

# Lawrence History News

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall, 2004

## Board of Directors

- Kathy Rodger, Co-chair
- Pamela Yameen, Co-chair
- Karen Herman, Secretary
- Richard Aybar
- Jim Beauchesne
- Diane Beauchesne
- Joe Bella
- Charles Boddy
- Linda Carpenter
- Diane Haynes
- Mary-Claire Kennedy
- Denise McManus
- Karen Miller
- Charles Parrott
- Louise Sandberg
- Chet Sidell
- Maggie Super-Church
  
- Patricia Jaysane: Executive Director

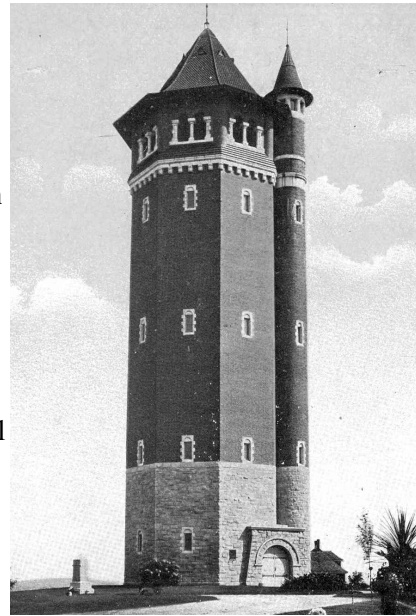
## Inside this issue:

- George G. Adams 1
- Lawrence Presents... 1
- Lawrence Musicians 2
- A Note from Pat 2
- Cultural Organizations 2
- Upcoming 3



## George G. Adams, Architect

A significant portion of the built environment in Lawrence was designed by one architect, George G. Adams. Adams had an extraordinary career, from 1879 to 1926 creating many of the most enduring landmarks of Lawrence. These include the old Franklin Library on the corner of Haverhill and Hampshire, the Tower Hill Water Tower, the Rollins School, and the Masonic Temple are today dramatic examples of his structures. Of course, he also designed the renovations of City Hall in 1923, which radically altered its appearance inside and out. He



Lawrence Water Tower

designed a number of prominent buildings on Essex Street, including an

enlargement of the Bay State Building. Among structures that no longer exist are the original Lawrence Canoe Club on the south side of the Merrimack River and the first Lawrence General Hospital building on Methuen Street. This was the period of Lawrence's most rapid growth. His fame attracted the interest of mill agents and other prominent businessmen and professionals, so a number of the stunning houses on Tower and Prospect Hills were also products of his work.



## Lawrence Presents...

It is no news to Lawrencians that Lawrence was once home to artistic giants Robert Frost and Leonard Bernstein. However, as we found in preparing this past summer's exhibit *Lawrence Presents...* the City has been

a cauldron of cultural activity since its early days. This issue of *Lawrence History News* is devoted to offering a small sample of the figures, organizations and buildings that have promoted enjoyment and

enlightenment during the past 150 years. If you didn't have a chance to see the exhibit during the summer, most of it has been re-installed at the Lawrence History Center and will be there until the first of the year.

# Lawrence Musicians

Davis Shuman was a Russian immigrant to Lawrence and graduated from its schools. He received a degree in engineering in 1935 from Northeastern University and then went on to study trombone at Juilliard School of Music. Soon afterward, he was hired by Fritz Reiner to perform in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra. David Taylor, an internationally acclaimed bass trombonist who studied under Shuman, says, "Davis Shuman was a hero to me. He was so excited about music... He received letters from all over the world from musicians and students telling how much

they loved what he was doing for the trombone." In later years, Shuman engaged his engineering education by inventing the angular trombone, which enabled the musician to operate the instrument to the side and face the sheet music directly.

There were numerous music schools in Lawrence. Phillippe and Laura LeVeille operated the Virtuoso School for Violin and Piano. Phillippe also composed music. They taught their daughter, Cecile, violin and piano. She began performing

solo violin as a very young child at the Winter Garden (formerly the Opera House). Her interest in piano became paramount, however, and was the focus of her career. In 1946, her national importance was recognized when she performed a full solo concert at Carnegie Hall, including one of her own compositions.



## A Note from Pat

LHC volunteers and underpaid staff are so essential to its operation that it is often a danger that they will be taken for granted. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to all of you:

Helen Sappupo	Al Koch	Monika Kennedy	Barbara Brown	Paula Trespas
Art and Arlene Dallon		Armand Girouard	Jonathan Smith	Frank Traynor
Tom Walsh	Mike Hecken		Elaine Sullivan	Cate Reinhardt
Bob Hamel	Amita Jani	Peg Hughes	Frank and Marie Martin	
Mele Dome	Nancy Leonardi	Joan Kelley	Gene Winter	Marie Leone
Jurg and Linda Siegenthaler		My Board Members		My extended family

## Cultural Associations

As early as 1848, immediately after Lawrence was incorporated and while farm animals still roamed mud streets, the Lawrence Athenaeum and the Franklin Library Association were established. Although the Athenaeum disappeared after 1850, the Franklin Library Association, in great part due to the support of the White Fund, thrived, eventually

becoming the City's Public Library. The Library Association was soon joined by many other cultural societies and arts organizations. The Monday Night Club was organized in 1872, a literary club with a required membership of 25 men. The first members represented the most prominent residents of Lawrence, including Daniel Saunders, Jr.,

John R. Rollins, William A. Russell, among others. The Old Residents Association, founded in 1882, required that members had been residents for at least 25 years. Their programs included musical, humorist and dramatic presentations, as well as lectures on issues of the day.

# Upcoming

In January, 2005, we are installing our exhibit *Lawrence, Massachusetts: A First American Home* at Lawrence Heritage State Park. This is the exhibit that was displayed for five months at Ellis Island at the invitation of the National Park Service.

From June through August of 2005, the Lawrence History Center will celebrate the history of Public Safety in Lawrence.

## Annual Appeal 2004

**The Lawrence History Center is launching its Annual Appeal this month. We cannot overstate how important the generous contributions of our members are to the current health and long-term sustainability of this organization and its mission to preserve Lawrence history. Please give what you can to this effort.**



**Saturday, December 11 9—3**

*Join us for hot cider and cookies! Have a tour and find something different for holiday gift giving. We have Volume 2 of Lawrence, and Gilded Age, as well as Diners of the North Shore, many other selections for people interested in genealogy, posters, **vintage photographs**.*

### Membership

	Price
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior /Student	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributor	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Contribution

If paying by MC, Visa or Amex: # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER:  
IMMIGRANT CITY ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM**

6 Essex Street,  
Lawrence, MA 01840

Phone: 978-686-9230  
Fax: 978-975-2154  
Email:  
lawrencehistorycenter@conversent.net



**LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER**  
*Developing City Archives and Resources*

6 Essex Street,  
Lawrence, MA 01840

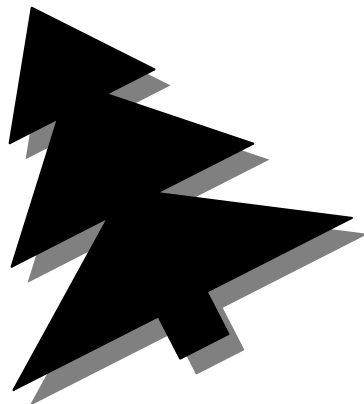
Phone: 978-686-9230  
Fax: 978-975-2154  
Email: [lawrencehistorycenter@conversent.net](mailto:lawrencehistorycenter@conversent.net)

Not for Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No.  
170  
Lawrence

Lawrence History Center, as Immigrant City Archives, was created in 1978 by Eartha Dengler to preserve the history of Lawrence. Along with preserving the growing collection, we mount exhibits, develop educational programs and assist researchers. LCA's site—the Essex Company complex in the North Canal Historic District—is on the National Register of Historic Places.

*We're on the Web!*  
[lawrencehistorycenter.org](http://lawrencehistorycenter.org)

## ❧ *Holiday Shopping Party* ❧



***Saturday, December 11***

***From 9AM to 3PM***

