

The South End Historical Society Newsletter

Fall 2012



Ward Map, Chester Square, Card Collection



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Donations Expand the Historical Society's Collections

by Cara Treen, SEHS Collections Volunteer

Richard O. Card Donation

The South End Historical Society (SEHS) would like to thank Richard O. Card for the generous donation that he made to the SEHS collections in the spring of 2012. Dick has lived in the South End since the early 1960s and has researched and written about South End history since his arrival. He helped to found the SEHS in 1966, served as the SEHS' first President, and later served as the SEHS Board Historian.

Dick's donation includes several hundred photographs of South End and greater Boston buildings and streetscapes as well as several stereographic images. These images depict South End and Boston buildings and streetscapes from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day.

The donation also includes numerous original ward maps of the South End and Boston, almost one hundred books whose topics range from historical texts about Boston to original texts, and primary source documents dating as far back as the mid-19th century. These include original Boston city directories, almanacs, social registries, and pictorials.

In addition, Dick donated several newspapers dating from the mid- to late- nineteenth century and a large collection of letters written by the Everett family in the 1850s. These letters contain the correspondence between Elizabeth and Otis Everett and their son Otis Everett, Jr. Otis Jr. wrote to his family from India, where he lived for several years while working in trade. His parents lived on Washington Street in the South End, near the present-day location of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross and Cathedral High School. The letters offer a rare glimpse at the intimate private lives of a nineteenth century upper-middle class Boston family.

(continued on page 3)

Check our website

www.southendhistoricalsociety.org
for upcoming programs, events,
and walking tours

For more frequent updates follow us on:

southendhistory.org (blog)
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South End Historical Society

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Editors: Shelby Larsson, Hope Shannon

The SEHS newsletter is a benefit of membership in the Society; a nonprofit organization dedicated to recognizing, preserving and recording the historical buildings, monuments, parks and artifacts of Boston's South End and through advocacy, documentation and education to preserve them for future generations.

Individual membership is \$25 per year, Family/ Dual memberships are \$40, and opportunities to support the Society at the Supporting (\$100), Patron (\$150) and Benefactor (\$250) levels are also available.

The opinions expressed by the contributors to the newsletter are not necessarily those of the SEHS. Ideas for stories and manuscripts are welcome. Unsolicited manuscripts submitted for possible publication and not used will be returned if they are accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Those interested in reprinting articles must obtain written permission from the editor.

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www.southendhistoricalsociety.org

Letter from the Executive Director

As we approach the winter holidays, we reflect on the past year and begin to prepare for the year approaching. Summer and fall in the SEHS office were busy—we prepared for our 44th Annual South End House Tour, which took place on October 20th; we designed and printed our 2013 South End History wall calendar, available now for purchase; we anticipate a busy winter events schedule, and we are preparing to release our 2012 Annual Appeal.

In addition, I'm pleased to report that we finished the inventory of our collections. We began this project in April of 2010 and have cataloged more than 6,000 photographs, paper ephemera, books, and other artifacts. The next step of our collections management project is to reorganize our downstairs storage room into a functional research space. We're very excited about this project and will continue to provide updates as we progress.

We also completely redesigned our website. Please visit it at www.southendhistoricalsociety.org and let us know what you think. We're constantly adding new content and news updates so be sure to check back often.

Don't forget to check the last page of this newsletter for information about ordering our 2013 South End History wall calendar. It makes a great gift for friends, family, co-workers, and clients.

I hope that you enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

Hope

Hope Shannon,
Executive Director

Volunteer Opportunities

Want to be more involved with the SEHS?

We always need new volunteers! We have opportunities for volunteers in: the SEHS newsletter, fundraisers (Spring Ball and/or House Tour), collections, office tasks, preservation, history related projects, programs and events

Interested or have questions?

Call Hope Shannon at 617-536-4445
or email her at admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org.

(continued from page 1)

Dick's significant donation adds much depth and research value to the SEHS' collections and helps to create a fuller picture of life in the South End from the mid-1800s to the present. The South End Historical Society is forever thankful for the longstanding generosity of Richard Card.

Aertsen-Blair Donation

The SEHS would also like to thank the Aertsen-Blair family for donating over one hundred photographs that depict the lives of a former West Brookline Street family. Found in the Aertsen home, these photographs were left behind by the previous occupants when they left the South End in 1975. The images date from between the 1890s and the 1940s (approximately) and many were taken by professional photographers in South End and Boston photograph studios. In addition, while we researched the photographs, we learned about the family that lived in the house before the family in the photographs. This second family, the Taylor Family (the brother of the founder of the Boston Globe) has living descendants in the Boston area. We contacted them and found that two descendants remember living on West Brookline Street from the early to mid- twentieth century. The Bonner family generously allowed us to

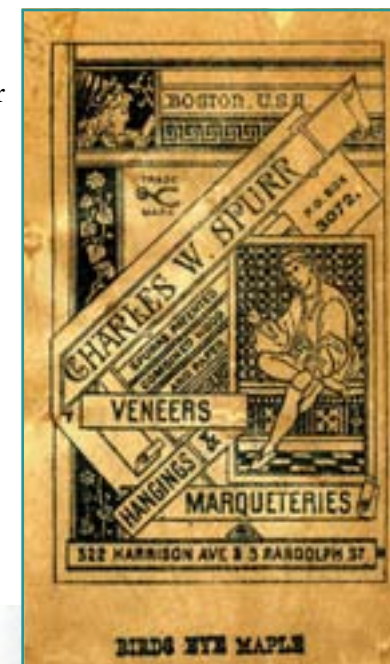


Unknown South End man,
SEHS Collections

record an oral history interview with them and we are in the process of transcribing it now. Executive Director Hope Shannon will present a program in November at the SEHS that will highlight the donated photographs and will explore the lives of this West Brookline Street home's occupants.

Andersen-Miller Donation

The SEHS also extends thanks to Jon Andersen-Miller for donating several trading cards from nineteenth and twentieth century South End businesses. Mr. Andersen-Miller has made several trading card donations to the SEHS over the last several years. His efforts and contributions have given the SEHS an impressive collection of South End trading cards.



Trade Card from Charles
W. Spurr, SEHS Collections

Letter from the Everett Family letters, Card Collection

SEHS Annual Report

*Delivered by Michael Leabman, SEHS President,
at the 46th SEHS Annual Meeting, June 21st, 2012.*

"I want to once again publicly thank all of you—our Board of Directors, our membership-at-large and especially Hope Shannon, our Executive Director, for another year of selfless devotion.

As the South End Historical Society embarks on its 46th year, I am thankful that we remain viable in our mission and that we remain financially sound.

We have increased our number of programs. New programs included walking tours about South End architecture and the history of South End hospitals as well as a program detailing how the South End Landmark District works. These programs broaden the depth of our understanding of the rich tradition of the South End. This year we will begin offering an annual program about the history of the South End to the broader Boston and South End communities. We hope this will help educate and inform others about the South End's important place within the city.

We have also embarked on new initiatives. Last August we began our oral history project, "Long-time South Enders: Stories from a Changing Neighborhood." We have conducted three interviews so far with plans to conduct dozens more. In addition, in April of 2010 we embarked on a project to inventory our entire

collection. With the help of over a dozen dedicated collection volunteers we are now almost finished. We have also launched a blog, southendhistory.org, where you can find even more information about the South End and the Historical Society.

We have also received several major donations to our collection during the last year that we are currently processing. This includes dozens of books, several maps, and hundreds of photographs.

Our fundraising efforts fuel the engine that enables our programs and initiatives. While we can once again report a successful 43rd Annual House Tour last fall and 46th Annual Ball this past April, we are attempting to identify new ways to raise money. Ten years ago we lost the SEHS flea market, a revenue source we have yet to replace. We will continue to find new fundraising efforts while continuing our success at belt-tightening. We look forward to our 44th Annual House tour on October 20th, 2012 and our 47th Annual Spring Ball on April 27th, 2013.

We appreciate that you have volunteered your time to our committees and projects. Thanks to all of you for a significant increase in volunteers and interns.

I look forward to meeting with more of you this year at our functions, programs and events."

Welcome to our New Members

Daniel and Linda Cummings
Tuhina Neogi and Scott Bleier
Damien and Maggie Chaviano
Michael Visconti III
Dr. James Brust
Sineide Steinbach and Bernhard Vormann
Ken Debrowski
Thomas Andrews and Christine Gilman
Tom and Jane Watt

Jamie Ann Sabino
Joshua and Jeanette Fiala
Anette Mansker
Daniel and Jaclyn Bernstein
Shira Sternberg
Michael Gettings
James Cullion
Robert Barney

“The 1872 and 1875 Boston city directories indicate that Joseph and Henry Carew, brothers, operated a “statuary and monumental works” here.”



512-518 Tremont Street. Image from SEHS 1972 South End Streets Collection.

South End Landmark District Spotlight: 512–518 Tremont Street

Reprinted from our South End History blog, southendhistory.org. By Hope Shannon, SEHS Executive Director

You might have noticed that the little one-story building at the corner of Tremont and Dwight Streets was recently demolished. A new building with condos upstairs and commercial space on the ground floor will take its place. Demolition in historic districts is relatively rare. When it does occur it is usually because the building in question is beyond repair and is a danger to the public (as in the case of the Ivory Bean House early last year) or because the building is not historically and/or architecturally significant and a developer wants to tear it down and build something new (like the Ink Block Project and 512-518 Tremont Street).

Here are the bits and pieces of history that I could find about the lot at 512-518 Tremont Street, the building that stood there most recently, and the building that stood there before.

When I first heard about the proposal to tear down the current building, I wanted to find out when it was built. I suspected that it was probably built in the early twentieth century but, given the history of the development of the South End, I thought that perhaps a nineteenth century building stood there before the current building.

According to the deeds for the property, a housewright purchased this lot from the City of Boston in 1842. The first mortgage on the property appeared in 1847, indicating that a structure was probably built there at that time. By 1857, Joseph Carew, sculptor, is listed as the owner.

The 1872 and 1875 Boston city directories indicate that Joseph and Henry Carew, brothers, operated a “statuary

and monumental works” here. In 1892, Joseph Carew is listed in the directory as working on Gerard Street but the building on the corner of Dwight and Tremont is still listed as a monument works.

Newspapers indicate that in the early twentieth century the space housed a series of restaurants and cafes and had residences above.

Then I stumbled on what I was looking for. Permits reveal that in 1924 the owner of the property was “City Building Wrecking Co.” They applied for permission to demolish a three-story brick building occupied by stores. This must have been what stood there before the one-story structure, although I can’t find any pictures of the first three-story structure. Around the same time as the demolition of the three-story building, an application for a permit to build was filed by new owner Samuel Gold. He proposed a one story building to be used for commercial use only. It stated a desire to “use existing foundations” in the construction of the structure. This is the building that stood there until a few months ago.

Since 1924, the one story building housed a First National Store, cafes, a White Castle Restaurant, the Gypsy Reading Room, living quarters (possibly illegally), Paul’s Export Co., the Old Dover Tavern, the All-American Tailoring Co., and the G and N Restaurant, among many other things. Most recently the Old Dutch Cottage Candy store called that building home. ✨

Thank you to our supporters!

Annual Appeal Supporters

The SEHS would like to extend a special thanks to those who contributed to our Annual Appeal. Your contributions help us to continue the crucial task of improving our collections management systems. Thank you!

Paula Beatty
Neil Berenson
Samuel Bickett and Adam Edgerton
Richard Card
Paul Curtis
Frieda Garcia
Gloria Ganno
Grace and Bill Gregor
Mary Jo Haggerty
Maryellen Hassell and Charlie Zarkadas
Fern and Timothy Heffernan
David Hocker
Joan Hull
V. Lloyd Jameson
James and Dorothy Keeney
Rob and Missy Kilgore
Harold Langell
Shelby and Michael Larsson
Michael and Sarah Leabman
Thomas and Susan Mann
Cathy Marotta
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Lisa Stone
Lisa Tung and Spencer Glendon
Anita Turner
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Pictures from SEHS Collection Available for Reproduction

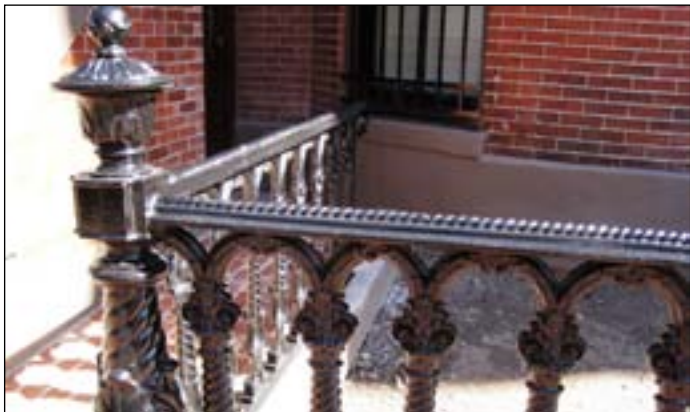
Pictures from the South End Historical Society's collections are available for reproduction. Fees vary depending on the photograph and the intended use.

Most reproduction requests ask for images from our popular 1972 South End Streets Survey. The Streets Survey includes approximately 3,000 images taken by the Historical Society in 1972 documenting every extant South End building. These images were used in the Historical Society's application to place the South End on the National Register of Historic Places, which was successful. Image reproductions from the South End Streets Survey carry a fee of \$30 each for a 300 dpi digital copy.

If you are interested in reproducing a SEHS image for personal, commercial, or research purposes, please contact us at 617-536-4445 or admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org for more information about our image collection, fees, and policies.



Image from the 1972 South End Streets Survey



Cast Iron Questions?

Need help restoring, repairing, or replacing your cast iron fence? The South End Historical Society can help! Call or email us at 617-536-4445 or admin@southendhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

House Tour Supporters

The SEHS would like to acknowledge the support of our House Tour sponsors. This year's House Tour took place on Saturday, October 20th. Together our Spring Ball and our House Tour bring in one third of our annual operating income and are key to our continued operation. Thank you!

Graphic Design: David Tschiegg and Laughlin/Winkler

..... **Corporate Sponsors**

Cast Iron Club: Sprogis and Neale Real Estate, Rondeau-Tierney Real Estate, William Raveis Real Estate

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House Tour Committee: Frances Blair, Paul Curtis, Adam Edgerton, Maryellen Hassell, Rob Kilgore, Shelby Larsson, Cathy Marotta, John Neale, Susan Park, Kelly Robbins, Hope Shannon, Bradford Sprogis, Doe Sprogis, David Tschiegg, Nancy Parker Wilson

House Tour Volunteers: Thank you to all of those who volunteered as house sitters and to Lauren Matoian, Ashley Balbian, Harvey Wolkoff, Stacen Fein, and Anne Smart for their assistance on the day of the tour.

Spring Ball Supporters

The SEHS would like to acknowledge the continued support of our Spring Ball sponsors. This year's Spring Ball took place on Saturday, April 28th, at the Lenox Hotel. Together our Ball and our House Tour bring in one third of our annual operating income and are key to our continued operation. Thank you!

Graphic Design: David Tschiegg and Laughlin/Winkler

Event Photography: Monika Bach Photography

Corporate Sponsors: Brownstone Insurance, Carrig Kitchens, LLC, CBT Architects, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, The Druker Company, Ltd., Finegold Alexander + Associates Inc., Foodie's Market, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty, Hingham Institution for Savings, Payne/Bouchier Fine Builders, Stephi's on Tremont

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Individual Donations: Rob and Meg Adams, Ann Webster and Susana Gil, Stanhope Garage, Sean Hennessey, David Hocker, Mr. and Mrs. D.W. Cummings, Susan and Tom Mann, William Hess

Ball Volunteers: Ashley Balbian, Jon Diamond, Evan Goldman, Stacen Fein, Lauren Matoian, David Tooley, Cara Treen

Ball Committee: Susan Park, Mercedes Ridao, Kelly Robbins, Hope Shannon, Doe Sprogis, David Tschiegg, Nancy Parker Wilson



2013 South End Wall Calendar

The South End Historical Society 2013 Calendar is now available for purchase! The calendar makes a great gift for friends, family, new neighbors, co-workers, and clients! A limited number are available so be sure to order soon. Each month features an image depicting something from the South End's past. From an image of Union Park and a horse and carriage in the 1850s to Tremont Street in the 1890s to Washington Street in the 1970s, the calendar depicts scenes from the South End's long and rich social and architectural history.

All proceeds benefit the South End Historical Society.

Calendars are \$20 each.
Order ten calendars and
receive one **FREE!**

Order form Please fill out all fields!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Order:

Number of calendars _____ x by \$20 each = \$_____ Calendar Cost

Number of calendars _____ x by \$2 each = \$_____ Shipping Cost

Calendar Cost + Shipping Cost = \$_____ **Total Amount Due**

(For example, 2 calendars multiplied by \$20 = \$40 Calendar Cost. 2 calendars multiplied by \$2 = \$4 shipping cost. \$40 calendar cost + \$4 shipping cost = \$44 total due).

Please tear off this form and mail it with a check for the amount due to:

South End Historical Society, attn: Calendar, 532 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

If you would prefer to pay by credit card, please visit our website at www.southendhistoricalsociety.org and order your calendar(s) there.

Know somebody who would enjoy this newsletter?

Forward it today and invite them to become a member of the South End Historical Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ Telephone: _____

Would you prefer that we correspond with you through regular mail or e-mail?

Please circle one: Regular Mail E-mail

Membership levels (check one):

___ \$25 Individual ___ \$40 Family/Dual ___ \$100 Supporting ___ \$150 Patron ___ \$250 Benefactor

Please make check payable to: The South End Historical Society

Mailing address: 532 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston Ma 02118

I am interested in volunteering for:

___ Preservation ___ Spring Ball Committee ___ Membership ___ Program/Events
___ Newsletter ___ Collections ___ House Tour Sitting ___ House Tour Committee

New members can also join and pay online by visiting:

www.southendhistoricalsociety.org/membership.htm