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PEOPLE AND PLACES

Lost to Fire

By Michael Kenney

When the John Appleton House at 163 Brattle Street burned to the ground during the night of December 8, 2005, a living link to Cambridge’s historic past was lost. That fire triggered a search through the records of the Society, the Cambridge Historical Commission, and the city’s Fire Department to find equally storied structures that were lost or severely damaged by fire—as well as an account of Cambridge’s “Great Fire.”

While not on the scale of the “great fires” in Boston and Chicago, a lack of water turned the fire on June 12, 1828, at Hovey’s Tavern and Stables on Main Street (now part of Massachusetts Avenue) into a major disaster, according to an account in the Cambridge Firemen’s Relief Association’s “History of the Fire Service” (1888). It was brought under control only when Boston firefighters—who were among the many departments that responded—were able to dam a creek at Brookline and Auburn streets as the tide was running out, then pumped its water some 1,500 feet up to the scene of the fire.

According to Cambridge Fire Captain Stephen Persson, the department’s historian, that fire “was the catalyst” for the state legislature to establish an organized fire department for the city some three years later. *(continued on page 8)*



Cambridge Historical Society archives

Fire destroyed Hovey’s Tavern in Cambridgeport in 1828.

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The Newetowne Chronicle is published three times annually by the Cambridge Historical Society.

FROM THE PRESIDENT
A Great Year for the CHS

Your Society has just completed a very special year in its history—100 years of collecting, preserving, and interpreting Cambridge history. Our most noticeable accomplishment was the Grand Centennial Celebration in May at the Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research. Thanks to the generous support of members, sponsors, and friends, we were able to raise \$47,000 for the operations of the Society. Many thanks to event chair Karen Falb and subcommittee chairs Bob Crocker, Larry Nathanson, and Paula Paris.

In June, a Centennial Exhibition featuring highlights from the Society’s collections was held on the very anniversary of the founding of the CHS. Lindsay Coolidge and her committee mounted the exhibition, and Lindsay herself sponsored and wrote the accompanying catalogue. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

Major progress was made in preparing our centennial book for publication (see page 6). CHS editor Daphne Abeel deserves our thanks for her dedication to the project.

None of the above milestones would have been possible without the important efforts of director Karen Davis and associate director Lewis Bushnell.

I am delighted to report that Paula Paris, a professional fundraiser, accepted the chairmanship of the development committee in October, just in time to guide our successful 2005 annual appeal.

We were also very fortunate that Charlie Allen, who was elected to the council last year, agreed to manage our roofing project pro bono (see pages 4 and 10). Charlie’s expertise as a contractor spe-

cializing in period home remodeling resulted in an excellent job. The project budget is \$75,000, 75 percent of which is covered by a preservation grant from the city.

The program committee, chaired by our staff, produced monthly programs and events that have enjoyed record attendance. Particular thanks are due to Jennifer Hance, Tom Bracken, and Larry Nathanson, who each planned programs last year.

Finally, I want to thank the members of the Society, whose ongoing interest and financial support are so needed. As the CHS moves into its second century, we will build on the successes of the past year and look forward to further progress in fulfilling our mission.

Ted Hansen

Mary Webb joins the CHS council



Our new council member has a master’s degree in landscape architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She worked for the City of Cambridge Environmental Program and later as a landscape architect with Wallace, Floyd Associates. Mary is on the board of the Architectural Heritage Foundation, a Trustee of the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust, and a member of the Harvard Square Advisory Committee, and she is active on the Buildings and Grounds Committee at Shady Hill School. Raised in Belmont, she moved to Cambridge in 1987 and is the mother of three girls.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
Looking Ahead

Exciting plans are underway as the Society enters its second century. Our spring benefit will be held at Avon Place Glass on April 30. Glass artistry, antiques, and collectables will be explored at this working glass studio in North Cambridge. We will connect Cambridge's venerable past as the home of the New England Glass Company—the largest glass manufacturing company in the world in the mid-19th century— with the creation of art glass that is made today much as fine blown glass was made over 100 years ago. There will be an exhibition of antique glass made in Cambridge, glass blowing demonstrations, and talks given by an appraiser, collectors of New England Glass, and Cambridge architectural historian Susan Maycock. Ronald Bourgeault, owner of Northeast Auctions, will be on hand to appraise glass objects. Art glass made at Avon Place Glass will be available for purchase, with 30 percent of the proceeds going to the CHS.



Cambridge Glass, by Lana Woodside-Walkins

Early flasks and pitcher manufactured at the New England Glass Company ca. 1856.

Another highlight of 2006 will be a big party in October to celebrate the publication of our book, *Cambridge in the 20th Century: A City's Life and Times*. We are most grateful to the Cambridge Savings Bank for underwriting the cost of publication and to the 18 contributors who wrote its essays.

Sally Purrington Hild, our former executive director, has rejoined us in a part-time position as director of programs and events. A new mother herself, she plans to launch a program for children this summer. Eventually she will work with the Cambridge schools to develop a

field trip to the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House that will tie in with the school curriculum. One of our goals is that every Cambridge child be given the opportunity to visit the Cambridge Historical Society and develop an appreciation for local history.

Sally Purrington Hild, former CHS executive director, has rejoined the staff as director of programs and events.



Photo by Lewis Bushnell

As we plan ahead, we know that our biggest challenge is to raise the money we need to accomplish our mission. The development committee, under the leadership of Paula Paris, is working on a plan that will lead to an endowment campaign. Our centennial benefit, "Necco to Novartis," enabled us to cultivate local businesses. We are building on these relationships and adding new ones this year. We hope that the businesses and institutions in Cambridge will join with you, our members in supporting the work of the CHS. We are extremely grateful to all of you for your ongoing support.

Karen L. Davis

You've Got Mail...From the CHS

In order to keep you informed about the latest programs and other activities, we're collecting e-mail addresses. If you wish to be placed on our e-mail list, please take a moment to send your address to:

sally@cambridgehistory.org

Please put "members e-mail" in the subject line.

Your e-mail address will be used ONLY for CHS communication and will NOT be distributed further.

ANNUAL MEETING

The 101st Annual Meeting

On January 29, President Ted Hansen presided at the Society's 101st annual meeting. The Society transacted its regular business, including the election of officers, councilors, and advisors (see page 2). Committee reports follow:

Treasurer's Report

Andrew Leighton, Treasurer

I am pleased to report that we accomplished the financial goals we set for ourselves in our centennial year. The challenge was to run a centennial fundraising event that would net the Society the amount normally needed to balance the budget plus the \$25,000 obligation to match a \$50,000 Community Preservation Act grant. This grant was obtained last year to cover an estimated \$75,000 cost of repairing the roof, balustrade, and chimneys. Thanks to the efforts of our members and the financial support of our friends, we exceeded our goal by about \$5,000. Results of operations showed a surplus of about \$8,000, which is the net of the fundraising event less the amount spent in 2005 on the roofing project.

In addition, the Society's investments generated a total return in excess of 10%. About \$37,000 of this return was added to investments, and the balance was applied to operations in accordance with the Society's 4% spending rule. Total cash and securities at the end of the year were \$610,105, up from \$563,847 at the beginning of the year.

In summary, it was a good year. I believe our founders would be pleased.

Facility Report

Charlie Allen

The goal of the facilities committee for this year was to implement a Cambridge Historical Commission Institutional Preservation Grant to provide new roofs for the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House. (See page 10.) As with so many old

house improvement projects, this one took some unexpected turns!

First, after detailed inspection of the roofs, we determined that the rear chimney needed to be rebuilt. Permission to do so was received from Charles Sullivan, executive director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, and the brick, mortar composition, and joint tooling were decided. The chimney was torn down and rebuilt in the original configuration.



Photo by Lewis Bushnell

(l to r) Charles Sullivan, Charlie Allen, and mason Tony Martin inspecting the old rear chimney of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House

Another part of the project involved the balustrade on the main roof, which proved more difficult to repair than anticipated. We erected scaffolding across the front of the building to allow safe access, a careful dismantling of the 52-foot assemblage, and a means to lower sections to the ground.

Once they were safely dismantled, we discovered that some of the balustrade moldings and spindles were beyond repair. This required additional approval from the Cambridge Historical Commission. Sarah Burks examined the existing balustrade and granted us permission to replace the failed elements. Knives were cut and new moldings milled. Quarter spindles were turned. At this writing, our balustrade is continuing its road back to health at my shop in Somerville.

And the roofs? After removing all old layers of roofing, we now have a new garage roof. The sun porch roof has been repaired and should see many more years of service. Our main roof has been stripped and a new EPDM (rubber) roof installed. Special attention was focused on the west wall eave where a gravel stop was installed to keep water from spilling over onto the roughcast wall. New posts to receive the repaired balustrade have been installed and flashed in. The ell roof has been outfitted with new red cedar shingles treated with a fire retardant. And the tiny rear entry door will sport a new copper cover.

We also intend to repair the front gate, which is now in the garage, and the posts that support it, as part of this project.

I think the Society can be proud of the quality, methods, and craftsmanship that have gone into this major undertaking, and we can rest assured that our roofs will protect the building and its contents for many decades.

Collections Committee

Lindsay Leard Coolidge, Curator

The Collections Committee is delighted to report that the reorganization of the Historical Society's furniture, decorative arts, and fine arts was completed for our 100th anniversary in June. The committee has been working toward this goal for the last three and a half years. The Colonial period furniture is grouped in the parlor and the Colonial Revival furniture in the Chandler Room. The upstairs rooms serve as exhibition spaces, with the Rupert Lillie models displayed in the Naples Room and domestic arts in the east chamber.

In honor of the Centennial and the reorganization, I published a history of the collection, *100 Years of Cambridge History: Highlights from the Collection of the Cambridge Historical Society, 1905–2005*.

With the installation of the collections completed, as well as the restoration of the Chip-

pendale standing desk and Lillie models, we have begun to focus on additional conservation projects. The CHS received a generous grant from the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati to conserve the Mercy Scollay letters—among the most important group of documents in our archives. We have also discussed the restoration of the Dufour wallpaper in the Naples Room with a paper conservator, and hope to secure grant funding for the project.

The year also saw a number of gifts to the Society. Many individuals donated photographs and postcards of Cambridge—most notably Andy Leighton, Suzanne Snyder, and Harriet Provine. Andy donated photographs of 163 Brattle Street (a house once owned by his great-grandparents) and Harriet donated postcards of Cambridge following the 1938 hurricane.

We received archival documents from Sandra Curro and Lewis Clark. The former donated a Cambridge School diploma, and the latter's gift of several items included a spiral bound notebook entitled "Cambridge Half a Century Ago: 1889–1939," written by Elizabeth Bond for the Cambridge Plant Club's 50th anniversary. The Wetherell family kindly donated a sketchbook by William Walter Dodge, which they found in the Edward Sherman Dodge House at 70 Sparks Street. Finally, Janet Stockhaseun of Wisconsin sent a shipping crate marked "The Elliott Addressing Machine Co, Cambridge Mass USA." It was a particularly welcome gift because the Society owns an Elliott Addressing Machine. These gifts once again remind us of the importance of the Society's membership working to preserve the history of our city.



We are saying farewell to Todd and Candice Allström, who have been resident fellows at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House for the last two years. We thank them for their contributions—especially Todd's work in upgrading and maintaining our office computer technology. We wish them well in their new pursuits.

Publications Committee Report

Daphne Abeel, Editor

The Cambridge Historical Society continues to publish the *Newetowne Chronicle* three times a year. It remains our vehicle for staying in regular touch with our members and informing the general public of CHS activities and pointing out events in our community's history.

The newsletter is a team effort. Special thanks go to CHS directors Karen Davis and Lewis Bushnell, Luise Erdmann, copy editor, contributors who volunteer their time, research, and writing skills, and the Publications Committee members.

The CHS centennial volume, *A City's Life and Times: Cambridge in the 20th Century*, is well on its way to publication. The final editing has been completed, and the work is now in the hands of the book and jacket designer. It will require proofreading, indexing, and printing, but there is every expectation that publication will take place in October 2006. The book, which contains 20 essays and nearly 100 illustrations—including maps, drawings, and photographs—represents a major contribution to the history of Cambridge. The diversity of its contents and the contributors' special knowledge and talents are certain to make it a publication that the CHS can offer with pride.

The Publications Committee welcomes ideas for articles, as well as new contributors. Contact us by sending e-mail to info@cambridgehistory.org, or by mail to the Editor, *The Newetowne Chronicle*, c/o Cambridge Historical Society, 159 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

Annual Meeting Keynote Address

Robert Mussey, Jr., delivered a captivating slide lecture, "Neoclassical Furniture: The Artistry of Stephen Badlam and John and Thomas Seymour." He compared the lives and work of the American-born Badlam, and the British-born Seymours—a father and son. Each blended and transformed English and American stylistic influences to create distinctive Federal period furniture. Badlam borrowed furniture patterns from England, while the Seymours brought British furniture patterns to America. Badlam was a traditionalist who grafted Federal motifs onto Chippendale-style furniture. The Seymours interpreted English Neoclassicism with elaborate inlays, giving their furniture a sculptural quality.



CHS curator Lindsay Leard Coolidge with Robert Mussey, Jr., next to the 18th-century Chippendale desk he restored in 2005.

Mussey recalled how he discovered Stephen Badlam's diary by writing to every Badlam listed in every telephone directory in the country. The diary contains detailed information about Badlam's shop in Dorchester Lower Mills, names his 31 apprentices, and mentions his speculative business practices. Mussey described Badlam's financial successes, noting that by 1797 Badlam had given up making furniture and had begun making small gilded mirrors, which were far more profitable.

Much less is known about the Seymours. When they immigrated to Portland, Maine, from Dorset, England, in 1784, John the father began making English provincial furniture.

By 1793 the family had moved to Boston, where they were making more sophisticated furniture than anyone else in the city. Their furniture was based on the English Neoclassical models of Thomas Sheraton. In 1804, Thomas Seymour opened a furniture store facing Boston Common called, Thomas Seymour Furniture Warehouse, where he sold his furniture, as well as silver, wallpaper, and paint. During the next 10 years, he created some of the most exquisite and distinctive furniture in America. His furniture is unique in his use of wood inlay and in his ability to create a three-dimensional sculptural effect within the two dimensions of the wood veneer.

Mussey concluded his comparison by noting that Stephen Badlam sold his gilt frames to Thomas Seymour's Furniture Warehouse. Sadly, Seymour closed his business in 1817. His furniture, however, has become among the most collectable in the country.

Lindsay Leard Coolidge

FROM THE LIBRARY & ARCHIVE

Mark Time

by Mark Vassar

The CHS has been fortunate to enlist the aid of interns from the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in processing our collections. In 2005, we hosted Chris Lenney, Kristy Sharpe, Elizabeth Phipps, Victoria Walsh, and Michael Gill.

Chris Lenney, who works at the Lamont Library at Harvard and is now a CHS volunteer, processed several collections: the McCafferty Family Papers, the Joseph Willard Sermons, the Papers of the Cambridge Branch of the Massachusetts Indian Association, and the Lois Lilley Howe Collection. These documents contain a wide range of subject matter from the Civil War to early-20th-century photography. Recently Lenney processed the records of the Cambridge Walking Club, a social group that organized nature walks for its members in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Kristy Sharpe completed two collections: the records of the Stearns Davis, Post 57 of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Civil War veterans who worked at obtaining pensions and sponsoring legislation for these veterans; and the records of the Garden Street Garden Club, a women's club among whose members was the wife of the botanist Asa Gray.

Elizabeth Phipps and Victoria Walsh worked on the CHS Manuscript Collection, which consists of printed pamphlets, correspondence, and miscellaneous ephemera dating from the 18th to the late 20th century. They catalogued individual items and entered them into our database to make them accessible to researchers.

A records management project was undertaken by Michael Gill. He surveyed the CHS institutional records and created a schedule that indicates what should be archived, what should be retained for short periods for legal reasons, and what can be discarded.

Many thanks to all of these interns. With projects planned for 2006, we hope to maintain our relationship with Simmons College for many years to come.

Holiday party thanks

Over 100 people attended our Annual Holiday Party in December. Special thanks for the tasty donations to the following caterers: The Basil Tree, Catering by Debbie, Cuisine Chez Vous, Global Gourmet, Kayo and Company Catering, La Bonne Maison, Riley to the Rescue Catering, and Tables of Content. Thanks also to our council members who generously contributed turkeys, ham, wine, and much more.

Thanks also to Ruth Crocker and Beth Meyer for decorating the house, and to Jeannie Donovan and her friends, who have played festive Celtic music for our party for the past six years.

OCTOBER PROGRAM

A Walking Tour of Harvard Square

More than 50 CHS members and guests participated in the Tales of Old Cambridge walking tour on October 30, 2005. Timothy Sawyer, of Lively Lore, regaled us with stories as entertaining as they were enlightening.

The tour began on Eliot Street, which follows the curve of a former creek. Sawyer led us to Harvard Yard where we heard about the founding of the college, and then past significant tombs at the Old Burial Ground. Sawyer talked about Cambridge's significant role in the American Revolution, discussing notables such as William Brattle, Samuel Adams, and William Dawes. The tour was peppered with the words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and many other noted Cantabrigians. Above the din of street musicians, Sawyer's theatrical rendition of history blended the past with present.



Tim Sawyer in Winthrop Park, describing the early marketplace.

One person said that in all the time she had lived in Cambridge, she had never been on a number of the small streets included on the tour.

After the program, everyone enjoyed more conversation over coffee, compliments of Peet's Coffee and Tea on Mount Auburn Street. Many thanks to Sarah Brooks, manager of Peet's, for their hospitality.

To learn more about Lively Lore, visit their Web site, www.livelylore.com.

Sally Purrington Hild

Lost to Fire

(continued from page 1)

A mansion that did not survive long enough to become as significant a feature of the city's landscape as the Appleton House was built by Lieutenant Governor Spencer Phipps near Otis Street in 1750. According to a report in the Society's *Proceedings* (vol. 16): "as was customary... they had a house warming; and there being a Husking frolic at some time, by some carelessness, the house took fire." Everything was destroyed with the exception of several outbuildings.

"Carelessness or the negligence of not putting out the Snuff of a Candle" is cited as the cause of the fire in 1777 that destroyed the Foxcroft House in the vicinity of Cambridge and Kirkland streets.

Then, in 1839, there was a fire notable not only for the historic structure it destroyed but for one of the firefighters. An account in the *Proceedings* (vol. 26) of the fire that destroyed the Dana Mansion on what is still known as Dana Hill notes that "among those who tried in vain to fight the fire was a young man who was seen to climb the ladders with the agility of a sailor." It was none other than Richard Henry Dana, Jr., recently returned to town from his "two years before the mast."

Buildings undergoing renovation, like the Appleton House, have often been damaged or destroyed by fire. Most notable—and spectacular—was the fire that destroyed the tower of Harvard's Memorial Hall on September 6, 1956. In 1999, working from a 60-second amateur video of the fire, as well as the original architectural drawings and archival photographs from the 1870s to the 1950s, Harvard was able to replicate "almost exactly the 1878 tower," according to the *Harvard Gazette*.

Churches were particularly vulnerable in the middle years of the 19th century; no less than seven were lost between 1851 and 1866, when the Old Baptist Church in Central Square (since rebuilt) burned.

Not all of the city's fires were complete disasters. One fire even saved a more prominent

structure from being demolished. According to an article by Harvard's Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes in the *Proceedings* (vol. 44), in 1967, Harvard planned to demolish the 1838 Sparks House, at the corner of Kirkland and Quincy street, to make way for the construction of Gund Hall. But, Gomes wrote, "in the strange fashion of providence," before that could occur, fire damaged the Farrar House, at 21 Kirkland Street, and Harvard decided to raze it and move the endangered Sparks House to the now-vacated cellar hole. This it did, in the autumn of 1968 "to the great delight of those who enjoy the unusual," wrote Gomes, who, as the university preacher, now lives there.

Then, there was the Ten of Diamonds on Columbia Street. When it caught fire in August 1831, according to the "History of the Fire Service," "no attempt was made to save the building as, on account of its unsavory reputation, no one cared to see it saved."

Thatched roofs have ceased to be the fire hazard that prompted a town ordinance against them in 1632, but untended candles are still a leading cause of house fires.

Another threat comes while a building is under renovation. "Absolutely a problem across the board," said Fire Department historian Stephen Persson. Contractors may use materials not used when a building is occupied, and the empty building may be wide open, allowing a fire to spread rapidly. "They can go up like a lumberyard."

WE GOT MAIL

Michael Kenney's article on the adaptive reuse of churches in our Summer 2005 newsletter triggered this response:

"Several years ago, a new resident of the former Allen Street church came in to research the property. An artist, she wasn't aware that the building had once been a church; when she found out, she said that explained a lot—her new home and studio were infused with great warmth and comfort. I've often wondered how the knowledge that she was living and working in a former sacred space influenced her art."

Kathleen L. (Kit) Rawlins, assistant director, Cambridge Historical Commission

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 29

Dana Fellow Event*

American Meteorological Society

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: 45 Beacon Street, Boston

CHS member Jinny Nathans, who is the librarian and archivist at the American Meteorological Society, will lead a tour of the organization's headquarters. The historic building (1806) is the third one designed by Charles Bulfinch for Harrison Gray Otis, who lived there until his death in 1848. Bulfinch, often regarded as the first American-born architect, designed the Massachusetts State House and the Middlesex County Superior Courthouse (1813) in East Cambridge. The American Meteorological Society, founded in Boston in 1919, acquired its building in 1958.

*By invitation only. Dana Fellows hold CHS memberships at or above the \$100 level.

Sunday, April 30

Spring Benefit

Discovering Cambridge: A Touch of Glass

Time: 2:00–4:30 p.m.

Place: Avon Place Glass, 147 Sherman St., Cambridge

Tickets will go on sale in late March.

Glass artistry, antiques, and collectables will be showcased as we explore the fascinating history of glassmaking in Cambridge. Our major fundraising event of the year, it will feature glass blowing demonstrations, an exhibition of glass made in Cambridge, appraisals of antique glass, and more (see page 3).

Saturday, May 13

Tour of the Massachusetts State Archives

Time: 10:00 a.m.–noon

Place: 220 Morrissey Blvd. Dorchester

Michael Comeau, assistant archivist, will lead us through the State Archives and display such treasures as the original Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter, signed by John Winthrop, and the Massachusetts Constitution, written by John Adams. CHS resident archivist Mark Vassar, who is also an archivist at the State Archives, will point out research materials pertaining to Cambridge and discuss the Cambridge connection to the current exhibition, "Le Grande Dérangement: The Acadian Exile in Massachusetts, 1755–1766," which he curated. CHS executive director Karen Davis will explain how to use the research files of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Sunday, June 11

The Secret Gardens of Cambridge

Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

The Cambridge Historical Society will serve lemonade and offer tours of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House to those visiting gardens throughout the city on this, the 7th annual Open Gardens Day. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library.

Ongoing

Tours of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House

Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00, 3:00, and 4:00 p.m.

\$5; free for CHS members. Call to arrange a group tour.

Action on the Roof CHS Councilor Charlie Allen, president of Charlie Allen Restorations, managed the extensive roofing project at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House (see page 4). He has donated countless hours to planning and coordinating the project, preparing the scope of the work, and supervising a cadre of excellent subcontractors—including Joseph S. Savini, Inc. (roofing), J. A. Masonry, Inc., and the Robert Leonard Company (carpentry). Thanks to all and to the Cambridge Historical Commission for quickly reviewing necessary changes and for the preservation grant that made the project feasible.



Ken Stacey and Nick Savini (above) nail down new roofing material after Bob Leonard and John Kreatz (below) removed the balustrade in sections.

Tony Martin and John Kreatz rebuilding the rear chimney



Project manager Charlie Allen (at left); John Mazzeo (below left) pulls paper from a roll of ice and water shield. The new rear chimney is visible above him.

Ken Stacey directs crew replacing the garage roof (below right).



Thank you, 2005 Annual Fund Donors

\$1000 and above

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Mr. and Mrs. Sigmund E. Herzstein
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Special thanks to Tod Beaty and the brokers at Hammond Real Estate for giving 46 memberships to new homeowners.

The Cambridge Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that relies on membership dues, private contributions, and grants to fund its archives, projects, and programs. Every gift is important.



Photo by Lewis Bushnell

The CHS wishes to thank the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club for their continuous dedication to the maintenance of the gardens at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House.

Here, (l to r) Patricia Pratt, Shelagh Hadley, Janet Burns, Beth Meyer, Esther Pullman, Phebe Leighton, and Annette LaMond work on the fall cleanup.

New England Glass Company



Cambridge Historical Society archives

Detail of the New England Glass Company drawn by Louis H. W. Vaupel, ca. 1851. Vaupel was one of the foremost glass engravers of his time. (*See page 3.*)

The Mission of the Cambridge Historical Society

The Cambridge Historical Society acts as a living repository for Cambridge's tradition and history. It maintains property entrusted to it and collects, preserves, and interprets items of historical and antiquarian significance. The Society encourages research and involvement in these efforts by its members and the community at large. In so doing, it promotes a better understanding of history as an important factor in the everyday affairs of the city and its residents.

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
The Hooper-Lee-Nichols House
159 Brattle Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

"[History] gives us a sense of the relative scale of our own brief time on earth and how valuable it is."

David McCullough, writer and historian
The Boston Globe, February 8, 2006