



*Pride in Our Past...
Faith in Our Future
Since 1922*



STONEHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, VOL. 20(1), SPRING 2014

Trivia Quiz: "Our Olympians"

Can you match the trivia with the Olympians named in Bee's article?

1. A special fund financed this Olympian's trip to Europe.
2. This Olympian was badly injured before leaving the U.S. and was unable to play in the games
3. This Olympian was captain of the U.S. team.
4. This Olympian was the victim of a dastardly assault.
5. This Olympian played for Brown and later coached there as well.
6. Just one year after the Olympic Games, the public was shocked to hear about this Olympian's divorce.

(Answers on back)

Celebrating "Teamwork" both globally and locally



By Bee Russo

Happy New Year to everyone! Here's hoping you all had an enjoyable holiday season in spite of what continues to be the "endless winter". We are optimistic that it will all soon be forgotten as those welcomed signs of spring become evident in flowers popping up in our gardens, buds appearing on the stark brown trees, and the warmth of the sun gaining in strength as the daylight hours extend. This spring, we have a variety of interesting programs, events, speakers and trips planned that we think you will enjoy.

In the meantime, as we pass the time watching the Sochi Olympics, it bears reminding those reading this newsletter that our town has boasted six Olympians since 1932. This is quite unusual for such a small town, and it seems appropriate to recall the rich historical legacy they represent. We are extremely proud of these athletes and fortunate that we have a Museum to preserve and display many donated treasures from these famous residents.

These artifacts are always a big hit among the 3rd graders who gravitate to those displays when they visit with their classmates each spring. The Stonehamites who represented our town and nation as Olympic athletes in the past include: Edwin "Ted" Frazier in 1932; Josephine Warren Madden in 1936; Don Whiston in 1952; Francis "Frank" O'Grady in 1956; Nancy Rouillard Ludington in 1960; and Nancy Kerrigan Solomon in 1992 and 1994.

I would like to celebrate a similar commitment to "teamwork" by our many dedicated members, who have "carried the torch" in maintaining the mission of the Society since 1922. From collecting and caring for the valuable artifacts entrusted to us, to displaying prudence and "due diligence" regarding the financial affairs of the organization, their efforts have ensured our viability and stability into the future. As always, we depend upon our members to help sustain and support the organization. We both need and appreciate your input via email, phone, or letter. Better yet, speak to us in person at the next member meeting and consider bringing along a friend, family member or neighbor to get involved as well!

Upcoming Events

Doors open at 6:45 pm for meetings

March 13th:
Anthony Sammarco
"History of HoJo's"
36 Wm. St., 7:15 pm

April 10th
Karl Haglund
"Middlesex Fells & Metro Park System"
36 Wm. St., 7:15 pm

April 23rd
Antique Appraisal Night
Stoneham Historical Society, 36 Wm. St.,
6:30 – 8:30 pm

April 26th
Annual Research Day!
36 Wm. St., 2-4 pm

April 30th
Royall House Tour
11 am-12 noon

May 8th
Preservation Month meeting with Stoneham Historical Commission

Joseph Cornish
"Preservation of New England Properties"
36 Wm. St., 7:15 pm

Coming in June!
Fruitlands Museum
Tour & Lunch
Details TBA



CORNER STORES

Do You Remember?

When Stoneham had 22 neighborhood stores? We've had some interesting comments from some of you about memories of the small stores that once were all over town.

We'd like to add more to our project and would appreciate any information you could give us. It might be only a one-liner such as: "The only place to find button candy was the Pine Street Variety Store." Or it could be recalling a location, like in this E-mail from a friend: "At 151 Franklin Street on the corner of Ferdinand Street the store was technically in Melrose, but probably the front steps were in Stoneham." Also - "Mrs. Munn's family store on Perkins Street was good for candy, but very light on groceries."

Many of these former stores are still in existence as remade into houses or garages or parts of other buildings. If you know of any, a picture of its present state would be a good addition to our files and gratefully received. E-Mail, U.S. Mail or a phone call to **Mary Marchant**, at 781-438-4185. – *Thank you!*

Treasure or Junque?

Since 2009, Mary Wescott of Kaminski Auctions in Beverly has entertained and impressed Society members and guests with her professional appraisals of treasure (or junque?) brought in for her inspection during our **Annual**



Antique Appraisal Night. We are delighted to continue this tradition on **April 23rd from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Hall.** Admission is free, but appraisals cost \$10 per item or \$25 for a maximum of 3 item by cash or check. If you missed the chance to join us in the past, don't let this night of drama and expectation slip by once again. Please note: No stamps, coins or jewelry will be appraised – and rare books are not her specialty.

A Taste of History....



With Saint Patrick's Day just around the corner, it seems fitting that we pay tribute to the 'Irish that's in all of us' on that special day. So, while cooking up that corned beef and cabbage for dinner, consider tossing some Irish Bread into the oven to round out the meal.

Irish Bread

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Cups Flour | 3 Tspns baking powder |
| 3/4 Cup Sugar | 1 Tbs caraway seeds |
| 1 tsp salt | 1/2 Cup raisins |
| 2 Tbs Oil | (the golden ones are best) |
| 1 Cup milk | |



Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Pour in a greased loaf pan. Sprinkle with sugar/cinnamon. Bake 40 mins @ 350 degrees (or until toothpick comes out clean)

Contributed by Bee Russo, who writes "passed onto me at least a lifetime ago - so very easy and yummy!"

Three cheers to Bee Russo for sharing this recipe! If you have a recipe you'd like to share mail or email it to us and we will include it in a future newsletter.



Membership News

A reminder to all members that "dues are due" by the May meeting for the next calendar year. If you uncertain about your membership status, speak to Bob VanTichelt at our any of our spring meetings.

We would also like to welcome new member Ruth Haradon and returning member Catherine Moore, and bid a sad farewell to longtime member Jeannette Slocum, who passed away on December 21, 2013. Jeannette always enjoyed the meetings/programs and fellowship before and after the monthly gatherings and will be greatly missed.

Field Trip Questions? Contact Donna Weiss at (781) 438-1739 for more information about our field trip program or to make a suggestion for future trips.

Fruitlands Museum Tour – Coming in June!

Fruitlands Museum is a cluster of small historic buildings in Harvard, Massachusetts on the former site of the unsuccessful utopian transcendentalist community established in 1843 by Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane. It includes the original farmhouse, as well as four small gallery buildings that feature Native American, Shaker and Hudson River School art. A Historical Society field trip to the museum is in the works - so stay tuned for details!



April 10th – Historian & Author Karl Haglund

On June 3 1893, Governor William Eustis Russell signed a bill creating the Metropolitan Parks Commission, the nation's first regional park system. It was the result of planning and politicking by a group of far-sighted Bostonians concerned about rapidly disappearing open space. With its first funding, the new commission acquired over 7,000 acres in the space of 18 months. By 1900, it had protected 9,000 acres and built nine scenic parkways within 12 miles of Boston. Now managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, this system encompasses almost 20,000 acres and includes woodlands, beaches, swimming pools, skating rinks, bicycle paths, and — perhaps its best-known site — the Charles River Esplanade (*Source: Mass Moments, June 3 1893*)

Learn more about this incredible effort from historian & author, Karl Haglund, who serves as an urban planner for the DCR. He will speak and present a slideshow on the history of the Middlesex fells at our meeting on April 10th.

March 13th - History of Howard Johnson's



Historian Anthony Sammarco has written 67 books on the history and development of Boston. On **March 13th**, he will be at the Stoneham Historical Society to tell us about his latest, "A History of Howard Johnson's: How a Massachusetts Soda Fountain Became an American Icon," which combines his research with oral tales to paint a portrait of

the local man who built a nationwide empire from one store in Quincy during the Great Depression.

April 30th - Royall House Tour



In the eighteenth century, the Royall House & Slave Quarters was the home of the Massachusetts colony's largest slaveholding family and the enslaved Africans who made their lavish way of life possible. Today, the house is notable for its

remarkable state of preservation and its accompanying slave quarters, believed to be the only surviving freestanding slave quarters in the northern United States. Join us on April 30th, as we tour the Royall House and explore the meanings of freedom and independence before, during, and since the American Revolution, in the context of a household of wealthy Loyalists and enslaved Africans. Contact **Donna Weiss** at (781) 438-1739 for more details.

May 8th - Preservation Month!

Many proud owners of historic homes spend an extensive amount of time and resources to preserve the architectural fabric that makes their house significant and memorable. But what happens to a house when a conscientious owner is no longer around? Will new owners unknowingly make changes that erode the property's historic character? For owners concerned about the future, the proven option for long-term preservation is the donation of a preservation easement to a qualified non-profit.

Joseph Cornish, has worked for Historic New England since 1998 and has extensive experience in administering and enforcing the preservation easements held by the organization across the region. **On May 8th**, he will be speaking at our joint meeting with the Stoneham Historical Commission about "Historic Preservation of New England Properties". A worthy topic to kick-off Preservation Month!



April 26th is Research Day!

Volunteers will be on hand from 2-4 pm to answer your questions about the history of our town, your home or family who may have lived in Stoneham. This is also a great chance to browse the museum as well.

Days Gone By..... By Donna Weiss

50 Years ago: High School Science Team got it right!

February 1964. Stoneham High School Science Team appeared on WHDH TV Dateline Boston's Science quiz program. The team "lost" on the final question to Boston Latin School by a score of 120 to 100. After the program it was learned that the 2 questions the Stoneham team was supposed to have answered incorrectly were not incorrect. Since it was too late to affect the quiz that night, the Stoneham team was invited to return the following month to face Chelmsford High School. The team consisted of Robert Mooney Science Department Head and the following students: William Todd, Barbara Corcoran, Richard Grieve and George Wengen.

Stoneham High Seniors attend World's Fair.

May 1964. With the help of Fair Winds Travel Service a group of 27 High School Seniors and 11 chaperones left for the New York City World's Fair. The group left on Friday, May 1st, by charter coach and later checked in at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel in New York City. They received briefing on some of the more popular exhibits. On Saturday morning the students were escorted to the fair grounds for a day of independent enjoyment. The majority of students were enthused with the amazing pavilions which portrayed dreams of the future. Among the favorite exhibits were General Motors, Chrysler, Ford, IBM and General Electric.

100 Years ago: Supper to support Women's Suffrage.

March 1914. The hum drum drudgery of housework will be done away with for one evening when the womenfolk of Stoneham will have a chance to see men prepare a "*Chafing Dish*" supper and then listen to a powerful argument by a well-known man in favor of women's suffrage. Sounds like a dream to every good housewife, does it not? The Men's Club of the Unitarian church will be hosting the event. After supper Rev. W. S. Packer, a leader in the women's suffrage movement and one of the most able speakers in the country will talk on "The Reasons for Women's Suffrage".

Trivia quiz answers

1. Admirers of sprinter Josephine Warren were so eager for her to take part in the Olympics that they founded the Josephine Warren fund to finance her trip to Berlin. In Berlin, Josephine encountered Nazis and met her life-long friend, Jesse Owens.
2. Frank O'Grady suffered a shoulder separation in the last game of the Olympic squad's domestic tour. Although he was replaced by John Petroske of Minnesota, O'Grady remained on the team and was able to travel with them to Munich.
3. Lifelong Stoneham resident, Edwin "Ted" Frazier was a five-letter man at Stoneham High School. In 1932, he was captain of the U.S. Olympics team which played in Sweden, Poland and Germany.
4. During a practice round on the eve of the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 1994, Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed in the right knee with a police baton in an assault planned by rival Tonya Harding's ex-husband Jeff Gillooly. The incident became known as "The Whack Heard Round the World".
5. Don Whiston played varsity hockey at Brown and is largely considered to be the greatest goalie the team ever had. Later, he returned to Brown in the early 1960s to coach hockey for three years, while at the same time maintaining a brokerage business he had started after the Olympics in 1952.
6. "Ice Romance Chills" read headlines one year after the husband-and-wife figure skating team of Ronald and Nancy Ludington won Bronze at the 1960 Olympics. Nancy was awarded a divorce from her "perfectionist" husband on the grounds of cruelty, testifying to several serious injuries she sustained as a result of his temper during practice sessions on the ice.

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