

info@historicsalem.org

From: Stanley Szwartz [szwartz@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 7:00 PM
To: info@historicsalem.org
Subject: The Boys & Girls Club of Salem - HSI Plaque located at 175 Essex Street Downing Block
Attachments: First Twelve Years Salem Fraternity.pdf

Dick:

As promised, please find the research attached to document the HSI plaque that marks the location of the first Boys & Girls Club here in Salem.

This note is from Joanne Scott:

Just to save some time, our original location as the Salem Fraternity is in the book, "The First Twelve Years of the Salem Fraternity: 1869-1881, published in 1881", which states on page 5, *"The experiment fairly began on the 21st of April, 1869, on which evening the western range of rooms on the second floor of Downing Block, 175 Essex Street, was opened for the purpose from front to rear."* This book is fascinating, at least to me (!) because it is so beautifully written and rich with information. I am attaching the whole book for your reading pleasure!

The Salem Fraternity, with several other youth organizations met in Connecticut as described below, forming the Boys Clubs of America. So the Salem Fraternity is one in the same as Boys & Girls Club of Greater Salem and in fact our founding organization.

Joanne

10/14/2016

JS

20 -

61302

THE

FIRST TWELVE YEARS

OF THE

SALEM FRATERNITY.

1869-1881.

SALEM, MASS.:

PRINTED FOR THE FRATERNITY.

1881.

THE SALEM FRATERNITY.

A person passing along Essex Street, Salem, on a pleasant evening in autumn or winter, between the hours of seven and nine, would find himself hindered by the crowded state of the sidewalks, — this on every evening of the week. This human throng is made up largely, he would notice, of young persons of both sexes, from twelve or fourteen years of age to those of twice as many years. Most of them, he would see, are not out on business. They amuse themselves; and their manners are not in all cases above criticism. With a pretty free tongue some toss back and forth words not the choicest: if harmless for the most part, sometimes also coarse, rude and profane; while a freedom of deportment corresponding to that of speech prevails.

We describe things as they were ten or twelve years ago, perhaps somewhat improved since, but not enough better at all events to make the description given inapplicable at the present time.

These manners on the street tell of like manners, or worse, with attendant evils of darker hue, in places less public; the haunts of the idle, drinking

places and the retreats of the dissolute and criminal.

How to reach this class of young people with some wholesome attraction which would employ their evenings better, and save them from the exposures of the saloon and of the street, was a question which, ten or twelve years ago, had often pressed itself on the attention of the dwellers along this chief thoroughfare of the city, and of others not indifferent to the good morals of the town, and of its social welfare.

In October, 1868, some gentlemen of Salem being in the city of New York heard there from a citizen of Providence, R. I., an interesting account of the "Union for Christian work," then in successful operation in that city. Soon after, a Salem gentleman visited the rooms of that institution in Providence and observed its methods with reference to trying a similar experiment in his own city.

On the 7th of February, 1869, Mr. Alfred Stone of Providence, formerly a resident of Salem, by invitation addressed a meeting at the East Church, explaining the working of the Providence Union. The next evening a few persons came together in the parlor of Benjamin H. Silsbee, Esq., to confer upon the matter further. Other meetings followed at the same place, and resulted in the formation of the Salem Fraternity, under a constitution which states the purpose of the organization to be "to provide evening instruction and amusement" for such of our population as "being confined to their

work during the day need recreation at the close of their labors."

The experiment fairly began on the 21st of April, 1869, on which evening the western range of rooms on the second floor of Downing's Block, 175 Essex street, was opened for the purpose from front to rear. The place was well chosen: central, accessible, attractive in its principal rooms, while the thoroughfare of the Essex street promenaders led directly past its door. The front and main room was assigned to amusements. Large, well-warmed and lighted, the walls hung with many pictures, it was suitably furnished with tables and chairs and a considerable variety of games. The rooms designated as Amusement, Reading, School, and Work Room, on the accompanying plan were those first opened.

It has been called an experiment; and it was that. It was to enter into competition with the street, and with other places offering amusements and entertainments less safe; if possible, to be made attractive enough to draw visitors from them. If visitors should come, it was to be seen who they would be, as to age, sex and tastes. Then would have to be considered what could be done for them; what to ensure their coming again; what to benefit them when there. It seems now most fortunate, if we may not say most wise, that those chiefly interested and active in the business looked upon it as an experiment; a problem to be worked out as the conditions of it should present themselves from day

to day. They knew the end they wanted to reach, but they were wedded to no preconceived and definite plans, on the success of which the result of the trial was staked. They were willing to learn as they went along.

A few preliminary points were soon settled with entire harmony. It must not be sectarian. As a sure way to keep clear of that danger, it was agreed that, for the time at least, no work distinctly and in name religious should be undertaken. The good done by Christian churches was fully recognized. Most of those coöperating in the Fraternity's work belonged to such organizations; but they saw here something to be done, which is commonly left outside of church work, though contemplated as needful and to be encouraged, by all church people. Assuming that in churches, Sunday schools, mission schools, and whatever other agencies each church prefers to work with as its instruments, religious ends would be cared for, this organization started to do what the churches had not then, at least, much tried to do, namely, to provide for that natural and healthful appetite for amusement, which exists in all young people: to provide for it in such places and under such circumstances as would protect those whose case was to be considered from many evil influences, which too often lurk along the paths of the young and unsuspecting. They hoped, besides, that some teaching might soon be attempted under such conditions as to make it attractive and helpful to the minds of their visitors; and that in

Purpose:

time their manners and morals would acquire a higher and healthier tone.

It was decided without dissent that books and a variety of reading matter must be made at once and permanently a means of wholesome entertainment, and a way of supplanting lower tastes by higher.

From the first it was understood that indescribable, unmeasurable, unstatable something, called personal influence, was the main thing to be relied on. Greater than any power of direct education or guidance, it was believed would be the effect of throwing around those, who should frequent these apartments, an atmosphere of light, comfort and kindness. It was certain that evenings passed in the company of intelligent, cheerful, courteous people, ready to converse with their guests, to entertain and make them happy, would not fail to tell on mind and manners. Clearly, then, a large force of interested and undiscourageable ladies and gentlemen must be had, to be divided into committees for every evening in the week, Sundays excepted, who should be the regular hosts, entertainers, librarians, teachers, and superintendents of the rooms. Here, it was foreseen, was where the strain would come upon the patience, faith, courage and continuance of the friends of the Fraternity. It was where it did come, and where it still comes.

The question presented itself at the threshold, whether both sexes should be received, or only young men and boys. For two reasons the doors were thrown open to all. First: there were young

Members

4 Boys
Girls

women and girls who as much needed the shelter and benefits of the place, as those of the other sex. Secondly: in order that the best results in training young people to a true manliness and womanliness of bearing and character, in which the sexes shall show each other mutual respect, and behave with a genuine modesty, they must be accustomed to each other's society, and be in a way to witness and to practise the polite attentions and civilities which are usual among well-bred people, and to feel the full force of that natural and powerful motive, the desire in either sex to be well esteemed by the other.

The first solicitude was to make the place attractive enough to secure attendance. That was not found so difficult as it was feared it might be. The rooms were filled at once. Men and boys, women and girls were there. We may safely say that nearly all came first from curiosity. The number suggested, almost compelled, an attempt at selection, which began by excluding boys under fifteen, then under seventeen. Without action or choice of the committees, the young women and girls soon fell off from the amusement room, and after awhile, pretty much ceased to come. Always there was a pressure upon that room from the boys, and the rule as to age before long dropped into disuse; and as the older men showed a general preference for the reading room over the amusement room, the latter came within two or three years to be almost exclusively occupied by young men and boys. For a little while, cards of admission were issued to the

younger boys, with their names and residences upon them, which they were required to present at the door; and it was hoped that some closer connection with their homes might in this way be established; but finding that false names were given in some instances, and that the cards were transferred, all further efforts at selection and exclusion were given up.

Here were results not exactly contemplated. But the committees were trying experiments. They were willing to let events teach. Accepting the situation, they devoted themselves to the care of the boys. And before long they discovered that in admitting all boys who chose to come and behave themselves properly — and that word "properly" was often construed with a large latitude — they had gathered in a class of persons more needing their care, and whatever good they could do them, than any other in this community. They excluded none for previous bad reputation. All were welcome to come in to their fire and light, their games and books, so long as the committee for the evening was satisfied with their conduct. A few, not always conforming to these easy requirements, had to be excluded from time to time, for an evening, a part of an evening, or a week.

The Fraternity began to win a good name from those on whom devolved the maintenance of the peace and good order of the city. The City Marshal, in his report for the year 1869, having "noticed with considerable interest the working of this institution," observed:

The results are such as should call for a continued support from those who are able to assist in this most excellent undertaking. The Society, during the few months it has been in operation, has deserved well the liberal support it has received, and, as far as I could perceive, has been most excellently conducted by those having the matter in charge.

"I speak of this society, not because it has any connection with my department, but for the reason that I have often had my attention called to it and my opinion asked, by many citizens, as to the effect the Fraternity had on the behavior of a certain class.

"I am satisfied that many young men, by spending their evenings at the Fraternity, are thereby saved from the bad influences of the street, which might result in violation of the law."

This testimony was confirmed from other sources, and has gained for the Fraternity the confidence and good will of many persons, most conversant with the administration of justice in the criminal courts, and best acquainted with the dangers by which young offenders are beset who appear at their bar.

In another particular, the expectations of the committees were pleasantly disappointed. They thought their guests would be hard to amuse. They studied games and plays with a view to increase variety, and expected to have to give considerable of their own time to interest their visitors in them. They opened their room for amusement with a piano, two parlor cue alleys, three croquet boards, a supply of checker (or draught) boards, chess, dominos, solitaire boards, letters for word-

making, historical puzzles, games with conversation cards, etc. (such as have originated in large numbers in Salem), with a large table supplied with stereoscopic views and provided with stereoscopic lenses, and a show glass for larger pictures. Cards and dice for reasons deemed sufficient were not provided and not allowed.

Soon it was found that the committee in charge had no occasion to entertain their visitors. They were competent and willing to amuse themselves. In a short time it was also found that some of the most costly games were least prized, or used with least success. Cue alleys and croquet boards were speedily knocked to pieces by a usage never designed by those who invented them. The boys did not care to be instructed in their right employment, but liked better their own noisier and more stirring performances. The boards and appliances after a while wore out or were broken, and were not replaced. The games requiring explanation and illustration were in a little while abandoned. The stereoscopic pictures were soiled and defaced, the glasses got out of repair, and the Fraternity had not money to spare in renewing them; they seemed not to be missed; and in a year or two, the conclusion had been reached that checkers and dominos, the most quiet and the cheapest as to their furnishing, were the most permanently satisfactory. And practically these have been, for several years, almost the only games of the amusement room, while the place loses none of its attractiveness for those whom it is desired to collect in it.

At the outset, the evening committees, and the general room committee, which combined constitute the principal advisory and working forces of the institution, expected to give much attention to teaching. This hope has not failed altogether of realization, but it has not had so large a success as was then thought possible,—partly and happily for the reason that the work it purposed to do is done better on a larger scale, in the evening schools for adults, maintained by the city under paid teachers. Here the teachers could not always be found, who would give continuous and competent instruction, changing as the committees did, from evening to evening. Some, however, came in a persevering spirit on purpose to teach; and some pupils, for special reasons, preferring these rooms to those of the night schools, persisted faithfully in their attendance, and lessons were given in reading, writing, arithmetic, book-keeping and some other studies, which, to those who received them, were not deemed of light value.

At the start, not much was expected to be made of the library, but much of the reading room, because the Fraternity had not money enough for its other wants, and books are costly; but it was thought that many would be willing to give their newspapers and periodicals, when read, for the reading-room table. In this expectation, they were not disappointed. The books and papers came in abundance; not too many, but a good supply. As to books in particular, they were mistaken. They called for *any* books which could be spared by their

owners. Books came in considerable numbers, but without selection: some, quite valuable for a library designed for more advanced readers than ours at first were, and of but little immediate use. Soon, however, friends began to understand the want better, and to bear the Fraternity in mind; and by a thoughtful persistency in asking, and a frequency of mention of the existing want, and especially by the generosity of a native, and sometimes citizen of Salem*, who has an extensive knowledge of books, and a philanthropic interest in improving this valuable public benefaction, the library has grown largely, and become a leading interest and means of good in the estimation of the conductors of the Fraternity. We shall speak of it again farther on.

Various other exercises for intellectual help were in the beginning and from time to time afterwards considered. A year and a half after its opening a winter course of lectures was started. On Saturday evenings the games and amusements were suspended, and their room was taken for this object. Some of the subjects treated, and names of the lecturers, will show their character. Gen. H. K. Oliver lectured on Good Manners; Comets; The Importance of Trifles. Rev. Mr. Stone, on Culture of the Voice; Prof. E. S. Morse, Color of Animals; Dr. Geo. B. Loring, Results of Wars in Europe and America; Gen. William Cogswell, Sherman's March to the Sea; Gen. Geo. H. Devereux, Common Sense;

* Henry P. Nichols, Esq., of Boston.

Prof. F. W. Putnam, Fishes, and Pre-historic Men of America; Rev. E. S. Atwood, Paris; Rev. D. Dorchester, The Drinking Usages of Society (two); Rev. A. B. Hervey, The Microscope and its Teachings; Rev. J. T. Hewes, Reading; Mr. Byron Groce, Joan of Arc; Mr. John Savary, Florida; Barton Square Club, Readings; Rev. C. V. Hanson, The Great Trees of California; Mr. R. S. Rantoul, Modes of Travelling; East Parish Reading Club, Readings; Mr. Geo. D. Phippen, Leaves; Capt. J. F. Devereux, Leslie's Retreat. Some of the most interesting and useful lectures in these courses were familiar talks upon different mechanical trades and various industries, by practical workers in them. These lectures were continued for some years, but for several of the last years have not been resumed; mainly for the reason that the amusement room, in which these entertainments were given, was wanted for its own special purposes, but partly, also, because if the audience was made up largely of the boys, it was a peculiarly difficult one to interest, demanding very special and able lecturers for just that kind of audience; and if it was not made up of the boys principally, but rather of the lecturer's friends and the general public, to that extent the lecture, however able and valuable in itself, did not answer its immediate object. It is still hoped that with a room which will not have to be withdrawn from other uses, and with the aid of the many friends of the Fraternity capable of holding the attention of wide-awake boys, courses

of lectures may be again successfully established.

Two things were known to be indispensable: money, and competent persons to serve on the evening and general committees: persons these must be who had heart for the work, and faith in it, and who would stick. It was estimated that eleven hundred dollars annually would be needed. By subscriptions, memberships, donations and occasional dramatic and other entertainments, it was believed this sum might be raised. For the other requisite, namely, constant workers willing to give time and labor gratuitously, those who began this enterprise thought they were the ones to answer whether there were enough such who could be counted on. They decided that there were and went forward. Not without close management, a great deal of time and labor freely given, and some anxieties and misgivings over the problem how the two ends, expense and income, should be made to meet, the Fraternity's operations were carried on for four years wholly by voluntary gifts; and meantime, as these operations extended, expenses unavoidably increased.

In 1872, a young man of this city, not known at the time to be interested in the Fraternity's aims and doings, but living on Essex street, where he looked from his windows on the evening throngs that crowd that street, fell into ill health. He had inherited wealth, and graduated from Harvard College in 1869. He died on the 11th of May, 1873, leaving by his will the income from fifteen thousand dollars

to the Fraternity, with something more to come at the death of certain favorite animals, for whose comfort during their lives, his will made provision: this appropriation to continue so long as amusements should be maintained as a feature of the institution. The memory of Dudley P. Rogers is held in grateful regard by all who wish well to the Fraternity, and who believe it to be rendering an important service on the right side among conflicting social forces.

Another name the Fraternity enrolls on its list of benefactors. On the 29th of June, 1876, Miss Harriet A. Deland died, leaving by will to the Fraternity five thousand dollars. So, from time to time, the patient workers in this field have found that their endeavors to do something for the bettering of their time and people, were attracting the silent attention and gaining the needed support of friends outside its membership, whose good will expressed itself to some purpose, albeit not in a way to bring back to their own ears the echo of human praise.

Naturally, some who had been accustomed to give liberally on the annual subscription list, felt that now all the wants of the Fraternity were supplied, and that nothing more would be required from them. It has been the fact, however, that the opportunities and calls for wider efforts have extended faster than the means to meet them; and the appeal continues to be made to old friends and new, to look carefully at what the Fraternity is doing, and if convinced of its usefulness, to put it in the power of those who have so well earned the con-

fidence of the community by what they have already done, to do still more.

This is what we now have to show: That the twelve years of the Salem Fraternity's life have established its claim to be continued with enlarged means corresponding to its wider opportunities of influence. We return to some specifications that go to make good this claim.

THE AMUSEMENT ROOM:—These years show that it meets a constant want. The number fluctuates with the season, and with the attractions outside. In the warm weather and short evenings, sometimes not more than twenty to thirty appear. On the evenings that follow the exhausting duties of a circus day, or those of a military parade, and on fine moonlight nights in summer, the number is small, and the visits are brief. During the long, winter evenings, especially if cold and stormy, this comfortable house of refuge and entertainment is much prized. The average attendance in 1875 was two hundred; in 1876, two hundred and thirty; in 1879, two hundred and fifty-three. The average of July, 1876, was eighty-five; of December, of the same year, four hundred and eighty-one. The average of July, 1879, ninety-seven; of December, 1879, one hundred and ninety-one. For two or three years, not much effect, apparently, was produced upon the manners, personal appearance and behavior of the boys. Want of cleanliness in clothing, or person, was never made a ground of exclusion;

and sometimes boys presented themselves straight from the mill, with the cotton tufts sticking to their garments, or in a state of raggedness, dilapidation and neglect, which, if it repelled, excited more sympathy than repulsion. Time, and the natural effects of association with the combed, clean and well-mannered, have at length produced quite observable changes for the better in many cases; in some, where it was greatly needed. In the earlier days, it was more frequently necessary to send a boy away for noise, insolence, or disturbance, than it has been lately. In the twelve years some boys have, as it were, grown up with the Fraternity, as one of their homes; and in those instances, a gradual but decisive progress can be seen, from an unkempt indifference to appearance, to a proper regard for tidiness of dress and civility of manners. There are twenty or more persons in all, serving on the different evening committees, of the six week-day evenings, who, with the janitor,—well suited to his position, and long familiarized with its duties,—regulate the order of this room.

THE LIBRARY.—It began with a few shelves of books, miscellaneous and unselected, in a small back room, from which now and then a boy or girl took a volume, usually much beyond his or her comprehension, as they might take home a puzzle, to see if they could make anything of it; and probably often, with about the same result. But they always brought the book back, and often tried another,

perhaps thinking, if they could extract but small entertainment from the first one a second might yield better.

There are now 4221 volumes in the library: 500 for reference only, the rest for circulation, numbering 3721 volumes. The takers of books number 1107. In the year 1876, there were eighty-eight contributors of books: number of volumes added five hundred and seventy. The increase in the size of the library, and the greatly increased use of it, have made necessary a migration from room to room, until it has reached its third station, where it has fair accommodations in the room designated as the Library on the plan, the last added to the suite occupied by the Fraternity.

This library has been gathered by gift wholly. It is the only free public library in Salem. Its large number of readers shows an active circulation. The "string" of applicants, patiently awaiting their turn at its counter, by its length and aspect attests an existing want, which this modest collection of books in part supplies, a want which ought, however, to be more fully met by a more abundant supply. It has taken all the money that could be spared for library uses, to keep the books in repair by renewing their worn-out bindings; and the busiest room in the building, that designated as the Work-room, in the plan, is where a committee of from two to four or five may be found on almost any evening engaged in re-covering books; at the same time, perhaps, considering ways and means to keep the Fraternity on its feet and doing.

July 8, 1889. Salem Public Library
opened

The takers of books are divided nearly equally between the two sexes. Cards, entitling the holder to take books, are given to all applicants, whose trustworthiness for their right and honest use is vouched for by any well-known citizen.

The number of books lost is very small, comparing favorably with all known similar institutions in this respect. Last year at the annual recall and inspection, the number missing was twelve. The necessity for the replenishment and growth of the library, it is hoped, will attract the attention of those who have books or money to spare for the purpose.

READING-ROOM.—The long line of book-takers, who come nightly to get something for home reading, does not tell all that the Fraternity does to provide reading for the people. Its reading room is supplied with the Salem papers by the favor of their publishers, and from some of their offices come, besides, many of their most desirable exchanges. Several daily and weekly newspapers, pictorial weeklies, religious, scientific and literary periodicals; Harper's, Lippincott's, Scribner's and the Atlantic Magazines; the Scientific American; Manufacturer and Builder, and quite a large number of irregular and casual papers collected by the interested friends of the Fraternity, find their way to its tables, at a very small outlay of money; not more than fifty dollars were expended in the last year for this branch of the Fraternity. Seven magazines and twenty-eight papers are regularly received.

A few years since, a capacious box was placed on the First Church building on Washington street, to receive whatever reading matter might there be deposited; into this net not a few stray leaves float and are caught.

WOMEN'S ROOM. It has been mentioned that not long after the opening, women nearly ceased to come to the Amusement room, or came only occasionally, and a few at a time; though they took books from the library quite as much as the men. A room for women to meet in, for reading, conversation, and possibly for industrial instruction, and for an employment reference room, has seemed to the committees a much needed addition to their available means of helping young women. On the first of January, 1879, a room for these purposes was opened. The neat and pleasant but economical furnishings for it came, as usual, mostly by gift. It is carpeted and has the necessary tables and chairs; pictures grace the walls; a sewing machine, a fernery, and reading matter suited to female wants and tastes, especially periodicals containing patterns and plates for dress-making, and bound volumes of such literature, hint both at taste and industry, while other good reading lies close at hand, if desired.

SCHOOL-ROOM.—In the school-room, which is small and inconvenient, a few scholars still attend irregularly: an average of perhaps four on the winter evenings. Teachers are provided for those who

come. There have been some very patient and persistent adult learners here from time to time who, from diffidence, or for some other reason, have not been inclined to attend the city evening school. Here, as elsewhere, the Fraternity has pursued an expectant and experimental method; letting the straitened quarters, and the circumstances with which it had to deal, determine its council of advisers and laborers what to attempt. Perhaps if a room somewhat larger could be obtained through that liberality of its friends, which has never failed,—and such a room, suitable and empty, now stands waiting alongside those already occupied,—it might be made to answer the purposes both of a school-room and a lecture-room.

In 1875 the Fraternity became incorporated under the statutes of Massachusetts, that it might be able to hold and administer larger funds, and that its permanence and efficiency might be the better assured.

The vein of congratulation, in which this descriptive sketch has mostly run, must give place to a less cheerful ending. The name which would have been soonest mentioned in a list of those who have rendered long and important service in the Fraternity, must now be written *in memoriam*. The Fraternity had been organized about a year when it first attracted the attention of Mr. Caleb Cooke.

He soon became one of its most helpful friends. More and more he took into his willing hands multiplying activities, for which the fresh volunteers did not arise fast enough; and when removal or conflicting engagements drew off the faithful, or a waning interest threw the necessary work on a steadfast few, it was he who took up duties which others laid down, saw where new enterprises must be attempted, and had an unceasing care that no part of the work should flag.

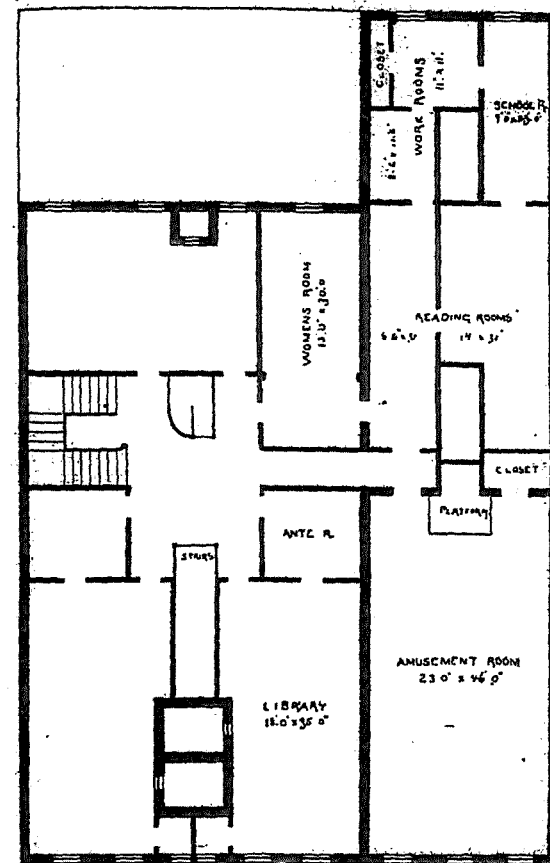
He is supposed to have taken malarial poison into his system, many years ago in the jungles of Africa, which lately developed into fatal activity under imprudent exposure in the pursuit of his favorite scientific investigations. Resolutely following up his work to the last, refusing to listen to the suggestions of rest and medical advice till it was too late, he sank rapidly to his death, which occurred on the 5th of June, 1880.

At a meeting of the Fraternity held after his death, the following resolves were presented, and, after other testimonials to his rare worth and great services, were adopted.

Resolved: That in the death of Caleb Cooke, the Fraternity loses its right hand,—behind that, a wisely counselling mind, a heart beating in quick sympathy with all plans for bettering the condition of the unfortunate, of guiding the wayward and strengthening the weak. Acknowledged first among the givers of time and service to those humanities

which the Fraternity tries to understand and practise, a chivalrous protector of the small and feeble, he was a ready speaker for those who are without an advocate, and proved the fine and high quality of his own manfulness by respecting human nature in all its lowliest, most crushed and outcast forms: a man who put doing above promising and talking: whose own words and conduct were in keeping, unless—rare disproportion—he did better than he said.

Resolved:—That, while we mourn for him, we are grateful for him, and see that we shall do his memory worthiest honor by not letting his work drop, but carrying it forward to higher success in his own spirit.



PLAN OF THE ROOMS.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT.

We, the subscribers, officers and members of a voluntary charitable association heretofore known as the Salem Fraternity, desiring to avail ourselves of the rights conferred by Chapter 875 of the Acts of the Legislature of 1874, hereby agree to associate, and do hereby associate ourselves together, with the intention of establishing a corporation which shall be known by the name of the Salem Fraternity.

The said corporation is constituted for the purpose of providing such entertainments and such innocent amusements as shall be best calculated to allure and draw together, from the streets of Salem, such young men and women as have no suitable place of resort in which to pass their evenings, and for the instruction and education of such young persons as may be induced to avail themselves of its privileges in the rudiments of knowledge, virtue and morality, and to furnish to the young people of both sexes in Salem, a place which shall be to them a convenient resort in which to spend their leisure time, where the influences around them will be elevating, and where they may find rational amusements and recreation— to provide them with opportunities for self-improvement; means of intellectual culture, sympathy and aid in times of trouble; to accomplish some practical good in the community by presenting in an attractive form all those good influences which will help to destroy the power of the allurements of vice, so prevalent in a city life; to engage in active benevolent work; to aid young men and

(26)

women, strangers in the city, to obtain employment and to secure proper boarding places; to visit those who are sick and in prison, to aid those in want, and to help those whom a word of kindness at the right time may save from lives of degradation and sin.

The said corporation to be and the same is hereby established and located in the City of Salem in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HENRY WHEATLAND,
OTIS P. LORD,
WILLIAM D. NORTHEAD,
FREDERICK GRANT,
FREDERICK PORTER,
FRANCIS H. LEE,
JOHN E. LAKEMAN,
MARY O. HODGES,
SOPHIA E. LEE,
WILLIAM COGSWELL,
WILLIAM NORTHEY,
MARTHA A. PORTER,
CALEB COOKE,
FRANK B. DEVERREUX,
ARTHUR L. HUNTINGTON,
SARAH E. HUNT,
SAMUEL C. BEANE,
CHARLES W. RICHARDSON,
EDMUND B. WILLSON,
CHARLES A. BENJAMIN.

SALEM, December 10, 1875.

I, William D. Northend, one of the subscribers to the above agreement, hereby on oath certify and declare that I have personally given, to each and every one of the sub-

scribers to the above agreement, a copy of the following notice:—

“SALEM, December 10, 1875.

This is to notify you that the first meeting of the subscribers to the agreement for establishing a corporation, to be known by the name of the Salem Fraternity, will be held at the office of William D. Northend in Brown's Block, Salem, on Saturday evening, December 18, present, at seven and one-half o'clock, for the purpose of organizing said Corporation, the adoption of by-laws, the election of officers, and to do any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

WILLIAM D. NORTHEND,

One of the subscribers to said agreement.”

WILLIAM D. NORTHEND.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Essex s.s.

December 13, 1875.

Then personally appeared the above named William D. Northend and made oath that the above statement by him subscribed is true.

Before me, CHARLES SEWALL,

Justice of the Peace.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Be it known, that whereas HENRY WHEATLAND, WILLIAM NORTHEY, WILLIAM D. NORTHEND, FREDERICK GRANT, CALEB COOKE, MARY O. HODGES, CHARLES W. RICHARDSON, ARTHUR L. HUNTINGTON, OTIS F. LORD, MARTHA A. PORTER, SAMUEL C. BEANE, E. B. WILLSON and others, have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the SALEM FRATERNITY, for the purpose of providing entertainments and innocent amusements, instruction and education, opportunities for self-improvement, and means of intellectual culture, sympathy and aid in time of trouble, etc., etc., for young persons in the city of Salem, with a capital of an amount not established, nor divided into shares, and have complied with the provisions of the statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the Certificate of the President, Treasurer and Directors of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office.

Now, therefore, I, OLIVER WARNER, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that said H. WHEATLAND, W. NORTHEY, W. D. NORTHEND, F. GRANT, C. COOKE, M. O. HODGES, C. W. RICHARDSON, A. L. HUNTINGTON, O. P. LORD, M. A. PORTER, S. C. BEANE, E. B. WILLSON and others, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the SALEM FRATERNITY, with the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions, which by law appertain thereto.

Witness my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed, the twenty-third day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

OLIVER WARNER,

Secretary of the Commonwealth.

[SEAL.]

BY-LAWS.

I. MEMBERS.

The subscribers to the agreement of Corporation and such other members as may be elected, as hereinafter provided, shall constitute the Corporation of the Salem Fraternity.

II. ELECTION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.

The Corporation may elect, by ballot, additional members at the first or any stated meeting, or at any special meeting, provided that in the notice for such special meeting, the purpose of electing additional members is stated.

III. OFFICERS.

The officers of the Corporation shall consist of eleven Directors,—one of whom shall be elected President by the Directors,—a Clerk, and a Treasurer. They shall be elected by ballot at the first meeting and at each succeeding annual meeting, to serve for one year, or until others are elected in their places. The said President and Directors shall have the charge and management of all the affairs of the Corporation, and they may fill any vacancies that occur in their board, by resignation or otherwise.

IV. MEETINGS.

There shall be meetings of the Corporation in April, July, October, and January. The April meeting shall be considered the annual meeting. Meetings of the Directors shall be held a half hour before each regular meeting of the Corporation.

(30)

Special meetings of the Corporation, or of the Directors, may be called by the President, and shall be called at the request—in writing—of three Directors, if for a meeting of Directors, and of five members, if for a meeting of the Corporation.

Notices of the stated meetings, and of any special meeting, shall be sent by the Clerk by mail, postpaid, or said notice shall be published in one or more newspapers in the city, seven days at least before the meeting.

V. ANNUAL REPORT.

At each annual meeting, the Directors shall present or cause to be presented a full report of the work of the year: and of all moneys received and expended during the year.

VI. COMMITTEES.

At each annual meeting, in addition to the officers hereinbefore named, there shall be elected a Library and Room Committee, a Committee on Amusements, a Lecture Committee, and a Nominating Committee.

VII. QUORUM.

Ten persons shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Corporation.

VIII. ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS.

The by-laws may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, or at any stated meeting, the proposed alteration or amendment having been stated in the call for such meeting; *provided*, that such proposed alteration shall have been submitted at a previous meeting; but no alteration or amendment shall be made unless at least, one-third of the members of the Corporation shall be present and vote for the same.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1880-81.

President.

HENRY WHEATLAND.

Treasurer.

WILLIAM NORTHEY.

Clerk.

JOHN R. LAKEMAN.

Directors.

HENRY WHEATLAND, OTIS P. LORD, WILLIAM D. NORTHEED, WILLIAM NORTHEY, FREDERICK GRANT, FRANCIS H. LEE, MARY O. HODGES, SOPHIA E. LEE, ELIZABETH WHEATLAND, SUSAN L. KIMBALL, ELIZABETH W. SILSBEE.

Amusement Committee.

FRANK B. DEVEREUX, WILLIAM NORTHEY, N. M. SAFFORD, SUSAN L. KIMBALL, ELIZABETH W. SILSBEE.

Room and Library Committee.

FRANCIS H. LEE, MARY O. HODGES, and ELIZABETH WHEATLAND.

Lecture Committee.

EDMUND B. WILLSON, FRANCIS H. LEE, and FREDERICK PORTER.

Finance Committee.

WILLIAM NORTHEY, WILLIAM D. NORTHEED, ELIZABETH W. SILSBEE and LYDIA E. NICHOLS.

Nominating Committee.

FRANCIS H. LEE, SUSAN L. KIMBALL, ELIZABETH WHEATLAND, FRANK B. DEVEREUX, and ALICE WILLSON.

Janitor.

GEORGE A. GRAY.

2004 PLAQUE PROGRAM

TO: Bob Leonard, Ould Colony Artisans
FAX: 207-779-0707

FROM: Dick Thompson, Historic Salem, Inc.

DATE: July 20, 2004

New Plaque order as follows:

Downing Block

1858

The First Boys Club
In America
Started 1869

Ship to:

Barbara Lally
30 Arthur Avenue
Marblehead, MA 01945