



Fall 2014

Thursday, November 20, 2014 5-8 pm
First Light Brookline at the Edward Devotion House
150 Years of Shopping in Coolidge Corner

A Century and a Half of Shopping in Coolidge Corner



First Light Slideshow, 5-8 pm, November 20th
Running Continuously at the Edward Devotion House

Brookline's annual First Light Festival, showcasing the talents of local artists, musicians and performers and the many wares of Brookline merchants takes place Thursday, November 20th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Join the Historical Society at the Edward Devotion House for a slideshow on the history of the Coolidge Corner shopping district. And look for historical displays in selected stores.

Plus, step inside for a tour of one of the oldest houses in town and chat with us about the past, the present, and the future of our town.

New Caretakers for Widow Harris House & Putterham School



The Historical Society is very pleased to welcome Patrick Farmer and Meredith Ruhl as the new caretakers of the Widow Harris House and the Putterham School at Larz Anderson Park. Patrick and Meredith moved into the 18th century Widow Harris House in August. They present tours of the Putterham School and help out with other activities of the Society.

Patrick is a 7th grade teacher at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge. He previously spent seven years working with children as a farmer-teacher at The Farm School in Athol. Meredith

works in the children's department of the Marlborough Public Library and is earning a master's degree in library and information science at Simmons College. She previously worked as an instructor at the Natick Community Organic Farm.

Please join us in welcoming Patrick and Meredith to the Brookline Historical Society

Old Photos and New Research Bring 1898 High School Students to Life



They were 14 friends — 12 young women and 2 young men — who went to school together in Brookline more than a century ago. Their class (all but one graduated from Brookline High in 1898) was one of the first to attend the new high school that opened on Greenough Street in 1893.

Over time they went their separate ways. They had lives, families, careers. Some left Massachusetts for good; only two stayed in Brookline for long. The last of them died in 1982.

But they stayed together for decades in a set of exquisite photos kept by yet another friend and classmate. Those photos, presented here and on our website, eventually made their way back to Brookline and the collection of the Brookline Historical Society.

As a group, these 14 are probably no more or less remarkable than any random set of students taken from different eras in the history of the town. But looking at their long-ago faces and learning about their lives provides an unusual window into a small piece of Brookline's past.

(Note: Larger, high-quality versions of the photos here — and more — can be seen on the Historical Society website at <http://brooklinehistoricalsociety.org>.)

The Photos and Their Collector: From Brookline to New Jersey and Back Again



The photographs belonged to Grace Whiting Mason, later Grace Mason Young, (1879-1971). The youngest child of Albert and Lydia Mason, Grace grew up on Corey Hill in the family home at 96 Summit Avenue. (The house is no longer there.) Her father was chief justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court from 1890 until his death in 1905. He is probably best remembered today as one of the judges in the Lizzie Borden murder trial of 1893.

Grace was an 1898 winner of the J. Murray Kay Prize given to Brookline High School seniors by the Brookline Historical Publications Society (forerunner of the Historical Society) for historical research. Her essay was on "The Development of the Metropolitan Park System."

After graduating from Brookline High, Grace attended Smith College, graduating in 1902. In 1904, she married Percy Sacret Young and moved with him to New Jersey where they raised four sons and four daughters. Her grandson Mason, who grew up near his grandmother, remembered her as an avid reader who would regularly send books to her grandchildren. "She had definite opinions. She was very good about guiding you to a different way of seeing things," he said.

Grace's photographs of her classmates remained in the family until 2010 when they were donated, along with other family items, to the Millburn-Short Hills (NJ) Historical Society, which sent the photos back here to Brookline for our collection.

There were no photos of Grace in the set; the family no doubt kept those. But further research led to three of Grace's grandchildren, who met with me in Manomet, MA in August and shared the photo above and several more, along with papers and stories of their grandmother.



Grace Mason, front left, with her mother Lydia, brother Charles, and three of her sisters. (Photos courtesy of the family of Grace Mason Young)

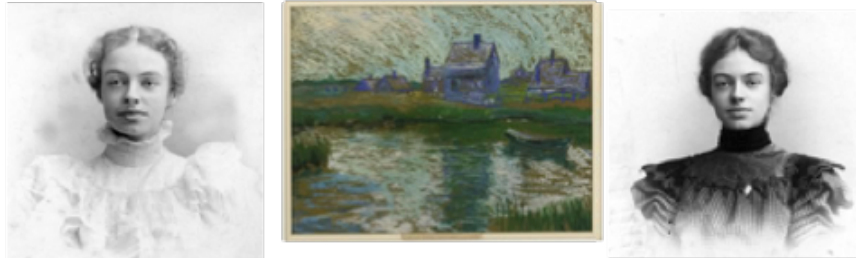
The Classmates

Helen R. Jones, 101 Summit Avenue

Helen Reed Jones, later Helen Reed Whitney (1878-1956) is the only classmate to appear in more than one of the photos saved by Grace Mason Young. That's likely because they were the closest of friends, growing up across the street from one another on Summit Avenue. (Helen's home at 101 Summit still stands, though much altered.)



Helen studied painting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. In 1906 she married MIT graduate Philip R. Whitney, an artist and an instructor of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work was exhibited in and around Philadelphia, as well as in New York, Chicago, and other cities. She and her husband summered on Nantucket for many years, and were active in the artist's colony there.



Additional photos of Helen Jones, along with her painting *Nantucket Cottages*



John R. Marvin, 88 Perry Street & Martha F. Ritchie, 268 Walnut Terrace

John Reginold Marvin (1880-1967) and Martha Frothingham Ritchie (1881-1945) were first cousins. Their grandfather Edward S. Ritchie was an inventor and the founder of E.S. Ritchie & Son, a manufacturer of nautical compasses and scientific instruments in Brookline Village.

John Marvin was a co-winner with Grace Mason of the 1898 J. Murray Kay Prize for his essay "The Relation of Brookline to Norfolk County." He earned a mechanical engineering degree from MIT and had a career as an engineer in the Boston area, the Midwest and, finally, Pennsylvania where settled with his wife Grace Field Marvin.



Martha Ritchie worked for a time as a teacher. She married the architect Austin Jenkins in 1911 and moved to the Chicago area.



Maud B. Dutton, 33 Colbourne Crescent

Maud Barrows Dutton, later Maude Dutton Lynch, (1880-1959) was the daughter of Samuel Train Dutton, the superintendent of schools in Brookline from 1890 to 1900. She moved to New York with her father when he became superintendent of the Horace Mann Schools run by Teachers College, Columbia University.

Maud also followed her father in the education field, authoring a series of children's books on "The World of Work" and on different countries and cultures. She married the Congregational minister, editor, and peace activist Frederick Lynch in 1909.

Marian D. Richards, 44 Linden Street

Marian Dudley Richards, later Marian D. Emerson, (1879-1949) graduated from the Tuckerman School on Beacon Hill. She became prominent in the Unitarian Universalist movement as a Sunday school teacher, superintendent, public speaker, and social worker. She was also active in support of peace movements and the welfare of Native Americans. She married fellow Unitarian activist B. Homer Emerson in 1917 and continued to live in Brookline until her death.



Thomas I. Taylor, 294 Walnut Street

Thomas Irving Taylor (1880-1977), whose father was in the hat and fur business, worked for a railroad supply company and for Sprague Electric before managing Taylor Machinery, a metalworking firm in Boston. He was awarded a patent in 1921 for an automobile water gauge “so that the driver may be informed at all times by visible means from his position when driving, whether or not the radiator water supply is in need of replenishment.” Tom, who was married twice and lived in Newton, later worked as a vault attendant for the Newton-Waltham Bank & Trust Co.

Grace B. Farquhar, 26 Gorham Avenue

Grace Bartlett Farquhar, later Grace Leavitt, (1880-1982) was the daughter of Joseph Farquhar, owner of a roofing company, and his wife Annie. She married at a younger age (21) than the other BHS grads in the photos. Her husband, Frederick Leavitt, was in the real estate and insurance business in Brookline and also served in town and country government. They lived in Brookline and later in Arlington. Grace died in Barnstable in 1982, having outlived all of the others in this group of BHS students.



Beulah Duncklee, 24 Williams Street

Beulah Duncklee, later Beulah Bugbee, (1879-1969) was born in Brookline, the daughter of Charles T., an attorney, and Sarah J. Duncklee. In 1901 she married Edward Bugbee, a Brookline native and a teacher of mining engineering and metallurgy at MIT. They lived in Brighton, though Beulah moved back to Brookline after her husband’s death.

Isabel McCleery, address uncertain

Isabel Shaw McCleery, later Isabel Doig, (1878-1915) was born in Somerville, the daughter of William C. McCleery, a button manufacturer, and his wife Ada. She lived at various times in Boston and Newton and appears only to have been Brookline for a short time. She married Stephen G. Doig, a lawyer, and died in 1915 at the age of 38, the shortest life by far of this generally long-lived group.





Ethel W. Towle, 31 Kent Square

Ethel Ward Towle, later Ethel Haslet, (1880-1949), was the daughter of Unitarian minister Edwin Towle and his wife Isabel. Her father was pastor of Brookline's Second Unitarian Church, which was formed in 1896 and moved into its new building (now Temple Sinai) on Sewall Avenue in 1901. He was later pastor in Hillsborough, NH, where, in 1921, he presided at Ethel's marriage to widower George Haslet, president of the Hillsborough Woolen Mills. George died in 1928. Ethel moved to Boston where she died 21 years later.

Ella C. Fenno, 3 Kilsyth Road

Ella Cheever Fenno, later Ella Clough, (1878-1936) is the only student not to appear in her own, formal, photo. Instead, she appears in one with her arm around Helen Jones, one of four pictures of Helen in the Grace Mason set. Ella married Charles Clough, an insurance executive, in 1904. (They are mentioned together in *Boston Globe* social columns in 1900 (at a dance) and 1901 (at a Clough family home in Maine). Charles survived Ella by more than 30 years.



Marion L. Sharp, 12 Fairbanks Street

Marion Louise Sharp (1878-1967) graduated from BHS in 1897, one year earlier than the other students. Her grandfather was Samuel A. Robinson who owned a tannery on Washington Street and lived in a house nearby where Marion was most likely born. He built a house in 1892 at 12 Fairbanks Street where three generations of the family lived. Marion was a winner of the J. Murray Kay Prize that year for her essay "Three Glimpses of Brookline: In 1700, 1800, and 1900." She graduated from Smith College in 1901 and later taught school in Gloucester, Woburn, Brookline, and other towns.

The Mystery Student

Only one of the photos (below, left) saved by Grace Mason Young did not have a name written on the back. Who was she? One possibility is an 1898 BHS grad named Sabina Marshall (1879-1968) who lived on Summit Avenue near Grace Mason and Helen Jones. The three were old friends, photographed together years earlier in a delightful picture (below, right) shared by Grace's family.



Was it her? Watch our website and the Muddy River Musings blog — <http://brooklinehistory.blogspot.com> — for more as our research continues.

New England Archivists Helping Out at the Devotion House

The Brookline Historical Society was pleased to welcome a group of archivists and library students on Saturday, September 13, 2014, for the New England Archivists Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students' Day of Service. The Day of Service was designed as an opportunity to give newer archivists a chance "to get experience processing collections [and] to help out some great institutions."

The Historical Society was one of four New England institutions that were fortunate enough to benefit from this volunteer opportunity, along with Historic Newton, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the archives of Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. We were delighted to be in such distinguished company.



Pictured here at the Devotion House are, left to right, Mary Pettengill, Sofia Becerra, Dan Bullman, and Anna Newman. They and seven others helped us out as part of the New England Archivists Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students' Day of Service.

The 11 hard-working archivists who came to Brookline, most of whom are employed at archives in the Boston area or are students at Simmons College's School of Library and Information Science, spent the day at the Devotion House, the society's headquarters, processing material from the Owen and Lorraine Carle Collection. This collection, which was donated to the society three years ago, documents the activities of one Brookline family across the 20th century and contains fascinating material on sports, religion, education, and many other aspects of life in Brookline.

The volunteers re-boxed and re-folded materials to better preserve them and developed box lists to create a record of what the collection contains. A pizza lunch and an afternoon coffee break gave the volunteers a chance to socialize with one another and meet with some of the society's board members.

An institution like the Brookline Historical Society, which has no paid staff, often struggles to find the time and resources to process manuscript collections. Events like the Day of Service are a wonderful way for us to make progress on this important work—which allows us to better use these materials for programs, exhibits, and research—and to build connections to the archival community. We hope it may become an annual tradition, and we extend a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make this day a great success!

Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 2 pm
Fall Program of the Brookline Historical Society
Boston's Cycling Craze, 1880-1900
Hunneman Hall, Brookline Library, 361 Washington Street

Join author and bicycle historian Lorenz Finison for a look at Boston's — and Brookline's — role in the growth of cycling in late 19th century America.

Refreshments will be served.

(Illustration at right, from *Harper's Weekly*, shows bicyclists climbing Corey Hill in Brookline in 1886.)



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