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IMAGES

(Above) March Write In!
 Living History Actresses
 and Hostesses

(Left) Detail of wooden tennis
 racquet, part of our Making
 Time to Play exhibit

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

by Jim Batchelder

It may be hard to imagine the game of Cricket as a major sport in Andover, yet 130 years ago the game took center stage on the athletic fields in the area. This was mainly due to the fact that many of the immigrants who came to work in the mills in our region hailed from the United Kingdom. As a social activity and an outlet from work, many teams were created and sponsored by local mills.

The Andover Cricket Club (A.C.C.) was founded in April 1885. The Club created a sports ground on rented land once owned by John Cornell in 1888. It was located on eleven acres of land in Abbott Village between the St. Augustine's Cemetery on the south and Smith & Dove Manufacturing Co., now Dundee Park. The A.C.C. was created by a group of Andover residents who raised funds through memberships, donations, and fundraising. On April 13, 1888 the Andover Townsman reported, "The members of the A.C.C. have begun work leveling a piece of their ground suitable for their matches. A portion 30 yards long by 10 yards wide was selected and several very good creases will be obtained."

A cricket field consists of a large circular or oval shaped grassy area with a diameter between 450 and 500 feet. The cricket pitch is a flat rectangular strip 22 yards long and 3 yards wide, the enclosed area is called the crease. At each end of the crease are the wickets. Each team has eleven players of which one is the bowler. The ball is thrown on the run toward the batter but must hit the ground once before reaching the wicket and batter. The batter tries to hit the ball and runs are scored by running within the pitch between the wickets. A game can last all day.

The "Cricket Field" was later acquired by Frank E. Gleason in March 1892. On March 9, 1893 Gleason leased it to the Cricket Club for \$15.00 a year. In April 1900, the Cricket Club voted that black and maroon caps with monograms be purchased for the team. The sum of \$150 was appropriated to re-lay the crease next fall.

Continued on page 6

PRESIDENT'S LETTER SUMMER 2015



When my husband and I bought our house in far West Andover, we were thrilled to become bona-fide citizens of the best kind of suburbia. Our neighborhood was full of active young families, big dogs, and wide, wide lawns. One of my enduring memories of this time is lying in bed on warm summer mornings, with my baby daughters in their cribs down the hall, and listening to the rhythmic -- ping! ping! ping! -- coming through our open windows as a kid down the road practiced batting with an aluminum bat.



Ryan Hanigan

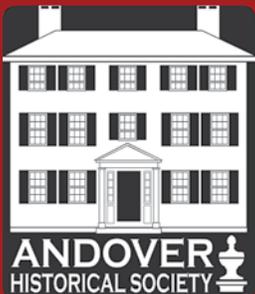
The Hanigan family had in their back yard a professional-looking batting cage with a pitching machine. I was shocked to find out that their son Ryan was only ten or eleven years old at the time. It gave me one of my first glimpses, as a parent, of the hard work and commitment that kids in this town give to all kinds of extracurricular activities. And I already knew that Andover was a 'baseball town.' In the same summer we bought our house, the Andover Nationals went all the way to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA. Lots of radios in town were tuned in to WCCM on the day they won the East Regionals in Bristol, CT with a walk-off grand slam in the championship game. I wasn't surprised when Ryan took his sweet, right-handed swing to Andover High, Rollins College and then to the Cincinnati Reds, because I remembered how hard he worked as a kid. What surprises me now is the realization that Ryan, wearing a Red Sox uniform this season (yay!), is a seasoned, thirty-five year old veteran ball player. Time flies, if you pardon the purple prose, like a ball over the Green Monster.

And speaking of time flying, this is my last President's letter. After a fun and rewarding two-year term, I am pleased to pass the gavel to Susan McKelliget, an Andover native whom many of you know as the compiler of the Townsman's popular column All Those Years Ago. She has a great eye for an interesting story, and I look forward to her leadership.

Jane Cairns

Jane Cairns
President, Andover Historical Society

SUMMER 2015 CALL TO ACTION



We hardy New Englanders survived a winter of historic proportions, and now spring and summer have finally arrived. As you read through the articles in this Summer 2015 newsletter issue, we encourage you to get out and make your own summer memories in Andover. Plan to come to the Andover Farmers' Market. Look back to an old tradition and have a picnic in Andover's premier garden cemetery, West Parish Garden Cemetery. Pull out the croquet set, or search online for a cricket match. Make your own summer of historic proportions!

“GARDEN CEMETERIES” COMFORT FOR THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

by Katharine Barr

From the dawn of time, what to do with the dead has been a sacred subject for most of the world’s cultures. In early 19th century New England, church-related cemeteries had begun to run out of space. On top of that, hygiene activists started raising concerns about the safety of burying bodies adjacent to, or underneath, churches. A group of horticulturists in Massachusetts had a unique solution.

In 1831, Mount Auburn Cemetery became the nation’s first “modern” cemetery. Seventy acres of beautiful, rolling land on the Cambridge/Watertown line was purchased with help from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. It was later extended to 170 acres. Mount Auburn is important both for its historical aspects and for its innovative role as an arboretum. Its collection of more than 5,500 trees includes nearly 700 different species and varieties. Thousands of carefully tended shrubs and plants line the cemetery’s hills, ponds, woodlands, and clearings. With classical monuments in a beautifully landscaped setting, Mt. Auburn marked a distinct break with the more austere Colonial-era burying grounds and coincided with the rising popularity of the term “cemetery,” from the Greek for “a sleeping place.”

This, at least temporarily, solved the problem of where to bury the area’s dead. It also created the nation’s very first urban park and marked the beginning of the “garden cemetery” movement. No longer simply reserved for burials, cemeteries encouraged public and community use. These beautifully landscaped areas were used for peaceful walks, family outings, and increasingly, for a range of private functions.

One of the finest examples of the garden cemetery in the entire U.S., Forest Hills was founded in 1848 and named for the section of Boston in which it is located. Consisting of more than 275 rolling acres, it is a spectacular setting for art, sculpture and architecture that is admired around the world.



West Parish Chapel (#2002.68.1)



Postcard of West Parish Cemetery (#1980.73.114)

Its natural splendor and man-made beauty make it ideal for solitary strolls, family outings, and a variety of outdoor events and activities, including weddings. Whatever path you take, you encounter a dazzling array of carefully cultivated and pruned trees, shrubs and floral plantings in the distinctive Victorian style, popular at the time.

We’ve saved the best for last! Right here in Andover is the handsome 1826 West Parish Church. Its adjacent 50-acre cemetery is a stunning example of the “garden cemetery” genre.

Enter through the impressive stone arch and find yourself in a unique combination of woodland paths, cobblestone walkways, reflecting ponds, and a stone bridge. All enclosed by a magnificent, New England-style stone wall. Originally constructed in 1692, the cemetery was enlarged in 1908, thanks to a generous gift from William Wood, a well-known Andover textile industrialist, whose entire family is buried here. It was Mr. Wood’s vision to transform the rural 4-acre burial ground into an elegant 50-acre garden cemetery

Wild Rose Meadow, located near the Cutler Road Gate, features a winding walking path and garden area with benches perfect for peace, quiet, and spiritual reflection. A cobblestone walkway winds past the stone cottage which was once a meeting place for the grieving.

The Cemetery is extensively landscaped with stately sugar maples which provide dappled shade in the summer. In the autumn, they glow brightly with the reds, golds, and yellows of New England’s famed fall foliage. In the winter, the bare branches against the snow create a sophisticated black-and-white landscape.

Most impressive, however, is the English-style chapel built in 1909 of native stone, much of which came from a small quarry adjacent to the Cemetery off Cutler Road. The chapel features 12 original Louis Tiffany stained glass windows. The front and rear rose windows are each 10 ft. in diameter. Five panels above the chancery portray Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, centered around Jesus. Other windows depict sunsets, representing end of life. Three pictorial windows line each side wall, and illustrate a theme from Matthew 25:35-48.

If you’ve never visited this absolute gem, this is your invitation to do so. Everyone is welcome to walk, bike or slowly drive through the property. If you wish to explore the Chapel, call the Cemetery Office at (978) 475-3902.



Looking West toward West Parish Church, Shawsheen Rd. and Lowell St. (#1992.691.1ab)

FUN TIMES IN ANDOVER

by Susan McKelliget

The Shawsheen River, and Haggett's, Fosters, Pomp's, and Hussey's ponds were much sought after vacation destinations from the mid-1800's through the early twentieth century. Folks from as far away as Boston trekked to Andover for respite from sweltering summer days in airless, crowded tenements.

In 1908, Andover native Sarah Stuart Robbins wrote a chapter in a book about *"Andover Trysting Places."* A closer look, although exultant in tone, is hardly racy reading! Robbins described with rapture the joys of arriving at Pomp's Pond or Indian Ridge. There were *"baskets and pails to hold what the ovens were soon to yield...and we rushed pell mell into the waiting carriages where it would be hard to find a merrier or happier party."*

Robbins described Indian Ridge as a *"broad and level tree-covered embankment about 20 feet high carpeted by a short, thin greensward."* She waxed poetic about the delights of Pomp's Pond, *"in the gloaming of a summer day, there were pictures of tall pine-trees, each needle dancing up and down as if in for an evening bath...with larches stooping over the bright mirror with a pleased*

smile...what a trysting place it was!" As for the "trysting" the author turns shy with *"I am not going to tell of the words of love first spoken there, the promises registered and sealed there."* The chapter ends with thankfulness for these places as natural retreats for the hard-working and by necessity, reclusive students.

In the late 1800s, Sunday afternoon was a favorite time for families to hitch up the milk wagons loaded with home prepared food for an afternoon in West Andover. When the weather was favorable, the church parson would announce from the pulpit that a picnic would be held at Bailey's Grove on Haggett's Pond.

Angie M. Burt in her *"Memories of Our Old Church Picnic"* recalled *"coffee, great tubs of lemonade, platters of home cooked ham and stacks of bread and butter... watermelon and all sorts of desserts brought by the women including lemon pies and tarts, doughnuts, and sugary apple turnovers."*

Also recalled were old fashioned dories free for hire, used by bashful swains to woo their lasses on the opposite side of the pond. Bowling, races, ballgames, and fishing

were all part of the fun before once again piling into wagons for the trip home -- unless it was a Saturday night when dancing at the pavilion was a favorite pastime. An extra treat during these times, would be to rush to shore to hear the bands playing on the passing steamer ships which plied along the pond banks.

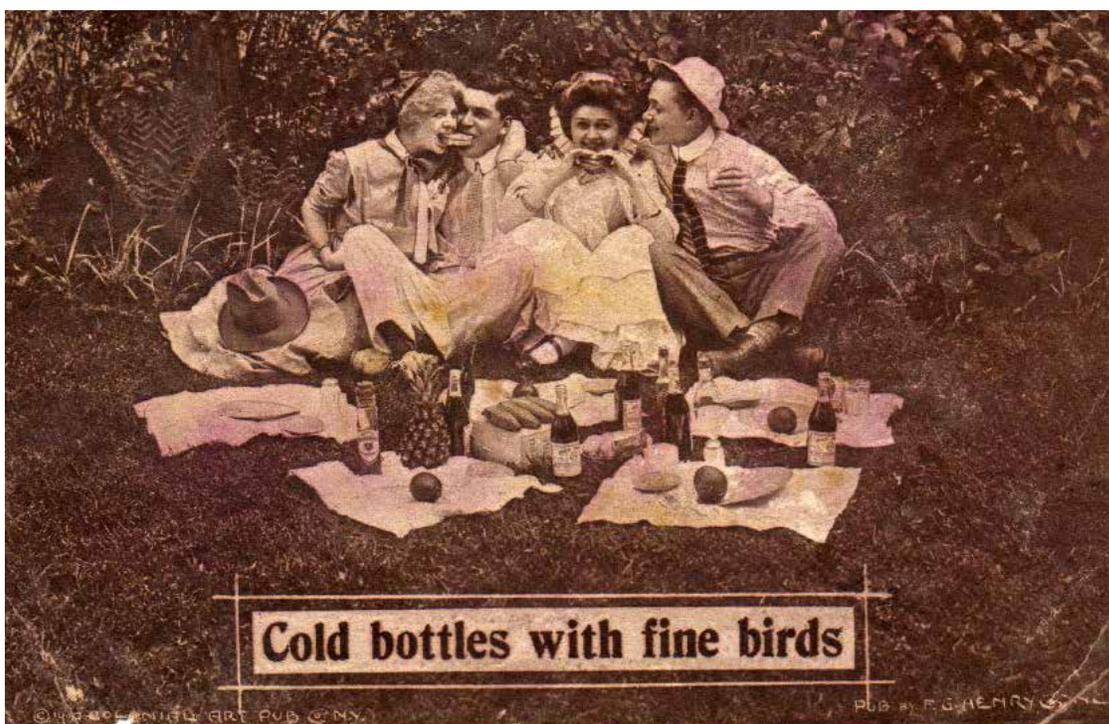
Haggett's Pond officially closed to bathers when it became the town's water supply in 1899. Trolley cars still carried frolickers to Bailey's Grove for the next few years as the dining room, bowling alley, and dance hall were used by families and large picnic parties from surrounding mills and factories. Labor Day 1901, while engaged by the Labor Union of Lawrence, all the buildings were burned to the ground, except the ice house. The mysterious fire raged. Fighting the fire was complicated by the failure of the fire call boxes. The Labor Day picnic was cancelled and the buildings were never restored.

For the next 30 years, many of the camps built along the pond remained for fishing and camping. Eventually, most of these dwellings burned or fell into disrepair as automobile travel took vacationers to further shores. The

remaining stone cellar holes bear witness to those times.

The Andover Canoe Club was extremely popular with Andover's young, and not so young, a hundred years ago. When in 1913, a 1200 foot canal was dug to connect the Shawsheen River and Pomp's Pond, the necessity of carrying canoes overland for a stretch was eliminated. It opened the "area for regattas and various other forms of sports, while the course open to those who enjoy a quiet paddle will be materially lengthened." The Club, which featured racks, lockers, a dressing room and waiting room, was located at the intersection of Central Street and Lupine Road. A 1914 advertisement for the A.C.C. summarized much of our town's lovely natural habitat: "This is the season when the beautiful Shawsheen is at its best, as it winds its way through the oaks and pines, their branches draped with trailing vines, interlacing across the river, which is acknowledged the most picturesque in this part of New England. A handsome fleet of safe canoes at the Andover Canoe club at the foot of Central Street may be engaged in advance by calling 195-3."

Foster's Pond, named for English immigrant Andrew Foster who inhabited the land in the mid 1600's, also sported a summer colony of camps and cabins. Many survived to become today's residential homes. Roughly bounded by Route 125, South Main Street and Old County Road, Foster's Pond was a picnic destination as far back as the 1840s. Frye Villagers (folks from Shawsheen) walked there to picnic even though the lovely Hussey's pond provided them with a pleasant recreation area just off Poor street. A 1911 Townsman mentions a "Camp Colombia," which seems to have been a summer camp



Picnic Fun in a greeting card image from the Historical Society's Charles H. Newman Collection (#1987.598.2020)

on Foster's Pond for young ladies. In May 1914, The Townsman announced that a Mr. William Lindsay opened his camp and "has gone to live there with his son."

In 1925, Pomp's Pond officially became available for public use as a beach and boating area when a lease between the Town and the Boston City Missionary Society was formalized. Several Andover residents raised funds to clear the area as a public beach and put in the first dock.

A number of camps called this area home, including Camp Andover (under the auspices of the Boston Missionary Society), Camp Manning (a Melrose-based Boy Scout Camp), and later the Maude Eaton Girl Scout Camp. Andover's Recreation area has also long been associated with Pomp's Pond. The sandy beaches, lifeguards, bath houses, water carnivals in the 1930s, and rafts outfitted with multiple diving boards made for a popular summer destination still enjoyed today.

ANYONE FOR CRICKET?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Andover team competed with local towns and formed the six member Merrimac Valley Cricket League. Lawrence, Methuen, Merrimac, Andover, and Lowell which had two teams, the Mohairs and Buntings, comprised the league. The league was also a member of the New England Cricket Club, also founded in 1885, which established inter-league matches and schedules. The Andover team often played the Lynn Wanderers and the Everetts. Andover brought home the league championship Cricket Cup in September 1889.

The A.C.C. built a small clubhouse on the grounds which was used for storage of equipment, a changing area and a meeting room. In the early morning of July 4, 1900, the clubhouse burned to the ground from arson. The club lost all their equipment and furnishings. They did, however, play a scheduled match that day with the Lynn Wanderers. *"The visitors brought extra bats and kindly allowed the home team the use of them. Andover had a team considerably under strength but on the day's play pulled off a victory by 12 runs."*

The Andover club finished out the season and made plans to rebuild the clubhouse. They raised funds through donations and a Minstrel

show held in April 1901. The original cost to build was expected to be \$700 but the final tally was \$1100. Work was done by Hardy and Cole in April 1901. A grand opening was held on May 30th.

The Townsman reported on the day, *"The 60 foot pole on the Andover Cricket Club grounds was successfully raised Wednesday evening by Newton Jaquith and other members...The committee certainly showed good judgment in locating the house on the hill where a fine view of the river and woods from the back of the house and the crease from the front may be obtained. It is the prettiest little house in town and is built in beach style."*

In order to increase the membership the club considered building two croquet greens, a game of quoits, and should there be a demand, "a bowling green is also a possibility. It is the intention to make the club popular and healthful." The club did create tennis courts in July 1901 and *"received permission from Mrs. Coburn and Smith & Dove Co. for a right of way to the field through their*



Historical Society's Charles H. Newman Collection (#1987.598.927ab)

lands, crossing the brook by a rustic bridge, thus doing away with the disagreeable walk down the track."

Everything promised a great future for the Andover Cricket Club. In the six years that followed, however, the club had financial problems and failed to pay off the loan on the clubhouse. The clubhouse was auctioned off in October 1907, purchased by P. J. Hannon and moved to his farm at 156 Elm St. in April 1908.

In March 1909, Frank Gleason sold the Cricket Field property to the Smith & Dove Co. Smith and Dove maintained the Cricket Field from 1909 to 1927. During their ownership the company fielded a baseball and soccer team. An annual Athletic Day was held for employees. The field was later sold to the Saint Augustine Society for future expansion of their cemetery which abutted the field to the south.



Historical Society's Charles H. Newman Collection (#1987.598.925)



Historical Society's Charles H. Newman Collection (#1987.598.917)

MARCH WRITE IN!



March may have passed but the programs and events that took place as part of our *March Write In!* series have left wonderful memories, entertaining photographs, and an expanded knowledge of local history in their wake. In celebration of Women's History Month, Community Enrichment Team member and retired teacher Barbara Bunn developed this well-received program series focused on local female authors. A variety of events focused on women writers from Andover's past as well as some of the contemporary authors living and writing in and about Andover in 2015.

One event went so far as to bring Harriet Beecher Stowe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Anne Bradstreet, and several lesser known authoresses back to Andover through living history performances at the Blanchard House. Visitors were able to hear and engage with these well known ladies while also getting to know teenage diarist Abby Locke and early 20th century police officer and journalist Bessie Goldsmith. An additional group of dedicated volunteers acted as hostesses to help visitors move seamlessly between the modern museum setting and the stories told by each living historian.

Andover Historical was also pleased to host six present-day writers for an open-format panel discussion on the art and craft of writing. Featuring the following local writers: Tara Winters, Carol Gordon Ekster, Kristin Bair O'Keefe, Susan Kelly, Cheryl Murnane, and Peggy Rambach; this evening program was a wonderful introduction to the diverse writing styles and habits of these talented women.

Our opening and closing events were particularly interactive for attendees with a hands-on journal making workshop for young students and a discussion of the book *Nothing Daunted*. Andover Historical extends its thanks to Barbara and to her team of volunteers for their dedication to telling local Andover stories!

Photos from top to bottom:

Margaret McDonald portrays famous 17th century poet Anne Bradstreet to the delight of local school children who had just studied her poems at school

Five local actresses helped bring the past to life during the Meet the Authors program

Authors Cheryl Murnane and Susan Kelly recount some of their biggest writing challenges during the Authors Live Panel

Local teacher Maureen Witbold demonstrates the power of journaling to Alva, a 4th grade Andover student



ANDOVER FARMERS' MARKET RETURNS FOR 9TH SEASON

June 20th marks the return of the Andover Farmers' Market at the Andover Historical Society and the ninth season brings exciting changes, including a change in location. This year the market shifts to the lawn in the back of the Blanchard House at 97 Main Street and to the parking area behind adjacent Andover Village Square at 93 Main Street. The market will continue to take place on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. through October 31. And although Andover Historical will be celebrating Halloween on the closing day, the market will not be held on Saturday, July 4. One holiday is enough for us this season!

Since its establishment in 2007, the Andover Farmers' Market mission has been to promote healthy eating, sustainability, and local economies while fostering community involvement and Andover's farming tradition. For the past eight years, Andover Historical's staff has taken great pride in bringing fresh and local products to the town of Andover. This season, we're thrilled to welcome Alexandra Adler to the staff as the part-time Andover Farmers' Market Manager. Alex is studying nutrition at UMASS Lowell and has been working hard to ensure a varied mix of vendors, artisans, non-profits, demonstrations, and musicians. The Historical Society is grateful for the support of community members Greg and Ellen Sebasky and 2015 sponsor Lawrence General Hospital as we continue to grow the Andover Farmers' Market.

Our vendors have always been the driving force behind the spirit of the market. This year's vendors come from all over Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, and they are coming to Andover to provide customers with only the highest quality items, rain or shine. From bakers,

to farmers, to artisans and crafters, we value our vendors and what they have to offer. We are looking forward to the return of SwissBakers, Farmer Dave, Gaouette Farm, Rejuvelate, Tselio's Flowers, Karley's Just Because, Konjoian's Greenhouse, Sweet Lydias, Laughing Tree Organics, Nugent's Creations, Turtle Creek Winery, Honey Pot Farm, and Foxboro Cheese. Several of the local area food trucks will also be returning with their extensive menus (and specialty vehicles) to this year's market days. Best of North Shore winner and customer favorite Pipe Dream Cupcakes will be making regular appearances with fresh baked cupcakes. Mess Haul will also be in attendance during many weekends with hot-off-the-grill fare, delicious salads, and their famous homemade raspberry-lime rickeys. If you're looking for something a bit more traditional, Tom's Tubes will be at the market every Saturday with the tastiest hot dogs you'll find in Andover.

We are also excited to announce that we have several new vendors for the upcoming season. Doing some shopping with your favorite pup? Emmett's Edible make hand-crafted, scrumptious home-made treats...all for your canine friends! Also joining the Farmers' Market is White Gates Farm of Tamworth, NH. White Gates Farm offers poultry and grass-fed beef as well as fresh, seasonal produce. Other new vendors include Rose and Raspberry, Laura Alana Jewelry, Pawprints on My Pots, and many more!

In addition to the vendors providing an extensive array of fresh organic vegetables, quality meats, delicious baked goods, or arts and crafts, the Market will welcome several local non-profit organizations. Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) has attended in

past years and will return throughout the 2015 season to share information about the open spaces and walking trails located across the town of Andover. Animal lovers will be excited to meet the adoptable animals from the MSPCA at Nevins Farm that will be visiting twice a month. Following the MSPCA's visit last year, several Farmers' Market families provided forever homes and we look forward to seeing new connections made this season too.

The shift in location also allows a larger space for musical performances and educational demonstrations and we'll have more of both throughout the season. Students and professionals with the Merrimack Valley Community Music School will be joining us each month and we also look forward to hearing the sounds of several local independent musicians including Double Stop Strings, a violin and cello acoustic duo based in Haverhill. We'll also be welcoming the musical stylings of Stellwagen, who will be offering acoustic folk and rock with a dash of sea salt.

Demonstrations this summer and fall include the ongoing workings of a Square Foot Garden – an efficient way of planting and growing fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers in a raised bed garden. Our newly formed Farmers' Market Education Team is being led by three Andover High School students, Mikayla Murphy, Angela Wang, and Nik Chaudhary. In addition to assisting Manager Alex Adler each week with Square Foot Garden, the education team will be showcasing hands-on opportunities for all ages to learn about home gardening, sustainable living, and healthy lifestyles.

All of these vendors, organizations, musicians, volunteers, and more will be in attendance during the Andover Farmers' Market's 9th season. Whatever you are looking for, the Andover Farmers' Market has something for everyone. Our staff and vendors are eager to welcome the new season and add another chapter to Andover's farming tradition. Join us at the Andover Farmers' market every Saturday (except July 4) from June 20 through October 31, and help to make this our best season yet!

SPRING FOR HISTORY 2015

by Elaine Clements

On May 13, 2015, over 120 people gathered at the Andover Country Club for our 3rd annual *Spring for History* fundraising breakfast. Thank you to our sponsors Enterprise Bank & Trust, Andover Television, Cristen Farrell Photography, and Lawrence General Hospital for helping make the event possible. Thank you also to the over 60 people who contributed or pledged their ongoing support for the mission of Andover Historical. Details to follow in our 2015 Annual Report due out this September!



Cellist, Melanie Hilman and vocalist Jackie Long ready to perform "America"



Testimonial speaker Elli Mapstone shares a laugh with her father, Peter Mapstone



Cheryl Foster enjoying the program



Essex County
Community Foundation



*Wooden tennis racquet and case, 1920s,
Gift of Alma Paradise (#1990.53.1-2)*

ANDOVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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