

Waltham Land Trust

is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources for the future through education, open space acquisition and protection.

JOURNAL SPRING 2021



Waltham Field Station Site History

Dee Kricker, Land Committee

In anticipation of the one hundredth anniversary of Cornelia Warren's death on June 4, we share a detailed history of a very special piece of land she generously bequeathed. The remainder of this article will be in the Fall Journal.

1630 – 1850 Colonial Settlement and Early Industrial Period

In 1636, when Waltham and parts of Belmont, Cambridge, Weston and Lincoln were part of the larger territory of colonial Watertown, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the northwest part of Watertown (now Waltham) was considered undeveloped “waste land,”¹ as it was a mix of hills, forests, brooks and meadows dotted with a few homesteads. At that time, the original settlers were clustered along the banks of the Charles River and suitable farmland was becoming scarce with the increase in population. Thus, many of the second-generation children, as well as newer immigrants arriving from Europe, began expanding further inland towards Sudbury and into the Connecticut River valley in search of better land.

To alleviate the situation, on July 25th, the governing body of Watertown *Freemen*, devised a system of allotments known as the *Great Dividends*, to provide 120 Townsmen more summer grazing pastures for their cattle. The decision was made in response to the needs of those subsistence farmers who required one acre per cow. The lots were mapped out in divisions proportionate to the number of cattle each applicant owned. The section of an old trail that became Beaver Street included lots in the first and second squadrons near Beaver Brook and Cedar Hill. The 58-acre UMass Waltham Field Station site was located in parts of lots 4, 5, and 6 of the first squadron, and lot 3 (*Pond Meadow*) of the second squadron.²

Continuing for about 200 years, the Beaver Street area was sparsely populated with family homesteads and large lots on both sides used for agriculture. Landowners through the period beginning in 1650 included John Stowers, Thomas Hammond and his cousins/heirs Jonathan and Ephraim Hammond. Leonard Lawrence pur-

chased 140 acres on both sides of Beaver Street from the heirs of Ephraim, and his son Frederick farmed the land until at least the 1860s. *Lawrence Meadow*, the north side of the UMass Field Station, was named for this family. The 1860 agricultural census shows Frederick Lawrence was engaged in dairying and farming.³

1850 – 1923 The Warren Family's Cedar Hill Estate

Approximately 200 acres of land between Waverley Oaks Road and Forest Street centered along the Beaver Street axis was consolidated into the *Cedar Hill Estate* owned for 75 years by the Susan Clarke - Samuel Dennis Warren family. Born in 1857 at her Cedar Hill home, Cornelia Lyman Warren inherited the property and at her death (one hundred years ago on June 4, 2021), she gifted her estate to be used for the public's benefit. Cedar Hill Trustees transferred the 58-acre Field Station property (including Lawrence Meadow on the north side of Beaver Street) to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the educational purposes of the Massachusetts Agriculture College in 1923.

Cornelia was the daughter of wealthy paper manufacturer (Samuel) Dennis Warren and his wife Susan Cornelia (Clarke) Warren. Susan was the daughter of Rev. Dorus Clarke, a Congregational minister and newspaper editor who settled in the Jonathan Hammond house in 1849. Rev. Clarke was a gentleman farmer and active participant in the Waltham Farmers'

continued on p. 4



Cedar Hill

Eagle Scout Project Rebuilds Trail at Smith Point

Lois Rosenfeld and Betty MacKenzie, Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee & Stewards

We have a rebuilt trail at Waltham's "hidden jewel," Hardy Pond. Tyler Mailman of Scout Troop 2500 organized this as his Eagle Scout project. He maximized leadership skills to coordinate and carry this project to fruition last fall.

Tyler has a passion for the outdoors. As a young boy growing up in Waltham, Tyler ran in the fields of Nipper Maher Park and played ball at Lazazzero Park. His family camped around New England, and along with summer camp in the White Mountains, these developed Tyler's love of woodlands and hiking.

Working his way up through the Scouts, Tyler considered what service project would be meaningful and enjoyable. He learned WLT stewards were removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives, including at Smith Point on Hardy Pond. Tyler noticed the rough condition of the Smith Point trail and proposed a project to better define, widen and smooth the path, and to build a boardwalk, to WLT Executive Director Sonja Wadman, WLT Steward Betty MacKenzie, and the Hardy Pond Coordinating Committee.

Taking on this job meant Tyler had to learn and hone skills, navigating various problems and finding

solutions. He learned to orchestrate a group via email, and how to work with a carpenter. Tyler was pleased with the support he got from stewards, and his troop's



families and friends. Large rocks were pulled from the ground and now border the path. Overhanging brush was cleared. A boardwalk was built where the path tends to flood.

For us, Smith Point is more accessible. For Tyler, his leadership skills have been strengthened, and he successfully completed a project he set out to do.

Thanks, Tyler!

To access Smith Point, go to the end of Lakeview Terrace where it ends at Hardy Pond. Take a right and follow the pond. The rebuilt trail begins at the edge of the woods, past a granite post marking the boundary of the Smith Point Conservation Area.



Join us for the second Green Space Blues Jam In Place!

Scott Shurr, Special Events Committee

Please save the evening of Saturday, June 26, for the Waltham Land Trust's second (and hopefully last virtual) Green Space Blues Jam In Place! This will be the seventeenth gala event for the Land Trust. On that day from 7 pm to 10 pm, we will be holding a virtual dance party while streaming live Blues music—we hope you'll join us! We are delighted to have secured Sonya Rae and Ryan Taylor as our musicians. Sonya Rae sings and plays guitar, joined by husband Ryan on guitar, along with keys, drums, and bass. Sonya Rae and her band have been rising to the top of the local blues scene for the last several years, and we're thrilled to have them.



Through the online event platform *crowdcast.io*, you can join members of our Board and our Executive Director watch and listen to the live music, while dancing at home and raising a glass of your choice to the WLT's land conservation success. The live stream music broadcast will be a ticketed event. There will also be an on-line silent auction, free to access, and here is where we really need your help. Recognizing that many restaurants and local businesses that would normally donate gift cards or product are currently struggling, we are asking Land Trust supporters to buy gift cards

and donate them to the auction. If you would like to assist with this effort, please contact Sonja at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org or call the office at 781-893-3355 x101. If you are Do It Yourselfer, we welcome your crafts, homemade items, and baked goods. Be creative! This is the year to shine and show how much you care about open space! The auction will be available for viewing and bidding on Wednesday, June 23, and will close at 6 pm on Sunday, June 27th. We will also have a raffle for an additional cool prize. So, if you don't get the highest bid on any auction item or nothing appeals to you (hard to imagine), you can always buy raffle tickets to demonstrate your support for Waltham's environment.

During this 2021 Green Space Blues Jam In Place, we encourage you to order take-out from Not Your Average Joe's in Waltham and join us for a virtual dinner together during the intermission. We're thrilled that once again, the WLT will be NYAJ's "cause" for the entire summer! That means whenever you get food at

**Green Space
Blues Jam
In Place**

or from NYAJ's and tell them you are a WLT supporter, they'll donate a portion of those sales to the WLT. It will be a blast to share a meal together from our own kitchens, back yards, dining rooms, patio, pools, driveways, anywhere!

We are also seeking individuals and businesses to step up and sponsor the event. Please email Sonja if this interests you.

The year of 2021 has seen many challenges for many people, yet the Waltham Land Trust continues to protect and conserve the open spaces of Waltham; the work of WLT is never done! We have loved seeing so many folks outside enjoying the parks and trails of Waltham, either on their own or as part of our limited-capacity events. Our stewards work diligently keeping the spaces clean and free from debris, while our Executive Director and Board members look forward to hosting larger adventures on the trails. And we will, in time. For now, please join us on Saturday, June 26, from 7pm–10pm for our second **Green Space Blues Jam in Place!**

from page 1 *Waltham Field Station*

Club who lived in the historic Jonathan Hammond house on Beaver Street for twenty years, after his son Henry purchased it in 1847.

Dennis Warren and his wife Susan purchased the land on Cedar Hill and built a Victorian Mansion overlooking Rev. Clarke's home in 1854. Used primarily as a summer residence for many years, Warren purchased parcels on both sides of Beaver Street including that of Frederick Lawrence and Rev. Dorus Clarke, as well as others. Samuel D. Warren died in 1888, leaving the estate to his widow. When Susan died in 1901, her only daughter Cornelia inherited the Cedar Hill estate.

In 1908, Cornelia wrote about the Warren estate: *One hundred and forty-eight acres are divided between cultivated land, pasture, woodland, and the grounds about the house. Across the road are acres of corn or rye. The barns hold between eighty to one hundred cows, and the Cedar Hill Maze attracts thousands of children during the summer months.*⁴

As a young woman, Cornelia traveled widely with her mother and visited many beautiful European estates and gardens. Those trips influenced the landscape design of Cedar Hill, including Cornelia's ten-year project resulting in one of the few full-scale Victorian mazes built in America. The maze and many of the amenities of her estate were open for the public's enjoyment year-round. Miss Warren was particularly proud of her Cedar Hill Dairy known for its sanitation and certified fresh milk. The entire 58-acre WFS site formed the core of Cedar Hill Farm that included a herd of 100 cows; dairy and calving barns; a resident farmhand house; as well as, pastures, croplands, utility buildings and greenhouses.



Cornelia Warren was a generous, social activist who contributed her time and financial support to numerous charitable organizations. She opened her estate to the public's benefit hosting events ranging from plays to carnivals to recreational activities, such as sledding and bowling. In her will, she expressed her intent to preserve her real estate as park and agricultural land for the enjoyment of the public. Charged with carrying out her intentions, the trustees of her estate gifted the land for nominal sums to the Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts, the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture, the City of Waltham, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the Massachusetts Agricultural College. The deeds contained time limited clauses requiring that the land revert to the City of Waltham as parkland should

the recipients no longer use the land for the purposes of their organizations. The Harvard College School of Landscape Architecture land is now owned by the City of Waltham and is called Waltham Woods.

Works Cited:

- Sanderson, Edmund L. *Waltham as a Precinct of Watertown and as a Town 1630-1884*. (Waltham: Waltham Historical Society, Inc., 1936).
- Warren, Cornelia. *A Memorial of My Mother*. (Boston: Privately Printed, 1908).
- Daly, Marie. "Three Hundred Sixty Nine Years of Farming at the Waltham Field Station." *Waltham Land Trust Journal*, Spring 2019, 1-2.
- Last will and testament of Cornelia Warren. 29 July 1920. Witnesses: Murray F. Hall, Cambridge, Mass. Mary A. Munro, Brighton, Mass. Albert W. Rice, Worcester, Mass.
- Young, Robert E. *A Short History of The Waltham Field Station*. 1963. Unpublished.

Endnotes:

- 1 Sanderson, Edmund L. *Waltham as a Precinct of Watertown and as a Town 1630-1884*. (Waltham: Waltham Historical Society, Inc., 1936) 18.
- 2 Sanderson, 12.
- 3 Daly, Marie. "Three Hundred Sixty Nine Years of Farming at the Waltham Field Station." *Waltham Land Trust Journal*, Spring 2019, 1-2.
- 4 Warren, Cornelia. *A Memorial of My Mother*. (Boston: Privately Printed, 1908). 140



Waltham Land Trust's New Board Directors

Dan Berlin—Dan came to Waltham from Long Island in 1995 to attend Brandeis University, bopped around Metro Boston for a bit, then came back to attend Bentley University for grad school in 2006 and never left. He recently started Watch City Research, a user experience (UX) research agency where he works to help make everyday experiences more intuitive, meaningful, and enjoyable. You'll often find Dan and his dog Shadow picking up trash at Beaver Brook North and the Waltham Dog Ranch.



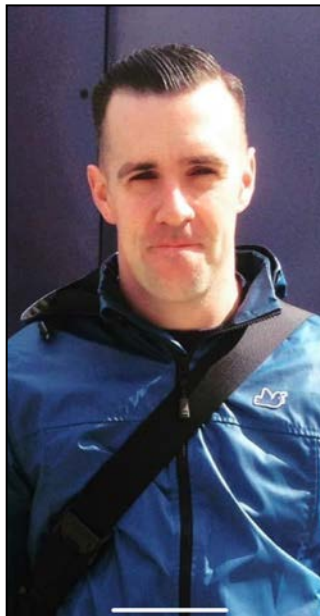
Lesley Sneddon—Lesley moved to Waltham from Newton in 2018, when she joined the Waltham Land Trust as a volunteer steward. She is a retired plant ecologist from NatureServe, an international nonprofit organization that provides scientific information to guide conservation. As a plant ecologist, she worked closely with ecologists from NatureServe and from the network of natural heritage programs in the northeastern states from Maine to Virginia. She is a regional editor of the US National Vegetation Classification, a standard classification of plant communities nationwide. She has served on the Boards of CAN-DO, an affordable housing organization in Newton, and of the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Newton. She is passionate about ecology and conservation, and is currently working on nature guides to Waltham's open spaces.



Erika Bourne—Erika has chosen Waltham as her home since 1986 although she grew up in NYC. She is a Registered Nurse and owns Myofascial Pain Treatment Center in Watertown. There she treats people with musculoskeletal pain. She is a board member of the Friends of Stonehurst and a trail steward with the

Waltham Land Trust. Erika is an avid gardener with a special interest in native plants and how they support our local birds and wildlife. Her other hobbies include wood carving, metalwork and playing the upright bass.

Tom Geary—Tom is a lifelong Waltham resident. A 2002 WHS graduate, he is a member of Carpenters Local 339 since 2005, in which he serves as a shop steward as well as an executive board member. In addition to helping with the WLT repair/replace boardwalk along trails, Tom enjoys volunteering with the Cat Connection. Day hikes, soccer, and snowmobiling in Northern New England are his favorite recreation.



Debbie von Rechenberg—Debbie and her husband Moritz have been WLT members since moving to Waltham in

2005, hiking almost daily in the open space around their neighborhood. Both are WLT trail stewards; their beloved, departed dog Mica even pitched in, exchanging litter

for cookies. Debbie also serves on the WLT Development Committee. As a freelance medical writer, she enjoys using her writing skills in her volunteer efforts. Besides hiking in Waltham's many open spaces with their current dog Enzo, Debbie enjoys cooking and preserving local produce from Waltham Fields Community Farm and her small chaos garden, playing with sourdough, knitting, crocheting, and practicing and teaching tai chi.



Waltham Land Trust 2020 Annual Meeting Pandemic Version

Diana Young, Program Committee Chair

The 2020 Waltham Land Trust Annual meeting was a Zoom webinar—so without benefit of our usual Toscanini's ice cream. Attendees saw a video of the Charles River under different conditions, invasive plants and sights from the Duck Walk as they entered the meeting.

The meeting began with Sonja's announcement that the Massachusetts Legislature had just approved Waltham's acquisition of the UMass Field Station on Beaver Street and that the land was being preserved for farming and open space.



This announcement was followed by the award of the *2020 Inge Uhlir Environmentalist of the Year Award* to Bob Primak, above. Bob is an extremely active trail steward, a member of the Land Committee and one of our most frequent attendees at walks and other events.

The main event was Alex Green's talk about the work that his Gann Academy students did to discover the

names and stories of the people buried at the Metfern Cemetery. The Gann Academy is the Jewish high school on Forest Street adjacent to the Fernald.

The Metfern Cemetery is on a trail that you'll find on the Beaver Brook North Trail Guide. There are 296 graves at the Cemetery, about half for the Fernald School and half from the Metropolitan State Hospital. The students obtained the names of those buried there primarily from community members as the granite markers have only a number and either a P for Protestant or a C for Catholic. The students began their work by searching all the records they could find for forty-eight of those buried there. They then decided to research all 296.

Alex shared so much more with us and if you would like would like to see what the students and Alex have gathered, take a look at <http://www.metferncemetery.org/>. It has the biographies as well much more about the residents and histories of the institutions.

The meeting continued with Brian McCormick's report on the Land Trust's positive FY2020 financial results, Martha Creedon's report on the sale of the UMass Field Station and John Dieckmann's report of the trail Kiosk project.

Nadene Stein then led the business meeting as we said a sad good-bye to two directors: Maureen Fowler and Natalie Hayes. We also elected five new directors, the largest number the Land Trust has ever elected in one year. Information on each new director can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The final part of the meeting was a lively Q&A session which included Smith Point, more Metfern questions and a suggestion for a booklet on "walking in Waltham." The final wish was that we can safely meet in person for our next 2021 Annual Meeting.

The MetFern Cemetery Website

296 forgotten inmates from two Massachusetts state institutions are buried in the woods of Waltham, Massachusetts. This site, a collaborative project of Gann Academy, tells their stories for the first time. Explore their biographies and the story of the cemetery below.

Upcoming Events with the Waltham Land Trust

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all events require registration and are subject to change.
Details available at walthamlandtrust.org or by calling 781-893-3355.

Wagon Wheel Farm Stand Fundraiser

*Saturday, May 29, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
927 Waltham St., Lexington*

Get ready for Memorial Day weekend by picking up seedlings, soil, groceries, deli sandwiches, barbecue supplies, flowers, fruit, fish, etc. Give the cashier a certificate (in this newsletter and at our website) and the WLT gets 20% of your purchase. Not valid on mulch orders, landscaping services, or deliveries.

Not Your Average Joe's summer-long fundraiser

*Every day in June, July and August
NYAJ's, 1265 Main Street*

Enjoy delicious modern American cuisine from or at Not Your Average Joe's, provide a certificate (included in this newsletter and at walthamlandtrust.org), and the WLT gets 15% of your sale. Good for lunch, dinner, and snacks. Order take-out or dine in at their spacious restaurant, which includes a large patio with fire!

National Trails Day MCRT Cleanup

*Saturday, June 5, 10 am to noon
Park/meet in AutoZone lot, 140 Lexington Street*

Help clean a section of the soon-to-be Mass Central Rail Trail. Trash bags and gloves provided. Bring a mask, water, sunscreen and insect repellent for ticks.

Children's Program Featuring Live Snakes

*Saturday, June 12, 11 am to noon
Christ Church, 750 Main Street*

Register your 3-5th grader to participate in a special kids' program with The Snake Man, Rick Roth, and his Cape Ann Vernal Pool Team. This event will feature several live snakes from New England and the world. Space is limited. Many thanks to the Waltham Cultural Council and the Jones Partnership Fund for supporting this event.

Green Space Blues Jam In Place

Online auction Wednesday, June 23, through Sunday, June 27

Virtual live event Saturday, June 26, 7 to 10 p.m.

Attend the Land Trust's major annual fundraiser, happening virtually. An online auction will showcase items secured, offered and/or made by WLT supporters like yourself. A live-steamed blue music performance by Sonya Rae and Ryan Taylor will happen Saturday night with a fun, virtual dance party! The online auction will be free to access; the music and dance party will be a ticketed event. Keep checking our website for details!

Prospect Hill Park Plant Communities Walk

Saturday, July 10, time and meeting place tbd

Join WLT Board member Lesley Sneddon and her colleague, Barbara Bates of the Newton Conservators, for a trek in Waltham's oldest and biggest park to learn about plant communities documented in Lesley's new book, *A Walk in Prospect Hill Park*, which will be for sale. Lesley and Barbara will highlight areas of interest in the park where threatened or special vegetation exists and should be protected.

Guided Fungi Foray

Saturday, July 24, time and meeting place tbd

We welcome international mycologist Larry Millman back to Waltham for an enjoyable excursion in search of fungi. Details to come.

Sunset Yoga Outside

Wednesday, July 28, time and meeting place tbd

Local yoga instructor and WLT member Jeanne Kelly will lead participants through easy movements and breathing exercises outdoors during the magical hour of dusk. Details to come.

HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 125 Land Trust members who have selected to have their *Journals* sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. Please send an email with your name

to swadman@walthamlandtrust.org, with the subject header "Electronic Journal" if you'd like the next *Journal* emailed to you. **Please remember that receiving *The Journal* is a privilege of membership.** Be sure you are up-to-date with your dues so you don't miss the Fall 2021 *Journal*!

WALTHAM



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An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our web site, <www.walthamlandtrust.org>.

Officers: Nadene Stein (President), Barbara Jacobs (Vice Pres.), Anna Richardson (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

Directors: Dan Berlin, Erika Bourne, Martha Creedon, Marie Daly, George Darcy, John Dieckmann, Tom Geary, Brian McCormick, Daniel Melnechuk, Lesley Sheldon, Debbie VonRechenberg, Diana Young

Published material represents the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Waltham Land Trust. Interested in submitting an article, photo, or poem? Please send to WLT at P. O. Box 541120, Waltham MA 02454 or to info@walthamlandtrust.org

Waltham Land Trust's Mission

To create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open space.

We envision growth in public appreciation of natural resources, preservation and restoration of native habitat, and increased biodiversity to foster a healthier environment.

• SPECIAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP •

Have a friend, neighbor, or relative you think would enjoy being part of the Waltham Land Trust? Why not give them a gift membership? **We are offering a special promotion for a limited time: 6 months for only \$10!** (The normal price of an individual membership is 12 months for \$25). **Support open space for a birthday or special occasion!**

To renew or join, visit our web site:
walthamlandtrust.org
or call 781-893-3355

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*See photos at **flickr.walthamlandtrust.org***

Please send any comments to the return address, or email to
<info@walthamlandtrust.org>.

If you're not already a WLT member and have received this complimentary copy, please consider joining today!

Printed on recycled paper.

Wagon Wheel Nursery & Farmstand

WLT FUNDRAISER

Saturday, May 29, 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
927 Waltham Street, Lexington

It's Memorial Day Weekend, time to start the garden and yard projects. Buy seeds, plants, garden supplies, groceries, deli sandwiches, flowers, fruit baskets, fish, etc., and the Waltham Land Trust gets 20% of your purchase with this coupon. Not valid on mulch orders, landscaping services, or deliveries.

I am a Waltham Land Trust supporter!
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Waltham's [Not Your Average Joe's](http://www.notyouraveragejoes.com) is open for outdoor dining, indoor dining, and no contact curbside pick-up!

Mention the Waltham Land Trust when ordering online, over the phone, or in person, and **we get 15%** of your food purchase!*

This promotion is available **any day in June, July and August.**

Good for lunch, dinner, appetizers.

*Excludes Alcohol, Tax and Gratuity



1265 Main St. Waltham (781) 966-5637
<http://www.notyouraveragejoes.com/waltham/>

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