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IMAGES

(Left) Detail, watercolor on cardboard, #1995.078.1

(Above) Volunteers from the Advanced Placement U.S. History classes at Andover High School take a quick break during a busy spring clean-up day.

POMP'S POND MEMORIES

by Vicky Robb, Member

There are many idyllic places in Andover where one may go to commune with nature, appreciate the scenery, or just enjoy the ambiance. My favorite place is Pomp's Pond.

There is nothing that quite compares with a late August afternoon with a bright blue sky overhead, the foliage lightly tinged in anticipation of the coming fall, and a crisp edge to the breeze that ruffles the surface of the water.

Pomp's Pond is named for a former slave, Pompey Lovejoy (born in 1724), whose owner, Captain William Lovejoy, brought him to Andover as a boy. When his master died, Pompey was granted his freedom. After his marriage to Rose Foster, he was given a plot of land near the pond that bears his name. Here, he and his wife built a cabin. Pompey later served in the Revolutionary War and received a government pension for his service.

In those days, Town Meetings were held on Saturdays and were occasions for town-wide picnics, sports, games, and dances. Many of these activities were held on the shore of the pond near Pompey's cabin. At each Town Meeting, and on local, state, and national election days, Pompey and Rose brewed ginger beer and root beer. A special treat for the townspeople was the Lovejoy's famous "lection cake."

Before the days of refrigeration, Pomp's Pond along with other town ponds provided the ice that kept food fresh during the summer months. In 1926, the town purchased the pond and citizens contributed to the fun helping to construct the beach.

I enjoyed eleven summers at Pomp's Pond as a swim instructor, the last three as waterfront director. Many an Andoverite learned their aquatic skills from a great staff of teachers like Millie Salyers, Dave Connors, Pat and Linda Saalfrank, Dot Percy, Betty DesJardins, Jill and Jen Bottomley, and a couple of the Robbs.

Continues on page 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER, SUMMER 2014



Before the summer ends, make sure to see the “Faces of Andover” exhibit of Civil War photographs and stories on display in our main gallery until Labor Day. It’s free and open to the public during regular hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays – including during the Farmer’s Market. The exhibit highlights the many different kinds of contributions made by Andover residents during the Civil War era, and is the last remaining evidence of the wonderful “Lest We Forget” series of programs that we presented this spring, in cooperation with many community partners.

Each event of the series was an opportunity for enjoyment and learning, in spite of the sometimes somber subject matter. One participant (who missed only one of the events!) marveled to me at how little the widely varied events – concert, lectures, talks and tours -- overlapped and yet how they each seemed to build upon each other. I know that I will never think generically about the Civil War again. I won’t read about the War’s 750,000 deaths without recalling Drew Gilpin Faust’s description of the social changes that came

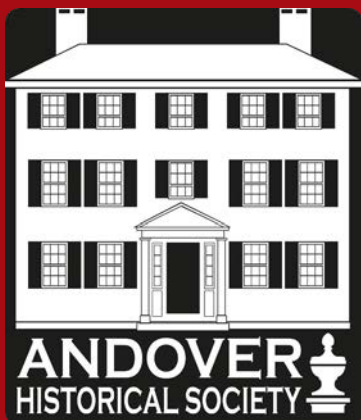
in their wake. I won’t hear a military drumbeat without remembering the face of drummer boy George Smart. And I won’t miss an opportunity to recommend that EVERYONE read *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* – it’s a page-turner and would not be out of place on the beach or in your hammock!

A few weeks ago, my daughter and I visited the Spotsylvania Battlefield in Virginia, and took a short detour to the Harris Farm where the members of Andover’s Company H saw their first action and incurred their first battle casualties on May 19, 1864. The battle site has not been well preserved – the farmhouse is now hemmed in by a development of large and expensive new houses – but enough of the terrain remains that I could orient myself in terms of Gordon Rhea’s masterful descriptions of the battle. We tried to imagine the farm itself through the eyes of the Andover soldiers, so many of whom had been raised on farms in town. Clement Harris had more than 400 acres under cultivation – twice as many as Andover’s largest farm – and owned sixteen slaves. Did the Andover boys think of these slaves as they stood up in that Virginia field, or did they think of their home in Massachusetts, where the crops were being sown for another spring without them?

We also were reminded of the Andover residents – surviving members of Company H and their family members -- who returned to Spotsylvania in May 1901 to dedicate the handsome New England granite memorial monument to commemorate their own deeds and those of their fallen comrades. The monument stand today on a narrow slice of lawn, owned and maintained by the non-profit Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. It’s a peaceful place today.

Jane Dietzel Cairns

Jane Dietzel-Cairns
President, Andover Historical Society



**YOUR
MEMORIES
ARE OUR
HISTORY**

TELL US YOUR STORY

From splashing in Pomp's Pond to fishing at Harold Parker State Forest, we know you have created many wonderful summer memories over the years. Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share the stories of Andover and we can't do that without your help. The collective memories of Andover residents, past and present, have provided a wealth of historical "townie" knowledge that the Andover Historical Society is proud to steward.

Help us continue this great tradition by stopping by, emailing, or phoning to share your Andover stories with us. We look forward to seeing your photographs, creating new oral histories, and reading letter, and postcards from days gone by. The Society is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Stop by and share your story!

SEASIDE FASHIONS

by Marilyn Helmers, Development & Collections Manager

Going to the beach in warmer weather was not always popular. It wasn't until the introduction of the railroads early in the 1800's that people began to travel to ocean-side beaches for recreation. With this new outdoor pursuit came the need for fashionable young women to have appropriate outfits. In the 1800s, however, it was proper to keep the skin white. So, face-shading hats, gloves, stockings and long sleeved dresses with billowing long skirts were the rule. Women were known to have weights sewn into the hems of their bathing outfits to keep the garments from blowing or floating up and baring their legs.

Modesty continued to be the rule through the 19th century. Bathing dresses covered most of the female body. The long bloomers or "Turkish" pants exhibited in 1864 bathing costumes, demonstrated the influence that Amelia Bloomer, an American women's rights advocate, had on women's clothing. The bloomers allowed less restrictive movement while still maintaining modesty. Yet, as they were generally made of heavy flannel fabric, they couldn't have been very comfortable when soaking wet.

During the Victorian period, interesting conveyances at seaside resorts were "bathing machines." These were little horse-drawn houses mounted on large, broad wheels. People would enter a house in shallow water; change into their bathing clothes and the house would be drawn into deeper water and hauled back to shore after the bathers were finished. Bathing machines allowed modest Victorian women to spend a day at the beach in complete privacy. Some later bathing machines had hoods added, to shield women emerging from the ocean in dripping wet flannel bathing clothes. Bathing machines soon lost their popularity, especially in America where people didn't want to wait for the cumbersome process of being hauled in and out of the ocean.

Around the turn of the 20th century, ocean-side activities became extremely popular. People flocked to the beaches to swim, surf bathe and dive. Women, with their long, heavy bathing costumes were not able to participate much in these activities. The only activity for a woman was to jump through waves while holding on to a rope tethered to a buoy. Women typically dressed in knee-length, puffed-sleeve wool dresses, often featuring a sailor collar, and worn over bloomers trimmed with ribbons and bows. The bathing suit was typically accessorized with long black stockings, lace-up bathing slippers, and fancy caps.

Two of the bathing costumes in our collection are from this period. They came to us complete with the black stockings, bathing shoes and bathing hats.

It soon became clear that the clumsy Victorian period bathing suits were too cumbersome and restrictive. Women

needed bathing suits that allowed them to participate in ocean activities while maintaining their modesty.

By 1915, women athletes had begun to compete in the same water sports as men. They demanded fashionable suits that would not hinder them in the water. Annette Kellerman, an Australian synchronized swimmer and performer, caused a sensation when she wore a one-piece, sleek, form-fitting swimsuit. She was arrested in Revere Beach, Massachusetts in 1907 for indecent exposure for wearing just such a suit. The scandal caused a sensation but her bathing suit became popular and she soon had her own swim clothing line. The "Annette Kellerman's" are considered to be the first of modern swimwear.

By the 1920's, swimwear was considerably less hindering. Gone were the bloomers and full-length coverage. Thighs were exposed. Shapes were more of an androgynous design with scooped necks. The fabric was still jersey or wool though. Women were still getting arrested but the laws were being to change. Fashion magazines were encouraging women to wear "a jersey bathing suit as near a maillot as the unwritten law will permit."

The third suit in our collection is from this time period. A vast contrast to the turn-of-the-century ones, it is wool, navy blue and upper thigh length with a scooped neck and crossed back straps. How daring!

We are fortunate to have these three bathing suits in our collection and to be able to tell their stories. They reflect a period when fashions of beach attire began to change dramatically.



**Dorothea and Maryal Knox in the surf at Rye, NY, ca.1900.
Courtesy of Schlesinger Library, RIAS, Harvard University.**

POMP'S POND MEMORIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Over the years the Pond has been home to both Boy and Girl Scout camps. Camp Maud Eaton still serves Girl Scouts from our area. The town beach provides recreational swimming and lessons each summer and features Fun Days several times each season. Canoeing and kayaking have become very popular with pondgoers and allow for small craft safety instruction.

Pomps is a spring fed silt bottom pond that lies off Woburn Street adjacent to Recreation Park and the gravel pits. Such proximity allows for many town-sponsored summer day camps that give the children of Andover an outdoor experience with water activities included.

Rec Park is often the site of company outings. It was one such event that led to the only known swimming rescue at the pond. It was a quiet August afternoon in the summer of 1984. Some people from a company gathering had come down from Rec Park for a swim. The life guard staff members were at their posts when one swimmer disappeared under the surface. The

guards immediately went into action and set up a dive line, and after two dives were successful in rescuing the swimmer. He was brought to the surface and revived with CPR by guards Rich Conron and Mike Maher. The Town fire rescue squad arrived and transported the victim to the hospital, where he recovered and went home after just a few days.

For their efforts, the guard staff received the American Red Cross Certificate of Merit signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Beyond water activities, Pomp's Pond offers a sand beach for sunning, a playground for the kids, a bath house, and concession stand. It's a fine place to spend the summer offering fun and recreation for the whole family.

The 2014 summer season opened on June 14th and continues through August 17th. The pond is open to all town residents daily from noon until 7:00 pm. For more information visit the Town or Andover website at <http://www.andoverdcs.com/pompspond/info> or call 978-749-9423.



RETURN OF THE ANDOVER FARMERS MARKET



For the eighth year in a row, the Andover Farmers' Market returned to kick off summer in downtown Andover. Continuing until September 27th, and running every Saturday from 10:00am – 2:00pm, the market features a wide range of vendors with an even larger variety of produce and products to purchase. The Farmers' Market has been and continues to be a community event.

At the market, all products are locally grown or made in Massachusetts, allowing consumers to purchase healthier alternatives to the mass-produced and manufactured foods and products otherwise available. This year, the market has more vendors than there were in previous years. With a total of 26 vendors, each offering different and naturally made foods and crafts, many very near to Andover, customers still have variety and choices in what they buy.

This year's vendors include many familiar farms and sellers from previous seasons, including Boston Hill Farm, Swissbakers, Gaouette Farm, Farmer Daves, Turtle Creek Winery, Sweet Lydia's, Karley's Just Bee-Cause and plenty of others. In addition to those returning, the Farmers' Market features many new vendors, including Aster B Flowers, Mill River Winery, and Della Cucina, just to name a few. Each of these vendors brings their own unique items for market goers, ranging from wines, cheeses, flowers, breads, and crafts.



'MURDER' AT POLE HILL GRIPS NATION IN 1900

by Jane Dietzel-Cairns, President

The town of Andover made national news on Aug. 22 in 1900 when a man named George "Smoky" Davenport was shot and killed on the banks of the Shawsheen River during an outing of a fraternal organization, the Colored Odd Fellows of Cambridge, Mass.

The site of the violence was The Shawsheen Grove, now a part of the Andover Conservation Commission's Pole Hill Reservation, but then owned and used by the Boston and Main Railroad as a "country destination" for excursion trains, marketed particularly to poorer people from the West End of Boston and Cambridge. Rowdy behavior was common at the Grove, but the nature of the gunplay - more reminiscent of the shootout at the O.K. Corral than of any previous Andover quarrel - caught the attention of the newspaper editors across the country.

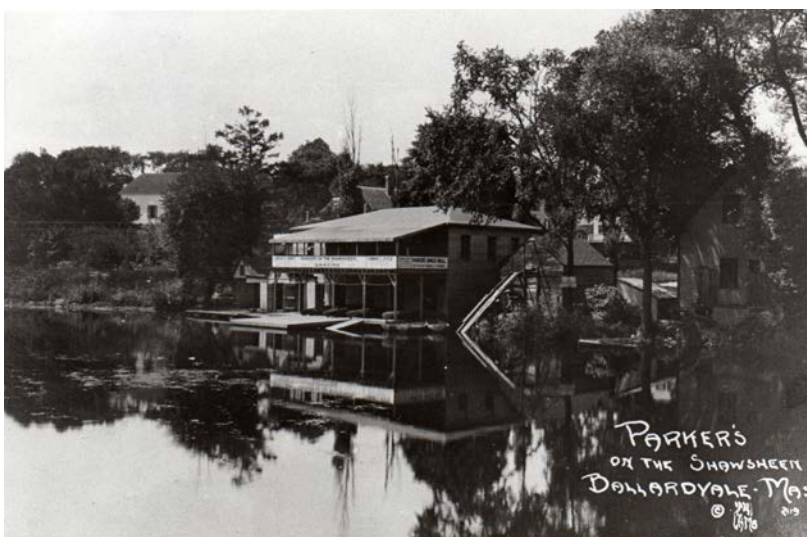
Calling the incident "a picnic tragedy," the Andover Townsman printed nearly verbatim the testimony given later that afternoon by the shooter Edward H. Janifer, a 35-year-old husband and father, whom the paper called "one of the most widely known colored men in Cambridge."

"Smoky" Davenport was an uninvited party crasher, and had been angered by Janifer's request that he not eat the food provided by the picnic's hosts for their hired musicians. The two men came first to blows, and then an hour later (after Davenport was able to buy bullets for his gun) began to trade shots, while taking protective positions behind a pavilion at the Grove. Davenport was hit with shots in the face and the breast. He finally reeled back, at the foot of a tree, and after saying to a friend, "Bill, I'm done for," died before medical aid could reach him.

After the shooting, Janifer put his family on a train back to Cambridge and turned himself in to John Stark, a Ballardvale provisions dealer and selectman. Stark left Janifer by himself for about 15 minutes in his home on Marland Street while he telephoned for Chief of Police William L. Frye and coroner Dr. C.E. Abbott. This

detail, that Mr. Stark appeared to have no qualms about leaving an admitted killer unattended in his home, illustrates the sentiment that the Townsman story makes explicit: "Nearly everyone's sympathy seems to be with Janifer and the general opinion is that he did it in self defense."

Everything we know about Edward Janifer's personal history indicates that he was worthy of trust. He was the son of a former slave named Francis Janifer who had served during the Civil War with the Second U. S. Calvary (the unit which became the famed "Buffalo Soldiers") and after the War as a Washington D.C. policeman. Edward Janifer had come to Cambridge at the age of 20 to work for the city's horse-drawn Elevated Railroad before his employment by wood dealer George M. Smith, who (alerted probably by Janifer's wife) rushed to Andover on the afternoon of the shooting to serve as Janifer's character witness. Friends also secured defense lawyer C.G. Morgan, the first



Ballardvale Postcard from Historical Society Collection.

black Cambridge City Councilor.

Essex County Trial Judge George H. Poor found probable cause that afternoon to hold Janifer on a charge of murder until the sitting of the Superior court in Lawrence. But on Sept. 17, after 27 days in jail and one anxious hour in the public court room, Janifer was released from custody, the grand jury having failed to indict or to "find a bill" against him. The Townsman reported, "When he had heard the welcome words: 'you are free to go,' Janifer's wife rushed to him and kissed him. The man's face lighted with joy, and picking up his hat he walked out of the courtroom.

Editor's note: This article first ran as part of the ongoing Andover Stories series in the Andover Townsman. If you would like to read further about this enduring moment in Andover's rich history, check out "A Picnic Tragedy" serial on our web site. It's fascinating reading.

andoverhistorical.org/exhibits/2008/polehill



CANOES ALONG THE SHAWSHEEN RIVER

by Elaine Clements, Executive Director

Canoes were popular recreational equipment in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Canoes' popularity started in the mid-19th century, but the canoe craze really took off in the 1910s. Andover, with its rivers and ponds, certainly had its fair share of canoes and canoeists.

The Andover Canoe Club was formed in the early 1910s with one canoe, two boats, and the Andover Canoe Club House, located on the corner of Lupine Road and Central Street. By 1916, the club had a fleet of 50 canoes and six power boats to keep its members and the public happily out of the water. The Shawsheen River and the Canoe Club attracted members and canoeists from Lawrence, Lowell, Haverhill, and Boston. One could rent a canoe for the season for \$15, or rent by the month, day, or hour. The "\$1 deposit won't be returned if the canoe comes back wet or mudding inside."

Canoe club members hand dug a canal from the Shawsheen River to Pomp's Pond to "add to the range and variety of canoeing." The club held dance parties, river trips, suppers, regattas, and float nights. Regattas featured a variety of canoe activities including novice races, single single, double single, ladies single, mixed single, motor race, tilting, and swimming. Tilting was an entertaining spectacle. Standing in a canoe paddled by a friend, canoe tilting contestants would try to know the other out of the water.

The Canoe Club's float nights must have been popular with the youth of Andover. One article stated that the club had 12 "honeymoon" canoes which, "assisted by Mr. Moon, have resulted in many happy weddings." Courting in canoes preceded courting in cars. In one community, canoe courting became such a problem that local officials passed laws forbidding couples from sitting next to each other in a canoe. Andover's youth took advantage of the relative freedom and privacy of canoes, respectably leading to happy weddings. Along with the Andover Canoe Club, there were other places in town, where one could rent a canoe for canoeing or

canoodling. Parker's on the Shawsheen in Ballardvale was one such place.

In addition to public venues, canoe camps dotted the shorelines of Andover's rivers and ponds. Andover Historical Society member John Petty talked with us about his memories of old canoe camps along the Shawsheen River in Ballardvale. He recalled three old camps on the Pole Hill side of the river. One was converted from the old Pole Hill concession stand, with the wooden side awning nailed down. Neighborhood kids would go into some of the camps when the owners were away. But one camp, John said, had a sign on the door "spring loaded rifle," so no one went into that one.

Who owned these private camps along the Shawsheen? One story came to the Historical Society along with four photographs of a rustic, stick-built cabin described as "(the) Seboois Lodge on Shawsheen River, Camp of HA Brooks." The land belonged to a local man who lost the property in January 1909 due to non-payment of taxes. In February of that year, Ballardvale resident Emil Hoffman purchased the property at auction and sold off the land in pieces. The 1910 Andover Real Estate Valuation book notes that the land and a camp building on the property were owned by Harry A. Brooks of Somerville, Mass. The camp building was valued at \$800 and the acre of land at \$100. Harry Brooks owned the Seboois Lodge and land until 1946 when he sold it to Roy M. Pearson of Amherst, Mass. Pearson grew up in Andover, so the camp might have been a way for him to stay connected to his home town.

Parts of the Andover Canoe Club's canal between the river and Pomp's Pond can still be seen, but nothing remains of Andover's canoe camps. After looking into Andover's canoe camps, one question remained: why "Seboois" lodge? A quick google search revealed that Seboois is a river in Maine known for canoeing and fishing, just like Andover's Shawsheen River.



ANDOVER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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ANDOVER



**FARMERS
MARKET**

*Saturdays
10 am to 2 pm
Through Sept 27*