



Fall 2012



**H. Langford
Warren,
Arts & Crafts
Architecture,
and Brookline**

The Brookline Historical Society presents:



213 Gardner Road, designed by H. Langford Warren; photo by Jean Stringham

Saturday November 18, 2012 at 2 pm at All Saints Church, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline
Free and open to the public

The Brookline Historical Society
347 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02446

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goes
here

While much has been written about Arts and Crafts architecture of the Midwest and California, Professor Maureen Meister highlights the kindred architecture in New England. Join Meister for a lively presentation about H. Langford Warren, the first dean of the School of Architecture at Harvard and a mentor to, and colleague of, many Brookline area architects at the turn of the last century. Enjoy finding out about Arts and Crafts architecture in Brookline.



All Saints Church, designed by Warren's colleague Ralph Adams Cram.
Image from the collection of the Brookline Historical Society

Updates & Activities



Roving Archivist

The Brookline Historical Society was selected to participate in the Roving Archivist program sponsored by the Massachusetts State Historic Records Advisory Board (SHRAB). In November, archivist Joan Krizack will visit the Devotion House, assess our archives, as well as our collection policies, then give us advice for improving our methods.

The Society is also participating in a data logger project sponsored by the State Board of Library Commissioners. In July, three data loggers were installed around the Devotion House. These small electronic devices record temperature, humidity, and ultraviolet light exposure levels in our archives. At the end of six months, the data loggers will be collected

and we will receive a report on the conditions in our archives, as well as advice for how to improve these spaces. Our data also helps the State Board of Library Commissioners better understand how archival collections are being stored across the Commonwealth.

Devotion House Improvements

The Edward Devotion House, headquarters of the Historical Society, has undergone several maintenance projects over the summer and fall. Under the supervision of the Town Building Department, the floors and walls of the old kitchen museum space were repainted. We also added rugs to protect the floors in high traffic areas.

The Building Department replaced the house's old oil furnace with a more efficient gas furnace and also installed a new water heater.



These projects help to protect the building and our collections, as well as making the museum more presentable and warmer as we settle in for another New England winter.



At the Putterham School

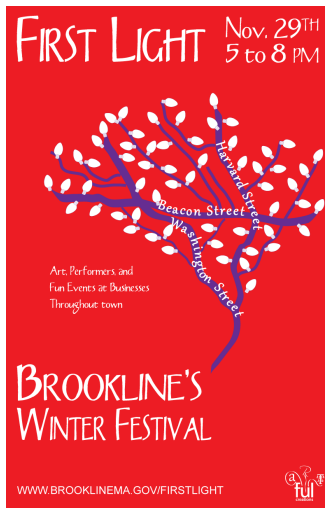
The Putterham School located in Larz Anderson Park has a new historically correct 19th century style door. The schoolhouse, which is managed by the Historical Society, was built in 1764 and had an addition built in the mid 1800s. It originally stood at the intersection of Newton and Grove Streets. The schoolhouse was relocated in 1966 to Larz Anderson Park where it underwent restoration and was opened for public viewing in 1972.

Our thanks to Charlie Simmons (Director of Public Buildings) and Greer Hardwicke (Preservation Planner) for arranging the installation of the new door.

November Events

First Light 2012

Visit the Devotion House on First Light! We will be open from 5-8 pm on Thursday, November 29th as part of the town-wide celebration. There will be children's activities on the front lawn. Inside the house, there will be live period music.



Friends of Fairsted

The Friends of Fairsted present a special program—Time Made Visible: Charles Eliot and the Planning of the Boston Metropolitan Park System, a lecture by Professor Anita Berrizbeitia, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University—co-sponsored by the Brookline Historical Society.

The program will take place on Thursday, November 15th, at Wheelock College, 43 Hawes Street, Brookline. Reception at 6 pm and lecture at 7 pm. For more details and to make reservations for this free program visit

<http://www.friendsoffairsted.org/events.html>

Coming This Winter
Invention & Innovation: New Ideas Born in Brookline
(Special Program for Members of the Brookline Historical Society)

Did you know . . .

. . . that the first non-experimental **electric car** in the United States was built on Station Street in Brookline in 1891?

. . . that King Gillette came up with the idea for **the safety razor** while shaving in his Brookline home one morning in 1895?

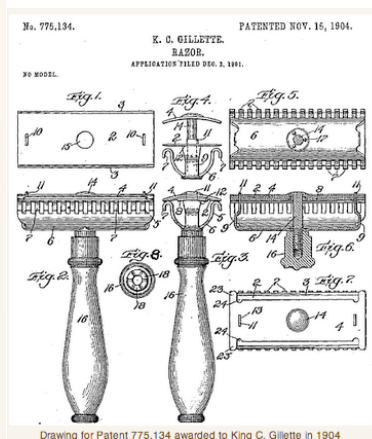
. . . that Brookline resident and St. Mary's parishioner Dr. John Rock and colleagues developed *in vitro* fertilization and **the birth control pill** at the Free Hospital for Women on Pond Street?

Join Historical Society President Ken Liss at Inner Space on Station Street—in the same building where the first electric car was built—for a members-only presentation on these and other inventions and innovations first developed in Brookline.

Tentative date: Thursday, February 7th, 2013. More details to come.



Charles Holtzer driving the second electric carriage built for Fiske Warren in 1893



Wild-Sargent Local Historic District: Aspinwall Hill



The Wild-Sargent House today (left) and in the 1870s.

At the Spring 2012 Town Meeting, Town Meeting Members voted to designate a new Local Historic District, the Wild-Sargent LHD, designed to protect the nearly 200-year old house and carriage barn at 26 Weybridge Road on the lower part of Aspinwall Hill.

The house and barn were built around 1822 for Dr. Charles Wild. The house was remodeled in the 1860s, and in the 1880s the property was acquired by the Blake family, whose real estate holdings covered most of the lower part of the hill. Occupied by several Brookline families during the period it was owned by the Blakes, the house was sold again in 1916, along with most of the Blake estate, for a development called "Blake Park."

Redesigned for the new development by architect Clarence Thayer

McFarland, the former Wild house became the home of publisher and education critic Porter Sargent and a centerpiece of the new middle class neighborhood developed as Blake Park. The Sargent family, which still owns the house, spearheaded the effort to create the LHD and has been recognized with a Preservation Award from the Brookline Preservation Commission.

Historical Society President Ken Liss, who co-wrote the preliminary report on the Wild-Sargent House, conducted extensive research on the house and its residents, including Charles Wild and his son, Civil War General Edward Augustus Wild, and Porter Sargent. For more details, download the full report from the Preservation Commission website at <http://bit.ly/wildsargent>.



Wild-Sargent Carriage House

Durgin Garage in Brookline Listed among Massachusetts' Most Endangered Historic Resources

Preservation Massachusetts recently listed the Durgin Garage in Coolidge Corner as one of the "Most Endangered Historic Resources" in Massachusetts. This list has been compiled annually since 1993 by Preservation Massachusetts, the state's historic preservation advocacy organization.

The building was nominated by Eunice White and Historical Society Trustee Jean Stringham. The Society supported the nomination with a letter of support. The awards event will take place in Worcester on November 8, 2012.

The Durgin Garage is considered the most architecturally distinguished garage built in Brookline. It is also one of a very few that has survived substantially intact as originally designed. A total of 24 of these masonry structures were built in Brookline between 1906 and 1929. Charles Durgin, who had a horse stable and then the Corey Hill Garage for cars on Winchester Street, hired local architect Harold Field Kellogg to design the building in 1926.

Harold Field Kellogg trained at Harvard and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He lived from 1884 to 1964. He is well-respected as an architect and an artist. Kellogg lived in Brookline and worked in Boston. He designed the Batterymarch building in Boston, and the Longwood Towers in Brookline.

Mr. Durgin chose the location on Pleasant Street because of its prime location; just off Beacon Street in Coolidge Corner and opposite the apartment hotel Pelham Hall that was then under construction. The garage was built with space for 225 cars and a laundry system. Original plans were to have stained glass windows on the John Street side. The seven storefronts included the A & P (Atlantic & Pacific) Tea Company grocery, a ladies apparel store, a Chinese laundry, a candy shop, a shoe repair store, and a tire store.

Jim Igoe, President of Preservation Massachusetts, feels strongly about the future of the Durgin Garage. "Designating the Durgin Garage to this year's endangered list allows us to support the positive efforts of concerned citizens of a landmark building in their town in an effort to amicably reach an appropriate development resolution while giving preservation a place at the table during discussion."



Durgin Garage, Pleasant Street & Waldo Street