

**winchester
historical
society**

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Ellen Knight, Editor

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Lincoln School Centennial

By Ellen Knight

The celebration of the Lincoln School building's centennial began last November with an evening cosponsored by the Winchester Historical Society and Lincoln School Centennial Celebration Committee. The keynote speaker was award-winning architect and architectural historian James Owen Ross who told celebrants the school is "one of the most important buildings in the history of American school houses." In fact, in concluding his talk, he congratulated the community for being "one of the few who has realized you had a fantastic building standing in your midst."

Ross began his talk, titled "Golden School Days: The American Schoolhouse and a New Ideal for Winchester," by taking the audience back to the 1830s when school buildings had an average life of five to 10 years and were unhealthy places. A competition held during that decade for an essay on school construction was won, not by an academic or architect, but by a medical man, Dr. William Alcott. At that time there was a concept that air was somehow related to sickness, so Alcott focused on ventilating school houses to provide fresh air. Ross showed a picture of the old Wyman School, built in 1852 and topped with a cupola, as a school reflecting Alcott's idea that air should ventilate out through the roof.

By the time Winchester built its new high school (now the Lincoln school), bacteriology had come along, and school administrators were concerned with dirt and germs. The state passed relevant legislation, and the building committee was preoccupied with the importance of hygiene and the vexing problem of heating and ventilating the school. According to Ross, Boston High School was probably the first really modern school influenced by the public health movement. Winchester High School was not far behind.

The building was designed by Herbert Dudley Hale, son of Edward Everett Hale and a graduate of Harvard and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Prior to doing the Winchester project, he established a practice in Boston and designed several schools and other buildings in the Boston area. In 1905, a year after the Winchester school was finished, Hale moved to New York where he died in 1908 at age 42.

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NEW WARREN BOOK

Society member Maureen Meister has just published *Architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston: Harvard's H. Langford Warren* with the University Press of New England.

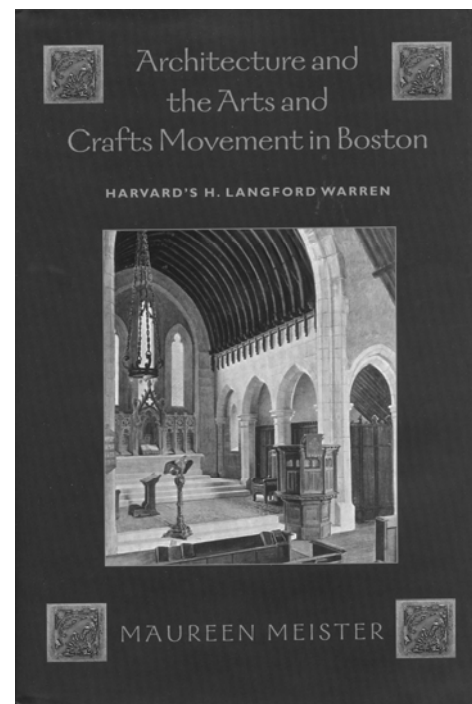
Meister's interest was drawn to Warren while writing a series of articles on local architects George Rand and F. Patterson Smith during the 1990s. She met Kate Shoemaker, owner of 1 Wildwood St., built by Rand and remodeled by Smith. Shoemaker, who knew Smith, was able to put Meister in touch with his daughter. She led Meister to another family member, Richard Joslin, who visited an aunt in Florida, found she had photos and records of Smith's firm's projects, and brought them back to the Boston area. This, Meister said, led to her writing about Smith. During that research she became aware of his partner, Warren, as an important figure in American architecture at the turn of the twentieth century. She chose Warren as the subject for her doctoral dissertation at Brown University, writing that work with the intent of publishing it subsequently as a book.

"The point of the book," Meister said, "is to create a chapter in the story of the American Arts and Crafts movement that includes New England by using Warren as a vehicle for the study." Until now, she said, surveys of architecture and the Arts and Crafts movement typically took one in a straight line from architects who were Shingle Style in their approach to Frank Lloyd Wright. The reality, she said, was more diverse. "I found that Arts and Crafts architecture of New England does not fit in with the goals of the proto-modernist architects of the twentieth century."

Her book shows how the movement came from England into New England and Boston, and how architects here picked up on the English ideas and formed a Society of Arts and Crafts in Boston. As founder and then president of that society, founder of the architectural program at Harvard, and a practicing architect, Warren was a central

figure in this movement. His aesthetic promoted a revival architecture which was English in its references but fit in with Yankee backgrounds and promoted close collaboration with craftsmen to ornament buildings. In Meister's words, her study presents a history of a man was "a link in a chain of figures who contributed to the development of architecture, design, and architectural history in America at the turn of the twentieth century. He reworked ideas from Ruskin to Norton to Richardson and conveyed his own to another generation of historians, architects, and designers, who went in new directions."

For those interested in local art and architecture, one may note references in her book to such figures as George Newton, architect of the Baptist and Unitarian churches and the Wadleigh School; R. Clipston Sturgis, architect of the McCall School; and Herman Dudley Murphy, local artist and a founder of the Winchester Art Association, all of whom were associated with Warren in one way or another. Warren and Smith themselves left a mark on Winchester, having designed the Church of the Epiphany, the reconstruction of the farmhouse that became the Winchester Country Club, and private homes such as 24 Everett Ave.

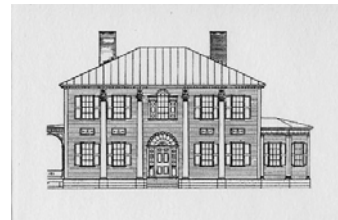
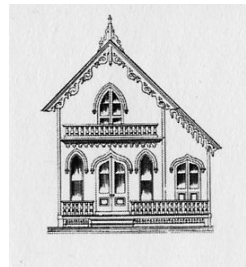


WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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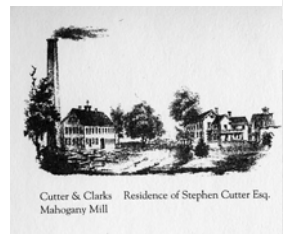
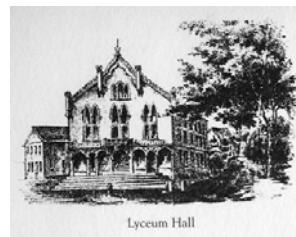
NEW NOTE PADS

The Society now has for sale a selection of attractive note pads. The smaller size, 4 1/2 in. by 5 1/4 in., are perfect for jotting down short messages. They come in four different designs of Victorian houses. The larger pads, 5 in. by 7 in., are good for writing a brief letter or making a list. These pads have four different historic buildings of Winchester. They may be purchased at Society events or at the Town Archives during open hours



4 1/2 inch x 5 1/4 inch

\$2.50 per pad



5 inch x 7 inch

\$3.25 per pad

SAMUEL McCALL

By John Clemson

from the Holiday Party at the McCall Mansion

The most illustrious citizens to have lived in Winchester has to be Samuel Walker McCall, who served as a Representative to Congress and as governor early in the 20th century.

Born in East Providence, Penn., in 1851 to a prominent and prosperous local family, he was the sixth of 11 children of Henry and Mary Ann (Elliot) McCall. When he was two, the family moved to Mount Carroll, Illinois, where his father established a farm and stove and plow manufacturing and where Samuel McCall's youth was characterized as happy and healthy.

After graduating from Dartmouth College, where he ranked high in his class and excelled in debate, McCall read law in firms in Nashua and in Worcester, was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1875, and established his own law offices in Boston. He also began publishing articles in Boston journals, focusing on historical political figures and literary topics. In 1888 he became a partner and editor of the *Boston Daily Advertiser*.

In 1881 he married Ella Esther Thompson of Plymouth. The year before he had moved to Winchester, buying a large house near the intersection of Washington and Swanton streets. Early in the next decade, as he prospered, he moved to a two large house facing Park Avenue. By 1905 he had constructed his Myopia Hill mansion, designed by prominent Boston architect and Winchester resident Robert Coit.

McCall's political career began in 1887 with election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives where his most notable accomplishment was to introduce legislation eliminating imprisonment for indebtedness. In 1888 he was elected as a delegate to the National Republican Convention, which nominated Benjamin Harrison. In 1893 he was elected to the first of 10 terms in the U.S. Congress.

McCall's career in Congress could be characterized colloquially as "prickly." He was not afraid to take difficult stands on principle. He was one of only six congressmen who, in the face of tremendous party pressure, voted against declaring war with Spain, anticipating (correctly) that the Spanish government would bow to all diplomatic demands placed before it by the United States. Although favoring strong regulations to ensure fair railroad rates and eliminate "rebates," he was one of only seven congressmen to vote against the Hepburn Act, about regulation of the railroads, correctly anticipating that it would contribute to the ultimate collapse of that industry. He was generally against high tariffs, in favor of the gold standard, a civil service based upon merit rather than the spoils system, the popular election of senators, reduction of weekly labor hours, and establishment of a federal income tax. All of these policies (excepting the gold standard) came to fruition and proved to be essential to the functioning of a modern government.

In 1912, McCall ran for the Senate but lost. He declined the presidency of his alma mater, Dartmouth, to stay in politics. In 1914 he ran for Governor of Massachusetts and lost due primarily to the "Bull-Moose" split in the Republican Party, but he won the following year, subsequently serving until 1919.

When retired from politics, McCall published three books: *The Liberty of Citizenship*, *The Business of Congress*, and *The Patriotism of the American Jew*, an impassioned defense of the American Jewish minority at a time of increasing anti-Semitism. Curiously, in 1923, he moved out of his house on Myopia Hill (for unknown reasons) and into the house of Robert Coit when the latter moved to Boston. Later that same year, on Dec. 5, he died suddenly of pneumonia.

Although he rose to high office, Samuel McCall was very much an engaged Winchester resident, making the town his home for 43 years and deriving much of his core political support from the community.

FALL FIELD TRIP

The Old Schwamb Mill was the site of the Society's field trip on Nov. 15 during the Mill's Fall Open House. Located on Mill Lane in Arlington, the Mill is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Frames have been made there for over 100 years, and it is recognized as the oldest operating mill site in the country. It is incredibly preserved having been saved from demolition in 1969.

The open house featured the "turning" demonstration by master craftsman David Graf on the Mill's unique 19th-century belt-driven oval and circular lathes, which have yielded exquisite oval frames for many years. Site Administrator Ed Gordon spoke of the history of the Mill, and then Mill volunteers explained each step in the frame production, from the order arriving in the office to the glue room where the pieces of the frame are assembled.

A historical display on the Schwamb family was also on exhibit along with a video on the history and preservation of the Mill site. The display highlighted material, including photographs and genealogical information, recently donated by Charles Schwamb's great-granddaughter. Schwamb, a German Immigrant, began producing the frames in 1864 and with his four brothers founded several wood working businesses on Mill Brook.

NEW AT THE ARCHIVES

Lawson Family Donation: Janet Lawson Green of Jackson, New Hampshire, and her brother, Ted Lawson, III of North Reading, Massachusetts, delivered to the Town Archives in December 2002 a wide variety of materials that had been in their family. They are the children of Theodore Webster Lawson, Sr. and Eleanor Drew. Ted, Sr. worked in the Sewer and Engineering Department under Town Engineer James Hinds. Eleanor was a nurse, graduating from the nursing program at the Winchester Hospital in 1916, the second class to do so. The family lived on Cross St., Church

St., Park St. and Bonad Road. Following the Depression, they moved to 418 Washington St. About 1936 the family moved to Reading.

The father of Ted Lawson, Sr. was Charles T. Lawson (1868-1952), a painter who emigrated from Sweden. He and his family lived at 296 Washington Street.

Some of the interesting items in this collection are a 1910 edition of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps of Winchester that show individual buildings of the town; Eleanor Drew's class notes from the Winchester Hospital nursing program, 1914 and 1916; photo of three nurses who were the first graduates of the Winchester Hospital; views of the original Winchester Hospital and the nurses residence; numerous elementary school class pictures from the early 1900s and photos of the houses the Lawson's lived in.



Nurses c. 1918

DISCOVERY OF THE c. 1872 TOWN MAP:

Questions and Theories

By Frederick W. Lyman

The story of my discovery of this early map of Winchester is one which leaves many perplexing questions in search of answers. In 1991 my family acquired the Greek Revival house at 21 Washington St., built in 1845 by Nathan Johnson, Winchester's first Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Not long after moving in, I was putting a temporary screw jack under the basement floor as a precaution before a crowd of 80 descended upon us for a Christmas soiree. As I set the top of the jack against the summer beam I spied a long, rolled-up tube of brown cloth nestled between the beam and the adjacent joist. I carefully dislodged and unrolled it only to discover a badly deteriorated but highly detailed map of the Central portion of Winchester.

The area shown extends from Judkins Pond near the present high school site in the north, south to Grove Street and the Mystic Lakes, east to the southerly section of what would later become the Middlesex Fells, and west to Church Street. Originally thought to date to just after the Civil War, the restoration process revealed a watermark on the paper of 1871. Presumably the map was hand drawn and painted in that or the following year of 1872. It is without doubt the most detailed map of the Center following its incorporation in 1850. Every home, shop, manufacturing facility, and church is clearly included along with the names of their owners. Then extant roadways and some proposed roadways never actually built are also shown along with important topographic and hydrological features. In short, the map is a detailed snapshot of our town as it legally "came of age."

How the map came into existence in the first place is a question begging for an answer. Perhaps the selectmen commissioned it, and inadvertently it was left at Johnson's house. Perhaps Johnson, a successful blacksmith and a man of some means commissioned it himself. To me even more puzzling is how, incredibly, it lay

undiscovered for over 125 years in the basement of the Stanton House (curiously named for its second owner Jacob Stanton, a grocer who built the Queen Anne Brown and Stanton Block downtown).

In the early 1880s, the Main Street/Washington Street nexus was becoming a busy intersection, apparently too much so for Jacob Stanton who had the house lifted up on cribbing and moved back from the street approximately 15 feet. In preparing for the move there had to have been intensive scrutiny of the building's underpinnings. Therefore it is possible but not likely the map was placed between the joists sometime after the move. Stanton, while a successful merchant and a respected citizen was not, as best I can tell, heavily involved in town affairs, whereas Nathan Johnson the original owner was intensely involved in the break-away South Parish and the formation of the town. I suspect that Nathan Johnson or his heirs stored the map in the cellar joists around 1875 and that it simply eluded detection during the house move and ever after that until my serendipitous discovery at Christmas of 1991.

In 1994, I gifted the map to the Town believing it to be something of future importance to everyone with an interest in Winchester history and especially to students who can benefit from a perspective only such a relic can provide.

In 2000, with the invaluable help of Nancy Schrock and the Historical Society we were able to raise the nearly \$7,000 which would be needed to restore and frame the map. Many organizations and individuals came forward and are to be thanked for their generosity. These include the Winchester Historical Society, En Ka Society, Winchester Cultural Council, Winchester Historical Commission, Winchester Rotary, Corners Framing of Stoneham, Nancy and Richard Schrock, Rick and Linda Johnson and Marietta Baner Delehant, the daughter of my late fellow Winchester Historical Commissioner Frank T. Barnes, Jr. in whose memory the map was donated.

CONSERVING THE MAP:

A Major Challenge

By Nancy Schrock

The map presented nearly insurmountable conservation challenges when it was first found in the basement of the Stanton House and given to the Winchester Archival Center. It was enormous, 64 x 84 inches, and tightly rolled. Each time the map was unrolled, pieces of paper broke away from the linen backing. Although a unique artifact, it could not be used. A group of town historians, including Frank Barnes and Susan Keats, evaluated the map and determined that it contained information not found in any other town document and should be preserved.

The map was drawn in black and blue/brown ink and watercolor on eight full and partial sheets of buff paper, which were mounted overall to a fabric lining. The paper could be identified by the watermark of its manufacturer, J. Whatman 1871, which fixed the date as early 1870s. The paper was extraordinarily weak from exposure and the poor quality of the materials used in its manufacture. It had suffered appreciably from being stored rolled; the paper had separated from its lining and there were numerous tears and losses, including a large section from the right bottom. It was probable that the left edge had been trimmed because of water damage. It was estimated that 20% of the map was missing. The paper was moderately discolored with pronounced water damage with a very dark tide line parallel to the left edge. The colors appear to have suffered only moderate fading. Surface grime was marked overall.

Only a few conservators in the Boston area had the space, equipment, and expertise to take on the treatment of such a large and complex work. T.K. McClintock of Studio TKM in Somerville was selected because of his experience treating similar materials for the Harvard Map Collection and other institutions. After receiving an estimate, I prepared applications that ultimately resulted in grants from the Winchester Cultural Council, the Winchester Historical Society, En Ka, and

Rotary. Work began in 2002 and was completed in 2003.

Conservation treatment of the map took over fifty hours, with another twelve hours to line. The map was surface cleaned with erasers and washed locally with water to clean and improve the strength of the paper. Pronounced tide lines were reduced and rinsed with water. Tears were mended and reinforced with two layers of Japanese paper. The lining served to fill the areas of loss; the second lining paper was toned with acrylics to approximate the general tone of the paper. To provide the additional strength required for framing, the map was lined with fabric and flattened on a stretcher. Edge tears were inpainted to match the original paper.

Mounting and framing such a large and heavy artifact to conservation standard posed the final challenge, one met by Corners Framing whose staff gave generously of their time and expertise.

The restored and framed Town Map can be seen and studied just outside the local history room on the 2d floor of the Winchester Public Library.

FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS EVERYTHING!

Need a gift for a friend who has everything? For a birthday, a holiday or just a thank you gift? Consider a membership in the Winchester Historical Society.

Download a membership form from www.winchesterhistoricalsociety.org or call 781-729-6560 for a form and a Society informational flyer.

ARCHIVES

archives@ci.winchester.ma.us

Open Hours:

First Monday of the month, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.;
Second Thursday of the month, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.;
Third Monday of the month, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



WINCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 127
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Lincoln School Centennial - continued

Hale, Ross said, was “a world class architect,” and the Winchester High School displayed “cutting edge design of the time.” Set on a hill, the first floor was elevated above the dirty ground. There were doors at either end of the main corridor so that air could be flushed through, many large windows let in both sunlight and fresh air, and many ventilation ducts. Exercise was also part of the new hygiene, and the building had a drill hall with adjacent locker rooms for boys and girls. There was also a separate lunch room to keep food separate from other areas.

As time passed, Ross said, ideas of the relationship of schools to fresh air changed, and many buildings like Lincoln were abandoned. At this point he congratulated Winchester for realizing it had a remarkable building. Those who missed the talk may still be able to read about Hale and the design of the school, since Ross is writing about them for the next issue of the Historical Society’s Architects of Winchester series. Copies of the centennial history booklet by Ellen Knight are also to be available at later Historical Society and centennial events.

Memorabilia: As part of the celebration, which is continuing through the school year, the celebration committee is looking for school memorabilia to be exhibited in May. Please contact Nozomi Bray at 781-721-2142 or nozbray@msn.com to contribute.