

## Secretary's Report

The Board Of Directors of the Fall River Historical Society met on 10 occasions during the 2001 - 2002 fiscal year.

We held our annual members' meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2001, at the museum building on Rock Street. The Annual Holiday Open House for members was held on Saturday, December 8, 2001. In addition to these meetings, the Historical Society sponsored 7 special events for members from May 2001 to April 2002.

The Society was open for a total of 305 days during the 2001 - 2002 fiscal year. Of these, the museum was open for tours 249 days. The museum was also open for special evening hours on 11 occasions during the holiday season.

The Society employs 4 full-time paid staff members, as well as two part-time seasonal employees.

## Election of Officers and Directors

The following officers and directors were voted in unanimously at the Annual Members' Meeting:

### Officers for 2002 - 2003

Elizabeth Wells Denning, President  
Robert Kitchen, 1st Vice President  
John B. Cummings, Jr., 2nd Vice President  
Kathleen R. Carey, Secretary  
Betty M. Welch, Treasurer  
Zelma A. Braga, Asst. Treasurer

### Directors for a one-year term ending May 2003

Marjorie Condon, Ph.D.  
Paul Levesque  
Andrew M. Lizak  
Hon. John R. Mitchell, Esq.  
Albertina Pacheco

### Directors for a two-year term ending May 2004

John W. Cummings  
Sean Lafrance  
Walter Mitchell  
James S. Panos  
Pauline Theberge

### Directors for a three-year term ending May 2005

John McDonough  
Julie Raposa  
Ira Rex, Jr., M.D.  
Philip T. Silvia, Jr., Ph.D.  
Agatha St. Amour

### Honorary Directors

Kevin Brault  
Ruth P. Brown  
Elizabeth Brayton Dawson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, September 4, 2002, at 7:00 p.m.

**Barbara Barker**  
"What's It?" Appreciation of Colonial Inventiveness and Life

An entertaining look, both humorous and informative, at unusual utensils of the past.

Sunday, September 15, 2002

"History Underfoot"

A fascinating tour of Oak Grove Cemetery, sponsored in conjunction with the Fall River Garden Club and the Little Theatre of Fall River. Featured are in-character portrayals of some of this city's famous, or infamous, individuals. Tickets: \$7.00 in advance; \$8.00 at the event. Rain Date: September 29, 2002

Wednesday, October 23, 2002

**Anabel Graetz and Deborah Goss:**  
"The Proper Ladies"

This noted duo will present an autumn-themed program which offers shimmering harmonies, humorous anecdotes, ghostly tales and more!

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

**Andrew M. Lizak**  
The Fall River Line

An illustrated lecture on this fascinating topic.

## WELCOME TO NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

The Historical Society would like to extend thanks to the following for responding to our recent Corporate Membership Drive. Your support is greatly appreciated!

### Corporate Contributors

Law Offices of Thomas T. Brady  
Law Offices of Peter G. Collias  
Law Offices of Brian R. Corey  
Dr. Azhar Mustafa

### Corporate Sponsors

Gold Medal Bakery, Inc.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Rose Arruda; Marlene Beaulieu; William Birkett; Dr. & Mrs. Lars Boman; Beatrice H. Bowker; James Chace; Matthew J. Desmarais; F. Jean Dragovich; Barbara English; Alice Gallant; Carol Brindley Goolsbee; Bob Gutowski; Nicole Harrington; Aida N. Harris; Mr. & Mrs. Tom Hopkins; Irish Specialty Shop; Roger Jackson; Michael King; Robert & Judith Leonard; Stephanie Luiz; Frances MacDonald; Laurie Manuels; Kate Marin; Claire Melanson; Ricky Miller; Karl O'Brien; Anne Reed; Lois B. Reitsas; Ira H. Rex III, MD; Katie Rosen; Louise K. Simcock; Alfred Sousa; Pauline A. Teixeira; Pauline & Norman Theberge; Diane C. Wheeler; Carlene M. Wood

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Summer 2002  
Volume 14, Number 2

# The Fall River Historical Society Report

## THE SECOND PHASE OF THE VICTORIAN GARDENS

The second phase of the Victorian Garden Project has recently been completed, furnishing the Society with a space that offers a multitude of uses in a grand setting. From outdoor terraced classroom space to areas specially designed with the photographer in mind, this verdant environment offers visitors an opportunity to step back and sample a taste of yesterday.

To begin our garden tour, we must imagine ourselves exiting the museum from the shop door in the ell on the Maple Street side of the building. A bluestone walkway bordered by cobblestones, once the paving blocks of Fall River's streets, curves gracefully to the right. To the left of this walkway is a garden containing nearly twenty fragrant rosebushes of different varieties in myriad colors. To the right is a small lawn ornamented with a lantern matching those used throughout the garden and a cast-iron settee in the grapevine pattern. Bordering this is an area with plantings including lily-of-the-valley, fern, and vintage roses in memory of John R. "Jack" Brennan, the gift of his wife and family.

Continuing along the walkway, we find a retaining wall with a flight of three granite steps leading us up to the next level of the garden, which is comprised of a series of four parterres surrounding the gazebo. The retaining wall is of particular interest to Fall River natives as it is constructed of granite salvaged from the wreckage of Notre Dame Church after the devastating fire on May 11, 1982. The Society's magnificent gazebo, cast in iron by Chase & Co., Ornamental Iron Works, New York, circa 1869 and original to the Rock Street property, provides the central point around which the four areas have been designed. The parterres, divided by bluestone walkways bordered with cobblestones, contain small lawns furnished with a variety of period cast-iron seat furniture and urns so typical of the excess of the Victorian era. Of special note is a magnificent monumental urn, cast by either Mott or Fiske of New York circa 1875, featuring elaborate handles in the form of dragons and a border of alternating lily pads and scallop shells mounted with frogs. Plantings in this urn are tropical in nature, including a banana tree and passion flower vine among them. During the nineteenth century, garden enthusiasts would supplement the plantings in their gardens by bringing their indoor plants outside for the warmer months in order to create a lush, more exotic environment.

The plantings in each of these parterres include roses, hydrangea, and a variety of annuals and perennials so as to insure a feast of color throughout the seasons. Each area was made possible through the generosity of individual donors who grasped the Historical Society's vision and provided the funds necessary to make this dream into a reality. Society member Miss

Yvonne Farinha created a garden in memory of her brother, the late Edmund Farinha, a long-time friend of the Society. Miss Alma E. Foley, Society member and dedicated volunteer, established "The Sisters Garden," in honor of her two sisters, Valerie and Bernadette, as well as all sisters everywhere. The generosity of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation made possible a third parterre in memory of philanthropists George Grimshaw and Irene Gudewicz. Historical Society treasurer Betty M. Welch wished that the area she made possible be dedicated in honor of her mother, Marion Holmes Munro, a garden enthusiast.

Following the walkway around the right of the gazebo leads us to the next area of the garden, a terrace occupying the lower level directly behind the ell, funded through the generosity of the Earle P. Charlton Jr. Charity Fund. Bordered on three sides by retaining walls also constructed with Notre Dame Church granite, the area is reached by descending a flight of steps graced with a pair of cast iron urns in the classical style. Designed to double as outdoor classroom space for use in conjunction with the Society's educational programs or as a function area, the terrace is bordered with flower beds. Plantings here include a variety of nineteenth-century roses, old clematis vine, and a diverse selection of perennials. A focal point of this terrace is an impressive wood trellis original to the Rock Street building and entwined with the Easton family's clematis vines and a Madame Alfred Carriere climbing rose of 1879. From this level, we have a beautiful view of the gazebo to the north and the fountain, the focal point of the first phase of the Victorian Garden, to the southwest.

The second phase of the project was intended, through its design, to carry on the Victorian theme of the first garden dedicated in September of 2000. The design was inspired by photographs and paintings in the Society's collection depicting the elaborate gardens of nineteenth-century Fall River. By recreating the "feel" of these elaborate pleasure gardens, the Society has taken its grounds to a level unlike anything seen in the area.

## CURRENT QUESTION:

- Q. Where was Mosquito Island?"  
A. Mosquito Island was located on the Quequechan River, above the Watuppa Dam, at the site of the Massasoit Textile Company, formerly the Eddy Woolen Mill.



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# Acquisitions

## HAND-PAINTED PORCELAIN

An attractive set of teacups and saucers, hand-painted by Hannah Valentine Durfee, has recently been donated to the museum by Mrs. Charles E. Test. They were painted by the donor's great-grandmother and are an interesting addition to the Society's large collection of china decorated by Fall River ladies during the Victorian period.

The partial set of twelve cups and saucers is painted in a variety of floral designs, with one choice example decorated with a scene of three realistically rendered bluebirds whimsically engaged as if in conversation. They are signed with the initial "H" and inscribed with the date "1886." The pure white porcelain blanks, of typical form, bear the green underglaze mark of Haviland & Cie and were manufactured in the Limoges district of France. Enormous numbers of table and ornamental wares were produced in this district during the *belle époque* intended as the foundation for decoration by female enthusiasts of the oeuvre. To say that the craze for china painting reached its zenith during the late Victorian period would be an understatement as thousands of examples have survived to bear witness to the various level of skills possessed by these industrious ladies. Most often these pieces bear only the initials of the decorator and perhaps a date, the artisans being anonymous with the initials providing little clue to their identities. Since they were produced as gifts for family and friends, or intended for their personal use, there was little reason to add a full signature, it being considered decidedly unladylike to do so. Comfortable in the fact that the initials told all to the artist and recipients of these gifts, they went on painting, subsequent generations relegating their identities to obscurity. The cups and saucers painted by Hannah are an important addition to the Society's collection of nineteenth-century decorative arts, as much about the artist is known to us.

Hannah Valentine Durfee was born in Fall River on January 25, 1828, the daughter of Matthew Chaloner and Fidelia (Borden) Durfee. Born a member of one of her native city's first families, her life, albeit privileged in her youth, was destined to be one fraught with difficulties. She was married, on November 15, 1848, to Thomas Lewis



"Mrs. Hannah Valentine Durfee," circa 1875. Photo by Gay's Gallery of Art.

Robinson, a resident of Roxbury, Massachusetts, moving to that city to make her home. She was the mother of three children and her first child, a son named Lewis Durfee Robinson, was born in Roxbury in 1849 and died three months later. A daughter, Fidelia Durfee Robinson, was born in Roxbury in 1854, later marrying Charles Cyrus Buffinton, a Fall River native, in 1880. Her final child, Thomas Durfee Robinson, born in Fall River in 1858, became a successful civil engineer and architect in the state of Colorado. Hannah's marriage to Mr. Robinson was not a happy one and by 1878 she had returned to Fall River where, styling herself "Mrs. Hannah V. Durfee," she resided with her mother. By 1882,

she was living with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Buffinton. She was to make her home with them for nearly twenty-five years, passing away on November 26, 1907. Following a funeral service held from her residence, she was buried in a plot purchased in Oak Grove Cemetery. No obituary appeared in the Fall River newspapers, a simple death notice the only mention of her passing.

Thomas Lewis Robinson resided abroad for many years and died in Brixton, England, on July 25, 1887, at the age of sixty-four. He was interred in a London cemetery, the final resting place of a number of American expatriates. The cause of the estrangement between him and his wife, Hannah, is lost to history and, although the unpleasant word "divorce" was never mentioned in polite circles, it is possible that one took place. No doubt her family's social prominence protected her from the ostracization that would have been her fate, administered at the hands of provincial Fall River dowagers to whom such scandal would have been anathema. There is little doubt that the surname "Durfee" was, for her, much dearer than that of Robinson. It is hoped that her life in Fall River, with her family and a large circle of friends, granted her everything that she lacked as Mrs. Thomas Lewis Robinson of Roxbury.

Preserved in the archival collection of the Historical Society is Hannah's memory book, undated but likely compiled during the late 1850's or early 1860's. Perhaps much can be ascertained from the inscription which she penned onto the first page of the volume before curiously attaching the sheet to its cover with sealing wax. In the flowing script of the day, she wrote, "Que j'étourdisse tout le voisinage" which translates to "That I might make the whole neighborhood go crazy." One wonders just how prophetic these words were.

### THANKS TO:

- ❖ **Jeannette "Betty Nettie" Denning**, for generously donating to the Historical Society the stipend she received when she presented THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARTHA GRAY DAVOL for the Friends of the Westport Public Library on July 30, 2002. Mrs. Denning was also gracious enough to donate her services when she presented the same program at the Society's Annual Meeting. Many thanks, Mrs. Denning.
- ❖ Artist and Society member **Victoria Mathieson**, for the contribution of her original pen-and-ink drawing of the Society's gazebo, which was used for the cover of the garden dedication program. Plans are in the works to use this beautiful drawing for Historical Society note cards, or perhaps a series with other illustrations of the garden - what do you think, Victoria???

Congratulations to Society member and benefactor **E.P. "Chuck" Charlton**, whose family was honored on the evening of Wednesday, August 7, 2002, with a gala benefit, The Charlton Legacy, the proceeds of which were donated to the American Dream Scholarship. The evening, organized by representatives from various charities who have benefitted from the philanthropic acts of the Charlton Charitable Trusts, featured several speakers, a documentary film presentation, and even a song written especially for the event. The delightful evening was well attended and a good time was had by all. A tribute of this type was long overdue, as the Charlton family's legacy of philanthropy has made a great impact on the Southcoast area. Congratulations, Chuck!

## ANNUAL REPORT 2001 - 2002

The Annual Meeting for Historical Society members was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2002. Following opening remarks by Society president Elizabeth Wells Denning, John B. Cummings, Jr. proposed a change to Article 5 of the Historical Society's by-laws. The change, to make an amendment stating that directors shall hold office for a term of three (3) years, with five (5) directors being elected each year, was voted in unanimously by the membership. Reports were then delivered by Michael Martins, curator, Betty M. Welch, treasurer, and Kathleen R. Carey, secretary. John B. Cummings, Jr., chair of the nominating committee, then read the slate of officers and directors for the 2002 - 2003 fiscal year, which was also voted in unanimously.

Mrs. Jeannette Denning was the guest speaker at the May meeting, the subject being THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MISS MARTHA GRAY DAVOL. Mrs. Denning had spent many months working on a collection of correspondence which had been donated to the Historical Society by Miss Davol, doing extensive research on all of the principals mentioned. The program, using many images from the Society's photographic archive, provided a perceptive look at a girl's life during Fall River's "Golden Age."

### From the President

Good evening! It has been quite a year for your Historical Society. Our Christmas season was very successful, and we had more groups come in to the museum than ever before. Also, we are to be on the cover of *Victorian Homes* in 2003 for the Christmas edition! I believe this comes out in October, so watch for it! By the by, we are the only ones they have EVER let use artificial greens, and the magazine people said they looked as good as real ones! Kudos to Michael, Dennis, Marie Claire and Anna, as well as all the helpful Christmas volunteers, for the great job.

As you may have noticed, the final phase of the garden project is underway. We hope to be ready for the opening by June, and maybe even to have some events there this summer. I am sure you realize the weather has to cooperate, and it hasn't yet, so perhaps July is a more realistic target! Once completed, however, it will be a great outdoor space for educational projects, and the garden should be income-producing for us as well. We have had quite a few inquiries about it for weddings and outdoor parties, and hopefully that will increase.

Speaking of income-producing, it has been the Historical Society's goal to be self-sufficient, self-supporting and independent. Thanks to the generous contributions of all our members and supporters, I am proud to be able to tell you that while we have debt, we owe money ONLY to ourselves. We have NEVER, in the entire history of the Society, become indebted to the city or any of its organizations. And I can guarantee that, while I am president, that never shall happen either! So, thank you all for coming tonight, and enjoy the evening.

### Curator's Report

The past year has been both a hectic and rewarding one for the Fall River Historical Society.

During our annual winter hiatus, a great deal of time was spent cataloguing the archival collections, a task made considerably

more efficient thanks to the purchase of Past Perfect Museum Software and a new computer system. This work is on-going, necessary in order to make the materials in the archive manageable and easily accessible to our patrons.

The exterior restoration of both the museum and annex buildings was finally completed, resulting in what can be called a model of preservation. Time-consuming and expensive, this work was imperative in order to insure the continued vitality of the Society's most important artifacts, the structures which house the museum collections.

A great deal of progress was made on the second phase of the garden project with construction of a terrace and a series of parterre gardens underway. Much staff time has been expended on this project, from design and research to fundraising and procuring appropriate garden ornaments. This area, coupled with the existing gardens, will be beneficial in the future as a site for educational programming and as a source of revenue in the form of rentals for private functions. By creating these gardens, the Society has given the people of Fall River something the likes of which has not been seen since the "glory days" of the nineteenth century, and for this we should be proud.

Visitation is up in the form of bus groups touring the museum. It is important that we cultivate groups of this type as they result in increased admissions revenue and museum shop sales.

The fifth grade school program, now in its seventh year, continues to be a success. It is always rewarding when students return with parents or relatives, eager to show them what they saw when on a class visit.

The Society continues to actively collect and one never knows where the next artifact might turn up or just what might be brought in through the front door. Sometimes valuable, intrinsically or historically, often simply curiosities of local interest, all of these items find a home at the Society, helping us to interpret the lives of the people of the city of Fall River's past.

Much has been accomplished in the area of programming for the Society's membership. A full and diverse calendar of interesting events has been assembled for the coming year that is sure to have something of interest for everyone.

The Society owes a great debt of gratitude to its many volunteers who faithfully give their time and make the day-to-day running of the museum possible. It would be an understatement to say that it would be impossible to keep the museum open on a daily basis without their help. The Society is, indeed, fortunate to have them.

It goes without saying that we are fortunate to have a great staff with the ability to work together to keep things running smoothly. There are many days when our very small staff is overtaxed, especially so during the summer and holiday seasons, but such is life in a small non-profit organization. It is fair to say that by early December the staff looks ahead with anticipation to the museum closing for the winter season. It is a real treat to begin and actually finish a project without interruption!

The future for the Fall River Historical Society looks bright and I am certain that the coming year will prove to be as rewarding as the last.

Michael Martins,  
Curator

## Curator's Corner

### Grant to Benefit Shop and Web Site

A grant in the sum of \$15,460 has been awarded to the Society by the Earle P. Charlton, Jr. Charity Fund. These funds are to be used to purchase a point-of-sale computer inventory system for the museum shop, as well as to update the web site, making it more user-friendly. The Society is deeply indebted to E. P. "Chuck" Charlton, Trustee of the Charlton Charitable Trusts for his generosity and interest in the work of the Society.

### Lizzie Borden on Cable

The Borden murder mystery continues to be of interest to the media. On August 2nd the curator was interviewed by a representative of LMNO Cable Group of Encino, California for an upcoming episode of "Secrets of Haunted New England." The segment, which will feature footage shot at the Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast Museum, contains archival material from the Society's collection and is expected to air in the fall.

### A Day in Boston

On Monday, May 13, 2002, the Historical Society conducted a motorcoach trip to Boston. In spite of the horrendous weather, pouring rain that we could certainly use at this point in the summer, the day proved to be a very relaxing and enjoyable one. Once we were underway, the Historical Society staff served "breakfast on board," a regular feature on these trips. Fresh fruit salad, delicious cheese danish specially made by Jim Souza at New Boston Bakery, and fresh ground coffee were the fare consumed as we headed for our first destination: The Gibson House. As we toured this Beacon Street home of an affluent family, we took a step back through time to the Golden Age of nineteenth century Boston. Our next stop was the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where we were scheduled to see a special exhibit of Impressionist Still Life, a show which featured many works never displayed in this country before. Following this exhibit, our guests were allowed free time to leisurely visit the MFA's many fine collections, or get lunch in one of the museum's many fine restaurants. As the afternoon drew to a close, we were back on board, arriving in Fall River at 5:00 p.m.

### GARDEN DEDICATION HELD

The dedication for the second phase of the Victorian garden and terrace was held on Thursday, August 8, 2002. Members and benefactors were invited to attend the event, which began at 6:00 p.m., with opening remarks from Historical Society president Elizabeth Wells Denning, Hon. Edward Lambert, mayor of the city of Fall River, and E.P. "Chuck" Charlton, trustee of the Charlton Charitable Trusts. Over 100 guests attended the reception on this beautiful summer evening, which included refreshments of wine and cheese served on the terrace.

Following the public dedication, a private reception was held for the benefactors in the Wine Room at Giorgio's Steak House. Guests included: Mrs. John Brennan and her daughter, Priscilla; Mr. & Mrs. E.P. Charlton II, daughter, Stacey, and party; Miss Alma Foley, accompanied by her niece, Pat Curran; Miss Yvonne Farinha; Bernard Taradash, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Shabshelowitz, trustees of the Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Trust and party; Betty M. Welch, her mother, Mrs. Marion Munro, and party. Representing the Fall River Historical Society were its president, members of the Board of Directors and staff.

During dinner, President Elizabeth Wells Denning, on behalf of the members of the Fall River Historical Society, presented Mr. Charlton with an inscribed platter in recognition of the continued interest and support of the Charlton Charitable Trusts. The Society is extremely grateful to all these benefactors, as well as an anonymous donor, who have helped to bring the dream of this garden and terrace to fruition.



Society President Elizabeth Wells Denning addresses the crowd at the Victorian garden and terrace dedication.



E.P. "Chuck" Charlton, representing the Charlton Charitable Trusts, delivers opening remarks.



Standing (left to right): Betty M. Welch, Mr. & Mrs. John Munro, Joanne St. Pierre  
Seated (left to right): Marion H. Munro, Mary Munro Hickey

## On Miss Borden

### "Lizzie's Turncoat Friend"



Miss Alice M. Russell, in her room at the Home for the Aged, September 4, 1931.

Frank B. Hadley has recently donated a rare and important photograph of Miss Alice M. Russell to the Fall River Historical Society. It is the only photograph of Miss Russell known to exist, depicting the subject as an elderly woman. Miss Russell was the first cousin of the donor's grandmother, Ida Russell. Ida's husband, Dwight Minor, took the photograph at 3:46 pm on September 4, 1931, with the subject sitting in her comfortably furnished room at the Home for Aged People in Fall River. In the mirror of the ornate Victorian bureau can be seen the image of the photographer, standing before a window. The photograph was found by the donor among a collection of family photographs enclosed in an envelope inscribed "Alice Russell Lizzie's Turncoat Friend" in the hand of Mr. Minor. The reverse of the photograph is inscribed "Alice Maria Russell, Fall River, Sept. 4, 1931." in an unidentified hand. It is interesting to note that the middle name, as it appears on the photograph, is Maria, as it was previously believed that the initial "M" stood for Manley, the maiden surname of her mother.

Born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, in 1852, Alice was the daughter of Frederick W. and Judith (Manley) Russell. She was employed as a clerk for several years in Fall River and later taught sewing in the public school system. In 1908, she was promoted to the position of supervisor of sewing, remaining in that capacity until her retirement five years later. A Fall River resident for most of her life, she spent several years living next door to the Borden family on Second Street. In 1930, Miss Russell moved into the Home for Aged People on Highland Avenue, remaining in residence there until her death on January 21, 1941.

A friend of both the Misses Borden, Alice Russell was among the first summoned to 92 Second Street following the murders of Andrew and Abby Borden, remaining there until the following Monday as company to the sisters. She testified at the inquest and preliminary hearing, but it was not until the grand jury hearing that she revealed her "burning of the dress" testimony. She was also a witness at the trial of Miss Lizzie A. Borden in June of 1893. While on the stand describing the events which occurred in the kitchen of the Borden house on Sunday, August 7, 1892, Miss Russell was instructed to make a series of marks on the floorplans of the house drawn by architect Thomas Kieran. An unusual legacy, the cross where she was standing, the outline of the stove in the Borden kitchen and the round mark illustrating where the burned dress was stored in the clothes press can still be seen on these trial exhibits in the Historical Society's archive. Following the trial and its aftermath, she ceased to be on friendly terms with the Misses Borden, living a life that can best be described as quiet and genteel. Mrs. Florence Cook Brigham, to whom she taught sewing, fondly remembered her as "a gentle person" with "lovely white hair" and believed that she "would not have told the story about the burning of the dress if her conscience hadn't bothered her."

Alice Russell rarely spoke of the events of August 1892 and their aftermath; few who knew her in later life had any knowledge of her close association and involvement in the case. On the rare occasions when Miss Russell discussed the case with her cousin Ida, the latter woman's young daughter Mildred was asked to leave the room, the conversation not being considered proper for a young girl to hear. Alice told her cousin that she thought Lizzie Borden was innocent of the murders of Mr. & Mrs. Borden until August 7, 1892, when she saw her burn the dress in the kitchen stove. From the day of that observation until she breathed her last, she was convinced of Lizzie Borden's guilt. There is little doubt that Miss Russell knew much about the goings-on in the Borden residence during the days following the discovery of the bodies, taking most of that information undisclosed to her grave. Always the lady and true to her Yankee heritage, she believed, as did many closely associated with the Borden case, that certain things were "not discussed." For that conviction, she deserves our admiration and respect.

### A VERY SPECIAL THANKS

To those born with a passion for gardening, pleasure is derived from the countless hours of toil and the myriad tasks that go into creating a beautiful, verdant floral oasis. Many make the attempt but only a very few succeed and have the ability to make their vision a reality. Such was the case with the gardens designed and planted by Miss Alma E. Foley and her sisters, Valerie and Bernadette, in the yard of their Fall River residence. From a tree brought on a train from Boston in the thirties to "mother's" valeriana, and a "Brother Cadfael" rose, planted in recognition of an interest in Ellis Peters' unforgettable sleuth, all blended harmoniously, creating an effect that can best be described as "genteel." The garden itself was a manifestation of the likes and interests gathered by the Foley sisters over years of travel, visiting gardens and perusing catalogues. A miniature tree like one seen when visiting Japan and bulbs admired in Holland all made their way to Fall River, as did "test roses" from American growers. Styles may change with the times, but a well-planned garden is always "chic" and can provide a sense of comfort and continuity. Concerns about this continuity arose during the past year when Miss Foley, feeling the time was right, decided to downsize and sell her home. Never one to dwell on the past, she made the decision without hesitation. But what would become of the garden, lovingly planted over many years, a constant companion, with nearly every plant having a story to tell? The idea suddenly occurred to us and the gazebo gardens at the Fall River Historical Society provided the answer. Why not move an existing Fall River garden, give it a new life and insure that many in the years to come will enjoy it? Miss Foley was delighted with the idea, so much so that, when the time came, she sold her house sans its garden, and so the process began of dividing and moving mature plants to their new home. Over thirty rosebushes, including rare varieties from the once well-known Brownell's in Little Compton, and a plethora of perennials made the move from Adams Street and are seemingly content at the Society. It is sincerely hoped that all will spread their roots and blossom into life as a tribute to those who so lovingly tended them over the decades. They will be cared for with the same garden tools that have groomed them over the years and, when queries arise, the answer will no doubt be found in "mother's bible," THE PRACTICAL BOOK OF OUTDOOR FLOWERS by Richardson Wright, published in 1924, which contains among its many pages a foolproof recipe for manure tea! So far, the transplants seem content and our thanks go to Miss Foley for allowing us to carry on the legacy of the Foley garden in all of the planting areas of this phase of the project. And Miss Foley is pleased as well, just happy that the plants which have brought her so much joy with every bloom will be getting, as she puts it, "plenty of T.L.C."