

**School Committee Ad Hoc Task Force on School Names**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**  
**5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**  
**Walsh School Committee Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brookline Town Hall**

**Agenda**

- 1) Approval of Minutes of the April 3, 2018 Meeting
- 2) Report on April 12, 2018 School Committee Discussion of Town Meeting Warrant Article 23. Renaming the Devotion School
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 3) Presentation of Research on the Devotion School Name
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 4) Consideration of Timeline to Present a Report and/or Recommendation to the School Committee regarding the Devotion School Name
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 5) Possible Vote to Present a Report and/or Recommendation to the School Committee regarding the Devotion School Name
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 6) Update on Ad Hoc Task Force Research on the Names of Other Brookline Schools
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 7) Next Steps and Agenda for Next Meeting
  - a. Ad Hoc Task Force Discussion
  - b. Public Comment
- 8) New Business

## Article 23-Revised Language

### **To see if the Town will adopt the following Resolution: RESOLUTION REGARDING RENAMING EDWARD DEVOTION SCHOOL**

**WHEREAS**, slavery as an institution cruelly dehumanized and discriminated against people of African Ancestry in our nation. Slavery was legal in Massachusetts from 1638 until it died out around 1800.

**WHEREAS**, in 1744 Edward Devotion, resident and slave-owner, bequeathed property to the Town to go toward building or maintaining a school; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 the Hidden Brookline Committee was established by the Town to bring to light the history of slavery and freedom in Brookline; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the Hidden Brookline Committee put forward a warrant article on slavery acknowledging the history and pledging “vigilance against all practices and institutions that dehumanize and discriminate against people.” It was the first time since the 18th century that slavery in Brookline was discussed in Brookline Town Meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 24, 2012, the Town passed the resolution called “A Resolution Regarding Slavery in Brookline;” and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the Town entered into a compact with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), agreeing to implement racial equity, eliminate implicit and explicit bias, and eradicate individual, institutional, and structural racism; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 it is untenable that a Brookline elementary school would continue to be named after a slave-owner, as to do so undermines the core values of equality and mutual respect that our educational system strives to impart to our children, and that forms the foundation of our democracy.

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:**

Town Meeting votes to rename and temporarily call the school currently known as the “Edward Devotion School by some other name to be selected by the School Committee, until such time as the Naming Committee has had robust public hearings in order to obtain meaningful public input. Based on said community input, Naming Committee shall produce a report consistent with Town of Brookline By-laws Section 6.8.2(B) and applicable policies recommending a new permanent name for the school no later than February 15, 2019.

## **EXPLANATION**

Since 2006, the Town of Brookline has grappled with how best to acknowledge the history of slavery and racism in Brookline and to understand its impact on the present. Hidden Brookline has provided a great deal of education and advocacy, but many issues remain. This Resolution calls for changing the name of a public school named after a slaveholder, Edward Devotion. Removing Edward Devotion's name from the grade school is the first step. Next, we are advocating for an open, transparent and robust public involvement process. Finally, no later than March 2019, petitioners will submit a warrant article with a new name for the school that Town meeting will vote to approve or not.

The Town will be supported during this process by the School Committee's Ad Hoc Task Force on School Names. The Task Force was formed to review the names of all of the buildings and spaces in the Public Schools of Brookline to ensure that they meet the School Committee and the Town's naming criteria. They will solicit feedback from historians and community members, including students, teachers, alumni and citizens at large. They will also review legal aspects of removing a name from a building. The Task Force will present their findings and recommendations to the School Committee and provide a written report by Labor Day 2018, with an interim update to the School Committee in early May 2018.

This entire process will enable the Town to better uphold its stated values by not only removing the name of a slaveholder, but approving a process and name consistent with our values. Moreover, we can send a message to our students, their parents and the Town's ethnically diverse residents that we are willing to change according to the knowledge we have now. Let us identify the name and values of someone whom all can admire and perhaps even wish to emulate.

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ARTICLE 23

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TWENTY-THIRD ARTICLE

Submitted by: Deborah Brown, Anne Greenwald

To see if the Town will change the name of the Edward Devotion School to the Roland B. Hayes School, or other appropriate name consistent with 21<sup>st</sup> century values and the Town's commitment to diversity and inclusion by September 1, 2018.

or act on anything relative thereto.

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PETITIONER'S ARTICLE DESCRIPTION

This Article calls for changing the name of a popular public school named after a slaveholder, Edward Devotion. Holding a slaveholder up as a beacon of virtue to young people sends the wrong message to our youth, people of color, allies and the broader Brookline community. Brookline cannot claim to be taking the moral high ground and also be comfortable having a school named after a slaveholder.

By way of background, in 1744, Edward Devotion, Brookline resident and slave-owner, bequeathed property to the Town for the building of a new school. Over two centuries passed when some residents had an interest in establishing the role that slavery played in the Town's development. In response to such interests, in 2006, the Hidden Brookline Committee was established by the Town to bring to light the history of slavery in Brookline. In the ensuing years, the Committee performed a great deal of research which resulted in 2012 a warrant article. In it, the Town acknowledged the history and pledged "vigilance against all practices and institutions that dehumanize and discriminate against people." It was the first time in Town Meeting that slavery in Brookline had been discussed since the 18th century.

On May 24, 2012, the Town passed the resolution called "A Resolution Regarding Slavery in Brookline." The Town has continued its commitment to inclusion. In 2017, the Town entered into a compact with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), agreeing to implement racial equity, eliminate implicit and explicit bias, and eradicate individual, institutional, and structural racism. Signs around Town celebrate the Town's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Despite some best efforts to support diversity and inclusion, few knew that Edward Devotion was a slaveholder. In August 2017, the Brookline School Committee received multiple requests, in writing, to discuss changing the name of the Edward Devotion School to something more compatible with 21<sup>th</sup> century values. Despite multiple attempts by residents to get the School Committee's attention, the request went without a substantive reply until a February 2017 article appeared in the *Brookline TAB*. Deborah

Brown published an open letter to the community pressing that the School's name be changed. A subsequent editorial appeared two weeks later in the *Boston Globe* expressing a similar sentiment. The communication in the papers and direct communications with the School Committee provide actual and apparent notice of our intent to have the School's name changed. Following the Brookline TAB article, residents formed an organization to advocate for the name change. In March 2017, the School Committee agreed to discuss a renaming the Edward Devotion School.

Retaining the Edward Devotion's name on a school or a protracted debate creates a variety of issues for the Town. Beyond the social issues it has brought to light, there are potentially economic repercussions. While there are few Towns as livable as Brookline, people may choose to live elsewhere. In a competitive job market, people may actually elect to work elsewhere. Businesses may have concerns about whether people will want to travel to Brookline to do business. Finally, protracted debate may draw a heinous and horrific element to the community.

We believe that we have described why it is in the best interest of the Town to change the name of the Edward Devotion School to a more appropriate name.

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SELECT BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION

## Edward Devotion and the Edward Devotion School: A Chronology

**1645** - Edward Devotion (1621-1685), an immigrant French Protestant (or Huguenot) first appeared in the records of Muddy River, a hamlet of the Town of Boston.

**c.1680** – This first Edward Devotion, or possibly his son John, built a house on what is now Harvard Street.

**1740** - Edward Devotion (1668-1744), the son or grandson of the first Edward Devotion — records are unclear — sold the Harvard Street house and land to Solomon Hill. (Devotion's primary residence at this time was another house on Washington Street.) The current Edward Devotion House was probably built by Hill over the frame of the c1680 house.

**1744** - Death of the second Edward Devotion. His will, executed the year before his death, decreed that any money left over after payment of his debts and funeral expenses and other bequests be used "towards building or maintaining a School as near the centre of the said town as shall be agreed upon by the town." If a site for a new school could not be agreed upon, the money was to be used to purchase a wood lot for use by the town to support the town's school and church. An inventory of his property compiled after his death included land, livestock, household goods, and "one Negrow" valued at 30 pounds.

**1762** - The former Devotion land and house on Harvard Street reverted to Devotion's widow Mary upon the failure of Solomon Hill to pay the mortgage on the property. It was then sold, and the town, as stipulated in the will, received funds. In 1837, these funds were recorded as amounting to \$2,281.01. The town added additional funds received from the Federal government, bringing the total amount to just over \$4,500.

**1844** - The money in the Edward Devotion Fund was allocated toward the construction of the new Brookline Town Hall on Prospect Street, near the location of the current Town Hall. The building contained two rooms used as school rooms.

**1884** - Town Meeting, apparently considering the use of the funds for the Town Hall not to have fulfilled Devotion's bequest, voted to add \$5,000 to the Devotion Fund to be put toward expansion of the Brookline High School on School Street. A large hall in the school was named the Edward Devotion Hall in recognition of Devotion's bequest, and a plaque commemorating his gift was placed in the school. (The plaque was lost when the old Brookline High School was replaced by a new building on Greenough Street in 1893.)

**1891** – A large portion of the former Edward Devotion property, including the Edward Devotion House, was purchased by the Town from the estate of a later owner, Nahum Smith, for \$61,000. The property had passed through several owners after 1762, including William Marshall, Israel Thorndike, and George Babcock.

**1892** – A new school named the Edward Devotion School was built on the site. (No record of a discussion of the naming at the time has been found.) Other buildings were added in 1898 and 1913. The 1892 and 1898 buildings were later replaced. The 1913 building is incorporated into the new school scheduled to open in September 2018.

In the Name of God Amen.

I, Edward Devotion of Brooklyn in the County of Suffolk & Province of Massachusetts Bay, in New England, Yeoman being aged & infirm, Do make & ordain this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following. Principally and first of all I give & recommend my soul to God who gave it hoping and believing that in the mercy of God through Jesus Christ my Redeemer I shall receive full pardon of all my sins and an Inheritance among them that are Sanctified. My Body I commit to the Earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named, And as for my Temporal Goods and Estate I will that they be Employed & bestowed in manner following:

Imp's I will that all my Just Debts & Funeral Charges be well & truly paid by my Executors herein after named in convenient time after my decease.

Item. I give & bequeath to my well beloved Wife Mary Devotion the sum of Five hundred Pounds Lawfull money of the Province aforesaid and all my House hold Goods to her her heirs & assigns forever.

Item. I give to my beloved friend Mr. James Shedd the sum of Twenty five Pounds Lawfull money aforesd in consideration of my respect for him.

Item. I give to the Grand Children of my Brother John Devotion deceased the Sum of Two hundred & fifty Pounds Lawfull money out of which sum my will is that the Rev'd Mr. Ebenezer Devotion shall have Seventy five Pounds and that the remainder be equally divided amongst the rest of the said Grand Children provided always nevertheless and my Will is that the said Legacy of Two hundred & fifty Pounds is given & bequeathed to the said Grand Children of my sd Brother is upon this Special Condition that they shall Quit claim to my Executors all the Right Title and Interest that they have, or may pretend to have, of and in all that Estate that came to me by my Hon'd Father John Devotion deceased and in case they refuse to give such Quit claim then my Will is that aforesaid Legacy of Two hundred & fifty Pounds shall cease and be void.

Item. I give to Deacon Edward Ruggles the sum of Seventy five Pounds Lawfull money, and to Mr. Samuel Griffin the like sum of Seventy five Pounds.

Item I give to the Church of Christ in Brooklyn one Silver Tankard containing one Quart.

Item. As for the Estate which I sold to Solomon Hill and for which he gave me a Mortgage Deed my will is that in case he should not Redeem the said Estate and Discharge the Mortgage within the time limited then and in such case I hereby authorize & impower my said Executors to dispose of the same together with all my Land in Brooklyn to the Highest Bidders in Order to pay & discharge the aforesaid Legacies and my Just Debts.

Item my will is that in case my Estate shall not be sufficient to pay my Just Debts, Funeral Charges and ye aforesaid Legacies by me given, then in such case my will is that each of the Legacies given in this my will be reduced proportionably. (Saving the Legacies given to my wife and my friend James Shed which are to be first paid without any deduction).

Item in case my Estate prove to be sufficient to pay my Just Debts, Funeral Charges and the aforementioned Legacies and there should be any overplus left then my will is and I hereby give the sd overplus to the Town of Brooklyn towards Building or Maintaining a School as near the Centre of the said Town as shall be agreed upon by the Town. But if the said Town cannot agree upon a Place to set the said School upon then my Will is that the said overplus be laid out in purchasing a Wood Lott for the use of the School and the ministry of said Town forever.

Item. my mind & will is, any thing aforewritten to ye contrary thereof notwithstanding that the aforementioned Legacies by me given are not to be paid untill the aforesd mortgage Deed given me by the said Solomon Hill be Discharged or (in case he refuse to Redeem ye. said Estate) untill the said Estate by him mortgaged as aforesaid can be conveniently sold by my Executors hereinafter named.

Lastly. I do hereby constitute and appoint my beloved wife Mary and my Friend Mr. James Shed of Roxbury to be Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Fourteenth day of June in the Seventeenth year of his majesty's Reign and in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred and forty three.

EDWARD DEVOTION. (Seal)

Signed, sealed, published pronounced & declared by the sd Edward Devotion the Testator to be his last Will and Testament, in presence of us the subscribers (ye words. can be conveniently being first intelined) James Clark. Nathaniel Gardner. Elhanan Winchester.



This is an inventory of the Estate both Reall & personal of Mr. Edward Devotion of Brooklyn, late deceased, Apprized by us the subscribers who are hereunder written, Viz :

fifteen Acres and half of land at three Hundred and ten pounds.	310
Seven acres of land apprized at one hundred and five pounds	105
	<hr/>
	415
	<hr/>
One Negrow at thirty pounds —	30
One Cow at fourteen pounds —	14
Wairing Apparril at twenty pounds —	20
Beds & Bedding at forty pounds	40
Tabels & chairs & wooden ware twenty pounds —	20
Puter, Iron and brass at twenty five pounds —	25
	<hr/>
	£149

one Iron bar twenty five shillings —

Apprizers { SAMUEL WHITE  
SAMUEL CLARK  
THOMAS ASPINWALL

October 19, 1892 399  
School Com. meeting

The Board next discussed the situation of the Boylston Street School, and it was voted that the Chairman notify the Town Clerk that the School Committee propose to ask the Town for an appropriation of \$25,000 for the erection of a primary School Building on Boylston Street, and adjoining the present Boylston School.

On motion of Mr. Marvin, it was voted that the School Committee assign the name of the Edward Devotion School to the building nearly completed on Harvard Street.

Voted that the Chairman & Secretary be a special committee to prepare a report on the various appropriations asked for above, on the part of the Board, to be submitted to the Town, in accordance with its By-laws —

Voted To adjourn

A. D. Marvin  
Secy

## Edith Clarke (Demmon) Baker

Born Edith Clarke Demmon on February 6, 1861 on the eve of the Civil War. There is no record of birth but the in 1865 Special Census and the 1870 US Census she was listed as last of four children to Reuben E. and Sarah Demmon of Somerville, MA.<sup>1</sup>

Always living in wealth, Edith would have had the privileges of many of the wealthiest Americans. Her father's estate was valued at \$80,000 in 1870.<sup>2</sup> In addition, she went to the elite boarding Mary A. Burnham School for Girls in Northampton, MA<sup>3</sup> and travelled to Europe in her early twenties.<sup>4</sup> She would get married a year after her travels to Charles Morrill Baker<sup>5</sup>. Baker came from a wealthy Boston family. He was a graduate of MIT (Class of 1878) and was a Stock Broker.<sup>6</sup> They moved to Brookline (111 Ivy Street) and had their only child, a son named Ezra Reuben born on March 26, 1888.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, in every US census where she is listed, she had servants in her household; in childhood, marriage and as a widow.<sup>8</sup>

While living in Brookline, there is no record of Edith ever working outside of the home. It is also clear that she would never need to work outside of the home. The estate of Charles Baker was valued at \$48,000 in 1910.<sup>9</sup> However, the couple was active in Brookline, Boston and Massachusetts's civic organizations as well as advisory positions. Charles Baker was a lifetime member of the Brookline Historical Society<sup>10</sup>, a Brookline Town Meeting Member representing Precinct One<sup>11</sup>, and a Trustee of many banks, businesses and boards.<sup>12</sup> Edith Baker was most famously on the School Committee, a lifetime member of the Brookline Historical Society, a member of The Union Club which supported the ideals of the US Constitution and the efforts to preserve the Union from the Civil War, a member of the Brookline

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<sup>1</sup> US Census Bureau, in 1865 the US had a special Census to get an accurate account of the US population after the Civil War. 1870 was considered important and the most complete record of the American population post Civil War.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Edith Clarke (Demmon) Baker Obituary 5-Oct-1942, Boston Globe

<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts Passenger and Crew Lists 1820-1963, arrived in Boston from Liverpool, England 14-Sept-1885

<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Marriage Records 1840-1915

<sup>6</sup> Charles Morrill Baker Obituary 28-Aug-1918

<sup>7</sup> Massachusetts Vital Records of Birth, Marriage and Death 1763-1910 and the 1900 US Census

<sup>8</sup> US Census 1865, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1930, 1940

<sup>9</sup> US Census 1910

<sup>10</sup> Proceedings of The Brookline Historical Society 17-Jan-1912

<sup>11</sup> Town Meeting Records 3-Mar-1912

<sup>12</sup> CM Baker Obituary

Women's Club, a member of the Boston Women's City Club to promote solidarity amongst women in the city and a Trustee of her alma mater.<sup>13</sup>

Edith Baker's role within the Town seems to lack controversy. There are conflicting issues around her School Committee service. The document from the Town says that she served from 1900-1937.<sup>14</sup> However, there are three conflicting publications that make the other source uncertain. In 1915, it seems that she at least considered stepping down from the School Committee.<sup>15</sup> In addition, her obituary and another article clearly state that she served until her death (1942).<sup>16</sup> She seemed to stay clear of a controversial loss of School Committee Members in relation to the Superintendent in 1931.<sup>17</sup> Another sign of her importance to the School Committee, besides naming a school after her, is that she was asked to travel to Europe to observe methodology, training and systems within schools. She spent the summer of 1920 in England, Scotland, France and Italy in the name of the School Committee.<sup>18</sup> She would travel to Europe multiple summers after this: 1924, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1933 and 1934.<sup>19</sup> It is unclear if this was for the School Committee or for personal travel. She always travelled to Europe without a companion, always returned to the United States from England and it should be known that much of her travel she is living in Brookline and travelling to Europe after the Stock Market Crash on October 29, 1929 and during the Great Depression.<sup>20</sup>

In terms of the school, it seems that she was still working on the School Committee when it was proposed, approved, built and repaired.<sup>21</sup> There were issues with the funding of the building. The dilemma was if it should be paid exclusively through tax-payer dollars or to petition the Public Works Administration with the first New Deal Programs started by Franklin Roosevelt and Congress. Brookline would actually do both and received funding from the PWA.<sup>22</sup> There was tablet place in the building in honor of Edith Baker. There was a ceremony, speakers for teachers and the Town but there is no mention of Baker's presence.<sup>23</sup> There was also a lot of

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<sup>13</sup> EC Baker Obituary and the Proceedings of BHS [1912 & 1926], Also, the Burnham School was consolidated with other schools for girls and is now the Stoneleigh Burnham School [for girls] in Greenfield, MA

<sup>14</sup> Brookline Public Schools from the Brookline Preservation Department

<sup>15</sup> "To Quit Brookline Board", Boston Daily Globe 14-Jan-1915

<sup>16</sup> EC Baker Obituary and "Contest For School Board Added to Election Ballot", Brookline Chronicle 12-Jan-1939

<sup>17</sup> "Row Over School Head in Brookline", Boston Globe 5-Mar-1931

<sup>18</sup> Letters of Support to the US Passport & US State Department 1919 & 1920

<sup>19</sup> MA Passenger and Crew Lists and New York Passenger and Crew Lists 1820-1957

<sup>20</sup> Ibid

<sup>21</sup> "School Committee Approves Funding for First Edith Baker building", Brookline Chronicle 24-Jan-1936

<sup>22</sup> "Advisory Board Opposes Acceptance of Grant", Brookline Chronicle 28-Nov-1935

<sup>23</sup> "Tablet Honoring Mrs. Edith Baker Unveiled at School Named For Her", Boston Globe 9-Mar-1938

issue with the school structure. There were quite a few necessary repairs for the building soon after it was built. Also, the school was built in parts as it opened to a staggered start by grades before becoming a K-8 school.<sup>24</sup>

Edith Baker seems to have lived a happy life. She died on October 3, 1942 in the infancy of World War II. She saw the Civil War as a child; the Industrial Revolution that modernized the country and a young woman, wife and mother; witnessed the death of her husband at the conclusion of World War I; witnessed the surge of women's rights with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the Flapper Movement of the 1920s, survived the Great Depression through the 1930s; and, lived to read about the bombing of Pearl Harbor ten months before her death. She died leaving behind her son, three grandchildren and the only school in Brookline named after a woman.<sup>25</sup>

### \*\*\*Conflicts in reporting

I ran out of time and access to do more extensive and necessary research. There are some oddities in the historical records. While she has three siblings, the births are really far apart. I am wondering why that was the case. Also, the fact that she has only one child is odd. I am curious to know why that was. I did find an article about her wedding that showed the writing and protocols of the time and the opulence of the families. I wish I had more time to look into how the Demmons made their money. I only found one picture of her and it was from her 1919 Passport application. In Charles Baker's Obituary, it reads that he died in his summer home in Falmouth [Chapaquoit], MA. I was not able to find a record of that deed. It also says that he has a son named "Arthur" which I think is simply a mistake but it also says he has a daughter. I never saw a divorce document and, as protocol for the time, the obituary just lists his wife as "Mrs. Charles Baker". I also wanted to explore more of her time on the School Committee. I wrote about it a little bit but there were some weird things being reported; sometimes with her being a part of the article and most of the time not. Especially since there seems to be some discrepancy in her years of service, I'd like more time to explore. Lastly, there was an issue about rezoning in Brookline in her neighborhood [Cottage Farm and the Cotton Estate]. I am especially interested if this was happening and she was still serving on the School Committee [1938]. Lastly, I need to apologize for the quality of some of the reprints of articles. Some are actually pictures from the files at the Brookline room in the Brookline Public Library.

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<sup>24</sup> "Baker School Accepted Despite Many Defects", Brookline Chronicle 17-June-1938

<sup>25</sup> EC Baker Obituary

## **Michael Driscoll**

April 18, 1844-April 17, 1926

### Sources:

- Driscoll School homepage (“Driscoll School’s Namesake”, written by Elizabeth Perry, June 29, 1951)
- Various 1926 obituaries, Brookline Chronicle & Boston Globe
- John Denehy's 1906 bicentennial history of Brookline

Michael Driscoll was born in Brookline Village to James Driscoll, a well-to-do contractor. He and his seven siblings were educated in the public schools. After leaving school, he plied his trade in the mercantile business in Boston for a bit, then began working for his father as a contractor. He had five children with his first wife, Margaret Shea Driscoll, who died in 1883. He had three more children with Ellen O’Hearn Driscoll, who died in 1898.

In 1874, Driscoll was first elected to the School Board. He served in this capacity until his death (52 years). During his long tenure, the school population rose dramatically: from 1,234 pupils in his first year to over 4,000 by the time his namesake school opened. Driscoll helped oversee the planning and construction of several new schools, including Pierce, Runkle, Heath, and Driscoll. Per Ms. Perry: “His knowledge of the contracting business , and his ambition to provide good housing facilities for every pupil in every part of town, resulted in a building program which was outstanding for those days, and which drew commendation from far and near.” The new Driscoll School was named in his honor in his 36th year of service.

In 1878, Driscoll was elected Superintendent of Streets, a position that he held until 1925, due to failing health.

Michael Driscoll was a member of the Mass. Catholic Order of Forresters, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Union of Boston, and the Brookline Historical Society.

### Anecdotes:

- A proud graduate of the Pierce School, Mr. Driscoll enjoyed the annual presenting of diplomas at both Pierce and Brookline High School. Every one of his children, and many of his grandchildren, nephews, and nieces, received their diplomas from his hands. A member of the finance committee in charge of payrolls, he also personally administered the required yearly arithmetic exams.
- Mr. Driscoll was a taskmaster to students and family members alike. One of his daughters, newly-graduated from Simmons College and employed as his secretary, nevertheless felt his wrath when her handwriting didn’t measure up to his legibility standards.

Respectfully submitted, Pamela L. Roberts

## **Heath School**

The Heath School is the only one of the eight K-8 schools in Brookline that is not named in honor of a particular individual.

The first school at the location of the current Heath School opened in 1902. It was a replacement for a school that formerly stood on Heath Street. That school, which open in the 1850s, was called the “Heath-Street School”, named for the street on which it stood not for any individual. The earliest reference to it in town records as the Heath School (rather than Heath-Street School) was in 1883.

The name Heath Street was first designated by the town in 1841 when a naming committee was formed to oversee the naming of streets. (Other streets named at that time included Washington Street, Harvard Street, Boylston Street, Warren Street, Walnut Street, Cypress Street, and about a dozen others.)

Heath Street was applied to the road “from Worcester turnpike or Boylston Street by Mr. Heath’s to Newton line.” “Mr. Heath” was most likely Charles Heath (1801-1868) although his father Ebenezer (1765-1845) would also still have been alive at the time.

## My research on slavery in the Heath family of Brookline

Summary: the names of 5 slaves in the Heath family are known: Cuff, Kate, Primus, Ben Boston and Dinah. I was unable to determine which member or members of the Heath family were slave owners, other than to say that one of the sources listed a John Heath as an enslaver. Who was the Heath School named after? As Ken Liss has said, there were also Heaths who lived in Brookline after slavery had died out.

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### John Heath enslaved:

- Cuff
- Kate
- Primus

Source for the 1<sup>st</sup> two enslaved: *Brookline Historical Publications Society, 1929 and*

Source for the 3<sup>rd</sup> enslaved: Harriet F Woods, *Historical Sketches of Brookline Mass.*, 1874, p. 320

**Comment w/ a Q:** in 1776, a **John Heath** is listed as owning “2 Negroes or Molattoes”. Source: *A List or Return on Oath of the Names of Householders in the Town of Brookline*. Which Heath is this?

**Comment w/ a Q:** Harriet Woods in *Historical Sketches* p. 221 mentions a **Ben Boston** as “an old slave in the Heath family.” He and Dinah, both slaves, were buried in the Old Burying Ground (Walnut Street cemetery). Woods writes they were buried in the potter’s field, with their names carved onto stones there, though the 1920 list of burials at Walnut Street list “family servants” as buried in the Heath tomb, a common burial practice for the enslaved, who at the time were often referred to as “servants”.

**Comment w/ a Q:** again, from Harriet Woods, p.221, she mentions a woman named **Dinah**, enslaved to “a still more ancient Heath”. Dinah is listed as buried in the Old Burying Ground.

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For those interested, I’d be happy to share information on the significance of the names of the 4 enslaved people, as their names follow the pattern for slave-naming in this region.



**AMOS ADAMS LAWRENCE**  
**1818-1886**

**A few sources (other than Wikipedia!)**

*The Life of Amos A Lawrence: with extracts from his diary and correspondence*, William Lawrence (his son), Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1888 (found in the Brookline Room of the main library).

*Stark, Mad Abolitionists: Lawrence, Kansas and the Battle over Slavery in the Civil War*, Robert Sutton, Skyhorse Publishing, 2017. Written by the former chief historian of the Nat'l Park Service (who admits within the text that AAL actually wasn't a full abolitionist).

*Sloane House: Preserving the Lawrence Legacy*, Beverly Brown, Kevin Carleton, Christine Wynne, Boston: Boston University, 2010. "Sloane House", completed in 1851, in Brookline is the former residence of AAL. It once included a substantial farm of 90 acres in what is now called "Cottage Farm" after his estate. Deeply carved in the chimney of his home are 2 dates: the date the Confederacy surrendered and the date Lincoln died.

AAL's papers are collected at the MA Historical Society

**Some general biographical details:**

- \* First generation of the Lawrences arrived with Puritans in 1662; a later generation fought at Bunker Hill
- \* Harvard graduate, 1835 (& later an Overseer of the College)
- \* Industrialist/merchant: owned various textile factories north of Boston and in NH which brought him great wealth (His parents were also wealthy). First producer of knit fabrics.
- \* Devout and active Episcopalian, gave the church substantial funds.
- \* In the 1840's and early 50's he was a supporter of "colonization" which campaigned for and funded free African Americans to leave the US and settle in Liberia.
- \* Candidate for governor in 1858 and 1860

**His most notable achievements came from beyond his business successes:**

- 1854: the forced return of Anthony Burns to slavery, amid protests by many thousand Bostonians (following the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850) was the biggest turning point in AAL's life. He wrote his uncle: "we went to bed one night old-fashioned, conservative, Compromise Union Whigs and waked up stark mad [anti-slavery]". He thereafter gave a huge portion of his income to the anti-slavery movement, once writing that he needed to earn more so he could give more.
- Leader and principle funder of the Emigrant Aid Company which fostered and funded the emigration of MA and other residents to Kansas in order to have sufficient (white, male) voters vote to enter the Union as a free state. KS did enter the Union as a free state.
- After receiving a letter from a friend in KS, asking for help, as they were being killed by pro-slavery men ("Bloody Kansas"), he immediately sent several crates of rifles labelled "primers". They reportedly came into Brown's hands, though he was not their immediate recipient.

- Good friend of John Brown, sometimes sending him funds, though he strongly disapproved of the Harper's Ferry Raid, believing it would lead to a civil war. AAL throughout the 1850's continued to believe that the South could be persuaded to stay in the Union and that slavery could be ended without war. AAL wrote about Brown at the time of Brown's death: "He died grandly. Nevertheless, he must be called a fanatic."
- Lawrence KS, home of the University, is named in his honor. He wrote, asking that KS not do this; they replied that it was already done. He also gave the land for the founding of Lawrence College in WI.
- Helped fund the MA Regiment of Cavalry (& the 54<sup>th</sup>? I'd need to check further re the 54th)
- Is believed to have given away \$700,000 which in 2014 was the equivalent of \$21 million.

**His thoughts on education for girls and women (from a letter to a friend in Nov 1854, quoted in source #1 above, p. 116).**

*My own impression is that we have fallen into a great error here in MA of late years, by raising the standard of female education so high that physical development has been checked, and the constitutions weakened. Our girls are good scholars and good school mistresses; but they are unhealthy and weak, and do not have strong children; and while we are refining the intellect, we are injuring the stock."*

4/19/18

Biography of W.H. Lincoln

William Henry Lincoln was born on June 13th, 1835. He grew up in Brookline, Massachusetts on Still Street. William was the son of Henry and Charlotte A. Lewis Lincoln. His father Henry Lincoln owned a shipping business in exporting merchant and owned clipper ships. When William had reached age 18 he began working at his father's business as an office clerk. In 1856, William then became the partner of management in sailing. Later on, he then created a partnership with Frank Thayer in which they owned a line of sailing ships and a chandlery business. This shipping business allowed William to become handsomely wealthy.

William, throughout his life, had become successful and participated in the community. During 1857 to 1861, Mr. Lincoln served as the secretary for the Christian Association for young men in Boston. He also served the role of vice president for the association in 1860. While participating in the church he helped the homeless in the community by providing shelter for these individuals. For several years in 1877 to 1904 he also became president of the Brookline Savings Bank. In between that timeframe he also served as the president of the Boston Commercial Club from 1883 to 1886. Another role he played in the community included serving as the Boston Chamber of Commerce from 1888 to 1895. He then went on to serve on the Parks Commission for about nine years.

Aside from Mr. Lincoln's participation in the Boston area, he had a great impact on the town of Brookline. He had a passion for education and contributed to it through the Brookline School Committee. Lincoln had a role of chairmanship and membership of this committee. For 22 years, he served as a member as well as chosen chairmen for sixteen consecutive elections.

In honor of William Henry Lincoln, the W. H. Lincoln School was established in 1883. The wealth in which Mr. Lincoln possessed had been shared with the school. In 1910, he installed an endowment in which would be given to deserving graduating Lincoln students. The purpose was to allow these students to continue on in their education. Also in 1895, Mr. Lincoln had played the role of a trustee at Wellesley College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

William H. Lincoln led a long life of 91 years young. He passed away on November 10th, 1926. Mr. Lincoln had lived a successful and meaningful life. He was passionate and committed to making a positive impact on the community in many ways. All of his achievements and contributions to the community have made him an influential leader.



WILLIAM HENRY LINCOLN  
1835 to 1926

The original 1883 Lincoln School was named in honor of William Lincoln, an active citizen in the Town of Brookline at the turn of the century.

William Lincoln was a man of average height with a short-cropped goatee and long side burns. People who knew him talked about the brightness of his eyes as he looked at you in conversation, and about the tolerant, ready smile which allowed others to know that this was a most kind, understanding and generous man. His judgement, sense of humor and intense interest in the future made him influential.

Mr. Lincoln's civic activities included long-time membership and chairmanship of the Brookline School Committee, membership on the Parks Commission, trustee of Wellesley College, and trustee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Lincoln's wealth came from the operation of a steamship line between Boston and Europe. He also served as President of the Brookline Savings Bank.

William Lincoln took great pride in the school that was named for him. At his own expense, he commissioned casts from the British Museum to decorate the assembly hall with friezes of the Parthenon, statues, busts and a chandelier. Lincoln School was claimed to be the first in the Boston area to have works of art in the school.

Mr. Lincoln was influential in persuading the school committee to introduce manual studies-industrial education as part of the Brookline and Lincoln curriculum. In 1910, Mr. Lincoln established a Lincoln School endowment to help deserving Lincoln School graduates continue their education.

### William Henry Lincoln.

LINCOLN, WILLIAM HENRY, was born in Boston, Mass., June 13, 1835, son of Henry and Charlotte A. (Lewis) Lincoln. When eighteen years of age he became a clerk in the office of his father who was a shipping merchant and owner of a line of clipper ships. In 1856 he was admitted a partner in the management of a line of sailing packets between Boston and the ports of Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston. The secession of the southern states destroyed this trade and the partnership was dissolved. He then formed a partnership with Frank N. Thayer in the ship chandlery business on Lewis Wharf, Boston, and Thayer & Lincoln established a line of sailing ships, some of which they built at Newburyport, Mass., and Kowloon, Maine, and acquired others by purchase. The last ship they launched was the John Currier, which cost \$120,000 and was the last wooden ship to leave the stocks in any Massachusetts shipyard. In 1872, they secured the winter agency of the Dominion Line of Steamers to land at Boston, their summer port being Montreal. They also secured the American agency for the Leyland Line of Steamships, between Liverpool and Boston, and subsequently Mr. Lincoln was made the resident director of the line. Mr. Lincoln served as secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1857-61, and as vice-president in 1860. He served Brookline as a member of the school committee for twenty-two years, and he was chosen chairman of the board at sixteen annual elections. One of the largest school buildings in the town is named for him, the "Lincoln School." He was elected president of the Brookline Savings Bank, in 1877 and 1904. He was president of the Boston Commercial Club, 1883-86; and president of the Chamber from 1900 to 1904; a member of the corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from 1895; a trustee of Wellesley College from 1898; director of the Bostonian Society. Mr. Lincoln was married, April 21, 1863, to Cecelia Frances, daughter of James W. and Eliza F. Smith, of Boston. They have four children.

During the period of the Civil War, Mr. Lincoln was a member of the Independent Corps of Cadets of Boston, and saw service for a short period on guard duty at Fort Warren, Boston Harbor. He was a member of St. Andrew's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

## DEDICATION OF THE WILLIAM H. LINCOLN SCHOOL

Addresses by the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop and others.

It became evident to the school committee several years ago that the Ward school-house on Pond avenue was unsuitable, both from considerations of healthfulness and convenience, for school-purposes. At an adjourned annual meeting held on April 14, 1886, the town voted, upon motion of Mr. Wm. H. Lincoln, that the boards of selectmen and school committee be a committee to select a site and present plans for the construction of a new brick grammar school building. At a special town meeting on June 30 of the same year the joint committee, having considered and rejected several other sites, reported in favor of a lot on the Sburtleff estate on Boylston street. This site was subsequently abandoned, owing to its contiguity to the Boston & Albany railroad track, the noise from which, it was believed, would interfere with the school, and the town at a meeting held on July 7, voted that the committee have authority to purchase the Brodhead estate on the southerly side of Boylston street for a sum not exceeding \$10,000. This amount was appropriated, and the additional sum of \$40,000 for the construction of the building. The land was purchased, and Messrs. Peabody & Stearns, the well-known architects, were asked to prepare plans for the building. Satisfactory plans having been obtained, the committee contracted with Mr. R. S. Dewing for the mason work and with Mr. W. H. Bowker for the carpenter work. Contracts for the plumbing were subsequently let to Mr. Florence Sullivan, for the plastering to Mr. John Cook, and for the painting to Mr. Benj. F. Baker. Work on the foundations was commenced in the spring of 1887, and the building was entirely completed last week.

In all its essential features this may be considered a model school building. It is planned on the modern principle, with the school rooms on the south side of a long corridor which has windows to open air on the other side, thus securing abundance of light and air throughout the entire building. There are four school rooms on each of the two floors, all connected with the principal's room by electric call-bells and speaking tubes. The coat rooms, instead of being closed by doors, are merely screened partitions in the wide hall, so arranged with a view to obviating stuffy and close apartments. The doors to these rooms are so placed that the boys and girls may enter the school rooms through them, although the rooms have another entrance for visitors.

One of the most conspicuous features of the building is a large hall on the third story, an illustration of which appears on the first page. Those connected with the public school work have long realized the need of a room which would be at all times available for exhibitions and meetings, and through the foresight of the special committee such a room is now provided. Mr. Wm. H. Lincoln, for whom the school is named, has generously presented a set of casts of the frieze of the Parthenon, which are inserted in the walls. Upon the platform stands a heroic statue of Cæsar Augustus and one of Minerva Medica, while around the room, upon specially designed brackets, stand busts of Marcus Aurelius, Homer, Demosthenes, Julius Cæsar, and Cicero, all gifts from Mr. Lincoln. An eighteen-light chandelier of beautiful design, made to order by Messrs. B. Hollings and Co. of Boston, is also from the same donor. Two rooms are finished on the same floor with the hall which it is intended to use for the industrial school.

The building is heated by steam and has external flues for ventilation. It

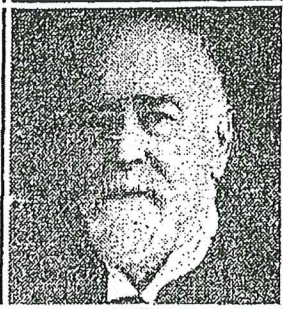
# W. H. LINCOLN EXPIRES AT 90

## Headed Boston Chamber for Four Years

## Bank President Was Trustee of M. I. T. and Wellesley

## Dies at Brookline Month After Death of Wife

William H. Lincoln, for four years president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce and for decades a forceful figure in the city, died yesterday at his home, 24 Beach st., Brookline, after a long illness. He was in his 91st year. Since the death of his wife, Cecilia Francis Lincoln, on Nov 10, he had fallen rapidly.



WILLIAM H. LINCOLN

Born in Boston, June 13, 1875, the son of Henry and Charlotta A. (Lewis) Lincoln, he received his education at the English High and Chauncey Hall schools. His began work as a clerk in his father's shipping office in 1893. From 1895 the firm operated under the name of Thayer and Lincoln, with Mr Lincoln as a partner.

He was also for many years an official of the Leyland Steamship Line, president of the Brookline Savings Bank and a director of the National City Bank, and of the Boston Insurance Company.

### Headed Park Commission

From 1873 to 1895 he was a member of the Brookline School Committee, and for nine years he served on the town's Park Commission, two of them as chairman. For more than a decade he was a member of the Massachusetts State Nautical Training School Commission.

Since 1895 he had been a corporation member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and from 1883 to 1896 he was president of the Boston Commercial Club. Earlier in his life he was active in the Y. M. C. A., being its secretary from 1877 to 1884.

As president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce from 1900 to 1904, he set a precedent of vigorous activity. His speeches attacked one by one the problems of the city but centered on municipal political reform. After his retirement, he continued his work for many years as president of the Economy Club.

### Trustee of Wellesley

For many years Mr Lincoln was interested in the work of the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, and since 1895 he had been a trustee. Since 1895 he had been a trustee of Wellesley College.

John Hay, when Secretary of State under President McKinley, appointed Mr Lincoln as a delegate at the American Customs Congress at New York. Mr Lincoln leaves two daughters, Mrs Holger Sorenson of Newton and Mrs Samuel C. Payson of Brookline; two sons, Henry Lincoln of Tahoe Pines, Calif. and Alexander Lincoln of Boston, and a brother, Roland C. Lincoln of Forest Hills.

Fre

Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society: Recent Paper

JOHN PIERCE AND THE ISSUES OF SLAVERY AND ABOLITION  
 Address to the Brookline Historical Society - March 7, 1993  
 by David A. Johnson, Minister, First Parish in Brookline

John Pierce was the son of a shoemaker in Dorchester and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard, with a deep love of music and a strong personal piety. He disliked public conflict, unless unavoidable. Physically he was more than 6 ft tall and muscular. When he arrived in Brookline in 1797 he is described with his tri corner hat, his hair in a queue, ribboned 2/3rd of the way down his back, silver buckles at his knees and buckles on his shoes. His was another world from ours. The end of the American Revolution was hardly more than a decade past. The agonies of governing this chaotic congeries of states were evident all about as his friend, John Adams son of Brookline's Suzannah Gardner Adams, was elected to the Presidency in that same year of 1797.

The Second Great Awakening ripped through Brookline in these years, as had evangelical awakenings in many forms and persons during the term of his predecessor, Joseph Jackson, making his life difficult to say the least. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton is credited with setting this great fire of the spirit burning. John Pierce's wife, Lucy Tappan, was from Northampton, from Edwards' church - a fact John Pierce may have had reason to ponder in the evangelical warfare that engaged his family, his children, his church, his generation causing great rifts and deep personal pain.

Brookline at the dawn of the last century had 605 residents, and achieved only four times that number at his death. It was a small town. The residents were in 1800 mostly small farmers - few if any involved in slavery in any way.

Mary Pierce Poor, John and Lucy's youngest, remembered the old church as a child:

*"...old Captain Goddard, sometimes standing up to keep himself awake; and my uncle Charles Tappan, shaking his head at me when I was restless; the kind old ladies who had footstoves...which they passed over the tops of their pews to neighbors after they had sufficiently warmed their own feet. It was a relief from the tedium of a long sermon to watch them."*

There were few Blacks in town or church, though everyone recognized the friendly round face of Sukey, a Pierce housekeeper, looking down from the high balcony pew reserved for Blacks.

Separation of African Americans from the whites was almost absolutely and everywhere observed. When Theodore Parker, the great abolitionist preacher years later, spoke in the Melodeon Theatre in Boston African Americans sat in the gallery. Theodore Dwight Weld, one of the most outspoken abolitionists, was counselled in Cincinnati that one must not walk the streets with African Americans, for they not he, might pay a terrible price for such an act. That was as true of Boston as Cincinnati for years.



Free Blacks were not truly free. In all the Northern states by convention and by law they were sharply restricted in employment and opportunity to the most menial tasks, and in a host of other ways great and small. Thus when Dr. Pierce remonstrated with the Philbrick family for seating a Black child that they had brought into their home, in their pew, he was attempting to enforce a convention that was all but universal even in Boston, even in Brookline. It is sad that this incident alone has come to be seen to represent Dr. Pierce's attitude toward African Americans. It is also a tribute to Brookline that there were people like the Philbricks willing to challenge this racist convention. Even in New York City, years later, Lewis Tappan, Lucy's brother, fought to have his progressive abolitionist Presbyterian church eliminate such segregation. He failed and resigned. Long before this incident, in December of 1806, John Pierce had attended the dedication of Boston's African Meeting House, something few clergy of his day would have done. This suggests that Pierce's views were more complex than they have usually been represented to be.

The anti-slavery issue is also far more complicated than it looks, looking back from a safe century and a half and more. Let us consider what was happening during those years. Through the years leading up to the Revolution and after there were repeated petitions to Congress from free Blacks to end slavery and secure human rights. They were routinely ignored and Congress passed the 1793 Fugitive Slave Act in the face of them, attempting to mollify the South. The focus turned in the late 18th century to stopping the remaining slave trade. Slavery, for all intents and purposes ceased in Massachusetts in those years, but the slave trade did not. Much of it flowed not through Boston but Salem and Newport. The underwriters, investors and insurers, however, were often from Boston. One of these, the firm of Thomas Handasyd Perkins, appears to have continued its interests in the slave trade not only when it was illegal in the Commonwealth, but even beyond the absolute Federal prohibition of import of slaves, January 1, 1808. Perkins was a contributor to the building of Brookline's second meeting house on this hill in 1806, but it is doubtful that anyone in Brookline knew of his firm's activities. It is said that one of the Sewalls had continuing interests in the slave trade. Judge Samuel Sewall, author of the **Selling of Joseph** in opposition to slavery, and signer of First Parish' original covenant certainly wasn't. Nor was his attorney grandson of the same name who became an early supporter of William Lloyd Garrison.

Benjamin Lundy began his paper, **The Genius of Universal Emancipation** (later to be published in Boston) in 1821, but he supported Colonization, not abolition, at first. Despite his relatively non controversial message he was assaulted and nearly killed in Baltimore. Denmark Vessey's plot to free fellow slaves in North Carolina bred waves of repressive reaction in the South, and waves of caution in Northern politicians.

1829 was another watershed year with Andrew Jackson's election, the emancipation of slaves in Mexico (threatening slave owners in Texas), the terrible anti-Black riots in Cincinnati and the pressure to abolish slavery in Washington, D.C. In 1831 a free Black, Nat Turner, led a slave revolt in Virginia, precipitating furious new laws against both slaves and free Blacks, and bitter debates in Congress on the subject. The State of Georgia issued a hefty reward for the editor of the *Liberator*, William Lloyd Garrison of Boston. That was the year John Pierce first, on the record in his *Memoirs*, attended an anti-slavery lecture, by Charles G. Finney at the Park Street Church in Boston. He was not pleased by Finney's screaming and wild gesticulations. He preferred cogent argument to popular ranting, but he was there when it was certainly not safe to be so. In December of the next year he attended a meeting of the American Colonization Society, but was unconvinced that this was a solution to the problem of slavery. Clearly he was trying to explore all the possible solutions.

In 1833 the American Anti-Slavery Society was organized in New York by Arthur and Lewis Tappan, Lucy Pierce's brothers. The next year, in apparent reaction, there were anti-abolition riots in New York, damaging and burning churches, sacking a theatre deemed friendly to abolition, and burning down Lewis Tappan's home. October 21, 1835 saw the Boston riot that threatened Garrison's life. The Women's Anti-Slavery Society meeting at which he was to speak was mobbed. Mayor Lyman urged the women to leave - drawing from Maria Weston Chapman the immortal response; "If this is the last bulwark of freedom, we may as well die here as anywhere."

In 1837 the death of the abolition publisher, Lovejoy, in Alton, Illinois sent shock waves through the North. The Rev. William Ellery Channing, Pierce's former tutorial student at Harvard, had just published the second of his anti-slavery treatises. He petitioned the mayor and aldermen for permission to use Faneuil Hall for a memorial service to Lovejoy. He was refused. A determined appeal obtained permission. The service saw the emergence of a new face, a new voice, Wendell Phillips, who said in response to those who excused the Alton rioters as freedom fighters like the patriots of half a century before:

*"Sir, when I heard the gentleman lay down principles which place the murderers of Alton side by side with Otis and Hancock, with Quincy and Adams, I thought those pictured lips [pointing to the surrounding portraits] would have broken into voice to rebuke the recreant American - the slanderer of the dead. The gentleman said he should sink into insignificance if he dared to gainsay the principles of these resolutions. Sir, for the sentiments he has uttered, on soil consecrated by the prayers of Puritans and the blood of patriots, the earth should have yawned and swallowed him up."*

The house was bedlam.

During the 1820's and 30s the last century the battle focussed on new states and territories and the right of petition. An increasing tide of petitions hit congress culminating in the great drive of 1838-9 which produced two million names. Slave state congressmen were increasingly embarrassed. To quel this welling public demand for action, on May 26, 1836, a gag rule proposed by Pinckney of South Carolina was adopted. All petitions were to be laid aside. No action was permitted. This was a terrible defeat for, John Pierce's friend, John Quincy Adams who had given years to the battle for the right of petition. The battle seemed futile but in the process Adams laid the groundwork for Lincoln's later Emancipation Proclamation. John Quincy Adams was small, old and fierce, finding his allies where he could, increasingly among the abolitionists. Again and again he found ways to introduce petitions on the subject of slavery, risking constantly censure or expulsion. When the case of the slaves from the Spanish slave ship, Amistad, came before the courts it was Adams who was called upon for the final defense of the rights of the slaves to freedom. He attacked the government's bias and malfeasance. At the end he could write to Pierce's brother-in-law Lewis Tappan, who paid the court costs:

*"The captives are free!*

*The part of the decree of the District Court, which placed them at the disposal of the President of the United States to be sent to Africa is reversed.*

*They are to be discharged from the custody of the marshall - free..."*

When the service of rejoicing in the verdict was announced for Marlborough Chapel in November, 1841, John Pierce was there singing and rejoicing with several of the freed slaves, as he rejoiced again later when the 28th Congress overturned the gag rule in 1844.

John Pierce, like John Quincy Adams, was opposed to slavery. His colleague and idol in the ministry, William Ellery Channing struggled with the question of how to end slavery, as all thoughtful people did. Channing's influential treatises against slavery explored the real fear of disrupting the Union established at such cost in blood. The Union kept the still contentious states from warring against one another. If the Union were broken the country would be thrown into factions, contentious coalitions seeking their own advantage, bristling at other's demands. Disunion would invite other nations to take advantage and break the nation further. This was a serious matter to those who had not forgotten the hard years of the American Revolution, like John Pierce.

For his anti-slavery expressions Channing was all but banned from his own pulpit. Van Wyck Brooks wrote of the risks of the outspoken in Boston, in his *Flowering of New England*. If;

*"a popular author, like Mrs. Child...published a plea for slaves, one's fame went out like a candle. Noone bought one's next book....One might have...a gallery of Copleys and Stuarts, but if one uttered a phrase with 'colour' in it, one's cousins would cut one dead in the*

*street....In the morning mail one might receive a bulky anonymous letter from the South, containing a withered ear and a piece of rope. The ear had been cut from a slave who had tried to escape. The rope was for the Boston gentleman, in case he crossed Mason and Dixon's line."*

Abolition was tangled in almost every other issue. Should women speak on the anti-slavery hustings? Should they belong to the same anti-slavery societies as men? Should they speak to mixed audiences? Didn't their presence confuse the issue with women's rights? Should they be permitted to speak of women's rights, and abolition? Wouldn't forward women alienate some all important Northern supporters? Few beyond Garrison were not troubled by such questions concerning women advocates. Many Temperance organizations, and John Pierce belonged to and/or chaired at least six, were also predominantly abolitionist in sentiment. John Pierce was a founder with Noah Worcester of the Massachusetts Peace Society, which in time was abolitionist, as well as pacifist.

Anti-slavery was also entangled with pietistic, millennial, anti-institutional convictions, most especially in Garrison. Much of the fervor of anti-slavery was found in its ecstatic preachers, evangelicals with an emphasis on immediate salvation, sanctification and personal holiness. For some the only godly course was to persuade people one by one to end their collusion with slavery. For many to use the political system or believe in political action was to doubt God's power, authority, rule over all the affairs of people. For Lewis Tappan political action exhibited faithlessness in God's ability to resolve the anti-slavery crisis. Garrison was yet more extreme in such convictions.

Garrison also savagely attacked the church in almost every form in the mid 1830s:

*"The Methodist Church was 'a cage of unclean birds and a synagogue of Satan'; Congregational clerics were 'implacable foes of God and man'; Presbyterians and Baptists were controlled by 'blackhearted clergy' who 'connived with slaveholders.' An 'oath taking, war-making, man-enslaving religion' passed as Christianity in New England."*

He did not make it easy for religionists of much of any stripe to support him. They, on the other hand, didn't make it easy for him. The Massachusetts Association of Congregational Clergy in July of 1837 issued a "pastoral letter" to all Congregational Churches complaining of "alienation and division" caused by agitating controversial subjects - calling on clergy and laity to avoid them. They further counselled women not to speak in public on such subjects, and preachers or lecturers to ask the consent of local clerics to speak in their parishes. John Pierce was there. He had voted in the affirmative 25 years before on a like resolution directed toward itinerant evangelists. He does not record his vote

in his *Memoirs*, but he went directly from this meeting to an abolition meeting at Park Street Church. Afterwards he was to meet the famous abolitionist Grimke sisters at Francis Jackson's.

Pauline Chase Harrell, in her address to the Brookline Historical Society twenty years ago on "Anti-Slavery Days in Brookline," notes that there was much abolition activity from the 1830s to the Civil War. There was also so much reaction that the Selectmen closed the Town Hall (Pierce Hall today) to abolitionist meetings in fear for the fate of the building. She says that the first Anti-Slavery meeting in Brookline was at Samuel Philbrick's house (known today as the Tappan House, as John Tappan, Lucy's brother built it in 1822) in 1837, with Sarah and Angelina Grimke Weld as speakers. The story has always been told that John Greenleaf Whittier hid around the corner in the house to listen in. John Pierce records that several men were there, including two of Sam's brothers, along with some 70 women. John escorted his wife Lucy to the meeting, but says he was refused entrance! The Grimkes spoke throughout New England, including before the Massachusetts General Court, and retreated often to the Philbrick's for rest. One historian has also claimed that in these dangerous days William Lloyd Garrison retreated to his house in Brookline. There is an investigative task for an historian - to find out if this is true. There were several well known abolitionists, including Philbrick and Ellis Gray Loring, who had houses in Brookline which were used as safe houses for escaping slaves. The Crafts were probably the most famous former slaves hidden here.

Pauline Harrell notes that Lucy Tappan Pierce worked with Maria Weston Chapman. Chapman was Garrison's chief lieutenant, carrying on all the business of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society including editing the *Liberator* when Garrison was out, which was often. She is especially remembered for the annual anti-slavery fairs, and her yearly *Liberty Book*. To work with her was to be involved at the heart of the Massachusetts anti-slavery movement.

In his 1812 Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company Election Sermon John Pierce had noted that; "I should please neither side of the violent political parties; and these embrace, at present, all persons among us." In that sermon he strongly opposed the War of 1812, but he was rarely so polemic. There were fierce battles through exactly these same years in the old standing Congregational order, resulting finally in the Unitarian expulsion. Pierce was for half a century a trusted peace maker. He kept trying to mollify or sidetrack the narrowing agendas of brittle orthodoxies. The orthodox Congregationalists tended to be anti-Catholic and anti-Episcopalian (which Pierce was not) as well as anti-Unitarian, Universalist and a host of others. Pierce had all he could do to be a peace maker. His brother-in-law John Tappan had a house guest in 1837 who attended every church meeting of First Parish at which he might speak, and tried every time to foment an evangelical rebellion. John Pierce had to be a peacemaker on home ground as well. It would have been

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impossible for him to have been an outspoken abolitionist, and a peace maker in the Congregational order. Pierce, never resolved on abolition, made his choice.

It is clear that almost all of John Pierce's children were abolitionists, from the gentlest to the ultra variety, and several of his grandsons were to fight in the Civil War. When his son John Tappan Pierce, an ultra-abolitionist evangelical graduate of Lane and Oberlin, returned to Brookline, Pierce did not silence him. He believed in freedom of speech, and invited John to speak at first Parish, not just once but three times. In summary it should be noted that New England was ahead of the rest of the country in resolving its anti-slavery convictions, and Brookline was at least as progressive on the whole as Boston, possibly more so. That is not unrelated to the presence and life of John Pierce, his wife Lucy Tappan Pierce, and their children.

I wish especially to thank the Massachusetts Historical Society for its grant to me in 1991 allowing me time and opportunity to examine the Memoirs and other papers of Dr. John Pierce in the MHS Collection. This is the second work based on that research. The first was the new history of First Parish, titled IMPRINTS, published also this year. (\$10.00 - available from First Parish, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, MA 02146) A further work on John Pierce and the evolution of the Standing Order is anticipated in the near future.

Rev. David A. Johnson

**Read about the important part that Lucy Tappan Pierce played in the formation of anti-slavery opinion in 19th Century Brookline. (page 3)**



**Is your membership up-to-date? (page 1)**

REV. AND MRS. JOHN PIERCE  
Dr. Pierce was minister of the First Parish, 1797-1849

*Submitted by Mark Gray*

## FUNERAL OF DR J. D. RUNKLE.

**Services at First Parish Church,  
Cambridge, Under Direction of  
Committee of M. I. T. Faculty.**

The funeral of Dr John Daniel Runkle, ex-president of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and professor emeritus of mathematics in that institution, who died suddenly at Southwest Harbor, Mt Desert, Me. was held yesterday at First Parish (Unitarian) church, Harvard sq, Cambridge.

The service was largely attended, very simple in character and was conducted by Rev Dr Samuel M. Crothers, pastor of the church. There was no eulogy. The Beethoven quartet sang "Lead Kindly Light," "Passing Out of the Shadow," and "'Twill Not Be Long." Organist G. A. Burdett played "O Rest in the Lord" and "He Shall Feed His Flock."

The funeral was conducted under the direction of a committee of the faculty of the Institute of Technology, consisting of Prof Tyler, Prof Niles, Prof Richardson, Prof Allen, Prof Bartlett and Prof Talbot.

The pallbearers were Dr F. H. Williams and George Wigglesworth, representing the corporation; Prof Robert H. Richardson, Prof William H. Niles and Prof H. W. Tyler, representing the faculty; Howard A. Carson and A. Lawrence Rotch, representing the alumni, and Charles T. Main, representing the society of arts.

Among the floral tributes was one from the mathematical department of which Dr Runkle was the senior member, a wreath of ivy and a bouquet of carnations from the class of 1877 and a spray of American beauty roses from the Connecticut Valley association of the college.

Among those present at the service were Col T. L. Livermore, James P. Tolman, Hon F. A. Hill, Prof Edward C. Pickering, Prof J. M. Pierce, Prof William R. Ware of Columbia university, Prof William Watson, Prof Channing Whitaker and Prof T. M. Clark.

Burial was in the family lot at Dorchester.



Proceedings of the New England Historical Genealogical Society at the Annual Meeting 9 January 1901

Pg 58-59

JOHN DANIEL RUNKLE LL D a life member of this since 1870 was born in Root New York October 11 1822 was the son of Daniel and Sarah Gordon Runkle Daniel the son of John and grandson of Cornelius who is supposed have come from Holland with his older brother Hance or about the year 1750 Young Runkle led as a boy the self helpful life of the heavily handicapped in the struggle for education but none the certain of ultimate success He attended the district schools did not reach college until about twenty five years of age in 1847 he entered the newly established Lawrence Scientific of Harvard University He was a member of the first class of 1851 with Joseph Le Conte and David A Wells He the degree of Bachelor of Science and at the same time high scholarship the honorary degree of Master of Arts the influence of Professor Benjamin Peirce he had received in a position on the American Ephemeris and Nautical With this publication he was connected until 1884 In 1855 published in the Smithsonian Contributions to Hinowledge a of astronomical tables In 1858 he founded the Monthly He was closely connected with the movement for establishing Massachusetts Institute of Technology and in 1865 became first professor of mathematics in the new institution In President Rogers resigned the Presidency and Professor Runkle elected to that office He held the position for eight years a momentous for the school momentous for himself The was a most exacting one making altogether exceptional The school only five years old was in no condition to lose the of its founder It had not yet gathered the momentum for steady straightforward progress Its general direction indeed determined but it was a ship sailing seas not well with many chances of shipwreck even without a change of The new head must have wisdom courage sincerity initiative but above all devoted self sacrificing loyalty did and will differ as to President Runkle's judgment on the questions that as time passed pressed overwhelmingly upon for solution No man could have been more devotedly loyal to school or to its founder his predecessor and ultimately his None could have shown more steadfast courage not only heavy

odds but too often with but feeble support lviii NE HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1878 Dr Runkle resigned the Presidency retaining the professorship of mathematics and was granted two years leave of absence which he spent in European travel In 1880 he returned with renewed health and strength His storm and stress period was ended and two fruitful years in Europe had now intervened Still young at fifty eight he was to enjoy a delightful home life with the care and education of his young children useful and honored citizenship in a suburban town year after year of inspiring teaching leadership in the broadening of secondary education along the lines he had earnestly followed since 1876 In Brookline he was long an active member of the school committee and a modern schoolhouse bears his name As a teacher of mathematics Professor Runkle found his highest usefulness and most congenial vocation a vocation to be happily continued for not less than twenty one years None of his students could fail to acquire admiring affection very few could withstand the incentive to work Which of them will not recall such characteristic expressions as this Now gentlemen I am going to show you one of the most beautiful and interesting things you ever came across He was a man of much intellectual quickness and strength of ardent but in later years serene temperament of warm and generous affections of cordial unaffected courtesy in all the relations of life a sincere and loyal gentleman As a mathematician he stood one of the foremost in the country and in every respect represented an able well rounded type of American manhood Dr Runkle married in 1851 Sarah Willard Hodges who died in 1856 leaving no children He married in 1862 Catharine Robbins Bird who died in 1897 They had six children Catherine Bird William Bird deceased John Cornelius Emma Rogers deceased Eleanor Winslow and Gordon Taylor Dr Runkle died at Southwest Harbor Maine July 8 1902 A fuller account of Prof Runkle's life may be found in the Technique of the class of 1901 of Mass Inst of Tech and in the Technology Review vol IV No 3 to which latter memoir this sketch is much indebted MEMOIRS lix



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John Daniel Runkle

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Society of London. In 1898 he received from Brown University the degree of Doctor of Laws. At the time of his death (Feb. 15, 1902) he was the Vice-president of Class II. of this Academy.

Endowed by nature with talents of a high order, he cultivated and, to use his own favorite phrase, accelerated their development and increase through his life. His strength of character is evinced by the forceful influence he exerted both in scientific and educational channels.

"*Talent*," says Baron Osten Sacken, the venerable diplomatist and naturalist, "is a gift of nature, and does not, for that reason, constitute in itself a merit; the merit lies in the *character* which makes talent fruitful." And that profound genius and master in biology — Von Baer — has said: "In the domain of Science, talent alone, coupled with diligence and *the power of self-control*, is of any value."\*

We close this notice of our departed friend, who endeared himself to his associates so closely by his amiable and manly qualities, feeling sure that posterity will confirm the estimate here given of his worth as a man, and of the secure place he will hold as a master in science.

A. S. PACKARD.

#### JOHN DANIEL RUNKLE.

JOHN DANIEL RUNKLE was born at Root, N. Y., October 11, 1822, and died at Southwest Harbor, Me., July 8, 1902, near the close of his eightieth year.

The early years of life on the farm offered little opportunity for study, and he was already twenty-five when he entered the newly established Lawrence Scientific School of Harvard University. His name stands alone in the catalogue of 1848-49 as "student in mathematics." John W. Draper and James E. Oliver were fellow students; Josiah P. Cooke and William T. Harris, resident graduates. He was a member of the first graduating class, of 1851, with Joseph Le Conte and David A. Wells, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Science, and at the same time, for high scholarship, the honorary degree of Master of Arts.

The work of computation for the Nautical Almanac was carried on at this time in Cambridge by a staff including, among other men of subsequent eminence, Simon Newcomb, Asaph Hall, George W. Hill, T. H.

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\* Quoted from "An Introduction to the Record of my Life-work in Entomology." By C. R. Von Osten Sacken. 1901.

Safford, and J. M. Vau Vleck. Mr. Runkle's connection with the Almanac began in 1849, and continued in some form as late as 1884.

In 1852 he contributed to the "Astronomical Journal" papers on the "Elements of Thetis" and on the "Elements of Psyche."

In 1855 his "New tables for determining the values of the coefficients, in the perturbative function of planetary motion, which depend upon the ratio of the mean distances," were published as one of the Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

In 1858 Mr. Runkle founded the "Mathematical Monthly." Encouragement was received and formal indorsement given by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and by several educational bodies. The list of contributors included many distinguished names, among others Arthur Cayley, William Chauvenet, George W. Hill, Simon Newcomb, Benjamin Pierce, John Herschel. The time for the publication of a long-lived mathematical journal was not, however, ripe, and only three volumes appeared.

From 1860 until his death Professor Runkle's time and strength were almost continuously and exclusively devoted to the establishment and up-building of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was first Secretary of the Institute, and at the opening of the school became professor of mathematics. In October, 1868, he became Acting President in consequence of President Rogers' serious illness, and in 1870 he was made President, holding the office for the following eight years.

The situation was a most exacting one, making altogether exceptional demands. The school, only five years old, was in no condition to lose the guidance of its founder. It had not yet gathered the momentum necessary for steady, straightforward progress. Opinions did and will differ as to President Runkle's judgment on the difficult questions that, as time passed, pressed overwhelmingly upon him for solution. No man could have been more devotedly loyal to the school or to its founder, his predecessor and ultimately his successor. None could have shown more steadfast courage, not only against heavy odds, but too often with but feeble support.

The more notable events of the Runkle presidency were: the fruitless negotiations with Harvard University for a union; the establishment of the laboratories of mining engineering and metallurgy; the introduction of shop instruction and the foundation of the School of Mechanic Arts; the development of professional summer schools in the field; the beginnings of an engineering laboratory; the increased efficiency of military instruction and the summer encampment at Philadelphia in 1876; the

erection of a gymnasium, including a lunch-room; the admission of women as students.

In 1878 Dr. Runkle resigned the presidency of the Institute and spent the following two years in Europe.

It had been President Runkle's merit to be the first to appreciate the American need of mechanic arts instruction based on principles already successfully applied in Russia. He was primarily interested in it as an invaluable addition to existing engineering courses, but he also saw clearly its great potential significance for general secondary education, and so far as possible, under pressure of other needs, demonstrated this by the inauguration of the School of Mechanic Arts, in which boys of high-school age were offered a two years' course, including mathematics, English, French, history, mechanical and freehand drawing, and shop-work. His visit to Europe enabled him to make a study of Continental schools of similar purpose; and the results of this study are embodied in a paper presented to the Society of Arts in April, 1881, on "Technical and Industrial Education Abroad," in an extended contribution to the Report of the Massachusetts Board of Education for 1880-81, and in a "Report on Industrial Education" in 1884. Others have taken a more directly prominent share in the introduction and extension of mechanic arts or manual training in primary and secondary schools, but the actual experiment initiated by him in Boston had in its time wide influence and imitation.

As a teacher of mathematics, Professor Runkle found his highest usefulness and most congenial vocation, — a vocation to be happily continued for not less than twenty-one years. His teaching was characterized by stimulating, luminous, unconventional exposition, by quick incisive questioning, by warm personal interest in his students, and by a constant substratum of uplifting earnestness and dignity. None of his students could fail to acquire admiring affection; very few could withstand the incentive to work.

Professor Runkle was a man of much intellectual quickness and strength, of ardent, but in later years serene, temperament, of warm and generous affections, of cordial, unaffected courtesy, in all the relations of life a sincere and loyal gentleman. Throughout his early and middle life he was a pioneer, first in the struggle for his own education and that of his brothers, next in the establishment and continuance of a much-needed, but, as it turned out, premature mathematical journal, then and for many years in the development of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the introduction of education in the mechanic arts. In

all these undertakings his insight and courage were invaluable. He made President Rogers' plans for the Institute his own. He held steadfastly to its fundamental ideals, and, taking account of his scanty resources, made remarkable progress toward their fulfilment. The main changes he initiated have been abundantly justified by time, and he lived to see their fulfilment.

He was elected a Fellow of the Academy on the 26th of May, 1857, and served one year (1877-78) as Councillor.

New members elected are : Resident Fellows, 6 ; Associate Fellows, 3 ; Foreign Honorary Members, 5. The roll of the Academy now includes 197 Resident Fellows, 98 Associate Fellows, and 72 Foreign Honorary Members.\*

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\* By the resignation of a Resident Fellow, the death of an Associate Fellow and a Foreign Honorary Member, and the election of new members at the annual meeting of May 13, 1903, the roll stands at date of publication, 198 Resident Fellows, 98 Associate Fellows, 72 Foreign Honorary Members.

Below is information (obtained from news accounts) of some of the renaming controversies on college campuses in recent years.

### **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC**

Controversy: William Saunders Building

Saunders was a Ku Klux Klan leader. The building was dedicated to him in 1922. Students protested for years for a name change. The UNC Board of Trustees voted in May 2015 to rename the building.

Controversy: The “Silent Sam” Confederate monument

Students asked that a plaque be put up to contextualize “Silent Sam,” a statue of a Confederate soldier erected on the campus in 1913 and paid for by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The statue had been commissioned to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The statue has been controversial at least since the early Sixties. Most recently, in August 2017, students asked for its removal. University officials agreed to evaluate state law to see if that would be possible.

### **Duke University, Durham, NC**

Controversy: Charles Aycock Residence Hall

Aycock was an early-20<sup>th</sup> century North Carolina governor who essentially ran on a campaign of white supremacy. Those campaigns resulted in Jim Crow laws and turned a blind eye on violence toward, and intimidation of, black people. The University announced in May 2015 that it would rename the building East Residence Hall.

### **Clemson University, Clemson, SC**

Controversy: Benjamin Tillman Hall

Tillman was a South Carolina governor at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century who helped to implement Jim Crow laws. The CU faculty voted in February 2015 to change the name of the university’s most prominent building, but the board of trustees released a statement saying the name would remain as is.

### **Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC**

Controversy Benjamin Till Hall

Students occupied Tillman Hall to protest the name of the building. South Carolina’s Heritage Act requires a 2/3rds vote of the state General Assembly to rename a street, park, or plaque named for a historical figure.

### **University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS**

Controversy: James Vardaman Building

Vardaman was elected governor of Mississippi in 1903 on a white supremacy platform (“If it is necessary, every Negro in the state will be lynched.”). The idea of renaming the building came from a committee formed to address race relations on campus after a 2012 incident in which students protesting President Obama’s re-election chanted racial slurs. The University chose not to rename the building. Instead it placed signs next to those monuments and buildings that seemed to glorify the Confederacy and people like Vardaman, explaining the context in which they were constructed.

### **Yale University, New Haven, CT**



Controversy: John Calhoun College

Calhoun was vice president to John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. Students and alumni petitioned to have the name changed. “Though respected during his time as an extraordinary American statesman,” the petition read, “Calhoun was also one of the most prolific defenders of slavery and white supremacy in American history.”

The Calhoun issue had come up periodically at Yale for decades, but there was a renewed push in 2015. The name was changed to Admiral Grace Hopper College in September 2017. The Calhoun name still remains carved into the stonework at various parts of the building.

### **Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN**

Controversy: Nathan Bedford Forrest Hall

Forest was a Confederate cavalry leader. Debate about the name of Forrest Hall surfaced periodically through the years according to the university president. He formed a committee to make a recommendation to state officials, who by law must approve of any change.

### **Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA**

Controversy: Confederate flags hanging in the campus chapel, lack of an apology for the school’s owning slaves in the past, and not officially cancelling classes on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Black students in the School of Law made requests to address all three controversies. All (remove the flags, apologize for enslaving people, and officially canceling classes) were agreed to prior to May 2015.

### **University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI**

Controversy: C. C. Little Science Building

Clarence Little was, for a short time, a president of Michigan in 1929. At about the same time he was president of the American Eugenics Society. According to current student and faculty petitioners, while he was president, Little called for immigration restriction, sterilization of the “unfit,” and anti-miscegenation laws. (The building was originally called the East Medical Building until 1968 when the University decided to name buildings after former presidents.)

Controversy: Alexander Winchell Building

Winchell was a U of M professor whose most notable work was “unambiguously racist and out of step with the University’s own aspirations in those times (referring to the 1880s).”

The formal petitions to rename the buildings came from students and faculty. The questions were referred to the President’s Advisory Committee on University History. There were two public forums and an online petition.

In April 2018, it was decided to change the names of both buildings.

### **Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.**

Controversy: Thomas Mulledy Hall and William McSherry Hall

Mulledy and McSherry were Georgetown presidents who authorized and advised the sale of slaves to pay off campus debts. Mulledy authorized the sale of about 272 slaves in 1838.

McSherry had arranged an earlier and smaller sale and was an adviser on the Mulley sale. A working group of students, administrators, and faculty suggested the buildings be renamed after

students had lobbied the university for the changes. Mulledy Hall was about to be reopened as a newly renovated dorm when the president announced that it would be renamed.

The names were changed in 2015.

Some called for reparations to be paid by establishing an endowment that, accounting for inflation, would match what the university made from the slave sale.

### **Brown University, Providence, RI**

Controversy: Did Brown University benefit from the slave trade?

In October 2006, after a three-year study, a panel appointed by Brown's president found that the school had indeed benefited quite considerably from the slave trade. It came up with startling figures: Slaves accounted for 10% of Rhode Island's population in the mid-1700s. Thirty members of Brown's governing board owned or captained slave ships. The Brown family, benefactors to the university, enslaved people, but one member was a leading abolitionist and had his brother prosecuted for illegal slave trading. There were no name changes. The committee did "illuminate a history that had largely been erased from the collective memory of the university and the state."

### **University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA**

In 2007, the UVA Board of Visitors expressed regret for the fact that slaves had helped build the Rotunda and other buildings.

### **Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA**

Controversy: The Harvard Law School Shield has ties to the Royal Family Coat of Arms. The Isaac Royal family fortune was made in part by holding and trading in enslaved people. Part of the Royal family fortune was used to endow the first professorship at Harvard Law School in the 1880s. In 1936, as part of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Harvard, an artist hired to create seals for each of the Harvard schools incorporated the coat of arms of the Royal family into the seal for Harvard Law School. After student protests that began in October 2015, the shield was retired in May 2016. A new HLS shield that honors the slaves of the Royal family was unveiled in September 2017.

### **Harvard College, Cambridge, MA**

Controversy: Is the term "Housemaster" appropriate in the modern age?

People interpret the title to be "male" and not gender neutral. Some say the term suggests a master-slave relationship, that it has racial implications, suggests ownership over another person. The housemasters voted to rename their positions. The new name as of February 2016 is "Faculty Dean."

### **Princeton University, Princeton, NJ**

Controversy: Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs

Woodrow Wilson, who went from being president of Princeton to president of the United States, espoused segregationist views. In April 2016, after student protests and a sit-in, the board of trustees decided not to change the name of the school (and a dormitory). They board did challenge the university to do more to tell the objectionable side of Wilson.

## Stories About Renaming Schools

As a complement to the info that John Dempsey provided on colleges renaming buildings, here is a selection of stories about K-12 school naming decisions. The stories include examples from England and Canada, as well as the U.S. I was particularly interested in schools named for less famous people (e.g. former presidents and Confederate generals). There are some examples in the first article, from New Orleans, including a former slaveowner who funded the construction of schools and an African-American woman who funded construction of a Catholic school but was also a slaveholder. There is also one story (from California) about a naming controversy unrelated to slavery.

"The Old Slaveholder and Confederate Names of New Orleans Schools.",  
[http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2017/05/confederate\\_school\\_names.html](http://www.nola.com/education/index.ssf/2017/05/confederate_school_names.html).

"Berkeley School Will no Longer be Named for Slave Owner, Board Decides."  
<https://www.mercurynews.com/2017/11/21/berkeley-school-will-no-longer-be-named-for-slave-owner-board-decides/>

"An English City Grapples with the Slave-Trading Past of its most Celebrated Figure.",  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/03/28/592878135/an-english-city-grapples-with-the-slave-trading-past-of-its-most-celebrated-figu>.Mail,

"We WON'T Drop Slave Trader from our Name, Say Top Girls' Schools.",  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/~-/article-5045165/index.html>

"OKCPS Board Votes to Change Names of 3 Schools with Links to Confederate Leaders.",  
<http://www.koco.com/article/okcps-board-to-vote-on-names-linking-3-schools-to-confederate-leaders/13080196>

"Calif. School Named After Bandido Ignites Debate.", <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/sdut-calif-school-named-after-bandido-ignites-debate-2013jan01-story.html>.

"More than just Lee: TPS Document shows Multiple Schools Named After People with Problematic Past.", [http://www.tulsaworld.com/homepagelatest/more-than-just-lee-tps-document-shows-multiple-schools-named/article\\_451b5bff-d5e7-5d0c-8f0f-a3ba5f90bede.html](http://www.tulsaworld.com/homepagelatest/more-than-just-lee-tps-document-shows-multiple-schools-named/article_451b5bff-d5e7-5d0c-8f0f-a3ba5f90bede.html)

"Was My School Named After a Slaveowner?" A Closer Look at the Place Names Around Us."  
<https://noeedtoraiseyourhand.wordpress.com/2014/10/13/was-my-school-named-after-a-slaveowner-a-closer-look-at-the-place-names-around-us/>

*Submitted by Helen Chulupski*

SEARCH

NEWS OPINION FEATURES MAGAZINE SPORTS ARTS BLOG | NEWSLETTER

TODAY'S PAPER



# Committee Renames Local Agassiz School

By LAUREN R. DORGAN, CRIMSON STAFF WRITER May 22, 2002

20

The Cambridge School Committee voted unanimously last night to strip the name of famous 19th century Harvard professor Louis Agassiz—a Darwin-refuter and, many residents charged, a “bigot”—from the local Agassiz elementary school.

The school will be renamed in honor of Maria L. Baldwin, the first black principal in a mixed-race school in all of New England, and an educator who led the Agassiz school for 33 years beginning in 1889.

Several school committee members said they favored the change in order to commemorate Baldwin, not to dishonor Agassiz.

“I don’t think we were taking someone else’s name off so much as changing the name,” said Cambridge Mayor Michael A. Sullivan.

The remnants of a packed crowd, many of whom spoke in favor of the name change, stood and cheered after the vote, which capped an evening of sometimes heated testimony about the meaning of a name to a school.

Ninth-grader Nathaniel Vogel last year initiated the motion to change the school’s name after reading the writing on Louis Agassiz by Agassiz Professor of Zoology Stephen Jay Gould, who died Monday of cancer. Vogel testified that the elementary school’s diverse student body did not reflect the thinking of the 19th century scientist.

“Agassiz’s legacy in education shows one of hate, represented by his attempts to keep Jewish and Irish people out of Harvard at all costs,” Vogel said yesterday. “He might find Agassiz’s diversity detestable.”

In contrast, Vogel said, the Baldwin name would reflect the school as it is today.

“Let’s have a name that lives up to the school,” he said.

Yesterday, one day after Gould’s death, several speakers invoked Gould’s name to make their points for or against removing Agassiz’s name from the school. Gould was Harvard’s most famed evolutionary biologist, known for bringing science to the masses through his prolific writings and for stirring controversy with his theories and his outspoken style.

Director of the Harvard Foundation for Race and Intercultural Relations S. Allen Counter, who co-taught “Biological Determinism” with Gould in 1975, said Gould would have supported the name change.

“I only wish that my colleague Stephen Jay Gould were here,” he said. “If Steve were here tonight, he would probably say to us that we have an opportunity to do something that is very fair.”

Counter added that Baldwin was worthy of commemoration in the school’s name “because she was a great Cambridge educator,” and refuted the argument some put forward that Agassiz’s racist thinking was in keeping with his times.

“Would we want to keep a name like Goebbels on a school because he was ‘a man of his time?’” Counter asked, referring to the Nazi propaganda minister.

But Cambridge resident Steven J. Weissburg presented the school committee with copies of a letter purportedly from Gould, in which the scientist advocated the name “Baldwin-Agassiz” for the school.

“I would be extremely unhappy to see Agassiz’s name dropped, especially based on a mis-reading of my own essays about him and his racial views,” the letter said to be from Gould read. “Agassiz’s racial views were pretty damned awful, but if we start instituting pogroms about the past, when will it stop?”

Agassiz resident Fred Meyer also stood in favor of compromise, suggesting that either a nearby park be renamed for Agassiz or Baldwin or that the school adopt a hyphenated name.

Meyer contended that because naming records for the school do not exist, the elementary school could have been named for Louis Agassiz’s wife, Elizabeth Cary Agassiz, a founder of Radcliffe and a local educator.

Though many institutions in Cambridge and Harvard also bear the Agassiz name, neither Mayor Sullivan nor Counter had heard of any motion to further expunge Agassiz’s name.

—Staff writer Lauren R. Dorgan can be reached at [dorgan@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:dorgan@fas.harvard.edu).