The Beverly Historical Society

By the Numbers

Documents, photographs, and objects scanned and catalogued - 5200
Website visits - 4513
Volunteer hours donated - 2900
New items in the collection – 1250
Program attendance - 885
Objects inventoried – 710
Slides processed - 480
Research inquiries (in person, by phone and email) – 328
Donors - 233
New members – 135
Donors to the collection – 70
Archives processed (in linear feet) - 26

Cover photos of our Seaside Speakeasy event courtesy of Law Hamilton

ANNUAL REPORT
2013 - 2014
Board of Directors
Dan Lohnes, President
Richard W. Southgate, Secretary
Don MacQuarrie, Treasurer
Katie McNiff Bull
Martha Gavin
John E. Glovsky
Patricia B. Grimes
Joan M. Johnson
Karen MacInnis
James Morrocco
John Mullady
Molly E. Ryan
Janet T. Tannebring
Maureen Troubetaris
Allan P. Vaughan
Susan Goganian, Director
Darren Brown, Curator of Collections
Terri McFadden, Research and Education

Above: bank folder – This Beverly Savings Bank folder is a great example of an artifact containing a significant amount of local business and advertisement history. Longtime downtown Cabot Street businesses Klink’s Bakery and Delaney’s Apothecary are on the front exterior and some Rantoul Street businesses including Beverly Auto Body and Terzakis Brothers Getty Service Station are on the inside.

Left: Le Grand David – The front cover of the book, Thirty Years of Sustained Wonder: Le Grand David Spectacular Magic Company, which highlights the history of this important north of Boston entertainment institution. People would travel from great distances to see one of the greatest magic shows in the country.

Committees
Building and Grounds
Pamela Bailey
Robin Hood
Jan Jefgood
Jeanne Murdock
Benjamin Nutter AIA
Allan Vaughan
George Weinhagen

Collections
Nancy Benevento
John Bowden
Ed Brown
Madilyn Coluntino
Steve Frisiello
Jay Leahy
Karen MacInnis
Neil Olson
Tina Torsey

Membership
Pat Allen
Lisa Balentine
Katie Bull
Martha Gavin
John Glovsky
Suzie LaMont
Babette Loring
John Mullady
Jim Morrocco
Janet Tannebring
Jane Twombly
Allan Vaughan

Events
Nancy Benevento
Katie and Webster Bull
Betsy Bullock
Madilyn Coluntino
Susan J. Goganian
Carol and Jeffrey Horvitz
Cara and Brit Hutchins
Joan and Peter Johnson
Daniel H. Lohnes
Babette and Peter Loring
John P. Margolis, AIA
Molly and Patrick Ryan
Janet and Jeffrey Tannebring
Gail and Allan Vaughan

Volunteers
Gail Balentine
Lisa Balentine
John Bowden
Morgan Brace
Stephen Brosnan
Ed Brown
Ryan Brown
George Brown
Maddy Carberry
Madilyn Coluntino
Al Cook
Neil Corning
Ginny Currier
John Dario
Jeff Dauzat
Frank Davenport
Nelson Dionne
Alyssa Edwards
Susan Fall
Mary Lou Ferriero
Steve Frisiello
Daniel Frisiello
Michaela Gill
Jean Goganian
Glenn Gray
Lawn Hamilton
Fred Hammond
Adrienne Howard
Benjamin Huth
Anna Johnson
Deanna Karwowski
Phil Karwowski
Judy Kent
Fred Kippen
Brad Kippen
Paul Larcom
Ed McFadden
Russ Munroe
Michelle Norris
Matthew Nugent
Erich O’Neil
Scott O’Neil
Andrew Plummer
Judi Rewinski
Lydia Saltzmann
Michael Sarantopoulos
Gail Tannebring
Tom Torsey
Amy Whelan

From top: Volunteers Gail Balentine and Ginny Currier at the opening of The Global Highway exhibit, Balch caretaker Nancy Hood awaits the winners of the 2013 Balch Thanksgiving raffle, volunteers from TD Bank after many trips up and down stairs to help us clean out the attic!
President’s Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

With the coming of our annual meeting and after this winter I must first ask can spring be far behind!? I dare say none will mind consigning this past winter to “history.” The past year’s highlights will be recounted elsewhere in this report and the treasurer’s report will update you on the financial status of our Society.

The staff and volunteers of the Beverly Historical Society have tried to provide you, our members, with a number of activities and programs that both entertain and enlighten. I hope you were able to participate in these offerings and found that they added to your knowledge of Beverly’s past and Beverly’s place in the larger story of our country. Our Newsletter the “Chronicle” has been expanded, made more colorful, and now appears in a monthly electronic version as well as the traditional paper edition. This is only one of the changes suggested by our Membership Committee to stay in closer touch with you our members as we strive to be a meaningful and relevant part of the Beverly community.

For the last couple of years the Beverly Historical Society has been charting a course that insures we will continue as the repository of our communities’ stories well into the future. We thank all of you who have been helping with this work, particularly our dedicated and very active Membership Committee. Their efforts continue to focus on our goal of doubling our membership and I am delighted to report that our membership has increased 13%. So I send my special thanks to those of you who have recently joined our ranks. Members are the life blood of any organization, especially a local organization. If we, the members of our community, do not preserve Beverly’s history, no one else will. So if you are reading this, I know you care about Beverly’s history. And so I ask you to go one step further. Please, during this coming year actively recruit a new member for the Beverly Historical Society. I know our staff and volunteers will continue to offer you interesting programs and events, so please come, and bring a friend along.

I remain faithfully yours,

Dan Lohnes, President
Director's Report
The past fiscal year was a very busy one, with both challenges and accomplishments. As usual, our properties in particular required significant time and resources, in ways both anticipated and unplanned.

Deterioration of the chimneys at the Cabot House led to an emergency restoration project. Extensive rebuilding and repointing of the two chimneys on the north side of the house was completed in October 2013 by Richard Irons Restoration Masons. We moved the summer house to a more historically appropriate spot on the Cabot property, and thanks to hard work by volunteer Glenn Gray, our well head is restored. We will continue to improve the landscaping there in 2015. Thanks to a challenge from a former board member, the Society raised $4,000 for a laser scan of the exterior of the Cabot House. This exciting process, done by Meridian Associates, provides precise measurements of the structure, information that was unavailable before.

The generosity of Balch descendants and others allowed us to do extensive repair work at the Balch House last summer. The large casement window in the great room was restored, two other windows were replaced, and the front door was rebuilt with the original hardware by Essex Restoration.

The Society applied for, and was awarded, $56,500 in Community Preservation Act funds for masonry work at Hale Farm. That project, which is scheduled for spring 2015, is the first phase of a multi-year project to fully restore the exterior and landscape at Hale. We also received $6,000 from the Danversbank Charitable Foundation for an interpretive plan of the landscape.

It was a year of great events, including:
• Our first (and definitely not last) Candidate's Night. Our two mayoral candidates, as well as several City Council hopefuls, mingled with a capacity crowd at the Cabot House.
• A festive Holiday House Tour of downtown Beverly was a great success. Many participants enjoyed a post-tour reception at the Grand Salon at the Larcom Theater. Special thanks go to Pamela Sherry-Landess of Carroll's Florist, who transformed Hale House.
• The opening reception for The Global Highway: How the Sea Connected Beverly to the World, a major new exhibit sponsored by the Salem Marine Society.
• An evening at Beverly Airport celebrating volunteer Paul Larcom's new book on the airport's history.
• A competitive Trivia Night at Cabot House, hosted by Rick Nardone.
• Descendants of Robert Rantoul convened in Beverly to visit the newly-restored family plot in Central Cemetery, a project led by the Society. The visit included a rare tour of the Endicott House on Broadway.
• A visit from Archivist of the United States (and Beverly native) David Ferriero.
• Two boat trips in Beverly Harbor, led by Curator of Collections Darren Brown and our knowledgeable volunteers Ed Brown and Fred Hammond.
• The fiscal year ended with our biennial Old Planters Reunion, including participants from across the country. A richly rewarding weekend, as always.
The Beverly Historical Society’s collections continued to grow impressively over the past year, with over 1200 artifacts accessioned. I was contacted by Campbell Funeral Home to determine our interest in some historical material in their possession. I agreed to meet and expected to look through photographs and other archival material; instead, I saw a church truck, along with an embalming kit and tools. These items played a major role in people’s lives (and deaths) and were used by a Beverly company for decades. I am unaware of another museum or historical organization in the area with these types of objects in their collection. The mahogany folding church truck dates to 1920-1925 and was replaced by the accordion style, which is still used to this day. The embalming kit was manufactured c/1900 by the Dodge Company of Boston, now located in Billerica, Massachusetts. The company continues to provide products and chemicals to funeral practitioners; our thanks to Jacque Taylor for forwarding company information and vintage advertisements that accompanied these objects in our recent exhibit, *A Time to Mourn: Taking Care of the Living and the Dead.*

Le Grand David and His Spectacular Magic Company, a Beverly institution since 1977 ended its long run recently. The magic show’s history is well documented both pictorially through posters and in a few written publications; the Society had a few items of each in the collection. White Horse Productions, who operated the Cabot and Larcom Theatres and the magic show donated a complete run of posters, books, booklets, souvenirs and videos of performances. The memory of this important piece of Beverly’s arts community identity will forever be preserved in the Society’s collection.

The fifth year of the comprehensive collection inventory, funded through the generosity of Caleb Loring, Jr. continued to yield incredible results led by archivist Susan Milstein (see report). Professional librarian Jane Codding completed work on the Union Fire Society (UFS) collection, which consists of membership lists, receipts and correspondence. The UFS, founded in 1804, was an organization predating modern fire departments that provided assistance to its members for fire-related activities and incidents. Members were required to own buckets, bags and other suitable items. Several bags that belonged to members of the UFS are in the Society’s collection and were inventoried last year.

Award-winning photographer Law Hamilton has been capturing images of the collection’s paintings and some larger objects. These items require the skills of a professional photographer to properly document. Once she is completed, the images will be available not only for cataloging purposes but for high quality reproductions and publications. Interns from Simmons College of Library and Information Science processed and created finding aids for 26 linear feet of archival collections, including the Ebenezer Francis Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Beverly Seamen’s Friend Society.

Through the continued support of the Salem Marine Society, we were able to install *The Global Highway: How the Sea Connected Beverly to the World,* one of the most well-received and visually appealing exhibits to have graced the walls of the Cabot House. This exhibit tells the story of how the connection to the ocean helped mold Beverly between 1775 and 1875, through the Society’s vast maritime artifacts highlighting fishing and whaling; military; and commerce. Interactive displays were created, including a crow’s nest for children to climb in and a geography and art station.

I led collaborative walking and special house tours with various local organizations including one highlighting Central Cemetery with the Beverly Open Space Committee for Earth Day; the Friend’s Tide Mill with John Goff

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**BEVERLY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended September 30, 2014**

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Donors to the Collection

The Society is very grateful to the following donors, who contributed more than 1000 objects and documents to our collection in the previous fiscal year. We actively collect in all categories and all time periods of Beverly history. Donors who include collections in their estate plans become members of the Beverly Heritage Circle.

Beverly Heritage Circle.

Eleanor B. Albano
Laurie Antonellis
Arno P. Bonner
Daphne Borden
James Lowell Bowditch
Judith Bozarth
Gerry Brauninger
Richard J. Broderick
Edward R. Brown
Campbell-Lee, Moody, Russell Funeral Home
John G. Cardwell
Nancy Coffey
George Cravatis
Virginia E. Currier
Frank Davenport
Calestine Davis
Suzanne E. Desert
Sean Devlin
Joseph A. DiVincenzo
Peter Dorsey
Easthampton High School
Robert Nathan Foster
Ann E. Fournier
Glenn Gray
Thomas A. Hale
Fred Hammond
Robert W. Heslop
John Huss
Dana Munroe Jewell
Joan Johnson
Suzie LaMont
Paul S. Larcom
Jay Leahy
Leominster Historical Society
Martin C. Lian
Peter and Babette Loring
Franklin Balch Mann
Frank A. Marcos
Tom Mansella
Ron McCulley

Terri McFadden
Jane McHenry
Gary and Cheryl Mezack
Ann Racow Morin
Jim Morrocco
Ms. Harriett Nesbitt
Peter Nuccio
Alfred Paluzzi
Ms. Jane Pederson
Janice Preston
Richard Purinton
Harold E. Putnam, Jr.
Paul Richardson
James G. Rourke
Thelma Ryan
Theodore Shready
Donald Silver
Anne K. Silver
Ms. Martha T.B. Slayman
Barbara Stuecker
Richard W. Symmes
Nancy Taft
Topsfield Historical Society
Anita P. Turner
Dennis A. Walker
Stanley and Lucille Walkup
White Horse Productions, Inc./Avrom Surath
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Wood
Bob Woodbury

I continued to represent the Society outside of Beverly through my role as a co-chair of the New England Museum Association’s (NEMA) Curators professional affinity group, a position that allows me to serve as an advocate for museums, historical societies and sites throughout New England. I planned a workshop at Plimoth Plantation and a luncheon session at the annual conference in Newport, RI. I also presented a lecture on the Friend’s Mill for the Tide Mill Institute’s annual conference and represented the Society at a COSTEP MA (Coordinated Statewide Emergency Preparedness) workshop. My collaborations and involvement in these other organizations help further promote the incomparable collections of the Beverly Historical Society and the wonderful history of Beverly.

- Darren Brown

Archives update for the Annual Report, 2013-2014

The past year I focused on completing the inventory of Doll and Dollhouse Furniture and Accessories, as well as two additional inventories, Toys and Games, and Telegraph, Telephone and Railroad Equipment (still in progress). The Doll inventory of nearly 675 items encompasses both 19th century antique pieces, and mass produced 20th century examples of dollhouse furniture. The Society also has a fine collection of doll cradles and bed frames, some of which came complete with handmade mattresses, pillows and bedding. There is antique dollhouse furniture from France and Germany by such makers as Erhard & Stone and Gertrude Schemas. Closer to Beverly is the amazing furniture created by Samuel Hersey of Hingham, and two lithographed dollhouses from the R. Bliss Company of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. There is also painted cast iron furniture from J. E. Stevens of Cromwell, Connecticut, and a handmade painted wood “shoo-fly” style rocking horse that may have been made locally.

The Toys and Games inventory includes nearly twenty sets of alphabet and building blocks. There are also versions of classic games, such as Uncle Wiggly (c. 1916-1922) and The Improved Game of Fish, which dates to 1888. As one might expect there is a group of unusual games from Parker Brothers, which was headquartered in both Salem and Beverly for more than one hundred years.

Finally, the large inventory of Telegraph, Telephone, and Railroad Equipment from the Walker Transportation Collection is currently close to five hundred items. This diverse collection includes telegraph keys and sounders which were used by the railroads to send telegrams. Much of the railroad inventory is focused on the Boston and Maine (B&M) Railroad which ran from 1836-1983 and included stops in Beverly. There are rubber stamps from ticket offices, railroad spikes, date nails, switch locks, and even brake clubs used by brakemen to separate and attach cars. The large and finely detailed model railroad collection comes from Richard Jones, who coincidentally was employed by the B&M Railroad. He modeled some of his trains on actual locomotives and cars used by B&M.

- Susan Miltstein
Research and Education

The research requests this year were many and varied. The White House Historical Society purchased copies of photographs of President Taft and his family. We received a question from a high school student in Utah doing research on Lucy Larcom for a paper she was writing on 19th century women, and another from a scholar at the University of North Carolina looking for original documents on Colonel Robert Hale. A woman wrote saying she was completing a history of her mother’s life and wanted photographs of family homes and information about life in Beverly in the 1920s through the 1940s. A descendant of the Bishop family asked for help in unraveling their connection to the 1692 witchcraft crisis. A hand bell enthusiast from California contacted me for more information on the Beverly Women’s Club, which had a hand bell choir in the 1940s. As usual there were many requests for information on houses and requests for data on family history and genealogy.

For each of these questions and many more we worked hard to provide answers and in the process we learned more about Beverly’s complex history. One of my favorites was a question from an Australian gentleman who contacted me regarding the bark San Francisco. On our website he had learned the story of that vessel heading to California from Beverly in 1849, the crew hoping to strike it rich in the gold fields. Was this the same vessel, he wondered, that carried his convict ancestor from England to Australia a few years later? Because of the wealth of primary documents in the collection, including the tonnage of the San Francisco, we determined that it wasn’t the same ship.

The Walker collection had many requests, from private individuals researching stations in New England towns, to a consultant working for the state of New Hampshire wanting data and images from rail lines of the past. A man who had been a protégé of Lawrence Breed Walker in the 1960s, who now lives in India, contacted me to find out if any of his letters and papers were in our collection. This led to a summer project by one of our interns who inventoried several boxes of Walker’s papers. Alas, we didn’t find the documents Mr. Hall was looking for.

The move to a monthly newsletter and two expanded print versions has been challenging but fun for our researchers and writers. We’ve had a great time coming up with a long list of possible topics for articles and interesting objects to share with readers. The newsletters, of course, are a product of all of the staff and many volunteers at the Society – not just those that assist me!

We have also been working hard to improve and expand our education offerings. Our new education committee, comprised of local educators, trustees and parents, came up with many new ideas, which we are in the process of implementing. I am developing a new curriculum for the third grade, which will be tested in the spring. This program shows students the ways people made a living and what their homes were like in the 17th century. I am also working to add a science component to our established archaeology program, teaching children about the scientific method as well as Beverly’s colonial history.

We gave bus tours and in-class programs to more than 300 Beverly school children and youth. Both public school students and private school students toured our three houses. Their delight in learning about the colonial period from the Balch house, about the American Revolution at Cabot and the witchcraft crises at Hale Farm is, for me, the best thing about my job.

None of this would be accomplished with the help from the wonderful staff and volunteers who assist with research and education. We are so grateful to them for all their hard work.

- Terri McFadden

Beverly Heritage Circle

A sincere thank you to these generous individuals who have included the Society in their estate planning, through a bequest or trust, or by naming the Society as a beneficiary of insurance or retirement assets.

Paulianne Balch-Rancourt
Edward R. Brown
Bill Buttimer
John G. L. Cabot
William G. Elliott
Susan J. Goganian
Walter W. John
Daniel M. Lobnies
Caleb Loring III
Babette Loring

Beverly Heritage Circle members are acknowledged in the Society’s Annual Reports and invited to special events.

Perhaps you have already included the Beverly Historical Society, or one of its houses or collections, in your estate planning. Please let us know so that we may acknowledge your generosity.

For more information on planned gifts, please contact the director at sgoganian@beverlyhistory.org or 978-922-1186 x 204.

Gifts to the Endowment

We applaud the generosity of the following individuals and corporations for supporting the Beverly Historical Society during fiscal year 2014.

Gifts were received in memory of:

- Harold Boothroyd
- Ted Josephs
- Caleb Loring Jr.
- Harold Pinkham, Jr.

Captain John Cabot Circle
Annual giving of $5,000 or more

- Mr. John G. L. Cabot
- Mr. Garry Cardwell
- Danversbank Charitable Foundation
- Caleb Loring, Jr. & Rosemary M. Loring Charitable Lead Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Loring
- Neal Rantoul Foundation,
- Bank of America NA Trustee

Katherine Peabody Loring Circle
Annual Giving of $2,500 to $4,999

- Essex County Community Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Southgate

John Balch Circle
Annual giving of $1,000 to $2,499

- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Alsop
- Mr. & Mrs. John A. Balch
- Ms. Paulianne Balch-Rancourt
- Ms. Leslie Thompson Baribeault
- Mr. and Mrs. Webster Bull
- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- Essex Alarm & Security
- Glovsky & Glovsky
- Mr. & Mrs. Eric Hayes
- Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Mann
- Marine Society at Salem
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward McFadden
- Sensitech Inc.

Above: Beverly Servicemen’s Special – September 1944 newspaper published under the direction of Mayor Daniel “Chick” McLean

Ms. Paulianne Balch-Rancourt

Annual Support

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Annual giving of $1,000 to $2,499

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- Mr. & Mrs. John A. Balch
- Ms. Paulianne Balch-Rancourt
- Ms. Leslie Thompson Baribeault
- Mr. and Mrs. Webster Bull
- Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
- Essex Alarm & Security
- Glovsky & Glovsky
- Mr. & Mrs. Eric Hayes
- Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Mann
- Marine Society at Salem
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward McFadden
- Sensitech Inc.
Annual Support

Ms. Betty Corey
Ms. Anne Cushing-Brescia
Mr. Jeffrey Dauzat
Mr. William Finch
Ms. Amy Gogianian and Mr. Russell Pollock
Ms. Susan Gogianian
Mr. & Mrs. John Good
Mr. Richard Grant
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Grimes
Ms. Maryellen Harper
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hart
Mrs. Lyn Heal
Mrs. Garrett Huggins
Mr. & Mrs. Britt Hutchins
Mr. Walter John
Mr. & Mrs. Mayo Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Albert E. Johnson, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Kennedy
Ms. Rondi Kilian
Lynda & Daniel King
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kreusel
Mr. Peter Lappin
Mr. & Mrs. William Lawrence
Mr. Henry Lee
Mrs. Barrett Maass
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce MacLinnis
Ms. Sally Martin
Mr. Agostino Balch Marron Mattoli
Mr. Edward McFadden
Mr. and Mrs. Marc Meiches
Ms. Julie Mengus
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nardella
Ms. Joan Nolan
Mr. Paul Noren
Ms. Deborah Nowers
Mr. Benjamin Nutter
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Orton
Mr. & Mrs. James Polase
Ms. Dixie Balch Powers
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Preble
Mr. Lon Price
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Pruitt
Mr. Larry Ralph
Ms. Eleanor Balch Reiter
Ms. Jodi Rewinski
Mr. Walter Richardson
Mr. & Mrs. Jody Riddle
Mr. Paul Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Seamans III
Mr. John Serafini
Ms. Carol Skowronek & Mr. Kenneth Graves
Ms. Andrea Stackpole
Ms. Stephanie Swartz
Ms. Elizabeth Thompson-Bruce
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Thomson
Mr. John Thorndike
MT and Mrs. W.R. Todd
Ms. Tina Torsey
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Many thanks to all who generously support our efforts at the Society. Our apologies in advance to anyone we might have overlooked. Please contact us if we left you off this list in error.

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Painting. Ship Alexander Hodgdon
The ship Alexander Hodgdon left Beverly in March of 1810 bound for Sumatra to purchase pepper, an incredibly valuable commodity. Eight days out, Captain Josiah Lovett wrote that they experienced “…a tremendous tempest and gale… the stormiest weather I think I ever saw this 20 years at sea. Washed away all masts except one on deck.”