



CONTENTS

The Stork Lands in Ballardvale	1
President's Letter	2
The Blanchard Frye Cup	3
Calendar	4
All Good Things	6
Change Brings New Opportunities	6

IMAGES

(Above) Patrons enjoying the Farmers' Market's new location behind Andover Village Square

(Left) Detail of knitted baby booties, #2014.027.4bc  
 Gift of Patricia Edmonds

THE STORK LANDS IN BALLARDVALE:  
 THE O'DONNELL SANATORIUM

by Tom Adams, Editor

Through the ages, the prospect of child birth has presented parents-to-be with one of life's most worrisome and vexing questions. All too often, a woman faced birth not with joy and hope, but with fear that her newborn, and possibly she herself, might not survive. The path offering the mother and baby-to-be the surest chance to emerge safe and sound was rarely clear. Over time, doctors, midwives, spiritualism, and witchcraft each held a strong allure. Religion, social and familial customs, and one's own economic station in life, were influences that largely determined which path was taken.

By the onset of the 1800s, doctors remained largely uneducated. Common medical practices of the day were to prescribe such remedies as bloodletting, powerful emetics, and cathartics. But the 1800s also witnessed the first crude stethoscope, important advances in sanitation, the founding of the American Medical Association, and the introduction of anesthesia. Institutional obstetric training also became more readily available. And while New York City had long required licensing of midwives, the general consensus was that doctors offered better care and hence a better chance for a successful birth. As the 1900s dawned, physicians were attending about one-half of our nation's births, including nearly all births to middle and upper class women. Doctors attended those births primarily in private homes. Less than 5% of women gave birth in hospitals.

At the same time, the number of birthing clinics grew dramatically to some 538 by 1915, five times more than in 1910. By the mid-1920s this specialized service for mothers and babies-to-be reached Andover's Ballardvale neighborhood.

In 1926 Katherine O'Donnell, an enterprising, highly experienced, and caring nurse converted a house at 13 Center Street in Ballardvale, and named it *The O'Donnell Sanatorium*. In his book *Andover, As I Remember It*, Jim Doherty recalled

*Continued on page 7*

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER FALL 2015



In my very first greetings to you, I would like to thank outgoing President Jane Cairns, whose leadership and dedication to the Andover Historical Society is truly appreciated. Thank you, Jane, for all you have done and continue to do for our community!

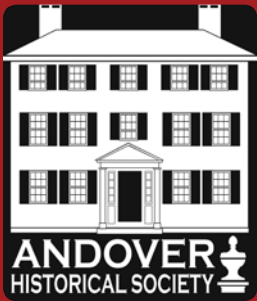
That treasured concept of community is one that many of us hold dear in Andover, whether we have recently arrived, lived here a lifetime, or in a few cases were actually born here. As the years pass, fewer and fewer people can claim that mantle, a “born and bred” Andoverite, but as we shall see within this “Life Passages” themed newsletter, there once was a special place in town that provided an alternative to home births for many Andover babies.

I have lived in Andover nearly all of my life with a few years off to experience higher education, but as a teen did not envision moving back here with babies in tow. Many of the folks with whom I went to the various town schools, including Shawsheen, Stowe, East and West Jr. High and then the High School, have likewise moved back after adventures in other towns, cultures and climes. We share that appreciation one has only after being “away from home” for awhile!

Life Passages--whether Andover is home for a lifetime or a stop along the journey--there is much to celebrate and preserve in this town. I look forward to sharing the mission of the Andover Historical Society as it reaches out to you, the community, to continue to share and preserve Andover stories for now and the future!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan McKelliget  
President, Andover Historical Society



**CALL  
TO  
ACTION**

**Take a journey with us this Fall! There's a lot to do here at the Historical Society and throughout Andover. We've been working with groups around town and the Andover Townsman to build a community events calendar on-line.**

**Visit [www.andovertownsman.com/events](http://www.andovertownsman.com/events) and set your search within 5 miles of Andover to see what's going on. Watch the calendar as it grows!**

# THE BLANCHARD FRYE CUP

by Jane Cairns

In the fall of 1893, Andover resident and Boston & Maine Railroad treasurer Amos Blanchard and his wife Lucretia purchased a silver cup for the newborn son of a local B & M employee.

The Blanchards were relative newcomers to Andover, having built their large home on Phillips Street just three years before. They had, however, a long familiarity with the town. Mr. Blanchard was the only grandson of Deacon Amos Blanchard of 97 Main Street, now the home of the Andover Historical Society. Raised in Lowell, he had been a frequent summer visitor and in 1865 was married in the chapel of the Andover Theological Seminary up on the hill. The couple may have patronized Andover jeweler J.E. Whiting on Main Street. In 1893, Whiting advertised silver gift items in the Andover Townsman. The Blanchards chose a moderately priced cup and had it engraved with the baby's name and his birth date: "*Winthrop Blanchard Frye from Mr. and Mrs. Amos Blanchard, September 21, 1893.*"

The baby, called "Blanchard" throughout his life, was the first and only child of William Litchfield Frye and his wife Emily (Hill). William L. Frye was, at the time of his son's birth, a twenty-six year old baggage master at the Andover depot. Frye was also a part-time town police officer who was appointed as Chief some seven years later. He was apparently widely liked. That summer he had tackled a fleeing burglary suspect and helped to break up a crime ring responsible for a series of break-ins on Central Street. Endorsing his successful 1898 campaign for town constable, Andover historian and newspaper columnist Charlotte Helen Abbot remembered his kindness when, as a boy, he led his blind father on daily walks near their Washington Street home.

The baby's mother, Emily, was a member of a numerous and sociable Frye Village family of Scottish and Irish descent, many of whom worked in the Smith and Dove mill. Little Blanchard was baptized at Christ Church in Andover on November 5, 1893. Emily's sister Lottie was his sponsor. Blanchard lived with his family in Andover for most of his life. Employed in Boston by Wm. Filene's & Sons Co., he worked as a decorator and display manager until his death in 1976 at the age of eighty-two.

Giving silver keepsakes, by some traditions cups for boys and spoons for girls, is an old practice that gained popularity during the Victorian era. The antibacterial properties of silver had been known for centuries. Babies who used silver utensils (or those born with



*Blanchard Frye silver presentation cup #2006.015.1  
Gift of Marilyn Fitzgerald*

"silver spoons in their mouths") were thought to be more protected from germs than their less fortunate peers. Sterling silver was always an option for the wealthy, but 19th century innovations in electroplating made these gifts more affordable for the aspirational middle class.

During the heyday of American silver, from approximately 1850-1940, the Gorham Manufacturing Company of Providence, Rhode Island recruited highly-trained English designers. Gorham utilized mechanized production methods to turn out a wide variety of attractive gift items of both sterling and silver plate. Blanchard Frye's cup was marked "silver soldered." According to Gorham advertisements of the period, it was made from a "high grade of nickel silver" (an alloy of copper, nickel and zinc), "soldered at every joint" and "very heavily plated" so as to make it practically indestructible. These pieces were thus suitable for use in hotels, on luxury trains and ocean liners - and by potentially destructive children. Manufactured (according to a mark on its base) in 1892, the cup's design is an example of "Gay Nineties" eclecticism, combining classical beaded decoration with a handsome Art Nouveau-style floral band. The Blanchard Frye Cup was donated to the Andover Historical Society by Marilyn Fitzgerald in 2006.

# BEWITCHED IN ANDOVER 20

## **Passages Art Exhibit**

**October 1-31, at Andover Historical Society & West Parish Garden Cemetery.**

Throughout the month of October visit the Passages Art Exhibit, a juried art show, running from October 1-31, being held in cooperation with West Parish Garden Cemetery and Andover Historical Society. 2-D artwork will be displayed at Andover Historical while West Parish will host the 3-dimensional art installations. Opening reception will be held at the Andover Historical Society on Friday, October 2 from 5:30-7pm. West Parish Garden Cemetery hosts an outdoor open house on Saturday, October 3 from 10am-noon. Learn more online at [andoverhistorical.org/passages](http://andoverhistorical.org/passages) or visit both sites during public hours.



## **Red Light Ghost Hunt**

**Friday, September 25: 7:30pm-midnight at Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street**

Join paranormal investigator and radio host Ron Kolek, with his special guest, Steve Parsons, at the historic Blanchard House in downtown Andover where the shadows of the night come alive. If you ever wanted to be a Ghost Hunter or if you are a Ghost Hunter and always wanted to investigate a museum house filled with thousands of historical objects, now is your chance. Join us as we investigate this historic landmark and help save history because a portion of the ticket goes directly to support the museum. The

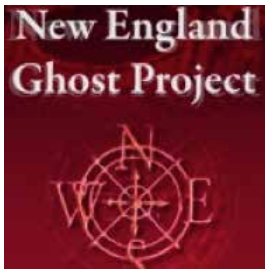
cost of this unique event is only \$75. Tickets are limited to only 20 attendees, so sign up now by calling the Historical Society at (978) 475-2236!



## **Reading and discussion of The Crucible**

**Mondays, September 28, October 5, October 19, October 26, 1:30-3pm at the Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court**

Do you believe in witches? Did Arthur Miller? What parallels can we find between 17th century Salem and 20th America? Come to a four-session reading and discussion of *The Crucible* with an optional visit to Salem and Salem Village. Paperback and Kindle editions of *The Crucible* are available on Amazon for under \$10 and at the library. Eileen Reilly facilitates. Cost: \$16. Advance registration by calling (978) 623-8321 at The Center at Punchard.



## **Ghost Hunting in the Age of Spiritualism**

**Thursday, October 8: 7pm at Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street**

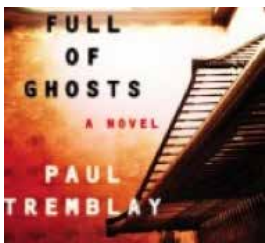
Long before today's modern ghost hunters there were a dedicated group of scientists searching to understand the haunted phenomenon. These pioneers used "modern" equipment and scientific procedure in an attempt to understand ghosts and spirit communication. Radio host, author and paranormal investigator Ronald Kolek takes you back in time to present a glimpse of the lives of these great men like Harry Price, Thomas Glendenning Hamilton and others. \$5 Historical Society members, \$7 non-members. Call the Historical Society at (978) 475-2236 or go to [bewitchedinandover.com](http://bewitchedinandover.com) to reserve your seat.



## **Spiritualism in Andover**

**Thursday, October 15: 7pm at the Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street**

Local historian and storyteller Gail Ralston will shed light on the 19th century spiritualist activities that once took place in Andover. This one-night presentation will explore the séance hosting habits of Harriet Beecher Stowe, among others, and the mixed feelings of the townspeople who adhered to more traditional views. \$5 Historical Society members, \$7 non-members. Call the Historical Society at (978) 475-2236 or go to [bewitchedinandover.com](http://bewitchedinandover.com) to reserve your seat.



## **A Head Full of Ghosts**

**Thursday, October 22: 6pm at the Andover Bookstore, 89R Main Street**

Local author Paul Tremblay is coming to Andover Bookstore on Oct 22 at 6pm to read from his newest work of fiction, *A Head Full of Ghosts*. The lives of the Barretts, a normal suburban New England family, are torn apart when fourteen-year-old Marjorie begins to display signs of acute schizophrenia. It's a chilling domestic drama that blends psychological suspense with a touch of modern horror from a new, brilliantly imaginative master. Free and open to the public.

# 2015 SERIES OF EERIE EVENTS



## **Family Pumpkin Festival**

**Friday, October 23: 4-5:30pm at West Parish Garden Cemetery, 129 Reservation Road**

West Parish Garden Cemetery invites families and jack-o-lantern enthusiasts to bring their creative and spirited carved creations to display during this early evening event from 4-5:30pm. Votives will be provided and pumpkins will be displayed throughout the children's garden. Lemonade and popcorn will be served and a magician will perform to the delight of all. Costumes are encouraged for a short parade through the Children's Garden followed by the pumpkin lighting at 5:15 p.m.



## **Stories & S'mores**

**Saturday, October 24 at 6pm, for ages 13+ at Andover Bookstore, 89R Main Street**

Join guest author Laurie Faria Stolarz at Andover Bookstore for Stories & S'mores around the fireplace at 6pm. Toast marshmallows, make s'mores, and hear tales as staff share favorite scary stories and you can share yours, too! To sign up for this free event, please call or email the Andover Bookstore at (978) 475-0143 or [info2@andoverbookstore.com](mailto:info2@andoverbookstore.com).



## **Victorian Garden Cemetery Picnic**

**Sunday, October 25: 1-4pm at West Parish Garden Cemetery, 129 Reservation Road**

Don your old-fashioned finery, pack a picnic lunch, and join us for an afternoon alfresco experience. Garden cemeteries, with their meandering paths, gracious landscaping, and picturesque settings, were a relatively new phenomena in the 19th century. Locals flocked to them not only as places of rest for

deceased loved ones, but also as places of reflection and even quiet recreation. Victorian or old-fashioned attire is suggested but not required. Free and open to the public.



## **Too Cute to Spook**

**Wednesday, October 28: 10-11:30am at Old Town Hall, 20 Main Street**

Join DCS at the Old Town Hall for a morning full of fun Halloween activities! Come dressed in your costume and try your luck at games like pin the nose on the jack-o-lantern and pumpkin bowling. Fun craft projects will also be available as well as a chance to win a prize at the costume contest! For Ages 1-6. Pre-register for \$5/child by calling Andover DCS at (978) 623-8274 or pay \$7/child at the door.



## **Spirits Knocking & Table Tipping**

**Thursday, October 29: 7-9pm at Andover Historical Society, 97 Main Street**

Table tipping is a time-honored tradition of physical mediumship that allows spirits to connect with us lovingly through the table. Loved ones, pets, spirit guides, angels, ascended masters, and even those we knew from past lives have the opportunity to step forward and tap out their heartfelt messages of love and healing to us. With the intention for the highest good of all, each participant has the opportunity to see-feel-experience spirit communication directly. The table can tap, flip, hug, spin, dance, stomp, and shimmy with the joy of communicating with us! We invite you to open your minds and hearts and

join us in an extraordinary experience with Spirit! Introductory fee of \$25 per person and reservations should be made through Circles of Wisdom at (978) 474-8010.



## **Andover Farmers' Market Closing Day**

**Saturday, October 31: 10am-2pm Behind Andover Historical Society Andover Village Square (97 & 93 Main St)**

Join us on Halloween for the last day of the 2015 Andover Farmers' Market. Wear your Halloween costume as you shop, and stop by the Andover Historical Society/Market Manager's booth and the craft tent for a special Halloween treat! For all ages. Free and open to the public.

# ALL GOOD THINGS.....



Carrie Midura

**I**t is with sadness that we bade a fond farewell to Carrie Midura at the end of August. In her seven years with Andover Historical, Carrie accomplished much and brought much. She brought her talent with costumes and textiles, with technology, public relations, and education. She accomplished much with our websites, social media, Tree Time, Behind the Seams, Farmers' Market, Lest We Forget, and countless other programs. Carrie deepened our relationship with Andover schools, in particular with Andover High School, and nurtured a strong volunteer corps. To our sustainable funding efforts, Carrie brought her enthusiasm and skills, and was an amazing tour guide. We could never sum up seven years of work in one brief announcement, but we can acknowledge all that Carrie brought to Andover Historical. She will be missed.

### **Carrie's own words said it best:**

*I've been working at Andover Historical Society since 2007 and I can truly say it has been the most rewarding work experience of my life. But... as all good things must come to an end, I've made the difficult decision to leave Andover... I've been inspired by the great people*

*I have worked with and I'll miss them all, especially the hundreds of dedicated volunteers that I've had the pleasure of working with over the years....I'm so very grateful for all the experience, knowledge, and yes, quality costume time, I've gained over the past eight years. As to what comes next – the door is open and I look forward to facing the new challenges that come my way. So until then... I'll keep calm & enjoy life!*

# CHANGE BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**W**e are delighted to announce two new additions to the Andover Historical staff. In July 2015, Kenna Therrien made the leap and added Administrative Assistant to her title. Kenna has been a volunteer since 2013 and a Saturday Museum Assistant since 2014. Kenna will continue to work on Saturdays and will be in the office three days a week providing administrative support and helping manage public relations and marketing.

Lauren Kosky-Stamm joined the staff in early September 2015 as our new Director of Programs and Social Media. Lauren started with us as a Tufts University graduate intern in 2009 when she helped develop and install the From Near & Far exhibit. From there, Lauren worked with Historic New England in visitor services and on their centennial celebration coordinating activities in communities across New England. Later, Lauren developed an exhibit for the federal courthouse in Boston. Before transitioning to the museum field, Lauren taught high school history in Lexington and Hopkinton. Recently, Lauren has been a member of our Community Education Team and served on our Governance Committee. She is an Andover resident and is on the board of The Mother Connection.

Welcome Kenna and Lauren!



Lauren Kosky-Stamm

# THE STORK LANDS IN BALLARDVALE: THE O'DONNELL SANATORIUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

O'Donnell as “a very pleasant person...who operated an obstetrics ward in her home...an important facility for the town in those days. Most of the children born in Andover in those days were delivered at the O'Donnell.”

Located just behind the Ballardvale village green, the O'Donnell Sanatorium provided a welcome facility for mothers-in-waiting and also offered a rest home for the elderly. Katherine, who answered to ‘Kate,’ re-configured the house to accommodate extended patient convalescence. The Sanatorium had a long hallway running the length of the building from the front to the back. There were two large ward-type rooms sitting on either side of the hallway. The room to the right was the rest home for the aged; on the left was the maternity ward.

Lifelong Ballardvale resident, local historian and longtime Andover Historical Society member Bernice Haggerty recalls the Sanatorium and especially Kate

O'Donnell quite fondly. “Two of my four children were born there,” Mrs. Haggerty said. She remembers the delicate and tender care that Kate provided for all the babies - and for the mothers as well. She remembers, too, how fresh, healthy, and delicious the food was. The Sanatorium thrived for the 20+ years that Kate ran things. Her busy practice drew expectant mothers not only from Ballardvale and Andover, but also from surrounding communities.

The Sanatorium closed in 1946, “not long after the birth of my second child—mine may have been the last to be born there,” Mrs. Haggerty noted. Mid-1950s documents list Katherine O'Donnell as retired. The building was demolished some years later and a new home was constructed on the site in 1967. The Sanatorium, however, remains a unique piece of Ballardvale's remarkable and enduring history – and a fascinating look back at a time gone by.



The Market  
continues  
SATURDAYS  
10:00 – 2:00  
Last Day October 31  
In the parking lot behind  
Andover Village Square  
adjacent to  
Andover Historical  
Society  
97 Main Street



*Greg Sebasky, Farmers' Market benefactor; opening the Market in June.*



Essex County  
Community Foundation



**ANDOVER**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

***OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***

***Tuesday through Saturday : 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.***

***Office: 978-475-2236 Fax: 978-470-2741***

***www.andoverhistorical.org***

STAFF

Elaine Clements,  
Executive Director  
eclements@andoverhistorical.org

Lauren Kosky-Stamm,  
Programs & Social Media Director  
lkosky-stamm@andoverhistorical.org

Marilyn Helmers,  
Development Director & Collections Manager  
mhelmers@andoverhistorical.org

Weekend Assistants  
Adam Brooks  
Kenna Therrien

**THE NEWSLETTER**, Vol. 40, No. 3

Editor: Tom Adams

Production Team: Marilyn Helmers, Nancy Mulvey

Photos: Jim Batchelder, Elaine Clements, Cristen Farrell and

Historical Society Collections

Layout: LaPlume Printing