

# History for Real!

Visit one of the Beverly Historical Society and Museum's historic properties to learn about Beverly's fascinating history. Or stop by the Galloupe Research Library and explore your family's story

## Cabot House 117 Cabot Street

The 1781 home of merchant John Cabot. The building features two floors of exhibits, including:

*The Path of the Planters: the Legacy of Beverly's 17th Century Families*  
*Beverly and the American Revolution*

Museum Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 -4 and Wednesday 1 - 9. Library open Tuesday and Saturday, 10-4 and Wednesday 1-9.

## Balch House 448 Cabot Street

The Balch family lived on this site in the 1630s, and tradition states that this house was built in 1636. Explore four rooms, including the "Great Hall" thought to be the first room constructed and the bedroom where David Balch thought he saw witches in 1690.

Closed for the season. Contact us for off hours tours (minimum admission \$20).

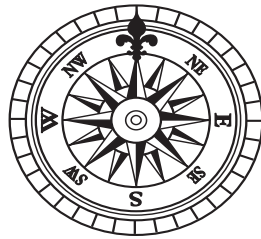
## Hale House 39 Hale Street

Built by 1694 for John Hale, first minister of Beverly, this house was originally four rooms, with property that extended to the ocean. Additions in the 18th and 19th centuries reflect the changing lifestyles of the Hale Family. Tour the first two floors, including the kitchen, parlor, and several bedrooms.

Closed for the season. Contact us for off hours tours (minimum admission \$20).



**Beverly Historical Society  
and Museum**  
117 Cabot Street  
Beverly, MA 01915-5107  
978-922-1186  
www.beverlyhistory.org



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Winter 2011

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER OF THE BEVERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## Old Planters Reunion

Many thanks to all who attended our Old Planters Reunion. We began with the special opening of our newest exhibit at the Cabot House: *The Path of the Old Planters: the Legacy of Beverly's 17th Century Families*. Nearly 100 members and friends attended. Trustee David Goss, professor at Gordon College, provided an informative and entertaining introduction to Beverly's early history. The exhibit is the result of extensive research by curator Darren Brown, research assistant Terri McFadden and several of our volunteers, who "mined" the collection for fascinating items to illustrate the significant contributions that these families have made to Beverly in the last 350 years.

Guests explored the stories in Memorial Hall, which were illustrated with unique and precious objects from our collection, including:



The Rev. Benjamin Balch and David Trask at the Balch family meeting. (Lisa Jaquith photo)

- John Hale's important contemporary account of the Salem witch hysteria
- The staff of office of Andrew Elliott, constable during the witch trials
- A vest worn by Benjamin Balch Dodge, who sought his fortune during the great Gold Rush
- Dr. Oliver Thorndike's early 18th century surgical kit
- Circa 1780 intention box from First Parish Church

Saturday began early, with a program at First Parish Church. This 18th century structure on Cabot Street is the present home of the church that welcomed John Hale to Beverly so long ago. Charlie Wainwright, chair of the historical committee at First Parish, related its fascinating early history. A copy of his talk, *Ye Church att Bass River Syde*, is available from us for those who couldn't attend.

Many attendees joined caretaker Nancy Peabody Hood at the Balch House, for the biennial Balch family meeting. In addition to an update on Society plans for preservation of the Balch House and

landscape, the meeting included a special appearance by the Rev. Benjamin Balch, charmingly portrayed by Rev. Sigmund Podlozny, Jr.

During the afternoon, Darren Brown led walking tours of the Planters Path, as well as the two downtown cemeteries. Abbott Street contains the graves of John Hale and his family, and Elizabeth Brackenbury Patch, who may have been the first European child born in Salem. One could easily spend hours at Central Cemetery, exploring the resting places of Thorndikes, Woodburys, Larcoms, Obers, and Lovetts.

In the afternoon guests could visit one of two early structures. Member Larry Ralph opened his home, the William Cleaves House, to conference guests. Ralph told the story of the house through architectural clues, and with some of the many archaeological discoveries on the site. Jeff and Janet Tannebring, also members, welcomed guests to the Edwards/Dodge House in North Beverly on the Wenham line.

(Continued on p. 6)



Walking tour along the Planter's Path (Lisa Jaquith photo)

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## The President's Letter

Dear Members,

WOW! Was I ever lucky! I won a raffle for a unique experience that was the only event like it in the world! We were treated to a fun and delicious dinner in a warm, inviting, historic room, complete with an accounting of life during the period of the house. If you haven't caught on, I won the Balch House dinner. I encourage ALL members to buy these very affordable raffle tickets next year. If for some reason you wouldn't be available to attend, they would make a great gift. BHS volunteers cook and serve the most delicious dinner and Ginny Currier, decked out in her period clothing, relates the story of the Balches.

November was also an important month for the Beverly Historical Society. The Board passed a new Strategic Plan for the next five years. The Committee spent 6 months developing it. You'll hear about it in the future when we will have informative meetings in the community. Most importantly, it will give us a focus on how to move the Society into a sustainable future. In order for it to be successful we will need all of your support. One objective is to double our membership. Your enthusiasm will be contagious. Will you ask someone to become a member? We have membership packets available. I know we can count on you.

Take care,

Babette

Babette Loring  
bloring@gmail.com



Can you identify any of the people in this July 3, 1929 photograph of Beverly Savings Bank Treasurer Thomas Bott and local children in front of the bank's headquarters at 175 Cabot Street?

## From the Director

Dear Members:

As always, we've been very busy. You'll read elsewhere about our wonderful exhibit opening, and the Old Planters Reunion that followed. What a great weekend! To be honest, we didn't know what to expect, and we were delighted with the results. We will do it again in 2012, and if you attended this year, or if you would like to attend next time, please send me your suggestions for programming and activities.

I hope you will all visit the Cabot House in the next year to see *The Path of the Old Planters: the Legacy of Beverly's 17th Century Families*. The contributions of the city's early families and their descendants are truly notable, and the exhibit is a wonderful showcase for some of the treasures of our collection.

A group of trustees worked with Darren and me over the past several months to develop a strategic plan for the next five years, and it was adopted by the full board in November. You will soon be receiving more information, and an invitation to join us at a meeting to discuss the plan. For those of you who cannot come to Beverly, you may either comment through a form on our website, or contact us through letter, phone or email. This is a very important step for us, and we want (and need) your input and support.

The plan focuses on our buildings and collections, which are extraordinary. We intend to make them more accessible and more broadly used. Beginning with this issue, we will include in every newsletter a list of recent acquisitions to the collection. We'd like you to know

about new objects and documents that may interest you or be helpful with a research project. And frankly, we want to remind everyone that we are a collecting institution. If you have items related to Beverly history that need a good home, and that will be of value to future generations, please contact us.

Continuing that theme, you'll also notice a new program series on our events page. If you're in the area, please bring a sandwich to the Cabot House for one of our monthly lunch talks. We'll tell great stories of Beverly history illuminated by one or more objects from the collection. I hope to see you there.

Sue

## Collections Update

The newest exhibit at the Cabot House, *The Path of the Planters: The Legacy of Beverly's Seventeenth Century Families*, gives the Society the opportunity to display many artifacts from the collection that have not been on public view since prior to World War I. Many of the artifacts in the Society's collection were donated in the first few decades following the organization's founding in 1891. However, the collection has grown tremendously, with the organization providing stewardship for new items donated through the years. It is important for the collection to be flexible and to continually evolve and grow, as our view of history evolves and grows. The Society is always searching for artifacts that help tell the story of Beverly and its residents, strengthening its role as the collecting institution and research center for Beverly.

One of the recent donations is an Edward Savage oil portrait of Nathaniel Balch (1735-1808), a descendant of Old Planter John Balch. Nathaniel Balch was a Boston hatter who could count John Hancock as one of his loyal customers. According to Galusha Balch, family tradition states that Hancock was protecting Savage from arrest for nonpayment of debt while he worked on a Hancock portrait. Hancock asked the

artist to undertake a Balch portrait as well. Savage is best known for his painting, *The Washington Family*; his works can be seen in many museums, including the National Gallery, the Dallas Museum of Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Thanks to the generosity of member Dana Balch, the Nathaniel Balch portrait is now part of the permanent collection and prominently displayed in *The Path of the Planters* exhibit.

Another recent donation is a collection of material detailing the history of the Centerville Christian Endeavor Church, thanks to the generosity and hard work of Judy Kent and the parishioners of the church. These records, photographs and ephemera detail the important role that religion played in the Centerville neighborhood of the community, beginning with the Sunday school classes in the 1870s. The earliest religious classes were held in private homes before moving to Pine Grove Hall, which was the former Bald Hill School on Standley Street. The Christian Endeavor Society was founded in 1896 and held its meetings at Pine Grove Hall until the construction of a building in 1908. Meeting minutes, temperance pledges, receipts and the resolution authorizing the Society to become a Church, are highlights of this important new collection. If you have material which

belongs in Beverly, whether it be one item or a sizable collection, please contact me at dbrown@beverlyhistory.org or (978) 922-1186 x 203, to ensure that it will be preserved for future generations of researchers and genealogists.

Darren Brown, Curator of Collections

## Recent Acquisitions

- Oil Painting of Nathaniel Balch by Edward Savage
- Oil painting of Friend's Mill
- B&M Railroad plans
- Centerville Christian Endeavor Church records
- Transportation negatives
- Beverly sports related photographs
- Collection of church related photographs
- 1923 Beverly High School diploma
- Collection of Webber family receipts and correspondence
- World War I draft card and family sugar card
- Beverly businesses ephemera
- Oral histories
- Ober bed spread and table cloth
- World War II aviator's toiletry kit
- 1958 Old Home Week ribbon
- Coffin family trunk

# Old Planters

Membership Newsletter of the Balch House Associates

(continued from p. 1)

Sunday morning began early with a walking tour of Beverly's waterfront, led by Darren Brown. Beverly's connection to the water has been important since the 1630s, as a major means of transport and a site of important commercial activity.

A charter trolley toured many of Beverly's historic sites, including ancestral homes of some of the conference attendees. Darren Brown and volunteer Ed Brown provided the narration, with input from many on the trolley. These properties are among many others in the Society's early house database, which forms the foundation of an online mapping project in collaboration with the Center for Economic Development and Sustainability at Salem State University.



Ed Brown and Darren Brown narrating the trolley tour (Lisa Jaquith photo)

The trolley proceeded to Salem, for a very special visit to Pioneer Village, arranged by Society trustee and Gordon College professor David Goss. The visit included a colonial cooking demonstration, led by Christine Tremblay. This was a wonderful opportunity to understand the daily life of the Old Planters and form a connection to the individuals in each family tree.

During the afternoon, attendees were welcome to take tours of Hospital Point Lighthouse, thanks to the Coast Guard



Peter Woodberry, Jr. house on Dodge Street (Lisa Jaquith photo)

Auxiliary, and tour another extraordinary historic house. Member Sylvia Trefry opened the William Dodge House, built across from the Balch House on what is now Cabot Street.

Unfortunately, we planned too much for our brief conference! We hope to offer a wonderful tour of North Beverly led by Fred Hammond at the next reunion.

Some comments from attendees:

- Totally exceed my expectations
- Ed Brown and the other volunteers were wonderful
- The programs were well thought out and interesting
- A great array of offerings

The next reunion will be in 2012, and will be even better! Please plan to attend, and let us know your thoughts.

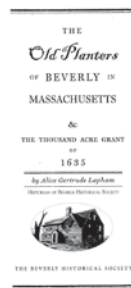


Trustee David Goss welcomes the group to Salem's Pioneer Village. (Lisa Jaquith photo)

For those interested in Beverly's early history, or for a memento of the Old Planters:



**New!**  
Fabric bellpull. Full color, with the Balch House, Cabot House, Hale Farm, and Old Planters seal. Dark blue background, wooden dowel hanger. 9" x 36". \$20.



New edition!  
**The Old Planters of Beverly**, by Lapham. High-quality binding with glossy cover. \$14.95



Oversized Balch mug. Blue on white \$10.



Balch House trivet. Ceramic and wood, 8" square. \$12.

*The Cabot Shop*  
at the Beverly Historical Society and Museum

Additional gifts, books and genealogical charts available.

978-922-1186 or [info@beverlyhistory.org](mailto:info@beverlyhistory.org)



# WRITE-OF-WAY

Newsletter of the Walker Transportation Collection

The Walker Transportation Collection (WTC) consists of many different collections that have been donated over the years. It all got started because Laurence Breed Walker used to trade railroad, trolley and maritime photos with other like-minded individuals. Not only would they trade the photos back and forth like baseball cards, they would share information and history related to these modes of transportation. During the 1930s when L.B. Walker was being treated for polio, his original collection of photographs and material was stolen. Obviously L.B. was greatly distraught over this, but his doctor suggested that since he would have a very long recovery, that perhaps a new, better collection could be rebuilt.

L.B. did just that. He contacted many of the people he had traded photos with over the years and was able to start anew. For the next 30 years L.B. accrued nearly 60,000 photos. When he passed away, this invaluable collection came to the Beverly Historical Society in 1969, which became the genesis of the Walker Transportation Collection. Over the next 40 years numerous individuals donated their collection of photographs, slides, books and other material to WTC.

One gentleman who gave a significant donation was Albert G. Hale (known to all as Al), who gave his entire collection to the WTC in 1998. Al had known L.B. Walker for a long time, having traded photos and correspondence with him through the years. Due to L.B.'s limited mobility from polio, Al (a banker by profession), assisted L.B. with his fiduciary needs for many years as well.

Al had started taking railroad photographs in the late 1920s as a teenager. This led him to record, in both still and moving pictures, a way of railroading life that simply does not exist today. Some of these moments are 16mm black and white film of the Maine 2 Foot railroads, such as the Sandy River and Rangeley Lakes Railroad, and the Bridgeton & Harrison. An exceptional rarity, since the Sandy River went out of business in the mid-1930s.

Al did not just take ¾ views of locomotives; his photos told a story. You could see the engineer hanging out the cab window, or you could easily identify the scenery where a train was moving, with a young boy waving at the fast freight. Though most of the photos that Al took were of the New England railroad scene, he also traveled extensively and always had his camera with him, recording locomotives and trains wherever he was.

Al donated his collection before his passing in 1999 and was able to see some of the extensive work that went into preserving his invaluable collection of photographs, which dates from the late 1920s to the late 1990s. Even in his later years, he was always eager to go on an expedition to take photographs of railroading. He would often go with his good friend Ben Crouch, who also donated his entire collection to the WTC, on week long trips to Quebec, the last time a month before Al passed away.

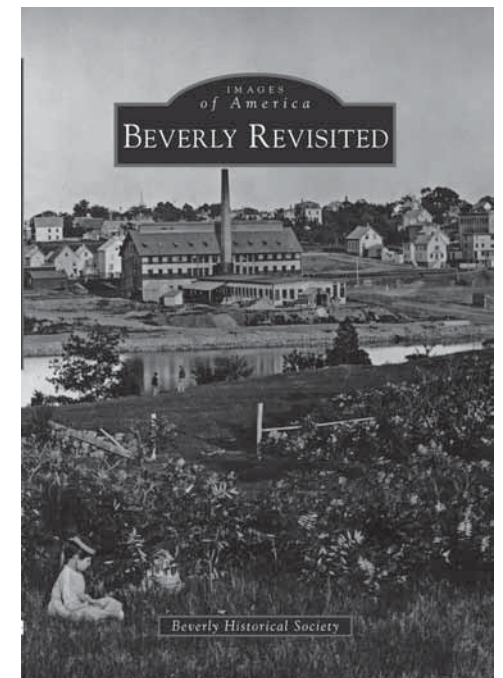
We are very grateful for Al Hale's donation. It took several years and a dedicated group of volunteers to place the negatives in acid free/photo safe enve-

lopes, and identify and organize them so that they could be easily found and utilized. It is especially amazing since the approximately 250,000 photographs doubled the size of the WTC holdings.

When you visit the Walker Transportation Collection please make sure you take a look at Al Hale's amazing images of New England's railroading past.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Fletcher  
Curator, Walker Transportation Collection  
Vice President, Board of Trustees



This new book is a great gift, with more than 150 nostalgic images of Beverly. Panoramas of the Gold Coast, photos of seasonal celebrations, sports, and images of community life fill this unique publication. Images were donated over the years by residents and friends of Beverly, and are available for reproduction. Softcover: \$21.99.

# Events

\*\*\*\*\*Please note: The Cabot House will be closed from December 24- January 3.\*\*\*\*\*

## New Programs!

Please join us for our new monthly lunchtime series at the Cabot House.

All programs will focus on items from our collection and begin at noon.

Bring a sandwich, and we'll provide the drinks. \$10/\$5 for members. Subscription tickets available at 20% off.

Thursday, January 13

### Beverly's Argonauts

Trace the voyage of Beverly's Argonauts to California when Gold Fever gripped the nation. The extraordinary journal of the Barque *San Francisco*, as well as journals, paintings and clothing, journals, illustrate the impact on Beverly.

Tuesday, February 15

### What Did I See?

The field glass of Captain Moses Brown, who served in Glovers Regiment, is one of many artifacts that were carried by this Beverly Revolutionary War hero that tell the tale of this leading Beverly citizen of the 18th century.

Thursday, March 10

### Votes for Women

The *Beverly Beacon*, photographs, and the Women's Voting Register may illuminate why it took 72 years to pass the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote.

Tuesday, April 14

### Diary of Eleazer Webber

Learn about the life of Beverly soldier and future Andersonville captive Eleazer Webber through his own words as we commemorate the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

Thursday, May 12

### Captain Pyam Lovett and the Pair of Chinese Vases

Apothecary owner Augustus Clark requested that Captain Pyam Lovett purchase two vases for his shop when he was in Whampoa ; the vases returned but Captain Lovett never stepped foot in his hometown of Beverly again.

**Don't Miss:** Fred Hammond's *Reflections* on BevCam every Thursday and Saturday. December and January programs focus on the Bucci family's long history in Beverly and Sue Gabriel from Beverly Bootstraps. See the BevCam website for details.



Fall Open House at Balch



The masterminds of the Balch dinner (Torsey photo)

## Volunteer Spotlight

One of the highlights of the year is the Balch dinner in November, when one lucky raffle winner and guests enjoy a very special evening at the Balch House. That unique experience would not be possible without a very dedicated group of people, who devote hours to creating a memorable and delicious evening. So many thanks to all of them: **Nancy Benevento, Louise Blair, Madilyn Coluntino, Ginny Currier, Mary Lou Ferriero, Nancy and Robin Hood, Deanna Karwowski, and Tina Torsey.**

More than 50 volunteers from Beverly's **First Parish Church** came to Hale Farm on October 31, rakes in hand, to help us gather some of our overwhelming amount of fallen leaves. Children who participated that morning received a special commemorative coin for their efforts, and all deserve a public thank you for their continuing support for John Hale's home.

Thanks to member **Ed McFadden** for all his hard work editing Ed Brown's For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact us at 978-922-1186 or info@beverlyhistory.org.

new book, *That's the Stuff, Kid: The Life and Times of Baseball Legend Stuff Mcinnis*, which will be available next month.

### Calling All Members!

The Beverly Historical Society needs your help! We have three wonderful sites and an extraordinary collection, but a small staff. If you can give us a few hours each month, we have work for you. Monthly projects will be posted here. Information on others will be sent by email. You will receive our gratitude (and refreshments) for your efforts.

Contact us to set up a convenient time, or stop by either Wednesday evenings from 6-9 or Fridays from 10-4, when we will have projects ready to go each week. We welcome your help with cleaning, filing, data entry, re-housing photographs and storage room organization.

### Save the Dates:

Hale Farm spring cleanup, Friday, April 22 (Earth Day) and Saturday April 23, 2011.

### Not a member yet? Please join us!

Members receive free admission to our historic houses, discounts on shop purchases and research services, advance notice for events, and our quarterly newsletter. Additional benefits at patron level and above. Your membership supports the mission of the Society, and preserves Beverly history for future generations.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Individual    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Family    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Sponsor    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Benefactor    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000 Life (65 and over)

\_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Beverly Historical Society, 117 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

Contact us at 978-922-1186 to pay by credit card

## New Beverly Historical Society Members

### Thank you!

The following members have recently joined our Society, or have renewed their membership at a higher level. Please consider raising your membership category at the date of your next renewal.

### Sponsors

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Alexander  
David Ferriero  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Gabrieli

### Patrons

Ann Harrison & Jim Starkey  
Dana Munroe Jewell  
John Kausel  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Roy  
Earl Taylor

### Family Members

Ellen Ander  
Gail & David Balentine  
John Condon, Jr.  
Donald Herrick  
Ryan Scott McDonnell  
Katherine & George Melvin  
Nancy & Ron Kreusel  
Jean & Jim Moran  
Charles Raymond  
Robert Swisher

### Individual Members

Jane Henzel Buck  
Dan Goldberg  
Martha Heddon  
Eric Overberg  
Gary Thomas  
Sandi Trimble

### Senior/Student Members

Penny Landvogt  
Stephen Parson  
Walter Richardson  
Velma Walker  
George Weinhagen

## New Corporate Member

New England Running Company

