

To Our Members,

Congratulations!

The Waltham City Council, led by Councilors Logan, Darcy, and Tarallo voted to pass the Demolition Delay Ordinance for the City of Waltham.

This Ordinance offers concerned citizens the ability to work to save significant structures in the City.

Thanks to the efforts of all the Society members who attended the deliberations on a very difficult weather evening, and the attention to detail in research shown by our own Mort Isaacson, Mary Selig, and Laura Bernstein, the Council voted to enact legislation that will provide a six month period of time to negotiate with an owner who plans to demolish a significant structure. Such an opportunity might have saved the Nathan Warren home in 2006.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who recognized the opportunity to act, and to those whose efforts brought it to completion. Congratulations!

Waltham Water Works

The Waltham City Council also approved acceptance of the Request for Proposals submitted by the Historical Society regarding the former Waltham Water Works building.



Former Waltham Water Works

This opportunity will severely test our commitment to continue the work of the Society.

The building, located on Felton Street, has been purged of all remnants of its former identity as the City Dog Pound.

New windows have been installed, the basement has been cleaned and brought to a fine condition, and the lot will be cleared of trees and trash. We are currently seeking volunteers and benefactors to step in and assist us in bringing the building to a first-class finished state as the new headquarters for the Waltham Historical Society.

If you can help out, please contact Sheila or Wayne for a look at the task before us. You can be instrumental in the design and direction of the new space.

The Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series

The Boston Manufacturing Company



Our Edmund L. Sanderson Lecture Series continues in March with the story of the Boston Manufacturing Company. At a time when our new country was being settled by colonists tilling the soil and selling their produce at market in Boston, a few well-to-do gentlemen brought to Waltham an idea. That idea was to create, in a single location, an enterprise which would weave fabric from raw cotton, in one building.

Up to that time, mills in Massachusetts and Rhode Island had been carding and spinning cotton into cloth by use of hand looms, the shuttles being thrown by hand by the weaver. In one mill owned by the Cabots in Beverly, carding and spinning machinery were located in the same building as a few looms, but the looms themselves were powered by two horses working on a sweep in the basement. This was 1789.

In 1790 Samuel Slater had established a mill operating a frame for spinning run by water-power. This water-frame for spinning is considered the first such device in America. The Rev. Edmund Cartwright obtained patents for a mechanical loom in England in 1785 through 1792, and Thomas Clark produced a loom in 1788, but their secrets were guarded well.

The fact that the knowledge of spinning jennies created by Sir Richard Arkwright had reached America did not prevent Francis Cabot Lowell from introducing the power-loom this country in 1813. At a place called Waltham.

Come learn more about the events that brought Waltham, and America, from the days of agricultural settlement to the Industrial Revolution's inception.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Please arrive before 7:00 p.m.

PLEASE JOIN US

AT 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF

THE RTN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 600 MAIN STREET, WALTHAM

If you arrive late please call 617-448-6706 and we will try to send someone to open the door.

House Tour 2008

We need homes for this year's house tour. If you know anyone who will allow us to put their home on the tour, please contact Louise Hamilton as soon as possible.

781-899-7625 or
waynemccarthy@rcn.com

Volunteer Meeting

The Volunteer meeting was a great success. We have had a few folks step up to take the lead on a couple of important initiatives. If you were unable to attend, but would like to help out, please call and let us know. Those who volunteered through membership sign-up will be contacted shortly. Call Wayne at 617-448-6706.

As always, the Waltham Historical Society is extremely grateful to Mr. Joe Connors and the RTN Federal Credit Union. Their support makes these Lectures possible. We encourage you to show your appreciation by patronizing RTN.

The Waltham Historical Society, Inc.

190 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453

THE WALTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
EDMUND L. SANDERSON LECTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008 7:00 P.M.

The Boston Manufacturing Company

HOSTED BY SPONSOR

RTN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

AND HELD AT THEIR HEADQUARTERS
600 MAIN STREET, WALTHAM, MA



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS SERVED

WALTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WITH SPECIAL THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT OF:
MR. FRED KIMBERK / CAFÉ ON THE COMMON

THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS
AT WALTHAM HIGH SCHOOL UNDER MR. GREGORY DEMEO

AND A GRANT FROM THE WALTHAM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Calendar of Events

April 15 Annual Food and Wine Fest at the Charles River Museum of Industry. For further information contact Kim or Dan at 781-893-5410.

April 26 Annual M.G.C. Seminar at Bentley College. \$75.00. Genealogical Seminar featuring technology and on-line resources. For further information:
www.massgencouncil.org