

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER THROUGH FEBRUARY

Exhibit: *Winter White - Objects from our Collections*
Pratt Building.

DECEMBER 11, FRIDAY, 6:00-9:00 P.M.

Members Only Holiday Cocktail Party

Pratt Building, no charge
Reservations by Friday, December 4th

JANUARY 13, WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

7:00 Light refreshments
7:30 **Speaker:** Chris Senior, Cohasset Town Manager
Topic: Cohasset 2020, The 250th Anniversary of Cohasset
Pratt Building, suggested donation \$5

FEBRUARY 10, WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

7:00 Light refreshments
7:30 **Speaker:** Rebecca Bates-McArthur
Topic: World War II
Pratt Building, suggested donation \$5

MARCH 9, WEDNESDAY, 7:00 P.M.

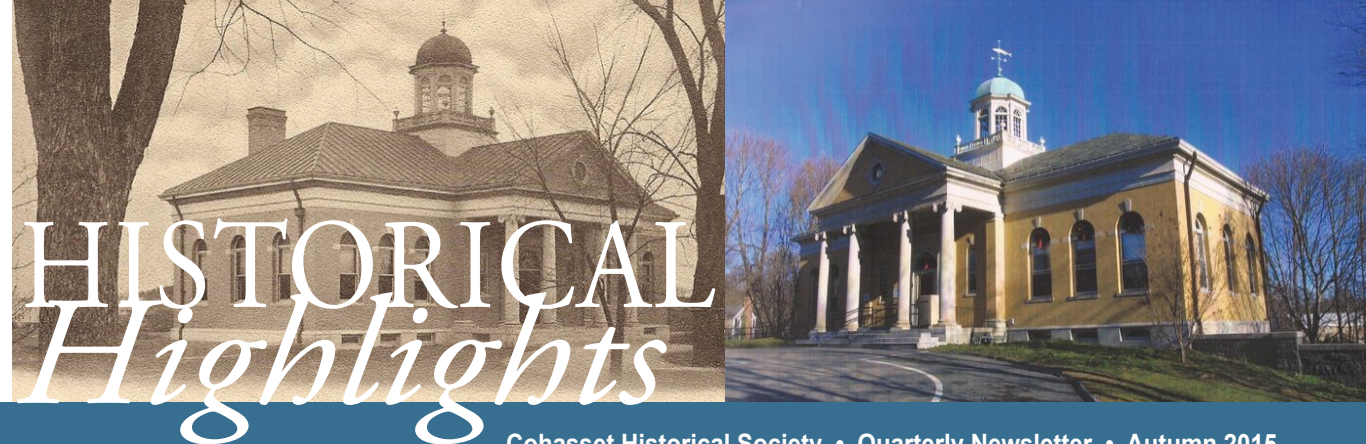
7:00 Light refreshments
7:30 **Speaker:** John Kenney of Cohasset
Topic: Siberian Huskies and Sled Dog Demonstrations
Pratt Building, suggested donation \$5

DECEMBER 24-25, THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Pratt Building closed

OPEN HOURS AT THE PRATT BUILDING at 106 South Main Street. Monday-Friday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

The Wilson House and Maritime Museum are closed for the season.



HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

is published four times a year by the Cohasset Historical Society.

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For information on membership and programs, please visit our website www.CohassetHistoricalSociety.org
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends,

Historical Highlights has a new look and the Society has a new ad hoc committee, Branding and Marketing Communications. The charge is to review all aspects of the Society's communications, and publications including how we communicate with you, our members. It includes our printed materials, as well as website and social media. Your suggestions are very important. Being a historical organization does not mean that we want to live in the "dark ages." If you have an email address and we do not have it, please email it along. We do not plan to go completely electronic but it is a way for us to let you know things that are happening between newsletters.

November 1, 2015 began the 88th year of the Society. The 87th Annual Meeting drew quite a crowd. Our speaker, Michael Tougias was interesting and engaging. He spoke about the book "The Finest Hours" that he co-authored with Casey Sherman and told the story that inspired Disney Productions to film the movie by the same name. The movie is scheduled to open January 29, 2016. Partial filming of the "The Finest Hours" was at the Pratt Building. A small part of the film takes place in the Pratt Building: we are the Cape Cod Bell Telephone Company. Some of that footage is in the trailer that is now being shown on television and the web. I am quite sure that our portion will not be left on the "cutting room" floor.

The Volunteers of the Year 2015, Emily Fay and Tracey Fay, were chosen for their dedication and generosity to the Society. Dedication and generosity is a hallmark of our membership. Personal experiences and stories that are handed down from one generation to another continue to be shared. Examples of these are being documented by the interviews being done by Karen Golden Oronte for our Living History Series shown on Cohasset 143tv.

The members of the board and I look forward to visiting with you at our first "For Members Only" event on Friday, December 11th at 6:00 pm at the Pratt Building.

I wish you a very Happy Holiday Season and less snow shoveling this upcoming winter.

Kathleen O'Malley, President

The Society is grateful to the following Cohasset institutions for their sponsorships



Become a Corporate Sponsor today! Picture your logo here.

Contact us for details 781-383-1434

Visit the new website: CohassetHistoricalSociety.org

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106 SOUTH MAIN STREET
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AUTUMN 2015



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mary and Rich Hynes
Elizabeth Keenan
Donald Kennedy
Patricia and Charles Morin
Mari and Charles White
David Wilbur
Peter Wood



THE RICHARD WASHBURN CHILD ESTATE

by Rebecca Bates-McArthur

One of the lesser known, yet significant estates in Cohasset was located at 117 Beechwood Street. It was the Richard Washburn Child estate, in later years known as the Hayes estate and is now the Estates at Cohasset, a Toll Brothers Development of luxury homes.

The house was built in 1911. It was a two-story colonial revival stone veneer and wood-shingled building. Also on the property were numerous outbuildings including a barn, greenhouse, tea-house, pool and cabana. The estate was originally called "the Churches."

The original owner, Richard W. Child, was an author and diplomat. He attended Harvard University and received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the school in 1924. In 1919, he became editor of *Colliers Weekly*. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Italy from 1921 until 1924 and was the US chief representative at the Geneva and Lausanne Conferences in 1922 held by the League of Nations. As an author, he collaborated with Premier Benito Mussolini on his autobiography and was decorated by the Italian Government.

The second owner of the estate was Robert K. Eaton and in 1933 his widow sold the property to Samuel C. Stampleman of New York. At that time, the estate consisted of 50 acres.

Stampleman was the President of the Gillette Safety Razor Co. from 1934 through 1938. He formerly had been president of the Auto Strop Safety Razor Co. that had merged with Gillette in 1931. He was "prominent in the safety razor industry" and he held a patent with Joseph Muros for Gillette concerning the automatic removal of used razor blades from the razor. Stampleman was denied entry into the Cohasset Golf Club, so he built a 6-hole golf course on the property. In the 1930s, Stampleman sponsored a baseball team, the Gillette Blue Blades, which played at the Beechwood Ball Park. Members of the team included manager, Frank Collins, and players Bob Leonard, Mickey McNeal, Fred Ahearn, Bill Enos (scout for the Boston Red Sox), Jerome Lincoln (father of Roger Lincoln (Fire

chief from 1993-2006) and Randy Feola (Police chief from 1967-1980). World War II brought an end to the team when many members enlisted. George Gershwin was a friend of the Stampleman family and he reportedly wrote "Rhapsody in Blue" while visiting Cohasset in December of 1923.

Stampleman's daughter married into the Gershwin family. A rare "piano roll" for the player piano of Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" was found at the house after the property was sold and the roll was returned to the Stampleman family.

The property was sold to John A. Hayes and his wife, Ann, in 1946. He was a Harvard graduate and received his law degree from Boston University. He was a founding member and president of the South Shore Playhouse Association. In 1961, along with Attorney Blake Thaxter, Edward Rowe Snow and others, John helped to form the Cohasset Tennis and Squash Club located on Cedar Street. It was the first permanent, all-metal construction, indoor tennis club on the South Shore.

There were 5 children in the family. At the time of his death in 1988 the property consisted of 40 acres.

His wife, an avid gardener, died in 2007. The property was sold in 2003 and after a couple of stalled attempts to develop it, Toll Brothers bought the property, razed all of the buildings on the site, and are now developing it.

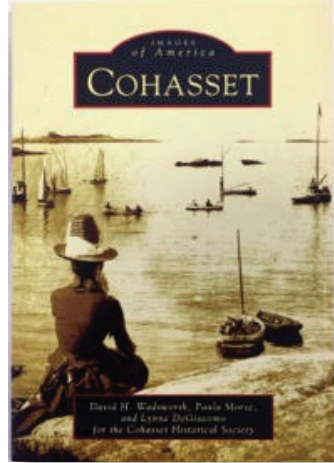
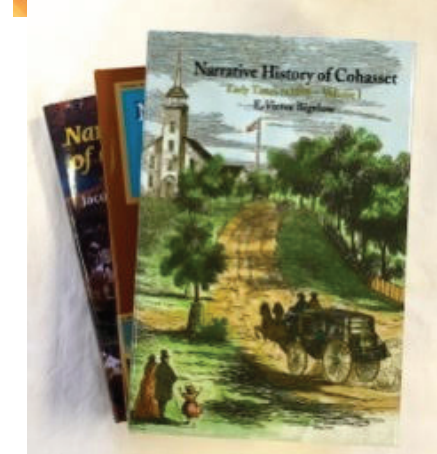
The existing extant buildings connected to the estate are 117A Beechwood Street once the guest house, now owned by Lawrence McCarthy, and 159 Beechwood Street once the caretaker's house purchased by Joseph Bellefontaine. He was caretaker of the estate and purchased 4.5 acres including the house and land in 1949. He ran a chicken farm with as many as 3,500 chickens between 1949-1975. His son, John, and his family continue to live on the property.

SHOP THE CHS GIFT SHOP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON and Throughout the Year

Don't forget about the Society's gift shop this season. We have a nice selection of gifts for folks that love Cohasset.

Choose from a collection of our town's history: a handsome car magnet to show your support, note cards of the Pratt building dressed up for the holidays, town flags, umbrellas and more.

Look for these and additional items in our updated online shop on our website, or stop by the Pratt building during business hours throughout the year.



Clockwise L-R: CHS logo umbrella \$25; Car magnet \$10; Images of America-Cohasset \$23; Cohasset town flag \$45; Narrative History of Cohasset: Vol. 1 - \$38.25, Vol. 2+3 - \$23 each; Pratt Building notecards \$20/set of 12.

OUR 2015 ANNUAL APPEAL HAS BEGUN

We appreciate the support and generosity of our members and friends in the past and are hopeful that this will be a banner year.

As Bill Todd, our treasurer, reported at the annual meeting, "the Annual Appeal has been an important source of income for the society, and we all need to do our best to grow that source over time."

SPECIAL THANKS

to Lee Fay and Tracey Fay for their service on our Board of Directors, launching the Society electronically via our original website and Facebook, and their gracious generosity over the past five years.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

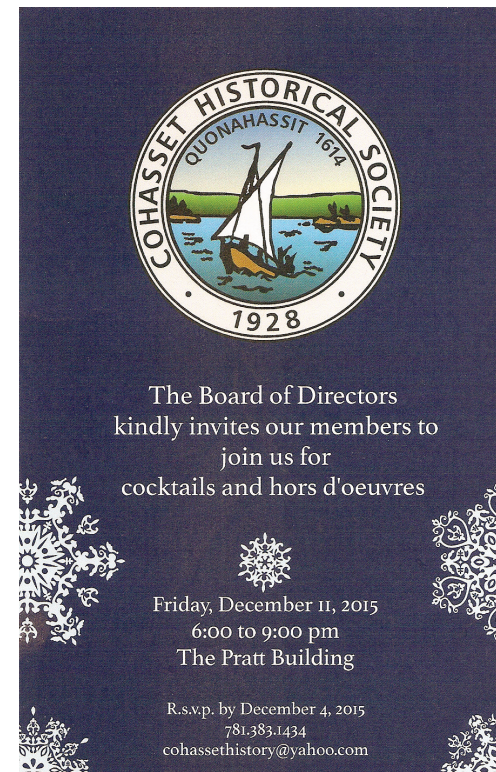
*from all of us at the
Cohasset Historical Society*



MEMBER

NEW! MEMBERSHIP CARDS

At the end of the year new membership cards will be mailed to all members. These cards will include your level of membership and your renewal date.



DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF STEVE BOBO

The McLaughlin Family, Punta Gorda, FL
Deborah Jenks
Association of the Class of 1951
U.S. Naval Academy, Inc.
John Jezowski, Wethersfield, CT

IN KIND DONATIONS

Ernest Grassey
Richard Henderson
Glenn Pratt
Brendan St. John
Wayne Sawchuk

Cohasset 143tv
Cohasset High School students from the
Civics & Community Service Class
Jack Coffman
Jackson Dutton
Morgan Fechter
Will Gildea

OUR WISH LIST

- Adopt an article from our collections to be restored. *Examples: textiles, book binding, paintings, framing.*
- New laptop computer
- VHS to DVD Converter - \$350
- Image Restoring Digital Slide Converter - \$1,300



Barbara Dillon with the evergreen tree donated by the Community Garden Club of Cohasset for the front of the Pratt Building. Barbara is a member of the Community Garden Club and the Cohasset Historical Society.



Mary Hartshorne at the Elm Street museums with the apple tree donated by the Cohasset Garden Club, of which she is a member. Mary is a current member and a past president of the Cohasset Historical Society.



DIARY OF DRUSILLA SNOW PERCIVAL

1857 - 1858

This is the thirty-second installment of Drusilla's diary, written while crossing the Atlantic on the bark Vesta and on the Pathfinder during the return journey. (Punctuation, capitalization, and spelling are as they appear in the diary.)

We are not gaining very fast as the breeze is light, we may get down tomorrow morning. There is a large fleet heading for G- the mountains covered with snow which we saw as we passed up are distinctly seen, they present the same appearance at all seasons of the year.

Tuesday, May 18th, 1858

We were becalmed last night and did not gain much we were opposite Malaga this morning with a light breeze from the East. another pleasant day. I think we have seen more pleasant weather since we left Malta, than during the rest of the voyage.

Going to sea is not so dreadful as some people imagine after all, I mean in pleasant weather. We are some distance from Malaga, yet there is much to remind me of little Johnny and our pleasant visit there.

It has been moderate all day but there is a little breeze, now, which is favorable for us. We shall stop by G- a few hours for fresh provisions.

Wednesday, May 19th, 1858

This morning at daylight we were about 5 miles distant from the famous rock of Gibralter we had a fine view of it from the Easterly side there are but few buildings on that side, but the town lies on the westerly part of the harbor there has been but little change in its appearance since I was there 4 years ago.

The little town is very prettily laid out, the buildings are very neat and the grounds beautifully ornamented with trees which are now thick with green foliage and blossoms. The rock soars above the villages like a huge mountain of stone, on the most conspicuous part, is a telegraph station at the distance of 1400 feet and a dwelling house where we were entertained on an excursion with a party of American Captains and their wives. The rock of Gibralter is more curious in its formation than anything I have ever seen. We have anchored and Capt K and Capt P have gone into town.

Thursday, May 20th, 1858

We left the Harbor at 12 o'clock and headed our course for the broad Atlantic with a fair wind, it is nearly 6 months, since we left it and passed through to the Mediterranean, no one went on shore but Capt Kallock and Capt P- they were very expeditious in their purchases and returned at 11 o'clock AM we had a fine chance through the Straits and lost sight, at 6 o'clock PM, of Capas Trafalgar and Spartell. We had a fine breeze and we passed rapidly on, at the rate of 11 knots and hour till midnight, the wind then moderated and changed to NEast. it is a fine day and a fair wind but a heavy swell from the Westward which makes her pitch a little.

In the next installment, the Pathfinder continues its journey across the Atlantic.

Friday, May 14th, 1858

Calm or nearly so all night but this morning is very fine, Cape Palos just in sight, wind West very light with a prospect of being becalmed.

There is a little breeze stirring now, be we were becalmed all the forenoon it is from the SWest.

At 6 o'clock it is a dead calm, not a breath of air, there is not a ripple on the surface of the water. We are opposite the port of Cartagena about 10 or 12 miles from land.

Saturday, May 15th, 1858

Towards morning we had a little wind from SWest and remains about the same this morning very pleasant this morning at 8 o'clock exchanged signals with an American Bark bound East - think it was the Jet Lee from N York, if so there were some of our Cohasset friends on board. We did not come near enough to speak her. She had a fair wind.

At 12 o'clock wind increased to a wholesale breeze had it been fair we should have gained rapidly towards Gibralter as we sailed at the rate of 11 knots an hour and had it been fair, should have gone much faster at 4 o'clock we tacked ship near Cape de Gat, on the Spanish coast. fine weather today.

Sunday, May 16th, 1858

Yesterday afternoon saw two American Barks one bound West, the other East, the latter had a Lady on Board, probably the Captain's wife.

This morning is very fine, we have the smell of blossoms again, from the land, we have only a light breeze now from SWest and a head sea, a great number of vessels in company bound West this is the 10th day of head wind. Captain Kallock keeps up good spirits yet, we regret our ill luck on his account, but it does not affect our interest as it does his, although we are impatient to get home.

Monday, May 17th, 1858

As pleasant this morning as anyone could wish, and a fair wind though light, it changed East last night and now we are heading on course towards G- for the first time for 10 days, with a wholesale breeze we should reach the straits tonight probably.



THE ANNUAL MEETING • OCTOBER 25TH • ATLANTICA RESTAURANT



Eighty-seven members attended the 2015 Annual Meeting



The guest speaker was Michael Tougas, co-author of "The Finest Hours," the inspiration for the Disney film by the same name, coming our way in January 2016.

Photos courtesy of Wayne Sawchuk

DISCOVERING OUR COLLECTIONS

Winter White Exhibit - December 4 to February 28



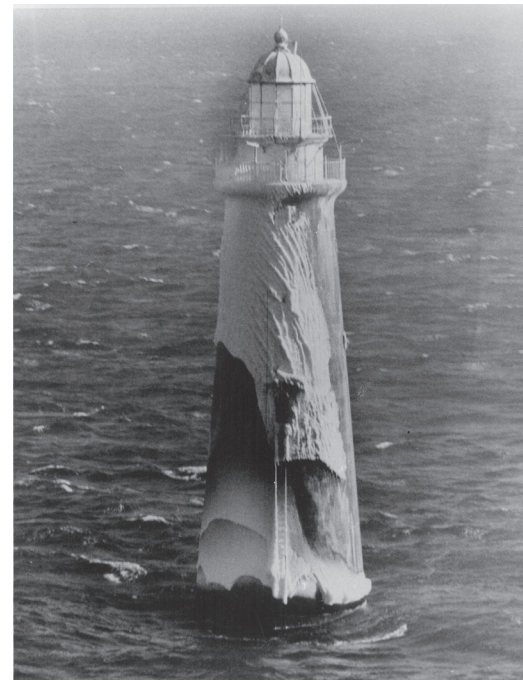
estate owned by the Bigelow and later the Logan family, for which we have many interior and exterior photographs that illustrate how the wealthy Bigelow family lived during this time period.

This winter's exhibit is "Winter White," a selection of white fashions and artifacts, along with numerous black and white photographs. Among these will be christening and wedding gowns, quilts, and winter photographs, many of which have not been on exhibit before. A special portion of the exhibit will be select items from our Richardson White collection. This collection, given to the Society in 1966, was significant in establishing the Independence Gown Museum which was once located at 24 South Main Street, now the location of Baked.

Highlighted will be the 1865 silk ball gown purchased by Maria L. Barnes in Paris for \$100. Donated to the Society in 1982 by Maria's great-granddaughter, this gown has traveled to New York to be part of the Nassau County Museum of Art special exhibit of French fashion. Pictured here, the gown is made from white silk taffeta and is embellished with red ribbons, lace, net, fringe and pearl beads.

Do you know that the Cohasset Historical Society's collection currently amounts to over 28,000 accessioned objects, books, photographs and archival documents? We continue to accept a myriad of Cohasset-related items. We are the custodian and safe keeper of all things Cohasset! The Society's headquarters for the past 12 years at 106 South Main Street has allowed us not only to grow our collection but also to display significant portions on a rotating basis.

Our first exhibit at the Pratt Building was on historic Cohasset signs, some of them about or as large as 10 feet long. The beautiful first floor, with its handsome paneled reception area and two large exhibit rooms, lends itself to extensive elaborate shows. Our exhibit of over 50 World War I photographs taken by Margaret Hall and the Civil War exhibit with artifacts, military records and fashions from the Civil War era were rivaled only by our Wedding Gown exhibit where over 30 of our historic wedding gowns were displayed in all their glory. Last year's winter exhibit was truly exceptional. A devoted committee displayed fashions and artifacts that depicted what life would have been like on a Cohasset estate during the first and second decade of the twentieth century. We chose to highlight "The Ridges," a Cohasset



Dress designer Madame Vignon was known for her ability to use bright colors while keeping the overall affect soft and feminine. She had an elite clientele and was patronized by Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III.

We also would like to document last winter's historic snowfall. If you have photographs to share, please email them to us or drop them by the Pratt Building. A selection will be included in the display and then added to our archive.

"Winter White" will run from December 4 to February 28.

with red ribbons, lace, net, fringe and pearl beads.



Watercolor of the Pratt Building at Christmas, painted by Cohasset artist JoAnne Chittick. The painting will be on display as part of our "Winter White" exhibit. 16" x 13" prints are available at the Pratt Building for \$75.

AN UPDATE TO OUR SUMMER 2015 ARTICLE

Discovering Our Collections, The Gracie Banner

We have received a very generous donation in the amount of \$1,000 from Carol Litchfield, the great-granddaughter of Grace Everett Tower, which is earmarked for the restoration of the Gracie pennant. As you may recall, the schooner-yacht Gracie was built in Cohasset, and named for Grace. Carol has agreed to match any further donations we receive between now and June 1, 2016, which is Grace Everett Tower's birthday.

While simple restoration is approximately \$3,500, the ability to display the pennant is significantly more costly. Restoration alone will restrict how the pennant can be displayed. Mounting and framing will allow the pennant to be viewed and moved without incurring additional damage.

Conserving an object of this size requires many hours of work and the appropriate archival materials to mount and frame the object. Due to its size, mounting and framing materials will require custom manufacturing which drives up costs.

We are very appreciative of the fact that Carol is taking leadership of this restoration project.

Object: Tapered swallowtail schooner flag
Circa: 1872
Provenance: Edward Everett Tower – owner of schooner yacht "Gracie"
Ship Master: Captain William Pratt. Named for Grace Everett Tower (Mrs. Henry Pope Furber)
Donor: Eleanor Tower Campbell
Dimensions: 17 feet 8 inches (212 inches) x 6 feet 10 inches (82 inches)
Fiber Content: Wool; plain weave-bunting; Sewing thread; cotton



MEMBER PROFILE - LUCILLE McLOUGHLIN HORNBY by Paula Morse

Will volunteers (and wonders) never cease!

Lucille, who shared the Volunteer Award in 2014 with Martha Horsefield, serves the Society well as bookkeeper and member of the Finance Committee. Her ties to Cohasset are strong and go back to summers spent here with her five siblings at the O'Malley's, their grandfather's home on Jerusalem Road, and then at the McLoughlin's, their parents' home, with an Atlantic Avenue address that Lucille's father Maurice renamed Lothrop Lane. In her teens, she crewed at the Cohasset Yacht Club and as a junior member, played tennis at the Cohasset Golf Club. Most telling, her fondest memories of that time were her frequent visits to the Paul Pratt Memorial Library.

Growing up in Brooklyn on Park Slope, Lucille attended Catholic schools through college at Manhattanville, where she majored in math. Yale followed for two more years, and then in 1963, after training at IBM in computer programmer

(a new field at this time), she worked at the Service Bureau Corporation, an IBM subsidiary, altogether for ten years.

Lucille and her husband Bob (they married in 1972), a semi-retired lawyer and municipal judge in Far Hills, New Jersey, have three children: Lucy, a *Financial Times* correspondent in Beijing; Catharine, Budget Director in the Baker administration; and Rob, who builds and maintains railroad cars for a tourist/freight system in New Hope, PA. For about 20 years in the 80s and 90s, with her brother-in-law Tom Hall, Lucille developed an interactive Excel program and gave workshops on health manpower requirements, which meant extended trips to India, Indonesia, Thailand, and other Southeast Asian countries.

Traveling continues to be high on Lucille's list of interests. She is a voracious reader as well, mainly of history and biography and murder mysteries, but also the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker* and the *Financial Times* (of course). Glastonbury Abbey, too, draws her on a regular basis.

Since Lucille began spending more and more time in Cohasset, it was only natural that Kathy, who already knew she enjoyed computers and numbers, would convince her to become involved in the Society. This has proved to be a natural fit, with the Society taking full advantage of her skills. In answer to our usual profile question, Lucille's wish for the Society is that we continue to flourish and have a growing endowment.