



ANDOVER
CENTER
FOR
HISTORY
& CULTURE

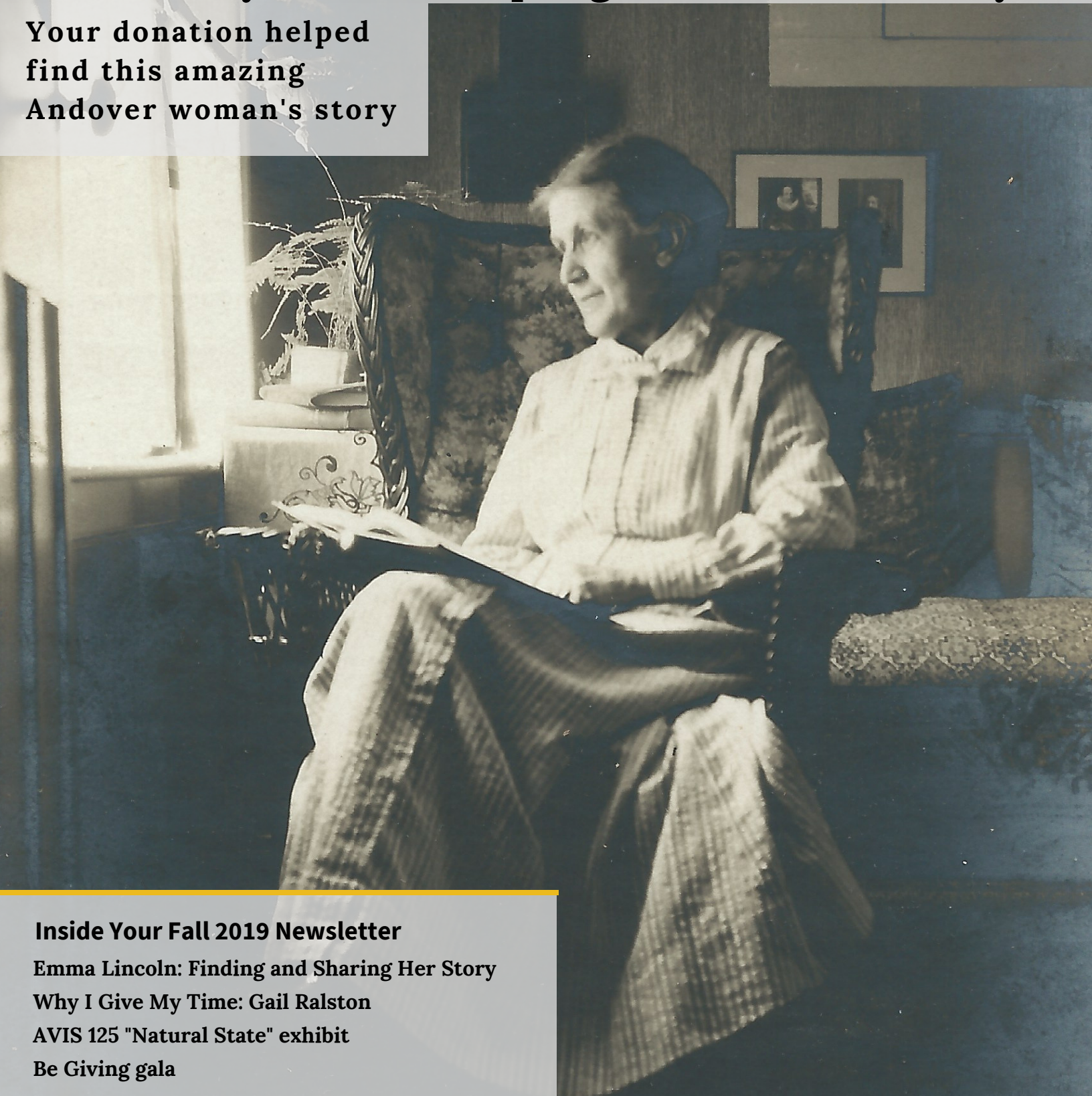
97 Main Street, Andover, MA
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org

CONNECTIONS

Connecting you with the Andover stories you help save

Thank you for Helping Share Her Story

Your donation helped
find this amazing
Andover woman's story



Inside Your Fall 2019 Newsletter

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Be Giving gala

"When one quietly passes from our midst..."

No Longer a Footnote in Someone Else's Story

THANKS TO YOU!

As the unmarried daughter of a well-known minister, Emma Lincoln was, as so many women were, a footnote in other people's stories.

Obituaries can be gold mines of information. But in Emma Lincoln's case, the author of her obituary realized how little was known about her life and her interests, in Andover and around the world. With your help, her story is coming to light.

Emma Lincoln was born in 1854 in Yarmouth, Massachusetts. That same year her father, Universalist minister Reverend Varnum Lincoln, finished building the family a house on Summer Street in Andover.

For the first 25 years of her life, Emma moved with the family as her father served in towns around Massachusetts.

By 1870, the Lincoln family settled in Andover. Emma was active in the Merrimack Valley Universalist Conference, founded in 1885. A short time later, she was elected to the Conference's executive committee.

Starting in 1894, Emma Lincoln became deeply involved in local conservation issues, working to raise funds to save Indian Ridge.

In the fall of 1896, owners of a section of Indian Ridge announced plans to sell their share of the land for use as a gravel pit, leading to a loud public outcry against the sale.

Seeking to save the Ridge as public open space, trustees of the Andover Village Improvement Society (AVIS) asked four formidable Andover women to raise funds to purchase Indian Ridge: Emma Lincoln, Susan Blake, Salome Marland, and Alice Buck.

The women raised funds door-to-door, through school campaigns, a community lawn party, and by mail. And in December 1897, the deed was turned over to the new Indian Ridge Association.



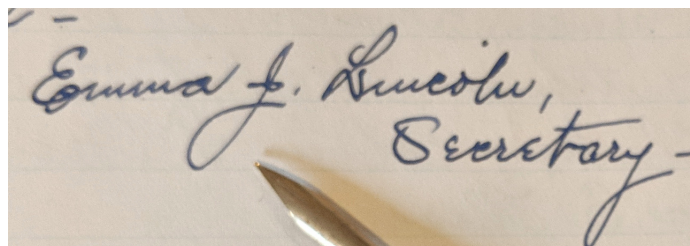
Much of what we know about Emma Lincoln comes from her household account books, which are in the History Center archives. Thank YOU for helping uncover her story!

Emma was involved with both the Indian Ridge Association and AVIS until the two merged in 1915. From 1894 until 1924, she served as Secretary of AVIS, and then served as their 2nd Vice President from 1924 until her death in 1932. 38 years of dedication!

Very little about Emma Lincoln appears in the local newspaper, so finding her story took some digging. Thank YOU for helping make that research possible!

Much of what we know about Emma Lincoln comes from her household account books, which are in the History Center archives.

She joined the Andover Historical Society in 1911, the year it was founded, and renewed for \$3 every January thereafter. She attended Historical Society pageants and other events.



Emma Lincoln was Secretary of AVIS from 1894 to 1924. Her handwritten minutes are in the History Center archives. Preserved for the future with the help of generous donors, like you!

Emma Lincoln was a philanthropist who supported local and international causes, from the Andover Historical Society to women's suffrage to international war relief.

She gave to the Anti-Saloon League, Andover Health Association, Public Safety Committee, Children of America Fund, Suffrage League, and later - after women's suffrage was granted - the League of Women Voters.

Emma supported international relief efforts throughout World War I: Bulgarian Relief, YMCA War Work, Liberty Bonds, Red Cross Stamps, Armenian Relief, Halifax Relief, Salvation Army Christmas, American Syrian Relief, and War Savings Stamps.

And, like many of us (maybe you?), she liked to travel! In August 1896, the Andover Townsman announced that Miss Lincoln was away in New Hampshire for a week's vacation.

In 1917, Emma spent the winter in Florida with her friend Miss Susan Jones. Her account books also reveal that she was ill during this trip and spent time in Charleston, North Carolina, seeing an osteopath and a dentist. She made a similar trip in 1923.

Emma Lincoln died August 1932. The author of her obituary wrote, "when one passes quietly from our midst, we come to a realization of how great were her interests." He closed with this remembrance. "Her life was one of open mindedness, eager love of nature, and kind thoughtfulness of others. Her rare good judgment, her strong convictions, coupled with a genial disposition and a quick sense of humor are an inspiration to all who knew her."



Indian Ridge is a 23-acre glacial moraine. Wooded and beautiful, the Ridge was close to crowded mill worker housing, so it served as a green oasis for workers. Local doctors prescribed walks on the Ridge for patients' health. Abolitionist and anti-slavery meetings were held in the Ridge's natural amphitheater. Do you have memories of Indian Ridge that you'd like to share?



With thanks to generous stewards of Andover, like you, local treasures like Indian Ridge continue to be an oasis for all to enjoy.

Emma Lincoln's legacy as a conservation activist - and amazing Andover woman - lives on. And now, with your help, her story can be told.

*Climbing trees on Indian Ridge
Photo by Melissa Danisch*

More research into Emma Lincoln's involvement in the Universalist Church is waiting to be done at the Hollis Archives at Andover-Harvard Theological Library.

If you are interested in helping with research projects like this, give us a call! 978-475-2236

Turn the page for another way you can help find and share Andover's stories!

NATURAL STATE

AN ART EXHIBITION INSPIRED BY THE ENJOYMENT OF
ANDOVER VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY PROPERTIES AND TRAILS

AVIS 125 "Natural State" exhibit

You can enjoy Emma Lincoln's lasting legacy and dedication to AVIS and Andover by visiting AVIS's 125th anniversary juried art exhibit, **Natural State**, artworks inspired by AVIS reservations and the natural beauty of Andover. On display at the History Center through October 31.



Why I Give My Time

Gail Ralston

Since 2010, Gail Ralston has researched, written, edited, and coordinated a host of volunteer historians to bring to you the Andover Townsman's weekly column "Andover Stories." Here she shares with you why she has dedicated so much to the History Center and Andover's stories.

History is for sharing, not to keep locked away in vaults, file cabinets and yellowed newspapers.

That belief is why I've made a commitment to a wonderful team of writers, to dig up stories and bring them to light.

These stories tell of remarkable people doing remarkable things. These stories can be funny, informative, or even inspirational. These stories are reminders of a simpler time.

In short, these stories all foster a pride in being part of the Andover community.

With support of the Andover Townsman, these stories have been published since 2010.

As we head into the tenth year, I'm thinking there are many more stories left to tell. Won't you join me?

Andover Center for History & Culture
97 Main Street, Andover, MA 01810
978-475-2236
andoverhistoryandculture.org



#andoverhistoryandculture

ANDOVER CENTER
FOR HISTORY & CULTURE

BE GIVING

4th Annual Gala

October 10, 2019

5:30-8:00pm

Andover Country Club

For information & tickets
AndoverHistoryandCulture.org/Be-Giving

Pay It Forward to Future Generations

Once your family has been provided for, a gift in your will is a wonderful way to leave a legacy and help preserve Andover's history. Please consider adding a gift in your will for the Andover Center for History & Culture.

Questions? Please call Marilyn Helmers, Director of Donor Relations at 978-475-2236.