convinced that a lively and progressive historical society can contribute much of intangible but definite value to the life of the community and are willing to work together to make it so. Surely, in such a town as Brookline, there will always be such citizens and we can rest assured that the next fifty years of the Historical Society will prove to be as purposeful and successful as those we have just reviewed.

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY - LAWS

AS AMENDED 1949

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this corporation shall be Brookline Historical Society

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS

The objects of this Society shall be the study of the history of town of Brookline, Massachusetts, its societies, organizations, families, individuals, events, the collection and preservation of its antiquities, the establishment and maintenance of an historical library, and the publication from time to time of such information relating to the same as shall be deemed expedient.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Any person of moral character who shall be nominated and approved by the Board of Trustees may be elected to membership by ballot of two-thirds of the members present and voting thereon at any regular meeting of the Society. Each person so elected shall pay an annual assessment of two dollars, and any member who shall fail for two consecutive years to pay the annual assessment shall cease to be a member of this Society, *provided*, however, that any member who shall pay twenty-five dollars in any one year may thereby become a Life member, and any member who shall pay fifty dollars in any one year may thereby become a Benefactor of the Society, and thereafter shall be free from all dues and assessments. The money received from Life members and Benefactors shall constitute a fund, of which not more than twenty per cent, together with the annual income therefrom, shall be spent in any one year.

The Society may elect Honorary and Corresponding members in the manner in which annual members are elected, but they shall have no voice in the management of the Society, and shall not be subject to fee or assessment.

ARTICLE IV

CERTIFICATES

Certificates signed by the President and the Clerk may be issued to all persons who become Life members, and to Benefactors.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

The officers of this Society shall be seven Trustees, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary (who shall be Clerk of the Society, and may also be elected to fill the office of Treasurer), and a Treasurer, who, together, shall constitute the Board of Trustees. The Trustees, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall hold office for one year, and until others are chosen and qualified in their stead. The President and Vice-President shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees from their number at their first meeting after their election, or at an adjournment thereof. The officers of the Society shall also include a President Emeritus when the Society shall so vote.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

The annual meeting of this Society shall be held on the third Sunday of January unless postponed by vote of the Trustees.

Special meetings may be called by order of the Board of Trustees. The Clerk shall notify each member by a written or printed notice sent through the mail postpaid at least three days before the time of meeting, or by publishing such notice in one or more newspapers published in Brookline.

At all meetings of the Society ten (10) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

The meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called by the Clerk at the request of the President, by giving each member personal or written notice, or by sending such notice by mail, postpaid at least twenty-four hours before the time of such meeting, but meetings arranged when all the Trustees are present may be held without such notice. The President shall call meetings of the Board of Trustees at the request of any three members thereof. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII

VACANCIES

Vacancies in the offices of Trustees, Clerk, or Treasurer may be filled for the remainder of the term at any regular meeting of the Society by the vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting. In the absence of the Clerk at a meeting of the Society, a Clerk *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

ARTICLE VIII

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee of three members shall be appointed by the presiding officer, who shall report at the annual meeting a list of candidates for the places to be filled.

ARTICLE IX

PRESIDING OFFICER

The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Society. In the absence of those officers a President *pro tempore* shall be chosen.

ARTICLE X

DUTIES OF THE CLERK

The Clerk shall be sworn to the faithful discharge of his duties.

He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society and shall keep record of all proceedings of the Society at its meetings.

He shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society and place on file letters received.

He shall enter the names of members in order in books or cards kept for that purpose, and issue certificates to Life members and to Benefactors.

He shall have charge of such property in possession of the Society as may from time to time be delegated to him by the Board of Trustees.

He shall acknowledge all loans or gifts made to the Society.

ARTICLE XI

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due the Society, and pay all bills against the Society when approved by the Board

of Trustees. He shall keep a full account of receipts and expenditures in a book belonging to the Society, which shall always be open to the inspection of the Trustees, and at the annual meeting he shall make a written report of all his doings for the year preceding. The Treasurer shall give bonds in such sum, with surety, as the Trustees may fix, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

ARTICLE XII

DUTIES AND POWERS OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees shall superintend the prudential and executive business of the Society, authorize all expenditures of money, fix all salaries, provide a common seal, receive and act upon all resignations and forfeitures of membership, and see that the by-laws are duly complied with. The Board of Trustees shall have full powers to hire, lease, or arrange for a suitable home for the Society, and to make all necessary rules and regulations required in the premises.

They may from time to time appoint such sub-committees from their own number as they deem expedient.

In case of a vacancy in the office of Clerk or Treasurer they shall have power to choose the same *pro tempore* till the next meeting of the Society

ARTICLE XIII

STANDING COMMITTEES

The President shall annually appoint four standing committees, as follows:—

Committee on Rooms

A committee of three members, to be styled the "Committee on Rooms," to which shall be added the President and Clerk of the Society *ex-officio*, who shall have charge of all arrangements of the rooms (except books, manuscripts, and other objects appropriate to the library offered as gifts or loans, the hanging of pictures, and the general arrangements of the Society's collection in their department.

Committee on Papers

A committee of three members, to be styled the "Committee on Papers," who shall have charge of the subjects of papers to be read, or other exercises of a profitable nature, at the monthly meetings of the Society

Committee on Membership

A committee of three or more members, to be styled the "Committee on Membership," whose duty it shall be to give information in regard to the purposes of the Society, and increase its membership.

Committee on Library

A committee of three or more members, to be styled the "Committee on Library," who shall have charge of the arrangement of the Library, including acceptance and rejection of books, manuscripts, and other objects tendered to the library, and the general arrangement of the Society's collections in that department.

These four committees shall perform their duties as above set forth under the general direction and supervision of the Board of Trustees.

Vacancies that occur in any of these committees during their term of service shall be filled by the President.

ARTICLE XIV

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The President shall annually, appoint two members, who, with the President, shall constitute the Committee on Finance, to examine from time to time the books and accounts of the Treasurer, to audit his accounts at the close of the year, and to report upon the expediency of proposed expenditures of money

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, notice of the subject-matter of the proposed alterations or amendments having been given at a previous meeting.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

MARCH — 1951

- 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
 Mrs. Marion J Baker
 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
 Rev Carl Bihldorf
 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
 Mr. Sturtevant 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 Ogilvie Comstock
 Mr. John T. Connor
 Mr and Mrs. John Page Cotton
 Mr and Mrs. Phillip E. Coyle
 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 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 Thomas Duncan
 *Mr Charles B. Duncklee

 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
 Mrs. Benjamin Foss
 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
 Mrs. H. M. Goodwin
 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
 Mr. Francis W Hamilton
 Mr and Mrs. Lawrence Hanson
 Mr Russell Hastings
 Mrs. Parker Hayden
 Mrs. D. Bigelow Heath
 Mrs. Alice P Hedge
 Mr James H. Henderson
 Hon. 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. Marcién Jenckes
Mrs. Herbert S. Johnson
Mr. Franklin King
Dean Arthur B. Lamb
Rev. Frederick C. Lawrence
Mr. Frederick A. Leavitt
Miss Mary Lee
Mrs. Geoffrey W. Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. Bertram K. Little
Mr. Leon M. Little
Mrs. Percival H. Lombard
Mr. Lindsley Loring
Mrs. Guy Lowell
Mr. James A. Lowell
Mr. Lea S. Luquer
Mr. Reuben Lurie
Mr. Theodore Lyman
Mr. Scott McNeilly
Mr. James P. Mackey
Mrs. Gordon B. March
Mr. Charles N. Mason, Jr.
Mrs. W. M. Parker Mitchell
Mrs. Samuel Mixer
Mr. Gay E. Morgan
Miss Lucy A. Morse
Mrs. Edward F. MULLOWNEY
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
Miss Maud Oxenham
Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Packard
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
Mrs. Roger Preston
*Miss Alice L. Priest
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. Rueter
Miss Alice Seaver
Mr. and Mrs. Morris Shraff
Dr. George C. Shattuck
Miss Emily B. Shepard
Mrs. George F. Shepley, Sr.
Miss Julia H. Shepley
Mr. Arthur J. Shinnars
Mrs. Anna P. Smith
Mr. William B. Snow, Jr.
Dr. David F. Spinney
Mrs. William R. C. Stephenson
Mr. Joseph Stern
Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Storey
Mrs. Richard H. Sweet
Mrs. William H. Sweet
*Dr. Fritz B. Talbot
Mr. George O. Tapley
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Taylor
Miss Margaret Taylor
Dr. James R. Torbet
Miss Annie R. Townsend
Mr. Roger B. Tyler
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tyler, Jr.
Mrs. Robert G. Vickery
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Vose
Mr. S. Morton Vose
Mrs. Richard G. Wadsworth
Mrs. Frederick C. Waite
Mrs. Charles W. Ward
Miss Mary E. Ward
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ware
Mr. William M. Warren
Mrs. Gardner Washburn
Mrs. Frank S. Waterman
Mr. Daniel R. Weedon
Mrs. Winthrop Wetherbee
Mr. Stephen Wheatland
Mrs. Franklin W. White
Mr. Donald H. Whittemore
Mr. Arthur M. Wiggin
Miss Josephine H. Wilder
Miss Hilda W. Williams
Mr. Harold Williams
Hon. Harold P. Williams
Mrs. Sidney H. Wirt
Mrs. Henry Wolcott
Mrs. Alberta Wylula
Judge Francis S. Wyner
Mr. William H. Young

‡ Benefactors

* Life Members