

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BROOKLINE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1959 - 1963



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BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY

1963

CONTENTS

	<i>1959</i>	PAGE
OFFICERS		5
SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1959		5
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT		7
REPORT OF THE TREASURER		8
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS		9
"PLANNING BROOKLINE'S FUTURE" BY JUSTIN GRAY WITH REMARKS BY RUSSELL HASTINGS		9
"SOME ASPECTS OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE OLMSTEDS" BY JOSEPH HUDAK		14
"EXPERIENCES AS A HOSTESS" BY ELIZABETH ST. JOHN BRUCE		21

	<i>1960</i>	
OFFICERS		22
SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1960		22
REPORT OF THE TREASURER		24
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS		25
"WHEN I WENT TO SCHOOL" BY FLORENCE PALMER PEABODY		26
"GREEN HILL" BY G. PEABODY GARDNER		37

	<i>1961</i>	
OFFICERS		38
REPORT OF THE TREASURER		39
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS		40
"HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF BROOKLINE FIRE PROTECTION" BY CAPTAIN PHILIP A. RENTA		41
"ROUGHWOOD" BY EDWARD DANE		53

	PAGE
<i>1962</i>	
OFFICERS	57
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT	57
REPORT OF THE TREASURER	58
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS	59
“A HISTORY OF BROOKLINE’S POLICE DEPARTMENT” BY CHIEF WILLIAM A. CHARLTON	59
“A HISTORY OF THE JOHN D. RUNKLE SCHOOL” BY VIOLA R. PINANSKI	66
“A HISTORY OF THE LONGYEAR FAMILY AND THE LONGYEAR FOUNDATION” BY JAMES A. LOWELL	73

<i>1963</i>	
OFFICERS	80
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT	80
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS	81
“HOW OUR SOCIETY COOPERATES WITH THE TOWN” BY NINA F. LITTLE	82
BYLAWS	84
“BROOKLINERS AND THEIR AUTOMOBILES (CIRCA 1905)” BY OWEN M. CARLE	90
LIST OF MEMBERS 1963	92

OFFICERS

1962

PRESIDENT

JAMES A. LOWELL

VICE-PRESIDENT

S. MORTON VOSE

TREASURER

J. FREDERICK NELSON

CLERK

OWEN M. CARLE

TRUSTEES

Jason A. Aisner, Miss Elizabeth Butcher,
James M. Driscoll, Arthur A. O'Shea, Miss Maud Oxenham,
Donald K. Packard, Mrs. Gardner Washburn
and the officers ex-officio

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

SIXTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 21, 1962

The Annual Meeting of the Society took place on Sunday, January 21, at 3:P.M. at the Devotion House. After President Lowell had called the meeting to order, it was voted to waive the reading of the minutes of last year's meeting. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read. Reports were then given by the Chairmen of the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Rooms.

It was announced that a committee had been formed to consult with the Selectmen about a plaque to be placed at the birthplace of President Kennedy. The members are George V. Brown, Chairman, Eugene P. Carver Jr., Thomas Noonan, Van Ness H. Bates and James A. Lowell.

The President then introduced our speaker, Chief of Police Charlton. After his talk, the usual delicious tea, sandwiches and cake were served.

BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities on hand January 1, 1962

Brookline Savings Bank	\$9,966.77	
U. S. Series K Bonds	2,000.00	
Bay State Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n.	1,094.61	
Brookline Trust Co.	488.06	
		\$13,549.44

Receipts for 1962

Membership Dues	\$ 442.00	
Interest—Brookline Savings Bank	389.84	
Interest—Bay State Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass'n.	44.20	
Interest—U. S. Series K Bonds	55.20	
Sales of "Some Old Brookline Houses"	37.00	
Sales of "History of Brookline"	2.00	
Sales of "Proceedings"75	
Donations	28.75	
		\$ 999.74
		\$14,549.18

Payments for 1962

Secretary's Expense	\$ 94.25	
Insurance	15.68	
Collations	19.28	
Chairs — Rental	27.00	
Bank Charges	2.62	
Bay State Historical Society Dues	4.00	
New England Council Listing	2.00	
Advertisement — Brookline Chronicle "Old Brookline Houses"	10.36	
Custodian—Runkle School Meeting	11.10	
200 Maps of Brookline	28.00	
Lawyer's Fee	148.50	
Accountant's Fee	125.00	
1957-1961 State Taxes	62.00	
1957-1961 Federal Taxes	793.88	
		\$ 1,343.67

Cash and Securities on hand December 31, 1962

Brookline Savings Bank*	\$9,961.81	
U. S. Series K Bonds	2,000.00	
Bay State Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n.	1,138.81	
Brookline Trust Co.	104.89	
		\$13,205.51
		\$14,549.18

* \$450 Transferred to Brookline Trust Checking Account.

Respectfully submitted,

J. FREDERICK NELSON,
Treasurer

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 21, 1962

Sunday, January 15th—Annual Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society 3:P.M.

Monday, January 16th—Hannah Goddard Chapter, D.A.R. meeting
April 19th—Annual Patriot's Day celebration

May 25th—Four Classes of 4th Graders and their teachers from Edward Devotion School—over 100 pupils

December 8th—Four Classes of 7th Graders and teachers also from the Devotion School—and totaling over 100 pupils

During the year we have had visitors from the New England states, Long Island, New York, Washington, D.C., and California, and a medical student from South America.

It has not been necessary to do any repairing or painting this year—with the exception of an unexpected call to the plumber which resulted in replacing a broken faucet in the kitchen sink.

Gifts: Fire Captain Philip A. Renta gave the Society a melted metal clapper from the clock of the Presbyterian Church. Also, the gifts from Mrs. Anna Goddard Shelander and Miss Mary Nightingale Phillips:

NINA FLETCHER LITTLE

Chairman, Committee on Rooms

A HISTORY OF BROOKLINE'S POLICE DEPARTMENT

by

WILLIAM A. CHARLTON, *Chief*

Many of the offices of the Police date back to the Anglo-Saxon period in England, which was followed by the Norman around 1,000 A.D. For example, the offices of Bailiff, Sergeant, Constable all originated during the Norman Period. Although at that time the customs were heavily influenced by superstition, many of their customs are forerunners of our practices today (Right of Arrest on Fresh Pursuit, Doomsday Book, Jury System, Circuit Courts, etc.), Salisbury Oath was a pledge of allegiance to the Crown and was executed in a similar manner to our Allegiance to the Flag.

Later, of course, Sir Robert Peel was the first far-sighted Englishman who saw a way to suppress crime. The principles which he laid down at that time for the establishment of the English Police come down to us today and are known as "Peel's Principles." For example:

1. Police should be organized under government control.
2. Police Station should be centrally located . . . easily accessible.
3. The crime news should get wide publicity.
4. Policemen should be stationed throughout the community, so that the whole territory is completely covered by day and night.
5. The records system is of the utmost importance to show the extent, nature and location of the crime problem.
6. One of the most indispensable qualities that a police officer should have is complete control of his temper. Quiet determination is much more effective than violent action, etc.
7. The absence of crime will be the best evidence of the efficiency of the Police.

The development of police service in the United States was slow. The "Spoils System" was prevalent in the police service as it was in other branches of government. Many times the Police were referred to as bodyguards of the party or person in power. Therefore, being involved so much in politics there were many changes and the Police were of course inefficient. Not until Civil Service came into being was there any stability or noted advance in the police forces of our large cities in police practice or procedure.

According to the history of Brookline, they had a lockup in the town built at a cost of \$75 in 1847, followed by a new lockup built in 1851 at a cost of \$325. History records that there was little need to use this place, except as an occasional refuge for those who had celebrated "too enthusiastically" at the Punch Bowl Tavern and elsewhere.

However, it appears from the records that intoxication furnished a recurrent problem, and bootlegging was one of their most serious police problems. The citizens instructed the Selectmen to suppress the drinking and billiard saloon in Brookline Village and to employ counsel and Police for that business. Apparently, the Police they refer to at that time were constables who were used as arresting officers.

In 1870, the Town appropriated \$3,000 to furnish a new Police Station in the new Hose House of the Fire Station. They appropriated \$7,737.40 for Chief Sanborn, who apparently was the only police officer, and 10 constables to perform the various police duties of the town during that year.

In 1873, Chief Sanborn made his first written report. He referred to the services rendered by the Police for the 5 years previous. He stated "the rapid growth of the town and its close proximity to Boston no longer leaves a question of doubt as to the need of the establishment of a permanent police force to patrol the Town by day and night." The constables of the town were appointed Policemen and were subject to call to perform police duties when the Selectmen deemed it of interest to the town.

Around this time they appointed 2 more men and a Deputy Police Chief. They arranged to have 5 men for day duty and 7 for night duty—thus they could keep the Station open 24 hours a day. Previous to this time, prisoners and lodgers were locked up and left for 4-5 hours at a time with no one in charge of the Station.

The typical crime report would show about 100 arrests for drunkenness, 50 for assault, vagrancy—15, larceny—15, disturbing the peace—12, refusing to be vaccinated—30. There were prosecutions for liquor selling.

Chief Sanborn also requested that more men be added to the force—the reason for this "because travel at Holyhood and vicinity had greatly increased and there was reckless driving by hackmen."

Also in 1873, they found new quarters for the Police Station in the new Town Hall and the Police Station was relocated there.

As time went on, each year shows an increase in the number of men, an increase in the number of arrests and a great increase in the number of persons who were given lodgings at the Police Station. In 1874 the Chief's report refers to the large labor force which has arrived in town in preparation, he said, to introduce water into the town.

The liquor problem—bootlegging, drunkenness—was still with us in 1875. The Chief commented that he had many complaints from the Longwood district, especially during the summer months, as that place had become infested with idlers and loafers. Also many complaints about the fast driving on Washington, Harvard and Beacon Streets on Sundays. He requested that mounted Police be put in these vicinities.

In 1876 there was a new Chief—Alonzo Bowman—and 1 Sergeant and 13 Patrolmen. Total expenditures were over \$14,000. That year Chief Bowman cited the need for a Police telegraph system between our Police Station and stations in Boston. Apparently, Chief Bowman extended his records to include the nationality of persons arrested. For example, U.S.—70; English—6; Irish—175; others—3. He also stated that they had 5 alarms of fire and they had extinguished 6 fires in the woods and fields without giving an alarm. They report 35 street lamps broken, over 200 unlighted, several water leaks, gas leaks, care for 17 stray horses and cattle

found roaming at large. They found 5 children whom they restored to their parents. He praises the efficiency of the mounted Police in preventing fast and reckless driving. He also goes on to say that 460 gallons of liquor were seized in 15 different places, which was disposed of according to law. The Police delivered 30,000 copies of reports of town officers and warrants. Chief Bowman again asked that another mounted officer be added to the Police Force, saying that we were practically surrounded by a large city and were consequently exposed to an influx of depraved and vicious criminals; also that the three leading avenues through our town were traversed with droves of cattle going and coming from the Brighton, Watertown and Cambridge cattle markets to the towns on the south shore and to Rhode Island. . . . The reckless driving and disorderly conduct of persons in funeral processions returning from Holyhood Cemetery gave frequent trouble. He also proposed that a 3-platoon relief system be put into effect.

As we go through the 1800s we find the number of Police increasing, the budget increasing, the arrests increasing, number of lodgers increasing—now up to over 1,000 during the course of a year. Chief Bowman said that extinguishing the street lights at midnight seemed almost an invitation to those who preferred darkness to light and was a hindrance to the Police in the performance of their duty. At that time the lamps were put out late at night and they weren't lit at all during the moonlit nights.

In 1881, in reference to drunkenness he stated: "In dealing with this class of unfortunates I have endeavored to reform as well as to punish and I am happy to say in some instances I have been successful. A helping hand sometimes has a wonderful effect on a man when he expects a kick."

In 1882, he states: "We are connected by the suburban telephone lines over a circuit of 20 lines with all Police Headquarters within the circuit." Also, a Police Court was established during the year.

In 1884, he reports the usual crimes—drunkenness, violation of the liquor law, breaking and entering and 1 case of highway robbery. He pointed out the great demand for Police protection in the vicinity of Newton and Clyde Streets. "The employment of several hundred laborers on the Fisher Hill reservoir construction has presented some problems to the Police."

In 1886, the Police-Fire Box System was installed; also a new crime added, namely, the sale of a glandered horse.

In 1887, the Police Wagon had "given good service during the past year in making arrests and conveying sick and disabled to hospitals, thus saving the Town the expense of hiring teams. In the matter of arrests of badly intoxicated persons, especially women, the often degrading spectacle and the very disagreeable duty of pro-

elling a hopelessly intoxicated person through the streets of the Town, often followed by crowds of hoodlums, is, by the use of the Police Wagon, avoided."

In 1890, the Chief said that Brookline is a "no license" town while a short distance away over the line in Boston, two wholesale and two retail liquor licenses were granted by the city, for which nearly \$3,000 was paid into the treasury . . . but Brookline got the drunkenness, disorder and all the attending evils. More than 9/10 of the patrons of these liquor shops were residents of Brookline.

In 1892, the rapid increase and phenomenal growth in the vicinity of Corey Farm brought a large number of people to the neighborhood by electric car, in the summer and autumn particularly.

In 1896, crime reports show that additional crimes had been prosecuted: Being present at a dog fight and defacing Public Library books. This year the Selectmen requested an increase of 4 men in the Department. A Civil Service examination was given at this time.

The next year we found the crimes included 2 for Forgery and 5 for Violation of the Bicycle Laws. The Chief pointed out that one of the most serious problems that confront the Police, as well as lawabiding citizens, it what to do about children on the streets . . . boys and girls who are fast learning their first lesson in crime. He suggested that the parents of these children were largely to blame and that a law should be passed to make them responsible for the misdemeanors of their minor children. He also requested that 2 bicycles be purchased for use in patrol duty. He commended Officer Corey for his brave action on Christmas Day when 25 children broke through the ice on Leverett Pond. Patrolman Corey went into the Pond 4 different times and assisted in bringing many of the children to safety.

Around this time they were experiencing trouble from peddlers who went from house to house, and were responsible for many petty thefts. He expressed his thanks to Dr. Sweet for instruction given the members of the Department in the art of swimming. The Department became a member of the National Bureau of Identification on July 9, 1900. The same year they moved into the new and present Police building.

In 1902, the Chief's annual report referred to the difficulty of detecting and apprehending a class of thieves known as "second story workers or porch climbers." He also stated that a great advance could be made in the control of juvenile delinquency by having a law passed similar to that in other states, which would punish those who contribute to the delinquency of children. He also mentioned that the officer in charge "takes the name and address of all applicants for lodging accommodations." When released in the

morning, they are warned that if they seek lodging again they will be arraigned in Court on a charge of Vagrancy. The Chief recommended that the town furnish the men with revolvers and requested that a target range be constructed in the basement of the Police Station.

On October 17, 1904, Harry F. Boles murdered his wife and Patrolman Joseph MacMurray.

Another serious crime was committed the following year when a person was assaulted and robbed by three colored men. Captain Page and Patrolman Fleming arrested one of the culprits in the Village. He was sentenced to 10 years in State Prison. Later on in the same evening Captain Page shot and killed the second culprit. "The third culprit is still at large." In the budget that year there was a request for one typewriter—\$42.

In 1905, the State Board of Health issued regulations governing the lodging of tramps and vagrants. "Since that time no such person has been accommodated with lodging at the Police Station."

In 1906, there was a request for a Motor Patrol Wagon and a small Motor Car to replace the mounted patrol.

In 1908, the Selectmen's Report suggested that the Police should have one day off in thirty. This was to be placed on the ballot.

In 1912, work on the women's cell block began late in the year. "Traffic has increased to such an extent that it is necessary to have a Police Officer stationed on Beacon Street at Carlton Street and one at Beacon and Washington Street."

In 1916, the first Policewoman was appointed by the Selectmen. She worked as a probation officer and was paid by the Brookline Civic Society.

In 1917, it was found that the garaging of the wagon and ambulance $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Station delayed the response to emergency calls.

In 1918, the Brookline Home Guard, under the command of Commander Chester Wing, assisted the Police with details at public celebrations, parades, elections, etc. During February, 38 German alien enemies were registered at the Police Station. Also, 59 German alien females were registered.

In 1922, a woman shot her husband on Babcock Street. She was placed on probation, after pleading guilty. In that same year, the liquor problem was well controlled—there were 29 raids made.

In 1925, the Horn Electric Traffic Signals were installed at the Beacon-Carlton Street intersection. The same year Beacon Street was made 1-way each side of the Reservation.

During the 1900s, crime increased and Police work became more complex. In 1919, juvenile arrests ran as high as 291 (throwing missiles, walking on the railroad tracks, stealing fruit, trespassing, etc.). Violations of the Automobile Law had increased—now up to 378. In September of that year, 1100 Boston Policemen went on strike. There was much disorder and vandalism in the city. The Brookline Home Guard was called out to reinforce the Police. All the approaches to the town were well patrolled, resulting in the town's being entirely free from lawlessness during this period.

Allen Rutherford was made Chief on January 1, 1920. Lieut. Joseph P. O'Connell was shot and wounded by a burglar at 1033 Beacon Street. His assailant was arrested for a housebreak in Boston and was sent away to State Prison for 8-10 years.

In 1928, First Aid became part of Police training. A course in the handling and use of revolvers was conducted by Mr. and Mrs. VanKnorr.

In 1929, the Police started giving talks in the schools on Safety. Brookline became part of the teletype system, linking it with other departments.

In 1930, the Police appropriation was over \$300,000. There were 105 Patrolmen, 6 Lieutenants, 8 Sergeants, 8 Reserves and 1 Policewoman.

In 1932, Patrolman Joseph O'Brien was shot to death on Ivy Street. The home of Barney Kravit, 244 Summit Avenue, was bombed . . . slight damage to the house . . . motive—a gang feud. No cooperation from family in investigation. That same year we had a new oil burner installed.

From 1920 to 1933, the Volstead Act was in effect. This era was one of the worst in history for lawlessness and crime. Rumrunning and bootlegging were prevalent. The enormous profits reaped from illicit liquor sales created competition between the hoodlums, gangs to gain control of the liquor black market. Consequently, there were many murders; gang warfare was prevalent in all the large cities; extortion and protection rackets developed. This brought on an increase in traffic in dope, gambling and prostitution. Corruption was widespread and undoubtedly at that time the seeds were sown which developed into a close-knit worldwide organization referred to today as organized crime (crime syndicates).

In 1934, our radio system was installed. It was purchased from the Long Island Engineering Laboratories (ship-to-shore rum-running).

In 1938, James W. Tonra became Chief of Police. 14 automatic traffic lights were installed at various intersections throughout the town. The following year the records were overhauled under a

W.P.A. project. A Bureau of Photography and Identification was installed and training of police officers by the F.B.I. started.

In 1941, an Auxiliary Police Division was organized which has served to assist the Police from time to time and is presently functioning.

In 1959, on the retirement of Chief Tonra, I was appointed Chief of Police.

I have endeavored to maintain the high standards of law enforcement which Brookline has had over the years. With the cooperation of the Board of Selectmen, the training of police officers has been increased. There is a scientific approach in the investigation of crimes and automobile accidents. A system of selective enforcement has been developed to reduce automobile accidents. The Records Division has been extended to include the time, the place and the nature of crimes, so that appropriate action may be taken to combat them. There is a special handling of juveniles through our Youth Service Bureau. Ten female School Crossing Guards have been appointed to the Department for duty at school crossings, thus relieving the Police Officers for more important duties.

On February 27, 1963, as you know, we moved to our new building. Undoubtedly, the facilities will better enable us to render safety and service to our community.

A HISTORY OF THE JOHN D. RUNKLE SCHOOL

by

VIOLA R. PINANSKI

First of all, I must say "thank you" to the Brookline Historical Society for the fascinating time I had in looking over and reading the old Town Reports. I have promised myself the pleasure of going back to them and reliving the history of our town as it appears in these journals. Even in the early days of the town meeting, there were adjournments and, I imagine, there were the same kind of lengthy speeches that characterized our recent meeting.

It almost seems ironical that I, who struggled for a new Runkle School, should be so emotionally disturbed when I contemplate the destruction of these exteriorly beautiful buildings and their replacement by a school of modern design. The John D. Runkle School, as it now stands, is replete with treasured memories and it will be very difficult to see it go. It is only because I realize that the children of this district need a school that does not present

a fire and a health hazard that I am reconciled, in addition to the fact that modern education needs new and different facilities.

My four children had eight years of happy childhood here and both my husband and I appreciated what the school meant in our lives. I read recently of the tribute which Ralph Bunche paid to one of his teachers and the influence she had on his life. The Runkle School was blessed through the years with teachers and with leadership that had a profound effect on the children who attended it. I am sure, however, that even with the passing of the school as they knew it, its traditions of leadership and of teaching will continue for future generations as it has for the past.

In 1893, an article appeared in the warrant for the Town Meeting, which read: "To authorize the purchase of a lot of land on the corner of Dean Road and Druce Street, to appropriate \$30,000 therefore and to authorize the Treasurer to borrow same." The Town Meeting at that time voted to refer the matter back to the School Committee and Selectmen and to give a public hearing thereon. The next year the public meeting was held. Lots of land in the vicinity of Beacon and Tappan Street were considered, but this was turned down because of the opposition of many people who objected to a public school near their homes. But there was continued pressure for school accommodations and the School Committee felt that the time was near when land would have to be purchased. In 1895, the School Committee reported that they could procure a lot of land at or near the corner of Buckminster Road and Druce Street, sufficient for two school buildings—a primary and grammar school containing about fifty thousand square feet of land at 60¢ a square foot, amounting to \$30,000, and recommended that the town purchase the land from the estate of Arthur Rotch. At that time the School Committee contemplated erecting first a primary school and in that same year they were authorized to procure plans and estimates for the new building on the Druce Street lot. In 1896, the plans for the new building were completed and the architectural firm of Cabot, Everett and Mead was chosen. It is to them that we are indebted for the charming Della Robbia bambinos that face the courtyard. These will be preserved in the entrance hall of the new Runkle School, according to the architects.

In 1897, the primary school was completed and accepted. It was determined that the school should be named for the Chairman of the School Committee and a long-time member of the Board, John D. Runkle. Mr. Runkle was born at Root, New York, in 1822 and died at Southwest Harbor in Maine in 1907. He was a Harvard graduate and later became one of the chief founders of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and its second president. We are particularly reminded of his contribution to education today because of his enthusiastic appreciation of Russian methods of shop instruction.

This interest led to the introduction of manual training in the Brookline Schools as part of the curriculum.

The Superintendent of Schools, who had come to Brookline in 1890, was Samuel T. Dutton and the School Committee at the time Runkle was opened had some famous Brookline names: William H. Lincoln, W. T. R. Marion, James R. Dunbar, Michael Driscoll, Elizabeth Cabot, Prentiss Cummings, Frederick B. Percy, and Annie E. Crane.

The School Committee accepted the school and it was opened on February 8, 1897. The total cost of the building was \$24,393. It consisted of two stories and a basement with two classrooms on each floor. The classrooms were on the south side of the building and the windows were recessed to accommodate shelves for plants, so arranged, it was said, that the boxes containing the plants should not obstruct the light. They described the corridors as wide with coat rooms separated from them by open wire partitions allowing circulation of air for drying the clothing. Each classroom had three doors opening upon the corridor. There was a so-called teachers' room on each floor with proper closets and toilet rooms. The walls were of hard plaster, tinted, and the blackboards were of slate. Special attention was called to the locks on the doors that "are so made they can always be opened from the inside." The school was originally opened with a kindergarten and one room with two teachers providing for the three primary grades.

In 1898, the Superintendent called attention to the fact that there were already 100 pupils in the school and it would be necessary to open another room in the fall. "This school," he said, "already ranks as one of the best in town." "Tuition," he continued, "is largely unconscious and derives its value from those more subtle qualities of mind and heart that are the essence of true culture." The three teachers were Miss Helen Newell in the kindergarten, who received a salary of \$575 a year; Miss Louise E. Rand, teacher of grades one and two, who received \$625; and Miss Mary Lewis, teacher of grades three and four, whose salary was \$650.

Scarcely a year later, the School Committee stated that the growth of the neighborhood surrounding the Runkle School made it evident that a new grammar school would be needed very soon and that authority would be asked to secure plans for such a building in order that the subject might receive suitable and adequate attention. The Superintendent reported that the school was fully occupied, but that it might be possible to keep pupils there another year by having two classes in the room occupied by the first grade. A new teacher had been added in September, 1898, at a salary of \$600.

At the Town Meeting held on February 5, 1900, the School Committee was authorized to procure plans for a new grammar schoolhouse to be erected on land adjoining the present primary

school and Messrs. Peabody and Stearns were invited to prepare these plans. In June, 1900, Mr. Samuel Dutton ended his service and Mr. George I. Aldrich became Superintendent of Schools. That same year, the Thirteenth Article of the Town Warrant authorized the School Committee to construct a new grammar school at an estimated cost of \$100,000 and to appropriate \$50,000 toward the cost thereof.

The Superintendent's report of 1902 looked forward to the opening of the new building in September. The building was to contain ten commodious classrooms and a hall, in which, if necessary, two classrooms can be placed. In addition, the building had a kindergarten, rooms for instruction in cooking, sewing and sloyd, thus providing for a fully graded grammar school. Mr. Aldrich advised that it would be wise to defer organization of the eighth and ninth grades because it would be less expensive to pay carfares to the Devotion School than to employ a full time principal. He added: "As it is customary to offer French in grades VIII and IX as well as Latin in IX, it is generally agreed that it would be better to leave these languages entirely alone unless the instruction is given by superior teachers and as the classes in French and Latin would be small these pupils can best be served at another building."

I neglected to tell you that on March 27, 1901, the town appropriated the other \$50,000 to complete the school, but as construction proceeded it was found that \$36,000 would suffice. How we of today's School Committee would rejoice if such a thing could happen now!

In 1902-1903, 207 pupils were at the school. In that year, Mr. Aldrich emphasized that the older interior portion of the Runkle presented an unfavorable contrast to the new part. In the same year the Heath School was overcrowded and pupils were transferred to the two free school rooms at Runkle. The new building was fully equipped for \$7,500. Mr. Aldrich described the building as an admirable embodiment of present conceptions as to what a school-house should be and what it should contain. "On the second floor of the central building is an attractive hall and it is to be hoped that the people of the neighborhood will undertake to see that it is suitably decorated." The building as enlarged covered the entire land owned by the town and it was felt that it would be most desirable that the Park Commissioners comply with the request made by the Board that additional territory be speedily acquired.

Mr. Aldrich added in his report: "No sensible person has any quarrel with private schools. Each parent is clearly free to decide whether or not his children should attend the public schools which, as a taxpayer, he helps to support. It should be generally understood, however, that no Brookline citizen need feel obliged to resort to a private school, either to prepare his children for college or to

secure for them such general education as a first-rate high school affords."

In 1903, the first Principal of Runkle was appointed, Miss Ellen S. Baker, at a salary of \$1,000. In addition to her duties as Principal, she taught grade VIII. In that same year Miss Henshaw came to Runkle to teach grade IV. My own older children had the benefit of her instruction in grade VIII and they recall her with deep affection for her wisdom and understanding. I spoke the other evening to Miss Hartigan who graduated from Runkle in 1905. She paid tribute to Miss Baker and told me of the field trips she planned for her students in those early days. Her own lifelong interest in birds was awakened by Miss Baker who took her class to Auburndale where an ornithologist spoke to them, imitated bird calls, and took them on bird walks.

The School Committee report in 1905 listed gifts from parents, so it would seem that they were taking notice of decorating the building. I searched carefully through the Town Reports for mention of the beautiful stone lantern which stands on the left of the courtyard as you enter. It was a gift, I understand, from a neighbor, but I could find no record of it.

The Runkle School grew apace and in 1908 the Board pointed out the necessity of taking immediate steps to provide additional accommodations for pupils now in attendance at the John D. Runkle School. In March, 1897, one teacher; in 1906, ten teachers and a kindergartener. In June 1898, 41 pupils; in 1906-1907, 327 pupils, and in 1908 the school had an enrolment of 420 pupils and the demand for relief was urgent. If these pupils were evenly distributed, they said, the situation would be less serious, but now the fourth grade has 60 pupils. Steps were necessary to enlarge the Runkle plant and the Committee recommended that the town acquire the property lying southeasterly of its present property and extending to Chesham Road, the land in the rear to be used for playground and school gardens. The Board secured an option on the land and inserted an article in the town warrant to purchase the land in question. They informed the Town Meeting that, if the land was purchased, it was their intention to ask the town at an early date to make an appropriation for building.

By 1909, the School Committee felt the limit of accommodation at Runkle had been reached, but when the Town voted \$18,328 for the purchase of the land the Town Counsel found that restrictions on it precluded the building of any structure for school purposes for a period of ten years. As a result, the vote was rescinded and, on account of the restrictions, the owners reduced the price of the land to \$14,690 and it was purchased. At this time the School Committee voted that non-resident pupils must be withdrawn. In 1912, the Superintendent again pointed out that, as soon as restrictions

expired, a building must be added to Runkle. In 1915, grade nine had 53 pupils located in the school hall. He reemphasized that the erection of a fourth building for Runkle would be the next enterprise undertaken by the School Department. Such building, when erected, was to contain an assembly hall of ample dimensions, preferably on the street level, a gymnasium at least as good as that at the new Devotion School, rooms specially planned to meet the needs of a kindergarten, and a reasonable number of additional classrooms. Again he emphasized that the Runkle is located in a section of the town which is growing rapidly and there could be little doubt as to the advisability of increasing quite largely the existing accommodations.

In 1918, the crowded conditions made it necessary to give up the kindergarten, and the assembly room continued to be used as a classroom. The Superintendent recommended that the Board apply for a moderate appropriation for plans, specifications, and an estimate of cost. "Runkle," he said, "has earned for itself an enviable reputation. There must be many citizens who feel a sense of personal indebtedness for what it has done for their children. Nobody more than I realizes the liberal policy pursued by the town in all that pertains to education. Had I any doubt of a continuance of this policy in meeting the needs of the Runkle as now set forth, I should appeal to the people whom it serves to constitute themselves staunch advocates of prompt and adequate action by the town in meeting this latest demand upon it."

The first World War interfered with plans for building. Instead, war gardens were planted on the land. Miss Baker, the principal, described the end of the War as follows: "There was only one way in which this war could end and that was in accordance with the principles of mankind. These were American principles and they have prevailed. Great sacrifices were inevitable. Hence the glory of the Runkle service flag with its 90 blue stars should overshadow the pathos of its three golden ones. Yet in this victory of democracy we must remember that Eric Lingard, 1905, Gordon Stewart, 1911, and Leonard Jackson, 1911, played their parts in the achievement. One who passes a perfect building does not notice the individual stones in the walls. Yet the omission of any one of them destroys the effect of the whole. So it is with the Great War. Every life given to bring it to the right conclusion is . . . a tribute to mankind . . . The three golden stars in the service flag shall shine like those in Daniel, 'forever and ever'."

On May 12, 1919, Ellen S. Baker resigned and on May 22 that same year, Mr. George I. Aldrich retired and was made Superintendent Emeritus. Mr. Oscar C. Gallagher succeeded him. In 1920, he reported that classes at Runkle were abnormally large and something must be done. That same year Miss Edith Wright, who had taught at Devotion since 1902, became Principal. She carried on

the tradition of exceptional leadership and high standards that had characterized Miss Baker's regime.

In 1921, the money for a new building was appropriated, but estimates seemed prohibitive and it was not until a special town meeting was called in 1923 that \$292,200 was appropriated and the architect, Mr. J. A. Schweinfurth, was appointed. Mr. Schweinfurth had worked for Peabody and Stearns, the architects who designed the other two buildings. He had been the designer of the Pierce School, the municipal court house, and the police station, as well as several dormitories at Wellesley College. Bids were received in February and it was hoped that the new building would be ready at the beginning of the new year. By that time the 420 seats at Runkle were filled to overflowing. 513 pupils were in attendance. The new wing was to provide 8 classrooms, a teachers' room, storage room, and a large gymnasium with lockers. Additional rooms and an auditorium were to be planned for a later date.

In 1924, the addition was completed and the kindergarten reopened. Runkle continued in the high esteem of the community, the parents, and the children.

On March 16, 1931, Mr. Oscar Gallagher resigned and Mr. Caverly, who had come in 1930 to head the High School, was appointed Superintendent of Schools. In 1940, Miss Wright retired as Principal of Runkle. She had given long and dedicated service to the school. Her standards for her classes were unexcelled and Runkle continued to be noted for the quality of its education. Mr. Benjamin Roman of the High School succeeded Miss Wright. He resigned in 1943 and was followed by Mr. William F. Young, Jr.

In 1948, Dr. Rexford S. Souder, who had become Assistant Superintendent of Schools, made a survey of the schools for the Committee. At that time it was pointed out that Runkle and Heath Schools were unsatisfactory in their facilities. Over the years that followed, the School Committee recognized the need for modern facilities for Runkle. In the reports of 1954 and 1955 the need for modernization was stated. At the Town Meeting in 1956 an article was included in the warrant for an appropriation for working drawings and specifications for the school, but it was defeated. In 1959, the School Committee included in its budget \$5,000 for architectural and engineering consultants to make a study of the best means for meeting the building needs of the Runkle School. The Committee appointed the educational consultant firm of Engelhardt, Engelhardt, Leggett and Cornell to work with the architectural firm of Richmond and Goldberg. Miss Ann E. Macdonald, who succeeded Mr. Young as principal of Runkle in 1955 when he became Assistant Superintendent of Schools, gave them her untiring assistance. The report of the Consultants recommended as the least expensive, as well as meeting long range educational

requirements, the replacement of the entire plant. They pointed out what we already knew: the basement toilets, an obsolete heating plant, wooden stairwells, no showers or lockers in an inadequate gymnasium, an auditorium that was originally supposed to be converted to classrooms, undersized library space, makeshift facilities for art, music, science, and homemaking, plus an inadequate cafeteria and kitchen.

The request for an appropriation for plans was turned down again in 1960, but in 1961 the Town Meeting finally appropriated the sum of \$1,000,000 to be expended by the Building Commission, with the approval of the School Committee and the Board of Selectmen, for a new Runkle School. The School Committee was in hopes that by today the new school would be nearing completion, but it is only now going out for bids. This new school is designed for 18 classrooms, with facilities for art, homemaking, music, physical education, science, speech, library service, cafeteria, administration and health offices, auditorium, teachers' rooms and storage areas. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through its School Building Assistance Commission, will pay the town 20 per cent of the cost.

We hope and pray that the new school will find as warm a place in the hearts of the children and their parents as did these buildings with the wealth of memories they engendered. We are sure that the leadership of the school is in the capable hands of a dynamic, warm-hearted, imaginative leader in the person of Mrs. Virginia E. Thompson. For me, even in the new will be incorporated the memories of the old. The children coasting down the hill on trays, assembling in the courtyard—all these are precious ones which the generations of children that have come here will always treasure.

A HISTORY OF THE LONGYEAR FAMILY AND THE LONGYEAR FOUNDATION

by

JAMES A. LOWELL

We often travel hundreds of miles to see some impressive sight and pay no attention to something equally impressive which is much closer to home. Some years ago, in the early summer, my cousin Jim Lowell, then as now a resident of Chestnut Hill, decided on the spur of the moment to make what for him was a first ascent of the Bunker Hill Monument. When he signed the register, the man in charge said to him, "Where is Chestnut Hill?" And when Jim told him, he said, "Well, that's where I thought it was, but I

had to ask to make sure, because you are the first person from Greater Boston who has come to Bunker Hill in the last two months.”

Come to think of it, I've never been any nearer to Bunker Hill Monument than to pass by it on the Mystic River Bridge, and neither has my wife. But ever since November 1, 1959, we have lived much nearer to another monument, and for about two years, we gave it the same “distance-lends-enchantment” approval. But its enchantment finally proved irresistible, and so, about a year ago, we paid our first visit to the Longyear Foundation Building, which, as you have found, stands on top of Fisher Hill. The property on which it stands is now bounded by Leicester St., Seaver St. and the houses on Holland Road; Fisher Ave. lies to the west of it.

The property, when Mr. Longyear first bought it, extended considerably further downhill than it does now. When you leave these grounds, you turn left on Seaver St. and then right on Holland Road, where you will notice several brown stone posts; if you take your first right after that, which is the other end of Seaver St., you will find more of them running part way uphill. I am not sure, but I believe that all of the land now bounded by Holland Road and Seaver St. formerly belonged to the Longyears.

One house, which is on part of this land, was built in 1912 by the Longyears as a studio for Mrs. Longyear, who liked to paint. It is at the top of a dead-end street running up from Holland Road and named Beecher Road after Mrs. Longyear, who was a member of the famous Beecher family—Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe. As a World War I economy measure, Mr. and Mrs. Longyear lived in the studio for awhile, but with only eight or ten rooms it was too small for them, even though none of their children were then at home, so they soon moved back to the mansion house.

What sort of people were Mr. and Mrs. Longyear, whose handsome portraits we see here on the wall, and whose house, in which we are holding our meeting, contained one hundred rooms? Let me read to you the obituary notice about Mr. Longyear taken from our beloved but also long departed Boston Transcript of May 29, 1922.

JOHN MUNRO LONGYEAR

“He was Resident of Brookline, Was One of Wealthiest Men in State, and His Palatial Home on Fisher Hill Was Moved Here from Marquette, Michigan.

“John Munro Longyear passed away suddenly of a heart disease Sunday at his home in Brookline. Aside from rising from a clerkship to be one of the richest men in the United States and for years rated as the richest man in Massachusetts, the most unusual thing probably that Mr. Longyear ever did was to move a house

which he had erected at a cost of nearly half a million dollars, from Marquette, Michigan to Brookline, brick by brick.

"This was done when a railway line was laid down at Marquette, practically in his front yard, spoiling a spot which he and his wife had picked out for their future home years before. That was in 1903, after he had become a big figure in the development of the Northwest. He was associated with James J. Hill and in one deal whereby the Hill ore lands of Michigan were turned over to the United States Steel Corporation, Mr. Longyear was credited with making a profit of \$24,000,000.

"Mr. Longyear was born in Lansing, Michigan, and in 1872 went into the Saginaw woods as a "land looker". Sometime later he went into the woods of the upper peninsula of Michigan in the same capacity. After much effort he succeeded in interesting capitalists in investments in large tracts of land in that region. In a few years he became one of the largest land-owners and most wealthy men in Michigan. Mr. Longyear was a member of the Board of Control of the Michigan College of Mines.

"The body of this house which he moved to Brookline was of Marquette raindrop sandstone, so called because of its peculiar markings. The brownstone trimmings were counted wellnigh priceless, for the quarry from which they were taken was exhausted in the construction of the Longyear residence. When the railroad company secured the right to lay its tracks along the front of the estate in Michigan upon which this beautiful residence stood he appealed to the courts, and a long legal contest between the railroad company and the millionaire followed, at the end of which the railroad company won.

"The house was then offered for sale, but nothing like Mr. Longyear thought it was worth was offered. He then arranged for its shipment here. It was erected on top of Fisher Hill and greatly enlarged. The present house is one of the show places of Massachusetts.

"Despite his residence here, Mr. Longyear maintained his business headquarters at Marquette and passed about four months of the year there. Among his more recent activities was the development of the vast fields of coal that lie hidden only by a crust of snow at Advent Bay, in the Island of West Spitzbergen, in the Arctic. With a number of Boston's wealthy citizens he organized and became the head of the Arctic Coal Company, with headquarters at Boston, and he proved to the world the wisdom of his one-time ridiculed venture by sending steamer loads of rich bituminous coal to the northern ports of Europe and to other ports." This ends the obituary.

Mr. Longyear had been forced to abandon his college career

because of ill health, his most serious mishap being an accident to his left leg which for several years made him lame. As I have said, he was given the job of "land looker" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Here is a quotation from a biographical article about him.

"In 1873, he started in this work, handicapped as he was by his game leg as he called it. His letters to his Father tell of his determination to keep on with his work even if his leg did hamper him at first. With Indians for his packers, he started forth. He carried packs on his back, as well as they, and slept in his tent in the forest every month of the year. One night, after 'the snake' as the Indians called him, had put them through an arduous day, one packer solemnly arose from his blanketed bed beside him and vented his feelings in these words: 'John, you work like a fool.'

"His letters to his Father showed, at this early time his grasp upon the possibilities of developing great mines and securing large tracts of timber. Although he never studied geology, or went to any mining institution for instruction, he became one of the greatest geologists in the United States, and happy were the men who had confidence in his judgment and became millionaires because of it. The great mines on the Gogebic range today are the result of his foresight.

"In 1878, this modest retiring man returned from a prolonged trip in the woods to Marquette, where he had an office with A. A. Mathers. Tall, straight as a pine, brilliant complexion, refined nose, jet black curly hair, and eyes like an eagle, yet soft as a dove's, he was strength and manly beauty personified. When he saw what he thought he needed for his advancement, he took no faltering steps to secure it. He met at a literary society, Miss Mary Beecher, who was preceptress in the High School in Marquette, the night after he came to town. He was then twenty-seven years of age and had the reputation on account of his shyness of being a woman hater in his home town. He had to return to the woods in a short time, hence he wooed this 'school ma'am' (who was the niece of his father's friend Judge Charles Walker of Detroit), so ardently that after seeing her ten times, the cautious estimator of timber left Marquette an engaged man. They were married within six months, his salary at that time being \$175. a month."

Mr. and Mrs. Longyear had, in all, seven children. One of them died in infancy. Their oldest son was drowned in Lake Superior in 1900. The youngest two, John M., Jr., and Robert M., are respectively Harvard 1910 and 1918—possibly some of you know them.

In the summer of 1901, Mr. and Mrs. Longyear and their five living children made a *holiday* journey on the Hamburg-American steamship "Auguste Victoria" to the North Cape and Spitzbergen.

They went there purely as tourists, but certain rock formations in Spitzbergen caught Mr. Longyear's eye. He thought that there might be considerable deposits of iron ore. Those deposits, he later decided, would be too difficult to develop, but he had also noticed some large veins of coal. A few years later he and others acquired the rights to them, an enterprise which was mentioned earlier in this paper, and, until they sold their property to the Norwegian government during World War I, they made a great deal of money out of this venture. The chief coal mining settlement on Spitzbergen was, and perhaps still is, named Longyear City.

Here is a curious sidelight! In the early 1900's, the islands of Spitzbergen were apparently owned by no country. One of Mr. Longyear's associates, a Norwegian named Olaus Jeldness who was then living in the United States, wrote this letter to Mr. Longyear:

"If the property is found acceptable to American capital, the consequences will be far reaching, and of a magnitude that we had but a faint idea when we planned the enterprise.

"The great Republic is expanding. We own the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines. Japan and China is our neighbors, and we are just now disputing with Russia her invasion of Manchuria. The difficulties in the Orient will sooner or later lead to a clash of arms, with the ultimate result that America will dictate to the world, and she will be obeyed.

"It is in this connection that I believe our little enterprise will be of importance and probably render the promoters immortal. We can, for instance, show our country how to attack Russia in the rear by annexing Spitzbergen, and thereby securing an unlimited coal supply and thereby enabling our men of war to reach the White Sea, one of Russia's greatest grain and lumber shipping ports in thirty hours' sailing.

"Every statesman in Norway and Sweden knows that Russia is waiting for an opportunity to seize an open port on the Atlantic, and they consider it only a question of time till she takes Norway. If our undertaking results in the annexation of Spitzbergen, Russia's advance on Norway will be blocked, and an untold blessing will thereby be conferred on Scandinavia. All this and much more will surely come about if our plan is carried out, and I will continue to hope that the property proves acceptable."

During this trip to Norway and Spitzbergen, the Longyears received word that the railroad was definitely going to run through their property in Marquette. On their way home they visited Paris, and while driving down the Champs Elysees one day, the thought came to Mr. Longyear that he could have the house taken down and move to some other site. When the Longyears returned to this

country, they looked for a new site for their house and chose Fisher Hill. In 1903 the house was dismantled, and moved by rail from Marquette to Brookline.

One of my cousins says that she distinctly remembers seeing the dismantled house arrive at what was then the Beaconsfield railroad station, every stone carefully wrapped in cloth and straw and appropriately numbered.

The house has been referred to as a one-hundred-room house, and we have also been told that it has been greatly enlarged. This latter statement may well be inaccurate. I have talked several times with Mr. Johnson; he is the superintendent of the Longyear Foundation house and land and has lived on this place since 1922. He says that the only additions to the house have been the porch on the south end, the music room on the north end, and a sun room on the west side. He also volunteered the following bits of information:

In the basement there is a bowling alley.

There are four floors—each ceiling and floor consists of ten inches of concrete and cinders.

On the third floor is a ballroom.

The fourth floor is an attic which must be one of the largest ever built in a private house.

The entire roof is of copper. The main stairway is made of concrete, covered with wood. The other stairways are metal, covered with wood, except for one which is made of oak. Not only are the beams made of steel, but all of the uprights, the studs, are steel pillars. The plastering is over wire lath.

In the words of Mr. Johnson, "They did everything possible to make the house fireproof."

The passing away of Mrs. Longyear on May 16, 1931 received only the briefest notice in the other Boston papers, but the "Monitor" published two paragraphs about her as follows:

Monitor, May 16, 1931:

"Mrs. Mary Beecher Longyear, who passed away on Saturday, May 14, at her home in Brookline, Mass., was founder and president of the Zion Research Foundation of Brookline.

"Mrs. Longyear was an intimate friend of Mary Baker Eddy, Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, and was a generous supporter of the Christian Science movement. She had collected a large amount of material relative to Mrs. Eddy's life and had been an active worker in Christian Science for many years. She was born in Milwaukee, Wis., in 1851, and had lived in Boston and Brookline since 1899."

Mrs. Longyear, during her lifetime, set up two foundations and left a good deal of property to them in her will. One of them, the Zion Research Foundation, occupies the south end of this house. Both Mr. and Mrs. Longyear were keen students of the Bible. This foundation consists of a nonsectarian Protestant library for the study of the Bible and the history of the Christian Church. It contains over 17,000 books and many articles, tracts, and so on, and has among a few special exhibits one of the jars in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. It is well worth a visit, but unfortunately, it is closed on Sundays.

The other foundation, the Longyear Foundation, occupies the main part of this house. I shan't try to describe its contents because Mrs. Vogel and Mrs. Webb and Miss McIver know far more about it than I do. But, as you have heard, Mrs. Longyear was an intimate friend of Mrs. Eddy's, and the purpose of the Foundation as stated in its pamphlet is to collect and preserve records of the earthly life of Mary Baker Eddy. It also owns and maintains four houses in which Mrs. Eddy lived—two in Massachusetts at Amesbury and Swampscott, and two in New Hampshire at North Groton and Rumney.

My wife and I have now examined the monument which lies much nearer to our house than does Bunker Hill, and in the course of doing so we have acquired an increased respect for the long arm of coincidence. For if, on that summer day in 1901, while dining along the Champs Elysees in Paris, Mr. Longyear had not conceived the idea of moving his house from Marquette, and if the Longyears had not picked out Fisher Hill in Brookline as the new location for their soon-to-be transplanted house, we would not be living in the erstwhile Longyear studio, which we greatly enjoy. Furthermore, it is because of Mr. Longyear's decision to move his house to Brookline that we today have the opportunity to be in it and to explore a house which is in many respects unique. For that opportunity, we should all like once again to thank the Trustees of the Longyear Foundation, whose courtesy and cooperation has made it possible to hold in this house a meeting which we shall long and pleasantly remember.