



The Newetowne Chronicle

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Abe Lincoln in Cambridge

By Michael Kenney

Abraham Lincoln came to Cambridge only once. He didn't stay long. And he had to run to catch the train getting here. Not only that, it took some 72 years after his death to get a statue of him raised on the Cambridge Common.

The year of the visit was 1848. Lincoln was a one-term Whig congressman from Illinois and was out on the campaign trail that fall, stumping for the Whigs' presidential candidate, Zachary Taylor. According to “Abraham Among the Yankees,” an account of Lincoln's visit compiled for the Old Colony Historical Society, Lincoln had attended the national Whig Party convention in Philadelphia, then the party's state convention in Worcester. From there, he made a campaign swing through the state.

He spoke in Dedham on the afternoon of September 20 and, according to a local report, “[bubbled] out humor and charm.” But when he heard that his train back to Boston was about to leave, he made a run for the nearby station. Arriving in the early evening, Lincoln walked across the Boston Common and caught the train to Cambridge.

The Cambridge rally was at the old City Hall, at the corner of Harvard and Norfolk streets. According to the reporter for the *Boston Atlas*, “it was one of those old-fashioned Whig gatherings, which it does a true Whig good to witness.”

No account of Lincoln's speech remains, but he was described as “[being] in every way worthy to represent the Spartan band of the only Whig district in poor, benighted Illinois.” Of the speech, the reporter called it “plain, direct, convincing... a model speech for the campaign.”

There was no late train to Boston, and Lincoln probably walked back to town. Although Lincoln's son Robert was a student at Harvard, class of 1864, Lincoln is not known to have visited him.

His statue on the Cambridge Common, in the cupola of the Soldiers' Monument, was very much of an afterthought. The monument, topped by a bare-headed, mustachioed Union rifleman, was designed by twin brothers, Cyrus and Darius Cobb, and dedicated in 1870.

At the time, the Cobbs had said they “had reckoned on a few years' delay in placing what must necessarily remain the central idea of the entire memorial.” And “for many years,” according to a report in the files of the Cambridge Historical Commission, “city officials discussed various ways to fill the open, arcaded space of the monument.” But in 1927, when the monument was rededicated, the space was still empty and, as the official program for the event commented, “it is safe to say that the structure will go down to posterity just as it is today.”

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Letter from the President

The Year of "M"

As I write my first letter as president of the Cambridge Historical Society, I am thinking of the priorities the Society will be carrying through from 2008 to the coming year. The interior work on the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House has provided an extraordinary opportunity both to learn about the origins and uses of the structures that became the building we use today and to reinterpret the presentation of our existing collections. The need to tell the many stories of Cambridge is greater than ever: Cambridge is a city of many cultures and economic levels, and it has had a great influence on literature, education, industry, technology and business since its first settlement in the seventeenth century.

1. The Museum

Our collections are deep, rich, and relatively unplumbed and unpublicized. Over the next year, we will reinterpret our exhibition spaces to highlight particular aspects of Cambridge's history.

We shall also be working to provide increased information about and access to our collections over the World Wide Web. The cooperative effort of the Cambridge Historical Society, the Cambridge Historical Commission, and the Cambridge Public Library to present descriptions and finding aids to their research collections will result in greater visibility

for our organization in the coming year.

2. The Message

Our best way to get our message out is through our programs, and we have an excellent slate for 2009. They include our Annual Meeting, with Boston University Ph.D. candidate Timothy Orwig speaking on reassessing the influence of Joseph Chandler's interpretation of Colonial architecture in Cambridge.

This year, we will hold one program a month in various Cambridge locations because of the work being done on the house. This promises to be an ambitious schedule and will, I hope, inform and excite those who attend regularly as well as first-time attendees, who will discover how lively history can be.

3. Membership

In the coming year, a new committee on membership will consider how to increase our membership base. I look forward to working with them on materials that will give our organization a higher profile in Cambridge and build on last year's survey responses.

As the eminent sixteenth-century statesman and philosopher Francis Bacon said, "Histories make men wise." Then we, in Cambridge, are very wise indeed, I hope, as we present more of our rich history to current and new members.

Jinny Nathans

Active members make history come alive.

Make the past a thing of the present! Join the Cambridge Historical Society.

To request a membership form:

call 617-547-4252

or visit us online at www.cambridgehistory.org

FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Cambridge Historical Society has just wrapped up an exciting year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of former directors Karen Davis and Lewis Bushnell and through a CPA grant administered by the City of Cambridge, we have been able to replace the electrical system in the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House. This ended years of concern over the safety of our wiring.

Working with Brian Powell of Building Conservation Associates, we have now undertaken an in-depth paint analysis of the four oldest rooms in the house. This analysis will not just tell us what the paint colors had been, but looking at the number of paint layers and their colors, we will be able to say if different features of a room were added at the same time or what the sequence was of how the room evolved.

This examination of the building has raised a number of questions about the traditionally accepted history of the house, causing a stir in the architectural history community. Which side of the building is the original side? Was the west side built as a house or another structure? Does the house have the decorated beams you would expect in a First Period house?



To shed some light on this discussion, the Society, working with Charles Sullivan, Claire Dempsey, Anne Grady, Susan Maycock, Sally Zimmerman and other architectural historians, has removed the Georgian paneling in several locations to reveal the underlying First Period structure of the building. This first phase of openings has answered some questions and raised more.

We hope that by the time we put together the Summer 2009 *Newetowne Chronicle*, we will have some answers and a good sense of the questions that remain. We will also incorporate this new information and these new questions into the interpretation of the museum. Until then, during the study and restoration and repainting that will follow, the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House will be closed to visitors. I look forward to discovering a more complete history of the house and sharing it with you.

Gavin W. Kleespies

MARK TIME

During the fall 2008 semester, CHS was assigned Simmons College intern Marta Crilly. Although a beginning student, she had some experience with archival collections and so was given two small collections to process. She worked first on completing a partial finding aid that had been created for the Inman Diaries, 1786-1789. The diaries of George Inman, purchased for CHS by Maria Gozzaldi in 1915, contain reminiscences of Inman's experience with the British forces during the American Revolution and his subsequent time in England and Grenada. (For further information, see CHS *Proceedings*, Vol. 19, pages 46-79.) The finding aid is now complete and should soon be available online on the Library and Special Collections section of our website.



Marta then processed the records of the Basket Club, 1873-1963. Founded by a group of young Cambridge women, the club set out to sew clothing and other items for the sick and homeless of Cambridge. Eventually they began supporting local institutions, such as the new Cambridge Hospital (now Mount Auburn Hospital) and the Avon Home for Destitute Children, by selling clothing and organizing fairs, etc. Often they contributed both goods and money to these institutions and continued to do so for most of their existence. During times of extreme need, the group extended their reach beyond Cambridge, sending clothing to Belgian orphans during World War I and donations to a drought region in West Virginia in 1931. The finding aid is now complete and available online at www.cambridgehistory.org (click on the Library and Special Collections link on the home page).

Please look over our other finding aids online. They will make our collections much more accessible and will help to complete the supporting material needed to post our photograph collections on Flickr (which I discussed in our last issue). This will give future users of images additional information about our collections.

Mark J. Vassar

A Monument for Prince Hall

By Michael Kenney

“There is a legend,” as Cambridge Mayor E. Denise Simmons put it, that Prince Hall, a freed slave, spoke with General Washington on the Cambridge Common during the summer of 1775 and urged him to recruit African Americans for the Continental Army.

Legend or not, that meeting is to be remembered with a monument on the Common.

And that monument, designed by sculptor Ted Clausen of North Cambridge, will describe Prince Hall’s pivotal role in the civil rights movement.



Proposed Prince Hall Monument

Mayor Simmons, who has presented the story of Prince Hall to the Society, became interested in him some 20 years ago and has been known to buttonhole people, asking what they know about him.

Prince Hall gained his freedom shortly before the Revolution. Having been turned down by a white Masonic lodge in Boston, he joined an integrated lodge associated with the British Army. After the Revolution, he founded the first African-American lodge. Now known as the Prince Hall Freemasonry, it has some 5,000 lodges, including 27 in Massachusetts.

Hall became a leader in Boston’s black community, and a school for black children was organized in his house on Beacon Hill.

The monument will stand on the cobblestone circle, which already holds a monument to George Washington and three cannons of the Revolutionary War period.

As designed by Clausen, it will consist of six-foot-high black slabs. Facing outside will be quotations from civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr. On the inside surfaces will be quotations from Prince Hall himself.

As Mayor Simmons put it, “Martin Luther King stood on the shoulders of Prince Hall.”

“Greening” Your Period Home

By Charlie Allen,

CHS Facilities Chair and owner of Charlie Allen Restorations

There has been a lot of talk recently about “greening” our homes. By maintaining your older home—rather than tearing it down and rebuilding or moving into new construction—you’ve saved countless trees and other natural resources, preserved energy that would otherwise be spent on producing and transporting building materials, and reduced construction waste. In other words, you are already “green.”

But whether renovating or just looking to improve energy efficiency, there are lots of ways we can do more—and save money too. First, attack the drafts. Rework, don’t replace, the original double-hung old-growth wood windows. Add a high-quality storm window. There are attractive side and bottom weather-stripping options for your doors too. You’ll feel more comfortable at a lower temperature with a well-insulated home. A chimney-top damper will keep more conditioned air in the house and leave you with a warm flue to start your open hearth fires with. When it’s time to replace your heating appliances, do so with high-efficiency ones. Consider a tankless hot water system, which heats only the water you need when you need it.

The NSTAR Energy Efficiency Program offers several rebates for these types of improvements, so look into it to make sure your improvements qualify for the rebate before you undertake them.

If you’re embarking on a construction project, it can be tempting to simply gut the old and bring in the new. But take a minute to review what you’re removing. Often, wood or tile flooring, door frames and windows, and decorative elements can be restored, blending beautifully with new construction. In many cases old plaster can be repaired. And if you can’t find a new use for old cabinets, plumbing fixtures, and appliances, consider donating them to a nonprofit organization like the Building Materials Resource Center in Boston.

What you do buy new, buy locally. If you’re renovating—upgrading your kitchen or bath with fresh countertops, tile, or cabinetry—consider materials and products produced close to home. Transporting slate from Vermont requires far less energy than bringing a comparable material from Latin America or overseas. Reclaimed hardwood flooring will in many cases look more appropriate than new flooring of the same species (it is, after all, the same vintage as your house!), and it will actually make less of an impact on the environment than new flooring.

Annual Report

Collections Committee

Our major acquisition, in terms of volume and significance, was the papers and inactive records of the Harvard Square Defense Fund, characterized by the Cambridge Historical Commission as "one of the most potent community groups in the city's history." Since its founding in 1979, the HSDF has taken positions on development in Harvard Square that have either enraged or endeared it to the various constituencies of the Square.

The collection consists of roughly 36 cartons of records from the inception of the Defense Fund. These records chronicle policy issues and developments from the concept of liquor cap areas (now a citywide practice) to battles and litigation over the size and massing of building projects.

Of particular interest are the large-scale maps and plans of several ambitious development projects, which reveal various stages of the design process, as well as maps of Harvard Square showing the distribution of retail uses.

To house these materials and provide space for processing them, a third-floor storage room of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House was fitted out with shelves and an air conditioner for climate control. Once catalogued, this collection will provide a rich resource for students and researchers in the urban planning, architectural, and economic history of an area that has been active for nearly four hundred years.

The Society hopes to complement this collection with records from other neighborhood groups and has already received materials chronicling the activities of Neighborhood 10 in West Cambridge. Cambridge is a vital city in part because it has so many active grassroots organizations working for causes that affect the lives of its citizens.

The Society has continued to receive smaller donations, this year including "John McNamee's Union Marble and Granite Monumental Works: 1858-1905" a manuscript; 2 mounted photographs of Rowe's Hotel; a christening cap that belonged to Clara S. Whitney; a blue glazed porcelain tray made in Germany depicting Washington's Headquarters; a framed print of the Washington Elm; a watercolor painting of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House; a framed "Squirrel Brand" cardboard counter display; 9 framed photographs from the 1865 Harvard yearbook; a collection of signed books related to Robert Frost; a series of photographs and ephemera to be added to the Rindge Athletics Photo Collection; bags and ephemera from Cambridge retailers; a bin from the Hathaway Bakery Company; and 5 museum display cases.

We have worked to expand the access to our collections and have been putting finding aids and more information on line. This has led to an increase in research questions and a higher profile for our collections.

Submitted by Jinny Nathans, Curator

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee saw both change and continuity over the course of the year. The able stewardship of the *Newtowne Chronicle* by Karen Davis and Lewis Bushnell was assumed by Gavin Kleespies, who introduced evolutionary changes in style and content that met with general approval. A second printing of *A City's Life and Times*, with corrections, replenished our inventory and continues to sell. Luise Erdmann kept our standards intact. Daphne Abeel and Michael Kenney contributed their expertise to committee meetings and their prose to our newsletter. Ted Hansen provided his affable and steady support throughout the year. Amid such talent and industry, the Editor feels superfluous at times but always privileged.

Submitted by Roger F. Stacey, Editor

Facilities Committee

Last year at this time I described the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House as our greatest asset and our greatest liability. This continues to ring true. As a nonprofit organization with a small staff, we are not that different from most house owners: we continue to wrestle with the lack of funds to finance improvements and the time to manage them.

As the facilities chairperson for the past four years, I have had the good fortune to have developed the scope of work and managed several comprehensive renovation projects. In 2007 we completed a new roof, restored a front roof balustrade, and rebuilt the rear chimney. In 2008 we rewired the house, ensuring that our collections and residents can now live in comfort and safety. As a result of the rewiring, we are currently painting all of the interior spaces.

This work has been made possible because we were awarded two Community Preservation Grants from the Cambridge Historical Commission. These were made available to us in part through the hard work of our past directors and the support and advocacy of Charlie Sullivan. Each of the grants has required a monetary contribution from the Historical Society, which strains our small endowment, but we have agreed that this house requires us to act as responsible stewards.

This last phase of work has been the most exciting to date. After the electrical work in the spring of 2008, we selected a painting contractor and paint analyst. Buttonwood Renovations was hired as our painting contractor, and we chose to consult with Brian Powell to analyze our historic paint. This uncovered some fascinating questions about how and when our house was constructed, which led to a series of careful casing openings and engaging conversations with some of the best architectural historians in New England.

Thanks to this ongoing dialogue, some of the traditional histories of the house have been questioned. In fact, we are now not sure which half of the house came first. Nor can we explain some of the construction, but the process is a wonderful puzzle. In 2009 we hope to complete the painting and have gained a more complete understanding of our house. Thank you for your continued support and interest.

Submitted by Charlie Allen, Facilities Chair

Treasurer and Finance Committee

This past year will not go down in the record book as one of the Society's best financially. Like most other nonprofit organizations with investments, we suffered a major reduction in the value of our portfolio as the result of the selloff in the security markets. The value of investment assets declined by about \$147,000, or 23%. In addition, a small operating deficit and that portion of the major electrical upgrade program not funded by the Cambridge Preservation Act Grant further reduced investments by about \$26,000. The total effect was to lower the value of our portfolio from \$637,000 to \$464,000.

It was a busy year for the Society and included, in addition to the regular programs, the transition to a new executive director and work on the electrical upgrade. The finances of the regular programs were about as budgeted, with some ups (the continued successful sale of the centennial book) and some downs (the annual fundraiser receipts came in slightly lower than budgeted, the transition to a new executive director cost a little more than budgeted as a result of some overlap and the addition of an unbudgeted transition event.) The overall effect was that regular operations produced a deficit slightly under \$10,000.

The work of upgrading the electrical systems and interior painting of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House that was started in 2007 continued in 2008. This program was budgeted at up to \$150,000, with the agreement that the first \$50,000 and one half of additional amounts would be funded by a Cambridge Preservation Act Grant. During this past year, amounts expended exceeded the base by \$50,000. The Society's share of this was about \$16,000, which also contributed to the reduction in the investments.

On the positive side, the Cambridge Trust Company did an excellent job as our investment advisor to minimize the impact of the market collapse, annual giving this year was strong, and a major step has been taken to redress deferred maintenance on the house. With some recovery in the economy and the continued support of the membership, the Society can look forward to a better financial year ahead.

Submitted by Andrew Leighton, Treasurer

Development Committee

The two major business items of the Development Committee in 2008 were the Spring Fundraiser and the Annual Appeal.

The Spring Fundraiser at the Walker Memorial at MIT, which many of you attended, was packed with history, chronicling the development of the architecture of the campus, its scientific innovations, and its infamous pranks. In addition, the event featured music, a live auction of decorative posters (reproductions of archival drawings and photos), and guided tours of the campus. The "Infinite Corridor" was well attended, and netted \$18,600.

As of January 15, the 2008 Annual Appeal has raised \$22,710. Considering the declining trends in charitable contributions over the last quarter in many sectors, our small gain in receipts is extraordinary and a testimony to your loyalty. Thanks to all of you.

It was, of course, a year of transition. We welcomed Gavin Kleespies and bade farewell to retiring co-executive directors Karen Davis and Lewis Bushnell and to our outgoing president, Ted Hansen.

Over the past several years, the committee has focused on defining strategies for the sustainability of the Society. One of our goals for 2006-2009 was to launch a capital campaign to build endowment. However, our conclusion is that a capital campaign is not an appropriate strategy at this time. The committee has recommended that the Society consider a comprehensive approach to revenue generation that aligns fundraising with a membership campaign, programming, and grants for special projects. We look forward to Gavin and Jinny's fundraising leadership and stewardship. Thanks to all of you who responded to Gavin's initial survey, sharing your thoughts about your programming preferences and what keeps you engaged in the Society.

Please mark your calendars—April 19—for the 2009 Spring Fundraiser, at the Fresh Pond Water Works, celebrating the history of Fresh Pond. Despite the annual challenge of besting each previous year's event, we think this year's will be the best one yet.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the development committee, past and present, for your hard work and dedication. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with each and every one of you.

Submitted by Paula Paris, Development Chair

Programs in 2008

Annual Meeting: Robert Frost

Film Screening: "John Harvard"

Dana Fellows Event: Lois Lilley Howe

Spring Fundraiser: MIT's "Infinite Corridor"

Secret Gardens

Cambridge Discovery Days

Garden Party

John Harvey and the Elite Mass. 5th Cavalry

Talking Business in Harvard Square

Holiday Open House

The following piece is an excerpt from the magazine **Growing Up in North Cambridge**, a publication the Cambridge Historical Society occasionally works with. Visit www.cambridgehistory.org and click on our *Partners in Cambridge History* link to learn more about the magazine and subscription information.

The Rindge Blacksmith

By Isabel Studley

My great-grandfather James Gibson Telfer taught decorative wrought iron beginning in 1889 at the original Cambridge Manual Training School, retiring from the Rindge Technical School in 1927. That era was during the Arts & Crafts Movement, which began around the turn of the twentieth century and lasted into the 1920s.



From the collection of Isabel Studley

I was absolutely delighted to exchange phone calls and finally meet Dr. Michael Ananis, executive director of the Rindge School of Technical Arts. Needless to say, I am proud of my great-grandfather and remember him well before his passing.

James Telfer was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1857 and grew up with a bunch of sisters and brothers in Caledonia, Nova Scotia. He became a blacksmith before coming to the U.S. His talent and ability working with iron got him a teaching job in Cambridge.

He retired in 1927 after 38 years. A testimonial dinner was held in his honor at the Adams House, Marblehead, by the Rindge Alumni Association. Dr. David Dow, a longtime friend of Rindge's, remarked at this dinner, "As strong as iron, as true as steel. The man who had forged links of friendship which unite the youth of the past with the men of today."

[Ed. note—When asked to write something for the *Rindge Register* on the occasion of the paper's fiftieth anniversary, Telfer replied, "No doubt it would be more interesting to see me hammer out a piece of iron on the anvil than writing an article for your paper."]

Isabel Studley resides in Brevard, North Carolina, and visited Rindge in 2008.

(continued from page 1)

Then, in 1936, the city decided to honor its last surviving Civil War veteran, Francis J. O'Reilly, on his ninetieth birthday. O'Reilly consented, but only on condition that the proceeds from the celebration be used for a statue of Lincoln to be placed in the monument. Funds were quickly raised, and a casting of Augustus Saint-Gaudens's The Standing Lincoln (the original of which is an eleven and a half foot figure and pedestal in Chicago's Lincoln Park), was obtained and dedicated in 1937.



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 15, 2009, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Cambridge and the American Revolution
Colonel Thomas Gardner:
Cambridge's Revolutionary War Hero
 By Professor Mark Bonislowski,
 At the Longfellow National Historic Site,
 105 Brattle Street - Cambridge, Mass

Sunday, April 19, 2009, Spring Fundraiser
Fresh Pond: Ice Making, Resort, Reservoir, and Recreation.
 At the Fresh Pond Water Works
 Featuring Jill Sinclair, author of *Fresh Pond: the History of a Cambridge Landscape* (MIT Press)

Sunday, May 17, 2009
Charles Martin speaks on Genealogy
 A Collaborative Presentation by the Cambridge Historical Society and the Cambridge African American Heritage Alliance

Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 5:00-8:00 P.M.
Open Archives
 A chance to see the archives and speak with the archivists of the Cambridge Historical Society, Longfellow National Historic Site, and the Mount Auburn Cemetery.

The Margaret Fuller House: A Magnet for Area 4

By Daphne Abeel

Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) would have felt right at home in the 1960s. Characterized as a “blue stocking,” she was a feminist and a champion of women’s education and liberation. An editor, teacher and journalist, she earned her own living and often supported her large family, and she occasionally lived in a commune, Brook Farm, founded in Roxbury by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bronson Alcott and other idealists. Although she is little read today, her tract *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845) was considered a clarion call for women’s personal growth. Today, she is often best remembered for the apocryphal anecdote in which she is said to have stated: “I accept the universe.” Thomas Carlyle is supposed to have replied: “Egad, she’d better.”

Fuller was born in Cambridge at 71 Cherry Street in a house built by her father, Timothy Fuller. Now known as Area 4, that section of town was then thought of as a part of Cambridgeport, as the river, at the time, cut farther inland and the docks were not far away.

The house has stood for nearly 200 years and today carries on its namesake’s concerns as a neighborhood house for social services. Founded in 1902 as an outpost of the YWCA, it is the eleventh oldest neighborhood house in the United States and is a National Historic Landmark.

Said Director Barbara Kibler, “At first the women who ran it lived here. It was started for young women who worked in the Cambridge factories. Young immigrant women came here to learn English, and from the beginning there were programs for children in music, drama and woodcutting.” The house has been the site of one of the first libraries in the city, the first senior center, and also the first Head Start program. “There used to be dances here on Friday nights,” said Kibler. “There were few other organizations for people, and it’s still the only nonprofit in the neighborhood that serves all the people.”

Today, the Margaret Fuller House offers a food pantry that is open five times a week and has served 2,000 people a year. “We’ve had 600 new people come since September and over 1,000 new people since July. It’s a big increase,” said Kibler. It also has an afterschool program for children ages 5-12 and a summer camp for the same age group. “We have a big waiting list for this,” said Kibler. “Typically, we serve 65 kids a year.”

There is also an Outreach Program for young adults ages 18-35. “We help them find jobs, deal with their legal issues, help them with health care,” said Kibler. A new position, Area 4 coordinator, has been created. “That person works with the street workers and also other city agencies,” said Kibler. A Computer Center is open daily, and free computer classes for both beginners and advanced students take place two nights a week. “We sometimes get the homeless people during the day,” said Kibler, “and the kids come in the afternoons.”

There is a new exchange library where people can pick up books to read and return them once read. A group of volunteers, the Area 4 Coalition, meets monthly to discuss issues. And there are afternoon teas for seniors, who drop in.

The Margaret Fuller House receives federal, state and city funding and raises the rest of its basic \$500,000



The Margaret Fuller House in the winter of 2004. The exterior has since been renovated.

budget with its annual benefit, “Sweet Soul Supper,” held in the spring at MIT. “We have a new federal grant this year in collaboration with the Cambridge Health Alliance and the YMCA that focuses on good health care for African-American men. This grant will last for three years,” said Kibler. “We do raise other grant money through foundations, but we’re concerned about the current economic funding. We don’t know if our federal and city support will continue.”

Kibler said she is most proud of the fact that the house serves the entire community and that it has remained small. “A settlement house this small is unusual. Most of them that were started in the 1890s or early 1900s have either merged with larger organizations or gone out of business. We have grown a lot

in the last three or four years, and we just hope we can keep going in this difficult economic climate.” The Margaret Fuller House, in conjunction with the City of Cambridge, will celebrate the bicentennial of Fuller’s birth in 2010.

The Cambridge Historical Society would like to thank all of our supporters
who responded top to annual giving letter

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Betty Milhendler
Ellen Moot
Eva S. Moseley
Hellen S. Moulton
In memory of Elaine Hanford
Corinne Nagy and Richard Miner
Dr. and Mrs. Larry Nathanson
In memory of Leah Nathanson
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Nunes
Susan W. Paine
Paula Paris
Mary Ann Parker
John Petrowsky and Tom Vise
Louise A. Pfeiffer
Robert B. Rettig
Barbara Rimbach
Gail Roberts
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Emmy C. Wolbach
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Woznick
Elizabeth Wylde & Lance Drane
Cornelia P. Zinsser

The Society of the Cincinnati

The Cambridge Historical Society is pleased to say that we received a grant from the Society of the Cincinnati to make Revolutionary War Diaries and Manuscripts in our collection available digitally. CHS staff will scan these documents and make them available through our web site. We will also use these digital documents and secondary sources to create an online "Cambridge During the American Revolution" interactive map. This will integrate our archival collections, some secondary sources and geographical locations. For example, there will be a marker on the site of the Washington Elm, and when you click on that marker, it will open a panel with images from our collection and text discussing the history of the site.



A Giving Tree



Photograph by Lewis Bushnell

The house next door to the Historical Society had a large Honey Locust tree in the back yard that was believed to have been planted by a former owner of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, Joseph Lee. Lee owned the property from 1758 until his death in 1802 (with a brief break between 1774 and 1777, when he and the other Tory families fled Cambridge during the American Revolution). The Loughlin family, who recently purchased the property, had planned to make this tree a central part of their landscaping, but they soon found that it was neither healthy nor sound. The Historical Society approached the Loughlins and the general contractor for the house, S&H Construction, and suggested that we could make the end of this historic tree into a new beginning for the community. Both the Loughlins and S&H Construction generously agreed to help the Historical Society make something new from this old tree. S&H designed a special drying rack for the wood in the garage of the Historical Society, and the Loughlins had the wood milled into lumber. Once this lumber is fully dried, the Society will build two tables for the house. Some of the wood will also be used by Mitch Ryerson, a local artist, in a bench he has been commissioned to build on the Cambridge Common. So Joseph Lee's tree will return to Joseph Lee's house and greet people on the Common.

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

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