



# The Lothrop Family Foundation, Inc. A 501(c) 3 Corp Newsletter

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## From our Co-presidents:

Dear Cousins,

As you will read throughout the following pages, we mourn the passing of our Founder and inspiration, Helen Lathrop Taber. Helen had been ill for some time but died peacefully surrounded by her loving son and his family who had come from California to be with her. I don't think any of us that live in the area really knew how ill she was until we received the news of



her death. I admonished myself for not having seen or talked with her for too long a period of time. But, this was how she wanted it. No fuss or falderal. Think of others before yourself.

Since 1989, when Helen founded the Lothrop Family Foundation, she guided us with her passion for connecting family and community. From humble beginnings here on Cape Cod in Barnstable, we have grown nationally and internationally. Her legacy is now fully in our hands to share and shape with her in mind and heart. Let us go forth.

With Helen's blessing we are in the midst of planning the next biennial Lothrop Family Foundation Reunion to be held on October 3 – 6, 2013 in the Seattle, Washington environs. Director-at-Large and now Reunion Chair, Stafford Smith and his wife Barbara have graciously accepted to plan and conduct this wonderful event with something for everyone to enjoy and learn about. More information follows in this newsletter so I won't spoil it for you.

Please give strong consideration to attending. Ben and I have been to several since becoming members and they have been great fun and very informative. While Seattle does not have strong, if any Lothrop family connections, who wouldn't want to see this part of the USA while meeting other like-minded folks searching for their family history. Every effort is being made to keep it cost efficient and entertaining.

For those of us crossing the great Mississippi it will be our way of bringing Barnstable to the cousins from across our great nation. As I don't fly, Ben and I will be creating our own adventure in coming by train. Pull out your calendars and make your plans. It promises to be an event to remember.

All the best,

**Deborah and Ben Baker**  
Co-Presidents

## Memorial Service for our Founder: Helen Lathrop Taber



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## 2013 REUNION SET FOR OCTOBER

**Contributed by Stafford Smith, Reunion Chair**

At the last Reunion held in Salem it was agreed that it was once again time for our doughty crew to brave another of its occasional excursions "out west," a generic description applied to the entirety of the untamed occidental wilderness starting at about Columbus, Ohio, and extending toward the infinitely distant Pacific horizon. I was assigned the hazardous task of heading up a party to scout and report back on the possibilities for securing a safe haven, with it understood that the ultimate focus would be likely be somewhere in the vast wooded expanse of the Oregon Territory. I am pleased to announce that a suitable location for our 2013 encampment has been identified.

The 2013 Lothrop Family Reunion will be held October 3rd through 6th in the great State of Washington, recently admitted to the Union in 1889, which comprises roughly that portion of the original Oregon Territory bounded by the Columbia River on the south and the Fraser River on the north. More particularly, the location will be on the western shores of Puget Sound at Agate Passage, a narrow waterway that separates the Kitsap Peninsula from Bainbridge Island. Our destination lies slightly northwest of the City of Seattle, which can be conveniently reached via nine miles of improved hard-surface road plus a 30-minute ferry ride across Elliott Bay.

To assure an authentic wilderness experience, the Reunion has been booked into the Clearwater Resort, a hotel and lodge facility owned and operated by the Suquamish Indian Tribe (along with a nearby casino and a golf course a few miles further out). The Suquamish have been considered peaceful since 1855, when they signed the Treaty of Point Elliott with duly-authorized federal officials represented by Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens. The Suquamish people relinquished their land claims in exchange for the grant of a tribal reservation and a guarantee of their traditional hunting and fishing rights. The principal Treaty signatory for the Suquamish was Chief Seattle (Sealth), whose gravesite is on the reservation not far from Old Man Village, his birthplace. Overall, the Suquamish are very friendly folk, **Continues on Page 7.**

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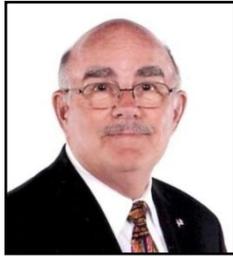
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## From the Editor:

### *Welcome to our New Members:*

**Allan Lothrop** 235 Main St. Fryeburg, ME

**Meredith Crowell**, POB 223780, Carmel, CA 93922-3780

**Christopher Smith**, 22125 SW Taylors Dr. Tualatin, OR 97062

### A Word About Dues.

We have been fortunate to be able to keep our annual dues at \$25/year because so many of you have been prompt in paying your share. In fact, several folks have prepaid a year or two in advance! With that said, if you haven't gotten around to it yet, would you please send in your remittance? Thanks.

## The Mail Bag

### **The news of our founder Helen Lathrop Taber's death surprised and saddened us all. Much of the content of this Newsletter will share the comments in remembrance of Helen**

What sad news about Helen. I wish that all of us had known. I think she would have loved receiving many Lothrop cards of thanks and love for her legacy. . . . *Paula Boyd*

I barely knew Helen, having mostly observed her from afar at a handful of family reunions. But even from a distance, and without knowing the background history, I could sense that she was the heart and soul of the organization. She will be greatly missed. But she had a long and wonderful life, and we all benefited immensely from her work. For that we should be grateful. *Stafford Smith*

Oh, I am so sad to hear this! How wonderful it has been to work with Helen over my 10 years here at Sturgis Library. She was generous, kind, knowledgeable, and passionate about history and Rev. John. I hope to be able to attend the memorial service. Thanks for letting me know.

*Lucy Loomis*, Director Sturgis Library, Barnstable Village

She left an imprint and a legacy to be treasured by all who knew her. Her work will continue and many today and in future generations will rise up to call her blessed. *Helene Holt*.

This is indeed sad news.

I first met Helen when she came to First Parish in Scituate three years ago to a dinner to help celebrate Rev. John's arrival in the New World and Scituate 375 years earlier. She was very warm and appreciated my raising the history of Rev. John in Scituate. She invited me to say a few words at the re-dedication of the Lothrop Bible at the Sturgis Library a couple of years ago. It was a wonderful night and I will remember her .

My prayers are with her family. *Richard Stower*, Chaplain

How sad to receive word of Helen's passing. For her it was a "homegoing" for which she lived her life and where she has joined Bill, her son and many other family members and friends. What a reunion that must be. Helen was one of the most gracious friendliest, kindest, finest people I have ever known. She was always a lady.

How fortunate we have been that God has allowed us to have her in our lives even if it was only for a while. We shall all miss her greatly. *Rev. Ivan Lathrop*

I've been worried about her for I haven't heard from her in a long while. The Lo/Lathrop society will never be the same again...she was a dear friend. *Barbara Kruse*

### **Condolences, continued:**

And we received it with great sadness. Thank you for sending it to us. .... our thoughts are with Helen's family.

We were in e-mail contact this summer, and when my reply vanished from the screen of our daughter's computer, I called her, and we had a good telephone visit instead, for which I am very grateful.

Warm regards, **Ann and Art Lathrop**

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Kathy and I share your sadness of Helen's passing. In her life, Helen found joy and brought much joy. **Bud Lathrop**

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Oh, I am so sorry to hear this...

We will be keeping her family, and indeed the Foundation, in our thoughts in the coming time... **Ruth Lucchesi**

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Whenever I talked to her on the phone, I told her that David would never want her to be so sad. He would want her to get out of the house more and go on. I know that she was never able to do that, however, to the extent that she needed to do. He was her support after Bill died, and she felt, as you know, that she couldn't go on without him. Oh, I will miss the long chats we had and the laughs. She was a special lady. We got to know her well on the Lothrop trip to England. She was fun to be with. Her leg was bad at the time, and John helped her get around.

I was watching a Hallmark special when I came to turn off the computer and saw your e-mail. The movie has a woman named Rosie in it, and it reminded me of Helen's cat. I was going to call her tomorrow. Oh, how Helen loved that cat. She kept asking if we could come down and spend a weekend, but I didn't have the heart to tell her that I am very allergic to cats. I will now always wish that we had gone, even if the cat gave me asthma. I will miss her a lot. She was a dear lady.

Thank you for informing us this of entire tragic event. Another chapter closes. **Paula Boyd**

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I was so sorry to hear about Helen Taber. I remember her with great fondness from my years of attending Lothrop Family Foundation events. She was a very warm, genuine person.

Because of my forthcoming third book, I have been less active in recent years. However, I hope to become more so in the future. I enjoyed interacting with other descendants of the Reverend John, particularly Helen. Best regards, **Julie (Peck) Melton**

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Thank you, Elaine, for sending me this announcement. I feel very privileged to have known Helen and I, too, am saddened at her loss. She was a gracious and dedicated lady that I admired very much. I like to think that she and Bill are enjoying a wonderful reunion and it wouldn't surprise me if even the Rev. John Lothrop was there to greet her as well. She will be dearly missed by many of us.

**Rexann Warner**

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Elaine, that is indeed very sad news. She was born only a few days after my brother who passed away just eight months ago. Helen was a great friend and encourager. We must all work hard to continue the work that she began with the Lothrop Foundation. I know that she was a special friend and collaborator of yours even more than for the rest of us. You are in our prayers. God bless and comfort you and all the Lothrop/ Lathrop family. **(Rev.) Ivan Lathrop**

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Thank you for sharing this sad news about Helen's passing. Helen lived a long and productive life, and I think most of us would be happy to end our days peacefully in the presence of our family as she did. **Jane Ash**

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Bless her heart. I am sure she will enjoy the journey; this is a fork in the road we all must take one day or another. The person who lives a loving and creative life has a special place reserved for her in the beyond. **Anne Lathrop**

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**I am pleased to post a photo of Helen Lathrop Taber's Family, all of whom were at her Memorial Service on December 23, 2012 and held at the church she loved so much, the West Parish of Barnstable, Congregational.**

From left to right is: **Amelia Joy Taber**, granddaughter, **Andrea Chaitin Taber**, daughter-in-law, **Wm. Stevens (Steve) Taber**, son and **Nicholas Alexander Taber**, grandson.

**What follows on Page 4 are the texts from the various contributors to the service:**

## Helen Lathrop Taber Memorial Service

### *An Appreciation and a Prayer of Thanksgiving from Etton, East Yorkshire, England, in memory of Helen Lathrop Taber,*

Helen came to visit St. Mary's Church in Etton for the first time, accompanied by her Aunt Maude, many years ago. They had come in search of their Lothrop ancestry and they were shown the first Parish Record book dating from the time of Elizabeth the First. In its parchment pages can be found the record of John Lothrop's baptism on December 20th, 1584. Helen held the ancient, decaying book in her hands and found the connection to her famous ancestor, the inspiration for your church in West Parish.

Helen herself, was an inspiration to all who met her. In her book "A New Home in Mattakeese", the Preface ends with the words "It is not your ancestor who makes you stand out, it is what is in your own heart that sets you apart."

Helen's heart was open to all - she was loving, giving, caring and creative - constantly thinking of others before herself. I had the privilege of being in frequent email contact with her for many years and also visited her at her home in Yarmouth Port. West Parish Church was an important part of her life and her Christian beliefs were fundamental to everything she did.

I truly give thanks to God for bringing Helen into my life. *Gail White* [g.m.white@btinternet.com](mailto:g.m.white@btinternet.com)

Wold Cottage, 78 Main Street, Etton, Beverley, East Yorkshire HU17 7PQ.

### *Gail White's letter was followed by Helen's Daughter-in-Law and son Steve's wife, Andrea's comments.*

Helen and Bill welcomed me into the Taber family with loving embraces and open arms when I married Steve in 1983. Despite the great distance between California and Cape Cod, they fostered a close and profound relationship with us and our children, Amelia and Nick. While this would be a challenge for most, the ability to connect and foster relationships came so naturally and intuitively to Helen that our relationship flourished and deepened through the years. She set high standards and was an extraordinary role model for our children. She showed them by example the importance of love and generosity of spirit, and the value of giving and sharing through small and large acts of kindness. She taught them that giving, not receiving fills the soul and creates the greatest joys in life. She communicated and stressed the importance of tolerance, perseverance, and patience as she cared for Bill for so many years after his stroke. She imparted the importance of being the best person you can be each and every day, even through the most difficult of times and unbearable circumstances after Dave passed away. She highly valued the responsibility to work for the "greater good" above "personal" gain. She set the bar high as a role model who valued above all altruism, generosity of soul and spirit, and love of humanity. In her honor she has inspired and left us with the strength, responsibility, and spirit to carry-on these extraordinary values. She has been greatly admired and loved by many, and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

### *Steve Taber's Comments*

### **OUTLINE: REMARKS AT HLT MEMORIAL**

Thanks to all for support during HLT's illness, Last few weeks were among the happiest of her life

At home, With family, Including both her grandchildren

Pictures of friends and family, including her husband Bill, who was a wonderful husband and for father and a great man, and her younger son, who was a man of considerable character who worked hard to overcome adversity and make his life worthwhile and meaningful.

With Rosie her cat, felt safe, loved, well cared for. Last moment of lucidity – radiated happiness

Thankful for a long and full life and many blessings, perhaps also looking forward to her next journey

Reed's last visit – brought her the prayer shawl & Rev John's baptism bowl

Throughout her life, Helen was relentlessly active, determined to make the most of her time on earth. She was a teacher for many years, including a teacher of teachers at her alma mater. After she retired, she became a brailist and volunteered to help the unsighted read. She worked with this Parish. She also started the Lothrop Foundation, which is important for two reasons. First, it is significant for us here in the Cape because Reverend John Lathrop, Helen's ancestor and Reed's predecessor in this Parish by three centuries, was one of the most important clergymen of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, both in America and in the UK. He was a seminal figure in the growth of the Congregational Church and in the concept that the authority of God arises in the congregation, it is not passed down through a clerical hierarchy. Rev John taught us that church is about community and about sharing.

Second, the Lothrop Foundation brought together hundreds of long-lost cousins around the world, through our shared heritage as descendants of this great man, who remain connected to each other and in frequent contact. For us and for Helen, the increased awareness of his legacy is important only because we share it.

Best way to share our perspective on Helen is from her own words, or from passages which she kept close at hand. **Cont. on Page 5**



Aspire to inspire before you expire

Accomplished this – many cards and expressions of love and sympathy have all had a constant theme: how much Helen’s positive outlook on life inspired others. Strong and relentlessly optimistic, cut from the flinty New England stock on which this country was built.

A prayer which she had typed and kept posted on her desk. For years – typed on a typewriter, and she converted to computers long ago. Attributed to Mary Stuart.

“Keep us, God, from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretenses and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Let us take time for all things, make us grow calm, serene, gentle. May we realize that it is the little things in life that create differences; in the big things of life, we are as one. May we strive to touch and to know the great common heart of us all. Let us not forget to be kind.”

So if we would remember Helen, we need not visit her grave. Instead, we should look at the world around us, the world that she did so much to make a better place, and at the love we have in our hearts for each other. One card we received from a friend of Helen’s quoted Goethe, who said that, “The soul is indestructible, like the sun which appears to set but in reality only goes to diffuse its light elsewhere.” So it is with Helen’s soul and the love she gave us all.

### **The Service Continued with the Rev. Reed Baer’s Comments.**

The opening words of Psalm 90 seemed to have been in the air only four weeks or so ago, as I paid what turned out to be my last call on Helen over at the home she and Bill shared for so many years overlooking the salt marsh in Yarmouthport. “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.” I was thinking, of course, of Helen’s beloved son Steve and his wife Andrea, who were there, come all the way from California, to take care of Helen in her waning time among us. But I was also thinking of Helen’s other son, David, who we lost far too early a couple years ago, and of Bill, who shared with Helen a wonderful marriage of 56 years.

But I was thinking of so many more generations as well, which is why I brought with me on my visit two things. The first item was a prayer shawl, knitted right here in this Meetinghouse during worship by a member of the congregation. Helen, who by then was confined to a chair most of the time, was delighted with the gift, immediately wrapping herself in its warmth, positively beaming. Because Helen knew this gift was emblematic of the love of this faith community for her, a faith community that had meant so much to her for so long, and to which she had given so much over the years – her skills as a bell ringer, her hand-made Advent calendars, all the years of service to the West Parish Memorial Foundation, of which she was not only a long-time Trustee, but also the Membership Chair. That shawl warmed her frail body, but it also warmed her soul.

The second item I brought over was a battered and oft-patched pewter bowl, as plain as a well-starched Puritan – but it was the same baptismal bowl that Rev. John had brought across the stormy Atlantic first to Scituate and then down here to what would become the town of Barnstable, the same bowl that had been used here to baptize so many generations of this congregation – those who grow up to debate revolution and the Constitu-

tion and civil war right here in these pews, those who would go off, like Mad Jack Percival, to sail the seven seas, the more recent generations who grow up on Cape and then head over the canal to seek fame and fortune.

As Helen held this ancient bowl in her hands, her eyes took on a far-away look, as if through this tangible connection to the past she felt bound with so many generations who had gone on before her; that in that holding, somehow the Rev. John and all those other eleven generations of Lothrop descendants were present to her in some sort of mystical way.

And with her permission, we filled that bowl with water, and then in an act of reaffirmation of baptism, dripped some of that water onto her forehead, thanking God for Helen’s rich and giving life and for God’s abiding love and care for her and all generations.

Helen knew that just as the Rev. John had been brought safely through that voyage across the stormy seas, she, in her own time, would be brought safely home to that far shore where God promised her a new home warmed by eternal love. As Paul the Apostle wrote long ago to that small church in far-off Rome, “Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him a resurrection like his.”

And so while today we prepare for Christmas, our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, today Helen is celebrating Easter, Christ’s victory over death.

And so I will close my remarks here by saying not, Merry Christmas, but instead, Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

### **Rev. Baer’s Closing Comments.**

I would like to begin my brief remarks this afternoon by thanking Steve and Andrea for those fine words of remembrance of Helen, and all of you were turning out today for this memorial service here in this old Meetinghouse, an architectural treasure which dates back to 1717. This Meetinghouse has been our dwelling place for so many generations, generations that do not

go back to the Rev. John Lothrop, Helen’s famous ancestor, because the Rev. John, as Helen liked to call him, had gone to his eternal words decades earlier. But this esteemed founder of this church lives on here in Spirit, and his name is engraved in marble in the Tower Room in the list of pastors, and the pulpit contains a bronze plaque dedicating the pulpit to him.

**In conclusion:** This wonderful memorial to Helen's memory included some of her favorite music, including selections by Felix Mendelsohn, J.S. Bach and W.A. Mozart with a postlude, "For all the Saints" by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

The Scriptural Readings included Psalm 90 and Romans 6:3-5 which were read by the Rev. Baer.

And we are all left with the warm memories of a kind, generous, loving and innovative person, whom we all will miss in this lifetime.

A wonderfully warm and sumptuous reception was held in the West Parish Hall, Hosted by West Parish Church's Memorial Receptions Committee following the service.

## **The Lothrop Club (of Beverly, MA) and Its Contribution to the Women's Club Movement**

By: Tara Talbot Edited by: Gordon Lothrop

Most people are aware of the many social and political struggles that women have endured for many years. From the convention at Seneca Falls to bra burning in the 1960s, women have fought for and protested for their rights. However, many people are unaware of the many thousands of women's organizations that have worked to help our towns and cities. Middle-class women, who had many priorities at home, started these women's clubs and civic associations for the benefit of everyone.

As the nineteenth-century was coming to an end, middle-class women began to realize that many of their household duties were becoming obsolete. The birth rate of this group of women had lowered and there were so many immigrants that almost every household had a servant. These factors, along with new technologies of factory made goods and appliances left women with a lot less to do. With this extra time, many of them joined newly-formed women's clubs. The majority of these clubs were formed between 1860 and 1900. Their main goal was to bring middle-class women into the "economic mainstream".

Just like all middle-class women of the United States in the late 1800s, the women of the town of Beverly, Massachusetts were experiencing changes in lifestyle. Beverly is the home of one of the earliest women's clubs in the Northeast region. The club was started March 15, 1895. It was named the Lothrop Club for Women, taking the name from **Captain Thomas Lothrop** who led a group of soldiers to battle at Deerfield in Massachusetts where they were all killed by a tribe of Native Americans. The group called themselves "The Flower of Essex". The Lothrop Club even selected its own flower which was the *Planta Genista* or "Wood Wax", which can be linked to the history of Essex County.

The meetings were held only twice monthly, on the first and third Fridays of each month. In 1910, they met at a chapel on Washington St. in Beverly but in the first months of the club, the women would meet at the homes of various members. The very first meeting was held at the home of the first president of the club, Helen E. Kilham. Only seven women were present for this meeting with the purpose of electing chairmen for the eight committees, which were Literature, Art, Science, History and Travel, Education, Current Events, Music, and Tea.

Included in the records of the meetings of the Lothrop Club is a list of the members of each committee. The author of this paper compared the names in this list to the city census of 1900 to determine whether there were any similarities between the lives of these club women. Although only fourteen names out of the total twenty-four were located, it was a decent enough sample to notice similarities. All fourteen women in the sample were Caucasian. In the 1800s there were few black people living in this area and even today their population numbers are low. Even the Gen-

eral Federation of Women's Clubs was "...more intent on keeping their Southern membership than on overcoming racial prejudice".

Another major similarity was the fact that none of the fourteen women had ever attended school. Many of these women did grow up in fairly well-off families, so there was probably no need for them to have schooling. Some other things the women had in common were that more than half of them were married, exactly half had children and those with children mostly sent their children to school, the majority were housewives whose husbands had good jobs, and their average age was forty.

Besides being an opportunity for women to seek philosophic retreat, being a member of a women's club also allowed them to do volunteer activities to help their town. The Lothrop Club was always there to lend a helping-hand to the town of Beverly. The club was best known in its early years for its work with the public schools. "They were responsible for the *Little Libraries* in the schools and their Education Committee provided all of the grade schools with reading material.

In later years, The Lothrop Club began to get involved with much more than just the school system in Beverly. They were very active in the 1930's as was noticeable in Lothrop Club Chairman, Alice W. Conant's scrapbook of *The Community Service of The Lothrop Club*. In 1932, The Lothrop Club dedicated a boulder and some newly planted trees to George Washington. They were placed on Sohier Road, near the current Beverly High School. The dedication was inscribed into a bronze plaque on the boulder. This was done in honor of George Washington's bicentennial birthday. The mayor of Beverly, James A. Torrey, in his speech at the celebration, stated, "When the present members of your club have passed on and new members take your places they too will look with pride upon this beautiful row of trees which will live on and on for years yet to come."

Many of the services of The Lothrop Club were aimed toward the more unfortunate citizens of their community. They held numerous "reading circles" for blind people where they would tell stories and sing songs. One such service was held at the First Alliance Church in January of 1930. Included in the festivities were song solos, duets and trios, accompanied by the cello, violin, and piano. On the following day, The Lothrop Club, along with many other associations, visited The Essex Sanatorium in Middleton, Massachusetts and provided the patients with entertainment. A "Guest Night" for teachers in Beverly was sponsored by The Lothrop Club at the First Baptist Church in Beverly later that month. This affair, which was held annually, included a concert and a speech by then-president Mrs. Frank W. Hammond. In 1943, The Lothrop Club **Continues on Page 7**

**Women's Club, Continued from Page 6:** adopted a Chinese child through their War Service Committee, and also "...an honor roll was compiled by Mrs. J. Vernon Muir to honor Beverly young men and women who served in World War II". The club was awarded the Community Improvement Program Scroll in 1980 by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and one of its members, Beverly Carlman, was appointed State Chairman for the United States' bicentennial birthday. In 1986, The Lothrop Club raised money for new additions to Vietnam Park in Beverly which it continued to care for throughout the years.

Other local clubs were also active in other communities. Although each state in New England had their own federation of women's clubs, the clubs in Massachusetts were much more organized and work involved. Their club committees included legislative affairs, arts and crafts, forestry, civil service reform, and traveling libraries. Much of their work was philanthropic and they also helped to put many Massachusetts laws into effect.

The following shows a sampling of the charitable things done by local Massachusetts clubs:

- an infirmary was established by a women's club in Malden; The Women's Charity Club built and owned a hospital and also raised over \$10,000 every year;
- in Somerville, the Daughters of Maine raised \$12,000 for a retirement home;
- for six years a club in Danvers supported a free kindergarten;
- a domestic science school, which later became part of Cambridge High School, was established by the town's own Cantabrigia Club; and
- clubs in Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield, Winchester, Wilmington, and Manchester organized visiting nurse associations.

All of these clubs tried to attain free kindergartens and manual training as part of the curriculum of public schools. They established and maintained many playgrounds, and tried to fix up the schools as best they could. Apart from the schools' appearances, they also sought to change some of the administrations and organizations of school affairs. They believed that there needed to be changes made in salaries, conditions and organization. In the community, they planted trees, put more rubbish barrels around the towns, and fixed up the sidewalks. Some clubs were responsible for the preservation of historical landmarks and geological sites.

In 1890, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was initiated. This was a national organization which all the local clubs tried to become a part of. Its purpose was to "attract the mass of conservative middle-class housewives. "The organization believed that they would gain more power with more members. Their

members totaled one million in 1910. One major club to be admitted to the General Federation was the New England Women's Club. The NEWC was the first organization in the United States to actually call itself a "club", (they were previously referred to as associations), and the first club with a variety of committees, including social, literary, philanthropic, reform, and educational. The New England Club began in Boston in 1868 with the intent "...to provide a suitable place of meeting in Boston".

The NEWC was formed by abolitionist women to aid in the advancements of women. Some of the most outspoken and intelligent women from New England were members of this club. The first president, Caroline Severance, was known as "The Mother of Clubs" since this was the first "club". Julia Ward Howe was a distinguished member and also the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". Her loyalty to the club was unbreakable. She was an avid women's rights activist, commenting on the role of women, "Must I sew and trot babies and sing songs and tell Mother Goose stories, and still be expected to know how to write? My fingers are becoming less and less familiar with the pen, my thoughts grow daily more insignificant and commonplace". Many well respected essayists, philanthropists, and reformers gave lectures at their meetings. The New England Club women were so well known that they were even given the honor of being hostesses at the General Federation's Biennial Convention and their Twentieth Anniversary. They many have gained this notoriety from their many achievements, such as getting women elected to the local school boards and public institutions, assisting with the opening of an employment agency for women, and helping to make many new types of job opportunities available. The NEWC's success paved the way for a multitude of new Women's Clubs. These organizations sprang up all over the country and there were many in New England. All were very democratic, allowing women from "...all shades of color and beliefs" to be a member. They had separate committees within each club and executive and legislative authority.

It is very clear that the women's clubs movement was a necessary part of United States history. Without them, there would be many communities that needed assistance but no other association would help them. "Often a town or city's pure drinking water, improved school system, orphanage, scholarship fund, library, or home for wayward girls existed only because of the efforts of the clubs." In the case of Beverly, Massachusetts, The Lothrop Club provided much needed improvements for which they did not receive enough credit. The author of this paper has heard some reports that due to a recent decrease in membership. The Lothrop Club of Beverly may be retiring for good after over a century of hard work and achievements. It is this author's belief that it is the duty of the town of Beverly to honor this club if they are truly coming to an end.

**Appendix:** Census Comparisons of 14 Original Lothrop Club Members

**Places of Birth:**

Massachusetts: 9  
 Canada: 3  
 Ohio: 1  
 New Hampshire: 1

**Relationship to Head of Household:**

Eight wives  
 Four daughters  
 One head of household  
 One boarder

**Have Children: 7**

**Occupations:**

Nine housewives  
 Two teachers  
 One bookkeeper

**Ages: from 24 to 58**

**Average age: 40**

## Reunion continued from Page 1:

indeed, I suspect, most likely somewhat less intimidating than the current crop of Salem witches.

The decision as to whether to hold the Reunion within the presumably civilized precincts of the City of Seattle itself or in an outlying venue provoked a lively discussion among your obedient servants. Some thought it preferable to be situated in downtown Seattle with easy access to historic Skid Road and its glamorous delights. Although the Klondike Gold Rush is long past, there still remain along the waterfront streets and alleys a few stragglers who missed the last boat to southeast Alaska. For your viewing pleasure they have been faithfully preserved in alcohol. But others suggested that there are many other fine sights to be seen and natural wonders to behold in this part of God's Great Creation. They also pointed out that the Tourist Dollar travels much further in the less developed outlying areas than in downtown Seattle, which in recent years has become a more pricey destination. Your Correspondent is happy to report that the Clearwater Resort offers the best of both worlds. The hotel is a reasonably priced, newer facility located along a quiet, rural stretch of shoreline with views of the water and Bainbridge Island in the background. The casino operates a free shuttle to and from the Bainbridge/Seattle ferry terminal. And the ferry delivers you directly to the Pioneer Square neighborhood of downtown Seattle. So this means we can both sleep peacefully in the woods with the bears and Sasquatches while retaining the option to program a day touring the bright lights and honky-tonks of downtown Seattle. Since the downtown tour conveniently returns to the ferry about once an hour throughout the day, those Cousins who want to, can take in the city part (but not all) at whatever time suits them. The day tour plans are still a work in progress. There are far more things to see than time to see them. Some choices will need to be made. Some of the variables to be pondered are:

- Cheap versus expensive. Many of the standard popular tourist destinations (Space Needle, Aquarium, Underground Tour) charge significant entry fees.
- History versus entertainment. The Puget Sound area has an interesting pioneer history. Is that something that Cousins want to explore in any depth?
- Nature versus the city.
- Walking versus riding. Is a walking tour of downtown Seattle an attractive option?

My current inclination is to offer a fairly structured Friday tour of the city, with the additional option of some Saturday sight-seeing locally in the Suquamish area. For Friday I'm leaning toward leading a tour of historical venues that can be visited at little or no cost and using public transportation as needed to make connections. Visiting Cousins wanting to imbibe the standard tourist fare would be encouraged to stay another day or two and do that sight-seeing on their own. The downtown tour could include also a late afternoon harbor cruise for about \$20 for those who wish it (but the ferry ride gives you a comparable view at a fraction of the cost). A few of the options for a Saturday in the Suquamish neighborhood include strolling the formal gardens at Bloedel Preserve, watching the salmon return to the Grover Creek Hatchery, visiting the tribal history museum, and touring the Norwegian themed village of Poulsbo or the old logging company town of Port Gamble.

I would advise any Cousins who are coming from further east than Boise, Idaho, to consider spending some extra days touring the region on their own. I'd be happy to put together packages of tourist literature to facilitate the process. The Clearwater Resort is prepared to extend its discounted group rate to Cousins coming early or staying late, subject to room availability. For seeing multiple Seattle attractions buying the City Pass is a pretty good deal – saving nearly 50% on admission to a number of the principal Seattle tourist venues.

In summary, this little missive is intended to bring you up to date on the 2013 Reunion process as it currently stands and give you enough information to mark your calendars and do some early trip planning. I'm expecting to receive further feedback from the Board members on what they think about the day tour options. If others also want to weigh in with their views or questions, those would be most welcome. Please contact me at:

[smith.stafford@gmail.com](mailto:smith.stafford@gmail.com). After more information is gathered and necessary planning decisions are made, a Reunion registration package will be mailed to Cousins outlining the salient details and attendant costs. The resort website can be accessed at <http://www.clearwatercasino.com/hotel/>.

I hope everyone will find it convenient to attend the upcoming Reunion here on the beautiful shores of Puget Sound in early October. I expect it will be a fun time and perhaps just a bit different from the usual outing.

Cheers,

Stafford Smith



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