

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BROOKLINE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1969-1974



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OF THE
BROOKLINE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR 1969-1974



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1973
OFFICERS

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MISS MAUD OXENHAM, DR. IRVIN TAUBE,
MRS. GARDNER WASHBURN, and the officers, ex-officio

The Annual Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society will be held at Pierce Hall, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, on Sunday, January 21, 1973, at three in the afternoon.

At the conclusion of the business of the meeting there will be a talk on "Physicians and Medical Advances in Brookline Over the Years" given by Dr. Francis D. Moore.

Carolyn H. Wetherbee, *Clerk*

THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Treasurer's Annual Report
1972

Cash on hand January 1, 1972		
Brookline Savings Bank		
90 Day Special Account	\$16,083.09	
Regular Account	1,806.96	
Charles B. Blanchard Memorial Permanent Fund	531.69	
Charles B. Blanchard – One half Annual Interest accumulated Fund for Special Use	31.68	
Brookline Trust Company Checking Account	<u>190.06</u>	\$18,643.48
Income during 1972		
Membership Dues	\$ 1,270.00	
Interest – Brookline Savings Bank		
90 Day Special Account	904.76	
Regular Account	68.58	
Charles B. Blanchard Memorial Fund	30.56	
Income from the estate of Josephine H. Wilder	72.09	
Book Sales – “Some Old Brookline Houses”		
History of Brookline	6.00	
Proceedings	11.00	
Donations – Admissions to the Edward Devotion House		
Filene’s for photography at Putterham School	<u>25.00</u>	\$ 2,432.49
		<u>\$21,075.97</u>
Payments during 1972		
Secretary’s Expenses	\$ 136.00	
Treasurer’s Expenses	82.79	
Insurance Premium	318.00	
Collations	12.00	
Chair Rentals	60.30	
Bay State Historical League Dues	8.00	
New England Council Listing	5.00	
Massachusetts Tax – Secretary of State Filing		
Attorney General Filing	3.00	
Audit and Tax Services	40.00	
Putterham School – Equipment		
Staffing during 1972	181.50	
Furniture Repairs at Devotion House	173.00	
Cataloguing Society Manuscripts	219.48	
1967-1969 Proceedings – Printing		
Mailing	<u>34.20</u>	\$ 3,697.27
Cash on hand December 31, 1972		
Brookline Savings Bank		
90 Day Special Account	\$15,987.85	
Regular Account	725.54	
Charles B. Blanchard Memorial Permanent Fund	546.97	
Charles B. Blanchard – One Half Annual Interest accumulated Fund for Special Use	46.96	
Brookline Trust Company Checking Account	<u>71.38</u>	\$17,378.70
		<u>\$21,075.97</u>

Respectfully submitted,

J. FREDERICK NELSON
Treasurer

January 21, 1973

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS

January 21, 1973

We have had a total of 241 visitors to the Devotion House during 1972, many of whom were school children. Other visitors came from Scotland, Ireland, and Israel; also from Connecticut, Maryland, California, Vermont, Maine, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Alabama.

Brookline classes visited from the Devotion, and Lawrence Schools and the first grade classes all had story time in front of the large fireplace to celebrate Thanksgiving. We also entertained students from Bridgeport, Vermont, and Edgartown High School on Martha's Vineyard to whom Mrs. McIntosh served juice and crackers, persuading them to feel that they enjoyed the Devotion much better than the Paul Revere House!

On February 18th Brookline teachers held a tea in the house to introduce members of their group to some of the history of the house. During July a group from the Metropolitan Museum in New York came to study the Devotion portraits, and the President of the Portland, Me. Historical Society visited with his family.

The Annual Meeting of our Society was held in the House on February 6th, and the Brookline Park and Recreation Department held the yearly Patriot's Day celebration, with representatives of various civic groups and children from several schools present.

Attention to needed repairs to the exterior leaves much to be desired. A window, some outside molding which lets the weather in, and an important rear door light have not been attended to as they should have been sometime ago. The heating system is old, and the burner has given out several times causing much inconvenience to the McIntosh family. Steps should now be taken by the Town to remedy this situation in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. BERTRAM K. LITTLE
Chairman, Committee on Rooms

REPORT ON THE PUTTERHAM SCHOOLHOUSE

For the Brookline Historical Society

January 21, 1973

This has been a peaceful year for the Putterham School, but one which has finished sadly with the illness of its devoted alumna and curator, Florence Palmer Peabody.

In April of 1972, with Mr. O'Shea's permission, we asked the Brookline Department of Public Works for a sign, to be put up in the schoolyard, which would tell passers-by a little about the building. Thanks to Mr. Leo Picardi, Director of the Department, and his assistant, Mr. Kirby, the sign was made and erected in May and stands now beside the school, an iron announcement that this is the Putterham School, used in Brookline from 1768 to 1920, and that it has been moved and repaired and opened for viewing. The Committee is much pleased with the sign, which resembles other signs throughout the Town used for places of local interest, and we are grateful to Mr. Picardi and Mr. Kirby for their prompt and generous help.

We are also grateful, as always, to the Museum of Transportation, our next-door neighbor, and to Ms. Marilyn Bever of the Museum, who this year agreed to arrange for several Northeastern University Co-operative students who were assisting her to man the school for four afternoons each week during the summer. Therefore the school has been open to the public from 2 to 4 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the warmer months. Although this schedule was initiated in June, the Guest Book which we had kept in the schoolroom was lost or misplaced in mid-July. From July 16, however, until October 28, we have recorded approximately 420 visitors, from all the New England states as well as Alaska, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin. We have also welcomed people from Ontario and Quebec and several groups from England. The majority of guests would appear to have been local school children, for whom the Putterham School would have great interest. Ms. Bever also agreed to provide escort for more formal school groups who might wish to see the school, although it was our policy not to have school groups during busy summer weekends.

The school has been helping to "pay its way" this year, albeit humbly. In June, Filene's Department Store asked if pictures of fashion models might be taken for "Mademoiselle" magazine, using the Putterham schoolroom as a background. With Ms. Bever and Mrs. Peabody supervising, the photographs were made, and Filene's sent the Brookline Historical Society a small check, which was presented to the Trustees by Mrs. Peabody in June.

Last spring, the Trustees authorized Mr. Peter Rollins to begin work on a program of slides and commentary about the school, to be called

"The Putterham School Audio-Visual Presentation." The slides for the program had been taken by this fall, and the Committee has held several meetings to edit the slides and prepare the text for a brief program about the school as it reflected early education in Brookline, and how it was restored and returned to public use as a small museum. We hope very much to have the program ready to present to the Historical Society this year. On October 11, Mrs. Peabody made a tape recording of some of her reminiscences of the Putterham School to be used in the presentation. The next week she became ill.

Mrs. McIntosh and I "put the schoolroom to bed" at the end of October, removing the frail or valuable objects — the clock, books, bell — and checking for leaks. As the building sleeps its annual winter sleep, we are saddened that Mrs. Peabody can no longer keep her careful watch over it, but comforted by its continuing endurance as a place where we may find history and serenity.

Respectfully submitted,

JEAN KRAMER

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

1972

The work of the Research Committee was not arduous in 1972. There were several inquiries as to people and places which for the most part the Chairman was able to handle by himself. Whenever other members of the committee were called upon, they responded gallantly. Fortunately, it was possible to give the desired information in practically all cases. In one instance, despite a fair amount of research, it was not possible to obtain an accurate answer for an inquirer.

Respectfully submitted,

ELMER O. CAPPERS
Chairman

**BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1972

Project — Manuscript Collection

The "project" of listing the manuscripts belonging to the Brookline Historical Society for inclusion in the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections in the Library of Congress was started in February, 1971 and completed in September, 1972. Our report of February, 1972 states a few of the difficulties and reasons for delay.

All data sheets have been forwarded to the Manuscript Catalog Division, Library of Congress. The Library of Congress should send catalog cards in due time, but to date none has been received.

The 313 items in the collection, including those at the Edward Devotion House, have been arranged by subject and card made for each item. These cards, property of the Brookline Historical Society, will probably be on file in the proposed Brookline Room in the Brookline Public Library.

If other manuscripts become available, a record will be made and forwarded to the Library of Congress.

The Society was fortunate to procure the part-time services of Miss Alice D. Coon to collaborate in this project. Her help and encouragement are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN M. THAYER
Chairman, Committee on Papers

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

January 21, 1973

It is difficult to imagine that a full year has passed since you honored me with the presidency of this organization which has done so much to preserve the history of Brookline.

I am sure that no other similar organization has accumulated so much valuable historical data and information. The small part I played in the direction of the Society is due in a large measure to the cooperation of all our officers and committees with particular grateful acknowledgment to Mr. Vose, Mrs. Wetherbee, Mrs. Peabody, and Mr. Nelson, to name a few.

At our spring meeting on May 14th we were fortunate to have Mr. Artemas P. Richardson, President of Olmsted Associates, who presented a paper — *The Olmsted Firms of Brookline*. This was particularly timely as it was coincident with the 150th Anniversary of Frederick Law Olmsted, which was celebrated in Boston, New York, Washington, and many other cities which shared in his landscaping skills.

At our fall meeting on November 12th we were privileged to visit the George Cheever Shattuck estate on Warren Street, where our meeting was devoted to the memory of Dr. Shattuck, one of the most outstanding leaders in the medical profession. Mrs. Shattuck was a most gracious hostess and this visit will leave an indelible impression on those who were privileged to attend.

As with all such societies feeling the inflation impact, we are very much in need of financial help in the form of gifts and bequests from our members. We must also strive to increase our membership, particularly among younger members of our community. We are most grateful for the work of Mrs. Florence Peabody and Mr. Vose in bringing to fulfillment the complete refurbishment of the Putterham School, now located at Anderson Park. Mr. Vose has also been engaged in the preparation of an audio-visual guide of the school which will be available for all visitors.

I must also express our appreciation to Mr. Owen W. Carle who, for several years, in cooperation with our Treasurer, Mr. Nelson, has prepared our tax report submitted to the Attorney General's office and our corporate report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Meetings of the trustees were held on April 24th, June 26th, and September 25th.

We must also acknowledge with grateful appreciation the time and effort on the part of Miss Helen Thayer for the most important work of cataloguing the records, papers, and memorabilia of the Society — a very tedious but important project.

For the use of Pierce Hall, the Society is indebted to the Reverend Carl A. Bihldorff and members of the First Parish in Brookline.

The ladies of the Hospitality Committee who have assisted with arrangements include Mrs. W.M.P. Mitchell, Chairman, who was unable to be present today but directed operations, Mrs. Clyde J. Heath, Mrs. Winthrop Wetherbee, and Mrs. S. Morton Vose.

Our speaker today is Dr. Francis D. Moore, Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, and Surgeon-in-Chief, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,

ARTHUR A. O'SHEA

BROOKLINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: SMALLPOX AND POLIO

Reflections on Two Remarkable Public Health Discoveries Made by Brookline Physicians

by FRANCIS D. MOORE, M.D.

Moseley Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School
Surgeon-in-Chief, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital

The concept of inoculation for smallpox was not new in 1721, but Zabdiel Boylston proved it effective and in so doing he made possible the amelioration of smallpox epidemics for many years, and set the stage for ready acceptance of vaccination when it was advanced, by Jenner and then in America by Waterhouse 80 years later.

Two hundred and twenty years later, in 1940, the concept of immunization against polio was likewise not new. But John Enders made virus culture possible and in so doing set the stage for the development of inoculation against polio and the conquest of one of the great epidemics of our time through the production of polio vaccine and its widespread use, by Salk and Sabin.

These two stories involve many interesting and amusing parallels even though separated by two centuries. They are both stories of the Town of Brookline, and the town can be proud since both these great pioneers of American public health, Zabdiel Boylston and John Enders, lived and worked their entire professional lives in our town. There was no Nobel Prize to give Zabdiel other than recognition in his own time. This he richly deserved and finally received both in this country and abroad. But he went through parlous trials and hard times and public discredit before he finally received this recognition that was his due. John Enders was given the most significant international recognition we know, when he was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery in 1954.

Both of these tales are well known to many residents of our town and it is surely carrying coals to Newcastle to retell of these scientific conquests. But both episodes reveal much about the public acceptance of science, the relationship between science and religion, the ethics of human experimentation, and above all the imagination and tenacity of two great men of Brookline.

In the early eighteenth century epidemics of smallpox had several remarkable characteristics which set them aside from some of the other plagues and epidemics of the time. First, they had a very high mortality; the disease was dreadful in appearance, very painful and highly lethal. Second, the inception of each epidemic was often known or isolated to the advent of some one ship, boat, or army arriving in an area that had not had an epidemic recently. It must have been a terrifying thing to live in a city

such as Boston in 1702 and know with absolute certainty that a smallpox epidemic was coming, which indeed it did. In that particular epidemic virtually every resident of the city who had not formerly had the disease, came down with it. The overall mortality approached 20 per cent. The third remarkable thing about smallpox was that its scars were left clearly on the face and skin. It had therefore been known since primitive ages that the possession of these scars of previous infection, indicated a state of resistance or immunity.

Considering these three remarkable facts together, then, it is not surprising that by 1720 there was increased interest both in England and the United States in the practice then occasionally used in Turkey (and in primitive Africa) of intentionally inoculating persons with the smallpox pus – the virus itself – so as to give a (hopefully) mild case that would confer this resistance of immunity. Despite the obvious hazard of such an experiment, it had but rarely been carried out in the western world. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, that brilliant early advocate of women's liberation, the daughter of a British aristocrat, unhappily married to an unsuccessful diplomat, had also been interested in the matter and had written and corresponded about it on the basis of her stay in Turkey.

It always remains for some one individual to perceive the need and then take the first public step with an innovative program, in any field of science and public health. It was Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, who took this step. But it was not without some prodding and it is historically significant that that prodding came from conservative, organized, puritanical religion.

The Reverend Cotton Mather was one of the towering figures of the late seventeenth century, in the New England colonies. A strict puritan, born in 1663 and very active in the witchcraft trials of 1692, he was nonetheless interested in science, keen about medicine, and anxious to improve human welfare. He learned of the practice of inoculation against smallpox by correspondence with the Royal Society. He found obdurate opposition in the entrenched medical conservatives. Finally, in 1721, he found his man. He prevailed upon Dr. Boylston of Brookline, then 46 years of age, to carry out the experiment because an epidemic was imminent, a smallpox-infected ship being anchored in the harbor. Dr. Boylston took up the challenge and initially inoculated one of his own children. Just prior to and during the epidemic of 1721, he inoculated over 200 people. There were six deaths. This surely would have called down upon his head all the strictures of the law and ostracized him from the ranks of respected science in the twentieth century. But those were desperate days; life was uncertain, death from some epidemic was virtually a certainty, and it was, curiously, not those deaths that called down upon his head the scorn and wrath of his colleagues and of the public. It was instead their discomfiture over having a new idea put forward and then proven correct. This discomfiture changed a bit when, in a classic monograph (now residing in the Countway Library) Dr. Boylston proved statistically and conclusively that the mortality from inoculation was less than half that encountered in the natural epidemic. The medical profession

finally had to come around. After much strife, including bomb plots and threats on the lives both of the Reverend Cotton Mather and Dr. Boylston, they were both vindicated. Dr. Boylston traveled to Europe, lectured before the Royal Society, and became a hero in his day. The practice of inoculation against smallpox persisted for approximately 80 years until replaced by inoculation with cowpox and termed "vaccination" (by its origin from a cow – vache) which has essentially removed smallpox from the world save for those areas where public conscience or public health rules do not require vaccination.

Without straining our analogy, the situation with poliomyelitis in 1940 was rather similar. Epidemics were recurrent. They came in wave-like form, usually in the summer. Their advent was often anticipated because of the occurrence of a few cases in a specific region or city. Those who had suffered the disease carried the crippling for the rest of their lives and this demonstrated them to be resistant and immune. Such attempts to inoculate persons with the actual virus of polio took place in the middle 1930's. But unlike the experiment of Dr. Boylston, this was not successful. It was not based on adequate scientific study, there was unacceptable morbidity and even some mortality. Those physicians who undertook it suffered the most severe criticisms, both of science and of the law.

During the 20 years between 1930 and 1950 the disease itself – poliomyelitis – changed a great deal. Viruses do evolve and modify the form of their disease. Formerly a disease of young children, producing peripheral paralysis of the legs or arms (infantile paralysis) the disease had become more virulent, attacking older people. These were usually young men and women between 18 and 30 years of age. The disease produced severe respiratory depression (bulbar polio) with a high mortality rate. If the person survived he might make a complete recovery without any residual paralysis. Clearly, what was needed was a way to grow this virus in controlled cultures so that it could be studied more adequately and then modified or "changed" so that it would confirm immunity without producing a severe disease. This was accomplished by Dr. John Enders, with the brilliant assistance of his two young associates, Dr. Thomas Weller and Dr. F. C. Robbins. During and immediately following World War II they perfected a method of growing the virus on tissue cultures of human and monkey cells. This growth of virus in tissue culture was a brilliant advance that made the conquest of polio possible, made it feasible to grow the virus in huge amounts, and it was the basis for the establishment of a safe vaccine and for awarding the Nobel Prize to Dr. Enders and his colleagues.

Events thereafter moved with great rapidity. Many laboratories took up the method, particularly those of Dr. Salk and Dr. Sabin. Within a few months there was general acknowledgement that an altered or "killed" vaccine would be available, and then at a later time when even more was known about the virus, a "live" vaccine could be used.

The effect on this advancing disease of the development of polio vaccine must surely be one of the most spectacular public health stories of our age. A disease that was widespread in the middle 1950's, killing many townspeople here in Brookline and over the country and the world, filled the wards of all our hospitals with patients on respirators. Patients often died within just a few days of the first symptom of the disease. This disease disappeared almost completely.

There are many lessons here. But possibly the most important is that biomedical science still finds the origin of its brilliant discoveries in the minds of individual persons — men and women of science — who build within their minds new structures, ideas, concepts, and innovations, always with gratitude and with full understanding of the work that has gone before. In our society this sort of work and these discoveries require laboratories, support, equipment, and public understanding.

These are days of bitterness about scientific funding and a severe government reduction in spending of public monies for scientific advance. The idea has become widespread in Washington that public and tax monies expended for science have somehow not been yielding adequate benefits for mankind. Who is to say? Who is to say what benefits are adequate? Those who sponsor this view are blind to the fact that it is in the very nature of science that one is always working at the frontier of human knowledge. Many experiments, ideas, and trials must be carried out that are unsuccessful. The advances both of Dr. Boylston and Dr. Enders were built on the work of others who went before them whose outcome was unsuccessful but whose observations were penetrating and truthful.

Those who would reduce funding for science in this country should realize that the conquest of poliomyelitis is strictly an American achievement of the first order. It is the direct result of the application to human illness of modern quantitative biology. It is American research science at its very best and most brilliant, and with a worldwide impact for human welfare.

Here on the local scene, we of the Town of Brookline can be very proud of our latter day Boylston, Dr. John Enders. One never understands the meaning of civil recognition such as the naming of streets, squares, or the putting up of statues! Possibly they are a wholly inadequate recognition to the great men of a community. The Brookline Historical Society should give some attention that we have a Boylston Street and an Aspinwall Avenue, a Warren Street, a Holyoke Place, and, indeed, even a Cushing Road to honor some of our great medical scientists of the past. Need we say more? Thus, after more than 200 years, we find a parallel experience in polio more difficult, more sophisticated, but even more definitive than the great accomplishment of Boylston in 1721. Brookline can cherish them both.

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- BLAKE, J.B., Smallpox Inoculation in Colonial Boston. *Jour. Hist. Med.* VIII, 284-300, 1953.
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An Historical
ACCOUNT
OF THE
SMALL-POX
INOCULATED

I N

NEW ENGLAND,

Upon all Sorts of Persons, *Whites, Blacks,*
and of all Ages and Constitutions.

With some Account of the Nature of the Infection
in the NATURAL and INOCULATED Way, and their
different Effects on HUMAN BODIES.

With some short DIRECTIONS to the UNEXPERIENCED
in this Method of Practice.

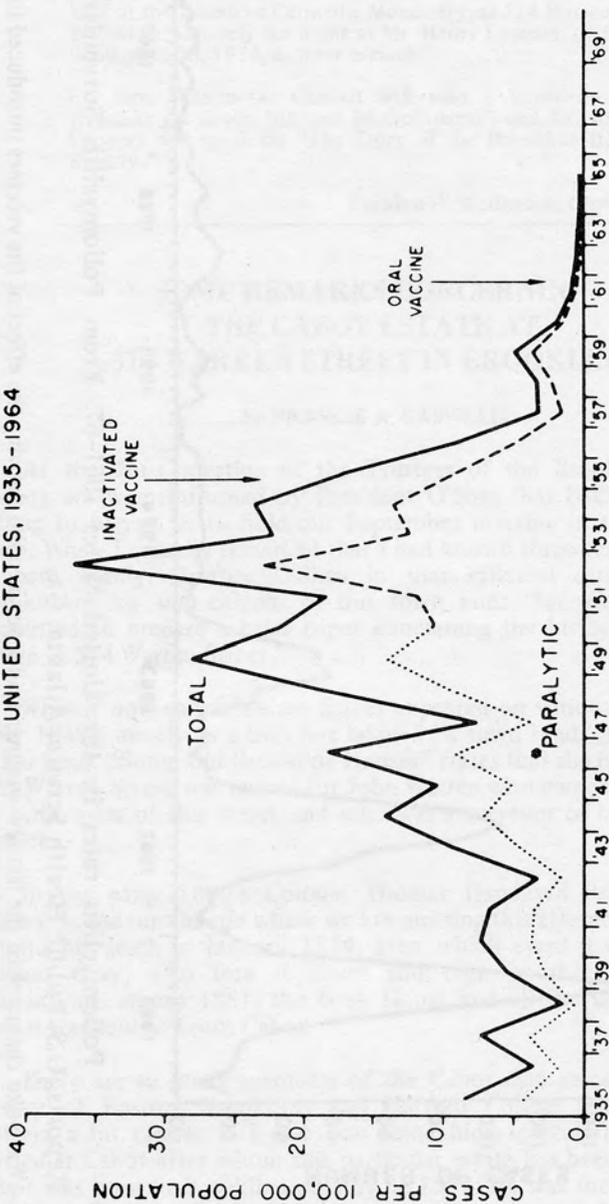
Humbly dedicated to her Royal Highness the Princess of
WALES, by *Zabdiel Boylston*, Physician.

L O N D O N :

Printed for S. CHANDLER, at the Cross-Keys in the Poultry.
M. DCC. XXVI.

Fig. 1 – Title page of Boylston's account of the events of 1721 published in 1726.

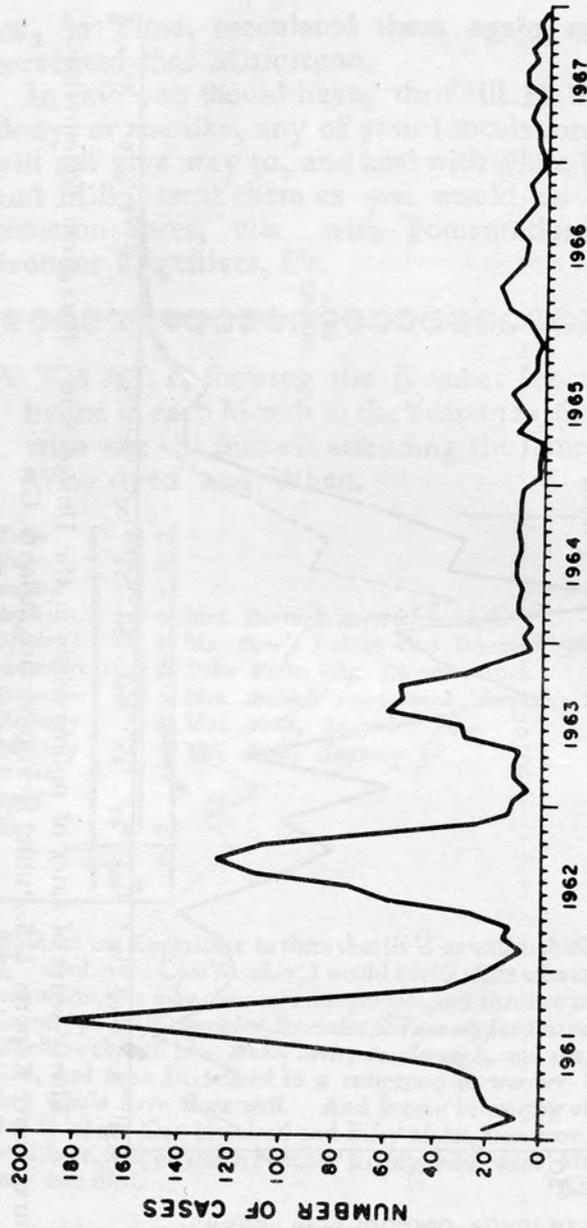
**ANNUAL POLIOMYELITIS INCIDENCE RATES
UNITED STATES, 1935-1964**



Thirty years of rates of poliomyelitis in the United States. Data from Poliomyelitis Surveillance Reports, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, Ga.

Fig. 3 — Poliomyelitis epidemiologic record for United States 1935-1965. The effect of the vaccine is shown.

PARALYTIC POLIOMYELITIS CASES U.S.A., 1961-1967



Poliomyelitis rates in the United States 1961-67. From Poliomyelitis Surveillance Reports, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, Ga.

Fig. 4 - Wave-like character of the last few summer epidemics of polio showing the effect of the vaccines introduced in 1955 (inactivated) and 1961 (live oral vaccine).

FALL MEETING – September 30, 1973

The Fall Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society will be held at the Discalced Carmelite Monastery, at 514 Warren Street, Brookline, formerly the home of Mr. Henry Lapham, on Sunday, September 30, 1973, at three o'clock.

Rev. Francis A. Caswell will read a paper on "Some Remarks on Green Hill and its Occupants" and Mr. Elmer O. Cappers will speak on "The Story of the Brookline Historical Society."

Carolyn H. Wetherbee, *Clerk*

**SOME REMARKS CONCERNING
THE CABOT ESTATE AT
514 WARREN STREET IN BROOKLINE**

by FRANCIS A. CASWELL

At the June meeting of the Trustees of the Brookline Historical Society we were informed by President O'Shea that Father Cooney was willing to permit us to hold our September meeting in this truly lovely place. When I casually remarked that I had known three generations of the Lapham family, Brother O'Shea in that efficient direct manner so well-known by the citizens of this town said: "Mr. Caswell, *you* are appointed to prepare a brief paper concerning the history of the Cabot Estate at 514 Warren Street."

What is now called Warren Street appeared on various maps until the early 1840's merely as a thin line labeled "a town road." Our Mrs. Little, in her book "Some Old Brookline Houses" states that she is of the opinion that Warren Street was named for John Warren who owned some property on both sides of this street and who was a surveyor of highways in this district.

In the early 1800's Colonel Thomas Handasyd Perkins built the original house on this site where we are meeting this afternoon and lived in it until his death in January, 1854, after which event it was sold to Mr. William Gray, who tore it down and built another near the same foundations. About 1881, the Gray House and all the land which went with it was sold to Louis Cabot.

There are so many members of the Cabot clan associated with the history of Boston, Brookline, and Harvard College that it will make matters a bit clearer if I give you some biographical facts about this particular Cabot after whom this particular estate has been named. Louis Cabot was born in Brookline on July 1, 1837. He was the son of Samuel and Eliza (Perkins) Cabot. Not long after his graduation from Harvard in

June 1858, he set sail for Europe and spent more than a year taking the accustomed "grand tour". When he returned he began the study of architecture in the office of E. C. Cabot in Boston. Like many young men of recent decades his professional studies were rudely interrupted by war and the rumors of war. On December 26, 1861, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Massachusetts Cavalry in which regiment he received several promotions until January 25, 1864 when he was made a Major. Most of his service with the regiment was in Virginia. On January 17, 1865, Major Cabot resigned his commission and returned to Brookline where he resumed his studies in architecture. Louis Cabot was married on April 22, 1869, to Amy, daughter of Augustus Hemenway of Boston. About 1881 he purchased the William Gray house here at 514 Warren Street and lived in it with his wife and two daughters until it was partially destroyed by fire shortly after the turn of the century. Determined to have a more substantial residence Mr. Cabot engaged the services of the architect B. Clipston Sturges and together they planned and built this large brick edifice in which we are now meeting. On February 10, 1914, while on vacation in Aiken, South Carolina, the major died. The official medical examiner stated that the cause of death was a severe heart attack. He was survived by his two daughters, Mrs. John Bartol and Mrs. Lloyd Vernon Briggs to whom he left an estate valued at \$2,000,000, \$1,100,000 in personal property and \$900,000 in real estate.

Shortly after Mr. Cabot's death this entire thirty-two acre property was sold to Henry S. Lapham, Yale 1897, who, with the advice and assistance of Irving and Casson, turned it into one of the showplaces in this town. Raymond Lapham, Yale 1928, son of Henry S., remembers that to him as a boy it seemed years before the woodworkers and carpenters finally moved out and the family could at last live peacefully in their own home. I refer to the house as a mansion because it contains a total of thirty-nine rooms, eight of which were originally used as maids' rooms. [The entire structure was later converted to gas heat.] I am not artistic enough to describe adequately the remarkable symbolic carvings on the walls and ceilings of the various rooms, but I urge you to note on the east wall of the oratory an exquisite carving of The Country Club squirrel sitting in all his bushy-tailed composure and splendor as he calmly surveys other lesser rodents and chipmonks native to this immediate geographical area. What genuine pleasure Mr. and Mrs. Lapham and their children must have had, joyously pointing out to their friends the special significance of many of the carvings portrayed on the various walls! I am told that the wood on which many of the carvings were done came from a country house in England. The wood out of which the main staircase was made, however, is of French origin. Since Mrs. Henry Lapham was very fond of gardens both formal and informal, she consulted landscape architects as she with loving care supervised the laying out of the grounds, especially the sections on the right hand side as one comes up the front driveway to the main house.

Since the new owner was not particularly interested in running a farm he decided to divide the recently-acquired land into three major sections. One section of about nine acres on the far western end he sold to Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, Harvard 1915, who proceeded to build a house there for himself and his family. That home is now occupied by a member of the Sonnabend family. Another section was divided into at least five (5) smaller lots of about two (2) acres each and sold to some of Mr. Lapham's friends. In one of my recent conversations with Raymond Lapham he mentioned the names of Louis Curtis, James O. Welch, Preston Stephenson, J. Frank Gerrity, Harvey Hood, and himself as the purchasers of these individual lots. With the exception of Mr. Hood, they all built houses in this area which once was a part of the Louis Cabot Estate. I believe that William V. Tripp was the builder of most of these fine houses. Raymond Lapham told me that his own house on Heath Street rested on some of the foundations of the old cow barn of the original estate. In order to have access to most of these new homes, Cramond Road was constructed.

The third main section, which contained about a dozen acres plus this main house, several smaller buildings, and a barn, Henry Lapham reserved for himself and his family.

Henry Lapham died in 1939 and willed all his property to his widow. The widow died the very next year and bequeathed most of her estate including this house and grounds to her daughter, Katheryn – Mrs. Charles Honeywell, who with her husband lived in Honolulu. On September 8, 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed a limited national emergency and on May 27, 1941, an unlimited emergency. There was war in Europe. Those of us of riper years even with only fair memories know how difficult the times were. Those were the days when the entire world seemed to be girding for war. Who would want to be saddled with the expense of purchasing and maintaining such a large piece of real estate as this when the times were so uncertain? Many efforts were made to find a purchaser for this so-called Lapham Estate, but there were few bidders.

In the fall of 1941, however, just a few weeks before Pearl Harbor, Dr. Joseph Stanton of Brookline, in a conversation with Monsignor Minihan, then Cardinal William O'Connell's secretary, was told that he believed the Cardinal would consent to the transferral into this diocese of the Novitiate of the Order of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers from the Provincial House in Holy Hill, Wisconsin. (Some of you will undoubtedly remember that the beloved Bishop Minihan died in August of this year, just about a month ago.)

At this point one might ask who are the Discalced Carmelite Fathers? The Columbia Encyclopedia states that "the Carmelites are a Roman Catholic order of mendicant friars who first appeared as hermits on Mt. Carmel in Palestine. Their *reformed* branch is the Discalced Carmelites. From the fact that those of the reform wore sandals in place of shoes they have come to be called the Discalced Carmelites to distinguish them from

the Calced or older branch of the order. The Discalced Carmelites cultivate the contemplative life in all aspects, and they have produced many works on mystical theology."

In order to make clear his genuine and sincere interest in this undertaking, Dr. Stanton stated that he and his wife were willing to contribute \$25,000 toward the purchase of a suitable estate for this worthy order. A list of six available estates was presented to the Cardinal on August 29, 1942. The Baptists had already offered \$25,000 for the Lapham Estate, but the Carmelite lawyers named \$27,000 as their figure and in addition offered to former faithful caretaker, Mr. Barkhouse, the use of the Caretaker's House on the property as long as he lived. The actual deed of title did not arrive until October 14, 1942. In order to purchase the property, the Corporation of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Massachusetts had to be formed. This was done on October 19, 1942. The final names were placed on the last documents on October 23, 1942 and the deed was duly signed by Katheryn Honeywell and her husband Charles. A certified check in the amount of \$25,000 was handed to Mrs. Honeywell's lawyer and, in modern parlance, the deal was finalized.

To add to the joy of the purchase, the Carmelite Nuns were very helpful. They provided vestments, altar clothes, napkins, linens, a processional cross, a sanctuary lamp, and many other suitable articles. Most Reverend Richard Cushing, D.D., later Cardinal, at that time Bishop-Auxiliary in this diocese, gave the order a full set of vestments.

The beautiful altar table in the oratory was designed by Charles Maginnis of the firm of Maginnis and Walsh, church architects. Mr. Maginnis was a trustee of the Brookline Public Library from October 1932 to November 1950. He also designed the present altar at Trinity Church in Boston. As a fellow library trustee for three years I remember in particular his deep musical speaking voice, his gentle kindness to others, and his great love of beauty and form. Brookline has been and is blessed with many distinguished citizens. Gaudeamus igitur! Laus Deo!

On November 6, 1942, his Eminence Cardinal O'Connell gave formal written consent to establish this place in which we gladly meet today, as a novitiate of the Order — an order which is considered by some the oldest in the Church.

The present genial Director of the Order of the Discalced Carmelite Fathers of Massachusetts, Adrian J. Cooney, is a native of Boston, a graduate of the Boston public schools and Boston College. He holds a Master of Arts degree in English literature from Boston College and at the time of his appointment as Director of this order was an assistant to the well-known Shakespeare scholar, Dr. John H. Smith, at Brandeis University. Father Cooney has been a Carmelite since 1947. May I thank him not only for the assistance he gave me in collecting data for this paper, but also may I, in the name of the members of our society, express our

gratitude to him and to his colleagues for all they have done to make this meeting here today such a pleasant and historic occasion.

A paper delivered by Canon Francis Caswell to the Brookline Historical Society on September 30, 1973.

THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by ELMER O. CAPPERS

September 30, 1973

The Brookline Historical Society is not the oldest such society in the United States, but it can surely lay claim to being one with an outstanding record of contribution to its community.

The Massachusetts Historical Society is the first one in our country, having been founded during President Washington's first term.¹ Reverend Jeremy Belknap of Boston invited four persons, two clerical and two lay, to gather with him on August 26, 1790, and at their meeting they adopted a Plan of an Antiquarian Society. The Society's first home was the library room of the Massachusetts Bank in Hamilton Place, Boston, proving that banks do contribute on occasion to the intellectual advancement of society. In a very few years, the establishment of state historical societies had taken place in the other New England states, several of them receiving annual legislative financial aid, something which has not happened in Massachusetts. In 1884, the American Historical Association was founded, but it was more an association for the gathering and publication of historical material. The growth of town and city historical associations continued with such vigor that one writer stated at the turn of the century that in eastern Massachusetts there were almost as many historical societies as there were towns.²

The Brookline Historical Society first met on April 17, 1901 in the Town Hall and was duly incorporated four days later. But before proceeding forward, as every well-ordered history paper should, let us violate the rules and look backward to a situation which has some elements of mystery attached to it. In the stacks of the Brookline Public Library is a record book which tells of the formation of a Brookline Historical Society and sets forth proposed by-laws. The handwriting is truly a splendid example of chirography such as we seldom see nowadays. The records show that a meeting was held where the by-laws were adopted and officers chosen, but the mystery is that the meeting took place in November 1891, almost ten years before our Society actually came into being, and then nothing else occurred. What happened? Ten years later, speaking in 1902 at the first annual meeting of our Society, Rufus Candage commented on the 1891 effort and remarked that all the preliminary organization work had been done, and then he makes this curious observation, "The certificate from the State House was not obtained because it was *not asked for* by the person having the matter in charge and the Society's incorporation was held in abeyance."³ Upon first reading that sentence, it occurred to me that the person who had been

¹Independent Historical Societies - Walter Muir Whitehall.

²Work of American Historical Societies - Henry E. Bourne.

³Proceedings - 1902.

remiss in making application to the State House was possibly sitting in the audience and that the usually very forthright Captain Candage was walking on egg shells.

In 1893, a year and a half after the unsuccessful effort to form a historical society, Charles K. Bolton was elected librarian of the Brookline Public Library. He was an able man with strong opinions of his own. Writing in 1896, he said rather caustically, "An historical society often does little more than print addresses of the presidents and the obituaries of the members."⁴ He went on to urge the formation of historical *publication* societies, ones which would have "no officers, no elections, no meetings, no rules." Their function would be "to collect and print in a uniform series such manuscripts as shall seem worthy of permanent preservation."

Actually, Mr. Bolton was describing the Brookline Historical *Publication* Society which he had founded with Miss Ellen Chase and Daniel S. Sanford the year before. It published several pamphlets containing very interesting material which was thereby preserved for posterity.

We have now dealt with two societies; first, the still-born society of 1891 with its beautifully written records; (I sympathize with the penman's frustration when he found his efforts had gone for naught); and second, Mr. Bolton's Brookline Historical Publication Society. So at long last we come to the origin of the third society, our own Brookline Historical Society.

At the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of this Society, Mr. Edward W. Baker presented a paper⁵ on its first days. He mentions the 1891 occurrence but does not explain it. He paid extensive tribute to the first president, Capt. Rufus G. F. Candage, but modestly does not give himself credit by name as the treasurer who had held office in the Society for all of its years. Long service was a family trait with Mr. Baker since he and his father served for seventy-six consecutive years as town clerk.⁶ In his anniversary paper, Mr. Baker remarked that the State document under which the Society was incorporated did not bear the usually appended statement: "God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts", and he took this to mean that the founders must have been pretty solid citizens. I would add to his observation that right down to the present day the opening sentence of Article III of our by-laws has required that each member must be a "person of moral character" and careful obedience to that injunction has left the Commonwealth nothing to worry about here.

As already stated, the organization meeting of our Society was held in the Selectmen's room at the Town Hall on April 7, 1901. Curiously

⁴New England Magazine - March 1896.

⁵Manuscripts in Brookline Public Library.

⁶History of Brookline - Curtis - P. 306

enough, Mr. Bolton, despite previous expounding of his philosophy, was one of the founders of a Society which did not fit in with his earlier stated outlook. At first, there were meetings each month except during the summer; but in 1918, possibly because of World War I, the number of meetings was reduced to three or four a year.

For a time the new Society printed in its annual reports or "Proceedings" not only papers which had been presented at meetings, but also various historical documents or historical essays submitted by interested writers. Thus, in a way, it seems to have continued the publication work of the Brookline Historical *Publication* Society which had put out a number of pamphlets before our Historical Society came into being. There is no mention that I can find of any official merger taking place, but I suspect that the departure of Mr. Bolton in 1902 to become librarian of the Boston Athenaeum and the appearance at the same time of the energetic Capt. Candage as head of this Historical Society rather put the Publishing Society in the shade, as the old saying has it. One last amusing footnote to the Publishing Society which I would like to preserve is that there appeared in Publication No. 6 a copy of a 1720 advertisement concerning a runaway indentured servant which says that he was of "middle stature, full-faced, down look, flat nose." What in the world do you suppose a down look is? The same publication offers twenty-dollars reward for return of another runaway and the horse he had taken with him, but the reward for the horse, without the thief, is to be ten dollars. No discriminatory inequality of values there!

The Historical Society got off to a good start. It was solvent from the beginning. The first annual reports shows \$349.20 on hand and a membership of 112. As already remarked, the Society published an annual report known as the "Brookline Historical Society Proceedings". In these will be found the record of speakers and of projects undertaken by the Society. I shall discuss the speakers and their papers shortly, but first a word about the projects.

I cannot hope to do justice to all the undertakings, so I shall be brief. One of the first projects was to rescue from oblivion the Paul Dudley milestone of 1729. It was the fifth milestone in a series of eight which marked the way from the Town House (the old State House) over the Neck to Roxbury and out Harvard Street through Brighton to Harvard Square — in other words, "the Way to the Colleges". In 1902, when a builder was about to erect an apartment house where the stone was placed, the Society and Mr. Baker got the Selectmen to rescue the stone and put it in the basement of the Town Hall. The next year, Harvard Church, across the street from the stone's original location, was persuaded to place the stone on its front lawn, to stand there "in perpetuity". On July 12 of this year (1973) vandals stole the milestone, and thus the first project of the Society came to a sad end.

An early and still-continuing project has been the care and preservation of the Edward Devotion house on Harvard Street. At the Society's fifth anniversary meeting in 1906, President Candage called the Society's attention to the possibility that Edward Devotion's house, "the oldest structure in town", as he called it, might be demolished. At a town meeting held that year, the building was turned over to the Selectmen to manage. The Selectmen then made an arrangement with our Society so that it might hold meetings there. Charles H. Stearns, President of the Society, in 1911 spoke of the terms under which the Devotion House was to be supervised by the Society; those terms have been extended and modified from time to time. In 1948, President Little announced the signing of a lease between the Town and the Society and outlined our terms of use and responsibility. At the 1950 annual meeting he gave an extensive summary of how the Society had cared for the interior of the house, while the Town of Brookline "had seen to the main structural elements". For those interested, the "Proceedings for 1950" has further information.

In 1949 Mrs. Bertram K. Little wrote a most informative book on "Old Brookline Houses" and the Society published it. I recommend it to you most sincerely as it is full of excellent pictures, plans and interesting narrative. Its preparation must have consumed many hours. The Public Library has copies for sale at a modest price.

The Society in 1927 has already undertaken another publication. A committee was formed to ask Mr. Baker to write a history of the Town, but his death occurred before he could begin to write. Another writer, Dr. John Sly of Harvard, was approached to undertake the task, but shortly thereafter he was transferred to another university. The committee then got John Gould Curtis to produce the Town's history. The Society published it in 1933, and again copies may be purchased at the Public Library.

Very early on, as the English say, the Society published two comprehensive pamphlets, one in 1903 on Jeremy Gridley, and a second the same year on Elhanan Winchester. Some years later came Harriet Alma Cummings' "Burials and Inscriptions in Walnut St. Cemetery"; then, in conjunction with the Tree Planning Committee, came "Brookline Trees" by Emma G. Cummings; and later on a pamphlet entitled "Land Ownership in Brookline from the First Settlement" was published. The last-named publication had ten maps as supplement to the genealogical and other information furnished, and was a splendid contribution to the Town's records. One minor project had to do with Mrs. Kent's "Brookline Trunk". At the annual meeting of 1955, our Society voted to pay half the cost of indexing that delightful work with "the library" to pay the other half. Later (1966) the Society contributed to the cost of microfilming old Brookline newspapers for the files of the library. Our most recent project has been the care of the old Putterham Schoolhouse. As early as the annual meeting of 1963, Mrs. Bertram K. Little asked if the Putterham

School should not be made a preservation project for the Society. Her question was answered affirmatively. The subject came up again in 1965, and arrangements were made to obtain photographic reports and carry out some architectural research. That year a committee was appointed to be known as the Putterham School Committee, with Mrs. Florence P. Peabody as Chairman. The devoted work carried out by her and her associates is known to almost every member of the Society. The old schoolhouse stands now in its new location on the Larz Anderson estate. Generations yet to come will have reason to thank Mrs. Peabody's committee, the Society, and the Town Fathers for having preserved this priceless monument.

Over the years our Society has been collecting manuscripts, documents, publications, maps, books, pictures, even Edward Baker's collection of lantern slides of old Brookline. These are all on deposit at the Public Library.

Now I come, and this will be in conclusion, to what is in my judgment the most interesting of all the Society's projects. I refer to the "Proceedings", the little volumes that have been published over most of the years since 1901, giving the Presidents', the clerks' and the treasurers' reports; but what is more important giving many of the papers which have been presented to the Society. Unfortunately not all of the papers have been so printed. Personally, I should like the opportunity to read many of those unpublished papers, the titles of which were mentioned in the presidents' annual reports. One title of 1902 is "Mrs. Deming's Journal of Flight from Boston after the Battle of Lexington". How exciting it would be to read that one! It might not be exciting but it would be interesting to see whether a 1905 paper on "The Paper Money of our Father's Day" recites the same fiscal mismanagement which recent administrations have inflicted on the economy of the present. These and many other papers are regrettably not available, partly because the authors did not submit them to the clerk, but also because there was an unfortunate lapse in the publication of the "Proceedings" for the years 1931 to 1946. Some of the papers, such as Mr. Baker's 25th anniversary speech, are in manuscript form at the Public Library, and some other papers, including the Clerk's old records, are stored away because of the Library remodeling and cannot be reached at present.

I estimate that over three hundred papers have been presented to the Society. Some of them were not read to a meeting but were submitted for publication in the "Proceedings" by a member interested in a particular topic. Mr. Bolton would have been pleased by this, as I am.

I would interject here that anyone who has done research on a particular subject and has written a paper on it should offer the paper to the Society for printing in the "Proceedings." The Committee on Publications, of course, reserves the right to print only those papers which it believes should be preserved in this fashion.

To anyone with even a minor interest in history, the "Proceedings" are a great repository of interesting information. To be sure there must have been times when a president was "up against it" for a speaker at which time a topic such as "An Earthquake in Sicily" or "A Summer's Driving Trip in New Hampshire" might appear. But there are very few of those. The papers have, to a rather astonishing degree, I think, a consistently high quality of excellence. Most of them give evidence of extensive and accurate research, and many have flashes of great human interest. I wonder whether any of the great Lincoln biographers ever read a paper presented by William J. Seaver in 1910. Mr. Seaver knew Mr. Lincoln in Illinois in 1856 and wrote in detail of the future Emancipator. He comments on how Lincoln was always ready to excuse the failings of others. Once, a clerk in Mr. Seaver's store in Springfield, Illinois was criticizing a lady patron and said that while she was lacking in tact she had many good qualities. Lincoln said, "That reminds me of a girl who wasn't much of a dancer. Her friends said that what she lacked in dancing she made up in turning around."

Many speakers were so good that they were invited to come back a number of times. One who probably never came back was a Mr. F. W. Bagley. In his annual report for 1921, President Stearns wrote as follows about a speech that was to have been given on the artist, John Singleton Copley. Mr. Stearns said, "The audience failed to appear. After some time twelve or fifteen people gathered. But Mr. Bagley took his slides and departed. He felt his paper was worthy of a larger gathering".

While there were many papers on the Revolution and on the Civil War, most of them dealt with Brookline families, houses and institutions. No serious student of the Town's history can afford to overlook the treasure of information contained within the pages of our "Proceedings". Perhaps some day a wealthy individual or institution will publish in book form selected papers from that treasure.

I really should list here the names of the townfolk who have given so much of their time, knowledge, and energy to the Society. Many of them are sitting in this room today. Even a casual perusal of the reports in the "Proceedings" impresses the reader with the dedicated contributions which have been made. Were I to make such a listing, I am sure I should make some regrettable omission, so I shall forbear.

The Brookline Historical Society has gone its quiet way for almost three-quarters of a century, compiling a record of dedication to the purposes for which it was formed. Let me read from its charter the objectives to which the founders subscribed themselves:

"The study of the history of the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts, its Societies, organizations, families, individuals, and events, the collection and preservation of its

antiquities, the establishment and the maintenance of an historical library, and the publication, from time to time, of such information relating to the same as shall be deemed expedient."

The Society has done its work well.