

## September 2013

#### Fall Members-Only Program Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 7 pm The Hub's Metropolis: Greater Boston's Development from Railroad Suburbs to Smart Growth



Brookline Village ca. 1915. (Frederic Law Olmsted National Historic Site)

Please join us for a special members-only program of the Brookline Historical Society with Jim O'Connell, National Park Service planner and the author of *The Hub's Metropolis: Greater Boston's Development from Railroad Suburbs to Smart Growth*.

The program will be held from 7-9 pm in the home of Jim and Clara Batchelor in the Graffam-McKay Local Historic District. (See your invitation or contact the Society for details.)

Light refreshments will be served. Copies of Jim O'Connell's book will be available to purchase.

Space is limited! Please reserve a spot by emailing brooklinehistory@gmail.com or calling 617-566-5747

**Plus: See inside** for info on our upcoming public programs and the newest addition to our collections!

#### Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am and 2 pm A Brookline Historical Society Walking Tour The Development and Growth of the Coolidge Corner Shopping District:



The Arcade Building (built 1927) (Photo by Jean Stringham)

Coolidge Corner was home to just one store—Coolidge & Brother—from the 1850s to the 1890s. Following the widening of Beacon Street in 1887-88 and the arrival of the S.S. Pierce store a few years later, a major new shopping district took root. Almost all of the existing buildings in this still thriving commercial area were built between 1890 and 1930.

Journey back to the initial development of the Coolidge Corner business district and get a glimpse of local shopping in the early decades of the 20th Century. This one-hour walking tour led by Ken Liss of the Brookline Historical Society will be offered at 9 am and again at 2 pm beginning at the Coolidge Corner inbound T stop.

Space is limited! Please reserve a spot by emailing brooklinehistory@gmail.com or calling 617-566-5747



Boston Transcript advertisement August 24, 1912



1343 Beacon Street (Now Wavelengths Hair Salon) Brookline Chronicle May 8, 1924

Sunday, November 17, 2013 at 2:00 pm Brookline Town Hall Remembering Brookline's Civil War Dead



Brookline's 1884 memorial to its Civil War dead—restored, reinstalled, and rededicated in the lobby of Town Hall on Memorial Day 2011—lists the names of 72 soldiers and sailors who died at such places as Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness, and Andersonville.

They were officers and members of prominent families as well as working class men carpenters, blacksmiths, laborers, shoemakers, and clerks, including several Irish immigrants and sons of immigrants.

Join Brookline Historical Society President Ken Liss in front of the memorial in Town Hall for a look at the lives and deaths of some of the Brookline men who gave their lives a century and a half ago in defense of the Union.



Left to right: Col. Wilder Dwight; Sgt. Otis Harrington; Surgeon Charles Wheelwright

# Lady Betty's Marmalade: Brookline, Circa 1914

The latest addition to the collections of the Edward Devotion House is this marmalade jar (below left) from a line of products manufactured and sold by a Brookline woman a century or so ago.

The jar was recently offered for sale online with no date of origin and little description. Some quick research turned up an advertisement (below right) from the June-July 1914 issue of *American Cookery* magazine, and the jar was acquired for the Historical Society.



But who was "Lady Betty"? The address — "Beacon and Washington Sts." — gave just a clue. A second advertisement from 1914, a musically-themed ad in the program of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, was a treat to find but offered no further hints to the identity of "Lady Betty."



Finally, a third 1914 ad was found in the December issue of *Good Housekeeping* magazine, and this one had a specific address: 1624 Beacon Street.



1624 Beacon Street was (and still is) part of the Rhodes Block, a commercial building on the northeast corner of Washington Square, built in 1913 for the Rhodes Brothers grocery store. (A branch of Rhodes Brothers occupied the corner location.) 1624 was one of two storefronts on the Beacon Street side of the building; there were two more on the Washington Street side.



The Rhodes Block in 1914. (From The Brookline Christmas Magazine, published by the Brookline Friendly Society, December 1914). 1624 Beacon is at the far right.

Cleveland Circle Travel occupies the 1624 storefront today. But a look at the 1914 Brookline Directory gave us the answer we were looking for. "Lady Betty" was actually a woman named Gertrude Maynard.

	Mr & Mrs Hirman J Potter
1622	Miss H Leslie Potter
1622	Mr Stanley B Potter
1623	Theophiles Bros Co
1624	Mrs Gertrude Maynard mar- malade mfr
	Hennessey Bros florists
1627	Rees & Rces dyers
1627	Brookline Notion Shop

Gertrude Maynard was born Gertrude Maria Davis in Vermont in 1847. She married Abbott Thayer Maynard in Boston in 1869. Abbott Maynard was a jeweler and silversmith with a business on Boylston Street in Boston for many years.

The Maynards moved from Boston to Brookline around 1908. (That's the first year they were listed in town directories.) It's unclear when Gertrude Maynard began producing her Lady Betty line of products, but it was no later than 1912. The ad below, for retailer Park & Tilford, appeared in the December 19, 1912 edition of the *Evening Herald* in New York.

PARK & Are Offering a Christmas	t These Prices
Stuffed Dates, Leonore's, Nut filledbox .25   Caravan DatesPackages09   Stuffed FigsSmall jars .45   Medium size65   Large jars .10   Figs & Dates, Stuffed, Small jars .50   Medium size75   Large jars .110   Figs & Dates, Stuffed, Small jars .50   Medium size75   Large jars .115   Layer Figs	Mince Meats, of the best ingredients and flavored with pure Brandy: Miss North'sjars 1.00 Miss Martin'sjars 1.10 Gordon & Dilworth's jars .80 Crystallized Fruits, the finest: Assorted1 lb. cartons .70 2 lb. cartons 1.35 Cherries1 lb. cartons .65 Apricots1 lb. cartons .90 2 lb. cartons 1.65 Bar-le-duc Jellies, Jars, Currants or Strawberries

Other ads for Lady Betty products appeared in the *Washington Post* and other publications. The products were sold in stores in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Detroit, and by mail order. They were exhibited at the Pan-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco in 1915.

Maynard advertised her products as "Guaranteed free from adulteration. No artificial color, flavor, or preservatives." As proof, she cited approval from two leaders in the pure food movement of the time: Lewis B. Allyn and Harvey W. Wiley. Allyn was a professor of chemistry at the Westfield Normal School in Westfield, MA who established the Westfield Standard for food purity and evaluated thousands of food products.

Wiley, also a chemist, played a leading role in the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906 and became the first commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In 1912, he resigned to take over leadership of *Good Housekeeping* magazine's food testing laboratories.

Wiley's 1916 book *1,001 Tests of Food, Beverages and Toilet Accessories, Good and Otherwise: Why They Are So* included analysis of several Lady Betty products. All received his star rating, or stamp of approval, but not without some comment on the ingredients—and the high prices Lady Betty charged.



Gertrude Maynard died in September 1916 at age 69. The business may have continued for a while after her death. (Abbott Maynard, who had retired from the jewelry business, was listed in town directories as a manager at 1624 Beacon as late as 1919.)

In any case, this Brookline business started by a woman in her 60s was a short-lived one. But "Lady Betty" now lives on in the collection of the Brookline Historical Society.



Ad from Life magazine, April 9, 1914

### First Light 2013

Visit the Edward Devotion House on First Light! We will be open from 5-8 pm on Thursday, November 21st as part of the town-wide celebration with a special display about the development of Coolidge Corner.



Brookline Historical Society 347 Harvard Street Brookline, MA 02446