



**PROCEEDINGS**

OF THE

**BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FOR 1957-1958**

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BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS  
PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY  
1959

## SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1958

The Annual Meeting was held at the Edward Devotion House on January 19. In the absence of President Packard, Vice-President Bowditch called the meeting to order.

The usual reports from the Treasurer, Chairman for the Committee-on-Rooms, and so on were read and approved. Mrs. Parker Mitchell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, read her report and the following were elected to serve as Trustees and as Clerk and Treasurer throughout the year: Mrs. Harrison Bridge, Miss Elizabeth Butcher, Dr. Harold Bowditch, Mr. James M. Driscoll, Mr. Lea S. Luquer, *Clerk*, Mr. J. Frederick Nelson, *Treasurer*, Miss Maud Oxenham, Mr. Donald K. Packard, and Mr. S. Morton Vose.

Members who had died during the year or who had for one reason or another resigned included: Mrs. Edwin Jack, Mr. Charles Hinckle, Mrs. George Torney, Mr. John Drum, Miss Lucy Aspinwall, Mrs. Marion C. Baker, Judge Reuben Lurie, and Mrs. Edward Wyluda. Voted into membership were: Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Morse, Mrs. Murray Dewart, Mrs. Helen La Vey.

Dr. Ernest Caverly, long connected with the education of our youth read an interesting paper upon the subject of *Education in the town over the past fifty years*, and later answered questions from the floor. In spite of the cold, the thirty odd who attended enjoyed the meeting and the refreshments that followed.

At a meeting of the Trustees held on April 16th, Mr. Packard was elected to serve as President and Mr. Vose, Vice President, to succeed Dr. Bowditch, about to remove to New Hampshire.

The Spring Meeting was held on May 18th at Walter Avenue, where the thirty who attended not only heard something about the architectural features of this old house about to be lost in the changes impending in the "Farm" area, but also about the history of the Brookline Friendly Society by Miss Sybil Baker, long-time Director.

There was no fall meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

LEA S. LUQUER,  
*Clerk*

## THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT

#### Cash and Securities on hand January 1, 1958

U. S. Series K Bonds .....	\$2,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company .....	1,119.24	
Brookline Savings Bank .....	7,258.54	
		\$10,377.78

#### Receipts for 1958

Residuary bequest (estate of Josephine H. Wilder) .....	\$1,333.00	
Membership Dues .....	482.00	
Interest on Savings Bank Deposit .....	219.38	
Interest on U. S. Series K Bonds .....	55.20	
Sale of "Old Brookline Houses" .....	21.40	
Sale of "Proceedings" .....	.25	
		\$2,111.23
		\$12,489.01

#### Payments for 1958

Secretary's Expense .....	\$35.00	
Treasurer's Expense .....	25.60	
Bronze Tablet — Town Pound .....	48.00	
Collations .....	50.49	
Chair Rentals .....	10.00	
Printing — talk by Mr. Soule .....	15.00	
New England Council Listing .....	2.00	
Bay State Historical League Dues .....	4.00	
Insurance .....	7.80	
Bank Charges .....	.55	
		\$198.44

#### Cash and Securities on hand December 31, 1958

U. S. Series K Bonds .....	\$2,000.00	
Brookline Trust Company .....	1,424.45	
Brookline Savings Bank .....	8,866.12	
		\$12,290.57
		\$12,489.01

Respectfully submitted,

J. FREDERICK NELSON,  
*Treasurer*

## BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 19, 1958

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS

We are glad to report more visitors to the house than usual this year.

*School visits:* January, the eighth grade classes from the Devotion School — each class staying about half an hour. May, the fourth grades from the Devotion School, also by classes. October, seventh grades from the Lawrence School—in two sections. Schools represented: Devotion, Driscoll, Runkle, Lawrence, St. Aidan's, Andrew Jackson School in Allston. Colleges represented: Staley College, Wesleyan College, Boston University.

*Guests:* Registered from New York, North Carolina, Louisiana, California, Virginia. *Of special interest:* An attractive family from Harrisburg, Va. — Dr. and Mrs. Preston, son and daughter (Mary Devotion Preston) descendants of Lucy Devotion; Miss Muriel Caswell of Boston, who was planning a February field trip for the Field and Forest Outing Club; Mr. Roy Atkinson, a newspaper reporter who is commissioned to do a feature story on the Devotion House by a Worcester newspaper. He brought a photographer with him, and did considerable research in the library and elsewhere on the background of the House especially in connection with William Dawes and his ride through Brookline.

*Meetings:* Jan. 20th, Annual meeting of Brookline  
Historical Society

April 4th, Hannah Goddard Chapter, D. A. R.

April 19th, Patriot's Day Ceremonies

Nov. 18th, Hannah Goddard Chapter, D. A. R.

*Repairs:* Roof repaired by the Town in several places where squirrels had entered during cold weather; also minor repairs on door latches, combination door, new step on back stairway, windows repaired.

Given to the Society by Miss Wentworth are a sword belonging originally to Major William Fowler and three interesting parchments engraved with his appointments as Second and First Lieutenant, and as Captain, encased in a cylindrical metal case.

We continue to receive requests for photographs of the portrait of Rev. Ebenezer Devotion, considered the most outstanding example of the work of the artist Winthrop Chandler, and an important piece of American provincial painting. Your

Chairman has just given permission for its use as an illustration in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of World Art* which is to be published in both English and Italian.

Among the Devotion family heirlooms given to the Society by Mrs. Harriet Devotion Terry was a miniature of Jonathan Devotion of Norwich, (grandson of Rev. Ebenezer) of which the face was done in watercolor, and costume of actual fabric expertly applied to the paper background. Recently two other miniatures of Capt. and Mrs. Huntington of Norwich have been discovered done in exactly the same manner, and attributed to the same unknown artist.

Respectfully submitted,

NINA FLETCHER LITTLE,  
(Chairman, Committee on Rooms)

## THE SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE — FIFTY YEARS AGO AND TODAY

ERNEST R. CAVERLY, *Superintendent of Schools*

When it was suggested to me that I address you on some historical aspect of the Brookline schools, I thought at first I would deal with the past quarter of a century, during which I have had the privilege and the honor of serving as educational leader of this distinguished Town. The more I studied the matter, however, the more I became convinced that a little deeper look into the past and a comparison with the present would render a greater service to the purpose of this meeting.

Fifty years ago there was a School Committee of nine members, as there is today; and there were subcommittees on buildings, finance, hygiene, teachers, and textbooks, also as there are today, with only two slight changes. The subcommittee on textbooks is now named the subcommittee on instruction, and a subcommittee on public relations has been added. Both these changes have taken place recently, the first in 1946, and the second in 1948. The significant fact, in my opinion, is the persistence of a practice once adopted, often in the face of changing procedures elsewhere. Brookline has been particularly independent about following its well-established traditions, unmoved by new theories or neighboring practices.

Brookline has had only six Superintendents of Schools, beginning with William T. Reid (father of William T. Reid, Jr., a member of this Society, of 14 Hawthorne Street) in 1872. From 1900 to 1919 George I. Aldrich was Superintendent, and to him we are indebted for many words of wisdom, sound advice, and effective leadership, the results of which are still apparent in the schools today. In a single report (1907) he dealt with these subjects: State laws and local implementation of them, enrolments, the value of kindergartens, the size of classes, teachers' salaries, High School courses, manual training, physical examinations — especially of eyes, ears and teeth, dramatics and debating at the High School, graduates entering colleges, vacation schools, evening schools, school gardens, free shower baths, and retiring allowances for teachers. Most of these subjects are discussed from time to time in the School Committee's reports today. Let us examine a few of them.

In 1905 the people of the Town numbered 23,000; in 1955, 57,000, an increase of 150 per cent. The school population increased from 3700 to 6700, an increase of 81 per cent. This is evidence of the well-known fact that Brookline has become increasingly a community of adults.

The High School increased from 400 to 2000, an increase of 400 per cent. This is the truly spectacular fact of the past 50 years. It registers the tremendous value which our people place on education, as much education as possible for as many people as possible. It emphasizes the extraordinary appreciation which our people have of secondary education, evidenced also by the exceedingly small number of students (about 2 per cent of the High School enrolment) who drop out of school entirely in any one year. The drop-out figures of 50 years ago are not available, but these together with the number who never entered High School must have been enormous.

The Report for 1907 shows that 59 were graduated from the High School, and of these 24 entered higher institutions, including 5 each to Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and 3 each to Radcliffe and Wellesley. All the colleges were within 100 miles of Boston! How different is the situation today.

In 1957, 393 were graduated and of these 290 continued their education in advanced schools or colleges. These included 36 who enrolled in Boston University, 22 in the University of Massachusetts, and 18 at Northeastern University. There were 11 who went to Harvard, 6 to Tufts, and 4 to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In all there were 217 in higher institutions in Massachusetts, 21 in other New England States, and 52 outside New England. Four girls are married and 19 boys are in the armed forces.

Fifty years ago a table showing the size of 86 elementary school classes was published. "Its purpose," according to the report, "is to give prominence to an advantage enjoyed by the local public, because of the small number of pupils assigned to each teacher . . . . In only seven instances does the enrolment exceed forty-five." The classes ranged in size from 20 to 50!

Fifty years later the classes ranged from 11 to 36 pupils, and in only six instances did the enrolment exceed 33. The total number of the classes was 181.

The maximum salary paid to a Brookline teacher in one of the first six grades was \$800 in 1907 and is \$7000 today. Seven thousand dollars was the salary the Superintendent of Schools received from 1924 to 1945. A High School teacher received a maximum of \$1200 in 1907, and he receives a maximum of \$7700 today. You could spend a great deal of time, if you were interested, in computing all the changes in economic values which have taken place in 50 years. If you do, will you tell me whether or not the Brookline teacher is now paid as adequately as he was in 1907?



leadership will give a good account of itself to the community. It has my blessing and encouragement.

Fifty years ago the School Committee repeatedly called attention "to the unsatisfactory results obtained in the evening schools." Apparently about 100 attended at a cost of \$2000 or less. Instruction was given in the Lincoln Building and in the Pierce Building in English branches, carpentry, stenography and typewriting.\* Today there are 2000 enrolled in 50 subjects. The most popular courses are those in clothing and in painting, with enrolments of more than 200 in each subject. Only slightly less popular are the classes in typewriting. Other courses provide a wide variety of offerings in general and business education, in homemaking, and in vocational arts such as automobile care, cabinet making, and radio building and repair. The annual cost of the adult education program is approximately \$49,000 of which \$13,000 is reimbursed to the Town in State-aid and registration fees. Today's objectives are to help Brookline citizens (1) to improve their earning power, (2) to develop hobbies for use in their leisure time, and (3) to broaden their cultural background.

Medical inspection of the public schools began in 1894†, under the direction of the Board of Health. Dr. H. Lincoln Chase, agent of the Board, was a prominent figure in the early days of medical inspection and his reports are interesting reading.

In 1906 the State Legislature enacted a law calling for (1) medical inspection of all schools and (2) an annual examination of each pupil as to sight and hearing. The 1907 Report of the Superintendent of Schools set forth at great length the results of examinations not only of eyes and ears, but of teeth also. Without going into the details of these studies, it may be noted that 50 per cent of the teeth were found to be in poor condition and 25 per cent in fair condition. Today the situation is not much better.

Dr. Chase served as Chief Medical Inspector from 1894 to 1913, Dr. Robert W. Hastings from 1913 to 1921, and Dr. David M. Hassman from 1921 to 1955. All these men rendered service of great merit.

In 1955, under authorization of a special act of the Legislature, the School Committee appointed Dr. Robert H. Hamlin, the Town's Health Director, to be the Director of School Health Services, and Dr. Maurice M. Osborne, Jr. as School Health Physician. In this way the Committee secured for our schools

\* Report for 1909, p. 48.

† School Committee Report for year ending January 31, 1907.

not only the services of a competent pediatrician but also the resources of the local Health Department, of the Children's Medical Center, and of the Harvard School of Public Health.

The more we study history, the more we come to think that there is nothing new under the sun. But there is!

Guidance, for the purpose of supplementing what the teacher can do as a personal counselor and an educational adviser, came into existence in 1930 when John V. Jewett was appointed the first guidance counselor ever chosen to assist the students of Brookline High School. Three years later James R. Hobson was appointed to have charge of child placement in all schools and later became Director of Child Placement, a position he still holds. He is responsible for the admission of underage children by mental test, promotions from grade to grade (particularly in doubtful cases), the proper instruction of atypical children, and the overall program of guidance both in the elementary schools and in the High School. There are four full-time guidance counselors in the High School, all prepared by temperament, training, and experience to serve the particular needs of nearly 2200 students. Our first duty to the individual child is to treat him like an individual.

Earlier in this paper I mentioned the growth of the High School from 400 to 2000 students in 50 years. Shortly after 1930 when the enrolment had reached 1600 and was increasing rapidly, the challenge of size began to be felt. For how many students can a Headmaster exercise a direct administrative responsibility over without losing sight of the individual? Not as many as 1600, it was clear, and for this reason the House Plan was created. I believe it to be the first such plan in a high school, though Harvard College had had a House Plan for a number of years. With a housemaster and an assistant housemaster in administrative charge of each class (now known as a house), four schools within a school came into being, with the housemasters responsible to the Headmaster. Thus the administrative unit is kept manageable and careful attention to the individual maintained.

The first mention of a school librarian was in 1907 when Helen B. Russell was listed in that capacity among the High School faculty. Thirty-seven years later a librarian was appointed for the Baker School, opened seven years before, and in subsequent years school libraries with professionally trained librarians have been opened in every elementary school except the Pierce, which is a very short distance away from the Public Library. Rooms with books, called libraries, had existed earlier, but were ineffective until formally organized with a competent

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librarian in charge. For the pioneer work that has made the school libraries an indispensable part of our educational system we are indebted to Miss Elizabeth Butcher, Town Librarian, and Miss Dorothea K. Wetherell, Supervisor of Elementary School Libraries. Today we have 13,000 books in the High School library, and 55,000 books in the libraries of seven elementary schools.

School lunchrooms in Brookline began in 1895 with the opening of a new High School building. A kitchen and a lunch counter in the basement, operated by a concessionaire, provided food reported to be "monotonous"; but with the passing years reports indicated that the lunchroom was giving satisfaction, that more and more attention was paid to quality and variety in foods served, and late in the 1920's Mrs. Elvira E. Potter, a faculty member, was appointed supervisor of lunchrooms in all schools. Now every school (except the Baldwin and Sewall primary schools) has a lunchroom supervised by Miss Marion L. Cronan, Director of Homemaking, and a competent staff of homemaking teachers, cooks, and other lunchroom workers. Hot, nourishing food prepared in clean, attractive kitchens, the best milk procurable, menus planned to meet the needs of growing bodies, and service in pleasant, uncrowded lunchrooms are our continuing objectives.

The first Assistant Superintendent of Schools was appointed in 1946 — Dr. Rexford Souder, a graduate of Glassboro (New Jersey) State Teachers College, and of Teachers College, Columbia University. The position is held today by William F. Young, Jr., previously Principal of the Runkle School. Chief among his duties is the program of instruction, including subjects to be offered, modified or discontinued, courses of study (their preparation, use, and revision), textbooks, methods, and results. He has certain other duties, such as the direction of adult education, the extended use of school buildings, and the making of such investigations and reports as the welfare of the schools may require. In my absence, he acts as Superintendent.

The Brookline schools have a great history, only a small part of which I can deal with today. That history reveals the men and women of monumental size who have served on her School Committee and in her classrooms. Back of these estimable people have been the citizens of the Town, who have always been able and willing to pay for the best in education, and who have received more than they paid for.

January 19, 1958

## SOME REMARKS ABOUT 10 WALTER AVENUE AND THE WARD FAMILY

By MRS. BERTRAM K. LITTLE

The Ward House remained in a part of Roxbury until this family was nearly extinct, at least in name in this vicinity, and was sold by the heirs to the Brookline Land Company in 1860. It was a beautiful tract of land and included nearly all the land from Pond Avenue to Chestnut Street, and nearly all from Washington Street to Jamaica Pond, being a part of Governor Leveret's original allotment. So that really is pretty much I imagine, what we call the Farm Area today, beginning at Washington Street and going all the way back through to the Pond and some of the area up toward Pond Avenue and Chestnut Streets.

The family line of the Wards begins with John Ward, born in 1748, his son Samuel Ward, born in 1772, and his son, Henry Shedd Ward, born in 1807. Those are the three generations really that concern this land. We can be sure that John Ward lived on or near this land, as he was listed in Drake's History of Roxbury as being a member of the Fire Engine Company which was located near the Punchbowl Tavern (which, as you know, was right across the street) corner of Pearl and Washington Streets in 1787. And as I remember it, that small volunteer fire organization was manned equally from Roxbury and from Brookline for a good many years because the town line between Brookline and Roxbury went through just a little bit further up in Brookline. Later the line was changed.

We have no records about Samuel Ward, John's son, except the above quotation from Miss Woods that he was part owner of the Ward farm. Henry Ward, no doubt inherited the property from his father and grandfather. On the Brookline Historical Society Land map for 1844, he is shown as owning two houses on this property. He died that same year, and in 1848, his widow married Sylvester Kimball.

Now, I think that I will read a letter written by Mr. Carl W. Goodspeed on November 9, 1948 to Mr. Gorham Dana and this is relative to this house.

Dear Mr. Dana,

Relative to my conversation with you concerning the Brookline Friendly Society building. My grandfather, Sylvester Kimball, married Nabby Ross Ward, the widow of Henry Shedd Ward on November 2, 1848. The marriage took place in the

old Ward house, this is the early Ward house which was located at a point about opposite the present house which is now occupied by the Friendly Society. It must have been at about this time, 1848 or 1849, that the old Ward house burned.

Sylvester Kimball then built the house now occupied by the Friendly Society, that's this house, and my mother, Martha Ross Kimball was born in this new house on January 4, 1850. This would establish the date of the erection of this house between the above two dates November 22, 1848 and January 7, 1850 which would be during the year of 1849, or about 100 years before this letter was written.

I presume of course that we should take the evidence of Mr. Goodspeed, after all, whose mother was born in this house and whose forbears lived here for those dates. It is a little bit hard for me to believe that the house is quite as late as 1849 to 1850.

A close examination of this building shows it to have been originally one room deep, with two chimneys on the back wall, a central hall and staircase with one room on either side and a small ell which probably contained the kitchen. The house faces on Washington Street with the side of the ell running along Walter Avenue. As you know the front of the house is straight through this way — the original front door, the house entirely original in the front — there's been very little change, as you will see later, I hope, if you'll go over it, and of course we are in an ell here which is a very much later construction than the original house which is back this way.

The house still retains its original front door and most of its interior woodwork, including doors, windows and mantle-pieces. The woodwork for the most part is of the type used during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, but certain later features such as the treatment of the front door, with sidelights, and the mantel, give the impression that it was built around the year 1825. Now Mr. Goodspeed said it was built in 1849 and probably it was, but I do think that it is unusual to find a house with woodwork purely Federal in character which is perhaps roughly from 1785 to 1815 or 1820, such as this house has. It has no Victorian characteristics. The woodwork is all such as you find in the early houses in Brookline between 1800 and 1820. Whether the Wards used some older material here from a house that might have been partially burned, or got some second-hand material which was quite often done, or whether indeed they simply built in the style of the generation

before, I don't know. But in any case the house is now over one hundred years old, or whatever date you may take its building, and is connected with one of the old families, the Ward family, here in this part of the Village.

A little bit later, I think it was in 1844, the boundaries between Roxbury and Brookline were really laid, and this part of the town of course then accrued to Brookline, with the Roxbury line, as you know being pushed a little bit further that way, as it still is. This is just a very brief and informal introduction to the house as you may later see it, and this letter which is rather interesting — you might like to read it — is here on the table.

## **A HISTORY OF THE BROOKLINE FRIENDLY SOCIETY**

BY MISS SYBIL BAKER

If I waited till the end to tell you about the house you'll all be breaking up and I might forget to do it. As Mrs. Little said of course, this wing is new, and the room next to it where we'll have our tea is also new. Beyond them you'll go into the old house and as you see them now, you will see a very small room which is the room Miss Moberg used to occupy when the Nursing Service was here. Then beyond that is the larger room which we now use as a room for my supervisor. And many of the rooms are going to be devoid of chairs, because they are in here, and incidentally, I hate to see some of you sitting in those hard green chairs, when there are two or three comfortable ones in front. If you get awfully sore where you're sitting, please move. I have just come from the National Conference of Social Workers — Social Welfare — as they call it now, and have been moving in and out of every meeting, and I think everyone in the front row should get up and move to the back and vice versa.

Then upstairs, where I hope you will go, to the second room, the front two rooms in the old house are the waiting room for clients with no chairs, as you know, and my office; and my office, I think simply is one that really ought to be photographed because it has a lovely old fireplace and mantle in it, and the doors and the ceiling slant — like this, because the floors in the building are settled, and so you get very aware there of the old house, I think. Then, as you come back into the rooms over the other offices, the secretary's office is the one that's over the room where the refreshments are to be served, and then the back part we have tried to remodel, since the nurses moved out we have made four very small rooms into two moderately good-sized rooms by just tearing down partitions. The third floor has just a playroom and a room we use for students, and I thought it

would possibly be intolerably hot up there and that you wouldn't want to climb the second flight of stairs.

This is a particularly fitting time to have in here, I think, because actually we are 80 years old. Now, we somehow never seem to announce ourselves as organized at the time that I feel we really were, simply because we didn't get out certain legal papers, and we weren't chartered and all of that sort of thing. But, nevertheless, it was on June 30th, in 1878, which would be 80 years ago next month, that the predecessor of this organization was organized. Now some of you were here three years ago when Miss Moberg talked to you about the history of the Nursing Service in Brookline at its 50th anniversary. You will have heard some of the material that I'm going to give to you today because until recently, we were one and the same organization and, of course, we still have our roots in the same place. But in order to carry my report along, somewhat consecutively, it seems better to repeat it.

At that time, Mrs. Charles H. Stearns, Mrs. Joseph Mayo and Mrs. Sarah Mellen met at the Colonial farmhouse at Coolidge Corner, owned by the Stearns' and decided that something had to be done about the end of the Horse Car Line in Brookline Village, which had nothing but saloons on any side of the street, and at the end of the horse car line there was no place for anyone to go but into the saloons. So they decided that they would start a reading room so that the men could go into the reading room rather than the saloons. They called it first the Temperance Lunch and Reading Room, and it was in the Lyceum Building, on Washington Street. The luncheons were discontinued fairly soon but the reading room continued. They did have a pledge card for people to sign and it was signed, as we read through the history of that period. They also, in order to open this reading room, appealed for money and with a pledge card which read "that each according to his several ability" and they wished to open "a quiet, respectable yet social place of resort for innocent games supplied with useful, instructive and interesting reading matter." The games turned out to be dominoes and checkers, the reading matter was a newspaper, a few books, and a scrapbook.

They requested that all literature sent to the reading room be "non-sectarian, but of good moral tendency." I think the thing that I was pleased with though, and I wasn't aware of it, until I was looking over this material, is the fact that so far back we did stress that we were a non-sectarian agency, of course, which is the key thing which distinguished us from the sectarian social agencies like us. So way back in 1878 we started out as a non-sectarian agency.



About 40 men a day apparently patronized this little reading room, and I imagine a few more books must have been added to the shelves, and they decided that they had outgrown that and they wanted to have a little more activity, so they moved across the Railroad Bridge to the Dun-Edin Building and a piano was donated and they hired a permanent attendant, and monthly expenses which I'm sure must have been rent plus the fee for the service of the attendant were \$67 a month.

They called this an experiment of promoting good morals and polite manners by occasionally having appropriate speaking and reading aloud to the men. Mrs. Stearns and her friends were still the managers, and the project was supported by their personal appeals. In 1880, two years later, they admitted women and girls, and started some entertainment, and this was quite revolutionary, I guess, for that time. They began giving band concerts outside, that is widening their responsibility from just a reading room and the activities inside to really community entertainment, and they also installed outside their door a tank of ice water which they say was very well patronized, and they hoped they might have trapped some men from the saloons with the water.

At that time they also set aside a room for meetings, feeling that they had a community responsibility again, beyond just this presumably inebriated crowd that they opened up for. And the first group that met in it, logically, was the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, because it was three of their members who had organized it. They started then a sewing circle for children which they appropriately called the Band of Hope, and I use the word "appropriately" from the early history. I don't know quite why it was appropriate that children in a sewing class be the Band of Hope.

In the years, 1881 and 1882, they recorded 8,000 visits to that reading room. Of course, we don't know how many people that represented. In 1884 apparently the town of Brookline became a Temperance town, the sale of liquor in the town being forbidden, and so there seems to be no indication in the early history of that time of any temperance pleasures being taken. The only figure I saw was that one time there were 70. But that was not at the end when the book closed, so I don't know how many more had been added. In 1884, they started garment making, sort of a place for second-hand clothing, and started cooking classes.

Then in 1886, two things really happened that were quite important. In that spring, a Brookline Friendly Union was chartered to carry on a charitable work in Brookline similar

to that done by the Associated Charities of Boston, which was an organization a number of years older than we, and in September of that year there was a Brookline Union, Incorporated, which was to raise \$35,000 to build a fine, large building which would contain space for all the regular charitable activities of the town in addition to the rooms for club work, a hall for dramatic and musical entertainment, a coffee room, a gymnasium, a billiard room, a bowling alley, and, and I'm quoting, "A conversation room in the basement, for working men to congregate to discuss the affairs of the nation." The Brookline Union, actually was only formed to erect and to maintain a building, and the land for it was given by Mr. and Mrs. Stearns. Now that is the Union Building which still stands, and it looks almost like a factory, at the corner of High and Walnut Streets, on the east side of the town. This was dedicated on November 10, 1888. It had been used apparently for the Friends group, almost a year behind that. Well, it always interested me that although when they first organized the Brookline Friendly Union, they said that they were going to carry on work similar to that done by the Associated Charities of Boston, but possibly never did that, at least not for a number of years after this. Because what they did develop was a program much more similar to that carried on by the present day Neighborhood houses which consisted of clubs, various group activities, a bank; all sorts of things entirely geared to the poor of the town. In fact, they said that they were starting an experiment to learn something more definite as to the condition of the poor in the town, and how it could be improved. They set up early a Visiting Committee and the first year's report after this Visiting Committee was established was that they had persuaded 70 families to start with savings for coal and they go on to say later that when the price was saved for half a ton of coal, the ton of coal was delivered, and they could start saving again for the next ton of coal. The second committee was the Coal Committee and they distributed 90 tons the first year at reduced prices. The third was a Committee on Boy's Clubs, fourth, Committee on Girl's Clubs, five, a Committee on Rides for Children; they said in there something about a 5 cent rate, but I don't quite think that that had too much connection, I think all rides for children then were 5 cents. A Committee on Cooking Classes, a Committee on District Nursing, a Committee on Two Tenement Houses, and it specifically says, a Committee on Two Tenement Houses, and apparently this committee worked with the people who lived in these two tenement houses to see if they could help them to improve conditions, and to maintain them more cleanly and they report that there was much improvement in the cleanliness of those houses and that all rent had been paid to date. Then they

report that the Stearns family were so pleased at the progress of these people — and I don't know how large these two tenement houses were — that they had a party for them where they were allowed to pick fruit and flowers and then were served a dinner, and at the end of the party, it is quoted, that one of the tenement house dwellers, said "if more people like Mr. Stearns would rent tenements to poor people, it would save them from unjust and cruel landlords."

In 1889, because of the confusion between this Brookline Union which owned the building, and the Brookline Friendly Union which was apparently maintaining the activities in it, the Brookline Friendly Union changed its name to the Brookline Friendly Society, which our corporate body still has as its name. The activities continued, clubs and classes, playground activities, rugs and wood, dancing classes, and under the dancing classes it said "with some restriction" but the waltz and the two-step were allowed with an occasional Schottische and chap-erones were always present.

In 1905 the medical department was established and this too I think is quite in line with the program at the old "settlement houses", as we used to call them when I was growing up, neighborhood houses now, because the very first visiting nurse service that was started, and what we called then district nurses and district doctors went out from Hull house and then from The Henry Street Settlement in New York. Miss Moberg in her report said that way back in one of the very early reports they spoke of the Nursing Committee, in fact I spoke of a Nursing Committee here. Apparently nurses reported for emergencies only in the home, but in 1905 they started an organization, in a sense, a whole program where a doctor was here two days a week, but other doctors could make calls in the home where people couldn't afford doctors, and had nurses for visiting homes here. They were called district doctors and district nurses at that time because they worked only in the financially poor district.

In October, 1905, we really were incorporated and were given our charter for the purpose of cooperating with the poor of the town in efforts for their own improvement. And then in December, 1905, the Brookline Union dissolved and turned its building over to the Brookline Friendly Society.

It was not until 1912 that the first real, organized, so-called social service department was founded. They report this and so this I begin to think indicates why we don't go back to 1878 but usually 1886. They speak in 1912 of the completion of the first quarter century of an organized Brookline Friendly Soci-

ety. At that time they began the organization of a social service department which they state as: "fully equipped as a family agency covering all sides of family life," and I want you to hear what all sides of family life are: health, recreation and finance. Later the recreational work was subordinated to the other two; so the primary emphasis of this agency in its starting family service work — what we now call family service work — was most concerned in the health and financial affairs of the poor in the town, with the health being primarily taken care of by the health services.

I said notice the things which are registered parts of family living because today of course we put family relationships at the top and apparently in that time they were not thinking about how people got along together. Maybe they just assumed people did, when they were in families, and so if the financial affairs were straightened out, that would be enough.

Prior to 1912, when this organization came, for a number of years, they had had 27 Friendly Visitors who visited weekly, but the only comment about them, as I reported earlier, was that they collected money for coal, but in doing this, in going into the homes weekly, it led to further friendly and helpful relationships, with poor people who desired advice in their efforts for improvement. They go on, "there were other families, however, living in such conditions of intemperance and general demoralization, that it was out of the question for the ladies of the Visiting Committee to deal with the situation." So they voted that they would set up a department of outside work to be conducted by a trained social service worker of experienced tact and ability. At that time Mrs. Elizabeth K. Taft was engaged.

In the front pages of the annual reports, as they were published every year, the Society's goal was stated: "Our society is for the prevention of pauperism, of drunkenness, of idleness, for the encouragement of thrift, of innocent pleasure, of intelligent reading; it promotes a better understanding between the rich and the poor, and more than all, it helps those who are striving to help themselves." That statement, of course, is one of the early phrases used in social work. "It helps people to help themselves."

In Miss Taft's first report, I thought I would read you a couple of paragraphs:

"It is a senseless task trying to pull families to their feet when they are falling through the careless giving of material things which they did not need

and the withholding of the industrial training, or custodial treatment which they did need. Through this long dependence, and lack of the right kind of help, many of them have lost that self-respect which is necessary for good citizenship. The giving of money or material aid to families in distress is not our aim, but rather the building up of family strength, resourcefulness and independence. The mere lack of money usually stands for but a small part of the total need, and it requires time and training to find its true meaning. Investigation, not for the sake of proving a fraud, but for the proper understanding of the causes that have led to the present trouble, is of the utmost importance. In cases of need, immediate and material relief is always given, and then the investigation follows."

And she speaks at that time of something that had been started a long time before her organization; there was a Case Committee, which met twice a month, and to whom the Friendly Visitors brought their problems, and this Case Committee asked volunteers to try to think of the best way to help the people. Now those Case Committees continued up until about four or five years ago, with the emphasis somewhat being changed, the prior uses of the Committee being that they would help us to understand the needs of the community and help us to interpret to the community the kind of services we could offer, but it was certainly up until 1930, that the Case Committee really would vote how to help people.

When I first went into social work, I was not in Brookline, I was in Boston, but I can remember you took cases, and the committee would vote whether you should give a family \$10 a week for so many weeks, or whether you would give somebody a scholarship to school, or whether you would give somebody even a pair of shoes, sometimes, was a vote. And then I think later both the committees and the professionals felt that they were asking the committee to give opinions which the professional only had the right to decide and what we needed most from the committees was the temper of the community and the border needs which they saw, and they have been used in that fashion since that time.

In 1914, it is interesting, that Mrs. Taft was set up as superintendent of the agency. For the first time the superintendent was given full responsibility for the several departments of the organization which included the Nursing Service. That continued really until 1942 when following a study which I will refer to later, I came, and as a result of the study the Nursing

Service and the Family Service were set up as two distinct departments each with their own executive and each with their own advisory committee. But from 1914 to 1942 it continued in this fashion. I thought you would be interested that in the earlier days Mrs. James M. Codman was president and she was succeeded in 1917 by Mrs. Frederick Percy.

The club activity stopped on October 19, 1918. I first thought that it had probably stopped largely because of the efforts of the agency so hopelessly toward the war — various problems came up at that time — but I did find then that the building was turned over to the town, not given to them, and the Playground Commission of the town agreed to conduct the program of recreation within our old building. At that time the Brookline Day Nursery had used this building and had carried on the nursery, and they decided to give that up, and in 1918 they gave the building to the Brookline Friendly Society, to be conducted, and used for, a health center. I think actually we may have leased it for \$1 a year for about three years and then it was given to us.

In 1920 the report spoke of the formation of two very important committees: one was the Interchurch Work for Community Service, and I do not find other references to it particularly, but I cannot help but feel that that is the Interchurch Committee within the town, with which we have nothing to do now in terms of its function, but of course we are beneficiaries of its work. To this committee all the sewing departments of various organizations as they may be called in various churches joined together in what is called the Interchurch Committee. Then the second one was the Visiting Housekeeper. I do not know how long we kept the Visiting Housekeeper on. That is a course we call the Homemaker now, but it certainly is one of the primary needs of almost all family agencies. We draw on the Boston Family Service when we need one.

Now in March, 1920, there was a survey of the agency made by Miss Mary Gardner of the District Nursing Association of Providence, Rhode Island and Miss Margaret Rich who was then the Associate Director of the American Association for Organizing Family Social Work, the predecessor name for the Family Service Association of America, our national organization. They recommended a committee reorganization, and right down Nursing, Social Service, Cooperative Committee, a Publicity Committee, A Camp Committee and a Building Committee. The organization had piloted this, studied a day camp for the good of the children that went under the health department auspices and then were maintaining a "Camp Codman for Boys" which started on the Cape and then seemed to be located in several different organizations.

In 1920, following this survey the Board, in studying it, voted at one time that they should change the name of the organization, the Brookline Friendly Society, because they thought it was quite outgrown, and I notice we have struggled with it for a good many years and we still have it as our parent organization.

In 1926, we finally were able to sell the big building on Walnut Street, and social service was moved into the little building that some of you can see set back in what originally was our yard, and which is now a house we do not own. In 1930, Family Service as we are now called moved into this building, occupying the second floor, we had resident caretakers on the third, and they also then had what we now have as our lounge. I think only about a year after I came the caretakers remained, and that would mean that from 1930 to 1943, Family Service was just on the second floor of the building.

There were three other health surveys, 1927, 1942 and 1948, and in all of these was the recommendation that Miss Moberg spoke about, that the three nursing services of the town be merged, that is the School Nursing, the Public Health Nurses and the Visiting Nurses all function under one director. That, of course, has not materialized but in June of 1956, when the Health Center was opened, our Visiting Nurse Service did move to the Health Center and on contract with the town did take over supervision of the Public Health Nursing. There is no affiliation here at all or supervisory plan with the School Nurses.

Now I am jumping back a little bit, but one thing that interested me in the old reports was that in 1929, we recognized the need for some help with emotional problems, and a mental health worker was added to the staff to help both the nurses and the Family Service state workers, she was retained only for a year because of the financial situation, but that was an early date it seemed to me for an awareness of emotional problems because it was not until after the first World War that in this country, I think, we gave much recognition to the character in the treatment of behavior or of just general patterns of emotional trouble. We always avoided that and considered them only in terms of mental disease, and Brookline must really have been one of the very early communities to recognize that this was an appropriate training for social workers and for nurses.

In 1923 Mrs. Taft resigned, she had been here for 11 years, and Miss Ruby Litchfield I think who had been her assistant stayed just for three years, and at that time Miss Lillian Brown became the Executive Director or the General Secretary as she

was called. Miss Brown had been employed in 1923 as a Financial and Publicity Secretary, and I really feel that we owe Miss Brown a tremendous amount, because I think that a lot of the recognition and acceptance this agency has with other organizations in town and with the churches, and certainly much of our reasonably large endowment was secured through her efforts.

In 1935 we joined the Community Fund and in 1942 there was a survey, of just the Family Service Department, which was done by the Community Council of Boston which is now in the United Community Services and the Family Service Association of America and this was done at the request of the Board. What really had happened over the years was that Miss Brown's, who was not a trained worker, methods of helping people had changed greatly, and there was a director of nurses and a supervisor of the case workers. The supervisor had been ill for several years, and was not really here, and Miss Brown, with the Board, felt that there should be a survey to see whether there was a need for a family service agency in Brookline, or should we combine with Boston, or what would be the situation. As a result of that study, I came to the Agency in September 1942. And it was at that time too, as I referred earlier, that I became the Executive Director only of Family Service. Miss Moberg was made Executive Director of the Nursing Service, and we each had our advisory committee who were responsible to a joint board. I think that was the real recognition on the part of the Board of Directors that there was not an awful lot that was common in the performing of the services of the nurse and the case worker. When I came to the agency, Mr. Augustus W. Soule was President, then as he became ill, Mr. Franklin King was President for three years, and then in 1946 Mrs. Rowe was President, and she continued as long as the organization remained one. Mrs. Gordon R. Hall has been the President of Family Service since we took our own name, in February of 1957.

Now that is a long part of history, and I think I want you to know, and I think you want to know, what is Family Service work today. I will try very briefly to give you some picture of it, and I do have little leaflets here on the table that I really would love to have you all take home, because these are ones which you could refer to yourselves, or give to friends whenever there is any problem with which you feel we can help. One of the hardest things that Family Service Agency has had to work on, I think, is to overcome the part of our history when we organized as districts for the poor to help just the alcoholics and the dissolute people. Now Family Service is really for all people in town; we have no economic barriers any more than we have any racial or religious barriers. We have a fee-system which



covers our cost per interview. It runs from 50c per week to a maximum of \$12, and I have a few in my Board who will raise it to \$15 probably this next year. That is, the people pay the fee according to their ability to pay, the income they have and the expenses under which they operate. We are quite proud because it is a fee-system which was started in our Agency, and has been accepted by Boston and Cambridge and Waltham, and several other of the communities around, and it has been written up in our national publication.

The people who come to us now primarily come because of marital problems, for parent-child problems, special problems that concern the elderly, financial management and budgeting, so many people get into debt these days. Then they come because of health problems, which may mean changing a job, because the kind of job they are doing they cannot hold because they have special heart or other physical conditions. They may come for vocational guidance or for educational guidance. It is essential in a community like this that we work very closely with other community groups, the schools, the churches, all the other organizations.

Now one of the reasons that there has been this big change in the work of a family service agency has been the growth of public welfare. Now of course when our organization started, there was no public welfare. There was no public relief. If anyone became totally dependent, they were sent to an alms house. Through the increased understanding of what poverty does to people, and that actually it may cost the community more to maintain people in poverty than it does to give them reasonable advantages that involve health, housing, clothing, food and fuel, and things of that sort, there has been of course this tremendous growth throughout the whole country of public welfare standards and in most communities the public welfare departments now assume complete responsibility for what we call those basic needs of family living. It has left the private family agencies to carry on the work for which they always said they were founded: no money, no financial assistance, without a friend. That is, it is the personal contact of helping people which we have now been freed to do. Now we define our purpose as to contribute to harmonious families in relationships, to strengthen the positive values in family life, to promote healthy personality development and satisfactory social functioning of various family members. We have five outlined responsibilities that are established for all family agencies in good standing, and I want to report to you that we do have good standing, I think, on a national level and on a local level. The first is of course our primary work of case work service to settle indi-

viduals and families, then the second basic responsibility of an agency like ours is working to improve the social conditions which directly affect family life, then there are three others which some agencies do or do not, but are considered desirable functions if one can carry them on. They are the offering of leadership in group educational discussion or counseling programs, the offering of training experience to students in social work, and doing research. I think the last is the hardest for the small agency to participate in but we also have made our contribution there.

One of the reasons that the re-organization was done in 1942, the study, was because students from the schools of social work were not being sent to this agency, and it was felt, that was why it was recognized I think, that there had to be a trained leader. And by being trained, I think I should explain for those of you who do not know, it does mean, not only a bachelor's but a master's in social work, which means three years of graduate study.

Now what we do, we call case work, and case work is really just a process through which we help people. It is a process done almost entirely through interviewing. It is learning how to help people verbalize what it is that is concerning them, what they have ever tried to do about it, what they feel was blocking them in improving situations themselves, and then trying to work with them, and pulling together all the resources that they may both within themselves and outside, so that they may either work to overcome the problem or to be able to live with it without it interfering in their function. Now I do not know whether that sounds like an awful lot of worries, but it is really: trying to get an idea of what is the matter, whatever he has tried that is not working, and how together can we work out something that is going to help him find the answer to it.

I thought, very hastily, I would run down a few cases. I am just going to give highlights, because there just is not time for to be stopping anyway. I am not going to really tell you the stories, but I am giving you the idea of what they are.

The young couple who was referred to the Financial Committee: They had owned a home, they had three children and the man had said he worked but at a moderate salary. They had heavy debts, if they had illness they always had the very best private doctors, they always had the best of everything that they bought. They had no idea how to dovetail their needs and the income. With weekly visits to the mother, with the husband coming to the office for separate interviews and some with the wife in common, we worked with them of course on financial

planning to find how to establish values: that is, what is most important that you really have, and what is it you are working toward.

A married woman who had difficulty in letting her daughter grow up and choose her own boy friends: Every time the daughter would begin going with a boy the mother would get very panicky, whether he was the proper boy for her needs. She had a tremendous need to be needed and to see her children growing away from her was very threatening to her. With this mother, there had been a serious crippling illness when she was an adolescent, and so she had not grown up normally through adolescence herself, and she was safe with this with her children, she just was not able to meet it, and the reaction to this thing, as in so many of these things was physical complications, so that she would have indigestion every time she got upset. I have seen this woman for about two years, about once a week. She is really a tremendous amount better, she simply could not meet this problem of letting her children grow away from her.

A couple came in because they saw money and their children's care differently. The woman wanted to go into debt, the father was afraid of debt. The mother wanted the children to have social lives, the father wanted them to help with the chores, and used very rigid disciplining. He was very bossy about it. We have worked with both the mother and the father separately, actually I now have them in my couple's group, and we see one of the children separately.

We have an elderly woman, who is 80 and still works two days a week, but it was not very simple to get her to give up her work because she did not know how she would live; she did not want to go into a home for the aged but wanted to stay on her own. We have had to work with elderly people with that kind of problem, and they need a great deal of patience and a great deal of understanding, trying to help them plan what way they really can adjust.

We do work with children. The little children we work with in a playroom. We worked with a little girl who had no friends, who did not want to leave her mother. We work with her with toys in the hope of trying to help her be able to accept other friends. When we work with children we always see the parents too. Occasionally we work with the adolescents when the parents are not willing to come in for help. We are having quite a number of withdrawals from the high school, children who are not doing well in school but who are very intelligent, but where the parents have been pressing them so, the children just feel

there is no point in trying. In those cases we try to work both with the parents and the children.

The second function which we have is community conditions. I think one of the most important ones has been the housing, which of course is affecting our agency personally too. And I was interested, the very first reference in the reports of 1914 from Mrs. Taft said that how could you expect people to live decent lives when they lived under some of the housing conditions that some of the people in the Village then lived under, and they live in the same houses now. But we have been very concerned about housing ever since I have been in Brookline, and in 1955 our Board of Directors took action in the sense of corresponding with both the Housing Commission and the Housing Authority. The housing authority at that time asked urgently that something be done. We participated and worked towards building ideas of community counsel in Brookline. I was a member of the Committee on Alcoholism when it was here, and on the advisory committee of the Recreation Commission. Our Board has always encouraged participation in the Boston United Community Services which cover this area on communities there, and with our national organization we are on both the Membership Committee and what we call our Regional Committee which helps agencies within a region to determine programs and evaluate them. That is one wonderful thing about our Board. We worked with 338 individuals and families last year. We have carried on a group program for eight years. That has been almost entirely done through the parent-teacher organizations in several ways. First, there are separate or series meetings, then the various schools both with parents and with the mothers, and in the Devotion school I twice carried on programs with the eighth-grade pupils. In six of those eight years we have had a counseling program for mothers, and for couples here in the office. I am now running two, one for mothers and one for couples. These both happen to be of the parents of the seventh and eighth graders. We call them educational programs if the group only continues for five or six weeks, because it can only help them to understand how children grow, the meaning of behavior to their parents and how they can perhaps accept standards that may make life a little more pleasant for them and their children. Some of the groups have continued for eighteen or twenty weeks, and as soon as they get over about the fifth week, we frankly have talked it over with them, and they become complete treatment sessions just as we do in the individual interviewing. Our particular program is considered somewhat unique because we are one of the few agencies that combine the same services almost within the same group, and also where the groups are primarily set up for us by

the Parent Teacher Association and are not necessarily transferred from the individual treatment into the group and it was because of that that I was in Chicago because I was asked to give a paper at our national conference on our program. Interestingly enough, the other person on the program came from New York City where they have a program that was absolutely therapeutic, that is, everyone is under individual treatment first, and then is transferred into the group because the particular kind of problem they have is apt to be helped more in the group. But that is something for which apparently we are receiving some recognition on a wide basis.

We have had students from schools of social work ever since I have been here. There are three schools in Boston, Boston College, Boston University, and Simmons College, schools of doing social work, and as long as the schools accept us for training, it helps you to know that we are maintaining standards which are acceptable. Miss Snow, my case-work supervisor, is on what we call the Curriculum Committee at Boston College School of Social Work, setting up for study a new program they are having in the School. Incidentally, I have a supervisor, and three case workers, and this year we had four students.

Research has been the hardest thing for us to carry out. We did a five-year study on work we were doing with four and one-half to five year old children and their parents and that was a tremendous study, and I spoke of the work we had done on fees which also was accepted by other communities.

I feel in some ways as if I had glossed over the part of our work which is almost most important — case work. I did not mean to make it so, I guess I got absorbed in the history of myself, thinking of you as an historical society, but now I feel as if I had let you down on what we are really doing, and I would be very glad to answer any questions, and certainly I would like you to see the building . . .

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