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Records of We Neighbors Club Cumberland, Maine 1895–1995

Sally A. Merrill

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RECORDS OF
WE NEIGHBORS CLUB

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

1895 - 1995



TRANSCRIBED, ANNOTATED
AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
SALLY A. MERRILL

Records of
Cumberland We Neighbors Club
1895-1995

Edited and annotated by

Sally A. Merrill

Prince Memorial Library
Cumberland, Maine
April 2016

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Preface

What is unique about these *Records of Cumberland We Neighbors Club, 1895-1995* is the series of glimpses into the members' intellectual and social life. What immediately attracts our attention is their curiosity, their concern for one another, and their ability to adapt changing circumstances, particularly during the early era of their history. Living in a small rural community, they are eager to enrich their minds by exploring masterpieces of literature and the arts.

Through study and discussion they also are attune with vital interests of the day, and on occasion engage in civic activities. As an inclusive club, they are ready to involve others through Guest Day and Gentlemen's Night. Significantly, they are attentive to how Maine residents help influence the evolution of American thought and the arts.

Perusing these pages, we ask what captivated their interest? If we can identify what captivated their interest, we gain insight into the intellectual and social history of Cumberland from 1895-1995. Viewed from this perspective, the reader has access to local history which goes beyond genealogies, town records, cemetery inscriptions, and artifacts. What intrigues and fascinates the reader is how local history is humanized.

The aim is to explore the life of the mind. What is the focus of inquiry? How was information processed? Was it accepted as given? Was it questioned? Was it distorted? What were the grounds for skepticism? What were some authentic forms of mental engagement? Were responses active or passive, open or closed? Which concerns had priority and what was valued?

As a basis for the inquiry, we use the Secretary Notes, 1895-1995, as primary source material. Regarding the scope of these notes, several gaps in the narrative are found. We do not have records for the years, 1895-1904, 1928-1932, 1948-1951, and 1996-2002, at which time the club is believed to have been dissolved.

The content of the information contained in these notes of course depends on the perceptions of the secretary. Some secretaries provide general comments, while others offer more details. Some secretaries provide primarily procedural information, but other secretaries include comments on the subject being studied that day.

In the interest of authenticity, spelling has been left as written in the original document. With one or two exceptions to help clarify the content, no corrections have been made. As an example, the spelling of Greely is often represented as Greeley. During the early years, spelling was so irregular that spelling lessons were held as part of the program. In later years, spelling errors also are evident, but members either ignored them or were ignorant that these errors existed.

In order to help clarify the secretary notes, I have provided footnotes to identify and describe topics of discussions about which the contemporary reader may be unfamiliar. For example, mention is made of a Field Day spent in visiting Casco Castle. It may be helpful for contemporary readers to know where it was located and what forms of amenities it offered. This information is contained in the first footnote of Chapter One. In this way, footnotes have been added for clarification. Since verbatim discussion is not available in the notes, we must infer the nature of their conversation. To do so, we must

be familiar with the subjects of their discussion and experience. Hopefully, the footnotes will help in that process.

Although we not have verbatim testimony of their discussions, we do learn what topics interested members and how the emphasis shifted during the club's one hundred year evolution. While these records are fragmentary and vary according to the perceptions of the secretary, it is hoped that sufficient information is provided for the reader to glean some insights into intellectual and social history of Cumberland, 1895-1995.

Acknowledgements

This transcription of secretary minutes and the assignment of explanatory footnotes have been made possible through the generous support of a training grant from Goodwill Industries. Under the auspices of Prince Memorial Library and its director Thomas Bennett, the purpose of this grant is to provide instruction on preserving archival documents and to provide sufficient training so that the recipient can continue on his or her own. The project is designed to provide local community service. This program is known as the Senior Community Service Employment Project, and in the state of Maine, it is operated by Goodwill Industries of Northern New England.

In preparing this manuscript for electronic publication, I am also indebted to numerous individuals. Thomas Bennett, Head Librarian and Director at Prince Memorial Library, has provided encouragement as well as technical training in archival preservation. Carolyn Small of the Cumberland Historical Society has loaned all the documents received from We Neighbors: treasurer reports, programs, secretary minutes, photos, and supplementary material. Elizabeth Ring, my former high school history teacher and one of the first trained professionals in the field of local history, encouraged me early to delve into local history. Initially, I ignored her advice, but now fifty years later, I find my interest ignited.

Finally, in full disclosure, both my paternal grandmother, Harriet C. Merrill, and my maternal grandmother, Mary M. Chase, were avid members of We Neighbors Club, and were particularly active during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s. Due to family conversations, I readily recognize in this manuscript some of the member's names as well as a little bit about their lives. As I result, in transcribing these minutes, I could visualize some of the members clearly and vividly, even to the point of hearing their voices. In addition, I am the grand-niece of charter member, Mrs. Evelyn Merrill Sweetser, who was my paternal grandfather's older sister. From these relatives, I learned that a certain day of the week biweekly was reserved for We Neighbors, and regardless of the weather or personal matters, every effort was made to keep that commitment.

Shortly after I returned to Cumberland in 1982, I was encouraged strongly to join We Neighbors, and eventually in 1984 I did so. However, I was not a good member. My attendance was irregular and my attention was not fully engaged with many of the programs offered then. With this concerted effort to transcribe these records and provide footnotes as appropriate, I hope partial amends will have been made.

Sally Merrill

April 29, 2016

Introduction

This one hundred year record of Secretary's Notes of the We Neighbors Club did not occur in a vacuum. These women lived in the Town of Cumberland, Maine. They were not impervious to the changing times, both locally and nationally. Together they made a concerted effort to understand what was happening in the world in which they lived.

Their story is a story of place. Located approximately ten miles from Portland, Cumberland occupies a rectangular piece of land stretching from the Atlantic coast approximately ten miles westward with a longitudinal depth of three miles. Bucolic in appearance, the town had gently rolling hills, meadows, wetlands, brooks, silent woodlots, wildlife, and apple orchards. Public transportation was rudimentary and restricted to main roads, cutting across and around brooks. Houses were located next to barns and small garden plots. When the Club was first organized the population was around 1400 but over the next thirty years declined to 1150 in 1920.

The incorporation of Cumberland as a separate town was approved on March 28, 1821 by William King, the first governor of Maine. This new town was set off from old North Yarmouth, Pownal, Yarmouth, and Falmouth. To walk the perimeter of the town's mainland would entail a walk of about 27.5 miles. Beginning at White Rock, a hiker would walk northwest about 8 miles along the Falmouth line to the Windham line, then northeasterly along the Windham and Gray lines a little over 3 miles to the westerly line of North Yarmouth, and then walk about 11 miles zig-zagging along farm boundaries in four places along Greely Road until finally the hiker would reach the shore of Broad Cove and a stone monument near the upper end of the corner.¹ From this point a 3.5 mile walk along the shore road would take the hiker back to the starting point, namely "White Rock".

As the hiker passes along the perimeter of the town, he or she observes how the charm of the old town remains. Yes, the magnificent elms along Main Street are gone, but sugar maples remain along Tuttle Road, and the apple orchards are flourishing. The seasons continue in sequence, but winter remains the most easily remembered with its frosted window panes, blinding snowstorms, subzero temperatures, layered clothing, and drafty homes.

One of the charter members of We Neighbors, Nellie Sweetser, expresses it poetically:

Just a little country town,
No resort and no renown,
Nothing great and nothing grand,
 Cumberland.
All its well-remembered ways,
Traversed from our childhood days,
Dearer far than cities grand,
 Cumberland.
Home is more than house can be
Broader than a family;
Native town long may it stand,
Cumberland.²

¹ Blanchard, Robert G. "The White Rock" in *Cumberland, Maine in Four Centuries*, compiled by Phyllis Sweetser (Portland, Maine: Casco Bay Printing), p, 38.

No remarkable event occurred. No one became illustrious. However, every place is home to someone, and in that place, family roots are felt. Some homes are spacious, some are small. Some are architectural works of art, some are simple and spare. No matter, in this small town, the welcome mats are inviting.

This also is a story of people, expressing vividly the pulse of life. We hear a variety of voices, as reflected in the secretary's minutes. Some speak in precise logical ways, while others are passionate and poetic. Reading these minutes we search for an interior landscape, those ideas, insights, observations expressed directly by those who lived it.

This is a story of what they thought, what they did, and how they tried to make sense of what was happening in the larger world outside Cumberland. Here are a variety of ordinary people grounded in common sense. These are ordinary people who laughed, despaired, celebrated, and mourned together. Doing ordinary things of life, they shaped the town for their own time and gave it shape for future generations.

Husbands of early We Neighbor members were farmers, florists, pomologists, fishermen, school teachers, town clerks, doctors, carpenters, pastors, and tradesmen. In this small tightly knit community, class divisions and income disparity were not divisive. What was felt was being neighborly.

Also, this is a story of living in an evolving era. Members of We Neighbors Club felt a need to connect with events unfolding at the national level, and they did not want to rely only on the menfolk for ideas and insights. When the club was first formed in 1895, several local groups for men had recently formed, namely in 1877, the Farmer's Club and in 1889, the Red Men. Women were not admitted. Moreover at that time, women did not have voting rights and thus little political influence, aside from what they discussed with their husbands. Even so, these women had minds of their own, and they sought to cultivate their minds.

As reflected in the topics chosen for discussion, they were conscious of living in the Age of McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Just prior to the formation of We Neighbors Club in 1895, national events were focused on the McKinley Tariff of 1890, the Panic of 1893, and the rise and fall of Populism, 1892-1896. McKinley was elected president in 1896 and reelected in 1900 with Theodore Roosevelt as his Vice President.

From a certain perspective, events seemed to conspire to convince people democracy was a failure. Owing to the Panic of 1893, prices and wages hit rock bottom. The corn crop was a failure, and the price of wheat fell below 50 cents a bushel. Half a million laborers were on strike, and most strikes ended in dismal failure. Ragged and hungry bands of the unemployed swarmed over the country side, the fires from hobo camps flickered a message of despair.

Learning of these events in newspapers, how could anyone in a small rural town in Maine make sense of this situation? For the most part, they resorted to party affiliation. Yes, the Republicans were resurgent. And yet, somehow party affiliation was not sufficient to understand what was happening.

² Sweetser, Nellie L. "Cumberland" in *History of the Town of Cumberland Maine*, compiled by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser for the Centennial Celebration, July 2-4, 1921, p. 36.

Even although the charter members of We Neighbors sought to understand what was happening nationally, for the time being they retreated to safer subjects such as literary masterpieces.

Origin of We Neighbors Club

Although we have no secretary minutes for the first ten years, we do have a vivid description of the early meetings by Mary Sweetser, a charter member.

It was during the winter of 1895-1896 that the club began to hold meetings. Its membership then enrolled the same names that answered the roll call tonight. Mrs. Davis has always been our presiding genius and during the first four years we met most often at the parsonage. Our Name "We Neighbors" was the happy thought of Mrs. Adams. Our first study was Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" followed by Milton's "Paradise Lost." Leaving the gate of Paradise we traveled with Washington Irving while he visited the Alhambra: the palace of the Moorish Kings in Granada. We returned with him to his home in America at Tarrytown, New York and spent several afternoons visiting Sleepy Hollow and the Catskill mountains. Our trip to Spain was so interesting and instructive we decided to visit the city of Rome. This time accompanying Nathaniel Hawthorne while he wrote the "Marble Faun." These last works were generously illustrated by Brown and Perry pictures loaned us by Mrs. Davis. The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin furnished us a contrast of the growth of our country and government through 125 years.

"Masterpieces of American Literature was our next text book. The authors Longfellow, Bryant, Holmes, Whittier, Lowell, Webster, Emerson, Everett, Thoreau and O'Reilly were each in their turn made a study. Poems and essays other than these in the text books were read and talked about. So we were a long time studying American authors.

The winter of 1903-1904 found our members increased and our attention fixed on Tennyson's "Princess". As we finished it, Professor Chapman gave a public lecture upon the same subject which was much appreciated.

The past winter we have studied Parliamentary Law, and to put the work into practice, we have organized and adopted a constitution. For our entertainment, we have followed the trail of Lewis and Clark worked out by them 100 years ago – from St. Louis to the Pacific coast by way of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Columbia rivers.

What does our club mean to us? It means a knowledge of the past, more usefulness in the present and the brightest hopes for the future."

Mary E. Sweetser prepared these remarks dated March 23, 1905, and later presented them for Gentlemen's Night, March 23, 1911.

Let me comment briefly. Mrs. Frank Davis (Helen) was the wife of Reverend Frank Davis, pastor at Cumberland Congregational Church (1892-1899). Apparently, what made her a "presiding genius" was her ability to engage through literature the imagination of members so that they read these literary masterpieces as if they themselves were directly involved in the narratives. They could feel the agony

and feel the delight of the heroes and heroines. They could relate these feelings and events to their own situation or to that of people they knew.

Their study of Parliamentary Law led to the adoption of a Constitution, which, although modified with occasional amendments, served the club for 100 years. Due to their study of Parliamentary Law, their meetings took on a more formal structure with reports from the secretary and treasurer, Old Business and New Business, and formal adjournment. From their earliest meetings, they were dedicated to the club's vision, devoted to one another, and disciplined. However, serious though they were, they did not neglect the need for entertainment, fellowship and sheer fun, as supplemented with coffee and sweets enjoyed after their study sessions, and as witnessed during Gentlemen's night, Guest Days, and Field Trips.

As Mrs. Buxton suggested on August 23, 1904, "a supplementary study of parliamentary law might be helpful." Why might the study of Parliamentary Law be helpful? It provided a structure or format with which to focus their attention. When keeping order, they more easily could avoid distractions, guard against gossip and idle chatter. They were less likely to speak in a rambling, useless way. The presiding officer could draw their attention to the program as appropriate.

Origin of the Name, "We Neighbors"

"Our name," reports Mary Sweetser, "was the happy thought of Mrs. Adams." This suggestion sounds so spontaneous and so natural. No doubt it was. In small rural towns such as Cumberland, neighbors were particularly important. You knew your neighbor. You noticed whether your neighbor's lights were on or off. You heard your neighbor. You stood ready to help your neighbor. That was natural.

Looking beneath the surface, that suggestion, "We Neighbors," stemmed from the values and thoughts of a dedicated churchgoer. Cora and Fred Adams were members of the Cumberland Congregational Church, and attended regularly. Deep beneath the surface of her consciousness must have been Jesus' second commandment, "Love your neighbors as yourself." (Mt. 22:39, Mk. 12:31). For churchgoers, that commandment reverberated throughout Bible study sessions and sermons. Those who attended church regularly, like Cora and Fred Adams, no doubt were familiar with the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Recall this parable.

"A lawyer stood before Jesus and asked, 'Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'

Jesus replied, 'What is written in the law?'

The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said to him, 'You have answered rightly, do this, and you will live.' (Luke 10:25-28)

Desiring to justify himself, the lawyer said to Jesus, '**And who is my neighbor?**'

Cutting through the conceptual confusion and the legal wrangling, Jesus replied with the parable of the Good Samaritan.

A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he came to that place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying "Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back."

Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers? The lawyer replied, "The man who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10: 30-37).

That is what it means to be a neighbor.

Returning to the second commandment, what does it mean to **love** one's neighbor? First, it meant equality. Fundamentally, there is no difference between myself and my neighbor. As I need to help myself, I also need to help my neighbor. My neighbor's welfare is as precious as my own. Secondly, it means exchanging oneself with one neighbor. Walk in your neighbor's shoes. Cultivate seeing the world as your neighbor sees it. Upon reflection, there are disadvantages to cherishing oneself, and advantages to cherishing one's neighbors, no matter who they are or from where they come.

This universality and unity was embodied in the word "We." Due to this word, we identify with one another as neighbors, as equals, as friends. It was inclusive not exclusive. Everyone was welcome, no one rejected. What could be more natural? Such is the origin of the name "We Neighbors."

Early Years of We Neighbors Club, 1895-1920, the first twenty five years.

The Constitution and Purpose of the Club

After spending months in the study of parliamentary procedure, members of We Neighbors Club wrote a Constitution and By-laws. The original version was not saved, but subsequent versions state clearly its purpose. "Its object shall be the mutual improvement of the members in literature, art, sciences, and the vital interests of the day."

Profiles of Early Members

Mrs. Frank W. Davis (Helen) was the wife of one of the Congregational Church's beloved ministers, who served from 1892-1899. Sensing a need and an interest, Mrs. Davis in 1894 gathered a group of women together at the parsonage. By 1895 they organized as group, meeting regularly once a week.

Mrs. Fred Adams (Cora) organized in her home a lending library comprised of approximately 500-600 books. That lending library continued until about 1923, when Prince Memorial Library opened. Her husband Fred was the village blacksmith. In those days, nearly everyone came to get their horses newly shod. The ring of his anvil could be heard throughout the center village. Mr. Adams also heated in his forge new iron tires, and using the skills of a wheelwright applied them to buggy and cart wheels. True to Longfellow's poem "Village Blacksmith", Mr. Adams was known for impeccable integrity and "owes not any man." He was regarded as a man to emulate. Mr. and Mrs. Adams lived in the house at Three Blanchard Road built about 1827 by Deacon Jeremiah Blanchard. It is the first house north of the church on the north side of Blanchard Road.

Mrs. James L. Dunn (Evelina) helped her husband James at the General Store, located on Main Street, 50 yards south of four corners. The store stocked sundries and appliances, kitchen ranges and bed-springs, cream separators, and even cement block machines. There were gallon cans of maple syrup, spices and condiments, as well as barrels of flour, sugar and coffee. Villagers arrived in horse-drawn drays, wagons, and buggies to collect their goods. In addition, the store served as a gathering center for villagers to visit with one another and "to chew the fat."

Mrs. E. B. Osgood (Delia) was the wife of E. B. Osgood, who had a small grocery store connected with a packing plant. He was one of the town butchers and often ordered a hogshead of molasses from the J. L. Dunn store. Mrs. Osgood helped him with the grocery store. Mr. Osgood operated his butcher shop and store on SHE Street, which was a little beyond Greely Institute. At the time, it was called "SHE Street" so named because its residents were mainly widows and unmarried women.

Mrs. Archie Wyman (Laura) lived with her husband and twin daughters, Mildred and Margaret, in the old Captain Wyman house on Tuttle Road. As a child she lived on Main Street with her brother Horatio Herrick, her mother, and her father Captain Charles Herrick who spent many years away at sea. Her mother's health declined, and in the 1890s when her father returned home from ocean voyages, his health was so impaired by tropical fevers that he was unable to sail again. Despite his dreams of becoming a sea captain, her brother Horatio was needed to carry on the Herrick farm and to take care of his parents. To help her brother tend their parents, Laura on most days walked through several miles from the Wyman home on Tuttle Road through the Drowne Woods to the Herrick home, located on the east side of Main Street at the foot of Morse's Hill. In those days, each family looked after their own. There were no nursing homes.

Mrs. Fred Sweetser (Mary Elizabeth) compiled a concise History of Cumberland, for the Centennial Celebration, July 2-4, 1921. In her Preface, Mrs. Sweetser notes:

The physical features of harbor, islands, the small but valuable river, a bountiful supply of timber, and favorable locations for settlements, early invited white settlers. The Indians, too, considered this a favorable hunting ground and with their favorite burial place on Lane's Island it is not to be wondered at that they resisted the occupation by the whites. Perhaps no other settlement in the whole State was met with so much hostility by the Indians. The hardships endured by the early settlers proved them to be real frontiersmen, anxious to establish a memorial to their ambitions by building a secure foundation for civilization."³

³ Sweetser, Mary E., *ibid.*, Preface

Mrs. Sweetser and her husband Fred lived at 15 Blanchard Road, which was built by Jeremiah Blanchard about 1810 for the widow Pittee, whose daughter married Samuel R. Sweetser. Since then, successive generations have occupied the house, Samuel and Mary, Fred and Mary, Herman and Phyllis, Dick and Connie Sweetser. As previously mentioned, on March 23, 1905, Mrs. Fred (Mary) Sweetser presented a paper in which she gave a history of the We Neighbors Club up to that time.

Mrs. O. M. Thomes (Abbie) and her husband were also residents of Blanchard Road. After attending Cumberland Schools, Oren Scott Thomes married Abbie Eveleth of New Gloucester in 1861. At eighteen, Mr. Thomes went to Boston where he served as an apprentice for three years, learning the carpenter and builders' trade. Later he attended Lowell Institute. Returning to Cumberland, he opened a store for general merchandise at 299 Main Street. In 1877 Mr. Thomes was called to California to take charge of the estate of his uncle, Robert H. Thomes. The ranch of over 26,000 acres of land was one of the largest land grants by the Spanish Government, then part of Mexico. Mr. Thomes had the original deed. The ranch had 4000 head of cattle, 500 horses, and 400 hogs with over 200 Indians living and working on the land. His uncle had been one of the first persons to undertake the hazardous journey to CA in 1841 and a member of the first party to discover gold. After settling this vast estate, Mr. and Mrs. Thomes and their sons Robert and John returned to Cumberland and lived in their home at 42 Blanchard Road where Mr. Thomes engaged in agriculture, operated a modern stock farm, and built a sawmill alongside the road, about 50 yards south of his home. In 1882, he built a large house across the street. "Daddy Thomes", so called by everybody in town, liked to recall that he cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln as President. As a carpenter, he did the woodwork on Greely Institute and remodeled the Congregational Church in 1907. His mill burned in about 1910. He and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August 1911. Their house burned in 1913 and subsequently was replaced by a more modest dwelling. Mr. Thomes for many years served as town treasurer and was member and deacon of Congregational Church. Mrs. Thomes actively shared his adventures with him. Mrs. Thomes presented her perspective on her experience in California at a meeting of We Neighbors on April 26, 1910.

Literature

Among the many authors studied, Kate Douglas Wiggin was a recurring favorite. Others included Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott, Charles Dickens and Shakespeare. Perhaps owing to the influence of the club's poet, Nellie Sweetser, the list of poets is long: Longfellow, Whittier, Poe, Holmes, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Amy Lowell, Carl Sandburg, Robert Frost, and Holman Day.

The Arts

Interest in the arts is first identified in their study of Indian Arts, especially "Indian Blanketry" and pottery. Studying "Famous Women Artists" at a meeting in February 1912, members learned about Madame Le Brun, Rosa Bonheur, and the sculptor Harriet Hosmer. Turning to photography, they discovered Frank Carpenter's impressive collection of photographs, which contributed to recognition of photographs as an art form. Eventually, his collection of 5000 images were donated to the Library of Congress. When studying Vermont, members discovered the sculpture of Hiram Powers. In 1843, Powers sculpted his most celebrated statue, "The Greek Slave", which established his reputation among leading sculptors of that time. Music regularly became part of their programs, both with live performances and with papers on special topics such as Wagner's opera "Parsifal."

Science and Technology

One member presented a paper on “Modern Surgery.” Once doctors learned how to suture together blood vessels, then it became possible to save crushed limbs and transplant organs. After doctors succeeded in transplanting the ovaries from one chicken to another, then transplants in human beings became feasible. This advance in medical procedures was reported by a member on February 18, 1913.

One session was devoted to “Facts about Milk”, including how dry milk is made. Another session explored the role of Professor Harvey Wiley, first commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (1906). They also learned the story of Percival Lawrence Lowell, who fueled speculation of life on Mars and established an observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The development of entertainment devices aroused their interest as more families acquired victrolas and cameras. Members even became involved in learning about the eight tunnels connecting Long Island with the West side of the East River. And, they learned about the block system used by railroads, and actually practiced in Cumberland.

The trails of explorers also captivated their imagination. First, it was the journey of Lewis and Clark, excerpts from the first volume were read at nearly every meeting in 1905. Later, they were intrigued with the efforts of Robert Peary, who grew up in Portland, Maine, and after several attempts did succeed in reaching the North Pole. They also read about Theodore Roosevelt’s adventures in collecting and cataloguing African game.

Influential Educators and Founders of Service Organizations

Alert to the development of women’s higher education, members of the club spent several sessions learning about Alice Freeman Palmer, who served as President of Wellesley (1882-1902), Mary Lyon who established Wheaton and Mt. Holyoke, and Maria Montessori who instituted a revolutionary approach to elementary education.

During this era, significant steps were taken in establishing service organizations, vital to this day. Catherine and William Booth in London founded the Salvation Army. Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross. Florence Nightingale, “Lady of the Lamp”, founded modern nursing. Jane Addams in Chicago founded the Hull House. W. D. Boyce founded the Boy Scouts of America. Each of these organizations and their founders became subjects for study by “We Neighbors Club.”

Influence of Maine Residents on Making of the Nation

In the field of literature, fiction writers such as Kate Douglas Wiggin of Hollis and Harriet Beecher Stowe of Brunswick received national recognition. Poetry was represented by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of Portland and Holman Day of Vassalboro. In fact, Longfellow’s recognition was international in scope. An over life-size marble bust was unveiled in the Poet’s Corner of Westminster Abbey in 1884, on a pillar near to the tomb of Geoffrey Chaucer. The main inscription reads: “LONGFELLOW. This bust was placed amongst the memorials of the poets of England by the English admirers of an American poet, 1884.”

Turning to nonfiction, works of history and biography by Maine residents also received national circulation. Noah Brooks of Castine moved to Dixon, Illinois where he became involved in the first Republican campaign for President (Fremont), and in the process became good friends with Abraham Lincoln. Later, Brooks was accepted as an old friend by both President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. As a friend as well as a seasoned journalist, Brooks acquired insights which later informed his biography of Lincoln, *Washington in Lincoln's Time*. That book is now considered as indispensable source of information on the Lincoln White House.

Pastor, historian and pedagogical writer, John Stevens Cabot Abbott of Brunswick wrote a definitive biography of Napoleon Bonaparte, a History of the Civil War in two volumes, as well as numerable biographies.

Known as "a Congregational theologian," Lyman Abbott grew up in Farmington, Maine. After studying theology with his uncle, John Stevens Cabot Abbott, he was ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church. Eventually he served as editor-in-chief on the *Christian Union*, which reflected his efforts toward social reform. In his role as editor, he advocated Theodore Roosevelt's progressivism and Darwinism. By the time of his death, Abbott was "something of a national patriarch."

Pastor Elijah Kellogg of Portland served as minister in Harpswell and wrote children's books. His fame rested on his books for boys and his recitation "Spartacus to the Gladiators" which nearly every schoolboy of that era learned.

Born in Turner, Maine, Augusta Hall Gifford wrote a popular history, *Germany: Her People and Their Story* (1899) as well as histories of Italy. Accompanying her husband on his assignments abroad, 1877-1913, Mrs. Gifford lived abroad the greater part of her life. Some of her best works were published while she was abroad. According to her obituary published in the *Lewiston Daily Sun*, February 1, 1915, "Mrs. Gifford was considered as one of the most intellectual Maine ever sent forth. Her writings and histories made her world known."

In the field of music, Madame Nordica of Farmington attained both a national and international reputation. She was one of the foremost dramatic sopranos of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. She was born in a small Cape Cod style farmhouse built by her grandfather on a hill in Farmington, Maine. Among her relatives was Floyd Norton of Cumberland, Maine.

In the field of exploration, Robert Peary of Portland, after several attempts succeeded in reaching the North Pole.

In the field of science and technology, the Hume brothers and Andrew Hapgood of Waterville, Maine journeyed to California and established Salmon Canning on the Columbia River. They laid the foundation for salmon canning along the Columbia River.

Excursions

Field Days involved excursions to Casco Castle, Riverton Trolley Park, Old Orchard Beach and twice to Peaks Island, where club members were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood. Boarding a steamer in Portland, members arrived thirty minutes later to be "cordially welcomed" at the dock by host and hostess who ushered them up a short walk to the cottage. "Two open fires added much to our

comfort as the day was chilly. The cottage was thrown open to our inspection and it was a great pleasure to us to see the beautiful things..." They enjoyed a picnic on the piazza, "the hostess kindly supplying coffee and ice cream." After the lunch, they enjoyed vocal and piano solos. A group picture was taken on the cottage steps. The remainder of the afternoon was passed socially. They reached home by five o'clock. That first occasion on June 26, 1913, the secretary recalled it was an "exceptionally pleasant day in spite of the weather." On the second occasion June 23, 1914, the day was "a perfect one in every respect and one long to be remembered."

On another of their picnics, members of We Neighbors and their guests spent an "afternoon of pleasure and profit followed by a such a liberal awarding of prizes and soft drinks [flowing] as freely for the defeated as for the winners."

Gentlemen's Night

The first Gentlemen's Night was held on March 23, 1905, in the home of Evelyn and Albert Sweetser. Eleven members and their husbands attended. According to the secretary's report, "Various games were enjoyed, refreshments were served followed by toasts, after which all joined in singing well-known songs. Departing at a late hour."

In her "Mini-History" Margaret Wyman recalls Gentlemen's Night being held in her home when she and her twin sister Mildred were about twelve years old. Usually, in those days, the event was held during January, February, or March at the home of a club member. Postponed by several days due to a snow storm, this event was held January 27, 1912.

Can you hear the sleigh bells and the horse's hoofs? For that's the way they came. I can remember having "Gentlemen's Night" at our house, the old Wyman farm. When the guests began to arrive laughing and chatting, to my childish eyes the whole house was ablaze with light! Those were kerosene lamps you know!

My sister and I were delighted to have two lively guests of our own, our friends Phyllis and Jeanette Sturdivant. Phyllis and I both remember that (restless children that we were), we spent a good part of the evening crawling on our hands and knees up and down the winding captain's stairway in the front hall, giggling and whispering.

Yet I remember the hush that fell over the whole gay company when Uncle Howard Buxton entered that hall to sing. He is often mentioned at other gatherings but I had never heard him before. That was the high point of the magic evening when he sang in his beautiful tenor voice "The Connecticut Peddler" and the lovely, "I'll take you Home Again, Kathleen."

About 38 members, including husbands and friends attended.

Vital Interests of the Day

On February 25, 1905, at a meeting of We Neighbors, Miss Grace Merrill brought the cocoon of a brown-tail moth which she had taken from a tree in the neighborhood. Taking action, members of the club decided to debate the Resolution: The state should appropriate a sum of money for the extermination of the brown-tail moth. The debate was decided in the affirmative. Eventually the subject

was brought before the town meeting for consideration. Subsequent annual reports show a sum of money allocated annually for extermination of the brown-tail moth.

Parenthetically, as I assemble these notes, the *Portland Press Herald* on April 25, 2016 published a front page article titled "As Brown tail moths invade, Cumberland plots defense." Officials have authorized technicians to spray pesticides with the aim to kill brown tail moth caterpillars just as they come out of their winter cocoons and begin to feed on new leaves. Apparently this is the worst infestation in a decade and threatens more than a dozen towns.

On March 28, 1905, members of the Club decided to consult with town selectmen on ways to bring about better drainage.

On another occasion, they studied the claim that slums are made by Americans, not immigrants. They based their study on a book entitled *The Promised Land* by Mary Antin. Taking turns, they read aloud the book, cover to cover. This took ten meetings.

One member presented a paper on "History of the Colored Race." Additional sessions were devoted to Booker T. Washington and to Mr. Grove, "The Colored Potato King." Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was carefully read and discussed. The story of John Brown was discussed.

Another member presented a paper on the Maine School for the Feeble-minded in Pownal. In 1907, the Maine Legislature established a home for "idiotic and feeble-minded" children. At the time, institutions were thought to be the most humane and modern way for society to care for people who had been labeled "feeble minded", "idiot", "moron", and "retarded". Maine's institution was called a "school". In reality, education was a small part of its mission. Medical personnel sent all developmentally disabled persons to the facility. Sometimes, judges sent "patients" to the facility because they were poor or orphans and had no one to care for them. What was accepted by one generation was appalling by the next. It is unclear what members of We Neighbors thought about this institution, located about 20 miles from Cumberland.

Women's rights and issues were discussed. Elizabeth Chace was a Quaker and an ardent abolitionist. She and her husband Samuel opened their Rhode Island home as a Station in the Underground Railroad. In her later life, she advocated for women's rights as well as for prison and workplace reform. Members of We Neighbors read about Chace's work and no doubt discussed Cumberland locations that served as stations along the Underground Railroad.

Ethical issues were not ignored. One discussion focused on "To spank or not to spank." Another session was devoted to the "Immorality of Chance" and casino gambling. An article on Comic strips as a crime against children was carefully considered.

When "We Neighbors" began to realize World War One had become a vital issue, they explored the topic by reading a series of reports by war correspondents. Then, they studied the rise of the Modern Navy, 1898-1914. They learned that the Naval Base of Guantanamo Bay was built in 1905 to protect access to the Panama Canal. They studied the role of aeroplanes in the war. They learned about Zeppelins and dagers or flechettes, two of the latter being sent home as a souvenir from Robert Blanchard. As the war progressed, "We Neighbors" became acquainted with the lives of General Allenby, General Pershing, and Marshal Foch. They searched their maps for the location of Camp Bartlett, Camp

Devons, and Camp Belvoir. An article on “Making Men Fit Again” focused on how to help returning veterans.

Charity and Good Will

At their April 4, 1905 meeting, a member made a motion “that our club subscribe a sum of money to help defray the hospital expenses of Mrs. Minnie Randall said sum to be paid before the 1st of May.” No mention is made of who Minnie Randall was or how club members knew her. Apparently, she was a neighbor in need, but not a member of the We Neighbors Club.

Originally members intended to hold their November 2, 1909 meeting at the Sturdivant residence . However, “there was no meeting of the club on Nov. second, as the “Sturdivant residence disappeared on October thirtieth by means of fire.” When the club did meet the following week on November 9, “Mrs. A. A. Sweetser read an original Sonnet pertaining to the fire of Oct. 30, which set forth in inimitable style the destitute condition of the sufferers, and making a presentation to them of unlimited pickles and preserves from the club members.” This report, part of the secretary minutes, was written by Mrs. A. F. S. Sturdivant, Secretary.

Periodically, members who were ill received cards and flowers.

Changes within the Club

Regarding Programs, the subjects of literature, the arts and sciences and vital interests of the day, as stated in the Constitution, remained constant, but the approaches shifted. First, during the first five years, they tended to focus on literary masterpieces. During the next several years, they subscribed to the *Bay View Magazine*, issued monthly, but each year being devoted to a particular topic. The Club subscribed two years, the first year was devoted to British Isles and the second year devoted to American History and Culture. The next year focused on Spain and Italy, but they decided to cancel their subscription. The aim of the *Bay View Magazine* was to serve as substitute for “aimless and haphazard reading selections of others.” After discussion, members of the club decided to choose their own subjects for study. Apparently individual members subscribed to a variety of magazines, which often served as points of departure for discussion.

A second change was the frequency of meetings. Initially they met weekly as weather permitted. Then they decided to leave the first week of the month free for the Missionary Society, which met at the Congregational Church. Fluctuation in attendance did not dampen their spirits. They continued undaunted.

Thirdly, until about 1915, the membership remained around 18. Then, members decided to increase the number of club members, thereby enabling daughters and daughters-in-law to join. Once a member reached the “milestone” of her seventy-fifth birthday, she became an Honorary Member and was honored with a birthday cake.

Most significantly, the death on December 27, 1918 of Mrs. Davis, founder of the club, was keenly felt by this tightly knit group of members. It was Mrs. Davis who inspired members to delve deeply into the meaning of life. Though not recognized as such at the time, another era in the club’s evolution began to unfold.

Changes within the Community

At the same time, the community itself was undergoing change. During the early 1900s, the railroads experienced their heyday. At Cumberland Junction, there were seven tracks consisting of three main line tracks and four side tracks. As many 40 trains a day passed through the area. Passengers filled the coaches. From about 1912 to 1920, a resident of Cumberland could board the Farmington to Portland train at Cumberland Junction and ride across the entire United States to San Francisco or Los Angeles. From Port Costa, California, a passenger could board the Southern Pacific line to Seattle, take the Northern Pacific line through North Dakota to Minneapolis and Chicago, and from there, take the Grand Trunk through Montreal and down to Portland then out to Cumberland Center.⁴

After the “way freight” had come and gone, the freight house was stacked to the roof. Shortly thereafter, the horse-drawn drays, wagons, and buggies backed up to the freight house platform and collected the goods. At the same time, local businessmen contributed to the outgoing freight. At the time, Cumberland had four principal greenhouse establishments, two meat packing plants, several thriving poultry houses and a corn shop. In the corn shop thousands of wooden cases of vegetables were packed and labeled with the name Cumberland Packing Association. This happened during the peak harvest of summer and fall.

The greenhouses specialized in carnations and assorted cut flowers. To prepare a shipment to New York on the noon train, Arno Chase would put up two to three cardboard boxes of cut flowers, carefully wrapping them with tissue paper to prevent freezing. His brother Frank Chase who had a larger greenhouse on SHE Street would pack a huge box of carnation pinks for Boston. Danny Jenkins prepared a big order of out-of-season flowers for two Portland florists. Howard Blanchard of Sunnyside Greenhouse packed large chrysanthemums for another Northeast market. These orders were taken to Cumberland Junction and shipped by train to their respective destinations.⁵

People began to acquire cars. By 1903, pictures of horseless carriages appeared. By about 1906, automobiles became attainable. In Cumberland, Webb Dyer on the Winn Road was the first owner of an automobile in Cumberland. That car was a one cylinder Cadillac. Mr. Webb kept the brass oil headlights well-polished. He claimed the car could travel at 45 miles per hour.⁶ By 1910, only 4 automobiles were registered in Cumberland. Ten years later, registration of cars showed an astronomical increase in ownership. As automobiles increased passenger train service declined markedly. During World War I, trolley freight and express business expanded greatly while steam railroad was taxed to capacity.

In the field of communication, another major change occurred when people acquired telephones. At the turn of the twentieth century, North Eastern put up poles, and about one year later the New England Telephone Company assumed management. The local headquarters was initially placed on the second floor of the J. L. Dunn Sore. This continued until about 1910, at which time Lester Bragg moved it next door into his house. To facilitate the transfer, Mr. Bragg had an ell built on to his house. There the

⁴ Norton, Floyd, *Norton's Hand-Hewn History of Maine and Its Representative Town of Cumberland*, manuscript, 1970.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 59.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 64.

switch board served as the local telephone office. Miss Harriet Merrill, charter member of We Neighbors Club, served as switchboard operator until 1953, when the switchboard system was replaced with the dial system. Her sister, Gertrude, married Lester Bragg, and assisted her with the switchboard.

Middle Years (Part I) of We Neighbors Club, 1920-1945

As the club continued to evolve, the composition of its membership shifted. Programs took on a new emphasis, not a new direction but a new emphasis. Biographies became popular. The arts flourished, especially in the forms of “Living Pictures”, performance of one act plays, and musical programs by vocalists and pianists. Attention to Maine writers continued unabated. Vital Interests of the Day offered opportunities to explore ethical issues as well as national challenges.

Profiles of Members Contributing to a New Emphasis

Mrs. Mary Chase and Mrs. Harriet Merrill

Together these two members launched a series of “Living Pictures.” For several years, dating even back to 1912, Mrs. Merrill had presented papers on notable artists, Women artists, Florentine artists, and American portrait painters. Based on her research, Mrs. Merrill provided the narrative in which she described the artist and the subject. Mrs. Chase tended to focus on arranging the setting, the costume, and the posture of participants in these “Living Pictures”. To present the pictures, a frame was constructed from which “cooly or demurely peered the living models.” Working carefully from the reproduction of famous paintings, they made those pictures come alive, “never omitting even the smallest detail – a handkerchief, a button, a fold in the dress. “

These events were held in the home of Phyllis Sweetser, “both because her big living room was an ideal place for showing the pictures, and also because just the right materials for a costume might be found in her attic.” These afternoons were so warmly received, Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Chase presented “Living Pictures” on several occasions, 1931, 1933, 1935, and 1947.

Mrs. Louise Sweetser

A graduate of the Leland Powers School of the Spoken Word in Boston, Mrs. Louise Sweetser read and coached many one-act plays as well as giving memorable readings of plays such as Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night” and “The Barretts of Wimpole Street.” After her reading of “The Barretts of Wimpole Street”, the secretary noted Mrs. Sweetser “read in her usual vivacious way and made each one feel the Victorian atmosphere of the Barrett home and rejoice with the poets who overcame all obstacles and married and went to Italy to live.”

As expressed by Margaret Wyman, “none of us who knew and loved Louise Sweetser will forget her soft, clear voice and delightful dramatic readings. She gave generously of her talent, often coaching plays.” Louise Sweetser was the daughter-in-law of charter member Evelyn Sweetser.

Mrs. Mildred Wyman Doane

After completing her studies at Bates College, Mildred Wyman Doane, daughter of charter member Laura Wyman, became librarian at Prince Memorial Library, 1930-1951. By training and discernment, she offered book reviews which sparkled with unusual insights. She discovered significant

books that most would overlook. She also assisted her mother on innumerable occasions as hostess at club meetings.

Literature

Among writers of fiction, members of We Neighbors Club discussed John Steinbeck's *Moon is Down*, Henry Van Dyke's *Story of the Other Wise Man*, and works by Pearl Buck. Additional sessions were devoted to Zane Grey and Florence Barclay, an English romance novelist. Poets included Ogden Nash, Edgar Guest, and Paul Dunbar, the first African-American poet to gain national recognition. Robert Browning's poem "Andrea del Sarto" was discussed in detail.

Turning to nonfiction, biographies seem to be favored. Members reviewed three biographies of Lincoln, ones by Tarbell, Carnegie, and Morgan. Another favored biography was Anne Macy Sullivan's *Story behind Helen Keller*. Portraits of Royal families included *Once a Grand Duke*, describing court life in Imperial Russia, and *Queen Marie of Roumania*. Additional biographies include ones about Mark Twain, Edward Grieg, and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who handled the Black Sox scandal and served as the first commissioner of baseball. Members also reviewed Esther Forbes' definitive biography of *Paul Revere*. Mention was also made of Gamaliel Bradford, known as the "Dean of American Biographers."

Memoirs included, *Crowded Hours*, an engaging chronicle by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, and the *Story of Nora Waln*, which provided an inside view of Chinese culture and customs during the Manchu dynasty. Several sessions were devoted to *Letters of Theodore Roosevelt to his Children*. Collections of essays by George Washington Carver and E. B. White added another dimension to their study.

The Arts

In the field of music, Folk Songs and Negro spirituals were introduced and sung. As an example of Grand Opera, members heard the story and some of the music from "Faust". For contrast, they heard excerpts from the "Mikado" as an example of comic opera. They learned the story of how "Peer Gynt Suite" by Grieg came to be composed. Excerpts from the music of John Philips Sousa, Irving Berlin, and Edward MacDowell were played on the victrola or given live performance.

Several sessions focused on antiques as an art form. A speaker described three kinds of glassware. Another speaker discussed pewter.

Science and Technology

Members learned in detail about the total solar eclipse that occurred on August 31, 1932. The topic of terrestrial magnetism attracted some interest. A guest speaker tried to explain "How you can Predict the Weather."

In the field of ecology and conservation, Yellowstone Park was recognized as a precious possession to be held in trust for future generations. As an author of best-selling novels, Gene Stratton Porter used her position and income to support conservation of Limberlost Swamp and other wet-lands in the state of Indiana. John Burrough's essays and Henry Thoreau's journey through the Maine woods engaged attention of members.

Exploration continued to attract interest. Members read about the journey of Vilhjalmur Stefansson in the Arctic, the flight of Wilbur and Orville Wright, the adventures of Harry Pidgeon, the second person to sail singlehandedly around the world. Travel writer Harry Alverson wrote about the West Indies.

Turning to technology, We Neighbors conducted a detailed study of Zuiderzee Works, a large hydraulic engineering project comprised of a man-made system of dams and dikes in the Netherlands. They also noted the establishment in 1928 of WZXB, the world's first television station, broadcasting from General Electric facility in Schenectady, New York.

Influence of Maine Residents

In their study sessions, members of We Neighbors read or reviewed writings of many Maine residents who through their work ultimately attained national attention. C. A. Stephens of Norway, Maine wrote 3000 short stories and was under contract for the *Youth's Companion*. Edna St. Vincent Millay of Rockland won national recognition as poet and playwright. Speaking of her work, the poet Richard Wilbur asserted, "She wrote some of the best sonnets of the century." In 1923, she won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry.

Eric P. Kelly, author of the *Trumpeter of Krakow*, winner of the Newberry Medal in 1929, retired to Chebeague. Mary Ellen Chase of Blue Hill, teacher, scholar, and author, was regarded as one of the most important regional literary figures of the early twentieth century. Robert Peter Tristram Coffin of Brunswick wrote numerous historical fiction works based in Maine. Gladys Hasting Carroll, shortly after her birth moved with her family to Dunnybrook, Maine. She became a writer focusing on the "sunny side of real life", an aspect often ignored by other realists. E. B. White, a New Yorker who relocated to Brooklin, Maine, published a series of essays collected as *One Man's Meat*, which told of his experiences living on a salt water farm.

Born in York, Maine, Sarah Sayward Burnell Keating Wood, better known as Madame Wood, is regarded as the first American woman writer of gothic fiction. Sylvester Judd of Augusta is author of the novel "Margaret" which James Russell Lowell acclaimed as "the most emphatically American book ever written." Elisabeth Oglive, author of more than 40 books, lived on a 33 acre farm on Gay's Island with her companion Dorothy Simpson, also a writer, for more than 50 years.

Vital Interests of the Day

Among the historical events unfolding, members of We Neighbors discussed the Washington Naval Conference (1921-1922) promoted as a disarmament agreement to relieve tension in East Asia, the Locarno Treaties of 1925, and the World Disarmament Conference, 1932-1934. Attempting to untangle the conditions leading to World War I and World War II, members studied the life of Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria. They learned how the Bosnian crisis arose as a consequence of Franz Joseph's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908. The assassination of his presumptive heir, Archduke Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, led to the beginning of World War I. Particularly intriguing was Joseph Crews book, *Ten Years in Japan*. As ambassador to Japan, he witnessed first-hand Japan both before and during the attack on Pearl Harbor. In this fragmentary way, members were beginning to examine events in terms of causes and consequences.

Nationally, muckraking journalists began publishing accounts. Members were particularly interested in the work of Mark Sullivan and George Selders. Studying the Spanish Missions in California, the speaker noted that despite positive advances there were negative consequences for native Americans.

On the local level, the Organization of Templars promoted alcoholic abstinence. Several members of We Neighbors had spouses who had joined. Commitment was unshakable.

Members of We Neighbors seemed shocked to learn of the growth of the Ku Klux Klan in Maine, particularly as near as Portland! Opposing immigrants and Roman Catholics, the Klan focused on Maine's burgeoning number of French Canadians and Irish immigrants. In late August 1923, just about one month prior to a We Neighbor meeting, the Klan held a meeting in Portland, in which 10,000 people attended. Statewide membership registered around 20,000.

For a change of pace, members reviewed Harry Emerson Fosdick's *Twelve Tests of Character* and Overstreet's *Guide to Civilized Loafing*.

Influential Educators and Founders of Service Organizations

Educators continued to be considered. Dorothy Canfield Fisher was a proponent of women's rights, racial equality and lifelong education. Florence Allen was the first woman to serve on a state Supreme Court, and one of the first women to serve as a U. S. federal judge. One club member presented "a very thorough paper" on the impact of the Great Depression on the evolution of our educational system. Members also learned of Frank Laubach's literacy program which he developed in the Philippines. The founding of Dartmouth College was described.

Another program was devoted to the "Runabout Child," referring to children aged three to six. According to the presentation, the parents' responsibility is to recognize how their own behavior becomes a predominating factor in the mental growth of the child. Nutrition, diet, recreation, and character training were also mentioned as important factors.

A spokesman from the Portland Business and Professional Women's Club explained its mission as one of promoting ethical business practices. Within a year of its founding in 1920, it had 500 members. By 1922, the club had 655 members and was the largest in the country in proportion to its city's population of approximately 70,000. A spokesman from the Maine Publicity Bureau, founded in 1921, explained its purpose.

Several sessions were devoted to Traveler's Aid, which provides social work to vulnerable travellers at train stations and piers with the aim of preventing travellers from falling into the white slave trade. Members also learned about the Clara Laughlin Travel Service which specialized in foreign travel for women.

Gentlemen's Night

These occasions continued to be popular. According to one report, "from start to finish there were no stupid moments." One contest was called "Know Your Town", which showed "a woeful ignorance on the part of all concerned of objects seen often in our own vicinity. "A prize was awarded to the most

observing person who had the greatest number of correct answers and a booby prize to the one whose “woeful ignorance” was most evident.

On another occasion, gentlemen were requested to give their wives a piece of cake, while looking through opera glasses. This was followed by a pantomime. Other forms of entertainment were peanut hunts and charades.

Charity

During this period, members began responding to requests from Opportunity Farm for Boys for an annual donation. In addition, during the Great Depression, members of the club voted to use, as needed, money from the treasury and to solicit both food and money from members. As appropriate, cards and flowers were sent to members in the process of regaining their health.

Changes in the Evolution of the Club

In late December 1926, members read a provocative article called “Where are Women’s Clubs going?” Ruth Boyle, the author, asked, “Is cowardice or courage to sway women’s organizations in the future?” Answering her own question, the author replied “women no longer run from controversial issues of the day and hide behind the mantle of culture. They espouse difficult and unpopular causes and welcome the long fight to victory. The sentimental Christmas basket and donation party kind of charity is rapidly vanishing and in its place comes something less picturesque, but steadier and farther reaching – practical aid that helps and still leaves self- respect to the recipient.”⁷

We do not know how We Neighbors discussed this claim about women’s clubs. Such criticism, however, did not fall on deaf ears. Retrieving the situation, one member responded with a recommendation, namely “we each bring a suggestion that we could develop in our club.” No explicit mention of such suggestions is to be found in subsequent records of the Secretary’s Minutes. As the club continued to evolve, subtle shifts of emphasis did occur.

The death of two charter members was keenly felt. In January 1922, Mrs. Buxton died in Milford, Maine at the home of her sister. As the club secretary noted, “she was a constant and helpful member of this club as long as her strength permitted and when not able to attend was interested in all that was of interest to the club.” In 1930, the death of Ellen (Nellie) Sweetser is recorded and a page in the Secretary’s Minutes Book is set aside in her memory. On that page, we read “A long and faithful member of We Neighbors. Her clever poems were always a source of great pleasure to us.”

In mid-November 1944, the club lost another beloved member. A page was set aside in memory of “our dear friend and cherished member of We Neighbors: Alice Crosby Blanchard Fickett. Instead of a club meeting as planned, members of We Neighbors sat as a group in the front of the church and attended the funeral. Subsequently, the secretary noted “We all loved and admired her for her sweet and gracious spirit and her indomitable courage and will miss her very much. It is a happy memory for us that she attended our last meeting and that she and Mr. Fickett were at Gentlemen’s night and had a pleasant evening, she seeming in the best of spirits. She has been an inspiration to everyone who knew her.”

⁷ Boyle, Ruth, “Where are Women’s Clubs going?” *Good Housekeeping*, September 1926 (Volume 83, No. 3).

During this second quarter of the club's evolution, several innovations are noted. On February 28, 1939, "the beautiful seal, bearing the club insignia and designed by Lillian Hanson, was made legal, and the die for making the engravings that we find on many program covers, purchased." The insignia comprised three symbols corresponding to the three fields of "literature, arts and science." In 1940, members started a flower collection. Initially, members were invited to make a penny contribution each meeting. Later, the amount increased to fifty cents. Another innovation was the Club Ode, composed by Mrs. Mary Chase and to be sung to the tune of "America the Beautiful." Also in 1942, for first time, the members did not themselves prepare the meal for Gentlemen's Night. Rather, they paid a group to prepare it so that all the members attending with their husbands could fully enjoy the meal.

Changes in the Community

Perhaps the most significant change in the community occurred with the establishment of Prince Memorial Library. Due to a Bequest of \$35,000 from Carroll D. and Annie L. Prince in November 1921, plans were made to build and maintain a library, to be named Prince Memorial Library. Mr. Prince was a native of Cumberland and one of the earliest students at Greely Institute. Of the \$35,000 bequest, \$20,000 was used for erection and equipment, while \$15,000 was kept as a maintenance fund. Dedication of the library took place January 7, 1923. Mrs. Cecil Wilson Adams served as the first librarian, 1923-1930.

The Cumberland Historical Society was founded in 1939. Initially, its collection was housed at the Prince Memorial Library.

Celebration of a milestone in the life of the community happened August 29, 1943, when the members of the Cumberland Congregational Church celebrated the 150th anniversary of the church's founding. Many members dressed in costumes of early day churchgoers. Louise Sweetser read a poem, "The Country Church" by Nellie Sweetser. Mrs. Millard Burnell read an excerpt from the history of the church, quoted as follows:

I am not sure, whether, with all its modern improvements, the church has kept its hold upon the people. The facts go at least to show that people formerly thought more of public worship, and took more pains to attend upon it than they do now. In the early days of this church....many walked, often walked a long way.... Yet it is only fair to remember that Sunday sermons and the Sunday meeting of friends and neighbors, did then in a measure, meet intellectual and social wants that are now served in other ways.⁸

Many members of We Neighbors attended and heard this message. Whether members viewed it as foreshadowing the direction of their own organization remains an unanswered question.

Middle Years (Part II) of the We Neighbors Club, 1945-1970

During this third quarter (1945-1970), shifts were salient, as charter members departed one by one. New members joined, but they did not necessarily understand how to change it in a way that was

⁸ *History of the Congregational Church, Cumberland Center, Maine*, presented in Loving Memory of Herman Pittee Sweetser (1887-1974), February 1976, page 21.

harmonious with current needs. With this new chapter in the history of the club, a second generation of club members surfaced, and they were supplemented by new arrivals, several of whom offered a fresh perspective.

Leaders within the We Neighbors Club

Phyllis Sweetser

Among the most committed members was Phyllis Sweetser, whose mother had been a charter member. During this period she provided continuity, reminding the club of its history. With subtle suggestions, she urged members to designate meetings in which they would review the club's history and purpose. When members resigned suddenly from elected posts, Mrs. Sweetser was ready to serve on short notice. As Librarian at Prince Memorial Library, from 1951-1970, she provided book reviews, sometimes discovering old classics such as Sarah Orne Jewett's *Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896). To her task, she brought enthusiasm and insight. She also sought prospective new members. Serving innumerable times on the program committee, she suggested speakers, such as her college classmate Mira Dolley, a teacher of French at Deering High School.

Mildred Wyman Doane

After completing her studies at Bates College, Mildred Wyman Doane, daughter of charter member Laura Wyman, became librarian of Prince Memorial Library, 1930-1951. By training and discernment, she offered book reviews which sparkled with unusual insights. She discovered significant books that most would overlook. She also assisted her mother on innumerable occasions as hostess at club meetings.

Iris Almy

Also trained as a librarian, Iris Almy, resident of Cumberland but librarian at Portland Public Library, introduced books by natural scientists and conservationists. Joseph Wood Krutch, Gerald Durrell, and James Herriot were among her favorite authors. Virtually every time she presented a program she tried to awaken interest in the natural environment.

Helen Sawyer

In the field of music, Mrs. Helen Sawyer participated as vocalist in many musical programs. She organized duets and quartets, which frequently served as musical entertainment on Gentlemen's Nights. One of her most effective programs was "Gay Nineties Review". To illustrate this era, the program included fashion hints, menus, songs, and dances.

Margery Chase and Evelyn Chase

Helping significantly with the organization of the club were Margery Chase and her daughter-in-law Evelyn Chase, who joined during this period. Each held offices in the club and repeatedly served as hostesses for club meetings. They gave generously of their time and energy.

Literature

Among the works of fiction reviewed, members learned about Sholem Asch's *The Apostle*; J. B. Priestley's *Three Men in Suits*; Irving Wallace's *Twenty Seventh Wife*, a story of polygamy practiced in Mormon culture; and Theodore Dreiser's *The Bulwark*, which was the story of Quaker faith in conflict with materialism. Phyllis Sweetser reviewed Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago*. Mrs. Harriet Merrill prepared a paper on "A Concise History of English Writers." Detective novels as a new genre were carefully considered, both in terms of origin and in terms of their defining characteristics. "Anyone could write one," concluded the speaker.

In the wake of World War II and the apparent need to understand other cultures better, members devoted several sessions to fiction and nonfiction from other countries. Turning to China, they read Lao She's *Rickshaw Boy*. Lao She is regarded as one of the most significant writers in twentieth century Chinese literature. Tuning to Russia, they learned about E. M. Almedinger's novel *Frossia*. This was supplemented by Richard E. Latuerbach's *These are the Russians*. From the Philippines, they reviewed Agnes Newton Keith's *Barefoot in the Palace*, which is an account of Filipinos during the transition following World War II (1948-1952).

Local residents also offered first-hand accounts of life abroad. As a special guest, Cumberland Foreside resident Mrs. Horace Hildreth, wife of the former ambassador to Pakistan, related her experiences in Pakistan. From Greely High School, two exchange students, one from New Zealand and one from Chile, attended a meeting of We Neighbors and told about their respective countries.

John Gunther's *Inside U. S. A.* was reviewed over several sessions. According to the secretary, "while we could not wholly agree with Mr. Gunther's report on Maine, it was interesting to hear his views." Unfortunately, the secretary omitted details of that discussion.

Particularly notable was Edna Ferber's autobiography, *A Peculiar Measure*. As far as biographies are concerned, the single entry appears to be the biography of Gertrude Lawrence by her husband. Marianne Means' book, *Women in the White House*, provided portraits of the life and times of twelve notable first ladies. .

The Arts

One program focused on paintings done by club members Grace Lincoln, Mrs. Foster, and Mrs. Seavy. On another occasion, Mr. Bradford Brown from the Portland Art Museum presented a lecture on "How the Museum Serves the Community."

Turning to music, Mrs. Helen Sawyer organized a "Gay Nineties Review" which was well received. There were several programs of organ music by "live" performers. For a Christmas program, a guest sang some seasonal favorites and accompanied herself on the auto harp. At another meeting, students from Greely Institute sang a cantata. The secretary commented, "The young people looked nice wearing white blouses and shirts."

Drama continued to be a favorite. Guest Dagmar Peterson from Portland read a play "I Remember Mama." On several different occasions, members read the play "Seven Year Itch". On Gentlemen's Night, members several times presented pantomime skits.

Photographers with an artistic eye shared many slides of their travels. Club member Grace Lincoln showed slides which invariably evoked enthusiastic comments. These slides covered travel to the Canadian Rockies, Israel, Jerusalem, Macao, Hong Kong, Japan, Egypt and Greece. Mrs. Schenck presented slides "From Maine to Florida." Reverend Morse showed slides of Canadian Rockies, Newfoundland. We Neighbors also invited a missionary who had been to Philippines, Alaska, and Puerto Rico to show his slides. Another club member showed slides of Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City.

Hobbies became a central interest. Discussion of Antiques occurred regularly, often drawing on the expertise of people from F. O. Baily. Other programs covered Ceramics, Quilts, and Wood Gems. A session on Heraldry explored the practice of describing and recording coats of arms and heraldic badges, a practice developed in the High Middle Ages (1000-1300).

Programs on Style included aspects of Dressing and aspects of Home Decoration. One program was devoted to "interesting and amusing facts" about Hats. A Home Demonstration Agent discussed "Quality with the Clothing Market." A program featuring Wedding Gowns, some modeled by members, attracted newspaper coverage. Someone from the Mill End Shop in South Portland presented a program on "Color Schemes for the Home." She brought samples of fabrics and invited members to visit her shop.

Gardens constituted another subject of interest. Members heard reports of the Flower Shows in New York City as well as the Spring Flower Show in Boston. Flowers of the White House also was discussed.

Science and Technology

Members were intrigued with discussion of the Westinghouse Time Capsule, which allegedly is capable of resisting the effects of time for 5000 years. Evolution of the Maine Sardine Industry was a topic about which each member could readily identify.

On January 23, 1951, Mrs. Myrna Timberlake of Tuttle Road presented a session on "Nutrients in Our Present Day Processed Foods." According to the secretary, "Some listeners considered the subject unimportant while others were inclined to think that it is a condition that should be arrested." That was 1951.

On the fringes of science, a speaker presented "graphoanalysis", which allegedly determines personality from samples of handwriting. This subject was presented more than once. Another topic, at that time also on the fringes of science, was Extra Sensory Perception. Members considered the subject "out of the ordinary and interesting."

Influence of Maine Residents in the Making of the Nation

During this quarter of the We Neighbors Club meetings, comparatively little attention was devoted to contributions Maine residents have made to the national scene. At least three exceptions are noted. Sarah Orne Jewett of South Berwick was represented by her book *Country of the Pointed Fir*, an example literary regionalism nationally recognized. Robert Tristram Coffin continued to be a favorite author and poet, also recognized nationally. Robert Pullen's work, *Twentieth Maine*, presents the story of

how Joshua Chamberlain and his men, Twentieth Maine, fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville on their way to the pivotal battle of Gettysburg.

Vital Affairs of the Day

Jean Gannett Williams of the *Portland Press Herald* spoke on her experiences as war correspondent in Europe. Oscar Young addressed the topic "What Social Security Means to You." In October 1960, Mrs. Robert Harris spoke on "Politics this Election Year," and emphasized everyone should exercise the "valuable privilege" of voting. The Club also had a speaker from the Women's League of Voters.

Service Organizations

We Neighbors continued to invite leaders from various service organizations to tell the story of their mission. Rollin Scott from School for the Deaf spoke on the "World of the Deaf Child." Sister Miguel, Director, spoke on the Blind Children's Resource Center. Mrs. Pride of Pride Training School addressed the question, "What can be done for the retarded child?" At the time, this school enrolled 56 clients for a fee of five dollars per week, ages 5 – 33.

Mr. Percy Hayden told about the challenges at the State Reformatory in Windham. Another guest spoke of the challenges at the Women's Correctional Center in Skowhegan and the Stevens School in Hallowell where efforts were made to rescue homeless girls. Another program was devoted to the subject "Our Untouchables", namely delinquents and how they are treated.

A speaker from the YWCA showed pictures of a new camp for girls on Long Island. Another speaker showed a short movie about activities of the American Red Cross.

On Gentlemen's Night, several speakers presented the stories of their organizations. The Chaplain of the Brunswick Naval Air Station told of his service as Chaplain stationed in many parts of the world during two world wars and the Korean conflict. Another speaker presented the history of the U. S. Coast Guard. A speaker from the Inland Game and Fish Conservation Service showed color movies on "Conservation in Action."

Gentlemen's Night

In 1947, the entertainment was entirely "home grown." Guests heard a vocal trio, a quartet with two male voices and two female voices. Louise Sweetser offered one her readings. Eight members participated in a short play. In 1960, entertainment consisted of pantomime skits and "An Hour of Fun", which according to the secretary, "Kept us in a happy, jolly, or laughing mood."

Notably, the menus started to shift from oysters or clam chowder to Roast Beef for the first time in 1956.

Excursions

Excursions for picnics at cottages of various members continued to be popular. For several seasons, members were invited in September to Mrs. Moxcey's cottage at White's Bridge, Sebago Lake. On Gentlemen's Night, Mrs. Schenck invited members and their guests to her home in South Freeport.

After a memorable meal served on a well-appointed table, members enjoyed an organ concert by Mrs. Orr. Several times, Mrs. Schenck extended her invitation. Another memorable excursion was one to Mrs. Bonney's cottage on Bailey's Island. Members took a picnic and enjoyed walking along the shore.

Charity

In 1945, members participated in two silver teas to raise money for church repairs. Each year donations were made to charitable organizations including Opportunity Farm, the Red Cross, Baxter School for the Deaf. Members continued to send cards and flowers to members who were ill. For this purpose, members initiated the Penny Collection in 1945.

Changes in the Evolution of the Club

As far as programs are concerned, slides and travelogues became very popular. A variety of hobbies attracted interest. Many more of the programs were presented by outside speakers.

Turning to the organization of the club, several significant changes signaled a shift. The frequency of meetings went from bimonthly to monthly, on the second Wednesday. The place of meeting shifted from member's homes supplemented by the Church Vestry and Library to a central meeting place, first the North Yarmouth Fire Station and then Cumberland Fire Station, starting in 1970.

An astonishing amount of time was devoted to revising and updating the constitution and bylaws. Many changes focused on the issue of membership. In 1945, they established guidelines for Honorary Membership, namely after reaching "that milestone" of 75 years of age. At that time, the six Honorary Members included, Mrs. Albert Sweetser, Mrs. Frank Doughty, Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. James Sawyer, Mrs. Philip Sturdivant, and Mrs. Archie Wyman. In 1952, "No new Members until membership reduced to 35, including honorary members." In 1957, "Allow members to present for membership the name of only one person." Then in 1968, a proposed member must "reside in Cumberland one year at time of Annual Meeting". Once a central meeting place was found, dues were raised from two dollars to three dollars a year, and that required a change in the constitution.

Probably one of the deepest changes occurred with the death of charter and long standing members. Helen Sawyer and Evie Sweetser, both charter members, died in 1946. The next year, 1947, Annie Fox Blanchard and Annie Florence S. Sturdivant, a charter member, died. In 1955, Harriet Blanchard passed away and her memory page quoted the Beatitude "Blessed are the Pure in Heart." In 1957, three members died: Edith M. Sawyer, Mrs. Lester Bragg, and Mrs. Harriet C. Merrill. A member since 1906, Mrs. Merrill, joined one month after moving as a young bride to Cumberland. Her page stated "in memory of our dear friend and outstanding member of We Neighbors." Two more long time members, Margaret Hanson and Bessie Burnell, died in 1960. Mary Chase died in 1961 and Geneva Chase in 1964. Two more charter members, Laura Wyman and Miss Harriet S. Merrill, died in 1963. Lula Burnell died in 1967 as did Louise Sweetser. Viola Yeomans died in 1970.

Together these deaths represent a significant loss. In this "passing of the old guard", members were faced with the daunting task of reinventing their club and their mission, but needing to do this within a rapidly changing world. Would they be up to this task?

Changes in the Community

Within this time frame, 1945-1970, Cumberland itself was changing significantly. New organizations proliferated: 1956, Cumberland Garden Club, and in 1958, Cumberland Rescue Unit was formed. During its first year it received 36 calls, but by 1971, it received an average of 158 calls. In 1961, the Cumberland Lions Club organized with 25 charter members. The following year, 1962, Nu-Cumbers Club formed to provide residents with the chance to get together, become better acquainted and to learn more about the town. In 1964, Val Halla Country Club opened as a nine hole golf course on 80 acres.

Society was becoming much more mobile and more affluent. Travels undertaken by members of We Neighbors underscore the point. The National Highway System facilitated travel across the nation. The younger generation sought their livelihood away from the small towns where they had spent their childhood. At the same time, however, communities like Cumberland experienced an influx of professions from urban areas. Local roots seemed less important and a concern for the past less pronounced.

Later Years of the We Neighbors Club, 1970-1995

With the loss of the "Old Guard", namely charter members and many long-term members, this new configuration of members confronted the challenge of offsetting this loss and discovering fresh ways to regain momentum. Was the original mission still meaningful? If so, how could they reinvigorate that mission for the present? If not, what would be an acceptable substitute? How could they attract new members? Fortunately, long time member Phyllis Sweetser was aware of the situation and she encouraged a neighbor, Nancy Fearing, to join. In addition to Mrs. Fearing, several other new members emerged as leaders.

Emerging Leaders within the Membership

Nancy Fearing

As speaker for several programs, Nancy Fearing was enthusiastic and articulate, captivating everyone's attention with her storytelling skills. No matter whether she was talking about living on the Aleutian Islands one mile distant from Soviet Russia or whether she was searching for her husband's genealogical roots in England, she engaged everyone as she told her stories. After joining the club in 1977, she became active as an office holder, serving as President and serving innumerable times on the Program Committee. If a scheduled speaker cancelled at the last minute, Mrs. Fearing either found a substitute or conceived of a subject herself. She was creative and flexible, able to respond on a moment's notice.

Grace Trappan

Also nominated by Phyllis Sweetser, Grace Trappan joined the club in 1970. Retired as librarian from Portland Public Library but resident of Cumberland, Miss Trappan quickly assumed an active role. She presented many, many programs of slides featuring her global travels. With her artistic eye, she practiced photography as an art form. Invariably, club members appreciated the artistic style of the slides as well as the content. As long as she was able, she was a devoted member.

Margaret Merrill

Margaret Merrill became more and more active by accepting terms as Treasurer, President, and Secretary, a seemingly endless term as Secretary. Good natured and generous, Mrs. Merrill sometimes conveyed a sense of levity and humor as she assumed her duties as club scribe. Dependable and faithful in attendance, she exuded good cheer.

Literature

Iris Almy continued to choose books of enduring interest. On one occasion, she reviewed several books by James Herriot, the English veterinarian. On another occasion she told the story of the Fall River Murders, as related in books by Lester Pearson. With dramatic flair, she engaged everyone's attention, as members listened, "sitting riveted to their seats."

Phyllis Sweetser reviewed Elizabeth Grudge's *Child from the Sea*, story of the life of Lucy Walter longtime mistress to Charles Stuart before he ascended the throne of England. As Iris Almy, club secretary that day, reported "Mrs. Sweetser developed the story and excerpted the very long novel very well indeed."

Turning to Maine topics, a perennial favorite was E. B. White's *Essays*, celebrated for his "colorful way with words." Carlene Griffin from L. L. Bean, author of the book *Spillin' the Beans*, attended a club meeting and told the story of the company's rapid growth. In 1935, the company employed 60 people. At the time of her speaking, the company employed 6000 at Christmas time, but most of the year 3400. During the course of the year, 23 different catalogues are distributed.

The Arts

Aside from Letty Berkovich, art instructor at North Yarmouth Academy, speaking on "What is Art?" and Kenneth Cole showing slides of Norman Rockwell's work, most speakers were concerned with hobbies, crafts, and antiques. Regarding hobbies, programs included collecting music boxes and collecting milk bottles, making and dressing dolls, bird watching, collecting antique kitchen utensils, and making apple dolls.

Regarding crafts, sessions were devoted to candle-making, stenciling of stools, creating table decorations from natural materials, pottery making, weaving, quilt making, gold leafing, a hand-spinning demonstration, and how to make a Christmas centerpiece. Another session was spent learning "How to Make Baskets." As the secretary commented, "and so we went home with cute little baskets, which made an interesting hands on program." Several sessions were devoted to antique furniture, glassware, and Victorian jewelry. Another session featured the process of lamp shade restoration.

Photography, in the form of colored slides, was particularly popular. Grace Lincoln continued to show her slides gathered from trips to Hawaii and Ireland. Grace Trappan shared her slides of Austria, Portugal and Yugoslavia, Greece, Ireland, as well as those gathered on her trip to Africa. Her concluding set of slides she entitled "Maine in Four Seasons." As the secretary of the day commented, it was "a delight to see her superb photography."

Two members of We Neighbors presented additional programs of slides. Dorothy Wagner showed her slides entitled "Around the World in Thirty Minutes." Mildred Moegling presented slides taken on her trip to Russia. A Greely Junior High School teacher showed slides of Egypt.

The topic of gardening attracted attention. One speaker described the Boston Flower Show and invited We Neighbors to attend. Flower arranging was the subject for another session. David Chase of Golden Glow Gardens in North Yarmouth spoke on Perennials and Alpines. A horticulturist from O'Donal's Nurseries emphasized the importance of good soil preparation and the necessity of building a landscape over time. Kenneth Cole told of his research on edible plants. Mr. Churchill of S.M.V.T.I. (Southern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute) described the school's horticultural program

Turning to music, live performances by vocalists and organists were well received. David Wallace presented a program on restoration of the Kotschmar Organ. The Bell Ringers of Seventh Day Adventist School in Freeport gave a concert. Beth Harmon brought her guitar and sang seasonal solos for a Christmas program. On another occasion, Beth was joined by Alice Bredenberg and Judith Young who presented solos and duets suitable for the Christmas Season. For an afternoon of piano music, We Neighbors went to the home of Sally Merrill joined by her friends Sadie Rubinoff and Emily Cram and heard selections from the music of Liszt. For Gentlemen's Night, We Neighbors and guests went to Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland to hear vocalist Margery Shuster and her husband pianist Steward Shuster present a well-received program. On other Gentlemen Nights, We Neighbors and their guests enjoyed a program of Far Eastern Dancing and on another occasion, the Casco Bay Cloggers.

Science and Technology

As a group We Neighbors pooled cars and traveled to the Southworth Planetarium, where they peered through telescopes and learned about the new comet Kohoutek. Michele Howard from Mercy Hospital presented a program on "Healthy Diets". She explained the new food labels, and emphasized the importance balanced diets. Certain foods were encouraged and certain foods were to be avoided.

Joan Irish who had worked with Massachusetts Audubon Society for 14 years spoke on "50 common birds by sight and sound."

Regarding astrology, We Neighbors appeared to be skeptical. The speaker claimed astrology is not a new science but is at least 10,000 years old. What makes Astrology a science? The secretary of the day recorded the speaker "claimed" astrology "foretells the future by study of the supposed influence of the moon, sun, and stars on human affairs."

Hand writing analysis, another purported science, also was presented.

Influence of Maine Residents on Making of the Nation

We Neighbors reviewed at least four books by Maine authors who made an impact beyond the boundaries of Maine. E. B. White's *Essays* contributed to the genre of memoir, having meaning beyond a particular region. Senator William Cohen's *Roll Call* contributed to understanding of current national issues. Dahlov Ipcar's *Lost and Found: A children's Story* received national recognition, both in the fields of literature and art. Beth Harmon's compilation and editing of *Chimney Pond Tales*, helped place folk legends of Mt. Katahdin in the context of folk lore and anthropology.

Two other Maine residents expressed their connections between Maine and the world at large. Collaborating with Russian colleagues, Peter Hagerty started an enterprise known as Peace Fleece. In 1985, Peter and his wife Marty Tracey, residents of Porter, started buying wool from the Soviet Union

with the hope that through trade they could diffuse the threat of nuclear war. Subsequently, Peter journeyed through Eastern Europe, central Asia, and the Middle East in search of farmers and shepherds who would be willing to set aside historic enmities in exchange for an opportunity leading to mutual understanding and economic interdependence. To Peter, agriculture is a medium to bring people closer together. To Marty, promoting crafts in our hectic society is important. By inspiring people to work with their hands, she hoped that people can find more time to discover their own inner solutions for peace. To the meeting with We Neighbors, Peter brought samples of Peace Fleece as well as sweaters and scarves made from Peace Fleece.

Judith Magyar Isaacson of Auburn presented We Neighbors an account of her experiences during the Holocaust at Auschwitz. Born in Hungary into a Jewish family, Isaacson was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp with her mother and aunt in July 1944. She spent eight months in forced labor at an underground munitions plant. After liberation, she married a U. S. intelligence officer and moved to his hometown of Lewiston, Maine. She earned a bachelor's degree at Bates and then a master's degree in math at Bowdoin College. In the mid-1960s, she taught math at Lewiston High School and then at Bates, where she became the first computer science teacher. In 1975, she became Bates' first Dean of Students. She gave many presentations at schools and clubs like We Neighbors in the hope that history would not repeat the horrors she experienced. Her 1990 memoir, *Seed of Sarah*, inspired a 1995 electronic chamber opera.

We Neighbors also heard a report from Liz and Tom Reinsborough, both teachers at North Yarmouth Academy. They showed slides of their experience as members of the Peace Corps in Tanzania.

Vital Issues of the Day

Within the community of Cumberland, We Neighbors heard from elected and appointed officials. Jeff Butland, State Representative, explained his responsibilities as legislator. Jared Clark, Town Manager, told what he accomplished in three years, and said he has accepted a position elsewhere but was sorry to be leaving. The Postmaster presented a program. The Head of Rescue Units explained the mission and new equipment. Mr. Darrah, from the Immigration and Naturalization Service Border Control, described the mission of detecting and preventing smuggling and illegal entry.

Turning to the media, We Neighbors invited several columnists from the local newspapers: Fran Hapgood, writer of the column "Clearing House" for the *Portland Press Herald* and Kim Murphy, columnist for the *Portland Evening Express*. From the *Maine Sunday Telegram*, a design editor came and explained the changes and new features. At this newspaper, they hired more specialized reporters, a local columnist, and established a "Yes Desk", as well as "Style" and "Applause" sections. She also told about the new printing process which uses ink that will not rub off.

From television stations, We Neighbors invited Joe Cupo, weatherman from Channel Six and from Channel Thirteen, Diane Fletcher who spoke on consumer scams.

Preservation was also a popular topic. For Edward Mayo of Kennebunkport, it is imperative to find a solution for the challenge of ecology. As President of the Kennebunkport Dump Association, he established places for people to recycle trash. He noted that sixty percent of air pollution comes from

cars and snowmobiles. Moreover, if one were to stash trash along a highway stretching from New York to California it would have to be piled one foot high.

Under the rubric of historical preservation, We Neighbors invited a spokesperson from Greater Portland Landmarks as well as a spokesperson from Washburn Norlands Living History Center. The latter speaker presented a description and then, after disappearing into the kitchen to change her clothes reappeared to act the part of a nineteenth century resident, complete with costume and dialect.

Service Organizations

From the New Life Centers, Robert Peterson, director, came to tell about two homes for boys, established in Limerick and North Parsonfield. The mission is to rehabilitate homeless boys who are neglected children posing enormous problems. A representative from Up with People explained how that educational organization helped bridge cultural gaps. Becca Begen, from Friends of the Maine Medical Center told about the three major ways volunteers can assist visitors and patients.

Mrs. Martha Pawle, librarian at Prince Memorial Library, (1970-1995) periodically brought a selection books and gave a brief review of each. She also identified new services such as large print books as well as large print editions for *Guideposts* and *Reader's Digest*. Other services included road maps, telephone numbers for anywhere in Maine and Massachusetts, copies, upon request, of bills pending in the State legislature.

Charities

No longer did members of We Neighbors exchange gifts among themselves at Christmas time, but they chose a particular charity. Among the charities chosen were Bruce Roberts Fund, Salvation Army, Pineland Hospital, School for the Blind, New Life Center, Opportunity Farm, St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen, street people of Cumberland County Jail, Friendship House, a place of temporary housing for women and men which opened in 1985, and Faith House, opened in 1991 for women and children. For Faith House, members of We eighbors also collected household items.

Evolution of We Neighbors Club

During the last quarter (1970-1995), membership increased, but it was less cohesive, less committed, and less connected with its mission. Programs on hobbies and crafts were more frequent. More and more programs were presented by outside speakers. Two hundred dollars was allocated annually for outside speakers. As the club began to rely on guest speakers, members tended to take a more passive role. Fiery debates were events of the past. Poetic responses, if they did occur, were not recorded.

Initial meetings often were held at a member's cottage. For quite a long time, Elaine Moxcy's cottage at White's Point, Sebago was the scene for the opening meeting. As the secretary observed, it is "always a treat to go there; this is a day of fellowship and fun for everyone who attends." On other occasions, We Neighbors gathered at Hermine Steven's cottage on Chebeague Island or Lois Gatcomb's House-by-the-Sea in New Harbor. Other initial meeting places included Winslow Park, Pettengill Salt Farm, and an excursion to Shaker Village in New Gloucester arranged by Grace Trappan and Iris Almy. Initial meetings were informal, each member brining a picnic lunch.

Special Meetings, in addition to the opening picnic, included Gentlemen's Night, Guest Day, Christmas Luncheon, Auction, and the Annual Luncheons, the latter held in a variety of places such as Salmon Falls, Cascades, Downeast and Rockcraft. Most meetings were held at the Cumberland Fire Station.

Auctions became an annual event which was used to raise funds for their chosen charity. As a secretary observed, we "had a high old time" as we were "fortified by delicious coffee and sweets." In 1971, we were "not always sure who had the last bid but we did have lots of fun."

Sometimes the scheduled speakers were unable to attend and substitutes difficult to find. Creative members of the program committee suggested impromptu programs. On one occasion, members were asked to tell a little bit of their life up to present. On that occasion "only one was a native of Cumberland." Different occupations included housewife, mothers, teachers, clerks, postmistress, and dental receptionist. Afterwards, several said it was "one of the most interesting meetings; felt we knew one another better."

On another such impromptu program, members were asked to relate how they experienced their first job or how they met their husbands. Members heard "sixteen stories of first loves and first jobs."

Quite a few sessions were devoted to club history. These recollections were highlighted at the Centennial Tea, held March 9, 1994, at the home of Sally Merrill. Handwritten invitations were sent to close relatives of past presidents. James Saunders of the *Forecaster* handled the publicity and photos. Nancy Fearing presented a History of the Club. A poem written by Hope Dillaway specifically for this occasion was read. The Club Ode has recited. A musical program included piano selections from Mozart, Chopin, and Schumann's "Scenes from Childhood." The refreshment committee provided "All English Food". The proceedings were video-taped by Myron Hilton. 43 members and guests attended.

Turning to membership, a new method was devised to attract new members. Any resident of Cumberland could attend three meetings to see how she liked it, and if she did, then her name would be submitted to a vote by the officers. Whether or not this strategy was successful is not recorded.

Inevitably, given the average age of members, quite a few members died. In 1971, long time member Mrs. Ernest Burnell as well as Helene Thompson and Marguerite Ross died. Carolyn Rand and Marjorie Chase died in 1974. Carrie B. Sweetser died in 1975, as did Mildred Knight and Helen F. Chandler in 1976. Olive Ayer died in 1977 and Mrs. Katherine Bonney and Margaret Boynton died in 1978. Blanche Keating died in 1979. In 1981, Margery Wilson and Helen Bragg died. In 1982, Antoinette Packard died, followed by Abbie Jordan and Sylvia Siegford in 1983. Marjorie Tame, Dorothy Kailis and Marion Fox passed in 1984. Alaire Rice, Lillian Pollock and Ialeen D. Rice died in 1985. In 1986, Georgia Adams and Grace Lincoln died. In 1987, past president Phyllis Blanchard died, followed in 1988 by Lena Foster and Alma Hayes. In 1991 Margaret Clark died. Then in 1993, Lillian Hulit and Aurelia Tripp, two very active members died.

In January 1995, Phyllis Sweetser, the oldest member of the club with respect to age and with regard to length of membership, died. Her death seemed to sever one of the last threads connecting charter and current members. With the loss of Phyllis Sweetser and with the loss of all these second generation members, the We Neighbors Club inevitably would be very different.

In fact, December 13, 1995 is the last entry in the Secretary's record book. For the 1995-1996 season, Virginia Hutchins was elected President; Madeline Bailey, Vice President; Carrie Whiteside, secretary; and Margaret Merrill, treasurer. Shirley Finamore provided "recollections" dated March 13, 2002, but no further information has been found. The club is believed to have dissolved shortly after that time.

Concluding Comments

These changes, of course, reflected not only the composition of the membership, but changes occurring in the culture at large. In a sense, a club mirrors, at least in part, its community, its era and its place. Naturally, what attracted charter members would not necessarily appeal to members a full century later.

When the We Neighbors first formed at the end of the nineteenth century, the country was in the process of transforming from an agricultural into an industrial society. Members eagerly explored many aspects of that transformation, as reflected in literature, the arts, and science. As the country continued through two World Wars plus the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts, We Neighbors continued their commitments to learning and charitable acts. However, toward the end of the twentieth century, as the country transformed from an industrial age to an information age spearheaded by the "silicon sultans", members and potential members found new ways of communicating. As the pace accelerated and priorities shifted, fewer neighbors seemed willing to make a commitment and to save time for a monthly meeting. Intellectual and social needs began to be served in other ways.

What accounts for the formation and growth of We Neighbors Club through a full century? Intellectually, they were curious about what was happening in the world as well as how authors and artists responded to their common predicament. However, if intellect were the primary motive, then such a journey could be carried on in other settings, such as library groups or school discussion sessions. And, if charity were the primary motive, members could pursue other channels of participation. In addition to their intellectual quest and central to their mission was their commitment as neighbors to cherish one another, support one another, and help one another no matter what the situation. This combination of intellectual quest and community service made their club unique. Fostering knowledge and compassion as complementary missions, they nurtured this common bond as "We Neighbors."

August 23, 1904

We Neighbors were invited by the Greeley Road Club to meet with them at Casco Castle¹ on their Field Day outing. Only seven of our members were able to accept the invitation: Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Mary Sweetser, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Dunn and myself.

A very enjoyable day was spent. A quorum being present a rather informal business meeting was held, presided over in the absence of the president by vice president, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. The officers of the preceding year were unanimously re-elected with the exception of the secretary, Mrs. Dunn who resigned her position. The resignation was reluctantly accepted and Mrs. Adams was elected in her place. So few being present no decision was made as to the course of the reading to be taken up, but the meeting was open to discussion along that line and several suggestions were offered. Mrs. Buxton had thought that a supplementary study of parliamentary law would be a help to us. Mrs. Dunn spoke of the study of Norway and Sweden as being of probable interest. Mrs. Mary Sweetser thought the St. Louis Exposition would afford a good subject for investigation. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser had the same thought in mind and also suggested reading from some book of travels. It was voted to open each meeting with a roll call consisting of short items from current events. Voted that the membership fee shall continue to be twenty five cents for each member. The meetings shall be held on Wednesday beginning the second Wednesday in September, and shall be held in alphabetical order. The first meeting to be with Mrs. Adams. After the business on hand, Mrs. Wyman, with her usual liberality regaled the company on nuts [?] after which the meeting adjourned.

C. E. Adams Sec.

¹ **Casco Castle** Located fifteen miles north of Portland in the small town of South Freeport, Casco Castle, shortly after being built in 1903, attracted large numbers of visitors. At the turn of the twentieth century, the electric trolley car was regarded as the ultimate in rapid transportation. To increase patronage of the trolleys a number of amusement parks were built, the showiest of these being Casco Castle and Amusement Park in South Freeport. From the trolley line, the visitor approached the Castle by means of a suspension bridge across a branch of Spar Creek. A flight of steep steps led to the hotel which was built entirely of wood and gray shingles to simulate stone. The hotel was joined by bridges to the stone tower. From the 100 foot high tower, the views of the bay and countryside were magnificent.

The amusement park that surrounded the hill on three sides was open to the public. Within the park, there was a small zoo with a frequent change of denizens. Usually, there were monkeys, bison and Angus cattle. The picnic grounds probably attracted more people than the hotel dining room. Easily, one can envision the seven "We Neighbors" partaking of their picnic lunch and admiring the formal gardens and views.

September 14, 1904

The first meeting of the We Neighbors was held Sept. 14, with Mrs. Adams, only seven members were present. The reports of secretary and treasurer were read and approved. It was decided that as a study we use Reid's Parliamentary Rules and that we would read from some books of travels the subject of which should be decided on at our next meeting. It not being found advisable to hold said meeting on Wednesday, the following day was named. Voted to meet with Mrs. Buxton.

Adjournment.

C.E. Adams Sec.

September 22, 1904

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Buxton. In the absence of the president and secretary, Mrs. Mary Sweetser and Mrs. Dunn were chosen respectively to fill their places pro tem. There were only four members present. The report of the secretary read and approved.

So few being present, the usual roll call was omitted. No decision was made as to our future reading. The time was spent in reading articles on the St. Louis Exposition. The next meeting to be held with Mrs. Buxton Oct. 5. Roll call to be on the St. Louis Exposition.

Adjournment.

E. G. Dunn Sec. pro tem

October 5, 1904

Met with Mrs. Buxton. Nine members present. The meeting was opened by the president who called for the report of the secretary which was read and approved. The business of deciding as to the books to be used by the club was next in order. The vote to use Reid's Parliamentary Rules was reconsidered, and Shattuck's Woman's Manual of Parliamentary Law² chosen instead. Two books of travels were presented for our consideration by the president, "Clark and Lewis' Explorations," and "By the waters of Sicily." A motion was made and carried that we purchase the two volumes of Clark and Lewis' explorations. But few were prepared to respond to the roll call, but the items given, on the St. Louis Fair, were of great interest – showing the principal features of the fair to be illustrations of mining, education, and science, particularly science. A short practice lesson was then given.

[At this point, several pages are missing. The available record resumes on December 7, 1904.]

² Harriet R. Shattuck (1850-1937) published in Boston: Lee & Shepard, 1896. 316 pages. Price 75 cents. This manual includes practical illustrations especially adapted to women's organizations.

December 7, 1904

Met with Mrs. Powell. Twelve members were present. Meeting opened with reading of records, followed by roll call. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser then gave a parliamentary drill. Mrs. Buxton gave the reading for the afternoon.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 14 with Mrs. Davis.

December 14, 1904

Met with Mrs. Davis. Nine members present. The records were read and approved, followed by roll call. The parliamentary drill, consisting of questions and answers in the work assigned, was by Mrs. Fred Sweetser. The usual reading was by Mrs. Osgood.

Adjourned at 4.15 to meet Dec. 21 with Mrs. Fred Sweetser.

E. G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

December 21, 1904

Met with Mrs. Fred Sweetser. Ten members present. The meeting was opened by the president, in the usual manner by the reading and approval of the records followed by the roll call.

Owing to the absence of Miss Gertrude Merrill who was to have given the parliamentary drills, it was postponed by a vote until the next meeting. The reading for the afternoon was by Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 4 with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

January 11, 1905

Owing to stormy weather and bad traveling, the meeting that was to have been held Jan. 4 with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was postponed until the 11th when We Neighbors met with Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Ten members were present. The records were read and approved followed by the roll call. Miss Gertrude Merrill again being absent Mrs. Davis gave a short lesson in parliamentary law. The afternoon's reading was by Mrs. Dunn.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 18 with Mrs. Adams.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 18, 1905

Met with Mrs. Adams. Thirteen members were present. The meeting was opened with the reading and approval of the records. The roll call was next in order followed by a short lesson in parliamentary law. Reading from the book of travels by Mrs. Hall.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 25th with Mrs. Dunn.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

February 1, 1905

Owing to the storm the meeting of We Neighbors which was to have been held Jan. 25th, with Mrs. Dunn, was postponed till Feb. 1st when they again met with Mrs. Adams, seven members being present. The records were read and approved followed by the roll call. The lesson for the day was conducted by Mrs. Davis, as was the reading. A proposition by the Vice President that a debate illustrating the previous lesson be held at the next meeting met with a favorable reception. The resolution suggested for debate was Resolved that Mothers should expose their children to the measles. The leaders appointed by the chair were first affirmative Mrs. Thomes, second affirmative Mrs. Mary Sweetser, first negative Mrs. Hall, second negative Mrs. Buxton. Miss Nellie Sweetser to act as chairman during the debate. Adjourned to meet Feb. 8th with Mrs. Buxton.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

February 15, 1905

We were again obliged to change the date of our meeting, which was to have been the 8th to the 15th, and also the place of meeting to the home of Mrs. Dunn. Nine members were present. Records were read and approved and roll call responded to.

Miss Grace Merrill illustrating her remarks by showing a cocoon of the brown-tail moth taken from a tree in the neighborhood.³ The debate then followed in which all participated. It was decided in the negative. The question assigned for debate at the next meeting was: Resolved that the state should appropriate a sum of money for the extermination of the brown-tail moth.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 22 with Mrs. Hall.

³ The Brown-tail Moth is an invasive species that arrived in the United States in the 1890s on nursing stock coming from Europe. It is found only on the coast of Maine and Cape Cod. Its wings are pure white as is its body apart from tufts of brown hairs at the end of its abdomen. A major pest, it feeds of plants, Maples, Birches, Burdock, Forsythia, Apple and Elm trees. For ten months of the year, it is in larval stage overwintering as young larvae in communal nests. In early April, synchronized with bud-break, it resumes feeding but still inhabits its winter nest as resting place.

February 22, 1905

Met with Mrs. Hall. Only six members were present. In the absence of the president Mrs. Mary Sweetser acted as chairman. The records were read and approved, followed by roll call. So few being present, the debate and parliamentary drill were omitted, the time being devoted to reading in the book of explorations.

Adjourned to meet March 1st with Mrs. Mary Sweetser.

C. E. Adams. Sec.

March 1, 1905

Met with Mrs. Mary Sweetser. The president again being absent Mrs. Laura Wyman presided as chairman. Seven members were present. The records were read and approved, followed by roll call. The day's lesson was conducted by Mrs. Dunn. The debate was again postponed until the next meeting and the following ladies were appointed by the chair to act as leaders. First aff. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser first negative Mrs. Adams. The remainder of the hour was spent in the usual reading. Adjourned to meet Mar. 8 with Mrs. Wyman.

Cora E. Adams Sec.

March 8, 1905

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Wyman. Six members were present. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser presided. The meeting opened in the usual manner with the reading of the records followed by the roll call. A motion was made and carried that at the next meeting the subject of holding a gentleman's night should be discussed. A suggestion that a change be made in the day on which our meeting is held was also left to be voted on at that time. The lesson for the afternoon was in charge of Miss Nellie Sweetser. The debate then followed. Mrs. Buxton being absent, Mrs. Hall was appointed in her place as 1st on the negative. The question was decided on the merits of the question in the aff.⁴ A very short time was given to the reading for the day after which the meeting adjourned to meet Mar. 15th with Mrs. Buxton.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

⁴ The question for this debate: "Resolved the state should appropriate a sum of money for extermination of brown-tail moth." Decided in the affirmative. At the Town meeting on March 6, 1906, the 35th and last article considered was the following: "To see what action the town will take to exterminate the brown tail moth and raise money for the same." Records for the Annual Report of 1908 indicate that appropriation of \$50 was paid toward the extermination of the brown tail moth. Records for the Annual report of 1910 report an appropriation of \$500 for the years 1909 and 1910 allocated for control of the brown tail moth. The following year, 1911, the town paid for gathering moths on private property and assessed tax for same.

March 15, 1905

Met with Mrs. Buxton, eight members being present. The president being absent, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser presided, Mrs. Dunn also acting as secretary. The records were read and approved, followed by the usual roll call. The lesson for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. It was voted to hold our gentleman's night on March 23rd at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. The following committees were appointed: Entertainment: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Wyman; Refreshments: Mrs. Fred Sweetser, Mrs. Buxton and Mrs. Adams. It was voted to change the day of our meeting from Wednesday to Tuesday, the changes to go into effect at the next meeting, Mar. 21st, when the meeting will be held with Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Adjournment,

E. G. Dunn Sec. pro tem

March 21, 1905

Met with Miss Nellie Sweetser. Mrs. Buxton presided and Mrs. Dunn acted as secretary. The meeting was opened in the usual way, with the reading of the records, and the roll call. Eight members were present. Adjourned to meet Mar. 28th with Mrs. Davis.

E. G. Dunn Sec. pro tem

March 23, 1905

Mar. 23d was celebrated as "Gentlemen's night". Your secretary was unable to be present, but a very pleasant time was reported. Eleven members of the club with their husbands or gentlemen friends met at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. Various games were enjoyed, refreshments were served, followed by toasts, after which all joined in singing well-known songs. Departing at a late hour.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

March 28, 1905

We Neighbors met Mar. 28 with Mrs. Davis. Eleven members were present and one visitor, Mrs. Lena Hamilton. The meeting was opened by the president with the usual reading of the records and the roll-call. The lesson for the day was conducted by Mrs. Osgood. This lesson, and the following chapter – the subject of both being amendments – are to be illustrated at the next meeting in the form of the following motion. I move that We Neighbors appoint a committee to consult with the selectmen to bring about a better drainage of the streets of Cumberland.

It was moved that a vote of thanks be extended to Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser for the use of her house on Gentlemen's Night. The vote was unanimously carried. There was a short reading in the book of travels.

A question as to whether this book should be loaned another season was put before the club and it was voted to do so. Adjourned to meet Apr. 4 with Mrs. Hall.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

April 4, 1905

Met with Mrs. Hall, eight members being present. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser presided. The records were read, and approved, and the roll call listened to, after which Mrs. Wyman took charge of the parliamentary lesson, which was an illustration of chapter twelve, on amendments. The following was assigned to be used in connection with the next lesson.

A motion has been made that our club subscribe a sum of money to help defray the hospital expenses of Mrs. Minnie Randall said sum to be paid before the 1st of May.

After the lesson came the usual reading from the book of Travels. It was then moved to adjourn until Apr. 11th, when the club will meet with Mrs. Thomes.

C.E. Adams, Sec.

April 11, 1905

Met with Mrs. Thomes. The president not being present Mrs. Thomes presided. The records were read and approved, followed by roll call. Six members were present. Mrs. Thomes conducted the parliamentary drill. The lesson for the next meeting to be illustrated by the following motion. It is moved that steps be taken to make arrangements for a picnic the coming summer. After reading from the book of travels, the meeting adjourned to meet Apr. 18 with Mrs. Osgood.

E. G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

April 19, 1905

Met with Mrs. Osgood – six members being present. The meeting was opened by the reading and approval of records, followed by roll call. Drill on the question proposed at the preceding meeting, by the president. The usual reading was then in order, after which the meeting adjourned to meet Apr. 25th with Mrs. Fen Blanchard.

E. G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

April 25, 1905

The club met Apr. 25th with Mrs. Fen Blanchard, nine members being present. The president opened the meeting in the usual way by the reading of the records and the roll call. This was followed by the lesson which was put in practice. There was a short time spent in reading after which the club adjourned to meet May 2nd with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

May 2, 1905

Met with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. Seven members were present. The meeting was opened by the Vice President in the usual way, with the reading of the records, followed by the roll call. The treasurer gave a statement of the financial standing of the club which was as follows: Amount in treasury at the beginning of the year \$3.83 which was increased by membership fees to \$7.55. [15 members?]. \$6.80 were paid but leaving a balance on hand of \$1.25. At the last meeting a committee was appointed to illustrate the lesson by reporting on the subject of a Field Day to be held by the club. This subject was recommitted as an actual event to be reported on at the next meeting.

It was voted to hold the meetings for the remainder of the season once in two weeks. Voted to postpone reading the second volume of travels till another season. It was voted that a committee be appointed by the chair to arrange the programs for the coming year. This vote was reconsidered and the members of the committee elected by ballot. The names of the members are as follows: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Mary Sweetser, Mrs. Adams; committee to report at its earliest convenience. It was moved and seconded that the articles or hints on domestic science be furnished by the members at the next meeting. Adjourned to meet May 16th with Mrs. Adams.

C. E. Adams Sec.

May 23, 1905

Met with Mrs. Adams, nine members being present. The meeting was presided over by the vice-president. The records were read and approved, after which the reports of the following committees were listened to. Mrs. Osgood, as chairman of the committee on field day arrangements reported that no decision was reached except as to date, which is to be June 27th, if pleasant, if not the 28th. The matter of where the picnic should be held was then laid before the club, and it was voted to go to Old Orchard, and that we extend invitations to Greeley Club and to friends of the members.

Mrs. Dunn gave the report of the committee appointed to arrange the programme for the coming year, which was as follows: The New England States – a month to be devoted to each state, describing its geography, history, distinguished men, and places of interest. It was voted to adopt the programme.

It was voted to hold our last meeting June 6th, when in accordance with the laws of the constitution, officers will be elected for the coming year. An article on "The bird Woman" was then read, after which refreshments were served in connection with hints on domestic science.

Then club then adjourned to meet June 6th – with Mrs. Thomes.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

June 6, 1905

Met with Mrs. Thomes, seven members being present. The meeting was opened by the vice president by the reading of the records, followed by the roll call. The lesson for the day on the last two chapters of the manual was conducted by Mrs. Dunn. The committees chosen to arrange for our field day, were further instructed to perfect their plans.

Officers were then chosen for the coming year as follows: Pres. Mrs. Davis, Vice . Mrs. Buxton, Sec. Mrs. Hall, Treas. Mrs. Thomes. The club then adjourned to reassemble at the call of the secretary in the fall. Before leaving for home the guests were pleasantly surprised by being served with refreshments by the hostess, making a very pleasant ending to the meetings.

C. E. Adams, Sec.

August 22, 1905

Our field day which was to have been observed June 27th at Old Orchard was very suddenly lost – but Aug. 22d was found at Riverton by thirty-five or more of our members and their friends which proved to be a very pleasant gathering to celebrate the recovery of that day.

1905-1906

October 3, 1905

The first meeting of We Neighbors was held with Mrs. Adams, 14 being present. Mrs. Davis in the chair. Report of Sec. was read and accepted, followed by roll call on the State of Maine. A paper on the geography of Maine by Miss Nellie Sweetser – a reading on the immense water power in Maine by Mrs. Davis, on the Indian names of Maine by Mrs. Buxton, on the "Blueberry Plains" [written by Kate Douglas

Wiggin]⁵ by Mrs. Davis. Roll call for the next meeting – quotations from Longfellow. Subject for reading at the next meeting: History of Maine. Adjourned to meet Oct. 11th with Mrs. Fen Blanchard.

O.M. Hall Sec.

October 11, 1905

Met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard with eleven present. Meeting called to order by the President – records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call – quotations from Longfellow. A very interesting and instructive paper on the History of the State of Maine was read by Mrs. Thomes, followed with a reading

⁵ Kate Douglas Wiggin (1856-1923) was an educator and author of children's stories, notably the classic children's novel "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm." Born in Philadelphia, Kate Douglas Wiggin spent a happy childhood, though colored by the civil war and her father's premature death. After that death, her widowed mother took Kate and her sister Nora to Portland, Maine. Three years later, upon her mother's remarriage, the family moved to Hollis where Kate matured in natural surroundings with her sister and new baby brother Philip.

During childhood, Kate had a memorable encounter with Charles Dickens. Her mother and another relative went to hear Dickens in Portland, but Kate age 11 was considered too young to warrant an expensive ticket. The following day, by chance, she encountered Dickens on a train and engaged him in lively conversation. Later, she recorded her experience in "A Child's Journey with Dickens" (1912).

In 1873, hoping to ease her stepfather's lung disease, Kate's family moved to Santa Barbara, CA, where her stepfather died three years later. A Kindergarten training class opened in Los Angeles and Kate enrolled. After graduation in 1878, she headed the first free kindergarten in CA, on Silver Street in the slums of San Francisco. The children were "street Arabs of the wildest type," but Kate effused a loving personality and dramatic flair. By 1880, she formed a teacher-training school in conjunction with the Silver Street kindergarten.

In 1881, she married Samuel Bradley Wiggin, a San Francisco lawyer. And according to the custom of the time, she was required to resign her teaching job. Undaunted, she raised money for the school by writing a series of children's novels, initially published privately but soon accepted for commercial publication by Houghton Mifflin.

In 1888, she moved to New York City, but after her husband suddenly died in 1889, she moved back to Maine. For the rest of her life, though grieving, she divided her time between writing, traveling in Europe, and giving public readings to benefit children's charities. In 1895, she married a New York businessman who became a staunch supporter. Her literary output continued unabated, including scholarly work on educational principles of Friedrich Froebel as well as children's novels, which Houghton Mifflin collected in 10 volumes in 1917. Meanwhile she was an active and popular hostess in New York and in Upper Largo, Scotland, where she had a summer home and organized theatricals for many years. She also continued to spend time at her summer home Quillcote in Hollis, Maine.

During the spring of 1923, while serving as a New York delegate to the Dickens fellowship in England, she became ill and died at age 66. At her request, her ashes were brought home to Maine and scattered over the Saco River.

by Mrs. Adams on the "Impressions of a careless traveller" in Maine – written by Lyman Abbott.⁶ Also, reading by Mrs. Davis of "The Waif of Nautilus Island" written by Noah Brooks⁷ of Castine. In closing a selection from Longfellow was rendered in song by Mrs. Jordan. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Howard Buxton Oct. 17th.

O.M. Hall, Sec.

October 17, 1905

Met with Mrs. Howard Buxton with eleven present. Called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by quotations from Maine authors. A paper on the distinguished men of Maine was read by Miss Grace Merrill, followed by remarks from several of the members. A Poem by Mrs. Dunn on the Songo River – written by Longfellow. Remarks on noted men and places of Maine. Reading by Mrs. Davis from "Vestry of the Basins" written by the author of "Cape Cod Folks."⁸ Meeting adjourned for one week, Oct. 24th to meet with Mrs. Davis.

O. M. H. Sec.

[Notes for October 24, 1905 are missing.]

⁶ Lyman Abbott (1835-1922) was a "Congregationalist theologian." Born in Roxbury, MA, Lyman Abbott grew up in Farmington ME and later in New York City. After graduating from New York University in 1853, he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1856. He soon abandoned the legal profession and after studying theology with his uncle, he was ordained in 1860 as a minister in the Congregational Church. From 1865-1869 he served as pastor of the Congregational Church in Terre Haute, Indiana, but in 1869, resigned his pastorate to devote his time to literary endeavors. As editor of the *Christian Union*, Abbott promoted social reform. Espousing liberal views, he advocated Theodore Roosevelt's Progressivism and Darwinism. On March 4, 1902, Abbott embarked on a journey to Europe. "I am going to Europe not to improve my mind." For six months he adopted this as his motto. Leaving his books and pens at home, he vowed "to take the harness off my mind altogether and let it run at will in new pastures." The result is recorded in "Impressions of a Careless Traveler," published in 1907, but presumably accessible in an earlier edition, which We Neighbors read.

⁷ Noah Brooks (1830-1903) was born in Castine, Maine. In 1852, he moved to Dixon, Illinois and became involved in the first Republican campaign for President (John Fremont). In the process he became friends with Lincoln. In 1857, he moved as a "free state" settler to Kansas, but about a year later returned to Illinois. As a journalist and editor he worked for newspapers in Sacramento, San Francisco, Newark, and New York. After the death of his wife in 1862, Brooks moved to Washington D.C. Based on his friendship with Lincoln and his reporting, he published a major biography of Lincoln. In 1901, he published the story of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His short story, "The Waif of Nautilus Island" is included in his *Tales of the Maine Coast*, published by Scribner's in 1894.

⁸ Sarah Pratt McLean Greene (1856-1935) is the author of fourteen volumes, her two most popular novels are *Cape Cod Folks* (1881) and *Vestry of the Basins* (1892). Born in Simsbury, CT, she attended Mount Holyoke for two years, and then accepted a teaching position at Cedarville, MA, on Cape Cod. She was intrigued by the eccentricity of Cape Cod life and set down her impressions.

October 31, 1905

Met with Mrs. Dunn. Called to order by the vice president Mrs. Buxton. Reading of the records followed by roll-call on current events, pertaining to N. Hampshire.

A paper on the Geography of N. H. by Mrs. Dunn was listened to with much interest. Reading by Mrs. Adams of "The Merrimac" by Whittier.⁹ Reading by Mrs. Fen Blanchard of the "Great Stone Face" by Hawthorn followed by general remarks on the subjects.

Voted to spend fifteen to twenty minutes in reading from the second vol. of Lewis and Clark's Trail.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams, Wednesday Nov. 8th. [Nov. 1?]

O. M. Hall Secretary

November 8, 1905

On account of the storm our club met Nov. 8th with Mrs. Adams. Ten present including Mrs. George Blanchard and Mrs. Will Rowe. Called to order by the vice president. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to.

A paper on the History of N. H. was read by Mrs. Adams, followed with a reading by Mrs. George Blanchard relating to N. H. historically – these histories were of much interest and listened to very attentively. Mrs. Rowe read selections from the "Bad- boy" by T. B. Aldrich.¹⁰

Voted to devote the remaining time in reading from Lewis and Clark's Trail. Roll call for next meeting to be from Parliamentary Law.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hall in one week.

O.M. H. Secretary

⁹ John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) was a Quaker poet and advocate for the abolition of slavery. The Whittier family farm, built in Haverhill in 1688, was located just over the Merrimack River that divided two colonies (MA and NH) by royal British decree. Whittier "lived just beyond the MA border but had the soul of a NH man." In that context he wrote the poem "Bridge over the Merrimack River." He died in the Granite State and NH claims him as "almost native son."

¹⁰ T.B. Aldrich (1836-1907) was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When still a child, he moved with his father to New Orleans. Ten years later, he was sent back to Portsmouth to prepare for college. This period of his life is described in his semi-autobiographical novel, *The Story of a Bad Boy*, 1870. After his father died in 1849, he abandoned college preparations and entered his uncle's business office in NY, during which he made constant contributions to newspapers and magazines. In 1865 he returned to New England as editor of Ticknor and Fields in Boston and from 1881-1890, editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

November 14, 1905

Met with Mrs. Hall, with 8 present – called to order by the Vice president. Records read and approved. Roll call from Parliamentary Law responded to. A paper on the noted men of New Hampshire was read by Mrs. Dunn – reading of “Our Country” (E. D. Proctor)¹¹ by Mrs. Adams. Continuation of the paper by Mrs. Dunn, reading sketches of different men. All full of interest and information. Reading by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser – also by Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Adams from E. E. Hale and Alice Brown, concluding the afternoon with Lewis and Clark’s trail by Gertie Merrill. Roll call for next meeting extracts from Daniel Webster.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jordan in one week.

O.M. H. Secretary

November 21, 1905

Met with Mrs. Jordan, with ten members present. Meeting called to order by the vice president, records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to.

A poem by Celia Thaxter was read by Mrs. Dunn, followed with a Paper by Miss Gertie Merrill on places of interest in New Hampshire giving a fine description of the route to the White Mountains and surrounding places. Extract by Mrs. Adams on the “Great White face.” that God put out his sign that N. England makes men; remarks on these noted places. Poem by Aldrich read by Mrs. Dunn – Singing by Mrs. Jordan, “My old N.H. home,”¹² closing the afternoon with Lewis and Clark’s book. Roll call for next meeting to be current events on items of interest of N. England. Adjourned to meet with the Misses Merrill Dec. 5th. Subject: Vermont.

O. M. Hall sec.

[No minutes for Dec. 5 or 12th].

¹¹ No direct reference is found. However, it may be relevant to note that Andover Academy was established in 1848 by the Town of Andover. In 1857, former Andover resident John Proctor returned and spearheaded efforts to revive the school. For the next three decades it struggled with its identity and funding. In 1879, the Unitarian Church sought to purchase the school in order to create a school “free from theological dogmatism and unnatural religious methods.” In 1881, the school was named Proctor Academy in honor of John Proctor who contributed significantly to its revival. E. D. Proctor may be connected.

¹² Poem by Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

December 19, 1905

On account of the weather "We Neighbors" postponed their meeting one week to Dec. 19th at the residence of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser with 6 present. The president and Vice president being absent, the meeting was called to order by the secretary. Records read and approved followed by roll call.

The subject for the afternoon: the Geography of Vermont was conducted by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser with a reading by Mrs. Thomes on the productions and industries, showing specimens of rocks. Mrs. Eve Sweetser gave an account of Vermont at the world's fair. A paper by Mrs. Wyman on a few distinguished men: Ethan and Ira Allen¹³ his brother – with other interesting remarks relating to the subject.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood Dec. 26th.

O.M. Hall, Secretary

December 26, 1905

Met with Mrs. E. B. Osgood, with 13 present. Meeting called to order by the President, records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to.

¹³ Ethan Allen (1738-1789) is best known as one of the founders of the State of Vermont as well as for the Capture of Fort Ticonderoga. Though born in Litchfield, Connecticut, he soon moved with his family to Cornwall, due to his father's quest for freedom of religion during the tumult of the Great Awakening. Spurred by his father's refusal to convert to the covenant by grace, Ethan developed a lifelong interest in philosophy. As a boy, he excelled at quoting the Bible. In the late 1760s, he and his brothers, Ira and Herman, became interested in the N. H. Grants, buying land there but become embroiled in legal disputes surrounding the territory. Legal setbacks led to the formation of Green Mountain Boys whom Allen led in a campaign of intimidation and property destruction to drive N.Y. settlers from the Grants. When the American Revolution broke out, Allen and the Boys seized the initiative and captured Ft. Ticonderoga in 1775. In Sept. 1775, Allen led a failed attempt on Montreal that resulted in his capture by British authorities. First imprisoned in British Navy ship, he was paroled in NYC and finally released in a prison exchange in 1778. Upon release, Allen returned to the Grants and resumed political activity. He was active in efforts toward Vermont's recognition by Congress, and he participated in controversial negotiation with the British over possibility of Vermont becoming a separate British province. His brother Ira Allen (1751-1814), the youngest of six sons, was born in Cornwall. In 1771, he went to Vermont as a surveyor for the Onion River Land Co. The Allen brothers established the company in order to purchase lands under the N. H. Grants, but became involved in a dispute with New York over conflicting land claims. Ira Allen became a member of the Vermont Legislature (1776-1777) and a leader in declaration of the VT republic in 1777. Ira Allen designed the Great Seal of VT. In 1780, he presented a memorial to establish the University of VT. To that end, he contributed money and a 50 acre site in Burlington. He served as Vermont's first Treasurer, 1778-1786. In 1795 he went to France and sought French army intervention for seizing Canada. While there, he bought 20,000 muskets and 24 canon, but on this return he was captured at sea, taken to England, placed on trial, but acquitted after a lawsuit which lasted 8 years. He died in Philadelphia where he had gone to escape imprisonment for debt.

Subject for the afternoon: Noted places and people of Vermont, reading by Mrs. Buxton, reading by Mrs. Wyman on Woodstock VT. Short history of Hyman Powers,¹⁴ by Mrs. Davis, of "George Marsh"¹⁵ by Mrs. Jordan, paper on "Rutland" by Mrs. E. Sweetser, with views on the scenery also giving the birthplace

¹⁴ Hiram Powers (1805-1873) was born in Woodstock, Vermont. When he was fourteen years old, he and his family moved to Ohio, about six miles from Cincinnati, where Powers attended school for about a year. At age 17, he became an assistant to Luman Watson who owned a clock and organ factory. Using his skill in modeling figures, he mastered the construction of the instruments and became the first mechanic in the factory. In 1826, he began to frequent the studio of Frederick Eckstein and developed strong passion for the art of sculpture. After studying the art of modeling and casting, he moved to Washington D. C. at the end of 1834. There he drew attention with his modeled portrait of Andrew Jackson. In 1837, he moved to Florence, Italy, where he had access to good supplies of marble and to traditions of stone cutting and bronze casting. He remained in Florence to his death. In 1843, Powers produced his most celebrated statue "The Greek Slave." Now recognized as one of the most critically acclaimed art works of the nineteenth century, the statue depicts a young woman, nude, bound in chains, and in one hand, she holds a small cross on a chain. Powers provided his own description as follows: "The ostensible subject is merely a Greek maiden made captive by the Turks and exposed at Istanbul for sale. The cross and locket, visible amid the drapery, indicate she is a Christian, and beloved.....It represents a being superior to suffering and raised above degradation, by inward purity and force of character. Thus the Greek Slave is an emblem of the trial to which all humanity is subject, and may be regarded as a type of resignation, uncompromising virtue, or sublime patience."

¹⁵ George Perkins Marsh (1801-1882) was a philologist, conservationist, and American diplomat. Born in Woodstock, Vermont, he graduated from Dartmouth with highest honors in 1820. As a linguist, he was fluent in Swedish and a half dozen other European languages. Admitted to the bar in 1825, he served as Whig representative in Congress 1843-1849. In 1849, President Z. Taylor appointed Marsh U. S. Minister in the Ottoman Empire. In 1854, he returned to Vermont. Three years later the Governor of VT appointed him to report to the legislature on artificial propagation of fish. His work, *Man and Nature*, constitutes an early work in ecology. He argued that deforestation could lead to desertification. He stated, "The operation of causes set in action by man has brought the face of the earth to a desolation almost as complete as that of the moon." The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, VT bears his name. In 1861, President Lincoln appointed Marsh the first US minister to Kingdom of Italy. He served as an envoy there for 21 years, until his death at Vallombrosa in 1882. He is buried at Protestant Cemetery in Rome.

of George Dewey¹⁶ at Montpelier Vt. A reading by Mrs. Adams on William Morris¹⁷ the painter, born in Brattleborough. Poem by J. G. Saxe,¹⁸ "Sleep in death," read by Miss Nellie Sweetser, reading by Mrs. Osgood and Mrs. Dunn, also by Mrs. Eva Sweetser.

Voted to adjourn to meet with Mrs. Minnie Sweetser in one week, with roll call on the New Year and current events of Mass.

O. M. Hall, Sec.

¹⁶ George Dewey (1837-1917) was Admiral of the Navy and best known for his victory at the Battle of Manila Bay (1898) during the Spanish-American War. Born in Montpelier, VT, at age 15 he attended Norwich Military School for two years, and found a military role model when he read a biography of Hannibal. In 1854 he enrolled in a four year course at the US Naval Academy. One hundred cadets entered, fourteen graduated, and among those, Dewey ranked fifth. At the beginning of the Civil War, Dewey was executive lieutenant on the USS Mississippi, a steam paddle frigate assigned to the Union West Gulf Blockading Squadron and was attached to Farragut's fleet. In 1862, after several battles, the fleet continued up river and forced surrender of New Orleans.. This is the first battle in which Dewey distinguished himself. In 1863, he participated in the Battle of Port Hudson, and in early 1865, the second Battle of Fort Fisher. Due to his marked tactical skills, Dewey saw an advantage to be gained, acted accordingly, and completed the work in fifteen minutes. *The New York Times* identified it as "the most beautiful duel of the war." After the Civil War, he married and was assigned to Portsmouth Naval Yard, then returned to Washington where he took a bureaucratic post. In 1897, Dewey, impatient with the life of a bureau officer, applied for sea duty. He was assigned to command of the Asiatic Station. He sensed War with Spain was imminent. He hoisted his pennant at Hong Kong in December 1897. By March 1898, his whole squadron assembled in Hong Kong. On April 26, 1898, he received wire from Washington, "War has commenced between the U.S. and Spain. Proceed at once to the Philippine Islands. Commence operations at once particularly against Spanish fleet." Dewey and his squadron reached the mouth of Manila Bay late, the night of April 30. He gave the order to attack at first light. On May 1, within six hours he had sunk or captured the entire Spanish fleet with the loss of only one American life. Returning to the US in 1899, Dewey received a hero's welcome. In New York, he was part of a two day parade. In Boston, he was greeted by 280 singers from the Handel and Haydn Society singing the anthem "See the Conquering Hero Comes" from Handel's Judas Maccabaeus. On Oct.3, 1899, Pres. McKinley presented Dewey was a special sword for which Congress had unanimously authorized \$10,000 to fund the gift, an elaborated decorated sword custom made by Tiffany & Co. – hilt and fittings of 22 carat gold. Many suggested Dewey run from President in 1900, but his candidacy was plagued by publicity missteps resulting in his withdrawal. In later life, Dewey wore stylish clothes and a a handlebar moustache which was his trademark. He died in Washington in 1917, and his remains interred in Bethlehem Chapel at Washington National Cathedral.

¹⁷ William Morris Hunt (1824-1879), an American painter, was born in Brattleboro, VT. He attended Harvard, but withdrew his Junior year. After the untimely death of his father due to cholera, his mother took him and his brothers to Switzerland, Rome and Paris, where Hunt studied with Couture and then came under the influence of Jean-Francis Millet from whom he learned the principles of the Barbizon School. After leaving Paris, Hunt established an art school in Newport, R.I., where he had relatives, as well as Brattleboro, Faial Island in the Azores, and Boston where he became a portrait painter. He was one of the biggest proponents of the Barbizon School in America. Many of his paintings plus five large Millets collected while in Europe were destroyed in the Great Boston fire of 1872. He is said to have been "the greatest of the Boston painters, and one of the few really great American painters."

¹⁸ J. C. Saxe was a poet, lawyer, newspaper editor and candidate for governor. Notably, the J. C. Saxe house circa 1845 is an "extraordinary architectural gem," as shown in its fluted Doric columns, cast iron lintels over first and second story windows, and the belvedere with concave mansard roof which was added in 1870.

January 2, 1906

Met with Mrs. Minnie Sweetser – 14 present. Meeting called to order by the Vice president – records read and approved – roll call responded to.

Subject for the meeting: The Geography of Mass. was conducted by Mrs. Wyman, illustrating the boundaries, rivers, mountains etc. by the map. Paper written by Miss Grace Merrill read by Mrs. Wyman. Reading on the exhibits of Mass. at the World's Fair at Chicago by Mrs. Eve Sweetser, on the improvements of Gloucester Harbor by Mrs. Eve Dunn, by Mrs. Wyman, on Light Ship¹⁹ around Nantucket, reading by Miss Hattie Merrill – of Cape Cod folks by Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser in one week.

O. M. Hall. Sec.

January 23, 1906

On account of the storm Jan. 16th the meeting was postponed one week to Jan. 23rd when nine of the members met at the residence of Mrs. Thomes. They were called to order by the vice president – records read and approved. Roll call responded to by readings from some of the Mass. authors and current events, followed by a paper on the noted men and women of Mass. by Mrs. Hall. A short reading by Mrs. Wyman.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman Jan. 30th with roll-call on William McKinley or current events.

O.M. Hall, Sec.

January 30, 1906

Met with Mrs. Wyman. 13 present. Called to order by the President. Mrs. Davis. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to with some quotations regarding William McKinley or current events.

Subject for the afternoon: Places of interest in Mass. Conducted by Mrs. Wyman, illustrating the town of Plymouth with finely drawn maps, showing the streets, public buildings, etc. Reading by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser on the Statues and Monuments in and around Boston, reading by Mrs. Dunn on Public

¹⁹ By definition, a Light ship is a ship that acts as a lighthouse. It is used in waters that are too deep or otherwise unsuitable for lighthouse construction. Since the early 19th century, lightships have used mushroom anchors, named for the shape and typically weighing 3-4 tons. In America, the first one was established in Chesapeake Bay in 1820. Around Nantucket, marked by the hazardous Shoals south of Nantucket Island, a significant light ship station for transatlantic voyages was established in 1854. It is the last lightship to be seen by vessels departing the U.S. as well as the first beacon approach. It is located 40 miles Southeast of Nantucket Island.

Gardens, paper on Salem by Mrs. Wyman. The Concord Grape introduced by Mr. Ephraim Bull²⁰ of Concord by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser. A reading on Lennox, showing the extensive changes made in the place, by Mrs. Buxton. Cape Cod by Mrs. Wyman, also a paper on Plymouth by Mrs. Wyman. Plymouth as the tourist sometimes said it, and the Poem [title not given] by Mrs. Davis. Reading by Gertie Merrill concerning the disposal of the ship Constitution.²¹

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Fen Blanchard with current events or some advertisement of R. I. Products for roll-call.

O. M. Hall, Sec.

February 6, 1906

Met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard. 9 members present. The meeting was presided over by the vice president. The records were read and approved. Roll call responded to with some advertisement concerning R. Island after which the program of the day was conducted by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser as follows: a paper on The Geography of R. I. by Mrs. Fen Blanchard presenting the State and its locality with a finely drawn map. A reading by Mrs. Wyman in the industries, by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser on fisheries, oil, etc. A reading by Mrs. Adams from "Thirteen Tales" by Mrs. Dunn.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams, roll call to be small items in History of R. I.

O. M. H. Sec.

February 13, 1906

²⁰ Ephraim Wales Bull (1806-1895) was born in Boston and apprenticed at an early age to a gold-beater. At age 20 he married. In 1836, complaining of a lung problem, Bull moved with his family to Concord and settled on a farm next door to Amos Bronson Alcott. In 1843, he started breeding a grape that could survive in the cold New England climate. By 1849, he had planted 22,000 seedlings. By 1853, he had grapes for sale. Soon his competitors began raising their own crops with vines purchased from Bull at five dollars per vine. As competitors became more numerous, Bull realized little profit. In 1855, Bull was elected to the MA House of Representatives. In 1893, after a fall, Bull retired to Concord Home for the Aged. He died two years later. His epitaph reads "He Sowed, Others Reaped."

²¹ USS Constitution is a wooden hulled three mast heavy frigate of the U.S. Navy, named by President George Washington after the Constitution of the U.S.A. Launched in 1797, it was one of 6 original frigates authorized for construction by the Naval Act of 1794. It was built in the West End of Boston at Edmund Hurtt's shipyard. It is most famous for actions during War of 1812, when she captured numerous merchant ships and defeated five British warships. The Battle with HMS Guerriere earned her the nickname of Old Ironsides. Public adoration repeatedly saved her from scrapping. In 1900, Congress authorized restoration but did not appropriate funds for the project. Funding had to be raised privately. In 1905, Secretary of Navy Charles J. Bonaparte suggested she be towed out to sea and used as target practice after which she would be allowed to sink. Reading of this in Boston papers, Moses H. Gulesian, a businessman, offered to purchase her for ten thousand dollars. The State Department refused. In 1906, storms of protest led Congress to authorize 100 thousand dollars for her restoration.

Met with Mrs. Adams with 13 members present. The meeting was called to order by the vice president in the usual manner with the reading of the records. The question was then raised: Shall we have a gentleman's night? It was voted that we should and that a committee of 3 be appointed by the Chair to consider the same and report at the next meeting. The com. appointed were Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Wyman, and Mrs. Adams. Then followed the roll call after which a paper on the History of R. Island was read by Mrs. Hall. A reading by Miss Nellie Sweetser on "Old Quaker Days in R. Island" by Elizabeth Buffum Chace.²² A letter written to Gov. Bradstreet by Roger Williams at the age of 80 years was read by Miss Hattie Merrill. Roll call for next meeting to be a quotation from some R.I. author or from E. E. Hale.²³

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Buxton.

O.M.H. Sec.

February 25, 1906

Met with Mrs. Buxton, eleven members present. Meeting opened with the reading of the records. Mrs. Buxton in the chair. Committee on Gentleman's night submitted their report as follows: That we meet Tuesday eve Feb. 27th at the residence of Mrs. Dunn, each member to bring a gentleman and a plate of cake. Other expenses to be paid from the treasury. Music and other entertainment is furnished by the Com.

Voted to accept the report. The roll call was then responded to, followed with a paper on distinguished men and women of Rhode Island by Mrs. Thomes. A reading by Mrs. Osgood called "Crown our

²² Elizabeth Buffum Chace (1806-1899) was an activist against slavery and an advocate for women's rights and prison reform. Born in Smithfield, Rhode Island, she and her family were Quakers and opened their home in Valley Falls, RI as a Station on the Underground Railroad, thereby helping fugitive slaves escape to Canada. Recognized as the "Conscience of Rhode Island", she championed the rights of the less fortunate. A bronze bust of her has been placed in the RI State House. Her "Old Quaker Days in Rhode Island" was published in the NE Magazine, 1897.

²³ Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909) was an American author, historian, and Unitarian minister. Born in Boston, he was a child prodigy who exhibited exceptional literary skills. In 1842, he was licensed to preach as a Unitarian minister. His best known literary work is "The Man without a Country", published in the *Atlantic* in 1863 and intended to support the Union cause. Another well-known short story is "The Skeleton in the Closet". In 1903, he became Chaplain of the U. S. Senate and joined the Literary Society of Washington. He lived from 1869 to his death at the E. E. Hale House in Roxbury, MA. He also maintained a summer home in South Kingston, RI.

Washington” by Hezekiah Butterworth [1839-1905].²⁴ A “fatal success” by Henry Van Dyke²⁵ was read by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hall March 1st with roll call from some author or current events.

O. M. H. Sec.

February 27, 1906

On the eve of Feb. 27th “We Neighbors” with their gentlemen were most cordially received at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dunn. The greetings of welcome were extended to the invited guests by our vice president Mrs. Buxton, then we were delightfully entertained with music by Misses Sweetser, Merrill, and Blanchard. Other entertainment followed with Ice Cream and cake for refreshments. A vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Dunn for the use of their home, also to the ladies who furnished the music and entertainment and the committee in general.

Before departing, all invited in singing many of the old songs, thus passing a very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

O. M. H. Sec.

March 1, 1906

Met with Mrs. Hall, with 13 present. Called to order by the Vice President. Report read and approved. Voted to instruct our Secretary to express our thanks to Miss Jessie Merrill for her kindness in contributing so much to our musical entertainment on Gentlemen’s night by a written manifestation which has been done. A report was also given on expenses of Gent’s night. Roll Call responded to from E. E. Hale and other items. A paper was read by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser on R. I. noting the places, productions, manufactures, Block Island,²⁶ rivers and navigation, schools, and colleges, etc on the map

²⁴ Hezekiah Butterworth (1839-1905) was born in Warren, Rhode Island. His family was among the founders of RI and espoused views of Roger Williams and liberal Baptists. He wrote for the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Harper’s*, and the *Christian Union*. As a writer, he is well-known for Zig-Zag Journeys, a twelve volume work for boys. Over 250,000 copies were sold. “Crown our Washington” is a patriotic poem of four stanzas.

²⁵ Henry van Dyke (1852-1933) was an American author, educator, and clergyman. Born in Germantown, PA, he graduated from Princeton in 1873 and from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1877. He served as Professor of English Literature at Princeton between 1899-1923. He chaired the committee that wrote the first Presbyterian printed liturgy, *the Book of Common Worship* of 1906. One of his best known poems is titled “Time Is” (1904). His book, *Fisherman’s Luck*, includes the short story, “A Fatal Success.”

²⁶ Block Island is located in the Atlantic Ocean, about 13 miles south of the coast of Rhode Island. It has a land area of 9.734 square miles. It is separated from RI by Block Island Sound.

drawn by Mrs. Blanchard. A reading by Mrs. Jordan on Narragansette Pier,²⁷ a reading on Jamestown²⁸ by Mrs. Thomes, a reading of Watch Hill²⁹ by Miss Hattie Merrill, a reading by Mrs. Miller on old names and Block Island by Whittier. Illustrated reading by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser, Capt John Hull's wife.³⁰ Talk and reading on Newport by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jordan.

O. M. Hall Secretary

March 8, 1906

Met with Mrs. Jordan. 11 members present and one visitor. Called to order by the vice pres. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to with answers to questions pertaining to Conn. Followed by a paper on the Geography of Conn. by Mrs. Osgood. Illustrated with the map.

Reading: Conn. men as inventors, by Mrs. Wyman. The narrative of a factory – for the manufacture of devices for loose leaf books, run by a woman Loulu [sp?] Morden of Conn was read by Mrs. Adams. A reading by Mrs. Buxton on Derby Sheep. By Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser on Conn. as represented at the World's Fair. By Miss Nellie Sweetser – the Poem "Petrified Fern".³¹

Adjourned to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser Mch 13th with roll call: some fact on Conn.

O. M. H. Sec.

²⁷ Narragansett Pier is an unincorporated village in the town of Narragansett. Constructed 1883-1886 at the core of the thriving resort, The Towers was part of the Narragansett Pier Casino and landscaped by Frederick Olmstead. During the "Gay Nineties" Narragansett Pier functioned at the heart of life in Narragansett. "The Pier" was ranked as one of America's most prestigious resorts. The Casino offered bathing, billiards, bowling, cards, tennis, theater, bandstand and ballroom. The Great Fire of Sept. 12, 1900 broke out in Rockingham Hotel and spread to the Casino. Within a few hours wind whipped the flames and the Casino burned to the ground. On July 8, 1905, a new casino opened.

²⁸ Jamestown is a town located in Newport County, RI. It is situated almost entirely on Conanicut Island, the second largest island in Narragansett Bay. It has a total area of 35.3 square miles, of which 9.7 square miles is land and 25.6 square miles is water. During the 1880s and 1890s, a construction boom occurred in which hotels, summer homes, and municipal buildings were built. Between 1870 and 1900, the island's population tripled.

²⁹ Watch Hill is located on a stubby peninsula jutting into Block Island Sound. During the late 19 century and early 20century it became an exclusive summer resort of wealthy families who built sprawling Victorian style "cottages" along the Peninsula. These "cottages" contrasted with the "overpowering castles" of the very rich in Newport. Located at the end of Napatree Point, Fort Mansfield was one of a series of artillery posts to guard the eastern entrance to Long Island during the Spanish American war. It was in operation 1901-1909.

³⁰ Captain John Hull (1654-1733) was born in Barnstable, MA, and died in Jamestown, Newport Rhode Island. He was a sea captain. His wife was Alice Hall, born in 1659.

³¹ Mary L. B. Branch (1840-) is probable author of this poem "Petrified Fern." It is published in the *International Library of Famous Literature*, 1898.

March 13, 1906

Met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with 13 present. Meeting called to order by the Vice Pres. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to with some fact on Conn. Followed by a paper on the History of Conn. by Miss Hattie Merrill. A reading by Mrs. Dunn from "Tarry at Home travels"³² – A reading on the "Production of Music by means of the Angelus" by Minnie Sweetser.

Barcher's "Invisible Heroes"³³ read by Mrs. Jordan. "Opportunity" read by Miss Gertie Merrill after which the Poem "On the Doorstep" written by Clarence Stedman³⁴ was read by Mrs. Buxton.

We then adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood with Roll Call: Poets and authors of Conn.

O. M. Hall, Sec.

March 27, 1906

Owing to the storm of one week ago our meeting was postponed to the 27th with Mrs. Osgood. 12 members present. Called to order by the Pres. Records read and approved – a question was then raised if it would be advisable to have a public entertainment relative to our winter's work in the study of N. England. After a few remarks, it was suggested that we report at the next meeting the decision of our thoughts on that subject. Then followed the Roll Call.

³² *Tarry at Home Travels* was written by E. E. Hale and published in 1906.

³³ Of the 100 heroes mentioned by Barcher, female heroes in folktales are rendered invisible by patriarchal assumptions.

³⁴ Edmund Clarence Stedman (1833-1908) was an American poet, critic, banker, and scientist. Born in Hartford, CT. Two years later, his father died of tuberculosis and by the following spring, his mother moved Stedman and his younger brother to Plainfield, NJ to live with her wealthy father, David Low Dodge, a Calvinist and a pacifist. Dodge was strict and often physically punished the boys for bad behavior. Eventually, the boys were taken in by their paternal grandfather in Norwich, CT. After 2 years at Yale, Stedman became a journalist in New York, later serving as field correspondent during the last years of the Civil War. With Ellen M. Hutchins, Stedman edited *A Library of American Literature* (10 volumes 1898-90) and with George e. Woodbury, the *Works of Edgar Allen Poe* (10 volumes, 1895). After the death of James Russell Lowell in 1891, Stedman had perhaps the leading place among American poets and critics. In 1904, Stedman was one of seven chosen for membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His poem "The Doorstep" is included in a group of poems on New England.

After which, a paper on the noted men and women of Conn. was read by Miss Gertie Merrill. A reading by Mrs. Buxton on William Hamilton Gibson.³⁵ Also a Poem by Will Carleton³⁶ on Benedict Arnold was read by Miss Gertie Merrill. A reading by Mrs. Adams on Nathan Hale.³⁷

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Davis at Mrs. Osgood's with roll call anything relating to New England.

O.M. H. Sec.

April 3, 1906

Met with Mrs. Davis with 9 present. Called to order by the Pres. Records read and approved. The question raised at the last meeting whether we should give a public entertainment with a service of our winter's work - after some discussion - was laid on the table for future thought and consideration, also a trip to York Beach was suggested for future reference as to ways and means, etc.

The roll call was then responded to, followed with a paper by Mrs. Buxton illustrating the noted places along the Conn. River, as far as Hartford, also giving a fine description of the manufacturing districts of Conn., each member receiving a view of some of these places as a souvenir.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Minnie Sweetser with Roll Call - current events.

O.M. H. Sec.

April 11, 1906

Met with Mrs. Minnie Sweetser with 6 present. Called to order by the Vice Pres. Records read and approved. Questions of entertainment brought up again and dismissed. Voted to have our last meeting of the season with Mrs. Adams, in one week after the election of officers and completion of unfinished business.

³⁵ William Hamilton Gibson (1850-1896) was an American illustrator and naturalist. Born in Sandy Hook, CT, Gibson from childhood was fascinated with botany and entomology. His first drawings were published in 1870. Rapidly, he became an expert illustrator and able wood-engraver. He also acquired great skill in making faux flowers. At an early age, he died of apoplexy, attributed to overwork at his summer studio in Washington, CT.

³⁶ Will Carleton (1845-1912) was an American poet, who most often took rural life as his subject. Born in Hudson, MI, he graduated from Hillsdale College in 1869, and then worked as a newspaper journalist. In 1876, he moved to Boston and married Anne Goodell, and then in 1892, they moved to New York City. In his popular *Farm Ballads*, Carleton wrote a dramatic poem dealing with the treason of Benedict Arnold, entitled "Three Legends of Benedict Arnold at Quebec, Philadelphia, and in England." (1890). In 1907, he returned to Hudson as a renowned poet.

³⁷ Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was born in Coventry, CT. As a soldier for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, he volunteered for intelligence gathering mission in New York City, but was captured by the British and executed. His last words before hanging were "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Roll call then responded to, followed with a reading by Mrs. Adams of a "Ship of N. England" by Joseph Rogers,³⁸ a reading by Mrs. Buxton, "New England not growing backward"³⁹

Adjourned for one week with Roll call: current events.

O. M. H. Sec.

[At this point, pages for April 18, 1906 are missing. What may be the last page of those missing minutes reads as follows.]

Next year's work, which is as follows: Gertie Merrill, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Thomes, Mrs. Eva Sweetser, Nellie Sweetser

Committee appointed for field day by nomination: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Minnie Sweetser.

Roll Call responded to. Reading by Mrs. Davis, "A Summer at York."

Adjourned – sine die.

O. M. H.

³⁸ Possibly, We Neighbors studied Joseph Rogers (1646-1713), whose grandfather Joseph Rogers (1602/3-1677/8) was a Mayflower passenger and pilgrim. This Joseph Rogers was born in Stratford, Connecticut Colony and died in Waterford, Connecticut. His poem "Ship of New England" may have been based on family stories, passed down generation to generation.

³⁹ This article may have been taken from the *New England Farmer* in which Samuel Cole in 1853 (page 69) wrote, "The mind of a noble youth is to be captivated and not chained...There is a growing complaint that young people are becoming indifferent to home and parental love...and in his position he stepped backward with reins in his hand."

October 4, 1906

The We Neighbors club held the first meeting of the year with Mrs. Adams. Thirteen members present and one visitor. Meeting called to order by the president, records read and approved.

The work of the year as laid out by the committee was discussed.

Voted to purchase a second set of books. Voted to determine later whether or not it would be advisable to review the study of Parliamentary Law. Voted to meet once a fortnight instead of once a week. Voted that the chair appoint a committee of two to arrange for passing the books to be read. Mrs. B and Sec were appointed.

A short time was spent in reading from the History of England.

Adjourned to meet Oct. 16 with Mrs. Blanchard.

Gertrude S. Merrill, Secretary

October 16, 1906

The club met with Mrs. Blanchard with an attendance of fifteen. Meeting called to order by the President. Secretary records read and approved.

Voted that the treasurer pay for the expenses of the club.

Roll call for the day: Castles and Cathedrals of note in the British Isles. Lesson review conducted by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. Review of the story of the Holy Grail¹ was given by Mrs. Davis. Poem "The Discoverer of the North Cape"² was read by Mrs. Adams. The remaining time of the afternoon was not sufficient for the whole of the paper on "England's Capital" of which Mrs. Wyman read a part.

Adjourned to meet October 31 with Mrs. Buxton.

Gertrude S. Merrill, Sec.

¹ Holy Grail is a dish, plate, stone or cup that is part of an important theme in Arthurian literature. According to legend, it has special powers, and is designed to provide happiness, eternal youth, and food in infinite abundance. The Grail legend became interwoven with legends of the Holy Chalice. The story of the Grail and the quest to find it became increasingly popular in the nineteenth century. Reference to it is made to Alfred Tennyson's Arthurian cycle *Idylls of the King*, which We Neighbors studied probably 1895-1896, under the guidance of Mrs. Davis.

² In Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Poems of Places* (1876-1879) are poems about Norway, North Cape. Under the section "The Discoverer of the North Cape" is a poem from "A Leaf from King Alfred's Orosius." 111 lines.

November 6, 1906

The club met with Mrs. Dunn. 12 members present. Meeting called to order by the President. In the absence of the Sec. Mrs. Wyman chosen sec. pro tem.

Voted to hold our club meeting the first pleasant day if the day appointed is stormy.

The following program was carried out. Roll call responded to with questions of England's Capital. Lesson review conducted by Mrs. Buxton. Reading Religion of Early Britons by Miss Nellie Sweetser. Reading Alfred Greatest of Saxon Kings³ by Mrs. Mary Sweetser.

Adjourned to November 20 with Mrs. Buxton.

Laura Wyman, Sec. pro tem

November 20, 1906

Club met with Mrs. Buxton. 10 members present.

In the absence of the President, the meeting was opened by the Vice President. Records of the last meeting read and approved, also record of meeting held Oct. 16.

Program for the day. Roll call. Questions on paper read at the last meeting. Lesson review by Mrs. Dunn. Reading "The Royal Family" Gertrude Merrill.

Adjourned to meet December 4 with Mrs. Nellie Jordan.

Gertrude S. Merrill. Sec.

December 4, 1906

Club met with Mrs. Jordan. Meeting opened in due form. The question of having the meeting once a week was spoken of but no vote was taken. Four members of the Club were present.

Roll Call. Questions were asked by leader Mrs. Mary Sweetser. Paper by Mrs. Jordan.

[No signature of secretary]

³ Alfred the Great (849-899) was King of Wessex from 871-899. He successfully defended the kingdom against Viking attempt to conquer it. A devout Christian, he was regarded as a learned, merciful man who encouraged education and improved the kingdom's legal system, military structure, as well as the people's quality of life. By the time of his death, he had become the dominant ruler of England. Sir Hamo Thornycroft's statue of Alfred the Great was unveiled in Winchester during the millenary commemoration of his death. This year, We Neighbors subscribed to the *Bay View Magazine* (1906-1907), Volume 14. Members of the club selected articles in each issue to be read at their meetings. For example, "England's Capital", "The Royal Family of England," and "Old London" from the October issue.

December 18, 1906

Met with Mrs. Miller. 7 members present. Mrs. Dunn chosen sec. pro. tem. Roll call responded to by quotations from Shakespeare. Lesson review conducted by Mrs. Adams.

The subject of changing our meeting from two weeks to every week was brought up but postponed until our next meeting January 1, as there were so few members present.

In the absence of Mrs. Merrill, "The Bard of Avon" was read by the members in turn.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood Jan. 1, 1919.

Mrs. Duncan. Sec. Pro. Tem.

January 1, 1907

Met with Mrs. Dunn on account of Mrs. Osgood's sickness. 5 members present. Mrs. Wyman chosen Present. Mrs. Dunn Sec. pro. Tem.

Voted to hold the meetings weekly until further notice.

Roll call responded to from Stratford on Avon.

Review conducted by Mrs. Wyman. The Drama and Theater before Shakespeare's Time read by Mrs. Thomes. "The Elizabethan Age"⁴ read by Mrs. Jordan.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood January 8.

Mrs. Dunn. Sec. pro tem

January 8, 1907

Met with Mrs. Osgood. 10 members present. Meeting opened by vice president.

⁴ The Elizabethan era is an epoch in English history marked by the reign of Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603). Historians often depict it as the golden age in English history for it was "economically healthier, more expansive, and more optimistic under the Tudors than that anytime in a thousand years." It was a Renaissance that witnessed the flowering of poetry, music, and literature, especially the theater. The articles "The Bard of Avon" and "The English Drama and Stage before Shakespeare," and "British Parliament" are also from the October 1906 issue of the *Bay View Magazine*.

Roll call – question on “Bard of Avon”. Lesson review conducted by Mrs. Osgood. Reading “British Parliament⁵ by Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Dunn.

Gertrude S. Merrill, Sec.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mary Sweetser Jan. 15.

January 15, 1907

Met with Mrs. F. N. Sweetser. Meeting was called to order by Vice President. Eight in attendance. In the absence of the Sec., Mrs. F.S. Blanchard was chosen Sec. pro. tem. Miss Merrill Sec. sent in her resignation as she would not often meet with us. It was accepted. Votes cast for new Sec. Mrs. F. S. Blanchard was elected.

Roll Call from British Parliament. Review questions asked by Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Not time to go through program.

Mrs. F.S. Blanchard, Sec.

January 28, 1907

Met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with seven members present. Sec. report read and approved – followed by Roll Call on England’s Lake Region.⁶ Review questions asked by Sec.

Meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes.

Mrs. F.S. Blanchard, Sec.

⁵Parliament of Great Britain formed in 1707 following the ratification of the Acts of Union by both Parliament of England and the Parliament of Scotland. These Acts created a new unified Kingdom of Great Britain and dissolved the separate English and Scottish parliaments in favor of a single parliament, located in the Palace of Westminster near the City of London. This lasted nearly a century until Acts of Union in 1800 merged the separate British and Irish Parliaments into a single Parliament of the United Kingdom which took effect from January 1, 1801.

⁶ The Lake District is a mountainous region in northwestern England. Famous for its lakes, forests, and mountains or fells, it is associated with early nineteenth century writings of William Wordsworth and other Lake poets. The article “England’s Lake Country” is from the November 1906 issue of the *Bay View Magazine*, Volume 14.

February 12, 1907

Met with Mrs. Thomes. Ten members present.

Secretary report read and approved. Roll Call – quotations from England's Ports. Review conducted by Sec. Geography of England read by members in turn.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

February 20, 1907

Met with Mrs. Wyman with eight members present. Sec. report read and approved. Roll Call – current events. Voted that Mrs. Buxton should make out programs for two weeks ahead.

Lesson on Literature conducted by Mrs. Miller. Old Oxford read by members in turn.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams February 26.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

February 26, 1907

On account of it not being convenient for Mrs. Adams to entertain the club, we met with Mrs. Dunn with nine members present.

Roll Call – Questions from "Old Oxford."⁷ Lesson for next week given out by Mrs. Buxton. Voted to hold our meeting on Wednesday of next week, on account of Town meeting. Questions for to-day asked by Mrs. Thomes. Reading of the five great Public Schools of England by members in turn.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

⁷ Old Oxford, in this context, probably refers to the University of Oxford, a collegiate research university located in Oxford, England. Date of its founding is unknown but teaching has been conducted since 1096, making it the oldest university in the English speaking world and the world's second oldest surviving university.

March 6, 1907

In the absence of the Secretary Mrs. Miller was elected Secretary pro tem. There were nine members present. Roll Call – Quotations from *The Common Schools in England*.⁸ Lesson given out by Mrs. Adams for next week.

Questions of today asked by Mrs. Buxton. John Wesley,⁹ The Founder of Methodism.

Adjournment to meet with Mrs. Buxton March 12.

Augusta E. Miller, Secy pro tem

March 12, 1907

Met with Mrs. Buxton. Eleven members present. Mrs. Davis was with us after an absence of three months, but did not care to occupy the President's chair. In the absence of the Vice President, Mrs. Buxton opened the meeting.

Roll Call – "John Wesley the Founder of Methodism." Lesson given out by Nellie Sweetser for next week. Questions of Lesson in Literature conducted by Mrs. Adams.

⁸ The Common School movement gained momentum in the 1830s and 1840s. Essentially, it argued for greater government role in schooling of all children. At the center of the controversy were the two issues of religious freedom and free schools. In England, the Dissenters, who constituted a very large minority, were anxious to procure from the government a system of free schools. Efforts were frustrated by the national church, which insisted forms of their church exclusively be taught in every school and every teacher be an Episcopalian. In the United States, Horace Mann is known as the Father of the Common School.

⁹ John Wesley (1703-1791) was an Anglican minister and theologian who, with his brother Charles Wesley and fellow cleric George Whitefield, is credited with founding the evangelical movement known as Methodism. In 1728 he was ordained as a priest. After two years of an unsuccessful ministry at Savannah, Wesley returned to London and joined a religious society led by Moravian Christians. On May 24, 1738, he experienced evangelical conversion, when he felt his heart "strangely warmed." Subsequently he departed from the Moravians and began his own ministry. In contrast to Whitefield's Calvinism, Wesley embraced Arminian doctrines that dominated the Church of England at that time. Moving around Great Britain, North America and Ireland, he helped organize small Christian groups. Under Wesley's direction, Methodists became leaders in many social issues of the day. Wesley argued for the notion of Christian perfection and against Calvinism, especially against the doctrine of predestination. He believed Christians could achieve a state where the love of God "reigned supreme in their hearts." Grounded in sacramental theology, he maintained it to be the medium through which God sanctified and transformed the believer allowing people to experience Jesus directly. By the end of his life, he was described as the "best loved man in England." The articles "A Day in Old Oxford," "John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism," "Common Schools in England," and "The Birthplace of Gray's Elegy," and "Christmas Customs in England" are included in the January 1907 issue of *Bay View Magazine*, Volume 14.

Readings – The Birthplace of Gray's Elergy,¹⁰ The English Child, and Christmas Customs in England.

Mrs. Wyman was chosen to make programs for two weeks ahead.

Adjournment to meet with Mrs. Nellie Jordan March 19.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

March 19, 1907

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Jordan. In the absence of the Sec. Mrs. Dunn was chosen Sec. pro. tem. Roll Call from Birthplace of Gray's Eligy.

Lesson conducted by Mrs. Jordan in place of Miss Nellie Sweetser who was absent. Reading by members in turn on Rural England. Mrs. Davis read Gray's Eligy. Mrs. Adams read a selection in a paper on Gray's Eligy – description of the poem.

Adjournment to meet March 26 with Mrs. Fen Blanchard.

Mrs. Dunn, Sec. pro. tem.

April 2, 1907

Club met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard postponed from March 26 on account of the death of Miss Ella Blanchard. Six members are present. Both President and Vice Pres. are absent. Meeting very informal. Reports of the last two meetings read and approved.

Roll Call from "Rural England". Lesson of the day conducted by Mrs. Laura Wyman. "English Village Life" read by members in turn.

It was voted that the matter of having a Gentleman's nigh should be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned to April 9.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

¹⁰"Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" is a poem by Thomas Gray ((1716-1771). Completed in 1750 and published in 1751, the poem is partly inspired by thoughts following the death of the poet Richard West in 1742. The poem is an elegy in name but not in form. Its style resembles that of contemporary odes. Its subject is a meditation on death. The narrator finds comfort in pondering the lives of obscure rustics buried in the church yard. It was printed many times and is claimed to be one of the best known and best-loved poems in England. Thomas Gray was an English poet, a classical scholar and professor at Cambridge University. He is best known for the aforementioned poem. The articles "Rural England" and "English village Life" are included in the February 1907 issue of the *Bay View Magazine*.

April 16, 1907

"We Neighbors" met with Mrs. Osgood with nine members present. A postponed meeting on account of bad travelling. Sec. report read and approved. The matter of "Gentleman's night" was discussed – and it was voted to postpone the decision until the next meeting.

Lesson conducted by Mrs. Nellie Jordan. "The British Nation at Play"¹¹ read by members in turn.

It was voted that members of Club should contribute toward [Jay--?] of flowers for Mr. Chas Merrill's funeral.

Mrs. Fred Sweetser chosen to make out next lesson.

Meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Davis next week.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

April 23, 1907

Met with Mrs. Davis. Eight members present. Sec. report read and approved. It was voted that the consideration of Gentleman's Night be postponed until after dedication of church.

Roll Call – The British Nation at play. Lesson conducted by Secretary.

Moved that our next meeting be held two weeks from today.

The "History of English Art" read by members in turn.

Adjourned.

Elizabeth J. Blanchard, Sec.

May 7, 1907

We Neighbors club met with Mrs. Miller. The Sec not being present Mrs. Adams was elected Sec. pro. Tem. Seven members were present. The records of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The discussion of Gentlemen's Night was again postponed till the next meeting. Mrs. Miller was appointed to prepare the next lesson.

The program for the day was then taken in charge by Mrs. Mary Sweetser – consisting of history study and magazine reading – "Edinburgh, Old and New".

¹¹ This essay no doubt charted the heritage of British sports, bowling, billiards, croquet, tennis, and the historic Turkish baths. The Haggerston Baths were built in 1904. Britain purportedly has the world's oldest bowling green. The article "The British Nation at Play" is included in the February 1907 issue of Bay View Magazine. The article "Edinburg Old and New" is found in the March 1907 issue of *Bay View Magazine*.

Meeting was then adjourned to meet May 14 with Mrs. Mary Sweetser

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

May 14, 1907

Meeting called to order with six members present. Roll Call by Secretary.

Voted that Gentlemen's Night be omitted for this year.

Lesson questions conducted by Mrs. Osgood.

Voted that each member read the book "England" and questions for last lesson be taken from April and May magazine.

Adjourned to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser May 20.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

May 21, 1907

Met with Miss Nellie Sweetser; seven members present. The meeting was opened by Mrs. Buxton, in the absence of the President.

The Roll Call was responded to by quotations from Tennyson, Browning,¹² and Mrs. Browning.¹³ The Secretary not being present Mrs. Adams was appointed Sec. pro tem.

¹² Robert Browning (1812-1889) was an English poet whose mastery of the dramatic monologue made him one of the foremost Victorian poets. His poems are known for irony, characterization, dark humor, social commentary, and a challenging vocabulary. In 1846, he married Elizabeth Barrett, who at the time was better known. That marriage started one of history's most famous literary marriages. They went to live in Italy. By the time of her death in 1861, he had published the crucial collection *Men and Women*. The book length epic poem *The Ring and the Book* followed and made him a leading British poet.

¹³ Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861) was one of the most prominent poets of the Victorian era. During her lifetime, her poetry was widely popular in Britain and the United States. Her work had a major influence on Emily Dickinson and Edgar Allen Poe. Her volume of *Poems* (1844) brought her great success. During this time, she met and corresponded with Robert Browning, who admired her work. Courtship and marriage was conducted in secret, for fear of her father's disapproval. Following the wedding she was disinherited by her father and rejected by her brothers. In 1846, the couple moved to Italy where she spent the rest of her life. Toward the end of her life, her lung function worsened and she died in Florence in 1861. She was raised in a strongly religious household and much of her work carries a Christian theme. She is remembered especially for poems such as "How do I love Thee?" (Sonnet 43, 1845) and "Aurora Leigh" (1856) which Jon Ruskin called the greatest long poem of the nineteenth century.

The lesson was conducted by Mrs. Miller after which the following magazine articles were read: "The Crofter of Scotland,"¹⁴ "Mary, Queen of Scots,"¹⁵ and "Scotch Arts."

The meeting was then adjourned to meet May 28 with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

C.E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

May 28, 1907

Met with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, six members being present. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Wyman. The record of the preceding meeting was read and approved and was followed by the roll call, "Facts from the Life of Robert Burns."¹⁶

¹⁴ Crofting is a form of land tenure and small-scale food production particular to the Scottish Highlands and the islands of Scotland. In the 19th Century, townships and individual crofts were established on the better land and a large area of poor-quality hill ground was shared by all the crofters of the township for grazing of cattle and sheep. The Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Act of 1886 provided for security of tenure, a key issue since most crofters remain tenants. The Act encouraged tenants to improve the land under their control and ensured control could be transferred within families and passed to future generations. The article, "The Crofters of Scotland" is found in the March 1907 issue of the *Bay View Magazine*. Also included in that issue are "Note of Scottish Art" and "Mary Queen of Scots."

¹⁵ Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-1587) is also known as Mary Stuart or Mary I of Scotland. She was Queen of Scotland from 1542-1567 and Queen consort of France from 1559-1560. The only surviving legitimate child of King James V of Scotland, she was six days old when her father died and she acceded to the throne. She spent most of her childhood in France while Scotland was ruled by regents. In 1558, she married the Dauphin of France. He ascended to the French throne as King Francis II in 1559, so Mary briefly became queen consort of France until his died in December 1560. Widowed, she returned to Scotland. Four years later, she married her first cousin, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, but their union was an unhappy one. In February 1567, his residence was destroyed by an explosion and Darnley was found murdered in the garden. His suspected instigator of the murder, James Hepburn, was acquitted April 1567 and the following month he married Mary. Due to an uprising against the couple Mary was imprisoned in Loch Leven Castle, July 1567 and forced to abdicate in favor of James, her one year old son by Darnley. After an unsuccessful attempt to regain the throne, she fled south seeking protection of her first cousin once removed, Queen Elizabeth I. Previously, she had claimed the throne as her own, and many English Catholics considered her to be the legitimate sovereign. Perceiving Mary as a threat, Elizabeth had her confined in various castles. After 18.5 years of custody, Mary was found guilty of plotting to assassinate Elizabeth and then executed.

¹⁶ Robert Burns (1759-1796) was Scottish poet, widely regarded as the national poet of Scotland. His poem "Auld Lang Syne" is often sung the last day of the year. He also is well known for poems such as "A Red, Red Rose," "Tam o'Shanter" and "Ae Fond Kiss." His style is marked by spontaneity, directness and sincerity. Burns' Night is celebrated on Burns' birthday January 25 with Burns suppers around the world. In Scotland Burns' Night is more widely observed than the official national day. The first Burns supper was held in 1802. The format begins with a formal welcome followed with the Selkirk grace. Then during piping and the cutting of the haggis, Burns' famous "Address to a Haggis" is read and the haggis cut open. After that, people begin eating. At the end of the meal, a series of toasts and replies are given. The event concludes with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." In the May 1907 issue of *Bay View Magazine*, there is an article on "Robert Burns."

The lesson for the day, contributed by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was on Ireland, giving a good picture of the country, naming its most celebrated cities, giving the characteristics of its people and their condition in general.

At the close of the lesson a committee was appointed to consider the subject of a field day, and to report at the business meeting to be held June 18 with Mrs. Wyman. The names of Comm. are Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Mary Sweetser. The years course ended with this meeting.

C. E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

June 18, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met June 18, 1907 at Union Hall for the annual business meeting. 8 members being present. In the absence of the Sec., Mrs. Dunn was chosen Sec. pro. Tem. The records of the last business meeting also last regular meeting read and approved.

The Field Day com. said they had no report, and preferred to leave the matter with the Club. But it was finally decided for them to make whatever plans they thought best.

The officers for the following year were chosen: President: Mrs. Miller. Vice President: Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard. Secretary: Mrs. Osgood. Treasurer: Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

Voted to place one complete set of our books for the year in the Public Library. The other set of bound books in the Institute Library, and the Magazines to be bound in the S.S. Library.

Voted to choose a program com. For the next year's work, and to abide by their... The com. were Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Dunn.

Voted to adjourn subject to call of the Field Day committee.

Mrs. E. G. Dunn – Sec. pro tem

August 15, 1907

A special meeting of the program com. was called with Mrs. Miller. The records of last meeting read and approved. The work of the year as laid out by the committee was discussed.

Voted to purchase a Years subscription of the *Bay View Magazine*.¹⁷

Meeting adjourned.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

October 1, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Adams with eleven members present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to by current events.

As the Bay View Magazine had not arrived the afternoon was spent in reading from the History of America. A committee was appointed to attend to the matter of binding the Bay View Magazine of last year.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard in one week.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

October 10, 1907

Met with Mrs. Blanchard with thirteen members present. In the absence of the President the meeting was conducted by Mrs. Blanchard, the Vice President. Records of the last meeting read and approved.

Roll Call responded to by current events. Reading from the Magazine article, "The Oldest city of the United States" by Mrs. Dunn. This was followed by the article, "The First Americans" by Mrs. Adams also reading from the History by Mrs. Davis.¹⁸

¹⁷ The *Bay View Magazine* began publication in November 1893. This magazine is a publication of the Bay View Reading Circle which is based in Flint, Michigan. The aim is to provide at lowest possible expense a choice course of reading designed from an approved educational plan and to encourage home study. "It is for people of too limited time for elaborate courses, and who are yet ambitious to advance in intelligence and would like to turn their spare moments to good account." The Reading Course is a "substitute for aimless and haphazard reading of many and the unprofitable literary selection of others." It is a four years course, each year a separate and complete year. Last season, 1906-1907, We Neighbors did subscribe to the *Bay View Magazine*, which was devoted to the general topic of England. At their meetings, members took turns reading various articles, such as "England's Capital", "Religion of Early Britons," "Alfred Greatest of the Saxon Kings," "The Royal Family," "The Drama and Theater before Shakespeare's Time", "The Bard of Avon, "British Parliament," "England's Lake Region," "Old Oxford," "Common School of England," "Geography of England," "John Wesley, Founder of Methodism," "British Nation at Play," "History of English Art," "Edinburgh Old and New," "The Crofter of Scotland," "Mary Queen of Scots," "Scotch Arts." Included with the text of these articles are about 800 photographs. Review questions are presented for each topic. For example, on the topic of "History of English Literature," there are 107 review questions. This season, 1907-1908, the subject is "Our Own Country."

¹⁸ These two articles are taken from the *Bay View Magazine*, October 1907 issue, which began a "New Course on our own country." Course of study included a subscription to the Bay View Magazine \$1.50, History of the United States \$1.50, and a book on American Literature \$1.50. The course was furnished at a fixed price of \$3.50. Its dominant theme was "tracing our progress and a study of contemporary life."

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Buxton.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

October 16, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Dunn, twelve members being present with Mrs. Foster as our guest. Meeting called to order by the Vice President Mrs. Blanchard. Records of the last meeting read and approved.

Roll Call responded to by current events. Mrs. E. H. Sweetser leader for the afternoon. Reading by Mrs. Sturdivant on "Indian Arts". A sketch of "H.H.", the author of *Ramona*¹⁹ by Mrs. Dunn.

Mrs. Adams read the article "Indian Blanketry"; Mrs. Jordan, the article "Bead and Leather work"; Mrs. Dunn, the article "Indian Potery"; Mrs. Wyman the article on "Lace Making". Mrs. Mary Sweetser brought Indian baskets and beadwork for our inspection which were very much enjoyed. Mrs. Davis gave a very fine review of the book "Ramona."

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Adams.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

October 22, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Adams. Ten members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to from current events. Mrs. Adams leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the History. The poem, "Each in His own Tongue" read by Nellie Sweetser. Mrs. Miller read the article "Indian education." Mrs. Adams read "The Drama of Hiawatha" with readings from the poem, by Mrs. Davis.²⁰

¹⁹ *Ramona* is an American novel (1884) written by H. H. Jackson. Set in Southern California after the Mexican-American War, it features the life of a mixed race Scots-Native American orphan girl, Ramona, who suffers racial discrimination and hardship. Originally, it was serialized in the *Christian Union* on a weekly basis and soon became very popular. As a 335 page book it was published by Little Brown and had 300 printings. It is a sentimental portrayal of Mexican colonial life which contributed to the unique cultural identity of the region. With the advent of railroad lines to the region, many tourists were attracted to view the setting.

²⁰ "Song of Hiawatha" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is an 1855 epic poem in trochaic tetrameter. The Song presents a legend of Hiawatha and his lover Minnehaha in 22 chapters. For the mid nineteenth century American, Longfellow realized the image of the noble savage. Historically, there is no connection, apart from the name, between Longfellow's hero and the sixteenth century Iroquois chief Hiawatha. Selling over 50,000 copies, the poem was acclaimed as the first American epic composed of Native American materials and free of European literary models.

Meeting adjourned to meet one week with Mrs. Dunn.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

October 29, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Dunn, thirteen members present. Meeting conducted by the Pres. Records of the preceding meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to by quotations from Domestic Science.

Two very nice papers written by Miss Christine Crickett and read by Mrs. Wyman and Mrs. Dunn on the Nutritive value of Sugar and on Food and Cookery, also a letter telling of her work in New York among the poorer classes was much enjoyed by all. Almost every member contributed some choice receipt. Mrs. Sturdivant read the story "The Six Surprise Lunches". At this point we were invited to the dining room where refreshments were served by Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Sweetser, and Mrs. Wyman in a very hospitable manner.

Adjourned at 5 P.M. to meet in one week with Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

November 5, 1907

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Hall, twelve members present with Mrs. Miller in the chair. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Roll Call responded to by current events. Voted to adopt the red, white, and blue, as our Club color for the year. Mrs. Buxton leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the Magazine articles. "Plymouth, the Old and New."²¹ Mrs. Buxton read the article. "The Head on our Cent." Miss Nellie Sweetser read the poem "Our Colors" by Laura E. Richards.²² Reading in turn from the history.

Meeting adjourned by meet Nov.12 with Mrs. Jordan.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

²¹Bay View Magazine, November 1907 issue.

²² Laura Elizabeth Edwards (1850-1943) was born in Boston, MA. Her father gained fame as an abolitionist and founder of the Perkins Institute. Her mother, Julia Ward Howe, was a poet best known as author of "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Laura Edward's poem, "Our Colors," was published in the *Christian Advocate*, vol. 74, 1899.

November 12, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Jordan, eleven members present. Meeting conducted by the President. Records of the preceeding meeting read and approved. Roll Call ans. to by current events. Mrs. Mary E. Sweetser leader for the afternoon. The article "Early American Homes and Firesides" from the Magazine read in turn, also reading in turn from the History. Mrs. Sweetser exhibited antique articles of needlework.

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Wyman.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

November 17, 1907

Met with Mrs. Wyman. Twelve members were present. The Sec. being absent, Mrs. Adams was nominated to act in that capacity for the day. The meeting opened with the usual Roll Call, current events, after which the meeting was left in the hands of Miss Nellie Sweetser who gave us a chapter in history beginnings of Connecticut. There was then reading in turn from the magazine article. "Sidelights on the experiences of the Colonial Life." Miss Sweetser then read extracts from the diary of the first pastor of the First Parish church of Portland (then called Falmouth). Rev. Thomas Smith.²³ Then came readings from the literature by Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Adams. "Endicott – the Red Cross"²⁴ by Mrs. Jordan and the poem "When this old flag was new"²⁵ by Mrs. Buxton.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 3 with Mrs. Miller.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

December 3, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Miller, thirteen members being present, with Mrs. E.R. Hill and Amanda Severence as visitors.

Roll Call answered to from current events. Mrs. Sturdivant leader for the afternoon.

²³ Rev. Thomas Smith (1702-1795) served as pastor of the First Church of Christ (now First Parish church) in Falmouth (now Portland), a county of York (now Cumberland).The Journal covers the period from 1720-1788 and was published in 1821.

²⁴ "Endicott and the Red Cross" is a short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864). It is included in Hawthorne's *Twice Told Tales*.

²⁵ This poem, "When this old flag was new", was written by Richard Henry Stoddard (1825-1903), an American critic and poet born in Hingham, MA. It was published in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, Vol. 43, p. 231. 1871

Reading from "Colonial Days" in turn, also an interesting article on the "Early Days of Harvard Colledge."²⁶ Reading in turn from the magazine article "The Pathfinder", also a short time was spent in reading from the History.

Meeting adjourned at 4 P.M. to meet December 11 with Mrs. Osgood.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

December 11, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Osgood, eleven members being present. Record of the preceding meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to from current events. Mrs. Thomes leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the magazine article "Boston, the Birthplace of the Nation". Reading in turn from the "Salt Box House"²⁷ also a short time was spent in reading from the history. Mrs. Thomes exhibited many Indian relics.

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. A. H. Sweetser.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

December 17, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Adams, seven members being present. In the absence of the pres. Mrs. Blanchard was in the Chair. Reading of the records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call from current events.

²⁶ The article, "Harvard University, our oldest seat of Learning" appeared in the December 1907 issue of *Bay View Magazine*.

²⁷ A saltbox house is a building with a long, pitched roof that slopes down to the back. Generally it was a wooden frame house, with only one story in back, but two in front. The flat front and central chimney are distinct features. However, the asymmetry of its unequal sides and the long, low rear roof line are the most distinctive features of a salt box, thereby taking its name from its resemblance to a wooden lidded box in which salt was once kept. The saltbox originated in New England and is an example of American colonial architecture. Folklore holds that the saltbox form was popularized by Queen Anne's taxation of houses greater than one story. Because the rear of the roof descended to the height of a single story building, the structure was exempt from the tax. Actually, the saltbox shape evolved from the need for additional space for growing families. By adding a lean-to, builders found an economical way to enlarge the house.

Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard was the leader for the afternoon. Reading in turn from the magazine article "Harvard University". Also selections were read from a guide book of Boston. Mrs. Blanchard gave a reading from addresses by Henry Lee Higginson²⁸ on the occasion of presenting the Soldiers Field.

Meeting adjourned to meet December 31 with Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

Dec. 31, 1907

The We Neighbors Club met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with nine members present. Reading records of the preceding meeting accepted and approved.

Voted to appoint a committee of five to make arrangements for Gentlemen's night – who were to use their own judgment as regards expences. The com. appointed were Mrs. Miller, Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. Thomes, Mrs. Osgood, and Mrs. Blanchard. Roll Call responded to from current events. Mrs. Osgood leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the magazine article "Women's Colleges" also reading in turn from the history.

Meeting adjourned to meet Jan. 7 with Mrs. Davis.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

January 7, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Davis. Eleven members being present. Roll Call from current events. Reading of the records of the last meeting read and approved.

Mrs. Davis leader for the afternoon, subject being Washington. Reading in turn from the magazine article, "Washington our National Capitol" also many interesting pictures and maps were shown.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Sturdivant.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

²⁸ Henry Lee Higginson (1834-1919) was an American businessmen and philanthropist, best known for founding the Boston Symphony Orchestra. On June 5, 1890, Higginson addressed Harvard students and presented a gift of 31 acres of land. He stipulated that the ground shall be called "The Soldiers' Field" and marked with a stone "bearing the name of some dear friends – alumni of the university and noble gentlemen – who gave freely and eagerly all that they had or hoped for, to their country and to their fellow men in the hour of great need – war of 1861 to 1865 – in defense of the Republic: James Savage Jr., Charles Russell Lowell, Edward Barry Dalton, Stephen George Perkins, James Jackson Lowell, Robert Gould Shaw.

January 14, 1908

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Sturdivant with thirteen members being present. Mrs. Alice Doughty and Mrs. Edith Sawyer as visitors. Mrs. Miller in the chair. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call as usual from current events. Mrs. Miller leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the magazine article "Tho. Roosevelt and his family and their everyday life, also, the article "Two of the Governments great Engineering feats." ²⁹ The remainder of the time was taken up by reading from the History.

Adjournment to meet in one week with Mrs. Thomes.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

January 21, 1908

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Thomes with thirteen members present with Mrs. Miller in the chair. Reading of records and Roll Call as usual.

Reading in turn from the Mag. Art. "The Life Saving Service and Lighthouses". Several members contributed very interesting articles on lighthouses and the lives of the lightkeepers and their families. This was followed by the article "How Uncle Sam Observes the weather."

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Osgood.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

February 4, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Wyman, five faithful followers being present with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser in the chair.

It was voted to leave the time of the celebration of Gentlemen's Night in the hands of the committee having the entertainment in charge. Also voted to send one doz. Pinks on the afternoon of Feb. 4 to our sick member Mrs. Adams with the love of the club.

The business was followed by an animated Roll Call after which under Mrs. Hall's leadership the reading of the afternoon began with an article on the Hawaiian Islands. This was followed by an article on The New Agriculture which closed the interesting program for the afternoon.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn on Feb. 11.

A. F. S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

²⁹ According to the *Bay View Magazine*, January 1908 issue, page 219, the two great engineering feats are the Panama Canal and the dam across the MS River at the foot of the Des Moines rapids.

February 11, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Dunn, ten members present. Records for the last two meetings read and approved. Roll Call from Current Events.

Mrs. Jordan as leader provided a reading on Longfellow – The Universal Poet, followed by an article on Some Representative American Sculptors.”

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet at call of the committee.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

February 18, 1908

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Blanchard with seven members present. Miss Hays, Mrs. Rowe and Mrs. Howard Blanchard as visitors. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call from Current Events.

Voted to send Mrs. Wyman our sick member 1 doz. Pinks with the love and good will of the club. Mrs. E. H. Sweetser leader for the afternoon.

Reading from the Magazine the article, “American Arts”. Also a reading from the Sisters of the Arts and Crafts. Reading from the American Literature. Several very, pretty articles of decorated ware were exhibited.

Meeting adjourned to meet in one week with Mr. E. H. Sweetser.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

February 25, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. E. H. Sweetser with eleven members. Meeting opened by the Pres. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Sturdivant leader for the afternoon.

Roll Call responded to from Current Events. Reading in turn from the Magazine Article "Our Old American Masters" also the article "John Trumbull,³⁰ the Painter of the Revolution." Mrs. Sturdivant read a short sketch taken from the New York Weekly Museum.³¹ Also a short time was spent in reading from the Literature.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

March 10, 1908

The We Neighbors Club with their invited friends met with Mrs. F.R.Sweetser. Mrs. Miller in the chair. After the reading of the Records it was voted to dispense with the usual program and the afternoon was spent in listening to an informal address by one of the field workers of the Maine Missionary Society, Miss Anna A. Lewis.³²

Meeting adjourned at 4 o'clock after which refreshments were served and a social hour was very much enjoyed by all.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec.

March 17, 1908

The Club met with Mrs. Jordan, nine members being present. Mrs. Miller in the chair.

The Roll Call was as usual from Current Events. An article on Manilla in the Phillipines was read from the Bay View Magazine. Also one on the Uplift of the Phillipines. Mrs. Adams read the poem "Where the Great Ships Come in".

³⁰ John Trumbull (1756-1843), an American artist during the period of the American Revolutionary War, was noted for his historical paintings and portraits. His "Declaration of Independence" (1817) was used on the reverse of the two dollar bill. Born in Lebanon, Connecticut, Colony of British America, he entered the junior class at Harvard and 1771 and graduated two years later. As a soldier in the Revolutionary War, he witnessed the Battle of Bunker Hill. In 1776, he was appointed second personal aide to George Washington, but resigned from the army in 1777. In 1780, he traveled to London, where he studied with Benjamin West. At West's suggestion, he painted small pictures of the War of Independence and miniature portraits, of which he painted 250 in his lifetime. His portraits include full length portraits of George Washington (1790), George Clinton (1790), and Alexander Hamilton (1805) which is the source of the face on the ten dollar bill. An article on "John Trumbull" appeared in the March 1908 issue of *Bay View Magazine*.

³¹ *The New York Weekly Magazine* (1805-1814) was a weekly newspaper "dedicated to a little bit of this and that. It served as a "Polite repository of amusement and instruction." Filled with advertisements, it printed "stories of the area and other easy going things." By the end of Madison's administration it was no more.

³² Miss Anna Lewis served as field secretary and worker in The Maine Women's Missionary Auxiliary, first organized in 1880.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Hall in one week.

Mrs. A. F. S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

March 24, 1908

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Hall, seven members present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Davis, leader for the afternoon.

Reading in turn from the Literature with sketches from several authors, most notably the extract from the Farwell speech of Geo. Washington. Also reading in turn from the Magazine article, "Our Early Landscape Painters."

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Adams.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

March 31, 1908

Meeting with Mrs. Adams with eight members present and one guest. After Roll Call it was voted that the leader announce at the close of each meeting the program or subject of the next meeting as given in the Magazine by the chosen leader.

Subject of study for the afternoon "Hawthorne" conducted by Mrs. Miller. Articles read: Glimpses of the life and genius of Hawthorne. Reading from literature on the time of the publishing of the "Scarlet Letter." Reading of description of the Custom House at Salem. Program for next meeting: Literature addenda Page 59 Chap. 4 Romance of History, and Poetry Magazine article Empire of the Pacific.

Adjourned.

E.H. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

April 7, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Miller, twelve members present. Records of the last two meetings read and approved. Roll Call from Current Events.

Mrs. Thomes leader for the afternoon. Reading from the Magazine Article, The Empire on the Pacific. Also reading in turn from the Literature.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Osgood.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

April 14, 1908

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Osgood, ten members being present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to from Current Events.

Reading for the afternoon from the Literature. Also from the Magazine article, "The Old California Mission."

Voted to hold our business meeting at the last meeting of the year with Mrs. E. H. Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Mrs. E.B. Osgood, Sec.

April 21, 1908

Club met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with five members present. Meeting called to order by the President, as the Sec. was absent Mrs. Hall was chosen to take her place.

Roll Call responded to. Meeting then conducted by Miss Sweetser.

Reading from the Magazine from page 462 to 479, taking up Puget Sound in Washington State. Also reading from Literature of Edgar Allen Poe³³ to the New England Period.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Albert Sweetser.

Mrs. O. M. Hall, Sec. pro tem

³³ Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) was an American writer and editor, best known for his poems and short stories, especially tales of mystery and the macabre. He is generally regarded as inventor of the detective fiction genre. Born in Boston, his father abandoned the family when Poe was one year old, and his mother due to pulmonary tuberculosis died the following year. Orphaned, Poe was taken in by John and Frances Allan of Richmond, VA. The Allans served as his foster parents and gave him the name "Edgar Allan Poe." Young Edgar and John Allan repeatedly clashed over debts and cost of secondary education. Poe attended University of VA for one year. In April 1827, he returned to Boston and took odd jobs as clerk and newspaper writer. Unable to support himself, Poe enlisted in the U. S. army as a private. Later, July 1, 1830, Poe matriculated at West Point, but soon acted so he would be court martialed, which occurred February 8, 1831/ During his lifetime, Poe was mostly recognized as a literary critic. Fellow critic, James Russell Lowell called him "the most discriminating, philosophical, and fearless critic upon imaginative works who has written in America.: Poe's caustic reviews earned him the reputation of being a "tomahawk man". A favorite target was then-acclaimed poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Poe's early detective fiction featuring C. Auguste Dupin laid groundwork for future detectives in literature. Sir Arthur Conan Coyle said "Each [of Poe's detective stories] is a root from which a whole literature has developed..Where was the detective story until Poe breathed life into it?"

April 28, 1908

Last meeting of the Club before summer recess at the house of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser with nine members present. The Secretary being absent – Mrs. Adams was elected to serve in her place. The records of five previous meetings read and approved. Report of the Treasurer for the year read and accepted.

Roll Call responded to by current events. The meeting was then left in the hands of Mrs. Wyman.

The program carried out in the following order. Literature, article on general characteristics of same. Magazine articles on Bret Harte³⁴ and Joaquin Miller,³⁵ after which annual business meeting was held.

A nominating committee of: Mrs. Mary Sweetser, Mrs. Evie Dunn, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was appointed by the chair. This committee presented the following names to be acted upon. President for the coming year, Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard, Vice Pres., Mrs. Delin Osgood, Secretary, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Treasurer, Mrs. Florence Sturdivant.

The nominations were unanimously accepted and the officers elected.

A rising vote of thanks was then given the retiring president – Mrs. Miller for the faithful work done by her during the past year.

The committee to prepare the program for the coming year was then elected: Mrs. Florence Sturdivant, Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard, Mrs. Olive Hall.

³⁴ Bret Harte (1836-1902) was an American author and poet, but best remembered for his short fiction featuring miners, gamblers, and other romantic figures of the CA Gold Rush. Though he wrote poetry, fiction, plays, editorials, and book reviews, his Gold Rush tales have been most frequently reprinted and admired. Born in Albany, New York, Harte, age 17, moved to /California, where he worked in various capacities, as miner, teacher, messenger and journalist. He was unsuccessful to make a living in the gold camps. By 1871, he determined to pursue a literary career and so moved back east, first to New York, and then to Boston, where he contracted with the publisher of *The Atlantic Monthly* for an annual salary of \$10,000, “an unprecedented sum for that time.” That lasted only one year. By the end of 1872, he was without a contract and desperate. His popularity waned. In 1878, Harte was appointed U.S. consul in the town of Krefeld, Germany. In 1880, he transferred to Glasgow, and five years later, he settled in London. During the 24 years in Europe, he never abandoned writing and during that period wrote stories that retained the freshness of his earlier work. He died in London in 1902 of throat cancer.

³⁵ Cincinnatus Heine Miller (1837-1913) was better known by his pen name Joaquin Miller. Nicknamed “Poet of the Sierras”, he was a colorful poet and frontiersman. Born near Liberty, Indiana, Miller moved with his family (between 1850 and 1852) to Oregon and settled in Willamette Valley. As a young man, he moved to CA during the California Gold Rush years, and experienced a variety of adventures, including spending a year living in a Native American village and being wounded in a battle with Native Americans. In the spring of 1857, he participated in an expedition against the Pit River Tribe, after they had killed a white man on the Pit River. Years later, he claimed he was on the side of the Native Americans. Widely rumored to have happened, he married an Indian woman, possibly a Wintu princess who nursed him back to health after he was wounded by Modocs and to have fathered with her a daughter named Cali-Shasta or “Lily of Shasta.” In his time, Miller was known for his womanizing and dishonesty. He was championed, but not enthusiastically, by Bret Harte and Ambrose Pierce. Much of his reputation came from the image he cultivated of being a stereotypical image of the Western frontiersman. For a time, Miller’s poem “Columbus” was one of the most widely known American poems, memorized and recited by legions of school children. Articles on Francis Bret Harte and Joaquin Miller appeared on pages 479 and 480 respectively of the April 1908 issue of *Bay View Magazine*.

It was voted that the same ladies act as committee on arrangements for Club Jubilee Day as had previously been appointed to serve as committee on Gentleman's night, of previous year. With the exception of Mrs. Augusta Miller resigned. Mrs. Nellie Bondun [sp?] to serve in her place.

Voted that any money in treasury may be used by above committee if wished.

Voted that the Magazines be loaned to Mrs. Howard Buxton after which they be donated to Circulating Library.

The meeting was then adjourned, but was followed by an exceedingly pleasant social hour during which ice cream and cake were served by the hostess assisted by Mrs. Wyman. A rising vote of thanks was then extended Mrs. Sweetser for so pleasantly ending the last meeting of the season.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

June 23, 1908

On this date thirteen of the club members celebrated their Field day by a trip to Old Orchard. Camp Ellis. Saco and Biddeford.³⁶ Taking a basket-lunch at Camp Ellis. One of the great events of the day was souvenir pictures of our group taken at the "Newport-Studio: Old Orchard. No formal meeting was called but the progame committee announced that for the coming year each leader would choose her own subject for the days study. [No subscription to Bay View Magazine.]

Evelyn H. Sweetser Sec.

September 29, 1908

First meeting of the season with Mrs. Thomes. Roll Call, Current Events (with 12 members present.) Mrs. Adams having charge of program for day.

The topic was "Vacation Experience", each member giving report of her own outings for the summer. Each lady was listened to with interest especially Mrs. F. R. Sweetser who having recently visited Niagara, gave a highly interesting account of her trip.

The next meeting will be in two weeks with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Leader Mrs. F. R. Blanchard. Subject – Kate Douglass Wiggin. Roll call – Current Events.

³⁶ In 1903, the Portland to Old Orchard Electric Railway opened. Visitors such as members of the We Neighbors Club could travel 14 miles of track in under one hour for 20 cents. In 1902, the first amusement area complete with roller skating, marry-go-round, rides, games, and refreshment stands opened to the public. The great fire of 1907 destroyed the entire beachfront. Firemen from Portland, Saco and Biddeford rushed to the beach but efforts to contain the blaze were hampered by low water pressure. However, rebuilding started immediately. Camp Ellis is located on a peninsula at the mouth of the Saco River. It could be reached from Old Orchard by "dummy train". Its beaches are pristine., a perfect place for a picnic.

Adjourned.

Evelyn H. Sweetser

October 18, 1908

The Club held its meeting with Mrs. Mary Sweetser with eleven members in attendance. The secretary being absent, Cora Adams was appointed to fill the place.

The meeting was opened with the secretary's report which was followed by current-events in answer to the roll call.

Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard then took charge of the meeting giving us a sketch of the life of Kate Douglas Wiggin Biogr. Mrs. Anna Blanchard then read an article illustrating her work among the people at her summer home Quillcote.³⁷

This was followed by the reading of "The Old Peabody Pew"³⁸ by Mrs. Lizzi Blanchard, Mrs. Dunn reading the dedication to the same.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet Oct. 20 with Miss Nellie Sweetser. Leader for afternoon, Mrs. Olive Hall.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

October 20, 1908

Meeting at Miss Nellie Sweetser with fourteen members present. Reading of records read and approved. Roll Call responded to by "current-events."

The program for the day in charge of Mrs. Hall. Mrs. Hall stated that as we were now in the midst of a political campaign, it might be well to freshen our minds in regard to our own knowledge of the administration of civil government – and the desired [?] ability of being able to answer questions about the same. With this end in view a chapter from the American Citizen was read. Mrs. Hall then read a

³⁷ Quillcote is a historic house on Salmon Falls Road in Hollis, Maine. This two and one half story wood frame structure is five bays wide and two deep with front facing gable roof and clapboard siding. The interior's most intriguing room is completely painted in murals with a golden frieze border running around the top. This work is said to have dated from about 1820 and may be the work of Rufus Porter. The oldest portion of the house, according to local lore, was built in about 1797 by Jabiz Bradbury. In 1905, Kate Douglas Wiggin, widowed at the time, acquired the house. She had spent part of her childhood at Salmon Falls and knew the area. She named the house "Quillcote" meaning "house of the pen" and lived there with her sister until both passed away.

³⁸ Kate Douglas Wiggin wrote *The Old Peabody Pew: A Christmas Romance of a Country Church* (1907)

short sketch of the life of Oliver Wendell Holmes³⁹ followed by “Old Ironsides”.⁴⁰ “The Last Leaf,”⁴¹ Mrs. Burnell. “Grandmother’s Story”,⁴² Miss Nellie Sweetser . Other selections were “One Hoss Shay” & “Aunt Tabitha’s Way”.⁴³

Adjourned to meet – October 27 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. Leader Mrs. Sturdivant. Subject – Edward Everett Hale.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

October 27, 1908

Meeting with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, thirteen members present and our guest Mrs. Fogg Roll Call responded to by Current-events.

On motion of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, it was voted to send greetings of Club to Mrs. Helen Davis and also copy program for coming year and the secretary was instructed to attend to same.

The afternoon program was in the hand of Mrs. Sturdivant . Subject: Edward Everett Hale.⁴⁴ The reading of two selections “My Double and how he undid me” & “the Skeleton in the closet” by this author proved very entertaining, being read by Mrs. Adams, Dunn, Wyman, and Buxton, followed by a sketch “A piece of possible History Homer and David”⁴⁵ read by Mrs. Sweetser. The several articles read, showed the variety of style of which Mr. Hale is master.

³⁹ Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) was an American physician, poet, and lecturer based in Boston. Born in Cambridge, he was educated at Phillips Academy and Harvard. At an early age, he began writing poetry. Briefly he studied law before turning to the medical profession. Following training in the medical schools of Paris, he was granted his M.D. from Harvard in 1836. Subsequently he taught at Dartmouth Medical School and then Harvard. After retiring in 1882, he continued writing poetry, novels and essays until his death in 1894. Surrounded by Boston’s literary elite which included Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and James Russell Lowell, he made an indelible imprint on the literary world of the nineteenth century.

⁴⁰ On September 14, 1830, the *Boston Daily Advertiser* announced the Secretary of Navy had recommended the *USS Constitution* be broken up as it was no longer fit for service. As soon as he heard this, Holmes wrote the poem “Old Ironsides” that appeared in print two days later. Immediately, the poem became basis for a battle cry to save the ship.

⁴¹ Holmes wrote this poem in 1831.

⁴² Full title is “Grandmother’s Story of Bunker Hill Battle (As She Saw It from the Belfry).

⁴³ Full title is “The Deacon’s Masterpiece or the Wonderful One Hoss Shay” Exact title is “Aunt Tabitha.”

⁴⁴ Refer to footnote number 23 , Chapter One, for a brief biography of E. E. Hale.

⁴⁵ All three of these short stories are included in the collection, *If, Yes and Perhaps: Four Possibilities and six exaggerations with some bits of fact* (1868). The exact title of the third short story is “A Piece of Possible History.” This collection also includes, “A Man Without a Country, “ perhaps his best known work.

Adjourned to meet November 3rd with Mrs. Sturdivant. Leader, Mrs. Wyman. Subject: William Hamilton Gibson.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

November 3, 1908

The meeting of the club on this date was with Mrs. Sturdivant, twelve members being present. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Wyman. Subject: William Hamilton Gibson.⁴⁶ Reading from his life and literature, also pictures of plovers known to us and their descriptions most pleasantly and profitably filled the time.

Adjourned to meet Nov. 10th with Mrs. Osgood. Miscellenious program by the members.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

November 10, 1908

Club met with Mrs. Osgood. Twelve members present – and four guests. Letter from Mrs. Davis read. Roll call of Current Events responded to.

Miscellaneous program, Mrs. Osgood taking charge. Article by Mrs. Buxton on Taft's Career. Article by Mrs. Miller on Roosevelt. Article by Mrs. Sweetser on Erie Canal.⁴⁷ Mrs. Burnell read "How Mrs. Taft will conduct the next – social administration of the White House." Mrs. Dunn read an article comparing the careers of Pres. Eliot of Harvard and Chas. W. Morse. Mrs. George Blanchard read "A Woman Luther

⁴⁶ Refer to footnote number 35, Chapter One. He was a naturalist. Among his sketches, are plovers.

⁴⁷ The Erie Canal is a canal in New York that originally ran about 363 miles from Albany on the Hudson River to Buffalo at Lake Erie. It was built to provide a navigable water route from New York City and the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes. First proposed in 1807, construction began in 1817. The Canal contains 36 locks and total elevation differential of about 565 feet. It opened October 26, 1825. The canal fostered a population surge in western New York and opened regions farther west to settlement. It was enlarged between 1834 and 1862.

Burbank" Miss Edith Patch,⁴⁸ entomologist at Orono, Me. Mrs. Thomes read "In charge[?] of Forestry. Mrs. Osgood read several short articles. Mrs. Sturdivant read from "Wee Macgreger",⁴⁹

Meeting adjourned at 4 to meet Nov. 17th with Mrs. Miller.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

November 17, 1908

Club met with Mrs. Miller. 14 members were present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call of current-events responded to.

Program of afternoon in charge of Mrs. Dunn. Subject: Oklahoma. Reading by Mrs. Wyman. Mrs. Burrell and Mrs. Sturdivant. The subject proved very interesting and instructive.

Adjourned to meet December 1st with Mrs. Burnell. Mrs. Miller, Leader.

Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Sec. pro. Tem.

December 1, 1908

Meeting of the Club with Mrs. Burnell. Eleven members present and one guest. The President being absent, the meeting was opened by Vice President, Mrs. Osgood. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to by Current – Events.

Program in hands of Mrs. Miller. Subject: During [?] Rations in the U.S.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. O. M. Hall Wednesday Dec. 9th . Leader, Mrs. Buxton.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

December 9, 1908

⁴⁸ Edith Marion Patch (1876-1954) was an American entomologist. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, she received her degree from University of Minnesota in 1901 and initially embarked on a career as an English teacher before receiving an opportunity to organize the entomology department at the University of Maine. In 1904, she became head of the entomology department, despite misgivings from several male colleagues about having a female department head. She was recognized as an expert on aphids.

⁴⁹ Born in Hillhead Glasgow, J. J. Bell (1871-1934) attended the University of Glasgow where he studied chemistry. He became a journalist working for the *Glasgow Evening Times*. Written most often in the vernacular, his articles describe life of the working class. For his *Evening Times* articles, he created the character Of "MacGregor". Those stories became so popular they later were published in book form as *Wee MacGregor*. (1902).

Meeting of Club with Mrs. Hall. Nine members present. The President being absent at the opening of the meeting, the Vice President presided. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to with Current-Events.

Program in the hands of Mrs. Buxton. Subject – Osteopathy.⁵⁰

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn. Dec. 15th. Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Leader.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

December 15, 1908

Meeting with Mrs. Dunn. Thirteen members present. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to by Current – events.

Mrs. F.R. Sweetser Leader for afternoon. Subject: John D. Rockefeller.⁵¹

Adjourned to meet Dec. 29th with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard. Miscelaneous program.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

December 29, 1908

No meeting of Club today on account of funeral of F. B. Blanchard.

January 5, 1909

Club meeting postponed until Jan. 7th because of weather.

⁵⁰ Osteopathy is a form of drug free non-invasive manual medicine that focuses on total body health by treating and strengthening the musculoskeletal framework which includes the joints, muscles, and spine. Its aim is to affect positively the body's nervous, circulatory and lymphatic system. Practice in the United States began in 1874. In 1898, American Institute of Osteopathy started *the Journal of Osteopathy* and by that time, four states recognized osteopathy as a profession.

⁵¹John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937) was an American business magnate and philanthropist. He was a co-founder of Standard Oil Co., which dominated the oil industry and was the first great U.S. business trust. Rockefeller revolutionized the petroleum industry and with contemporary industrialist such as Andrew Carnegie defined the structure of modern philanthropy. In 1870, he founded Standard Oil Co. and actively managed it until he retired in 1897. He spent the last 40 years of his life in retirement at his estate Kykuit in Westchester County, New York. His fortune was used to create a systematic approach to targeted philanthropy. He did this through foundations that had a major effect on medicine, education, and scientific research. He was founder of the University of Chicago and Rockefeller University. A devoted Baptist, he supported many church-based institutions. Rockefeller believed religion to be the source of his success. He abstained from alcohol and tobacco throughout his life.

January 9, 1909

Club meets with Mrs. Buxton. Mrs. Osgood presided. Ten members present and one guest, Mrs. Fogg. Records read and approved. Roll Call: Current Events.

Program in charge of Mrs. Thomes. Subject: Mr. Emanuel Navemet [sp?] which proved very interesting, causing considerable discussion and comment.

Adjournment to meet with Mrs. Adams Jan. 12th. Miss Sweetser, leader.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

January 12, 1909 stormy January 13, 1909

Met with Mrs. Adams. Nine members present. Officers all absent except the Treasurer Mrs. Sturdivant. Mrs. Sturdivant was chosen to serve as president and Mary Sweetser as Secretary for afternoon. Roll Call – current-events.

Miss Nellie Sweetser personally conducted a trip through the Diamond and Mammoth Caves of Kentucky.⁵² Her explanations and descriptions of the various rooms halls & passages were very vivid. A very pleasant entertainment. A few minutes before the hour of closing, Mrs. Sturdivant gave a few preliminary remarks in regard to her subject which she will present in a short time.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman on Jan. 19th. Subject – forestry. Leader, E. H. Sweetser.

Mary E. Sweetser Sec. pro tem

January 19, 1909

Meeting with Mrs. Wyman. Twelve members present. The President being absent, the meeting was opened by Mrs. Osgood Vice President. Roll Call, Current Events. Subject – Forestry. Leader, Evelyn Sweetser.

⁵² Diamond and Mammoth Caves are located in south central Kentucky. Composed of vast chambers and complex labyrinths, Mammoth Cave is the world's largest known cave system, with more than 400 miles. In 1906, due to the construction of lock and dam at Brownsville, Kentucky, Mammoth Cave became accessible by steamboat. Located within ten miles of one another, Diamond and Mammoth Caves have always had a close relationship. Beginning in 1880. Mammoth Cave Railroad tracks were laid just west of Diamond Cave. When the line opened in 1886, Diamond was one of the primary stops. With this development, tourists could see both caves the same day.

Articles from different sources were read, including a paper written by Mrs. Mabel Browne⁵³ for her own Club in Portland and kindly loaned for this occasion. Concluding with “Woodman Spare That Tree”,⁵⁴ read by Mrs. Buxton.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes, Jan 26th. Leader, Mrs. Osgood. Subject: Longfellow’s Tales of Wayside Inn.”

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

January 26, 1909

Club met with Mrs. Thomes. Seven members being present with our president in the chair. In the absence of the Sec. Mrs. Dunn was chosen Sec. pro tem. The records of the last meeting not being there, the meeting was opened with the roll call which was responded to with current-events and items of interest.

The afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Osgood who furnished articles to be read by the members - on poets which caused Longfellow to write some of his most famous poems. Mrs. Osgood read an article on the Red Horse Inn in Sudbury, Mass.⁵⁵ Which is supposed to be the original of Longfellow’s famous “Tales of a Wayside Inn” tho’ in fact he had never but once visited it.⁵⁶

Adjourned to meet Feb. 2 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. Mrs. Wyman, Leader who takes for her subject Abraham Lincoln.

E. L. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

⁵³ Mabel L. Brown published an article entitled “Sights and Insights” in the *Primary Education*, September 1904, p. 336. In the article, she illustrates her philosophy of teaching as she takes her students to a grove of trees, asks appropriate questions, and quotes, to her students delight, from the well-known poem/song “Woodman spare that tree”.

⁵⁴ George Pope Morris (1802-1864), poet and song writer is especially known for his four stanza Ballad, “Woodman spare that tree” (1837). Edgar Allen Poe wrote Morris is “very decidedly our best writer of songs – and in saying this, I mean to assign him a high rank as poet.”

⁵⁵ The Red Horse Tavern, also known as the Wayside Inn, is located in Sudbury, Massachusetts, on the old Boston Post Road. In 1716, the building opened as Howe’s Tavern, with David Howe as the first innkeeper. During eighteenth century, its location was crucial in that anyone travelling in and out of Boston or to/from New York would have to pass by its door. Whichever side controlled the Tavern could control the flow of supplies, troops, and information. The Red Coats were determined to gain control no matter what the cost, while the Colonialists would make every effort to stop them and send them back to Boston. The era of the 1830s-1860s is best captured by Adeline Lunt in her article “The Red Horse Tavern” in an 1880 issue of Harper’s Magazine.

⁵⁶ Purportedly, Longfellow did visit the Wayside Inn in 1862, when it was called “Howe Tavern.”

February 2, 1908

Club met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. Five members present and one guest, Mrs. Doughty. As neither President or Vice President were present, the meeting was called to order by the Secretary. Mrs. Wyman was chosen to act as President for afternoon. Records of two last meetings read and accepted. Roll Call responded to by anecdotes of Abraham Lincoln.

Leader for afternoon Mrs. Wyman. Subject: Abraham Lincoln. A review of the early life of Lincoln was read by Mrs. Wyman followed by reading by the members of "The Toy Shop, a romantic story of Lincoln the man" by Margarita Gerry.⁵⁷ A few patriotic selections were then given on the Graphone.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 9th with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Miscleanious program.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

February 9, 1909

Club met with Mrs. F.R. Sweetser. Eleven members present. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

An umbrella handle inscribed "A. Lincoln" on one side & "L" engraved in Mother of Pearl set in encl [?] supposed to have belonged to Abraham Lincoln was shown by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

A miscellaneous program occupied the afternoon. Mrs. F. Blanchard in charge. Mrs. Dunn read an article comparing the circumstances and personalities of all the Presidents of U.S. Mrs. Miller read an article on Darwin⁵⁸ who was born on the same day of same year as A. Lincoln. Mrs. Thomes read the speech by John Brown⁵⁹ at his trial. Mrs. Osgood read an item on expression being important to leadership in connection with Pres. Lincoln. An after dinner Prescription by O. W. Holmes⁶⁰ read by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Meeting adjourned to meet with Miss Sweetser Feb. 16. Mrs. Miller Leader.

⁵⁷ Margarita Spaulding Gerry (1870-1939) wrote *The Toy Shop: A Romantic Story of Lincoln the Man*, 1908.

⁵⁸ Charles Robert Darwin (1809-1882) indeed was born the same day and the same year as Abraham Lincoln. By training and observation, he was naturalist and geologist, best known for his theory of evolution which he published in 1859 in the book *On the Origin of Species*. He established that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors. His pre-eminence as a scientist was honored by burial in Westminster Abbey.

⁵⁹ John Brown (1800-1859) was an abolitionist who believed armed insurrection was only way to overthrow the institution of slavery. On October 16, 1859, John Brown and nearly two dozen comrades seized the Armory at Harper's Ferry in West Virginia, hoping to use its massive arsenal in the struggle to forcibly end slavery. Captured and brought to trial at nearby Charles Town, Brown was found guilty of treason. One month before his execution, John Brown addressed a courtroom in Charlestown, West Virginia and defended his role in the action at Harper's Ferry. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "He will make the gallows holy as the cross."

⁶⁰ Holmes presented this poem particularly tailored to entertain members of Massachusetts Medical Society at their meeting held May 25, 1870. The poem is titled "Rip Van Winkle, M. D., An After-Dinner Prescription."

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

February 16, 1909

Meeting cancelled this week on account of severe storm and bad traveling.

February 23, 1909

Met with Mrs. Osgood. In the absence of the President Mrs. Osgood took charge of meeting, ten members were present. Leader. Mrs. Sturdivant.

Subject – Howard Manley his letters and Travels. Pictures of different occupations and scenes in Hawaii, Samoa, Japan and China were shown and extremely interesting letters were read from this tolerated gentleness, written from these several countries to his Mother.

A vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Manley for the loan and Mrs. Sturdivant for the reading of Mr. Manleys letters.

Voted that Secretary purchase book for use of Secretary.

Invitation was extended by Miss Merrill to visit Grammer School next Friday afternoon for which she is preparing small entertainment.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant March 3 if pleasant – if not, on Thursday. Subject: Domestic Science.

Leader, Evelyn Sweetser, Sec.

March 3, 1909

Meeting of Club with Mrs. Phillip Sturdivant with nine members and four guests present. Records of 1st meeting read and approved.

Roll Call responded to by "Housekeeping Hints". Each lady giving some practical suggestion that was very helpful to housekeepers. Followed by the reading of story entitled "Mrs. Stuarts Big Dinner" by Mrs. Burnell. As the time was limited a part of the proposed program was omitted and each lady having been furnished with blank books and pencil proceeded in turn to give a recipe of which we had a practical illustration later.

After adjournment the ladies retired to the dining room where Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser poured chocolate and Mrs. Wyman and Mrs. Sturdivant served the viands [?]. A most enjoyable time was then spent in social chat and partaking of the good things provided.

The next meeting will be on March 9th with Mrs. Miller. Leader Mrs. Adams. Subject: Life Savers of our Coast.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

March 9, 1909

Meeting with Mrs. Miller with Mrs. Osgood in the chair. Eleven members present. After reading and approving of records by the Club, Mrs. Adams who had charge of the program for afternoon, passed little flags on which was written an item of information in regard to Life Saving on our coast. Roll Call was responded to from these items.

Mrs. Adams then read an outline of the establishment of this service and Mrs. Geo. Blanchard read an article entitled Life Saving Service.¹ A story "The Life Savers," read by Mrs. Wyman followed. The poem

¹ The United States Life-Saving Service was an U.S. government agency that grew out of private and local humanitarian efforts to save the lives of shipwrecked mariners and passengers. It began in 1848 and ultimately merged with the Revenue Cutter Service to form the U. S. Coast Guard in 1915.

"The Coast Guard" read by Mrs. Adams completed the program but an article on wireless telegraphy as used in the wreck of the steamer Republic ² created a pleasant discussion.

Adjourned to meet with Miss Sweetser March 16th. Leader Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Mrs. Sweetser announced as her subject for the next meeting – Local History and Traditions.

Evelyn H. Sweetser

March 16, 1909

Meeting held on this date with Miss Nellie Sweetser. Meeting called to order by President. Twelve members and four guests being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. The subject for the afternoon being Local History and Traditions. The roll call was responded to by local items of history which brought forth very interesting discussion.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser who had charge of the program for afternoon then read from The North Yarmouth Register many items of local history pertaining to the early settlers, relations with the Indians. A paper upon the history of the Sturdivant family one of the early settlers of the town was very interesting. The last will and testament of Nathaniel Blanchard drawn in was much enjoyed for its quaintness.

Next meeting with Mrs. Hall. March 23rd. Leader Mrs. Dunn. As Mrs. Dunn had selected no subject – the subject of local history will be continued with Roll Call Favorite Quotations.

Adjourned.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

March 23, 1909

Meeting with Mrs. Hall with fifteen members and four guests. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to by items of local history and favorite quotations.

² RMS *Republic* was a steam powered ocean liner built in 1903 by Harland and Wolff in Belfast and lost at sea in a collision with the SS *Florida* six years later (1909) while sailing for the White Star Lines. A CQD distress call was issued on the Marconi radio device, the first recorded, resulting in the saving of around 1200 lives. While sailing from NYC to Gibraltar with 742 passengers and crew with Captain William Inman Sealby (1862-1942) in command, *Republic* entered a thick fog off island of Nantucket. The steamer reduced speed and regularly signaled its presence by whistle. At 5:47 A.M. January 23, 1909, another whistle was heard and the *Republic's* engines were ordered in full reverse, and the helm put "hard a port". Out of the fog the *Lloyd Italiano* liner SS *Florida* appeared and hit *Republic* amid ship, at about a right angle. The engine and boiler rooms on *Republic* began to flood, and the ship listed. Captain Sealby led the crew in calmly organizing the passengers on deck for evacuation. *Republic* was equipped with new Marconi wireless telegraph system and became the first ship in history to issue CQD distress signal. Two ships, *Florida* and US Revenue Cutter Service *Gresham*, responded to the distress signal. Passengers were distributed between the two ships. At the time of *Republic's* sinking, ocean liners were not required to have full capacity of lifeboats for passengers, officers and crew. 6 passengers died, but were lost due to collision not sinking

Mrs. Dunn having charge of program for afternoon. Several items pertaining to local history were read including "The Washing away of Tukey's Bridge"³ and the story entitled "An Evening at Master Ben's", its author being Ann Louisa Blanchard McGinnis, a native of this town. This story portrays many of the quaint characters and facts and fancies of early times at the Center.

Copies of the Cumberland Globe, published for a few years about – 1877 by Blanchard & Bagley were shown by Mrs. Blanchard and a letter printed in this paper from O. S. Thomes of this place, then located in Tacoma Cal. was read. An acct. of Nathl Blanchard meeting with the Indians⁴ was read by Mrs. George Blanchard.

The President then proposed the entertainment of our gentlemen friends next Thursday evening, placing her name at the disposal of Club for that purpose. This proposition was accepted and the following committees were appointed by the chair. Entertainment: Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. F.R. Sweetser, Mrs. Sturdivant. Refreshments: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Wyman.

Voted: That committee use funds in treasury to defray expenses if desired.

Next meeting to be April 6th with Mrs. Dunn. Mrs. Buxton Leader. Subject: Music with song and story for different Natures. Roll Call, Something related to Music.

Adjourned.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

March 30, 1909

The Club on this date entertained its gentlemen friends at the home of Mrs. Fern S. Blanchard. The house tastefully decorated with flags and the club colors red, white, and blue. A group picture of members of this club taken on last field day at Old Orchard occupied a conspicuous place and was appropriately decorated for this occasion.

³ Tukey's Bridge connects the neighborhoods of Munjoy Hill and East Deering in Portland, Maine. The original bridge was built in 1796 and was a toll bridge. This bridge is named for long time toll gatherer Lemuel Tukey, who ran a Tavern on the Portland end of the structure and who objected to ending tolls, so collected them any way until he was forced to stop in 1837.

⁴ Nathaniel Blanchard (1728-1807) and his wife Bethiah Mitchell had five children. Originally from Weymouth, MA, he settled in Maine and is buried at Ledge Cemetery, North Yarmouth. Several of his ancestors experienced deadly encounters with Indians, and these stories no doubt became part of family legend. For example, Nathaniel Blanchard (1674-1706) was killed by Indians at Dunstable, MA July 3, 1706. On that night, a party of 270 Mohawk Indians suddenly assaulted the garrison house. The inhabitants were taken by surprise, for the door had been left open and no watch appointed. Rushing into the house, Indians were amazed to find it filled with soldiers, who in turn were astonished to find themselves suddenly in the presence of "savages". After a bloody fight, during which several soldiers were either killed or wounded, the "savages" attacked and burned another house. On same fatal day, Indians entered garrison house of National Blanchard, murdered him, his wife Lydia, his daughter Savannah, also Mrs. Hannah Blanchard.

The meeting was opened at 8:30 by words of welcome by the President. The report of secretary which gave a summary of the works done the past season was then read.

Roll Call responded to by Current Events. A short program was then carried out – consisting of reading by Mrs. Thomes “A Speech by Abraham Lincoln”. A poem “How to cook a Husband”⁵ by Mrs. Hall followed by a reading of article by Mrs. Buxton, “Music in the Schools.”

Refreshments were then served consisting of Coffee, sandwiches, cake and ice cream & salted peanuts.

After a social hour the company met in the music room where old songs were sung by all and Mrs. Sturdivant and Mr. Buxton each favored the company with several selections in solo. After singing “Goodnight Ladies”, the members and friends returned to their homes, all conceding that they had passed a very enjoyable evening. Nearly all the members were present together with their respective gentlemen and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Blanchard as guests.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

April 6, 1909

Club meeting with Mrs. Dunn. Nineteen members and two guests present. Records of last meeting and report of Gentlemen’s night read and approved. Roll Call responded to by items in regard to music.

Program in charge of Mrs. Buxton. Subject: Music. The reading of the following articles by Mrs. Buxton proved interesting and instructive. The Influence of Music. Speaking and Singing. Slave Songs by Stephen Collins Foster.

Mrs. Sturdivant then sung a negro lullaby song entitled, “Little Laurie”. Following this came articles on Lullaby or Slumber songs. Musical Heredity, and an amusing story of Handel. After some poets in regard to Scotch Songs were given, Mrs. Sturdivant again favored us with “Mary and Argule”.

Next meeting with Mrs. Mrs. Buxton on April 18th. Leader Mrs. George Blanchard. Subject: Romance of Steel and Iron and Andrew Carneigie – the Man and his work.

Adjourned.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

April 13, 1909

Met with Mrs. Buxton. Eleven members. Secretary and Treasurer reports read and approved.

⁵ Elizabeth Strong Worthington (1851-1916), a popular writer during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Her book, *How to Cook Husbands*, (1898) is arguably her most popular work. Two years later, she wrote her final book, *The Gentle Art of Cooking Wives*.

Ms. Geo. Blanchard leader. Roll Call consisted of items relating to Andrew Carnegie.⁶ Mrs. Blanchard read an article on "The Romance of Steel and Iron in America." which was exceedingly interesting.

Next meeting to be with Mrs. Adams. Mrs. Osgood, leader. Subject – Joseph Jefferson with roll call of items concerning him.

Adjourned at 4. P. M.

Mrs. Sturdivant – Sec. pro tem

April 20, 1909

Club met with Mrs. Adams. Ten members present. Meeting called to order by Vice President. The Secretary being absent, Mrs. Buxton was appointed to fill the vacancy. Records read and approved. Roll Call. Items in regard to Joseph Jefferson after which the meeting was under the leadership of Mrs. Osgood.

Subject – Joseph Jefferson.⁷ Some very interesting sketches of his life and work were given, among which were "My First Play House", "Youth of Jefferson" "How I Came to play Rip Van Winkle" "The New Rip van Winkle in London" concluding with "The Shepherd" read by Miss Sweetser, which were very interesting and listened to with pleasure by all.

Voted to send a boquet of pinks to Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser as a token of our loving remembrance.

Mrs. Wyman was nominated to give the order during the service which she did bearing the sentiments of "We Neighbors."

Meeting adjourned by the President to meet with Mrs. Wyman on April 27th. Roll Call Current Events.

Elizabeth Buxton, Sec. pro tem

⁶ Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish-American industrialist who led enormous expansion of steel industry in the late nineteenth century. Born in Dunfermline, Scotland, he immigrated with his very poor parents to the United States in 1848. Although he started work as telegrapher, by the 1860s he had investments in railroads, railroad sleeping cars, bridges, and oil derricks. He built Pittsburgh's Carnegie Steel Co. which he sold to J. P. Morgan in 1901 for 480 million (in 2011, 20 billion) dollars, creating the US Steel Corporation. Carnegie devoted the remainder of his life to large scale philanthropy with special emphasis on local libraries, world peace, and scientific research. He built Carnegie Hall and founded Carnegie Corporation of New York.

⁷ James Jefferson (1829-1905) was an American actor and one of the most famous of all nineteenth century American comedians. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, his father was a scenic designer and his mother an actress. He appeared on stage early in life, often participating when a play required "a babe in arms." In 1859, Jefferson made a dramatic version of Washington Irving's story of "Rip Van Winkle" and acted with success in Washington D. C. No man in his profession was more honored for his achievements and his character. He was friend of many leading men in American politics, art, and literature, including President Grover Cleveland.

April 27, 1909

Last meeting of the season held with Mrs. Wyman, all the members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call omitted.

The first part of the meeting was occupied by Mrs. Blanchard in reading a paper written by G. M. Seiders⁸ on portion of Maine Coast – included between Penobscot Bay and Kennebec river taking in towns of Waldoboro, Warren, Bristol, Brewer, Damariscotta, and others. The early history of this portion of Maine being very interesting study. This paper was prepared for reading before the Falmouth Club of Portland.

After reading of this paper, as customary at the last meeting of the season, officers were chosen for the coming year. A nominating committee was appointed by the chair viz.: Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Sweetser. After conference this committee reported for President: Mrs. E. B. Osgood; Vice President: Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser; Secretary: Mrs. A. F. Sturdivant; Treasurer: Mrs. Laura Wyman. This report was accepted and officers elected.

Voted that rotation in office be observed from this time forward. The Treasurer alone being elected each year.

Committee on Field Day appointed by the chair to consist of Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Adams.

A nominating committee viz: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Dunn reported the names of the following ladies serve on program committee: Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Thomes. This report was accepted and committee elected.

At this point – delicious refreshments were served by the hostess consisting of ice cream and cake.

A vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Wyman for her kindness in furnishing refreshments.

At this point the Treasurer's report was called for and given.

Adjourned subject to the call of the Field Day Committee.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec.

⁸George Melville Seiders (1844-1915) served in the 24th Maine Infantry, worked as a farmer after the war, and then he worked for a while in a machine shop until he decided to get an education. He taught school while studying at Bowdoin and continued that pursuit after graduation in 1872. Upon graduation, he was elected Principal of Greely Institute in Cumberland, where he taught for two years. He married Clarise Hayes of North Yarmouth in November 1874. Elected to the position of sub-master of a high school in Waltham Massachusetts, he remained one year before accepting offer of a professorship in Episcopal Academy at Cheshire, Connecticut. Returning to Portland, Maine in 1876, he started reading law in July with Hon. Thomas B. Reed. In 1877, he served in the Maine House representing Yarmouth and North Yarmouth, where he resided from July 1876 to November 1880, taking an active interest in town affairs. During late 1880, he moved his residence to Portland, where he developed an active law practice. In 1892, he was elected as a Republican to the Maine Senate. In 1894, he became President of the Senate. He was deeply interested in all subjects pertaining to early Maine history.

June 22, 1909

On Tuesday, June 22, 1909 the "We Neighbors Club" celebrated their annual field Day by picnic at Mr. Rowe's grove. There were thirty-six present, including families and friends of the club members.

The picnic committee, consisting of the Mrs. Adams, Dunn, and Burnell, saw to it that a most bountiful and delicious dinner was provided, after which, by their untiring efforts, an afternoon of pleasure and profit was enjoyed; followed by such a liberal awarding of prizes that chewing-gum, peanuts, and soft drinks flowed as freely for the defeated as for the winners.

A short business meeting was held by the club members while the sterner sex discussed base-ball, farming etc. and it was voted that the treasurer be authorized to defray the expense of the picnic – something less than half a dollar.

A vote of thanks was unanimously extended to the picnic committee for their efficiency and unflagging efforts and to Mr. And Mrs. Rand for allowing us to meet at their delightful grove and for their kindness in helping the picnic along with hot coffee, cold spring water and giving the entertainment of feeding the speckled beauties in the herd for our benefit.

The matter of having the club meeting brought to a close the last of March instead of one month later was brought before the members, but was voted down.

Although the day was one of extreme heat it was also one of great enjoyment and it was with regret that necessity for the ever insistent home tasks was recognized bringing the festivities to a close.

Annie F. S. Sturdivant, Sec.

October 5, 1909

The We Neighbors Club held its beginning meeting with Mrs. Thomes. Fifteen members and one guest being present. The secretary's report was read and approved.

Mrs. Thomes reported for the Program Committee – saying that she suggested the historical subject of Maine, Transportation, the War of Rebellion, the history of the Colored Race; of Egypt; of corn, grain and vegetables, and of God's attitude toward his children.

Mrs. Miller reported in regard to the biographical subjects, saying that she had always been interested in them and so suggested them for our study this year.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser spoke of the industries, she having suggested them to be studied as carried on in Maine particularly.

Mrs. Miller led the meeting for the afternoon with the life of Alice Freeman Palmer⁹ as the subject of the program for the day.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Oct. 12.

A.F.S. Sturdivant. Sec.

October 13, 1909

The W.N. Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser on Oct. 13, as the 12th was stormy, 10 members and 2 guests being present.

In the absence of the Pres., Mrs. Albert Sweetser occupied the chair. The Sec. report was read and approved.

The Roll Call was given being principally about the subject of the afternoon "with a bale of cotton and a fleece of wool." Mrs. F.S. Blanchard took charge of the program, reading an article on cotton and one on wool, which she had written. She further read about cotton from Carpenter's *Geographical Reader*¹⁰ and Mrs. Fred Sweetser read about wool from Alice Morse Earle.¹¹

The meeting adjourned at four o'clock to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser on October 19.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

October 19, 1909

Oct. 19th met with Miss Nellie Sweetser, thirteen members being present. Roll Call answered by items concerning the civil war or personal recollections of the time.

⁹ Alice Freeman Palmer (1855-1902) was an American educator. She served as President of Wellesley College, 1882-1902, when she left to marry the Harvard professor, George Herbert Palmer. During the early 1890s, the President of the newly founded University of Chicago asked both Palmer and her husband to join the faculty. Her husband refused to leave Cambridge, but Palmer felt strongly about the opportunity and in 1892 accepted a position as non-resident dean of the Women's department at Chicago. She stayed there three years, helping shape the women's program and working toward the same goals she advanced during her time at Wellesley.

¹⁰ Frank G. Carpenter (1855-1924) was an author, photographer, and lecturer. He was a writer of standard geographical textbooks, and his *Geographical Reader North American* was published in 1898.

¹¹ Alice Morse Earle (1851-1911) was an American historian. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, her writings, beginning in 1890, focused on small sociological details. She wrote several books on colonial America, especially New England. She was a passenger aboard the RMS Republic when, while in dense fog, that ship collided with SS Florida. During the transfer of passengers, she fell into the water. Nearly drowning in 1909 off the coast of Nantucket during this abortive trip to Egypt, she discovered her health sufficiently weakened and as a result, she died two years later in Hempstead, Long Island.

Under the head of business a letter was read by Mrs. Dunn, written to her by the secretary of the Cumberland district of the county federation inviting our club to meet with others at their county federation held at Yarmouth Nov. 10th and also expressing the wish that we join the federation.

The program for the afternoon was then given into the hands of Mrs. O. M. Hall. Her paper on "The History of the Rebellion" showed much painstaking labor and was very interesting. She also read of Lincoln from the book, "Lincoln and Garfield", and gave us selections from "Abbots History of the War."¹² The illustrations in the Century War Book¹³ shown by Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard added to the interest of the articles read.

Miss Nellie Sweetser then surprised us as well as delighted the Club members by reading an original poem "Memorial Day" which was enthusiastically applauded.

The meeting was then adjourned to meet Oct. 26 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser.

Cora E. Adams. Sec. pro tem

October 26, 1909

Oct. 26 the club met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, twelve members being present. After the records of the last meeting were read and approved, the Roll Call was responded to.

¹² John Stevens Cabot Abbott (1805-1877) was an American historian, pastor and pedagogical writer. Born in Brunswick, Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin in 1825 and prepared for the ministry at Andover Theological Seminary. Between 1830 and 1844, he preached successively in Worcester, Roxbury, and Nantucket. From 1844 onwards, he devoted his time to writing. He is best known as author of *History of Napoleon Bonaparte* (1855). Also among his major works, is *History of the Civil War in America* (Vol. 1 published 1864; Vol. 2, 1866) .

¹³ *The Century War Book* presents major battles and leaders of the Civil War. Illustrations were contributed by union and confederate officers. It was published in 1894 and prepared for popular reading.

The subject of the afternoon was "The Life of Mary Lyon"¹⁴, and the meeting was led by Mrs. Sturdivant.

The meeting adjourned to meet Nov. second with Mrs. Sturdivant.

There was no meeting of the club on Nov. second, as the Sturdivant residence disappeared on October thirtieth by means of fire.

A. F. S. Sturdivant, Sec.

November 9, 1909

On Nov. 9 the Club met with Mrs. Osgood, fourteen members and two guests being present. Records read and approved.

After the Roll Call was responded to with appropriate items, a letter from Mrs. Miller was read, thanking the club members for their gift to her. A vote was then taken making Mrs. Miller an honorary member of the club, to be notified by the secretary.

Mrs. Anna Blanchard led the meeting, the subject being "The History of the Colored Race." Mrs. Blanchard read a very interesting article which she had written and she further read an article from the

¹⁴ Mary Lyon (1797-1849) was an American pioneer in women's education. In 1834, she established the Wheaton Female Seminary in Norton, Massachusetts (now Wheaton College). She then established Mr. Holyoke Female Seminary in South Hadley, Massachusetts. In 1837, she served as its first president. Her vision fused intellectual challenge with moral purpose. She valued socioeconomic diversity and endeavored to make the seminary affordable to students of modest means. Daughter of a farming family in Buckland, MA, Lyon had a hardscrabble childhood. Her father died when she was five and the entire family pitched in to help run the farm. Lyon was 13 when her mother remarried and moved away. Lyon stayed behind in Buckland to keep house for her brother Aaron who took over the farm. She attended several district schools and in 1814 began teaching as well. Eventually, she was able to attend two secondary schools, Sanderson Academy in Ashfield and Byfield Seminary in eastern MA. At Byfield she was befriended by the headmaster Rev. Joseph Emerson. After absorbing Byfield's ethos of rigorous academic standards infused with Christian commitment, Lyon taught at several academies. In 1834, Laban Wheaton and his daughter-in-law called on Mary Lyon for assistance in establishing the Wheaton Female Seminary. Lyon created the first curriculum with the goal that it be equal in quality to those of men's colleges. It opened in 1835 with 50 students and 3 teachers. During these early years, she gradually developed her vision for Mt. Holyoke Female Seminary, where she hoped to attract students from a wider socioeconomic background. The college was unique in that it was founded by people of modest means and served their daughters rather than children of the rich. She was influenced by Rev. Joseph Emerson who believed women should be trained to be teachers rather than "to please the other set."

“Outlook” by Booker Washington¹⁵ on “Mr. Grove the Colored Potato King”¹⁶, and another from the “Outlook” by Leroy Perry, on “A Southern View of the Negro Problem.”

Mrs. A. A. Sweetser read an original Sonnet pertaining to the fire of Oct. 30, which set forth in inimitable style the destitute condition of the sufferers, and making a presentation to them of unlimited pickles and preserves from the club members.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn on Nov. 16.

A.F.S. Sturdivant. Sec.

November 16, 1909

On Nov. 16 the Club met with Mrs. Dunn, 10 members being present. The chair was occupied by the Vice President in the absence of the President. After the reading of the records, the Roll Call was responded to by appropriate items and current events.

It was voted that hereafter the Roll Call should be responded to with current event items unless the members had items of particular interest pertaining to the subject of the afternoon.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser reported in regard to the Federation Meeting, held at Yarmouth Nov. 10.

Mrs. Dunn led the meeting of the afternoon with the Life of Mary Livermore as a subject.

Adjournment to meet with Mrs. George Blanchard on Nov. 30.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

¹⁵ Booker Taliaferro Washington (1856-1915) was an African American educator, author, orator and advisor to Presidents of the United States. Between 1890 and 1915, he became the dominant leader of the African-American community. His base was Tuskegee Institute, a historically black college in Alabama. As lynching in the South reached a peak in 1895, he gave a speech known as “Atlantic Compromise”. That speech brought him national fame. He mobilized a nationwide coalition of middle class blacks, church leaders and white philanthropists with the long term goal of building the community’s economic strength by focusing on self-help and schooling. One of his goals was to end disenfranchisement of the vast majority of African Americans who still lived in the south.

¹⁶ Junius George Groves (1859-1925) was born enslaved in Green County, Kentucky. Twenty years later as a freedman possessing less than one dollar in his pocket, Groves made his way to eastern Kansas during the time of Exo-duster Movement of ex-slaves from the South. Initially he found work as a farm laborer, but soon began to engage in sharecropping. Groves got his start in the potato farming business when he share-cropped nine acres of land with farmer Jake Williamson. At first Williamson paid Groves 40 cents a day. After 3 months, he paid 75 cents a day. Soon Groves received one third of crops farmed on Williamson’s nine acres. In the first year of sharecropping Groves made \$125, which he used to buy land of his own, a milk cow and other investments toward the next crop. In 1880, he married Matilda Emily Stewart of Kansas City and she worked by his side in the potato field. The second year, he had 2 acres. The third year, he had ten more, and the same year bought 80 acres from a Native American for \$500. Subsequently, he acquired a sawmill and five adjoining farms, making a total holding of 760 acres. In 1902, due to beating by 11,500 bushels his closest competitor, Groves was named by the USDA “Potato King of the World”.

November 30, 1909

The Club met with Mrs. George Blanchard, 10 members being present. The Roll Call was followed with the afternoon's program on Ship Building, which was in the hands of Mrs. Adams, who read an article on the subject which she had written.

She then asked Miss Nellie Sweetser to read "The Building of the Ship,"¹⁷ Mrs. Wallace Merrill "The Shipbuilders,"¹⁸ Mrs. Anna Blanchard, "The Phantom Sails,"¹⁹ and Mrs. Sturdivant "The Uncle of Rivermouth."²⁰

Adjourned to meet Dec. 7 with Mrs. Hall.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

December 7, 1909

The Club was entertained by Mrs. Hall, 11 members being present.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Buxton whose subject was "Egypt and the Lost Arts." She read most interestingly on the subject from "Ridpath's History of Egypt"²¹ and showed interesting illustrations of the subject.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn Dec. 14.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

¹⁷ Poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

¹⁸ Poem by John Greenleaf Whittier. Fifth poem in group, "Songs of Labor poems.

¹⁹ Possibly Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "The Phantom Ship" – its last stanza famous for the line "Thou too, Sail on, oh Ship of State."

²⁰ Probably refers to Thomas Bailey Aldrich's novel, *The Story of a Bad Boy* (1870), which is a semi-autobiographical novel based on Aldrich's boyhood in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The fictional town of Rivermouth is based on Portsmouth, New Hampshire. When his father's banking job fails, Tom is invited by his uncle to work in a counting house in New York. The story tells how a young troublemaker can grow up to be a successful adult.

²¹ John Clark Ridpath (1840-1900), American scholar, educator and historian, was born near the village of Fillmore, Indiana. His early education was acquired at frontier schools, but his appetite for books was insatiable. At 17, he became a teacher. At age 19 he entered Indiana Ashbury College (later DePauw University). In 1869, he became professor of English Literature at Ashbury College. In 1879, he was elected Vice President of the institution and through his guidance the institution was placed under the patronage of Washington C. DePauw. Subsequently, Ashbury College became known as DePauw University. In 1880, Ridpath received the degree of L. L. D. from Syracuse University. *Ridpath's History of the World* comprised 8 volumes and was published in 1894.

December 14, 1909

The club was entertained by Mrs. Dunn, ten members being present.

After the reading of the records and the calling of the Roll, Mrs. F. R. Sweetser took charge of the meeting, her subject being the Life of Jennie Lind.²² Very interesting account of her life and musical career was read by those present at Mrs. Sweetser's request. After closing the account an original poem, written by Rev. Mr. Perry, entitled "The Song" was read by Miss Nellie Sweetser.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard Dec. 28.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

On Dec. 19 Mrs. Miller passed away very suddenly at South Freeport, Me.

December 28, 1909

On Dec. 28 the club met with Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard, nine members being present. After the reading of the records a letter from Mrs. Miller was read, which was written by her on Dec. 13, expressing her pleasure at being made an Honorary Member by the Club.

A vote was taken authorizing the secretary to write a letter to Mr. Miller expressing the feeling of loss to the club as a whole and to the members individually in the death of Mrs. Miller.

The program which was on "The Art of Printing" was interesting and skillfully handled by Mrs. Hall, who read a paper on the subject, which she had prepared with great pain and exceeding care.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 4 with Mrs. Buxton.

Jan.4 was so bitterly cold that the meeting was omitted.

January 5, 1910

On January 5 the ladies of the club met with Mrs. Dunn to sew for the sufferers from fire on Oct. 30, 1909. A much enjoyable day was passed, a delicious dinner eaten, and the hospitality of the hostess warmly appreciated.

A great deal of sewing was accomplished and Mrs. Sturdivant wished to express her deep appreciation of the ladies' kindness and to make a record of the days events in the books of the club, but the motion was vetoed.

²² Johanna Marie Lind (1820-1887) was a Swedish opera singer, often known as the "Swedish Nightingale." One of the most highly regarded singers of the nineteenth century, she undertook a tour of America in 1850, at the invitation of the showman P. T. Barnum. She gave 93 large scale concerts for him, and then continued to tour under her own management. She earned more than \$350,000 from these concerts and donated the proceeds to charities.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

January 11, 1910

Club met with Mrs. Adams. Meeting called to order by the Pres. On the absence of the secretary Mrs. Wyman was appointed sec.pro tem. Records read and approved.

Voted that the florists bill for Mrs. Miller's funeral be paid from the Club treasury.

A letter was read from Mr. Miller thanking the Club for the flowers.

The subject of Gentlemen's night was discussed by the members. Decided to have Gentlemen's night Jan. 25 at Mrs. Thomes'. Mrs. Osgood, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Dunn, committee on program and entertainment for the evening. Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Thomes, refreshment committee. Voted that members be assessed to defray expenses, if necessary.

After the roll call to which thirteen members responded, the afternoon's program was in charge of Miss Nellie Sweetser. Subject: Catherine Booth.²³ Miss Sweetser read an interesting record of Mrs. Booth's life and work as given by Sarah K. Bolton in her "Famous Leaders Among Women." Also an article from the Outlook, telling of the beginning, growth and achievements of the Salvation Army.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman Jan. 18.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec. pro tem

²³ Catherine Booth (1829-1890) along with her husband William co- founded the Salvation Army. Because of her influential role, she became known as "Mother of the Salvation Army." Born as Catherine Mumford in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, England to Methodist parents, she was a serious and sensitive young girl. She had a strong upbringing and allegedly read the Bible through eight times before age of 12. During adolescence a spiral curvature led to years of enforced idleness. She became consumed with the problem of alcoholism. As a young girl, she served as secretary of a Juvenile Temperance Society. When she refused to condemn Methodist Reformers in 1850, the Wesleyans expelled her. In 1851, she met William Booth who also had been expelled by the Wesleyans for reform sympathies. William recited a temperance poem "The Grog-seller's Dream" which appealed to Catherine, who had embraced the new Methodist passion for abstinence. They soon fell in love and became engaged. Three years later, in 1855, they married. In defense of the American preacher Mrs. Phoebe Palmer, Catherine wrote a pamphlet which was a short powerful apology for women's rights to preach the gospel. She made three major points: women neither naturally nor morally are inferior to men; there is no scriptural reason to deny women a public ministry; what the Bible urged the Holy Spirit had ordained and blessed. Soon she herself found her own sphere as a powerful preacher. She spoke to people in homes, especially to alcoholics. Eventually Catherine began to hold her own campaigns. A woman preacher was a rare phenomenon in a world where women had few civil rights and no place in the professions. In 1865, she and her husband William began the work of the Christian Mission in London's East End. William preached to the poor, and Catherine to the wealthy, gaining financial support for their Mission. She organized Food to the Million shops where poor could buy a cheap meal and at Christmas, hundreds of meals were distributed to the needy. When 1878, the name was changed to The Salvation Army, William became known as the General and Catherine known as "Mother of the Salvation Army." She instigated many changes in the new organization, designed the flag as well as bonnets for women.

January 19, 1910

January 18 being stormy, the Club met on Jan. 19 with Mrs. Wyman – ten members being present with the President in the chair.

After the reading and approving of the previous meeting's records and the response to the roll call, the program was in the hands of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser who handled the subject of "The Fisheries" in a masterly manner, giving a brief description of the location, use and abuse of clams, lobsters, oysters, and fish.

An article entitled New England Fisheries was read by the members, at Mrs. Sweetser's request and Mrs. Sweetser read a very graphic account of cod fishing. The poem "Homeward Bound" by Frank Tooker²⁴ and an item "Lost" were also given.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes Jan. 25 and celebrate Gentlemen's night. Next reg. meeting to be held Feb. 1 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

January 25, 1910

The Club gathered with Mrs. Thomes to celebrate Gentlemen's Night, with 27 present. The Records of the year's work were read and two original poems were given by Miss Nellie Sweetser. The Roll Call following.

After a bountiful and delicious repast, there was a contest between the gentlemen in describing their wives' wedding gowns. The prize was won by Mr. Buxton who seemed to have a vivid idea of his wife's appearance. He then sang two songs, "The Jars Farewell" and "The Kerry Dances"²⁵ which were followed by chorus singing.

Adjourned at 11:30.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

February 1, 1910

Feb.1 the Club met with Mrs. Albert Sweetser, eleven members being present with the President in the chair. A vote of thanks to the committee for Gentlemen's Night and to Mr. and Mrs. Thomes, our host and hostess was taken unanimously.

²⁴ Lewis Frank Tooker (1856-1926) published a collection of poems titled *The Call of the Sea: And Other Poems* (1902). "Homebound Bound: is on page 28 and "The Lost Kingdom" is on page 58.

²⁵ The "Kerry Dances" is an Irish folk Song by James Lyman Molloy (1837-1909). It was written in 1879.

After the reading of the records and the calling of the Roll, the subject of the afternoon and the "Life of Clara Barton" ²⁶ was in the hands of Mrs. Wyman, who read an interesting account of the formation of the Red Cross Society and Miss Barton's connection with it.

Miss Sweetser read a poem written by Miss Barton in response to a toast, "The Women who went to the Field."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Fred Sweetser on Feb. 8.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

February 8, 1910

The Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, thirteen members and one guest being present.

After the reading of the records and the calling of the Roll, a letter was read from Mr. Miller in reference to the one sent him by the Club at the time of Mrs. Miller's death.

²⁶ Clarissa "Clara" Harlowe Barton (1821-1912) was a pioneering nurse who founded the American Red Cross. During the Civil War she worked as a hospital nurse. At that time, few women did humanitarian work outside the home. She was born in North Oxford, Mississippi. Her father was a member of the local militia and selectman. When she was just ten years old, she assigned herself the task of nursing her brother David back to health after he fell from the roof of a barn and received a severe injury. She learned how to distribute the prescribed medicine as well as how to place leeches on his body to bleed him. At the time, that was standard treatment. She continued to care for him until he made a full recovery. In 1839 at age 17, she received her first teacher's certificate. She became an educator for 12 years in Canada and western Georgia. In 1852, she contracted to open a free school in Bordentown. In 1855, she moved to Washington D. C. and began work as a clerk in the US Patent Office. Before her father died, she conversed with him about the war effort. Her father convinced her that it was her duty as a Christian to help the soldiers. In April 1862, following his death, she returned to Washington to gather medical supplies. In August 1862, she finally gained permission to work on the front lines, where she cleaned field hospitals, applied dressings and served food to wounded soldiers in close proximity to several battles included Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. In 1864, she was appointed "lady in charge" of hospitals at the front of the Army. After the Civil War, Clara Barton discovered that thousands of letters to the War Department from distraught relatives were going unanswered because the soldiers they were concerned about were buried in unmarked graves. Motivated to do something about the situation, she contacted President Lincoln in hopes she would be allowed to respond officially to these unanswered inquiries. Receiving permission, she started "The Search for the Missing Men". During the summer of 1865, she helped find and properly bury 13,000 individuals from Andersonville, GA. She continued the task during the next four years, helping bury and mark the graves of 20,000 more Union soldiers. After a countrywide tour during which she lectured on her war experiences, she was mentally and physically exhausted and under doctor's orders traveled to a distant place far removed from her preoccupations. In 1869, during a trip to Geneva, Switzerland, Barton was introduced to the Red Cross and soon was invited to be the American representative. When Barton returned to the US, she inaugurated a movement to gain recognition from the US government for the international Committee of the Red Cross. In 1873, she began work on this project. President Rutherford Hayes expressed his opinion, widely held at that time, US would never again face a calamity like the Civil War. Finally, during the administration of Chester Arthur, Barton succeeded, using the argument that the Red Cross could respond to crises other than war, such as natural disasters like earthquakes, forest fires, and hurricanes.

The subject of "Axe and Cant Hook, Saw and Plane" was then expounded by Mrs. Wallace Merrill, who read a paper which she had prepared very carefully; and poems of Bryant, Whittier, and Holman Day²⁷ were read.

The matter of serving supper to the L.P.P.C.E. of Yarmouth on Feb. 22 was discussed.

Adjourned to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser on Feb. 14.

February 15, 1910

Club met with Miss Nellie Sweetser. 9 members present. Meeting called to order by the Vice President. Records read and approved. The meeting on Feb. 22nd postponed indefinitely.

After the Roll Call the subject – Transportation – was under the leadership of Mrs. Burnell. An interesting paper which she had prepared was read, after which the following articles were read by the club members: Climbing a Mountain on a Wire Rope, A German Swedish Railroad Ferry, and The Motor Car in London.

Mrs. A. A. Sweetser repeated from memory, "The One Horse Shay."²⁸

Meeting adjourned to meet Mar. 1st with Mrs. Burnell. Leader Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. Subject: Florence Nightingale.

Elizabeth Buxton, Sec. pro tem

March 15, 1910

Club meeting omitted until March 15 on account of serious illness among members and their families.

On March 15 the Club met with Mrs. Mary Sweetser. There were eight members and two visitors present. In the absence of the president, the meeting was opened by the vice president. The records were read and approved and the meeting was then placed in the hands of Mrs. Mary Sweetser.

Her subject for the afternoon was The making of a Shoe, and her paper was prepared in her usual painstaking manner. Mention was made of the sandals worn by the people of Bible times, the wooden

²⁷ Holman Day (1865-1935) was born in Vassalboro, Maine and graduated from Colby College in 1887. He served as editor of the *Dexter Gazette*, was the Maine representative for the *Boston Herald* and managing editor of the *Lewiston Daily Sun*.

²⁸ Poem by Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Deacon's Masterpiece or the Wonderful One Hoss Shay." A one horse shay is a light, covered, two wheeled carriage for two persons, drawn by a single horse. The body is chair like in shape and has one passenger seat, which is positioned above the axle which is hung by leather braces from wooden springs connected to the shaft. The one horse shay is a US adaptation of the French chaise and originated in Union, Maine.

shoes of the Dutch, those of the Esquimans [sic] made of fur, the moccasins of the Indians fashioned from skins.

A bit of local history was of much interest to the members who had been personally acquainted with the persons mentioned.

Letters were read relating to shoe manufacturers, from Alice Vannez [sp?], an employe of a large Brockton shoe shop, and from a leather manufactory in Philadelphia, also from the Bureau of Industrial Statistics, the latter stated that there were thirty-seven shoe shops in Maine, ten of those in Auburn.

Sample of kid were shown, some boots formerly used by resident shoe-makers and beautiful samples of beaded moccasins and those made by Old town Indians.

Miss Nellie Sweetser then read Whittier's poem "The Shoemaker," after which the meeting adjourned to meet March 22nd with Mrs. Hall.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

March 22, 1910

March 22. The Club met with Mrs. Hall. On account of continuing illness among the members there were only six present. President occupied the chair.

After the Roll Call Mrs. Adams took charge, her subject being Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The afternoon was most interestingly spent listening to Elbert Hubbard's account of the poetess and to some of the poems written by Mrs. Browning.²⁹

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams on March 29.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

March 29, 1910

March 29 the Club met with Mrs. Adams, five members and one guest being present. In the absence of all superior officers, the meeting was opened by the secretary, followed the reading of the records of the two previous meetings.

Mrs. Thomes was in charge of the afternoon program which was the continuation of the History of Maine, given by her at a previous meeting. The members read at Mrs. Thomes request, from the "History of Maine" by John Abbot and Edward Elwell.

²⁹ Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861). Refer to footnote 15 in Chapter two, Minutes (1906-1909.)

A letter was read from the Chairman of the District organization inviting the Club to meet with Mrs. Flagg, the President of the Federation of Clubs, on the occasion of the Midsummer Field Day federation at Great Diamond Island.

The letter urged the We Neighbors Club to join the Association and enclosed a copy of the Constitution and By Laws for our consideration.

As so few were present the letter was said upon the table.

Adjourned to meet April 5 with Mrs. Dunn. The subject to be vegetables and grains and all members to contribute appropriate items.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

April 5, 1910

Mrs. Dunn entertained the Club in the double capacity of hostess and leader. Nine members and one guest were present. The reading of two records and the calling of the Roll were followed by the Program for the afternoon.

Mrs. Dunn read an article on the cultivation of Rice, and an article on Corn was read. Miss Nellie Sweetser gave Whittier's "Corn Song." Mrs. F. R. Sweetser read of the "Sweet Corn Examples", and Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser "The First Tomato". Mrs. Dunn read of "Peanuts". Mrs. Adams of "Cocoa". Mrs. Wyman of "Tobacco". Mrs. Dunn of "Coffee" and Mrs. Mary Sweetser of Sugar. "Docentry"³⁰ the new art of teaching was touched upon.

The letter from the Chairman of the District Association was again read to the Club.

Adjourned to meet Apr.12 with Mrs. Buxton.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

April 12, 1910

The Club met with Mrs. Buxton, eleven being present.

³⁰ The article "Docentry A New Profession" by Mary Bronson Hartt appeared in *Outlook*, March 26, 1910, p. 701-707. This article pertains to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, where the docent, or expert guide, arranges special nature exhibits for the blind.

After the reading of the records and the calling of the Roll, Mrs. Anna Blanchard gave the Club the pleasure of an afternoon with Commander Perry on his Trip to the North Pole, as given by him in Hamilton's Magazine.³¹

Adjourned to meet April 20 with Mrs. Osgood. Mrs. Osgood to be leader with California as a subject.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec.

April 26, 1910

On April 26, the Club met with Mrs. Osgood with eight present, bad weather having prevented the meeting at an earlier date.

The subject of California was made very interesting with Mrs. Osgood as leader, who read something of the early history and mentioned Mr. Thomes life in that state.

Mrs. Thomes showed a map of Mr. Thomes' ranch and gave an account of the life there and mentioned many interesting items and showed us pictures and [?].

The club members read from the *Century Magazine* of 1890-91 of the First Emigrant train to California in 1877, written by John Birdwell.³²

Miss Nellie Sweetser read Marshall's own story of the discovery of gold in California.

The meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams on May 3, the meeting to be for business and to be followed by a lunch and social hour and to be the final meeting for the year.

³¹ Admiral Robert E. Peary (1856-1920) was an American explorer who claimed to reach the geographic North Pole with his expedition on April 6, 1909. He was born 1856 in Cresson, Pennsylvania. After his father died in 1859, his mother took her with him and settled in Portland, Maine. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1877 with a civil engineering degree, joined the Navy and in 1881 was commissioned as a civil engineer with the relative rank of Lieutenant. Initially assigned to the tropics, he resolved to be the first man to reach the North Pole. In 1886, Peary made his first expedition to the Arctic, intending to cross Greenland by dogsled. He was given six months leave from the Navy and received \$500 from his mother for supplies. He wanted to make a solo trek but was advised against it. Instead, with a young Danish official he advanced 100 miles north before running out of food, but returned knowing more about the situation. In 1888, he married Josephine Diebitsch, a business school valedictorian who thought modern women should be more than just a mother. The Newlyweds honeymooned in Atlantic City. Peary's mother accompanied them on their honeymoon and moved into their Philadelphia apartment. Josephine told Peary his mother should return to Maine. In the first 23 years of marriage Peary spent only 3 with his wife and family. In 1891, Peary returned to Greenland, taking a second more difficult route north. The next expedition occurred 1905-1906. The final expedition, 1908-1909, was successful. On April 6, 1909, Peary established "Camp Jessup", allegedly 5 miles from the pole. Upon return to civilization, his success was muted by the claim of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, a surgeon and member of the 1891-1892 Peary Expedition. Cook claimed he had reached the pole in 1908.

³² John Birdwell (1819-1900) wrote *The First Emigrant Train to California*, published by *Century Magazine*, 1890. In 1841 at age 22, he set forth to California.

A.F.S.Sturdivant. Sec.

May 3, 1910

On May 3rd the Club gathered with Mrs. Adams for a grand and final occasion for the season with fourteen present.

The reading of the records was followed by the calling of the Roll and the treasurer's report, which was approved.

A nominating committee was appointed to report on a selection of officers for the ensuing year. Mrs. Dunn was elected as Treasurer, the other officers being: President, Evelyn Sweetser, Vice Pres. Mrs. Sturdivant, Secretary, Mrs. Wyman.

The Chair then appointed a Program Committee to consist of Miss Nellie Sweetser, Mrs. Burnell and Mrs. Buxton.

A Field Day committee was next appointed by the Chair, to consist of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, and Mrs. Thomes.

The matter of a Field Day was next discussed and it was decided to celebrate in sometime in June, if possible.

Mrs. Adams next suggested the idea of having the Club take up some special work aside from the regular program. Mrs. Wyman then made a point of having a general invitation given to the Ladies of Cumberland Centre to join our Club and Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser made a motion that the secretary attend to the matter of having such an invitation given before the Club Meeting in the fall. The motion was seconded and passed.

The meeting then adjourned to meet again at the call of the Field Day Committee.

Then followed a bountiful and delicious repast and a season of social intercourse which served as a fitting finale to the meetings of the year.

A.F.S.Sturdivant, Sec.

June 21, 1910

On Tuesday, June 21, 1910 the "We Neighbors" celebrated their Annual Field Day by a picnic at Bruce Hill. There were thirty four present including the families and friends from the Greely Club. Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. Geo. Blanchard and Mrs. Thomes served as Field Day Committee and to them we were indebted for a very pleasant outing.

After a picnic dinner which was enjoyed by all, the time was spent in a social way, sweet strains from the Chonograph,³³ adding much to the pleasure of the afternoon. Before departing a note of thanks was extended to the committee in charge.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

August 2, 1910

On Tuesday Aug. 2, eight members of our Club responded to an invitation of the Greely Club to join them in celebrating their Field Day at Riverton.³⁴

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

October 4, 1910

The We Neighbors Club held the first meeting of the season with Mrs. Wyman, eleven members being present. Meeting was called to order by the president. After the reading and approval of the records, the program committee gave a short report explaining the program for the coming year. Mrs. Buxton suggested that the matter of having programs printed be considered by the program committee for next year. The treasurer report was given and roll call responded to by current-events.

The program for the afternoon was then in the hands of Mrs. Adams. Subject: a review of Parliamentary Law. Ten chapters of Shattuck's "Woman's Manuel" were reviewed and points explained and discussed.

It was voted that the secretary be instructed to keep as full an account of the doings and sayings of the club as she sees fit.

Voted that as a club we conform to Parliamentary Law in the choice of chairman of committees.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes on October 11.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

³³ A chronograph is a specific type of watch used as a stopwatch combined with a display watch. However, reference here is made to chonograph, which may have been a forerunner to the victrola.

³⁴ Riverton Trolley Park was established in 1896. At the turn of the century, the Park was one of Portland's premier attractions. Served by a trolley that departed from Monument Square, the Park contained a casino, an amphitheater, a dance hall, and a wildlife petting zoo. People enjoyed leisurely strolls through the woods, quiet boat rides on the Presumpscot River, concerts at the bandstand, croquet games on spacious lawns, picnics in rustic woodlands, and vaudeville shows at the open air theater. The Park closed in 1929.

October 11, 1910

Club met with Mrs. Thomes with eleven members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

The meeting was then given over to the leaders of the afternoon Mrs. Dunn who took up the remaining ten chapters of the "Woman's Manual" each member answering the questions assigned to her at the previous meeting.

On account of the Harvest Supper the Club adjourned to meet on Wednesday Oct. 19 with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Laura L. Wyman Sec.

October 19, 1910

On this date the Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Eleven present. Records read and approved and roll call responded to by current events or items of interest in regard to hospitals or nursing.

The subject for the afternoon was "Florence Nightingale"³⁵ and the leader Mrs. A. A. Sweetser read a very interesting sketch of her life & work from the Outlook. During the afternoon other short sketches were read also the poem "The Charge of Balachana" & Santa Filemena". The concluding number of the program was an article from the Cosmopolitan entitled "Not enough Babies to go around". This was instructive and entertaining to all. Mrs. Buxton announced her subject for the next meeting and asked for items on milk for the roll call.

³⁵ Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was a celebrated English social reformer and statistician and the founder of modern nursing. Born in 1820 into a rich, upper class British family then living in Florence, Italy, she was named after the city of her birth. One year later, in 1821, her family moved back to England. In 1837, Florence Nightingale underwent the first of several experiences she believed were calls from God, an experience which prompted a strong desire to devote her life to the service of others. In her youth, she respected her family's opposition to her working as a nurse, and only announced her decision to enter the field in 1844. Despite the intense anger of her mother and sister, she rebelled against the expected role for a woman of her status and worked hard to educate herself in the art and science of nursing. Nightingale's most famous contribution came during the Crimean War, which became her central focus upon receiving reports of horrific conditions for the wounded. On October 21, 1854, she and a staff of 38 women volunteer nurses that she had trained and 15 Catholic nuns were sent to the Ottoman Empire. In November 1854, her team found medicines in short supply and hygiene neglected. Mass infections were common. During her first winter, 4,077 soldiers died. Ten times more soldiers died from illnesses such as typhus, typhoid, cholera and dysentery than from battle wounds. During the Crimean War, Nightingale gained the nickname "The Lade with the Lamp" based on a report in *The Times*: "She is a 'ministering angel' ... as her slender form glides quietly along each corridor, every poor fellows face softens with gratitude at the sight of her. When all medical officers have retired for the night and silence and darkness have settled down on those miles of prostrate sick, she may be observed alone, with a little lamp in hand, making her solitary rounds." The phrase was further popularized by Longfellow's 1857 poem "Santa Filomena": "Lo! In that house of misery/A lady with a lamp I see/ Pass through the glimmering gloom/And flit from room to room."

Adjourned at four o'clock to meet with Miss Sweetser Oct. 20.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

October 25, 1910

The Club met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with eight members and one guest present. In the absence of the President and Vice President, the meeting was called to order by the secretary and Mrs. Dunn was chosen president pro tem.

A letter was read from Mrs. Davis thanking the club for the year book which was sent to her. After the approval of the records and roll call, Mrs. Buxton the leader for the afternoon gave us a most excellent and profitable program on the subject "Milk".

She first read an article "Facts about milk" then followed a poem read by Miss Sweetser "I felt love to follow the Plow Barefoot". Another article which proved very instructive was "Some queer things made from Milk". Then Mrs. Adams gave us the poem appropriate to the season, "Raining." Perhaps the most interesting article of all was "How dry Milk is made." This article was illustrated by Mrs. Buxton by samples of Milk Flour which all tasted with more or less relish. Last and by no means least our club poet gave an original poem, "A Glass of Milk" which was followed by hearty applause. Before adjournment Mrs. Buxton passed "Milk Chocolate" for refreshment.

Meeting then adjourned to meet Nov. 1 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

November 1, 1910

On November 1, the Club met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser with twelve members & two guests present. The records were read and approved.. Mrs. Dunn read a letter from Mrs. W. H. Robinson, Sec of the Cumb. Co. Diet Association of Women's Clubs inviting We Neighbors "to be present at their next meeting at Westbrook Nov. 3.

After the roll call the meeting was in the hands of Mrs. Hall who opened the program with a short essay on "Poetry" which she had written concluding with a poem of her own composition. Then the members in turn gave the result of their poetic ability, there were all sorts of effusions from the simple rhyme of less gifted sister to the Buxton sonnet, the Thomes elegy, the Burnell ballad and many other unclassified jingles.

In conclusion poets of local fame were mentioned and a poem by Mr. Jesse Sweetser was read.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Dunn.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

November 8, 1910

On this date We Neighbors met with Mrs. Dunn fifteen members and one guest present. After the approval of the record, the roll call was responded to by current events and one belated poem.

On this day We Neighbors enjoyed a social afternoon with Mrs. Burnell as leader. She had prepared two contests for our amusement: one of which taxed the judgement and the other the memory of those present. Miss Jennie Dunn received the prize for the first contest and Mrs. Patterson for the second. Before adjournment autograph of books were written.

On account of Circle Fair Club adjourned to meet on Wed, Nov. 16 with Mrs. Osgood.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

November 16, 1910

Our Club met with Mrs. Osgood. Eleven members were present.

Meeting was called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. At the request of the Club, Mrs. Fred Sweetser read a paper which she wrote in 1905 giving a history of the Club up to that time.

Voted to put on record this article of Mrs. Sweetser.

Voted that the secretary have charge of making a record of the work done by the Club from 1905 to 1910 and that she ask for what help she made need from the members of the Club.

After the roll call Mrs. Patterson had charge of the program with the "Scotch people" as her subject. She first read a short history of early Scotland and also of the clans. An interesting article from the Bay View Mag was next read, taking up some of the writers, Scotch art, the "Fisher Folk" & "Crofters".³⁶

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Hall.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

November 30, 1910

Club met with Mrs. Hall, there were seven members present.

Meeting called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. A letter was read from the Greely Club inviting "We Neighbors" to a special day meeting on Wednesday Dec. 14 at Mrs. A. A. Sweetser's. It was a unanimous vote that we accept with pleasure this very cordial invitation.

³⁶ *The Bay view Magazine*, volume 14, March 1907, contains articles titled "Among the Fishermen of Scotland," "The Crofters of Scotland," "A note on Scotch Art."

After the business session roll call, Mrs. Thomes read from a book entitled "The House Party" and the amusing and entertaining story "Aunt Nancy's Annuity."³⁷

Adjourned to meet Dec. 6 with Mrs. Wallace Merrill.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

December 6, 1910

On Dec. 6 the Club met with Mrs. Wallace Merrill. On account of the extreme cold but five members were present but our members were reinforced by five guests.

After the approval of the records and the roll call, the meeting was in charge of the leader for the afternoon Mrs. Wyman who selected as her subject "Paper Making". She first gave briefly the early history of paper and then told of the process of paper making and of her trip through the Westbrook Paper Mills.

At the close of the program it was voted to send a post card shower to Mrs. Dunn to reach her on the morning of Dec. 9.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Howard Buxton.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

December 13, 1910

On Dec. 13 Mrs. Buxton entertained the Club. After the reading and approval of the records of the last meeting, Mrs. Adams told of Mrs. Dunn's pleasure upon receiving the post card shower of the club. There were twelve members and one guest present.

After the roll call the President spoke of the meeting of the Greely Club at her house on Wednesday to which meeting the We Neighbors' Club is invited and requested that the members of the Club be prepared with Current Event items in case there might be any occasion for their use.

³⁷ "Aunt Nancy's Annuity" is one of the stories included in the book *The House Party*, which is composed of stories told at a gathering of famous American authors. P. L. Ford (1865-1902) edited this collection of stories and published them in 1901.

The meeting was then taken in charge by Mrs. George Blanchard whose subject was The Mormons. She read some interesting articles and showed appropriate photographs. Mrs. Buxton read an item about the Conference of Mormons in Maine.³⁸

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant on Dec. 27.

Mrs. Sturdivant, Sec. pro. tem

December 14, 1910

On Dec. 14 our Club was very pleasantly entertained by the Greely Club at the home of Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. After a social hour a short entertainment was given by members of the Greely Club after which refreshments were served.

On account of serious illness and death in our community the Club for Dec. 27 was postponed to Jan. 3 with Mrs. Burnell.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

January 3, 1911

On January 3 the Club was entertained by Mrs. Burnell. Ten members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. It was voted to elect a standing committee whose duty should be to see that pinks were sent to our members who were ill. Mrs. Buxton was appointed to fill the position.

Mrs. Sturdivant thanked the Club very heartily for the gift which she received. After a little discussion, on the motion of Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, it was voted that Mrs. Sturdivant be substituted for Mrs. Blanchard as hostess on January 20 and that on this date we would accept Mrs. Sturdivant's invitation which was postponed from Dec. 27.

Voted to omit roll call.

Subj for the afternoon "A Zoological Garden," leader Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Mrs. S. after defining zoology read a short clipping from Prof. Morton's Lecture on Zoology at So. Portland. She then talked

³⁸ Arriving by canoe, missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints crossed the Piscataqua River to Maine in 1832. They searched door-to-door for converts and started a congregation in Saco, York County. More missionaries arrived and one mass conversion brought 30 individuals into the Church. In 1835, Maine had nearly 320 Church members. However, Church activities slowed in Maine after most Churchmen joined the mass exodus west to escape persecution. In 1904, missionary efforts resumed with Sunday School meetings held in convert's homes.

interestingly of her own observation of some of our wild animals. The remainder of the time was spent in reading sketches from Theodore Roosevelt's "African Game Trails".³⁹

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant Jan. 10

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

January 10, 1911

On Jan. 10 our members to the number of fourteen gathered at the home of Mrs. Sturdivant for the afternoon & evening.

In the afternoon the regular club meeting was held which was called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. A letter was read from Mrs. Adams thinking the Club for the plant sent to her during her recent illness. After the roll call, the program for the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. F. S. Blanchard. Subject: "Our Wild Birds"

Mrs. Blanchard read of the habits and haunts of our birds, our directions for bird study and told of the necessary equipment for such study.

Before adjournment it was voted to indefinitely postpone Gentleman's night which was appointed for the 17th and that for this date the assigned leader and hostess for Jan. 10 be substituted. Adjourned our regular meeting at four o'clock.

The time until the supper hour was spent by the ladies in social chat. Duets by the Misses Sturdivant and Miss Ethel Doughty were much enjoyed. By seven o'clock the gentlemen had arrived and at this time a delicious oyster stew was served by our host and hostess. If the pangs of hunger were not quite satisfied by this tempting dish, they were quieted by the sandwiches, cake, fancy pies, and coffee which followed.

The evening passed very pleasantly with story-telling and choruses engaging Mrs. Geo Blanchard pianist. Mr. Buxton's songs were, as always, much enjoyed. The company of thirty two broke up at a late hour as if reluctant to leave this beautiful new home where they had spent such an enjoyable evening.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

January 17, 1911

Club met on January 17 with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard. This was Colonial Afternoon. Many of the members appeared in costumes of "ye olden times", affording much amusement.

³⁹ On March 23, 1909, Theodore Roosevelt, shortly after the completion of his Presidency, set forth on an expedition to Africa. The purpose of the Expedition was to collect specimens for the new Smithsonian Natural History Museum. Among other items Roosevelt brought with him four tons of salt. The Expedition collected around 11,400 plant and animal specimens which took the Smithsonian naturalists eight years to catalogue. Later Roosevelt wrote a detailed account in his book, *African Game Trails* (1910).

Before the meeting was called to order some little time was spent admiring the family treasures and heirlooms brought by the different members. There were eleven members and three guests present.

Records were read and approved and the treasurer's report given and accepted.

Roll call was responded to by current events. Miss Sweetser the leader was unable to be present, but the program as she had arranged it was carried out. Two poems: "Our Ancestors" and "The Old Homestead" by Everett Perry were read. The article "The Old Winter Home" and "How Woodfords [?] got its name" were read by members in turn. A brief historical commary [sp] of the time of the Pilgrims and Puritans completed the program.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams Jan. 24

Laura L Wyman, Sec.

January 24, 1911

Club met with Mrs. Adams. Twelve members and two guests present. In the absence of the President, the meeting was called to order by the Vice President. Records were read and approved. After the roll call, the program was in the hands of Mrs. Hamilton as Mrs. Osgood the assigned leader was unable to be present.

Subject: Elijah Kellogg.⁴⁰ Mrs. Hamilton took up the hour by reading some of the most interesting paper of Prof. Wilmot B. Mitchell's life of Kellogg. Post cards showing both the old and new Harpswell churches were shown.

The question of entertaining the Greely Club was brought up and talked over. It was voted that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to select time and place for this affair. Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Burnell and Mrs. Wyman were appointed to fill this position and report at the next meeting.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard Jan. 31.

⁴⁰ Elijah Kellogg (1813-1901), an American Congregational Minister, was born in Portland, Maine. Kellogg was the son of a minister and missionary to Native Americans. Graduating from Bowdoin in 1840 and continuing his study at Andover Theological Seminary, Kellogg served as minister of Church in Harpswell (1844-1854), as chaplain of the Boston Seaman's Friend Society and as pastor of the Mariner's Church of Boston, 1855-1865. In the 1860s he began writing children's books: the Elm Island Series, the Pleasant Cove Series, the Whispering Pine Series, Forest Glen Series, and Old Good Old Times Series. He concluded his ministry by serving the Church in Topsham, Maine from 1871 until his death in 1901. Wilmot B. Mitchell of Bowdoin edited Elijah Kellogg, *The Man and his work: chapters from his life and selections from his writings* (Boston: Lee and Shepherd, 1903). The Congregational church in Harpswell has been renamed the Elijah Kelly Church in his honor.

January 31, 1911

Club met with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard. Fifteen members and one guest present. Records were read and approved.

It was voted that the presiding officer attend to any breaks in the program which may occur.

Committee on entertaining the Greely Club reported as follows. The time should be March 14th. Place at the home of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Committee on entertainment - Mrs. A. B. Wyman to choose her own helpers. Com. on refreshments - Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, Mrs. Thomes, Mrs. Dunn. Secretary was instructed to send a note of invitation to the Greely Club.

After the roll call the program was in the hands of Mrs. Sturdivant. Subj: English Royalty from 1837-1910. Mrs. Sturdivant read very interestingly of the Personal history of Queen Victoria by Arthur Lawrence Merrill⁴¹ and gave a brief account of the Queen' children. An article on the Coronation of King George was read by Mrs. Buxton. "Sceptre of King George" by Mrs. Hamilton. "Royalty and Genius" by Mrs. Blanchard. When Mrs. Sturdivant continued the personal history of the Queen giving details of her life.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser Feb. 7

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

On account of a severe storm the meeting for Feb 7 was postponed.

February 14, 1911

On account of the illness of Mrs. Osgood the Club met with Mrs. Hamilton. There were thirteen members present. Meeting called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

As Mrs. Thomes the assigned leader was unable to be present, the program was arranged by the President. Mrs. Dunn read a paper written by Mrs. W. L. Merrill on "Who was Confucius and What did he Teach?"⁴² This was followed by a paper on China by Miss Sweetser. Both of these papers were much enjoyed. Mrs. Buxton read and told some interesting facts about the plagues in China and also the Chinese mode of living. Mrs. Sturdivant gave an entertaining account of her trip through Chinatown San Francisco. An article on the Feast of Lanterns⁴³ by Mrs. Hamilton concluded the program.

⁴¹ Arthur Lawrence Merrill, *Life and times of Queen Victoria: to which is added the Life of King Edward VII and sketches of the members of the royal family*, 1901.

⁴² Confucius (551-479 B.C.) was a noted philosopher and teacher during the Spring and Autumn period of Chinese history. His philosophy emphasized ethics and correct social relationships.

⁴³ The Lantern Festival is a Chinese festival celebrated on the 15th day of the first month of the lunar calendar. As early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - 25 A.D.) it was a significant festival. Lanterns can symbolize letting go of the past and welcoming the new. Lanterns almost always symbolize good fortune.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 21 with Mrs. Hall.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

The Club met on Feb.21 with Mrs. Hall. There were ten members and two guests present. The records were read and approved. Mention was made of a letter from the Greely Club accepting the invitation of We Neighbors for Mar. 14.

A pamphlet was read telling of the work of the Bethel Mission among the islands of Penobscot Bay.

After the roll call Mrs. Buxton gave a very interesting and instructive program on the American Women's League.⁴⁴ Telling of the origin, purpose, requirements and how to become a member.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 28 with Mrs. A. H. Buxton.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

February 28, 1911

The Club met with Mrs. A. H. Buxton. There were ten members and two guests present.

After the approval of the records and roll call, Mrs. A. A. Sweetser had charge of the program with the "Boy Scouts,"⁴⁵ as her subject. A most interesting account of this new organization was read from the Outlook describing their uniforms, equipment, badges, teachings, tests etc. Another feature brought out was the nine points of the Scouts law.

⁴⁴ In 1907, the US Postal Service denied use of second class mailing privileges for the *Women's Magazine* and *Women's Farm Journal*, claiming that the magazines were primarily advertising and did not qualify for the lower rate. Edward Gardner Lewis battled the postal authorities for most of 1907. Although he regained the right to mail the magazines at the second class rate, he had lost many of its subscribers. In December 1907, in an effort to rebuild his subscriber base, Lewis established the American Women's League as a subscription gathering organization for his magazines and newspaper. Lewis' plan was for women to qualify for membership by selling \$52 in magazine sales. The fees would be passed to the American Women's League. The League would use funds to provide benefits such as education and security for old age. League membership grew rapidly. 700 chapters formed across the country. Financial difficulties developed and the League struggle to keep its promises. A parallel organization was established in 1911, in response to women's desire for equal rights. This American Women's Republic, a membership fee-based organization was established to help women learn about government in preparation for time when it would have the right to vote.

⁴⁵ In 1909, the Chicago publisher W. D. Boyce was visiting in London, where he encountered a boy who came to be known as the Unknown Scout. Boyce was lost on a foggy street when an unknown scout came to his aid and guided him to his destination. The boy refused Boyce's tip, explaining that he was a Boy Scout and was merely doing his daily good turn. Intrigued, Boyce met with the staff at Boy Scout Headquarters. Upon his return to the US, Boyce incorporated Boy Scouts of America in February 8, 1910. At its incorporation, its stated purpose was "to teach [boys] patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred values." Former President Theodore Roosevelt, who had long complained about the decline in American manhood, became an ardent supporter.

On account of the Town Meeting, Club was adjourned to meet on Wednesday Mr. 8 with Mrs. O. S. Thomes.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

March 8, 1911

Club met at Mrs. Thomes Mar 8 '11. Thirteen members and one guest present. Meeting opened by the President. In absence of the Sec., Mrs. Dunn was chosen Sec. pro. Tem. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Program in charge of Mrs. Burnell who took for her subject Florida. Reading a magazine article on "The New Florida". She showed a large number of interesting post cards of different views of Florida.

A new map showing the new island railway extending to Key West⁴⁶ was shown which added to the interest, also a book of views.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser March 14.

E. G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

March 14, 1911

We neighbors entertained the Greely Club at the home of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. There were present eleven members of the Greely Club and twelve of "We Neighbors" with three guests. After an address of welcome by the President, Mrs. Lena Hamilton was appointed Sec. pro. Tem. Roll call was responded to by current events given to both clubs

An original poem of welcome which was much enjoyed by all was given by Miss Nellie Sweetser.

⁴⁶ The Florida Overseas Railroad was an extension of the FL East coast Railway to Key West, a city located 128 miles beyond the end of the FL peninsula. Henry Flagler (1830-1913), American industrialist and one of the founders of Standard Oil, was a key figure in the development of the east coast of Florida and founder of what became the FL East Coast Railway. Flagler became interested in FL while seeking a warmer climate for his ailing first wife in the late 1870s. Returning to FL in 1881, he became a builder and developer of resort hotels and railroads along the East coast of Florida. Beginning in Saint Augustine, he moved progressively south, helping to develop Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Palm Beach, and Miami. After the US announced in 1905 construction of the Panama Canal, Flagler became particularly interested in linking Key West with the mainland. At the time, Key West was Florida's most populous city and it also was the American deep water port closest to the proposed canal in Panama. Flagler wanted to take advantage of additional trade with Cuba and Latin America as well as trade with the west that the Panama Canal would bring. Initially called "Flagler's Folly" the construction of the overseas Railroad required many engineering innovations as well as vast amounts of labor and monetary resources. At one time, 4000 men were employed. During the 7 year construction, three hurricanes (1906, 1909, and 1910) threatened to halt the project. The project cost exceeded \$50 million. It was completed in 1912, and was widely known as the "Eighth Wonder of the World."

In the absence of Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. Evie Dunn read an amusing extract from "Mr. Pratt." Next was a contest conducted by Miss Grace Merrill. A list of incorrect quotations was passed to each member for correction. The member making the largest number of correct quotations received a prize.

Miss Lulu Frye of the Greely Club received the first prize and Mrs. Evie Dunn the second.

Club adjourned to meet with Miss Laura Wyman in one week.

Vocal and instrumental music was then enjoyed. A most tempting and dainty lunch was served at five o'clock and when the company separated all felt that an occasion of rare interest and pleasure had been enjoyed.

L.J. Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

Miss Sweetser's poem of welcome may be found in the last pages of this book. L.L.W.

Welcome

1.

They've asked me, friends, to welcome you.

I know not how to do it.

If folks will ask too great a task

Sometimes they come to rue it.

2.

We're glad to see you, every one.

The wording does not matter.

The friendly heart can do the part

If thoughts and wits do scatter.

3.

We neighbors Club to Greely Club

Extend most hearty greeting

We hope you'll say when ends the day

"We've had a jolly meeting."

4.

We'd like a bit of sparkling wit
To grace this salutation
If friends back there, who put us here
Had furnished preparation.

5.

But had we sought the papers through
And in the funny column
Found jokes galore you'd seen before
The outcome might be solemn.

6.

May neighbors welcome prove to be
Like housewife's pudding homely
For should the crust be dry as dust
The inside may be comely.

7.

If we would offer deep salaam
We are no Turks to make it
Yet would we say in Eastern way
All ours is yours – pray take it.

Poem written by Miss Nellie Sweetser for Mar. 14, 1911.

March 21, 1911

On March 21, Club met with Mrs. A. B. Wyman. Seven members and three guests were present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records read and approved. A note of thanks was extended to Mrs. F. R. Sweetser for her hospitality and also to Miss Helen Chase for music on the afternoon March 14.

It was voted to pay the bill of the refreshment committee from the Club Treasury. Mrs. Sturdivant sent thanks and appreciation for pinks sent during her illness.

After the roll call, the program was in charge of Mrs. Hall. Subj: "The Comic Sunday Supplement."⁴⁷ Mrs. Hall read a very thoughtful paper on the subject and also an article from the *Ladies Home Journal* entitled a "Crime against children".⁴⁸

After discussion of the subject among the members, the club adjourned to meet Mar. 28 with Mrs. F. L. Adams.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

March 28, 1911

The Club meeting was with Mrs. Adams. There were nine members present. Records were read and approved. Roll Call responded to with current events.

After which Mrs. Dunn had charge of the program with "Our Navy" as her subject. She first gave a brief summary of the organization and early history of the Navy.⁴⁹ Then read several interesting extracts from The Report of the Secretary of the Navy. An article "What Our Navy Costs Us"⁵⁰ proved instructive and interesting. The concluding article was on "Gun Powders."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn April 3.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

⁴⁷ Between 1901 and 1908 newspaper publishers and syndicates helped shape the New York phenomena of comic strips into a shared cultural phenomena. Every Sunday, Americans across the country could open their newspaper and read the same strips. The rapid spread and popularity of these strips provoked a debate over their value. In an unsigned editorial (by Ian Gordon) in the *Ladies Home Journal*, 1909, comic strips were condemned as vulgar and cheap. Other articles echoed these sentiments. These articles, appearing in some frequency between 1906 and 1911, contended the comic strips eroded the moral fiber of the young by over-stimulating their senses. At the root of this protest was an uneasiness with the developing mass culture.

⁴⁸ In 1909, *Ladies Home Journal* published an article "A Crime Against Children" in which the author asks, "Are we parents criminally negligent of our children, or is it that we have not put our minds on the subject of continuing to allow them to be injured by the inane and "comics" supplement of the Sunday newspaper?"

⁴⁹ The early history of the US Navy is divided into two major periods. The "Old Navy" was comprised of a small but respected force of sailing ships during the American Civil War. The "New Navy" was the result of reforms that began in the 1880s. In 1882, the US Navy consisted of many out-dated ship designs. Over the next decade, Congress approved building multiple modern armored cruisers and battleships. By the start of the twentieth century, regarding the number of ships, the US had moved from 12th place in 1870 to 5th place. After winning two major battles during 1898 Spanish-American War, the Navy continued to build more ships.

⁵⁰ This article was published in *World Today*, April 1909.

April 3, 1911

As Mrs. Dunn was unable to have the Club, the meeting was with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Eleven members and one guest present. Records read and approved.

Mrs. Sweetser spoke of our Domestic Science afternoon and the question of arrangement of program was discussed but finally left to be decided at our next meeting.

Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. F. L. Blanchard took for her subject "The Juvenile Court"⁵¹ and read a magazine article entitled "A Child's day in Court". A pleasing and profitable afternoon was spent.

Adjourned to meet Apr. 11 with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

April 11, 1911

The Club met with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard. There were twelve members present. Records read and approved.

After the roll call the program was in charge of Miss Nellie Sweetser. Subject: "A Cachet of Jewels". After a brief introductory paper by the leader, each member present described the gem which had been previously assigned to her. A collection of gems brought by Mrs. Thomes added much to the interest of the program.

Adjourned to meet April 18 with Miss Sweetser.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

⁵¹ In 1899, the first juvenile court in the US was established in Cook County, IL. In quick succession, most states set up their own juvenile court systems. The early juvenile courts shared with reform schools the same desire to rehabilitate rather than punish juvenile offenders. The legal doctrine of *parens patriae* (parents of the country) gives the state the power to serve as the guardian of those with legal disabilities, including juveniles. Accordingly, juvenile courts tried to focus on the "best interests of the child." In 1909, Judge Julian Mack, one of the first judges to preside over the nation's first juvenile court in Cook county IL, described the goals of the court as follows: "The child who must be brought into court should, of course, be made to know that he is face to face with the power of the states, but he should at the same time, and more emphatically, be made to feel that he is the object of its care and solicitude. The ordinary trapping of the court room are out of place at such hearings. The judge on a bench, looking down upon the boy standing at the bar, can never evoke a proper sympathetic spirit. Seated at a desk, with the child at his side, where he can on occasion put his arm around his shoulder and draw the lad to him, the judge, while losing none of his judicial dignity, will gain immensely in the effectiveness of his work." Julian Mack, "The Juvenile Court", *Harvard Law Review*, Vol. 23 (1909), 120.

April 18, 1911

Club met with Miss Sweetser with twelve members and one guest present.

Records read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Program in charge of Mrs. Sturdivant. Subject: "The Shakers," A history of the Shakers⁵² describing their belief, customs and dress etc. was read by members in turn. After which several told of their visit to the Shakers colony in New Gloucester.⁵³

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant on April 25.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

April 25, 1911

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Sturdivant for the last meeting of the season. There were fourteen members and one guest present. Meeting was called to order by the President and the records were read and approved. It was voted that the chair appoint a nominating committee to nominate the officers for the coming year. Mrs. Buxton and Mrs. F. R. Sweetser were appointed. The following officers were nominated and elected: Pres. Mrs. Sturdivant; Vice Pres. Mrs. Wyman; Sec. Mrs. Dunn. Treas. Mrs. Adams. As Mrs. Adams declined to serve, Mrs. Hamilton was elected to fill the vacancy.

Treasurer's report given and accepted.

Voted to have Field Day as in former years. Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Wyman chosen as Field Day Committee. Program Committee elected as follows: Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Osgood, and Mrs. Hamilton.

The report of the Flower Committee was given and Mrs. Buxton was elected to serve another year.

The question "Shall we discontinue our meetings in March or hold them thro' April as in former years?" was discussed and it was finally voted to continue the meetings until the middle of April. The number to be determined by the program committee.

It was voted to meet every Tuesday during the Club year but if Wednesday was unpleasant the meeting should be given up for that week. This concluded the business session.

The roll call was responded to by old time "receits" and proved very interesting. A short talk on old time cook books and cooking was given by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser after which the Club adjourned subject to the call of the Field Day Committee.

⁵² The Shakers migrated to colonial America in 1774. During the next century, they built 19 communal settlements that attracted 20,000 converts. Strict believers in celibacy, Shakers maintained their numbers through conversion and adoption of orphans.

⁵³ The Shaker settlement at Sabbathday Lake in New Gloucester was established in 1782, 1783, or 1793. The community grew to over 200 members in less than a year. By 1823, there were about 150 members. By 1850, its land covered 1900 acres, on which there were 26 large buildings. Shakers strove to be entirely self-sufficient.

After adjournment refreshments were served and a social hour enjoyed. A song by the hostess and a piano role by Miss Sturdivant added to the pleasure of the occasion.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec.

June 20, 1911

On Tuesday June 20, 1911 the "We Neighbors Club" with families and invited guests – to the number of 40 – met for their annual field day at Russell's Rock – where a delightful day was spent. Most of the party never having visited the place before was surprised and delighted with the views from the top of the little mountain and it is beyond the powers of your Sec to describe them.

Just at the noon hour, while about to partake of the bounteous spread which had been arranged by our com. – a thunder shower came up and somewhat dampened our cloths and food, but not our spirits and appetites.

The afternoon was spent in social chat and music. Mr. Howard Buxton and Ernest Sweetser favoring us with solos.

A note of thanks was given the Com. Also Mrs. Russell for the privilege of using and enjoying the hill top. At about 4 o'clock the party broke up – noting it one of the most enjoyable field days in our history.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

October 12, 1911

At the request of Mrs. Hall – the first meeting of our club for this season was held Oct. 12 instead of the 10th in order that we might participate with her in celebrating her 75th birthday. There were 18 members present – two being new ones.

The report of last meeting also report of Field Day read and approved. The Sec. also read continuation of the history of the Club which Mrs. Wyman had kindly written in the Sec. book

A vote of thanks was extended to the program com – also Mr. Osgood – who did the writing for the neatly gotten up programs.

The roll call was responded to by vacation experiences. Mrs. Sturdivant's and Mrs. Buxton's being in rhyme. The meeting was then turned over to the leader who – owing to the unusual festive occasion postponed the regular program till later and called on Miss Sweetser for an original poem on "Our hostess' 75th birthday" which was much enjoyed by all.

The meeting then adjourned till Oct. 17 – with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard hostess & Mrs. Burnell leader. Subject: Jacob Riis. Roll call – current events.

Mrs. Hall then served delicious refreshments to the Club and invited guests to the number of 36. A delightful social hour was enjoyed by us all.

E. G. Dunn. Sec.

October 17, 1911

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard with nine members and one guest present.

Meeting called to order by the Pres. and the records read and approved. The roll was then called and responded to by current events.

The meeting was in charge of Mrs. Burnell who read a very interesting paper on the life of Jacob Riis⁵⁴ also extracts from his book "The Making of an American."⁵⁵

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Burnell Oct. 24 – with Mrs. Wyman leader.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

Oct. 24, 1911

Our Club met with Mrs. Burnell with the Pres. In the chair. There were 16 members and one guest present. The records were read and approved and the roll called, being answered by current events and items of interest.

Mrs. Wyman, the leader for the afternoon, had as her subject "The Phillipines". She first read a paper she had written on the natives – their origins, peculiarities and customs. Also read extracts from different

⁵⁴ Jacob Riis (1849-1914) was an American newspaper reporter, social reformer, and photographer who, in his book *How the Other Half Lives* (1890), shocked the conscience of his readers with factual descriptions of slum conditions in New York City. In the book's introduction, he said this account "is dark enough, drawn from public records, to send a chill to any heart." Riis, born and raised in Denmark, migrated to the US at age 21 and held various jobs, gaining first-hand experience with rugged underside of city live. By the late 1880s he began photographing interiors and exteriors of New York slums with flash lamp.

⁵⁵ Of Riis' many other books, this autobiography, published in 1901, is most noteworthy.

magazines, one of them being about their exhibit at the World's Fair at St. Louis.⁵⁶ It was an afternoon well spent being instructive as well as entertaining.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Miss Sweetser on October 31.

E.G.Dunn, Sec.

October 31, 1911

We Neighbors met with Miss Sweetser, 10 members being present. In the absence of the Pres & Vice Pres, the Sec. tried to fill the chair. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to by current events.

The program was in charge of Mrs. F.R.Sweetser who took for her subject Pictures. She read an article she had written on the subject, from the old-fashioned – highly colored reward card of our earlier school days – up to some of the recent steel-engravings on our paper money.⁵⁷ Also read several interesting

⁵⁶ In 1904, Americans exhibited over 1100 Filipinos at the world's fair held in Saint Louis, Missouri. This fair, officially named as the LA purchase Exposition commemorated the centennial of the biggest land deal in US history, was the largest world's fair ever, costing 50 million dollars, attracting 20 million visitors and celebrating the first modern Olympics held outside Europe. The native Filipinos, more than half of the over 2000 human exhibits, were displayed in the Philippines Exposition, the largest and finest colonial exhibition located on a 47 acre site. Within its walls were a square Plaza Santa Cruz and a replica of Manila Cathedral. However, the most striking part of the exposition housed 100 buildings showcasing 75,000 Philippine exhibits, including agricultural, art, and ethnology. Along Arrowhead Lake, stood five villages: Negrito, Igorot, Bugabo, Moros and Visayan housing the five Filipino minority groups. Clustered to simulate typical communities, each village was made of bamboo and other native building materials. Filipino ethnic groups entertained the fairgoers with their own culture, consisting of songs, dances, and tribal ceremonies. The Igorot Village became the most popular and the most profitable, mainly because of Igorot dog feasts, the most remembered and controversial part of the Filipino exhibit. How the visitors reacted drew outrage from the Filipinos. One member of the Philippine Honorary Commission protested "Impressions has gone abroad that we are barbarians that we eat dogs, and no matter how long we stay here we cannot convince the public to the contrary." Due to strong emphasis on Anthropology, the St Louis World's fair acquired a racist and imperialist tone, subjecting Filipino residents to racial discrimination, human degradation, and ethnic prejudice. Except for the Visayans and the Philippine Scouts, who were considered civilized, the rest of the Filipino minorities were treated as savages and barbarians, with the Negritos and Igorots classified as least civilized. Social Scientists treated them as a captive body to be studied, measured, and subjected to all kinds of scientific experiments.

⁵⁷ Steel engraving is a technique for printing illustrations based on steel instead of copper. This technique was introduced in 1792 by Jacob Perkins (1766-1849), an American inventor, for banknote printing. The process involves a combination of etching and true engraving. Engraving is done with a burin, which is a small bar with a sharp point. It is pushed along the plate to produce furrowed lines leaving burr or strips of waste metal to the side. Then a scraper is used to remove any burrs which would impede the subsequent inking process. In addition etching is used. Roulettes, small wheels mounted with handles, produce broken lines and dots when the wheel is rolled across the plate. Densely packed marks appear tonal to the eye. Steel plates can be hardened to ensure they can print thousands of times with little wear. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing was enacted to help fund the Civil War. In July 1861, Congress authorized the Secretary of Treasury to issue paper currency.

articles from magazine, Taking up the wonderful growth of the camera⁵⁸ – and some of the big-picture auction sales. The last few minutes were devoted to looking at different kinds of pictures brought by the members.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Wyman Nov. 7.

E.G.Dunn, Sec.

November 7, 1911

Meeting with Mrs. Wyman. There were present ten members, with Mrs. Herrick as guest.

Meeting at Mrs. Thomes. Fifteen members present. Meeting called to order by Pres. Records of last meeting As the President had not arrived, the meeting was opened by the vice-president. Evelyn Sweetser was chosen Sec- pro. Tem. As the records were not present, the roll was next called – responded to by current events. The Pres. Now taking the chair.

Mrs. Hamilton the leader for the afternoon gave a very interesting paper on The Jews – which was the subj. for this meeting. A Jewish passport was exhibited as a curiosity.

Adjourned.

Evelyn Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

November 14, 1911

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Hamilton with 14 members present. The Pres. presiding. The records of the last two meetings read and approved. Roll Called.

⁵⁸ The use of photographic film was pioneered by George Eastman (1854-1932) who started manufacturing paper film in 1885 before switching to celluloid in 1889. His first camera which he called the "Kodak" was offered for sale in 1888. It was a very simple box camera with fixed-focus lens and single shutter speed, which along with its low price appealed to the average consumer. The Kodak came preloaded with enough film for 100 exposures and needed to be sent back to the factory for processing and reloading when the roll was finished. By the end of the nineteenth century, Eastman had expanded his lineup to several models, including both box and folding cameras.

Mrs. F. S. Blanchard – the leader for the P.M. had for her subject Moving Pictures.⁵⁹ She read several very interesting articles from the Express – on their origin, rapidity of growth, development, making the films, taking the photographs, etc.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

November 21, 1911

Meeting at Mrs. Thomes. Fifteen members present. Meeting called to order by Pres. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Geo. Blanchard leader for the P. M. and had for her subject Porto Rico.⁶⁰ She read several interesting and instructive articles from different magazines – discovering the country and people – and their productions.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

December 5, 1911

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Buxton with 17 members and one guest present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. The roll call answered by items about railroads and current events.

⁵⁹ The history of film began in the 1890s, when motion picture cameras were invented. Due to the limits of technology, films of the 1890s were under a minute long and were produced without sound. The first rotating camera for taking panning shots was built in 1897. The first film studios opened in 1897. In the 1900s, continuity of action across successive shots was achieved, as well as the first close-up shot. Most films of this period were what became known as “chase films”. The first permanent theatre showing only films was “The Nickelodeon” which opened in Pittsburgh in 1905. By 1910, actors began to receive screen credits for their roles. Regular newsreels were exhibited from 1910 and soon became a popular way for finding out the news.

⁶⁰ Puerto Rico is a US territory located in the northeastern Caribbean. From 1493-1898, it was a Spanish colony. In 1898, following the Spanish-American War, Spain ceded the island to the US under terms of Treaty of Paris. The Foraker Act of 1900 gave Puerto Rico a certain amount of civilian popular government, including a popularly elected 35 member House of Representatives, but the upper house and governor were appointed by the US

The meeting was in charge of Mrs. Bragg who had for her subject Railroads.⁶¹ She read two very interesting articles. One "The Railway Terminal" and the other "The Block Signal System."⁶²

Adjourned at 3:30 when a delightful social half hour was spent – it being the 35th anniversary of our hostess' wedding day.

Delicious refreshments were served and all wished Mrs. Buxton many happy returns of the day.

Mrs. Wyman also received congratulations and good wishes as it was her 16th wedding anniversary.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

December 12, 1911

Met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. 13 members present. Records read and approved. Roll called and responded to by current events.

Mrs. Sturdivant exchanged places with the appointed leader and started to read extracts "From Van Dweller to Commuter"⁶³ which proved so interesting that she was asked to read it all – the next leader agreeing to take it up where she left off.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. F. L. Adams December 26.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

December 26, 1911

⁶¹ The earliest way of managing multiple trains on one track was by use of a timetable and passing sidings. One train waited upon another, according to the instructions in the timetable, but if a train was delayed for any reason, all other trains might be delayed, waiting for delayed train to appear at the proper place before other trains could proceed safely. Beginning in 1854, operation of trains by timetable alone was supplemented by telegraphed train orders. A railroad company dispatcher would send train orders to stations manned by telegraphers who wrote orders down on standardized forms and handed them to train crews as they passed the station. In Cumberland, Floyd Norton was a railroad telegrapher during the early 20th century.

⁶² A manual block system was implemented by the PA railroad about 1863, a couple of decades before other American railroads began using it. This system required a railroad employee stationed at each signal to set signals according to instructions received by telegraph from dispatchers. Automatic block signaling was first put to use by the Eastern Railroad of MA in 1871, and soon adopted by other New England railroads. However, the cost of signals, equipment and installation was very high in the nineteenth century and that cost deterred many railroads from installing it, except on highly trafficked lines used by passenger trains. As time went on, the cost effectiveness of the automatic block system became apparent, since it reduced repair costs due to collisions, made a more efficient flow of trains, reduced the number of hours trains sat idle, and decreased transit times from point to point.

⁶³ The book, *From Van Dweller to Commuter: The Story of a Strenuous Quest for a Home and A Little Hearth and Garden*, (1907), was written by Albert Bigelow Paine (1861-1937) and probably based on his early work, *The Van Dwellers: A Strenuous Quest for a Home* (1901).

14 members met with Mrs. Adams. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to with current events.

Mrs. Dunn the leader for the afternoon continued the reading from the book begun at the last meeting.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet Jan. 2, 1912 with Mrs. Hall.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 2, 1912

Ten members and one guest met with Mrs. Hall. As the Pres. and Vice Pres. were absent, Mrs. Dunn presided. The records read and approved and the roll called.

Mrs. Osgood – the leader for the afternoon – had for her subject “Hawaii”⁶⁴ and read a very interesting book by Rev. L. H. Hallord [sp.?], it being his personal experience on a trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Osgood Jan. 9.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 10, 1912

On account of the storm and bad travelling, the meeting of the Club was held today, instead of the 9th, with Mrs. Osgood. Fourteen members present. Records read and approved and the roll called.

It was voted to have the Chair appoint Committee for Gentleman's night and the following were chosen. Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. Sturdivant, and Mrs. Osgood for refreshments and Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Patterson for entertainment.

⁶⁴ In January 1893, Queen Liliuokalani was overthrown and replaced by a provisional government comprised of members of the American Committee of Safety,. American lawyer Sanford B. Dole became President of the Republic when the Provisional Government of HA ended July 4, 1894. Controversy ensued as the Queen tried to regain her throne. After William McKinley won the 1896 Presidential election, advocates pressed to annex HA. The previous president, Grover Cleveland, was a friend of Queen Liliuokalani but McKinley was open to persuasion by the expansionists. After negotiation in June 1897, Secretary of State, John Sherman agreed to a treaty of annexation. The US Senate never ratified the treaty. Despite opposition from most native Hawaiians, the Newland Resolution was used to annex the Republic to the U.S. The Newland Resolution passed the US House and Senate July 15, 1898. Under this Resolution, Hawaii become the Territory of Hawaii.

Mrs. A. A. Sweetser was the leader and had for her subject Dr. Grenfell.⁶⁵ She read a sketch of his life and work by P. T. McGrath also selections from his book "Down by the Sea"⁶⁶ making a very interesting program. Adj. at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Dunn Jan 16.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 17, 1912

Another storm delayed our Club meeting one day. Met with Mrs. Dunn with 13 members and one guest. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Buxton had for her subject "New Methods of Education" both for normal and backward children. She gave a very interesting account of the work as practiced by the originator – an Italian lady.⁶⁷

Adj. at 4 o'clock to meet with Mrs. Wyman Jan. 23 – for our Annual "Gentlemen's night."

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

⁶⁵ Sir Wilfred Thomason Grenfell (1865-1940) was a medical missionary to Newfoundland and Labrador. In his memoirs *The Harvest of the Sea* (1905) he tells of being deserted by his parents and at an early age losing sight of his older brother and sister. He was sent off as apprentice to the English port of Grimsby where he was to learn "the fishing trade." In 1892, he was sent to Newfoundland to improve the plight of coastal inhabitants and fisherman. The following statement is attributed to him, "The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. It is obvious man himself is a traveler; that the purpose of this world is not 'to have and to hold' but 'to give and serve.' There can be no other meaning.

⁶⁶ Probably this refers to P. T. McGrath's article which appeared in the December 1909[?] issue of *Atlantic Monthly*, in which McGrath exposes the "Atlantic Fisheries Question". This involved a squabble between the United States, Canada, and Newfoundland. Allegedly, the key to the situation was held by Newfoundland because of its inexhaustible bait supply, its proximity to Ground Banks, and its political independence from Canada. McGrath was a Newfoundland journalist.

⁶⁷ Maria Montessori (1870-1952) was an Italian physician and educator, best known for the philosophy of education that bears her name. Her educational philosophy emphasizes the development of a child's own initiative and natural abilities through play. She replaced heavy furniture with child-sized tables and chairs, light enough for children to move, and placed child-sized materials on low accessible shelves. She began to see independence as the aim of education, and the role of teacher as an observer and director of children's innate psychological development. By 1909, her work attracted the attention of international observers. Her work was widely published and spread rapidly. By the end of 1911, Montessori education had been officially adopted in public schools in Italy and Switzerland and was planned for the United Kingdom. By 1912, Montessori schools had opened in Paris as well as many European cities, and were planned for Argentina, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Syria, the United States and New Zealand. Her notable quotations include: "Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed." "The greatest sign of success for a teacher... is to be able to say, 'The children are now working as if I did not exist.'" "Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is to keep us out of war."

January 27, 1912

On account of another storm our "Gentlemen's Night" was postponed from Jan. 23 to Jan. 27 – when we with friends to the number of 38 met with Mrs. Wyman.

After a delicious supper was served, the evening was spent with games, contests, and music.

A note of thanks was given Mr. Buxton for so kindly favoring us with solos.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 30, 1912

The Club met with Mrs. Patterson, 16 members being present. The secretary being absent, Mrs. Adams served in that capacity. Under the head of business, a note of thanks was extended Mrs. Wyman, for so kindly opening her house to the Club on its "Gentlemen's night."

Under reports of Committees, the chairman of the refreshment committee, for that night, reported that an assessment of ten cents would be laid on each member of the Club to help defray necessary expenses of that night.

The subject of a social afternoon was next brought before the Club and was laid on the table until later in the P.M.

The roll call was then responded to by current events after which an hour was spent by Mrs. Thomes reading from "The Gateway to Bahama".⁶⁸

The business concerning the social afternoon was again taken up and was voted to observe Feb. 27 as "Guest Day" – each member to have the privilege of inviting one guest. Further plans for the day were postponed until the next meeting.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 6 with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

February 6, 1912

Club met with Mrs. George Blanchard and with fourteen members and two guests present. Records read and approved.

Subject of Guest Afternoon taken up and voted to reconsider the vote taken to hold a guest P. M.

⁶⁸ The Bahamas is an island country consisting of more than 700 islands. Situated in the Atlantic Ocean, it is located north of Cuba and southeast of Florida. It is the site where Columbus in 1492 first made landfall in the New World. In 1718, the Bahamas became a British colony during a period when the British clamped down on piracy. After the American War of Independence, the Crown resettled thousands of American Loyalists, who brought their slaves with them. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire 1 August 1834. The Bahamas became a haven for freed African slaves. Also, here the Royal Navy resettled Africans liberated from illegal slave ships.

Voted to hold a Social P.M. just among our Club. Feb. 27 with Mrs. George Blanchard.

Voted to lay this matter on the table until one of the following meetings – awaiting bright ideas from the members regarding entertainment.

Roll call responded to by current events.

Miss Sweetser then occupied the remainder of the afternoon, reading and telling about Alaska.⁶⁹

Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet February 13 with Mrs. Adams.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

February 13, 1912

Met with Mrs. Adams – fifteen present.

Voted to have Mrs. Buxton and Mrs. Sweetser read to us from or about Dickens⁷⁰ while the rest served - in our social P.M. Roll called and responded to, by current events.

Mrs. Patterson then read from Leaman Harris – lives of Corot & Miller⁷¹ – the works were both beautifully written and illustrated in colors.

Adj. to meet Feb. 20 with Mrs. Thomes.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

February 20, 1912

Met with Mrs. Thomes. Meeting called to order by Pres.

Miss Grace Merrill extended an invitation to the ladies of our club to be present at the public exhibition to be given on Fri. P.M. – by the scholars from five of the grammar schools of the town.

⁶⁹ Alaska is situated in the northwestern extremity of North American continent. William Seward, U. S. Secretary of State, negotiated the Alaska Purchase (also known as Seward's Folly) with the Russians, for 7.2 million dollars at approximately 2 cents per acre. The area went through several administrative changes before becoming a territory, May 11, 1912. Starting in the 1890s and extending into 1910s, gold rushes in Alaska and nearby Yukon Territory brought thousands of miners and settlers to Alaska.

⁷⁰ Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812-1870) was an English writer and social critic. He created some of the world's best known fictional characters and is regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works, such as *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *Tale of Two Cities*, won unprecedented popularity during his lifetime.

⁷¹ Possibly this refers to an article by Lehman Harris: Lives of Corot and Miller (1894).

An interesting roll call followed. Mrs. Merrill was the leader for the P.M. She changed her subject from "Famous Women in Music" to "Famous Women in Art." The women were Madame La Brun – Rosa Bonheur, Harriet Hosmer.⁷² A very interesting afternoon.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Anna Blanchard for a social afternoon Feb. 27.

Mary E. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

February 28, 1912

Stormy yesterday, so our Club meeting was postponed until today when eleven members and one guest met with Mrs. George Blanchard. Records read and approved.

Roll called.

A selection "Dickens the Master Preacher"⁷³ read by Miss Sweetser also one "Fellowship of Love" written by Jerome K. Jerome⁷⁴ read by Mrs. Buxton.

A social hour was then spent in talk and looking our photographs both ancient and modern. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess & members.

Adjourned to meet March 6 – Wed – with Mrs. Sturdivant.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

March 6, 1912

Six members and one guest present at Mrs. Sturdivant's. The records read and approved and the roll call responded to by items of interest.

⁷² Louise Elisabeth Vigee Le Brun (1755-1842), known also as Madame Le Brun, was a prominent French painter. Her style is generally considered part of the aftermath of Rococo. While serving as the portrait painter to Marie Antoinette, she worked purely in Rococo, in both her color and style choices. Rosa Bonheur (1822-1899) was a French realist artist and sculptress. She became famous primarily for two chief works, namely, "Ploughing the Nivernais" and "The Horse Fair." Harriet Hosmer (1830-1908) was born and died in Watertown, Massachusetts. She was a distinguished female sculptress during the nineteenth century. Among other technical innovations, she pioneered a process for turning limestone into marble. The speaker, Mrs. Wallace Merrill, spent her childhood and young adulthood in the Watertown area.

⁷³ This article probably refers to Dickens final novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which was unfinished at the time of Dickens' death.

⁷⁴ Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927) was an English writer and humorist, best known for the comic travelogue, *Three Men in a Boat*.

Mrs. Hall – the leader – took for her subject “The Panama Canal”⁷⁵ & read selections from the *Outlook* by Roosevelt also selections from the *Ladies’ Home Journal* and other short clippings.

All those unable to be present – certainly missed a very enjoyable afternoon, both in the program and the delicious refreshments served by the hostess.

Adjourned to meet March 12 with Mrs. Bragg.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

March 12, 1912

We Neighbors meet with Mrs. Bragg. 8 members and 3 guests being present. Mrs. Hamilton chosen sec. pro tem. Roll call was answered by interesting current events.

Mrs. Mary Sweetser was the leader for the afternoon, her subject being “John Burroughs”.⁷⁶ Recollections of his boyhood as given by himself proved interesting and amusing. Some extracts from his writings were also read.

Then the hostess served delicious refreshments of ice cream and cake.

Several musical selections were given at the same time by Miss Hazel Laughton, pianist, and Miss Anna Lof, [Sp.?] violinist.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F.S. Blanchard March 19, 1912.

⁷⁵ *Outlook*, October 7, 1911. An article by Emory R. Johnson tells about the title and the acquisition of the Panama Canal. In January and April 1911, Theodore Roosevelt wrote a series of articles on the Panama Canal for *Outlook*.

⁷⁶ John Burroughs (1837-1921) was an American naturalist and active in the conservation movement. Born on a family farm in the Catskill Mountains, Burroughs was the seventh of ten children. As a child he spent many hours on the slopes of Old Clump Mountain. Laboring on the farm he was captivated by the return of the birds each spring and other wildlife around the farm including frogs and bumblebees. Later in life he credited his childhood as a farm boy for his subsequent love of nature and his feeling of kinship with all natural things. As a writer, he had his first break when the *Atlantic Monthly* accepted in summer of 1860 his essay “Expression.” In 1864, Burroughs accepted a position as clerk in the Treasury. Eventually, he would become a federal bank examiner, continuing that profession into the 1880s. All the while, he published essays and grew interested in the poetry of Walt Whitman. They became close friends. In 1867, he published *Notes on Walt Whitman as Poet and Person*. Four years later his first collection of Nature Essays, *Wake Robin* was published. In later years, Burroughs accompanied many personalities of that era including Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and Thomas Edison. In 1903, after publishing an article entitled “Real and Sham Natural History” in the *Atlantic Monthly*, Burroughs began a widely publicized literary debate known as the nature fakers controversy. Attacking popular writers of the day for their fantastical representation of wildlife, he denounced the booming genre of naturalistic animal stories as “yellow journalism of the woods.” The controversy lasted four years.

March 19, 1912

Ten members and one guest met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard. In the absence of the Pres., the vice pres. presided. The records of the Mar. 6 read and approved. Those of Mar. 12 omitted.

Roll call responded to by items on nature.

Mrs. Adams – the leader – read some very interesting articles on American Scenery.

Adjourned 4 o'clock – to meet with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Mar. 19. Our hostess invited us to remain for a social time and served delicious ice cream and cake.

E.G. Dunn. Sec.

March 26, 1912

14 members and 1 guest met with Mrs. Sweetser. Records of last two meetings read and approved. Roll called and responded to by current events.

Mrs. Hamilton, the leader had for her subject "Equal Suffrage"⁷⁷ which proved very interesting & caused more or less remarks by the members.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wallace Merrill Apr. 2.

E.G. Dunn Sec.

April 2, 1912

The Club met today with Mrs. Hattie Merrill & notwithstanding the bad travelling & snow storm, eleven members were present. In the absence of the Pres. the Vice Pres. occupied the chair. The Sec & records of last meeting not being present, no report was given. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was chosen Sec. pro tem.

⁷⁷ Equal suffrage guarantees that each voter shall have the same number of votes. The International Women's Suffrage Alliance (1904) worked toward equal civil rights for women.

After the roll call, the program for the afternoon was conducted by Mrs. Burnell, who took for her subject – “Dr. Wiley” giving an account of his life and works in regard to pure food law.⁷⁸ She also read an interesting article about the personality of Mrs. Wiley.

Voted that as the time will be likely to be well taken – that a special meeting for the Laws acting of Mainers [?] ⁷⁹ be left subject to the call of the Pres.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser April 9th.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

April 9, 1912

Our Club and members of the Greely Club to the number of 23 met today with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, for both clubs “Domestic Science Day” – records of last two meetings read and approved.

Letter of thanks from Grace Osgood was read by the Sec. Roll call answered to by items of interest on house-work.

Next bountiful refreshments furnished by both clubs were partaken of after which recipes for each article were taken by the members.

After a very pleasant social afternoon adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn April 16 for our business meeting.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

⁷⁸ Harvey Washington Wiley (1844-1930) was a noted American chemist best known for his leadership in passage of the landmark Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906, and his subsequent work at the Good Housekeeping Institute laboratories. He was first commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration. His disapprobation to “drugged products” included cola drinks. Wiley’s case against Coke went to trial in US District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee in the city of Chattanooga, starting March 13, 1911. Wiley was in the spotlight. National newspaper coverage included anecdotes about his weekend excursions into the countryside with his new finance Anna Kelton, a beautiful young librarian 30 years his junior. Wiley attended extravagant dinners and gave public lectures to Chattanooga’s elite. The government’s legal team focused on two main points: Coke contained an added ingredient “caffeine” considered “injurious to health” and Coke was misbranded because it no longer contained coca leaves, even though its name suggested it did. The case took place in Coke’s backyard. Chattanooga was the birthplace of Coca-Cola bottling. Chattanooga was a southern city suspicious of federal meddling in local affairs. Defense attorneys also used Race as a mechanism to appeal to local jurors. After 23 days into the trial, Coke’s legal team approached the bench and asked the Judge to dismiss the case on ground the government had failed to prove Coke was misbranded. After mulling over the argument for several days, the judge instructed the jury to decide in favor of Coke, stating lack of evidence to support the government’s contention that Coca Cola was misbranded. A five year battle in Court of Appeals ensued. In 1916, Supreme Court reversed the verdict.

⁷⁹ May refer to Public Law Chapter 296, 127th Maine Legislature, “An Act to Update Maine’s Family Law.”

April 16, 1912

Owing to a thunder shower there were only five members present at the opening of the meeting this afternoon, six others dropping in later on.

Voted to have the Chair appoint committees to serve for the next year and the following were chosen.

The officers: Pres. Mrs. Wyman, Vice Pres. Mrs. Dunn, Sec. Mrs. Hamilton, Treas. Mrs. Burnell

Program Com: Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. Geo. Blanchard, Mrs. Bragg

Field Day Com: Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. E. B. Osgood, Mrs. F. S. Blanchard

Flower Com. Mrs. Adams

A rising vote of thanks was given our retiring Pres.

Adjourned subject to call of Field Day Com.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

May 8, 1912

By invitation of the Greely Club a large number of We Neighbors met with the Greely Club at the home of Mrs. Haines. A pleasant social hour was enjoyed by all. Delicious refreshments were served. Music both instrumental and vocal was much appreciated.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

Oct. 1, 1912

The first meeting of the We Neighbors club was held with Mrs. Buxton, 10 members being present. In the absence of the Sec., Mrs. Dunn read the records of the last meeting which were approved. Report of the Program Com. received and the Field Day Com made some explanation as to why we had not celebrated this year.

Voted to extend a vote of thanks by our Sec to Miss Harriet Merrill for her artistic work on our Programs. Roll Call responded to by Vacation notes.

Mrs. A.A. Sweetser leader with Wm Booth⁸⁰ of Salvation Army fame for the subject.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser Mon. Oct 7 instead of Oct 8.

⁸⁰ William Booth (1828-1912) was a British Methodist preacher who, with his wife Catherine, founded the Salvation Army. He became its first General (1878-1912). For more information on Catherine Booth, refer to footnote number 23, this chapter.

E.G. Dunn Sec. pro tem

October 7, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, 8 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Voted that the Sec. purchase a new book to be paid for out of the club treasury. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Thomes was the leader of the afternoon who took for her subject the new book by Morgan Shuster called "The Strangling of Persia."⁸¹ The subject proved very interesting.

Adj. to meet with Miss Grace Merrill Oct. 15.

Lena J. Hamilton Sec.

Oct. 15, 1912

We Neighbors met with Miss Grace Merrill, 14 members and one guest being present. We were glad to welcome a new member. Records of last meeting were read and approved. Roll call answered by very interesting recollections of 50 years ago. Two extracts from letters written by soldiers in the wartime were read. A composition written and rewards of merit received at school 50 years ago were shown.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Hall. She read an interesting paper on the war time and gave the pieces of clothing and other things then. She also read articles on the Fall of Vicksburg⁸² and of Richmond.⁸³

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant on Oct. 22.

Lena J. Hamilton Sec.

⁸¹ William Moran Shuster (1877-1960) was an American lawyer, civil servant and publisher. He is best known as the treasurer general of Persia by appointment of the Iranian parliament from May to December 1911. Returning to the United States, Shuster wrote a scathing indictment of British and Russian meddling in affairs of Persia, published as *The Strangling of Persia*. This book is remarkable also because of Shuster's steadfast belief that he was working for a "Muhammedan democracy."

⁸² The siege of Vicksburg (May 18 – July 4, 1863) was the first major military action in the Vicksburg Campaign of the Civil War. In a series of maneuvers, Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant and his Army crossed the Mississippi river and drove the Confederate Army of Mississippi led by Lieutenant General Pemberton into defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Vicksburg was last major Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River.

⁸³ The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, fought August 29-30, 1862, resulted in a strong Confederate victory led by Major General Edmund Kirby Smith against Union Major "General William "Bull" Nelson's forces. The Confederates captured 4,300 Union troops. Only 451 troops lost by the Confederates.

October 22, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Sturdivant – 13 members and one guest being present. The records of last meeting were read and approved. The roll call was answered by interesting current events.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Anna Blanchard who took for her subject “The Maine Music Festival”⁸⁴ instead of Canada which she will take later in the season. Interesting sketches of Mme Nordica, Prof. Chapman, Marie Rappold, M’lle Julie Lindsey, and others were given.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman Oct. 29.

Lena J. Hamilton, Sec.

October 29, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Laura Wyman, 15 members and one guest being present. We were glad to welcome another new member. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call was answered by current events.

Our critic for the day spoke of the pronunciation of cantatrier, Milan, Madame, prima donna, and spoke of the age of Madame Nordica⁸⁵ being anywhere from 53 to 67, Mrs. Thomes brought a spray of ripe raspberries picked near her home on Oct. 29.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Dunn who gave an interesting acct. of the Rubber Industry – also of the manufacture of synthetic rubber from chemicals.

Adjourned to meet with Miss Nellie Sweetser Nov. 5.

⁸⁴ Begun in 1897, the Maine Music Festival was organized by William Rogers Chapman (1855-1935), director of the Rubenstein Club in New York and summer resident of Bethel, Maine. Initial plans called for 400 voices, an orchestra of 100 members, and Madame Nordica, a Maine native and Metropolitan Opera diva, was designated as leading soloist. The Festival was to be presented for one week: October 14, 15, and 16 in Bangor, and October 18, 19, 21 in Portland. Bangor Auditorium, constructed especially for the Festival and completed in September 1897, was designed to accommodate a crowd of 1800. Portland Armory, located at 20 Milk Street in the Old Port, was the site for Portland performances. Tickets sold at Wiley’s Drug store for \$1.00, \$1.50, and \$2.00. Marie Rappold was a Dramatic Soprano performing often with the Metropolitan Opera.

⁸⁵ Madame Nordica (1857-1914) was born Lillian Allen Norton in a small Cape Cod style farmhouse built by her grandfather in Farmington, Maine. The Nordica stage name was bestowed by an Italian maestro at the beginning of her operatic career. He convinced her that European opera-goers would not tolerate a diva with a plain sounding Anglo-American name. The adopted name of *Giglia Nordica* meant “Lily of the North” but soon she became known as Madame Nordica. Several of her descendants living in Cumberland, Maine, travelled to Farmington, for family reunions of the Norton family. Floyd Norton of Cumberland in the mid-1980s.

November 5, 1912

We Neighbors met with Miss Nellie Sweetser, 12 members being present. Roll call being answered by very interesting current events.

Our critic spoke of pronunciation of acetone, propane, and meaning of synthetic also of the difference between Dreadnoughts⁸⁶ and other battle ships.

Program was in the hands of the Sec. with subject Maine men in the public eye – and found very interesting. Mrs. Sweetser, Thomes, and Townsend gave articles on Maine men in the public eye.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hamilton Nov. 12.

November 12, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Hamilton, 12 members being present. Records were read and with slight changes approved. Roll call was answered by current events.

Critic spoke of pronunciation of Levant and the word sobriquet was given to be looked up.

The program was in the hands of Mrs. Bragg with the subj. Margaret Sangster.⁸⁷ She gave an interesting sketch of her life and many extracts from her works, some of the being “The strenuous life” “Thought” “Easter” “The Man of the House” and a story “The Catnip Woman.”

A poem “To her” by her granddaughter was read.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes in one week.

November 19, 1912

A goodly number of We Neighbors gathered at Mrs. Thomes, 16 being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call was answered by current events and these were discussed making them doubling interesting.

⁸⁶ *HMS Dreadnaught* was a battleship of the Royal Navy that revolutionized naval power. Her entry into service in 1906 represented such a paradigm shift in naval technology that the name came to be associated with an entire generation of battleships, the “dreadnaughts.” It was the first battleship of her era to have a uniform main battery, rather than having a few large guns complemented by smaller guns. Also, it was the first capital ship to be powered by steam turbines, making it the fastest ship in the world at the time of her completion.

⁸⁷ Margaret Elizabeth Sangster (1838-1912) was an American poet, author, and editor. She was daughter of John Munson of Ireland and Margaret Chisholm of New York. Her father was in the marble industry. She and her younger sister Isabelle grew up in a very religious household. Both sisters were well educated. She held editorial positions with a variety of periodicals and eventually became an editor at *Harper's Bazaar* 1889-1899. Her short story, “The Catnip Woman” is included in her book, *My Garden of Hearts*, a collection of short stories and essays.

Critic spoke of the pronunciation and meaning of “anachronism”

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Wyman who had for her subject Jane Addams⁸⁸ and her work at Hull House. This subject proved of great interest to all.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Burnell Dec. 3.

December 3, 1912

A very large number of We Neighbors met at Mrs. Burnell's December 3, 1912, 18 being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call was answered by current events, some of which proved very amusing. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Anna Blanchard who had for her subject Canada. The home of Immigrants. This subject proved of great interest to all.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Dec. 10.

December 10, 1912

The banner club of the season met with Mrs. Bragg, 19 members and one guest being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call answered by current events.

⁸⁸ Jane Addams (1860-1935) was a pioneer American settlement reformer, social worker, and leader in Women's Suffrage. She turned popular attention to the needs of children, public health, and world peace. She said if women were to be responsible for clearing up their cities and making them better places to live, they needed to be able to vote. In 1889, Addams and her college friend and paramour Ellen Gates Starr co-founded the Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago. The run-down mansion had been built by Charles Hull in 1856 and needed repairs. At first, Addams paid for all of the capital expenses (repairing roof of the porch, repainting the rooms, buying furniture) and most of the operating costs. After the first year, a number of wealthy women became important long term donors to the House. Addams and Starr became the first two residents, but later it became the residence of about 25 women. At its height, it was visited each week by about 2000 people. The Hull House was a center for research, study and debate as well as a center for establishing good relations with the neighborhood. Residents conducted investigations on housing, midwifery, fatigue, tuberculosis, typhoid, garbage collection, cocaine, and truancy. Its facilities included a night school for adults, clubs for older children, a public kitchen, an art gallery, a gym, a bathhouse, a book bindery, a music school, a theater, a library, and an employment bureau. Its night school was a forerunner of continuing education. Eventually, the Hull House became a 13 building complex.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Sturdivant who told us about the most popular books of the year. Then she read a number of chapters from the book, *Phoebe and Ernest* by Inez Haynes Gilmore,⁸⁹ which proved very entertaining and realistic.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. George Blanchard in one week.

December 17, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. George Blanchard, 13 members and one guest being present. Records of last meeting were read and approved. Roll call answered by current events.

Under new business voted that the chair appoint a Nom. Committee who shall choose. Refreshment Com and Entertainment Com. for Gentlemen's Night.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Grace Prince who took for her subj. "Christmas as celebrated in European countries." The subj was of much interest – especially an account of an English Christmas.

The Pres. appointed Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Hamilton as Nom. Com.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams Dec. 31.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

December 31, 1912

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Cora Adams, 14 members being present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. Roll Call was answered by current events. The Nom. Com reported for Refreshment Com: Mrs. Cora E. Adams, Mrs. F. R. Sweetsir, Mrs. Bragg; for Entertainment Com: Mrs. Philip Sturdivant, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Hamilton.

⁸⁹ Inez Haynes Irwin (1873-1970) was an American feminist, author, journalist, and member of the National Women's Party. Many of her works were published under her former name Inez Haynes Gilmore. Active in the suffragist movement of the early 1900s, Irwin was called a "rebellious and daring woman", but she referred to herself as "the most timid of created beings." She attended Radcliffe College between 1897 and 1900. At the time, Radcliffe was a "center of the suffragist sentiment." In 1897, she married Rufus H. Gilmore, a newspaper editor. Though her husband supported her feminism, they later divorced. In 1916, she married William Henry Irwin. Her novel *Phoebe and Ernest* was published in 1912 by Holt.

Miss Grace Merrill, the leader of the afternoon, was not present, but sent an interesting paper on the subject "Irrigation of the Arid Lands of the West,"⁹⁰ which was read by Miss Nellie Sweetsir.

As the program was finished early we spent a short time in reading from the book Phoebe & Ernest.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F.S. Blanchard in one week.

L. J. Hamilton Sec.

January 7, 1913

We Neighbors met with Mrs. F.S. Blanchard and although the day was far from pleasant 14 members and 3 guests were present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Roll call was answered in general by current events. Mrs. Thomes gave some reasons why Cumberland was so named. Mrs. Sturdivant gave an account of ship building at Cumberland Foreside.⁹¹ The age of Two Trees recently cut in the neighborhood was given as 250 and 105 years respectively. Then a miniature representation of Cumberland Ctr. as it was in 1830, made by Mr. Silas Rideout, many years ago, was shown by his granddaughter Mrs. Gertrude Bragg.

The program was in the hands of Mrs. Mary E. Sweetsir whose subj. was Local History. She gave an exceedingly interesting account of many of the old familiar and buildings of Cumberland .

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. O. M. Hall January 21.

⁹⁰ The American West is distinctive due to its expansive prairies and towering mountains, its red-rock canyons and flat-topped buttes. One factor alone sets it apart from other geographical regions in the U. S., namely its lack of precipitation. In the 1870s, Congress authorized studies of the West's geology and water supply. Most influential was John Wesley Powell's 1878 *Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States*. It called for planned development of water and land resources in the West. This movement calling for Federal involvement in reclamation found a strong advocate in Francis G. Newlands who moved to Nevada in 1888. Soon he became a Congressman alerting members of the House of Representative to the need for federal involvement. In 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act, also known as the Newlands Act. Roosevelt regarded the West's rivers as an untapped resource that was literally running to waste. Why not harness this "wild" water to meet humanity's needs? The Reclamation Act of 1902 created the US Reclamation Service and committed Federal government to construct and maintain "irrigation works for the storage, diversion, and development of waters." That meant dams, reservoirs, and canals to irrigate arid lands in 16 Western states and territories. Texas was added as a reclamation state in 1906.

⁹¹ A newspaper account of the 1870s recounts the launching of a vessel of about 70 tons built in Cumberland Center prior to the War of 1812. In mid-January, when Tuttle Road was sufficiently snow packed, 80 yoke of oxen took 3 days to haul the vessel down to Town Landing for her launching. In 1812, the area that later became Cumberland Foreside, was the location of the Spear shipyards, started by David Spear and carried on by his son David Spear Jr. David Spear's shipyard to the east of Broad Cove was one of the most famous and active on Casco Bay. He and his son built approximately 50 ships, the largest of which was the *Dakotah* of 1054 tons burthen. The coming of steam and the Panic of 1857 contributed to the demise of shipbuilding along the Maine coast. In 1869, David Spear Jr. was forced to turn over the business and its properties to satisfy creditors.

L.J. Hamilton, Sec.

January 14, 1913

A delightful occasion was enjoyed by all when the ladies of the club with their gentlemen friends met at Mrs. J. L. Dunns on the evening of Jan. 14. Mrs. Davis, our former Pres., and now honorary member was present and all were glad to welcome her. In a fitting and well chosen address, our President Mrs. Wyman welcomed our guests and then a delicious oyster supper was served. Contests and games were engaged in, old songs were sung, and the music given by Mr. A. H. Buxton and Mr. O. S. Thomes was much enjoyed.

The company broke up at a late hour, all voting the occasion a great success.

L. J. Hamilton Sec.

January 21, 1913

We Neighbors met with Mrs. O. M. Hall, 13 members and two guests being present. Records of the last meeting read and approved also a report of Gentlemen's night which with two changes was approved. The Refreshment Com of Gentlemen's night reported on the expenses of that evening and said "that an assessment of 15 c. on each member would cover the expenses. It was voted to accept the report of Refreshment Com. And that any assessment required be made a vote.

Thanks to the hostess of the evening, Mrs. Dunn, was passed. Roll call answered by current events.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Burnell who had for her subj: "Joel Chandler Harris."⁹² An interesting sketch of the author was read also one of his poems.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser in one week.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

January 28, 1913

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, 13 members being present. We were glad to welcome a new member, Mrs. Geneva Chase. It was suggested that at the close of the next meeting the Program Com and Club officers remain to confer about plans for Guest Day. Records read and approved.

⁹² Joel Chandler Harris (1848-1908) was an American journalist, fiction writer, and folklorist, best known for his collection of Uncle Remus stories. Born in Eatonton, Georgia, he served as an apprentice on a plantation during his teenage years. He spent most of his adult life in Atlanta working as an associate editor of the *Atlanta Constitution*. Harris' legacy has largely been ignored in part due to the Uncle Remus character, use of dialect, and plantation setting. That legacy became embroiled in controversy, as he was accused of appropriating African-American culture.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Lena Hamilton who took for her subj. New York City. Some views of the City were shown and the Subj. was of interest to all.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard Feb. 4.

L.J. Hamilton, Sec.

[Enclosed in this notebook of Secretary Minutes is a newspaper clipping which reads as follows:]

“The women are responsible for the defeat of equal suffrage in England so far as the present session of Parliament is concerned. It is not to be wondered at. The antics of the militant suffragists over there have alienated from the cause many prominent citizens who favored the right of franchise to women. English women are giving the very best evidence of their incapacity for voting. They first must learn to control themselves before they are vested with power that will give them control over others. Leaders of the equal suffrage movement on the other side of the Atlantic should come to America and get few pointers from their sisters here as to how to conduct their campaigns.”

February 4, 1913

As it was inconvenient for Mrs. Geo. Blanchard to entertain the club on this date, 10 members and one guest met at the home of our President Mrs. Wyman. Records were read and with one change approved.

Voted that our Sec. invite the Greely club through their Sec. to be present at our Guest day, Feb. 25. Roll call answered by current events.

Program in the hands of Mrs. Osgood. Her subject was Salmon canning on the Columbia River.¹ Two interesting articles on this subject were read.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Grace Prince Feb. 11.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

No meeting was held Feb. 11 on account of unfavorable weather.

February 18, 1913

14 members and 4 guests assembled at Mrs. O. S. Thomes. Records of last meeting read and approved. Mrs. E. H. Sweetsir, chairman of Program Committee, reported on plans for Guest Day which is to be held Feb. 25 at Town Hall. The following committees were named, Entertainment: Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Lena Hamilton, Mrs. Anna Blanchard. Decoration: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Burnell; Refreshment: Mrs. E. H. Sweetsir, Mrs. Bragg; Reception: Mrs. M. E. Sweetsir, Mrs. Adams.

A letter from Mrs. Julia Perry, Sec. of Greely club, accepting our invitation was read by the Sec.

Roll call answered by current events.

¹ William Hume, pioneer of salmon canning, was born in Waterville, Maine. His grandfather and father, of Scotch descent, were fishermen. At age 22 William went to CA and made his living along the Sacramento River. In 1856, he went back to ME and shortly returned to CA that same year with his two brothers John and George. His brother George had a friend and classmate, Andrew S. Hapgood, who had learned the tinsmith trade and had done a little canning of lobster meat. He was persuaded to go to CA and in 1864, the canning firm of Hapgood, Hume and Co. was established on the Sacramento River at WA. The cannery was a crude affair, and William Hume peddled the first cans of fish door to door, carrying them in a basket. Finding the run of fish in the Sacramento rather disappointing, Hume did some prospecting on the Columbia River and the following year a cannery was built at the Eagle Cliff, WA. This cannery was the first one on the Columbia River. In the beginning 2 two man boats were sufficient to supply all the fish that the small cannery, located on a scow, could process. Hapgood did the cooking and canning, using a secret recipe that was still a trial-and-error procedure. Nevertheless, during its opening season, the firm put up 4000 cases, each containing 4 dozen one pound cans. The next season, they produced 18,000 cases. Columbia River salmon quickly became popular and profitable. Many canneries sprang up – more than 50 on the lower Columbia. In 1895, Columbia canneries produced 635,000 cases of salmon. However, combined with the 1893 depression and declining runs, a number of canneries were forced to close. Continued overfishing, deteriorating habitats and eventually dam construction contributed to further decline. Significantly, the Hume brothers and Hapgood laid the foundation for salmon canning along the Columbia River.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. F. S. Blanchard whose subject was Modern Surgery.² She gave a most interesting account of some of the wonders of Modern Surgery.

Adj. to meet with Miss Grace Merrill Mar.4.

L.J. Hamilton, Sec.

February 25, 1913

We Neighbors with their invited guests, members of the Greeley Club, and other friends assembled at the Town Hall on the afternoon of Feb. 25. We were fortunate indeed in having an ideal day for our Guest Day. The Hall had been tastefully decorated with flags, and the club colors, red, white, and blue, and also light blue, the color of the Greeley club.

Our President welcomed all with well chosen words. Then the members of both clubs, as their names were called, responded with some interesting item or quotation. A piano duet was then given by Mrs. Anna Blanchard and Miss Hannah Loring. A song in the Danish language was given by Mrs. Lange, a Danish lady of the neighborhood. Then a reading by Mrs. Sturdivant. A Quartette, "Sliver Threads among the Gold" was rendered by Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Geneva Chase, Mrs. Osgood, and Mrs. Adams. Another song by Mrs. Lange completed our entertainment.

Dainty refreshments were served and a social time enjoyed. The occasion was appreciated by all and will be long remembered as a red-letter day.

March 5, 1913

Mrs. Grace Jenkins having exchanged with Mrs. F. R. Sweetsir 16 members met at Mrs. Sweetsir's Records of last meeting read and approved. A vote of thanks was given the Decorating and Refreshment committee of Guest Day. Mrs. E. H. Sweetsir reported on the expense of Guest Day, and as no charge was made for the use of the Hall or for fuel the bill may be paid from the Club Treasury. Mrs. Dunn thanked the club pinks and box of goodies sent on Guest Day.

Voted to send pinks to Mrs. Jordan. Roll call answered by current events.

² First released April 1, 1912, the professional paper, "Some Wonders of Modern Surgery" by J. B. Champion M. D. was published in a variety of newspapers and magazines. For a long time, surgeons had considered the possibility of transplanting organs and limbs, but it was not until the knowledge of asepsis or absolute cleanliness in surgery was developed that it became possible to undertake transplant operations. With the development of clean surgery came greater skill in suturing together blood vessels, a procedure which is necessary in transplanting limbs or organs or in saving mutilated parts. Once blood vessel unions became feasible, this made it possible to save many badly crushed or severed limbs and to transplant organs. For example, ovaries of one chicken were removed and transplanted into another chicken. Hens so treated eggs and hatched them out. Such transplants in human beings became feasible.

Program in the hands of Mrs. Buxton, Subj.: Inauguration ceremonies. Mrs. Hall read a paper on the Inauguration of Geo. Washington. Mrs. Buxton read articles on the inauguration of Jefferson, Lincoln, and that of March 4, Woodrow Wilson, giving us a very interesting and instructive afternoon.

By request the club will meet with Mrs. Grace Prince March 11. Adj.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

March 11, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Grace Prince, 14 members and one guest being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

The Program of the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Sturdivant – who read us interesting articles on the “Immorality of Chance” dealing with the situation and method of Monte Carlo.³ Mrs. Adams read several articles about the North American Indian which were interesting and instructive. The program closed with a short story used by Mrs. Sturdivant called “The Strike at Glassocks.”⁴

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Bragg Mar. 18.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. Pro. Tem.

March 18, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, 12 members being present. As the records were not there at first, roll call was answered by current events, then the records having arrived were read and approved.

³ The topic, “Immorality of Chance” may refer to casino gambling, which was becoming popular at this time. The questions for discussion include: Is gambling moral or immoral; should a Christian gamble; and what does the Bible say. In gambling, the outcome is uncertain, participants place at risk some money or property, and the loser gives up possessions or money without being compensated while the winner gains without repaying the loser. Allegedly, the Bible authorizes three morally legitimate ways for money or possessions to pass from one to another, namely, the law of labor, the law of exchange, and the law of giving. Gambling fits none of these. Monte Carlo methods are a broad class of computational algorithms that rely on repeated random sampling to obtain numerical results. The Monte Carlo methods were named for the casino.

⁴ Octave Thanet, pseudonym of Alice French (1850-1934) was an American novelist and short story writer. Born in Andover, MA, she and her family in 1856 moved to Davenport, Iowa. After progressing through public schools, she studied at Vassar College. She settled into a life-long lesbian partnership with a widowed friend Jane Allen Crawford. They established a home in Davenport as well as a home in Clover Bend, Arkansas. About 1878, French took the pseudonym Octave Thanet, later claiming she chose it because it was gender neutral. In 1909, French and Crawford gave up their home in Arkansas, and then French traveled widely in the United States speaking for conservative causes and opposing women’s suffrage. The short story, “Strike at Glassocks” was published in her *Book of True Lovers* (1897). Critics and editors acclaimed Octave Thanet.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetsir was the leader of the afternoon and took for her subject, Mexico. She gave a very interesting talk on the geography of the country, having a map which showed the proportion of high and low lands. She also gave some of its history and spoke of the language, religion, productions, and inhabitants. An account was read of a young American who worked as a peon in Mexico for 3 months showing some of the horrors of the system.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Osgood in one week.

L. J. Hamilton, Sec.

There was no meeting March 25 on account of bad traveling.

April 1, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Cora Adams, 16 members being present. As this was our annual business meeting, the President appointed a Nominating Committee as follows: Mrs. Lena J. Hamilton, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetsir, Mrs. Gertrude Bragg. The Nom. Committee reported the following officers and committees for the ensuing year.

Pres. Mrs. J. L. Dunn; Vice Pres. Mrs. G. W. Hamilton; Sec. Mrs. M. W. Burnell; Treasurer, Mrs. Geo. Blanchard.

Program Committee: Mrs. Chas. H. Jenkins, Mrs. Fred Adams, Mrs. Philip Prince.

Field Day committee, Mrs. F. R. Sweetsir, Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, Mrs. E. B. Osgood.

The report was accepted and officers and committees declared elected.

Voted that the chair appoint Flower Com. The chair appointed Mrs. Adams who declined, then Mrs. Thomes was appointed.

Roll Call was answered by current events.

Program was in the hands of Miss Nellie Sweetsir whose subject was "Islands of the Maine Coast." She showed a map of Casco Bay and Islands. Then took the club on an imaginary sail to Great Chebeague Island where they stopped at Summit House, the home of Clinton Hamilton,⁵ with whom many of us are acquainted, and partook of a shore dinner. Our hostess gave us much of the history of Chebeague. Miss

⁵ Clinton Hamilton, born 1856 on Chebeague, was a distinguished pioneer of the island. His great, great, grandfather, Ambrose Hamilton Sr., emigrated from Scotland to America during Colonial days. Ambrose Hamilton was the third permanent settler of the island. He and his wife Deborah Soule were parents of seven sons and seven daughters. Clifford Hamilton was educated at Greely Institute and Portland Business College. Summit House, located near the east end of Chebeague on one of the highest points of the island, at the time could accommodate 70 guests. In 1908, new cottages were added. The broad veranda around three sides of this house overlooks the drive and inner bay. Mrs. Clinton M. Hamilton, in the 1908-1909 *Directory of Casco Bay*, is listed as proprietor.

Sweetsir read a poem which contained the names of most of the Islands of Casco Bay also an article by Holman Day⁶ on "Queer Folks of the Maine Coast." Then taking us back on our homeward trip this very interesting subj. was closed.

Club adj. to meet with Mrs. Burnell Apr. 8,

L.J. Hamilton, Sec.

April 8, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Burnell, nineteen members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call answered to by practical suggestions.

Voted to spend the first Tues in each month studying missionary work, the meeting being open to all interested.

Voted to hold a special meeting two weeks from today with Mrs. Osgood, for the purpose of organizing a missionary society.

Moved and carried that a note of thanks be extended our retiring president Mrs. Wyman, for her efficient service.

The topic of the day being Domestic Science, the ladies were invited to the dining room by the hostess where a buffet lunch was served, each lady bringing her favorite dish and giving receipt for same.

Adjourned subject to call of Field Day Com.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

June 26, 1913

On June 26, '13, the We Neighbors Club held their annual field day at Peaks Island as the guests of Mrs. F. N. Calderwood. It being a very dull morning only seven members were present. We left Portland on the 10:30 steamer arriving at Peaks about 11 where we were cordially welcomed by Mr. & Mrs. Calderwood. A short walk brought us to the cottage where we were greeted by Mrs. Huston, daughter of the hostess. Two open fires added much to our comfort as the day was chilly. The cottage was thrown open to our inspection and it was a great pleasure to us to see the beautiful things and convenient arrangement for work.

Our picnic dinner was eaten on the piazza the hostess kindly supplying coffee and ice cream.

After dinner we were entertained with solos by Schumann, Heink, Calve and Melba after which Mrs. Huston gave us several selections on the piano.

⁶ For details on Holman Day, refer to footnote number 27, chapter three.

We then had a group picture taken on the steps of the cottage which seemed to be much enjoyed by the members.

The remainder of the afternoon was passed socially. Mrs. Calderwood presenting each with a picture of the cottage as a souvenir.

We reached home at 5 o'clock unanimously agreeing it to have been an exceptionally pleasant day in spite of the weather.

Bess P. Burnell, Sec.

October 21, 1913

Club met at Mrs. Sturdivants with thirteen members and two guests present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

The program for the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Osgood, her subject being Parsifal.⁷ She gave a very instructive talk on the history and meaning of the opera.

Refreshments, consisting of grapes and raspberries were then served.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jenkins on Wed. Oct. 29th.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

October 29, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Jenkins, twenty-two members and three guests being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call answered to by current events.

⁷ Parsifal is an opera in three acts by Richard Wagner. It is loosely based on Wolfram von Eschenbach's thirteenth century epic poem of the Arthurian knight Parzival (Percival) and his quest for the Holy Grail. Wagner first conceived the work in April 1857, but did not finish it until 25 years later. It was Wagner's last completed opera.

Rev. Eleanor Forbes was the speaker of the afternoon, her subject being Helen Kellar.⁸ She gave us a very interesting talk on her life, and that of her teacher and companion, Mrs. Macy.

Moved and carried that a rising vote of thanks be extended Miss Forbes for her instructive talk.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Fennick Blanchard Nov. 11th.

Bessie P. Burnell. Sec.

November 11, 1913

Club met Mrs. Adams, who exchanged with Mrs. Blanchard. Twenty-one members were present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call answered to by current events.

Voted to pay \$1.50 from our club funds, it being the expenses of Miss Forbes.

⁸ Helen Adams Keller (1880-1968) was born in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She was born with the ability to see and hear. At 19 months, she contracted an illness described by doctors as "acute congestion of the stomach and the brain," which might have been scarlet fever or meningitis. The illness left her blind and deaf. Soon she was able to communicate with Martha Washington, the six year old daughter of the family cook, who understood her signs. By the age of seven, Keller used more than 60 home signs to communicate with the family. In 1886, her mother, learning of the successful education of another deaf and blind woman, Laura Bridgman, dispatched young Helen with her father to seek out a physician in Baltimore for advice. That physician, J. Julian Chisholm, referred the Kellers to Alexander G. Bell who was working with deaf children at the time. Bell advised them to contact Perkins Institute for the Blind, located in South Boston. The School's director asked 20 year old Anne Sullivan, herself visually impaired, to become Keller's instructor. That was the beginning of a 49 year relationship during which Sullivan evolved into Keller's governess and eventually her companion. Starting in May 1888, Keller attended Perkins Institute. After attending several additional schools for the deaf and blind, Keller by 1900 gained admission to Radcliffe College. In 1904, at age of 24, Keller graduated from Radcliffe, becoming the first deaf blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1905, Anne Sullivan married John Macy. Keller moved to Forest Hills in Queens together with Anne and John and used the house as a base for her efforts on behalf of the American Foundation for the Blind. Keller became an advocate for people with disabilities. Also, she was a suffragette and a pacifist. In 1908, she wrote *The World I Live In*. Her essays on socialism, *Out of the Dark*, was published in 1913.

Mrs. Grace Prince was the leader of the afternoon, her subject being Harriet Beecher Stowe.⁹ She read several selections entitled *How the Child Grew*, *Teacher and Writer*, and *How Uncle Tom's Cabin* was built.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Burnell on Nov. 17.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

November 18, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Burnell with twenty-one members and three guests present. Records of last meeting read and approved. The Roll Call gave place to a written spelling lesson – each member correcting her own paper.

Mrs. Buxton, the leader of the afternoon, asked Miss Katharine Merrill to speak about her western trip, which she did, giving us a vivid account of the places she visited, also showing many pictures of the West and Northwest. It was very interesting and much appreciated.

Moved and carried that a note of thanks be extended Miss Merrill.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn on December 9th.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

⁹ Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896) was an American abolitionist and author. She is best known for her novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), which depicts the harsh life of African Americans under slavery. Born in Litchfield, Connecticut, she was the seventh of 13 children. Her father was an outspoken Calvinist preacher and her mother a deeply religious woman who died when Stowe was only five years old. She received a traditional academic education with a focus on the classics, language study, and mathematics. In 1832, at age of 21, she moved to Cincinnati to join her father who had become president of Lane Theological Seminary. At the time, Cincinnati's trade on the Ohio River was booming and attracted migrants from many parts of the country, including free Blacks. During the Cincinnati riots of 1829, ethnic Irish attacked Blacks, trying to push perceived competitors out of the city. Beecher met several African Americans who had suffered those attacks. Riots took place again in 1836 and 1841. Attending a literary club, she met Calvin Ellis Stowe, a widower who was a professor at the seminary. They married on January 6, 1836. Ardent critics of slavery, Calvin and Harriet Stowe supported the Underground Railroad by temporarily housing fugitive slaves in their home. Most slaves continued north to secure freedom in Canada. In 1850, Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Law, prohibiting assistance to fugitives. By that time, the Stowes had moved with their family to Brunswick, Maine, where Calvin Stowe accepted a teaching position at Bowdoin College. During a communion service in the college chapel, Stowe had a vision of a dying slave, which inspired her to write his story. In June 1851, when she was 40, the first installment of her *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was published in serial form. Installments were published weekly from June 5, 1851 to April 1, 1852. The book's emotional portrayal of the effects of slavery on individuals captured the nation's attention. Stowe showed that slavery touched all of society. This novel added to the debate about abolition and slavery and aroused opposition in the South.

December 9, 1913

Meeting omitted on account of illness.

December 16, 1913

Club met Mrs. Albert Sweetser. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Twelve members were present.

Mrs. Adams made a report for the committee concerning Gentleman's Night. The Pres. was appointed on the committee for entertainment and refreshments for that evening, with the power to appoint four others as her assistants. Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Burnell, and Mrs. Jenkins were appointed.

Voted to leave to Mrs. Dunn the matter of calling a meeting on Dec. 23 to take the place of the one omitted Dec. 9.

After the roll call, Mrs. Wyman took charge of the meeting, giving us a most interesting afternoon among the Painter's of New England.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the Pres.

Anne F.S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

December 23, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Dunn. Fifteen members and five guests were present. Records of last two meetings read and approved. Com. on Gentleman's Night made report. Voted to extend an invitation to Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Calderwood to be present. Roll call responded to by current events. Mrs. Mabel R. Brown, the speaker of the afternoon, gave us a paper on Modern Methods of Education which was closely listened to, and greatly enjoyed. An informal talk also added to the interest.

Moved and carried that a rising vote of thanks be extended Mrs. Brown.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hall Dec. 30th.

Bessie P. Burnell Sec.

December 30, 1913

Club met with Mrs. Hall. Twenty members being present. Roll call omitted for spelling lesson. Com. on Gentleman's Night made report.

Miss Nellie Sweetser had charge of the program which was a very interesting collection of poems and short stories. She called her subject "Scrapes".

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman, Jan. 20, 1914

January 15, 1914

On Jan. 15 a very enjoyable evening was spent when We Neighbors and their husbands with Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood as guests, passed a social evening at the home of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Mrs. Dunn, our President cordially welcomed the guests, after which an oyster supper was served. A short entertainment was provided, the principle feature being an original poem by Miss Nellie Sweetser entitled Our Church, bring before us many of the dear old men and women who have passed away but can never be forgotten. It was much appreciated by all. (Poem found in back of book) [Actually, that page has been removed from this book.]

Another treat was the singing of old songs by Mr. A. H. Buxton, without which no Gentleman's Night would be complete. General singing of hymns closed the evening which will be long remembered.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

January 20, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Wyman, Thirteen members were present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Com on Gentlemen's Night reported a deficit of \$2.75 and it was voted to pay it from the Treasury.

Voted that Mrs. Brown's expense be paid from the treasury.

Moved and carried that a note of thanks be extended Mrs. F. R. Sweetser for her hospitality.

Moved and carried that a note of thanks be extended the Com. for their work.

Voted that we extend to Miss Nellie Sweetser our appreciation and gratitude for the time, thought and sentiment expressed in her poem.

A letter was read from Mrs. Calderwood thanking the Club for their hospitality and inviting them to her Island home for their Field Day.

On account of so much business the Roll Call was omitted.

The program of the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Thomes, and she read from the book "Pollyanna"¹⁰ which was much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Chase Jan. 27.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

January 27, 1914

Mrs. A. S. Chase entertained the Club on this date. There were nineteen members present. Records of the last meeting read and approved. The Com. for Guest Day were appointed as follows: Mrs. Osgood; Reception Com. Mrs. Dunn; Mrs. Fen Blanchard

Entertainment Com: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Geo. Blanchard;

Refreshment Com. Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Hall;

Decoration Com. Mrs. Chase, Mrs. Prince.

The monthly spelling lesson took the place of the Roll Call.

Mrs. Townsend was the leader and she continued the book "Pollyanna."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Feb. 10.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

February 10, 1914

Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Eighteen members and one guest were present. Records of last meeting read and approved. A letter was read from Mrs. Libby in regard to a speaker for the Missionary Society.

Voted to leave the matter in the hands of the officers of that Society.

A letter from the Sec. of the Greely Club accepting our invitation to Guest Day was read by the Sec.

¹⁰ *Pollyanna* is a best-selling 1913 novel by Eleanor H. Porter. The title character's name became a popular term for someone having a very optimistic outlook. Pollyanna Whittier is a young orphan who goes to live in Beldingsville, Vermont with her wealthy but stern and cold spinster aun Polly who does not want to take in Pollyanna , but feels it is her duty to her late sister. Pollyanna's philosophy of life centers on what she calls "the Glad Game," an optimistic positive attitude she learned from her father. The game consists of finding something to be glad about in every situation, no matter how bleak it may be. It originated in an incident one Christmas when Pollyanna, who was hoping for a doll in the missionary barrel, found only a pair of crutches instead. Making the game up on the spot, Pollyanna's father taught her to look at the good side of things – in this case to be glad about the crutches because "we don't need to use them."

Roll Call answered to by current events.

Mrs. Grace Jenkins was the leader of the afternoon and she continued the reading of the book "Pollyanna".

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg Feb. 17.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

February 17, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Bragg with 14 members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call omitted for spelling lesson.

Mrs. Burnell was the lead of the afternoon and she read several selections entitled "Three Batches of Bread", "The Mare and the Moter," "My Financial Career" and "En Passant."¹¹

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard March 10.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

March 10, 1914

Mrs. F. S. Blanchard entertained the Club on this date. There were 17 members and one guest present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Com. for Guest Day reported that each member would be assessed 10 cents.

A new member, Mrs. Kemp, joined us at this meeting, by a unanimous vote of the club.

Mrs. Hamilton was the leader and she gave us a very instructive afternoon among the old painters, Michel Angelo, Raphael and others.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Thomes on Mar. 17

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

March 19, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Thomes with 19 members and 4 guests present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call answered to by current events.

¹¹ The author of these selections has not been identified. One of the titles is probably "The Mare and the Mother."

Mr. Townsend was the speaker of the afternoon, taking for his subject the Review of Prof. Lowell's book on Mars.¹² It was extremely interesting and much enjoyed.

Moved and carried that a rising vote of thanks be extended Mr. Townsend.

At the close of the program, Mrs. Lang favored us with several solos.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard on Mar. 24.

Bessie P. Burnell Sec.

March 24, 1914

Mrs. Geo. Blanchard entertained the Club on this date – 16 members and 2 guests being present. Roll Call responded to by special articles, answering questions previously passed.

As our year is so near to the end, it was voted to consider Mrs. Kemp a member for next year.

¹² Percival Lawrence Lowell (1855-1916) was an American businessman, author, mathematician, and astronomer. He fueled speculation that there were canals on Mars. Member of the wealthy Bostonian Lowell family, he graduated from Harvard in 1876 with distinction in mathematics. In the 1880s, he traveled extensively in the Far East. In 1893, he moved back to the United States. Beginning in the winter of 1893-1894, he dedicated himself to the study of astronomy, founding an observatory that bears his name. Determined to study Mars and astronomy as a full time career after reading Camille Flammarion's *La planete Mars*, he became particularly interested in the canals of Mars. In 1894, Lowell chose Flagstaff, Arizona territory, as home of his observatory. At an altitude of 6900 feet with few cloudy nights and far from city lights, Flagstaff proved to be an excellent site. For the next 15 years, he studied Mars extensively and made intricate drawings of surface markings as he perceived them. With his writings, Lowell more than anyone else popularized the long-held belief that these markings showed that Mars sustained intelligent life forms.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was the leader, her subject being Geo. Kennan¹³ and his experience in Russia. At the close of the program the National anthem of Russia was played and sung by Miss Bessie Blanchard.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn on March 31.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

March 31, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Dunn, 18 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

This being the annual business meeting, the President appointed the following Nom. Com. Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Buxton, Mrs. Adams.

The Nominating Com. Reported as follows:

Pres. Mrs. Hamilton, Vice Pres. Mrs. Burnell, Sec. Mrs. Geo. Blanchard, Treas. Mrs. Bragg

Program Com: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. F.R. Sweetser

Field Day Com. Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Jenkins.

The President then appointed Mrs. A, A, Sweetser as Flower Com.

Roll Call omitted for spelling lesson. Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Hamilton having the highest score for the season, drew for the prize which fell to Mrs. Dunn.

Moved and carried that a rising vote of thanks be extended our retiring President.

¹³ George Kennan (1845-1924) was an American explorer noted for his travels in the Kamchatka and Caucasus regions of the Russian empire. He was a cousin twice removed of the diplomat and historian George Frost Kennan, with whom he shared his birthday. In 1864, he secured employment with the Russian American Telegraph co. to survey a route for a proposed overland telegraph line through Siberia and across the Bering Straits. After two years in the wilds of Kamchatka, he returned to Ohio and soon became well known for his lectures and articles. In his book *Tent Life in Siberia*, Kennan provided ethnographies, histories, and descriptions of many native peoples in Siberia. During 1870, he returned to Saint Petersburg and traveled to Dagestan, in the northern Caucasus region. He became the first American to explore its highlands, a remote Muslim region of herders, silversmiths, carpet-weavers, and craftsmen. He returned to the States in 1871. These travels earned him a reputation as an "expert" in all matters pertaining to Russia. By 1878, Kennan secured a position with Associated Press based in Washington D. C. As a war correspondent, he traveled to many conflict zones of the world, and contributed articles to magazines. In May 1885, Kennan began another voyage in Russia, traveling from Europe across Siberia. Previously, he had been very positive about the Tsarist Russian government. However, during the course of meeting with exiled dissidents, Kennan changed his mind. On his return to the United States in August 1886, he became an ardent critic of the Russian autocracy and began to espouse the cause of Russian democracy. He devoted the next 20 years promoting the cause of a Russian revolution. In 1891 he published two volume work, *Siberia and the Exile System*. It had an influential impact on American public opinion.

Mrs. Hall had charge of the afternoon with a miscellaneous program. She read an article entitled A trip to Colon, and also one about the school on Simpson's Island for the purpose of making good citizens.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood on April 14.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec.

April 14, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Osgood, 24 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call was responded to by household hints, a very apt article being read by Mrs. Dunn.

It being Domestic Science day, the ladys were invited to the dining room where fancy dishes of their own making were served, and receipts for the same were exchanged.

Adjourned subject to call of Field Day Com.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

June 23, 1914

For the second time the We Neighbors Club enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood and held their annual field day at their cottage on Peaks' Island. The day was a perfect one and the members with their husbands were out in numbers, 19 ladys and 12 gentlemen being present.

Some went to Portland by steam cars and others by the electric but all finally took the same boat for

Trefitherings Landing¹⁴, Peaks Island. Mr. Calderwood was also in the party and on arrival conducted us to his beautiful home.

Mrs. Calderwood was ready to receive us and her cordial welcome made us all feel perfectly at home. The cottage and grounds were thrown open for our enjoyment and the day was largely spent in admiration of the beautiful appointments. Our picnic dinner was eaten on the piazza, our kind hostess furnishing coffee and ice cream.

A short literary entertainment was furnished by Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Burnell. Later we had the pleasure of meeting the 6 months grandson and his mother, Alice Calderwood Huston. When the time for taking the steamer arrived, Mr. and Mrs. Calderwood also Mrs. Huston accompanied the party to the Landing. All arrived home in due season feeling that the day had been a perfect one in every respect and one long to be remembered.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

¹⁴ Probably Trefethen, located in northwest corner of Peak's Island.

October 14, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Adams, fifteen members being present. Records of last meeting and also of field day read and approved.

Moved and voted to reimburse the flower committee as soon as the treasurer had taken in enough funds.

A report of the Program committee was given by Mrs. Sturdivant, in which she stated that since changes had been made in laying out the work for the coming year. The hostess will be leader and every third meeting there will be a spelling lesson which will also be prepared by the hostess.

Roll call responded to by vacation experiences, an especially interesting being Mrs. A. A. Sweetser's trip in Aroostook Co.

Mrs. Adams was the leader and her subject "The Promised Land" a book by Mary Antin.¹⁵

She first read a newspaper article describing a lecture delivered by Miss Antin that the slums are made by Americans and not by immigrants. The reading of the book followed.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Burnell on Oct. 20th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

October 20, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Burnell, nineteen members and one guest being present.

Records of last meeting read and approved. As it was not convenient for Miss Merrill to entertain the club at the next meeting, Mrs. Dunn kindly offered to do so and her offer was accepted.

Mrs. Burnell continued the reading of the book, "The Promised Land."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn Oct. 27th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

¹⁵ Mary Antin (1881-1949) was an American author and immigration rights activist. She is best known for her 1912 autobiography *The Promised Land*, an account of her emigration and subsequent assimilation into the American way of life. Maryashe Antin was the second of six children born to Israel and Esther Weltman Antin, a Jewish family living in Polotsk, Belarus, at that time part of Russia. In 1891, Israel Antin emigrated to Boston and three years later, he sent for Mary, her mother and her siblings. Due to a change in the venue of Israel's store, the family moved from Chelsea to Ward 8 in Boston's South End, a notorious slum. She attended Girl's Latin School. In 1901, she married Amadeus William Grabau, a geologist, and with him moved to New York City where she attended Teachers College of Columbia University and Barnard College. Her 1912 autobiography, *The Promised Land*, described her public school education and assimilation into American culture, as well as the life of Jews in Czarist, Russia. After the book's publication, Mary Antin lectured widely on her immigration experience. She became a major support of Theodore Roosevelt and his Progressive Party.

October 27, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Dunn, 16 members and one guest being present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

A suggestion to send Mrs. Thomes a postal shower was met with – instant approval and the Sat. following was chosen as a suitable time.

Spelling lesson took the place of roll call. Mrs. Dunn continued the reading of the book “The Promised Land.”

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Sawyer No. 10th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

November 10, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Sawyer, 18 members and one guest present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Roll call was responded to by current events.

Mrs. Sawyer continued the reading of the book “The Promised Land.”

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hill Nov. 17th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

November 17, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Hill, 19 members being present. Roll call was omitted for spelling lesson.

Mrs. Hill continued the reading of the book “The Promised Land.”

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Kemp in three weeks Dec. 8th.

December 8, 1914

Club met with Mrs. Kemp, 17 members being present. Roll call was responded to by current events.

Records of last meeting read and approved. The question of Gentlemen’s Night was brought up and as it would be impossible for Mrs. Thomes to entertain on account of sickness, Mrs. Chase kindly offered her home.

Mrs. Kemp continued the reading of the book “The Promised Land,”

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. A. A. Sweetsir Dec. 16th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

December 19, 1914

Club was entertained by Mrs. A. A. Sweetser. On account of severe weather only 9 members were present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

The President reported committees for Gentlemen's Night as follows:

Refreshment Com: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Sawyer, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Chase (Hostess)

Entertainment Com.: Mrs. Geo. Blanchard, Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, Mrs. E. R. Hill

Moved and carried that a shower of post-cards be sent Mrs. Buxton on Xmas day.

Roll call was responded to by current events.

So few members being present it was thought best to discontinue the book and read a story which Miss Sweetser proposed, "The Lost Childe" written by Henry Van Dyke.¹⁶

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg in two weeks, Dec. 29.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

December 29, 1914

Club met at the home of Mrs. Bragg, a stormy day and only ten members were present.

Records of last meeting read and approved.

Moved and seconded that an invitation be sent Mr. & Mrs. Franklin N. Calderwood also Mrs. Davis to be present "Gentlemen's Night."

Voted to have the matter of what to have for refreshments entirely in the hands of the Refreshment Com.

Spelling lesson took the place of roll call. Mrs. Bragg continued the reading of the book "The Promised Land."

Adjourned to meet in three weeks with Mrs. George Jordan.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

¹⁶ Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) is an author, professor and clergyman. He taught English at Princeton for nearly 25 years. He chaired the committee that wrote the first Presbyterian printed liturgy. His book, *The Lost Boy*, is a classic tale of the young Jesus visiting the temple during Passover.

January 12, 1915

On the evening of Jan. 12th, the "We Neighbors Club" met at the home of Mrs. A. S. Chase for the purpose of spending a social evening with their husbands as guests. 48 members & guests were present to enjoy the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Chase.

A delicious supper of oysters, fancy cakes & salted nuts was served, after which the following entertainment was carried out.

Welcome by the President. A piano solo by Mrs. Jordan. A song by Kenneth Chase. A contest by Mrs. Hill. Kenneth also favored us with a piece on the violin accompanied by Laura on the piano. "As the Years Roll By" was rendered by the female Quartette consisting of Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Osgood, and Mrs. Geneva Chase. They responded to an encore with another song "Golden Dream."

Perhaps the most interesting fact of the entertainment was the examination of the baby pictures. Each member had been requested to bring her own and her husband's enclosed in an envelope. Mrs. A. A. Sweetser took them in charge. She numbered each envelope and also slips of paper which she distributed among the guests. They were to guess on the original and write the name opposite the corresponding number on the slips. It created some merriment when one gentleman did not recognize his own wife's picture.

A picture with a history was that of Arno S. Chase whose father died in the civil war. The father carried this picture with him & it was afterwards accidentally given by a stranger to a member of the family in Boston who recognized it. When questioned the man said it was given him by a dying man in Salsbury Prison.¹⁷ Thus his identity was discovered.

The singing of old hymns with Mrs. Jordan at the piano finished the evening.

January 19, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Jordan, 8 members being present.

Voted to take one dollar from the treasury for expenses of Gentlemen's Night. Each member was also assessed 16 cts.

A rising vote of thanks was extended Mrs. Chase for the use of her home.

Roll Call answered to by current events.

¹⁷ Salisbury Prison was a military prison of the Confederate States of America and was located in Rowan County, North Carolina. In May 1861, North Carolina seceded from the Union and the Confederacy sought a site in Rowan County, North Carolina for a military prison. A 20 year old abandoned cotton mill near the railroad line was selected. It was three stories tall with an attic. In December 1861, the prison held 120 prisoners but by May 1862, the number increased to 1400. By October 1864, the prison held 5000 and soon after that 10,000. When the prison became overcrowded, the death rate rose from 2% to 28%. Mass graves were used to accommodate the dead. That dying man in the picture was the father of Arno S. Chase, husband of Mrs. Mable Chase.

Mrs. Jordan then continued the reading of the book Mary Anton.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman Jan. 26th.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

January 26, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Wyman, 15 members being present.

Records of last meeting read and approved.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Entertainment and Refreshment Com.

Voted to invite the Greely Club to meet with us on our Guest Day.

The spelling lesson took the place of Roll Call.

Continued reading the book "The Promised Land."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hamilton on Feb. 9th.

Bessie P. Burnell Sec. pro tem

February 9, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Hamilton, 14 members being present. Records of Dec. 29th and also of Gentlemen's Night read and approved.

The President announced the committees for Guest Day as follows:

Refreshment Com.: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Wyman

Entertainment Com. : Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Jordan

Decoration Com.: Mrs. Hill, Miss Hattie Merrill

Reception Com.: Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. George Blanchard

Voted that the place of meeting for Guest Day in the hands of programme Com.

Completed the reading of the book "The Promised Land."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Feb. 17th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

February 17, 1915

Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. 20 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Refreshment Com. for Guest day reported that they had decided to have ice cream & cake, part of the members to provide cake and the others to pay for the ice cream.

Spelling Lesson took the place of roll call.

Mrs. Sweetser read from a new book "The Chronicles of a Village Dressmaker"¹⁸ which Mrs. Sturdivant procured from a ladys' club in West – Roxbury. It proved very interesting.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Grace Prince March 9th.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

February 23, 1915

The club held its annual Guest day in the new vestry, the Greely club had been invited, also each member had invited a friend, and the gathering was larger than it had been on previous occasions. The vestry looked very pleasing with potted plants on the piano & window seats. Pink and green crepe paper was festooned from the gas jets.

Our president graciously welcomed all and gave some account of the years work.

The program of entertainment consisted of a piano duet by Mrs. Nellie Jordan & Mrs. Anna Blanchard, a contest to find who could make the most words out of the letters in the word multiplication was won by Mrs. Hamilton who made 44. A vocal solo by Mrs. Sturdivant. Reading by Mrs. Blanchard. Singing by the female quartette, Mrs. Osgood, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Chase. A flower contest was original and very pleasing. It was won by Mrs. Earnest Burnell who gave the correct name for each flower.

After the entertainment ice cream and cake were served and a social time enjoyed.

¹⁸ The author is not identified.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

March 9, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Grace Prince, 20 members and 2 guests being present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Moved and carried that a vote of thanks be extended to the different guest day committees for their efficient work.

Moved and carried that a note of thanks be extended for the loan of the book "The Chronicles of a Village Dressmaker".

Mrs. Sturdivant gave some account of Mary Antin's lecture which she attended in Portland.

Roll call was responded to with current events. Mrs. Prince finished the book.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard in one week.

A.M.B. Sec.

March 16, 1915

17 members of the We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. A. S. Chase. Records were not present. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Chase had charge of the program and read an article entitled "Facts about Chewing Gum"¹⁹ and also "The Story of the Silk worker".²⁰

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. H. Chase March 23,

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

March 23, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard, 19 members and 2 guests being present.

Records of Guest day and 2 last meetings read and approved. Spelling lesson took place of roll call.

Mrs. Blanchard read extracts from the book, "Sizing up Uncle Sam."

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Sturdivant.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

¹⁹ Some facts about chewing gum include the following. The world's oldest piece of chewing gum is 9000 years old. Prehistoric men and women chewed on lumps of tree resin for pure enjoyment. The Greeks routinely gnawed on tree resin to clean their teeth and to freshen their breath. Native Americans often chewed on tree sap. Early settlers combined tree sap and beeswax to soften the chew. The first commercial chewing gum – State of Maine Spruce Gum – was introduced in 1848 by John B. Curtis. The first patent for chewing gum was issued in 1869 to William T. Semple, a dentist from Mount Vernon, Ohio (U.S. patent 98,304). By 1888, an Adams' chewing gum called Tutti-Fruitti became the first to be sold in a vending machine. The very first bubble gum was invented by Frank Henry Fleer in 1906. He called it Blibber-Blubber. Fleer's recipe was perfected by Walter Diemer who called his product Double Bubble. In the early 1900s, William Wrigley Jr. was one of the first to promote the sale of branded goods through ads and used it to make Wrigley's Spearmint gum and Juicy Fruit. Chewing gum can reduce muscular tension and it helps people to feel at ease. Chewing gum helps people stay alert and at same time eases tension. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

²⁰ This article may have referred to the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913. This silk strike was a work stoppage involving silk workers in Paterson, New Jersey. The strike involved demands for establishing an eight hour day and improved working conditions. The strike began on February 25, 1913 and ended six months later on July 28, 1913. During the course of the strike, approximately 1850 strikers were arrested. Ultimately, the strike ended in failure. Paterson needed to adapt to new machinery and new economics of the silk industry. Manufacturers would not acquiesce to demands of strikers because they purportedly could not. If they did not produce goods at competitive prices through new machinery and cheap labor, they would have been put out of business by firms in Pennsylvania. Details are provided in Steve Golin's book, *The Fragile Bridge: Paterson Silk Strike of 1913*.

March 30, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Sturdivant, 18 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved,

As this was the annual business meeting, the President appointed the following Nominating Com.: Mrs. A. A. Sturdivant, Mrs. Blanchard, and Mrs. Hill. The Nom. Com. reported as follows.

Pres. Mrs. Burnell; V. Pres. Mrs. Blanchard, Sec. Mrs. Bragg, Treas. Mrs. Jordan

Program Com.: Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Osgood, Miss Merrill

Field Day Com. Mrs. A. S. Chase, Mrs. Prince, Mrs. Sawyer

Moved & carried that post cards instead of flowers be sent the sick members by the club. Treas. Report read and accepted.

Moved and carried that a rising vote of thanks be extended our retiring president.

Roll call was responded to by some article of interest which made up the program of the afternoon.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Dunn Apr. 14.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec.

April 14, 1915

The Club met with Mrs. Dunn, seventeen members present. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Moved and carried to amend Art. V of the constitution, substituting the word fifty in place of twenty-four. Suggestions were made that we send post cards to Mrs. Maud Leighton who is ill.

Roll call responded to by household information and other things of interest.

Receipts were then given of the different dishes that had been brought for our domestic science day. We were then invited to the dining room to enjoy the collection.

Adjourned subject to call of field day committee.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

May 13, 1915

The club was entertained at the home of Mrs. Fred Fogg who served as hostess for the Greely Club. In spite of the disagreeable rainy day a goodly number were present and a very delightful afternoon was spent after the entertainment a fine luncheon served.

The annual field day was held June 3 at Mountfort's Mt.²¹ A picnic dinner was served. About 40 present.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

October 12, 1915

Club met with Mrs. and Miss Merrill, 26 members and guests being present. Records of last meeting and field day read and approved. Roll call responded to by items of fashion. The members had been asked to wear some old article and many interesting things were shown. Mrs. F. R. Sweetser wore the dress worn by her mother at her wedding by her mother. Mrs. F. N. Doughty wore her wedding dress Miss Harriet Merrill wore a dress worn by her grandmother sixty three years ago. Mrs. Hamilton wore a dress worn by an aunt.

Mrs. Adams was leader and her subject A Century of Dress. She read interesting articles on the fashion.

Adjourned to meet Oct. 19 with Mrs. Burnell.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

October 19, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Burnell, 21 members and guests present. The records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Osgood was leader for the afternoon and read articles on Early Portland.

Adjourned to meet Oct. 26 with Mrs. Philip Prince.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

²¹ Mountfort Road, next to what is now known as Trues Hill, is located in North Yarmouth, Maine.

October 26, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Prince, 21 members and guests present. Roll call responded to by current events. Mrs. F. R. Sweetser was leader for the afternoon, the subject being Fall Nature Study.

Mrs. Sweetser gave an interesting account of her trip in the Aroostook Co. She also read poem on nature by J. G. Whittier and Miss Fickett. Two interesting stories were read, one The Apple by John Burroughs and the other Mr. Maple & Mr. Pine.²²

Adjourned to meet Nov. 2 with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

November 2, 1915

Club met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser, 12 members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the president.

It was voted that in the future every member present who did [?] respond to the roll call should pay a fine of one cent.

After the roll call Mrs. Dunn had charge of the program for the afternoon. Subject "A review of recent books." Interesting review of the bestsellers were read and the books discussed by members present.

Closed at four o'clock to meet Nov. 9 with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Laura L. Wyman, Sec. pro tem

November 9, 1915

Club met with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser with 22 members present. Meeting called to order by the pres. The roll call responded to by many interesting articles.

²² Both articles are included in *Trees in Prose and Poetry*, compiled by Gertrude L. Stone and M. Grace Fickett, Instructors in State Normal School, Gorham, Maine, 1902."The Apple" by John Burroughs is found on page 47. "Mr. Maple and Mr. Pine" by W. J. Brier on page 32.

After the roll call Mrs. Thomes had charge of the program. Subject: Fighting in Flanders by E. Alexander Powell.²³

Meeting adjourned at four o'clock to meet Nov. 16 with Mrs. O. M. Hall

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec. pro tem

November 16, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Hall, 23 members present. Meeting called to order by the president. Records of last meeting also those of Oct. 26 read and approved.

Voted that whenever the place of the meeting should be changed, the president should notify the absent members of the change.

Roll call responded to by current events and items of interest.

Mrs. A. A. Sweetser was leader for the P.M. having for her subject – Prison Reform.

Adjourned to meet Nov 30 with Mrs. Sawyer who asked us to meet with her at the home of Mrs. F. N. Doughty.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

November 30, 1915

Club met at the home of Mrs. F.N. Doughty, Mrs. Sawyer hostess. 18 members present. Meeting called to order by the president. Records of last meeting read and accepted.

²³ E. Alexander Power (1879-1957) was an American war correspondent during World War I. During 1905-1906, he worked in the Near East as correspondent for British and American publications. From 1906-1909, he served as a Consular official in Syria and Egypt. As a war correspondent during World War I, his position as neutral allowed him access to both sides of the battle lines. His reports are published in *Fighting in Flanders (World War I, Belgium)*, 1914.

Following the roll call the subject for the afternoon was conducted by Mrs. A. S. Chase. She took for her subject Feeble-minded People speaking particularly of the home and school for the feeble-minded at Pownal.²⁴

Adjourned to meet Dec. 7 with Mrs. Kemp.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

December 7, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Kemp with 17 members and 1 guest. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and accepted. Roll call responded to.

Mrs. Hamilton was leader for the afternoon and read articles about Romania the Pivotal State.²⁵ After the reading she passed the magazine containing many interesting pictures about Romania.

Adjourned to meet Dec 14 with Mrs. Hill.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

December 15, 1915

On account of the weather the club was called on the above date meeting with Mrs. Hill. 18 members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to.

The president named the following committees for Gentlemen's Night. Com. on refreshments Mrs. A. S. Chase, Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, Mrs. F. H. Chase. Com. on entertainment Mrs. Geo. W. Jordan, Mrs. Maude Leighton, Miss Harriet Merrill.

²⁴ The Maine School for the Feeble-Minded was established to provide care for people who had been labeled "feeble-minded," "idiot," "moron," "defective," "deficient," or "retarded". The enabling legislation passed the Maine Legislature in 1907 and specified residents of the new facility be between the ages of 3 and 21. After the facility opened in 1908, the patient population grew rapidly. Some medical personnel felt it appropriate to send all developmentally disabled persons to the institution. In one controversial case, the State of Maine in 1912 removed residents of Malaga Island off Phippsburg, and some of those residents, upon removal, were sent to the Maine School for the Feeble-Minded. Per patient costs were higher than anticipated, and as population increased markedly, quality of care suffered.

²⁵ The article, "Roumania, the Pivotal State" by James Howard Gore, was printed in the October 1915 issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

Miss Nellie Sweetser was leader for the afternoon, her subject The Town of Cumberland. She read interesting articles speaking particularly of the early life and forming of our church.²⁶ A poem was read which was written by John Barstow for the church centennial in 1893.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser read an account of the wreck of the brig Turner in 1843 in command of Capt. Beza Blanchard.²⁷

Adjourned to meet Dec. 28 with Mrs. Geo. Jordan.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

December 28, 1915

Club met with Mrs. Geo. Jordan 22 members and 2 guests present. Meeting called to order by the president. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Voted to hold the meeting on Gentlemen's night in the vestry.

Voted that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Chase in regard to using the vestry. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. F. S. Blanchard were appointed. As Mrs. A. S. Chase declined to serve on the committee for refreshments, the president appointed Mrs. G. B. Osgood. Mrs. Adams offer to substitute for Mrs. F. H. Chase in case she could not be present.

Roll call responded to.

Mrs. Anna Blanchard was leader, Antiques and Curios the subject. Many interesting things were brought by the members among them a sample worked by Mrs. Joan Blanchard, book of accounts kept by Ainmara [?] Smith in 1789 to 1815.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. A. S. Chase, Jan. 4, 1916

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

²⁶ Nellie L. Sweetser wrote a history of the Cumberland Congregational Church centennial celebration September 21, 1893. It was published, Portland, Maine Southworth Bros. 1893.

²⁷ Captain Beza Blanchard provided a vivid account of the loss of the Brig Turner and subsequent suffering of himself and crew during a period of 46 days that they remained on the wreck. The account can be found in the *Naval Journal*, August 1843, p 355-358.

January 4, 1916

Club met with Mrs. A. S. Chase, 24 members and 1 guest present. Meeting called to order by the president. Records of last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Adams reported on securing the use of the vestry. The decorating of the vestry for Gentlemen's Night to be in charge of the entertainment com. Roll call responded to.

Mrs. Sturdivant was leader for the afternoon. She read two stories "Old Clothes"²⁸ and "To Spank or Not to Spank."²⁹ She had asked Mrs. Blanchard to use part of the afternoon telling us about the missions in Southern Cal.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 11 with Mrs. Adams.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

January 11, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Adams, twenty members and two guests present. Meeting called to order by the pres. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Roll Call responded to.

Mr. Townsend was speaker for the afternoon and gave us very interesting paper on Monroe Doctrine.³⁰

Adjourned to meet Tues. evening Jan.18 at the vestry.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

²⁸ "The Romance of Certain Old Clothes" was written by Henry James and was first published in the Atlantic Monthly, Vol. 21, Issue 124. James made some changes when he published the story in the UK in 1885. This story can be considered Gothic Literature due to its ghostly nature, social and contemporary issues. This ghostly tale is considered to be a Gothic Tale because it presents something that is familiar and at the same time as being repressed. Some say it is a revenge story about the grudges of the dead combined with sibling rivalry.

²⁹ "To Spank or Not to Spank" is the first of a series of Adventures in Childhood by Mary Heaton Vorse and presents an old problem in a distinctly new manner. This story was published in the *Women's Home Companion* Mid-Winter Fiction Number 1914. Mary Heaton Vorse (1874-1966) was an American journalist, labor activist, and novelist. She was an outspoken advocate for causes such as Women's Suffrage, Civil rights, and pacifism, including opposition to World War I.

³⁰ Under the Monroe Doctrine, further efforts by European nations to colonize land or interfere with states in North or South American would be viewed as acts of aggression requiring U. S. intervention. This doctrine was part of an annual message delivered to Congress by President James Monroe December 1823.

January 18, 1916

Gentlemen's Night was observed by the Club Tues. evening January 18. 48 members and guests meeting in the vestry.

The president gave a few words of welcome after which all were seated at the supper tables. A delicious supper consisting of fruit salad. Cold pork, mashed potatoes, rolls, pickles, and olives and cake was nicely served and much enjoyed.

Before leaving the tables, the roll call was responded to by a humorous clipping.

The following program was then carried out. Mandolin solo Edw. Bragg, Book Contest, Poem "the Wood-box", Cello Solo by Lucille Blanchard with piano accompaniment by Mrs. Jordan. Pin Contest & Vocal Solo by Mrs. Sturdivant. The remainder of the evening was spent in trying our skill throwing bean bags.

January 25, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Hamilton. Seventeen members present. Meeting called to order by the pres. Roll Call responded to.

Mrs. Blanchard reported our cost of supper Gentlemen's Night to be \$9.64, of Vestry 3.00. Voted to accept report and pay bills.

Mrs. Sturdivant suggested that hereafter the entertainment com. Act as hostesses on Gentlemen's Night.

Mrs. Geo. Jordan was leader for the P.M. Her subject Kate Douglas Wiggin. She read sketches from her early life and her life in later years. She also read about the Dorcas Fair³¹ held in Quillcote. Mrs. Riggs summer home Hollis, Me.

Adjourned to meet Feb 1 with Mrs. Jenkins.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

³¹ The Dorcas Society Fair was held in Quillcote, summer home of Kate Douglas Wiggin in Hollis, Maine. An article entitled "The Quillcote Fair – with Its Wonderful Gift, Its Maypole and Its Outpouring of Good Will" by Jessie Tarbox Beal appeared in *Good Housekeeping*, Vol. 48 (1909), pages 673-677. For more information of Quillcote, refer to Chapter Two, footnote 37. For more information on Kate Douglas Wiggin, refer to Chapter One, footnote 5.

February 1, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Jenkins, twenty members and one guest being present.

Voted to extend vote of thanks to the members of both committees for Gentlemen's Night for the manner in which they served.

Subject of Guest afternoon taken up and it was voted to invite as guests, individually, the members of the Greely Club and enough others to allow each member of this Club one guest. The Pres. then appointed the following committees to serve for that afternoon.

Refreshments: Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Sawyer

Entertainment: Mrs. A. S. Chase and Mrs. Dunn.

A roll call then responded to by various items of interest.

Meeting then given into the hands of Mrs. Wyman who took for her subject The Blessings of our Postal System,³² which she made extremely interesting. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. George Blanchard Feb. 8 with Miss Merrill leader.

E.G. Dunn Sec. pro tem

February 8, 1916

Club met with Mrs. George Blanchard. Nineteen members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Reception committee for guest-day was appointed: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Wyman.

Roll call responded to by quotations from Longfellow.

Miss Harriet Merrill was leader for the P.M. and read from the Life and Letters of Louisa M. Alcott.³³

³² When a soldier on the Western Front wrote a London newspaper in 1915 and said he was lonely and would appreciate receiving some mail, the response was immediate. The newspaper published his name and regiment. Within weeks, he received 3000 letters, 98 large parcels and 3 mail bags full of smaller packages. The most effective weapon used during World War I was not the shell or the tank, it was morale. The British Army believed morale was crucial to an allied victory and it looked to the Post Office for help.

³³ *Louisa May Alcott, Her life, Letters, and Journals*, edited by Ednah D. Cheney, Boston: Roberts Bros. 1889, 438 pages. Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) was American novelist and poet, best known for her novel *Little Women* (1868) and its sequels *Little Men* (1871) and *Jo's Boys* (1886). Raised by transcendentalist parents, she grew up in Concord among many of the well-known intellectuals of the day, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Henry David Thoreau.

Adjourned for one week.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

February 15, 1916

The club held its annual guest day in the vestry nearly fifty members and guests present.

The president cordially welcomed the guests after which the roll call was responded to by humorous saying which had been attached to valentine post cards and served as pretty souvenirs of the occasion. Song of welcome by Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. F.H. Chase, and Mrs. George Blanchard. Poem by Mrs. P. D. Sturdivant and Reading by Mrs. Adams. The selling of four cent packages by the rotary plan was much enjoyed.

At the close of the above program a fine lunch of fruit salad, crackers, olives, cake & cocoa was served. The tables were very attractive with place cards of hearts and cupids suggestive of Valentine's day.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in social enjoyment and singing.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

February 22, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Osgood with 23 members present. Report of the Guest Day committee on refreshments given and accepted with thanks.

After the roll call Miss Harriet Sweetser Supt. of Domestic Science of the schools of Portland gave a short paper on the Household Art Course as it is taken up in the schools of the State including a brief history of the starting of this work in Port. The paper was followed by an informal talk by Miss Sweetser on her own work. Samples of sewing done by the pupils in all the grades were shown. Miss Sweetser presented her subject in a very interesting and instructive manner. A vote of thanks was extended to her at the close of the meeting.

Adjournment to meet Feb. 24 with Mrs. Bragg

Laura L. Wyman, Sec. pro tem

February 29, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Bragg with 23 members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. After the roll call each member read a question for the members to answer

Mrs. F.S. Blanchard showed several views of Cal. and read an interesting article from a paper published on Mt. Lowe,³⁴ Cal.

Adjourned to meet Wed. Mar.8 with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

March 8, 1916

Club met with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, fifteen members and two guests being present. In the absence of Sec., Mrs. L. J. Hamilton was chosen sec. pro tem. Program committee reported that club would meet with Mrs. Maud Leighton Mar. 14. Roll Call answered by current events.

Program was in charge of Mrs. Hill who took for her subject The Perkins Institute for the Blind³⁵ at Watertown, Mass. Interesting articles on kindergarten work were given and the new buildings described. A visit by Mrs. Hill's sister to the Institute was described and proved of much interest. Pictures of the Braille type, of the buildings, of the cottage life of the blind children and other things were shown.

Adj. to meet with Mrs, Maud Leighton Mar. 14.

L.J. Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

³⁴ Mount Lowe is a mountain in the southern fold of the San Gabriel Mountains. Originally named Oak Mountain, it was renamed for Professor Thaddeus S. C. Lowe, who is credited for being the first man to set foot and plant an American flag at its peak. In 1896, he built the Mt. Lowe Railway to its foot. The peak of Mt. Lowe is 5,604 feet.

³⁵ Perkins Institute for the Blind is the oldest school for the blind in the United States. Founded in 1829, the school is named in honor of Thomas Handasyd Perkins , a Boston shipping merchant who began losing his sight at the time of its establishment. Perkins donated his Pearl Street mansion as the school's second home. In 1839, Perkins sold the mansion and donated the proceeds , which allowed purchase of a more spacious building in South Boston. Charles Dickens visited Perkins Institute in 1842. Amazed at the work, he recorded his impressions in his book *American Notes*. This book caught the attention of Helen Keller's mother and prompted her to contact the school in search of assistance. In 1887, the Perkins school director sent graduate Anne Sullivan to teach Helen Keller in Alabama. After working with her, Sullivan returned with Keller to Perkins in 1888. They resided there intermittently until 1893. The school moved to its present location in Watertown, Massachusetts in 1912. It is located on a 38.5 acre property on the banks of the Charles River. For more information on Helen Keller, see Chapter Four, footnote 8.

March 14, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Maud Leighton. Fourteen members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by pres. Record of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Jenkins was leader for the afternoon reading from the Review of Reviews an article on Political events for the past month also an article on aeroplanes.³⁶

Adjourned to meet Mar. 21 with Mrs. Wyman.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

March 21, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Wyman. Sixteen members present. Meeting called to order by the pres. Records of last meeting read and approved. It was announced that next week Mrs. F. S. Blanchard would be leader reading her paper on her trip to Cal.

Mrs. Sawyer was leader for the P.M. The subject : "The High Cost of Living." Articles were read on Help in Buying Cotton and Economy of Nutrition by Dr. Wiley.³⁷ An interesting account of the shipwreck of the Oracle³⁸ was given by the mate – Homer Humphrey was read.

An especially interesting part of the program was the giving of the farce "Fooled" representing the high cost of living in 1966. The parts were taken by Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Leighton, and Mrs. Jordan and was much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet Mar. 28 with Mrs. Dunn.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

³⁶ Aeroplanes were just coming into military use at the outset of World War I. Initially, they were used mostly for reconnaissance. Pilots and engineers learned from experience, leading to the development of many specialized types, including fighters, bombers, and ground attack aeroplanes. Ace fighter pilots were portrayed as modern knights, and many became popular heroes. Impact of aircraft on the course of the war was mainly tactical rather than strategic.

³⁷ Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley, first commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, worked in the Good Housekeeping Institute Laboratories. For more information, refer to Chapter Three, footnote 78,

³⁸ The barque named *Oracle* was built in 1866. A barque (bark) is a sailing ship with at least three masts, all of them fully square rigged except for the stern most one, which is fore and aft rigged. With a load of mahogany aboard, the *Oracle* was lost July 4, 1867 on Conch Reef, a coral reef located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

March 29, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Dunn nineteen members and two guests present. Meeting called to order to order by the pres. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call omitted.

Mrs. F.S. Blanchard was leader and gave a very interesting account of her trip to Cal., her visit to the Exposition and other places. She showed many views were extremely interesting.

At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was given Mrs. Blanchard.

Adjourned to meet Apr. 4 with Mrs. Sweetser.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

April 4, 1916

Club met with Miss Nellie Sweetser with twelve members present. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Records of last meeting read and approved.

It being the annual business the chair appointed the following nominating committee Mrs. Adams, Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. Sawyer who nominated the following officers:

Pres. Mrs. Anna Blanchard

Vice Pres. Mrs. Bragg

Sec. Mrs. Jordan

Treas. Mrs. Lizzie J. Blanchard.

Program Committee: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Mabel Chase

Field Day: Mrs. Eva Chase, Mrs. Doughty, Mrs. Maude Leighton.

Voted to accept the report of nominating committee

Treasurer's report given and accepted.

Voted to hold next meeting the Domestic Science day – with Mrs. Burnell

Roll Call responded to.

The sec. was leader for the PM. Reading Frank Carpenter's paper on Alaska.³⁹

Adjourned to meet Apr. 11

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec.

April 11, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Burnell, with sixteen members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard resigned as Treasurer in favor of Mrs. Edith Sawyer. Mrs. Sawyer was elected to fill the office.

Roll call responded to by household information and other things of interest.

Recipes were then given of the different dishes that had been brought for our domestic science day after which we were invited into the dining room where a very delicious lunch was served.

Adjourned subject to call of Field Day Committee.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

October 3, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Burnell with thirteen members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved.

Short reports given concerning Field Day.

The chairman of the Program Committee gave some explanation in regard to some changes to be made in programs.

Vacation Notes was the subject for the afternoon and interesting accounts were given of pleasant trips taken and many enjoyable days spent in different ways during the Summer, by all present.

³⁹ Frank Carpenter (1855-1924), born in Mansfield, Ohio, was a journalist and photographer. He and his daughter Frances initially photographed Alaska in 1910. Eventually, they collected about 5000 images which were later donated to the Library of Congress.

Miss Sweetser gave an original poem which was much enjoyed.

Adjourned for two weeks to meet with Mrs. Sturdivant October 17, 1916.

October 17, 1916

Club met at the home of Mrs. Sturdivant with eleven members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the Secretary. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with items of interest.

Mrs. J. L. Dunn was leader for the afternoon having for her subject Government Fisheries, and she read some interesting articles two in particular in regard to the oyster⁴⁰ and goose fish.⁴¹

Adjourned to meet in one week, although the place of meeting was not decided on.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

October 24, 1916

Mrs. Hall entertained the Club on this date, 16 members and 2 guests present. Meeting called to order by the President. Record of last meeting read and approved.

A bill amounting to .60 was read and it was voted to pay the same.

Roll call responded to with Current events and other items.

Mrs. Kemps was leader for the P.M. her subject being Rhode Island and her history which proved to be instructive and very interesting.

Adjourned to meet October 31 with Mrs. Sawyer.

⁴⁰ Oyster is the common name of different families of saltwater clams, bivalve mollusks that live in marine or brackish habitats. Some kinds are consumed cooked or raw, the latter being a delicacy. Pearl oysters produce pearls by covering a minute invading parasite with nacre. Over the years, the irritating object is covered with enough layers of nacre to become a pearl. The many colors and shapes of pearls depend on the natural pigment of the nacre and the shape of the original irritant. A group of oysters is commonly called a bed or oyster reef. The largest oyster producing body of water in the United States is Chesapeake Bay.

⁴¹ Goosefish or monkfish are angler fishes found in the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, where they live on sandy and muddy bottoms of the continental shelf and continental slope at depths in excess of 3300 feet. Like most anglerfish, they have a very large head with large mouth that bears long, sharp, recurved teeth. Curving back toward the fish, those teeth make it difficult for prey to escape. Several of the large species are important commercially fished species.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

October 31, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Sawyer eighteen members and one guest being present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with interesting items.

Mrs. Sturdivant was the leader for the afternoon. She read an article with reference to All Hallow's eve⁴² with the sports and customs of that date, also articles on The New Poetry, with selections by Miss Amy Lowell, Carl Sandburg, and Robert Frost who are the chief writers at this time.⁴³

Adjourned informally

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

November 7, 1916

Mrs. Doughty entertained the Club on this date and there were fourteen members and three guests present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Sawyer and her subject was South America. She read article concerning the whole continent and then specialized on Argentine⁴⁴ which was very interesting and closed by reading letters from her son Milton who has spent a portion of this year in Ecuador and is at the present time at Panama.

⁴² All Hallow's Eve or All Saint's Eve is a celebration observed in a number of countries on October 31, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallow's Day. It begins a three day observance of All Hallow tides, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remember the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and the faithfully departed. It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originate from the ancient Celtic harvest festival, Samhain and that this Gaelic observance was Christianized by the early church. In many parts of the world, the Christian religious observance of All Hallow's Eve includes attending church services and lighting candles on the graves of the dead. Some Christians historically abstained from meals on All Hallow's Eve, a tradition reflected in eating certain foods, including apples, colcannon, potato pancakes and soul cakes. In other countries, celebrations are secular.

⁴³ Amy Lowell (1874-1925), Carl Sandburg (1878-1967), Robert Frost (1874-1963).

⁴⁴ Argentina is a federal republic located in the southeastern part of South America. It is the eighth largest country in the world and second largest in Latin America. It is the largest Spanish speaking country. Europeans first arrived with the 1502 voyage of Amerigo Vespucci. Spanish navigators visited in 1516 and 1526.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. H. Chase Nov. 14.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

November 14, 1916

Club met with Mrs. F.H. Chase with fifteen members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call was responded to with Current events.

Mrs. A. S. Chase was leader for the afternoon her subject being Washington and the Capitol. The first selection given was Washington's beginning – growth and future by Taft, followed by an article Keeping House for Congress by Elliott Woods ⁴⁵Superintendent of the Capitol and closing with Letters written by Washington to Tobias Lear (his secretary).⁴⁶

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard Nov. 21, 1916.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

November 21, 1916

Club met with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, seventeen members and 1 guest present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved.

After the roll call Mrs. Hamilton had the charge of the program for the P.M. and she read interesting articles concerning the (twin cities) Minneapolis and St. Paul⁴⁷ and several views were shown.

⁴⁵ Elliott Woods (1865-1923) served as Architect of the Capitol from 1902-1923. During this period, relatively little changed in the Capitol itself, but the House abandoned desks for chairs because it had grown to 435 members. Under the supervision of Wood, the first House (now called Cannon House Office Building) and Senate (now known as the Russell Senate Office Building) office buildings were constructed. The Cannon building opened in 1908 and Russell building opened in 1909. Once the tunnel between the Capitol and the Russell building was completed, motorized transport through the tunnel began in 1912.

⁴⁶ *Letters and recollections of George Washington*; being letters to Tobias Spear and others between 1790-1799, showing the first American in management of his estate and domestic affairs, 1907.

⁴⁷ Minneapolis-St. Paul is a metropolitan area built around the Mississippi, Minnesota, and St. Croix Rivers. The area is commonly known as the Twin Cities. Despite the moniker, the two cities are independent municipalities with defined borders and are distinct from one another. Minneapolis was influenced by early Scandinavian and Lutheran heritage, while St. Paul was influenced by early French, Irish, and German Catholic roots.

Adjournment to meet Dec. 5th with Mrs. Wyman.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

December 5, 1916

Mrs. Wyman entertained the club on this date nineteen members and one guest present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with Current events and other interesting items.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was the leader for the afternoon and she read from the book entitled "Germany her people and Their Story" by Augusta Hale Gifford⁴⁸ which dealt with the doings of the people of Germany from 754 A. D. to 1899 A.D. and it was very interesting and instructive.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 12th with Mrs. Adams.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

December 12, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Adams twelve members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved. The following committees were appointed by the President to serve for Gentlemen's Night.

Refreshment Committee: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Doughty

Entertainment Committee: Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Kemp

Roll call responded to with Current Events.

⁴⁸ Augusta Hall Gifford (1842-1915) was born in Turner, Maine and spent her childhood growing up on a farm and attending local schools. In 1859, at age 17 she entered Oberlin College, then one of the very few colleges with a classical curriculum open to both sexes. After graduating she settled in Portland, Maine. In 1869 she married George Gifford, initially a lawyer, then a journalist editor in chief of Portland Press, 1869-1871. After he accepted positions, as agent of the U. S. Treasury in London and then U. S. consul at Basel, Switzerland, 188-1913, they made their home at intervals in London, Paris, parts of France, and Switzerland. In the process, she developed a taste for "foreign" languages and literature. In her first travels through Germany, she became fascinated with German life, a fascination which inspired her book *Germany, Her People and Their Story*, published by Lothrop in 1899. It was a popular history of the German Empire from Arminius to William II, 745-1899. Legends and anecdotes are skillfully woven into the story as well as vivid glimpses of national life and character. According to her obituary, "Mrs. Gifford was considered one of the most intellectual Maine ever sent forth."

Miss Wilson had charge of the program for the afternoon her subject being Christmas Customs in England and she read a paper telling us of the holiday customs in which was followed by a poem "An Old English Christmas Carol" read by Miss Nellie Sweetser, after which Mrs. Sturdivant read a selection taken from Dickens entitled "A Christmas dinner".⁴⁹ As the time was not all taken Miss Wilson read other selections by Irving.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hamilton December 19th.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

December 19, 1916

Club met with Mrs. Hamilton with ten members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with Current Events.

Voted to hold our Gentlemen's Night in the Vestry unless invited to the home of some member.

The matter of inviting past members was brought up and it was vote d to invite Mr. and Mrs. Thomes and Mr. & Mrs. Buxton.

Mrs. Jenkins was leader for the afternoon. She spoke briefly on the "Christmas Customs in Italy" and then read several chapters from the "Bird's Christmas Carol"⁵⁰ which was very much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks January 2, 1917 with Mrs. Kemp.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

January 2, 1917

⁴⁹ In "A Christmas Dinner", Charles Dickens depicts the perfect Christmas several years before he published his novel, *A Christmas Carol*. He is often given credit for transforming Christmas into a day of celebration centered on the family, especially Christmas dinner.

⁵⁰ *The Bird's Christmas Carol* is a novel by Kate Douglas Wiggin. Written and published in 1887, this story tells about the arrival of a little child born into the Bird family on Christmas morning. If it were a girl, they intended to name her Lucy, but they had not expected her arrival on Christmas morning, and a real Christmas baby was not to be lightly named. This is the story of Carol Bird, a young child unusually loving and generous. At age five she contracts an unspecified illness and by age ten, she is bedridden. The novel is a wistful moral tale about a saintly child, but is enlivened by humorous episodes.

Mrs. Kemp entertained the club on this date with twelve members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded too.

The Refreshment Committee for Gentlemen's Night gave a short report as to their plans for Gentlemen's Night.

Mrs. Hill was the leader for the afternoon taking for her subject "The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic" by Florence Howe Hall.⁵¹

Adjourned to meet Jan. 9 with Mrs. Jordan, as it was not convenient for Mrs. Bragg to entertain on that date. Mrs. Osgood leader.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

January 9, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Jordan with sixteen members and two guests present. Meeting called to order by President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with interesting items.

Mrs. Osgood was the leader for the P.M. taking for her subject "The beginnings of some interesting events and accomplishments." The first five articles read were "From Boston to New York in 1704"⁵² "John Quincy Adams, Statesman" "The Fourth, a Century Ago," "A Historian in the Making" and "Robert Fulton, An Inventor of the Steamboat"⁵³ all of which were written by Houston Odell. The next selection read "Invention and Progress" which told of the invention of the Steam Engine⁵⁴ also how steam is used for the advantage of this and other nations and the last article concerning the telephone and Phonograph."

⁵¹ Florence Howe Hall (1845-1922), *The Story of the Battle Hymn of the Republic*, New York: Harper, 1916. Florence Hall was daughter of Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910).

⁵² Sarah Kemble Knight (1666-1727) made a famous journey in 1704 on horseback from Boston to New Haven, then to New York along the Boston Post Road.

⁵³ Robert Fulton (1765-1815) was an American engineer and inventor, widely credited with developing a commercially successful steamboat called *Clermont*. That steamboat with passengers from New York City to Albany and back again, a round trip of 300 miles in 62 hours. In 1800, he was commissioned by Napoleon Bonaparte to design the "Nautilus" which was the first practical submarine in history.

⁵⁴ In 1781, James Watt patented a steam engine that produced continuous rotary motion with a power of about 10 horsepower (7500 watts). The engine could be sited anywhere that water, coal or wood fuel could be obtained. The stationary steam engine was a key component of the Industrial Revolution, allowing factories to locate where water power was unavailable. Steam locomotives and steam turbines continued to advance the revolution.

Adjourned to meet Jan.22 with Mrs. Bragg.

Nellie B. Jordan Sec.

January 16, 1917

On Tuesday evening January 16 Gentlemen's Night was observed by the Club and 41 members and guests met at the Church Vestry which had been made very homelike and attractive by the Committee. A delicious supper consisting of clam stew, tarts, cake and coffee was served.

Each member was requested to bring a silhouette of herself and gentleman and much pleasure was given to all in finding out who could give the most correct list and George D. Sweetser won the prize. At intervals during the evening musical selections on the Victrola⁵⁵ were given which were much enjoyed. The remainder of the evening was spent in playing games.

Nellie B, Jordan Sec.

January 23, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Hill in place of Mrs. Bragg. Fourteen members were present – one of them being a new member, Mrs. Florence Blanchard. Meeting called to order by the President. A bill for expenses of Gentlemen's Night was read by Mrs. Hill amounting to \$7.68 and it was voted to pay the same out of The Treasury.

A vote of thanks to the Committees for Gentlemen's Night was passed. Roll call responded to by Current Events. Mrs. F. R. Sweetser was the leader for the afternoon. She took for her subject "Dyestuffs" and "Coal Tar Products". The first article was "The Drama of the Dyestuffs" from the *World's Work*.⁵⁶ The next article which was really closely connected to the first one was on Coal Tar Products and was written by

⁵⁵ Victrola is a generic name for wind-up phonographs, a line of disc playing machines characterized by their concealed horns.

⁵⁶ "The Drama of the Dyestuffs," *World's Work*, by French Strother in *World's Work*, Vol. 31 (1916), p. 221-226. This is the story of how Germany's control of the manufacturing of coal-tar dyes almost decided the European War and how it later nearly ruined some of the most important industries in the United States.

Prof. Nicholls,⁵⁷ a chemist of St. Louis and was sent by the kindness of Mr. Ernest Sweetser. Both articles were most interesting and instructive.

A vote of thanks to Prof. Nicholls and Mr. Sweetser was passed by the Club.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jenkins in one week.

Lena J. Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

January 30, 1917

Mrs. Jenkins entertained the club on this date with eighteen members and two guests present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. The president appointed the following committees to serve for Guest Day.

Refreshment Committee: Mrs. Adams and Miss Wilson

Entertainment Committee: Mrs. Burnell and Mrs. Osgood

Reception Committee: Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Bragg

Voted to invite the Greely Club as our guests for that Day.

Mrs. Davis invited the club to meet with her at the Parsonage on Tuesday P.M. February 13th with our invited guests.

Voted to accept the kind invitation of Mrs. Davis.

Roll call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. George Blanchard was the leader for the P.M. and her subject was "The River Tunnels of New York City."⁵⁸ A paper written by her son Robert G. Blanchard was much enjoyed. She also read two articles

⁵⁷ W. J. Nicolls, author of *The Story of American Coal*, Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1897. Coal tar is a brown or black liquid of extremely high viscosity. Coal tar is among the by-products when coal is carbonized to make coke or gasified to make coal gas.

⁵⁸ The East River Tunnels are four single track railroad tunnels that extend from eastern end of Pennsylvania Station. These tunnels opened in 1910 under 32nd and 33rd Street and cross the East River to Long Island City in Queens. The North River tunnels are a pair of tunnels under the Hudson River between Weehawken, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan. Built between 1904 and 1908 by the Pennsylvania Railroad, they opened for passenger service in late 1910.

from the Public Service Records, the first one "Some Features of Tunneling at Old Slip"⁵⁹ and the second "Under River Tunnel Headings Meet."⁶⁰ The rest of the time was devoted in reading from a book from the Library of Bowdoin College on The Tunnel construction of the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company.

Adjourned to meet February 6th with Mrs. Bragg.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

February 6, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Dunn. Thirteen members and one guest present. Meeting called to order by the Vice President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to with Current Events.

Voted to rescind the vote of last week to invite the Greely Club as a Club.

Voted to invite the Greely Cub individually and those of our Club who did not invite some one of the Greely Club to invite someone else as their guest.

Mrs. Adams had charge of the program for the afternoon taking for her subject "The Chinese Woman". She read several interesting items concerning the Chinese and then read of the Hospital Work of Dr.

⁵⁹ During 1915, eight tunnels, seven of them double tube, were in actual use or under construction to connect Long Island with the west bank of the East River. The tunnels were the existing subway tubes, the Whitehall-Montague Street tunnels, the Old Slip – Clark Street tunnels, the Fourteenth Street Eastern tunnels, the Pennsylvania tunnels, the Queensboro tunnels, the Sixteenth Street tunnels, and the Consolidated Gas company's Astoria tunnel. On November 30, a blowout occurred within the South tunnel, west end of the pair of tunnels under the East River from Old Slip and filled the tube with water at the shield. Work was stopped until a clay cover could be placed on the river bottom to seal the disturbed ground. Old Slip, also known as Financial Square, is located in the Financial District of New York City.

⁶⁰ "Under-River Tunnel Headings Meet" in *Public Service Record*, Vol. III No. 12 (December 1916). The headings of the north tube of the Old Slip-Clark Street tunnel under the East River were holed through on November 29. The last blast was fired from an electric switch on the side of the shaft house at Old Slip and Front Street. The holing through occurred almost at the center of the river. The tunnel is seventeen feet, six inches in diameter and consists of two single track tubes. At greatest depth the bottom tunnel is 88 feet below the surface of the river.

Mary Stone and Dr. Ida Kahn⁶¹ which showed the high mark in Education and Surgery to which they have attained.

Adjourned.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

February 6, 1917 – Special Meeting

The President called a special meeting and it was voted that the invitation to the members of the Greely Club be rescinded.

Voted that the Greely Club be invited to the Lecture to be given by Rev. A. S. Davis at the home of Mrs. A. S. Chase on the afternoon of February 20, 1917.

Voted that each member invite one guest for our Guest P.M.

Adjourned.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

February 13, 1917

A very social and pleasant afternoon was spent by the "We Neighbors" Club and their invited guests on this date at the very attractive home of Mrs. Austin I. Davis. The guests were received by Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Bragg.

⁶¹ Dr. Ida Kahn (1887-1931), born in Kang Cheng, was a Chinese doctor who along with Dr. Mary Stone (1873-1954), born in Jiu Jiang, operated dispensaries and hospitals in China from late nineteenth century to early twentieth century. Kahn was known for furthering the entry of Chinese Women into the work force, and that combined with the work of Mary Stone led to the development of the first group of Chinese women medical professionals. Due to efforts of the missionary Gertrude Howe, both women were brought to the University of Michigan and enrolled in the medical program. Graduating in 1896, they were the first Asians to earn degrees at the University of Michigan, but also the very first Chinese women to become Western trained physicians in China. Prior to Drs. Kahn and Stone, Chinese women in the medical field were unknown, and that was particularly true for those practicing Western medicine. A strong proponent of "self-supporting" medical work, Dr. Kahn firmly believed China could become self-sufficient medically. Toward that end, Drs. Kahn and Stone trained a Chinese corps of nurses which would help build a strong "new China". Both women were recognized for exemplifying a different path that Chinese women could take. At the time, women didn't have much to do outside the family, but Drs. Kahn and Stone demonstrated that missionary work, both religious and medical, was a viable path.

The President gave a few words of welcome which was followed by the roll call and this was responded to by numerous clippings.

The entertainment committee provided several contests after which a delicious luncheon was served by the refreshment committee. A short musical program was given by six young ladies from the Institute.

There were 53 in attendance and all were unanimous in feeling that it had been an afternoon well spent.

February 20, 1917

The "We Neighbors' Club with the Greely Club and some other as guests were on this date entertained at the home of Mrs. A. S. Chase. There were twenty-one members and fourteen guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The roll call was responded to with Current Events.

Rev. A. I. Davis gave an address on Socialism⁶² which was very interesting after which several questions were asked by members of the Club and answered by Mr. Davis.

Dainty refreshments were served.

Adjourned for one week.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

February 27, 1917

Club met with Mrs. A. S. Chase with nineteen members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last two meetings read and approved. Roll Call responded too.

The refreshment committee reported the expenses for Guest P.M. to be \$5.61 and that all bills were paid.

Mrs. Geneva Chase had charge of the program for the afternoon and she conducted a "Question Box".

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Osgood.

⁶² Socialism is a political ideology and movement which proposed a set of social and economic measures characterized by social ownership and democratic control of the means of production. By the late nineteenth Century, after elaboration by Marx and Engels, socialism had come to signify opposition to capitalism and advocacy for a post-capitalist system based on some form of social ownership of the means of production. Rev. Austin I. Davis was pastor of the Cumberland Congregational Church, 1916-1919.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

March 13, 1917

The Club met with Ms. Osgood with fifteen members present. Records read and approved. Roll Call responded to by items regarding the Navy by those who did not forget to do so.

Mrs. F. S. Blanchard read a paper on the Navy⁶³ and several printed articles all of which proved exceedingly interesting.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Miss Sweetser.

A.F.S. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

March 20, 1917

The club met with Miss Sweetser with twelve members present. Records read and approved. A letter was read from the Greely Club inviting our Club to meet with them on Wednesday P. M. March 28th. Voted to accept the invitation.

Voted to have mutual improvement and entertainment for Domestic Science P. M.

Voted to have a committee appointed by the chair for refreshments for that P.M. Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. A. S. Chase, and Mrs. Jordan were appointed. Mrs. Anna Blanchard invited the Club to meet with her April 10th.

Roll call responded to.

⁶³ The Rise of the Modern Navy covered the period of 1898 to 1914. Under the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, the Navy went from sixth largest in the world to second only to the Royal Navy. Roosevelt believed control of the canal across Central America was a strategic interest to the US Navy. For the sum of US 10 million dollars, Panama permitted US control of the Panama Canal Zone on February 23, 1904. The naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was built in 1905 to protect the canal. The latest technological innovation of the time, the submarine, was developed in the state of New Jersey by Irish-American inventor John Philip Holland. His submarine *USS Holland* was officially commissioned into the U. S. Naval Service in the fall of 1900. By the end of 1907, President Roosevelt had 16 new battleships to make up his "Great White fleet," which he sent on tour around the world. Subsequently, American naval power was taken more seriously.

Mrs. Wyman had charge of the program for the P.M. and her subject was "The Bible as Good Reading" by Albert J. Beveridge⁶⁴ Ex Senator from Indiana.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

March 27, 1917

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser entertained the Club on this date with thirteen members present. Meeting called to order by President. Records read and approved.

Voted to combine the usual business and Domestic Science meetings and hold it April 3rd and dispense with the last meeting.

Roll call responded to with interesting items.

Miss Sweetser was leader for the afternoon and her subject was "Forest Reserves."⁶⁵

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Anna Blanchard.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

April 3, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Anna Blanchard with nineteen members three guests present. Meeting called to order by President. Records read and approved. The Treasurer's Report read and voted to accept the same.

⁶⁴ Albert Jeremiah Beveridge (1862-1927) was an American historian and US Senator from Indiana. He was a leader during the Progressive Era and a biographer of Justice John Marshall and President Abraham Lincoln. Beveridge entered politics in 1884 by speaking on behalf of Presidential candidate James G. Blaine and was prominent in later campaigns, especially 1896, when his speeches attracted general attention. In 1899, he was elected to the U.S. Senate as a Republican and served until 1911. He was keynote speaker at the new Progressive Party convention which nominated Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. While serving as Senator, he wrote his book *The Bible as Good Reading*, which was published by Bobbs-Merrill in 1907.

⁶⁵ Forest reserves are portions of state lands where commercial harvest of wood products is excluded in order to capture elements of biodiversity that can be missing from harvested sites. The Federal Reserve Act of 1891 is a law which allowed the President of the United States to set aside forest reserves from the land in the public domain.

As it was the annual business meeting, the chair appointed the following nominating committee: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Dunn, and Miss Wilson – who nominated the following officers:

President: Mrs. Bragg;, Vice President: Mrs. Jordan; Sec: Mrs. Sawyer; Treas: Miss Wilson.

Program Com: Mrs. Adams, Miss Nellie Sweetser, Mrs. A. A. Sweetser

Field Day Com.: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. A. S. Chase, Mrs. Jordan.

Voted to accept the report of nominating committee. Roll call responded to with items pertaining to Domestic Science.

Adjourned to meet subject to the call of the Field Day Com.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec.

October 9, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Burnell with twenty-one members present. Meeting called to order by the President. Records of last meeting read and approved. Field Day being omitted this year. Com. For same had no report to make.

Voted to pay for printing programs also voted to have only light refreshments for coming year. Roll call responded to with current events.

Mrs. Hamilton was leader for the afternoon, her subject being “The Countries at War”.⁶⁶ Her article being very interesting and instructive, also three geographical questions were discussed and answered.

Adjourned to meet in one week, with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

⁶⁶ World War I drew in all the world's great economic powers, which assembled in two opposing alliances. On the one hand, the Allies were based on the Triple Entente of United Kingdom, France, and the Russian empire. On the other hand, the Central Powers were based on Germany and the Austrian Hungarian Empire. These alliances reorganized and expanded as more nations entered the war. Italy, Japan and the United states joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers. On April 6, 1917, Congress voted to declare war.

October 16, 1917

Club met with Mrs. A. A. Sweetser with sixteen members present. Meeting called to order by president. Record of last meeting read and approved. Letter from Mrs. O. M. Hall read by secretary. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Sturdivant was leader for the afternoon, her subject was Feeding the Army, one article Feed first⁶⁷ in Everybody's magazine was very interesting. First Provide More, second, Consume Less. Third, Waste Less.

The Geographical questions: where is Camp Bartlett?⁶⁸ Where is Camp Devons,⁶⁹ Where is Camp Belvoir.⁷⁰

Motion to adjourn and meet with Mrs. Alice Doughty next week.

Anna Blanchard, Sec. pro tem

October 23, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Eva Chase twelve members present. Meeting called to order by President. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to with current events.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser was leader, her subject was Work At the Red Cross. Articles from the World's Work of 1914.⁷¹ The Red Cross of the Warring Nations. Woodrow Wilson's Appeal in May 1917 and other interesting articles by William Howard Taft and Harvey D. Gibson.

⁶⁷ "Food first" by O. K. Davis was published in the September 1917 issue of *Everybody's Magazine*. "Men Munitions, and Food – these three are imperative necessities for the maintenance of freedom in the free world today. And the greatest of these is food. These three are the stanchions of righteousness and justice in the struggle with the mightiest foe of liberty the world has ever known. And the greatest of them is Food." The author quotes President Woodrow Wilson regarding obligations: "first feed ourselves, second help feed Allies, third, do what can to help neutrals. That means first produce more, second consume less, and third stop waste."

⁶⁸ Camp Bartlett is located in Westfield, Massachusetts and was established September 11, 1917.

⁶⁹ Camp Devons is located in Ayer, Massachusetts and was established July 18, 1917.

⁷⁰ Camp Belvoir is located on government owned parcel in Virginia, approximately 15 miles south of Washington D.C. on the Belvoir peninsula, along the Potomac river. The U.S. Army began using the Belvoir peninsula as an engineering training facility in 1915. The named it Camp Belvoir.

⁷¹ *World's Work* (1900-1932) was a monthly magazine which celebrated the American way of life and examined its expanded role on the world stage. *The World's Work War Manual of the Great Conflict of 1914* was published by Doubleday in 1914.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Eva Chase.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

October 30, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Eva Chase twelve members present. Meeting called to order by President. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to with current events.

Edith M. Sawyer was leader, her subject was aviation⁷² in war. Three different articles were read from the Saturday Evening Post. World work and Sunset Magazine.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Fred Adams.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

November 13, 1917

Mrs. Adams entertained the club with eighteen members present. Records read and approved. A letter was read from Mrs. Eleanor M. Blanchard, saying Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Blanchard would receive their friends on Monday Nov. 19 from 2 to 5 P.M. in celebration of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Roll call was responded to with current events.

Mrs. Dunn was leader, her subject – The Life of James Whitcomb Riley⁷³ was a pleasant change from the previous war topics.

⁷² World War I was the first time aircraft were used on a large scale. Tethered observation balloons were used extensively for artillery spotting. Germany used Zeppelins for reconnaissance over the North Sea and the Baltic as well as for strategic bombing raids over Britain and the Eastern Front.

⁷³ James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916) was an American writer, poet and best-selling author. During his lifetime, he was known as the "Hoosier Poet" and the "Children's Poet." His work features rustic subjects who speak in homely, countrified dialect. When Riley died, Woodrow Wilson called him "a man who imparted joyful pleasure and a thoughtful view of many things that other men would have missed." His famous poems include "Little Orphan Annie," "The Raggedy Man," and "When Frost is on the Punkin."

Different articles were read from *St. Nicholas*⁷⁴ and *The Bookman*.⁷⁵ Last but not least was the article written by Clara G. Laughlin⁷⁶ which was much enjoyed by everyone. There were also quotations from the author.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Fen S. Blanchard.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

November 20, 1917

Our club met with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard. There were eighteen members present and three guests. Meeting was called to order by the President. Records read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mr. Austin Davis was speaker for the afternoon in the place of Mrs. Chase & Mrs. Adams, giving us a most excellent and instructive program on his trip abroad, also bring many views of places he had visited to more fully illustrate the trip. Every minute of his talk was greatly enjoyed and all were sorry when the time came for him to stop.

Adjourned to meet in three weeks with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg. A rising vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Davis, also a delicious tea was served in the dining room by the hostess, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Chase.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

December 11, 1917

Club met with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, one guest and eighteen members present. Meeting was called to order by the President.

Voted to pay bill for refreshments at Mrs. Blanchard of 34 cents.

⁷⁴ *St. Nicholas Magazine* was a popular children's magazine, founded by Scribner's in 1873. The first editor, Mary Mapes Dodge, published work by leading writers of the time, including Frances Hodgson Burnett, Mark Twain, Laura E. Richards, and Joel Chandler Harris.

⁷⁵ *The Bookman* was literary journal established by Dodd, Mead, and Co. in 1895. It drew its name from the phrase "I am a Bookman" by James Russell Lowell.

⁷⁶ Clara G. Laughlin is the author of *The Penny Philanthropist* which the *Bookseller*, Vol. 37 (1912) called "a captivating character story that has refreshing quality of a morning breeze."

It was unanimous vote that we make Mrs. Elizabeth Buxton an honorary member of the club.

Roll call was responded to by current events.

Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard was leader for the afternoon. Articles were read from the Red Cross Magazine and the Women's Home Companion, telling the part of work the women are doing in this world war. An article written by Maud Warren, "The Women over There"⁷⁷ touching on the great work and sacrifice the French women were undergoing was particularly interesting.

Adjourned to meet in one week at Mrs. Davis.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

December 18, 1917

The club met at the hospitable home of Mrs. Davis sixteen members and eight guests were present. Meeting called to order by President. In place of the current events for roll call, there was a musical contest – the one guessing the greatest number right won the prize. Mrs. Ernest Sweetser was the lucky one.

The afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Jordan who gave us a very enjoyable musical program. She read two different papers. The first entitled "Music" by Edward B. Perry. The other was "The Life of Nevin"⁷⁸ also musical selections were played and sung from these different composers. She was assisted by Miss Janet Sturdivant, Miss Lucille Blanchard, Miss Beatrice Small, Miss Adelaide Dunton [?], Miss Ruth Kemp. Mrs. Ernest Sweetser rendered "The Rosary" to the great enjoyment of us all.

Adjourned to meet in three weeks with Mrs. Fogg.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

⁷⁷ Maud R. Warren, "The Women over There," *Women's Home Companion*, December 1917, p. 13-14, 66-68.

⁷⁸ Ethelbert Nevin (1862-1901) was an American pianist, teacher and composer. Born at Vineacre, on the banks of the Ohio River, in Edgeworth, Pennsylvania. Nevin from a young age was musically inclined. He pursued his studies accordingly. His best remembered compositions are the piano piece "Narcissus" from Water Scenes (1891) and the songs "The Rosary" and "Mighty Lak' a Rose."

January 8, 1918

A stormy day and only ten members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. The Pres. Appointed Committee for Gentlemen's night as follows:

Refreshment Comm.: Mrs. Fred Sweetser, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Fogg

Entertainment Comm.: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Florence Blanchard, Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard. Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Osgood was leader and had for her subject "The Beginnings of Great Inventions"

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Anna Blanchard.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

January 16, 1918

On account of storm Tues. club met with Mrs. Anna Blanchard Wed., nine members and one guest being present. The Sec. being absent, Mrs. Burnell was chosen Sec'y pro. tem. Roll Call responded to by current events and poems.

Mrs. Hill had charge of the afternoon with a question box. A number of interesting questions were asked, and some were answered. Mrs. Hill then read several short articles dealing with the war and Mrs. Dunn also read one entitled "University of Maine may be Army Trade School". A very social and interesting afternoon was passed.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hill Jan. 23rd with Miss Wilson leader.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

January 22, 1918

Club met with Mrs. E. R. Hill, fourteen members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Anna Blanchard was chosen Sect'y pro tem. Mrs. Grace Jenkins gave a report of the refreshment committee. That the refreshments would be a light luncheon instead of the usual supper.

Voted to send flowers to Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Burnell. Mrs. Dunn and Mrs. Adams were chosen for a committee.

Miss Wilson was leader for the afternoon. Her subject was "Fashions and Customs of Old New England"⁷⁹

Adjourned to meet in three weeks with Mrs. Nellie Jordan.

Anna M. Blanchard, Sec. pro tem

January 29, 1918

A very enjoyable evening was spent when "We Neighbors Club" with husbands or sons passed a social evening at the home of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Mrs. Jordan our Vice Pres. In the absence of our Pres. welcomed our guests.

An original poem by Mrs. Sturdivant expressing in verse her regrets at not being with us was read by our hostess.

A short entertainment consisting of different contests was much enjoyed after which dainty refreshments were served – of coffee, sandwiches, fancy cakes and ice cream.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

February 12, 1918

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Geo. Jordan twelve members and one guest present. In the absence of the Sec., the reading of the records was omitted. The chairman of the refreshment committee for Gentlemens Night presented a bill for refreshments. It was accepted and the Treasurer was instructed to pay the same.

The roll call was responded to by items in regard to Lincoln.

⁷⁹ *Customs and Fashions of Old New England*, by Alice Morse Earle, published in New York by Scribner's Sons, 1894, 387 pages. Chapters include Courtship and Marriage Customs, Home Interiors, Table Plinishings, Supplies of the Larder, Old Colonial Drinks, Artifices of Handsomeness, Raiment and Vesture, Funeral and Burial Customs. For more details on the author, see chapter three, footnote eleven.

Mrs. Bragg was leader for the afternoon and read *The Perfect Tribute* by Mary Andrews.⁸⁰ After which Mrs. Jordan read a short article in the "Wellspring" on Lincoln.⁸¹

Adjourned to meet Feb. 19th with Mrs. J. L. Dunn.

Laura L. Wyman. Sec. pro, tem.

February 21, 1918

On account of the storm Tues, met with Mrs. J. L. Dunn Thurs – Seventeen members and two guests were present. Records for Jan. 22nd also Feb. 12 were read and approved. The ice cream bill for Gentlemen's Night was presented. It was accepted and voted for Treas. to pay the same.

The afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Burnell and Mrs. Florence Blanchard who gave a farce entitled "The Bargain Sale". They were assisted by Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Barter, and Miss Lucille Blanchard. It was much enjoyed by all.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 26th with Mrs. Wyman.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

February 26, 1918

Club met with Mrs. Wyman. Nine members present. Records read and approved.

Voted to invite the Greely Club to our next meeting.

Roll call responded to by current events. – a miscellaneous program was the order for the afternoon as our leader Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was unable to be present.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jenkins March 21st.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

⁸⁰ Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews (1860-1936) was best known for her widely read story about President Abraham Lincoln. This story, "The Perfect Tribute", appeared in *Scribner's* in July 1906. It depicts Lincoln writing and delivering the Gettysburg Address and then concluding his speech was an utter failure. Later he comforts a Confederate Captain as that Captain dies in a prison hospital. The Captain, who does not recognize him, praises the Address as "one of the great speeches in history." This widely popular story was assigned reading for multiple generations of school children.

⁸¹ *Wellspring Magazine for Young People*, Pilgrim Congregational House, Boston, MA, 1843.

March 12, 1918

Mrs. Jenkins was ill and club did not meet. On the account of sickness at Mrs. Osgoods, Mrs. Hamilton kindly offered to have it Mar. 19th.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

March 19, 1918

Club met with Mrs. Lena Hamilton, thirteen members were present. Roll call was responded by current events.

Miss Nellie Sweetser was leader for the afternoon. She read a number of articles from the American Missionary that dealt well with her subject "Racial Prejudice", she also read a number of poems written by Rev. T. L. Perry and the last – a Southern Slave Story was much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet April 9 at Mrs. Jenkins.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec.

April 9, 1918

Club met with Mrs. Grace Jenkins with twelve members present. In the absence of the Secretary Mrs. Dunn was chosen to take her place.

Program for Domestic Science day was discussed and it was voted to ask Miss Cummings, County Demonstrator to give one of her talks.

Voted to hold the meeting in the vestry and to invite the Greely club to meet with us.

The President appointed Mrs. Geo Blanchard & Mrs. Davis to act as reception committee and Mrs. Adams & Mrs. Jenkins as refreshment Com.

Mrs. Davis had charge of the program and gave us a very interesting review of the book Crawford. At the conclusion, Miss Wilson, dressed so that one might easily have taken her for one of the characters of the book, assisted the hostess in serving tea and delicious old fashioned cakes and cookeys.

Adjourned to meet April 16 at the Vestry.

Evie G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

April 16, 1918

Club met at the Vestry with thirteen members and five members of the Greely Club as guests. The meeting was called to order by the President. The records read and approved. Treasurer's report read and voted to accept the same.

As it was the Annual Business meeting, the chair appointed the following Nominating Committee: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Florence Blanchard, and Mrs. Hamilton, who nominated the following officers.

Pres. Mrs. Jordan, Vice Pres. Mrs. Sawyer, Sec'y Miss Wilson, Treas. Mrs. Florence Blanchard.

Program Com: Mrs. Fogg, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Anna Blanchard.

Field Day Com. Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Jordan.

Voted to accept the report of the Nominating Committee.

Roll call responded to with items pertaining to "Domestic Science". Then Miss Ruth Cummings gave a very interesting talk on "Methods and Ways to use Wheat and the Substitutes."

The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Field Day Committee.

Edith M. Sawyer, Sec. per C.F.W.

Three meetings omitted on account of influenza.

October 31, 1918

The "We Neighbors" Club met with Mrs. Burnell. Sixteen members were present and two guests.

The meeting opened by the President Mrs. Jordan. The report of "Guest Day" by the former Secretary read and approved. Reports of the Treasurer and the Committee for "Field Day" to be given at the next meeting.

The Roll Call consisted of current events.

By a change in the program Mrs. F. R. Sweetser was the leader for the afternoon. Topic "The Y. M. C. Assoc. in War Work."⁸² The selections presented were "When I saw my Boy in France", by John R. Mott in the "American".⁸³ "The Loneliest man – John R. Mott," by Bruce Barton in the "American". "A Straight Talk to Women" by Gipsy Smith⁸⁴ in "Good Housekeeping." An exceedingly interesting program.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard Nov. 12th.

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

Report of Field Day Committee, Mrs. Burnell, Chairman.

On the 18th of June, the "Field Day" was held at Mrs. Crickett's grove. About fifteen members were present at the picnic dinner which was much enjoyed. Several members and guests came later.

After dinner a short program consisting of readings, stories, and games was carried out. The day was very pleasant and a good time was enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Dunn, and Mrs. Jordan, Com.

November 12, 1918

The "We Neighbors" Club met with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard. 16 members present and one guest.

Reports of the Sec'y and field Day Com. were presented and approved. The Roll Call of current events was unusually interesting. Mrs. Eva Chase the leader for the afternoon entertained us with a Selected

⁸² The American YMCA supported troops in many ways. 26,000 paid staff served with the UYCA. 35,000 volunteers attended to social and spiritual needs of an armed force of 4.8 million troops. YMCA performed 90% of all welfare work with the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe. The YMCA operated 26 R & RR leave centers in France where they accommodated 1,944,300 American officers and soldiers. YMCA operated 4000 "huts" and tents for recreation and religious services. 8000 troop trains were served by YMCA volunteers. 44 factories in Europe produced cookies and candy delivered by the YMCA to the troops. YMCA provided humanitarian services for more than 5 million POWs in both Allied Camps and Central Powers Camps.

⁸³ *The American Magazine* is a periodical, founded in June 1906, a continuation of several failed publications. In June 1906, muckraking journalists Lincoln Steffens and Ida Tarbell left *McClure's* to help create this magazine. The October 1918 issue features the cover story, "When I saw my boy in France," by John R. Mott (1865-1955), long serving leader of the YMCA and World Student Christian Federation.

⁸⁴ Gipsy Smith, a YMCA lay preacher in his article asks whether when men return from war will a new moral relationship take place of the world-old laws. This article is "A Straight Talk to Women," *Good Housekeeping*, October 1918.

Program from the late magazines, as follows: "Seven good things coming out of the War." 1st Thrift, 2nd Discipline, 3rd Death of Alcohol, 4th the Spirit of Unity, 5th Religion, 6th Necessity of Ideals 7th Humanity. Dr. Frank Crane⁸⁵ in American, a very opportune article. 2. "Our captive Sons" from "Youth's Companion."⁸⁶ 3. "The Kaiser's Cross" an editorial from The Christian Herald.⁸⁷ The program was much enjoyed.

After a short social, adjourned to meet with Mrs. Laura Wyman Nov. 19th.

C. F. Wilson, Sec.

November 19, 1918

The meeting of Nov. 19th omitted as several of the ladies wished to attend the Asst. meeting at Walnut Hill.

November 25, 1918

Thanksgiving Recess.

December 10, 1918

Club met at the home of Mrs. Dunn. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Jordan. In the absence of the Secretary, Mrs. Mabel Davis was chosen Secretary pro-tem.

Records of Nov. 12th were read and approved. On the motion of Mrs. Adams that there be a visiting and flower Committee appointed by the chair, it was so voted. Committee, Mrs. Cora Adams, vestry Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Mrs. Esther Hill.

Roll call responded to by current events. Twelve members and two guests present.

⁸⁵ Dr. Frank Crane (1861-1928) was a Presbyterian minister and columnist.

⁸⁶ *Youth's Companion* (1827-1929) was an American children's magazine published in Boston, MA by Perry Mason Co.

⁸⁷ *Christian Herald Magazine*, November 20, 1918 bears the headline "Nations Rejoice as War Ends."

Mrs. Dunn, Leader. Topic, Gen. Pershing⁸⁸ by Harold Wheeler.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Edith Sawyer Dec. 17th.

(Mrs.) Mabel Davis, Sec. pro tem

December 17, 1918

Club met at the home of Mrs. Edith Sawyer. Meeting called to order by the President, Mrs. Jordan.

In the absence of the Secretary (Mrs.) Mabel Davis was chosen Sec. pro-tem. Records of December 10th read and approved. Roll call responded to by current events. Ten members present and two guests.

Mrs. Hamilton who was the leader for the afternoon, was unable to be present on account of sickness, consequently a miscellaneous program was carried out. An article entitled "a Merry Christmas" was read by Mrs. Jordan. Mrs. Dunn read an article on "Harry Lauder"⁸⁹ written by himself. Mrs. Fred Sweetser read "Rip Van Wrinkle M.D."⁹⁰ by O. W. Holmes.

Mrs. Jordan announced the committees for "Gentleman's Night". Refreshment Com.: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Sawyer, & Mrs. Florence Blanchard. Entertainment Com.: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Davis, Alternate: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Frank Chase.

Delicious ice cream and cake were served by the hostess assisted by Miss Helen Huston.

Adjourned till after the Christmas recess.

Correction: Mrs. Chase on leave and Mrs. Hill alternate for Mrs. Davis.

(Mrs.) Mabel Davis, Sec. pro tem

⁸⁸ John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing (1860-1948) was the US army general who led American Expeditionary Forces to victory over Germany in World War I (1917-1918). He rejected British and French demands that American forces be integrated with their armies and insisted AEF operate as a single unit under his command, although he allowed some American divisions to fight under British command and some all-Black units to be integrated with the French army.

⁸⁹ Harry Lauder (1870-1950) was a Scottish music hall, vaudeville theater singer, and comedian. He was perhaps best known for his long-standing hit "I Love a Lassie." He became a familiar world- wide figure promoting to huge acclaim images like the Kilt and Cromach (walking stick). Other songs followed, including "Roamin in the Gloamin" and "The End of the Road." By 1911, Lauder had become highest paid performer in the world, was the first Scottish artist to sell a million records. He raised vast sums of money for the war effort during World War One.

⁹⁰ The poem was presented as an "After Dinner Prescription" for assembled medical specialists, May 25, 1870.

January 7, 1919

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Florence Blanchard who was hostess and leader for the afternoon. 18 members present and 3 guests. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Jordan.

Sec'y's report read and approved. The Flower Com. reported that post cards had been sent by the club members to Mrs. Edith Sawyer, who is ill. At the suggestion of the same committee it was voted to send a basket of fruit to Mrs. Mabel Davis who is also ill.

The place of meeting for "Gentlemen Night" also discussed, but not decided. After the Roll Call of current event, Mrs. Blanchard introduced the musical program by reading an article from "Pictorial Review" on the Song artist – John McCormack⁹¹ and the great work he has done in purchasing Liberty Bonds and aiding the families of soldiers also more work of various kinds.

We were fortunate in having with us as guests, Miss King of the Institute and Miss Addie Dunston who assisted in the musical numbers. Piano solo, Miss King "The Dance of the Demons."⁹² Song, Miss Dunston, "Jean". Encore "Had I but you."

Mrs. Blanchard then read a "musical Romance" the members filling in the blank spaces so far as possible with the names of popular songs.

Then followed two piano selections beautifully rendered by Miss King. Refreshments were served.

It was voted that the Secretary send a note of sympathy to the family of Mrs. Helen Davis. Our first President, who passed away Dec. 27, '18.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Eva Chase Jan. 14th.

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

⁹¹ John McCormack (1884-1945) was a world famous Irish-American tenor, celebrated for his performance of operatic and popular song repertoire. In 1914, he was the first artist to record the famous World War One song, "It's a Long Way to Tipperary". In 1917; he recorded "Keep the Home Fires Burning." In addition, he sang songs expressing Irish nationalism, especially "The Wearing of the Green", a song about the Irish rebellion of 1798. In 1917, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States.

⁹² The composer is Eduard Holst (1843-1899). He was a Danish playwright and composer.

January 14, 1919

The Club met with Mrs. Eva Chase this afternoon. 21 present, 1 guest. The meeting opened by the President Mrs. Jordan. Sec'y's report read and approved.

Bill presented y the Flower Committee of 74 cts. Voted to pay the same.

The place of meeting for "Gentlemen's Night" again brought up. Mrs. Adams made a motion that the vestry be secured for the occasion. Voted to see Mr. Chase with regard to it.

Mrs. Adams asked the privilege of inviting Mr. Jones, the Principal of Greely Inst. for Gentlemen's Night, which was granted, also it was suggested that Mr. Arno Chase be invited.

An interesting Roll Call followed of current events and general information.

Mrs. Anna Blanchard was leader for the afternoon. "France" being the Topic. An article from the "National Geographic Magazine" was the basis describing the country - its situation, districts, scenery, people and their customs, maps, engravings, and many beautiful post-cards added much interest to the reading.

A social hour with refreshments followed.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Doughty Jan. 21.

C. F. Wilson Sec.

January 21, 1919

Club met with Mrs. Alice Doughty. Mrs. Burnell was chosen Secy pro tem. Nine members and one guest present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Com. on Refreshments for Gentlemen's Night made report. Voted that members be assessed whatever is necessary. Voted to invite the four lady teachers to be present on Gentlemen's Night.

Roll call of current events. Mrs. Sawyer was leader for the afternoon. She read a short article on "Germany" also several articles from the "American mag." dealing with Thomas A. Edison's life⁹³ and

⁹³ Thomas Edison (1847-1931) was an American inventor and businessman. He developed devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including phonograph, motion picture camera, and long lasting practical electric light bulb. Known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park," he was one of the first inventors to apply the principles of mass production and is often credited with creation of the first industrial research lab. His inventions led to establishment of major new industries world-wide.

work, which was a very interesting subject. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg Feb. 11th who exchanged with Mrs. Florence Blanchard.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

January 28, 1919

The "We Neighbor's" Club observed the annual "Gentlemen's Night" at the Vestry. As the evening was very favorable as to weather, the members and their guests were well represented. 21 members including one Honorary member and 24 guests were present.

The room was prettily decorated with green, and the lights were shaded with red. The supper tables were ornamented with candles which were lighted during meal-time. A bountiful and excellent supper was served at seven o'clock.

The President, Mrs. Jordan, welcomed the members and guests in a very pleasing manner. Reference was made to those who had met with us in former years but now were no longer among us. Special mention was made of our first President, Mrs. Helen W. Davis who passed on so recently to the higher life.

Then followed an invitation for the gentlemen and their ladies to be seated at the tables. Grace was said by Rev. Mr. Davis.

At the close of the supper the Roll of membership was called by the Sec'y. Miss Wilson which was responded to by numerous quotations.

The Program for the evening consisted of instrumental music by Miss King, teacher at the Institute, recitations by Miss Towle of the Grammar school, two songs by Miss Helen Huston, also two selections by the quartette.

We were highly favored in having with us Lieut Robert Blanchard of the American Engineering Corps, lately returned from France, who gave us an account of his war experience from the time he left N. York till his return. It was full of interest and information. A rising note of thanks was given him at its close.

Much credit is due the committees for the pleasant and enjoyable occasion.

C .F. Wilson, Sec.

February 11, 1919

Club met with Mrs. Nellie B. Jordan, 12 members being present. Lena Hamilton was chosen Sec. pro-tem. Reports of Jan. 21 and 28th were read and approved.

Mrs. Cora Adams gave a report of the expenses of "Gentlemen's Night" for refreshments. Voted to pay the same out of the treasury. Also the bill for the use of the Vestry was presented. Voted to assess the members 18 cts. each to pay the same. A vote of thanks was given to the Refreshment and Entertainment Coms.

Program was in the hands of Mrs. Jordan who gave an account of Gen. Pershing from birth till he graduated from West Point. Also articles were read about Marshal Foch.⁹⁴

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Adams Feb. 18.

Lena Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

February 19, 1919

The Club met with Mrs. Cora Adams, 15 members present. Sec'y's report read and approved.

The President announced the committees for Guest Day, Mar. 11th: Refreshment Com. Mrs. Geo. Blanchard, Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard, Mrs. Mary Sweetser. Reception Com. Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Miss Carrie Wilson. Entertainment Com: Mrs. Gertrude Bragg and Mrs. Esther Hill.

Roll Call of current events. A card from Mrs. Foster was read by the Sec'y in acknowledgement of one sent by the Club.

⁹⁴ Marshal Ferdinand Foch (1857-1929) was a French soldier, a military theorist, and the Allied Generalissime during the First World War. At the outbreak of the war in August 1914, Foch's XX Corps participated in a brief invasion of Germany before retiring in the face of a German counter-attack, but successfully blocked the Germans short of Nancy. Ordered west to defend Paris, Foch's prestige soared as a result of the victory at the Marne. In the spring of 1918, he played a decisive role in halting a renewed German advance on Paris in the Second Battle of the Marne, after which he was promoted Marshal of France. On November 11, 1918, Foch accepted the German request for an armistice. Foch advocated peace terms that would make Germany unable to pose a threat to France again, but was overruled by French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau. After the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 18, 1919 exactly five years after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, Foch declared, due to the French not being allowed to annex The Rhineland or to occupy the area for 30 years, "This is not a peace. It is an armistice for 20 years." His words proved prophetic. The Second World War started 10 years and 64 days later.

Miss Wilson, the leader for the afternoon, read two selections "Gen. Allenby"⁹⁵ from Scribner's for Feb. and "When Johnny comes marching Home Again"⁹⁶ from the Woman's Home Companion for March.

By request Mrs. Adams read a part of a sketch "The Leaders," as the time was limited she was asked to finish the reading at a later date. A social half hour followed.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lena Hamilton Feb. 25th

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

February 25, 1919

The Club met with Mrs. Hamilton 16 members and 1 guest present. Called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Jordan. Sec'y's report read and approved. After discussion it was voted that each member be given the privilege of inviting one guest for "Guest Day" March 11th.

Roll Call consisted of current events.

Miss. Ellen Sweetser was leader for the afternoon. Topic: "Powers". Before taking up her own topic, Miss Sweetser by request finished the story "The Colors" which was announced by Mrs. Adams at the previous meeting. She then read an article, "Lowell and other American Poets" with poetical quotations. Also, miscellaneous poem from "Literary Digest." Very interesting and entertaining.

Meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Mar. 11th.

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

⁹⁵ General Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, (1861-1936) was an English soldier and British Imperial Governor. He fought in the Second Boer War and also in the First World War, in which he led the British empire's Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. From October to December 1917, the EEF conquered Palestine, thereby capturing Beersheba, Jaffrey, and Jerusalem. During the summer of 1918, his forces occupied the Jordan Valley and then went to capture northern Palestine. Subsequently, the EEF Pursuit captured Damascus and advanced into northern Syria. During this period, he commanded T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) whose major contribution was convincing Arab leaders (Faisal and Abdullah) to coordinate their actions in support of British strategy resulting in the EEF's capture of the Ottoman Empire territory. General Allenby continued to serve the region as High Commissioner for Egypt and Sudan, 1919-1925.

⁹⁶ The lyrics for this song were written by the Irish-American bandleader Patrick Gilmore during the Civil War. Gilmore is said to have written the song for his sister Annie, as she prayed for the safe return of her fiance Union Light Artillery Captain John O'Rourke.

March 11, 1919 Guest Day

The "We Neighbors" Club observed its "Guest Day" with Mrs. Anna Blanchard. Members and invited guests numbered 86.

Called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Jordan. Sec'y's report read and approved. The Roll call consisted of Current events and poetical selections.

The Entertainment Com. Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Hill gave us a pleasant surprise by introducing Mrs. Haden of Woodfords as impersonator for the afternoon. A trio consisting of Mrs. Florence Blanchard, Mrs. Eva Chase and Mrs. Nellie Jordan sang several pleasing selections interposed by the numerous readings of Mrs. Haden.

A very enjoyable entertainment. A pleasant social hour followed. Refreshments were served – ice cream and fancy cakes.

Mrs. Blanchard called attention to two souvenirs which were sent home from France by her son Robert. One being especially interesting – a sort of dagger named "Instant death". This kind of a weapon was dropped from aeroplanes by the French onto the enemy, descending with such force and directness as to cause instant death.⁹⁷

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mary Sweetser Mar. 18th, Leader, Mrs. Burnell.

C. F. Wilson, Sec.

March 19, 1919

On account of a storm the Club was postponed to Wed. p.m. March 19th and met with Mrs. Mary Sweetser. 12 members and 1 guest present. Called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Jordan. Sec'y's report read and approved.

The Refreshment Com. presented a bill of \$3.43 for expenses of "Guest Day". The President expressed her thanks to the Entertainment and Refreshment Coms. for the help rendered on that day.

⁹⁷ These "daggers" may refer to darts, also known as flechettes. A flechette is a pointed steel projectile with a vaned tail for stable flight. The term comes from the French "flechette", meaning "little arrow". The flechettes were packed into boxes which had a special release system on it. The pilot would fly over enemy trenches and pull a string to release them, 500 at a time over German troops in the trenches. These five inch darts were capable of inflicting horrendous wounds. For Germans in the trenches, the cry of "Pfeile" (arrows) would fill their troops with dread. It meant hundreds of tiny darts, capable of piercing both helmet and skull, would be dropped on them. These rudimentary devices were superseded by darts with exploding tips, and then full scale bombs.

Roll Call of current events.

Mrs. Bessie Burnell leader for the afternoon. The Topic was from the Ladies Home Journal for Jan. "What you may not know about us – England". A very entertaining selection. Mrs. Sweetser gave us several musical numbers on the Victrola which were much enjoyed. A social hour followed with refreshments.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg Mar. 25th who is also leader for the afternoon.

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

March 25, 1919

The Club met with Mrs. Bragg this afternoon (by exchange) who also was Leader.

The Pres. called the meeting to order. Sec'y's report read and approved. Mrs. Bragg's Topic was "Letters from our Boys at the Front." Selections were read by her from a letter received from her son Edward from France, also quotations from his journal Rept on sea-board and later in his journeyings, "some when in France." all of which were very interesting. Curios were exhibited and a map of France with pegs outlining the position of the "Allies" when the Armistice was called.

Musical selections were played on the large pianola.⁹⁸ "The Laddies that fought War" Harry Lauder; "Departure of the Troops for France;" "Arrival in France;" "I am just an old guy from the U.S.A.;" "Tell it to the Marines."⁹⁹ Giving very real reproductions of the life of the men in Khaki.

Refreshments were served and a pleasant time enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard as Leader – a selected topic. Place of meeting unassigned.

Carrie F. Wilson, Sec.

⁹⁸ A Pianola is a piano equipped to be played automatically using a piano roll. The first Pianola was completed by Edwin Scott Votey in a workshop at his home in Detroit by the spring or summer of 1895. Votey later joined the Aeolian Company which put the instrument on sale in the autumn of 1898.

⁹⁹ This is a 1918 song written during World War One. It was composed by Jean Schwarz and Al Jolson, written by Harold Alteridge. Sir Walter Scott used the phrase "Tell it to the Marines – the sailors won't believe it" in his 1824 novel *Redgauntlet*.

April 9, 1919

The Club met with Mrs. Hill this afternoon. 15 members present and three guests. After calling the meeting to order the Sec'y's report read and approved.

The payment of the deferred bill for Guest Day was discussed. Voted that 14 members be assessed 20cts. each and paid to Mrs. Sweetser a member of the Com. for that day also \$1.00 to be taken from the Treasury, any surplus to be returned.

The President presented the following names for a Nominating Com. to report the list of Officers, Program and Field Day Committees for the following year: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Adams.

After the roll call of current events Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard who was the leader for the afternoon read a very interesting article from the Ladies' Home Journal "The Entry of the Red Cross into Palestine and its good work under the leadership of Col. Finlay."¹⁰⁰ Another selection was read telling of the Development of the Rubber Industry in the Far East."

A social hour and refreshments followed.

It was decided that for "Domestic Science Day" our roll-call consist of rather longer selections than usual on house-hold matters, also that recipies be brought as in former years.

Adjourned to meet at Mrs. Adams' on "Domestic Science Day," Apr. 16th. Miss Wilson hostess.

C.F. Wilson, Sec.

April 22, 1919

Apr. 22 instead of Apr. 15th, as sorrow had come to the home of one of our officers it was decided to omit the usual Domestic Science program and substitute Mrs. Burnell as reader for the afternoon following the business.

Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order. Sec's report read and approved. Also the Treasurer's. Mrs. Florence Blanchard sent in her resignation as Treasurer.

The report of the Nom. Com. Read and accepted:

¹⁰⁰ The February 1919 issue of the *Ladies Home Journal* featured "Making Our Men Fit again – The Remarkable Things They Are Doing with Wounded Soldiers."

Offices: Pres. Mrs. Edith Sawyer; Vice Pres. Miss Carrie Wilson; Sec. Mrs. Evalina Dunn; Treas. Mrs. Geneva Chase.

Program Com: Mrs. Sturdivant, Mrs. Doughty, Mrs. Sawyer.

Field Day Com: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Mary Sweetser, Mrs. Hill

Voted to make Mrs. O. M. Hall an Honorary member of the Club.

Mrs. Burnell read an amusing article: "Former Fads" which was enjoyed very much.

After the reading the ladies did Red Cross work.

Adjourned subject to the call of "Field Day."

C. F. Wilson, Sec.

July 4, 1919

Ten members and twenty seven guests assembled for a delicious picnic lunch under the trees in Mr. F. R. Sweetser's door yard. Tables were set and a bounteous feast spread, the assemble company being served most efficiently by two college professors, one recently returned from service overseas, The thermometer stood well up in the ninetys all day, but a gentle breeze obligingly fanned the party and made out door sports a possibility.

Much merriment was caused by shooting the darts, especially when the "Heavenly Lions" performed the feat (Mr. Sweetser & Mr. Osgood). A gramophone concert was a delightful feature & solos by Mr. Ernest Sweetser added greatly to the pleasure of the day.

A.F.S. Sturdivant. Sec. pro tem

October 7, 1919

The first meeting of the season was held on this date. The hostess being Mrs. Edith Sawyer. Twelve members and three guests were present. The meeting was opened by the Pres. Mrs. Sawyer. In the absence of the Sec. Mrs. Adams was asked to fill the vacancy.

A few suggestions as to changes in the program, as arranged by the Committee were offered by Mrs. Sturdivant and a spelling lesson for the next meeting was decided on. But few were prepared for the roll call, which will continue to be current events as in the past.

The committee had arranged for reading "The Life of the Emprers of Austria – Life of Franz Joseph¹ and the opening chapter were read by Mrs. Doughty.

Adjourned to meet on Wed. Oct. 15 with Mrs. Hamilton.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

October 15, 1919

Twenty members, including four new ones, met at Mrs. Hamilton's. Meeting called to order by Pres. Mrs. Sawyer. Records of the Field Day Com and also record of last meeting read. Both approved.

¹ Franz Joseph I of Austria (1830-1916) was Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Croatia and Bohemia. From May 1, 1850 until August 16, 1866, he was President of the German Federation. After the Austro-Prussian War, Austria-Hungary turned its attention to the Balkans, which was a hotspot of international tension due to conflicting interests with the Russian Empire. The Bosnian crisis was a result of Franz Joseph's annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1908, which had been occupied by his troops since the Congress of Berlin (1878). On June 28, 1914, the assassination of the heir presumptive to the Austro-Hungarian throne, his nephew Archduke Franz Ferdinand, resulted in Austro-Hungary's declaration of war against the Kingdom of Serbia, which was Russia's ally. This activated a system of alliances which resulted in World War I. Franz Joseph died on November 21, 1916, after ruling his domains for about 68 years. He was the longest reigning emperor of Austria. He was succeeded by his grandnephew Charles.

Instead of the usual roll call, much merriment was caused by a most unusual spelling lesson.

Voted to purchase a new Record book.

The rest of the afternoon was spent by reading by Mrs. Sturdivant from the book commenced last week.

Adj. to meet Oct. 24 with Mrs. Burnell.

Evelina G. Dunn, Sec.

October 21, 1919

21 members and one guest present at the home of Mrs. Burnell. Meeting called to order by the Pres. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll call responded to, by current events – those not being prepared paying the usual fine of one cent.

The leader on the program not being present – the vacancy was filled by Mrs. Dunn, who continued the reading from the book used at the previous meetings.

Adj. to meet Oct. 31 with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser with Mrs. Wyman leader.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

Met with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. There were seventeen members present. The Sec being absent no record of the previous meeting could be given. Mrs. Adams was asked to serve as Sec for the afternoon. The roll call included many curious items and the reading for the afternoon, which was conducted by Mrs. Wyman, was very interesting.

A gavel formerly used by the Good Templar's organization² of this village, was presented to the club by the hostess. A very pleasant afternoon was spent.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Huston on Nov 11.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

² The Organization of Good Templars is a non-governmental organization with a mission "to enlighten people on a lifestyle free from alcohol and other drugs." It works toward supporting families and strengthening communities. Members were "as firm as a granite ledge" in adhering to lodge principles. They no more would take a drink of liquor of any kind than they would have born false witness even under duress. Neither would they take a smoke or a chew of tobacco. A well-known ditty tells the story:

Terbacker is a filthy weed,
And from the Evil it did seed;
It burns your pockets, stains your clothes,
And makes a chimbley of yer nose."

November 8, 1919

We Neighbors met with Miss Sweetser, with 20 members present. On account of Armistice Day and the Conference at Lewiston, the Nov. 11 meeting was omitted.

Records of last meeting were read and approved. Roll Call responded to by current events and items of interest. Mrs. Geo. Blanchard was the reader for the afternoon.

The Sec. was excused after the roll call but suppose the next meeting will be with Mrs. Chase Dec. 9 according to Program.

Evelina G. Dunn Sec.

December 10, 1919

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Frank Chase. 14 members and one guest. Records read and approved.

A committee for Gentlemen's Night was appointed –consisting of Mrs. Huston, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Ed Merrill.

Roll Call of current events.

Adj. to meet Dec 16 with Mrs. Bragg.

A.F. Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

December 16, 1919

14 members & 2 guests met with Mrs. Bragg. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call of current events and items of interest.

Voted purchase the book "Letters of Theodore Roosevelt to his Children"³ if it could be obtained for \$3.

Mrs. Ernest Burnell was added to the Com. On refreshments for "Gentlemen's Night" and Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Sturdivant and Mrs. Danforth appointed for Entertainment Com. for the same.

Mrs. Rowe was the reader for the afternoon and finished the book we have been reading.

Adj. to meet Dec. 30 with Mrs. Doughty.

E.G. Dunn Sec.

³ *Letters of Theodore Roosevelt to His Children* was published by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1919.

January 13, 1920

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Adams, 16 members present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Mrs. Jordan reported that our supper would be served Gentlemen's Night. Voted to borrow of Mrs. Sweetser the book which we are to read "Letters of Theodore Roosevelt to his Children." And have the one returned which was purchased.

Roll call responded to by current events.

Miss Carrie Wilson was the leader for the P.M. and read from the book already spoken of.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 20 with Mrs. Wyman.

Gertrude S. Bragg Sec. pro tem

January 20, 1920

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Laura Wyman, 10 members being present. Records of last meeting read and approved. Refreshment committee for Gentlemen's Night reported that a supper would be served at some expense to the club. Voted to pay for same out of the Treasury.

Roll call responded to by current events.

In the absence of the leader the ladies took turns in reading from the book Letters of Roosevelt to his children.

Adjourned to meet on Gentlemen's night Jan. 27 at the vestry.

Lena J. Hamilton, Sec pro tem

January 27, 1920

We Neighbors with their gentlemen friends to the number of 47 assembled in the vestry on this evening. Mrs. Sawyer, the President, welcomed the guests, and then a delicious supper was served to which all did justice. At the close of the banquet, Mr. Geo Jordan suggested that the gentlemen give a rising vote of thanks to the ladies for inviting them so many times on Gentlemen's Night and always giving them a good supper and a good time. A vote of thanks was given.

After a short social time the following entertainment was given. Piano duet by Mrs. Helen Sawyer and Mrs. Danforth. Vocal solo: Mrs. Helen Sawyer; Vocal Solo: Mrs. Geneva Chase entitled "Smiles".

This was a prelude to an amusing contest. The company was divided into two sections and their smiles were measured. The side having the largest measurement winning.

Mrs. Sturdivant then asked two gentlemen to give their wives a piece of cake looking through opera glasses. This was found to be difficult and a number of different members tried it.

Then nearly every member and guest was handed a slip of paper with something written on it to be acted in pantimime.⁴ The company guessing what was acted. Some of the acting was very clever and caused much merriment.

The company broke up at a late hour feeling that a very enjoyable evening had been spent.

Lena J. Hamilton, Sec.

February 17, 1920

Mrs. Dunn being unable to entertain the club on this date, Mrs. Mary Sweetser very kindly offered the use of her house for our meeting. 13 members were present. In the absence of our President Miss Wilson presided. The Secretary Mrs. Dunn asked that that office be filled by someone else for the remainder of the year and Mrs. Hamilton was appointed.

Under the head of business, the Refreshment committee for Gentlemen's night reported outstanding bills for same to be: Ham \$7.50 Potatoes \$1.25 use of vestry \$3. Making a total of \$11.75 to be paid from friends of the club. Other expenses to be met by assessment. The report was accepted and it was voted to pay this bill.

The com. for Guest Day reported that they had decided to change the date of that meeting to Mar. 9th and the place of meeting to be with Mrs. Fen Blanchard. An outline of the plans for the day was given by the chairman Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

Several unavoidable changes having to be made in the years program as first arranged it was thought best and so voted by the club to advance each meeting a week thus closing the meetings for the season one week earlier than given on the program.

Roll call responded to by current events.

The leader for the day being unable to read Mrs. Sweetser, Mrs. Adams, and Mrs. Burnell read from the book Letters of Roosevelt to his Children.

Adjourned to meet Feb 24th with Mrs. Jordan.

Cora E. Adams, Sec. pro tem

February 24, 1920

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Jordan 17 members and 5 guests being present. As Mrs. Sawyer was absent Miss Wilson presided.

⁴ Pantomime is a dramatic entertainment, originating in Roman mime, in which performers express meaning through gestures accompanied by music.

Mrs. Jordan gave some of the plans for Guest Day. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

The leader for the P.M. Mrs. Geneva Chase had invited Miss Katherine Merrill to tell of her work for the Traveller's Aid Society⁵ of New York City. The club enjoyed a treat indeed, as in a most interesting way, Miss Merrill told of the work of this society and made us realize what a large number of people, many of them ignorant helpless foreign girls and women are assisted on their way and many times rescued from an evil life. A rising vote of thanks was given Miss Merrill.

Adjourned to meet Mar 9th at Mrs. Fen Blanchard.

L.J.H. Sec.

March 11, 1920

On Thursday Mar. 11 We Neighbors with their guests to the number of 42 assembled at the home of Mrs. Fen Blanchard on the occasion of our annual Guest Day which took the form of an old fashioned Tea-drinking. Many of the ladies were in old fashioned costumes which made the occasion one of great interest. Nearly all the members and guests had brought some curio or old-fashioned article. Several very old samplers were shown and some very interesting articles brought from foreign countries. Doilies and towels spun and woven from flax raised on farms in the vicinity were exhibited.

Refreshments were served, consisting of delicious biscuit cheese, raised cake, fruit-cake, caraway cookies and tea. 22 members and 20 guests were present. The occasion was much enjoyed by all.

Lena J. Hamilton Sec.

March 23, 1920

Eleven club members met on this date at Mrs. Dunn's. In the absence of Pres. and Vice Pres. Bessie Burnell presided.

⁵ The Travelers Aid movement began in 1851, when Bryan Mullanphy, a former major of St. Louis and a philanthropist bequeathed \$500,000 to the city of St. Louis to be used to assist "bona fide travelers heading west." Beginning in the 1880s, branches were formed in major U. S. cities to provide protection for women and girls who traveled alone. By the twentieth century, Travelers Aid Societies protected stranded travelers, especially women and children from those who would use, abuse, or victimize them. The primary fear was that young women travelers, native born and immigrant alike, would be kidnapped and turned into "white slaves" (defined as white females forced into prostitution). In New York City, under the leadership role of Grace Hoadley Dodge, the organization provided social work to vulnerable travelers at train stations and piers in order to prevent them from falling into the white slave trade and related vices.

Some plans for Domestic Science day were spoken of but the arrangements were left in the hands of the Program committee. Roll call responded to by current events, some of them being very interesting especially the talk about the brilliant display of Northern Lights ⁶ on Mar. 22.

Miss Nellie Sweetser read "Letters of Roosevelt to his children" and finished the book.

Adj. to meet at Mrs. Geo. Blanchard's Dec. 30. [!]

Lena J. Hamilton Sec.

March 30, 1920

Club met with Mrs. Geo. Blanchard 17 members being present. In the absence of Pres. and Vice Pres. the Sec. presided. Mrs. Fen Blanchard as Committee for domestic Science day told what the plans for that occasion were. Each member will be solicited for some article of food for the supper and each member is asked to bring something interesting or amusing to read.

Program was in the hands of Nellie Sweetser who took Geneva for her subject, reading from Nat. Geographic magazine.

Adjourned to meet Apr. 13 at Mrs. F. R. Sweetser's

Lena G. Hamilton Sec.

April 13, 1920

Although a severe rain storm was in progress, a company of 18 Club members gathered at the home of Mrs. F. R. Sweetser for our Domestic Science day. Sec and Treas. reports read and accepted. The report of the Nom. Com consisting of Mrs. Dunn & Mrs. Huston read & accepted. The following officers and Com's were elected for the ensuing year.

Pres. Miss Carrie Wilson, Vice Pres. Lena Hamilton, Sec. Geneva Chase, Treas. Mary Sweetser

Program Com. Gertrude Brag, Hattie Humphery, Jennie Burnell

Field Day Com. Mrs. Sturdivant, Bertha Merrill, Evie Sweetser.

Voted that present officers hold their office until 1st meeting in the fall.

Roll call responded to by many interesting and amusing articles.

⁶ Northern Lights is a common name for the Aurora Borealis in the Northern Hemisphere. Northern Lights are bright dancing lights in the aurora which actually are collisions between electrically charged particles from the sun and gaseous particles in the Earth's atmosphere. Auroral displays appear in many colors although pale green and pink are most common. Auroral activity is cyclical, peaking roughly every eleven years. On March 23, 1920, which also happened to be date of a We Neighbors meeting, Northern Lights appeared for the first time in twelve years.

Adj. subject to call Field Day Com.

A delicious banquet was then served which all enjoyed very much. A vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Sweetser and those in charge of arrangements .

Lena J. Hamilton. Copied by G.F.C.

June 29, 1920

On June 29th in spite of weather that threatened rain 45 members and guests assembled at the picnic grounds at Dalton's Shore,⁷ Cumberland Foreside.

It proved to be a comfortable day and all enjoyed the fine fish chowder and other good things which the able Field Day Com. had provided. The ice cream furnished by Com. was much appreciated. A rising vote of thanks for the Com. was passed. All felt that we had had an enjoyable Field Day.

Lena J. Hamilton Sec. Copied by G.F.C.

October 19, 1920

21 Members met at Mrs. Jennie Burnell's. In the absence of Sec. Mrs. Dunn was chosen for the day. Report of Sec. and Treas. read and approved. She reported 22 members being already enrolled, 6 cents recd. in fines and Cash on hand at beginning of year \$3.56 total \$14.62 at this time.

Matter of Guest Day discussed & voted to meet at Mrs. Meekers, at her kind invitation, on Nov. 9th. Pres. appointed coms. Hostesses: Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. Rowe. Refreshments: Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, and Mrs. Hamilton. Entertainment: Geneva Chase, Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. Frank B. Blanchard.

Voted for Com's to use their discretion about expenses and present their bills to Club.

Roll call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser had the program for the P.M. & took for her subject the two Vice Presidential nominees, their personalities. Several words defined: Stand – patter; Stultify; Reactionary; Four-flusher.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Bertha Merrill Oct. 26 with Geneva Chase as leader.

E.G.Dunn Sec. pro tem

⁷ At the time, Dalton Farm was located near a long beach along Cumberland Foreside. The property was eventually purchased by Phillip Payson in 1936 from his wife's parents.

November 16, 1920

Club met with Mrs. Huston, 19 members and two guests being present. Records were not present. The Guest Day Refreshment Com. Reported that all members excepting those providing cake and the hostess, would be assessed 15 cents each. Voted to accept the report.

Miss Nellie Sweetser was requested to read her poem at the next meeting . A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Committee serving on Guest day.

Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Bragg was leader for the afternoon, in place of Mrs. Sturdivant, and took for her subject Mass. The Beehive of Industry,⁸ giving a very comprehensive idea of the numerous industries in that State.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Fenn Blanchard November 30. Mrs. Leila Burnell as leader.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

November 30, 1920

We Neighbors met with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard. The meeting called to order by pres. Sec. and Treas. Report read and approved. Roll Call responded to by current events. Miss Nellie Sweetser read her Guest Day poem.

Mrs. Leila Burnell had program for afternoon. She took for her Sub. "England and the English from an American Point of view" by Price Collier.⁹

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman on Dec. 7th.

Geneva F. Chase. Sec.

December 7, 1920

We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Laura Wyman. Meeting called to order by pres. In the absence of the Sec. Mrs. Randall Sawyer was appointed Sec. pro tem. Reports of Sec and Treas. read and approved.

⁸ During the early 20th century, Springfield, Massachusetts was known world-wide for its precision manufacturing and was recognized as a "beehive of diversified production." By the first decade of the 20th Century, the City of Springfield featured over 10% of all manufacturing plants in Massachusetts and a far greater percentage of precision machinery manufacturing plants, as opposed to textile manufacturing plants which were prevalent in eastern Massachusetts.

⁹ Price Collier (1860-1913), *England and the English from an American Point of View*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1911.

Mrs. Dunn was leader for the afternoon. She read first an article on "Natural Food", then a short story entitled "The Neighborhood" another article "Truth about the teeth".

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Bessie Burnell on Dec. 15th. The meeting being changed from Tues. to Wed. as Mrs. Meeker the leader could not be there on Tues.

Helen H. Sawyer, Sec. pro tem

December 16, 1920

We Neighbors met at the home of Bessie Burnell with 14 members and 1 guest present. Sec. and Treas. Report read and approved. Treas. Reported \$13.23 on hand after the bill for guest day is pd.

Mrs. Meeker had the progame for the afternoon and she took for her subject "Mrs. Clara Sheridans trip to Moscow, Russia."¹⁰

Adjourned to meet with Geneva F. Chase Dec. 28th with Bessie Burnell as leader, in place of Mrs. Osgood. The club was held Thurs instead of Wed as planned, on acct of the Ross children funeral.

Geneva F. Chase sec.

December 28, 1920

We Neighbors met with Geneva Chase, 14 members being present. Meeting called to order by president. Sec. report read and approved. Treas. not present.

Roll Call responded to by Current Events and 2 pennies. Bessie Burnell had the program for the afternoon, and she took for her subject "Pawning our heirlooms"¹¹ referring to the desecration of the Yellow Stone Park. It was both instructive and interesting.

¹⁰ Clare Consuelo Sheridan (nee Frewen) (1885-1970), a cousin to Winston Churchill, was born in London. She was an English sculptor, journalist and writer. In 1910, she married Wilfred Frederick Sheridan at St. Margaret's Westminster. In the summer of 1920, the first Soviet Russian trade delegation to visit London invited Sheridan to travel to Russia to make busts of notable revolutionaries. British authorities refused to issue her a visa, but she sailed with the delegation to Stockholm, where Leo Kamanev obtained as Estonian visa for her. She stayed in the Kremlin for two months and sculpted subjects including Vladimir Lenin, Leon Trotsky, and Kamenev. While in Russia, Sheridan is reputed to have had affairs with more than one of her sitters. Her account of her trip to Russia was published as *Mayfair to Moscow: Clare Sheridan's diary* (1921).

¹¹ As stated in testimony before the Senate Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, speakers warned that National Parks, those precious possessions held in trust for future generations, are in imminent peril. The danger is twofold. First, the desire of individuals organized into corporations seeking to use water resources for selfish advantage. Second, irrigation proponents who want to dam Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park. "They have ruined forever the wonderful Jackson Lake, just outside the park." Reference is made to photographs in the article, "Pawning Your Heirlooms, by Emerson Hough, *Saturday Evening Post*, September 25, 1920.

Adjourned to meet with Nellie Jordan Jan. 11

Geneva F. Chase Sec.

January 11, 1921

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Osgood with 19 members present. Report of Sec. read and approved. Roll Call responded to by Current Events. The matter of Gentlemens Night was brought up and it was voted to hold it in the Church vestry with the following Com.:

Entertainment Com: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Huston, and Mrs. Bessie Burnell

Refreshment Com.: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Doughty, Mrs. Barton and Miss Humphery.

Decorating Com.: Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Bertha Merrill.

The leader of the afternoon was Mrs. Rowe, who read very interestingly from a book entitled "Women of the Mayflower".

Meeting adj. to meet with Mrs. Jordan Jan. 18.

Helen Sawyer. Sec. pro tem

January 18, 1921

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Geo. Jordan. 12 members present. Sec. report read, an error was noticed. The order of Com. on Entertainment for Gentlemens night should read Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Chairman, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Huston.

The entertainment com requested that each member reply at the supper to the roll Call, either a short humorous or current event.

The Com., on refreshments reported a very bountiful menu. In case the funds of the treasury were used for the supper, the club voted to tax each member 10 cents to defray expenses of Vestry here – Mrs. Barton wished to be excused on the Refreshment Com. and Jennie Burnell one chosen in her place. Mrs. Sturdivant was also chosen on that Com.

Current Events followed the report of Coms.

The business of the Club was then adjourned until Feb. 8 when it moved meeting with Mrs. P.R. Sweetser. Mrs. Jordan continued the reading of last week from the book entitled "Women of the Mayflower."¹² Furnishing a very pleasant afternoon, finishing the interesting story.

¹² Probably refers to Annie Russell Marble's book, *The Women who Came in the Mayflower*, Pilgrim Press, 1920, 110 pages. The book includes a good description of the long sea voyage and hardships faced.

Mrs. Fred Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

January 25, 1921

We Neighbors with their gentlemen guests, numbering 58 in all, assembled in the Church vestry on the evening of this date.

Mrs. Carrie Wilson the president welcomed the guests with a few appropriate words and a short original poem. A delicious banquet was then served consisting of Clam Stew, cake, coffee, tea.

While still seated at the table, the Sec. called the roll and the members responded with either a humorous clipping or Current Event. The tables were then cleared and the Entertainment Com. entertained us first by a peanut hunt. Shouting proverbs and other interesting games. Finishing the evening by a good sing. The company separated at a late hour after having spent a very pleasant Eve.

Geneva F. Chase. Sec.

February 8, 1921

We Neighbors met with Mrs. P. R. Sweetser 15 members and 1 guest present. Meeting called to order by president. Sec and Treas. report read and approved. Refreshment Com for Gentlemens Night reported expenses of banquet to be \$11.49. Entertainment Com expenses \$1. These bills were paid out of treasury.

Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Sturdivant had program for P.M. She read from book entitled "The War and the New Age" by W.M. West.¹³ Also read a chapter in "Aramints and the Automobile."

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Hamilton Feb. 15 with Mrs. F.S. Blanchard leader.

Geneva F. Chase Sec.

February 15, 1921

The Club met with Mrs. Hamilton with 14 members present. Bessie Burnell was chosen Sec. pro tem. No records present. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

¹³ William Mason West, *The War and the New Age*, Boston, 1919, 794 pages. At one time, West was Professor of History and Head of the Department of History, University of Minnesota.

The program for the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Lizzie Prince Blanchard who read social interesting articles. The first being the Governors Inaugural.¹⁴ The next was an article from the *Maine Farmer* by Dr. Twitchell¹⁵ entitled Education for All, which was both true and amusing. Another instructive article was "True World Mystery"¹⁶ from the *Youth Companion*, dealing with terrestrial magnetism. The last article was by Irving Bacheller entitled "Stories Lincoln told which I shall never forget."¹⁷ The afternoon was much enjoyed.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Dunn Feb. 22 with Mrs. Osgood leader.

Bessie Burnell Sec. pro tem

February 22, 1921

Mrs. Dunn being unable to entertain on this date, Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard entertained. Fourteen members and 1 guest being present. The Sec. being absent, Mrs. Adams was asked to serve during the meeting.

Sec. Treas. Reports were read and approved.

It was voted to change the date of the next meeting to Mar. 9th as the date of the regular meeting falls on town meeting day.

There being no further business, the Sec. called the roll, after which the meeting was conducted by the leader for the afternoon Mrs. Osgood.

The topic was Plymouth. She read from the book "Guide to history, Plymouth."¹⁸ Mrs. Osgood having visited some of the places mentioned gave added interest to the reading which was much enjoyed. Besides the book she had a list of inscriptions on tombstones of the early settlers which were very quaint.

Meeting adj. after which delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Cora E. Adams Sec. pro tem

¹⁴ Governor Frederick Hale Parkhurst, Republican, served as governor from January 5, 1921 to January 31, 1921. He became ill during the period between winning election and his inauguration. He rose from his sickbed to take the Oath of Office, but died of pneumonia 3 weeks later. Percival Proctor Baxter, as State Senate President Pro Tempe, succeeded him, and then was elected for one term.

¹⁵ Dr. George Morris Twitchell, born 1847 in Bethel Maine, served as managing editor of the *Maine Farmer* and lecturer on agricultural science.

¹⁶ "A True World Mystery," by Aaron Hardy Ulm, in *The Companion*, January 27, 1921, p. 56. This mystery is something you cannot see, hear, smell, touch, or taste. It is terrestrial magnetism demonstrated at an observatory near Sitka, Alaska.

¹⁷ "Stories Lincoln Told which I shall never Forget," by Irving Bacheller, *American Magazine*, February 1921, p. 48.

¹⁸ During the Tercentenary Celebration (1920-1921), several guidebooks to historic Plymouth were published. The one used by We Neighbors may have been *Pictorial Guide to Historic Plymouth* by Rose T. Briggs, published by A. S. Burbank, 1921.

March 15, 1921

Club met with Mrs. Bragg. 16 members present. Miss Nellie Sweetser – Leader.

Subj: “How to predict the weather of tomorrow” by Henry J. Cox. Official forecaster of the weather bureau at Chicago.¹⁹ Also a short sketch of Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis.²⁰

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Meeker in one week.

Mrs. Osgood, Sec. pro tem

March 22, 1921

Club met with Mrs. Meeker with 23 members present. Sec. and Treas. Reports accepted. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Carrie Wilson was leader for the P.M. She took for her subj. “Popular Song meters and source of their Songs”. She read about Irving Berlin,²¹ Harry Lauder. Adelaide Dunton kindly sang “Roamin in the Gloamin’”, “Wee Hoose Mang the Heather”²² by Lauder also “Good Bye France” by Irving Berlin. Geneva Chase sang “Swing Low Sweet Chariot” and “Carry Me back to Old Virginia.”

Mrs. Fred Sweetser said as a few well chosen words in behalf of the Club presented Mrs. Danforth a silver tablespoon on which was engraved “We Neighbors.” She responded a few appropriate words of appreciation.

Club then adj. to meet with Mrs. Dunn Mch. 29.

Geneva F. Chase, Sec.

¹⁹ Henry J. Cox, “How to Predict To-morrow’s Weather”, *The American Magazine*, March 1921, p. 26. Some common signs are explained so the reader can learn to foretell with a fair degree of accuracy the probably weather conditions of the coming 24 or 48 hours. Reference is made to the use of the barometer, wind direction, clouds.

²⁰ Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis (1866-1944) was an American jurist who served as a federal judge from 1905 to 1922 and was the first commissioner of Baseball from 1920 until his death. He is remembered for his handling of the Black Sox scandal in which he expelled 8 members of the Chicago White Sox from organized baseball for conspiring to lose the 1919 World Series and repeatedly refused reinstatement requests. His firm actions and iron rule over baseball in the near quarter century of his commissionership are generally credited with restoring public confidence in the game. His name is a spelling variation on the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in the Civil War, where his father was wounded in 1864. President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Landis a federal judge in 1905. Landis received national attention in 1907 when he fined Standard Oil of Indiana more than 29 million for violating federal laws forbidding rebates on Railroad freight tariffs. Though Landis’ ruling was reversed on appeal, he was seen as a judge determined to rein in big business.

²¹ Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was a Russian born American composer and lyricist. Widely considered as one of the greatest song writers in American history, he wrote an estimated 1500 songs, including scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films.

²² “A Wee Hoose ‘Mang the Heather,” (1913).

March 29, 1921

Club met with Mrs. Dunn on this date with 18 members present. Meeting called to order by president. Sec. and Treas. Report read and accepted.

Mrs. Adams was leader for afternoon. But on account of a cold was unable to read so Mrs. Dunn kindly read an article in the American Magazine entitled "Young Man, expect great things."²³ An interview with Cardinal Gibbons, which was very interesting. Mrs. M. W. Burnell then read a story entitled "A Chattaborchee Club." Mrs. F. R. Sweetser read story "With Mamma Away."²⁴

Meeting then adj.

Geneva F. Chase Sec.

April 12, 1921

We Neighbors was entertained by Miss Carrie Wilson at one of the ante-rooms at Red Mens hall²⁵ which had been prettily arranged for the occasion. 18 members were present. In the absence of the Sec, Mrs. Hamilton has chosen. Records of last meeting read and approved. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Jordan the leader for the afternoon read "A Romance of a Christmas Card" by Kate Douglas Wiggin. All enjoyed story very much.

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Nellie Sweetser in one week.

L.J.Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

April 19, 1921

"We Neighbors" were entertained by Miss Nellie Sweetser, 11 members present. Meeting called to order by president and records of last meeting were read and approved. In the absence of the Sec., Mrs. Rowe

²³ Bruce Barton, "Young Man, Expect Great Things," *American Magazine*, March 1921, p. 5. This article is based on an interview with Cardinal Gibbons. "For no matter how the periods of action and reaction may follow one another, the trend of American life is steadily upward."

²⁴ Lillian Lida Bell is the author of both "The Chattaborchee Woman's Club" and "With Mama Away", both of which were published in *Harper's Collection of Short Stories*, vol. 2, New York: Harper and Bros, 1901.

²⁵ The Red men are a fraternal lodge which imitates Native American traditions and call their local lodges "wigwams." This Fraternal Order dates back to December 16, 1773, when "our great patriots dumped the tea over board." With that event, a Brotherhood was established to bring early American settlers in line with the traditions and spiritual beliefs of Native Americans. The Tribal Hall is set to reflect the rank of command, as did the campfires of Native Tribes. In Maine there are four state tribes governed by a Great Council composed of Great Chiefs from all over Maine.

was chosen. Mrs. Wyman and Rowe were appointed by the present to nominate officers and program com. for the coming year. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Hamilton for Mrs. Bertha Merrill read "The origins of American State Names".²⁶

Adj. to meet with Mrs. Adams Tues Apr. 26.

Fannie W. Rose Sec pro-tem.

April 26, 1921

Club met for Domestic Science day with Mrs. F. L. Adams. Sec. & Treas. Report read and accepted. Treas. reported "\$1.57 on hand."

Voted that hereafter when the leader or hostess cannot fulfill their duties they are to supply....

Voted that the Field day be omitted for this year.

Voted that for the coming year our meetings begin the first of Oct. & continue until the first of April.

Voted that for the coming year we dispense with the weekly refreshments.

Voted that the funds in treasury be subject to call of program Com. as their needs require.

Voted to send Mrs. Perry Burnell some of the Domestic Science Goodies.

Voted to accept report of Nom. Com.

Voted that Sec cast one vote for following officers: Mrs. Bessie Burnell, pres.; Geneva Chase, Vice pres.;

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.; Mrs. Jennie Burnell, Treas.

Program Com.: Mrs. Evie Dunn, Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. Nellie Jordan.

Roll Call responded to by household helps and Current Events.

Voted to Adj. until Oct. after which we all took part in a contest and enjoyed the many good eats that the members provided.

Geneva F. Chase, Sec.

²⁶ Regarding the origin of the name "Maine," it first appears in writing in 1622 as a province in a charter of the Council of New England granting land to Sir Ferdinando Gorges and Captain John Mason. In 1629, Captain Mason called his portion New Hampshire. The portion allocated to Gorges was labeled Laconia. Disliking that name, Gorges tried New Somerset. However, King Charles strongly disliked the name "New Somerset", and so he responded in 1639 Charter that Gorges' portion "shall forever hereafter be called and named Province or County of Mayne and not by any other name or names whatsoever." Actually, Mayne is considered to be a compliment to Henrietta Maria, queen of Charles I. She is said to have owned the province of Mayne in France.

October 11, 1921

The first meeting of the We Neighbors Club, for the season of 1921-1922, met with Mrs. Bertha Merrill. Eleven members present. Mrs. Bessie Burnell presiding. Secretary's report read and accepted, read by the treasurer in the absence of Mrs. Chase. Mrs. Jennie Burnell elected as treasurer for the coming year, declined the nomination. Mrs. Cora Adams was elected in her place.

The committee on programs asked .88 for expenses, 50 cts for a book and 38 cts for programs.

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Nellie Jordan for type writing the programs.

It was voted that Mrs. Laura Wyman change the date of her leadership with Mrs. Bragg. Mrs. Wyman's coming first, one continuing the subjects of the other.

Voted to accept an invitation from Miss Laura Chase to be present at her home on the afternoon of October 12 in honor of the 85th birthday of her grandmother Mrs. Hall.

Mrs. Nellie Jordan was leader for the afternoon in place of Mrs. Adams. Using the subjects "A Bible Text that Worked a Business Miracle"²⁷ and a short sketch of Judge Florence Allen,²⁸ both from the October "American."

Voted to adjourn to Oct. 18th, to meet with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, hostess.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.

October 18, 1921

Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, whose home was to be the place of meeting asked Mrs. F. R. Sweetser to entertain the club; changing places with her. The meeting was with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Twenty members present. Roll call – Current Events.

²⁷ Arthur Nash, "A Bible Text that Worked a Business Miracle," *The American Magazine*, October 1921, p. 37. Nash decided to apply the Golden Rule in the operation of his factory, and he also made plans to liquidate. He believed in the principle, but remained skeptical that any business could be successfully run by it. However, he was willing to try. The results were amazing, and constitute one of the most remarkable chapters in business history.

²⁸ Florence Allen (1884-1966) was the first woman to serve on a state supreme court and one of the first two women to serve as U. S. federal judge. As a child, her mother had taken her to see famous suffragists Susan B. Anthony and Anna Howard Shaw, when they gave a talk about women's rights. The belief that women should be treated as equals under law resonated strongly with Allen as she began her legal career. She became active in the Women's Suffrage Party and began challenging local laws that limited Women's participation in the political process. One of her cases went all the way to the Ohio Supreme Court and thanks to her efforts, she won the women of East Cleveland the right to vote in municipal elections. About the same time, she became involved in the quest for peace and disarmament. This cause was personal because both brothers died while serving their country during World War I. After winning a few cases she gained the respect of her male colleagues, and her career began to flourish in 1919. Her profile written by Elliot Field is presented in the October 1921 issue of *The American Magazine*, p. 54.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser leader for the afternoon. Subject "Libraries". A most interesting article was read.

Voted to adjourn to Oct. 25, to meet with Mrs. F. W. Doughty.

Mrs. F.R.Sweetser Sec.

October 25, 1921

Met with Mrs. F. N. Doughty. Roll call current events.

Mrs. Hamilton was leader. Subject – Alaska, maps and pictures added to the interest.

Motioned to adjourn to meet Nov. 8th with Miss Humphrey. Mrs. Wyman to be the leader.

November 8, 1921

Met with Miss Humphrey.

Miss Nellie Sweetser was leader in the absence of Mrs. Laura Wyman. Miss Sweetser commenced reading from the book "The Government of Maine."

Nine members present.

Mrs. F.R. Sweetser, Sec.

November 15, 1921

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell as the hostess Mrs. Barton, who was chosen for that day by the Program committee, has not joined the club this year. Nine members and two guests were present.

In the absence of the secretary Mrs. Dunn was chosen to serve for the day. No records were there to be read. Roll call responded to by current events.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Fen Blanchard, who took for her subject the California missions²⁹ which was very interesting and instructive. Mrs. Blanchard had visited some of these herself. Adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet Nov. 29 with Mrs. Wyman.

E.G. Dunn, Sec. pro tem

The meeting arranged for the 29th was cancelled on account of a big storm and bad roads the next day.

²⁹ The Spanish missions in California comprise a series of 21 religious outposts, established by Catholic priests of the Franciscan order, between 1760 and 1833, to expand Christianity among the Native Americans. The missions were part of a major effort by the Spanish Empire to extend colonization. The missionaries introduced European fruits, vegetables, cattle, horses, ranching and technology. However, the activities of the missions also resulted in some serious negative consequences for the Native American population.

Mrs. F.R. Sweetser sec.

December 8th, 1921

A business meeting of the club was held on this date, only seven members in attendance. The secretary being absent, Mrs. Adams was nominated to serve in her stead.

It was voted to hold our Gentlemen's night in the vestry. Mrs. Burnell agreeing to engage it for that evening. The president appointed the following committees to serve. Refreshments: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Frank Chase

Entertainment: Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Osgood.

Decorating: Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Bragg, Miss Humphrey

Adjourned

Cora B. Adams, sec. pro tem

December 13, 1921 Gentlemen's night

The club members and their husbands and gentlemen friends assembled at the vestry on the evening of this date.

A bountiful supper was served by the committee appointed for that purpose. After supper the attention of all was engaged by the pleasing program provided by the entertainment committee consisting of songs and contests, all heartily participated.

The attendance was not as large as on previous evenings of a like character: several who have been members in the past have not renewed their membership this year and several families are away for the winter.

The work of the committees showed painstaking interest and it was appreciated by those present.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.

December 27, 1921

Met with Mrs. Bragg. Fourteen members present including one new member Mrs. Arno Chase.

The president and vice president were both absent; the secretary did double duty. The meeting of Nov. 9th was reported by the secretary. Mrs. Dunn reported the meeting of Nov. 15. The secretary also reported the Gentlemen's night held Dec. 13th.

Roll call responded to by current events.

Mrs. Huston, leader for the afternoon, read an interesting and timely story from the Ladies' Home Journal called "Christmas Light".³⁰

Adjourned to meet Jan. 10th with Mrs. Bessie Burnell hostess and Laura Wyman leaders.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.

January 10, 1922.

A beautiful day. Met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell subject for the afternoon Maine Government, Mrs. Wyman made the subject very interesting.

Roll call – current events.

Nine members present and three guests.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. F. H. Chase Jan. 17th.

Mrs. E. F. Sweetser Sec.

January 25, 1922

The meeting called for Jan. 17th has twice been postponed, January 14, Mrs. Buxton, a member of the club from its beginning, died in Milford ME at the home of her sister. Her funeral was held at the Cong. Church at Cumberland Ctr. on January 17th. She was a constant and helpful member of this club as long as her strength permitted and when not able to attend was interested in all that was of interest to the club.

The following week for January 24th a meeting of the Farm Bureau, held in the vestry, called for several members of the club. The meeting was again postponed to the 25th when we met with Mrs. F. H. Chase. A pleasant day but cold. Ten members were present.

Secretary's report accepted. Roll call – current events.

The subject for the afternoon "The North that Never Was" by Vilhjalmur Stefansson [Stefansson],³¹ an article in the December *World's Work*, was read by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

Before adjournment it was decided to hold our Guest afternoon, February 14th at the home of Mrs. F. H. Chase. The following committees were appointed from the chair.

³⁰ Ethel Calvert Phillips, "Christmas Light," *Ladies Home Journal*, December 1921, p. 16.

³¹ Vilhjalmur Stefansson, "The North That Never Was," *The World's Work*, December 1921, p. 188. The article identifies the difference between the North as it is and as it is thought to be. In 1921, Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879-1962) was awarded the Founder's Gold Medal by the Royal Geographical Society for his exploration of the Arctic.

Entertainment Com. Cora Adams, Edith Sawyer, and Nellie Jordan.

Refreshment com. Jennie Huston, Ardelia Osgood, Gertrude Bragg.

Voted to adjourn to Feb. 7th Mrs. Jordan hostess, Grace Prince leader.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Sec.

February 7, 1922

Club met with Mrs. Nellie Jordan. In the absence of the president and vice president, the secretary again laboriously (?) filled the three offices.

Grace Prince read from the Biography of Benjamin Franklin, which proved very interesting and instructive. ³²

Adjourned to meet on our Guest Day Feb. 14.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser

February 14, 1922 Our Guest Day

Meeting held at the pleasant home of Mrs. F. H. Chase. Thirty five members and guests made a very pleasant company.

The entertainment committee provided a program consisting of songs sung by Mrs. Arno Chase and Mrs. Frank Chase. A contest as to who could draw the best heart blindfolded, was won by Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, who received the prize of a candy heart with many smiles and much surprise. Prize awarded by two guests Ms. Powell and Mrs. Verrill. This was followed by two other contests. The names of twenty five streets of Portland were guessed by a sentence or a word on a slip of papers. No one guessed all, Mrs. Carey won guessing seventeen correctly.

A musical romance finished the program, light refreshments were served consisting of ice cream and cake. The company broke up with the beat of neighborly feeling and with happy thoughts toward the hostess and the entertainers.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Secretary

³² Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was one of the Founding Fathers. Franklin spearheaded the movement to have the British Parliament repeal the Stamp Act. As a scientist, he was recognized for his discoveries and theories regarding electricity. As an inventor, he is known for the lightning rod, bifocals, and the Franklin stove. He became a successful newspaper editor in Philadelphia and played a major role in establishing the University of Pennsylvania. He is the subject of many biographies.

February 21, 1922

Met with Mrs. Arno S, Chase.

Voted to assess the members twenty cents for a fund to defray the expenses of the guest day. The afternoon was in charge of Miss Carrie Wilson, who entertained us by a very interesting trip into Mexico. The trip was illustrated by pictures from books and postal cards. She also gave a short description of life in California with pictures showing the missions, the plant life including vineyards, orange and lemon orchards, also ornamental shrubbery and landscape gardening.

It was all very interesting.

After adjournment, Mrs. Chase offered light refreshments.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.

March 8, 1922

Circle met with Mrs. F. S. Blanchard, 9 members present. Mrs. Osgood leader. She read several articles of interest to us all from Maine – My State. 1st the Settlement of New Sweden, W. W. Thomas. 2nd Settlement of Pilgrims of Plymouth on the Kennebec – Helen L. Coburn. 3rd Birthplace of Maine – Mary Dunbar Devereaux. 4th When John Alden was in jail.³³

March 14, 1922

Met with Mrs. Adams. Twelve members present. Secretary's report read and accepted.

A committee was chosen for Domestic Science day. Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Huston were appointed.

It was suggested that the demonstrator of the Sealedsweet Fruit-Products, Caroline Moorhead, be invited to give a demonstration at the meeting of our club on 28th of March at Evie Dunn's.

Roll

Call – many interesting items. Mrs. Rowe was leader. She read an article on the Phillipines, What Shall we do with the Moros?" by Frank L. Laubauch.³⁴

³³ *Maine – My State* was compiled by the Maine Writers Research Club, 1919. It was written primarily for public schools and designed to present picturesque side of Maine history in narrative form. "The Birth of Maine" by Mary Dunbar Devereaux, page 23. "The Pilgrim Fathers of the Kennebec" by Louise H. Coburn, p. 72. "When John Alden went to Jail," by John Clair Minot, p. 132. "The Story of New Sweden," by William Widgery Thomas, p. 304.

³⁴ "What Shall We Do with the Moros?" by Frank C. Laubach. Published by the Frank Laubach (1884-1970) was a Congregational Christian missionary. While working among Muslims in a remote region of the Philippines, he wrote *The Apostle to the Illiterates* in 1915. He developed the "Each one, Teach One" literacy program.

Adjourned to March 21st

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Sec.

March 21, 1922

Hostess: Mrs. Lena Hamilton, Leader: Miss Ellen Sweetser. Subject: Current Events. Miss Sweetser handled the subject in a very unique manner. She read articles upon four interesting events:

“Annihilation of Space by Radio”

“Radio Amateur Helps”

“Prohibition”

“Four Powers Treaty.”³⁵

At this meeting it was voted to invite Mrs. Morehead to demonstrate – the Sealed Sweet Products at the next and last meeting of our club, finishing the year’s work.

A nominating committee was chosen to appoint the officers for the ensuing year. Mrs. Hills, Mrs. Bragg and Mrs. Jordan were chosen.

Adjourned.

Mrs. F. R. Sweetser Sec.

March 28, 1922

The Annual Business Meeting of We Neighbors club met with our president – Mrs. Bess Burnell. Twelve members and one guest present.

The nominating committee reported the following names to be voted upon for the ensuing year:

President: Mrs. Geneva Chase

Vice President: Mrs. Mary Sweetser

Secretary: Mrs. Esther Hill

Treasurer: Mrs. Grace Prince

³⁵ Between 1921 and 1922, the world’s largest naval powers gathered in Washington D. C. for a conference to discuss naval disarmament and ways to relieve growing tension in East Asia. In the wake of World War One, leaders sought to prevent the possibility of another war. Rising Japanese militarism heightened those concerns. The Four Powers – U. S., France, U. K., and Japan - agreed to consult with one another before taking action, in the event of a future crisis in East Asia. This treaty replaced the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of 1902.

Program Committee: Mrs. Huston, Mrs. E. H. Chase, Mrs. Adams

Field Day committee: Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Fen Blanchard, and Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser.

The Secretary was instructed to cast the vote for the various officers and committees. The club voted to serve refreshments at each meeting the coming year if the hostesses wished to do so.

A letter was read from Mrs. Caroline Moorehead who had planned to be with us at this meeting to demonstrate "Sealed Sweets" products, giving her reason for not coming and regretting that she was unable to do so. Mrs. Moorehead expressed her willingness to meet with us at some other time if possible, if we wished her to do so.

The treasurer, Mrs. Adams gave her annual report as follows: Amount received during year \$13.79

Amount expended during year: \$13.41. Leaving in the treasury thirty eight cents.

Voted to reimburse Mrs. Eva Chase for cream furnished on Guest Day, as far as cash in the treasury would permit.

Roll Call was then in order at which many helpful domestic suggestions were given. After the roll call the club adjourned to hold the next regular meeting in October.

A social hour followed during which delicious refreshments were served.

H. E. Humphrey, Sec. pro tem

October 11, 1922

Meeting with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. In the absence of the Pres. meeting called to order by the Vice Pres. Mrs. Mary Sweetser. Sec's report accepted. Reports of Program Com. also Field Day Com.

Voted that the same Com on Field Day be retained for another year.

Roll call current events.

Program for the P.M. comprised reading by Mrs. Mary Sweetser of Parables of Safid the Sage³⁶ and an enjoyable story entitled "The blue feather fan."³⁷

Next meeting to be on Oct. 17 with Mrs. Bertha Merrill with Gertrude Bragg as leader.

Adj.

³⁶ The Parables of Safid the Sage by William Eleazar Barton (1861-1930), Chicago, Advance Pub. Co., 1917. This genial sage creates parables out of ordinary things found in the cupboard, blends it with common sense and wisdom.

³⁷ Blue Feather Fans were often accessories at weddings during the late 19th century as well as accessories for evening dresses in the 1920s. Citation for the short story is not found.

Evelyn H. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

October 17, 1922

Club met with Mrs. Bertha Merrill, 11 members and 2 guests being present. The Pres. Mrs. Geneva Chase presided. In the absence of the Sec, Mrs. Lena Hamilton was chosen Sec-pro-tem. The records of the last two meetings of the previous year were read and accepted, also record of last meeting. Roll call answered by Current events.

Voted that Mrs. Adams act as Com to ascertain if Mrs. Hill will join the Club this year.

Voted that the Club members send a post card shower to Mrs. Nellie Poulin [sp?], so that it reaches her Oct. 24.

The program for the P.M. was in the hands of Mrs. Bragg, who read an interesting article "America our Meal Ticket". Also, Mrs. Fen Blanchard read an article "What a Farmer really looks like".³⁸

Coms. were appointed for Guest Day.

Refreshments: Mrs. Huston, Adams, and Dunn

Entertainment: Mrs. Sweetser & Prince

Reception: Mrs. F. R. Sweetser & Mrs. Blanchard

Lena Hamilton, Sec. pro tem

October 24, 1922

Club met with Mrs. Alice Doughty. 11 members and 1 guest present. Our Pres. Mrs. Geneva Chase in the Chair. Seconds of last meeting read and approved. By reason of withdrawing from the Club, new Sec and Treas. had to be appointed. Mrs. Jordan kindly consented to fill these positions for this year.

Plans for Guest Day to be held with Mrs. Dunn & Mrs. Huston at the home of Mrs. Dunn were made and the date to be changed from Oct 31 – our regular date – to Oct. 30. Refreshments left in the hands of Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Huston, and Mrs. Adams. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser to have charge of the Evt – to call on whom she pleased for help. Mrs. F. R. Sweetser, Mrs. F.S. Blanchard to be Reception Com. As no business meeting is held on our Guest Day, the following meeting on Nov. 7 was put forward to Nov. 8 on account of the Ladies Circle holding their Fair – Nov. 7.

³⁸ Freeman Tilden. "What a Farmer Really Looks Like," *Country Gentleman* LXXXVI (July 2, 1921), p. 6-7. This journal for prosperous farmers ran a series of cartoons and comments by nationally known cartoonists on the theme "What the Farmer Really Looks Like." According to these observers, the old cartoon figure of a lean, bewhiskered rustic with battered straw hat was no longer accurate, and that the farmer looked just as much like a businessman as anyone else.

Voted to omit roll call as our time was rapidly disappearing.

The program was in the hands of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, who read a very able paper on Radio – showing that much time and thought had been put into preparation.

Adj. to meet Guest day at Mrs. Dunn's Oct. 30.

Jennie S. Huston – Sec. pro tem

October 30, 1922

We Neighbors and their guests met at the home of Mrs. Dunn with Mrs. Huston assisting for their annual Guest Day. There were 33 present and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

The business was omitted. The roll call was furnished by Ent. Com. who gave us a very enjoyable program, after which the Refreshment Com. served sandwiches, cocoa, and fancy crackers.

Next meeting to be held with Mrs. Wyman Wed. Nov. 8 instead of Nov. 7.

E.G. Dunn – Sec.

Nov. 8 Stormy so meeting was postponed indefinitely. E.G. Dunn

November 21, 1922

14 members & 2 guests met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard. Sec report read and approved. Roll Call answered by current events.

Miss Wilson gave us a very interesting program on Edgar Guest³⁹ and his poems. She read an article "It Takes a heap o' loving in a house to make it home" being more of his own experiences. The members read several of his short poems, furnished by Miss Wilson.

Adj. to meet Dec. 12 with Mrs. Adams.

E. G. Dunn, Sec.

³⁹ Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959) was an English-born poet who was popular in the first half of the twentieth and became known as the People's Poet. In 1891, Guest and his family moved to the United States. He became a naturalized citizen in 1902. Beginning as a copy boy at Detroit Free Press, he soon became a reporter and a poet. He published his first poem December 11, 1898. During his lifetime he penned some 11,000 poems which were syndicated in some 300 newspapers and collected in more than 20 books. One of his most famous poems is "Home", its first line reads, "It takes a heap o' livin' in a house t' make it home."

December 26, 1922

Club met with Mrs. Hamilton. 9 members present. Mrs. Sweetser presided again. Sec. report read & accepted, also Treas. Report. She reported \$7.99 on hand & Mrs. Hamilton contributed cent making a balance of \$8. in treasury.

Mrs. Osgood was leader whose subject was Christmas Thoughts, read an article "A Parable of the Christmas Shoestring" by Safed the Sage & Uru Barton – a poem "Where all Men Went", an article "England's only Princess marries a Commoner – reviewed other articles concerning bio – then a very amusing chapter from C. A. Stephen's book on having his picture taken in 1866.⁴⁰

Adj. to meet January 9 with Mrs. Bragg.

E. G. Dunn, Sec.

January 17, 1923

13 members & 1 guest met with Mrs. Osgood. Sec, report read and approved. Pres. Mrs. Chase presided. She appointed the following com. for Gentleman's Night. Refreshments – Mrs. Wyman, Miss. Wilson, Mrs. Burnell & Mrs. Hamilton. Ent – Mrs. Fred Sweetser, Mrs. Osgood, Mrs. Chase. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mr. Wiggin very kindly gave us an interesting book review on the Book of Daniel.⁴¹

Adj. to meet Jan.23 with Mrs. Arno Chase.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 23, 1923

13 members & 3 guests met with Mrs. Arno Chase. Sec. report read & approved. Roll Call answered by Current Events.

We spent a delightful afternoon reading Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice – various members taking the different characters.

⁴⁰ C. A. Stephens (1844-1931) was an American writer of short stories and articles. Born in Norway, Maine, he attended Bowdoin College, starting in 1866 but dropped out due to lack of funds. For most of his career he was under contract to *The Youth's Companion*. He himself estimated he had written 3000 short stories. *The Youth's Companion* put him through medical school so they could have a staff physician to write scientific articles. He earned his M.D. from Boston University in 1887.

⁴¹ The *Book of Daniel* is an account of the activities and visions of Daniel. In the Christian Bible, it is grouped with the Major Prophets. The book divides into two parts, a set of six court tales in chapters 1-6 followed by four apocalyptic visions in chapters 7-12.

Adj. to meet Jan. 30 with Mrs. Bragg.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

January 30, 1923

Ten members met with Mrs. Bragg. In the absence of the Pres. Mrs. Sweetser presided. Sec. report read and accepted. Roll Call answered by humorous clippings & stories. The subject of the P.M. was "Laugh a lot" led by Mrs. Burnell and we really did laugh a lot.

Adj. to meet for our Annual Gentlemen's Night – Feb. 13 with Mrs. Arno Chase.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

February 20, 1923

10 members met with Mrs. Wilson. No Pres. or vice Pres. being present the Sec. presided. No report of last meeting there so a verbal one was given. Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Hamilton had charge of the program – her subject being Women in Business. She read several newspaper articles in various occupations now filed by women, such as lawyers, judges, industrial workers, telephone operators etc. Also a lecture by Mrs. Hall before the B.P.W. Club of Portland.⁴²

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

February 27, 1923

12 members met at Mrs. Dunn's with the Vice Pres. presiding. Sec'y report read and accepted. Subject of Gentlemen's Night discussed & finally decided to hold it for our last meeting of the year in place of our usual Domestic Science Day.

Roll Call responded to by Current events to items of interest.

The P.M. was filled with miscellaneous program. Mrs. Fen Blanchard read an article from the March American by Montague Glass – on "Why I am 45." Gertrude Bragg read several poems by Edward Guest & Mrs. Blanchard an article by the ranch [?] author "A New Baby in our House." Miss Sweetser an article on "an unusual teacher" & closed with an article by Safed the Sage – read by Mrs. F.R. Sweetser.

Adj. to meet Mar. 13 – with Mrs. F. R. Sweetser.

⁴² Within a year of its formation in 1920, Portland's Business and Professional Women's Club had more than 500 members. By 1922, the Club had 655 members and was the largest in the country in proportion to its city's population (about 70,000). The organization sought to promote activities of its members as well as promoting ethical business practices.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

March 13, 1923

10 members met at Mrs. F. R. Sweetser. Sec & Treas. reports read and accepted.

Voted to have the chair appoint a Nom Com to choose officers for next year & to report at next meeting. She chose Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Huston & Mrs. Hamilton.

Roll Call responded to by Current Events.

Mrs. Dunn had charge of the Program with the subject "Women in Politics."

Adj. to meet Mar. 20 with Miss Sweetser with a misc. program. E.G.Dunn Sec.

Later at an adj. meeting it was voted not to have the rotation of officers compulsory.

March 20, 1923

We neighbors met at Miss Sweetser's – 9 members present. Meeting opened by our Pres. Sec's report read and accepted. At the last meeting the Treas. reported \$8.06 in treasury.

Nom. Com reported for Pres. – Mrs. Wyman; Vice Pres. – Mrs. Bragg; Sec. – Mrs. Adams; Treas. – Mrs. Huston.

Program Com.: Miss Wilson, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Arno Chase

Field Day Com.: Mrs. Burnell, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser – choosing their own assistants. Sec. cast one vote that they be elected. Pres. declared them elected for the following year.

Gentlemen's night Com. reported that we dispense with supper this year to just have refreshments.

Roll Call – current events and items of interest.

A very interesting miscellaneous program was enjoyed.

Adj. subject to call of Gentlemen's Night Com.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

After much telephoning it was decided to eliminate our annual Gentlemen's Night & close our year's program with our usual "Domestic Science P.M." at Mrs. Burnell's

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

Undated [March 27, 1923, according to abbreviated record book]

The Club met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell this afternoon. 11 members and one guest. C. F. Wilson was chosen Sec pro tem in the absence of Mrs. Dunn. Roll Call – miscellaneous.

Mrs. Sweetser and Mrs. Bragg read several of Safed the Sage's essays.

Delicious eatables were served & a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed.

Adj. subject to the call of the Field Day Com –

C. F. Wilson, Sec. pro tem

June 26, 1923

WE Neighbors, with their husbands and friends to the number of thirty-six met at "Birch Knoll" in the Browne's pasture for their annual field day. Although a very hot day, the most wind and shade from the trees made the place an ideal picnic ground. The hot coffee and cold ice-cream, added to the salads, sandwiches, cakes, pies etc. brought by the members furnished a bountiful repast.

Songs were sung by the crowd, also solo by Halvor Merrill and Wayne [Merrill] which were much enjoyed by all. Several questions, on the history of the town were answered by the different ones, also various reminiscences including some by Mr. Thomes. We were glad to have with us our oldest members Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Thomes.

Votes of thanks to Mrs. Brown for the use of the grounds and to our able committee were tendered.

E.G. Dunn, Sec.

End page of this notebook: Members 1918 & 1919

Mrs. Thomes & Mrs. Hall: Hon. Members April 1919

Mrs. Sawyer

Mrs. Jordan

Mrs. Huston

Mrs. Chase

Mrs. Sweetser (Mary)

Mrs. Sweetser (Evie)

Mrs. Hill

Mrs. Adams

Mrs. Hamilton

Mrs. Bragg

Mrs. Dunn

Mrs. Burnell

Mrs. Blanchard (Anna)

Mrs. Blanchard (Elizabeth)

Mrs. Blanchard (Florence)

Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Wyman

Mrs. Hall

Mrs. Doughty

Miss Nellie Sweetser

Miss Carrie Wilson

Officers for 1923-1924

Pres. Laura H. Wyman

Vice – Gertrude Bragg

Sec. Cora E. Adams

Treas. Jennie Huston

Officers for 1924-1925

Pres. Bessie P. Burnell

Vice Nellie B. Jordan

Sec. Cora E. Adams

Treas. Lulu J. Burnell

Text of Enclosed clipping “On the Newstands” New Canaan Advertiser:

Literature in the United States, as exemplified through those magazines which appeal to the newsstand trade and which boast the most lurid of covers, presents an interesting study at the present moment. The magazines which sell at from fifteen to twenty-five cents and which are issued weekly, twice-a-month or monthly, are blossoming forth in ever-increasing numbers. October sees upon the stands in this town at least twelve magazines of the type mentioned which were not in existence in August. Included in the list are several which are devoted entirely to stories of the skies, to the fictioned adventures of aviators. Romance continues to be swung within the covers of the magazines and there is a noticeable increase in the number of stories of the World War. Shortly after the war it was said that the war story had had its day and it would take a generation for it to come back. Here it is a decade from the signing of the armistice and stories of the great conflict attracts many readers. Today the gaudily- covered magazine, published on a not to [sic] good quality of paper, is sitting prettily upon the newsstands. How long will it sit there? (1929)

October 9, 1923

The first meeting of the season was held on this date Mrs. Laura Wyman being the hostess. Twelve members and one guest were present. The president opened the meeting with a few remarks. The roll call was made very interesting by discussion of the various items presented.

The rest of the afternoon was devoted to the subject of Aviation. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser gave a very comprehensive history of aerial flight of the first successful attempt by Wilbur and Orville Wright, twenty

years ago up to the present time. Mrs. Nellie Jordan then read J. T. Trowbridge's poem "Darius Green and his flying machine."¹ It was a very pleasant and instructive afternoon.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser on Wednesday the 17th.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

October 17, 1923

The We Neighbors met with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. Meeting called to order by the president. Secretary's report read and accepted. Sixteen members were present. Roll call responded to with current events and other interesting items.

The rest of the afternoon was in charge of Miss Katherine Merrill, and, she read a play written by a Maine girl, Edna St. Vincent Millay,² entitled the "The Lamp and the Bell." which was very interesting.

Adjourned to meet Tuesday Oct. 23rd, with Mrs. Alice Doughty.

Nellie B. Jordan. Sec. pro tem

October 23, 1923

On this date the club met with Mrs. Frank Doughty. In spite of the rain fifteen members were present. The meeting opened with the reading of the records. The mistress of finance reported \$13.79 in the treasury. She also reported the number of members enrolled as nineteen. Under new business the president appointed the following committees to serve on Guest day.

Refreshments: Evelyn Sweetser, Alice Doughty, Edith Sawyer

Entertainment: Bessie Burnell, Helen Sawyer, Carrie Wilson;

Committee to arrange for place of meeting: Lizzie Blanchard, Cora Adams.

¹ John Townsend Trowbridge (1827-1916) was an American author. He is probably best remembered for his study, *The South: A Tour of Its Battlefields and Ruined Cities*, 1866. During the summer of 1865 and the following winter he toured much of the defeated Confederacy. He observed carefully and spoke with a wide variety of people of both sexes. His poem "Darius Green and his Flying Machine" speaks of "an aspiring genius was Darius Green, son of a farmer, age fourteen." (1869). In June 1867, Trowbridge bought a house in Arlington, Massachusetts, where he lived until his death. However, he also spent much time in Kennebunk, Maine, where he built Spouting Rock Cottage.

² Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) was American poet and playwright. Born in Rockland, Maine, her middle name derives from St. Vincent's Hospital in New York where her uncle's life had been saved just before her birth. The family home was "between the mountains and the sea where baskets of apples and drying herbs on the porch mingled their scents with those of the neighboring pine woods." After graduating from Vassar in 1917, she moved to New York City. She described her life in New York as "very, very poor and very, very merry." She won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1923 for "The Ballad of the Harp Weaver."

A change was made in the date of the next meeting, which is to be held on the 31st instead of the 30th. The roll call was responded to by very interesting items.

The program for the day was in the hands of Mrs. Geneva Chase, who had selected for her subject one that is of great present interest, namely, the Ku Klux Klan.³ She read many enlightening articles relating to this organization, and Mrs. Bragg also added much to the fund of information concerning them. It has been predicted that by the close of the year 1924 their influence will be at an end.⁴ It was a very pleasant and helpful meeting.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard on Wednesday Oct. 31st.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

October 31, 1923

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, nineteen members being present. The secretary being absent Bessie Burnell was elected secretary pro. tem. Roll call responded to by current events.

³ The first Ku Klux Klan flourished in the Southern U. S. in the late 1860s, then by the early 1870s it disappeared. By using violence against Afro-American leaders, it sought to overthrow the Republican state governments in the South during the Reconstruction Era. Federal authorities around 1871 managed to suppress its numerous chapters across the South. The second group was founded around 1915 and flourished nationwide in the early 1920s. It opposed Catholics and Jews, especially newer immigrants and stressed opposition to the Catholic Church. This group adopted a standard white costume, and also added cross burnings and mass parades. The second incarnation of the Ku Klux Klan made frequent reference to America's "Anglo-Saxon" blood, hearkening back to the 19 Century nativism. The State of Maine had a negligible number of African Americans but a burgeoning number of French-Canadians and Irish immigrants. In 1920, close to 4000 immigrants in Portland came from countries where English was not the primary language: Italy, Russia, China, Syria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Greece. About 20,000 Portland residents had at least one parent born outside the U. S. Many of the immigrants came through Immigration Inspection or Quarantine Station at House Island in Casco Bay, where in 1913 alone 26,421 people first landed in the U.S. The Klan in Portland expressed opposition to immigrants and Roman Catholics as well as African-Americans. In Portland, the Klan supported a successful 1923 referendum that eliminated the popularly elected mayor and reduced the size of the City Council, concentrating power in the hands of the city's established Protestant elite. The Jewish and Catholic members of the City Council were not reelected. In 1923, the Klan reported a statewide membership of 20,000. That year Klan supporters bought an estate in Portland and added a 4000 seat auditorium and 1600 seat dining room. Ten thousand people attended a Klan initiation ceremony in August 1923. The auditorium burned in December 1924 and was not rebuilt. Majority of the firemen, purportedly Irish, stood across the street and watched the auditorium burn.

⁴ This prediction appears to be based on wishful thinking. In Maine, the Klan claimed to have gotten Ralph Owen Brewster elected governor in 1924. Brewster denied he was a Klan member but expressed support for the organization. The Klan largely disappeared in Maine by 1930, after helping defeat Al Smith, a Catholic, in his 1928 bid for the presidency.

Mrs. Mary Sweetser had charge of the afternoon, her subject being, Colonial Maine. She gave us a very interesting afternoon, reading from the book, "Maine: Its history, resources and government" by our state librarian Henry Dunnack⁵ and also from the book "Maine" by Glen Wendell Starkey.⁶

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Fen Blanchard Nov. 13.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

November 13, 1923

This was the first of the few special days observed by the club, our guest day. We met with Mrs. Fen Blanchard who kindly opened her house for the occasion. There were thirty-eight members and invited guests present and 10 children, the latter behaving as decorously as their elders.

Our usual program was omitted and the afternoon was in the hands of a special committee. After a brief address by the president a very pleasing entertainment was given. Mrs. Helen Sawyer rendered a very enjoyable solo, then came a contest where each person represented some advertisement. Some of these were exceedingly good. Mrs. Geneva Chase was the fortunate winner in this contest but was greatly overcome by her own brilliance of intellect.

The next was a display of pictures of celebrated men and women and in this Mrs. Wallace Merrill carried off the honors.

Refreshments of sandwiches, fancy crackers and cocoa were served to a seemingly very appreciative company. All voted it a delightful afternoon.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

Note: An unusual feature of the afternoon of Guest day was the presence among us of four ladies each of whom was eighty years or more of age. Mrs. Olive Hall – eighty seven; Mrs. Abbie Thomes – eighty one; Mrs. Mary E. Merrill – eighty one; Mrs. Elizabeth Powell – eighty one.

November 21, 1923

The club met on this date with Mrs. Lena Hamilton. Ten members were present. The usual order of business was observed, reading of records, presentation and payment of bills and reports of secretary and treasurer.

The number of members at present date was given as twenty-one.

⁵ Henry Ernest Dunnack (1867-1938), *The Maine Book*, Augusta, Maine, 1920.

⁶ Glen Wendell Starkey, *Maine: Its History, Resources, and Government*, Boston: Silver Burdett and Co., 1920.

Rising vote of thanks was extended Mrs. Fen Blanchard for her hospitality on Guest day and the gratitude of the club was also expressed to the committees who served so efficiently on that day.

Mrs. Dunn, who was to have been the reader for the afternoon being unable to be present, Mrs. Huston acted in her place, reading from the book "History of Education In Maine" which proved very interesting and instructive as well.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 11 at some place to be decided on later.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

December 11, 1923

On this date, there being no hostess assigned, the program committee arranged for the meeting to be held in the pleasant little committee room at the library. Eleven members were present. In the absence of the president, the vice president, Mrs. Bragg presided. The secretary's report was read and accepted.

There being no other business to transact, after the roll call the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Adams who read extracts from the book "The Story of the White House."⁷ The afternoon closed with a written contest, answered by names of magazines.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

December 18, 1923

Met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell. Only eight members were able to be present. The president opened the meeting, proceeding with the usual order of business.

That being disposed of, the subject of our Gentleman's night was discussed, and following committees were appointed. Entertainment: Katherine Merrill, Nellie Jordan. Refreshment: Cora Adams, Gertrude Bragg, Delia Osgood, Laura Wyman. It was voted that the amount of money to be used on that occasion be left to the discretion of the committee. The place of meeting for that evening to be decided on later.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Osgood who read from the book "How the State is Governed". It was very interesting and informative, as well explaining the duties of the state officials in a very enlightening manner.

Adjournment at four o'clock to meet on Jan. 8th with Mrs. Osgood.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

⁷ The first National Christmas Tree Lighting occurred December 24.,1923. President Calvin Coolidge presided.

January 8, 1924

The first meeting of the new year. Mrs. Osgood entertained the club on this date. Nine members and one guest were present. In the absence of the president, the vice president, Mrs. Bragg, presided. The records of the last meeting were read and accepted. Roll call responded to by items of interest.

The plans for Gentlemen's night were reported, also place of meeting. Amount of money in treasury was given as \$10.71.

The program for the afternoon was in the hands of Miss Nellie Sweetser who read from the book "How to Live," which gave much good advice as to foods, habits, etc. which were interesting and we hope, profitable. Miss Katherine Merrill was asked to assist Mrs. Bessie Burnell in arranging the Sun Parlor for our use at the next meeting..

Adjourned to meet at the vestry on Tuesday evening Jan. 15, where Gentlemen's night will be observed.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 15, 1924

On the evening of Jan. 15th the club held its second festive occasion, Gentlemen's night. The meeting was held in the vestry and there were thirty-seven members and guests present.

A fine supper was served after which all adjourned to the sun parlor which had been made very attractive by Mrs. Bess Burnell and Mrs. Jordan. Miss Katherine Merrill, with Mrs. Jordan, had prepared a very interesting program for the evening and from the start to the finish there were no stupid moments. Your scribe unfortunately was unable to be present when the opening contests were in session but found the last two very amusing and interesting, one being an original sketch written by Miss Merrill and illustrated by pantomime by the members present. The other, a "Know your own Town" contest revealed a woeful ignorance on the part of all concerned of objects seen often in our own vicinity. Mrs. Bragg proved to be the most observing person and the prize for the greatest number of correct answers was awarded to her. Mrs. Fred Sweetser carrying off the booby prize.

This closed the evening's entertainment which judging from the happy faces was very successful.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 22, 1924

The club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Fred Sweetser. Nine members and one guest were present. The usual routine of business was conducted by the president.

A vote of thanks was extended all the committees serving on Gentlemen's night.

Voted to pay the expenses for that evening amounting to \$10.88. The treasurer, after paying these bills, reported ninety cents in the treasury.

Mrs. Hamilton was the leader for the afternoon, reading from the book "The World's Great Events".⁸ Many new and helpful ideas were gleaned from these historical extracts.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Adams.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 29, 1924

The club met with Mrs. Adams, ten members being present. The meeting was opened by the reading of the records. The treasurer being absent, others who had been notified gave the amount in the treasury as ninety-seven cents. The roll call was responded to by unusually pleasing items.

It was voted to send flowers to one of the sick members, Mrs. Dunn.

There being no further business to attend to, the reader for the afternoon, Mrs. Wyman, gave us a most interesting program from the topic "Agricultural and Industrial Maine," giving us much knowledge of the lumbering, fisheries, cotton and woolen manufacturing, leather industries, mineral resources, brick making, ship-building and what employments showing our state one to be proud of.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Arno Chase.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 12, 1924

Mrs. Arno Chase entertained the club on this date. Quite a full meeting, there being twelve members present. The president called for the reading of the records of previous meeting and also the report of treasurer, both of whose reports were accepted. There are ninety-nine cents in treasury. The roll call was next responded to by very interesting items relating to events taking place in our country at present and some discussion followed.

Mrs. Huston extended thanks, on behalf of Mrs. Dunn for the flowers sent her by the club.

There being no business requiring further attention, Mrs. Bess Burnell entertained us the rest of the afternoon by reading from James Morgan's "Life of Abraham Lincoln."⁹ The extracts were from his earlier life principally from boyhood to the time of his election to the legislature. It was very enjoyable.

⁸ Esther Singleton (1865-1930), *The World's Great Events*, 5 vol. *An Indexed History of the world, B.C. 4004 to A.D. 1908*. This is one of the possible sources.

⁹ James Morgan, *Abraham Lincoln, the Boy and the Man*. New York: Macmillan, 1908. 435 pages.

Adjourned to meet in one week with Mrs. Nellie Jordan.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 19, 1924

We were very pleasantly entertained by Mrs. George Jordan, eleven members being in attendance. The usual order of business was followed, reading of records, roll call to new matters of business preceding consideration the rest of the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Arno Chase who gave us an hour of solid fun, prefacing her reading with the statement that the muscles of risibility in the face needed occasional exercise else they would become so fixed that years would seem added to one's general appearance.

Needless to say that when she ceased reading these muscles belonging to the ladies present had been well-stretched, and no doubt they were all greatly rejuvenated in their looks.

Adjourned to meet on Tuesday next with Miss Carrie Wilson.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 26, 1924

The club met on this date with Miss Carrie Wilson. Twelve members and one guest were present. The president presided and the meeting opened with the reading of the records followed by the roll call. The roll call items have been of unusual interest through the year. There was no business demanding attention.

Miss Carrie Wilson was the leader for the afternoon and her topic The Indians of Maine, held our closest attention. Some of the incidents read showing much nobility of character in "Lo the poor Indian". Quite a number of Indian relics were shown, and the afternoon proved a very enjoyable one.

Adjourned to meet on Mar. 11th, in the committee room at the public library.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 18, 1924

Club met with Miss Katherine Merrill. Twelve members and one guest present. Records of last meeting read and accepted. The nominating committee gave their report and it was accepted. The secretary cast one vote and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year.

President: Mrs. Gertrude S. Bragg

Vice President: Mrs. Bessie P. Burnell

Secretary: Mrs. Cora E. Adams

Treasurer: Mrs. Jennie S. Huston

Program Committee: Miss Katherine C. Merrill, Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Mrs. Evelina G. Dunn

Field Day Committee: Mrs. Laura L. Wyman, Mrs. Mary M. Chase

Nominating Committee: Lena J. Hamilton, Delia S. Osgood, Nellie B. Jordan

It was voted to hold the meetings every two weeks for the coming year.

Voted to postpone Domestic Science day indefinitely.

Roll Call responded to by current events. The leader for the afternoon was Mrs. Nellie B. Jordan whose subject was "Maine's Contribution to Literature" by John Clair Minot, taken from the Maine Book.¹⁰

It was a most interesting article.

Adjourned indefinitely.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec. pro tem

October 22, 1924

The club met with Mrs. Mary Sweetser, seventeen members being present. The records were read and the report of treasurer given. No new business requiring attention.

The roll call followed after which the rest of the program was given into the hands of the leader for the afternoon, Mrs. Dunn. She gave a summary of public events taking place since the previous meeting after which very interesting sketches were read of the careers of the well known business men. Mr.

¹⁰ Dunnack, *The Maine Book*, op. cit. chapter 31.

Douglas¹¹ the shoe man, Mr. Grant¹² the chain store man, and Henry Ford. All of these were greatly enjoyed. It was an afternoon which will long be remembered.

Adjourned to meet Nov. 11 with Mrs. Laura Wyman.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

November 11, 1924

After an interval of three weeks, the club met with Mrs. Wyman, twelve members and one guest being present. The usual routine of business was conducted by the president followed by the roll call, many items of interest being given.

The subject for the afternoon was a book review given by Mrs. Hamilton. She read selections from "The Home-maker" by Dorothy Canfield,¹³ a very vivid picture of some phases of home life. The reading was much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet in two weeks with Mrs. Bragg.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

¹¹ William Lewis Douglas (1845-1924) was a U. S. businessman and politician from Massachusetts. He founded and oversaw the growth of the W. L. Douglas Shoe co., a highly successful Brockton, MA business that became one of the world's largest shoe manufacturers. In 1876, Douglas borrowed \$875. in order to open his own shoe factory. One of his critical decisions was that he would sell the shoes he manufactured only through his own line of retail outlets, rather than shipping them to other retailers. By 1892, he was making 3600 shoes a day. By the early 1900s, his factory was the largest shoe manufacturer in the world. His first retail store opened in 1894. By 1910, there were 55 stores nationwide. He also was one of the first manufacturers to widely advertise his product. He served as the 42nd governor of MA from 1905 until 1906.

¹² W. T. Grant was a U. S. based chain of mass-merchandise stores founded by William Thomas Grant (1876-1972). Grant was born in Stevensville, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. When he was approximately 5 years of age, his family moved to Massachusetts. At age 7, Grant began his career by selling flower seeds. In 1906, the first "W. T. Grant Co. 25 cent Store" opened in Lynn, Massachusetts. Grant wanted to sell people what they needed at prices they could afford. Modest profit, coupled with a fast turnover of inventory caused the stores to grow very rapidly.

¹³ Dorothy Canfield Fisher (1879-1958) was an educational reformer, social activist, and best-selling American author in the early decades of the twentieth century. She strongly supported Women's rights, racial equality, and lifelong education. In addition to bringing the Montessori method of child rearing to the U. S., she presided over the country's first adult education program. She spoke 5 languages fluently. Probably her best known work is *Understood Betsy* (1917), a children's book about a little orphaned girl who is sent to live with her cousins in Vermont. Though the book can be read for pure pleasure, it also describes a schoolhouse which is run much in the style of the Montessori method. She wrote 22 novels and 18 works of nonfiction. Her book *The Homemaker* was published in 1924.

November 25, 1924

The meeting was held on this date at the home of the president Mrs. Bragg. Thirteen members were present. The records were read and approved followed by the roll call. No important business claimed attention but the question of holding the meetings weekly instead of fortnightly was discussed and the matter laid on the table for two weeks.

Miss Wilson was the leader for the afternoon and gave a resume of the events of interest taking place since our last meeting. The first installments of the book "In the Footsteps of the Lincolns" by Ida M. Tarbell,¹⁴ were reviewed by her throwing new light on the ancestry of Abraham Lincoln and proving of great interest and worth. A very enjoyable afternoon.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 9 with Mrs. Jennie Huston.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

December 9, 1924

The meeting on this date was held with Mrs. Huston as hostess. There were sixteen ladies present, the largest number since the opening of the season. As usual the first business to be transacted was the presentation of reports from secretary and treasurer. These were accepted as correct. The roll call followed proving of much interest.

The article laid on table of previous meeting – namely shall the meetings be held weekly – was subjected to further discussion, and it was decided to continue as listed on program for remainder of year.

The question as to holding our next meeting on the regular date assigned was next considered and it was voted to change the date to Dec. 30th. Mrs. Jordan not being able to arrange the program for that day. Mrs. Helen Sawyer very kindly agreed to act in her place.

Further arrangements for "Gentlemen's Night" were then made. It was voted to entertain our gentlemen friends in the vestry, if it could be gotten for that purpose. Committees to serve on that evening were appointed as follows:

Refreshment com.: Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. E Sawyer

Entertainment: Mrs. Arno Chase, Mrs. H Sawyer, Mrs. B. Burnell.

¹⁴ Ida Minerva Tarbell (1857-1944) was an American teacher, author, and journalist. She was one of the leading "muckrakers" of the progressive era and is thought to have pioneered investigative journalism. While based in Washington D. C., Tarbell conducted research to support her 20 part series on President Abraham Lincoln. This series was a highly popular, attracting enough readers to double the circulation of *McClure's Magazine*. These articles later were collected in a book, giving Tarbell a national reputation as a major writer. Tarbell's first recollection of Lincoln was the impression made when her father told her mother about the assassination and her mother hurrying into the house "sobbing as if her heart would break." Like many homes in the north, the Tarbell house was draped in black for Lincoln's funeral.

The business of the day ended, the remainder of the afternoon was spent in a review of current events and a continuation of the book on Lincoln. Mrs. Adams being unable to read, Mrs. Dunn very efficiently substituted. While the extracts from the book were but fragmentary and of necessity disconnected, they were found to be very interesting and well worth listening to.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 30th with Mrs. Arno Chase.

Cora G. Adams, Sec.

December 31, 1924

The club met with Mrs. Arno Chase. The day was beautiful and fourteen members were able to be present. The records of the preceding meeting were read and accepted, with the report of the treasurer, who gave the amount of cash on hand as nine dollars (This was increased later by the addition of one cent.) Under business a change was made in the place of our next meeting, the club accepting the invitation of Mrs. Chase to meet at her home. It was also decided that refreshments would be served instead of a supper as in the past. The time of assembling to be eight o'clock.

After the roll call the remainder of the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Helen Sawyer with music as the topic. She had chosen to tell us something of the Folk Songs of America and other countries, namely, Mexico, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Italy. She read from a most interesting book "The Lure of Music,"¹⁵ the history of the writing of many of these old songs, and as they were spoken of, several of them were played on the Victrola or sung for us by Mrs. Sawyer. It was a delightful occasion and the afternoon passed all so swiftly.

Adjourned to meet on Jan. 6 with Mrs. A. Chase.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 13, 1925

Met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell. Twelve members were in attendance. The usual business routine was observed, after which there was discussion as to plans for our guest day to be observed on Jan. 27th. No place of meeting having previously been decided on, it was thought best to obtain the vestry for that purpose. Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was to be asked to secure a lecturer for that afternoon. A committee on refreshments was appointed, namely, Cora E. Adams, Alice Doughty, Lula Burnell.

A change was made in the place of meeting on Feb. 10. Mrs. Lucas entertaining us on that date.

¹⁵ Olin Downes, *The Lure of Music*, New York: Harper & Bros., 1918. The author depicts the human side of great composers and includes stories of their inspired creations. Olin Downes (1886-1955), as a music critic for the *New York Times*, exercised considerable influence over musical opinion. He is also known as "Sibelius Apostle" for championing the music of Jean Sibelius.

Mrs. Lula Burnell was in charge of the afternoon's reading which dealt with the history of Dartmouth college.¹⁶ Recent current events of interest were first given, then a very interesting article was read called "The Dartmouth Voice Still crying in the Wilderness," written by Eric Kelly.¹⁷ He described a trip taken by him up into Canada where he met an Indian whose father was one of the early pupils of Dartmouth College. There was a short reading from the book "The History of Dartmouth" by W. D. Quint,¹⁸ and also from a college magazine, but the time passed all too short for much of any insight into this history which would certainly have been well worth listening to,. It was a very pleasant afternoon.

Adjourned to meet at the vestry on the afternoon of Jan. 27th.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

The special meeting planned to meet Miss Berrer, which was to have been held on Feb. 14th was again obliged to be postponed this time indefinitely, through the illness of the lady.

February 24, 1925

On this date the club met with Mrs. Frank Chase. Eleven members were present. The usual order of business was observed, reading of records and roll call. Mrs. Wyman's response to the latter was given by reading from a letter received from Mrs. Mary Sweetser, describing her attendance at a Get-together meeting of the Methodist society in Augusta, the supper served and the very interesting talk given by a Mr. Hutchins, telling of his trip to South America, and giving a very vivid picture of a visit to Rio Janeiro, a most beautiful city. We greatly appreciated the Kindness of Mrs. Sweetser in sharing this pleasure with us.

¹⁶ Dartmouth was founded by Eleazar Wheelock, a Congregational minister from Columbia, Connecticut. Wheelock's ostensible inspiration resulted from his relationship with Mohegan Indian Samson Occum. After studying under Wheelock 1743-1747, Occum became an ordained minister. Wheelock founded Moor's Indian Charity School in 1755. Though it was somewhat successful, additional funding was necessary to continue its operation. Wheelock sought help of friends to raise money. Occum, accompanied by Rev. Nathaniel Whitaker, traveled to England in 1766 to raise money from churches. With the funds, they established a trust to help Wheelock. The head of the trust was a Methodist named William Legge, 2nd Earl of Dartmouth. Seeking to expand the school into a college, Wheelock relocated it to Hanover in the Province of New Hampshire. The Royal Governor of New Hampshire provided the land upon which Dartmouth would be built. On December 13, 1769, he issued, in the name of King George III, the charter establishing the college. That charter created the college "for the education and instruction of Youth of the Indian tribes in this Land in reading, and writing and all parts of Learning which shall appear necessary and expedient for civilizing and Christianizing Children of Pagans. " Dartmouth is the nation's ninth oldest college. In 1771, the college granted its first degree.

¹⁷ Eric Philbrook Kelly (1884-1960) wrote this short article which appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, August 16, 1924. Dartmouth's motto *Vox clamantis in deserto* (The voice of one crying in the wilderness) refers to the biblical text John 1: 19-23, when John answered the question "Who are you" with a quote from Isaiah (Isa. 40:3) "I am the voice crying in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord."

¹⁸ W. D. Quint, *The Story of Dartmouth*, Boston: Little Brown, 1922.

The reader for the afternoon, Mrs. Osgood, gave a book review of "Shipbuilding Days." Tales of the Sea, or Old South Yarmouth."¹⁹ This was especially interesting to us, the author, William H. Rowe, has spoken to us many times from the church pulpit, and also from the fact that many people and places mentioned in his book were well known to us. We were very glad Mrs. Osgood selected this special book.

Adjourned to meet Mar. 10, with Mrs. Hamilton.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 11, 1925

Both the place and date of this meeting was changed. At the request of Mrs. Arno Chase, the club met with her and on Wednesday instead of the usual day of meeting. Thirteen members were present. The records were read and approved followed by roll call.

The president then appointed the following committee to nominate officers for the coming year: Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Jordan. A discussion followed as to whether our next meeting which will be the last for the season should be celebrated by a domestic science spread. The idea seeming to meet with favor, it was decided to follow out the plans as used in the past.

No further business requiring attention Mrs. Chase presented the entertainer for the afternoon, Mrs. Beem of Woodfords , who gave us monologues and amusing sketches for the remainder of the session. Mrs. Beem had a very pleasing personality and we certainly enjoyed her reading very much

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Adams on March 24th.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 24, 1925

Our last meeting for the year was held on this date with Mrs. Adams. For various reasons only twelve members were able to be present. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported the amount of cash on hand \$6.55. The roll call furnished many interesting items.

The nominating committee presented the following names for offices for the coming year:

Pres. Bessie P. Burnell; Vice Pres. Nellie B. Jordan; Sec. Cora E. Adams; Treas. Lula J. Burnell.

Program Com: Laura Wyman, Bessie Burnell, Cora Adams

Field Day Com.: Geneva Chase, Evelena Dunn.

The nominations meeting with approval, their names were voted on and they were duly elected.

¹⁹ William Hutchinson Rowe, *Shipbuilding days and Tales of the Sea*, In *Old North Yarmouth and Yarmouth, Maine*. Portland, Maine: Marks Printing House, 1924.

The question of how often the meetings should be held was brought up for consideration and it was decided to hold them weekly with the elimination of the first week in each month.

It was voted that the Field Day committee be allowed to use the funds on hand, if they so wish, to defray expenses of our annual outing.

In further business requiring attention, Miss Nellie Sweetser entertained us for a short time by reading several poems relating to and illustrating domestic science and ended with a thoughtful magazine article on the treatment in the home of elderly people, all of these readings being much enjoyed.

We then officially adjourned subject to the call of the Field Day committee.

While further doings were really not within the hours of our regular meeting your secretary feels that she will be excused if she speaks of the informal meeting held a few moments later. That Cumberland Center has wonderful cooks has long been known, but the particular demonstration given on this day, as the jolly group gathered about the table, caused many ejaculations of delight and I fear, caused some who were dieting to break the rules laid down for their following. As laughter is good for digestion however, we trust no one suffered any ill effect from their feasting, many amusing reminiscences being given at the close of the banquet, making a happy ending to a very pleasant afternoon.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

October 13, 1925

The first meeting of our club season was held on this date at the home of Mrs. Frank Doughty. Eighteen members and three guests were present. A very auspicious opening. The records of the last meeting were read and approved. This was followed by the roll call, which was of unusual interest. There was a report of the program committee after which Mrs. Hamilton gave a resume of late current events.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser was the leader for the afternoon, her topic being Zane Grey.²⁰ Some very interesting material had been gathered particularly that written by Mr. Grey himself telling of his struggle to make a place for himself in the literary world, which he has seemed to do effectively.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser on Oct. 21st instead of the 20th as originally arranged.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

October 21, 1925

Although quite a distance from the homes of the most of us, thanks to the members who are fortunate enough to possess an auto, the greater number of those belonging to the club were privileged to meet on

²⁰ Zane Grey (1872-1939) was an American author best known for his popular adventure novels. He idealized the American frontier and was a major force in shaping the myths of the Old West. From 191-1926, Grey was in the top ten best seller list nine times, which required sales of over 100,000 copies each time.

this date at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. There were sixteen members and one guest present. The usual business procedure was carried out with nothing further needing attention. The current events were given by Mrs. Arno Chase, the most important of which related to the peace pact²¹ of Europe.

The topic for the afternoon, A century of Costumes, conducted by Miss Wilson, gave us glimpses of the methods of dress in the past, which of course, as compared with the present styles seemed ridiculous. Samples of those styles of dress and millinery were exhibited for inspection and illustrations in books and magazines added to the pleasure and interest of the subject. It was a very delightful afternoon and one that will be long remembered,

Adjourned to meet on Oct. 27th, with Mrs. Lula Burnell.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

October 27, 1925

The club met on this date with Mrs. Lula Burnell. Twelve members and two guests present. The meeting opened with the reading of the records. This was followed by the appointment of committees for Guest day, namely – Refreshments: Mrs. Jennie Huston, Mrs. Jennie Barter. Entertainment: Mrs. Mary Chase, Mrs. Cora Adams.

The roll call consisted of items of much interest. Current events were given by Bessie Burnell. The rest of the afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Dunn who read extracts from the book *Tenting Tonight*, by Mary Roberts Rhinehart,²² which were much enjoyed.

Adjourned to meet Nov. 10th, with Mrs. Osgood.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

November 10, 1925

The day was just what had been prophesied, very pleasant and mild, for which we were duly thankful as the club observed its annual Guest day. Eighteen of the twenty members of the club were present with their invited guests. Mrs. Osgood very kindly opened her house for our use, which favor was much appreciated.

²¹ The Locarno Treaties were seven agreements negotiated at Locarno, Switzerland October 5-16, 1925. Under terms of these treaties, the Western European Allied Powers and the new states of Central and Eastern Europe sought to secure the post-war territorial settlement, and return normal relations with defeated Germany, which was by this time the Weimar Republic.

²² Mary Roberts Rinehart (1876-1958) was an American writer, often called the American Agatha Christie. She is considered source of the phrase "the butler did it." She also is regarded as having invented the "Had-I-but-known" school of mystery writing. Her book, *Tenting Tonight: A Chronicle of Sport and Adventure in Glacier Park and the Cascade Mountains* (1918), tells the story of her camping trip in these mountains..

The ordinary business routine was not followed on this occasion.

The president opened the meeting with a few well-chosen words of welcome and then left the entertainment of the guests in the hands of the committee chosen for that purpose. Games and stunts were enjoyed for about an hour when the refreshment committee with several helpers from the club served a delicious lunch. Judging from the expression on the faces of those partaking, nothing more was left to desire. A half hour of sociability followed, when the company departed, all declaring it a very enjoyable occasion.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

November 17, 1925

This day was indeed a red letter day in the club's calendar. We met with Mrs. Bertha Merrill. It being the 89th birthday of Mrs. Mary Merrill, also the birthday of Mrs. Gertrude Bragg and a dear friend of hers, Mrs. Idilla Marston, Mrs. Merrill had arranged for a more than usual happy time. Fourteen club members were present and invited guests brought the number up to twenty.

The president and vice-president both being unavoidably absent, Mrs. Wyman was elected to preside. The records of the last two meetings were read and approved. The usual current events were omitted from the program as the leader assigned for the afternoon was not present. The roll call was responded to by many items of interest.

The subject for this meeting, Gene Stratton Porter,²³ was in charge of Mrs. Frank Chase. Her time was limited, but the extracts she read from incidents in the life of the celebrated authoress made us all anxious to procure and read more of the articles which she had selected. The rest of our stay was made very pleasant by reminiscences by Mrs. Merrill, who clearly remembers events taking place three score years and ten ago.

²³ Gene Stratton Porter(1863-1924) was an American author, naturalist, and nature photographer. She was one of the first women to form a movie studio and production company, Gene Stratton Porter Productions, Inc. She used her position and income as a well-known author to support conservation of Limberlost Swamp and other wetlands in Indiana. Born in Wabash County near Largo, Indiana, she was the twelfth and last child of Mary and Mark Stratton. In 1886 she married Charles Dorwin Porter. Of Scots-Irish descent, he became a pharmacist, with stores in Geneva and Fort Wayne. To be closer to his businesses, the Porters built a large home in Geneva. The Queen Anne style rustic home, which they named "Limberlost Cabin" was later designated the "Limberlost State Historic Site." She spent much time exploring the Limberlost Swamp, where she set two of her most popular novels and many of her works of natural history. After development led to draining her beloved swamp, Gene sought new inspiration. In 1912, she used profits from best-selling novels to purchase 12 acres on Sylvan Lake in Rome city, Indiana, There she constructed her beloved "Cabin at Wildflower Woods" which she called "Limberlost North". In 1919, seeking a more temperate climate, she began spending winters in Los Angeles. Once there, she discovered she was dissatisfied with movie studios' translation of her novels and wanted more control. Thereupon, she founded Gene Stratton-Porter Productions, Inc., one of the first female owned studios, and began her own film versions. In 1923, she moved to California permanently. Her life and career ended tragically in 1924, when a streetcar hit her car as she was en route to visit her brother.

Delicious refreshments were served by our hostess and much admiration was expressed for the two beautiful birthday cakes made by Miss Harriet Merrill in honor of the occasion. It was a day that will linger long in our memory.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 8 with Mrs. Adams.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

December 8, 1925

The club met with Mrs. Adams. For various reasons many were unable to attend and only two members and one visitor were present.

The president opened the meeting with the reading of the records, after which she gave the report of the treasurer as to the amount of funds on hand which is \$14.13. It was voted to pay bill for flowers sent to Mrs. Charles Merrill from the treasury.

No further business needing attention Mrs. Barter read a very interesting selection of current events which was much enjoyed. The rest of the afternoon was spent in suggestions for Christmas gifts by those present. A Jack Horner pie²⁴ closed the session.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 15th with Mrs. Huston.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

December 15, 1925

On the day which proved to be an unusually pleasant one, we met with Mrs. Huston. Eighteen members counting our two new acquisitions, and one guest present. As usual the meeting opened with short reading of the records, followed by the roll call. In order to give more time to the afternoon's program, current events were omitted.

Mrs. Lucas was the entertainer for this occasion and she gave us a very pleasing account of her trip to Arizona and her visit to the Grand Canyon. Her progress from place to place and her impressions of the views and scenery witnessed, intensified by numerous photographs, were so vividly portrayed that the remembrance of her talk will long linger in our memories. A rising vote of thanks was extended her for her kindness.

Adjourned to meet Dec. 29th with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

²⁴ "Little Jack Horner/Sat in the corner/Eating Christmas pie.....".

December 29, 1925

In the absence of Mrs. Hamilton, who was to have entertained us on this date, we met with Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard, who very kindly offered to substitute in her place. Eleven members and one guest were present.

After the reading of the records the president appointed the committees for Gentlemen's Night as follows:

Refreshments: Evie Dunn, Nellie Jordan, Lula Burnell

Entertainment: Geneva Chase, Gertrude Bragg, Laura Wyman

It was voted to hold the annual event in the vestry.

Mrs. Alice Doughty then gave a resume of current events which were of much interest.

Mrs. Mary Sweetser gave readings from books on the life and words of John Sargent²⁵ the artist, who died within the year. We were all glad to know more of this quite wonderful man. Photographs of his marvelous pictures of the prophets were shown adding much to the pleasure of the descriptions.

Adjourned to meet Jan. 12 – evening in the vestry when we entertain our husbands and gentlemen friends.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

Death of Mr. Sargent April 15, 1925

January 12, 1926

On this date we celebrated what we consider an important event in the calendar of our club year, "Gentlemen's Night". The regular program was not followed.

²⁵ John Singer Sargent (1856-1925) was an American artist, considered to be the "leading portrait painter of his generation for his evocations of Edwardian era luxury. During his career he created roughly 900 oil paintings and more than 2000 watercolors. His works document his worldwide travel, from Venice to the Tyrol, the Middle East, Montana, Maine, and Florida. His parents were American but he was trained in Paris. His work was characterized by remarkable technical facility. His commissioned works were consistent with the grand manner of portraiture, while his landscape paintings reflected his familiarity with impressionism. His most controversial work, "Portrait of Madame X" (1884), is now considered one of his best works, and was the artist's personal favorite; he stated in 1919, "I suppose it is the best thing I have done." When it was unveiled in Paris at the 1884 Salon, it aroused such a negative reaction that it likely prompted Sargent's move to London. His first trip to New York and Boston as a professional artist 1887-1888 produced over 20 important commissions, including portraits of Isabella Stewart Gardner. Other noted portraits of Americans include: Frederick Law Olmsted (1895), Theodore Roosevelt (1903), Mrs. Waldorf Astor (1909), and John D. Rockefeller (1917).

When all were assembled our president welcomed the guests in a few cordial words of greeting, which she supplemented by a poem which was greatly appreciated, judging from the applause it elicited.

We were then invited to the dining room where all did ample justice to a most delicious repast. Many a laugh was provoked by the reading of funny anecdotes before leaving the table.

After this the entertainment committee assumed the responsibility of amusing those present, and to say that they succeeded would be to put it mildly. Not a stupid moment during the whole evening. Various games and stunts were entered into with zest by all and the final chorus of songs was a pleasing close to a most delightful evening.

There were thirty-six members and guests present, a very few being unable to attend. The committees for the evening can to be congratulated for their efficiency.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 19, 1926

The club met with Mrs. Wyman, fourteen members being present. As usual the meeting opened with the reading of the records, followed by the roll call. Some little matters of business were then disposed of.

The supper committee for Gentlemen's Night presented a bill for \$9.77, which bill included the sum paid for use of vestry. It was voted to pay this from the treasury.

Voted to send flowers to Mrs. Bragg who is at the hospital.

Current events were conducted by Mrs. Mary Sweetser. The topic for the afternoon was Music, and even those of us who are not particularly musical were interested by the manner in which Mrs. Jordan treated her subject. She portrayed the characteristics of numerous celebrated composers and gave phonograph selections from Sousa²⁶ – a march "Under the Double Eagle,"²⁷ Schubert – "Serenade", a selection from Oppenheim and closed with a song by John McCormack, "I Hear You Calling Me."²⁸ It was certainly very enjoyable.

It being necessary to change the place of our next meeting Mrs. Burnell very kindly invited us to meet with her on the afternoon.

²⁶ John Philip Sousa (1854-1932) was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era and known primarily for his patriotic marches. Among his best known marches are "Stars and Stripes Forever," "Semper Fidelis", "Liberty Bell," and "Washington Post." Sousa held a very low opinion of the emerging recording industry. Using an epithet coined by Mark Twain, he derided recordings as "canned music."

²⁷ Josef Franz Wagner (1856-1906) was an Austrian military bandmaster and composer. He is best known for his 1893 march, "Under the Double Eagle," referring to the eagle in the Coat of Arms of Austria-Hungary. The march became a favorite in the repertoire of John Philip Sousa.

²⁸ This song, "I Hear You Calling Me" was a British popular song published in London in 1908. The lyrics were by Harold Lake and music by Charles Marshal. The song became a best seller for the tenor John McCormack.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

January 26, 1926

Met with Mrs. Bessie Burnell. Thirteen members were in attendance. The day was grey outside but very bright and cheerful inside. The records were read and approved and as usual followed by the roll call to items of business required attention. Mrs. Lucas gave a very interesting list of current events.

The topic for the afternoon, Verse of Today, was in the hands of Mrs. Wyman, who certainly delighted us all with her selections, nearly all of which were entirely new to us. The books from which these were taken were three volumes of poems written by different authors, compiled by Mrs. Walter Richards, one by Anita Forbes, another by Marjorie Gordon and Marie King, and still another by Joseph Morris and Sinclair Adams. She prefaced her readings by interesting quotations from different writers and no less interesting observations of her own. The poems read were from the poems of Edna St. Millay, a Maine poetess, Carl Sandburg, Paul Laurence Dunbar,²⁹ Sara Teasdale, Ben King,³⁰ James Whitcomb Riley, Miss Mulock,³¹ Edgar A. Guest and John Oxenham.³² It was certainly an afternoon of rare pleasure.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Jordan Feb. 9.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 9, 1926

The meeting was held on this date at the home of Mrs. Jordan, twelve members being in attendance. The business procedure was as usual, reading of the records, followed by roll call. Current events were given by Miss Wilson.

²⁹ Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906) was born in Dayton Ohio to parents who had been enslaved in Kentucky before the Civil War. Much of his more popular work was written in Negro dialect associated with the antebellum South, although he wrote in several dialects including the regional dialect of James Whitcomb Riley. Dunbar became the first African American poet to earn national distinction and acceptance. The *New York Times* called him a "true singer of the people – white or black."

³⁰ Benjamin Franklin King Jr. (1857-1894), also known as Ben King, was an American humorist and poet. He was born in St. Joseph, Michigan. As a child he was reputed a piano prodigy. In adult life, he was deemed a failure for his lack of business instincts. As a poet, he was "a gentle satirist and humorist of the highest order." He achieved recognition for a series of newspaper published poems.

³¹ Dinah Maria Craik, born Dinah Maria Mulock, often credited as Miss Mulock, (1826-1887) was an English novelist and poet. She achieved great success with *The Little Lame Prince* (1874). Then in 1881, she published a collection of her earlier poems under the title *Poems of Thirty Years, New and Old*.

³² William Arthur Dunkerley (1852-1941) was a prolific English journalist, novelist, and poet. He wrote under his own name and also as John Oxenham for his poetry, hymn-writing and novels. His poetry includes *Bees in Amber*, a little book of thoughtful verse (1913), which became a best seller.

The topic of the afternoon was "Our Birds." Mr. Walter Blanchard, who has made a study of birds since boyhood, gave a very interesting talk on the nesting and habits of birds in general, which was very greatly enjoyed. Very few people in town are as well acquainted with the different varieties of birds frequenting this vicinity as well as places further away, as Mr. Blanchard, and we knew that what he told us had been verified by his own observation. A very pleasant and profitable afternoon.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 16th with Mrs. Mary Sweetser.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 16, 1926

Our meeting on this date was with Mrs. Mary Sweetser. In spite of bad traveling eighteen members were present. The meeting opened with the reading of the records. A bill for flowers sent to Mrs. Bragg, amounting to two dollars, was presented and it was voted to pay the same from the treasury. The roll call was responded to by many items of interest. Brief current events were given by Mrs. Huston.

Mrs. Barter was the leader for the afternoon with "dramatics" as her subject. In her few preliminary remarks, she gave the dictionary definition of the word and explained that they would illustrate one meaning by giving a little play, called Rev. Peter Bryce, Bachelor.³³ Seven of the members personified the characters in the play, Mrs. Barter, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser, Mrs. Florence Blanchard, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Bess Burnell, Mrs. Lula Burnell. The play was very amusing and all showed much dramatic ability and ease and naturalness of manner.

After this Mrs. Barter further entertained us by repeating Lincoln's Gettysburg address and one of Holman Day's poems.³⁴ It certainly was another red letter day in our year's calendar and many thanks are due those who so kindly gave us so much pleasure.

Adjourned to meet Feb. 23 with Mrs. Lucas.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

February 28, 1926

Mrs. Lucas entertained us on this date. There were eighteen members in attendance, the same as at the previous meeting. The records were read and approved followed by the roll call. No current events were listed for this afternoon.

³³ "The Rev. Peter Brice, "Bachelor" is a one act play for female characters only by Beulah King. It was published by Walter H. Baker and Co. in Boston, 1919

³⁴ Refer to Chapter 3, footnote 27 and chapter 4, footnote 6 for information on Holman Day.

Mr. Lucas was the speaker for the occasion and he gave us a fine address on the life of Edgar Allan Poe,³⁵ with selections from some of his poems. After listening to this paper, I am sure that we all felt a much better understanding of this poet's life and character, and such a knowledge always helps in appreciating the products of that person's pen. A rising vote of thanks was extended Mr. Lucas for his kindness in giving of his time and mental energies for our benefit.

Adjourned to meet on March 9th with Miss Carrie Wilson.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 9, 1926

The club met on this date with Miss Wilson. There were sixteen members and one guest present. The meeting opened, as usual, with the reading of the records, followed by the roll call, which was responded to by many interesting items. No business required attention.

Mrs. Dunn was in charge of current events and gave a fine list.

The subject for the afternoon's reading was Letters From Russia, reader, Miss Nellie Sweetser. These letters meant much more to us than if read from some magazine, as their author, Katherine Kelly, has been one of "We Neighbors." She wrote of Poland particularly where she is stopping a bit of the history of the country, the customs and map of the people, described some of the foods eaten, which she says are very good and which, by the way, are partaken of five times a day, with descriptions of the serving of the meals. She told also some of the duties of the maid. It certainly was well worth listening to and gave us all much pleasure. At the close of the meeting, the secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Kelly.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Barter on March 16th.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 16, 1926

We Neighbors, to the number of eighteen, and three guests met at the home of Mrs. Barter. The records of previous meeting were read and approved followed by roll call.

Current events were given by Mrs. Nellie Jordan. The Topic for the afternoon, Suggestions for Town Improvement, was in the hands of Mrs. Arno Chase, and was in the form of a prophesy to be consummated in years hence. It included a fine water system. – the source springs on Greely road – good roads with sidewalk to station, a fine town hall, re-constructed from the Dr. Moulton house, shoe factory at the station, the present store rebuilt, much larger and up-to-date, fire station at west side of store, garage on each side, as well as other changes. It seemed possible to the ladies, that some of these

³⁵ Refer to Chapter 2, footnote 33 for information on Edgar Allan Poe. Rev. Burton Lucas was minister of the Cumberland Congregational Church, 1924-1933.

suggestions could be carried out under their supervision, and it is to be sincerely hoped that at the expiration of the time period specified, many if not all of these improvements may make our town an ideal place in which to live. It was certainly a happy inspiration.

A social half hour followed after which the meeting was adjourned to meet Mar. 23 with Mrs. Arno Chase.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 23, 1926

Our meeting with Mrs. Arno Chase was held on this date. Fourteen members were present. The meeting opened as usual, with the reading of the records, followed by roll call.

The only business to be transacted was the appointment of a nominating committee to report at the next meeting. The president named Mrs. Bragg, Mrs. Barter and Mrs. Huston.

A list of current events was given by Mrs. Lula Burnell.

The rest of the afternoon we were entertained by Mrs. Hamilton, who gave a book review. She chose "The Boy's Life of Mark Twain," author Albert Bigelow Payne.³⁶ This proved exceedingly interesting, giving us many new glimpses into the character of the great humorist, and leaving us with the desire to more fully know the contents of the book.

Adjourned, to meet with Mrs. Frank Chase for our last session of the year – on March 30th.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

March 30, 1926

The last meeting for the season was held on this date, at the home of Mrs. Frank Chase. Thirteen members and three guests were present. There was the usual order of procedure, reading of records and roll call, followed by a brief business session. The treasurer reported amount in treasury, one dollar and seven cents.

The names presented by the nominating committee were the following:

President: Evie Dunn, Vice President – Lula Burnell, Secretary, Jennie Barter, Treasurer, Phyllis Sweetser

The secretary cast the vote and they were unanimously elected.

The question as to the advisability of observing field day was discussed somewhat, and it was decided to leave the matter to the discretion of the following committee: Bess Burnell, Lula Burnell, Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Bragg.

³⁶ Albert Bigelow Payne (1861-1937) was an American author best known for his work with Mark Twain. His work includes: *Mark Twain: A Biography*, 4 volumes (1912); *The Boy's Life of Mark Twain* (1916); *Mark Twain's Letters*, 2 volumes, editor (1917); *A Short Life of Mark Twain*, 1920; *Mark Twain's Speeches*, editor, 1923.

The leader for the afternoon then gave extracts from the book – Life of Florence L. Barclay,³⁷ written by one of her daughters, which were exceedingly interesting.

This meeting was listed as a domestic science meeting, and while the feast of fine things to eat was held after the adjournment of the meeting proper, I cannot refrain from saying that all thoroughly enjoyed the products of the good cooks about us.

A rather remarkable circumstance, in connection with the year's work, in the fact that no meetings have had to be omitted from any cause, and the program has seemed to meet with the approbation of all the members of the club.

Adjourned to meet at the call of the Field Day Committee.

Cora E. Adams, Sec.

1926-1927

October 12, 1926

“We Neighbors Club” held the first meeting of the season with Mrs. Alice Doughty. 10 present. Because of the illness of the President, Mrs. Lula Burnell, Vice President, presided. Mrs. Lucas was appointed Secretary for the afternoon. Current Events were given by Mrs. Mary Chase.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, leader for the afternoon, took us on an interesting trip thru the South land and over into Cuba. She gave some of her personal experiences of the trip South and read from the book entitled “Roaming Through the West Indies,” by Harry Franke,³⁸ especially from the chapter “Random sketches of Havanna”.

³⁷ Florence L. Barclay (1862-1921) was an English romance novelist and short story writer. Born in Limpsfield, Surrey, England, she was one of three daughters born to the local Anglican rector and his wife. She was the sister to Maud Ballington Booth, the Salvation Army leader and co-founder of the Volunteers of America. In 1881, she married Rev. Charles w. Barclay and they honeymooned in the Holy Land, where they purportedly discovered Jacob's Well, the place where, according to the Gospel of St. John, Jesus met the Woman of Samaria (John 4-5). Upon returning to England, they settled in Hertford Heath, where she fulfilled duties of a rector's wife. She became mother of eight children. In her early forties, heath problems left her bedridden for a time, and she passed the hours by writing what became her first romance novel titled *The Wheels of Time*, (1908). Her next novel, *The Rosary*, a story of undying love, was published in 1909. Its success eventually resulted in its being translated into 8 languages and 5 motion pictures, also in several languages. According to *the New York Times*, the novel was the No. 1 bestselling novel of 1910 in the United States. Florence Barclay wrote 11 books. She died in 1921 at age of 58. *The Life of Florence Barclay: a study in personality* was published anonymously that year by G. P. Putnam's Sons “by one of Her Daughters.”

³⁸ Harry Alverson Franck (1881-1962) was an American travel writer during the first half of the twentieth century. Franck had many adventures, not all of them pleasant, but all described in his plain somewhat sarcastic style, which was the antithesis of the highly romantic prose of other popular travel writers such as Richard Halliburton. His books intimately recorded life as it was lived in the societies he visited, at a time when many of them were changing rapidly due to industrialization. Many of his racist observations mirror the attitudes of his time. His book, *Roaming through the West Indies*, was published in 1920 by The Century Co. of New York.

Refreshments were served by the hostess and the meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, Wednesday, October 20th.

S. Myrtie Lucas, Sec. pro tem

October 20, 1926

Meeting called to order at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. 12 present. Records of last two meetings read and approved. The Field Day Com. said they did not feel responsible that there was no field day as they set a time and place but that it was unfortunately a day when no one could go. Announcements of the next meeting were given as the program had to be changed from what was printed: Hostess, Mrs. Lula Burnell; Leader, Mrs. Edith Sawyer.

Roll Call was responded to by items of interest. Current Events leader was Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

The subject of the afternoon was Edgar Guest, Leader: Mrs. Lucas. An interesting article by him and several of his poems gave us a very pleasant afternoon.

Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Mrs. Lula Burnell on October 26.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

October 26, 1926

Meeting called to order by the Vice President at her own home. There were 10 members and 3 children present. Records read and approved. As our next meeting was scheduled as Guest Day the following coms. Were appointed.

Refreshment Com: Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Mrs. Ruth Hanson

Entertainment Com: Mrs. Myrtie Lucas, Mrs. Florence Blanchard.

Roll Call was responded to by items of interest.

Mrs. Sweetser spoke of finding a paper dated 1858 and a paragraph in it stating that "Tukeys" bridge³⁹ was completed and would be a toll bridge.

Current Events were given by Mrs. Minnie Sweetser which proved to be a fine resume of important happenings during the past week.

³⁹ For information on early stage of Tukey's Bridge, see Chapter Three, footnote three.

The leader of the afternoon was Mrs. Edith Sawyer having as her subject A [blank] of the Queen written by Mabel Potter Daggett.⁴⁰

Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mary Chase on Nov. 9.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

November 9, 1926

On this date, at the home of Mrs. Mary Chase, we had the privilege of entertaining guests and the vice president welcomed them in a very pleasant manner.

There were 21 members, 15 guests and 4 children present. We had Current Events presented by a special lady lecturer – Mrs. Nellie Jordan!

Three very interesting contests and two delightful solos by Mrs. Ruth Hanson.

Refreshments of ice-cream and cake were served.

The meeting closed with formal adjournment to meet at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard on Nov. 16.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

⁴⁰ "A Close-up of a Queen," by Mable Potter Daggett, *Women's Home Companion*, May 1926. In the article, Daggett asked, "What is she really like? This Queen who so long has dazzled the world with her beauty and astonished it with her statesmanship?" As author of the article, Daggett was an "American woman who spent several happy weeks in the Queen's company and as the Queen's guest." Daggett, later in 1926, published a book titled *Marie of Roumania, The Intimate Story of the Radiant Queen*, 297 pages and published by George H. Doran. Princess Marie of Edinburgh, more commonly known as Marie of Romania, was the last Queen consort of Romania as wife of Ferdinand I. Born into a British royal family, she was titled Princess Marie of Edinburgh at birth. Her parents were Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh and Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia. Her early years were spent in Kent. After refusing a proposal from her cousin the future King George V, she was chosen as future wife of Crown Prince Ferdinand of Romania. She was Crown Princess between 1893 and 1914 and immediately became popular with Romanian people. She allegedly controlled her weak-willed husband even before his ascension in 1914. According to a Canadian newspaper, "few royal consorts have wielded greater influence than did Queen Marie during the reign of her husband." At the outbreak of World War I, Marie urged Ferdinand to ally himself with the Triple Entente and declare war on Germany, which he eventually did in 1916. During early stages of the fighting, Bucharest was occupied by the Central Powers. Marie and Ferdinand and their 5 children took refuge in Moldavia. There, she and her 3 daughters acted as nurses in military hospitals. She attended the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, when she campaigned for international recognition of an enlarged Romania. In 1922, she and Ferdinand were crowned in an elaborate ceremony which mirrored their status as Queen and King of a unified state. In 1926, Marie and 2 of her children undertook a diplomatic tour of the United States, where they were received enthusiastically.

November 16, 1926

Regular meeting called to order at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard by the Pres. She explained her inability to remain Pres. for the rest of the year and suggested that she and the V. President change places. The club voted to adopt this suggestion and then Lulu Burnell presided. There were 19 members and 3 guests present. One new member joined us.

Sec. read records and they were approved. Treas. gave report. The program com. reported that the programs cost \$2.00 and a levy of 10 cents was placed on each member to cover this expense.

Gentlemen's Night comes next on the program and the refreshment com. was appointed as follows: Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Mary Chase and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser.

Roll Call as usual. Current Events were under the leadership of Mrs. Florence Blanchard.

The leader of the afternoon was Mrs. Jennie Barter with the subject Farce.⁴¹ She with four very able assistants presented "Sardines" which was much enjoyed by all and it was understood that this would be the entertainment for Gentlemen's night.

Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess.

Moved to adjourn to meet at the vestry on the evening of Nov. 30.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

November 30, 1926

On this date occurred the annual Gentlemen's night, the event of the year most eagerly looked forward to, at least by all but the President who always reads the welcoming speech. However, our Pres. did this very cordially and there were 21 members and 19 guests present. Her closing remarks were an invitation to the dining room where the tables were very attractively set and a bountiful repast was enjoyed. Surely the President was well supported by able coms.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser carried on the social hour with pleasant readings and stunts and then the Farce which had been enjoyed at the last regular meeting was repeated.

The Farce was "Sardines" with the following cast:

Mattie Eaton: Bessie Burnell

Anne Carroll: Florence Blanchard

Lizzie Pike: Jennie Barter

⁴¹ As generally used, a farce covers a form of theater which uses ridiculous situations, mistaken identities, split-second timing, and marital misadventures. Farces take the form of light, humorous plays in which the plot depends upon a skillfully exploited situation rather than upon development of character.

Lucy Watkins: Lulu Burnell

Alfreda: Ruth Hanson

More contests by Bessie Burnell including "definitions" which amused some of our gentlemen friends so much that they laughed until they cried. A general sing closed a very pleasant and successful evening.

December 14, 1926

Regular meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Laura Wyman. 11 members present. Records read and approved. The refreshment com. of Guest Day presented a bill of \$3. The refreshment com. of Gentlemen's night presented one of \$10.76. Voted that we adopt the suggestion of having the next supper com. of Gentlemen's night also pay for having the dishes washed.

Voted to lay the matter of finances on table until next meeting. The President thanked the very efficient supper com. for serving us such a delicious supper.

Roll Call proved interesting. Current Events leader was sick so we passed immediately to the program which was under the charge of Mrs. Lena Hamilton who reviewed the book: "Casco Bay Yarns" by Williams Haines.⁴²

Refreshments were served by the hostess.

Moved to adjourn to meet with Mrs. Bess Burnell on Dec. 28.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

December 28, 1926

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Bessie Burnell. 10 members present. Records read and approved.

Voted that we pay the Guest Day bill from the Treas. Roll Call was under the leadership of Jennie Barter.

⁴² Haines writes, "This little book was begun quite unintentionally five summers ago by my going out early mornings to help haul a line of lobster pots in order to gather material for a magazine article. What I learned gossiping with the lobstermen was so interesting that I was tempted to visit a neighboring island, and I was gradually coaxed into making a regular pilgrimage among the 'Calendar Isles'. In the end, I spent several weeks in the Library of the Maine Historical Society digging out early history of the Bay." His book, *Casco Bay Yarns*, was published in 1916.

The subject of the afternoon was: Benefits of Women's Clubs. The leader was Evie Dunn. She treated this subject by reading an article from the Good Housekeeping magazine "Where are the Women's Clubs Going?"⁴³

It was followed by general discussion of clubs and club work. It was decided that we each bring a suggestion that we could develop in our club.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Moved to adjourn.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

January 11, 1927

Club met with Gertrude Bragg. 6 members present. Meeting called to order by Vice President, Mrs. Dunn. Gertrude Bragg elected Sec. pro. Tem. Records of last meeting read and accepted. Treas. reported \$13.57 paid in for dues. \$2 received for food sold. \$14.41 paid out leaving \$1.16 in treasury. \$3.00 still due for vestry. Letter read from Laura Chase expressing thanks for flowers read at Mrs. Hall's death.

Roll call was responded to after which the spelling bee was conducted by Mrs. Bessie Burnell. The spelling was carried on for an hour. So few were present we each had a turn very often.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hamilton on Jan. 18.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. One new member joined, Mrs. Downing.

Gertrude Bragg, Sec. pro tem

January 18, 1927

Regular meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Lena Hamilton. 11 members present. Records read and approved. Roll Call was responded to by interesting Current Events and the weekly ones were read by Mrs. Mrs. Lena Hamilton.

⁴³ Article by Ruth Doyle, who asks, "Is courage or cowardice to sway women's organizations in the future?" She notes a change in the evolution of clubs. Women "no longer run from the controversial issues of the day and hide behind the mantle of 'culture'. They espouse difficult and unpopular causes and welcome the long fight to victory. The sentimental Christmas basket and donation party kind of charity is rapidly vanishing, and in its place comes something less picturesque, but steadier and farther reaching – practical aid that helps and still leaves self-respect to the recipient." The article appeared in *Good Housekeeping*, Vol. 83, No. 3, September 1926.

The scheduled leader had been ill and was not quite prepared so the President read to us with the subject: The Challenge of China: an article by Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keys.⁴⁴

Moved to adjourn to meet with the Miss Sweetser on January 25. Refreshment were served by the hostess.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

January 25, 1927

Another change had been arranged so that our hostess was Mrs. Mary Chase. On account of the absence of the President and Vice President the meeting was called to order by the Secretary. 15 members present. Records read and approved. Mrs. Hanson said she would entertain in two weeks. The Roll Call proved interesting with some pictures to help bring out some of the points. "Current Events" was under the lead of Mrs. Lucas who sent her apologies that she was unable to be present and had completely forgotten her responsibility for the Current Events.

A few were volunteered and then the rest of the meeting was in the hands of the leader, Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard. She read to us about California: The Five Miracles, including the first great railroad, irrigation and the Owens River aqueduct etc.⁴⁵

Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess. Moved to adjourn to meet with Mrs. Hanson on Feb. 8.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

February 8, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Hanson. 16 members and one child present. Records read and approved. Roll Call was responded to by items about Abraham Lincoln, all of which were very interesting.

⁴⁴ Frances Parkinson Keys (1885-1970) was an American author and convert to Catholicism. Her works frequently featured Catholic themes and beliefs. As a Senator's Wife, she traveled around the world for *Good Housekeeping* and sent a series of letters for publication in the magazine during the 1920s. "The Challenge of China" appeared in the March 1926 issue.

⁴⁵ California lays claim to five distinct miracles of achievement, namely, first, the building of the chain of 21 Franciscan Missions "in an uncivilized land resulting in the regeneration of the Indians California from heathen barbarism to Christianity;" second, the building of the Central Pacific railroad across the Sierra Nevada mountains; third, the reclamation of the deserts by irrigation; fourth, the rebuilding of the city of San Francisco in three years after its destruction by earthquake and fire in 1906; fifth, the Owens River aqueduct.

The Current Events leader was not able to be present and then Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser, reading for Mrs. Mary Sweetser reviewed the book: "A Man For the Ages" by Irving Bachellor.⁴⁶ It was very interesting and she handled it so well it seemed as if we had read the whole of it.

Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lucas on Feb. 15.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

February 15, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Lucas. 16 members and Philip Downing present. Records read and approved. Roll Call was responded to by Current Events and items of interest.

Current Events leader was unable to be present, and the rest of the meeting was in the hands of Mrs. Hanson who read: Letters from the Philippines written by Frances Parkinson Keyes.⁴⁷ She also had some articles of apparel and trinkets to display and read some personal letters from an uncle and aunt who had been missionaries there during the war, which gave added interest.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Barter on Feb. 22, 1927.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

February 22, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Jennie Barter. 15 members and 4 visitors present. Records read and approved. The matter of the open meeting was discussed somewhat but finally left with the program com. Roll call proved interesting and instructive.

Current Events was under the leadership of Lena Hamilton. The program was in charge of Mrs. Bragg who read to us about the life of Madame Schumann-Heink.⁴⁸ We all enjoyed it very much.

Refreshments were served.

⁴⁶ In the Forward of this novel about Abraham Lincoln, Stanley J. St. Clair, the publisher, observes, "Though some modern authors may contend that this poignant novel does not portray a totally accurate assessment of the life and attitudes of the seventeenth American President, I dare say that these intriguing pages contain a good deal more truth than error. It most definitely reflects the state of the Union at the time in which it is set..." for more information about the author Irving Bacheller, refer to Chapter Five, footnote seventeen.

⁴⁷ In 1923, Keys became a contributing editor for *Good Housekeeping*, eventually authoring a monthly column describing her travels, 1925-1926. Refer to footnote 43, this chapter for more information.

⁴⁸ The article, "Schumann-Heink: the Last of the Titans" by Mary Lawton, appeared in the January 1927 issue of *Good Housekeeping*, subsequent installments appeared in February 1927, March 1927, and April 1927 issues of that magazine. It is the story of an Austrian officer's daughter as she told it to Mary Lawton.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser on March 9.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

March 9, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser. 16 members and 1 visitor present. Records read and approved. The program com. had attended to their duties and reported that Miss Berrer would address us on March 22. Roll Call was responded to by items of interest including an entertaining resume of Laura Chase's work at Bridgton High School.

Current Events leader was not present. The leader was Mrs. Arno Chase with the subject "Opera". She read to us about the opera and some articles by some of the Prima Donnas. Gave a synopsis of Faust⁴⁹ and the Mikado,⁵⁰ also played us some delightful selections upon the victrola from both grand and light opera. It certainly proved a treat.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses. The meeting adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood on March 15, 1927.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

March 15, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Ardelia Osgood. 15 members and 2 visitors present. Records read and approved. We decided that we would have Roll Call but Current Events at the next meeting.

The President appointed the following nominating com to report in two weeks: Geneva Chase, Lizzie Blanchard and Lena Hamilton.

Roll Call was responded to by items of interest. Current Events leader was Mrs. Bragg who was ill but reported gaining.

⁴⁹"Faust" is a grand opera in Five Acts by Charles Gounod. Faust, an aging scholar, determines his studies have come to nothing and only caused him to miss out on life and love. He attempts to kill himself twice with poison, but stops each time when he hears a choir. He curses science and faith and asks for infernal guidance. Mephistopheles appears and persuades Faust to buy his services. When Faust agrees, his goblet of poison is magically transformed into an elixir of youth making the aging doctor a handsome young gentleman ready to embark on adventures.

⁵⁰"Mikado" (1885) is a comic opera in two acts with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by W. S. Gilbert. Setting the opera in Japan, an exotic locale far from Britain, allowed Gilbert to satirize British politics more freely by disguising characters as Japanese. It is a comedy that deals with themes of death and cruelty. And, it is a fictional version of Japan which capitalizes on British fascination in the 1880s with Japan and the Far East. Gilbert wrote, "'The Mikado' was never about Japan but about the failings of the British government." The term "Mikado" literally means "the honorable gate" of the imperial palace.

Program was in charge of Mrs. Laura Wyman whose subject was Letters From Singapore written by Frances Parkinson Keyes for the Good Housekeeping magazine. We enjoyed this very much.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Muriel Downing on March 22.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

March 22, 1927

Meeting called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Muriel Downing. 14 members and one visitor present. Records read and approved. Roll Call was responded to by items of interest.

The program was out of the ordinary and we had the privilege of listening to Miss Antoinette Berrer of Portland who talked to us about the work of the Travelers' Aid.⁵¹ She commenced back at the beginning of the history of the organization. The first work was by given time and the first salaried people were 2 Quaker gentlemen in N. Y. city. We found it very entertaining and instructive and our interest in the work was much deepened. We gave her a rising vote of thanks for her services.

Delicious refreshments were served and we adjourned to meet with Mrs. Geneva Chase on March 29.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

March 27, 1927

The last regular meeting of "We Neighbors" was called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Geneva Chase. 14 members present. Records read and approved.

The nominating committee reported and their report was accepted.

Voted that the Secretary cast one vote for the list. She attended to her duty and the following officers were elected:

Pres. Evelina G. Dunn

V. Pres. Jennie D. Barter

Sec. Phyllis R. Sweetser

Treas. Ruth E. Hanson

Program comm.: Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Lucas, Mrs. Bragg

Field Day Com. Laura Wyman, Evie Sweetser, Phyllis Sweetser

⁵¹ For more information on Travelers' Aid Movement, refer to footnote five, this chapter.

The Roll Call and program furnished many labor saving suggestions and devices for the home. A rising Vote of thanks was given the retiring President for her faithful and efficient work during the year. According to usual custom the year ended with a bountiful repast which was much enjoyed by all.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec.

October 4, 1927

The first meeting of We Neighbors for the year was held at the home of Mrs. Eveline Sweetser and was called to order by the president. There were 21 members present. The new programs were distributed. The covers were made by Mr. Ernest Rand and each one had a very artistic and attractive sketch, each different. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Rand.

It was voted to raise the dues from (.50) fifty to (.75) seventy five cents to include the price of the programs.

The roll call was answered by current events and other items of interest. Mrs. Barter was Current Events leader and the program was in the hands of Mrs. Rand who gave a very instructive and interesting article on "Child Psychology." After this a pleasant social time was enjoyed and refreshments served.

An unusual feature of the Club this year is a three-generation group in our membership, Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard, Mrs. Geneva Chase, and Mrs. Helen Bragg.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Geneva Chase on October 19.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

October 19, 1927

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Geneva Chase with eleven members and one guest present. The meeting was called to order by the president. In the absence of the Secretary Bessie Burnellll was chosen secretary pro tem.

Records of the last two meetings were read and approved.

The following refreshment committee was appointed for Guest Day: Caroline Rand, Laura Wyman, Mrs. Lucas.

Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser had Current Events but not being present sent them to be read. Mrs. Mary Chase had the program for the afternoon, changing her subject Music for an account of her visit to the Wayside Inn.⁵² It was most interesting and we wished for a longer time to listen.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Frank Doughty on Oct. 25.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

October 25, 1927

The club met at the home of Mrs. Doughty with eighteen members and one guest present. The meeting was called to order by the president. Carolyn Rand was secretary pro tem. The reports of the secretary and of the treasurer were read and approved.

Mrs. Lula Burnell had charge of Current Events. A very interesting collection was read. There was a very satisfactory response to the Roll Call – only three pennies falling into the Treasury.

Mrs. Barter who was leader in place of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser prefaced her remarks by saying that she had been a “filler in” all her life. Practice must make for perfection for the club enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon with “Thoreau in the Maine Woods”.⁵³

Several new members joined the club and the membership bids found to be a record breaker.

Adjourned until guest day on Nov. 8.

Carolyn H. Rand, Sec. pro tem

⁵² In 1716 David Howe began what was called a “house of entertainment” along the Old Boston Post Road, one of the first mail routes in the country. Known as Howe’s Tavern, the Inn was an expansion of Howe’s own private home. Howe passed the family business to his son, Ezekiel, who in turn passed it on to his son Adam, and he to his son Lyman in 1830. Lyman died in 1861, never having married, and the Inn was inherited by relatives who stopped overnight accommodation but continued renting the hall for dances and the rooms for lengthier stays. In October 1862, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow visited the old Howe Tavern. Subsequently, Longfellow made the defunct Sudbury tavern the gathering place for characters in his 1863 poem “Tales of a Wayside Inn.” Longfellow penned such a vivid portrayal of the Howe tavern and its innkeeper that he captured the public’s imagination. The first printing of the Tales sold out in a single day, and curious readers flocked to the inn and tavern to catch a glimpse of the “poet’s muse.” The Wayside Inn was also known as the Red Horse Tavern. For more information, see footnotes 55 and 56 in Chapter Two. With the purchase of Longfellow’s “Wayside Inn in 1923, Henry Ford envisioned transforming the old Colonial Inn into a living museum of American history. In a 1924 interview for the *New York Times*, Ford credits his admiration of Longfellow, especially the poem “A Psalm of Life”, as motivation for the purchase.

⁵³ Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) traveled to the backwoods of Maine in 1846, 1853, and 1857. Originally published in 1864, *The Maine Woods* presents a vivid account of those journeys through a rugged and largely unspoiled land. Thoreau tells his personal story of exterior and interior discoveries. His clear images of life in the primate forest – mountains, waterways, fauna, flora and inhabitants – are timeless, but his impassioned protest against despoilment of nature in the name of commerce and sport makes it a vital book for successive generations.

November 8, 1927

The Club observed Guest Day and held the meeting at the vestry. There were 25 members and 29 guests present. Mrs. Dunn presided and after a roll call responded to by items of interest, introduced Miss Rose Danforth who is secretary of the Red Cross in Portland. She gave a very interesting and instructive talk on what the Red Cross is doing. Their work in no way duplicates that of any other organization. In Portland they hold free Dental Clinics for children and do much work for the disabled service men. At Christmas, they send bags to each one. The Red Cross is always ready to help in disasters. The Junior Red Cross has been formed and it is hoped that it will do much to promote international friendship. Miss Danforth answered questions which anyone cared to ask.

We adjourned to meet with Mrs. Wyman on Nov. 15. A pleasant social time was enjoyed and refreshments of tea, sandwiches and cake served.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

November 15, 1927

The meeting was called to order by the president at the home of Mrs. Wyman with fifteen members present. The records were read and approved and the roll call answered with items of interest. Mrs. Doughty had current events.

Mrs. Bessie Burnell was leader for the afternoon, reading about the first Thanksgiving from "Standish of Standish."⁵⁴

Adjourned to meet with Carolyn Rand on Nov. 29.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

November 29, 1927

The Club met at the home of Carolyn Rand with nineteen members present. The meeting was called to order by the president. The roll call was responded to by interesting items. Mrs. Huston had charge of current events.

Mrs. Mary Sweetser was leader for the afternoon and gave a very interesting account of her recent trip to Boston and vicinity.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser on Dec. 13.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

⁵⁴ *Standish of Standish: A Story of the Pilgrims* by Jane G. (Goodwin) Austin, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1889, 422 pages.

December 13, 1927

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser with 23 members present. The meeting was called to order by the president, records read and approved and then the roll was called and responded to by very interesting items.

There was no current events leader in order to allow more time for the program which was listed as "Dramatics." Mrs. Harlan Sweetser read to us Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew".⁵⁵ It was a delightful surprise to most of us and everyone was highly entertained. We all felt very grateful to her for giving us such a treat and are very fortunate to have one with so much talent so willing to entertain us. We were sorry that it had to end but realized how much work it had meant for her.

We adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard on Dec. 20th.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

December 20, 1927

The meeting was called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard. 9 members present. Jennie Barter acted as Sec. pro. tem. Roll Call was responded to by Current Events and items of interest. The Current Events leader was absent.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Ruth Hanson. She used the victrola very effectively rendering the Christmas selections "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear". "Silent Night, Holy Night" "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" "Angels of the Realm of glory".

She read an interesting story from the St. Nicholas⁵⁶ written by Prof. Eric Kelly⁵⁷ which we enjoyed very much both for its merit and pleasant associations with the author. Also, selections from the Birds Christmas Carol rounded out a very pleasant afternoon.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Lucas on Jan. 10.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec. pro tem

⁵⁵ William Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" is a comedy believed to have been written between 1590 and 1592. The main plot depicts the courtship of Petruchio and Katherina, the headstrong, obdurate shrew. Katherina is an unwilling participant in the relationship, but Petruchio tempers her with various psychological torments – "the taming" – until she becomes a compliant and obedient bride. The subplot features a competition between suitors of Katherina's more desirable sister Bianca. The play's apparent misogynistic elements have become the subject of considerable controversy.

⁵⁶ For information about *St. Nicholas Magazine*, refer to footnote 74, Chapter IV.

⁵⁷ Eric P. Kelly (1884-1960) was an American journalist, academic and author of books for young readers. He was a professor of English at Dartmouth College. He is best known for his book, *The Trumpeter of Krakow* (1928), a young adult historical novel which tells the story of a Polish noble family who fled to Krakow in 1461.

January 10, 1928

The regular meeting of We Neighbors was called to order by the President at the home of Mrs. Lucas. 22 members and 1 guest present. The President appointed Jennie Barter to continue as Sec. pro tem. Secy's report read and accepted. The Treasurer reported that the amount on hand was the same as at previous meeting. The coms for Gentlemen's night gave reports.

Voted to hire someone to wash the dishes that night so that the coms. could enjoy all of the sociability. Roll Call was responded to by items of interest including pleasant news of Mrs. Danforth and Miss Harriet Humphrey. The Current Event period was in charge of Mrs. Minnie Sweetser who summed up the "doings of the day" of the past 3 weeks.

The leader was Miss Carrie Wilson whose subject was Broadway Comes to Lakewood⁵⁸ an article written by Allan Harding in last June's American Magazine. This was supplemented by remarks of Mrs. Mary Chase and Mrs. Ruth Hanson who had had the privilege of being there this last summer. It made us all wish that we could have our field day at this theatre next year.

Adjourned to meet at the vestry on Jan. 17 to celebrate our Gentlemen's night.

Jennie D. Barter, Sec. pro tem

January 17, 1928

Gentlemen's Night was held in the Vestry on the evening of January 17 with 43 members and guests present. Upon entering, everyone had the name of a state pinned upon his or her back, the object being to see how many states each one could discover without letting his own be seen. It led to a general mix up and jollity till supper was served. A delicious supper of clam stew, pickles, crackers, cream pies, tarts and coffee was enjoyed and the committee highly praised.

After supper a few contests were held and then a farce "A Love of a Bonnet"⁵⁹ was given very entertainingly and well by six members of the club who are fast becoming accomplished actresses – Mrs. Nellie Jordan, Helen Bragg, Miss May Browne, Jennie Barter, Lula Burnell and Ruth Hanson.

⁵⁸ Located on the western shore of Wesserunsett Lake, Lakewood is known as the State Theater of Maine and one of America's oldest and most famous summer theaters. Originally an Indian camp ground, the homestead of Joseph Hayden and a meeting house for spiritualists, the Lakewood Theater at the turn of the twentieth century was a swampy amusement park when in 1899 Henry L. Swett took over as manager. The first legitimate stage play was "The Private Secretary" opening in June 15, 1901. In its heyday, 1925-1941, it was the major summer tryout for productions hoping for success on Broadway. The Stock Co. was the training ground for promising young talent.

⁵⁹ "A Love of a Bonnet" is a farce in one act for five female characters only. Its author is George M. Baker. It was published in Boston by W. H. Baker & Co. in 1900.

After this charades⁶⁰ were played with Mr. Lucas and Herman Sweetser the captains of the two sides. It was great sport for all. The evening ended with a general sing and everyone went home feeling that they had spent a very enjoyable evening.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

January 24, 1928

Club met with Jennie Barter with 15 members and 2 guests present. Bess Burnell was chosen Secretary pro tem. The Supper Committees for gentlemen's Night presented a bill for \$9.07 which was paid. The roll call was responded to by items of interest and several pennies were added to the treasury. One of the items was of special interest, namely Mrs. George Chick a Limington (formerly Dorothy Miller) has a young daughter a little "Chick."

Current events were given by Mrs. Hamilton.

Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard had the program in charge and the first article was official and un-official behavior in Washington which dealt particularly with social etiquette and it was very interesting. The "First Lady of the Land"⁶¹ was the subject of her second paper and dealt with a visit of Grant's granddaughter to the President and his wife. It was very interesting.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hanson on Jan. 31.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

⁶⁰ Charades is a word guessing game. One player acts out a word or phrase. The task is to use physical rather than verbal language to convey the meaning. Players divide into two teams. Each team in turn produces a "secret" word or phrase to be guessed by the other team and writes it down on a slip of paper. The slip of paper with the secret phrase is revealed to one member of the other team, namely "the actor", but kept secret from remainder of the other team, "the guessers." The actor has a limited time in which to convey the message by pantomime. The actor cannot make sounds or lip movements and cannot point to any objects. The guessers try to guess the word or phrase based on an actor's performance. They can ask questions, to which the actor gives non-verbal responses, such as nodding in affirmation. If guessers say the correct word or phrase within the time limit, their team wins that round. If phrase is not guessed within the time limit, the team that produces the secret phrase wins that round. Teams alternate until each team member has had an opportunity to act.

⁶¹ This visit was probably made by Nellie Grant, daughter of Jesse R. Grant, second son of former President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant. Later, as Mrs. W. P. Cronan, Nellie told the story of "The First Lady of the Land." As late as December 1873, the *Washington Evening Star* still referred to Julia Grant as "Mrs. President Grant," but on January 20, 1875, a Honolulu publication described her as "first lady of the land." About the same time, Queen Victoria was recognized as "first lady of the land" in England.

January 31, 1928

Meeting was called to order by the vice president at the home of Mrs. Hanson with 23 members and 1 guest present. The roll call was responded to with many interesting items. Mrs. Bragg was leader and read to us from a Portland Transcript of 1891 (loaned her by her mother) the story "An Evening at Uncle Ben's" telling about some Cumberland characters forty years before, particularly Grannie Banks, a witch like old woman. It was very interesting to hear about old times. Then she read from the book "Our Times" by Mark Sullivan⁶² which brot to our attention how rapidly things have changed and the wonderful things that are happening.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Hamilton on Feb. 14.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

February 14, 1928

The club met with Mrs. Hamilton and was called to order by the president with 17 members and 1 guest present. Secretary's report read and accepted and the roll call was responded to by interesting items.

Phyllis Sweetser was leader and read an article from the National Geographic, "Around the World in the Islander" by Capt. Harry Pidgeon⁶³ who made a small sailing craft and went around the world alone in it.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Arno Chase on Feb. 21.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

February 21, 1928

The club met with Mrs. Arno Chasse and was called to order by the Vice President with 18 members and 1 guest present.

⁶² *Our Times, 1900-1925* by Mark Sullivan. The author was a muckraking journalist, confidant of Theodore Roosevelt, and Henry Ford and self-styled Progressive Republican. Sullivan wrote a bestselling popular history of the United States during the years 1900 to 1925 and published it in six volumes between 1926 and 1936. Sullivan's chronicle is a lively saga of missed opportunity as America steps onto world stage during World War I, then refuses to join the League of Nations, shirks its leadership role, and retreats into consumerism and isolation of the Roaring Twenties. Sullivan conveys the dizzying pace of change propelled by electricity, films, radio, railroads, automobiles, airplanes, and advertising.

⁶³ Harry Pidgeon (1869-1954) was an American sailor and noted photographer. He was the second person to sail singlehandedly around the world (1921-1925), 23 years after Joshua Slocum, a professional sea captain. Pidgeon was the first person to do this via the Panama Canal, and the first person to solo circumnavigate the world twice. On both trips he sailed a 34 foot yawl named "The Islander," which he constructed himself. Prior to the first trip, he had no previous experience in sailing. In the February 1928 issue of the *National Geographic* his wild adventures were first disclosed, and then eventually expanded into a book, *Around the World Single-Handed: the Cruise of the "Islander"*, New York: Dover, 1933.

Mrs. Fred Marsh of the Maine Publicity Bureau⁶⁴ spoke to us. She told of the work the Bureau is doing and hopes to do thru the state, such as doing away with ugly billboards and cheap hot dog stands for one thing. She told of the large amount of literature they distribute to advertise Maine and of some of the interesting things that happen at the Information Bureau in Portland. She says that a great deal of the improving of the state is up to the women and wanted us all to help put across the article in town meeting giving a certain amount from the town to help advertise and beautify Maine. It was an interesting and instructive talk and inspired us all to help "Boost Maine."

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg on February 28.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

February 28, 1928

The Club met with Mrs. Bragg with 18 members and 1 guest present. The meeting was called to order by the vice president. The secretary's report and treasurer's reports read and approved. Many interesting items were given in response to the roll call.

Mrs. Adams had charge of the program for the afternoon and had a very interesting article on "Maine's Contribution to Literature"⁶⁵ which Miss Wilson read for her as her glasses had not returned from the oculist. It was very instructive as well as entertaining and fitted in well with the "Boost Maine" idea which we heard at our last meeting.

Adjourned to meet on March 13 with Lula Burnell.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

March 13, 1928

We Neighbors met with Lula Burnell with 16 members present. The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The president appointed Mrs. Nellie Jordan and Jennie Barter as the nominating committee for officers for next year. The roll call was responded to by items of interest. The current events were omitted as Mr. Lucas arrived to provide our afternoon's program.

He read to us from some books by Rowland Rowbruson,⁶⁶ "Uncle Lisha's Shop" and "Danirs' Folks." It was delightful and we were all sorry that closing time arrived so quickly. The least we could do to express

⁶⁴ The Maine Publicity Bureau was founded in Portland in 1921 by a group of the state's business leaders, as a formalized way to promote the state's business, industrial and recreational resources.

⁶⁵ "Maine's Contribution to Literature," by John Clair Minot in *The Maine Book*, op. cit., chapter 31.

⁶⁶ Rowland E. Robinson (1833-1900) was born in Ferrisburgh, Vermont, and is known as an illustrator and writer. He is considered to be regionalist and folklorist. Some of his more famous books include *Uncle Lisha's Shop* and *Danvis Folks*.

our appreciation was to give him a rising vote of thanks after which we adjourned to meet with Mrs. Osgood on March 20.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

March 20, 1928

The Club met with Mrs. Osgood with 17 members and 3 guests present. The meeting was called to order by the president. The nominating committee gave their list of officers for next year.

Pres. Jennie Barter; V Pres. Phyllis Sweetser; Sec. Carolyn Rand; Treasurer, Ruth Hanson.

Program Com. Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Dunn & Mrs. Huston.

Field day Com.: Carolyn Rand, Louise Sweetser, Phyllis Sweetser.

The roll call was responded to by items of interest. Phyllis Sweetser led current events.

Our entertainment was an interesting and instructive talk by Mildred Wyman⁶⁷ who was at home for the holidays. She told about the "History of the Book" how printing and materials have developed from the first crude figures and hieroglyphics on rock on wood down to the books of our day. We were very much pleased to have her with us and gave her a rising vote of thanks.

Adjourned to meet on March 27 with Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

March 27, 1928

We Neighbors met for the last meeting this season with Mrs. Bessie Burnell with 13 members and 2 guests present. Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report showed [blank] in the treasury. The roll call was responded to by interesting items, some being helpful household hints as this was Domestic Science afternoon.

The program was short and in good season our hostess called us to the dining room where she and her mother had put all the good "eats" brot by the members. We had a pleasant time and a delicious lunch. We felt sorry that it was the last meeting of the year.

Adjourned.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

⁶⁷ Mildred Wyman was one of the twin daughters of Charter member of the club, Laura Wyman. She was studying to be a librarian. Upon graduation, she served as Librarian at Prince Memorial Library, 1931-1950, and later as librarian at Deering High School. Her twin sister was Margaret Wyman.

August 23, 1928

The Field Day committee decided to have a picnic supper as an all day spree seemed out of the question. Sad to say the weather was not favorable to a real gay time so we ate our supper and went home with thick fog rolling in. It was pleasant to get together and we had a good time tho it was short and sweet. Ice cream cones and punch were served by the Club and everyone had brot a bountiful lunch. Japanese lanterns were strung about and there was a Victrola playing. There were about 35 present.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

October 10, 1928

The first meeting of "We Neighbors" for the 1928-29 season was at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. Reports of Sec. & Treas. Were read and approved. The Program Com. Also made a report and programs were distributed Roll Call was responded to by current events and items of interest.

Mrs. Nellie B. Jordan as leader gave a very interesting account of a vacation trip to Niagra Falls and other points of interest. Many cards and snapshots were shown. At the close of her talk, the president called on each member of the club for vacation notes. Some of us had 'em and some of us didn't.

There were 20 members present and the hostess served refreshments.

The meeting was adjourned to meet with Mrs. Edith Sawyer on Oct. 16th.

October 16, 1928

The Club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Edith Sawyer. Meeting called to order by the president. Report of Sec. read and approved. The Sec. being absent Nellie Jordan served as Sec. pro tem. The Treasurer not being present Phyllis Sweetser served in that capacity. The roll call was responded to by interesting items. Current Events were under the leadership of Mrs. Wyman.

Miss May Brown gave a very interesting Book Review on "Jonathan Papers" in II Vol. by Elizabeth Woodlidge which was very much enjoyed and we hope to read more of "Jonathan" and Mrs. Jonathan who was so tactful.

There were 14 members present, Mrs. Bertha Merrill joining us again after a few years absence.

Adjourned to meet Oct. 23 with Helen Sawyer.

Nellie B. Jordan, Sec. pro tem

October 23, 1928

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Helen Sawyer and a very interesting book review was given by Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser. It was of especial interest as it was by the husband of a former We Neighbors Club member, Mrs. Eric Kelley. The book "The Trumpetor of Kracrow"⁶⁸ by Prof. Kelly has been added to the Prince Memorial Library recently. It is a very attractive book as to form and the subject matter was most interesting.

The current events were omitted as the roll call took up an unusually long time.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess. We adjourned to meet on Oct. 30 with Mrs. Fickett. Usual routine business was conducted.

October 30, 1928

This being the meeting nearest Halloween, the hostess Mrs. Fickett used very pretty and appropriate decorations.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer was sec. pro tem in the absence of Mrs. Rand. Usual business was conducted by the president. Current events were in charge of Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

An interesting letter from a former member, Mrs. Sturdivant, was read describing her trip to California. Mrs. Gertrude Bragg had the program in charge. It was descriptive history of the mail service and proved instructive and entertaining.

After adjournment the hostess served dainty refreshments. Mrs. Wyman will be the next hostess.

November 13, 1928

Mrs. Wyman was hostess with 24 members present. Roll call was responded to with interesting items. Gentlemen's night supper committee was chosen as follows: Laura Wyman, Evie Dunn, Cora Adams, Nellie Jordan. Entertainment: Club officers.

Mrs. Louise Sweetser gave the play "Twelfth Night". It was most interestingly and excellently presented. A rising vote of thanks was extended as a very small expression of our appreciation.

The hostess served refreshments at the close of the meeting.

⁶⁸ *The Trumpeter of Krakow* is a young adult historical novel by Eric P. Kelley. Centered on the historical fire that burned much of Krakow in 1462, this novel tells the fictional story of a Polish noble family who fled to Krakow, Poland in 1461, after their home is burned to the ground by Cossack Tartars. Published in 1928, this novel won the Newberry Medal for excellence in American Children's Literature in 1929. For information about the author, refer to footnote 57, this chapter.

We Neighbor's Program Outline

1. Met a. when, b. where, c. number present: 1) members, 2) guests
2. President calls meeting to order
3. Reports: a. Secretary's – Rise; b. Treasurer's – greet president and ladies; c. committee-Talk clearly
4. Votes
5. Entertainment for Afternoon
6. Adjournment
7. Refreshments
8. Exit

October 18, 1932

On October 18th the We Neighbors' Club met with Mrs. Bertha Merrill with twenty-three members present. The president called the meeting to order.

A report of the Club picnic which was held in July was read. Secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

It was voted to take money from the treasury to buy the secretary a new book for club records. It was suggested to have current events or interesting items ready to be used at the end of a meeting when a book review or speaker was not the afternoon's entertainment.

By vote of the club thanks were extended to Mr. Davis in appreciation of his work on the program. Mrs. Davis read Selections from the Reader's Digest.

After the meeting was adjourned refreshments of home- made ice cream and cakes were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

October 26, 1932

The We Neighbor's Club met at the home of Mrs. Edith Sawyer on October 26th. Twenty-seven members and one visitor were present. President Helen Sawyer called the meeting to order. Routine business was carried on.

Mrs. Lucas entertained us with Godey's Ladies Book by Ruth Finley¹ and showed one of Godey's magazines.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

November 9, 1932

On November 9th "We Neighbors" met at the home of Mrs. Davis. There were twenty-six members and one guest present.

Mrs. Roberts spoke most interestingly on the subject "Why Know Nature".

Regular business was carried on and the rest of the time was given over to the speaker. At the close of her talk a vote of thanks was extended to Mrs. Roberts.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Carolyn H. Rand, Sec. pro tem

November 16, 1932

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Alice Fickett on November 16th with twenty members and two visitors present. The meeting was called to order by the president. Reports were read and accepted.

Mrs. Lulu Burnell read from the book "Biography And the Human Heart" by Gamaliel Bradford.²

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

¹ Ruth Elbright Finley, *The Lady of Godey's*, Sarah Josepha Hale, Philadelphia, London: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1931. While conducting research, using old magazines and newspapers as a source, Ruth Finley discovered *Godey's Lady's Book*, which first appeared in 1842, nearly a century ago from this date. It contained the beginnings of various departments – cookery, beauty, health, architecture, gardening, interior decoration. According to Finley, these topics were handled very differently but with a modern touch. As she read, she discovered these departments contained all kinds of first-hand information about customs, habits and viewpoints of a bygone America about which little had been written. She tried to use *Godey's* as a peg on which to hang a social review of the nineteenth century. A long time editor of the magazine, Sarah Josepha Hale (1788-1879), was an American writer and one of the first novelists to write about slavery. She is also known as author of the nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb." She edited *Godey's* for 40 years until she retired in 1877 at the age of 89. That same year Thomas Edison spoke the opening lines of "Mary's Lamb" as the first speech ever recorded on his newly invented phonograph.

² *Biography and the Human Heart* by Gamaliel Bradford (1863-1932). Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1932. Bradford was an American biographer, critic, poet and dramatist. In his day, Bradford was regarded as the "Dean of American biographers." He is acknowledged as the American pioneer of the psychographic form of written biographies, after the style developed by Lytton Strachey. Despite poor health during most of his life, he wrote 114 biographies over a period of 20 years.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

November 30, 1932

On November 30 We Neighbors Club met with Miss Harriet Blanchard with twenty four members present. Meeting called to order by the president. Secretary's report was absent. The treasurer's report was given.

It was voted to pay one dollar for the flowers sent to Mrs. Lena Hamilton on Thanksgiving Day.

Mrs. Rand proposed that we do something as an organization for the poor children of the community for Christmas. It was voted that each member contribute ten cents for that purpose. The following committee was appointed by the chair to carry out the plans: Carolyn Rand, Jennie Barter, Gertrude Bragg.

Mrs. Barter gave a book review: "Beyond the Blue Sierra" by Honore Wilson Morrow³ which was of much interest. Mrs. Harriet C. Merrill related some conversation she had had with Mrs. Morrow which was interesting.

After adjournment the hostess served delicious refreshments.

Gertrude S. Bragg, Sec. pro tem

December 14, 1932

Twenty-two members of the We Neighbors' Club met with Dorothy Packard on December 14. Meeting was called to order by the president. Report of secretary was read and accepted. Treasurer's report was not given. Thanks were received by the president for the flowers sent to Mrs. Lena Hamilton.

Mrs. Fickett gave an interesting report on "Findings of the Eclipse."⁴

Roll call of current events was responded to by a few. Refreshments were served.

³ Beyond the Blue Sierra by Honore Wilson Morrow (1880-1940), New York: William Morrow & Co., 1932. Born in Ottuma, Iowa in 1880, Nora Bryant McCue, later known as Honore Morrow, went on to graduate with a history degree from the University of Wisconsin. She then married Henry Willsie and moved to Arizona, publishing her first novel, *Heart of the Desert* in 1913. She divorced Willsie in 1922 and married a year later William Morrow, who founded in 1926 William Morrow & Co. and led it until his death in 1931. She continued writing throughout her life.

⁴ A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, thereby totally or partly obscuring the image of the Sun for a viewer on Earth. A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon's apparent diameter is larger than the Sun's, blocking all direct sunlight, thereby turning day into darkness. Each member in a series of solar eclipses repeats approximately every 177 days and 4 hours at alternating nodes of the Moon's orbit. Descending node, September 12, 1931; Ascending node, March 7, 1932; Descending node, August 31, 1932; Ascending Node, February 24, 1933. The solar eclipse on August 31, 1932 was a total eclipse.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

December 28, 1932

Twenty-five members of the We Neighbors club and five visitors met on December 28th with Mrs. Jennie Barter. The president, Mrs. Sawyer, called the meeting to order. Secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Mrs. Rand sent a report saying that twenty nine gifts were bot and distributed in seven families as We Neighbor's part in helping the community at Christmas.

A verse or short poem to be read by each member at the close of her discourse on poetry was asked by Mrs. Doane.

Mr. B. A. Lucas talked very entertainingly on the subject "Bees". He also answered questions relative of the life of a bee, its hive and habits and showed pictures illustrating the same.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

January 11, 1933

On January 11, twenty-five members of the We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Helen Bragg. The president called the meeting to order. Reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted. Mrs. Sawyer (president) read a letter from the district director of district 12 of the Maine Federation of Women's clubs asking her and a friend to attend the luncheon given on Thursday afternoon January 19, at the Eastland Hotel.

It was voted that the president and vice-president attend this luncheon and that one dollar and a half be taken from the Club treasury to pay their expenses.

It was voted to present Mrs. Katherine Kelley's play "Frail Ferdinand"⁵ on Gentlemen's Night – February 15.

Mrs. Doane told us of Poetry and its history.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

⁵ This one act play was published in 1931.

January 18, 1933

On January 18 We Neighbors met with Mrs. Howard Blanchard with nineteen members present. Several being absent on account of the prevailing epidemic.

The secretary being absent, Mrs. Dunn was chosen for the day. The treasurer reported paying Mrs. Sawyer one-fifty for the lunch at the Eastland, as voted.

President appointed Gentlemen's Night committees. Supper: Alice Fickett, Jennie Barter, Anna Blanchard, Florence Vaughn. Entertainment: Mary Chase, Harriett Merrill, Lulu Burnell. The date of same being changed from February 15 to the 22.

Mrs. Rand, the leader being sick, Helen Bragg had the afternoon. She gave us a very interesting account of Re-claiming the Zuider Zee⁶ which is a very tremendous and costly undertaking. This is apparently going to help part of Holland, but turning many of the little fishing villages into small farms, causing much sorrow and mourning among the fisher folks, who know nothing else – many of the former islands have become just hills in the fields.

She also read an account of the International Exposition which is to be held in Chicago in June of 1933 – one hundred years after Chicago became a town – impossible for me to give extracts from this wonderful undertaking.

After roll-call we adjourned to meet January 25 with Mrs. Mary Chase.

The hostess served delicious refreshments.

E.G.Dunn, Sec. Pro Tem

January 25, 1933

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Mary Chase on January 25 with twenty members and two guests present. The meeting was called to order by the president. Secretary's report of January 11 was read and accepted. Mrs. Dunn read her report of the January 18 meeting which was accepted. Treasurer and report were absent.

It was suggested to let the supper committee know if unable to be present at Gentlemen's Night.

It was suggested that both the supper and entertainment committees meet and talk over their own plans.

⁶ The Zuiderzee Works are a man-made system of dams and dikes, land reclamation and water drainage work, comprising the largest hydraulic engineering project undertaken by the Netherlands during the twentieth century. The project involved the damming of the Zuiderzee, a large shallow inlet of the North Sea, and the reclamation of land in the newly enclosed water by using polders. Polders are pieces of low-lying land reclaimed from the sea or a river and protected by dikes. Its main purposes are to improve flood protection and create additional land for agriculture.

Mrs. Chase gave an interesting report of the luncheon of the Maine Federated Club which she and Mrs. Sawyer attended.

It was voted to send Mrs. Rand flowers as she is a "shut in" this winter.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer had charge of the afternoon and read extracts from the life of the composer, Edward MacDowell.⁷ She explained several of Mr. MacDowell's songs and then sang them. Miss Virginia Sweetser was pianist for Mrs. Sawyer and later she played three of his compositions.

It was a very enjoyable afternoon and I'm sure we all appreciated hearing both Mrs. Sawyer and Miss Sweetser. Musical afternoon is looked forward to each year with a great deal of pleasure.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Miss Sweetser for her kindness in playing.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

February 8, 1933

On February 8, eighteen members of We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Bragg. Meeting was called to order by the president. Treasurer's report.

It was voted to extend a cordial invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Eric Kelly to be present at Gentlemen's night. Also an invitation to be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Osgood.

Secretary's report was late but came finally and was accepted. The secretary read a note of thanks from Mrs. Rand for the flowers recently sent to her.

Mrs. Burnell read to us of the life and good work done by Mrs. Martha Berry in her school in Rome, Georgia.

Roll Call was responded to by nearly all those present.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

⁷ Edward MacDowell (1860-1908) was an American composer and pianist of the Romantic period. He is best known for his second piano concerto and his piano suites *Woodland Sketches*, *Sea Pieces*, and *New England Idylls*. *Woodland Sketches* includes his most popular short piece "To a Wild Rose." In 1904, he was one of the first seven Americans honored by membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

February 15, 1933

On February 15 thirty We Neighbors and four guests met with Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser. The president Mrs. Sawyer, called the meeting to order. Secretary's reports were read and accepted.

"Portraits" were the order of the day in charge of Mrs. Mary Chase. A frame had been constructed and set up, and a suitable background draped, from which coyly or demurely peered the living models. The twelve following pictures were represented and headed Portraits Loaned By Metropolitan Museum:

Boy in Red – Vigee Le Brun; Dorothy Packard

Portrait of Madame Raymond – Vigee Le Brun; Mrs. Davis

Elizabeth Fry – G. Richmond; Mrs. Dunn

Lady Hamilton – George Romney - Phyllis Sweetser

Modern Madonna – George Romney - Mrs. Stanton

Viscount Althorp – Sir Joshua Reynolds - Richard Sweetser

Beatrice D'Este – Leonardo Da Vinci; Beatrice Ross

Woman Sewing by Candle – Millet; Mrs. Fickett

Dauphness of France – La Tons - Mrs. Lucas

Prayer – George F. Watts - Mrs. Barter

Queen Louise – Richter - Mildred Doane

Miss Nancy Pennington – Stuart - Sweetser

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

February 22, 1933

February 22, sixty-one We Neighbors and their gentlemen met at the vestry for the annual party given to the men.

After a delicious supper consisting of roast pork, baked potatoes, succotash, coffee, rolls, pie and cake – welcome to the gentlemen was given by the president, a toast to them by Mrs. Davis, and several jokes read by different club members while still sitting at the table.

A little later a farce entitled "Frail Ferdinand" was enjoyed. This farce written by Mrs. Eric Kelly and coached by Mrs. Louise Sweetser was of great interest to the audience – everyone knowing Mrs. Kelly,

the coach and cast which consisted of three of the club members and two husbands as well as two boys borrowed for the occasion.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer sang to everyone's delight. Her accompanist was Mrs. Copeland guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lucas.

After a few games the party broke up.

March 8, 1933

On March 8, Mrs. Mary Chase acted as hostess in place of Mrs. Lucas. Twenty-five We Neighbors and guests were present. The routine business was carried on.

Mrs. Burnell made an announcement that the club of March 15 would meet with Mrs. Harriett Merrill who would also be leader.

Mrs. Louise Sweetser was leader for the afternoon and took as her subject the play, "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."⁸ This play is the love story of Robert Browning and his wife Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Mrs. Sweetser read in her usual vivacious way and made each one feel the Victorian atmosphere of the Barrett home and rejoice with the poets when they overcame all obstacles and married and went to Italy to live.

After adjournment refreshments were served by Mrs. Helen Sawyer.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

March 15, 1933

On March 15, fifteen members of We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Wallace Merrill. The president opened the meeting. Reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

⁸ This play was written by Rudolf Besler in 1930 and is based on the romance between Robert Browning and Elizabeth Barrett and her father's unwillingness to allow them to marry. In 1931, the play was staged at the Hanna Theater in Cleveland. Then the production went to Broadway where it opened February 9, 1931 at the Empire Theater, starring Katharine Cornell and Brian Aherne.

Mrs. Merrill was leader for the afternoon. Her subject was "Florence and Its Treasures."⁹ She showed many pictures to illustrate which made her paper very interesting.

After adjournment refreshments in the colors of St. Patrick day were served by Mrs. Louise Sweetser and Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

March 22, 1933

Twenty one We Neighbors met on March 22 with Mrs. Jennie Burnell. One guest was present. President opened the meeting. Reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

Mrs. Stanton was leader for the afternoon. Her subject was "Awakening the South."

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

March 29, 1933

On March 29 twenty-five We Neighbors and one guest met with Mrs. Mildred Doane. The president Mrs. Sawyer opened the meeting. Reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

The president appointed the following committees for the Club luncheon: Mrs. Jennie Burnell, Dorothy Packard, Mildred Doane, and Helen Bragg. Entertainment committee, Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser. Nominating committee for the year 1933 and 1934 was appointed and consists of Mrs. Carolyn Rand, Mrs. Bertha Merrill, and Mrs. Alice Doughty.

⁹ The Uffizi Gallery is a prominent art museum located adjacent to the Piazza della Signoria in central Florence, region of Tuscany, Italy. The building of the Uffizi complex was begun by Giorgio Vasari in 1560. Over the years, more and more space was devoted to paintings and sculpture collected or commissioned by the Medici. After the House of Medici was extinguished, the art treasurers remained in Florence by terms of the famous Patto di famiglia {"Family Pact"} negotiated by Anna Maria Luisa de' Medici (1667-1743), the last Medici heiress. Under terms of that Pact, signed 31 October 1737, she willed all personal property of the Medicis to the Tuscan State, providing nothing ever would be removed from Florence. Those art treasures formed one of the first modern museums. The gallery has been open to visitors since the sixteenth century and in 1765, it was officially open to the public. The Collection includes paintings by Piero della Francesca, Leonardo da Vinci, Titan, Raphael, Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Durer, Goya, Titan, Raphael, Michelangelo, Rubens, Velasquez, Rembrandt, and El Greco. According to Vasari, who was not only the architect of the Uffizi but also author of the *Lives of the Artists*, published in 1550 and 1568, artists such as Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo gathered at the Uffizi "for beauty, for work, and for recreation."

A paper on the Disarmament Conference¹⁰ was read by Dorothy Packard.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

April 12, 1933

On April 12, twenty nine We Neighbors and two guests met at the home of Mrs. Carolyn Rand. Routine business was carried on. The date of the Club luncheon was changed from April 26 to April 28.

Miss Helen M. King was the leader for the afternoon. Her subject of great interest to all present was "The Runabout Child."¹¹

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

April 19, 1933

On April 19, thirty four We Neighbors and three guests met at the home of Mrs. Lula Burnell.

The president opened the meeting. Reports of secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

It was announced that the luncheon would be held April 26 as first planned. The luncheon to be served at one o'clock. The entertainment committee asked each one to bring a baby picture.

¹⁰ The World Disarmament Conference, otherwise known as the Conference for the Reduction and Limitation of Armaments of 1932-1934, was an effort by member states of the League of Nations, together with the U.S. to actualize the ideology of disarmament. It took place in Geneva, Switzerland. A preparatory commission was initiated by the League in 1925. By 1931, there was sufficient support to hold a conference. The motivation was summarized in President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's message to the conference, namely "If all nations will agree wholly to eliminate from possession and use the weapons which make possible a successful attack, defenses automatically will become impregnable, and the frontier and independence of every nation will become secure." From the outset, the talks were beset with challenges. Disagreements occurred regarding the difference between "offensive" and "defensive" weapons. The increasingly militarized German governments could see no reason why their country could not enjoy the same level of armament as other powers, especially France. The French, for their part, were equally insistent that German military inferiority was their only insurance from future conflict. As for the British and U.S. governments, they were unprepared to offer additional security commitments that the French requested in exchange for limitation of French armaments. The talks broke down, and Hitler withdrew Germany from both the Conference and the League of Nations in October 1933.

¹¹ The "runabout child" refers to children age three to six, or preschool children. Comments on the subject usually refer to the work of William Palmer Lucas who published *The Health of the Runabout child – the Journey from His Mother's Lap to the School Gate*, New York: Macmillan Co., 1923. Lucas appeals to parents' responsibility to see wherein their own behavior becomes a predominating factor, especially in the mental growth of the child. Nutrition, diet, recreation and character training are also discussed.

Mrs. Rand was leader and reviewed the book "Once a Grand Duke."¹²

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Dorothy Packard, Sec.

April 26, 1933

The Luncheon which closes our Club year was held in the vestry April 26 '33. Thirty three members sat down to a most excellent luncheon and all did duty to it.

In the afternoon the business meeting was called to order by the President. In the absence of the Secretary, Bessie Burnell was elected to that position. Records of previous meeting read and approved.

The Nominating Comm. Gave their report, after which the following officers were elected.

Pres. Mrs. Mary Chase, V. Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Packard, Sec. Mrs. Helen Bragg, Treas. Mrs. Marjorie Davis.

Program Comm. Mrs. Louise Sweetser, chairman, Mrs. Jennie Burnell, Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser.

Voted that the Nominating Comm. appoint a Field day committee at a later date. Several suggestions as to entertaining the club the coming year were discussed. Voted to leave the matter in the hands of the Program Comm.

After discussion it was voted not to limit the Club membership.

Voted that the name of a prospective member be first suggested to the Club, and if approved, an invitation extended them from the Club.

A rising vote of thanks was given the retiring Pres. For her efficient work during the year.

¹² Alexander Mikhailovich of Russia (1866-1933) was related to the Russian Emperor, a naval officer, an explorer, and brother-in-law of the last Tsar, Emperor Nicholas II and served as advisor to him. His memoirs document that he openly challenged Tsaritsa Alexandra's political influence on her husband, and regretted that Nicholas did not use troops to resist the Russian revolution. He also admitted he had been brought up to share the anti-Semitic views he claimed were prevalent in Russia prior to the revolution. On March 19, 1917, the Emperor abdicated, and then became a prisoner with his family. A few days later, they would be executed by the Bolsheviks. During December 1918, Grand Duke Alexander left Crimea. In 1919, he and some of his Romanov relatives were rescued from the Crimea by the British battleship *HMS Marlborough*. Alexander then settled in Paris and wrote his memoirs, *Once a Grand Duke* (Farrar and Rinehart, 1933). He describes dynastical and court life in Imperial Russia's last half century. He died February 26, 1933.

After adjournment an interesting program from Station W. C. C. M. including television,¹³ was much enjoyed.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. Pro. Tem.

June 21, 1933

On June 21, twenty – six members and six guests spent a most enjoyable day with Mrs. Arno Chase at her cottage at Falmouth Foreside. Owing to the very cold water, only a few went swimming. Others enjoyed Jig Saw Puzzles.

A delicious picnic lunch was served at noon.

The afternoon was spent socially.

Everyone voted it a most delightful day and appreciated Mrs. Chase's hospitality.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

October 11, 1933

Twenty-seven members and three guests met at the home of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser, with Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser and Mrs. Harlan Sweetser as hostesses. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Chase.

Reports of Secretary & treasurer, read and approved. The names of Mrs. Andrew Craig and Mrs. Allan Blackmer were presented and it was voted that they be made members.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Miss Mira Dolley who gave us a most interesting talk on her six months in Europe. A rising vote of thanks was given Miss Dolley.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

¹³ In 1928, WZXB was launched as the world's first television station. Broadcasting from the GE facility in Schenectady, New York, it was popularly known as "WGY" television. IN 1933, RCA introduced an improved camera tube which was called an iconoscope. Unfortunately, this tube was noisy, had a high ratio of interference to signal, and ultimately gave disappointing results, especially when compared to the high definition mechanical scanning systems then becoming available.

October 18, 1933

Club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Mildred Doane with Mrs. Wyman as assistant hostess. Eighteen members present.

Sec'y and Treas. Reports read and accepted.

Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser gave a review of the book "Anne Sullivan Macy" by Nella Bradley.¹⁴ It was a most interesting story and altho very sad, was much enjoyed. The fact that Mrs. Stanton was at Radcliffe with Miss Keller added to the interest.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

October 25, 1933

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Ernest Burnell. Twenty three members present.

Records read and approved. After discussion it was decided that the members would dress in old fashioned costume and carry some antique to the next meeting.

Mrs. Barter gave a very interesting review of the book – House of Exile by Nora Waln,¹⁵ giving us a good idea of life in China.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

¹⁴ *Anne Sullivan Macy: The Story behind Helen Keller*, by Nella Bradley, published in 1933. Keller and Sullivan first met in 1924. For further information, refer to Chapter four, footnote 8 on Helen Keller and footnote 35 on Perkins Institute for the Blind.

¹⁵ Descended from a line of Quakers and sea captains, Nora Waln (1895-1964) was born to parents Thomas Lincoln and Lillian Waln. During childhood she developed a fond interest in Chinese culture, after hearing of a family friendship with the Lin family dating back to trading contacts during the 1880s. In 1919, she began attending Swarthmore College, a liberal arts college founded by Quakers. While studying there, Waln was contacted by two members of the Lin family who were traveling in the U.S. They invited her to visit their Hopei Province homestead in China. Waln left school before graduating. In 1920, she set sail for China. Upon arriving she was taken in by the Lin family as a "daughter of affection." Waln lived in the Lin house for 12 years and subsequently developed the idea for her memoir *House of Exile*. The family was considered "exiles" of the Canton Lin homestead because a Lin had been ordered by Kublai Khan, the Mongol Emperor (1260-1294) to help work on the Grand Canal in Hopei. Her 12 year memoir of her time in China as the adopted "daughter of affection" gave readers an inside look at Chinese culture and customs as well as the nation's political and public hardships. The memoir also reflected Waln's insider view of the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty. Her memoir, *House of Exile*, was published in 1933.

November 8, 1933

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Wallace Merrill. Thirty members and three guests present. Several were dressed in old fashioned costume creating much amusement.

Records read and approved. There being no business the afternoon was given over to Mrs. Pickard, who talked most interestingly of antiques. Antiques brought by various members were on exhibition.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

November 15, 1933

Club met at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell with Mrs. Harold Ross assistant hostess. Twenty four members, one guest, present.

Secretary's and treasurers report read and approved.

The programs for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Otto Davis who reviews the book "World Panorama."¹⁶ It was very interesting.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

November 22, 1933

Twenty three members and four guests were present at the home of Miss Harriet Blanchard on this date.

Secretary's report read and approved.

Mrs. Stanton was the leader and reviewed the book "People Worth Talking About" ¹⁷by Cosmo Hamilton giving sketches of W. D. Howells, John Galsworthy, P. G. Wodehouse, Gertrude Atherton, Gilbert Sullivan, Arnold Bennett, and Rex Beach. Also a sketch of Lady Astor as a girl called Tomboy of Virginia. It was all very interesting.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

¹⁶ *World Panorama, 1918-1933*, by George Seldes. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1933. Subjects include: influence of World War 1914-1918, economic history and world politics. Seldes (1890-1995) was an investigative journalist, influenced by Lincoln Steffens.

¹⁷ *People Worth Talking About* by Cosmo Hamilton (1872?-1942), New York: R. M. McBride & Co., 1933.

December 13, 1933

Fourteen members and one guest met with Mrs. Randall Sawyer as hostess.

Records read and approved.

As there was no business, the afternoon was given over to Mrs. Dunn who gave a most interesting review of the book "The Forty-niners" by Archer Butler Hulbert.¹⁸

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

January 10, 1934

Club met at the home of Mrs. Davis with Mrs. Dorothy Packard assistant hostess. Twenty four members and one guest present.

Secretary's report read and accepted.

Mrs. Mildred Doane was the leader and her subject was "About Ourselves."¹⁹ She read excerpts from several books. It was most interesting.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

January 17, 1934

Club met with Mrs. Hanson Sr. with Mrs. Hanson Jr. as assistant hostess. Twenty-eight members and two guests present. Secretary's report read and approved.

The President appointed the following committees for Gentlemen's Night.

¹⁸ *The Forty-niners: the Chronicle of the California Trail*, by Arthur Butler Hulbert, 1931. Drawing on material from original sources, the author invents a typical group of Forty-niners, in which he attaches a young man who keeps a journal during the overland journey. Hulbert (1873-1933) was a historical geographer and professor of American history. His interest in trails dated from fishing trips taken during College, when he noticed Indian trails. His book *Forty-niners* (1931) won a five thousand dollar prize from *Atlantic Monthly Magazine*.

¹⁹ "About Ourselves" appears to be a recurring theme of that time. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in his first inaugural spoke about the need "to minister to ourselves and to our fellowmen". The headlines of the *Chinese Nationalist Daily*, on June 28, 1933, urged "to save China, to save ourselves." Former President Herbert Hoover said, "We should occasionally mention something good about ourselves." He pointed to the unequalled level of American productivity and standard of living.

Supper Comm.: Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Bessie Burnell; Mrs. Beatrice Ross, Miss Harriet Blanchard.

Entertainment: Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Craig, Helen Bragg

Decorations: Miss Harriet S. Merrill.

Mrs. Jennie Burnell had Poetry as her subject. A most interesting program with many fine poems read by different members.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

January 24, 1934

Club met with Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Twenty-seven members and two guests present.

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Myrton Packard. Secretary's report read and approved.

The program – Living Pictures, was in charge of Mrs. Arno Chase. We were shown nine fine ones, showing evidence of much thought and work in preparing them.

The business meeting was conducted by Mrs. Chase. The supper comm. for Gentlemen's Night was changed to Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. F. H. Chase, Mrs. Harold Ross, and Miss Harriet Blanchard.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

Pictures shown Jan. 24:

A Woman Spinning – Maas - Jennie Barter

Nydia - Bodenhausen - Phyllis Sweetser

The Girl I Left Behind Me – Ferris - Mrs. Craig

The Laughing Cavalier – Franz Hals - Mrs. Davis

Saying Grace – Siegert - Mrs. Wyman

Dutch Woman – Hooch – Dorothy Packard

The Huguenot Lovers – Millais – Beatrice Ross and Ollie Blackmer

Queen Louise – Richter - Mildred Doane

Miss Nancy Pendleton – Stuart - Betty Sweetser

January 31, 1934

Club met at the home of Mrs. Walter Barter with Mrs. Dunn assistant hostess. Twenty seven members and two guests present.

Secretary's report read and approved.

Mrs. Harlan Sweetser entertained us by reading the play "The Late Christopher Bean"²⁰ in her usual charming manner.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

February 14, 1934

Nineteen members and one guest met with Mrs. Howard Blanchard.

Secretary's report read and approved.

²⁰ "The Late Christopher Bean" is a comedy adapted from *Prenez garde a la peinture* by Rene Fauchois. The play exists in two versions, 1932 and 1933. The play depicts the effect, on a respectable but not well-off family, of the discovery that paintings bequeathed to them by a neglected artist are now highly regarded and very valuable. The ensuing outbreak of avarice affects most of the household, except for the family's maid, who remains uncorrupted. Virtue is finally triumphant.

Mrs. Perry Burnell reviewed the Book "Lincoln the Unknown" by Dale Carnegie²¹. A very interesting review.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg Sec.

February 28, 1934

Twenty two members met at the Library, with Mrs. Arno Chase acting as hostess.

Records read and approved. Voted to pay Bertha Merrill \$11.05 for the chickens, for postponed Gentlemen's Night.

Mr. Campbell²² of Portland gave us a most interesting talk, taking as his subject, The World of Books, as seen thru the eyes of a Book Man.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

March 14, 1934

Twenty nine members and two guests met with Mrs. Geneva Chase with Mrs. Helen Bragg as assistant hostess.

²¹ This book is a biography of Abraham Lincoln written in 1932 by Dale Carnegie (1888-1955). One spring day, while Dale Carnegie was having breakfast at a London hotel, he came across a column in the *Morning Post* newspaper entitled "Men and Memories". On that particular morning and for several subsequent mornings, that column was devoted to Abraham Lincoln – the personal side of his career. Aroused by the articles, Carnegie went to the British Museum Library and read several books on Lincoln. The more he read, the more fascinated he became. As a result, he resolved to write a book on Lincoln himself. He began work in Europe, continuing for a year, and then followed by more two years in New York. Finally, he tore up what he had written and tossed it into the wastebasket. Then he went to Illinois to write about Lincoln on the very ground Lincoln himself dreamed and toiled. For months, he lived among people whose fathers had helped Lincoln survey land, build fences, and drive hogs to market. For months, he delved among old books, letters, speeches, and musty court records, as he tried to understand Lincoln. He spent one summer in the little town of Petersburg, located only one mile from the restored village of New Salem, where Lincoln had spent the happiest and most formative years of his life. The same white oaks under which Lincoln studied were still standing. Carnegie wrote half of the chapters in his book under those trees. He often went alone to the woods along the banks of the Sangamon, on summer nights, realizing that on such nights Lincoln and Ann Rutledge, his first love, had walked over the same ground. Carnegie also wrote many of the chapters in Springfield, some in the sitting room of the old home where Lincoln lived and some at the desk where Lincoln composed his first inaugural address, and others above the spot when Lincoln came to court and quarrel with Mary Todd.

²² Mr. Campbell, specializing in sales of books first at Loring Short and Harmon then at his own Campbell's Book Store located on Congress Street, was a friend and consultant for a few members of We Neighbors, especially Mrs. Harriet C. Merrill.

Records of last meeting read and approved.

Voted not to hold Gentlemen's Night this year.

Voted to pay Miss Harriet Merrill for favors made for Gentlemen's Night.

Voted to pay \$3. For the use of the Library.

Mrs. Craig gave us a paper on "Our Movie Made Children." She read from a book by Mr. Forman,²³ giving us many facts of the influence of movies on children and adolescents. Also, from a book *The Child and His Home*.

Adjourned to meet with Mrs. Arno Chase. Refreshments served after adjournment.

Bessie P. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

March 21, 1934

Club met at the home of Mrs. Arno Chase. Twenty seven members and one guest present. Records read and approved.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer read from the book "Marching Along" by John Philip Sousa.²⁴ A most interesting account of his life and experience. Mrs. Chase played two records of Sousa's Marches.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

March 28, 1934

Twenty two members and one guest met with Mrs. Stanton.

²³ This paper, no doubt, was based on a preliminary article in which Henry James Forman (1879-1966) presented his findings on "Our Movie Made Children". From 1929-1933, at the request of the Motion Picture Research Council, Forman collected data on the influence of movies on children and adolescents. Despite his loose interpretation of the data, Forman delivered exactly what supporters of the studies desired, namely movies can have a powerful and influential effect on the attitudes, emotions, and behavior of children. He appealed to parents, saying there must be further study on how to use film to the best advantage for their children and to put pressure on filmmakers to produce better quality and morally agreeable products. Forman's findings were published in 1935 in a book titled *Our Movie Made Children*. Mrs. Andrew Craig was the wife of the Rev. Andrew Craig, pastor of Cumberland Congregational Church, 1933-1937.

²⁴ Published in 1928, toward the end of his life, this book, *Marching Along: the Autobiography of John Philip Sousa*, presents insightful reflections of a world-class musician who charmed audiences around the world. Known as America's first superstar, Sousa (1854-1932) conducted more than 14,000 concerts, composed a hundred tunes, and wrote three Broadway musicals. Even so, as revealed in his autobiography, he was essentially a man of humble nature.

Meeting called to order by the Vice President. Mrs. Dorothy Packard, in the absence of the President.

Records read and approved.

Voted to pay \$1.50 for expenses of guest speakers.

The Nominating was named as follows: Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser, Mrs. Mildred Doane.

The committees for Club Luncheon:

Luncheon Comm.: Mrs. Bertha Merrill, Mrs. Jennie Barter, Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Mrs. Anna Blanchard

Entertainment: Mrs. Otto Davis, Mrs. Helen Sawyer, Mrs. Louise Sweetser

Mrs. Wallace Merrill was the leader for the afternoon, taking as her subject "Pleasure from Pictures"²⁵ reviewing the book by that name by Dr. Henry T. Baily. Many pictures were shown.

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

April 11, 1934

Club met with Mrs. Lula Burnell with Mrs. Alice Doughty assistant hostess. Twenty two members and two guests present.

Secretary's report read and accepted.

Mrs. J. Mardin DeShon was the speaker for the afternoon, giving a very interesting talk on "Birds".

After adjournment, refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

April 18, 1934

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Edith Sawyer, seventeen members and one guest being present.

The President, Mrs. Chase presided. The Secretary's report was read and approved.

The Nominating Committee presented the following list of officers for the ensuing year:

Pres. Mrs. Myron Packard, Vice Pres. Mrs. Otto Davis, Sec. Mrs. Andrew Craig, Treas. Mrs. Ernest Burnell

²⁵ Henry T. Bailey, *Pleasure from Pictures*, American Library Association, 1926, 33 pages. Graduate of Massachusetts Normal Art School in 1887, Bailey played a key role in the development of industrial drawing in Massachusetts schools. In 1901, Bailey (1865-1931) became editor of *School Arts*.

Program Com. Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Walter Barter, Mrs. Howard Blanchard

Mrs. Chase spoke of the Federation Meeting to be held in Portland April 27th and urged as many as possible to be present.

Mrs. Chase also spoke of several other matters for club members to keep in mind, among them being:

A Bazar to be held during the summer months, with an exhibition of quilts, antiques, etc. a minuet by the children and admission to be charged.

Also the matter of closing the club meetings by April 1st for another year was discussed.

Voted to pay \$5.00 royalty fee to the Walter Baker Co for the use of play "Joint Owners in Spain"²⁶ to be used at Club Luncheon Entertainment.

Mrs. Laura Wyman's review of "The Diary of Julia Newbury"²⁷ proved most interesting and amusing and called forth a rising vote of thanks by those present.

Following adjournment, refreshments were served by the hostess.

Marjorie E. Davis, Sec. pro tem

April 25, 1934

On this date thirty-one members and two guests met at the Church Vestry for the annual Club Luncheon. A delicious luncheon was served by the committee after which we were entertained by a play, "Joint Owners in Spain" excellently given, and Solos by Mrs. Helen Sawyer.

The business meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Mary Chase. Records read and approved.

Voted to send notes of regret at their inability to attend to Mrs. Fickett, Mrs. Rand and Mrs. Hamilton. A bouquet was also sent each one, as was also, a copy of the Club Ode, written for the affair by Mrs. Chase.

Voted that any member who can't entertain next year, shall pay \$1.50.

Voted to invite Lillian Hanson to joining the club.

²⁶ "Joint Owners in Spain" is a comedy in one act for four female actors. Written in 1913 by Alice Brown (1857-1948), the play was produced at the Waldorf Theater in New York, May 6, 1929. The play was published by Walter Baker Co. of Boston, MA and a five dollar Royalty Fee was requested for each performance. Simple, endearing and charming, the play teaches sympathy with those who have to live in an old ladies' home.

²⁷ *The Diary of Julia Newberry* was written by Julia Rosa Newberry (1853-1876), the younger daughter of Walter Loomis Newberry (1804-1868), an American business man and philanthropist best known for his bequest that resulted in the establishment of a non-circulating reference library known as the Newberry Library, in Chicago..

Voted that the Nominating Comm. name a Field Day committee later. Mrs. Chase invited us to her camp again this year.

Mrs. Chase again called our attention to the Federation Meeting.

The nominating Committee presented the following officers and they were declared elected.

Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Packard

Vice Pres. Mrs. Marjorie Davis

Sec. Mrs. Andrew K. Craig

Treas. Mrs. Jennie Burnell

Program Committee: Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Mrs. Jennie Barter

A rising vote of thanks was given our out-going President, Mrs. Chase and she presented the gavel to Mrs. Packard.

Voted to adjourn.

Helen F. Bragg, Sec.

July 18, 1934

At our last meeting, July 18, we were entertained at Mrs. Arno Chase's delightful cottage.

Twenty one members and one visitor were present. After a picnic lunch, games and stunts were enjoyed by all. Later a short business meeting was held.

It was voted to ask Mrs. Crandall to become a member of the club.

It was also voted to ask the secretary to send a written note of invitation to Mrs. Crandall.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig, Sec.

October 10, 1934

The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Program committee's reports were read and approved. Mrs. Fickett and Mrs. Davis expressed their thanks for boxes and flowers sent them while ill.

It was voted that Mrs. Leslie Cole, Mrs. Theodore Jordan, Mrs. Gerald Packard and Mrs. Kenneth Chase be asked to become members of the club.

Mrs. Bragg gave us a resume of the most outstanding news items of the past few weeks.

“Twelve Tests of Character” by Harry Emerson Fosdick²⁸ was reviewed by Mrs. Andrew Craig.

After the meeting was adjourned, delicious refreshments were served by our hostess, Mrs. Ernest Burnell.

A short social time followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig, Sec.

October 17, 1934

Thirty five members and four guests met at the home of Mrs. Glendon Doane, with Mrs. Archie Wyman as assistant hostess. Mrs. Otto Davis, our vice president presided over the business meeting.

It was voted to read the by-laws at some meeting in the near future.

Mrs. C. Omar Porter reviewed “Anthony Adverse” by Henry Allen.²⁹

Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Pickard were given a rising vote of thanks.

Refreshments were served and an informal discussion of the book was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted.

Mabel D. Craig, Sec.

October 24, 1934

Thirty one members and two guests of We Neighbors Club were delightfully entertained by Mrs. James Sawyer with Mrs. Frank Doughty assisting.

²⁸ Twelve Tests of character by Henry Emerson Fosdick was published in 1923 by Harper and Bros. of New York. Fosdick (1878-1969) was an American pastor who became a central figure in the “Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy” within the American Protestant Church during the 1920s and 1930s. This book presents some of the fundamental tests of character which a new generation is apt to forget. Fosdick asserts everything rests on integrity and the driving power of personal character. Among the twelve tests are the following ones: Prioritize “First Things First”, self-control, self-esteem, imagination, ability to discover happiness in difficult situations, disciplined living, magnanimity (glad for any chance to help), and the power to see it through. Of all the virtues, Fosdick says, patience is the most difficult.

²⁹ *Anthony Adverse* by Hervey Allen was published by Farrar Rinehart Inc. in 1933. Set in Europe during the Napoleonic era, this book offered a multitude of characters and picturesque settings within a complex plot. The book’s undisguised passages about sex and its considerable length introduced a new standard for popular fiction.

Mrs. J. Marden DeShon, guest speaker of the afternoon, took us with her through the medium of post cards and her own enthusiastic descriptions, on her first European trip. We experienced all the thrills of receiving telegrams, steamer letters, and huge boxes of flowers as we entered our state room and enjoyed the quiet and peace of a weeks ocean trip on a great German liner. Arriving in Paris we felt quite at home because of our introduction to that beautiful city by Miss Dolly, last fall. Several never to be forgotten weeks were spent in France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, England and then home by the same steamer, and our dreams also, had almost come true.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet C. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

October 31, 1934

Twenty nine members and one guest met at the home of Miss Harriet Blanchard, Mrs. Alice Fickett, assistant hostess.

Mrs. Harold Bragg opened our eyes to the many pleasures of stamp collecting. She read two interesting articles and exhibited stamps owned by different enthusiasts in Cumberland.

After adjournment, delicious refreshments were served and stamps thoroughly discussed. We all departed to hunt in our attics for any and all old stamps!

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig, Sec.

November 15, 1934

Thirty two members met at the home of Mrs. Andrew Craig. Pres. Mrs. Dorothy Packard presided. Secretary's report read and accepted. By-laws were read by Secretary.

Mrs. Bragg, in charge of Current Events reviewed the happenings of the past month, bringing to our attention many news items of interest.

Committees for Gentlemen's Night were named by the President as follows:

Supper Committee: Mrs. Howard Blanchard, Mrs. Randall Sawyer; Mrs. Allan Corey; Mrs. James Sawyer,
Mrs. Frank Doughty, Mrs. Harold Stanton.

Entertainment Comm.: Mrs. Frank Chase, Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Andrew Craig

Decoration Comm.: Mrs. Harold Ross

Discussion of plans for Gentlemen's Night followed and the desirability of making some change from the usual supper and entertainment was talked of but no action was taken in the matter.

Mrs. James Dunn reviewed "Crowded Hours" by Alice Roosevelt Longworth³⁰ in her usual interesting and unique style, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Following adjournment refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Davis, Sec. pro tem

November 21, 1934

The meeting was called to order by our president. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

The meeting was then turned over to the leaders for the afternoon – Mrs. Randall Sawyer and Miss Virginia Sweetser who cast a magic spell around us, woven from the works of the immortals. They chose for their topic: "The Three B's – Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms." Taking turns reading short sketches from the lives of these great men, they then sang and played typical compositions. Mrs. Randall sang, Miss Sweetser accompanying, following with several piano solos.

All music lovers look forward to this particular club program and enjoy it immensely, feeling peculiarly fortunate in having such gifts in our midst and so generously shared.

After the program, the meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were served by our hostess, Mrs. Arno Chase.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

³⁰ *Crowded Hours* by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, New York: Scribner's 1933. Oldest child of President Theodore Roosevelt, she had a unconventional and controversial life. When her father took office in 1901 following the assassination of President William McKinley, Alice became an instant celebrity and fashion icon at the age of 17. In her social debut in 1902, she wore a gown the color of which was to become known forever afterwards as "Alice blue". Known as a rule-breaker in an era when women were under great pressure to conform, she smoked cigarettes in public, rode in cars with men, stayed out late partying, kept in the White House a snake named Emily Spinach (Emily for her spinster aunt and spinach for its green color), and was seen placing bets with a bookie. During a cruise to Japan, Alice jumped into the ship's pool fully clothed and coaxed Congressman Longworth to join her. In her autobiography, *Crowded Hours*, Alice made note of that event, pointing out there was little difference between the linen skirt and blouse she had been wearing and a lady's swim suit of the period. She brought back enough silk from China for a life time of beautiful dresses. Her marriage to Representative Nicholas Longworth III, a party leader and 43rd Speaker of the US House of Representatives was shaky and her only child Paulina was allegedly the result of an affair with Senator William Borah of Idaho.

December 12, 1934

The president called the meeting to order, secretary and treasurer reports were read and approved.

The supper committee inquired as to the amount they should spend on Gentlemen's Night supper.

It was moved that someone be hired to wash the dishes.

Mrs. Gertrude Bragg gave us interesting highlights in the news of the last month.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Arno Chase and her program of the afternoon, showing "Living Portraits." Everyone had a grand time recognizing old favorites among the pictures and guessing who the models were.

After the meeting was adjourned, twenty nine members and three guests enjoyed a social time, while refreshments were served by the hostess, Mrs. Herman Sweetser.

Pictures presented:

1. St. Catherine – Correggio - Mrs. Wyman
2. Portrait of Geo. Fiske – Holbein
3. Hosea – Sargent Mrs. Herman Sweetser
4. Mlle. Sophia Arnould – Greuze - Mrs. Linwood Crandall
5. The Girl I Left Behind Me – Ferris - Mrs. A. Craig
6. Letter for the Squire – Millar - Mrs. Lester Cole
7. Lady Blessington – Sir Thomas Lawrence - Mrs. Doane
8. Mates Dolorosa – Guido Reni - Mrs. P. Ross
9. Head of a Young Girl – Ian Kamier;
10. Dutch Girl Reading – de Hooch - Mrs. Otto Davis.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

December 19, 1934 – Gentlemen's Night

In spite of a very bad storm, a goodly number of ladies and their gentlemen gathered at the church vestry. The vestry was beautifully decorated with greens, streamers, candles and a big Christmas tree.

After a few words of welcome from our president, all gathered at the tables to enjoy the delicious supper which the committee had prepared.

After supper, games, stunts and contests (including a Rogue's Gallery) were enjoyed by all.

January 9, 1935

On this date 27 members met with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg and Miss Harriet Merrill as assistant hostess,

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. The Sec and Treas reports were read and accepted.

The Pres. thanked those who served on Committees for Gentlemen's Night,

Voted the next Gentlemen's Night be some date after Christmas.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Bragg and her News Flashes of the past month. Mrs. Bessie Burnell's "Our Family Trees" was most interesting. When she had finished each one was related to the next one. After adjournment, refreshments were served by the hostess.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec. pro tem

January 16, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Millard Burnell. Twenty eight members were present.

The president presided over the business meeting. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The program for the afternoon was a review of Dr. Grenfell's book "The Romance of Labrador"³¹ by Mrs. Archie Wyman. She related interesting stories of his adventures so enthusiastically that one was almost persuaded to leave one's cozy fireside and follow the example of this unusual man in a far away land.

After the meeting was adjourned refreshments were served and a social time enjoyed.

³¹ Wilfred T. Grenfell (1865-1940), an English medical missionary, spent 40 years working in Northern Newfoundland and the coast of Labrador. An English doctor knighted by King George V, Sir Grenfell established hospitals, schools, an orphanage and cooperatives. In the process, he helped improve health care, education, and economic standards of many coastal inhabitants, 1892-1932. He retired to Charlotte, Vermont in 1932. Dr. Grenfell and his wife Lady Anne Grenfell opened the well-known Dog Team Tavern, a teahouse and shop, in Middlebury Vermont. Their goal was to establish another source to benefit the people of Labrador and Newfoundland by selling their handicrafts. His book, *The Romance of Labrador*, published in 1934 by Macmillan Co., recounts aspects of his mission in that country.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel Craig

January 23, 1935

The We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Walter Barter with Mrs. Evelina Dunn acting as assistant hostess.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and approved.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Wallace Merrill who gave a resume of the findings of the committee which conducted the Federal Survey of the educational problems³² facing our nation.

After the meeting was adjourned refreshments were served by the hostess.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

January 30, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Harold Ross with Mrs. Henry Hanson, Jr. acting as assistant hostess. Twenty three members were present.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The reports from secretary and treasury were read and approved.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Harold Stanton who gave a very interesting and entertaining review on "Russia's Iron Age"³³ by William Henry Chamberlain.

³² The Depression placed an unprecedented burden upon the educational system by sharply reducing available revenue at a time when enrollment was increasing. Scarcity of funds reduced expenditures for maintenance of school buildings, sites and equipment. The problem was particularly acute in rural areas. The budget for books was cut by one-third, 1933-1934. Expenditures for music, domestic arts, physical education, and health supervision was drastically reduced and in many instances eliminated, on the theory that these were educational frills and luxuries that could not be afforded when money for "more essential" studies was lacking. Teachers suffered during the Depression due to unemployment and reduced salaries.

³³ Chamberlin, William Henry, *Russia's Iron Age*, Boston: Little Brown, 1934. Chamberlin focuses on the decision of Soviet leaders to drive forward at a furious pace the industrialization of the country. The consequences of this decision entailed taking away from peasants the individual method of farming, banishing the last remains of private ownership, and instituting a gigantic all-embracing system of a centralized state. All these changes were brought about with such uncompromising and ruthless disregard of the human cost that the period may fairly be called "Russia's Iron Age."

After the meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

February 13, 1935

Twenty eight members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Howard Blanchard.

The meeting was called to order by the president. After the secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted; a note was read from the Ladies Circle. They graciously offered the use of their dishes to the Club, whenever they wished to borrow them.

News flashes were enjoyed, then Mrs. Walter Barter regaled with the topic "A Guide to Civilized Loafing."³⁴

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

February 20, 1935

Mrs. Randall Sawyer was hostess to the We Neighbors Club. Seventeen members were present.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Howard Blanchard, who reviewed "How Peary reached the pole." by Donald B. MacMillan.³⁵

Refreshments were served after adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

³⁴ Overstreet, Harry Allen, *A Guide to Civilized Loafing*, New York: W. W. Norton, 1934. This book is a practical guide for the reader who is meeting the challenge of increased leisure. Opportunities include healthy exercise, games, and hobbies. Emphasis is placed on the importance of right thinking and individual responsibility toward society.

³⁵ MacMillan, Donald B. *How Peary Reached the Pole: the personal story of his assistant*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1934. MacMillan (1874-1970) used the journal he kept during Peary's 1908-1909 expedition to provide an intimate view of day-to-day activities and relationships with other members of the party. He tells how he learned to drive dog teams, camp in sub-zero temperatures, and travel safely across the ice-covered Polar Sea. We see Arctic landscapes and Inughuit culture as MacMillan experienced them. In addition, he tries to clarify questions regarding Peary's achievement.

February 27, 1935

The meeting was called to order by the president, at the home of Mrs. Geneva Chase, with Mrs. Harold Bragg as assistant hostess.

The reports of the secretary and the treasurer were read and approved.

The program committee was very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Linwood Crandall. He gave us an interesting history of the drama and read the one act play. "Bargains in Cathay" by Rachel Field.³⁶

A delightful afternoon it was, and we hope he can be on the program for years to come.

After adjournment refreshments were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie D. Barter, Sec. pro tem

March 13, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Wallace Merrill. Twenty nine members were present.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary and treasury reports were read and accepted.

The president then appointed the following committees.

Luncheon Committee: Mrs. Glendon Doane, Mrs. Perry Burnell, Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Linwood Crandall

Decorations in charge of Mrs. Walter Barter

Nominating Committee: Mrs. James Dunn, Mrs. Edward Merrill, Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr.

Our "Lowell Thomas" had the usual interesting reports of doing about the country. Mrs. James Sawyer officiating in this capacity.

The rest of the afternoon was given to Mrs. Harold Ross who talked on "My Garden." She told us many interesting and amusing incidents of a beginner with lots of enthusiasm and very few rocks. She succeeded in giving us all the fever; ranging from rock gardens to pond lilies! We are expecting Cumberland Center to be a positive bower of bloom this summer, as a result.

³⁶ Field, Rachel, "Bargains in Cathay", New York, 1927. Rachel Field (1894-1942) was a novelist, poet, and children's literature writer. She is best known for her Newbery Award winning book, *Hitty, her first hundred years* which was published by Macmillan Co. in 1929.

After adjourning, refreshments were served and we went home with our heads full of ideas for our Garden.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig Sec.

March 20, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Allan P. Corey, with Mrs. Linwood Crandall acting as assistant hostess.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The president named Mrs. Harold Bragg to serve on the Nominating Committee in the place of Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. who is too ill to serve.

A fiery debate claimed our attention for the rest of the afternoon.

The subject under discussion was Resolved: That the Townsend Old Age Revolving Pension plan should be adopted by the United States.³⁷

The speakers for the affirmative were: Mrs. Otto Davis and Mrs. Perry Burnell.

The speakers for the negative were: Mrs. Myrton Packard and Mrs. Herman Sweetser

The judges were: Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. and Mrs. Glendon Doane.

The decision of the judges went to the Negative side.

The meeting was adjourned. Refreshments and a social time was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig

³⁷ Francis Everett Townsend (1867-1960) was an American physician who was best known for his revolving old-age pension proposal during the Great Depression. Dr. Townsend published his plan in a Long Beach, CA newspaper in early 1933. He was surprised by the swift and massive response. Townsend had tapped a major social problem,, namely, poverty among the elderly, and the nation was crying out for a solution. His plan was distributed nationwide in pamphlet form during 1934. Townsend expected President Roosevelt to endorse his plan, but Roosevelt saw the Townsend Plan as irresponsible and unworkable. However, there is evidence that the "Townsend Plan" influenced the establishment of the Roosevelt administration's Social Security system.

March 27, 1935

Twenty one members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Stanton.

The president opened the meeting. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Mrs. Ernest Burnell gave a fascinating account of the history of quilting and patchwork, showing how authentic records of historic events have been preserved in our quilts.

Mrs. Edward Merrill was in charge of the interesting display of quilts, both old and modern; which was on exhibit.

For the Club Luncheon, it was voted to use the money in the treasury and solicit both food and money from the members, as needed.

The meeting was adjourned. Refreshments were served and further inspection of the quilts enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig Sec.

April 10, 1935

The meeting of the Club was held at the home of Mrs. Otto Davis on this date, twenty-two members being present. Sec'y and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The Nominating Committee reported as follows:

President - Mrs. Otto Davis

V. President - Mrs. Andrew Craig

Secretary - Mrs. Ernest Burnell

Treasurer - Mrs. Wallace Merrill

Program Committee: Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Doane, Mrs. Perry Burnell

Picnic Com.: Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Walter Barter.

Mrs. Doane reported each member will be assessed .35 for the Club Luncheon unless otherwise solicited.

Mrs. Gertrude Bragg was the Lowell Thomas of the day and read some interesting items of news, also a piece showing the detriment of the pari-mutual law.

Miss Harriet Merrill gave us a very interesting paper and original poem on rug making which was much enjoyed.

Mrs. Millard Burnell, Sec. pro tem

April 17, 1935

The meeting of the We Neighbors club was held t the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr., twenty three members being present.

The reports of the sec'y and treasurer were read and accepted.

The chairman of the nominating committee reported that Mrs. Gertrude Bragg would serve as chairman of the program committee, instead of Mrs. Craig.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Glendon Doane, who gave us the feeling of being personally acquainted with Clara Laughlin whose book "Traveling thro' Life"³⁸ she reviewed.

After delicious refreshments and delightful sociability, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel D. Craig, Sec.

April 24, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met at the vestry for luncheon at 1 o'clock.

Thirty six members enjoyed a most delicious meal and gay sociability.

Directly after lunch, a call came for Mrs. Craig at the door, where she was presented with a daintily decorated May-basket filled with tiny articles for the "Little Minister"³⁹ from members of the club. It was a timely and much appreciated gift.

³⁸ Laughlin, Clara, *Traveling Through Life*, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1934. Clara Laughlin (1873-1941) graduated from Chicago High School, but did not attend college. She was literary editor for *The Interior (Chicago)* from age 18 for ten years. She wrote more than 35 books, including biographies of Sarah Bernhardt, Ferdinand Foch and James Whitcomb Riley. . She was a manuscript reader and literary advisor for several publications. In 1922, she founded the Clara Laughlin Travel Service, specializing in foreign travel advice for women. This book is her autobiography.

³⁹ Mrs. Craig is the wife of the minister of Cumberland Congregational Church. "The Little Minister" is a 1934 American drama film starring Katharine Hepburn. The screenplay is based on the 1891 novel and subsequent 1897 play of the same title by J. M. Barrie. Set in rural 1840s Scotland, the plot focuses on labor and class issues, while telling the story of Gavin Dishart, a staid cleric newly assigned to Thrums' Auld Licht church. Babbie, a member of the nobility, disguises herself as a gypsy girl in order to interact freely with local villagers and protect them from her guardian Lord Rintoul, who wants to keep them under his control. Initially, the conservative Dishart is appalled by the feisty girl, but he soon comes to appreciate her inner goodness. Their romantic liaison scandalizes the townspeople, and the minister's position is jeopardized until Dishart's heroism stuns and transforms the hearts of the local villagers.

After the dishes were washed, Mrs. Davis, in Mrs. Packard's absence, called the meeting to order. The out-going president was given a rising vote of thanks, instructing the secretary to convey their appreciation to her.

Mrs. Mary Chase welcomed the new president, in the absence of the president. The other new officers were duly received and installed.

It was voted that members who know they cannot attend a meeting shall call the vice president, who will notify the hostess the total number of absentees.

The picnic committee announced the picnic sometime in June. The meeting was then adjourned to the call of the picnic committee.

The remainder of the afternoon was given over to enjoying a play -

Secretary Reports for year 1935-1936, Cumberland Center, Maine

October 9, 1935

The first meeting of the We Neighbor's Club for the year 1935-1936 met at the home of Mrs. J. A. Sawyer on October 9th with Mrs. Randall Sawyer assistant hostess. There were twenty-two members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Otto Davis. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

As there was no business the time was given to Mrs. Mary Woods of Cap Elizabeth who gave a few suggestions about gardens and lawns. She also gave a very interesting account of her trip to California by automobile as a delegate from the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine.

A rising vote of thanks was given Mrs. Woods.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

October 16, 1935

The meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Otto Davis on this date with Mrs. Harold Stanton assistant hostess. There were twenty-four members and two guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

The meeting was in charge of Miss Rose Pearl Danforth who introduced Mr. Harry A. Kenning, a Red Cross worker from the South who spoke very enthusiastically on the subject of "First Aid Stations on the Highway."

Plans were made and a committee chosen to organize a class in First Aid work.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Secretary.

October 23, 1935

On this date the Club met at the Prince Memorial Library with Mrs. Glendon Doane and Mrs. Laura Wyman hostesses. There were twenty-nine members and one guest present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

As there was no business the time was given to Mrs. Hocker from Westbrook who gave a very interesting paper on "Early American Glassware." She brought with her a fine exhibit of glassware from her collection which included pieces of Wisterburg,¹ Stiegel² and Sandwich³ ware.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell. Secretary.

October 30, 1935

The meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Henry W. Hanson with Miss Lillian Hanson assistant hostess. There were twenty four members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Davis. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

Miss Harriet Merrill had the topic Current Events and read some interesting news items.

¹ Caspar Wistar (1696-1752) was on a business trip in Salem County, New Jersey to sell buttons when he noticed Alloway a having an abundance of items needed to make glass: shite sand, clay, and wood. He realized it would be a good location to develop a glass factory. Wistar bought about 2000 acres of land, eight miles from Salem, New Jersey, and established Wistarburgh Glass Manufacturing, which was in operation from 1738-1782. He arranged to have certain experienced professional European professional glass artisans to come to America to build and run the factory. Wistar instituted a profit-sharing arrangement with four professional European glassmakers. This glass factory, the first successful glass factory in America, made glass bottles at about 15,000 bottles a year.

² Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785) was a German American glassmaker and ironmaster. After arriving from Germany in 1750, he took a job in Philadelphia and two years later moved to Lancaster County, PA to work with Jacob Huber an ironworker. Stiegl built a glassworks, later called American Flint Glassworks. Work began in 1768. He imported Venetian, German and English glass workers to make utilitarian vessels and fine tableware. Stiegl is remembered for the high equality blue, purple, green and crystal clear glassware he produced.

³ The Boston and Sandwich Glass Company was incorporated in 1826 to hold the glass factory built a year earlier in Sandwich, MA by Deming Jarves. The factory was closed in 1888 amid disputes with a newly formed glassmakers' labor union. The factory was one of the earliest to produce pressed glass. Pressed glass (also referred to as pattern glass) is a form of glass made using a plunger to press molten glass into a mold. It was first patented by an American investor John P. Bakewell in 1825 to make knobs for furniture. By the mid nineteenth century most inexpensive mass-produced glassware was pressed (1850-1910). One type of pressed glass is carnival glass. Painted pressed glass produced in the early twentieth century is often called goofus glass. This method is also used to make beads.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Harold Stanton who had for her subject "Penal Conditions in the South." She read from George Cable's book, "The Silent South"⁴ and an article on "Chain Gangs"⁵ from Harper's Magazine which gave us a vivid picture of the horrors of these institutions.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Secretary.

November 13, 1935

The meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Wallace Merrill with Mrs. Bertha Merrill assistant hostess. There were twenty-four members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres., Mrs. Davis. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

Miss Harriet Merrill had the topic Current Events, and read some interesting topics of the day.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Millard Burnell who had an interesting paper on "China and Glassware of Our Grandmother's Day." Many beautiful pieces of china and glassware were on display.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

November 20, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met at the Prince Memorial Library on November 20th with Mrs. Walter Barer and Mrs. Evelina Dunn as hostesses. There were twenty-eight members and three guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Davis. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

⁴ George Washington Cable (1844-1925) was an American novelist notable for realism in his portrayals of Creole life in his native New Orleans, LA. Cable was a public advocate for black equality during and after Reconstruction. Son of a slaveholder and soldier in the Confederate cavalry, Cable saw slavery and the attempt to deny the freedmen full public rights as moral wrongs. Confronted with violent abuse in the Southern press, he nevertheless succeeded in publishing two collections of his social essays, *The Silent South* (1885) and *The Negro Question* (1888). He abandoned his effort only after discrimination in the South had become entrenched. In 1886, he settled in Northampton, MA.

⁵ A chain gang is a group of prisoners chained together to perform menial or physically challenging work as a form of punishment. Such punishment might include repairing buildings, building roads or clearing land. "I am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang" is an award winning movie released in 1932. It depicted the degrading and inhumane treatment in chain gangs in the post-World War I era.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Ronald Bridges of Sanford who talked on "Maine Authors". He carried us back to the day of the older Maine writers, C. V. Stevens, Holman F. Day, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Then we gave brief reviews on some of the books written by present day authors, speaking at length on the works of four: Mary Ellen Chase,⁶ Rachel Field,⁷ Robert Coffin,⁸ and Gladys Hasty Carroll.⁹

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

December 11, 1935

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Geneva Chase with Mrs. Harold Bragg assistant hostess. There were twenty-one members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. The reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

A note of thanks from Mrs. Mary Chase was read thanking the Club for the basket of fruit sent to her in her recent illness.

⁶ Mary Ellen Chase (1887-1973) was an American educator, teacher, scholar, and author. Born in Blue Hill, Maine, Chase received her Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota. Chase wrote more than 30 books, using her cherished Maine heritage as a setting. Two of her most famous books are *Mary Peters* (1934) and *Silas Crockett* (1935). She is regarded as one of the most important regional literary figures of the early twentieth century.

⁷ Rachel Lyman Field (1894-1942) was born in Stockbridge, MA. At age 15, she first visited Maine and fell under the spell of its "island scattered coast." *Calico Back* (1931) still stands as a near-perfect creation of people and place in a story of courage.

⁸ Robert Peter Tristram Coffin (1892-1955) was a poet, writer, and educator. Native of Brunswick, Maine, he graduated from Bowdoin in 1915. Coffin regarded poetry as a public function that should speak well of life so that people might find inspiration. In vigorous, colloquial verse, he expanded particular incidents of his youth in Maine in order to describe experiences that would be universal to all Americans. His autobiography, *Lost Paradise*, was published in 1934.

⁹ Gladys Hasty Carroll (1904-1999) was born in Rochester, New Hampshire. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to the farmhouse her grandfather built in Dunnybrook, Maine during the Civil War. Nearby Berwick Academy (alma mater of 19th century writer Sarah Orne Jewett) prepared her for college and in 1921 she enrolled in Bates College in Lewiston Maine. There she met and fell in love with a psychology student named Herbert A. Carroll. The day after she received her A. B. from Bates in June of 1925, they were married at the college chapel. Professor Herbert Carroll's first teaching post was at the University of MN, so the young bride left the only home she had ever known in rural Maine. To quiet her homesickness for rural Maine, she began writing stories about it. Her first book, *Cockatoo* (1928) and her second, *Land Spell* (1929) were aimed at juvenile audiences. Her third book, *As the Earth Turns* (1933) sought an adult audience and it became her most successful work. Telling the bucolic rapture of life in rural Maine, with no trace of irony, Carroll's novel was dismissed by modernists as mere sentimentalism and nostalgia, especially considering it was written at the height of the Great Depression. In fact, the book embodied honest realism, recording the sunny side of real life which the other "realists" often ignored. The novel became an instant best seller, and was translated into sixty languages. Warner Brothers bought the film rights and in 1935 released a movie version.

On Dec. 6th fourteen members of the We Neighbors Club visited the Women's Club at Yarmouth. The meeting was held at the Village Inn with Mrs. Hardy Simonton, Mrs. Tucker, and Mrs. Lane hostesses.

Three minute papers on "Better Homes", "Better Reading" and "Better English" were given. Miss Ellen Wilson gave a very interesting account of her trip to California.

Delicious refreshments were served and a very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed.

The program for the afternoon of Dec. 11th was a very interesting book review on the "Life of Samuel Clemens" by Albert Bigelow Paine.¹⁰ Mrs. Myrton Packard, leader.

Delicious refreshments were served.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

January 8, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser with Mrs. Theodore Jordan assistant hostess. There were thirty members and two guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and approved.

As there was no business the afternoon program was in charge of Mr. John T. Gyger who talked very entertainly on his trip to Europe when he attended an educational convention at Oxford, England. He visited Iceland, Norway, Denmark, and Russia and told of his reception in the different countries and something of their customs. A very pleasant afternoon was enjoyed.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

January 15, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry W. Hanson Jr. on this date with Mrs. Harlan Sweetser assistant hostess. There were thirty-two members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Davis.

The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

The President appointed the following committees for Gentlemen's Night.

¹⁰ *Mark Twain: A Biography. The Personal and Literary Life of Samuel Langhorne Clemens*, by Albert Bigelow Paine (1861-1937). The biography was published in 1907.

Supper Committee: Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Geneva Chase, Mrs. Theodore Jordan, Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Myrton Packard.

Decorating Committee: Mrs. Herman Sweetser and Mrs. Leslie Cole.

Entertainment Committee: Mrs. Henry W. Hanson Jr. and Miss Lillian Hanson.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Evelina Dunn who gave a very interesting review of the book "North to the Orient" by Anne Lindbergh.¹¹

After the meeting was adjourned, delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

January 22, 1936

The meeting of the We Neighbor's Club was held at the Prince Memorial Library with Mrs. Leslie Cole and Mrs. Gerald Packard hostesses. There were thirty members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Davis.

We were much pleased to have Mr. Linwood Crandall speak to us this year. He limited his subject "Poetry" to the magazine poets and read several poems written by Daniel Whitehead Hickey,¹² Mary

¹¹ Anne Morrow Lindbergh (1906-2001) was an American author, aviator, and wife of aviator Charles Lindbergh. She married Charles Lindbergh on May 27, 1929 at the home of her parents in Englewood, New Jersey. That year she flew solo for the first time and in 1930 became the first American woman to earn a first class glider pilot's license. Their first child was born on her 24th birthday, June 22, 1930. Twenty months later, March 1, 1932, that child was kidnapped. Frenzied press attention paid to the Lindberghs particularly after the kidnapping of their son and later the trial, conviction and execution of the alleged kidnapper, prompted Charles and Anne to retreat to England and later to a small island off the coast in Brittany, France. Her book *North to the Orient* (1935) is the account of Anne and Charles Lindbergh's 1931 flight from the United States to Japan and China through the northern route over Alaska. It also documents their work as volunteers during the relief efforts for the Central China flood of 1931. This book became a best seller and its first edition of 25,000 copies sold out within days, and the book was into its third printing by the end of the week.

¹² Daniel Whitehead Hickey (1900-1976) was a prominent Atlanta poet, recognized as "one of the most widely published poets in America."

Carolyn Davies,¹³ Chas. Hanson Towne,¹⁴ Nancy Byrd Turner,¹⁵ Dorothy Kimball, Ogden Nash¹⁶ and Robert Coffin. A delightful afternoon was enjoyed by all.

Delicious refreshments were served after adjournment.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

January 29, 1936

The We Neighbor's Club held their meeting at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell on this date with thirty members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted.

Current Events by Miss H. Merrill.

Mrs. Frank Fickett had the program for the afternoon which was very entertaining. Several of the members were asked to read poems, jokes, monologues and even an original play by Mrs. Gerald Packard which included all the Club members in the cast of characters.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

February 12, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Howard C. Blanchard on Feb. 12th with Miss Harriet Blanchard assistant hostess. There were twenty-two members present.

¹³ Mary Carolyn Davies was born in Sprague, WA in the early 1890s and moved to Portland, OR when she was 12. She attended University of CA-Berkeley for one year where she won the Emily Chamberlin Cook Prize for poetry. She was first woman to win Bohemian Prize for Poetry. She moved to NY Greenwich Village and worked as a freelance writer. Then she moved back to Portland OR. In the 1930s she returned to NY. Little is known of her life after that. No records of her death.

¹⁴ Charles Hanson Towne (1877-1949) is an author, poet, editor and popular NY celebrity. At age 3, he moved from Kentucky to NY with his family. Much of his writing celebrates New York City.

¹⁵ Nancy Byrd Turner (1880-1971) was American poet, editor, and lecturer. In 1917, she moved from Virginia to Boston to join the editorial staff of the *Youth's Companion*. In 1922, she was an editor for the *Atlantic Monthly*. She joined the MacDowell art colony in 1925 and remained there until 1944. Her work appeared in *Good Housekeeping*, *Harper's Magazine*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and the *New Yorker*.

¹⁶ Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was an American poet well known for his light verse. Nash was noted for his surprising pun-like rhymes. Sometimes he deliberately misspelled words for comic effect.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read accepted.

It was voted to take \$15.00 from the treasury for the supper Feb. 19th.

Miss Harriet Merrill read some interesting current events.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Herman Sweetser who had for her subject "Shawls and Antiques." She gave an interesting account of samplers, silhouettes, dolls and shawls and had a fine exhibit of the different types of each period. Many beautiful shawls were displayed.

Delicious refreshments were served after adjournment.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

February 19, 1936

On the evening of Feb. 19th the We Neighbors with their gentlemen met at the vestry to observe the annual "Gentlemen's Night".

After a delicious supper of roast pork, baked potatoes, peas, pickles, jelly rolls, cake, ice cream and coffee a welcome to the gentlemen was given by the President and a toast to them by Mrs. Craig to which Mr. Ernest Rand responded. Mrs. Alice Fickett gave a toast to the charter members and Mrs. Laura Wyman gave the response.

The entertainment committee Mrs. Ruth Hanson and Lillian Hanson had a very pleasing program. First there were two vocal solos by Mrs. Helen Sawyer, then a farce entitled "It Ain't My Fault,"¹⁷ with the following characters; Mrs. Harold Ross, Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr., Miss Lillian Hanson, Harold Ross, Harold Bragg and Dana Chase.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

February 26, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Harold Ross on this date with Mrs. Myrton Packard assistant hostess. There were twenty-seven members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted.

It was voted to make Mrs. Lizzie Blanchard an honorary member of the Club.

¹⁷ "It Ain't my Fault" is a one act play by Katharine Kavanaugh, born in 1875. Jimmie Blake, a reporter from the Inquirer, tries to get an interview at DeKalb School with Elise Morton, daughter of a Wall Street celebrity, who has apparently disappeared.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Laura Wyman who gave a very interesting review of the book "Samuel Gridley Howe" written by his daughter Laura E. Richards.¹⁸

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

March 11, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Andrew Craig on this date with Mrs. Frank Fickett, assistant hostess. There were twenty-three members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and approved.

Miss Harriet Merrill read some interesting current events.

Mrs. Ernest Burnell reviewed the book "Cape Cod Yesterdays" by Joseph C. Lincoln.¹⁹

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

March 25, 1936

The We Neighbor's Club met with Mrs. Allan P. Carey on this date with Mrs. Linwood Crandall assistant hostess. There were thirty-one members and seven guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice President Mrs. Craig.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted.

A vote was taken to have the members furnish the refreshments when the Yarmouth Club visits us.

¹⁸ Laura E. Richards (1850-1943) wrote more than 90 books, including biography, poetry, and several books for children. Her father was Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, an abolitionist and founder of the Perkins Institute and Massachusetts school for the Blind. She was named after his famous deaf-blind pupil Laura Bridgman. Her mother was Julia Ward Howe who wrote words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. In 1871, Laura married Henry Richards, who would accept a management position later in 1876 at his family's paper mill in Gardiner, Maine. Laura Richards edited the *Letters and Journals of Samuel Gridley Howe*, Boston: Dana Estes and Co, 1909. Two years later, she told the story of her parents, Samuel Gridley Howe and Julia Ward Howe in her book *Two Noble Lives*, Boston: Dana Estes and Co., 1911.

¹⁹ Joseph Crosby Lincoln, *Cape Cod Yesterdays*, Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1935. This book is a folk history of life on Cape Cod and documents the fishing life and rural coastal life of the area. Lincoln is known for his many fictional works set in Cape Cod.

Much credit is due Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Harold Ross for their splendid program the "Fashion Show" which began with demure Priscilla Alden and gradually advanced to the modern evening gown of the present. Many beautiful gowns were shown and appropriate music and readings added to the enjoyment.

The evolution of hats, nightgowns and bathing suits was very interesting as well as musing.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

April 15, 1936

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Burnell on this date with nineteen members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Davis. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and approved.

The President named the nominating committee for the coming year as follows: Mrs. Ernest Rand, Mrs. Laura Wyman and Mrs. Theodore Jordan.

Current Events by Mrs. Bragg.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Walter Barter who had for her subject "Voices of Today." After an interesting introduction, she spoke at length on the life of Huey P. Long.²⁰

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

April 22, 1936

The We Neighbors club entertained the Yarmouth Club on this date at the home of Mrs. Arno S. Chase. There were thirty four members and eighteen guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the President. The business meeting was omitted.

²⁰ Huey Pierce Long, Jr. (1893-1935), nicknamed "Kingfish", was an American politician who served as the 40th Governor of Louisiana from 1928-1932 and as a member of the US Senate from 1932 until his assassination in 1935. A Democrat, he was an outspoken populist who denounced the rich and the banks. He is best known for his "Share the Wealth" program created in 1934 under the motto "Every Man a King." It proposed new wealth redistribution measures in the form of a new asset tax in corporations and individuals to curb the poverty and homelessness endemic nationwide during the Great Depression. To stimulate the economy, Senator Long advocated federal spending in public works, schools and colleges, and old age pensions. He was an ardent critic of the policies of the Federal Reserve System.

The program for the afternoon was in charge of Mrs. Louise Sweetser and Mrs. Helen Sawyer. Mrs. Sweetser read "Peer Gynt"²¹ and Mrs. Sawyer was the pianist.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Geneva Chase, Mrs. Linwood Crandall, Mrs. Leslie Cole, and Mrs. Helen Bragg.

Jennie F. Burnell. Sec.

April 29, 1936

Thirty-two members of the We Neighbors Club met at the vestry on Apr. 29 for their annual Club luncheon.

The menu was salmon, scallops, salad, rolls, pickles, lemon pie, and coffee.

After the luncheon there was a business meeting and the officers for the coming year were installed as follows:

Jennie Burnell, Pres., Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Vice Pres., Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Secretary, and Mrs. Margaret Hart, Treasurer.

The program committee for the coming year are: Mrs. Helen Sawyer, Mrs. Dorothy Packard and Mrs. Leona Crandall.

The picnic com.: Mrs. Harriet Merrill, Bessie Burnell, and Jennie Barter.

The entertainment committee Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Theodore Jordan presented a play entitled "Reveries or Pipe Dreams of a Bachelor". Then a contest was enjoyed.

Jennie F. Burnell, Sec.

August 5, 1936

On this date the "We Neighbors" were entertained at Mrs. Wallace Merrill's camp at Highland Lake. Nineteen members were present.

The committee, Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. Bessie Burnell and Mrs. Jennie Barter, served a delicious picnic lunch. Bathing was enjoyed by some. We were very sorry that some were kept away by sickness.

A most enjoyable day was spent by those present.

²¹ Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) wrote his five act allegorical drama *Peer Gynt* in 1867, while living in Italy. It tells the story of downfall and subsequent redemption of a Norwegian peasant anti-hero. In 1874, Ibsen wrote his friend and compatriot Edvard Grieg to ask if he would compose the music for a production of the play. The movements of Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite One* comprise "Morning," "The Death of Ase," "Anitra's Dream," and "In the Hall of the Mountain King." Second to Grieg's Piano concerto, *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1* is the composer's most popular work.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

October 14, 1936

The first meeting of the year the "We Neighbors Club" met with Mrs. Leslie Cole with Mrs. Gerald Packard assistant hostess. There were nineteen members present.

The records were read and accepted and several letters of thanks were read.

Mrs. Linwood Crandall was elected treasurer to take the place of Mrs. Margaret Hart.

Voted to extend the courtesy of membership to Mrs. Bertha Merrill for the year.

The names of Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Stewart and Mrs. Sanborn were proposed for membership and accepted.

A vote of thanks was given to the Program Com.

For the afternoon program Mrs. Crandall took us on a trip to Oregon and back which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Pictures and photographs added to the interest.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

October 21, 1936

On this date the We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Edith Sawyer with Mrs. Helen Sawyer assistant hostess. There were sixteen members and three guests present. The sec. and treas' reports were read and accepted.

Letters of thanks were read.

The name of Mrs. Stanley Blanchard was proposed for membership and accepted.

The afternoon was then given to Miss Margaret Wyman²² who treated us to a year in Columbia University, which was very much enjoyed. A rising vote of thanks was given Miss Wyman.

The meeting was adjourned to meet next with Mrs. Jennie Burnell.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

²² Margaret Wyman is the daughter of Laura Wyman and the twin sister to Mildred Wyman Doane.

October 28, 1936

On this date the We Neighbor's Club met with Mrs. Jennie Burnell. Twenty three members and two guests were present.

The Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The afternoon was then given over to Mrs. Anna Blanchard who gave a very interesting book review of "Pacific Adventure."²³

After adjournment to meet next with Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

November 18, 1936

On this date the We Neighbors club met with Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser with Mrs. Florence Sturdivant as assistant hostess.

The Sec. and Treas' reports were read and accepted.

The afternoon was then given to Mrs. Bessie Burnell who gave us an afternoon of fun. It was enjoyed by all and showed to a great advantage what we knew and what we did not know.

After adjournment the hostesses served delicious refreshments. Twenty members and two guests were present.

Marjorie Chase, Sec.

December 9, 1936

On this date Mrs. Helen Sawyer entertained the We Neighbors Club with the program committee acting as hostesses. Twenty one members were present.

Routine business was conducted by the President. This was a Christmas meeting and Mrs. Jennie Barter read many interesting articles on the subject "Christmas in Other Lands."

The Club was adjourned to meet on Jan. 13, 1937 with Mrs. Anna Blanchard and Miss Harriet Blanchard.

Christmas candies were served by the hostesses.

²³ Willard Price (1887-1983 was a Canadian born American traveler, journalist, author. He lived in Japan from 1933-1938 and witnessed increased militarization. He visited 148 countries and circled the globe three times. He wrote *Pacific Adventure*, published in New York by Reynal and Hitchcock, in 1936. Its subjects include Micronesia, Ethnology, and Japan.

Carolyn H. Rand, Sec. pro tem

December 31, 1936

On this date a special meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at Prince Memorial Library. Eleven members were present.

The meeting was opened by the President. A letter from the Women's Club of Yarmouth inviting us to attend their regular meeting Jan. 15, 1937 was read. This matter was voted on by ballot.

Voted not to accept the invitation.

Voted to adjourn.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

January 13, 1937

On this date the We Neighbors Club were entertained at the home of Mrs. Anna Blanchard with Miss Harriet Blanchard assistant hostess. 24 present.

The meeting was opened by the President. The Sec and Treas reports were heard and approved.

The meeting was turned over to the vice president who introduced Mrs. Jennie Burnell. She gave us a very interesting and amusing hour with American Humorists.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served.

Marjorie M. Chase, sec.

January 20, 1937

The We Neighbors Club were entertained on this date at Mrs. Bessie Burnell with Mrs. Crandall assistant hostess. The Sec. and Treas reports were read and accepted.

The afternoon was given to Mrs. Laura Wyman. She reviewed Eleanor Abbot's "Being Little in Cambridge when Everyone Else was Big"²⁴ which was surely a trial to Mrs. Abbot. The afternoon was very amusing.

The meeting was adjourned to meet next with Mrs. Beatrice Ross.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

²⁴ Eleanor Abbot (1872-1958) was a nationally recognized American author and frequent contributor to *Ladies Home Journal*. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts daughter of a clergy man and granddaughter of a noted children's author, Jacob Abbot, she grew up surrounded by religious and literary luminaries such as Longfellow and Lowell. Her book, *Being Little in Cambridge When Everyone Else was Big*, was published in New York by Appleton in 1936.

January 27, 1937

The We Neighbors Club was entertained on this date at the home of Mrs. Beatrice Ross with Mrs. Myrton Packard assistant hostess. There were 23 members present.

The Sec. report was read and accepted.

Voted to give five dollars (\$5.00) toward the flood disaster.

The afternoon was in the hands of Mrs. Caroline Rand, who took for her subject Colonial History. Mrs. Barter read many interesting extracts from a family history and Mrs. Helen Sawyer also read from the book Barton's Mill which told of the hardships our forefathers experienced. We were glad to be living in modern times.

The meeting was adjourned to meet Feb. 10, with Mrs. Rand.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

February 10, 1937

On this date Mrs. Ervin Stuart entertained the We Neighbors Club with Mrs. Kenneth Chase assistant hostess. Twenty three members were present.

The Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. Report was given by the Pres. Mrs. Bragg gave a report of the Red Cross Fund collected for Flood Relief.

The afternoon was then given to Mr. Linwood Crandall who gave a very interesting and amusing review of Romeo and Juliet.²⁵

After adjournment to meet next with Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr., refreshments were served.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

February 17, 1937

On this date the We Neighbors Club was entertained by Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. and Miss Lillian Hanson. Twenty three members and one guest were present.

The meeting was opened by the Pres. The Sec report was heard and accepted. There was no Treas. Report.

The pres. named the following members as a committee for Gentlemen's Night Supper:

²⁵ "Romeo and Juliet" is a tragedy written by William Shakespeare early in his career about two young star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately reconcile their feuding families. It was one of Shakespeare's most popular plays during his lifetime and, along with "Hamlet", one of his most frequently performed plays.

Supper: Anna Blanchard, Lula Burnell, Jennie Barter, Gertrude Bragg, Phyllis Sweetser

Decoration: Beatrice Rose, Marjorie Chase

Entertainment: Carolyn Rand, Lillian Hanson, A. Packard

The afternoon was given to Mrs. Theodore Jordan who gave a most interesting report of "Lighthouses of the Maine Coast," after which delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

February 24, 1937

On this date Mrs. Lester Bragg and Miss Harriet Merrill entertained the We Neighbors Club.

The meeting was opened by the Pres. The Sec report was read and accepted. There was no Treas. Report.

The afternoon was then given to Mrs. Frank Fickett who read a very interesting paper on Historic Shrines, and also showed many beautiful card and pictures.

Twenty one members were present.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Majorie M. Chase, Sec.

March 10, 1937

On this date the We Neighbor's Club was entertained by Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. with Mrs. Theodore Jordan as assistant hostess.

The meeting was opened by the Pres. The Sec report was heard and accepted. The Treas. Report was given by Mrs. Walter Barter.

Voted that \$1.50 be allowed the Com. for decoration for Gentlemen's night.

The afternoon was then given to Miss Edwards who entertained us with many interesting and instructive experiences in her field of Social Welfare Work. After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

March 17, 1937

At this time the "We Neighbors" entertained their gentlemen at the Vestry. A very delicious supper was served.

A welcome to the gentlemen was given by the President and a toast to them was given by Mrs. Glendon Doane, while Mr. Ervin Stuart gave a very clever response.

After the supper was served, and the dishes were being washed, stunts were enjoyed by all. A very catchy spelling match was put on and then the "Sit Down Strikers"²⁶ of the Katz Manufacturing Co, gave us a very pleasing entertainment.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

March 24, 1937

Mrs. Evelina Dunn and Mrs. Walter Barter entertained the We Neighbors Club on this date. Twenty two members were present.

The meeting was opened by the President. The Sec and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The afternoon was given to Mrs. Herman Sweetser who reviewed Mary Ellen Chase's "This England,"²⁷ very pleasantly. "This England" is amusing and instructive. It shows us many lovely scenes and customs and it also makes us appreciate our own beautiful America.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

²⁶ Sit-down strikes in 1936 and 1937 constituted the heart of the social movement that enabled the Committee for Industrial Organization (CIO) to unionize hundreds of thousands of workers. CIO organizers met fierce resistance from the nation's leading corporation. This growing polarization made Franklin Delano Roosevelt's landslide reelection in 1936 seem to be a referendum on the Industrial New Deal, especially in working class communities. "You voted New Deal at the polls and defeated the auto barons," organizers told the Michigan workers late in 1936, "now get a New Deal for the shop." In the 1930s a decade defined by class warfare, 1936 was the pivotal year when the sit-down strike made the transition from a little used tool to a key weapon. In 1936, 43% of US auto industry belonged to General Motors. Its profits for the year totaled nearly 284 million dollars. Its assets were valued at 1.5 billion dollars. The company had 37% of worldwide car and truck market. GM President Alfred P. Sloan was highest paid executive in the country. On February 11, 1937, after 44 days Flint strikers marched out, leading a two mile parade that was joined by thousands and thousands. Relations between labor and capital would never be the same.

²⁷ Chase, Mary Ellen, *This England*, New York: Macmillan, 1936. This book presents essays and anecdotes to encourage understanding of English people and the countryside.

April 14, 1937

At this time Mrs. Laura Wyman and Mrs. Mildred Doane entertained the We Neighbors Club. Twenty four members and two guests were present.

The meeting was opened by the Pres. The Sec and Treas' reports were heard and accepted. The program com. reported that the entertainment planned for the Club Luncheon might be presented on the afternoon of April 21, and the speaker planned for that date shall have the afternoon of the Club Luncheon.

The President appointed the following committees:

Nominating: Mrs. Evelina Dunn, Mrs. Alice Fickett and Mrs. Anna Blanchard.

For the Club Luncheon: Mrs. Dorothy Packard, Mrs. Marguerite Jordan, Mrs. Antoinette Packard and Miss Harriet Blanchard.

The afternoon was then given to Mrs. Harriet Merrill who displayed many old papers, letters, and diaries, all very interesting and valuable.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

April 21, 1937

On this date Mrs. Carolyn Rand entertained the members of the We Neighbors Club. Twenty two members were present.

The meeting was opened by the pres. The Sec' report was read and accepted. The resignation of Mrs. Leona Crandall the Club Treasurer was read and accepted.

The nominating Committee presented the following slate for the coming year.

Pres. Mrs. Harriet Merrill

Vice Pres. Mrs. Marjorie Chase.

Sec. Mrs. Gray

Treas. Mrs. Antoinette Packard.

Programme Com. Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Ruth Hanson, Miss Harriet Merrill

Field Day Com.: Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Mrs. Alice Fickett.

The afternoon was then turned over to the Ladies of the Club. Each member brought some topic of entertainment which was all very interesting.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

April 28, 1937

On this date "We Neighbors" held their annual Club Luncheon in the Church Vestry. At 1 o'clock (D.S.T.) twenty two members and two guests enjoyed a delicious luncheon of cold ham, mashed potatoes, salads, rolls, coffee ice-cream and crackers.

Following were jokes from each member.

Mrs. Florence Sturdivant gave an interesting reading of some of her experiences as a Club member. Toasts were given by Mrs. Carolyn Rand and Miss Harriet Merrill, after which all the members joined in singing the Club Ode.

The business meeting was opened by the Pres. The Sec' and Treas' reports were read and accepted. The Sec. cast one vote for the following slate:

Pres. Mrs. Harriet Merrill, (Mrs. Marjorie Chase Vice Pres.), Sec. Mrs. Gray, Treas. Mrs. Antoinette Packard, and they were elected for the following year.

Program Com. Mrs. Laura Wyman, Mrs. Ruth Hanson, Miss Harriet Merrill

Field Day Com, Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, Mrs. Alice Fickett.

A rising vote of thanks was given the retiring president.

After adjournment Mrs. Roberts entertained us very pleasantly with her travel through the Grand Canyon and across the ocean into Australia, first by telling her experiences followed by pictures which she took. Her display of articles brought from foreign lands was beautiful both amusing and instructive. A rising vote of thanks was given her for her splendid afternoon of entertainment.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

July 21, 1937

On this date the We Neighbors Club was entertained at Mrs. Wallace Merrill's camp by the shores of Casco Bay, So. Freeport. Sixteen members and five guests were present. The weather was ideal and the setting perfect – which gave all a delightful outing.

The club is grateful to the committee Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Mrs. Anna Blanchard, and Mrs. Alice Fickett for transportation, and other arrangements.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed at noon.

Once more the club thanks Mrs. Merrill for her cordial hospitality.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

October 13, 1937

The We Neighbors Club met for its opening meeting this year at the home of Mrs. Mildred Doane, her mother acting as joint hostess.

Owing to the illness Mrs. Harriet Merrill, the new President, was unable to be present. Mrs. Marjorie Chase, the vice President being in the chair. Eighteen members were present.

The Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted.

The names of Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Rawson and Mrs. Farwell were proposed for membership and accepted.

A rising vote of thanks was given the Program Com. for the very fine programs which were distributed.

Miss Beach gave a very interesting talk on Maine Minerals.²⁸

After the meeting was adjourned, the hostesses served delicious refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

October 20, 1937

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Evie Burnell with seventeen members present.

Mrs. Wallace Merrill in the chair. It was announced that there would be a change in the programs for the meeting of Oct. 27th. It would meet with Mrs. Fickett with Mrs. M. Burnell in charge of the program, as announced for Nov. 10th.

The names of Estelle Blanchard and Grace Quarrington were proposed for membership and were accepted.

Mrs. James Dunn entertained us with a very interesting review of the book "Kennebec, Cradle of Americans" by Robt. Tristram Coffin.²⁹

²⁸ Many of the best minerals in Maine are found in an igneous rock called "pegmatite" which is very coarse-ground granite. Some pegmatites are enriched in uncommon minerals such as beryl, topaz, and colored tourmaline.

²⁹ Coffin, Robert Tristram, *Kennebec, Cradle of Americans*, New York: Farrar and Rinehart, 1937. This is the story of the Kennebec River and people who lived beside it, from the Popham Plantation in early 1600s to the 1930s. The narrative reflects Coffin's intimate knowledge of the Maine landscape, his love for ships and the men who sailed them, and his warm feeling for the people who farmed the Kennebec's banks. This book is the first entry in the Rivers of America series, launched in 1937.

Meeting was adjourned after which the hostess served delicious tea.

Christine S. Gray, sec.

October 27, 1937

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Frank Fickett with twenty members present. Mrs. Merrill in the chair.

The Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted.

It was voted to send a "Comfort-Bag" to Miss Gladys Hamilton who is a patient in the Maine General Hospital. Mrs. Ernest Burnell and Mrs. Howard Blanchard were appointed a committee to see that the basket is sent by the first of next week.

Mrs. Millard Burnell presented an interesting review of "Searching for your ancestors" by Gilbert Harry Doane.³⁰

News events read by Mrs. Doane.

³⁰ Doane, Gilbert Harry and James B. Bell, *Searching for Your Ancestors: The How and Why of Genealogy*, New York: MacMillan, 1937. This book is an amateur genealogist's guide to the methodology involved in tracing family histories over 35 ethnic groups. It now is a piece of history, chronicling what genealogy was like before the internet. Mrs. Burnell, the presenter, became an informal consultant in the Cumberland community for those seeking to discover their own genealogical roots.

Mrs. Gerald Packard on Charlotte Carr new leader of Hull House.³¹ Mrs. Perry Burnell and Mrs. Jordan on Japan and Mrs. Merrill on "King Cotton."³²

The meeting was adjourned to meet with Mrs. James Sawyer. Nov. 10th

The hostess served delicious refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

November 10, 1937

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Edith Sawyer with nineteen members and three guests present.

Our President: Mrs. Merrill opened the meeting. In the absence of the secretary, Alice Fickett was appointed secretary pro tem. The secretary's report was read and accepted.

A letter from Mrs. Crandall thanking the club for a plant sent during her recent illness was read.

Mrs. Jennie Burnell gave a report on a comfort-bag sent to Gladys Hamilton who is reported as improving. Mrs. Stuart gave an announcement of a card party at the home of Mrs. Chapman at West Cumberland for the benefit of the Gamma Phi Chi.

³¹ The Hull House was a settlement house located in the Near West Side of Chicago, Illinois and co-founded by Jane Addams and Ellen Gates Starr in 1889. By 1911, Hull House had grown to 13 buildings. By 1920, the movement had grown to almost 500 settlement houses nationally. At its inception in 1889, Hull House became a "community of university women" whose main purpose was to provide social and educational opportunities for working class people in the surrounding neighborhood composed mostly of immigrants. The "residents" (volunteers at Hull House) held classes in literature, history, art, domestic activities such as sewing, as well as many other subjects. Hull House held concerts, free to everyone, offered free lectures on current issues, and operated clubs for both children and adults. In 1892, Addams published her thoughts on what has been described as "the Three R's" of the settlement house movement: residence, research, and reform. Addams ran the Hull House until her death in 1935.

³² King Cotton was a slogan summarizing the strategy used by the Confederacy during the Civil War to show that secession was feasible and there was no need to fear war with the United States. The argument was that control over cotton exports would make an independent Confederacy economically prosperous, ruin the textile industry of New England, and most importantly would force Great Britain and perhaps France to support the Confederacy militarily because their industrial economies depended on Southern cotton. The slogan was widely believed throughout the South and helped in mobilizing support for secession. By February 1861, the seven states where economies were based on cotton plantations had all seceded and formed the Confederacy (C.S.A.). Meanwhile the other eight slave states, with little or no cotton production, remained in the Union. To demonstrate the power of King Cotton, Southern cotton merchants spontaneously refused to ship out their cotton in early 1861. By the summer of 1861, the Union Navy blockaded every major Confederate port and shut down over 95% of exports. Since British mills had large stockpiles of cotton, they were not injured by the boycott. On the contrary, the value of their stockpiles soared. For Britain to intervene, it meant war with the U.S. and a cutoff of food supplies. The British never believed in King Cotton, and they never intervened. Thus the strategy proved to be a failure for the Confederacy. This false belief led to the unrealistic assumption that the war would be won by European intervention, if only the Confederacy could hold out long enough.

The afternoon was then turned over to Miss Harrison and Mr. Hooper who came to us from the Maine School for the Blind. Miss Harmon gave us a very interesting account of the early history of the teaching of the Braille System for reading for the blind. She told us that the first school for the blind was started in 1832 at Perkins Institute by Dr. Howe in South Boston.

After she finished Mr. Hooper demonstrated the Braille system on his typewriter³³ made especially for that work and told us much about his experience in learning it.

A movement to adjourn was made and approved. After which delicious refreshments were served.

Alice C. Fickett, Sec. pro tem

November 17, 1937

The We Neighbors Club were entertained at the home of Mrs. Ervin Stuart, twenty six members being present.

Mrs. Merrill, the president, presided at the business meeting. Minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and approved. Treasurer's report read and accepted.

A letter was read from Gladys Hamilton thanking the club members for the gifts sent her while at the hospital. She had returned home improved in health.

Mrs. Rand announced that there would be a Christmas tree party at her home on December 15th, asking the members to bring a gift wrapped in Christmas wrapping accompanied by a verse.

During the remainder of the aft. Mrs. Helen Sawyer entertained the club with stories of Folk Songs, very graciously singing a number for us, among which were "Drink to Me Only With Thine Eyes," "Old Folks at Home," "My Old Kentucky Home," "Beautiful Dreamer," "Deep River," "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," "Nobody Knows". This feast of music was a rare treat, very much appreciated by all present.

After the meeting was adjourned the hostess served delicious refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

December 8, 1937

The We Neighbors club was entertained at the home of Mrs. Randall Sawyer. Nineteen members present. Our president Mrs. Merrill presided. The secretary's report was read and approved.

³³ This early attempt at adapting the Braille system to the typewriter was rudimentary and cumbersome, However, it was a forerunner of the Perkins Brailier. This "braille typewriter" has a key corresponding to each of the six dots of the braille code, a space key, a backspace key, and a line space key. Like a manual typewriter, it has two side knobs to advance paper through the machine and a carriage return lever above the keys. The rollers that hold and advance the paper have grooves designed to avoid crushing the raised dots that the Brailier creates.

The president called on the club to stand in honor of one of our members present celebrating her 87th birthday today. All joined in congratulating Mrs. Bonney [?] and wishing her continued health and happy days.

Mrs. Howard Blanchard gave us a very interesting and entertaining talk on Alaska.

The meeting was adjourned to meet next Wed. with Mrs. Rand for the Christmas party.

The hostess was assisted by Mrs. James Sawyer, Mrs. Rand, and Mrs. Barter in serving delicious refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

December 14, 1937

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Rand for a Christmas party twenty six members being present.

Mrs. Merrill, our President, called the meeting to order. Secretary & Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Assisting Mrs. Rand for the committee were Mrs. Ervin Stuart & Mrs. Theodore Jordan.

Much fun was had as the gifts were distributed from under the Christmas tree which graced the dining table. As the gifts were opened and the accompanying poems read it was agreed we had real poetic talent in our midst.

After the meeting was adjourned delicious refreshments were served. All joined in thanking the hostess for a very merry party.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

December 29, 1937

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Howard Blanchard. Thirteen members and two guests being present.

Meeting called to order by the President and the records and Treas. Reports read and accepted.

Mrs. Merrill appointed the following committees for Gentlemen's Night:

Supper Com: Mrs. Gray, Mrs. K. Chase, Mrs. Gerald Packard, Mrs. James Sawyer, Mrs. Stuart

Decorations: Mrs. Randall Sawyer, Mrs. Howard Blanchard

The afternoon was then turned over to Mrs. Ernest Burnell whose subject was Hobbies. She gave us a very interesting afternoon with many ideas to follow. Short articles on Current Events were read.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served.

Bessie Burnell, Sec. pro tem

Jan. 12, 1938

On this first meeting of the We Neighbors Club in the near 1938, our president opened her home for the occasion.

Mrs. Merrill presided. Reports of the Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. Twenty members were present.

Our president suggested that when members cannot be present at a meeting, it was sometimes a help to the hostess to let her know.

Mrs. Fickett had charge of the entertainment for the aft. handling the subject of Wit & Humor very entertainingly followed by a selection from the writings of Eric Kelly – a Polish folk story of the Little Shepherd much enjoyed by all.³⁴

Following the adjournment of the meeting the hostess served delicious refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

January 19, 1938

The Annual supper and entertainment was held by We Neighbors club in the vestry of the church – about fifty members and guests being present.

Following the delicious supper the President, Mrs. Merrill, welcomed our guests introducing Mrs. Booth, who toasted our gentlemen. Mr. Rand replying for the gentlemen. Mrs. Alice Fickett gave a toast to the Founders of the Club reading a poem written by a former member Miss Nellie Sweetser who lived in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart.

The Club was founded in 1894 and these are four of the charter members living: Mrs. Evie Dunn, Mrs. Laura Wyman, Miss Hattie S. Merrill, & Mrs. Evie Sweetser, three of these members being present. Mrs. Frank Davis – wife of the pastor of the church here, started the club and the club have endeavored to maintain the high standard she desired for it – in a literary sense.

Mrs. Merrill replied for the Founders.

³⁴ Full title of the story is "Lead Not Forth O Little Shepherd." The message is the shepherd will do anything for his sheep. We owe obedience to our shepherd, and he loves us.

Two very entertaining sketches were put on "Paris Set the Style" by Mrs. Ruth Hanson and Miss Lillian Hanson. "Truant Husbands" ³⁵by Mrs. Jordan & Mrs. Marjorie Chase.

The remainder of the evening was spent informally with games, etc. bringing a very pleasant occasion to a close.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

January 26, 1938

On this date the "We Neighbors Club" met at the home of Mrs. Walter Barter. Twenty-six members being present.

Our president, Mrs. Merrill presided. The Secretary and Treas. Reports were read and approved. Mrs. Merrill spoke with appreciation of all who helped make Gentlemen's Night a success.

Mr. Linwood Crandall's reading of "Andrea Del Sarto" by Browning³⁶ was very much enjoyed by all.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the hostess.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

February 9, 1938

On this date the We Neighbors club was held at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase, sixteen members and one guest being present.

The president, Mrs. Merrill, presided. Secretary and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The entertainment for the afternoon was in charge of Miss Harriet S. Merrill who gave us a very interesting talk on "Trees" and some Famous Trees in particular.

³⁵ Turner Classic Movies produced the motion picture "Truant Husbands" in 1921. According to the synopsis, husband is happily married. Wife gives in to his every whim. Indeed, the wife humors and watches over him with great affection. One day a romance from the past comes to haunt him. He will live and relive the memories. Fibbing to his wife about his intended trip, he takes a sentimental journey with an erstwhile sweetheart only to be convinced at the end that memories should remain memories.

³⁶ "Andrea Del Sarto" (called the "Faultless Painter") is a poem by Robert Browning (1812-1889) published in his 1855 poetry collection *Men and Women*. The poem is a dramatic monologue about the Italian painter Andrea del Sarto (1486-1530) who was a Renaissance artist, influenced by Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, and Fra' Bartolommeo. During his life, Browning struggled with religion. At age 13, he announced he was an atheist, following in the footsteps of Percy Bysshe Shelley, the poet he particularly admired. As Browning got older, he was considered a Theist. Browning spent much of his work exploring and questioning religion through his dramatic monologues. In this poem by Browning, Sarto's wife Lucrezia represents beauty on the outside but is spiritually shallow on the inside, a situation reflected in the state of Sarto's art, which is beautiful but spiritually empty.

Current Events were read by Mrs. Ruth Hanson, Miss Lillian Hanson & Mrs. Gerald Packard.

Following the adjournment of the meeting the hostess served refreshments.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

It is with regret and sorrow that the club records the death of Mrs. Eveline Dunn, a charter member on Feb. 11, 1938 following an illness of a few days duration at a Portland hospital.

February 16, 1938

The We Neighbors Club were entertained on this date at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson, Jr., twenty-two members and five guest being present.

Mrs. Merrill called the meeting to order and the Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Mr. William Rowe author of the book "Ancient North Yarmouth"³⁷ entertained us very delightfully for an hour, his subject being of particular interest to residents of this community as he told of the many "Firsts" the town of Cumberland could boast of in its early history. The book is in our Prince Memorial Library. A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Rowe.

After adjournment the hostess served refreshments assisted by Miss Lillian Hanson and small daughter Sylvia Dawn.

Christine S. Gray, Sec.

³⁷ Rowe, William Hutchinson, *Ancient North Yarmouth and Yarmouth, Maine, 1636-1936*, New England History Press, 1937. Rowe observes "in early New England the history of the church is the history of the community." This is particularly true for Ancient North Yarmouth. From 1730, the Church under the Ledge was the center of the community, providing both worship and town administration.

[Please Note: This notebook begins with the season 1935-1936, but the minutes are presented in an abbreviated form through Feb. 16, 1938. From February 23, 1938 through October 18, 1944, the minutes continue to be copied in abbreviated form, but for the period of February 23, 1938 through April 26, 1939, these minutes are the only ones available. Up to now, no further records for 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942 to March 25, 1942 have been found.]

The abbreviated record is given as follows.

February 23, 1938

The Club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Theodore Jordan. 13 members and 4 guests were present.

The President called the meeting to order. Mrs. Katherine Daugherty gave a very interesting talk on Public Health outlining a typical day in the life of the Public Health Nurse.¹

March 9, 1938

On March 9, the We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. There were 18 members and four guests present. Mrs. Perry Burnell entertained us with a review of the book "Let Me Show you Vermont" by Charles Edward Crane.²

March 16, 1938

On March 16th the We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Millard Burnell. 18 members and 2 guests were present.

¹ Public Health Nurses are visiting nurses who know how to enter a home, how to establish a friendly relationship in the family, how to give individual service to the patient, how to teach the family and to help them to adjust to the illness. Confronted with the challenge of the infantile paralysis epidemic in 1916, public health nurses received specific training in physical therapy, which was required for home treatment of polio.

² Crane, Charles Edward, *Let Me Show You Vermont*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1937. Born in 1884, Crane served as journalist in Boston, New York, Pittsburgh, and London. Thereafter, he returned to Vermont as owner and editor of the *Middleburg Register*, later relocating to the *Brattleboro Reformer*. He began doing publicity for Vermont businesses. In 1931, he was hired as publicity director for National Life Insurance. Well-rounded and balanced, this book tells about the history and the people, the hills and mountains, the woods and streams, birds and fish, sports, countryside towns and architecture. It is not a travel book.

Lillian Hanson gave a most interesting afternoon. The subject was Art and she gave a very concise and graphic picture of the life of Leonardo Da Vinci.³ It was an afternoon much enjoyed by everyone. She then showed some of her work done at Art School which was well received.

March 23, 1938

On March 23 the club met at the home of Mrs. John Gray. 25 members and 2 guests were present.

The President called the meeting to order. The Club luncheon committee was appointed. They were: Mrs. Ernest Burnell, Mrs. Perry Burnell, Mrs. Merton Packard, Mrs. Booth.

It was voted that the announcement be made from the pulpit – Sunday that the Adult Public would be welcomed to Mrs. Roberts lecture April 13th. Also that a special invitation be sent to the Senior and Junior classes of Greely Institute.

Mrs. Archie Wyman was the entertainment for the afternoon giving a book review of “Sixty Odel”⁴ which was a special treat.

March 30, 1938

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Miss Harriet Blanchard. Eleven members were present.

The Treasurer reported \$2.95 in the treasury.

Mrs. Merrill called attention to the “Cancer Meeting” to be held on Monday afternoon April 4th at the home of Mrs. John Gray.

³ Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was an Italian polymath, whose areas of interest included invention, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, astronomy, botany, writing, history, and cartography. He is widely considered as one of the greatest painters of all time. Sometimes credited with the invention of the helicopter, the parachute and the tank, his genius epitomized the Renaissance humanist ideal. He was an individual “unquenchable curiosity” and “inventive imagination.” Among his works, “Mona Lisa” is the most famous. His work, “The Last Supper” is the most reproduced religious painting of all time. His drawing of “Vitruvian Man” is regarded as cultural icon. Perhaps fifteen of his paintings have survived. Nevertheless, these works together with his notebooks comprise an invaluable contribution to later generation of artists.

⁴ Although unable to identify a book of this title as deciphered from the handwritten notes, possibly the reference concerns *The Hobbit*, a fantasy novel and children's book by English author J. R. R. Tolkien. It was published in September 1937 to wide acclaim.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Walter Barter who gave an especially interesting report on the book "How to win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie.⁵

Current events were mentioned but not taken up.

April 13, 1938

On April 13th, 1938, the Club met in the vestry for the combined luncheon and Mrs. Robert's talk on Northern Europe. 24 members were present.

The singing of the Club Ode followed the lunch. Mrs. Gray proposed a toast to the retiring president. Mrs. Merrill responded.

Pupils from the Senior and Junior Classes of Greely Ins. and other friends came in for the illustrated talk. Mrs. Roberts first gave a talk telling of her impression of the countries visited – then showed excellent colored moving pictures also she had many souvenirs she had brought from the many countries she visited.

April 20, 1938

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell. 14 members and 2 guests were present.

At the next meeting members are requested to come representing a book title.

Mrs. Gray entertained with sketches from lives of some noted women.

April 27, 1938

Club met for last meeting of the season with Mrs. Merton Rawsen. 23 members were present and 5 guests.

1938-1939 Officers:

Pres. Mrs. Kenneth Chase

⁵ Carnegie, Dale, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1936. In 1934, Leon Shimkin of the publishing firm Simon and Schuster took one of the 14 week courses given by Carnegie. Shimkin persuaded Carnegie to let a stenographer take notes from the course to be revised for publication. In the book, major sections include the following: Twelve Things the Book will do for you, Fundamental Techniques in Handling People, Six ways to make people like you, Twelve Ways to Win People to your way of thinking, How to Change People without Giving Offense or Arousing Resentment, Two letters that Produced Miraculous Results, Seven Rules for Making Your Home Happier. This book was one of the best-selling self-help books ever published.

Records of the We Neighbors Club: 1935-1944

Vice Pres. Mrs. John Gray

Sec. Mrs. Gerald Packard

Treas. Mr. Howard Blanchard

September 23, 1938

Annual Field Day was held at Freeport Maine. Only 8 members were present with 3 guests.

October 12, 1938

First meeting of new year was held at Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. Laura Wyman and Mrs. Glendon Doane were hostesses.

Mr. Linwood Crandall read selections from some modern day poets.

October 19, 1938

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Merton Rawson. 18 members were present.

A garden exchange was the subject of the meeting, each member took either bulbs, roots, plants, or seeds which other members brought to the meeting.

October 26, 1938

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Burrell, 18 members and one guest were present.

Mrs. Perry Burnell reviewed the book "An Assignment Down East" by Henry Buxton,⁶ a Banger Newspaper man related many novel and interesting facts about the Eastern part of our state.

November 9, 1938

The We Neighbors Club was held at Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. Walter Barter and Mrs. Linwood Crandall were hostesses. 2 members and 2 guests were present.

⁶ Buxton, Henry, *An Assignment Down East*, Brattleboro, Vermont: Stephen Daye Press, 1938. As a reporter on the *Bangor Daily News*, Buxton collected his many interviews and presented stories of shopkeepers, traders, sailors, bachelors, trappers, woodsmen, musicians, doctors, treasure hunters, shipbuilders, Indians, gold seekers. The book is illustrated with 60 photographs by Wayne Buxton and endpapers by Andrew Wyeth.

The guest speaker was Rev. A. E. Kingsly of Yarmouth who read Poems from Browning.

November 16, 1938

The We Neighbor Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hansen Jr. Miss Lillian Hansen assisting hostess. 18 members and one small guest present.

Due to illness the scheduled program was postponed. In observance of book week, Mrs. Merrill gave a list of the most outstanding books, both fiction and non-fiction.

November 30, 1938

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Sawyer. Mrs. Porter Pres. of Longfellow Garden Club⁷ gave an outline of the purpose and activities of the Club.

December 17[?], 1938

We neighbors club met on the above date with Mrs. Harriet Blanchard. 22 members were present with 3 guests.

For the Xmas party each member was asked to bring a (10 cent) gift and a poem.

Mrs. Stuart gave an interesting paper on Pewter.⁸

December 28, 1938

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Harriet C. Merrill. 19 members and 2 guests present. Xmas party was held and poems with accompanying gifts.

January 11, 1939

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Randall Sawyer.

⁷ The Longfellow Garden Club was founded in 1924 to restore, preserve and tend to the gardens behind the Wadsworth-Longfellow House in Portland. The Children's Gate to the Garden opened ca 1930. In 1934, the Club constructed the Longfellow Garden Wall. In 1937, it established the Longfellow Garden fountain. The Club was federated in 1931 and incorporated in 1937.

⁸ Pewter is a malleable metal alloy, traditionally 85-99% tin, with the remainder consisting of copper, antimony, bismuth and sometimes lead. Silver is also sometimes used. Copper and antimony act as hardeners. In the later nineteenth century, pewter came back into fashion with the revival of medieval objects for decoration.

Mrs. Anna Blanchard read passages from Ann Lindberg's latest book "Listen to the Wind."⁹

January 18, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Carolyn Rand. 24 people present.

Miss Merrill gave an account of her trip to Washington D. c. and Atlanta, Georgia.

January 25, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Harold Booth. 23 members and 1 guest present. \$14.29 was reported on hand.

Mrs. Ernst Burnell gave a report on The World's Fair in N. Y.

February 8, 1939

WE Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Howard Blanchard. 22 members were present.

Mrs. Merton Rawsen reviewed "My America" by Louis Adamic.¹⁰ It is an autobiography, history, sociology, economics, piece of literature. The story of his America.

⁹ Lindbergh, Anne Morrow, *Listen! The Wind*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1938. This book chronicles the end of a six month trip Anne and husband Charles took in 1933, when they established the flight route from Europe to Africa to South America for future commercial airlines. They flew the Lockheed Sirius, which in 1930, broke the transcontinental record flying from the West Coast to the East in under fifteen hours. Originally built with open cockpit, they had it modified with a sliding canopy and added pontoons for water landings. It had two seats and Charles was always in front. It was noisy and communication was done by notes. Anne would write on her pad, tear out a sheet, tap her husband's shoulder and hand it to him. The book has a detailed appendix written by Charles, listing instruments, radio frequencies, an inventory of tools, list of navigation equipment, maps, charts, and emergency items for a possible forced land or sea landing. Anne kept a log of dates, takeoff and landing times, and locations. They provided such detail because they were aware of being explorers, in the true sense, and the importance of their venture. Anne's main job was the radio. For hours over the Atlantic, they traveled with no response. On land, they spent their nights as guests of colonial governments or their representatives. Anne wrote with awe and joy of the things they experienced. This probably occurred just about one year after their baby was kidnapped and later found dead.

¹⁰ Adamic, Louis, *My America: 1928-1938*, New York: Harper and Bros, 1938. Adamic (1898-1951) was a Slovene-American author and translator, best known for writing about and advocating for ethnic diversity in America. In this book, Adamic becomes a sounding board for the turmoil of social, politic, economic happenings of the decade. He examines the relation between capital and labor as well as race problems. He also pens portraits of some important figures in national life.

February 15, 1939

The We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell. Mrs. Gerald Packard was assistant hostess. Stunts to be carried out were written on hearts scattered around the room. Brain teasers rounded out the program.

February 22, 1939

We Neighbor Club entertained the Gentlemen at the Church Vestry.

Mrs. Rawsen gave a toast to the gentlemen. Mr. Theodore Jordan responded.

A one act skit was presented by Mrs. Ruth Hansen and Miss Lillian Hansen: "A Battle of the Sexes"¹¹ proved that women are smarter than men, but only because possibly the women questions were a little easier for them to answer.

March 8, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase. There were 19 members and 7 guests present.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. De Shin who spoke on the National Consumer Tax Commission.¹² It was organized in Sept. 1938. It was a good opportunity to hear about taxation.

March 15, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell. 15 members were present. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Laura Wyman. She gave a review of "These Foreigners" by William Seabrook.¹³ After

¹¹ The Screwball Comedy is a genre of comedy that became popular during the Great Depression. It is distinguished by a female that dominates the relationship with the male central character, whose masculinity is challenged. The two engage in a humorous battle of the sexes. During the Great Depression, there was a general demand for skits and films with strong class critique and hopeful escapist-oriented- themes. Verbal sparring between the sexes served as a stand-in for physical, sexual tension. Screwball comedy has close links with theatrical genre of farce.

¹² The development of consumer taxes on a large scale is, as far as state and local governments are concerned, a comparatively recent phenomenon. In 1929, the motor fuel tax was nationwide, but not until 1930s did consumer taxes turn into an important source of revenue. By 1938, indirect taxes produced 63% of all local, state, and national revenues. These unseen taxes, which the commission fought through women's groups already active in nearly 1000 communities, are paid as part of higher prices on everything the consumer buys.

¹³ Seabrook, William, *These Foreigners*, New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1938. After observing the absorption of foreigners into the social and business life of his home town, Rhinebeck, New York, Seabrook felt inspired to look into "these foreigners". He toured the country to get his facts and visited settlements of Scandinavians, Germans, Poles, and Russians. He met with their leading citizens and learned about their contribution to the American melting pot. He presents an optimistic view of immigrant integration.

interviewing Scandinavian, Italians, Germans Poles and Russians, he gives us the conclusion they are more than enthusiastic about keeping the American form of government and proud of being "Americans All".

March 22, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Erwin Stuart. 17 members were present. A Do you know Quiz was given by Miss Lillian Hansen.

March 27, 1939

We Neighbors met at the church Vestry. Mrs. H. W. Hansen was Hostess. 26 members were present with 6 guests present.

The afternoon was given over to the speaker. An original poem "My Beautiful Garden of Dream" was read by Miss Katherine Weatherby, 11 years old. Mrs. Weatherby then gave a detailed description of their trip to England, Scotland, and Paris.

April 12, 1939

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg and Miss Harriet Merrill at Mrs. Bragg's home. 21 members were present.

Mrs. Jennie Barter gave a very interesting review of the book, "The Children of the Rising Sun" by Willard Price.¹⁴

April 19, 1939

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. John Gray. 24 members were present with 4 guests.

¹⁴ Price, Willard, *Children of the Rising Sun*, New York: Reynal and Hitchcock, 1938. This book is not without bias. Price selects material to explain why Japan has to reach out, the steps taken, the inevitability of her almost immediate success, and the value in the idea of Japan as overlord of the Far East. Price gives what seems to be an authentic inside picture of Japan's steps toward preparedness, her educational system, her industrial, military and agricultural system, her government, and her family life. His insights into Manchuko, Korea, and Mongolia present new material. Wholly new information is provided in Japan's equatorial empire of Micronesia. The book is "breezily written and thoroughly readable." It was published in 1938.

Mrs. Randall Sawyer entertained us with Negro spirituals. Mrs. Walter Barter read from the book by "Johnson on the origin of Negro Spirituals."¹⁵

April 26, 1939

We Neighbors held their annual Luncheon in the Church vestry. 24 members were present and 2 guests. The singing of the Club Ode followed the luncheon.

Mrs. Harlan Sweetser read the lecture on "Conservation of Wild Life."

New officers for 1939-1940:

President: Mrs. John Gray

Vice Pres.: Mrs. Gerald Packard

Secretary: Mrs. Howard Blanchard

Treasurer: Miss Lillian Hanson

[No records for next three seasons: 1939-1940; 1940-1941; 1941-1942]

1942-1943

Pres. Ruth Hanson

V. Pres. Mrs. Maynard Hanson

Sec. Lena Foster

Treas. Leona Crandall

Program Com: Lillian Hanson, Jeannie Burnell, Lena Foster

Picnic Com. Mildred Doane, Marguerite Jordan

¹⁵ Negro spirituals are songs created by the Africans who were captured and brought to the United States to be sold into slavery. This stolen race was deprived of their language, families, and culture; yet their masters could not take away their music. Over the years, these slaves and their descendants adopted Christianity, the religion of their masters. They re-shaped it into a deeply personal way of dealing with the oppression of their enslavement. Their songs became known as spirituals.

Records of the We Neighbors Club: 1935-1944

October 14, 1942

17 members met at Mrs. Henry Hanson. Mrs. Crandall resigned and Mrs. Jordan became Treas.

Reported the picnic had been cancelled because of difficulties in transportation.

Program: County Chairman of the Junior Red Cross.

October 28, 1942

Welcomed new member Mrs. Genthner.

November 11, 1942

21 members met at the Vestry. Mrs. Earl (Nellie) Woodbury's name was presented for membership.

November 18

December 9, 1942

17 members met at Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Program Lena Foster compared works of ancient art with those of later years.

December 16, 1942

December 30, 1942

\$22.53 in the treas.

Mrs. Barter reviewed the book "Only the Stars are neutral".¹⁶

Jan 12, 1943

¹⁶ Reynolds, Quentin, *Only the Stars are Neutral*, New York: Random House, 1942. As a seasoned journalist, Reynolds presents a clear, vivid picture of fighting in Russia. The narrative starts with England and a grand portrait of Winston Churchill, and ends with Egypt – Cairo and desert fighting.

Records of the We Neighbors Club: 1935-1944

December 8, 1943

Program com asked for each member to bring a 25 cent gift to put on the Christmas tree.

January 12, 1944

Met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson.

Jan. 26

Feb. 9

Feb. 16

Mar 29

April 12, 1944

Program "Here Comes the Bride". 16 wedding gowns belonging to Club members were modeled by girls from Greely Institute – The most recent was worn by Betty Sweetser (Mrs. Elmer Baxter) Mrs. Herman Sweetser 1919 & Mrs. Fred Sweetser worn in 1879.

Refreshments – a wedding cake. Cut by Mrs. Wallace Merrill the oldest member. [age 73 years]

August 17, 1944

Met at Mrs. Grays house on the lawn for the annual picnic.

October 18, 1944

Fiftieth Year Anniversary.

Meeting held at the Prince Memorial Library. 27 members present. Mrs. Glendon Doane and Mrs. Archie Wyman hostesses.

Regular business meeting. Mrs. Lawrence Babcock's name presented by membership – also Velma Merrill.

Program by Mrs. Albert Sweetser and Mrs. Millard Burnell (Bessie). They told of the founding of the club by Mrs. Frank Davis, the pastor's wife at the parsonage. The idea being to form a Reading Club to enjoy and study classics of English literature. Mrs. Albert Sweetser and Mrs. Archie Wyman (who attended this meeting) were charter members and Miss Harriet Merrill was one of earliest members to join.

The 1st Gentlemen's nite was held at Mrs. Albert Sweetser's home in 1905. The summer outings were the highlights of the year. The things they told "made us happy & proud" to be members of such a fine old Club.

Cake with 50 red, white, and blue candles made by Mrs. Glendon (Mildred) Doane served by the 3 oldest members. "It was a delightful afternoon and an auspicious beginning of another 50 years."

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

[Note: Detailed Minutes can be found in the next document, March 25, 1942-April 28, 1948]

March 25, 1942

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson with Miss Lillian Hanson as co-hostess. 12 members present.

Secretary's report read and approved. Treasurer sent her report, all dues are now paid and \$8.63 in the treasury. Mrs. Antoinette Packard reported the next meeting would be with Mrs. Perry Burnell with Mrs. Wallace Merrill having the program.

Mrs. Merrill sent regrets at not being able to be present. Mrs. Mayo reported ill with a cold.

Penny collection taken.

Program then under the leadership of Mrs. Antoinette Packard who called on everyone to give something on Gardens. This was all interesting and instructive. Mrs. Mary Chase also gave a very interesting talk on Hobbies.

Mrs. Herman Sweetser reported on the recent Flower Show at Boston.

Adjourned to meet Apr. 1st with Mrs. Burnell.

Hostesses served delicious refreshments.

Margaret I. Rawson, Sec.

April 1, 1942

On April First the We Neighbor's Club met at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell with Mrs. Gerald Packard as co-hostess.

The meeting opened with eight members present, but several members, who had attended a Holy week service, arrived later.

The President called the meeting to order and in the absence of the secretary, gave a verbal report of the previous meeting. There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of that officer.

The club luncheon was discussed and all were in favor of having it at the vestry this year.

The meeting was then given over to the speaker of the afternoon, Mrs. Harriet Merrill. She reviewed briefly but interestingly a number of books she hoped would be added to our library in the near future.

Then she delighted us by reading several chapters from John Steinbeck's book "The Moon Is Down."¹ We thoroughly enjoyed the program and were sorry time did not permit the reading of more.

The penny collection was then taken and the meeting adjourned to meet, in two weeks, with Mrs. Kenneth Chase.

During the social period, which followed, refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth E. Hanson Sec. pro tem.

April 15, 1942

On April Fifteenth the club met with Mrs. Kenneth Chase, with Miss Harriet Merrill as co-hostess. Thirteen members and one guest were present.

Miss Hanson reported on lists of committees appointed for our final meeting of the season, to be held at the vestry.

Luncheon Committee, Mrs. Rawson, Mrs. Lovejoy and Mrs. Gerald Packard.

Decoration committee: Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Jordan.

Nominating committee: Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Doane, Mrs. Ruth Hanson.

Mrs. Henry Hanson and Miss Hanson offered to entertain the club on April 22nd, in case Mrs. Bonney is unable to do so.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Bessie Burnell, whose topic was "The History of Cumberland." She read part of a history of the town, compiled by Mrs. Mary Sweetser some years ago for a centennial celebration, and a selection from "A Shipwreck of Long Ago," by Capt. Beza Blanchard,² which was very thrilling and, in many respects, resembled the harrowing adventure of some of our present-day war heroes.

She also read a most interesting piece written by Ann Louise Blanchard, near 1850, entitled "An Evening at Master Ben's" – he being Benjamin Sweetser.

Witches and Witchcraft stalked abroad, in this now quiet town.

¹ Steinbeck, John, *The Moon Is Down*, New York: Viking Press, 1942. The story tells of the military occupation of the small town in Northern Europe by the army of an unnamed nation at war with England and Russia (much like the occupation of Norway by the Germans). Written with the purpose to motivate and encourage the resistance movements in occupied countries, the book appeared in at least 92 editions across the world. John Steinbeck (1902-1968) is an American author of 27 books, including 16 novels, 6 non-fiction, and 5 collections of short stories. The Pulitzer Prize winning *Grapes of Wrath* (1939) is considered Steinbeck's masterpiece.

² Beza Blanchard (1805-1894) was born in Cumberland and died in Cumberland, Maine.

After adjournment of the meeting, refreshments were served and enjoyed.

Florence Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

April 22, 1942

"We Neighbors" Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson with our president Miss Lillian Hanson as co-hostess. Due to illness Mrs. Bonney was unable to entertain on this day.

Secretary's report read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$7.73 in Treasury.

Two communications were read, one from Mrs. Bonney and one from Mrs. Wyman, both thanking the Club for flowers during their recent illness.

It was suggested that we omit the Club luncheon this year but the members decided to carry out previous plans.

Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser reported she had sent 8 bouquets to members during the year costing \$7.75 each and still had funds in the Sunshine Box. Collection taken.

The president then introduced Mr. Norman Cole, supt. of schools, who gave a very interesting talk on "Problems and Objectives of Present Day Education." He also gave us information on the sugar rationing project.³

After adjournment the hostesses served delicious refreshments.

Margaret I. Rawson, Sec.

April 29, 1942

The "We Neighbors" Club met at the vestry for the annual meeting and Club luncheon. There were 32 members present.

The luncheon table was very prettily decorated with yellow may baskets, candles, and jonquils in lovely amber glass.

After enjoying an appetizing meal the president called the meeting to order by asking the members to join in singing the Club Ode.

³ Sugar was the first food to be rationed in the spring of 1942. The war with Japan cut off U. S. imports from the Philippines, and cargo ships from Hawaii were diverted to military purposes. The nation's supply of sugar was quickly reduced by more than a third. To prevent hoarding and skyrocketing prices, the Office of Price Administration issued 123 million copies of the War Ration Book One, which contained stamps that could be used to purchase sugar. Each ration book was good for a 56 week supply of sugar. No sugar could legally be bought without the stamps. Sugar rationing continued until supplies returned to normal in 1947.

The president then thanked the committee for serving on both luncheon and decorating. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported 36 members for the year, a balance on hand from last of \$2.28 and balance on hand to date \$3.73 but luncheon bills were not complete.

The secretary read two communications, one from Mrs. Crandall and one from Mrs. Doane, both thanking the Club for flowers received while they were "enjoying" Mumps.

Mrs. Sturdivant reported for Mrs. Sweetser that 10 bouquets had been sent during the Club year and there was no money left in the Sunshine Fund. A penny collection for this was then taken as usual.

Mrs. Bonney suggested that for the duration of the War we omit refreshments at the regular meetings. After discussion the Club so voted.

The Nominating Committee then gave their report as follows:

Pres. Mrs. Ruth Hanson

V. Pres. Mrs. Marjorie Rawson

Secretary: Mrs. Lena Foster

Treas. Mrs. Leona Crandall.

Program Committee: Miss Lillian Hanson, Mrs. Jennie Barter, Mrs. Lena Foster

Picnic Committee: Mrs. Mildred Doane, Mrs. Marguerite Jordan

At the vote of the Club the secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate.

The president then thanked the members for their cooperation during the year and deemed it a privilege to have served as president. Club gave her a rising vote of thanks for serving so ably.

Mrs. Ruth Hanson, our new president, then took the chair.

It was voted to appoint Mrs. Mary Chase on Sunshine Committee as Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser had severed two years in that capacity.

Meeting then adjourned until fall. The rest of the afternoon was enjoyed playing games.

Margaret I. Rawson, Secretary

October 14, 1942

"We Neighbor's Club" met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson, Jr. with Mrs. Millard Burnell as co-hostess. There were 17 members and 4 guests present.

The president opened the meeting and welcomed the members and guests to the first meeting of the season.

The secretary's report was read and approved. Two "thank you" notes from Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. John Gray for flowers sent them during their illness were read.

The president reported that Mrs. Crandall had resigned her office as treasurer and that Mrs. Jordan had accepted that office. The treasurer reported \$5.68 on hand.

The chairman of the Picnic Committee reported that difficulties in transportation prevented the carrying out of our original plan for a picnic this past summer.

A motion was made and carried to rescind the vote made at the club luncheon to discontinue refreshments at our meetings.

The members welcomed Mrs. Busby as a new member and a motion was made and approved that the secretary write an invitation to Mrs. Brackett and her daughter-in-law to become members of our "We Neighbors Club."

The penny collection was taken.

The president then introduced the speaker for the afternoon. Mr. J. Everett Strout, County Chairman of the Junior Red Cross. Mr. Strout gave a very interesting talk on the service in peace and in war times of the Junior Red Cross and its growth.

The Junior Red Cross was organized by Pres. Woodrow Wilson and their 2th anniversary was observed Sept. 19, 1942. There are 20,000 Junior red Cross registered in Portland and some 4,000,000 Juniors in the country.

The Junior Red Cross members give service to all, service to children in the school and in the community. They help to keep the children on equal terms of friendship. They give service in correspondence in times of peace and war.

Mr. Strout said that through the Junior Red Cross 70,000 books have been sent to England and 300,000 boxes to Iceland. At the conclusion of his talk we had the priviledge of asking questions.

A rising vote of thanks was given to Mr. Strout and to Miss Lowell of the Red Cross who accompanied him.

Mrs. Bragg reported that the Senior Red Cross had 25 kits to assemble and wished for volunteers to help with them.

Miss Lillian Hanson distributed new programs for the season and the new covers were very attractive.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G. Foster, Sec.

October 21, 1942

The "We Neighbors" Club met at the home of Mrs. Gerald Packard with Mrs. Ted Jordan as co-hostess. There were 16 members and 1 guest present.

The president opened the meeting and members greeted Mrs. Wyman on the occasion of her 75th birthday with the song "Happy Birthday to You."

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$7.68 on hand.

A motion was made and approved to place our treasurer's account book, dating from 1903-1941 and secretary's account book in charge of the Historical Society.

The penny collection was taken after which the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Fickett who reviewed the book "Washington is Like That." ⁴ This book was one four leading non-fiction books in 1941 and there is to be a copy in our library. We all enjoyed Mrs. Fickett's account of the book.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G. Foster, Sec.

October 28, 1942

The "We Neighbors" Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson with Miss Lillian Hanson as co-hostess. There were 18 members and 2 guests present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$11.42 on hand. Mrs. Genthner was welcomed as a new member.

The penny collection was taken after which the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Bonney who read interesting letters to us from a War Dietician Abroad. The writer of these letters was a personal friend of

⁴ Kiplinger, Willard Monroe, *Washington Is Like That*, New York: Harper, 1942. Kiplinger analyzes the inner organization of Washington from the human angle, from the department angle, from the District administration angle, from the Federal Government angle. He takes readers on a ground tour of Washington, not as sightseers, but as students of the people that make up the population – old Washingtonians., government officials, farm and labor groups, Blacks, Jews, lobbyists, and women journalists.

Mrs. Bonneys who had gone to England as a war dietician in 1939, one of a group of six girls in the Harvard Univ. Each letter was as a continued story, filled with events and conditions necessitated by the war and with a personal touch which was carried through to a delightful climax.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G, Foster, Sec.

November 11, 1942

The "We Neighbors" Club" met at the Vestry with Mrs. Walter Barter and Mrs. Linwood Crandall as hostesses. There were 21 members and five guests present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$11.42 on hand.

Mrs. Rowe, a former member was invited to re-new her membership, also Mrs. Earl Woodbury's name was entered for membership and approved.

A motion was made that the secretary look up the by-laws of the club and present them at the next meeting.

The penny collection was taken, after which the business meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting, our guest, Mr. Howard B. Clough showed views in Maine and Florida. These pictures of flowers and scenery were beautiful both in color and composition. They had added interest as Mr. Clough had taken them himself on one of his trips to Florida. He knew his subject well and drew our attention to many points of interest.

After the showing of the pictures, refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G. Foster, Sec.

November 18, 1942

The "We Neighbor's Club" met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster with Mrs. Ernest Burnell as co-hostess. There were 19 members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$19.53 on hand.

The secretary read as requested the Constitution and By-laws of the club. These were written in 1904 and amendments were made later.

A motion was made to accept Mrs. Rawson's resignation as Vice President of the club.

The penny collection was taken after which the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Doane who reviewed the book "Victory through Air Power" by Major Alexander P. de Seversky.⁵

The meeting was adjourned after which refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G. Foster, Sec.

December 9, 1942

The "We Neighbors Club" met on this date at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser, with Mrs. Sturdivant as Co-hostess. There were 17 members present.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report stated the sum of \$19.53 on hand.

The Nominating Committee reported Mrs. Caroline Rand as our new Treasurer. Mrs. Lena Foster as Vice President in Mrs. Rawson's place and Mrs. T. R. Jordan as secretary.

A penny collection (55cents) was taken and it was suggested flowers be sent Mrs. Doughty who has a broken shoulder.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Lena Foster who gave an especially capable and interesting review of a book on Art. Mrs. Foster compared the works of ancient artists to those of later years, and touched on the steps of progress down thru the many years.

Highlights on the lives of Gainsborough, Raeburn and James Whistler were cleverly woven in and Mrs. Foster showed reproductions of some of the great pictures of which she spoke. Altogether she handled her subject skillfully and interestingly.

Mrs. Bonney spoke of the need of surgical dressings and offered to investigate details before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned to the afternoon of Dec. 16 when Mrs. Glendon Doane, and Mrs. Wyman will entertain at the Vestry. This is the annual Christmas tree and party and is to be in charge of Mrs. Marjorie Chase.

⁵ De Seversky, Alexander Prokofieff, *Victory through Air Power*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1942. De Seversky explains his theories of aviation and long-range bombing as influenced by General Billy Mitchell. Making his argument, De Seversky presents four points. First, "the rapid expansion of the range and striking power of military aviation makes it certain the U. S. will be exposed to destruction from the air, within a predictable period, as are the British Isles today." Second, "those who deny this possibility are exhibiting something like a "Maginot line mentality." Third, "the U. S. must begin preparing immediately for an 'inter hemispheric war direct across oceans.'" Fourth, the U. S. must become the dominant air-power nation, "even as England in its prime was the dominant sea-power nation of the world." Published less than six months after Pearl Harbor attack, the book was extremely influential, popular, and controversial.

The hostesses served delicious refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

December 16, 1942

The "We Neighbor's Club" met at the vestry for the annual Christmas Tree Party in charge of Mrs. Kenneth Chase with Mrs. Doane and Mrs. Wyman as hostesses. There were twenty-three members and three children present.

The secretary's report was read by Mrs. Ross in the absence of the secretary and report accepted.

Mrs. Barter reported in the absence of the treasurer, \$22.53.

The penny collection was taken, after which the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Kenneth Chase who had planned a delightful Christmas tree program for us.

We all enjoyed the amusing and delightful short Christmas story "Day of Present Bread" that Mrs. Chase read complete. She read the story with expression and feeling and kept our interest throughout.

Following the story we joined in singing Christmas carols with Mrs. Chase at the piano, after which our attention was particularly drawn to the prettily decorated Christmas Tree with gifts for each of us.

Dicky Doane, Bruce Jordan and Christopher Crandall acted as Santa Claus' helpers and fun was had by all. Ice cream and crax were served by the hostesses.

The meeting was adjourned to meet with Mrs. Kenneth Chase on Dec. 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Lena G. Foster, Sec. pro tem

December 30, 1942

The "We Neighbors Club" met at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase with 7 members and 1 visitor present.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Mrs. Barter reported that there was \$22.53 in the Treasury.

Mrs. Burnell thanked the club for the flowers sent to her mother.

After the penny collection the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Barter. Mrs. Barter reviewed the book "Only the Stars Are Neutral."⁶ It was very interesting and was enjoyed by all.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses. The meeting was adjourned to meet with Mrs. Bragg on January 13th.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josephine Busby, Sec. pro. tem.

January 13, 1943

The We Neighbors Club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Bragg with Miss Harriet Merrill as co-hostess. There were 17 members present.

Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The money in the treasury remained the same as at the last report - \$22.53.

Mrs. Doane mentioned the Victory Book Campaign and urged everyone to donate good books for the boys in Service. Over 200 were given from hear last year.

The question of who should cancel a Club meeting was discussed and it was decided the Club Officers should make this decision if necessary but if at all possible all meetings be held. The remainder of the year as scheduled.

The President spoke of the fat, tin can and silk stockings drive. A box is to be placed in the Red and White store for the collection of used silk stockings which the Govt needs.

Mention was made of discontinuing Club meetings for the Duration of the war, but all members present were in favor of continuing.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Anna Blanchard who gave a very interesting and educational review of the "Miracle On the Congo"⁷, by Ben Lucian Burnham. Clear picture was gained by the review, of Customs, Climate and general life of the people who live in this region.

Mrs. Fickett was reported ill, and Mrs. Merrill as gaining.

⁶ Reynolds, Quentin James, *Only the Stars are Neutral*, New York: Random House, 1942. Reynolds, a journalist and World War II correspondent, presents an inside picture of Russia's rally to stop Nazi invasion. His narrative starts with England and a grand portrait of Churchill, and ends with desert fighting in Egypt and the Libyan campaign.

⁷ Burman, Ben Lucien, *Miracle on the Congo: Report from the Free French Front*, New York: John Day, 1942. Burman, through personal observation on the ground during a period of many months, tells the story of the Congo front, headquarters of the movement, and scene of French fighting. Additional chapters are devoted to adjacent fronts in Syria and Transjordan. The book is a powerful indictment of Vichy and appeasement policy. Burman discusses the Vichy policy, its leaders and feebleness of its advocacy of a liberated France. Opening and closing chapters describe Burman's advocacy of De Gaulle as military leader of the Free French everywhere.

Meeting was adjourned to meet next Wed. P. M. at the home of Mrs. Harold Ross with Mrs. Genthner co-hostess. Mrs. E. A. Rand will be the leader at this meeting.

The hostesses served very delicious refreshment.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

January 20, 1943

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Harold Ross and Mrs. Earle Genthner co-hostess. Present were six members and one guest.

The secretary's report was read and the Treasurer's report given. Mrs. Fickett was reported not very well and Mrs. Wallace Merrill gaining slowly.

A letter from Mr. Hallet was read asking for waste fat. Mrs. Bragg sent word for everyone to bring needle and thread to the next meeting so that Red Cross sewing might be done. The penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Rand was kept at home by the very cold windy day and sent a variety of interesting clippings from magazines which were well read by Mrs. Barter. The subjects included the war, late movies, pictures to live with, house plants and women's contribution to the war.

The meeting was adjourned to the afternoon of February tenth at the home of Mrs. John Gray.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Acting Sec.

February 10, 1943

The Neighbors Club met on the afternoon of this date at the home of Mrs. John E. Gray with 19 members and 2 guests present.

Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. \$23.28 is the amount in the treasury at this time.

It was moved and seconded that the Sec. send a note of sympathy to Mrs. Mayo.

The President read a letter of resignation from the treasurer Mrs. Rand. This was accepted and the Nominating Committee will report on a name for new treasurer at the next meeting.

Mrs. Hanson also expressed thanks to Mrs. Blanchard for her kindness in furnishing transportation for Mrs. Harlan Sweetser, the entertainer of the afternoon.

A penny collection was taken by Mrs. Kenneth Chase.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Sweetser who gave an especially able and entertaining reading of Robert Sherwood's Play "Abe Lincoln in Illinois."⁸ This Play came out in 1939 and has been made into a movie. The reader led up to the actual reading of the Play by a very clever introduction and also read several verses in connection with it.

Mrs. Bragg asked the ladies to bring needle and thread to the next meeting as there would be Re Cross sewing.

Meeting adjourned until next week when we will meet at the home of Mrs. Luther Bonney. Mrs. Bragg will read the book, "Paul Revere."

Delicious refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

February 17, 1943

Meeting of "We Neighbors" Club was called to order by the President with 17 members and 1 guest present. She thanked Mrs. Bragg for opening her home to us on this cold day, and to Mrs. Bonney and Mrs. Packard for co-operating in the charge.

Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The Nominating Committee reported the name of Mrs. Lulu Burnell who will serve as Treas. for the remainder of the year.

A penny collection was taken by Marjorie Chase.

⁸ Sherwood, Robert, "Abe Lincoln in Illinois" is a three act play written in 1938. It covers the life of President Abraham Lincoln from his childhood through his final speech in Illinois before he left for Washington. It also includes his romance with Mary Todd and his debates with Stephen A. Douglas. In 1939, Sherwood received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for this work.

Mrs. Bragg reviewed the book, "Paul Revere and the World He lived in".⁹ She had given such careful preparation and the book was so intensely interesting that we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Meeting adjourned to meet at the home of Mrs. Arnold Blanchard with Miss Harriet Blanchard as Co-hostess.

Delicious refreshments were served.

Jennie D. Barker, Sec. pro tem

February 24, 1943

"We Neighbors Club" met on this date at the home of Mrs. Howard Blanchard with Miss Harriet Blanchard as co-hostess, with 15 members and 3 guests present.

Meeting was called to order by the President and the Sec. and Treas. Reports read and accepted. The Treas. reported \$23.28 on hand at this time.

The dinner Comm. for the Gentlemen's Nite Banquet was appointed by the President: Mrs. H. M. Rowe, Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Walter Barter, and Mrs. Earl Genter. The decorating Comm. was also appointed: Mrs. K. W. Chase and Mrs. T. R. Jordan. Mr. Geo. Harrison in to show movies as the entertainment at this affair.

Penny Coll. taken.

Meeting was turned over to Mrs. Millard Burnell who read a very humorous collection of "Boners."¹⁰ Her subject for the P.M. was Funatics. Several amusing pencil and paper games were enjoyed during the afternoon.

⁹ Forbes, Esther, *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1942. An elegant story teller and historian, Forbes paints a memorable portrait of Paul Revere placed in the context of American colonial history. Her story is "not merely one man riding one horse on a certain lonely night of long ago but a symbol to which his countrymen can yet turn. This definitive biography was published during the height of World War II, and the author's tone and occasional asides suggest that the book was heavily influenced by the U. S. entrance into the war. Although she admits that the British were baited and maligned in Boston and the Tories abused, she is on the side of those Bostonians struggling for liberty and a just society. They will not kneel to a tyrant or Kaiser or Fuhrer. Her sympathy extends to Revere himself. In Forbes's view, he becomes a true Renaissance man. He was first an artist, but also a dentist and coppersmith who sheathed the bottom of the *Constitution* ("Old Ironsides") and the dome of the new state house. He also was a bell maker. He was a kind and gentle master who paid his apprentices well and provided for an insane son-in-law. Revere is portrayed as an individual of courage, of stubbornness, of common sense, of practicality, and of generosity. For this book, Forbes won the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1943.

¹⁰ *The Pocket Book of Boners*, was illustrated by Dr. Seuss and published in four separate books in 1931-1932. In 1941, these four separate books were combined and published as one book by Viking Press. This book contains 22 illustrations of boners by Dr. Seuss. The rest of the volume consists of short jokes and humorous observations, most no more than four lines long.

Mrs. K. W. Chase announced the Red Cross quota of this town was 2000, but Miss Merrill said Red Cross sewing had come in.

Meeting was adjourned to meet on the P.M. of March 10 at Mrs. E. A. Rand's home when Mrs. Perry Burnell will entertain with her subject, Nature Study.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Mrs. T. R. Jordan

March 10, 1943

Club met on this date at the home of Mrs. Jennie Barter with 15 members and 1 guest present.

The Sec. report was read. One error was noted and duly corrected. The Treas. reported \$24.78 on hand at this time.

Mrs. T. R. Jordan asked to be excused from the Decorating Committee for Gentlemen's Nite supper and Mrs. Herbert Foster very kindly took her place.

The President very graciously thanked Mrs. Barter for opening her home to the Club on such short notice. Illness in the home of Mrs. Rand prevented her from entertaining as she had planned.

Mention was made of the increased cost of all food at this time and the extreme difficulty of the dinner comm. in preparing a meal. It was moved and seconded that each Club member be assessed an equal amount to make up the deficit, if any, in the cost of the supper, as there is a possibility the Club funds may not cover the expenses.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Perry Burnell who had for her subject, "Nature Study." She read parts of John Burrow's book, "Under the Apple Tree."¹¹ And a few chapters of "Face of the Fields" by Dallas Lare Sharpe.¹² Also a paragraph from "Wings at My Window," by Ada Chapman Govan,¹³ and a chapter entitled "Riddle of the Purple Finches." Mrs. Burnell closed by reading a very appropriate poem on March, by Thurza Martin.

¹¹ Burroughs, John, *Under the Apple Trees: The Writings of John Burroughs*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1916. "Under the Apple Trees" is the first of a series of essays. The whole collection of essays is also entitled *Under the Apple Trees* because most of the essays were written in Burroughs' camp under the trees, in the old orchard where he gathered apples as a farm boy.

¹² Sharpe, Dallas Lore, *Face of the Fields*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1911. Sharpe became known for his magazine articles on native birds and small mammals.

¹³ Govan, Ada Clapham, *Wings at My Window*, New York: MacMillan, 1940. As a housebound invalid, Mrs. Govan becomes fascinated with birds when a chickadee visited her window feeder. Eventually, she became so involved and gained so much pleasure from this pastime that it helped relieve her incapacitating arthritis. The author became adept at bird-handling, bird identification, and in creating a wildlife sanctuary for her feathered friends.

A penny collection was taken, and then the meeting adjourned, after which the hostess served delicious refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

March 17, 1943

The ladies of the Club entertained the Gentlemen at a supper and social evening – at the Vestry on this date.

The meal was served at 6:30 by a very efficient Committee and there were 53 members and guests present.

The President presided in a very charming manner and everyone felt most welcome. She thanked the supper Committee for serving such a delicious and plentiful meal in these times of severe rationing and high prices.

Green candles and lovely white flowers, potted plants and green crepe paper formed the table decorations. Napkins and nut baskets carried out the color scheme and were especially appropriate for St. Patrick's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Harrison were special guests of the evening and after Mrs. G. G. Doane had given a clever toast to the men, and Mr. Luther Bonney one to the ladies, the President Mrs. Hanson introduced Mr. and Mrs. Harrison.

Everyone was invited into the Sun room at the end of the meal and while tables were being cleaned, gathered round the piano and sang many songs of other days. Miss Lillian Hanson presided at the piano. This custom of singing songs is one which the very first members of We Neighbors Club introduced into it at their early first meetings.

The evening was rounded out by beautiful movies of travel thru parts of Canada, shown by Mr. Harrison. He commented on some of the movies and mentioned especially the increased amount of travel on the railroads these days.

Mrs. Hanson thanked Mr. Harrison very graciously on behalf of the Club for entertaining us.

Once more our annual "Gentlemen's Night" had been a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

March 24, 1943

We Neighbors Club met on the afternoon of this date at the home of Mrs. Luther Bonney, with Mrs. Edith Sawyer and Mrs. Randall Sawyer as hostesses.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the Treasurer reported a balance of \$7.48 on hand. All bills of the Gentlemen's Nite supper amounted to a total of \$18.80 and have been paid to date.

The Secretary read a note of thanks from Mrs. Wallace Merrill for flowers sent her and Mrs. Hanson reported thanks from Mrs. Fickett for flowers also.

A Penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Hanson, the President thanked both Committees again for their co-operation in making our Gentlemen's Nite the success it was.

Mrs. Walter Barter announced an all day Circle Meeting at her home on Tuesday of next week.

It was moved and seconded to contribute money individually towards a gift for Mrs. Bushby.

Also moved and seconded the Chair appoint a Committee of 3 to purchase the gift or present her with the money collected.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. T. R. Jordan who reviewed the book, "Northern Maine" by Elliot Merrick.¹⁴

Delicious refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

Club will meet next week at the Library with Mrs. May and Mrs. Wallace Merrill hostesses. Mrs. G. B. Doane will substitute for Mrs. Merrill.

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded.

Respectfully submitted.

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

March 31, 1943

The We Neighbors Club met on this date at the Library with Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Norman Mayo as hostesses, and Mrs. Glendon Doane assisting as acting hostess.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted with the correction that the meeting of that date was to be held at the Library instead of at the Vestry.

¹⁴ This reference may refer to Elliott Merrick's book, *Northern Nurse*, published by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1942. It focuses on a story from the life of his first wife, Kate Austen, a nurse from Australia whom he met while teaching in Labrador.

The treasurer reported a contribution of 25 cents for the Gentlemen's Night Supper making the total balance \$7.73.

The President suggested that the Sec write a note of thanks to the hostesses of the afternoon for their entertainment. Penny collection was taken.

The Pres. then introduced Mr. Motz our Sept. of Schools. R. Motz' topic for the afternoon was Juvenile Delinquency stressing the point that "These are our children, or tomorrow's leaders." He divided his remarks into four parts. First the home, which he said is governed by either conscientious or irresponsible or grasping parents. Second, the church. Third, the locality, namely the trailer camp, the crowded apartment house, the "so called diver" and reluctantly including the armed forces. And fourth, the schools in which he thinks social life plays so great a part. He told of several instances where he had personally been connected with this problem making us realize how serious it is becoming and how fortunate we are that we are living in a clean, healthy, and health loving community.

He spoke very briefly of the Woman's branches of the Armed Forces saying that many would be doing their bit to better advantage had they remained at their jobs as school teachers, and leaders of youths, than letting their love of adventure and uniform carry them to No. Africa. Mr. Motz made us fully realize what a tremendous problem, this so called "War Atmosphere" is bringing to the World, and we must do our "bit" and our best to conquer it. Those who wished asked questions which he very ably answered. A rising vote of thanks was given Mr. Motz.

It was announced that unless plans were changed, the next meeting would be at the home of Mrs. Leonard Morse. Meeting adjourned followed by delicious refreshments.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec. pro tem

April 21, 1943 [Actual date may have been April 14, 1943.]

Club met on this date at the Library with Mrs. Harlan Sweetser and Mrs. Leonard Morse hostesses.

The Secretary's Report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported the sum of \$8.48 on hand at this time. Her report was also accepted. Eighteen members were present.

One of the Club members presented a name for membership and as it is our custom to present names in advance the motion was made and seconded to table this for the present and discuss it at the next meeting.

A penny collection was taken by Mrs. Mary Chase.

The President appointed the Club Luncheon Committee as follows: Mrs. G. B. Doane, Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. K. W. Chase.

Decorating Comm: Mrs. John Gray, Mrs. Ernest Burnell.

Mrs. Hanson also appointed the Nominating committee as follows: Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Mrs. Geneva Chase, Mrs. Henry W. Hanson, Sr.

Mrs. Hanson mentioned the Hosiery Collection now going on at the stores and urged all members to bring all silk, rayon, or nylon hosiery to the next meeting as we have nearly enough (100#) to turn in. She spoke of the scrap drive on May 1, and specially of the Bond purchase drive – the first 3 days of next week. There is to be a war Bond dance at Town Hall on Mon. Eve, when the admission price will be a war stamp. Mr. Mel Wilson will explain the different kinds of bonds at this time.

Mrs. Herman P. Sweetser read entertaining Chapters from “One Man’s Meat,” by E. B. White.¹⁵

One chapter on “Town Meeting”, one on Maine speech, others on “Egg Surplus,” “Upbringing of a Sea Gull.” “Winter Diary” and “Memorandum in October” were very interesting.

A Cheerful Chapter on “Spring” helped us to realize that our own Spring is really here in spite of the dreary day.

Meeting adjourned until next week at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell. During the social hour that followed the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted.

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

April 21, 1943 [This entry, same date as previous one, different content.]

We Neighbors Club met at the Library on the afternoon of this day with Mrs. Perry Burnell and Mrs. Geneva Chase hostesses. 23 members and the Speaker were present.

The Sec report was read and accepted. The Treas. reported \$8.48 on hand at this time.

The name presented for membership at the last meeting was withdrawn for the present.

Mrs. G. B. Doane chairman of the Club Luncheon Committee asked the members who plan on attending to notify one of the members of the Committee as this will make it easier for them in planning the luncheon.

Mrs. Arno Chase very kindly arranged to pay for the use of Vestry for the occasion and our President thanked her on behalf of the Club.

Mrs. Randall Sawyer will be unable to give her program at this time and Mrs. N.B.T. Busby of Yarmouth will give a Travel Talk.

¹⁵ White, E. B. *One Man’s Meat*, New York: Harper Bros., 1942. This book comprises a series of monthly columns written by E. B. White for *Harper’s* magazine and *The New Yorker* magazine. The columns are intended to provide readers with information about White’s experiences living on a saltwater farm in Maine. White moved with his wife and son to North Brooklin, Maine in 1938.

Mrs. Arno Chase presented Mrs. Busby¹⁶ with a gift of money from the different members to purchase something she wishes for the little newcomer.

A motion was made and seconded that the hostesses notify each member when a change in the place of meeting is necessary.

The penny collection was taken.

Our President Mrs. Hanson, Jr. introduced Rev. Curtis C. Busby, the Speaker of the P.M. whose subject was "Religion of Shakespeare's Plays." Rev. Busby said the religion of his Plays is a good example of the religion of Shakespeare's time. He discussed his subtle methods of bringing in the subject of religion in the various Plays, and gave many quotations. His talk was well and interestingly handled and it was indeed a pleasure to have him with us at this time. A rising vote of thanks was given Rev. Busby.

Meeting adjourned until next Wed. at the Vestry.

The hostesses served dainty refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

April 28, 1943

The We Neighbors Club met at the Vestry on this date for the annual luncheon and program. The Committee had planned and prepared an especially good menu in spite of rationing and scarcity of many articles of food.

Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Ernest Burnell had decorated the tables in spring colors and the pussy willows and bright jonquils helped carry out the feeling of the spring season. Gay nut cups in green and yellow, filled with nuts and delicious home made mints added to the pleasure of the meal.

One guest and 29 members were present. We were very happy to have with us 2 honorary members, Mrs. Evie Sweetser and Mrs. Doughty.

The Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted at the business meeting following the luncheon. \$8.48 was the amount reportedly in the Treasury.

The chairman of the luncheon committee asked each lady to contribute 50 cents toward the cost of the food.

Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. (the Club President) thanked both lunch and decorating committees.

Nominating Committee reported the following officers for the next year.

¹⁶ Mrs. Busby is the wife of Reverend Curtis Busby who served as minister of the Cumberland Congregational Church from 1942-1946.

Pres. Mrs. Lena Foster. Vice Pres. Mrs. Marguerite Jordan, Sec. Mrs. Lulu Burnell, Treas. Mrs. Antoinette Packard.

Program Committee: Mrs. Marjorie Chase, Mrs. Mildred Doane, Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser

Field Day Committee: Mrs. Margaret Hanson, Mrs. Beatrice Ross, Mrs. Ruth Hanson

Mrs. Hanson said she felt it an honor and a privilege to have been the Club's President the past year. She extended thanks to the Program Committee and all other committees who have co-operated so well thru the year. She turned the gavel over to Mrs. Foster the in coming President who after a few words asked for a rising vote of thanks to the retiring President.

The Club song was enjoyed by all present and Mrs. Foster introduced Mrs. N. G. T. Barker of Yarmouth the speaker of the afternoon. Mrs. Barker was dressed in a costume representative of Guata Mala. She responded graciously to the introduction, and after a short recess gave us a most entertaining and interesting account of her Carribean Cruise in 1941. She told of many humorous incidents and the whole account was exceptionally clear and direct. One felt almost as if one were enjoying the trip with her. Mrs. Barker had brought a number of odd and interesting articles which she had brought home as souvenirs.

The President thanked Mrs. Barker on behalf of the Club and presented her with a lovely bouquet of red and white carnations with green ferns.

Meeting adjourned till fall, after a most successful, happy Club year.

Respectfully submitted,

Marguerite Jordan, Sec.

September 1, 1943

The We Neighbors club met with Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. for the annual picnic. Eighteen members and two guests attended.

Due to showers lunch was eaten indoors.

Admitting to membership people living outside of the town was discussed.

It was a pleasure to have Mrs. Wallace Merrill present for a short time.

The weather cleared in the afternoon and a social time and games were enjoyed on the lawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lulu J. Burnell, Sec.

October 13, 1943

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Harold Ross. Mrs. Earle Genthner was co-hostess. Twenty-one members and two guests attended.

Records of the April 28th and September 1st meetings were read. The treasurer reported \$6.83 in the treasury.

Mrs. Alvah Thompson was voted a member.

It was voted to give five dollars to the United War Chest Drive.

The penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Sturdivant gave an excellent review of the book "Story of Dr. Wassell"¹⁷ by James Hilton. Dr. Wassell was born on July 4, 1884 at Little Rock, Arkansas. The book told of Dr. Wassell's getting his men out of Java through the turmoil of the Japanese invasion. He was awarded the Navy Cross by President Roosevelt.

After adjournment of the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

October 20, 1943

Eighteen members attended the meeting of the We Neighbors Club at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell with Mrs. Frank Fickett co-hostess.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. The treasurer reported \$10.53 in the treasury.

It was voted to invite Mrs. Ralph W. Bernard to become a member of the Club, and the secretary was asked to write to her to that effect.

A letter from Mrs. Gray thanking the Club for flowers sent her was read.

¹⁷ Hilton, James, *The Story of Dr. Wassell*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1943. On February 4, 1942, the cruisers *USS Houston* and *USS Marblehead* were badly damaged by Japanese forces. The ships docked in Java for repair and sailors needed medical attention. Wassell was detailed to work with the Dutch medical personnel already on the island and administer to the needs of American sailors. In February 1942, the British fortress of Singapore fell and the Japanese invaded Sumatra in Netherland East Indies. Wassell was offered the chance to leave Java but declined in order to stay with his patients, knowing he would be captured by the enemy. Wassell was "almost like a Christ-like shepherd devoted to his flock," President Franklin Delano Roosevelt told the nation during his 49th fireside chat on the evening of April 29, 1942. The official citation for Wassell's Navy Cross notes, "For especially meritorious conduct, devotion to duty and utter disregard of personal safety, while in imminent contact with enemy forces and under attack from enemy aircraft, in caring for and evacuating the wounded of the US Navy under his charge on Java, Netherland East Indies about March 1, 1942."

The President appointed Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Bonney, and Mrs. Randall Sawyer for the dinner committee for Gentlemen' Night and Mrs. Doane and Mrs. Genthner for the decorating committee.

It was voted to invite in after the dinner the general public to view the pictures of one hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration of the church and to share in the entertainment.

The penny collection was taken.

Miss Harriet Merrill who had charge of the program for the afternoon selected a list of eminent people about whom ten minute sketches were given as follows: General MacArthur, Mrs. Howard Blanchard; Winston Churchill, Mrs. Fickett; Madame Chiang Kai-shek, Mrs. Busby; Pearl Buck, Mrs. Gerald Packard; John Philip Sousa, Mrs. Jordan; Captain Rickenbacker, Miss Merrill.

Upon adjournment of the meeting delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

October 27, 1943

Thirteen members attended the meeting of the We Neighbors Club at the home of Mrs. Howard Blanchard with Miss Harriet Blanchard co-hostess.

The secretary's records were read and the President reported that Mrs. Harold Bragg would take the place of Mrs. Doane on the decorating committee for Gentlemen's Night. The Treasurer reported \$14.28 on hand.

Mrs. Anton Hougaard and Mrs. Benedict Stockholm were proposed for membership.

Mrs. Wyman was reported in the hospital.

It was voted that at the secretary's convenience the constitution and by-laws be written in this book, and that she look up the vote in regard to admitting new members.

The program for the afternoon was the review of Mr. Willkie's book "One World"¹⁸ which was to have been given by Mrs. Rand. She was kept at home on account of illness and we were sorry not hear her read the selections she had made. They were very efficiently read by Mrs. Herman Sweetser.

As suggested by the title of the book, Mr. Willkie stressed working for world peace after the war.

¹⁸ Willkie, Wendell, *One World*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1943. This book documents Willkie's world travels and meetings with many of the Allied heads of state as well as ordinary citizens and soldiers in localities such as El Alamein, Russia, and Iran. Willkie also discusses need for some sort of world government. In addition he focused on the future of China after World War II. He prophesized that whichever power, Communist or Nationalist, achieves power will make China a force to be reckoned with. It is the duty of the Allies to make sure that power is friendly to American and Allied interests. This book, highly popular in its time, sold millions of copies and for four months registered at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list beginning in May 1943.

After adjournment of the meeting, cider and doughnuts were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

November 4, 1943

The annual Gentlemen's Night was held at the vestry which was attractively decorated with candles, fall leaves, and corn stalks. Sixty-five persons partook of the supper consisting of clam chowder and mince pie, both of which required very few ration points. Toasts were given by Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Busby.

After the tables were cleared Mr. Wayne Merrill showed moving pictures which he had taken of the scrap collection, North Yarmouth fire, and church 150th celebration. These should be of historical value. Mr. Howard Clough showed beautiful views taken in Florida and in Maine, as well as pictures of the church celebration.

A few of the townspeople came in to see the pictures. The evening was a pleasant one.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula G. Burnell, Sec.

November 17, 1943

Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Walter Barter were hostesses for the We Neighbors' Club at the library with twenty-five members present. The Secretary's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported 94 cents in the Treasury.

It was voted that Mrs. Hougaard and Mrs. Stockholm be invited to be members of the Club.

The Secretary reported that on April 26, 1933 it was voted not to limit the club membership. Also voted that the name of a prospective member by first suggested to the club and if approved, an invitation extended then from the club.

Mrs. Albert Sweetser who was to have had the program for the afternoon was unable to be present. Mrs. Harlan Sweetser in her delightful way reviewed the book "A Sense of Humus" by Bertha Damon.¹⁹ The author, among other offices has been President of the Federated Garden Clubs of New Hampshire. The

¹⁹ Damon, Bertha, *A Sense of Humus*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1943. Damon focuses on her adult life in the 1930s in rural New Hampshire, where she became an enthusiastic gardener and enjoyed getting to know some of the local characters. It includes much humor as well as serious passages. "Ruffled Paws", chapter about cocker spaniels, has appeared in more than one anthology.

book tells of her battle with the soil of her chill rocky but beloved New Hampshire and is rich with the joys and sorrows of country living.

After adjournment tempting refreshments were served by the hostesses.

During the business session a letter from Mrs. Wyman was read expressing appreciation for the plant and messages she had received.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

December 8, 1943

Mrs. Ernest Rand and Mrs. Theodore Jordan entertained eighteen members of the We Neighbors Club and one guest at the library.

Vice President welcomed Mrs. Hougaard our new member.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Mrs. Genthner was reported ill at the Osteopathic Hospital.

A letter from Mrs. Bernard was read expressing regret that she could not become a member the Club now.

The Christmas tree committee asked for a twenty-five cent gift from each member for the tree.

The penny collection was taken.

The subject of the program for the afternoon was "Our Boys in the Service" and was of especial interest. Mrs. Marjorie Chase read a letter from Isaac Hayes and exhibited a document from the Navy showing that he had crossed the equator. Mrs. Barter spoke of six nephews in the service, one of them Merrill Brackett guarding German prisoners in Michigan. She also spoke of Elizabeth Bailey's four boys and of Earl Hutchins in England. Mrs. Rand read a letter from Donald Rawson. Mrs. Jordan from Harold Ashley, and Mrs. Mary Chase from Robert Young in Italy. Mrs. Sturdivant read a letter from Mr. Craig and one from Perley Hutchins. Miss Harriet Merrill and Mrs. Bragg each read a letter from Halvor telling of his experiences and work. Mrs. Busby's letter was from a friend of hers in Italy. Mrs. Thompson's was from her son, a Sea men in Alaska, and Mrs. Bonney spoke of her boy in a training school in Connecticut. Mrs. Ross read a letter from Stewart Hamilton.

On adjournment of the meeting a refreshing lunch was served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

December 15, 1943

The Club met at the home of Mrs. Earl Baker with Mrs. Merton Rawson as co-hostess. There were 19 members and one guest present. The records of the last meeting were not present and Mrs. Millard Burnell was asked to serve as Secretary pro tem.

It was voted to give three dollars (\$3.00) to Opportunity Farm as a Christmas gift.

Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. and Mrs. Harold Ross had charge of the program, and Mrs. Hanson read *The Other Wise Man*²⁰ by Henry Van Dyke, giving an interesting sketch of how it came to be written.

After this, Mrs. Ross read the *Song of the Christmas Angel* by Walter Ben Hare.²¹ They were back-touching stories and carried a Christmas message.

Following the program the gifts from the tree were distributed and delicious refreshments were served in the dining room where Mrs. Howard Blanchard and Mrs. Walter Barter poured.

Respectfully submitted,

Bessie Burnell Sec. pro tem

January 12, 1944

Eighteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. The Secretary's reports were read and the Treasurer reported \$5.13 in the treasurer. Letters of appreciation from Mrs. Genthner and Mrs. Haugaard were read.

²⁰ Van Dyke, Henry, *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, New York: Harper, 1896. This story is an addition and expansion of the account of the Biblical Magi, recounted in the Gospel of Matthew. It tells about a "fourth" wise man, a priest of the Magi named Artaban, one of the Medes from Persia. Like the other Magi he sees signs in the heavens proclaiming that a King had been born among the Jews. Like them, Artaban sets out to see the newborn ruler, carrying treasures to give as gifts to the child, a sapphire, a ruby and a "pearl of great price." However along the way he stops to help a dying man and this delay makes him late to meet with the caravan of the three other wise men. Because he missed his caravan, and thus he can't cross the desert with only a horse, he is forced to sell one of his treasures in order to buy the camels and supplies necessary for the trip. He commences his trip but arrives in Bethlehem too late to see the child whose parents have fled to the Egypt. He saves the life of a child at the price of another of these treasures. He then travels to Egypt and many other countries searching for Jesus and performing acts of charity along the way. After 33 years, Artaban is still a pilgrim and a seeker after light. Artaban arrives in Jerusalem just in time for the crucifixion of Jesus. He spends his last treasure, the pearl, to ransom a young woman being sold into slavery. He is then struck on the head by a falling roof tile and is about to die, having failed in his quest to find Jesus. However, throughout his life he had done many acts of charity. A voice calls him, "Verily I say unto thee, inasmuch as thou hast done it unto one of the least of my brethren, thou has done it unto me." (Mt 25:40). Artaban died in a calm radiance of wonder and joy. The Other Wise Man found his King.

²¹ Hare Walter Ben, *Song of the Christmas Angel: A Dramatic Reading with Lesson and Talks*, unknown binding, 1926. 13 pages. Walter Ben Hare (1880-1950) wrote over 200 plays, popular with amateur theatres around the country, but none was ever produced on Broadway.

The Ladies Circle supper and P.T.A. dance to be held on Friday the 14th was announced.

The penny collection was taken.

The program planned for the afternoon "Here Comes the Bride" was postponed to February 16th. In its place Mrs. Perry Burnell reviewed the book "Winter Harbor"²² by Bernice Richmond which told of the author buying one of lighthouses on the Maine coast which the government sold a few years ago and living there for three summers. The book was very clearly written.

On adjournment of the meeting tea sandwiches and cookies were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

January 19, 1944

Twenty one members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. and Miss Lillian Hanson. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported 7.38 in the Treasury and the penny collection was taken.

The committee reported that the next meeting would be held at the vestry.

The book for the afternoon, "What America Means to Me"²³ was very well reviewed by Mrs. Ernest Burnell. The author stated that the West could teach the East much about health and that the East could teach the West that people do not live by bread alone. She was a Nobel prize winner in 1938.

On adjournment, ice cream, an especial treat these war time days, was served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

²² Richmond, Bernice, *Winter Harbor*, New York: Holt, 1943. This is the story of a quiet unostentatious picture of escaping to sanity, and a way of living that appeals to us through its simplicity. From 1939-1940, the author and her husband spend their summers on Mark Island off the coast of Maine. They establish themselves in the lighthouse, make friends with people on the mainland, and move three tons of furniture by boat. They paint and patch, keep a house and a garden. They face storm and fog. They discover guests can be both assets and liabilities.

²³ Buck, Pearl S. *What America Means to Me*, New York: John Day, 1943. This book contains collected articles in which the major theme is that there can be no true democracy until all barriers based on race and color have been broken down. As she states, "Race prejudice is not only a shadow over the colored – it is a shadow over all of us, and the shadow is darkest over those who feel it least and allow its evil effects to go on." Daughter of missionaries, Pearl Buck spent most of her life before 1934 in China. Her novel *The Good Earth* was best selling fiction book in the US in 1931 and 1932. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1932. Then in 1938, she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1935, she returned to the United States and became a prominent advocate of the rights of women and minority groups.

January 26, 1944

Mrs. Doane entertained twenty members of the We Neighbors Club at the vestry. Mrs. Wyman was kept at home by illness in the family.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the penny collection was taken.

It was voted to give two dollars to the Infantile Paralysis fund.

The entertainment was moving pictures shown by Mr. Crandall. The first picture was "Amazing America" and was put out by the Greyhound people. It showed beautiful places in the United States. The second was "Trees and Homes" and showed a Douglas fir when it was very small, the grown trees, and development of the wood into a furnished home. We appreciate the varied programs Mr. Crandall has given us.

After adjournment hot chocolate and Mrs. Wyman's famous sponge cake were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Secretary

February 9, 1944

Mrs. Marjorie Chase entertained fifteen members of the We Neighbors Club and one guest. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$5.38 in the treasury. And the penny collection was taken.

The President reported that no more meetings could be held at the library on account of shortage of coal.

The book for the afternoon was "George Washington Carver" by Rackham Holt.²⁴ Mrs. Barter in her usual painstaking way gave us a very clear impression of Mr. Carver.

On adjournment of the meeting we entered the dining room and helped ourselves to nice hot tea, sandwiches and cookies. A few minutes of lively talk followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

²⁴ Holt, Rackham, *George Washington Carver: An American Biography*, New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1943. Although Carver faced many challenges, he consistently shows his constancy in life. His aim was always to learn and appreciate the life abounding about him. Carver viewed every day as a gift and every breath as a miracle. This is a portrait of a courageous and humble man.

February 16, 1944

Mrs. Foster, with Mrs. Jennie Burnell as co-hostess, entertained sixteen members of the We Neighbors Club. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$5.38 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

It was our privilege to have as guest speaker Dean Everett W. Lord, formerly of Boston University, a scholarly gentleman. He has lived in South America and his subject was that country. He spoke among other things of their schools, one university having been established fifty years before Harvard, of their fine literature, of students, their universities having been exchanged with those of universities in this country. He spoke of Bolivar,²⁵ the South American George Washington. He mentioned that the attitude of South Americans hasn't been very friendly toward either the people of this country or the Germans.

After adjournment of the meeting, the hostesses served luscious refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

February 23, 1944

Mrs. Antoinette Packard with Mrs. Dorothy Packard, co-hostess, entertained seventeen members of the We Neighbors Club and one guest. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported 6.13 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

Miss Lillian Hanson held our close attention with her review of the book "Chicken Curry Sunday"²⁶ by Rosemary Taylor. The authors mother was an artist at cooking and would not let slip an opportunity for making a dollar. The book tells of her experiences taking boarders and roomers.

After adjournment of the meeting the hostesses served refreshing punch and sandwiches candy and nuts and Mrs. Mary Chase treated us to delicious chocolates in recognition of her birthday.

²⁵ Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was a Venezuelan military and political leader who played an instrumental role in establishing Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia as sovereign states, independent of Spanish rule. In 1808, Bolivar inaugurated his campaign for independence, appealing to the wealthy creole population. Despite hindrances and the arrival of an unprecedented large Spanish expeditionary force, the revolutionaries prevailed, culminating in the Battle of Carabobo in 1821, which effectively made Venezuela a truly independent country. Subsequently, Bolivar participated in founding the first union of independent nations in Latin America, presiding as president from 1819-1830. He conquered Ecuador, Peru, and finally Bolivia which was named after him. He assumed the Presidency of each of these new nations. At the peak of his power, Bolivar ruled over a vast territory from the Argentine border to the Caribbean.

²⁶ Taylor, Rosemary, *Chicken Curry Sunday: My Life with Mother's Boarders*, New York: McGraw Hill, 1943. One of the boarders who ate Mother's chicken every Sunday summed it up when he said, "I was told that in your house I'd have good food and some fun." They all had fun, and they all became part of the family. Jeffrey lost his front teeth and won his independence. Rita Vlask loved everything in pants. The Wooleys were sure God had sent the skunk to hide under the house because the family didn't go to church on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

March 8, 1944

Twenty-two members and two guests met at the home of Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser with Mrs. Sturdivant co-hostess. The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the penny collection was taken.

The speaker for the afternoon was Miss Grace Trappan of the Portland Public Library. She talked in a very pleasing way of Maine books and authors. Among the early authors she mentioned were Madam Wood,²⁷ Sylvester Judd,²⁸ and Elizabeth Dale Prince Smith. She read from E. B. White's book a number of Maine colloquialisms. She also mentioned collections of Southworth and Mosher editions of books.

On adjournment to the dining room we found ready for us delicious ice cream and nuts. Friendly conversation followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

March 15, 1944

Fourteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Busby with Mrs. Louise Sweetser co-hostess.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$5.88 on hand and the penny collection was taken.

It was voted to give \$3.00 to the Red Cross.

A letter from Mrs. Fickett was read thanking the club for flowers sent her.

²⁷ Sarah "Sally" Sayward Barrell Keating Wood (1759-1854) was an American novelist. She is considered the first American female writer of gothic fiction. She was born in York, Maine, the first daughter of Sarah Sayward Burrell and the British army officer Nathaniel Burrell, but was heavily influenced by her wealthy grandfather Judge Jonathan Sayward. On October 23, 1778, she married Richard Keating who five years later died of a fever. Later she married General Abiel Wood. He died in 1811. Thereafter she moved with her children to Portland, Maine. She was an author of gothic novels and wrote under the pen name "A Lady of Massachusetts." After Maine became a state in 1820, she changed her pen name to "A Lady of Maine." To her readers, she was better known as Madame Wood.

²⁸ Sylvester Judd (1813-1853) was a Unitarian minister and American novelist. After ordination as a Unitarian minister on October 1, 1840, Judd became pastor of a church in Augusta, Maine. American critic and poet James Russell Lowell called Judd's novel *Margaret* "the most emphatically American book ever written." Lowell mentioned the novel in his long satire *A Fable for Critics* (1848) as "the first Yankee book/ With the soul of Down East in 't and things farther East."

A notice of pre-induction information meetings to be held at Portland and South Portland was read.

The speaker for the afternoon was Miss Theresa McNeil from the State Bureau of Health. Miss McNeil is a very efficient appearing person. She told of her work with babies and children in homes in Cumberland County towns. She spoke in particular of orthopedic faults.

On adjournment we were treated to sparkling ginger ale, sandwiches and cookies.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

March 22, 1944

Nineteen members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Helen Bragg with Mrs. Geneva Chase assistant hostess.

Mrs. Foster reported Mrs. Fickett as improving.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Gray read a letter from Gordon Rawson written on his way to England.

The subject of the program for the afternoon was antiques and was in charge of Mrs. Bessie Burnell who showed a sewing box brought from Scotland by Meauber Prince who was shipwrecked there. Mrs. Jennie Burnell showed a sampler and an autograph album dating about 1855; Mrs. Genthner a Paisley shawl and a small black parasol; Mrs. Ross spring scales that looked like a pedestal, Miss Merrill a match box 113 years old, Mrs. Bonney a punch bowl from Wales; Mrs. Harmon a little book nearly two hundred years old; Mrs. Gertrude Bragg a sleeve from a child's dress ninety years old; Mrs. Sturdivant shoes from China worn when the Chinese women bound their feet, and a pendant from California made of kingfisher feathers over silver; and Mrs. Blanchard two copies of Godey's Lady's Book dated 1864 and 1865.

After the exhibits were shown Mrs. Bessie Burnell read from the book "About Antiques"²⁹ by Ella Shannon Bowles, which contained among other items interesting recipes.

The meeting was adjourned and the hostesses served an attractive fruit salad with candies.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

²⁹ Bowles, Ella Shannon, *About Antiques*, Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippincott, 1929.

March 29, 1944

Twenty-three members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Bragg with Miss Harriet Merrill assisting hostess.

The President named Mrs. Antoinette Packard and Mrs. Barter on the luncheon committee, the decorating to be done by Mrs. Ruth Hanson and Miss Lillian Hanson.

Mrs. Bonney again spoke of her program "Here Comes the Bride" and asked that wedding dresses to be modeled be left with Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser.

The missionary meeting at the vestry was announced, pictures of the Seacoast Mission to be shown at 3:15 in the afternoon.

The penny collection was taken.

The program for the afternoon was a review by our talented reader, Mrs. Louise Sweetser of Stephen Vincent Benet's book "Western Star."³⁰ Mr. Benet had planned a long narrative poem about Western migration of peoples, first as they came to America and then as they spread out. This poem was not finished. Book one was "Western Star." It is a story of the common people of the Plymouth and Jamestown settlements, beautifully written. Mrs. Sweetser gave a vivid and charming review of it.

After adjournment of the meeting the hostesses served fluffy warm puffs, and a few minutes of pleasant conversation followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

April 12, 1944

Eighteen members, five models and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Marjorie Chase. The Secretary's reports were read and accepted. \$6.63 was reported in the treasury, and the penny collection was taken.

The President reported that Mrs. Gray had paid for the use of the vestry for the luncheon and it was voted that new give the decorating committee two dollars for the decorating.

The President named Mrs. Jennie Burnell a third member of the luncheon committee, and Mrs. Mrs. Bessie Burnell and Mrs. Geneva Chase for the nominating committee.

The program for the afternoon was "Here Comes the Bride" under the direction of Mrs. Bonney. Wedding dresses were shown. The models were Norma Farwell, Lillian Burnell, Patricia Hanson, and Barbara Herbert and Barbara Chase.

³⁰ Benet, Stephen Vincent, *Western Star*, New York: Farrar and Rinehart, 1943. Preoccupied with historical themes, Benet (1898-1943) planned a series of five books of which *Western Star* was the first one. This epic verse narrative was completed in 1942 and published posthumously in 1943.

The first dress shown was that of Mrs. Sturdivant's mother who was married in 1854. It was of white muslin and measured five yards around the bottom.

Aunt Hattie Rideouts dress was of dark blue silk with plush trimmings and a very full skirt. She was married in 1860.

Mrs. Fred Sweetser's dress was of white muslin trimmed with narrow lace and had a train. She was married in 1879.

Mrs. Frank Doughty's dress was of cream wool and lace and the date was 1882.

Mrs. Evie Dunn's was white embroidered mull[?] worn in 1888.

Mrs. Bessie Burnell modeled her own dress. It was of white muslin trimmed with a white ribbon and had a train. She was married in 1904. Mrs. Wallace Merrill's dress was of white embroidered mull and had a train. She was married in 1906.

Mrs. Gertrude Bragg modeled her own gown. It was white, designed by her sister and made by her mother. She wore her graduation petticoat, and a hat trimmed with flowers. She was married in 1907.

Miss Jennie Barter's was white muslin. Her whole outfit all lace trimmed, was modeled .petticoat, undershirt, corset cover and drawers. She was married in 1912.

Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser's was of white crepe de Chine decorated with beads. She wore veil and white shoes and stockings. She was married in 1919.

Mrs. Ruth Hanson' was white satin with long train. She was married in 1924.

Mrs. Marjorie Chase's was white silk with wide silk fringe knee length. She was married in 1925.

Mrs. Helen Bragg's was white georgette, knee length and worn in 1927.

Mrs. Stockholm's was white lace with veil and train. She was married in 1940.

Mrs. Betty Sweetser Baxter's dress was shown. It was of white figured satin with long train, and she wore a cap. She was married in 1944.

After the exhibit the hostesses served wedding cake, sandwiches and ginger ale.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

Newspaper Clipping Included beside these minutes...

The We Neighbors Club was entertained at the home of Mrs. Kenneth W. Chase on Wednesday afternoon. Mrs. Luther I. Bonney had charge of the program. Here Comes the Bride. Sixteen wedding gowns were shown, some worn by members of the club and others modeled by a group of girls from

Greely Institute. Wedding gowns worn by four generations were of interest. The most recent one was that worn by Mrs. Elmer Baxter (Miss Betty Sweetser) last January. Her mother's, Mrs. Herman P. Sweetser, gown worn in 1919, her grandmother's, Mrs. Fred R. Sweetser, worn in 1879 and that of her great grandmother Mrs. Stone of West Roxbury, Mass., which was worn in 1854 and was the oldest gown shown. Each bride stood before the fireplace which had a vase of snapdragon at either side, and the mantle was decorated with green vines and bouquets of snapdragons making an attractive background. Invited to the dining room where sandwiches, ginger ale and a wedding cake was served. The wedding cake was cut by Mrs. Wallace L. Merrill, as the oldest member present whose wedding dress was shown.

April 19, 1944

Seventeen members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Bonney with Mrs. Helen Sawyer assisting hostess.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. Including the contributions toward the luncheon the funds reported in the treasury were \$9.38. The penny collection was taken.

The President reported that the luncheon would be at one o'clock.

The speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Hortense Taft, Cumberland County Farm Bureau demonstration agent. She talked very effectively about the comparative food value of our common vegetables.

On adjournment we went to the dining room where fine grape juice and crispy crackers were waiting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

April 26, 1944

The annual club luncheon was held at the church vestry with thirty-one members and one honorary member present.

The tables were decorated with orange, black, red and green mats, candles and patio strings, and at each place was a little clay Mexican hat made by Miss Lillian Hanson. The menu was creamed chicken on patty shells, gelatin salad, potato chips, rolls, cream puffs and coffee.

The President thanked the luncheon committees and all who had helped make the year a success. The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the Treasurer reported \$2.41 in the treasury.

The President welcomed the honorary member, Mrs. Doughty.

The following officers and committees were elected for the following year.

President, Mrs. Theodore Jordan

Vice President, Mrs. Gerald Packard

Secretary, Mrs. Herman Sweetser

Treasurer, Mrs. Luther Bonney

Program Committee, Mrs. Perry Burnell, Mrs. Merton Rawson, Mrs. Harold Bragg

Picnic Committee, Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Herbert Foster, Mrs. Harold Ross.

Mrs. Jordan took over the office and a rising vote of thanks was given the retiring President, who has been present at every meeting during her year in office.

It was announced that anyone who wished to aid the Red Cross would be welcome to work on surgical dressings at Portland. It was all announced that Mrs. Rawson has material from which to make comfort bags for soldiers.

In the afternoon Mrs. Helen Sawyer read very clearly from the book, "The Story of Edward Grieg"³¹ by Claire Lee Purdy, which is a book "crammed full of high adventure and gay living." Mrs. Sawyer sang beautifully the following songs by Edward Grieg: "One Summer Night," "A Swan," "In the Boat," "Solvejg's Cradle Song" and "I love thee."

It was fitting that the last program of the year of the We Neighbors' Club should have been so educational and so well done.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

August 17, 1944

On a beautiful summer day the We Neighbors Club met at Mrs. Gray's for their annual picnic. The lawn each was delightfully shaded with tall trees, and comfortable chairs were placed about. On arrival guest was given a cool drink of punch and after the picnic lunch luscious watermelon was served. Attending were twelve members, our honorary member, Mrs. Albert Sweetser and one guest.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Acting sec.

Fiftieth Anniversary Year

October 18, 1944

The Club held its first meeting of the year at the Prince Memorial Library with Mrs. Archie Wyman and Mrs. Glendon Doane as hostesses. 27 members were present.

Our new president, Mrs. Theodore Jordan, presided and greeted us as we open our 50th year of We Neighbors.

³¹ Purdy, Claire Lee, *Song of the North: The Story of Edvard Grieg*, New York: Julian Messner, 1941

The secretary's & Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

There was no old business.

The names of Mrs. Wayne Merrill and Mrs. Lawrence Babcock were presented for membership and accepted. The secretary issued invitations to both ladies.

Voted that Mrs. Harold Ross have charge of the penny collection and sending of flowers to members when they are ill.

The program was then turned over to Mrs. Albert Sweetser, one of our honorary members and to Mrs. Millard Burnell our town historian. Mrs. Sweetser told of the founding of the club at an informal meeting at the parsonage (called by Mrs. Frank Davis, the pastor's wife) the idea being to form a Reading Circle to enjoy and study classics of English literature. Mrs. Sweetser & Mrs. Wyman were charter members and Miss Harriet Merrill one of the earliest of our present members to join. Mrs. Sweetser gave a delightful account of the early years and told of the first gentleman's night being held at her home in 1905. Some of us can remember being the children present at those festivities and who altho supposed to be seen and not heard, had as much fun as our parents. She told of the outings which were the high spot of the summer and we had many a reminiscent chuckle with her and enjoyed her old pictures of the club members. Mrs. Burnell gave many interesting dates and facts about We Neighbors which are recorded in the Historical Society room so won't be stated here.

After a delightful meeting which made us happy and proud to be members of such a fine old club we adjourned for a social hour. Delicious refreshments of punch and sandwiches were served.

The climax of the afternoon was a beautiful anniversary cake adorned with 50 flaming red white & blue candles, made and brot in by Mrs. Doane and served by our three oldest members, Mrs. Sweetser, Mrs. Wyman, Miss Merrill. It was a delightful afternoon and an auspicious beginning for another 50 years.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

October 25, 1944

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster with Mrs. Walter Barter as co-hostess. There were 15 members present.

The president called the meeting to order. The Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and accepted and the penny collection taken.

A letter from Opportunity Farm asking for support was read. It was voted to send them \$3.00.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Kenneth Chase who read Lowell Thomas' "These Men Shall Never Die,"³² telling of the heroic actions of our service men in the early part of the war. She gave an excellent review of a very difficult book to read.

After the meeting was adjourned we had a very pleasant social hour with delicious refreshments of tea and sandwiches and little cakes served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

³² Thomas, Lowell, *These Men Shall Never Die*, Philadelphia: John C. Winston, 1943.

November 8, 1944

On November 8, We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Randall Sawyer with Mrs. Edith Sawyer as co-hostess. There were 22 present.

Mrs. Jordan presided. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted & the penny collection for flowers taken.

Plans for Gentlemen's Night were discussed. The dinner committee is Mrs. Herbert Foster, Mrs. Walter Barter and Mrs. Perry Burnell and the decorating com: Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. and Mrs. Harold Bragg. The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Merton Rawson who reviewed Joseph Green's book "Ten Years in Japan."³³ It was most interesting and enlightening and well done. Mrs. Rawson deserved extra credit for, on short notice, she replaced Dean Lord who was our speaker and was unable to come.

After the meeting adjourned, the hostesses served delicious refreshments and a pleasant time for chatting was enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

November 17, 1944

On November 17, We Neighbors held its Gentlemen's Night. Twenty seven members and their guests sat down at the very attractively decorated tables. The committee served a delicious dinner of chicken pies, mashed potato, squash, salad, rolls, coffee ice cream and salted nuts.

Following dinner and Mrs. Jordan's gracious welcome to the club and their husbands or other guests, Mrs. Rand gave a toast to the gentlemen which was responded to by Herman Sweetser.

Mrs. Jordan then introduced the speaker of the evening, Judge Lauren Sanborn³⁴ who entertained us with old stories of this section of the state of Maine.

A spirit of friendliness and good will seemed to give the occasion rather a special feeling and everybody felt they had spent one more delightful gentlemen's night with "We Neighbors."

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

³³ Grew, Joseph C. *Ten Years in Japan*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1944. This book provides a unique look inside the government of Japan before and during the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is based on personal diaries of Joseph C. Grew, the American ambassador based in Tokyo from 1932 until 1942, when war was declared.

³⁴ Judge Lauren Sanborn served in Maine Superior Court from March 2, 1918 until March 2, 1925, when his term expired. The Maine Superior Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction in the Maine court system. Justices are nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Maine State Senate.

In loving memory we dedicate this page of our records
To our dear friend and cherished member of We Neighbors:

Alice Crosby Blanchard Fickett

A Copy of the Obituary reads as follows:

Cumberland Center, Nov. 27 – Mrs. Alice C. Fickett, 68, wife of Frank Fickett, died early this morning in her home at Walnut Hill.

She was born at Yarmouth May 23, 1876, the daughter of Edward G. and Sarah Emery Blanchard. Mrs. Fickett attended the Yarmouth schools and had lived at Walnut Hill since her marriage to Mr. Fickett 40 years ago. She was a member of Cumberland Center Congregational Church and the Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society of that church and of the We Neighbors Club. She had been a member of Westcustago Grange more than 50 years.

She is survived, besides her husband, by a sister Mrs. Olive Fuller of Westbrook, and a brother, George Blanchard of Hooksett, N. H.

The funeral will be held at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Cumberland Center Congregational Church with the Rev. Curtis C. Busby officiating. Interment will be in Moss Side Cemetery.

November 29, 1944

Instead of the Club meeting as planned, We Neighbors, sitting in a group in the front of the church, attended the funeral of our Cherished member and friend, Mrs. Alice Fickett. We have all loved and admired her for her sweet and gracious spirit and her indomitable courage and will miss her very much. It is a happy memory for us that she attended our last meeting and that she and Mr. Fickett were at Gentlemen's night and had a pleasant evening, she seeming in the best of spirits. She has been an inspiration to everyone who knew her.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

December 13, 1944

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase with Miss Harriet Merrill as co-hostess. There were 18 members present.

Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The penny collection was taken and Mrs. Harold Ross reported \$9.10 as the amount on hand. It was voted to pay our bills for flowers from that fund. A note of thanks from Mr. Fickett was read.

It was voted that the Secretary send notes of thanks to Judge Sanborn for his talk to us on Gentlemen's night and to Mr. Wm. Rowe for his generous contribution of nuts for that occasion.

It was voted to send the \$3.00 to Opportunity Farm at this time.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Harlan Sweetser. She read selections from "Latchstring Out" a book by Skulda V. Baner³⁵ which was very interesting and gave us the Christmas feeling. She concluded her program with a delightful reading from memory of Roark Bradford's "How Come Christmas?"³⁶ Her Negro dialect was perfect and her mood gay and we enjoyed it immensely.

After adjournment we went to the dining room where tea and sandwiches and cookies were served and Christmas decorations. It was a delightful afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

January 10, 1945

We neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Earl Baker with Mrs. Ernest Burnell as assistant hostess. There were 16 members present.

Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted and the penny collection taken.

Mr. Motz, superintendent of School Union #13, was our speaker. He told us about educational needs and the bills before our State Legislature for this session. He spoke of the need of better wages and pensions for teachers and urged us all to do our part in helping improve our educational standards. The members gave Mr. Motz a rising vote of thanks at the conclusion of his talk.

After adjournment the hostesses served tea and crackers and cookies and we had a very pleasant social hour.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

January 17, 1945

On January 17 a few We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell with Mrs. Jordan assisting hostess. The meeting was held in spite of bad weather and unplowed roads and there were seven members present.

Mrs. Jordan called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The penny collection was taken.

³⁵ Baner, Skulda V. *Latchstring Out*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1944. Stumpastina is a Swedish American child living in a mining camp in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Swedish traditions and immigrant life is portrayed.

³⁶ Bradford, Roark, "How Come Christmas: A modern morality," *Harper's Magazine*, December 1930. Written in "Negro dialect", the article describes how Little Jesus and Santa Claus got mixed up in celebration of Christmas.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Herman Sweetser who reviewed Carveth Well's new book "Introducing Africa."³⁷

Following adjournment the hostesses served delicious refreshments of ice cream, crackers and mints. Altho there were very few of us, we had a very jolly social time and were glad we had been able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

January 24, 1945

Club met with Mrs. Harold Bragg with 20 members present. Sec. and Treasurer's reports read and accepted. A letter of thanks from Mrs. Freda Morrill of Opportunity Farm was read and the penny collection taken.

The afternoon was then turned over to Mr. Crandall whose subject was "Detective Novels". He said the first novel was a series of letters under the title of Pamela. From this developed what was called romantic novels with horrors generally included. Then came what was called novels of escape, as the Prisoner of Zenda.³⁸ The real detective stories were written about 100 years ago such as the Moonstone³⁹ by Wilkie Collins. He said there were four characteristics in literature: 1st Dramatic influence, 2nd Atmosphere, 3rd Characteristics, 4th the plot. He explained these to us and told us that anyone could write a detective story if they had any imagination or even without it. He told us many interesting things about book writing and it was enjoyed by all.

After adjournment the hostess served a delicious salad and crackers.

Respectfully submitted,

Bessie Burnell

January 31, 1945

Club met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Rand with fifteen members present. Records of previous meeting read and accepted. Treasurer not present.

³⁷ Wells, Carveth, *Introducing Africa*, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1944.

³⁸ *The Prisoner of Zenda* may refer to the 1894 novel by Anthony Hope Hawkins. On the eve of coronation of King Rudolf of Ruritania, his brother, Prince Michael, has him drugged. The unconscious king is abducted and imprisoned in a castle in the town of Zenda. The novel features many plots, counter-plots and many complications.

³⁹ The novel *Moonstone* (1868) by Wilkie Collins is a nineteenth century British epistolary novel, generally considered to be the first detective novel in the English language. This novel established many of the ground rules for detective novels and reflected Collins' enlightened social attitudes in his treatment of servants in the novel.

After the penny collection was taken, the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Walter Barter who gave a very comprehensive and interesting review of the book "We Live in Alaska" by Constance Helmericks.⁴⁰ I think when she finished we were all glad that we lived in the good old U.S.A.

Respectfully submitted,

Bessie Burnell

February 14, 1945

On February 14 Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. 19 members and 1 guest were present. The records were not present. The Treasurer reported \$10.17 in the Treasury.

After the penny collection the afternoon was taken by Mrs. Ernest Burnell whose subject was "Our National Parks". She told us there were 22 parks in all – 16 west of the Mississippi. It was very interesting.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

Respectfully submitted.

Bessie Burnell

February 21, 1945

On Feb. 21 Mrs. Harold Ross and Mrs. Earle Genthner entertained We Neighbors at the Vestry. There were 21 present. The Secretary's & Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The penny collection was taken and the meeting then turned over to Mrs. Curtis Busby who read excerpts from "The Apostle" by Sholem Asch.⁴¹ She did a very good job on a very deep book.

After adjournment the hostesses served tea and we had a pleasant social time.

Respectfully submitted,

⁴⁰ Helmericks, Constance, *We Live in Alaska*, Boston: Little Brown, 1944. This is a true adventure story of a newly married couple who take a memorable canoe trip from Fairbanks to Bethel, Alaska in the months preceding Pearl Harbor. It is a story of their resourcefulness but also presents a vivid picture of Alaska and its people.

⁴¹ Asch's *The Apostle* (1943) is the second installment of a trilogy that began with *The Nazarene* (1939). The English language press received them enthusiastically but not the Yiddish. The Yiddish daily *Forward*, to which Asch had hitherto contributed, not only refused to publish the work, but openly attacked the author for encouraging heresy and conversion by preaching Christianity. *The Apostle* tells the story of the life of Saul or the Apostle Paul. The reader is pulled into the world of the first century fledgling Church, chronicling Paul's hatred of the growing Christian sect while still a powerful member of the Pharisees, his dramatic conversion, his ongoing struggles against the insidious influence of the Law upon the infant church, his missionary journeys, and his final days in Rome. Sholem Asch (1880-1957) was a Yiddish novelist born in Kutno, Poland. He believed Judaism and Christianity were two branches stemming from one great religion, a religion given by YHVH, the Creator of the Universe.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

February 28, 1945

On February 28, We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser and Mrs. Philip Sturdivant. There were 24 members and 4 guests present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported the treasury as static at \$10.17.

Mrs. Helen Sawyer had charge of the program and presented a Gay Nineties⁴² Review. She gave fashion hints and menus of that era and we were highly entertained by the "economical" menus of that time which seem very lavish in this war time rationing. Mrs. Sawyer was ably assisted by Mrs. Luther Bonney and Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. who sang some songs with her, and by Mrs. Kenneth Chase at the piano. They not only sang but danced and the program was delightful. It was as follows:

1. Group of Ballads: I'll Take you Home Again Kathleen; Last Night the nightingale woke me; Sweet Genevieve – sung by Mrs. Sawyer
2. The Band Played On – Mrs. Sawyer and others
3. In the Evening by the Moonlight – Mrs. Bonney and others
4. Man Who Broke the Bank – Mrs. Sawyer and others.
5. Strolling Thru the Park – Mrs. Hanson
6. Sweet Marie – Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Bonney
7. I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard– Mrs. Sawyer
8. She was Happy Till She Met you – Mrs. Bonney
9. Annie Rooney, The Bowery, Bicycle Built for Two – Chorus

They were recalled again and again and were very generous. The program concluded with the whole club singing some of the old songs and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely.

After the meeting adjourned refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Sweetser, Secretary.

⁴² The Gay Nineties is a nostalgic term referring to the decade of the 1890s. Despite the term, the US had little prosperity throughout most of the decade. American economic crises developed due to high tariffs and the introduction of low valued silver coinage which was introduced to counter growing inflation. The economic crisis greatly worsened when the Panic of 1893 set off widespread economic depression, a condition that lasted until 1896. Gay Nineties is also the name of a nostalgic radio program in the 1930s hosted by a prominent composer of the 1890s, Joe Howard.

March 14, 1945

Club met with Mrs. Howard Blanchard with Miss Harriet Blanchard as co-hostess. 21 members present. Sec. rep. read & app. Treas. reported \$10.17 still on hand.

Voted to give \$5. to Red Cross

Voted in order to raise money for repairs on church to hold 2 silver teas in May, one at Mrs. Bonney's and one at Mrs. Rawsons'. Penny collection taken.

Mrs. Thompson in charge of program, her subject being a delightful imaginary trip to Norway.

Meeting adjourned. Refreshments served.

Florence Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

March 21, 1945

On a rainy afternoon the We Neighbors' club met with Mrs. Henry Hanson, Jr., with Mrs. Millard Burnell co-hostess. The attendance was thirteen.

The president reported that a letter had been received from Mrs. Antoinette Packard thanking the club for flowers sent her while she was at the hospital.

A silver tea to be held at Mrs. Bonney's some time the first of May was discussed, and the president appointed a committee of Mrs. Mary Chase and Mrs. Bessie Burnell.

Mrs. Thompson sent word that the next meeting would be at her house and that the time of meeting would be changed to accommodate the bus schedule.

Mrs. Beatrice Ross and Mrs. Marjorie Chase were appointed to make arrangements for the annual luncheon to be held at Country House. It was voted that members pay their own expenses for the luncheon.

Each member was asked to bring her favorite recipe to the meeting of April 11th at Mrs. Rawson's

The penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Katharine Kelly who was expected to be the speaker for the afternoon was unable to come. Mrs. Bessie Burnell ably filled in by conducting a quiz program which furnished considerable information, and a good deal of amusement.

After the program notice was given of a card party planned by Miss Sylvia Hanson to be held April 3rd at Town Hall for the benefit of the church redecoration fund.

On adjournment the hostesses served ice cream with chocolate sauce, cakes, and macaroons.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

March 28, 1945

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Alvah Thompson with Mrs. Bonney as co-hostess. There were 21 present. Mrs. Jordan presided. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were given and the penny collection taken.

The matter of requirements for honorary membership were discussed but it was voted to lay it on the table till some future date. Further plans were made our annual luncheon to be held at the Country House.

Mrs. Jordan appointed the following nominating committee. Mrs. Randall Sawyer, Mrs. Howard Blanchard and Mr. Walter Barter.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Doane. She told us of some of the new books and read excerpts from some of them. It was very interesting and all too short.

After adjournment the hostesses served tea, cinnamon toast, and brownies. We had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

April 11, 1945

The We Neighbors met with Mrs. Rawson. 18 were present – 2 bring guests. Sec. report read and approved. The Treasurer reported \$5.92 on hand.

Mrs. Jordan presided. The club now consists of 34 members. Penny coll. taken

Voted that members who become 75 yrs. of age shall become Honorary Members and that the Sec. notify such members of that honor. Now Laura Wyman and Mrs. Florence Sturdivant have now arrived at that milestone.

The club luncheon on Apr. 17 will be at 2 P.M. at the Country House.

A Silver Tea is to be held at Mrs. Bonney's on Apr. 25 at which time Mrs. Louise Sweetser will read a play. At 2:30 P.M. the program committee for that date will be Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Luther Bonney, and Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. and Mrs. Genthner being detained at house by her son's arrival, the program for the day was ably given Mrs. Beatrice Ross who read from "Study of Cookery", after which receipts were given by members.

After adjournment delicious refreshments were served in the dining room.

Florence Sturdivant, Sec. pro tem

April 18, 1945

On April 18, We Neighbors boarded the buses for Country House and went merrily on our way to our annual luncheon, some going via West Falmouth and others via Tuttle Road. At 2 P.M. 32 of us sat down to a delicious luncheon which was very attractively served and enjoyed ourselves immensely.

Following lunch Mrs. Jordan called us to order for a business meeting. The Secretary's and Treasurers reports were read and accepted and the penny collection taken.

Mrs. Bonney spoke of plans underway for the Silver Tea next Wed.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers:

President: Mrs. Gerald Packard

Vice Pres. – Mrs. Herman Sweetser

Secretary – Mrs. Luther Bonney

Treasurer – Mrs. Randall Sawyer

Program Committee: Mrs. Ernest Rand, Mrs. Alvah Thompson, Mrs. Ernest Burnell.

Field Day Committee: Mrs. Merton Packard, Mrs. Walter Barter

They were duly elected by the Secretary casting one ballot.

Mrs. Jordan thanked all committees for their cooperation and efforts in behalf of the club and expressed pleasure in her year as president. She has been very faithful and efficient and present at every meeting.

In the absence of Mrs. Packard, the incoming president, the gavel was accepted by the incoming vice president.

The matter of the Field Army Drive for Cancer was spoken of and the club voted to contribute \$5.00 to that very worthy cause.

The meeting was adjourned after presenting Mrs. Jordan with a corsage for her imminent trip to Washington, and a vote of thanks for the fine job she has done this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

October 17, 1945

We Neighbors Club got off to a happy start when they met with Mrs. Harold Bragg at her attractive home. The Secretary and Treasurers report was read and accepted. The Treas. reported the sum of eight dollars raised at a silver tea had been turned over to Harold Bragg, treas. o the Church Improvement Fund.

The meeting was then turned over to Prof. Eric Kelley who gave us an informed and charming talk on his work with the Polish Refugee monument in Mexico.⁴³ The club gave Prof. Kelley a rising vote of thanks, and the Sec. was instructed to write Prof. Kelly a note of appreciation for a very interesting and enlightening picture of his work there.

Delicious refreshments were served and a social hour followed.

Respectfully submitted.

Katharine B. Bonney, Sec.

October 24, 1945

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Ernest Burnell at her home on Blanchard Road. The Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted. It was moved and seconded that we wait to know more accurately the condition of our treasury before responding to a request from Mrs. Freda Morrell for funds for Opportunity Farm.

The afternoon was given to Mrs. Ernest Rand, who reviewed for us "Town Meeting Country"⁴⁴ by Westcott. We enjoyed this very much even while we felt he put the emphasis a bit too much on Conn. to the neglect of ME and Vermont which to our minds, were equally deserving of being T. m. Country.

Our hostess served delicious refreshments and we adjourned after a most pleasant afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

October 31, 1945

The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. at her charming home on Main St. The Sec. and Treas. Reports were read and accepted.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. McDonald of the State Bureau of Health and Welfare who gave us some enlightening information from this Bureau.

⁴³ In 1943-1945 Professor Eric Kelly worked for the US State Department taking care of Polish refugees in Leon Guanajunto, Mexico.

⁴⁴ Webster, Clarence Mertoun, *Town Meeting Country*, New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1945.

We then adjourned for a social hour and delicious Hallowe'en refreshments.

Respt. Submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

November 14, 1945

The We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Luther Bonney on Tuttle Road. This meeting was a birthday party for our honorary members, especially Mrs. Edith Sawyer, whose real birthday it was. The honorary members were all present with the exception of Mrs. Evelyn Sweetser and Mrs. Wallace Merrill. The ladies were presented with lovely corsages, made by Mrs. Ernest Rand, and they surely wore them well. At this time we have six honorary members:

Mrs. Albert Sweetser

Mrs. Frank Doughty

Mrs. Wallace Merrill

Mrs. James Sawyer

Mrs. Philip Sturdivant

Mrs. Archie Wyman .

The reports of the Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. The responses to the roll call with either a poem, current event, or story and enjoyed ourselves very much.

We then adjourned to the dining room where we assisted Mrs. Sawyer cut and eat a beautiful birthday cake, presented to her by the Club. Mrs. Arno Chase served ice cream and. It was an altogether happy afternoon and one to be remembered. We were most happy to welcome Mrs. Robert Edwards, who brot her mother, Mrs. Philip Sturdivant from Wilton just to be with us on this special day. Long life and happiness to our honorary members. May we carry on in the traditions they so ably established for us.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Bonney Sec.

November 28, 1945

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster on Blanchard Rd.

Meeting called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Gerald Packard. Reports of Sec. and Treas. read and accepted. The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Kenneth Chase, who reviewed "Storm Tide" by Elizabeth

Oglive.⁴⁵ This book is an example of modern fiction and was a difficult book to review. It is composed of much conversation all important and closely related to the theme. Mrs. Chase did herself and the book credit by giving us a clear picture of this modern work.

The meeting adjourned for a social hour and refreshments and gentleman's nite and Christmas party Dec. 12th at the vestry.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

December 12, 1945

Our annual gentlemen's night this year was a Christmas party held in the church vestry. We gathered with our gentlemen at 6:30 and found ourselves greeted with sights and smells of Christmas. The decorating Com. Mrs. R. Sawyer and Mrs. G. Packard had brought Christmas very near with beautiful trimmings of fir, spruce and red candles. Even Santa was there. We sat down to a delicious supper served by Mrs. K. Chase, Mrs. H. Hanson Jr., Mrs. G. Doane.

After greetings by our Pres. Mrs. G. Packard, Mrs. Alvah Thompson toasted our guests, the gentlemen, and Dr. Thompson responded with a delightful toast – to the ladies. While the Com. In the kitchen prepared to join us, we sang carols. How Santa ever found time to stop off and see us at this time I can't imagine – but he did and somehow found something on the tree for all of us.

A social hour was enjoyed after which the gentlemen sang "Good Night Ladies" and we went on homeward way under the Christmas Stars.

It was a very happy occasion, and I am sure we all went home with our hearts a little warmer for the joy of friendship exchanged there.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Bonney, Sec.

⁴⁵ Oglive, Elisabeth, *Storm Tide*, Thorndike Press, 1945. This book is the second installment in the Tide Trilogy. Oglive (1917-2006) was born in Boston, grew up in Dorchester, Quincy and Roxbury. Later she took writing courses at Harvard University, and spent her summer s on the coast of Maine. Eventually she lived on a 33 acre farm on Gay's Island, Maine with her companion Dorothy Simpson (1905-1998). This book is the story of Joanna Bennett returning to her family's island, the childhood home that her heart has yearned for ever since she was forced to the mainland by catastrophe. At her side stands Nils Sorensen, her oldest friend, stalwart admirer and new husband. Together they will restore the Bennett's Island to its former glory, enticing former residents and other hardworking mainlanders to join their small community, reclaiming territory for lobster traps and repairing damaged buildings pummeled by five years of abandonment.

January 9, 1946

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell on Main St. The chair was occupied by the Vice Pres. Mrs. Hermon Sweetser. The report of the Sec. was read and accepted. No Treas. Report at that time.

The subject for the afternoon was English non-fiction and a very concise history of Eng. Writers was reviewed most ably by Mrs. Wallace Merrill.

It was voted to send \$3.00 to Mrs. Frieda Morrill for our contribution to Opportunity Farm.

The name of Mrs. David Moody was presented for membership and voted upon. The Sec. was instructed to send Mrs. Moody a note to this effect.

Ice cream and crackers was served by the hostess on beautiful Haviland plates⁴⁶ which were her mothers.

Respectfully Submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

January 16, 1946

The meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Walter Barter. It was one of the coldest days of the winter and only the bravest and hardiest ventured forth. In the absence of the Pres. Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Vice Pres. presided. The Secs. Report was read and accepted. No Treas. Report at this time.

Mrs. Millard Burnell very ably reviewed J. B. Priestley's book – *Three Men in New Suits*⁴⁷ – lively tale of three English returning soldiers – each from the three clear cut classes of Eng. Society each with his own expectations of his family and country – and what he found. Their war associations had eliminated class from their scheme of things, and they had reached a common denominator based on personal characteristics – which made their friends. Their return home however, the three there once again in conventional class divisions. The story is their reactions to this and efforts to evolve for themselves a basis of every day living according to their new standards of valuation.

⁴⁶ David Haviland was an American businessman from New York dealing with porcelain. While seeking out new business interests, he arrived in Limoges, France and by 1842, he was able to send his first shipment of Limoges porcelain to the United States. In 1873, he played a key role in adapting a new process by which to decorate porcelain pieces. In 1890, his son, Theodore, built a very large and prominent factory in Limoges and introduced a variety of new processes for firing and decorating porcelain pieces.

⁴⁷ Priestley, J. B., *Three Men in New Suits*, New York: Doubleday, 1945. The friendship of three men is endangered when they return home from the war to the village of Lambury. Each receives a different reception. One is a quarry worker, another is son of a fairly well-to-do farmer and the third belongs to a "country family." We follow each one home and during the first few days we learn what they think about civilian life. Due to their military experience, their perception of people changed significantly.

After delicious refreshments and social hour, warmed within and without, the brave few again braved the cold on their homeward way.

Respectfully Submitted.

K. B. Bonney, Sec.

January 23, 1946

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Merton Rawson at her home on Blanchard Rd. with 10 members present. Report of Sec. read and accepted. No business was conducted and the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Herman Sweetser who reviewed the book "Fair Blows in France the Wind"⁴⁸ by H. B. Bates.

This is the story of a pilot who made a forced landing in France – his shelter by a French family and his escape. The well told the story of one out of many such experiences, reviewed most clearly and reservedly, by Mrs. Sweetser.

The meeting adjourned to the dining room for a delicious tea. In the absence of the Pres. the Vice Pres., Mrs. H. Sweetser, presided. The next meeting, as scheduled on the program.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

January 30, 1946

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Earl Baker at her home on Blanchard Rd. with 14 present and one guest. Meeting called to order by Vice. Pres. Mrs. P. Sweetser. Report of Sec. read and accepted. The flower Com. reported that flowers had been sent to Mrs. H. Blanchard and Mrs. Gerald Packard. Next meeting to be with Mrs. Alvah Thompson at her home on the Falmouth Road. The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Crandall, Princ. of Greeley Inst. who spoke to us most interestingly on the subj. "Who is Shakespeare?" This was an explanation of the various schools of tho't in regard to the question never settled conclusively as to the true authorship of the so-called works of Shakespeare.

Tea was served by the hostess.

Respectfully submitted.

⁴⁸ Bates, H. E., *Fair Stood the Wind for France*, Boston: Little, Brown, 1944. This book is a novel written by English author H. E. Bates. It was first published in 1944 and was his first financial success. The title is taken from the first line of "Agincourt," a poem by Michael Drayton (1563-1631). As World War II reaches its terrifying crescendo, English airman John Franklin and his crew are forced to crash land their bomber in Occupied France. Although Franklin's left arm is badly injured due to the crash, it is his duty as pilot to lead his men to safety. Franklin and his crew set off across the French countryside, knowing they must find somewhere to hide before the Germans track them down. They need food and shelter. When the penalty for aiding the English is death by firing squad who can they trust? This is a romance, masquerading as a war novel.

February 27, 1946

We Neighbors met at the attractive home of Mrs. Alvah Thompson on the W. Fal. Road. About 23 were present. The meeting was called to order by Pres. Mrs. Gerald Packard. Reports of Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted.

It was voted that the Sec. extend our invitation to Mrs. Jeanette Anderson for membership in the Club.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. M. Rawson who reviewed briefly but to the point Rene de Fontarce McCormick's book "Little Coquette!"⁴⁹ Mrs. Thompson served delicious tea, sandwiches and cookies.

Meeting was adjourned to March 13th

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney, Sec.

March 13, 1946

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Packard., The Pres. presided. The Sec. and Treas. Report were read and accepted.

It was voted to send a card shower to Anna Blanchard delivered this date and the 20th Also cards to Louise Sweetser.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Randall Sawyer who gave us a delightful recorded program of Allied music. This contained both classic and modern compositions and we all enjoyed hearing that. However, the high light for most of us, I am sure, came when Mrs. S - sang to us in person. It is quite wonderful to have the talent and the desire to give of this talent.

We adjourned to the dining room for delicious refreshments served by the hostess and her house guest, a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Philip Sweetser. Baby Karen Sweetser, daughter of Philip and Charlotte Sweetser, grand-daughter of the hostess and great grand-daughter of Mrs. Florence Sturdivant, mother of the hostess, made her first public appearance at the ripe old age of 7 mos. She conducted herself with much credit to herself and family. If she was an example of modern care and diet, I, for one, feel that the future rests safely in their hands.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney, sec.

⁴⁹ McCormick, Renee de Fontarce, *Little Coquette*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1944. Translated from the French, this is the story of a French girlhood and a picture of a life in the leisure class, the rich nobility of France before the First World War. A little girl is brought up in the luxury and social whirl of *le haut monde*, with all its lavishness and concentration on sex. Her mother dies suddenly when Simone D'Entremont is only nine. She is brought up by an English governess, a father, and two adoring uncles. Indulgences ended abruptly with the outbreak of war in 1914.

March 20, 1946

We Neighbors met in the sun room of the vestry with 16 members present. Our hostesses were Mrs. H. Hanson Sr., Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Geneva Chase, Mrs. Gerald Packard.

Reports of the Sec. & Treas. read & accepted. It was voted to give \$3 to the Red Cross. The meeting was turned over to our guest speaker, Mrs. Norton Lamb, who very ably impressed upon us our duty as citizens and voters, urging us to take advantage of our political privileges and seriously answer our civic duties.

Our hostesses had very attractively arranged the sun room with cut flowers and potted plants, and the sun honored us with its presence.

After delicious refreshments, we spent a pleasant social hour and adjourned till the 27th at Merton Rawson's

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney Sec.

March 27, 1946

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Merton Rawson with Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Miss Harriet Merrill and Mrs. Theodore Jordan as hostesses.

Sec. and Treas. reports were read and accepted. Letters thanks were read from Mrs. Howard Blanchard and Mrs. Florence Sturdivant for cards and flowers sent there by the club.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Mildred Doane who read to us from "Rickshaw Boy"⁵⁰ by Lou Shaw most interestingly.

Ice cream and cookies were served by the hostesses and the meeting was adjourned to Apr. 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Bonney Sec.

⁵⁰ Lau Shaw, *The Rickshaw Boy* (translated by Evan King), New York: Reynald & Hitchcock, 1945. This is the story about the life of a fictional Beijing rickshaw man. The subject matter is the way in which he makes his living pulling a rickshaw, the options he faces, the choices he makes, and especially the fundamental issue of whether to work independently as a servant to a family or whether to rent or own a rickshaw. The novel describes a series of adventures he has and his interactions with a variety of characters. The book also explores the intimate relationship between man and machine (the rickshaw) and the evolution of that relationship. A major theme is the precariousness of the hero's life. The book was initially published in Chinese in 1939. The author Lao She (1899-1966), was a noted Chinese novelist and one of the most significant figures of 20th century Chinese literature. He was best known for his novel *Rickshaw Boy* and his play *Teahouse*.

April 10, 1946

We Neighbors Club met in the Sun room of the vestry with Mrs. Glendon Doane as hostess. Reports by Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. It was voted to take a voluntary contribution for the cancer drive and the luncheon.

The nominating com. submitted the following slate of officers;

Pres. Phyllis Sweetser

Vice pres. Katharine Bonney

Sec. Lula Burnell

Treas. Helene Thompson

Program Com: Antoinette Packard, Lena Foster, Ruth Hanson

Picnic com.: Bess Burnell, Marjorie Jordan, Helen Bragg

The nominating Com. was: Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Mrs. Mildred Doane, Mrs. Gertrude Bragg.

The meeting was turned over to Leila Burnell, who most interestingly reviewed "Frossia"⁵¹ by M. Almedingen.

Ice cream and cookies were served by the hostess. Meeting was adjourned to April 29th, the annual luncheon at the Country House in Falmouth.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney Sec.

April 17, 1946

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Harold Ross on Main St. The Sec. and Treas. Reports read and accepted.

It was voted that Dec. 1st be the deadline for payment of dues. This action was taken to facilitate the duties of the Treas. in the payment of bills received before this date or even after.

The slate of officers submitted by the nominating com. at the April 10 meeting was accepted without change. The officers for 1946-47 stand as follows:

Pres. Phyllis Sweetser

⁵¹ Almedingen, E. M. *Frossia: A Novel of Russia*, New York: Harcourt Brace, 1944. This novel revolves around Frossia a young Russian girl growing up in post 1917 revolutionary Ukraine. The story is based on the author's own life before coming to live in Britain. Of Russian origin, E. M. Almedingen (1898-1971) is a British novelist, biographer, and children's author. She is also known as Martha Edith Almedinger.

Vice Pres. Katharine Bonney

Sec. Leila Burnell

Treas. Helene Thompson

Program Committee: Antoinette Packard, Lena Foster, Ruth Hanson

Picnic Com: Bessie Burnell, Marjorie Jordan, Helen Bragg

The meeting was given over to Mrs. Wallace Merrill who reviewed in her very interesting manner the book "These are the Russians"⁵² by Richard Lauterbach.

Ice cream and cookies were served by the hostess Mrs. Ross and her co-hostess Mrs. Ethel Getherns [sp?]

Meeting adjourned to Apr. 24 at the Country House, Falmouth for our annual luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bonney Sec.

April 24, 1946

It was a beautiful day as We Neighbors boarded our various busses on our way to our annual luncheon and meeting at Country House in Falmouth. It is a delightful place for a meeting such as ours as we are the only group at the time and it is as intimate as any of our homes, and a pleasant change for all of us. The atmosphere is always warm and hospitable and somehow they manage to serve us a delightful and plentiful lunch under all circumstances.

The business meeting was called by the Pres. Mrs. A. Packard and the reports of the Sec. and Treas. were read and accepted. The retiring Pres. expressed her thanks for the co-operation of the club during her office period. The meeting was then turned over to the new Pres. Mrs. Herman Sweetser.

It was voted to incorporate into the by-laws the new ruling for the payment of dues.

Also voted that we have no picnic this summer.

⁵² Lauterbach, Richard E. *These are the Russians*, New York: Harper, 1945. The author identifies policy toward minority groups, the impressive development of Central Asia, rapid strides toward restoration of devastated areas, and the realistic view taken by Moscow of priorities for reconstruction with services first, then factories, then homes. The author feels Russia's socialist structure is what saved her, and points to the growth of the Communist Party, its new and progressive leadership and the church as evidence of the dynamic quality of the system. His report on the Karyn Forest scandal presents arguments pro and con without drawing final conclusions. He provides portraits of Soviet leaders especially Stalin, Molotov, Zhukov, Novikov, and Pokryshkin. The author feels Russians have lived beyond the period of mass acceptance, have learned to think, have learned to take initiative, and have learned to depend on their native versatility. In conclusion, the author advises, we must learn to look beyond labels and to reexamine old prejudices. We must learn to work with Russia. The author is a journalist.

The club gave a rising vote of thanks to the retiring president Mrs. Gerald Packard.

Voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Bonney, Sec.

October 9, 1946

The fifty second year of the We Neighbors Club was opened by the President, Mrs. Herman Sweetser at the home of Mrs. Ernest Burnell. Nineteen members and two guests attended. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported assets of \$3.02. The penny collection was taken by Mrs. Walter Barter who was appointed sunshine committee.

The secretary was instructed to write into the bylaws that the club dues are seventy five cents.

It was voted Mrs. Orrin Whitney, Mrs. Rollin Scotts, Mrs. Floyd Yeagle, Mrs. Halvor Merrill and Mrs. Wayne Merrill be invited to join the club, and the secretary was instructed to write to them to that effect and tell them the date of the next meeting.

The bylaws were read.

The speaker for the afternoon was our postmaster Norman Hulit, who in a friendly way gave a vivid description of his trip to Yellowstone Park. He provided the Club a pleasant and instructive afternoon.

The meeting adjourned with the announcement that the next meeting would be held at home of Mrs. Theodore Jordan as it did not seem advisable to have the blind run as planned.

Tempting refreshments of ice cream and small cakes were served.

Respectfully submitted

Lula J. Burnell Sec.

In affectionate memory of

Helen Sawyer

who has so generously and beautifully entertained We Neighbors Club.

October 16, 1946

Sixteen members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Theodore Jordan. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$4.96

A letter from Carolyn Rand thanking the Club for flowers sent to Helen Sawyer's funeral was read.

It was voted that a page in the record book be dedicated to the memory of Helen Sawyer.

It was voted that Mrs. Dudley Merrill, Mrs. Sidney Bennett, Mrs. Lewis Hutchinson and Mrs. Maurice Small be invited to join the club.

The leader for the afternoon was Mrs. Millard Burnell. She read from the fascinating book "About Antiques"⁵³ by Ella Shannon Bowles. The subjects she chose were chests and dolls. She had with her an old fashioned doll that her mother had made for exhibition at the Cumberland Centennial, and she showed other lovely old fashioned dolls.

On adjournment of the meeting the hostess served refreshing fruit salad, crackers, cookies, and nuts. And were the pretty little candies refreshment or entertainment or both?

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

October 23, 1946

On a perfect October day eighteen members, one honorary member and four guests met at the home of Mrs. James Sawyer down on Tuttle Road. In all directions there was beautiful view of fields, hills, trees and sky.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$13.96.

A letter from Opportunity Farm was read and it was voted to give them three dollars.

It was voted that the program committee make up more programs if needed.

Mrs. Lester Bragg was reported as not having been very well.

The program for the afternoon was delightful music. Mrs. Christian Anderson with her friend Miss Ruth Movers of Houlton accompanied by Mrs. Ralph Bernard, sang several lovely songs. Among them were Caro Nome and Scotis Lullaby by Mrs. Anderson, Smiling Through and O Mio Babino by Miss Movers, and two duets: The Flower Duet from Madam Butterfly and the Letter Duet from the Marriage of Figaro. Fortunate we were to have the benefit of such talent which was generously and pleasingly presented.

Delicious refreshments were served following adjournment.

⁵³ Bowles, Ellen Shannon, *About Antiques*, Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1929.

Respectfully submitted

Lula J. Burnell Sec.

October 30, 1946

On a mild cloudy afternoon twenty members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Rand. The secretary's report was read and accepted, and the treasurer reported a balance of \$14.71. The penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Herman Sweetser, the leader, read from the paper, "The Romance of the Hooked Rug" by Thrace Orr⁵⁴ of Wilton. It told about very old rugs, their intricate designs and the value of some of them, and of some that were made on long sea voyages. In connection with this subject, Mrs. Sweetser had visited the old fashioned home of Dr. Louis Hill⁵⁵ of Westbrook. She spoke in particular of the wall paper on the living room of the house which is the same as that in the George Washington bedroom at Mount Vernon. She showed a sample of the paper.

On adjournment of the meeting the hostess served delicious punch dainty sandwiches and chocolates.

Respectfully submitted,

⁵⁴ Thrace Orr (1889-1974) was a resident of Wilton, Maine.

⁵⁵ "The Hill House" was the family home of Dr. Louis Hills for nearly 75 years ending in 1984. It was built in 1842 for George Warren who was in the lumber business with his brother Lewis. Warren sold the 22 room house to Hebron Mayhew who sold it to Dr. Hills in 1911. The plan of the house is unusual in that the large drawing room, running the width of the house is located on the second floor with a small parlor for ordinary use on the first floor. According to a 1930 newspaper article by Charles W. Weaver, a nationwide search for rare wall paper design ended in Dr. Hills' home. The wall paper discovered in the Old Wardrobe was identical to that which once adorned the walls of the First President's bedroom. In 1775, George Washington erected an addition to his spacious home at Mount Vernon. Summoned suddenly to war, he left the addition nearly completed with the exception of placing the finishing plaster in the bedroom which he was later to occupy. In Washington's absence, impatience prompted his wife, Martha, to place a wallpaper of vivid design over the unfinished plaster in an effort to brighten the room. When Bushrod Washington became owner of the house in 1802, he took the bedroom occupied by his uncle and had the paper removed, and the walls covered with white plaster. In 1929, when Col. Harrison H. Dodge, superintendent at Mount. Vernon, was preparing the room for the George Washington Bicentennial celebration in 1932, he uncovered beneath the plaster, scraps of the wall paper which originally adorned the walls. Carefully removing the paper, bit by bit, Col. Dodge recovered enough to paste on a background and to be photographed. Although the design was not complete, copies of the photograph was circulated far and wide to find a similar design so that the bedroom could be restored for the Bicentennial Celebration to its original form. Almost one year passed before news came that the paper had been located in the files of Birge Co. in Buffalo, New York. Apparently what had happened was Mrs. Hills, ten years previously, while having a wardrobe removed from one end of what originally had been the reception hall, chanced upon a wall paper of rare beauty. She had carried a sample to Mr. De Neill, an expert and a connoisseur of fine wallpapers at Porteous, Mitchell and Braun. At once De Neill recognized the sample as an unusual pattern. He sent the paper to Birge Co. in Buffalo for further analysis. Upon examination, authorities at Birge assured De Neill the paper had merit but not of sufficient value that it should be copied for commercial use. However, the sample of the wall paper was placed in their files. When the sample from Col. Dodge reached authorities at Birge, they were able to consult their files and identify it.

Lula J. Burnell Sec.

November 13, 1946

Twenty members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$14.71 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

The president read a few lines from an article by Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Miss Estelle Blanchard was the speaker for the afternoon. She told of the different activities of the YWCA and of her particular work there. Her title is Program director for Y teens. She read extracts from the book "Understanding the Adolescent Girl"⁵⁶ by Grace Loucks Elliot. We were grateful to her for the time she spent with us and for presenting the subject so well.

On adjournment the hostess served real punch, sweet crackers and salted peanuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

November 20, 1946

Twenty one members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Alvah Thompson. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$15.46, and the penny collection was taken.

The secretary read a letter from Opportunity Farm expressing thanks for the gift of three dollars.

Mr. Yeagle's fascinating talk added to the variety of programs we have had this fall. He spoke of cities he had visited while serving as chaplain in the army and he showed numerous interesting and beautiful articles he had collected while across, some of them having been exchanged for a few cigarettes.

On adjournment the hostess served excellent ice cream and crackers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

⁵⁶ Elliott, Grace Loucks, *Understanding the Adolescent Girl*, New York: Henry Holt, 1930.

December 11, 1946

Seventeen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Perry T. Burnell. The secretary's report was read and accepted, a balance of \$15.46 was reported in the treasury and the penny collection was taken.

Plans for the Christmas party were discussed and it was decided that each package bear a quotation from a song that would suggest the contents, the recipient to guess what the gift might be.

Mrs. Jennie Barter, the leader for the afternoon, reviewed well the book "The Bulwark"⁵⁷ by Theodore Dreiser. She followed through a description of the different characters separately. The book shows how different unlike their parents children sometimes are.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

December 18, 1946

Twenty-seven members of the We Neighbors Club, the largest attendance of the year, met at the prettily decorated home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase for the Christmas party. The secretary's report was read and accepted, the Treasurer reported \$5.46 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Louise Sweetser read with warmth and feeling the pleasing negro story of devotion and faith "How Come Christmas"⁵⁸ by Roark Bradford.

Following the exchanged gifts the hostess served delicious tea, sandwiches and cookies.

The afternoon can well be described by the words of one member on leaving, "It was a beautiful party."

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

⁵⁷ Dreiser, Theodore, *The Bulwark*, New York: Doubleday, 1946. This is a story of Quaker faith in conflict with 20th century materialism. Hannah and Rufus Barnes, both Quakers, move from Maine to Trenton, New Jersey, where Hannah's widowed sister lives. Their son Solon, the protagonist, meets Benecia Wallin, although she is affluent and he is not. They get married. Solon works in a bank in Philadelphia, where his Quaker values are contrary to the financial ethos. He summons a bank examiner from Washington D. C. to stop the corrupt practices of some chief executives. Eventually, he resigns. Meanwhile, two of his offspring, Ella and Stewart, repudiate their Quaker upbringing. Ella moves to Wisconsin and then to Greenwich Village under the influence of one of her friends, Volida da La Porte. She has an affair with a painter until he decides to go West to further his career. Stewart accidentally kills one of his dates and commits suicide shortly afterwards. Solon dies of cancer as Ella watches over him. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, Dreiser (1871-1945) was an American novelist of the naturalist school. He started working on the novel as early as 1914. He read John Woolman's Journals in 1939. The novel was published posthumously one year after Dreiser's death.

⁵⁸ Bradford, Roark, *How Come Christmas?* op. cit.

January 8, 1947

Dean Luther Bonney and Professor Lawrence Howath of Portland Junior College and eighteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Harold Bragg. The secretary's report was read and accepted and the penny collection was taken.

The club received a hand carved teakwood gavel and block from Mr. Louis Fickett of Rockland, brother of Alice Fickett in whose memory it was given. Mr. Fickett got the wood from the government. It is brought from the jungles of India by elephants, and is used on ship decks.

Professor Howath, the speaker for the afternoon, is a serene person, with a pleasing way and foreign accent. He was born in Hungary of American parents. He spoke of what the war had done to European countries and confined his talk principally to Poland. He thought the prospect for peace is good.

On adjournment the hostess served delicious fruit cocktail with crackers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

January 15, 1947

On a mild slippery day ten members and two guests met at the home of Mrs. Walter Barter. The secretary's report was read and accepted and the penny collection was taken.

In regard to Professor Howath's talk of the previous meeting, literature on Poland that he had was left at the library. He wrote down addresses of a few families in Poland that need help and anyone who cares to send small articles was requested to leave them with a member of the Gamma Phi Chi.

Mrs. David Moody reviewed with excellent expression the book "Right as Rain"⁵⁹ by Bernice Richmond. The scene of the story is laid in Livermore Falls. The story is of Bernice Richmond's grandmother, a staunch and generous character.

On adjournment the hostess treated us to shrimp wiggle and gum drops.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

⁵⁹ Richmond, Bernice, *Right as Rain: The Story of My Maine Grandmother*, New York: Random House, 1946. This story is set in Livermore Falls, Maine in the early 1900s where Bernice was to grow up in her grandmother's home. Her grandmother was a comfortable and comforting figure as she baked, laundered, gardened, raised pigs, hooked rugs, and healed with Indian remedies. Here too are memories of Grandpa, with whom Bernice went to the village and on Sundays to church. She also watched him march in the Memorial Day parades. Of the later years, she tells about how Grandma "needed" another child and adopted two year old Mildred; relates Grandpa's death; and eventually Mildred's marriage and her death after the birth of her second child.

January 27, 1947

Fifteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Gerald Packard. The secretary's report was read and accepted, and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase, the leader for the afternoon read from two books loaned by Mrs. Crandall. There were "Gardens in Color"⁶⁰ by Richard Pratt and "Garden Colors in Flowers"⁶¹ by David J. Foley. In contrast to the cold blustery day outside the flowers seemed all the more beautiful, and those of us interested in gardens hoped to try our luck again at one the coming summer.

The President read a letter from Mrs. Zilpha Booth of Natal.

On adjournment the hostess served in the dining room tea sandwiches cookies and crackers frosted with cheese. So ended another inspirational and pleasant meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell

January 29, 1947

Eighteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. with Mrs. Bonney acting President. The secretary's report was read and accepted, the treasurer reported \$17.71 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

The leader for the afternoon Miss Lillian Hanson told in an attractive way of a personally conducted tour of the Great Lakes she took from July 12 to 25, 1941. The lakes she sailed were Erie Huron and Superior. She spoke in particular of Peace Bridge, of the assembly lines at the Ford Motor Co plant, Greenfield Village, and life aboard ship.

On adjournment the hostess served ice cream, small cakes and cookies.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Treasurer

February 12, 1947

Twenty-six members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr. The secretary's report was read and accepted, the treasurer reported \$17.71 on hand and the penny collection was taken.

⁶⁰ Pratt, Richard, *Gardens in Color*, New York: Garden City Pub., 1942. The author tells how to plan flowers to bloom in a timely manner so your garden is always full of color.

⁶¹ Foley, Daniel J., *Garden Flowers in Color*, New York: Macmillan, 1947.

Cookies and doughnuts were solicited for the Boy Scout Jamboree to be held at Greely Institute on Saturday February 15.

The leader for the afternoon Mrs. Theodore Jordan reviewed very nicely the book "Washington Tapestry"⁶² by Mrs. Olive Ewing Clapper, wife of the former newspaper commentator. The book spoke of Washington during the Roosevelt administration.

On adjournment the hostess served refreshing punch sandwiches and cookies.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

February 19, 1947

Seventeen members of the We Neighbors Club and two guests met at the library with Mrs. Glendon Doane and Mrs. Louise Sweetser hostesses. The secretary's report was read and accepted, the treasurer reported \$7.71 on hand and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Antoinette Packard of the Gentlemen's Night committee reported that each member would be assessed seventy-five cents to cover the cost of the supper. Mrs. Wyman sent thanks for the valentine sent her.

Dr. Somers who had been asked to talk to the club on philately was unable to be present, and Mrs. Bonney kindly gave us a review of the book "Isles of Casco Bay"⁶³ by Herbert G. Jones. Mrs. Boney is particularly well qualified to talk about such a book as she has spent so much time at Bailey's

Respectfully submitted

Lula J. Burnell, Secretary

February 26, 1947

The annual gentlemen's night of the We Neighbors Club was held at the church vestry with an attendance of fifty-six.

⁶² Clapper, Olive Ewing, *Washington Tapestry*, New York: Whittlesey House, 1945. The author is the wife of the well-known correspondent Raymond Clapper. She records vivid memories of 26 years in Washington, memories in which her feminine and fertile stack of anecdotes take precedence over selections from her husband's notes. From Wilson to Truman, the Clappers were on the ground floor, so to speak, of presidential campaigns, off-the-record press conferences, embassy functions, White House dinners and parties. Each Washington personality is presented as human and interesting, although Mrs. Clapper does not hide her political leanings.

⁶³ Jones, Herbert G., *Isles of Casco Bay- in fact and fancy*, Portland: Jones Book Shop, 1946.

Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Thompson tastefully decorated the tables with green and white runners napkins and place cards and green candles. Mrs. Packard Mrs. Doane and Mrs. Lula Burnell planned a supper of chicken pie, onions, carrots, cranberry jelly and ice cream with pineapple sauce.

Mrs. Bonney gave a toast to the gentlemen and Mr. Yeagle to the ladies.

Mrs. Hanson Jr. directed a pleasing entertainment. A trio consisting of Mrs. Hanson, Miss Lillian Hanson and Miss Sylvia Hanson sang "Trio Bela Napoli". Mrs. Louise Sweetser was well applauded for her reading from the book "Homegrown"⁶⁴ by Dela Lutes. A quartet consisting of Mrs. Hanson, Miss Lillian Hanson, Mr. Bonney and Mr. Halvor Merrill sang "Love's Old Sweet Song," "Kentucky Babe" and "Carry Me Back to Old Virginy". The accompanist was Mrs. Helen Bragg. A short play "Bargain Day Gone" was given by Mrs. Bragg, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Mrs. Bonney, Mrs. Marjorie Chase, Mrs. Lula Burnell, Mrs. Thompson, and Miss Lillian Hanson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell Secretary

March 12, 1947

Twenty members of We neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Harold Bragg with Mrs. Bonney acting as president in the absence of Mrs. Sweetser. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported no funds and the penny collection was taken.

It was voted to send Mrs. Stanley Cook a letter of invitation to join the club.

Mrs. Sturdivant was reported as not being very well and it was suggested that cards be sent her.

Mrs. Harold Bragg, the leader for the afternoon, carried out well the subject "Culinary Arts". Mrs. Gerald Packard read from the book "Main Stays of Maine"⁶⁵ which tells of cooking. Among the recipes exchanged was "Master Gingerbread" submitted by Mrs. Louise Sweetser which had been selected among other entries in a contest, and for which and for a short story she wrote she received a prize of twenty-five dollars. The book in which the recipe was printed was "Food that Made New England Famous. 100 Favorite Recipes from the Kitchens of Old New England"⁶⁶ published by HP Hood & Sons.

Respectfully submitted,

⁶⁴ Lutes, Della T., *Homegrown*, Boston: Little Brown, 1937.

⁶⁵ Coffin, Robert P. Tristram, *Mainstays of Maine*, New York: Macmillan, 1944. Coffin writes of lobsters and clambakes, chicken dumplings and strawberries, baked beans and cod's head chowder, smelts, fish, and birds of the Maine coast. His narrative is interwoven with recipes and memories drawn from a host of relatives who loved to cook and loved to eat.

⁶⁶ H. P. Hood & Sons, *Foods that Made New England Famous*, Charleston, Massachusetts: H. P. Hood, 1946. This book contains 100 prize winning recipes including many from grandmothers and great grandmothers such as Spice Cake, Johnny cake, Chowder.

Lula J. Burnell secretary

March 19, 1947

Fourteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Gerald Packard with Mrs. Bonney acting as President. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported no funds, and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Bonney read McArujo's [?]"Secret for a Happy Marriage".

It was voted that the Gentlemen's Night super deficit of \$2.55 be made up from the money for refreshments donated by members who had not entertained.

Mrs. Jennie Burnell, the leader for the afternoon, pleasantly reviewed the book "Maine Charm String"⁶⁷ by Elinor Graham. The author appeared to be as much interested in the people she met as in the buttons she collected.

On adjournment Mrs. Packard, with the assistance of Mrs. Foster, served nice ice cream with chocolate sauce.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

March 26, 1947

Twenty seven members and four guests met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser. The secretary's report was read and accepted, the treasurer reported no funds, and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Arno Chase very admirably carried out the subject "Living Pictures" and much credit is due them and the models for furnishing an educational and entertaining program. Ten pictures were represented, the first "Prayer" by Watts, posed by Mrs. Walter Barter, and during the presentation Mrs. Christian Anderson sang "The Lord's Prayer."

⁶⁷ Graham, Elinor, *Maine Charm String*, New York: MacMillan, 1946. Graham and her husband moved to Maine from Maryland, giving up their sophisticated urban life for life in rural, coastal Flying Point, Maine. Graham discovers that Mainers tended to indulge in hobbies as a way of getting through winters when it was difficult to get out and socialize. While working in her garden, she found a Revolutionary War era button in the dirt, presumably it had belonged to the original owner of the home. Soon she was off and running collecting buttons, trading for buttons, learning more and more about buttons and their history. Eventually, she realized that she was becoming a little too absorbed in buttons and that her hobby seemed to have overtaken her. When she almost gave up a moonlight canoe ride with her husband in order to mount some of her buttons on blue cardboard, she realized she had gone a little too far. On the advice of another collector (of sewing birds) she decided to write about her collection and the people she had met through her hobby and what the search and buttons meant to her. The result is this book.

"Lady Wyndham" by Watts Mrs. Alvah Thompson

"Madame Le Brun" by herself. Mrs. Herman Sweetser

"The Letter" by Corot. Mrs. Gerald Packard. The original of this picture hangs in the Metropolitan Art Museum, New York.

"Mrs. Campbell" by Raeburn. Mrs. Theodore Jordan. The original hangs in the National Gallery Edinburgh.

"Mlle. Charlotte Du Val Dogues"⁶⁸ by David . Mrs. Rollins Scott

"Mrs. Daniel Hubbard" by Copley. Mrs. Elmer Baxter

"Nancy Pennington" by Stuart. Mrs. Alvah Thompson

"Senora Sebas Garcia" by Goya. Mrs. Kenneth Chase

"Whistler's Mother". Mrs. Laura Wyman. This original hangs in Luxemburg gallery.

On adjournment of the meeting very fine ice cream was served in the dining room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

April 9, 1947

Eighteen members of the We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster with Mrs. Bonney acting as president. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$3.25 on hand. And the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Foster had an exhibition in the different rooms beautiful serving trays that she had painted.

The nominating committee, appointed by Mrs. Sweetser, were Mrs. Gerald Packard, Mrs. Herbert Foster, and Mrs. Alvah Thompson to take charge of the arrangements for the luncheon to be held at Country House. The price of the luncheon was reported as \$1.25.

The play "Come to Dinner" to be given by the Gamma Phi Chi was announced.

The Club was invited to attend the Farm Bureau meeting at the vestry when Assistant State Horticulturist Edward Johnson would speak on house plants.

⁶⁸ Mademoiselle Charlotte du Val d'Ognes by David. It is in the collection of the N. Y. Metropolitan Museum.

Mrs. Glendon Doane, the leader for the afternoon, gave a very interesting review of the splendid book "The Charles"⁶⁹ by Arthur Bernon Tourtellot. The book spoke of life along the Charles River from the time of the Algonquins to the present day.

On adjournment of the meeting the hostess served delicious ice cream and chocolate sauce.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

April 16, 1947

On a sunny afternoon thirteen members of the We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Luther Bonney. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer reported 3.25 on hand, and the penny collection was taken.

Mrs. Carolyn Rand sent thanks for the flowers she received during her illness.

The program committee named the following officers:

President, Mrs. Luther Bonney

Vice President, Mrs. Walter Barter

Secretary, Mrs. Gerald Packard

Treasurer, Mrs. Maurice Small.

Program committee: Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Ernest Burnell, Mrs. Perry Burnell.

Everybody was requested to take her picture as a child to the luncheon.

Obtaining extra money for club expenses was discussed.

The program for this meeting had been used at an earlier date, and in its place the pictures of twenty five United States presidents were shown to be named. Except in the case of the famous presidents one person's guess was as good as another. Fourteen was the highest score.

On adjournment the hostess served fine ice cream and perfect sponge cake in the dining room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

⁶⁹ Tourtellot, Arthur Bernon, *The Charles*, New York: Farrar & Rinehart, 1941. This book is the 14th volume in the Rivers of America Series. Tourtellot (1913-1977) served in the U. S. Coast Guard during World War II.

April 23, 1947

The fifty-second year of the We Neighbors Club. Twenty seven members of We Neighbors club met at lovely Country House for the annual luncheon.

The President thanked the club for the corsage presented her.

The Treasurer gave a report for the year, the balance on hand being \$3.25

It was voted that Mrs. Barter continue as sunshine committee for the summer.

Mrs. Louise Sweetser thanked the club for the card sent her during her illness.

The President expressed her appreciation for the help she had received from the different members during the year.

The Secretary cast a vote for the officers named and Mrs. Bonney began her duties as President.

It was voted that a picnic be held in the summer. The President appointed a committee.

It was voted that in the future the members be assessed for Gentlemen's Night expenses.

The retiring President was applauded for performing her Presidential duties so well during the year.

Following the luncheon Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser gave a fascinating talk on her experiences at the legislature the past winter and described a visit to Swan's Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec.

July 2, 1947

On Wednesday July 2, nine intrepid souls braved the fog and journeyed to Bailey's Island in two cars.

Arriving at Mrs. Bonney's cottage after a delightful trip, as the weather cleared as we went along, we found Louise Sweetser and her guest Miss Scott already there. One of our former members Mrs. Dorothy Packard also joined the party with Mrs. Bonney's sister Mrs. Jefferies.

Mrs. Bonney's cottage is delightfully situated and we know now why she loves "her Island" so well. After a delicious picnic lunch where we all sampled each other's delicacies a short business meeting was held.

The matter of changing the meetings to the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month was discussed. As there were so few members present a deciding vote could not be taken. The meeting was adjourned.

Members attending were: Mrs. Louise Sweetser, Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser, Mrs. Jenny Barter, Mrs. Bessie Burnell, Miss Harriet Blanchard, Mrs. Velma Whitney, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Gladys Scott, Mrs. Helen Thompson, Mrs. Antoinette Packard.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sec. A. N. Packard

July 28, 1947

A special meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held Monday July 28, 1947 at the home of Mrs. Mary Chase.

15 members were present. The matter of having meetings on the Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month was discussed. It was voted to have two meetings a month for the coming Club year as a trial.

Delicious punch and cookies was served by the hostess, but as a thunder shower was coming up the members did not linger but hurried home to secure their clothes from the threatened rain.

Respectfully submitted,

A.N. Packard

October 8, 1947

The first regular meeting of We Neighbors was held at the Prince Memorial Library, Mrs. Ernest Rand and Mrs. Theodore Jordan Hostesses. 26 members were present.

The meeting was opened by a few words of greeting from the president Mrs. Luther Bonney.

A vote was taken to the effect "That flowers be sent to a member in case of illness and to the family, only in case of death of a member. A note of sympathy shall be sent by the sec. in the case of bereavement in the family of a member."

Mrs. Christopher Anderson sent word she would be unable to give the musical program as planned. The meeting was indefinitely postponed.

The following names were presented for membership and voted upon favorably: Mrs. George McGoff, Mrs. Richard Hazelitt, Mrs. Richard Blanchard

Secretary's report was read and accepted. Treas. reported \$3.25 on hand.

Cards were read from Mrs. Wallace Merrill, Miss Lillian Hanson, Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Cards have been received during the summer from Mrs. Walter Barker and Mrs. Wallace Hanson for flowers sent them in their bereavement.

The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Walter Barter who read from Robert Tristram Coffin's newest book "Yankee Coast."⁷⁰ It proved highly entertaining.

Delicious refreshments of cider, sandwiches and mint patties were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted

Antoinette N. Packard, Sec.

⁷⁰ Coffin, Robert Tristram, *Yankee Coast*, New York: MacMillan, 1946. This book presents a rhapsody of the "crystal and amber" coast of Maine. It is a portrait of a people who live by no one's philosophy but their own headstrong minds. The narrative is filled with Coffin's own memories, where he spent his boyhood and could watch from his bedroom window the fishermen setting out before dawn.

In memory of

Annie Florence S. Sturdivant

1867-1947

October 22, 1947

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Wallace Merrill.

President opened the meeting with a reading.

Secretary's report read and accepted. Treas. reported \$17.98 on hand.

Members reminded to send cards to Mrs. Sawyer at Leeds N. H. for her birthday.

Voted to dedicate page to memory of Mrs. Sturdivant.

Moved and seconded to end next meeting at 2 o'clock as it is to be held at the home of Mrs. Roundy in Portland.

Card read from many thanking club for cards.

Mrs. Byron Rawnsley's name was presented and voted upon favorably.

Meeting then turned over to Miss Isabelle Powell who spoke to us about glass and old china. Many beautiful and interesting items had been brought by the members and Miss Powell gave a very interesting discourse on their manufacture and history.

Meeting adjourned after delicious refreshments of ice cream were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Glendon Doane.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette N. Packard, Sec.

November 19, 1947

Fifteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Alvah Thompson with Mrs. Rollins Scott assisting hostess.

The President opened the meeting by reading the creed of the State Federation of Women's clubs.

The secretary's report was read and accepted and the Treasurer reported \$11.48 on hand.

Mrs. Wallace Merrill reported that a plate had been left at her home on the day of the meeting there.

"Happy birthday" was sung in honor of Jennie Barter's birthday.

It was voted that each member be assessed fifteen cents to pay for the inscription on the gavel and block in memory of Alice Fickett.

Twenty -five cent gifts accompanied by a couplet will be exchanged at the Christmas meeting.

The speaker for the afternoon Miss Jessie Beach spoke fascinatingly about Maine gems, telling stories of gems, and she showed four beautiful collections. She mentioned that gems are indestructible.

The hostesses served very fine cream puffs with chocolate sauce.

Lula J. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

November 12, 1947 [Out of sequence]

On a snowy stormy day 16 ladies journeyed to Portland by bus and auto to the home of Mrs. Rodney Roundy. She displayed her beautiful and unusual candles. Many new and novel numbers such as snowballs and Santa Clauses were shown. She spoke about the memorial candles.

The trip home was slow but all arrived safely in spite of bad roads.

Respectfully submitted,

Antoinette Packard

December 17, 1947

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Dudley Merrill co-hostess. The house was tastefully decorated in Holiday Greens and candles.

Meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Luther Bonney.

Mrs. Harlan Sweetser read.

Santa distributed gifts some with clear rhymes and some without. Delicious refreshments were served.

In Memory of

Anna Fox Blanchard

1947

December 31, 1947

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Millard Burnell, Mrs. Frank Chase co-hostess. Meeting opened by the president, Mrs. Luther Bonney. No treasurer report, no secretary's report. 10 members and one guest present. It was voted to dedicate a page in the Secretary's book to the Memory of Mrs. Howard Blanchard.

Mrs. Alvah Thompson read a paper on the "Time Capsule"⁷¹ which was on display at the New Yorks World Fair. Then Mrs. Stanley Cook told us about her trip to Venezuela in 1941. Papers were greatly enjoyed.

Meeting adjourned to meet at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell Jan. 14. Delicious Tea, cookies, and candies were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

A.N. Packard, Sec.

January 14, 1948

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Perry Burnell, Mrs. Gerald Packard co-hostess.

Meeting was opened by the president. Secretary's report read and accepted. Voted to raise penny collection to 5 cents.

Meeting turned over to Mr. Rollin Scott who very ably reviewed Gunther's "Inside the U.S.A."⁷² While we could not wholly agree with Mr. Gunther's report on Maine it was interesting to hear his views.

⁷¹ The Westinghouse Time Capsule was created for the 1939 New York World's Fair. The capsule is buried 50 feet below Flushing Meadows Corona Park. The capsule is to be opened in the year 6939, five thousand years later. Among the 35 small, everyday physical items placed in the capsule are following: a fountain pen, an alphabet block set, 75 types of fabrics, metals, plastics, and seeds. Seeds placed in the time capsule include wheat, corn, oats, tobacco, cotton, flax, rice, soybeans, alfalfa, sugar beets, carrots and barley, all sealed in glass tubes. Modern literature, contemporary art and news events of the 20th century were recorded on a "Micro-File", which has over 10 million words and a thousand pictures. The "Micro-File" is equipped with a small microscope for viewing. The contents of the capsule were recorded in a *Book of Record of the Time Capsule*. This book is deemed capable of resisting the effects of time for 5000 years.

⁷² Gunther, John, *Inside U. S. A.*, New York: Harper Bros, 1947. Beginning in November 1944, Gunther traveled to more than 300 cities in 48 states. Well known as a journalist and author, his celebrity status gave him unusual access to prominent people. The book is divided into 52 chapters organized by geography. Beginning in CA, he travels through western states to the Great Plains and the Midwest, on to the east in the Northeast and Southeast, then to TX and OK and finally to the "new states" of NM and AZ. His presentation of geography and history is peppered with highly opinionated statements, or "flip judgments", about American places and people. This book is the fourth of a series of highly successful "Inside" books, a series which began in 1936 with *Inside Europe*, *Inside Asia* (1939), and *Inside Latin America* (1941).

Delicious ice cream with frozen strawberries were served by the hostesses.

January 28, 1948

On a clear cold day with the ground covered with snow twenty-two members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Stanwood Cook, with Mrs. Herbert Foster, co-hostess.

The President named Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Halvor Merrill and Mrs. Lloyd Yeagle supper committee for Gentlemen's Night, and Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Glendon Doane and Mrs. Herbert Foster entertainment committee.

Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, the leader for the afternoon, held the rapt attention of her listeners with extracts from the diary of her uncle, Mr. Nicholas Rideout, ⁷³which covered the years from 1835 to 1850. Mr. Rideout lived in the Valley. Among his many duties was that of selectman, he could settle estates, read a sermon in the absence of the minister, was a carpenter, served at the State Legislature two terms. He could hoe three thousand hills of potatoes a day.

Mrs. Bragg exhibited a wooden plan of Cumberland Center in 1830, with little wooden houses representing those which stood in each direction for about half a mile. This plan was made by her grandfather, Mr. Silas Rideout.

On adjournment the hostesses served refreshments in the dining room from a table set with gleaming silver.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

February 11, 1948

Gentlemen's Night brought out a record attendance of 50 members with their guests.

A delicious supper of fricasseed chicken, potato chips, peas, rolls, coffee and ice cream with raspberry heart center was served.

The Toast to the Gentlemen was given by Mrs. Herman Sweetser response to the ladies Mr. David Moody.

Dinner committee was Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Halvor Merrill, Mrs. Lloyd Yeagle. The tables were decorated with Red and white carnations and hearts with tender messages were read by each guest.

⁷³ Excerpts from the Diary of Nicholas Rideout are published in Cumberland e books, *History of Cumberland, 1821-*, prepared by Class of 1948 under direction of Miss Evelyn Chatto., p. 42-43

The entertainment committee Mrs. Marge Chase, Mrs. Lena Foster, Mrs. Glendon Doane led in group singing, then a film of Wild Life and duck Hunting was shown and greatly enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted

Antoinette N. Packard, Sec.

February 18, 1948

We Neighbors met in the church vestry. 20 members present. Mrs. Gertrude Bragg, Miss Harriet Merrill, Miss Harriet Blanchard hostesses.

Meeting called to order by the president Mrs. Luther Bonney. A report of the last meeting was given by Mrs. Herman Sweetser. The supper committee reported a profit of \$7.57 from Gentlemen's Night. Mrs. Henry Hanson, Mrs. Frank Chase, Mrs. Sidney Bennett were appointed to serve as luncheon committee.

Meeting turned over to Mrs. Maurice Small who read the captions for the film "a year in the Old dirt Doffers Garden," We all enjoyed the beautiful flowers and coloring, displayed in this beautiful garden and made us year to get out and dig.

Delicious refreshments of ice cream and cookies were served by the hostesses.

February 25, 1948

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Burnell, Mrs. David Moody as hostess. 17 members, two guests present. The meeting was opened by the president. Secretary's reports read and accepted. Treasurer's report read and accepted. A letter from Mrs. Edith Sawyer was read. The meeting was then turned over to Mrs. Herman Sweetser who called on each member to display some keepsake and tell of its significance. Many old and beautiful things were shown.

Meeting adjourned. Delicious ice cream with chocolate sauce and homemade cookies were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

A.N. Packard, Sec.

March 10, 1948

Twenty-one members of the We Neighbors' Club met at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small, with Mrs. Orrin Whitney co-hostess.

The President read a letter from Mrs. Carolyn Rand thanking the club for flowers sent her during her illness.

The nickel collection was taken.

Mrs. Glendon Doane, the leader for the afternoon, gave a fascinating review of the book, Halle's "Spring in Washington".⁷⁴ Mr. Halle, a bicycle rider, showed a serene picture of the city when he told of the birds and flowers and sunrises.

On adjournment of the meeting the hostesses served an attractive fruit salad.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

March 24, 1948

Eighteen members and one guest met at the home of Mrs. Lloyd Yeagle, with Mrs. Ernest Burnell assistant hostess in place of Mrs. Harlan Sweetser. Mrs. Bonney read the words of a hymn to be sung at the church on Maundy Thursday.

Mrs. Millard Burnell read a letter from Mrs. Florence Davis telling of a silver tea to be held at Gray on April 13th with Mrs. William Nute of Turkey speaker.

The Sunshine Committee was asked to send a note of sympathy to Mrs. Arno Chase.

Mrs. Jordan took up the nickel collection.

The nominating committee named the following people for officers and committees for the coming year:

President, Mrs. Ernest Burnell

Vice President, Mrs. Gerald Packard

Secretary Mrs. George McGoff

Treasurer, Mrs. David Moody

Program Committee: Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. Alvah Thompson, Mrs. Stanwood Cook.

Picnic committee: Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. Orrin Whitney, Mrs. Halvor Merrill, Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Herbert Foster, Mrs. Theodore Jordan

Mrs. Herman Sweetser asked that old fashioned hats be brought to be shown at the meeting at her house.

⁷⁴ Halle, Louis J., *Spring in Washington*, Baltimore, Maryland: John Hopkins Press, 1947. Written in the form of a journal, Halle invites the reader to follow excursions through Washington and its environs such as the Tidal Basin and Rock Creek Park to experience the rebirth of the season. Halle observes, "To snatch the passing moment and examine it for eternity is the noblest occupation." Halle also observes "the discovery of Spring each year, after winter's hibernation, is like a rediscovery of the universe." Halle, a naturalist and political scientist, received his degree at Harvard and is a winner of the John Burroughs medal.

Mrs. Herbert Foster conducted the meeting for the afternoon with the help of Mrs. Yeagle she showed colored slides of the church of St. John the Divine⁷⁵ which were very beautiful. She explained that her interest had been aroused by what her boy had told her of the church when he returned from the high school trip last year.

On adjournment the hostesses served the excellent and for the Club unusual refreshments strawberry shortcake.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

April 14, 1948 [This entry is out of order; the report for 4/2/48 follows this entry.]

We neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. Halvor Merrill co hostess. Meeting opened by reading of "Old Things" by Mrs. Bonney.

Secretary's report read and accepted. Treasurer reported 11.55 on hand. Mrs. Herbert foster volunteered to serve as a fourth member of program committee.

Motion made for presiding officer to serve as ex officio member of program committee.

Motion made for Mrs. Ernest Burnell incoming president to call first meeting of program committee.

Voted for past 3 presidents to serve as nominating committee in the future.

Voted to have 3 members on sunshine committee, incoming president to appoint them.

Luncheon committee reported "The Country House" had been chosen for our annual Luncheon. Menus were given and the time and ways of transportation were discussed.

Annual report of treasurer was given.

Mr. Motz Supt of Schools was presented. Mr. Motz expressed regret that [Mrs.] Motz was unable to be present. Mr. Motz spoke on his trip to Atlantic City for the Supts. Convention and his two days at the United Nations Meeting. After his enlightening talk a bouquet was presented to him for [Mrs.] Motz.

Meeting adjourned. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostess.

⁷⁵ The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is located in New York City on Amsterdam Avenue between West 110th Street and 113th Street. It is the cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Designed in 1878 and begun in 1892, the Cathedral has undergone radical stylistic changes. Originally designed in the Byzantine Revival-Romanesque Revival styles, the plan was changed after 1909 to a Gothic Revival design. The great west doors on Amsterdam Avenue were designed between 1927 and 1931 by Henry Wilson. These "Golden Doors" were installed in 1936. The sequence of 48 relief panels presents scenes from Old and New Testaments and the Apocalypse. The size of the interior, the fourth largest in the world, presents a superlative level of natural acoustics that confer a reverb time greater than 8 seconds and an organic brilliance of tone.

Respectfully submitted,

A.N. Packard Sec.

April 2, 1948

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Mrs. Harlan Sweetser as hostess. Secretary's report read and accepted. Treasurers report accepted.

Under old business the secretary cast one ballot and the following list of officers were elected: Pres. Mrs. Ernest Burnell, Vice pres. Mrs. Gerald Packard, Sec. Mrs. George McGoff, Treas. Mrs. David Moody. Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. Alvah Thompson, Mrs. Stanley Cook, Mrs. Herbert Foster program committee.

A nickel collection was taken.

Mrs. Harriet Blanchard was reported better and a friendship card had been sent her. Cards were passed around to members to be returned at the luncheon to be filled out. These should help in program committee in their work for the following year.

Mrs. R. Edwards of Wilton was introduced and she proceeded to read parts of Lillie Doihe's book and to tell us of many interesting and amusing facts about hats. Gowns and hats to match the period were modeled by Mrs. Harlan Sweetser, Mrs. Mildred Doane, Mrs. Halvor Merrill. Mrs. Edwards also had some modern hats. They probably were not Daihe [?] numbers but they were very fetchingly modeled by Mrs. Donald Thompson, Mrs. Stanley Cook, Mrs. Geneva Chase and others.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

A.N. Packard, Sec.

April 28, 1948

The We Neighbors' Club held their annual meeting at Country House, with an attendance of twenty-five, which included three of the honorary members. Among those absent was the secretary, Mrs. Gerald Packard, who was ill with rheumatic fever.

"Happy Birthday" was sung in recognition of Mrs. Harlan Sweetser's Birthday.

The President read a letter from Mrs. Jeannette Edwards thanking the Club for the sweet peas given her at the previous meeting; from Mrs. Wallace Merrill, who expects to return to Cumberland Center this summer for a short stay; and from Miss Harriet Blanchard expressing appreciation for the flowers sent her.

Mrs. Bonney stated that she appreciated the work the program committee had done. She invited the Club to her cottage at Bailey Island for their picnic.

Mrs. Jennie Barter for the Club presented Mrs. Bonney with sweet peas in appreciation of her year's work as president.

A reading by Mrs. Jane Phinney Harlow to be held at Tuttle Road church on Friday was announced.

Mrs. Jordan took the nickel collection.

Different members read jokes, and the ode was sung.

The fifty-third year of We Neighbors' Club ended at a delightful place, and in the spirit of harmony that has characterized the Club from the beginning.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula J. Burnell, Sec. pro tem

We Neighbors Club 1951-1952

Pres. Velma Merrill (Mrs. Wayne)

V. Pres. Margaret Merrill (Mrs. Halvor)

Sec. Ruth Hanson (Mrs. Henry J.)

Treas. Dorothy Hart (Mrs. William)

October 10, 1951

The meeting was held in the Cumb. Congregational Church vestry. There were 3 hostesses, Bess Burnell, Geneva Chase, & Marjorie Chase. There were 25 members present.

They had planned a theater party for the summer, but had to cancel because of insufficient numbers able to go –

The programs committee distributed the programs.

The club voted unanimously to accept Mrs. Gaylord as a member.

Names presented for membership were Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Gene Lawrence, Mrs. William Slusser, Mrs. Kenneth Bailey, and Mrs. Richard Sweetser. According to custom these names will be voted on at the next meeting.

Mrs. Herman Sweetser introduced the speaker, Mr. Elton Brown, a missionary who had been to the Phillipines. He showed slides.

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

October 24, 1951

29 members met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser with Mrs. Luther Bonney as co-hostess,

The penny collection was taken.

The motion was made that the Secretary cast one ballot for the names of the members presented at the last meeting to become members.

The speaker was Dagmar Peterson who read the play "I Remember Mama".¹

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

November 14, 1951

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small with Mrs. Orrin Whitney as Co-hostess. 29 members present.

Mrs. Charles Seavey's name was presented for membership, to be tabled until the next meeting.

The speaker was Mrs. Edward Lincoln, who told about her trip to Williamsburg. Mrs. Norman Emmerson showed slides to go along with the speech.

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

November 28, 1951

31 members met at the Library with Mrs. Alvah Dillenback, Mrs. Glendon Doane and Mrs. Rollin Scott.

Mrs. Wallace Merrill reported a balance of \$8.05 in the "sick fund." The nickel collection was taken.

It was suggested that a card be sent to Mr. Crandall who was in the hospital.

Mrs. German Ruhm, who lives part of the year in the Hannah Loring place on the Greely Rd, showed how to make winter flower arrangements.

December 12, 1951

The meeting was held at Mrs. William Garsoe's with Mrs. Bruce Potter as co-hostess.

31 members present.

Mrs. Charles Seavey was welcomed as a member.

Voted to have a Christmas tree and exchange of gifts at the next meeting. Not to exceed 25 cents.

¹ "I Remember Mama" is a 1944 play by John Van Druten and is based on Kathryn Forbes' novel *Mama's Bank Account*. The novel was broadly based on the author's childhood. It is a study of family life centered on a Norwegian immigrant family in San Francisco early in 20th century. It is the story of a working class family trying to live the American dream. Papa Hanson is a blue collar worker. He and Mama attempt to raise their four children so they understand the difference between right and wrong, between selfishness and selflessness. Mama and Papa believe in hard work, common sense, and a good education. A resident of Portland, Dagmar Peterson was a well-known dramatic reader.

Voted to have the Sec. write a note to the V. pres. relieving her of her duties (Margaret Merrill to travel with Halvor to the service).

December 19, 1951

We Neighbors met at Mrs. Stanwood Cook's with Mrs. William Hart and Mrs. Alvah Thompson co-hostesses. Mrs. Kenneth Chase to be V. Pres. rest of the year.

30 members present. Mrs. Herman Sweetser read a story written by Eric Kelly (his wife is from Cumb). Mrs. Cook played records of Christmas carols. They had an exchange of gifts.

January 9, 1952

Met at the library. Hostesses Mrs. Ernest Rand, Mrs. William Surgi and Mrs. Into Suomi (a teacher's wife). 25 members present. \$31.30 in the treasury.

Discussed Gentlemen's Night. Decided to have the Ladies Circle of the Congregational Church put on the dinner so that every member can enjoy the evening. \$1.00 a plate for fruit cocktail, potato, squash, peas, salad, sliced turkey, rolls, cake & ice cream. Speaker was Elvin Grove from the State Forestry Dept. on planting and care of shade trees.

January 20, 1952

Gentlemen's Nite in the Vestry 6:30 P.M. 58 present. For favors the ladies had a red carnation, and the men had a cigarette on a laced trimmed heart. Mrs. Velma Merrill was mistress of ceremonies. Mrs. Caroline Rand gave a toast to the gentlemen and Mr. Ernest Rand gave a toast to the ladies. The Gentlemen sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart". Program divided Mr. and Mrs. Alvah Thompson showed slides of their trip to California, British Columbia, and Mexico.

February 13, 1952

Meeting was held at Mrs. Harding Gaylord (Minister's wife) with Mrs. Sidney Bennett co-hostess. Took the nickel collection, the "sick committee" reported sending bouquets to members. Made plans for the costume party.

Miss Myra Dolley French teacher and Dean of Women at Deering High School told about her trip to England and France. 32 present.

February 27, 1952

The Club met at Mrs. Gerald Packard's (Virginia Hutchin's mother). Mrs. Perry Burnell was co-hostess but was sick and couldn't serve.

Program by Mrs. Kenneth Chase (Phil Chase's mother) called "Cumberland Keepsakes". Mrs. Chase brought a book containing the Marriage certificate of Mary Rideout and Issac Morrison, her great grandparents. Each member brought a keepsake. 14 members present.

March 12, 1952

29 members met at Mrs. Wm Chandler's. Mrs. Myron Hilton co-hostess for a costume part conducted by Mrs. Rollin Scott. Mrs. Philip Chase wore her wedding gown. Two living pictures were presented. Mrs. Laura Wyman as "Whistlers Mother" and Mrs. Alvah Thompson as "Countess Gowens" by Sir Thomas Lawrence. There is a newspaper clipping in the Sec. book page 106 in the 1948-1954 Sec. book.

March 26, 1952

31 members and 17 guests at Guest Day at the vestry. Committee: Mrs. Wallace Merrill (Sally's grandmother), Mrs. Arno Chase (Phil's grandfather), Mrs. Jenny Burnell (Grace Hutchinson' mother), Mrs. Howard Call, Mrs. Lewis Hutchinson, Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr.

Voted to contribute \$3.00 to the Red Cross.

Speaker Mrs. Jane Phinney Harlow. A reading "The Constant Wife."

April 9, 1952

24 members attended the annual meeting – held at the Belgrange Inn. Miss Margaret Koelz and Mrs. Wayne Merrill as hostesses. Annual treas. report receipts \$44.78 and disbursements \$31.10 leaving a bal. of \$13.68.

It was voted to dispense with Guest Day in the future.

The subject of membership was discussed. It was voted not to take in any new members until the membership was reduced to 35 including honorary members. In other words the membership was to be limited to 35. The Sec. to take charge of the membership list.

In order to maintain membership dues of \$1.00 must be paid by Dec. 1st of each year. The Treas. will notify the member before she can be dropped from membership for non payment of dues.

April 23, 1952

The 58th year of We neighbors ended with the Annual meeting held at "Country House" (Allen Ave. and Falmouth). This is the first of many years of eating at Country House.

Barbara Garsoe presented the outgoing Pres. with a cyclamen plant.

They adjourned to the sun room for a meeting. Mrs. Wayne Merrill turned the gavel over to the new Pres. Mrs. Orin Whitney. She gave a speech about her home town Paris Hill, ME.

1952-1953

October 8, 1952

35 members attended the first meeting of the season at the home of Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach with Mrs. Stanwood Cook assisting.

Pres. Mrs. Orrin Whitney (Velma)

V. Pres. Mrs. Earl (Nellie) Woodbury

Sec. Mrs. Wm. (Dorothea) Hart

Treas. Mrs. Roll Scott (Gladys)

Program Com: Mrs. Wm (Anna) Chandler, Mrs. Bruce (Margelia) Potter, Mrs. Wm (Barbara) Garsoe

Flower Com. Mrs. Wallace Merrill

They distributed the programs.

Speaker Mrs. Clinton Merrill Jr. who spent several years in England during World War II.

October 22, 1952

26 members met at the house of Maurice Small with Sidney Bennett assisting.

Nickel collection taken.

Speaker: Mrs. John Lyon on women's part in the political scene.

November 12, 1952

Barbara Garsoe explained why they paid the speaker for the last meeting. After discussion it has decided to give each unpaid speaker "some small token of appreciation."

Voted for the treas. to send bills to all who have not paid dues by Dec 1st.

Nickel collection taken.

Program: Mr. Robert Stetson (music teacher at Greely). He ended by playing several piano selections.

They set aside a page for Mrs. Dudley (Frances) Merrill.

December 10, 1952

25 members met at the library for their Christmas meeting. Hazel Mac Goff, Caroline Rand & Helene Thompson hostesses. Send Opportunity Farm \$3.00

Mrs. Whitney resigned as Pres. Discussed what to do – advance the officers or what. Left to Nominating Com -

Treas reported a membership 44 including Honorary Members.

Program: Phyllis Sweetser reviewed the book “Eric Kelly’s Christmas story of Poland” “In Clean Hay”

Exchange of gifts.

January 14, 1953

21 members met at Myron Hilton’s. They advanced the officers: Pres. Mrs. Earle Woodbury, V.P. Mrs. Wm. Hart, Sec. Mrs. Charles Seavey, Treas. Mrs. Gladys Scott. The club voted to pay \$5. royalty fee for play for Gentlemen’s night entertainment. Mrs. Kenneth Chase was asked to present a choice of members to be submitted by Ladies Circle.

January 28, 1953

25 members attended in spite of the weather. Mrs. Herman Sweetser gave a review of “Always the Young Strangers”² by Carl Sandburg.

February 11, 1953

29 members met at the Library. Mrs. Jane Phinney Harlow was the speaker and reviewed the novel “The Neighbors Song” by Jean Abbott.

² Sandburg, Carl, *Always the Young Strangers*, New York: Harcourt Brace, 1953. Born in 1878, Sandburg grew with America. As a boy he played, studied, and matured in Galesburg, IL. This reminiscence presents a nostalgic view of small town life as well as an invaluable perspective on American history.

February 24, 1953

63 members and guests were present for Gentlemen's Night held in the church vestry. A roast beef dinner was served by the Ladies Circle. 2 one-act plays were presented by members for the entertainment. A musical interlude of selections from Sigmund Romberg was sung by Mrs. Hanson, Mrs. Hutchinson, and Miss Lillian Hanson between the 2 presentations.

March 11, 1953

26 members present. Those exhibiting at the Hobby Show were asked to report what exhibiting. Dr. Frederick Thompson³ spoke on collecting "Old Books."

March 25, 1953

23 members met at the Library. The luncheon meeting will be April 23 (at the Country House). Mrs. Bonney – chr. of the Hobby Show asked each member to explain her hobby and many interesting exhibits were enjoyed.

April 8, 1953

22 members were present at the annual meeting held at the home of the Pres Mrs. Earle Wood Dowry. Nom. Com. presented the following slate of officers for next year:

Pres. Mrs. Wm. Hart

V.P. Mrs. Charles Seavey

Sec. Mrs. Wm. Garsoe

Treas. Mrs. Stanwood Cook

The following was voted:

1. \$3.00 to Am. Red Cross
2. That guest day be resumed next year
3. That any past member who had dropped her membership be allowed to resume it when she wished.
4. That the limit on membership be removed.

³ Dr. Frederick Thompson was Senior Pastor of Woodfords' Congregational Church, Portland, Maine.

5. That no one was to be asked to join "We Neighbors" until she had been a resident of the town for 1 year.
6. That no one be permitted to present a name for membership until she had belonged to the club for a year.

April 22, 1953

23 members met at the "Country House" for the annual luncheon.

October 14, 1953

17 members & 2 guests met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Rand. Program- Mrs. Norman Emerson showed slides of N. E.

October 28, 1953

24 members met at home of Mrs. Armand Slusser. No business. Speaker – Mr. Dow from Dow & Stubbing, jeweler who spoke on stones.

November 18, 1953

20 members present. Mrs. Wm. Garsoe submitted her resignation as Sec. Nom. C submitted name of Mrs. Halvor Merrill to be Sec. So voted.

December 9, 1953

Annual Christmas Party held at the home of Mrs. Wm. Chandler with 20 members present. Voted to change next meeting to vestry.

Exchange gifts and reminisces of 1st Christmas that could be remembered.

January 13, 1954

18 members. Voted to have the Ladies Circle put on the dinner for Gentlemen's Night with price not to exceed \$1.25 per person.

February 10, 1954

20 members. Voted to have turkey for G. Night.

February 24, 1954

54 attended Gentlemen's Night. Program directed by Mrs. Halvor Merrill. Mrs. Harold Bragg accompanied at the piano. Mrs. Seavey gave several amusing readings.

March 10, 1954

17 W.N. met at library. Mr. Perry Haydon from the State Reformatory for men at Windham was speaker.

March 24, 1954

50 were present at our annual Guest Day. Mrs. Jane P. Harlow gave a splendid reading of Mrs. Seaward's "Secret Weapon."

April 14, 1954

17 members present at annual business meeting. Following slate of officers were presented for next year.

Pres. Mrs. Charles Seavey

V.P. Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Sec. Mrs. Louie Hutchinson

Treas. Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach

Voted to try having our luncheon in May in 1955 when the weather is better.

April 28, 1954

Annual luncheon held at the "Country House" with 27 members present. Retiring Pres. Was presented with a bouquet of sweet peas. There ended 60 yrs. of W. N.

October 13, 1954

22 members met at home of Mrs. Ernest Rand. Mrs. Hutchinson resigned as Sec. & Mrs. Connie Sweetser was elected to replace her. Following were submitted for membership: Mrs. Robert Dillenbach, Margaret Glassford, Mrs. Hope Foster, Mrs. Fred Rollick, Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Mrs. Silas Barker.

October 27, 1954

22 members present. New members presented at last meeting were voted in. Three new names were presented: Mrs. Brad Bonney, Mrs. Lawrence McCracken, Mrs. Lawrence Spiller. Mrs. Halvor Merrill presented slides of Japan, Korea, parts of CT and NY. Brooksville loaned by E. Chase, Tripoli – loaned by Hope Foster.

November 17, 1954

30 members - voted in new members previously presented.

December 15, 1954

Christmas party with exchange of gifts. 33 members including the 4 new members were present. Name of Mrs. Wm. Crawford was presented for membership.

December 29, 1954

15 members present. Mrs. Wm. Crawford was elected a member. Miss Neirle took 2 group pictures.

January 26, 1955

29 members – 2 guests. Neal Allon of F. O. Bailey was guest speaker.

February 9, 1955

21 members. Treas. reported BOH of \$35.20.

February 23, 1955

22 members 1 guest. Speaker on Red Cross.

March 9, 1955

30 members. Mrs. Leslie Moody showed her collection of antique glass.

March 23, 1955

Guest Day held at church vestry. 51 present. Mrs. Thomas Crome gave a reading of play "The Seven Year Itch."⁴

April 13, 1955

24 members present for annual meeting. Following slate of officers was presented.

Pres. Mrs. Halvor Merrill

V.P. Mrs. Richard Sweetser

Sec. Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach

Treas. Mrs. Herbert Foster, Jr.

It was voted to have the retiring Pres. appoint a Com. to bring the constitution up to date.

May 18, 1955

Annual luncheon at the "Down East Village" with 36 members.

October 12, 1955

28 members – Names of Mrs. Robert Brown & Mrs. Ralph Keating presented for membership.

⁴ "The Seven Year Itch" is a 1952 three act play written by George Axelrod. Thirty eight years old and married for seven years, Richard Sherman's wife and son leave him alone with his vivid imagination for the summer. What no one is expecting is that a new girl has taken the upstairs apartment for the summer. Mr. Sherman cannot stop thinking about his waning youth and his marriage, which had become so comfortable. The play begins with Richard Sherman roaming restlessly around his empty apartment, bemoaning the fact that his wife of seven years and their son have just walked out on him. Then without warning, a gigantic flower pot tumbles down from the overhead balcony. The book was published in 1953 by Random House. The story was filmed in 1955.

October 26, 1955

20 members – Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Keating were voted in.

Revised constitution & By-laws were presented – and accepted. Each member got a copy. Name of Mrs. David Hagar presented.

November 9, 1955

Mrs. Hagar elected member.

December 14, 1955

Page set aside in records in memory of Harriet Blanchard.

Voted to have Mr. Rand give the toast on G. Night. Jan. 12. Ladies circle to prepare supper at \$1.25 per.

Christmas Party – exchange of gifts. Mrs. Kenneth Chase read poems and acted as “Santa Claus.”

January 12, 1956

Gentlemen’s Night – 64 members & guests. After a roast beef dinner singing was enjoyed. Mr. Gray from Inland Game & Fish Conservation was guest speaker.

January 25, 1956

25 members present.

February 8, 1956

23 members present.

February 29, 1956

27 members

March 14, 1956

17 members – stormy day

March 28, 1956

33 members & guests – annual Guest Day. Rev. Clyde Campbell speaker.

April 11, 1956

Annual meeting:

Pres. Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach

V.P. Mrs. Herbert Foster Jr.

Sec. Mrs. Lulu Burnell

Treas. Mrs. Silas Baker

May 23, 1956

21 members held annual luncheon at “Country House.”

October 10, 1956

21 members. Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach resigned as Pres. Mrs. Herman Sweetser was elected to replace her.

March 10, 1954

Seventeen We Neighbors met at the Library with Mrs. Bruce Potter and Mrs. Geneva Chase acting as hostesses.

The secretaries' and treasurers reports were read and approved.

Mrs. Geneva Chase thanked the Club for the cookies they sent her in her recent illness.

The President appointed Mrs. Lulu Burnell and Mrs. Millar Burnell as nominating Committee for new officers for 1955. Mrs. Mabel Slusser and Mrs. Margaret Merrill were appointed to look into the luncheon for April 28 and report at next meeting.

As there was no further business, it was voted to adjourn the business meeting.

Mrs. Nellie Woodbury introduced our speaker Mr. Perry Hayden from the State Reformatory for Men at Windham. His fifty years as warden proved most interesting and we learned a great deal about how the place is operated. At the close of his talk we had a chance to ask questions.

Following the refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 24, 1954

Fifty were present at our annual Guest Day at the Library with the following members acting as hostesses:

Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr.

Mrs. Sidney Bennett

Mrs. Orrin Whitney

Mrs. George Mc Goff

Mrs. Rollin Scott

A greeting and welcome, by our president, was extended to all, especially our guests of the afternoon. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Following adjournment of the business meeting, Mrs. Nellie Woodbury introduced our speaker of the afternoon Mrs. Jane Phinney Harlow – who gave us a splendid reading of Mrs. Seaward's Secret Weapon.¹

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 14, 1954

Seventeen members were present at the Annual Business meeting with Mrs. Barbara Garsoe and Mrs. Nellie Woodbury acting as hostesses.

The reports of Secretary, treasurer and flower collection were read and approved.

Communication from Mrs. Helene Thompson was read by the secretary expressing her gratitude for the flowers and cards received in her present illness.

The following slate of officers was presented by the nominating Committee for the Coming year.

President: Mrs. Charles Seavey

Vice President: Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Secretary: Mrs. Louis Hutchinson

Treasurer: Mrs. Alvah Dillenbach

Sick Committee: Mrs. Luther Bonney, Mrs. William Hart

Program committee: Mrs. Gerald Packard, Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Maurice Small

It was voted that the secretary cast one ballot for slate of officers as read. Business meeting was adjourned.

Business meeting was reopened to discuss having our luncheon sometime in May when the weather was usually better and there was a greater selection of places.

¹ Wibberley, Leonard, *Mrs. Searwood's Secret Weapon*, Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1954. Mrs. Searwood, a mature widow, lived alone in England while the Second World War went on and on. One day she was adopted by the 300 year old spirit of a lonely American Indian. Then suddenly, she gave in to her only daughter's "true, awful drive for organizing," and left the dangers of London for the tranquility of Lower Pupton. She was not lonely any more. In Lower Pupton she met Parson Pendlebury, a tall spare man whose brown eyes had a chuckle in them and whose carriage told of a youth more athletic than clerical. Mrs. Searwood's Secret Weapon combines fantasy, wit and common sense to show, in the author's words, "that it is not necessary for people to live dull and drab lives because they are middle-aged. They can still fall in love, still be stirred by the coming of spring and summer, still plan for a future rather than brood over the past."

Voted to try having our luncheon in May of 1955.

Business meeting adjourned.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 28, 1954

The We Neighbors Club ended its season with the annual luncheon held at the "Country House" with twenty seven members present.

Following the luncheon we had a short business meeting. At this time the secretary's report was read and approved. Communications from Margelia Potter and Hilda Bennett were read. The flower collection was taken.

Mrs. William Hart very graciously thanked all those who worked with her throughout the year and at this time she turned over the gavel to our incoming president, Mrs. Charles Seavey.

Before business meeting adjourned, Mrs. Halvor Merrill presented to our retiring president on behalf of the Club a beautiful boquet of sweet peas.

And so ended the 60th year of We Neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 13, 1954

Twenty two We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Ernest Rand with Mrs. Rand and Mrs. Perry Burnell acting as hostesses.

The reports of the Secretary and flower Committees were read and approved.

Communications from Mrs. Mary Chase and Mrs. Lewis Hutchinson were read. Mrs. Hutchinson asked in her letter that she might withdraw her name as secretary. It was moved and seconded that we accept her resignation with regret. At this time the nominating committee presented the name of Mrs. Connie Sweetser for secretary. It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for Connie Sweetser.

Flower collection was taken. Names submitted by membership were as follows: Mrs. Robert Dillenback, Mrs. Clark West, Margaret Glassford, Mrs. Hope Foster, Mrs. Fred Pollick, Mrs. Evelyn Miller, Mrs. Silas Baker.

Connie Sweetser thanked the Club for the flowers sent to her last summer while in the hospital.

Mrs. William Chandler expressed appreciation to the program committee for the splendid work they had done in preparing a program for 1954 and 1955,

Business meeting adjourned.

At this time Mrs. Kenneth Chase introduced our speaker, Mrs. Jean Williams² who gave us a most inspiring account of her trip to Europe as a news correspondent.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

October 27, 1954

The We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small with Mrs. William Garsoe as co-hostess. 22 members were present.

The president, Virginia Seavy, presided at the business meeting.

The secretary's report was read and approved. A note from Phyllis Sweetser thanking the club for flowers was read.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$14.79.

The flower committee reported that flowers had been sent to Miss Harriet Merrill who is in the hospital for a check- up. The flower collection was taken.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the names of new members presented at the previous meeting.

Three new names were presented for membership. They were: Mrs. Brad Bonney, Mrs. Lawrence McCracken, Mrs. Lawrence Spiller.

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Valton Morse be accepted as a guest member. It is customary for the minister's wife be asked as a guest.

² Jean Gannett Williams (1924-1994) was one of Maine's most influential media figures. Born in Augusta on January 16, 1924, she attended Bradford Junior College. After graduation she worked in New York for the firm Julius Matthews Special Agency. One year later, she returned to Portland to work for her father's company, then called Guy Gannett Publishing Co. Her title was national advertising manager until 1953. That year she was named executive vice president of the publishing company. Her responsibility included oversight of the daily newspapers, a challenge made more difficult by the absence of other women in similar positions. Nevertheless, she excelled in the boardrooms, and her gender was not a drawback to her success.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned and turned over to Mrs. Halvor Merrill who showed very interesting slides of Japan, Korea, and parts of Connecticut and New York state. She also passed about souvenirs of Korea and Japan. Mrs. Merrill showed slides of Brookville loaned by Evelyn Chase, Tripoli loaned by Hope foster, and local scenes loaned by Marion Small.

Coffee, cider, and doughnuts followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

November 17, 1954

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Herman Ruhm Jr. with Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. as co-hostess. About 30 members were present.

The president greeted the four new members who were present.

The secretary's report was read and approved. A note from Miss Merrill was read thanking the club for the flowers sent her in the hospital.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$19.79. She said that the dues of \$1.00 are payable now.

The flower committee gave its report and the collection taken.

The names of new members previously presented were accepted.

The next meeting will be a Christmas party at Mrs. Cook's with an exchange of gifts. These gifts are not to exceed the price of 50 cents.

Gentlemen's Night was discussed and it was decided to ask the Ladies Circle if they would serve the dinner.

Mrs. Ruhm showed very interesting slides of the International Flower Show in New York City.

We all enjoyed tasty refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

December 15, 1954

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Charles Seavy with Mrs. Gerald Packard as co-hostess. Thirty-three members including four new members were present.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$29.26.

The flower collection was taken.

This year Gentlemen's Night will be January 12th. The Ladies Circle will serve the dinner. The dinners will be \$1.25 per person.

The name of Mrs. William Crawford was presented for membership.

The program committee announced that the speaker for the next meeting will be unable to come.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Marge Chase read a Christmas poem and then presents were distributed.

Refreshments followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

December 29, 1954

Mrs. Earle Woodbury and Mrs. Alice Dillenbach were co-hostesses for the meeting of We Neighbors Club at Mrs. Woodbury's home. 15 members were present. The secretary's report was accepted. The treasurer reported \$34.26 on hand. The sick committee reported \$7.37 on hand.

There was no report from the Committee for Gentlemen's Night dinner.

The secretary cast one ballot and Mrs. William Crawford was elected to become a member of the club.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Miss Neville very kindly consented to take us on a trip across the United States and into California with colored pictures.

A social hour was enjoyed. Miss Neville took two pictures of the group, a mass production I should say. Delicious refreshments and a very enjoyable afternoon for all who did not forget the meeting.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec. pro tem

January 26, 1955

The We Neighbor's Club met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser with Mrs. Luther Bonney as co-hostess. 29 members and 2 guests were present. The president welcomed Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Brad Bonney as new members.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported \$36.26 on hand.

Dorothy Hart reported that the sick committee had \$8.07 and the flower collection was taken.

Mrs. Alva Dillenbach thanked the club for the card sent her.

Anna Chandler announced that the Mother's march would be Thursday night.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Neal Allen of F. O. Baily Co.³ spoke on his experiences in the field of antiques. He was very interesting and we were all glad to be able to hear him.

Tea was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

February 9, 1955

Twenty-one members of We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. William Chandler with Mrs. Richard Sweetser as co-hostess.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$35.20.

The flower committee reported \$9.77 on hand. The flower collection was then taken.

Velma Merrill sent her thanks for a card sent her.

A letter was read from Neal Allen thanking the Club for the flowers and also for speaking!!

The meeting place for guest day was discussed and it was decided that it would be left up to the discretion of the hostess. Guest Day will be March 23rd.

The meeting was then adjourned.

³ F. O. Bailey was founded in 1819, a year before Maine became a state. In the early days, it was a consignment auction house and was nationally known for its carriages. People from all over the United States would come to buy Bailey's Built Carriages "If you were wealthy, you had to buy your carriage from F. O. Bailey in Portland, Maine. That was the standard." In the early 1900s and onto the mid-century, Bailey's honed its reputation as a purveyor of antiques, first on Free Street, and later on Exchange Street.

Mrs. Davis from Porteous, Mitchell and Braun had as her subject "What we should know about books." This included a few words on many books on the best seller list. She reviewed "Gertrude Laurence as Mrs. A."⁴

Tea was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

February 23, 1955

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase with Mrs. Howard Call as co-hostess, 22 members and 1 guest were present.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$39.20

The flower committee reported \$11.09 and the collection was taken.

Guest day will be held in the church vestry. It was suggested that one let the hostesses for guest day know if you are unable to attend.

Mrs. Arno Chase received a round of applause as it was her birthday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mr. Koch, head of the First Aid section of the Red Cross showed a short movie reporting on the work of the Red Cross. Mr. Donald Hurd, director of the Portland Chapter, gave a short talk. A question period followed.

Tea was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, sec.

March 9, 1955

Thirty We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Stanwood Cook.

The reports of Secretary, treasurer and flower Committees were read and approved.

⁴ Aldrich, Richard Stoddard, *Gertrude Lawrence as Mrs. A: An Intimate Biography of the Great Star*. New York: The Greystone Press, 1954. This biography is written by her husband. Gertrude Lawrence (1898-1952) was an English actress, singer, dancer, and musical comedy performer for stage appearances in the West End of London and Broadway in New York.

Communications from Mrs. Ernest Rand and Mrs. Alvah Thompson were read. Each thanking the Club for flowers sent to them in their illness. Mrs. Kenneth Chase expressed her appreciation for the many kindnesses shown her in her recent bereavement.

Mrs. Lewis Hutchinson and Mrs. Myron Hilton were appointed by the President to serve on the nominating committee.

Business meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase introduced Mrs. Leslie Moody who showed us a very lovely collection of antique glass ware which she has been collecting.

Delicious refreshments of ice cream with strawberry sauce and crackers were served by the hostess.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

March 23, 1955

51 We Neighbors and guests met at the church meeting for Guest Day. Mrs. Bruce Potter, Mrs. Bill Slusser, Mrs. Sidney Bennett, and Mrs. Orrin Whitney, Mrs. William Hart were hostesses.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

There was no treasurer report.

The flower committee reported \$9.95 on hand.

Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. and Mrs. Stanwood Cook were named to the annual luncheon committee.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Thomas Crane gave a very enjoyable reading of the Broadway play – The Seven Year Itch.

Tea was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

April 13, 1955

24 members were present for the annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Rollin Scott with Mrs. Wayne Merrill as a co-hostess.

The secretary's report was read and approved with one addition.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$28.67.

The sick committee reported a balance of \$10.60 and the flower collection taken.

The following names were presented by the nominating committee for offices next year:

President – Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Vice Pres. – Mrs. Richard Sweetser

Secretary – Mrs. Alvah Dillenback

Treasurer – Mrs. Herbert Foster, Jr.

Program Committee: Mrs. Bruce Potter – chairman, Mrs. Harold Bragg, Mrs. Edward Miller

Sick Committee: Mrs. Bradford Bonney, Mrs. Maurice Small

The secretary cast 1 ballot for the slate of officers.

The luncheon committee gave their report. They had menus from Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Country House, Homewood Inn, and the Down East Restaurant. It was decided to have our luncheon at the Down East Restaurant on May 18th at 1:30 P.M. It was voted that there would be no business meeting or program at the luncheon.

It was moved and seconded that the retiring president appoint a committee to bring the Constitution up to date.

It was mentioned that a member confined to bed should notify the sick committee.

A rising note of thanks was given the retiring president, Virginia Seavy. She said a few words of thanks and then turned the gavel over to Margaret Merrill.

The luncheon committee asked that they be notified if any member is unable to attend the luncheon or needs transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec.

May 18, 1955

We Neighbors held their annual luncheon at the Down East Village Restaurant. Thirty-six members were present.

Following the luncheon, the ladies were invited by Mrs. Farrell to visit the Gift & Antique Shop also the Motel.

After a leisurely tour of the premises, members left and so ended the sixty-first year of "We Neighbors".

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

October 12, 1955

The "We Neighbors" Club met at the home of Mrs. Charles Seavy with Mrs. Edward Miller as co-hostess. Twenty members were present.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$25.17

The flower collection reported a balance of \$8.74 and collection taken.

The names of Mrs. Robert Brown and Mrs. Ralph Keating were presented for membership.

The appointment of a committee to bring the Constitution up to date was postponed until next meeting. A note of thanks was read from Mrs. Alvah Thompson for flowers sent her during her illness.

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer send Opportunity Farm \$5.00 as the annual donation from "We Neighbors Club."

Business meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Edward Miller of the program committee turned the meeting over to Mrs. Ernest Rand who gave us a most interesting review of "Washington Holiday"⁵ by Eleanor Early.

Refreshments of miniature doughnuts and cider were served.

Respectfully submitted

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

October 26, 1955

About twenty members were present for the second meeting of We Neighbors at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small with Mrs. Harold Bragg as co-hostess.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$26.94.

⁵ Early, Eleanor, *Washington Holiday*, New York: Prentice-Hall, 1955. Intimate portraits of life in Washington D. C.

The flower collection was taken. No member of the sick committee was present to give a report.

The names of Mrs. Robert Brown and Mrs. Ralph Keating were accepted.

The revised constitution and by laws were presented and a note of acceptance followed. Each member present was given a copy.

The name of Mrs. David Hagar was presented.

The meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Richard Sweetser introduced the speaker, Mrs. Edward Lincoln, who showed slides of her spring trip to Europe.

Tea was served by the hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance L. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

November 9, 1955

The third meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Lawrence McCracken with Mrs. Earle Woodbury as co-hostess.

The meeting was opened by our president Mrs. Halvar Merrill. 24 members were present.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance of \$31.94.

No member of the Flower Committee was present, therefore no report.

Mrs. Bradford Bonney informed our president that she would be unable to serve on the Sick Committee. The re-appointment of a member to serve on Sick Committee was turned over to the Nominating Committee.

Secretary cast one ballot for Mrs. David Hager electing her as a member of the Club.

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer pay Mrs. Velma Merrill for printing our yearly programs.

Mrs. Bruce Potter, chairman of the Program Committee called the attention of the members of errors made in our programs.

Our next meeting, which is the Christmas Party at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase and will be as usual, an exchange of gifts, was again called to our attention, that gifts were not to exceed the price of 50 cents.

As no further business was discussed, the meeting adjourned and turned over to Mrs. Bruce Potter who introduced Mrs. Ladow from the Mill End Shop. She showed us beautiful fabrics of all kinds from Denim now used for drapes and upholstery to the very latest Glass Fiber & Chromspun. Including, plain, stripes,

floral, scenic & gold spun. From the Provincial to the most modernistic and sure to please everyone present. I am sure most of us felt, we must get and have some new drapes etc.

Mrs. Ladow was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums at the close of talk.

Delectable sandwiches and tea was served by our hostesses. Pourers for the occasion were Mrs. Harold Bragg and Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr.

Respectfully submitted

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

December 14, 1955

The fourth meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$42.94 but she had outstanding bills of \$9.14, when paid, would leave a balance of \$33.80.

Mrs. Small, assistant chairman of "Flower Committee" reported \$10.00, but outstanding bills due were over \$9.00, thus leaving the balance practically nil.

President Mrs. Merrill, asked to have a page set aside in our records in memory of Harriet Blanchard.

It was voted to have Mrs. Rand give the toast to the Gentlemen, on Gentlemen's Night at the Vestry on January 12th. President asked the Program Committee to take charge of program for that evening.

It was voted to have the "Ladies Circle" of the church to prepare the supper, for the same price as last year of \$1.25 per person or not more than \$1.50 per person.

Mrs. Small asked our president to please appoint a member for Flower Committee as chairman.

Mrs. Lawrence Spiller thanked Club for flowers sent her.

Meeting adjourned and turned over to Mrs. Kenneth Chase, co-hostess.

This being our Christmas Party the home was beautifully decorated, including a very lovely tree, surrounded by gaily wrapped gift packages brought by members.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase read poems and acted as "Santa Claus" in distributing the gifts.

Refreshments were served, very attractively, in the holiday color scheme. Twenty members were present to enjoy this party.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

This page in memory of our dear friend and "We Neighbor."

Harriett Blanchard

Died November 19, 1955

Blessed are the pure in heart

For they shall see God.

December 15, 1955

Eugenia W. Dillenback

Secretary

January 12, 1956

Sixty-four "We Neighbors" and guests attended Gentlemen's Night at the Church vestry. The Ladies Circle served a roast beef dinner. Flower decorations were in pink and white sweet peas and carnations, with pink lighted candles in center of flower arrangements.

President Mrs. Halvor Merrill welcomed the guests very graciously, with a special greeting to the gentlemen. She then introduced Mrs. Rand who gave the toast to the gentlemen and Mr. Rand who gave a toast to the ladies.

President thanked Mrs. Maurice Small and Mrs. Lawrence McCracken for lovely table decorations. Thanked the program committee for the evening, Miss Margaret Glassford, Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Alvah R. Dillenback, also thanking the ladies of the Church Circle for having prepared a very appetizing and good dinner.

Song books were passed out to all, with Mrs. Harold Bragg at the piano, one and all enjoyed singing many old and familiar songs.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase then introduced Mr. Gray from the Inland Game and Fish Conservation of Augusta, Maine who spoke briefly on game and wildlife conservation and statistics. Then showed moving, colored pictures on Conservation in Action. The second picture, also in color on Water Conservation, where it comes from, its cycle from sky to ground, purifying plants, dams, irrigation etc. Pictures were enlightening, beautiful scenery and making us all realize how important water is to all of us and the conservation that is being done in wild life for future generations to enjoy. So ended a very enjoyable evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

January 25, 1956

The fifth meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Silas Baker with Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. as co-hostess. Twenty-five members were present.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer reported \$39.80 on hand.

Flower Committee reported \$1.00 on hand and flower collection was taken.

As there was no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Rev. Morse showed us a colored movie by the Canadian National Railway of Newfoundland showing their three main industries, which are first, fishing and drying of cod, mining, and the largest Paper

Company in the world is located there. It would be a Sportsman's paradise but to date they haven't accommodations to handle tourists as we have in the U.S.A.

Tea was served with attractively decorated sandwiches which were very tasty, various kinds of brownies from a very attractive tea Table. Pours were Mrs. Lula Burnell and Mrs. Halvor Merrill.

Members had a very enjoyable afternoon, wandering around and admiring this lovely old house that is being restored by Mr. and Mrs. Baker. I was told that it is the oldest house in Cumberland Center, and so ended a pleasant afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

February 8, 1956

The sixth meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr. with Mrs. Gerald Packard as co-hostess. Twenty-three members were present.

Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$40.80 on hand.

Flower committee reported \$6.25 on hand, and flower collection was taken.

As there was no further business, meeting adjourned and president Mrs. Halvor Merrill turned meeting over to Mrs. Packard who introduced Mrs. T. C. Madsen of Portland.

Mrs. Madsen talked on the subject of "Ceramics." She explained all steps of making them, from the clay to the finished "Fired in the kiln" product. Explaining the glazing process, the painting on of color, the material used and time and temperature of firing in kiln. She brought with her a large display of articles, from mould, unfinished and finished articles, ranging from the smallest frog to figurines, flower containers, cigarette boxes, jugs, flower display dishes etc. all very pretty and hard to believe that they could be made by anyone after a few lessons.

Mrs. Madsen is a teacher of Ceramics and conducts classes at her home.

Tea was served with sandwiches and brownies.

Pourers were Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Philip Chase.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia Dillenback, Sec.

February 29, 1956

The seventh meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Bruce Potter, with Mrs. William Garsoe as co-hostess. Twenty-seven members were present.

Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$29.05.

Flower committee has a balance of \$6.25 and collection was taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting was turned over to Program Committee, whereby chairman Mrs. Potter announced that our club member Mrs. Herman Sweetser was giving a Book Review. Her choice being a book written Agnes Newton Keith entitled "Bare Feet in the Palace."⁶ The author is a Californian married to a Canadian. Story tells of the Democracy which has come to the Phillipines with the election of President Magsaysay. Agnes, her husband Harry and twelve year old son George, arrive in Manila in 1953. Her husband being assigned to the islands as a Forestry expert by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization. Story is based on their varied and direct experience with the Phillipine people. The review was amusing and very interesting.

Tea was served with delectable sandwiches and cookies. Thus ended another pleasant Club afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia Dillenback, Sec.

March 14, 1956

The eighth meeting of the season of "We Neighbors" was held at the home of Mrs. Richard Sweetser, with Mrs. Robert Dillenback as co-hostess. It being a very stormy day only 17 members were present.

Secretary's report was read and accepted.

A balance of \$29.05 was reported in the treasury.

Flower collection was taken and meeting adjourned.

Meeting was turned over to Mrs. Alvah Thompson, she introduce Mrs. Farley who spent the summer in Europe with her family, choosing Austria, which is in the heart of Europe for the subject. Beautiful views on colored picture slides were shown. Tour started in Salzburg and ended in Innsbruck in the Tyrol.

⁶ Keith, Agnes Newton, *Bare Feet in the Palace*, Boston: Little Brown, 1955. Having retired from government service, the author's husband was, in 1953, prevailed upon to go to the Philippines for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This book is the result. The author provides an excellent account of the people of the Philippines during the transition time after World War II (1948-1952), as the country became truly independent. The author describes post-war Manila as well as other areas of the country. She includes a heart-stirring account of the first free election. The author writes about the people, how they felt why they felt that way, and how they overcame obstacles. The title refers to the coming of poor natives to the 200 year old former palace of the Spanish governors, now the residence of a democratically elected president.

Showing all the famous Museums, churches, Opera Houses, Administration Buildings, Franz Josef Palaces and Castles. Also showing the Gold Leaf, mirrored and pictured Royal Coronation Coach, which was built in 1707 in Spain. Austria is a very mountainous country with breath taking views, beautiful lakes and the famous Vienna Woods. Our trip to Austria was over all too soon. Mrs. Bruce Potter presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Farley in appreciation of her time given effort by giving us such an enjoyable afternoon.

Tea and very tasty refreshments were served by our hostesses with Mrs. Edward Miller pouring.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

March 28, 1956

Thirty-three members and guests were present at our Annual Guest Day, which was held at the Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. William Crawford was hostess, assisted by Mrs. Lewis Hutchinson, Mrs. Lawrence Spiller, Mrs. Stanwood Cook, Miss Margaret Glassford, Mrs. Alvah R. Dillenback

Secretary's report was read and accepted.

In the absence of Mrs. Herbert Foster Jr., treasurer report was given by Mrs. Earl Woodbury of \$28.05 on hand.

The report from Flower committee, collection was taken by Mrs. Harold Bragg.

Thank you note was read from Mrs. Farley, in appreciation for flowers received from Club, for showing us slides on Austria.

President, Mrs. Merrill appointed a Nominating Committee, to report at Annual Meeting, consisting of Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr., Mrs. Harold Bragg, Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Also a Luncheon Committee of Mrs. Charles Seavey, Miss Margaret Glassford, Mrs. William Garsoe.

Meeting adjourned. Our guest speaker Rev. Clyde Campbell, who was unavoidably detained, made his appearance after 4 P.M. therefore under these circumstances refreshments were served preceding his talk.

Fruit punch, sandwiches and cookies were enjoyed by all.

Rev. Campbell started his talk of Humorous anecdotes, touching the subject of "America" the best country to live in and ending with a religious subject of "Power that is higher than ours."

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

April 11, 1956

Annual meeting with twenty-two members present, was held at the home of Mrs. A. Clarke West. Mrs. William Chandler co-hostess who was unable to attend was replaced by Mrs. William Crawford Jr.

Secretary's report was read and accepted.

Treasurer reported a balance of \$23.05.

Flower committee reported \$5.37 with money outstanding, which has not been turned over to chairman to date. Flower collection was taken.

No member of Luncheon committee being present, our president Mrs. Merrill read their report. They suggested two places, the "Smith Farm" and "The Country House." The latter was chosen with Luncheon date to be Mary 23rd.

The following names were presented by the nominating committee for offices for the following year:

President – Mrs. Alvah R. Dillenback

Vice President – Mrs. Herbert Foster Jr.

Secretary – Mrs. Lula Burnell

Treasurer – Mrs. Silas Baker

Program Committee – Mrs. A. Clarke West, Mrs. Charles Seavey, Miss Margaret Glassford

Flower Committee – Mrs. Earl Woodbury, Mrs. Kenneth Chase

It was noted that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers as read.

President, Mrs. Halvor Merrill then turned the gavel over to the incoming president Mrs. Alvah R. Dillenback.

A rising vote of thanks was given outgoing president and meeting adjourned.

Tea was served with sandwiches, brownies and other delectable goodies. Pourers were Mrs. William Crawford Jr. and Mrs. Silas Baker

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia W. Dillenback, Sec.

May 23, 1956

Twenty-one members of the Neighbors club held their annual luncheon at Country House. Regardless of having been there many times we were again impressed with the charming service and interesting plants.

Margaret Merrill the outgoing president was presented with a corsage.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

October 10, 1956

Twenty-five members of the We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Earle Woodbury, with Mrs. Lawrence McCracken, co-hostess.

A letter from Mrs. Alvah Dillenback resigning as president was read. Mrs. Herman Sweetser was elected in her place and presided at the meeting.

The secretary's treasurer's and flower committee reports were read and accepted.

Thank you notes from Mrs. Richard Sweetser, Mrs. Philip Chase and Mrs. Alvah Dillenback were read.

The club was asked to invite the following persons to become members: Mrs. George Wagner, Mrs. Edmund Butcher, Mrs. Paul Brown, Mrs. Dale Butterworth, Mrs. Robert Timberlake, Mrs. J. P. Roberts

Mrs. Ernest Rand gave a review of the fascinating book "New Orleans Holiday"⁷ by Eleanor Early. Mrs. Rand having made quite a visit at New Orleans made the review all the more interesting with her own observations.

The hostesses served cider and doughnuts.

Lula Burnell, Sec.

October 24, 1956

Twenty five ladies of The We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Edward Miller and Mrs. Charles Seavy as co-hostess. The Sec.'s and Treas. reports were read and accepted, the sec. casting one vote. Mrs. George Wagner, Mrs. Edmund Butcher, Mrs. Paul Brown, Mrs. Dale Butterworth, Mrs. Robert Timberlake and Mrs. J.P. Roberts were elected to become members of the Club.

The following names were submitted for membership: Mrs. Elizabeth La France, Mrs. Chester Wiles, Mrs. Clifton Moxcey and Mrs. Edward Simpson.

Voted each new member being given a copy of the by-laws when she receives her program.

Mrs. West called attention to the corrections of the Honorary Member list.

Mrs. Richard Sweetser made an announcement of the Community Party, Nov. 3 Gyger Gymnasium.

⁷ Early, Eleanor, New Orleans Holiday. New York: Rinehart & Co., 1947.

The floral collection was taken, and the business meeting adjourned.

Mrs. West introduced Mr. Bradford Brown, Director of the Portland Art Museum, whose subject was "How the Museum Serves the community." It was most interesting, entertaining and instructive. Mr. Brown is certainly enthusiastic in his work, as was proved by his reports of the various activities and the slides showing the results of his work. Let's all treat ourselves to a trip to the Portland Art Museum!

Refreshments were: Mrs. Herman Sweetser pouring.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec. pro tem

November 14, 1956

Sixteen members met at the home of Mrs. Herman Sweetser with Mrs. Richard Sweetser co-hostess.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The President Mrs. Sweetser read a short skit about movies. She suggested that a card be sent to Mrs. West whose father was badly hurt.

November nineteenth is the birthday of Mrs. Edith Sawyer, Honorary Member who was present.

The new members accepted were Mrs. Elizabeth La France, Mrs. Chester Wiles, Mrs. Clifton Moxcey, and Mrs. Edward Simpson.

The program was in charge of Mrs. Marion Larsen Chandler, Director of Young Adults, and Mrs. Ruth Lawsen Bithe-Johnson, worker of the YWCA Portland. The slides exhibited showed that the life and activities at the Y are very attractive. In various ways the Y serves around three thousand people within a radius of thirty miles from Portland. The slides included pictures of the new camp at Long Island. The speakers emphasized the fact that housing and facilities at the Y are very inadequate.

On adjournment of the meeting the hostesses served cider and doughnuts.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

December 12, 1956

Mr. James Hanson, musical director at Greely Institute, brought a group of his students to the church vestry and presented a part of a cantata to be given later at Gyger Gymnasium. The program was very pleasing. The young people looked nice wearing white blouses and shirts.

A short business meeting followed when it was voted to send five dollars to Opportunity Farm. There was some discussion about the date for Gentlemen's Night. This question was left to be discussed later.

At the tea, Mrs. Rand and Mrs. McCracken poured from gleaming silver service. The members present and their guests numbered forty.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

January 9, 1957

Gentlemen's Night could not be held on this date as planned and Mrs. Silas Baker invited the Club to her house. The secretary's treasurers and flower reports were given. The flower collection was taken.

Mrs. Herman Sweetser put on a splendid program on the history of the club, which was organized in 1894 by Mrs. Frank Davis. Mr. Davis was minister here then.

Miss Harriet Merrill read some of the first programs and told how well Mrs. Davis taught Paradise Lost. Miss Merrill also read a poem she had written called "The Old Braid of Rug". She had decorated by hand some of the program covers and the early programs were hand written. The poetess Miss Nellie Sweetser was mentioned but no poem of hers was read. Pictures taken of early picnics were shown.

The living pictures put on by Mrs. Wallace Merrill and Mrs. Arno Chase were spoken of as outstanding.

Miss Lillian Hanson drew the present cover design which was accepted as the club crest in 1938. Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr. told what the design stands for.

Mrs. Sweetser is trying to get copies of all the programs together and it was voted that they be kept at the library until a more suitable place can be found.

Mrs. Hanson suggested that in the future the program committee follow the previous custom of delivering the programs before the club starts in the fall.

At the end of the history keepsakes were shown, among them; one owned by Mrs. Ernest Burnell was a sampler made in 1766.

On adjournment of the meeting of the meeting the officers assisted by Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Luther Bonney, and Mrs. Richard Sweetser served refreshments of tea, sandwiches and cakes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

January 23, 1957

Mrs. Harold Bragg assisted by Mrs. Maurice Small entertained twenty nine members. The secretary's treasurer's and flower committee reports were given. The flower collection was taken.

Mrs. Myra Timberlake of Tuttle Road spoke on "Nutriments in our present day processed foods". She said that the most valuable part of grain is given to cows, hens, and other stock. While the less nutritive refined part is used for bread. She told how vitamins used to reinforce foods are obtained. She said that the minerals used to preserve food are for the most part poison, and if the foods themselves are not poison then contaminated. She showed a loaf of bread made from stoneground flour, raisins, and dates in their natural form and samples of other foods that had no preservatives. She said that they kept satisfactorily.

Some of the listeners considered the subject unimportant while others were inclined to think that it is a condition that should be corrected. Mrs. Timberlake was a good speaker and has spent considerable time preparing what she had to say. The club presented her with a bouquet.

Mrs. West announced that Gentlemen's Night would be April 24th.

The hostesses served tea and cakes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

This page is set aside in memory of our dear friend and outstanding member of We Neighbors'

Harriet Cutter Merrill

Who died February 5, 1957

February 13, 1957

Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr. assisted by Mrs. Gerald Packard entertained sixteen members.

Mr. Oscar Young spoke on "What Social Security Means to you." He said that nine million people are reached by this insurance. He told how the payments are figured, and said that Social security is handled in a strictly business like way, the rich and the poor are treated alike. He said considerable about whether it is best for a widow of sixty two to take her own security payments or to take those she is entitled to as a widow. He mentioned several interesting experiences he had had in interviewing people.

The business meeting followed the talk. The secretary treasurer's and flower reports were given. The flower collection was taken.

It was voted to set aside a page in the secretary's book in memory of Mrs. Wallace Merrill who died February 5. A note from Paul and Virginia Merrill was read.

May 8 was suggested as a date for the annual luncheon.

Mrs. Sweetser spoke favorably of the book she had read recently, "Country of the Pointed Firs"⁸ by Sarah Orne Jewett, written in 1896.

The hostesses served hors d'oevres, cake, and tea.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

February 27, 1957

Mrs. William Garsoe assisted by Mrs. Bruce Potter entertained thirty members and one guest.

The program for the afternoon was put on by Miss Jane Allen Small, thirteen years old, daughter of the proprietor of Howard Merton Store, Yarmouth, and her friend Miss Sharon Thornton. They dutifully showed beautiful leather jackets, easy to keep clean and very durable. What they were principally interested in was their stable of ten or twelve ponies. They showed pictures of their ponies, told their color, size and in what ways they excelled. Jane said the ponies had been exhibited many times and she usually won first prize. She showed two silver trophies, one had been presented to her for having exhibited the grand champion pony of Maine. She said she had won fifty trophies and three hundred

⁸ Jewett, Sarah Orne, *Country of the Pointed Firs*, Boston: Houghton Mifflin & Co., 1896. This book is a short story sequence, initially serialized in January, March July, and September 1896 issues of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Like Jewett, the narrator is a woman, a writer unattached, genteel in demeanor, intermittently feisty and zealously protective of her time to write. The narrator removes herself from her landlady's company and writes in an empty schoolhouse overlooking the fishing village of Dunnet Landing. However, she continues to spend a great deal of time with her landlady, Mrs. Todd, befriending her hostess and her hostess's family and friends. Mrs. Todd is widow in her sixties and a local apothecary and herbalist.

ribbons, the ribbons being kept in a box under her bed as there was no other place for them. The girls themselves and their talk were very fascinating.

Following the program the secretary's, treasurer's, and flower committee reports were given. The flower collection was taken.

It was voted that flowers for funerals be paid for out of the treasury, and that the flower committee be reimbursed for money spent for that purpose.

The luncheon committee appointed was Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Ralph Keating, and Mrs. Silas Baker.

Gentlemen's Night is to be held at the Smith Farm on April 24. The vote of last year was referred to, which stated, that instead of a paid entertainment for guest day, the money be spent for gentlemen's night. It was voted that money from the Treasury be taken to pay for dinner tickets for the speaker and his wife for the tip and for the tax, leaving the cost per person 1.50.

The hostess served tea and very nice cakes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

March 13, 1957

Mrs. William Chandler assisted by Miss Margaret Glassford entertained seventeen members. The secretary's treasurer's and flower committee reports were read and the flower collection taken. A thank you note from Mrs. Herbert Foster Jr. read.

Mrs. Sweetser read a short selection suggesting that in time of despondency and there is a tendency to slump, we fix up for good luck may be just around the corner.

The speaker for the afternoon was Mrs. Pride of The Pride Training School. The enrollment of that school is fifty-six, the ages are from five years old to thirty-three and the fee is five dollars per week. She showed pictures of the school, the children of work and told what can be done with retarded children. She seemed to be doing splendid work.

The hostesses served tea sandwiches and angel cake.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

March 27, 1957

In order to give more time to the program it was voted to dispense with the reading of the records.

It was reported that Mrs. Call is a patient at Augusta General Hospital and that Mrs. Edith Sawyer at the Maine General Hospital is doing well.

Mrs. Sweetser named as nominating committee Mrs. Ernest Rand, Mrs. Philip Chase, and Mrs. Earle Woodbury.

Mrs. Sweetser read a short essay by Dr. Frank Crane, saying people learn by their mistakes.

Mrs. Grace de Carlton Ross, Director of Theatre Arts and Activities at the YWCA demonstrated her work. She said that the dance is deep and broad and long; and that a professional dancer has to consider her endurance, while the non-professional can consider the value of the dance that she gets for herself

Mrs. Ross presented nine girls of different ages. The pantomime dance representing a bird in the nest with its mother flying about teaching it to fly was particularly pleasing.

The hostesses for the afternoon Mrs. Keating, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Spiller and Mrs. West served the forty one members and guests, and the entertainers, with punch, sandwiches and cakes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Secretary

April 10, 1957

The annual business meeting was held at the home of Mrs. William Crawford with Mrs. Robert Dillenback co-hostess. The attendance was twenty.

The secretary reports, a summary of the treasurer's reports for the year, and the flower committee reports was read. The flower collection was taken.

Mrs. Sweetser read the following quotation from Charles Dickens. "Reflect upon your present blessings of which everyone has many, not on your past misfortunes of which all men have some."

It was suggested that Mrs. Sawyer be remembered again.

The outgoing officers are to officiate Gentlemen's Night. The menu was discussed.

It was voted to hold the annual luncheon at the Howard Johnson place on Gray Road.

The following officers were elected:

President: Mrs. Silas Baker

Vice President: Mrs. Perry Burnell;

Secretary: Mrs. Philip Chase;

Treasurer: Mrs. Robert Dillenback;

Program Committee: Mrs. Clifton Moxcey, Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Richard Blanchard

Flower Committee: Mrs. Lawrence Spiller, Mrs. William Garsoe.

Mrs. Sweetser read the by laws and called attention to the fact that the clubs colors are red, white, and blue.

It was voted to collect all the old record book, programs, and die for the cover and any other data of importance to the club and to place them at the library, and to place there all future programs and record books. It was voted to purchase a box large enough to hold these articles.

A vote to be considered in the fall would allow one member to present for membership the name of only one person.

It was voted that members be notified by postal and of the first meeting of the year and that this vote be made a part of the bylaws.

The hostesses served tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

April 24, 1957

The annual Gentlemen's Night was held in the pleasant dining of Smith Farm. Mrs. Sweetser welcomed the guests and Mr. and Mrs. Bonney gave the toasts. The attendance was thirty-four.

Following the meal, Mr. Charles Bradford, Superintendent of State Parks entertained with a splendid talk and showed colored slides of pictures taken at the parks. Among the views were some of old forts, recreational facilities, and one showed a single lady's slipper and a white flower that might have been an anemone.

Respectfully submitted,

Lula Burnell, Sec.

May 8, 1957

Twenty members of We Neighbors Club met at Howard Johnson's on the North lane of the Maine Turnpike for their annual luncheon. Each member was pleasantly served with her choice from the menu and all enjoyed a delicious meal served in a very attractive dining room.

After the luncheon communication s were read from Mrs. Edith Sawyer and Mrs. Howard Call. A card was signed by all those present to be sent to Mrs. Sawyer who is still in the hospital.

The Pres. Mrs. Herman Sweetser presented the gavel to the incoming Pres. Mrs. Silas Baker and read a toast which was given by Mrs. F. R. Sweetser at We Neighbors Club March 23, 1911 which she suggested be used as the club toast: "What does our club mean to us? It means a knowledge of the past, more usefulness in the present and the highest hopes for the future. Here's to the health of it, Here's to the wealth of it, Here's to the long life of it – We Neighbors!"

Mrs. Sweetser then introduced Mrs. Ernest Rand who had the honor of being one of the 5 electors to the electoral college from the State of Maine. Mrs. Rand said it was the nicest thing that ever happened to her. She told how the electoral college worked and how the same thing was done in every state, even to giving the same prayer. Mrs. Rand had the honor of delivering the notes to the County Clerk. She then told of her trip to Washington to see the Presidential Inauguration. She said it was very colorful and that the sun came out just as President Eisenhower took the oath of office.

The Club gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing pres. Mrs. Sweetser and she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Margaret Merrill.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

October 9, 1957

The first meeting of "We Neighbors Club" was held at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase with Mrs. Halvor Merrill as co-hostess. There were twenty-one members present.

The meeting was called to order by the pres. Mrs. Silas Baker, who welcomed the members and said she was pleased to be president. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. A resignation was read from Mrs. Richard Sweetser. The chairman of the program committee Mrs. Clifton Maxey outlined the program for the year. Mrs. Rollin Scott told about the Christmas program and the "Living Portraits" program. The Christmas program will be an organ recital by Mrs. William Hart and the club will vote at the November 13th meeting as to whether or not they want to exchange Christmas gifts.

Two additions to the by-laws proposed at the annual business meeting in April were voted on and accepted. It was voted to allow one member to present for membership the name of only one person. It was voted that the member be notified by postal card of the first meeting of the year.

It was voted to send \$5.00 to Opportunity Farm. The flower collection was taken. It was suggested that Mrs. Laura Wyman, an honorary member, be sent a plant on Feb. 21st, her 90th birthday and that the members send her cards on that date.

The name of Mrs. Annie Oulton was presented to be considered for membership at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned. Mrs. Clifton Maxey introduced our speaker Mrs. Herman Sweetser who reviewed the musical "My Fair Lady" which is now playing in New York.

Refreshments of cider and doughnuts were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

October 23, 1957

The "We Neighbors Club" met at the home of Mrs. Alvah Dillenback with Mrs. Robert Dillenback as co-hostess. There were eighteen members present.

The meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Silas Baker. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. A thank you note for flowers was read from Miss Harriet S. Merrill.

The flower committee report was given and the flower collection taken.

It was voted to ask Mrs. Annie Oulton to become a member.

The name of Mrs. Dorothy Farwell was presented to be considered for membership at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Richard Blanchard introduced the speaker Mrs. Robert Hastings of Bethel who spoke on "Hooked Rugs"⁹ and showed some of the rugs she had made.

It was announced that the Garden Club was having a coffee and demonstration of holiday arrangements at the Church vestry November sixth.

Tea was served with sandwiches and cookies. Mrs. Silas Baker poured.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 13, 1957

The third meeting of "We Neighbors Club" was held at the home of Mrs. Silas Baker with Mrs. Lawrence McCracken and Mrs. Earl Woodbury as co-hostesses. There were nineteen members present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Silas Baker. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. Mrs. Alvah Dillenback was treasurer pro – tem. The flower committee had no report. The flower collection was taken. It was decided to send flowers & cards to Mrs. Edith Sawyer who is at the Maine Medical Center. It was suggested that the members send cards to Mrs. Gertrude Bragg on her birthday.

It was voted to ask Mrs. Dorothy Farwell to become a member.

⁹ Rug hooking is both an art and a craft in which rugs are made by pulling loops of yarn or fabric through a still woven base such as burlap, linen, or rug warp. The loops are pulled through the backing material by using a crochet-type hook mounted in a handle for leverage. Rug hooking has been popular in North America for at least 200 years. Originally rug hooking was developed in England as a method of using leftover scraps of cloth.

The name of Mrs. Henry Henderson was suggested for membership if she has been here a year.

The president reported that Mrs. Oulton had asked for voluntary workers for emergency feeding. Mrs. Domini explained that town needed several groups of five.

The Church fair to be held Sat. was announced.

Mrs. Lawrence McCracken is moving to Gorham. It was voted not to exchange Christmas gifts this year. Mrs. Rollin Scott told about the next meeting which will be a "Christmas Musical."

The meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Richard Blanchard introduced the speaker Mrs. May Donnini, Home Demonstration Agent, who spoke on Christmas decoration and gift suggestions and exhibited many interesting items that could be made for Christmas.

Coffee and sandwiches were served. Mrs. Alvah Dillenback and Mrs. Herman Sweetser poured.

Respectfully submitted

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

This page in our records set aside
To the memory of our friend and "We Neighbor"

Edith M. Sawyer

(Mrs. James)

Who died November 16, 1957

December 11, 1957

The Christmas meeting of the We Neighbors club was held at the home of Mrs. William Hart with Mrs. Maurice Small, Mrs. Harold Bragg and Mrs. Perry Burnell as hostesses. There were twenty-two present.

In the absence of the president the meeting was called to order by the Secretary Mrs. Philip Chase. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. There was no report from the flower committee. The flower collection was taken.

A note was read from Mrs. Owen Farwell saying she was pleased to become a member of "We Neighbors". A thank you note was read from the family of Mrs. Edith M. Sawyer thanking the club for flowers sent to the hospital and to the funeral. It was noted to set aside a page in the secretary's book in the memory of Mrs. Sawyer. A request for a Christmas donation was read from Opportunity Farm. It was voted not to make them a gift at this time as we have given to them recently. It was voted to ask Mrs. Henry Henderson to become a member.

The meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Clifton Maxey introduced Mrs. William Hart and Mr. Maurice Pope who played many interest selections on Mrs. Hart's Hammond organ. Refreshments, cake and ice cream were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 8, 1958

Meeting cancelled because of the storm.

January 22, 1958

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth La France and Mrs. Spiller as co-hostess. Seventeen present. Mrs. Elaine Moxcey presided as president. Evelyn Chase, Helen Thompson and Mrs. Baker remembered with flowers report of sick committee. Jenny Burnell is to be remembered. Read note from Mrs. Baker. Nickel collection taken. Program of "Living Portraits" not to be done. Mr. George Curtis is to be the speaker of gentlemen's night and he will speak on "The Maine Scene Today." Voted to pay \$1.50 for a turkey supper at 6:30 o'clock. Reservations all in by February 8th. Make reservation with Mrs. Marjorie Chase. Voted to have people pay for reservation if they made them and didn't manage to come. Voted to pay for table decoration and favors, cost not to exceed \$15.00. Voted to pay for vestry if necessary Feb. 12th. Meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Lula Burnell gave a very interesting review from the book "The Twentieth Maine" A Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War¹⁰ by John J. Pullen.

February 12, 1958

The We Neighbors Club Gentlemen's Night was held in the Church vestry. Thirty-six club members and guests attended. A turkey supper was served. The hostesses for the evening were Mrs. Clifton Moxcey, Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Richard Blanchard and Mrs. Kenneth Chase. The president, Mrs. Silas Baker presided, she welcomed the members and guests. Mrs. Rollin Scott introduced the speaker of the evening Mr. George Autin who spoke on "The Maine Scene Today."

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

February 26, 1958

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Chester Wiles with Mrs. Paul Brown as co=hostess.

There were 17 members present, and several members had called to say they would not be able to attend due to sickness. President Mrs. Baker welcomed members.

Secretary's report read and accepted.

No treasurer's report. Due to circumstances beyond her control our treasurer was unable to be with us.

Mrs. Lawrence Spiller chairman of sick committee reported flowers had been sent to Mrs. Ernest Rand in Louisiana and to Mrs. Clifton Moxcey at Maine Osteopathic Hospital. Several members were reported to have colds. Flower collection was taken.

Thank you letters were read from Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Alvah Thompson, Mrs. Ernest Rand and Mrs. Clifton Maxey, Mrs. Ernest Burnell. Also, a thank you from Mrs. Frank Oulton, on being invited to become a member.

Our president, Mrs. Silas Baker reported that Mrs. Luther Bonney is now an honorary member. It was discussed and agreed that the following should be voted on and added to our by laws at the next meeting– Article 5 under Membership Section 6– to read as follows: *A member must voluntarily inform the program committee when she reaches the age of 75 so that she may automatically become an honorary member.*

Mrs. Rollin Scott introduced Mr. Savage, principal of the School for the Deaf from Portland, who was speaker for the afternoon. Mr. Savage gave a most interesting talk on the World of a Deaf child. In fact it

¹⁰ Pullen, John J. *The Twentieth Maine – A Volunteer Regiment in the Civil War*, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1957. This is the story of Joshua Chamberlain and his volunteer regiment, the Twentieth Maine, and how they fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Chancellorsville on their way to the pivotal battle of Gettysburg.

was so absorbing that the time just slipped by. He answered all questions and invited the members to come visit the school. He wished he could have brought a child with him, so we could see what he had been telling us. All agreed it was a meeting to be well remembered.

Mr. Savage gladly shared the delicious baked breads and various spreads our hostesses had provided – with coffee and tea.

Respectfully submitted,

Gladys R. Scott, Sec. pro tem

March 12, 1958

Guest Day for the We Neighbors Club was held at the Library with forty members and guests present.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Silas Baker. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

It was voted to add the following article to the by-laws. Article V section 6: A member must voluntarily inform the program committee when she reaches the age of (75) seventy-five so that she may automatically become an honorary member.

The flower committee reported that there are no sick members and that Mrs. Rand is getting along well.

The president appointed the following on the nominating committee: Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Alvah Dillenback and Mrs. Lawrence Spiller.

The chairman of the program committee Mrs. Maxie announced a change in the program for the next meeting. The meeting will be on hobbies and Mrs. Rand will be unable to speak.

The meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Rollin Scott introduced the speaker Mrs. Jane Phinney Harlow who gave readings from the book "The Lady From Colorado" ¹¹by Homer Croy. Refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

¹¹ Croy, Homer, *The Lady from Colorado*, New York: Duell, Sloan, & Pearce, 1957. Based on an actual character and available records, this is the story of Katie Lawder who, as a washerwoman, went to Pronghorn, Colorado, but ended as Lady Moon who acquired a certain decorum and dignity along with the title. A pretty girl of considerable courage, she was the first to size and show up a local bad man Kondorf. Later she insured the affection of Cecil Ernest Moon, one of a number of British toffs learning to be a cowboy, when she saved him from a hanging at the hands of Kondorf. After her marriage to Cecil, they returned to England to face his mother's disapproval when Katie was found shooting dice with the butler. Later Katie earned the respect of her mother-in-law when she secured an audience, through her own efforts alone, with Queen Victoria. Returning to Colorado, with the butler, and adding Indian Sarah Chicken to her household, Katie began to entertain in style, finally achieving her fullest social ambitions in Denver.

March 26, 1958

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Ralph Keating with Mrs. Alvah Thompson as co-hostess. There were nineteen members present. The meeting was called to order by the President. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

It was reported that Mrs. Bragg is very sick. It would be nice for the members to send her cards.

The nominating committee reported that the following people had been asked to be officers for next year:

President, Mrs. Clifton Maxey

Vice Pres. Mrs. Philip Chase

Secretary Mrs. Paul Brown

Treas. Mrs. Rollin Scott

Program committee: Mrs. Silas Baker chairman, Mrs. Ralph Keating and Mrs. Henry Henderson

Flower committee: Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr.

As chairman of the program committee Mrs. Baker might ask help from anyone in the club.

The president thanked the nominating committee.

The luncheon reported information about Pineland Restaurant, Homewood Inn and the Country House.

It was voted to have our luncheon April 23rd at 2:00 at the Country House. Reservations to be made at the annual meeting.

The next meeting will be at Mrs. William Garsoe's with Mrs. Herbert Foster as co-hostess.

The meeting adjourned.

The program was hobbies and the members present told about their hobbies and showed some interesting rugs, sweaters, and collector items and antiques.

Tea was served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

Annual Report 1957-1958

Ten meetings of the We Neighbors Club were held this year.

Three new members were taken in, Mrs. Frank Oulton, Mrs. Owen Farwell and Mrs. Henry Henderson. One member moved away, Mrs. Lawrence McCracken and one member died Mrs. Edith Sawyer.

The following votes were taken:

It was voted to allow one member to present for membership the name of only one person.

It was voted that the members be notified by postal card of the first meeting of the year.

It was voted to send \$15 to Opportunity Farm.

It was voted to have people pay for reservation to Gentlemen's Night if they make reservation and didn't come.

Voted to pay for table decorations and favors for Gentlemen's Night not to exceed \$15.00.

Voted to pay for the vestry if necessary.

It was voted to add to the by-laws – A member must voluntarily inform the program committee when reaches the age of 75 so that she may automatically become an honorary member.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

April 9, 1958

The Annual Meeting of the We Neighbors club was held at the home of the president Mrs. Helen Baker. The meeting was called to order by the president. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. The annual reports of the treasurer, secretary and flower committee were read and approved.

The idea of having only one meeting a month was discussed. It was voted to meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month from October through May. This will be tried for a year.

The flower committee said that some money had been taken from the treasury to buy flowers when there was not enough in the flower collection.

The annual luncheon will be held at The Country House at 1 o'clock.

The following officers were elected: president: Mrs. Clifton Maxey; Vice pres.: Mrs. Philip Chase; secretary: Mrs. Paul Brown; Treasurer: Mrs. Rollin Scott; program committee: Mrs. Silas Baker, chairman, Mrs. Ralph Keating and Mrs. Henry Henderson; flower committee: Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr.

The gavel was passed to the new president.

A questionnaire, asking what type of program people would like etc. was given out by Mrs. Baker.

Having printed programs was discussed and also having new copies of the by-laws made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

April 23, 1958

Twenty-one members and one guest met at the Country House for the annual We Neighbors Club luncheon. After a delicious luncheon, Mrs. Maxey welcomed the members and guest. Mrs. Baker highlighted the program for the coming year and said that the first meeting would be the second Wed. in October. Mrs. Maxey presented the outgoing president Mrs. Silas Baker with flowers. Mrs. Baker thanked the group for the flowers and said it was an honor to be president. She wished the new president Mrs. Clifton Maxey a good year.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

This page in our records set aside
To the memory of our friend and "We Neighbor"

Mrs. Lester Bragg

October 8, 1958

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Chester Wiles with Mrs. Paul Brown as co-hostess.

There were twenty members present. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. Report of the flower committee was read by Mrs. Kenneth Chase and it was voted that the treasury was very low so it was suggested that we collect 25 cents from each member present which was voted on and accepted also to send cards instead of flowers.

Mrs. Alvah Dillenback spoke on the Mothers' club and its desire to earn money for Music appreciation in the schools. It was voted to have notices of We Neighbors club meetings put on calendars which they are selling and to give \$1.00 for same.

Mrs. Robert Dillenback announced that the Red Cross were starting their courses every Tuesday evening at the Town Hall and all are welcome to attend.

The communication from Opportunity Farm was noted and tabled for the time being.

Thank you notes from Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Mrs. Velma Merrill and Mrs. Halvor Merrill were read.

Names presented for membership were Mrs. Wayland Bennett – Mrs. Charles Berry Jr., Mrs. Richard Gulliver, Mrs. Roy Jones, and Mrs. Robert Brogan.

It was moved and seconded that we invite the new members to attend the next meeting at Mrs. Robert Dillenback's.

Mrs. Henderson gave a report of the program committee.

\$4.80 was collected from members present for the flower committee.

Mrs. Alvah Thompson apologized for not having the originally planned program on the Carlsbad Caverns and gave a very interesting reading on the country of Norway instead which was enjoyed by all.

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments served.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

November 12, 1958

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Robert Dillenback with Mrs. Alvah Dillenback as co-hostess. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. It was voted to set aside a page in the records in memory of the late Mrs. Lester Bragg. Mrs. Alden Schenck's name was presented for membership by Mrs. Lena Foster.

\$.48 was collected by the flower committee and there were 30 present.

Mrs. Baker introduced our speaker Mrs. Hildreth and she gave us a very interesting picture of life in Pakistan. Its 110 degree temperature and lack of rain in one section and over abundance in another made it sound like a very unattractive place to be in as well as the poverty and conditions under which the natives had to live. Entertaining was made difficult by having to have everyone arranged according to its protocol. Mrs. Hildreth showed us some hand woven material from which the sari (native dress) were made from. She also answered any questions we wished to ask.

A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Hildreth on behalf of We Neighbors by Evelyn Chase. Delicious refreshments were then served.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

December 10, 1958

"We Neighbors" met at the home of Nellie Woodbury with Marion Small as co-hostess.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted, also report of the flower committee.

Ruth Marriner's name was presented for membership by Marion Small. He names of the following were voted upon and accepted as members of We Neighbors: Mrs. Wayland Bennett, Mrs. Richard Gulliver, Mrs. Roy Jones, Mrs. Robert Brogan, Mrs. Charles Berry Jr., and Mrs. Alden Schenck.

There were seventeen members present and \$4.00 was collected for the flower committee.

The program consisted of an attractive display of Christmas cookies and other goodies with Mrs. Donnini to give us a talk on how to make a few of them. She passed around recipes for some. After looking at all the goodies we especially enjoyed the refreshments served by our hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

January 14, 1959

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase with Mrs. Kenneth Chase as co-hostess. Mrs. Lena Foster, Mrs. Wayland Bennett and Mrs. Dillenback were reported ill. A card for Miss Merrill was signed by all present to send to her while she was in the hospital.

Mrs. Ruth Marriner's name was voted and accepted as a member of We Neighbors.

Gentlemen's night was discussed and voted to have all reservations in by Feb. 8th. (1.50) per person).

"Dr. Zhivago"¹² by Pasternak was the book on which Mrs. Herman Sweetser gave a very interesting review on.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

February 11, 1959

The hostesses for Gentlemen's Night were Mrs. Owen Farwell, Mrs. Rollin Scott, Mrs. Silas Baker and Mrs. Philip Chase. Mrs. Clifton Moxey was unable to attend because of a broken wrist. A nice supper was enjoyed by the 27 present and a very interesting program was presented by Mr. Paul Merrill on his trip to Alaska on which he showed numerous colored slides.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

March 11, 1959

"We Neighbors" and guests meet at the vestry with Mrs. Ralph Keating, Mrs. Henry Henderson, Mrs. Edwin Butcher and Mrs. Halvor Merrill as hostesses.

The secretary's and treasurer's report was read and accepted. Each guest stood and identified themselves and it was a pleasure to see so many present.

Mrs. Silas Baker introduced Mrs. Phillip Chapman who gave us a very interesting and amusing account of her visit to Japan and India. She had on display dolls, knick knacks, and things that exemplified the countries that she had visited.

¹² Pasternak, Boris, *Dr. Zhivago*, New York: Pantheon, 1957. This novel is named after its protagonist, Yuri Zhivago, a physician and poet. It takes place between the Russian Revolution of 1905 and the Civil War. Due to its independent perspective on the October Revolution, the book was denied publication in USSR. The manuscript was smuggled to Milan and published in 1957. Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature the following year, an event which humiliated and enraged the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

Delicious refreshments were served.

3.95 collected for the flower committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

April 8, 1959

"We Neighbors" met at the home of Mrs. Herbert Foster with Mrs. Silas Baker and Elsie Spiller as co-hostesses. There were 15 members present. Flower committee collected 3.65. The treasurer's and secretary's reports were read and accepted. It was voted to transfer \$10.00 of the flower committees money to the treasury.

Mrs. Ernest Burnell has become an honorary member.

Mrs. Ernest Rand was reported ill. It was voted to combine the annual reports and luncheon which is to be held at the "Northwood" Yarmouth.

Mrs. Robert Dillenback gave a interesting report on teaching blind women the home nursing course. It was amazing how quickly they learned to do all the different things required of them.

Mrs. Bonney stopped in with Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser and sister and we were all pleased to hear about the trip she and her husband are taking abroad.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

Annual Report – 1958-1959

Seven meetings were held this year.

New members taken in were, Mrs. Richard Gulliver, Mrs. Wayland Bennett, Mrs. Charles Berry Jr., Mrs. John Marriner, and Mrs. Alden Schenck. Mrs. Robert Brogan and Mrs. Bay Hones sent regrets that they were unable to become members this year.

The following votes were taken:

It was voted to collect 25 cents per person at each meeting for the flower committee and to send cards instead of flowers.

It was voted to have notices of "We Neighbors " Club meetings put on the calendars sponsored by the "Mother's Music Club" and pay \$1.00 per name.

It was voted to table the Opportunity Farm's request for money.

It was voted to set aside a page in the records in honor of Mrs. Lester Bragg.

The program committee gave us some very interesting speakers at our meetings which were Mrs. Alvah Thompson, a reading on Norway, Mrs. Horace Hildreth, a talk on her stay in Pakistan, Mrs. Mary Donnini on Christmas cooking, Mrs. Philip Chapman's account of her visit to Japan and India, which she gave at our guest day in the vestry, Mrs. Herman Sweetser's book review on "Dr. Zhivago", Mr. Paul Merrill's colored slides and talk on Alaska at the Gentlemen's night supper of which 27 were present, Mrs. Robert Dillenback's talk on how they taught the blind the home nursing course.

The meetings were held the second Wednesday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Brown, Sec.

May 13, 1959

The annual closing luncheon and business meeting of "We Neighbors" club was held in the Northwood Restaurant in Yarmouth, Maine, with twenty-two (22) members present. Our menu of lobster or chicken was most delicious and enjoyed by all. In the center of the head officers table was an old fashioned soup tourine filled with delightfully arranged assorted colored mums, giving us a late spring atmosphere. Our Pres. Elaine Moxcey brought our business meeting to order, asking for our Sec'y and Treas. reports of thirteen dollars and eleven cents (\$13.11), the Flower Committee report of eight dollars and twenty-one cents (\$8.21), after being read, all were accepted.

It was reported that Helene Thompson was in the hospital for observation.

A unanimous [vote] was given to keep our meetings at one a month.

It was also voted to raise the membership dues to one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) starting next October. A small discussion opened on having members participate in programs to aid our program committee.

The annual reports were read and accepted.

Lena Foster, Chairman of the Nominating Committee read the new slate of officers for the ensuing year. They are to be:

President: Mrs. Philip Chase
Vice Pres. Mrs. Paul Brown
Sec'y Mrs. Alden Schenck
Treas. Mrs. John Marriner.

The Program Committee to be: Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Edwin Butcher, and Mrs. Fred Pollack.

The Sick committee to be: Mrs. Henry Henderson and Mrs. Wayland Bennett.

All officers and committee members named were Okd by the Pres. and Sec'y. It was then moved and seconded to close the meeting.

The out-going Pres. gave the gavel to Evelyn Chase with good wishes for her presiding year. Our new Pres. then spoke to her officers and members graciously on a brief outline of her thoughts for our new year.

Mrs. Silas Baker presented a lovely pot of yellow crythamums [sp] to Mrs. Clifton Moxcey, the out-going Pres. She accepted it saying she truly enjoyed her office.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

October 14, 1959

We Neighbors met in the home of Mrs. Maurice Small as hostess, with Mrs. Kenneth Chase assisting. Arrangements of handsome dahlias and new scarlet and white button carnations welcomed our seventeen members to our first fall meeting.

Our new Pres. Evelyn Chase, opened with a rap of her gavel, then asking for the Sec'y's report, communication of Opportunity Farm and reading of our Constitution and By-laws, the Treas. Report of \$18.11 and our Flower committee report of a balance of \$7.02., after each reading of the reports, all were accepted.

Our Prog. Com. Chairman, Marge Chase, gave us a briefing on our new Program Covers telling us Lillian Hansen, now Mrs. Norman Hulit, drew our coat of arms depicting art, literature, music, science and vital interests of the day, signifying what our Club represents. This committee had a dye made for future use. We were asked if we were unable to serve as a hostess, or a change in programming to find a substitute

and to contact the Pro. Com. of any change or needed assistance. Our program has been revised for Nov. 11, 1959.

A \$1.00 was voted to our Pres. to have our name on the Community Calendar.

The Opportunity Farm communication was noted to be tabled until we know what definite commitments we have.

It was noted that our noted increase of dues to \$1.50 per year, May 13, 1959, to be changed in our By-Laws at our next meeting.

Names presented for invitation to membership in our Club were Mrs. Fred Osgood, Mrs. Gloria Kline, Mrs. Lawrence Lampson and Mrs. Thornton Candage. Voted was a suggestion given by Lena Foster, to invite these ladies to be guests at our Nov. meeting. We will vote on these presented names for membership this meeting. A note was made to change our By-Laws at our next meeting, in regard to names presented for membership shall be acted upon by vote, same day, presented to Club.

Marge and Elaine explained to the Club that dues must be paid to attend Club functions. This was immediately noted affirmatively.

It was also noted to hold our meetings the second Wed. afternoon of each month at 2:30 P.M.

A note was made that our Fl. Comm. use their discretion to send flowers at home or hospital, if we have enough money to do so.

No further business pending, our Pres. brought our meeting to a close.

A thoroughly delightful lecture presented by Mrs. Edward Lincoln with her beautiful colored slides of "The Canadian Rockies" inspired every one of us present, that traveling one way or another is and must be gratifying.

Delicious refreshments of cherry sponge cake ice cream roll, hot tea and coffee ended a perfect afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

November 11, 1959

Our second fall meeting of We Neighbors met in the home of Mrs. Lulu Burnell as hostess and Mrs. Dorothy Wagner as co-hostess with fourteen members present.

A rap of the gavel brought attention to the opening of our meeting.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Our treasury has a balance of \$24.67 on hand. We have \$10.72 in our flower fund.

Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser reported that Carolyn Rand was to be in Louisiana hospital 10 days approximately and gave to us, her daughter's address, that cards could be sent. She had been remembered with a card previously to this report.

Our President gave a review of the voted changes in our By-Laws that were briefly:

1. Meetings on 2nd Wed. of each month
2. Dues to be \$1.50 per year
3. Names presented and voted upon with majority same meeting
4. Dues must be paid to attend function.

The newly revised By-laws were then handed to the Secretary for mimeographing.

Names presented for membership at our Oct. 14th meeting were Mrs. John Kline (Gloria), Mrs. Fred Osgood (Natalie), Mrs. Thornton Candage (Dianna), and Mrs. Lawrence Hanson (Rena). These friends were notified after being voted into We Neighbors, the Nov. meeting.

In accordance with our new By-Laws, names presented and voted upon with majority show of hands this Nov. meeting were Mrs. Ralph Brown (Marilyn), Mrs. Orland Knight (Mildred), Mrs. Lawrence Gooding (Marnie), Mrs. Walter Wilkie (Audrey), Mrs. Lewis Moynihan (Phyllis), and Mrs. Keith Mountford (Mary). The latter six friends all were informed and extended an invitation by the Sec'y to our Guest Day, Christmas Tea Dec. 9, 1959.

Under new business our Pres. told us she visited County court House, by written invitation one evening. It was a meeting to plan a Pageant or Centennial affair for the county. She did not place our name We Neighbors, to take part because we were too small a group, also, no men members to assist us.

Mrs. Silas Baker (Helen), Chairman of our Guest Day Program had a discussion on same and expressed desire to invite as many guests as possible, to notify her how many guests, members would invite and to add RSVP to the written to new members. Mrs. Baker announced the time, place and program planned.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase (Marge) made an announcement of change for Helen's hostess committee, that Phyllis Sweetser was replaced by Mrs. Herbert Foster (Lena). Others assisting were Mrs. Wyland Bennett, Mrs. Ralph Keating, Mrs. Fred Pollock and Mrs. Henry Henderson.

Our Pres. Adjourned the business meeting. She then introduced Mrs. Herman Sweetser who carried armfuls and a huge carton of brand new books for us to enjoy leafing through. Mrs. Sweetser's presentation in detail of authors, illustrations and writings of these new books for children, men and women of all ages, was delivered in the finest and highest educational manner. Town folk of our newly renovated library can well be proud of Mrs. Sweetser as well as all members who heard this fulfilling information lecture.

We all chatted and enjoyed delicate tea sandwiches of Thanksgiving atmosphere with fancy Holiday breads, gayly decorated cookies and brownies on a delightful table setting. Hot tea and coffee ended a truly educational afternoon.

Respectfully submitted.

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

December 9, 1959

Thirty-five members and guests attended our Guest Day Christmas Tea in the Cumberland Congregational Church Vestry.

Our President opened our meeting with a brief business session of necessary procedures, including accepted Secretary's and Treasurer's report of \$27.95 and our Flower Committee report of \$18.17.

It was voted by majority show of hands of members to donate \$2.00 to Opportunity Farm, after a tabled communication.

Mrs. Joseph Tarazawich (Joan) was presented and voted by majority of our members to become a new member of the We Neighbors'. The Secretary sent a written invitation to her confirming this and also to announce the time, place, and program for the January 13th meeting.

The Special Programs committee, with Mrs. Silas Baker as chairman, was thanked by Mrs. Phillip Chase our President. She then turned the meeting over to our Program Chairman, Mrs. Kenneth Chase. She graciously introduced Mrs. Donald Bither who gave us two delightful Christmas readings, the first one 'Fast' – Behind the Oak Door and secondly a 'Fantasy'.

Our meeting was then adjourned to a most handsomely decorated table. The Holiday Candles and a beautiful centerpiece of a wide variety of Christmas colored, graduated size, balls, almost beyond your Secretary's words of description, filled one with Holiday gaiety and delight. An enormous selection of homemade fancy, frosted fruited cookies and cakes were thoroughly consumed, with gallons of hot tea and coffee. Mrs. Owen Farwell and Mrs. P. J. Brown were pourers for the festive occasion.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

January 13, 1960

Twenty-five members attended this meeting on a beautiful sunny afternoon in the home of Mrs. Alden Schenck with Mrs. Elsie Spiller assisting hostess duties.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. She also gave the Treasurer's report of \$29.95, in the absence of Ruth Marriner, who had a miserable cold. That also was accepted.

Alice Henderson, the flower Committee Chairman, was absent so we had no new report to date.

We received two communications, one a sympathy appreciation thank-you note from Elaine Moxey and a genuine appreciation card from the Boys at Opportunity Farm for our contribution to them.

A discussion of the program of Carolyn Rand and giving of her daughter's address for members to communicate with her came about that her courage might be stronger.

It was voted to give \$2.00 increase to Mrs. Seekins as rent for the Vestry has been raised.

The Gentlemen's Night Supper committee announced by our Program Chairman, Marge Chase, were to be Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Halvor Merrill, Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. Fred Pollock. Details to be announced at our next meeting. This was moved and seconded to a vote.

Our meeting was adjourned for a most educational program given by Mr. Henry Perkins, Supt. of Schools on School achievements. Slides of records, kept on scholastic percentages, on test subjects of individual children, has been kept from the third grade through high school. This gives our educators their fundamental basic assistance to help youngsters no matter what their ratings may be. This, parents should be aware of, to cooperate with teachers to help their children.

Mrs. Perkins was a guest and the Club presented her with a lovely double rose begonia in appreciation for our enlightening program.

All adjourned to the dining room appointed with pink and white flowers and table accessories for three kinds of tea, coffee, pecan rolls and eclairs frosted in assorted colors. General communication ended the afternoon of becoming closer to school endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

February 10, 1960

Our President opened We Neighbors meeting of twenty four members present in Mrs. Owen Farwell's home with Mrs. Elaine Moxcey as her co-hostess.

The Secretary's report was read with two corrections. These were made and recorded properly for the permanent record. Our Treasurer's report was read with a balance of \$29.49 and accepted.

Just one communication, a note from Carolyn Rand, of extended thanks for Club card, individual members' letters, and cards sent to Alice Henderson of the Sunshine Committee.

Our President announced that the Gentleman's night dinner would be at 6:30 on March 9th, '60 and the price not to exceed \$1.50 per person. Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bonney will talk on their trip to Europe. The committee has asked for \$10.00 for expenses on this night. It was voted to give them \$13.20 toward this special meeting.

It was suggested reservations be made for this occasion, but it was too early for members to make definite plans at this time.

It was voted the menu be left entirely up to the committee.

The President adjourned our meeting to the Program Chairman, Marge Chase, who introduced the two pantomime skits, "Aunt Matilda"¹³ and "lollypops". We enjoyed two games one "What's My Line" in humorous form and secondly, a thirty item number game timed and written. Prizes of lollypops went to Phyllis, Margelia first, and Lillian Pollock consolation, in the latter event.

Everyone took part in some way, for the "Hour of Fun" that truly lasted longer, keeping us in a happy, jolly or laughing mood. Talent in abundance depicted in our Coat of Arms, was shown by our members.

We filed in single line to the dining room for dainty tea sweets of brownies, date bars, tiny tarts and small assorted cookies. All were home- made and delicious, as well as delightful to look at. Small orange and lemon creams finished off the goodies offered. Our hostess' table was handsomely set up with an ecru lace tablecloth, four tall swirl yellow candles, a silver tea service and more silver candlesticks with mirrors on the buffet to brighten the spirit and afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

¹³ Hills, Richard, "Aunt Matilda Comes for Christmas Dinner" is a one act comedy for three on-stage actors plus an off stage voice. Every Christmas for the last ten years, Gordon and Margaret had to put up with Aunt Matilda coming round for Dinner, banning the television, pinching the best seat by the fire....Could it be she'll miss this year?

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

March 9, 1960

The annual We Neighbors' Club Gentlemen's Night was held in the Congregational Church Vestry with thirty-seven members present. The Women's Fellowship prepared the dinner. The tables were decorated in St. Patrick Day motif.

The President greeted the members and their gentlemen. She thanked the Gentlemen's Night committee for making the decorations and the arrangements for the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Bonney who have recently been on a trip to Europe presented the program. Mrs. Bonney told of their trip to Canada where they boarded a freighter and went down the St. Lawrence and across the ocean. The principle stops on their two month journey were Scotland, England, Holland, France, and Switzerland. Mr. Bonney showed beautiful colored slides of their trip. They returned to Canada and were met by their son and daughter-in-law who accompanied them around the Gaspe Peninsula and home again.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Pres. and Sec. pro tem

April 13, 1960

Twenty-one members of "We Neighbors" met with our hostess, Mary Wiles in her home with Ruth Marriner her co-hostess.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. Our Treasurer reported a balance of \$18.99. The Flower Committee balance stood at \$22.04 this reading. We received a thank you note from Lillian Hult for her mother's flowers and card at M.M.C.

Our president suggested individual members send cards to Mrs. Elsie Spiller; at time this announcement made was in the Maine Medical Center expected home the following week-end.

Our hostess Mary took up the collection.

It was mentioned by our President that unpaid dues for this year of \$1.50 each be given our Treasurer, Ruth Marriner, by our Annual May Meeting.

In regard to the 200th Anniversary Program to be held July 1st and 2nd 1960, individual members who wished to give a helping hand, report to Mr. Merrill, Chairman of that committee.

In discussion where to hold our Annual luncheon, we decided to go to Carolyn's on Cape Elizabeth, May 11th 1960. Our President appointed our Nominating Committee to be Mary Wiles, Elaine Moxcey, and Marion Small.

Our Program Committee Chairman, Marge Chase, introduced our delightfully charming guest of the afternoon, Mrs. Agnes Gibbs. In her presentation she acquainted us with the Maine Sardine Industry¹⁴ for whom she is Home Economist, inside and outside interests of TV programing and many other subjects of interest to women in general. She was most gracious in that we could ask her any questions we so desired and she answered every one presented to her completely.

The Club presented her with a beautiful spring bouquet in offering their appreciation for her thoughtfulness to speak to us.

We all adjourned to the dining room, our eyes spotting the table set with a lovely white lace cloth and tall white tapered candles. We enjoyed fancy home-made breads, accompanied by preserves, jellies, and cream cheese on a lovely round sectional glass crystal platter. Oodles of coffee welcomed us and each enjoyed partaking of the delightful end of a glorious afternoon inside and outside.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

¹⁴ For more than 100 years, sardine canning was one of the two mainstays of the economy of coastal Downeast Maine. From the 1880s, Lubec and Eastport were the twin centers of this fishing industry. The sardines canned there were really little herring. By 1880, there were five canneries in Eastport and Lubec. The first step was to cut off heads and tails and remove innards. The cutter took several fish with left hand and a large knife in the right and cut off all the heads at one time. After washing and pickling, the herring were cooked 15-30 minutes in a rotary oven. Then they went to the Packing Room where women and girls placed the herrings in cans. Mustard or oil was added depending on the size. Cans were sealed by "bathing" in boiling water. As the industry expanded, there were many ups and downs. The last "up" was in the 1950s.

This page set aside in our records to the
Memory of our friend and "We Neighbor."

Margaret Hanson

Who died

April 21, 1960

May 11, 1960

Annual Report – 1959-1960

Seven meetings, including the Special Christmas Tea and Gentlemen's Night with May, 1959 Annual luncheon, were observed in this year's officers terms.

The following votes were made this year:

Names invited to membership in our club were Mrs. Fred Osgood, Mrs. John Kline, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, Mrs. Thornton Candage, Mrs. Ralph Brown, Mrs. Orland Knight, Mrs. Lawrence Gooding, Mrs. Walter Wilkie, Mrs. Lenore Moynihan, Mrs. Keith Mountfort and Mrs. Joseph Tarazewich. Mrs. John Kline sent a note of regret that she was unable to accept her invitation for membership.

To keep our meetings at one a month, the second Wednesday @2.30 P.M.

Membership dues raised, starting October 1959, from 1.00 to 1.50 per year.

One dollar to be given our President to have our name on the Community Calendar.

To table Opportunity Farm communication to a future date.

To change By-Laws May 13, 1959, the voted increase of dues.

To change By-Laws in regard to names presented for membership, shall be acted upon by vote, same day, presented to Club.

That dues must be paid to attend Club functions.

That Flower Committee use their discretion to send flowers at home or hospital, if we have money enough to do so.

To donate \$2.00 to Opportunity Farm

To give \$2.00 increase to Mrs. Seekins, agent for the vestry, has been raised.

The Gentlemen's Night supper committee as announced by Marge Chase, our Program Chairman.

The menu be left entirely up to this committee.

The Programs this year were super, well rounded, doing a magnificent job, with the following memories.

1, Mrs. Edward Lincoln's lecture, with colored slides of the Canadian Rockies,

2. Mrs. Herman Sweetser's presentation of new and old books with authors, illustrations and writings, in our newly renovated library.
3. Mrs. Donald Bither, who gave two delightful Christmas readings, "Fact" and "Fantasy".
4. Mr. Henry Perkins, speaking to us on "School Achievements", illustrated school records, shown on slides.
5. "Hour of Fun" all members taking part in pantomime and games with prizes.
6. Mrs. and Mrs. Luther Bonney, telling of their trip to Europe, starting in Canada, ending in Gaspe with colored slides.
7. Mrs. Agnes Gibbs, Home Economist, for the Maine Sardine Industry, talking to us as women interested in a widely varied program of cooking, TV industry and personal interviews of colorful presentation.

These meetings all were held the second Wednesday of each month. Gourmets will recall all the good food served each gathering with gratitude and thanks to the hostesses and committees responsible in making 1959-1960 a memorable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Schenck, Sec.

May 11, 1960

The 66th annual luncheon and business meeting of the "We Neighbors" was held at Carolyn's in Cape Elizabeth on Wednesday May 11th at 1:30 P.M. There were 21 present to enjoy either a luncheon of chicken or lobster.

The president opened the meeting by extending greetings to all present and asked for a round of applause for Miss Harriet Merrill, an honorary member, who was present and celebrating her 85th birthday. Miss Merrill gave her thanks and told how the club was first started and was named. A special welcome was given Carolyn Rand and Elsie Spiller who both were back with us, after illnesses.

Secretary and Treasury reports read and accepted. Treasury balance \$15.22. Sunshine Committee reported a balance of \$26.36.

It was voted to set aside a page in the Secretary's Book in memory of Mrs. Henry Hanson Sr.

Annual reports read and accepted.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers who were voted on and accepted to be the officers for the 1960-1961 year:

President: Mrs. Paul Brown

Vice President: Mrs. Alden Schenck

Secretary: Mrs. John Marriner

Treasurer: Mrs. Wayland Bennett

Program Committee: Chairman Mrs. Walter Wilkicki, Mrs. Lewis Moynihan, Mrs. Joseph Tarazewich

Sunshine committee: Chairman Mrs. Ralph Brown, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson

Seeing the Sunshine committee had ended the year with such a large balance it was suggested to transfer \$12.00 to the club treasury, so that the program committee would feel they had a little more backing in planning next year's program. It was made a motion, seconded and voted to be done.

Discussion of the meetings falling on a holiday resulted in a vote to leave it up to the program committee to use their discretion.

Voted to amend by-laws at our October meeting to read "new membership names to be presented and voted on at annual meeting in May." This would allow new members to start with our fall meeting. All names presented must have resided in town for a year, the year being from Oct. to Oct. Therefore Sections #2 and #4 under Article 5 Membership would be taken out of the by-laws. Since this by-law would not be in effect until May 1961 it was agreed that names would be presented the first 3 meetings this fall according to the present by-laws.

The meeting came to a close with Evelyn Chase thanking her fellow officers for their co-operation during the year also the various committees and hostesses. She then turned the gavel over to the incoming President – Joy Brown.

Mrs. Marjorie Chase presented the retiring president with a gorgeous spring bouquet and thanked her for being a gracious president for the past year.

The meeting was adjourned by the new president thus ending an enjoyable afternoon and year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec.

October 12, 1960

The first fall meeting of We Neighbors was held at the home of Mrs. Lewis Moynihan.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. Joy Brown. Secretary and Treasury reports read and accepted. Treasurer reported a balance of \$24.64 and the Flower Committee a balance of \$10.46.

There was a unanimous vote to amend the by-laws to read: Article V Section 32: "New membership names to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting in May, providing a majority of members are present."

Marion Small extended her thanks to the group for her gift while sick. A note of thanks was read from Mary Wiles for her flowers, sent her during sickness and a note from Dorothy Wagner stating she was unable to be a member this year.

Meeting adjourned.

A very interesting and informative speech was given by Mr. Robert Harris of Yarmouth, his subject being "Politics – in This Election Year." Reminding us all again that we have the valuable privilege to vote as we please in this November election.

Refreshments were served by our gracious hostess, assisted by several members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec. (14 members present)

November 9, 1960

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Lewis Moynihan. Thirteen members were present.

Secretary's report read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$38.27 and the flower committee reported \$13.31 on hand.

Mrs. Leslie Shaw's name was presented for membership and she was elected to become a member.

A note of thanks was read from Mrs. Robert Harris for the plant sent to her. Joy Brown announced that Marilyn Brown would be unable to serve on the Flower committee for a while and asked for a volunteer. Evelyn Chase said she would serve on the committee.

Following the meeting Carolyn Schenck took us on a trip from Maine to Florida. Florida is beautiful but Maine is super.

After the program, delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. Lena Foster and Lula Burnell.

Marjorie Chase, Sec. pro tem

December 14, 1960

We Neighbors met with Mrs. Philip Chase with Mrs. Kenneth Chase as co-hostess. Fourteen members and one guest were present.

Sec and Treas. reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$43.62 on hand. Flower committee \$8.31 on hand.

Notes of appreciation were read from Mrs. Ernest Rand, and Mrs. Millard Burnell.

Voted a page in our record book be dedicated to our late member Bessie P. Burnell. Voted to send \$2. to Opportunity Farm.

Our new member Mrs. Leslie Shaw was welcomed and introduced to the club.

Mrs. Lewis Finamore and Mrs. Joseph Slavik's names were presented for membership and they were elected to become members.

The meeting was adjourned and the program committee introduced Mrs. Harlan Sweetser, a former member of our club. Louise gave a very lovely and enjoyable reading "Here comes Christmas." A social hour with refreshments and Christmas music followed the meeting.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec. pro tem

This page set aside in our
Records to the memory of our
Friend and "We Neighbor"

Bessie P. Burnell

(Mrs. Millard)

Who died Nov. 21, 1960

January 11, 1961

We Neighbors met in the vestry of the Cumberland Congregational Church for the annual Guest Day Program with 25 present.

Guests and members were welcomed by the President. Secretary's report read and accepted. A balance of \$44.56 was reported in the Treasury. Flower Committee reported a balance of approximately \$6.00

Thank you notes were read from Marilyn Brown and Audrey Wilkicki for their cyclamen plants.

It was agreed that our program would remain as is for our luncheon and annual meeting in April and May.

Jean Tarazavich announced that our next meeting would be Gentlemen's Nite. Feb. 8th in the church vestry. The Women's Fellowship will put on the supper for \$1.50 per person.

Following the meeting, Mr. Ervin Morrill gave a talk on Antiques and told of some of his experiences as an auctioneer.

Refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Margaret Merrill, Mrs. Rena Lamson, Mrs. Elaine Moxcey, Mrs. Thornton Candage, Mrs. Lillian Pollock and Mrs. Ruth Marriner.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec.

February 8, 1961

The annual "We Neighbors" Gentlemen's Nite was observed in the vestry of the Cumberland Congregational Church. Twenty-eight members, husbands and guests enjoyed a baked ham dinner served by Circle II of Women's Fellowship. The room was decorated with valentines and fresh flowers.

The President, Mrs. Joy Brown welcomed husbands and guests and thanked the Gentlemen's Nite committee. A rising vote of thanks was given the girls in the kitchen for working on the supper.

The meeting was then turned over to the Program Committee. Mrs. Joan Tarazewich introduced, Mr. Richard Gulliver, a member of the Portland Toastmaster Club and also a former resident of Cumberland, who spoke on the subject "The Untouchables" which was a subject referring to our present delinquent problems and how they are connected with our own homes and communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec.

March 8, 1961

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Farwell on Main St. with Mrs. Audrey Wilkicki as co-hostess. Thirteen members were present.

Secretary's report read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$16.47 spent for Gentlemen's Night leaving a balance of \$23.36. Flower committee balance \$10.29. Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Elaine Moxcey, Mrs. Carolyn Rand and Opportunity Farm. Mrs. Rand enclosed a gift of \$5.00 for our treasury to be used as needed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Surgi, Mrs. Alvah Thompson and Mrs. Leslie Shaw will act as hostesses for the Annual Luncheon April 12th. Mrs. Surgi announce it would be held at 1:30 p.m. at Carolyn's in Cape Elizabeth. There will be choice of Seafood Newburg at \$2.50 or Chicken Salad at \$2.00. Reservation to be made with one of the committee members.

Meeting adjourned and turned over to program committee. With regret Mrs. Audrey Wilkicki said the guest speaker Mrs. Helen Vachon was unable to be with us and at such late notice she found it impossible to find a substitute. Therefore, the remainder of the afternoon was spent playing bridge and games followed by delicious refreshment served on a beautiful set table with a centerpiece of spring flowers.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec.

April 12, 1961

Seventeen (17) members were present at Carolyn's Cape Elizabeth for the annual spring luncheon of the We Neighbor Club.

After a delicious luncheon the members were entertained by a Parade of Spring Hats. The hats were loaned by Owen Moore's. Audrey Wilkicki was commentator. Missess Joy Brown, Diana Candage, Dorothy Farwell, Janet Shaw, and Ruth Marriner were models.

After the showing the hats were passed so that all the women could try them on and comment.

Respectfully submitted,

May 10, 1961

Annual Report 1960-1961

A total of 8 meetings were held on the second Wednesday of each month from Oct. 1960 to May 1961 with an average attendance of 18. Names presented for membership were: Mrs. Leslie Shaw (Janet); Mrs. Joseph Slavik (Lillian); Mrs. Lewis Finamore (Shirley). Mrs. Slavik and Mrs. Finamore expressed their thanks but regretted other commitments prevented them from joining at present.

Voted by –laws to be amended. Article V Section #2: new membership names to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting in May providing a majority of members are present.

Voted to give \$2.00 to Opportunity Farm.

Voted a page in our records be set aside in memory of our late member and friend Mrs. Millard Burnell (Bessie).

Programs for the year were:

1. Oct. – Mr. Robert Harris of Yarmouth speaking on “Politics – on this election year.”
2. Nov. Carolyn Schenck spoke about and showed pictures “From Maine to Florida”
3. Dec. Mrs. Harlan Sweetser gave a reading “Here Comes Christmas” followed by Christmas music
4. Jan. Guest Day – Mr. Ervin Morrill spoke on “Antiques” and told of some of his auctioneer experiences.
5. Feb. – Gentlemen’s Nite – Mr. Richard Guliver member of Portland Toastmaster’s Club spoke on “The Untouchables.”
6. Mar. Afternoon of bridge and games at Dorothy Farwell’s
7. April – annual spring Luncheon at Carolyn’s Cape Elizabeth followed by a Hat Parade.
8. May – Annual Meeting.

All meetings ended with the usual social time and delicious refreshments served by our gracious hostesses throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Marriner, Sec.

May 10, 1961

We Neighbor's Club met at the home of Mrs. Marilyn Brown with Mrs. Joy Brown as Co-hostess with fifteen members present and our guest speaker, Mrs. Frank.

The Secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The balance in the treasury is \$29.86. The flower Committee reported a balance of \$13.24.

As there was no further business our Annual meeting was held. The annual reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and accepted.

Mrs. Elaine Moxcey read the following slate of officers:

President: Mrs. Alden Schenck

Vice President: Mrs. John Marriner

Secretary: Mrs. Maurice Small

Treasurer: Mrs. Lawrence Lamson

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Owen Farwell, Mrs. Clifton Moxcey

Program Committee: Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Leslie Shaw.

The following names were presented for membership:

Mrs. Carroll Dyer (Ruth)

Mrs. Philip Dana (Florence)

Mrs. Charles Chesley (Bethany)

Mrs. Harry Steele (Dorothy)

Mrs. Edward Newbegin (Evelyn)

Mrs. E. L. Lincoln (Grace)

Mrs. James C. Duggan (Gertrude)

Mrs. Merritt Swift (Mildred)

Mrs. Harris Elliott (Ruth)

The out-going president thanked her Committees and members for their support throughout the year and turned the gavel over to Mrs. Alden Schenck, the new president. She thanked the members for the honor

of being President for the coming year and said she would work for the interests that the Club was started for.

Evelyn Chase, as program chairman, circulated a chart for volunteers as hostesses, program materials and ideas. She also asked the Club to vote on the matter of our luncheon and annual meeting being joint or separate. It was voted to hold them as this year, the luncheon in April and the annual meeting in May.

Mrs. Joan Tarazawich suggested we have a podium for our speakers. This subject was tabled until October for the final decision, but the program committee will keep it in mind in planning their meetings.

The President closed the meeting by wishing the members a pleasant summer and turned the meeting over to the program chairman, Mrs. Audrey Wilkicki. At this time Mrs. Wilkicki thanked Mrs. Brown for being President and presented her a gift from the club.

Mrs. Frank gave a talk on ceramics. Then the members participated in glazing some pieces she had brought with her.

Ruth Marriner, Sec. pro tem.

October 11, 1961

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Carroll Dyer with 21 members present. The hostesses for the afternoon were Mrs. Clifton Moxcey and Mrs. Halvor Merrill.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Alden Schenck, who welcomed both old and new members.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a total of \$24.73 in the treasury.

Mrs. Moxcey reported a balance of \$6.21 in the sunshine fund.

Mrs. Paul Brown distributed the Ceramic pieces to the various members who had made them last spring.

It was decided to table the matter of the podium until some future date.

Several members volunteered to furnish transportation to the meetings. Anyone desiring transportation to contact one of the following: Margaret Merrill, Evelyn Chase, Marion Small, Elaine Moxcey, Carolyn Schenck, Grace Lincoln, Lillian Pollack, or Joy Brown.

It was voted that our meetings be printed on the Community Calendar at the price of one dollar.

The president turned the meeting over to the chairman of the program committee, Mrs. Philip Chase. After giving a brief summary of the program for next month Mrs. Chase presented Mrs. Carroll Dyer. The members were treated to a most enjoyable and informative musical program. Mrs. Dyer played several selections on the harp and gave a brief history of the origin of the harp. She explained the mechanics of the instrument as well as the construction of it. This all added up to a very pleasant afternoon. The hostesses served piping hot tea with dainty and delicious cupcakes. Napkins bearing the autumn foliage were used.

Marion B. Small, Sec.

November 8, 1961

We Neighbors' club held their Annual Guest day in the vestry of the Congregational Church. The hostesses for the afternoon were Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Perry Burnell, Mrs. Paul Brown and Mrs. Fred Pollack. The president extended a welcome to all members and guests.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. The treasurer reported \$48.10 in the treasury.

The flower Committee reported approximately \$10.00 in the sunshine fund.

Mrs. Leslie Shaw announced the program for the next meeting, December 13th, to be a Christmas decorations workshop.

A communication from Opportunity Farm was read and it was voted to donate five dollars to the home.

By request of Mrs. Schenck each member rose and introduced herself and her guest. The meeting was then turned over to the program committee. Mrs. Janet Shaw introduced Mrs. Milton Alden of Wellesley, Massachusetts, the speaker of the afternoon, who showed slides of her travels through Israel, Jerusalem, Macao, Hong Kong, and Japan. She also had a very interesting display of articles from Japan.

After this very enjoyable program members and guests were served very delicious and attractive fruit breads and tea cakes with coffee and tea. All of this was displayed on a beautifully decorated table.

Marion Small, Sec.

December 13, 1961

We Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Leslie Shaw with Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Lawrence Lamson as hostesses.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read and showed a balance of \$50.60.

The Flower Committee's balance was \$14.91.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The President reported that Mrs. Arno Chase had had a bad fall, and that a Christmas plant was being sent her.

Under new business, the April Luncheon Committee, Mrs. Lamson and Mrs. Alvah Thompson recommended the luncheon on April 11th be held at Mrs. Whittle's at Falmouth Corner, and the recommendation was so voted.

It was moved and seconded to have the Women's Fellowship to put on the supper for Gentlemen's Night on February 14th in the Church Vestry. The motion carried.

It was also voted to have the Secretary notify all Honorary members and past Presidents and husbands of the meeting and to invite them to attend.

Some discussion followed in regard to sending special gifts to Honorary members at Christmas. No vote was taken.

The President suggested the Club send a Christmas gift in the field of Foreign Missions. It was moved and seconded that the Club should not send a gift at this time as the Club was not a money raising organization and most of the members personally contribute to foreign missions in other organizations. The motion carried.

The Treasurer was asked to notify all members who have not paid their dues this year.

There being no further business on hand, the Program chairman introduced Mrs. Mildred Caleb who demonstrated articles made of ribbon for Christmas decorations.

The hostesses served coffee and tea, and delicious Christmas tarts and cookies.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec. pro tem.

January 10, 1962

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small with Mrs. Marion Bennett as co-hostess. 19 members were present.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. The treasurer reported \$47.10 in the treasury.

A thank you note was read from Virginia Merrill, on behalf of her mother. A letter from Captain James A. Stafford of Topsham Air Force Station was read. Captain Stafford is furnishing the program for Gentlemen's night.

It was voted that a page in the Secretary's book, be set aside in memory of Mrs. Arno Chase.

After some discussion it was voted to leave the arrangement for Gentlemen's Night up to the committee.

The meeting was then turned over to the program Committee chairman, Mrs. Philip Chase, who presented Mrs. Kenneth Chase. Marge gave a review of the book, "Twenty Seventh Wife"¹⁵ by Irving Wallace. Due to the fact that I was hostess of the afternoon, I missed out on the most, of what I am sure, was a most entertaining program.

Marion B. Small, Sec.

¹⁵ Wallace, Irving, *Twenty Seventh Wife*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1961. Irving, in this biography, traces the life of Ann Eliza Young, Brigham Young's twenty seventh wife. Ann Eliza married James Dee, April 4, 1863 in Salt Lake City, Utah Territory. They had two children and later divorced. According to Wallace, "for the rest of her days Anna Eliza would always refer to James Dee as the man who blighted her life." On the advice of her family, Ann Eliza married Brigham Young, when he was 67 and she was a 24 year old divorcee. Although Ann Eliza later called herself "Young's wife no. 19", others have referred to her as his twenty seventh wife." In January 1873, Ann Eliza filed for divorce, an act that attracted much attention. After the divorce, she went on the lecture circuit to "expose" the evils of polygamy, Mormonism, and Brigham Young. In 1875, Ann Eliza married Moses Denning, a non-Mormon and a wealthy logger known to have only one arm. The week she married Denning she stopped delivering lectures. Denning later left Ann Eliza after a series of alleged affairs she'd had with local townsmen. According to Wallace, Ann Eliza retaliated by charging large amounts of money to Denning's accounts, as she had previously done in her divorce from Brigham Young. By 1910 she had moved to Sparks, Nevada. She died at home in Sparks of pneumonia December 9, 1917.

This page set aside in our records

To the memory of our friend and "We Neighbor"

Mary Chase

(Mrs. Arno)

Who died December 26, 1961

February 14, 1962

We Neighbors club held their annual Gentlemen's night observance in the vestry of the Congregational Church. There were 21 members and 25 guests present. Among those present were eleven past presidents. A very delicious dinner of roast Chicken breasts was prepared by Mary Mountford.

The Program committee decorated the hall and tables in an attractive valentine motif.

The president welcomed the past presidents, members and their Gentlemen. She thanked the members of her Committee for their efforts. After everyone had enjoyed their dinner, each past president found a valentine at her place, the Gentlemen seated to her left was asked to read the verse aloud.

The highlight of the evening was a movie and talk presented by Lt. Colonel William O. Sneed and Lt. Colonel William A. Loflin who assisted him. I am sure we all better understand the reason for the "sonic beams" that we have been experiencing in this area. After a question and answer period. The program was concluded.

Marion Small, Sec.

March 14, 1962

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. John Marriner with Mrs. Ralph Keating as co-hostess.

The Secretary's reports for the past two meetings were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted. A balance of \$40.10 was reported in the treasury. Flower committee reported a balance of \$21.18.

The following names were placed on the nominating committee: Mrs. Leslie Shaw and Mrs. Philip Chase. Mrs. Lamson reported for the luncheon committee. It was agreed to hold our luncheon at Wittle's at Falmouth Corner at 1 P.M. April 11th.

The meeting was turned over to the program Committee Chairman Mrs. Philip Chase who introduced Mrs. Charles Seavy, a past president of "We Neighbors" who gave us a very nice program on Art – most especially water colors.

The hostesses served very attractive and delicious refreshments.

Marion Small, Sec.

April 11, 1962

We Neighbors Club met at Mrs. Whittle's at Falmouth Corner, for their Annual luncheon with twenty-five present.

No business meeting was held.

During the luncheon Mrs. Samuel Harper, assisted by her models, from Porteous, Mitchell & Braun presented a program of "Early Summer Fashions."

Marion Small, Sec.

May 9, 1962

Annual Report 1961-1962

A total of eight meetings were held during the year from October 1961 through May 1962.

The following names were voted to become members: Mrs. Carroll Dyer, Mrs. Philip Dana, Mrs. Charles Chesley, Mrs. Harry Steele, Mrs. Edward Newbegin, Mrs. Edward Lincoln (error already a member), Mrs. James Duggan, Mrs. Merritt Swift, and Mrs. Harris Elliot.

It was voted to donate five dollars to Opportunity Farm in New Gloucester.

It was voted to invite all honorary members and past presidents to attend the Gentlemen's night festivities.

A page was set aside in the Secretary's book in memory of Mrs. Arno (Mary) Chase.

The following programs were enjoyed throughout the year:

1. October: Mrs. Carroll Dyer presented a musical program featuring the harp.
2. November: Guest day: Mrs. Milton Alden of Wellesley, Mass. gave a travel program on her journey to Hong Kong
3. December: A Christmas decoration program presented by Mrs. Mildred Caleb
4. January: A Book Review by Mrs. Kenneth Chase.
5. February: A Gentlemen's night program honoring past presidents and honorary members
6. March: Mrs. Charles Seavey – A program on Art
7. April: Annual Luncheon at Whittle's featuring a fashion show by Porteous Mitchell and Braun
8. May: Annual meeting with Larry Blanchard showing slides on his visit to Argentina.

Marion Small, Sec.

May 9, 1962

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Farwell with Mrs. Evelyn Chase as Co-hostess.

The Secretaries report was read and approved.

The Treasurers' report was read and accepted. Balance in Treasury April 11 - \$40.10. Balance May 9 - \$22.82. Report from Flower Committee – Balance May 9 \$21.82. No action was taken on transferring flower fund to treasury.

Motion carried to send Miss Harriet Merrill a shower of cards and a plant honoring her 87th birthday May 11.

Motion carried to have President appoint her own decorating committee to take care of decorations for special meetings.

The following names were presented for membership: Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Cliff Chandler Clifton, Mrs. Helen Bankson, Mrs. Viola Yeoman (Main St. Cumberland Ctr.), Mrs. Ann Murdock, Mrs. Winfield Beeman, Mrs. Bertha Anderson. The secretary to extend an invitation to each one in the fall.

Motion carried to dispense with regular business meeting at special meetings where guests are present.

Motion carried to give program committee \$20.00 to use at their discretion regarding the hiring of entertainment.

At this point, the outgoing President, Carolyn Schenck, thanked all the committees and members for their help during the year.

Motion carried to have refreshments served at the start of the meeting from 2- 2:45.

The nominating Committee then presented the following slate of officers for the coming year:

President: Marion Small

Vice President: Rena Lamson

Secretary: Janet Shaw

Treasurer: Audrey Wilcikie

Sunshine Comm: Lillian Pollack, Bethany Chesley

Program comm.: Carolyn Schenck, Dorothy Farwell, Helen Baker

The Secretary cast on ballot and the above officers were duly elected.

It was voted to have the names of the transportation committee and their telephone numbers put on the program.

At this point the meeting was turned over to the incoming President and a gift of a lovely tray was presented to the outgoing President.

Elaine Moxcie announced that she would open her cottage at Sebago Lake for the first meeting in the fall.

A very interesting program on Argentina was then presented by Larry Blanchard and delicious refreshments were served.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Newbegin, Sec. pro tem

October 10, 1962

We Neighbors held its first meeting of the season at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small with Mrs. Halvor Merrill as assistant hostess. A pleasant social hour with delicious refreshments was enjoyed, prior to the meeting by twenty one members and two guests.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Small. The Secretary 's report was read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's Report as Mrs. Wilkiki was unable to attend. She is about to move to Connecticut so has to resign as club Treasurer. Mrs. Small asked the Nominating committee to attend to the business of choosing a replacement.

The flower collection was taken. Sympathy was extended to Mrs. Alden Schenck because of the sudden death of her mother.

It was voted to buy a new record book for the Secretary and to place the old one with other We Neighbors records and possessions at Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. Owen Farwell as Chairman of the Program Com. introduced Miss Iris Almy of the Portland Public Library. Miss Almy gave a delightful program about two of her favorite authors and had many of their books to show to us. They were Joseph Wood Krutch who loves nature and tells of the lessons nature can teach man and Gerald Durrell¹⁶ who loves and enjoys animals of all sorts and writes amusingly of his and his family's

¹⁶ Gerald Malcolm Durrell (1925-1995) was a British naturalist and conservationist who devoted his life to the preservation of wild animal species. In 1958, HE created a wildlife preserve in the Channel Island of Jersey. It was dedicated to scientific research and protecting endangered species. Calling himself a "champion of small uglies." Durrell had a single goal: to care for and save from extinction as many species of animals as possible.,

unconventional life with their many and unusual animal friends. Miss Almy's program was much appreciated and enjoyed by the Club and our thanks expressed by the gift of a dainty Wedgwood plate presented to her by Mrs. Farwell.

The next meeting is the Guest meeting on November 14th at the Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

December 12, 1962

We neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Lesley L. Shaw for our Christmas meeting with Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Lawrence Lamson as hostesses.

The treasurers report was read and accepted and showed a balance of \$12.83. The Flower committee reported a balance of \$33.23. The secretary report read and accepted. New Business: Voted for the club to pay for church vestry for guest day.

Discussed and voted that the program committee have \$20.00 not to exceed this amount to use for Gentlemen's night.

Voted to send \$5.00 to Opportunity Farm. There was discussion about table decorations for Gentlemen's night. The discussion being in regards to weather the committee should supply decorations on their own or weather the money should come from the treasury. No decision reached so discussion tabled until Jan. meeting.

Their being no further business meeting was adjourned. This was followed by a social period in which the members enjoyed a help your self Christmas tree. Each member receiving a Christmas gift.

The hostesses served attractive Christmas refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Shaw, Sec. (22 members present)

October 10, 1962

We Neighbors held its first meeting of the season at the home of Mrs. Maurice Small and with Mrs. Halvor Merrill as assistant hostess.

A pleasant sociable hour with delicious refreshments was enjoyed. Prior to the meeting by twenty one members and two guests.

The meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Small. The secretarys report read and excepted. There was no treasurers report as Mrs. Wilkikii was unable to attend. She is about to move to Conn. so she has to resign as club Treasurer. Mrs. Small asked nominating Committee to attend the business of choosing a replacement. The flower collection was taken. Sympathy was extended to Alden Schinck because of the sudden death of her mother.

It was voted to buy a new record book for the Secretary and to place the old one with the other We Neighbors records and possessions at Prince Memorial Library.

Mrs. Owen Farwell as chairman of the Program com. introduced Miss Iris Almy of the Portland Public Library. Mrs. Almy gave a delightful program about two of her favorite authors and books.

Joseph wood Krutch who loved nature and tells of lessens nature can teach man and Gerald Durrell who loves and enjoys animals of all sorts and writes amusingly of his and his familys unconventional life with their many and unusual animal friends.

Miss Almeys program was much appreciated and enjoyed by the Club and our thanks were expressed by the gift of a dainty Wedgewood plate presented her by Mrs. Farwell.

The next meeting is our guest meeting on November 14th at the Church Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis A. Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

November 14, 1962

We Neighbors met in the Church Vestry of the Cumberland Center Congregational Church for the Annual Guest Day Program with 35 present.

Guests & members were welcomed by the President Marion Small.

A new treasurer was elected by the President Marion Small.

A new treasurer was elected as Mrs. Wilkikii resigned having moved from Cumberland Center to Conn. Margaret Merrill having been elected our new treasurer.

Our president turned the meeting over to the program chairman Mrs. Dorothy Farwell. Mrs. Farwell presented the speaker Mrs. Dorothy Sawyer Decorating Consultant from Lowe Bros. The theme of her

lecture was Color Schemes for the Home. Beautiful papers of material were shown. It was stated that Mrs. Sawyers services were available to anyone who needed help in decorating their home. The beautiful material shown were from Mill End shop.

Delicious refreshments were served by the Hostesses, Mrs. Kenneth Chase Chairman, Mrs. Merrick H. Swift, Mrs. James C. Duggin, Mrs. Clifton L. Moxcey.

Voted for the Club to pay for Church on Guest day. Money made available for Gentlemen's night. 35 members present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Shaw, Sec.

December 12, 1962

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Leslie Shaw for our Christmas party with Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Lawrence Lamson as hostesses.

The treasurers report was read and accepted and showed a balance 12.83. The Flower Committee reported a balance of 33.23. The secretarys report read and accepted.

New Business:

Voted for the program committee to have 20.00 twenty dollars not to exceed this amount to be used for Gentleman's night.

Voted to transfer 15.00 fifteen dollars from Sunshine Committee fund to the We Neighbors treasury.

Voted to send 5.00 Five dollars to Opportunity Farm. There was discussion about table decorations for Gentlemans Night. The discussion being in regards to weather Committee should supply decorations on their own or should the money come from the treasure. Voted to take money from treasury. Very attractive Christmas table decorations and refreshments served by the two hostesses Mrs. Leslie L. Shaw and Mrs. Lawrence Lamson.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet C. Shaw (Leslie), Sec. (33 members present)

January 9, 1963

Meeting held at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Farwell (Owen). Secretary's report read and excepted. Report from sunshine committee read and excepted.

Our program chairman Mrs. Dorothy Farwell presented Mrs. Edward Lincoln who showed her slides of Egypt & Greece.

It was a very excellent and informative program & lecture.

Delicious refreshments served by the hostesses. Mrs. Owen Farwell, Mrs. Kenneth Chase

25 members present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Shaw (Leslie), Sec.

February 13, 1963

Gentleman's Night was held in the Cumberland Center Congregational Church. The Church Circle catered. Broiled chicken, mashed potatoes, tossed Green salad and Peas. Desert, apple pie and cheese. Beautiful table decorations in keep with Valantines day. Centerpiece flowers at the head table of red and white carnations with greens also intervidual favors.

Mrs. Marion Small our president welcomed the men. Mrs. Owen Farwell program chairman presented our speaker for the evening. Lieutenant Norman West of U. S. Coast Guard Base at South Portland. His lecture was the early history of the U.S. Coast Guard.¹ Lieutenant West also included movies of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn.

The program was interesting and informative.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Shaw (Leslie), Sec.

March 13, 1963

We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Bethney Chesley. Meeting called to order by our president Mrs. Marion Small. Treasurers report read and excepted.

New Business. It was decided to hold our Annual Luncheon at the Paddock this year. Menu for luncheon decided upon at this meeting.

¹ The United States Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times a military force and a federal law enforcement agency dedicated to maritime safety, security, and stewardship missions. The Coast Guard official history began August 4, 1790 when President George Washington signed the Tariff Act that authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the United States Life-Saving Service. According to legislation creating this "new" Coast Guard, it "shall constitute a part of the military forces of the United States. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations in the federal government. Until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798, it served as the nation's only armed force afloat. The Northern New England US Coast Guard Sector is located at 259 High Street, South Portland, Maine.

We were allowed two choices of menu. Mrs. Abbie Gaylord thanked the club members for the beautiful flowers sent her when she was shut in.

Program Chairman Mrs. Owen Farwell presented Mrs. Mary Doninni of the Home Demonstration Agent of Cooperative Extension Service of University of Maine. Mrs. Doninni presented informative and educational program intitled Quality at the Clothing market. A movie intitled Follow It All the Way. This movie was presented by J. C. Penny Company.

This program was of great interest to all members present. At the tea table flowers in keeping with spring were used as a centerpiece. Dainty goodies served by Hostess Mrs. Chesley and Mrs. Ralph Keating.

Twenty members present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Shaw (Leslie), Treas. [?]

April 10, 1963

We Neighbors Annual spring luncheon held at the Paddock. Our luncheon was delicious and attractively served. There were 22 members present.

The president Mrs. Marion Small extended greetings to all present.

Mrs. Dorothy Farwell program chairman presented Miss Virginia Stevens a reader who gave several amusing reading and one very beautiful serious reading.

A very pleasant afternoon for each and everyone present.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet E. Shaw (Leslie), Sec.

May 8, 1963

Annual Report 1962-1963

Seven meeting including Gentleman's night, Annual Guest Day & the Annual spring luncheon were held this year. Average attendance: 22

New members: Mrs. Clifton Chandler, Mrs. Winfield Beman, Mrs. Viola W. Yeoman, Mrs. Philip Dana, Mrs. Bertha Anderson, Mrs. Ann D. Murdock.

Voted to start all meetings with social hour & refreshments. Business meetings & program to follow.

The programs this year were excellent. The testimony to this our attendance at each meeting this year. A very successful & rewarding year for members of We Neighbors Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Shaw (Leslie), Sec.

May 8, 1963

"We Neighbors" met at the home of Mrs. Caroline Schenck. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. Paid out yearly expense \$73.34. Balance on hand May 8th \$9.19.

Voted for Program Committee to spend twenty-five dollars for speaker at Gentlemen's Night. This does not include money for decorations.

Voted to raise dues to \$2- a year.

The following names were presented for membership: Mrs. Leroy Stratton, Mrs. Clyde Gary, Mrs. Ernest Sweetser, Mrs. Neil Stroheker, Mrs. Woodbury Barrett, Mrs. Oliver Ellis, Mrs. Harold Anderson. The Secretary is to extend an invitation to each in the fall.

Voted to send Miss Harriet Merrill flowers for her birthday (\$3).

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year:

President: Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Vice President: Mrs. Leslie Shaw

Secretary: Mrs. Edward Lincoln

Treasurer: Mrs. James Duggan

Flower Committee: Mrs. Lawrence Samson and Mrs. Viola Yeoman

Program: Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. John Marriner.

The Secretary cast one ballot and the above officers were duly elected.

At this point, the meeting was turned over to the incoming President and a gift was presented to the outgoing President.

A very interesting and enjoyable musical program was presented by Babs Murdock at the Hammond Organ.

Twenty-two members were present.

Respectfully submitted,

October 9, 1963

The We Neighbors Club met on the above date at the home of Mrs. John Marriner. Mrs. Herbert Foster was assisting hostess at the coffee preceding the meeting. Twenty-two members and one guest were present.

The President, Mrs. Merrill introduced and welcomed the four new members: Mrs. Statton, E.Sweetser, Stroheker, Ellis.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$37.64.

The Sunshine Committee chairman, Mrs. Samson, reported a balance of \$29.28.

The correspondence was read.

It was moved and seconded that \$5 be sent to Opportunity Farm. The motion carried.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Program Chairman, reported that the Paddock will not be available for the Club's Gentlemen's Night on February 12th. She was instructed to see if February 11th or 14th dates were available and to report at the next meeting.

The next meeting – Guest Day is to be at the Congregational Parish House – with speaker from the Baxter School for the Deaf. Each member is to notify the Committee if she will attend and how many Guests she will bring.

It was moved and seconded to use \$5 as a donation to the School.

The Sunshine collection was taken.

The Secretary was requested to set aside a page in the Secretary's book in memory of Mrs. Archie Wyman – a charter member who recently died.

The President thanked Mrs. Marriner and Mrs. Foster for serving the coffee before the meeting.

Mrs. Chase, chairman of the Program Committee then introduced Miss Iris Almy who reviewed two books: Edna Ferber's 2nd autobiography "A Peculiar Measure"² and "Woman in the White House"³ by Marianne Means.

The meeting adjourned.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

² Ferber, Edna, *A Peculiar Measure: An Autobiography*, New York: Doubleday, 1939. Born in 1885 to a second generation German mother and a Hungarian immigrant father, Edna Ferber became recognized as one of the leading female writers of the twentieth century. When she was five years old, the family settled in Ottumwa, Iowa. In her autobiography *A Peculiar Measure*, Ferber recalled as a child being taunted as a "sleeny" by children and adults alike. She refused to play victim but never forgot the sting of discrimination. "My other cheek was worn out long before I grew up," she recalled. In 1897, the family moved to Appleton, Wisconsin. When her father's eyesight began to deteriorate, her indomitable mother took over management of the store. Growing up in such a household shaped Ferber's personal life as well as her plots. She never married and romance in her novels is a mixed blessing at best. After graduation from high school in 1903, the 17 year old became the first female reporter for her hometown paper, the *Appleton Crescent*, and soon advanced to the payroll of the *Milwaukee Journal*. A nervous breakdown ended her career in journalism, but in 1911, while convalescing, she began writing fiction in earnest. She quickly learned she could support herself and her family by publishing her work. Her plucky heroines were a hit with readers. In her public life Ferber often credited her success to her Jewish heritage. When in the mid-1920s a dinner hostess asked, "Oh, are you Jewish?" Ferber replied, "Only on my mother's and father's side." In *A Peculiar Measure* – the title taken from *Exodus* – she eloquently expresses her horror of the rise of Nazism.

³ Means, Marianne, *Women in the White House: The lives, times and influence of 12 notable first ladies*. A columnist and White House correspondent, Means sketches the lives of Martha Washington, Dolly Madison, Abigail Adams, Sarah Polk, Mary Lincoln, Helen Taft, Edith Wilson, Florence Harding, Bess Truman, Mamie Eisenhower, and Jacqueline Kennedy.

In Memory of

Mrs. Archie Wyman

A Charter Member

Of

We Neighbors club

October 1963

November 13, 1963

The We Neighbors club met on the above date at the Vestry of the Congregational Church.

Coffee was served before the meeting by Mrs. Keating, Mrs. Small, Mrs. Yeoman, and Mrs. Lincoln. Thirty-five members and guests attended. Mrs. Merrill and Mrs. Foster poured.

As it was Guest Day, the reading of the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports was omitted.

The flower collection was taken.

Mrs. John Marriner introduced the speaker of the afternoon – Mr. Joseph Young of the Baxter School for the Deaf, and the three children he brought with him.

Mr. Young gave a brief history of Gov. Baxter's generosity in establishing the school, and his gift of Mackworth Island and buildings. It is now the first school for the Deaf in the United States, and the only one in Maine. There are 135 children of ages from 5-18 years at the school which is a boarding school. It takes four years to prepare a totally deaf child for the first grade – so there is usually a four year gap between deaf children and normal ones. Two of the children showed how they could lip read and also reply by finger signs. The School is supported by the state. \$3000 for the education of each child. It was most interesting lecture.

Mrs. Marriner gave the Club's thanks and presented a gift for the School.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

December 11, 1963

The "We Neighbors" Club met on the above date at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase.

Nineteen members and two guests were present.

The hostesses at the Christmas coffee preceding the meeting were Mrs. Lawrence Lamson and Mrs. Philip Chase.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$39.13.

The correspondence – an invitation to attend a silver tea for the benefit of the Greely chapter of the American Field Service – was read.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase, chairman of the Program Committee, spoke of arrangements for Gentlemen's Night, to be held at the Paddock on February 11th.

The Sunshine treasurer's report showed a balance of \$41.33. The collection was taken. Miss Harriet Merrill sent a Christmas greeting.

A change of our meeting place for the January meeting from Mrs. Chesley's to Mrs. Chandler's was noted.

The program for the day was Christmas music on the organ played by Mrs. Philip Murdock during the coffee, and a reading of the book "Stars over Bethlehem" read by Mrs. Kenneth Chase. It was a true story of a recent visit to Bethlehem on Christmas eve, and the reading was accompanied by organ selections of Christmas carols – appropriately played by Mrs. Murdock.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

January 8, 1964

The "We Neighbors" Club met on the above date at the home of Mrs. Clifton Chandler. Twenty-one members were present. The hostesses at the coffee hour were Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Berman, and Mrs. Chandler. Mrs. Merrill poured.

The Secretary's report was read and with one correction, was accepted. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$49.13. The dues for the current year are due before the February meeting – for those who have not already paid.

The Sunshine Chairman reported a balance of \$44.33.

After some discussion in regard to the problems involved in having Gentlemen's Night at the Paddock, it was moved and seconded that the Tuttle Road Church ladies be asked to put on the supper. The motion carried.

Mrs. Philip Chase reported after telephoning, that the ladies of the Tuttle Road Church would put on a Swedish meat ball supper for \$2 on Wednesday February 12th if we would guarantee forty people attending. This number seemed possible and it was moved and seconded that Gentlemen's Night would be at the Tuttle Road Church. The motion carried. \$5 was also voted for decorations.

The flower collection was taken.

The Program for the afternoon were slides of some Western Parks shown by Mrs. Lincoln. The meeting adjourned.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

February 12, 1964

The Gentlemen's Night of the We Neighbors Club, originally planned for the above date with supper at Tuttle Road Church, was cancelled due to lack of the required reservations.

No February meeting was held.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

In Memory of

Geneva Blanchard Chase

An Honorary Member

Of We Neighbors Club

February 1964

March 11, 1964

The "We Neighbors" club met on the above date at the home of Mrs. Charles Chesley. Twenty members were present. Mrs. Fred Pollack was assisting hostess at the coffee hour.

The Secretary's reports of the January and February meetings were read and accepted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$29.13.

The Flower fund balance was \$28.49.

The flower collection was taken.

The correspondence was read.

The Secretary was asked to set aside a memorial page in memory of Geneva Blanchard Chase, one of our Honorary members.

Mrs. Herman Sweetser, chairman of the annual luncheon at our April meeting announced that Poland Spring Hotel would be the place and passed the menu to members who singed their choices. Members needing rides will please call the numerous volunteers who will drive their cars.

The business meeting adjourned.

Mrs. John Marriner then introduced our speaker – Miss Karola Wierzbick of Palmerston North, New Zealand. She was the American Field Service student at Yarmouth High School. She gave a most interesting talk about New Zealand – its climate, recent settlement (1840), schools, sheep raising etc. and then showed slides of the mountainous country, lakes, animals, and flowers, and some of her parents' farm of 640 acres where they raise sheep. She was a fine example of a good will ambassador from another country from whom we can learn much. A charm for her bracelet shaped like the State of Maine was presented by Mrs. Marriner.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

April 8, 1964

The April meeting of the "We Neighbors" Club was a luncheon party at Poland Spring Executive House. Twenty-seven members attended and enjoyed the luncheon. No business meeting was held.

The members adjourned to the cocktail lounge where we tried to identify photographs of members taken at an early age and later played Beano. The committee provided prizes.

The President Margaret Merrill announced that the annual meeting would be at the home of Mrs. Alden Schenck at South Freeport.

Mrs. Philip Chase announced that a silver tea for the benefit of the new organ at the Tuttle Road Methodist church would be held at her home, with Mrs. Maurice Small assisting, on Thursday April 16th from 2-4, and all were invited to attend.

The meeting adjourned for the ride home in fog and rain.

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

1964 Annual Report of the Secretary

Officers of the club for 1963-64 were President: Mrs. Halvor Merrill, Vice President: Mrs. Leslie Shaw; Treasurer: Mrs. James Duggan; Secretary: Mrs. Edward Lincoln.

The We Neighbors Club of Cumberland held seven regular meetings at the homes of various members – with the exception of Guest Day in November at the Congregational Vestry, and the Spring luncheon in April at the new building at Poland Spring House. The usual Gentlemen's Night in February was omitted due to lack of required reservations. The average attendance has been 21.

Two of our members have died during the year and will be missed: Mrs. Archie Wyman and Mrs. Frank Chase.

Four new members were welcomed: Mrs. Oliver Ellis, Mrs. Leroy Stratton, Mrs. Niel Stroheker and Mrs. Ernest Sweetser.

The Program committee – Mrs. Kenneth Chase and Mrs. John Marriner – provided us with varied and interesting afternoons: organ music, a book review, a Christmas reading and music, slides of some Western parks, and a talk and showing of slides by an exchange student from New Zealand.

At Guest Day – Mr. Joseph Young of the Gov. Baxter state School for the Deaf was the speaker.

The Spring Luncheon at Poland Spring House was a most successful and enjoyable occasion.

Many thanks to the various hostesses who opened their homes for the meetings, and to the assisting hostesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

May 13, 1964

The "We Neighbors Club" met on the above date at the home of Mrs. Alden Schenck. Twenty members attended.

The Secretary's report of the previous meeting, and the Annual report were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$46.01 which was also the total of the annual report.

The Flower Committee reported a balance of \$30.12, and the collection was also taken.

Discussion in regard to having a Gentlemen's Night next year followed. Mrs. Schenck invited the club and husbands to meet at her home in September for a cook-out or picnic. It was moved and seconded that the Program Committee make the necessary arrangements. The motion carried.

It was moved and seconded that the new President appoint a committee to look over, and review the By Laws and have new ones printed. The motion carried.

The Nominating Committee composed of Mrs. Keating, Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Chesley made the following report:

President: Mrs. Rollin Scott

Vice President: Mrs. Edward Lincoln

Treasurer: Mrs. James Duggan

Secretary: Mrs. Philip Chase

Sunshine committee: Mrs. Clifton Moxcey and Mrs. Ernest Sweetser

Program: Mrs. Charles Chesley, Mrs. Clifton Chandler, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, Mrs. Oliver Ellis

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the above officers. This being done, the new officers were declared elected.

The retiring President thanked the officers and committees for their help during the past year and extended best wishes to the incoming President Mrs. Scott.

New members for the Club were suggested as follows: Mrs. Russell Ross, Mrs. Clifford Sawyer, Mrs. Clyde Gary, Mrs. John Rice, Mrs. Philip Murdock, Mrs. Anthony cook, Miss Ethel Doughty.

It was moved and seconded that these people be asked to join and that the Secretary write notes to them all before September.

The new President appointed Phyllis Sweetser, Helene Thompson and Elaine Moxcey committee to look over the By-laws.

It was moved and seconded that the Club pay for any expense in printing the By-laws. The motion carried.

Mrs. Chandler of the Program Committee asked for suggestions for programs, and also for Hostesses who could entertain in homes.

\$2 dues will be due at the October meeting.

Elaine Moxcey offered to entertain at her summer home at White's Bridge at a future date.

There being no further business, the business meeting adjourned. Margaret Merrill, the retiring President, was presented with two cups and saucers, as a reward for her successful year.

The Hostesses for the Cake and Coffee Hour before the meeting were Mrs. Schenck and Mrs. Paul Brown. Both are prize cake makers and we all enjoyed large pieces.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace S. Lincoln, Sec.

October 14, 1964

The first meeting of the year the We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Owen Farwell with Mrs. Paul Brown as co-hostess. Delicious refreshments were served to twenty-eight members.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Rollin Scott. She welcomed the new members who were present: Mrs. Marjorie Russ, Mrs. Kathleen Sawyer and Mrs. Eileen Rice.

The records were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$46.01 in May and \$62.32 now. She reminded us that dues are due today and that Dec. 1st is the deadline. The Sunshine committee reported a balance of \$30.12 in the beginning of the year and \$35.22 now. If anyone knows of a member who is sick will they please let Elaine Maxey or Carrie Sweetser know.

The communications were read. The Pres. Asked the Sec. to reply to an invitation from the Garden Club inviting us to a demonstration Nov. 4th.

Mrs. Chesley gave out the programs and thanked all those who had worked with her. Rena Lamson typed the programs. Mrs. Chesley said "We'll all work together and play together."

Phyllis Sweetser gave the report of the by-laws committee. Each by law was read, discussed and voted on separately. Now that they have been voted on the committee will have copies made for the members. The Pres. thanked the by-laws committee.

It was voted to give Opportunity Farm \$5.00.

The President thanked the hostesses, the new officers, and those present for coming and hoped they would come every meeting.

Meeting adjourned. Mrs. Chesley introduced Mrs. Frances Holbrook sec. of the State Chapter of International Graph Analysis Society⁴ who gave an interesting program on handwriting.

Respectfully submitted,

⁴ The International Graphoanalysis Society (IGAS) is a professional association that trains handwriting analysts, performs continuing research in the field of handwriting analysis, and serves an advisory and supervisory capacity to organized groups of handwriting analysts. M. N. Bunker founded IGAS in 1929. After extensive research, Bunker saw the need for a standardized approach to determining personality from a sample of handwriting. He studied theories of that time and formulated his own unique system. This system, known as Graphoanalysis, uses stroke analysis to provide insight into personality traits and evaluation of the writer's personality.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 11, 1964

The We Neighbors Club guest day was held in the Vestry with 30 people present. Tea was served.

The president Gladys Scott opened the meeting. She welcomed each and every one for coming on such a snowy day. She said we had much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

The business meeting was dispensed with.

The chairman of the program committee Mrs. Chesley introduced Miss Almy from the Portland Public Library who spoke and showed slides of her recent trip to England.

The hostesses for the afternoon were Blanche Keating, Viola Yeomans, Margaret Merrill and Abbie Judson.

After the program the next meeting was discussed and it was decided to exchange gifts of not over one dollar.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 9, 1964

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase with Mrs. Edward Lincoln and Mrs. Leroy Stratton as co-hostesses. There were seventeen members present. Tea was served.

The Pres. Mrs. Rollin Scott opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Sec and Treas reports were read and approved. The Sunshine Committee was absent and it was reports that Elaine Maxey and Connie Sweetser were both sick. Bethany Chesley was reported sick. The President asked Rena Lamson to take care of the Sunshine Committee business and report to Elaine Maxey. It was decided to send Christmas card to Katherine Bonney, Lula Burnell, Caroline Rand and Carrie Sweetser, a chrysanthemum to Jennie Burnell and a poinsettia to Harriet Merrill, an honorary member.

Mrs. Scott Duggan went to the Garden Club Tea and flower arrangement demonstration.

A thank you note and folder have been received from Opportunity Farm.

Mrs. Scott thanked the hostess committee and thanked Mrs. Sweetser for giving a reading.

The Sunshine Collection was taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Program: Mrs. Herman Sweetser gave a Christmas reading: "Little mixer"⁵

We had a Christmas tree and exchange of gifts which was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 13, 1965

We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Clifton Chandler with twenty two members present.

The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Rollin Scott.

Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and duly accepted.

Thank you notes from Mrs. Ernest Burnell, Mrs. Herman Sweetser and Mrs. Clifton Moxcey were read. We also received a card from Opportunity Farm thanking our group for the five dollars sent in the fall.

Mrs. Scott welcomed our newest member, Mrs. Anthony Cook.

It was called to the attention of the group that our meeting started at 2 P.M. and not two thirty as reported in paper. Mrs. Scott appointed Mrs. Moxcey a Committee of one to call Mrs. Hutchinson to correct the time put in paper.

Mrs. Charles Chesley our program Chairman suggested that next month we plan our own program rather than getting a speaker to come and each member would take part. February being a month that a great many historical events took place it was suggested that we bring in something of interest. It could be a poem, historical event, song etc. It will be a production, edited and produced by our own We Neighbors. We will all look in anticipation as to what We Neighbors will come up with. Our librarian said, "I will see you at the library."

Mrs. Scott thanked Mrs. Chandler for opening her home and Mrs. James Duggan for co-hostessing with her.

As there was no other business, the business meeting adjourned and the President turned the meeting over to Mrs. Chelsey who in turn introduced our speaker Mrs. Herbert Foster.

⁵ Shearon, Lillian Nicholson, *The Little Mixer: A Child's Christmas Book*, Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1922.

For those of you who were unable to attend you missed a most interesting meeting on Heraldry.⁶ I am sure Mrs. Foster could of talked for days on the subject with the quantity of notes she has collected over the years. Ever since her college days she has been studying and looking up for others and painting for them their Coat of Arms. She brought with her several finished products and drafts of others that she has done. Its really a fascinating study and I for one intend to look into it further and I over heard others saying the same thing. So see you at the Historical Library of Maine. It was an outstanding program and we are forever grateful to Lena for sharing with us her vast knowledge of Heraldry.

Mrs. Scott thanked Lena on behalf of the We Neighbors.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

February 9, 1965

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Charles Chesley on a stormy day with fifteen members present. Because of the storm our Pres. Gladys Scott could not be with us.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Pres. Mrs. Edward Lincoln. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$88.02. There was no report of the Sunshine Committee as neither of the members were present. Mrs. Rena Lamson took the collection. It was reported the Phyllis Sweetser had a bad cold. A letter was read from Mr. Winfield Beamen in Prince Edwards Island telling how much Mrs. Beamen missed the We Neighbors Club and would like to pay her dues and retain her membership. It was decided that the Sec. would write and send her a receipt for dues and program for the year.

The new by-laws were passed around. They were printed free by the Canal National Bank. It was decided the secretary should write a note of thanks.

The Club luncheon was discussed and it was decided the committee would bring in menus.

It was voted to set aside a page in the Sec. book in Memory of Miss Harriet Merrill.

The meeting adjourned and was turned over to the program committee. Mrs. Chesley announced the program which was on historical events – especially those of local interest or related to February. Each member brought in an item of interest which included information about: Chandlers Band, Abraham Lincoln, 100thAniversary of Congregational Church, how Feb. got its name and number of days, Lady's

⁶ Heraldry is the practice of devising, displaying, describing and recording coats of arms and heraldic badges. This practice developed during the High Middle Ages (c. 1000-1300), a period when large artillery gathered together for extended periods. The use of helmets with face guards made it difficult to recognize one's commanders in the field. This necessitated the development of heraldry as a symbolic language. In modern times, heraldry is used by individuals, public and private organizations, corporations, cities, towns, and regions to symbolize their heritage, achievements, and aspirations.

Godiva Book, Thomas Edison, Charles Lindburg, the Civil War, Portland paper of 1821 and 1823 and a letter from Texas written in 1894. It was said that the club did not really need outside speakers.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

In Memory of

HARRIET S. MERRILL

A Charter Member

And

An Honorary Member

of

We Neighbors Club

born

May 11, 1875

died

Jan. 17, 1965

March 10, 1965

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Mrs. Leslie Shaw. Nineteen members enjoyed a social period of refreshments. Delicious goodies that are such a help to the waistline.

Our president Mrs. Scott opened the meeting with a hearty greeting to all present. She mentioned two items that she had in mind for the former meeting. One was of historical interest, that pertained to our February the month of history; and a few words in memory of our Charter Member Miss Harriet Merrill also of Mrs. Gertrude Bragg.

The sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. reported \$90.02 in the treasury. The Sunshine com reported \$28.03 on hand at our last meeting. The Collection on that date swelled our funds to \$31.78. Mrs. Niel Stroheker was reported ill. The usual collection was taken.

Mrs. Halvor Merrill reported for the Luncheon Com. She had a menu from Crescent Beach Inn which was circulated. There is a choice to 2 items. It was voted the luncheon will be at 1 P.M. Apr. 14. Members not present will be contacted. No-one may cancel out after Apr. 10.

Margaret took us on a trip to Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico, by way of projector and film; most interesting, educational and beautiful. Mrs. Lamson was unable to attend. The Pres. thanked the hostesses; Margaret for Rena; and Marge Chase for Sec.

Adjourned until Apr. 14

Marjorie M. Chase. Sec. pro tem.

April 12, 1965

The We Neighbors club met at Crescent Beach Inn for their annual luncheon. Twenty-seven attended.

The President Gladys Scott welcomed all to the luncheon. As usual the business meeting was dispensed with.

The Pres. announced the following people on the nominating committee: Lena Foster, chair, Lillian Pollock, and Anne Stratton.

After a delicious luncheon the club watched Mrs. Hilda Finlayson show slides and give an "Inspirational story - Peace."

1965 Annual Report of the Secretary

The officers for "We Neighbors Club" for 1964-65 were: Pres. Mrs. Rollin Scott; V Pres. Mrs. Edward Lincoln; Sec. Mrs. Philip Chase; Treasurer Mrs. James Duggan.

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Clifton Maxey, Mrs. Ernest Sweetser

Program Committee: Mrs. Clifton Chandler, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, Mrs. Oliver Ellis, Mrs. Charles Chesley

There were eight meetings held including Guest Day at the Congregational Church Vestry and the Luncheon at Pleasant Beach Inn Cape Elizabeth. At four of the meetings the programs have been provided by our own members. At three meetings we have had outside speakers.

The Constitution and By-laws have been revised and copies made for all the members.

New members taken in this year: Mrs. Russell Ross, Mrs. Clifford Sawyer, Mrs. John Rice, and Mrs. Anthony cook.

One honorary member Miss Harriet Merrill passed away.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

May 12, 1965

The Annual Meeting of We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Alden Schenck "Home Port" South Freeport with Mrs. Lawrence Lamson co-hostess. Twenty-seven members were present. Delicious refreshments were served.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Gladys Scott. The secretary's report and annual report were read and approved. The treasurer's report and annual report were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$76.15. The Sunshine Committee gave an annual report and reported a balance of \$31.28. A thank you note was read from Jennie Burnell.

The President thanked the officers for their work this year; she especially thanked the V. Pres. for taking a meeting for her last winter. She thanked the hostesses for today's meeting. She thanked the committee for the luncheon.

Mrs. Bethany Chesley gave a report on the programs. She thanked the hostesses and other members of her committee.

The Pres. thanked the program committee. She said it had been a pleasure to serve as Pres. She said she would not be able to come next year because of moving to Raymond, but she always hoped to keep in touch with the club. If she had stayed until fall she would have lived in Cumberland 23 years. She said all the pleasure had been hers in being president.

Phyllis Sweetser suggested that the Club give Mrs. Scott a rising vote of thanks for being president and it was done.

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers and they were duly elected for the ensuing year.

President: Mrs. Edward Lincoln

V. Pres.: Mrs. Clifton Chandler

Secretary: Mrs. Kenneth Chase

Treasurer: Mrs. Russell Ross.

Program committee: Mrs. Herman Sweetser chairman, Mrs. Leslie Shaw, ass't. Mrs. Clifton Maxcey, Mrs. John Marriner.

Sunshine committee: Mrs. James Duggan, Mrs. Charles Chesley

The retiring president Mrs. Rollin Scott passed the gavel to the new pres. Mrs. Edward Lincoln. The Pres. asked for new business. Mrs. Sweetser asked for suggestions for programs. It was suggested that some money be spent for programs this year.

It was voted that the program committee use its discretion in getting paid programs.

Elaine Maxcey invited the club to her cottage at Whites Point Standish on Sept. fifteenth (15th) for the day. Each one is to bring their own lunch. The secretary will send out notices of the Sept. meeting.

Gentlemen's night was discussed. It was voted to have gentlemen's night some other night than in the winter – possibly in October at Home Part.

The quarter collection was taken by the Sunshine committee.

The following people were elected to become members of We Neighbors Club: Mrs. Russell Boynton, Mrs. Theron Luce (Louise), Mrs. Elizabeth Grant, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth, Mrs. Ernest Rioden, Mrs. Elbridge Rice.

Mrs. Chesley presented the out-going Pres. Gladys Scott with a cup and saucer.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

September 15, 1965

On Sept. 15, 1965, We Neighbors Club picnic at Elaine Moxcey camp. Twenty members and three guests were present. It was a beautiful day and a beautiful spot. Each one took sandwiches and Elaine served coffee and dessert with Rena Lamson as co-hostess and they served brunch. There was an informal meeting. Dues were collected from some members. Thanks to Rena Lamson for the programs. It was announced that the Canal Bank Building is open for organizations. The first meeting of our new year at Carolyn Schenck was brought to mind and a paper was circulated for those who planned to attend.

Voted that the Sec shall write a note of thanks to the Canal Bank, attention of Mr. Marquis for printing our programs.

Marjorie Chase, sec.

October 13, 1965

The We Neighbors club of Cumberland Center began its Fall season on October 13th with husbands of members as guests. The party was held at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. Alden Schenck of So. Freeport. Forty-six members, husbands, and guests enjoyed a wonderful chicken supper at 6:30 and during the evening talented Mrs. Vesta Orr gave a marvelous concert on the organ. She played without music and also played various requests, asked for by her audience.

We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Schenck for their hospitality and a wonderful evening.

No business meeting was held.

Grace S. Lincoln

November 10, 1965

On this date the members of the We Neighbors Club held guest day in the Church vestry. Approximately 50 were present. A social period and delicious refreshments was enjoyed by everyone. The refreshment table was most attractive with Thanksgiving colors and decorations and "goodies."

Our social period was extended as our speaker failed to appear. Mrs. Lincoln was very apologetic and finally decided to get her pictures of the Worlds Fair and take us on that tour. She did get her screen set up and her projector focused and we were well inside the gate at the Fair and it was announced that the speaker had arrived. We hope that some time Mrs. Lincoln may continue her pictures.

The speaker was Mrs. Walter Harrison. A very lovely person who has that gift of Sixth Sense, known as Extra Sensory Perception.⁷ She told of her many personal experiences. It was a most interesting and most unusual program.

There was no business meeting. The President announced that the next meeting will be a Christmas Party. There will be an exchange of gifts.

Attest.

Marjorie M. Chase Sec.

⁷ Extrasensory Perception, ESP, is perception occurring independently of sight, hearing, or other sensory processes. People who have ESP are said to be psychic. The term was adopted by Duke University psychologist J. B. Rhine to denote psychic abilities such as telepathy, clairaudience, and clairvoyance. Parapsychology is the study of paranormal psychic phenomena including ESP.

December 8, 1965

25 We Neighbors and one guest met with Mrs. Russell Rose and her co-hostesses. A very happy social hour was enjoyed by everyone. Mrs. Russells decorations were so colorful and attractive. The refreshment table was certainly "super." The business meeting opened at approximately 2:30 with Mrs. Lincoln presiding. A special welcome was extended to our new members and the one guest present. The reports of the annual meeting and 3 informal meetings were read and accepted. The Treas. reported \$73.43 in the Treasury. Her report was accepted. She reported 30 paid members. Voted \$5 donation to Opportunity Farm. Voted \$25.00 donation to the Ernest Rand Scholarship Fund.

Voted a communication from the Jaycee Wives, concerning a candidate for Mother of the Year, but tabled until the next meeting.

No action taken on a communication from Emery Ranch (Hayrack Rides).

Communication from Ruth Marriner stating she could not remain an active member this year. Accepted with regret. Notes of thanks from Evelyn Chase and Elizabeth Grant for flowers. Sunshine collection was taken. \$45.89 in Treasury. Voted to send Christmas Greetings to our Honorary members and any shut in members. Meeting adjourned.

Then came the Christmas Party, and such attractive surprises. Each one in turn chose their own package. A most enjoyable afternoon to start the Christmas season.

Attest.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

January 12, 1966

Twenty members of We Neighbors Club met with Mrs. Maurice Small. It was our first meeting in Marion's new home and it was pleasant and lovely.

Mrs. Lincoln, our President welcomed the members and thanked Marion and her committee for entertaining us. As usual a refreshment and social period was enjoyed by all. The refreshments and table decorations were as always lovely and attractive. The meeting opened at approximately 2:30.

The Sec and Treas. reports were read and accepted. The Treas. reported \$52.23 balance. Mrs. Perry Burnell was reported ill in the hospital. A shower of cards was suggested. Mrs. Norman Hulit (Lillian Hanson) again joined our ranks.

Thanks from Elaine Moxcey for a plant sent to her while she was in the hospital.

Mrs. Lawrence Lamson submitted the name of our President Mrs. Edward Lincoln as a candidate for Mother of the Year, Mrs. Lincoln declined and suggested the matter be dismissed.

The meeting was adjourned and turned over to the Program chairman. The program was "Shawls, Quilts, and antiques." There were so many lovely things displayed. Some with very interesting backgrounds. A very most enjoyable afternoon.

Attest.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

February 9, 1966

On the afternoon the We Neighbors club met with Mrs. Philip Chase as hostess. 24 members were present. At 2 P.M. refreshments were served and a social period was enjoyed. The refreshment table was very attractive with Valentine decorations. As the speaker had arrived it was decided to have the program before the business meeting so that he could be on his way. This worked out fine, except that he locked himself out of his car, and had to wait until we were all through before his good wife came to his rescue. He introduced himself as Bob Robinson from the Humble Oil & Refining co. He took us through New England with beautiful colored pictures. From Provincetown Mass to Bar Harbor Maine; the pictures of the sea coast were wonderful. Lakes, Rivers, Parks, and playgrounds. The winter pictures of the mountains and ski areas made us realize that the snow has its good points. I am sure everyone present saw many pictures of places that had recollections for them.. I myself among other places could see my husband changing a tire right in front of Old Plymouth Rock.

The business meeting was opened by Mrs. Lincoln who thanked Evelyn and her hostesses. Records were read and accepted. \$63.23 reported in the Treasury. Thank you note read from Mrs. Duggan. Sunshine Collection taken. Rena Lamson was appointed to take Mrs. Chesley's place on Sunshine com. Voted to send a Valentine bouquet to Lula Burnell. A plant was presented to the speaker. A most enjoyable time for everyone.

Attest.

Marjorie M. Chase. Sec.

March 9, 1966

On this lovely afternoon 22 members met with Mrs. Clifton Chandler in her home. Very colorful table decorations and refreshments were in keeping with St. Patricks Day. A social hour of visiting was enjoyed.

The business meeting opened at 2:30 with Mrs. Lincoln presiding. She extended thanks to Mrs. Chandler and her co-hostesses.

The Sec. and Treas. reports were read and accepted. \$61.67 reported in our Treasury with 34 paid members \$42.62 reported in the Sunshine Treasury. A thank you note was read from Lula Burnell.

It was voted that the business meeting shall begin at 2:30 P.M.

Mrs. Lincoln announced that the Club Luncheon will be held at the Trinity Parish House April 13. \$2. per person.

The business meeting was adjourned and the Program Chairman then presented Julio Effa, a very charming Exchange student from Chile. Sponsored by the American Field Service, Julio seemed quite at home with 22 ladies and gave us a most interesting description of his country, his home and family and last but not least of his adapting his ways to ours. He surely seems to enjoy his association with his family in Cumberland and his friends in school. How wonderful that girls and boys have this privilege – the questions and answer period was much fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

April 13, 1966

26 ladies met at the Trinity Church Parish House for the annual luncheon of We Neighbors club. The luncheon was delicious, and the tables very attractive. While we were still around the tables, Janet Shaw had a short pencil and paper contest, to prove how well we knew our flowers. Mrs. Lincoln kindly gave us permission to see the newly remodeled church. So very lovely. There was no business meeting. Mrs. Lincoln thanked her telephone committee. She appointed the nominating com.: Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Paul Brown, and Mrs. Ralph Keating. She announced that Mrs. Boynton was Auditor of the Treasurer's books. The annual meeting will be with Mrs. Schenck as hostess. The Committee will find a third member.

Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Lincoln on behalf of her Guild for the use of their Parish House, and the luncheon.

Then everyone got set for Bingo. Some were lucky, some were not, but every one proved that they could gamble. It was fun for all, and a very pleasant afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

May 11, 1966

Annual Report of the Secretary for 1965&6.

On Sept. 15, 1965 twenty members & three guests journeyed to spend the day with Elaine Moxcey at her camp at White's Bridge. This was not a regular meeting, only a day of fun and eating. No business was conducted. The Sec. was instructed to write a note of thanks to Mr. Marquis for printing programs.

Oct. 13, 1965 was our first meeting date, altho there was no business conducted. Again fun and eating. Mr. and Mrs. Alden Schenck entertained 46 members and their Gentlemen with a wonderful Buffet dinner in their home, followed by an organ concert.

Nov. 10, 1965 found us at the Church Vestry for our Guest Day. Approximately 50 attended. Again no business, but we did have a double duty program. Our speaker was very late because of a misunderstanding, so our embarrassed Pres. Mrs. Lincoln, rushed across the street gathered up her screen, projector and slides and got us all on to the grounds of the World's Fair when the word came "Our Speaker has arrived." Mrs. Walter Harrison, well known for her gift of Extra Sensory Perception, a most interesting program. But remember Grace that as far as you are concerned, we are still within those gates and will be pleased to meet you there again anytime.

Dec. 8, 1965 At last we are in business. Reports and usual business items taken care of. Special welcome extended to our new members. Voted \$25. donation to the Ernest Rand Scholarship fund. It was our Christmas Party at Mrs. Russell Ross. Her home was beautifully decorated and the refreshments and social hour were enjoyed by all. Then was our Christmas tree, with surprise gifts for everyone 25 present.

Jan. 12, 1966 Our first meeting of the New Year was with Mrs. Maurice Small. Shawls, quilts and Antiques were brought and displayed. So many lovely things enjoyed by 20 members.

Feb. 9, 1966 24 members met with Mrs. Philip Chase. Usual business meeting, after the program, Mr. Bob Robinson of Humble Oil Refining Co. took us through New England with colored slides – A beautiful trip by way of a projector.

Mar. 9, 1966 Mrs. Clifton Chandler entertained us with St. Patricks decorations in both home and table decorations. 22 members enjoyed hearing Julio Effa an exchange student from Chile.

April 13 – 26 ladies met at Trinity Church Parish House for a very wonderful annual luncheon. There was no business. The pres. appointed her nominating Com. An afternoon of fun with Bingo.

Our year has been a very happy and pleasant one. Our program Com is congratulated for the fun programs provided for us. The attendance has been very good. Five new members joined us: Mrs. Russell Boynton, Mrs. Thornton Luce, Mrs. Elizabeth Grant, Mrs. Eldridge Rice, and Mrs. Ernest Reardon. Mrs. Maurice Small, Mrs. Henry Hanson, and Mrs. Norman Hult again joined our ranks swelling our members to 34 paid members and 3 Honorary members.

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

May 11, 1966

26 members and one guest met with Mrs. Alden Schenck at her home in So. Freeport. The weather was very kind to us. The social hour as usual, was very enjoyable. The refreshments were delicious and the hostesses were very kind and shared their recipe for "Frozen French Pastry" with us. Mrs. Lincoln called the meeting to order and thanked the hostess and her committee.

Sec. report and annual report were read and accepted as written.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. \$53.99 in the Treasury. The annual report was read. Reported audited, and accepted. The Sunshine committee's report and annual reports were read and accepted. \$47.71 in Treasury.

Elaine Moxcey invited the ladies to a picnic lunch at her cottage Sept. 14. Voted that those joining our club as new members be invited to attend the picnic.

Mrs. Lincoln called for the report of the nominating Committee. The following slate was submitted:

President: Mrs. Leslie Shaw
V. President: Mrs. Henry Hanson Jr.
Secretary: Mrs. M. R. Boynton

Treasurer: Mrs. Clifford Sawyer

Program Com: Mrs. Edward Lincoln and Mrs. Lawrence Lampson, co-chairmen; Mrs. Leroy Stratton,
Mrs. Theron Luce

Sunshine Com.: Mrs. Lewis Judson, Mrs. Norman Hulit.

The sec. cast one ballot and they were elected.

Mrs. Lincoln, in her own words, tendered her farewell to the Club. She thanks the officers who had been with her through the year and all committees who had worked with and for her.

The Pres. of the Program Com presented her with a gift certificate from Skillings Greenhouse. The gavel was passed to Mrs. Leslie Shaw the new President.

The Program Com asked for suggestions for the year and for hostesses.

Mrs. Rand thanked the Club for the donation to the Scholarship Fund honoring her husband Ernest.

This was a very well attended annual meeting.

Names submitted for membership were: Mrs. Wesley Kinney, Mrs. Donald Edwards, Mrs. Clyde Reynolds, Mrs. Herbert Pressey, Miss Iris Almy. The Secretary will write invitations to the same, and send cards concerning the picnic, and the first meeting of the new year to all members.

Adjourned for the summer vacation.

Respectfully submitted

Marjorie M. Chase, Sec.

September 14, 1966

On September 14, members of the We Neighbors Club of Cumberland Center spent the day with Mrs. Moxcey at her summer camp.

It was a time for renewing friendships after the summer vacations and becoming acquainted with new members.

The weather man was not very good to us, but the generous hospitality of our hostess and Mrs. Lamson, made the afternoon a delightful one.

The Canal Bank, as a courtesy to the community, printed the programs for the coming year. We are grateful to them for this favor. They were distributed to members.

There was no business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton

October 12, 1966

The members of We Neighbor's Club of Cumberland Center, opened the coming year with a dinner at Trinity Parish House, with their husbands as guests, Mrs. Shaw our president presiding.

The tables and dining room were most appropriately decorated with fall colors. A delicious dinner was served by the ladies of the church to whom we wish to express our appreciation.

Mrs. Lawson presented Mr. Thurmon Rood [sp?] who spoke on "Wood Gems". He is member of the International Wood Collectors Society⁸ and has a fascinating hobby, developed from contacts made through the Society.

He displayed many samples of wood from all parts of the world and exhibited a number of fascinating pieces of costume jewelry, colorful and attractive, which were fashioned from rare pieces of wood.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton

November 9, 1966

Mrs. Schenck very graciously opened her home to members of We Neighbors club and their guests on November 9.

A number of beautiful fall flower arrangements decorated the house, with a lovely table set for dessert, served by the hostess committee.

After coffee we were delightfully entertained by Mrs. Vesta Orr of Auburn, who is a church organist and Music Director of the Auburn Little Theater.

Mrs. Orr was most gracious in presenting a program of familiar pieces on the organ. Everyone was delighted with her selections, ability as an artist, with a charming personality. We especially appreciated her response to requests.

I wish to express the sincere appreciation of the Club, to Mrs. Schenck and Mrs. Orr for giving us such a delightful afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton

December 14, 1966

In spite of a heavy snow storm, a good number of the We Neighbors Club gathered at the home of Mrs. Russell Ross, where a warm Christmas spirit welcomed us. The house was gorgeous with lovely Christmas decorations, most of which Mrs. Ross had made.

Mrs. Sweetser read a charming chapter from Margaret Stanger's book "That Quail Robert."⁹ Robert was unusual, tiny but made a big place for himself in the hearts of the family. It was a most delightful story and as Mrs. Sweetser said "Something different."

Mrs. Lawson opened the Christmas party with drawings from the beautifully wrapped surprise packages from under the tree. Everyone was delighted with a present and we all felt that Christmas was really here.

No business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

⁸ Founded in 1947, the International Wood Collectors Society is a non-profit Society devoted to distributing information on collecting wood, correctly identifying and naming wood specimens, and using wood in creative crafts.

⁹ Stanger, Margaret, *That Quail, Robert*, New York: William Morrow, 1966. This book is a story about a couple who saved a baby quail and how he came to live with them and brighten up their lives as well as the lives of their friends. It is a perennially bestselling and acclaimed classic of a little bird who preferred human companionship to that of other quails.

Margaret W. Boynton

January 11, 1967

We Neighbors' Club met on Jan. 9 with Mrs. Chandler, where the hostess committee had prepared a delicious coffee.

The business meeting was called to order by Mrs. Shaw. The resignation of Mrs. Hanson was presented and accepted. Mrs. Lawson was voted to succeed Mrs. Hanson as Vice President.

Report of the Sunshine committee was read by Mrs. Judkins showing a balance of \$49.

It was voted to send \$5. to Opportunity Farm of New Gloucester.

There being no further business, the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Lawson, who presented Mrs. Allison Payson. She had a delightful collection of slides from her native scouting of the Philippines, which we all enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton

February 8, 1967

The February meeting of We Neighbors club was held at Prince Memorial Library, on a beautiful winter's day after one of our heavy snow storms.

Mrs. Shaw presided at the business meeting. Mrs. Judkins reported on work of Sunshine Com. showing a balance of \$49.85.

Treasurer report read and accepted with a balance of \$90.

A motion was read and accepted to send \$2. to the Ernest A. Rand Scholarship fund, sponsored by Cumberland Lions Club.

There being no further business Mrs. Sweetser presented Miss Almy one of our new members, who gave us a most interesting review of several books from the field of Natural History in our own state. "Dogs in my life" by Louis Vrué [sp?] and "Is there a Doctor in the Barn"¹⁰ by Elizabeth Yates.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton. Sec.

The Meeting of March was cancelled because of storm.

April 12, 1967

The We Neighbor's Club were again privileged to enjoy the hospitality of The Ladies Guild of Trinity Church, where we were served our annual luncheon. A very interesting collection of antiques and family treasures was displayed by members.

The program chairman has provided eight interesting meetings enjoyed by all, with a good attendance.

¹⁰ Yates, Elizabeth, *Is There a Doctor in the Barn?*, New York: Dutton, 1969. This book depicts a day in the life of Peterborough, NH Veterinarian Forrest F. Tenney.

May 10, 1967

28 members were entertained in the home of Mrs. Hulit where we enjoyed punch and delicious cakes and cookies. Mrs. Widmer [sp?] entertained us on a most informal talk and slides from Hawaii where she lived for several years.

Report of the Year 1966-1967

In spite of a winter with unusually heavy snow, we were fortunate to hold all regularly scheduled meetings but March.

A good number of members met with Mrs. Moxcey at her cottage for an informal picnic in Sept. Mrs. Lamson presented the program for the coming year and distributed copies.

The Annual dinner in October with husbands as guests, was held in Trinity church Parish House – Mr. Loose speaking on his hobby of Wood Gems.

In November Mrs. Schenck opened her home to the club and guests, with Mrs. Vesta Orr of Auburn entertaining with an organ concert. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

The Christmas meeting in December arrived with a preview of what was in store for us weather wise. However in spite of a heavy snow storm a large number gathered with Mrs. Ross in her home, which was most attractively decorated, giving a real air of Christmas spirit. Mrs. Sweetser read from the book That Quail Robert, followed by the exchange of gifts.

We were entertained in January with slides shown by Mrs. Payson, at the home of Mrs. Chandler, and in February Miss Almy reviewed a number of books on Natural History mostly concerning our state of Maine.

Mrs. Shaw called the business meeting to order with Reports from Treasurer showing a balance for year of \$67.80.

Mrs. Judson reported on her work in Sunshine committee and gave interesting picture of the many contacts she has made during the year in a most entertaining cause of friendship. A balance of \$40.14.

Mrs. Moxcey gave the report of the nominating committee for year 1967-1968:

President: Mrs. Lawrence Lawson

V. President: Mrs. Russell Boynton

Secretary: Mrs. Clifford Sawyer

Treasurer: Mrs. Theron Loose

Chairman of Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Ralph Keating

Chairman of Program Committee: Mrs. Alden Schenck

Mrs. Shaw then turned the meeting over to the incoming President – Mrs. Lampson, who presented Mrs. Shaw with a gift in appreciation for year as President.

Mrs. Schenck asked for suggestions for the coming year's programs.

Mrs. Lampson asked for nominations to membership in the club. The following were nominated and voted to be accepted into membership: Mrs. Tripp, Mrs. Pierre Dumame, Mrs. Chester Wiles, There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Boynton, Sec.

1967-1968

September 13, 1967

Members of We Neighbors Club were entertained at the summer camp of Janet Shaw on big Sebago Lake, with co-hostesses Rena Lampson, Elaine Moxcey and Margaret Boynton. There were twenty-two members present and two guests.

A coffee was served upon our arrival by our hostesses, and later a picnic lunch was enjoyed. The weather was beautiful and it was a very enjoyable day, thanks to our hostesses.

We were also happy to welcome two of our three new members. Our informal meeting was held, some dues collected and new programs distributed.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

October 11, 1967

The members of We Neighbors club entertained husbands and guests for the annual dinner and entertainment. Fifty members and guests met at the South Freeport Congregational church where they were served a delicious chicken dinner by the ladies of the church. After the dinner everyone went to the home of Mrs. Schenck and were again entertained with Organ music by Mrs. Kenneth Orr of Auburn. She played her own program and then very generously played many requests all from memory. It was a very enjoyable evening, but that was not all. Mrs. Schenck had then prepared a table loaded with many varieties of fancy cakes and cookies, punch, coffee and tea.

It was an evening to remember and we thank Mrs. Schenck for her hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

November 8, 1967

Guest day for We Neighbors club was held in the Cumberland Congregational Church Vestry for approximately twenty-six members and guests.

After a social period and very nice refreshments provided by our committee, we enjoyed an interesting and informative talk by Mrs. Louis Farley of the League of Women Voters. We did not have a business meeting, although we did take up a collection for the Sunshine committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

December 13, 1967

The meeting of the We Neighbors club was held at the home of Mrs. Russell Boynton, with twenty-four members and one guest present.

A very pleasant social time was held with delicious refreshments served by the co-hostesses, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Chesley, Mrs. Luce and Mrs. Ross, after which a short business meeting was called by our President,

Rena Lampson. The reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and of the Sunshine Committee were accepted and several letters of thanks were read by Mrs. Keating of the Sunshine Committee.

It was voted to devote a page from Secretary's record to the memory of our honorary member and friend Mrs. Lula J. Burnell.

It was also voted to send a gift to our honorary members as a Christmas remembrance from the Club. A collection was made for the Sunshine committee.

The meeting was then adjourned and turned over to Mrs. Clifton Chandler of the Program Committee who presented Phyllis Sweetser, who read to us a very enjoyable Christmas message by Peter Marshall entitled "Let's Keep Christmas."¹¹

After this everyone enjoyed an exchange of gifts and admired the various Christmas decorations Mrs. Boynton had arranged for our holiday spirit. It was an excellent beginning for our Christmas.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Sawyer, Sec.

¹¹ Marshall, Peter, *Let's Keep Christmas*, New York: McGraw Hill, 1953. One of Marshall's most memorable and inspiring sermons – a moving expression of gratitude that the Christ child came into the world, and a plea that we keep Christmas "in all the loveliness of its ancient traditions."

In Memory of

Lula J. Burnell

An Honorary Member

Of

We Neighbors Club

Born August 18, 1884

Died September 2, 1967

January 10, 1968

We held our first meeting of the New Year at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Chase. The weather and travelling had been very bad and only sixteen members were present, so we have plenty of refreshments which were thoroughly enjoyed by all, and I am sure missed by all who were unable to attend.

After the refreshments a business meeting was held. Reports were read by the Secretary, Treasurer and the Sunshine committee and letters were read from Mrs. Carrie Sweetser who is still in the hospital and from Mrs. Ernest Burnell. A letter was also read from Opportunity Farm and it was voted to send a contribution of five dollars to them again this year.

Mrs. Charles Seavey was then presented by our President, Mrs. Lamson, who talked to us informally on art, her own experiences and telling us of various interesting books dealing with art. She also showed us several paintings done by our own members, Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Foster and by Mrs. Seavey herself. It was a very interesting afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Sawyer, Sec.

February 14, 1968

The monthly meeting of the We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Clifton Chandler with twenty-one members and our speaker, Miss Virginia Stevens. The decorations were appropriate for Valentine's Day and were very attractive and everyone enjoyed the refreshments.

The reports of the Secretary, and Sunshine committee were read, also a note from Mrs. Seavey, our speaker in January, thanking us for the plant the club presented her. A note was read by Mrs. Keating of the Sunshine Committee, from Mrs. Barney, and a collection was taken. Mrs. Lamson also gave a report on Mrs. Carrie Sweetser, who is still in the hospital.

We were then entertained by Miss Stevens with several monologues, very humorous and a lift from our mid winter depression – a very pleasant afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

March 13, 1968

The meeting with Mrs. Pollack was cancelled due to bad weather.

April 10, 1968

The meeting of We Neighbors Club was held at the home of Mrs. Hazel Reynolds, with eighteen members present.

After our usual delicious refreshments, the Meeting was called to order by Mrs. Russell Boynton, Vice Pres. acting for Mrs. Lamson, our President, who was away.

The report of the Secretary and Sunshine committee were accepted, and a very nice letter from Mrs. Carrie Sweetser was read. We are all glad to know she is home again.

Mrs. Boynton appointed the following names for the Nominating committee: Mrs. Louis Judson Chairman and Mrs. Margaret Merrill and Mrs. Russell Ross. They will present the names of the new officers and committees at our annual meeting next month.

After the meeting Mrs. John Rice introduced our speaker, Mrs. Emily McConnell, who gave a very interesting book report on "North to Yesterdays"¹² by Robert Flynn.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

May 8, 1968

Twenty-eight members and two guests met for the Annual luncheon at Westcustogo Inn, where a buffet lunch was enjoyed by all.

After the lunch Mrs. Lamson called the meeting to order and heard the reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Sunshine Committee. These were accepted and placed on file.

Mrs. Luce read a letter from the Cumberland Lions Club regarding the Ernest Rand Fund. Any action was postponed to a future meeting.

A letter was read from Mrs. McConnell who entertained us in April with a book report thanking us for the tea cup.

A letter was also read regarding an Open House for old landmarks and houses in Portland and surrounding towns including Cumberland, for the benefit of the "Restoration fund for Landmarks"

Mrs. Lamson then expressed her pleasure at having the opportunity to be President during the past year, and asked for the report of the Nominating committee, Mrs. Judson, Mrs. Margaret Merrill and Mrs. Marguerite Ross, which was follows:

President: Mrs. Margaret Boynton
Vice Pres: Mrs. Clifford Sawyer
Sec'y: Mrs. Herman Sweetser
Treas.: Mrs. Royden Tripp
Sunshine Committee: Mrs. John Rice, Mrs. Fred Wiles

¹² Flynn, Robert, *North to Yesterday*, New York: Knopf, 1967. A misfit crew sets out to drive a herd of long horns North to the railroad. No matter that the cattle are wild, the trail closed, the drivers inept and the way uncertain. Each man, foolish, impassioned, blown up with dream, must seek his destiny. On the way they face adversity – stampedes, river crossings, horse thieves, dry stretches, even the responsibility of a young girl with a baby. They proceed in disgrace – herding on foot, milking cows, tolerating a female cowboy, and sometimes dying. However, the living plug onward, mesmerized by life. At Trail's End all runs to dust. The cattle market has gone bust, the boom town has turned respectable. Broke, mocked, cheated and whipped, the last two drivers start walking back to Texas and gain a glimpse that it is worth it to live as a human being.

Program committee: Miss Iris Almy, chairman, Mrs. Herbert Pressey, Mrs. Philip Chase, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson

Mrs. Lamson then turned the meeting over to the incoming President, Mrs. Russell Boynton, who presented Mrs. Lamson with a gift in appreciation of her year as President.

Mrs. Boynton, after a few words of acceptance, then asked for names of new members, and the names of : Mrs. Naomi Meadows, Willow Lane; Mrs. Clair Coleman, 3 Prince St.; Mrs. Lyonel (Dorothy) Winckler, 7 Lawn Ave – were presented and accepted for membership. There was also a suggestion from our President to appoint two new members to assist the Program Committee in finding places for the club to meet.

Mrs. Moxcey has extended an invitation to the Club to attend a picnic at her home at White's Point on September 11th. Cards are to be sent to all members, reminding them of this September meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Sawyer, Sec.

Annual report 1967/1968

The club had a very successful year. Our first meeting was a picnic at the summer home of Janet Shaw at Big Sebago with twenty-two members and guests.

Men's Night dinner October 11th was held at the South Freeport Congregational Church with fifty members and guests, followed by an organ concert by Mrs. Kenneth Orr at the home of Mrs. Schenck.

November 8th was our guest day held at the Cumberland Cong. Church for twenty-six members and guests. Our speaker was Mrs. Farley of The League of Women Voters.

The December meeting was a pleasant and happy time with our exchange of gifts, lovely Christmas decorations at the home of Mrs. Russell Boynton. Twenty-four members and guests were present. Phyllis Sweetser read an excerpt from Peter Marshall's "Let's Keep Christmas."

January was one of our bad winter days weather wise, so only sixteen members met with Marjorie Chase. A very pleasant afternoon with Mrs. Seavey discussing Art.

The February meeting brought twenty-one members to the home of Mrs. Chandler to hear Virginia Stevens, and March 13th brought more snow to cancel the meeting with Mrs. Pollock.

The April meeting had eighteen members at the home of Mrs. Hazel Reynolds with a book review by Mrs. Emily McConnell.

Our final meeting was our Annual Meeting and luncheon combined, as a buffet lunch at Westcustogo Inn. At this meeting twenty-eight members and guests were present.

The club ended the year with \$55.88 in the treasury and \$21.27 in the Sunshine Committee.

We were glad to welcome three new members to the Club and very sorry to lose one of our long time members, Mrs. Lula Burnell.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Sawyer, Sec.

September 11, 1968

On September 11, 23 brave members of We Neighbors drove to Elaine Moxcey's delightful home at White's Point on Sebago Lake at North Windham for our first meeting of the 1968-69 season. It was real hurricane weather and raining like mad but once there, we had a happy time. On arrival we were served coffee and pastries to cheer us and it was good to see each other again, after a busy summer.

Following our picnic lunch where coffee and dessert were served again by the hostesses, our President, Mrs. Russell Boynton presided over a brief business meeting. The only business transacted was a proposed change in the constitution: Article V to read "The club shall hold an afternoon meeting the second Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive" and a change in the By-Laws, Article V, Section I "No one shall be asked to join We Neighbors until she has resided in Cumberland for one year at the time of the Annual Meeting."

A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Moxcey for her very gracious hospitality. Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

October 9, 1968

Over 45 members of We Neighbors and their husbands and guests met at the Tuttle Road Methodist Church Vestry for a very delicious buffet supper at 6:30 P.M.

The speaker of the evening was introduced by Rev. Herbert Pressey. He was Commander William M. Hunter of the U. S. Navy, Senior chaplain at Brunswick Naval Air Station.¹³ He has over 6000 people under his care, some in the Brunswick area and others in other parishes at Cutler and Presque Isle. He and two other chaplains are busy with counseling and church services every day. He told of his experiences on carriers at sea. There are over 3000 men on a carrier and over 70 aircraft plus helicopters. He would frequently have Sunday services on 4 Destroyers in one day, leaving the carrier and traveling to them by helicopter. He gave a very cordial invitation to come to the Brunswick Naval Base to see him and the station. He and Mrs. Hunter seemed to enjoy the evening as much as we did.

There was no business meeting. The committee in charge had given the Club a very pleasant evening, graciously presided over by our President Mrs. Boynton.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

¹³ The Brunswick Naval Air Station was originally constructed and occupied in March 1943 and was commissioned on April 15, 1943 to train and form -up Royal Navy fleet Air Arm pilots to fly squadrons. The 1481 acre station was built on land donated by the Town of Brunswick.

November 13, 1968

Following a social hour with delicious refreshments, Mrs. Boynton called the meeting to order. She thanked the hostesses and welcomed our two new members, Mrs. Coleman and Mrs. Winckler.

The Secretary's reports for the last two meetings were read and approved. The Treasurer's report showed \$81.33 in the Treasury.

It was voted to change Art. V of the Constitution to read "from September to May inclusive" and the By Laws Art. V, Section 1 to have added "At the time of the Annual Meeting."

It was voted to give \$15.00 for 1968 to the Ernest Rand Scholarship Fund.

Mrs. Pressey suggested that our Christmas gifts for the next meeting be items to be presented to the girls at Stevens School in Hallowell.

Mrs. Tripp introduced Mrs. Dwight Brown of Cape Elizabeth who had a beautiful display of Christmas decorations and told how she had made them. There were 21 members, the speaker, and 1 guest present. Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

December 11, 1968

25 members of We Neighbors met at Prince Memorial Library for our Christmas party. Following a social hour with delicious dessert and coffee served by the hostesses, we were treated to a program of Christmas music presented by Mrs. Gladys Sherwood of Windham. She accompanied herself on auto-harp.¹⁴ Following many beautiful selections, she led us in group singing of carols.

A business meeting followed the program. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's report as Mrs. Tripp is away.

A delightful selection of gifts for the girls of Stevens School in Hallowell was brot by the members of the club, was on display. Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

January 8, 1969

At Congregational Parish House, following a pleasant social hour with dessert & coffee served by the hostesses, the meeting of We Neighbors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Boynton. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was omitted. The report of the Sunshine

¹⁴ An autoharp is a kind of zither with a mechanical device that allows the playing of a chord by damping all the other strings. It has a series of chord bars attached to dampers, which, when depressed, mute all of the strings other than those of the desired chord. Despite its name, the autoharp is not a harp, but a chorded zither. A German immigrant in Philadelphia, Charles F. Zimmerman, was awarded a patent for a design of a musical instrument that included mechanisms for muting certain strings during play. He named his invention the autoharp.

com. was given and a note of thanks from Mrs. Rand was read. Plans for the February meeting were mentioned.

The meeting was adjourned and turned over to Miss Iris Almy chairman of the Program Com. She introduced Mrs. Herman Sweetser who gave a review of the book "Flowers at the White House"¹⁵ by Ruth Montgomery. During the program Miss Almy showed colored slides of views inside and out the White House and the Capitol. A beautiful chrysanthemum plant was presented to Mrs. Sweetser. 22 members had enjoyed a pleasant afternoon.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

February 12, 1969

The meeting of the We Neighbors was cancelled due to the biggest snow storm since 1952, which occurred on Sunday. The town schools were closed Monday and Tuesday since roads and school yards were still not plowed out. This meeting was to have been at Prince Memorial Library which not yet plowed.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

March 12, 1969

Fifteen members and the speaker of the afternoon met at the home of Mrs. Leslie Shaw. Following a delicious and delightful social hour, Miss Iris Almy chairman of the Program committee introduced Miss Ward Murphy, Superintendent of the Stevens School ¹⁶ in Hallowell and Skowhegan Reformatory for Women¹⁷ who told us of her work and problems with her pupils in both schools. She was very interesting and made us feel that one should help arouse social consciousness of those conditions and situations in our state. She was presented with a beautiful plant to show our appreciation.

Following her departure, Mrs. Boynton called a business meeting to order. The Secretary's report was read and accepted, as was the Treasurer's report, showing \$48.88 in the treasury. The Secretary read a letter written by Miss Murphy in January thanking the members of We Neighbors for their Christmas

¹⁵ Montgomery, Ruth, *Flowers of the White House: An Informal tour of the home of the Presidents of the United States*, New York: William Morrow, 1967.

¹⁶ At that time, the town of Hallowell was home to the Stevens School, a historically significant campus comprised of 14 buildings on a 63.5 acre property. Formerly known as the Industrial School for Girls, the school opened in 1875. Several of its buildings reflected the Colonial Revival style of architecture. Maine Industrial School became the Stevens School in 1915 and functioned as a state facility until 1970, when it closed its doors. The goal of the school was to rescue homeless girls who, "under the genial influence of kind treatment, and physical and moral training, may be won back to ways of virtue and respectability."

¹⁷ In 1935, women sentenced to the Maine State Prison, a maximum security facility in Thomaston, were moved to the Women's Correctional Center in Skowhegan. During World War II, the Reformatory was filled to capacity. Many residents suffered from war related dislocation and disease. Many residents came from the local hospitals where pregnant unmarried women, serving time for that reason went for treatment. Many children were born while their mothers were serving in the reformatory and were put up for adoption from the Reformatory.

gifts to the girls at Stevens School. Letters of thanks for flowers and cards sent by the Sunshine Com. were read and the collection taken.

Miss Almy spoke of the Guest Day coming in April. Mrs. Boynton appointed the following committee to consider a meeting place for future meetings of the Club: Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Fred Wiles, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, and Mrs. Royden Tripp. She thanked Mrs. Shaw for her gracious hospitality, as well as the committee who helped her. Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis R. Sweetser, Sec.

April 9, 1969

Members of We Neighbors and their guests met at the home of Mrs. Pierre Dumaine. In the absence of Mrs. Dumaine, Mrs. Leslie Shaw acted as hostess. There were 40 present to enjoy a social hour with tea, coffee and various delicious sweetmeats.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Boynton who called on Miss Almy, Chairman of the Program com. to introduce the speaker of the afternoon. He was Mr. Charles P. Bradford, head of the Nature Conservancy of Maine.¹⁸ He told interestingly of having Conservations areas thru the state and showed color slides of many of the places being preserved for future generations. We were happy to have Mr. and Mrs. Bradford with us. He distributed material telling of the work done by the conservancy.

Following his departure Mrs. Boynton held a very brief business meeting. The Secretary read Article VI of the Constitution and By Laws which says "The financial year shall begin with the first meeting in September and the fee then payable from each member is "\$2.00".

Mrs. Boynton appointed a nominating com as follows: Mrs. Theron Loose, chairman, Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, and Mrs. Elbridge Rice. A collection was taken and \$10.00 presented to Mr. Bradford.g Meeting adjourned.

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec.

May 19, 1969

The We Neighbors club met at Rockcraft on Sebago Lake for their Luncheon and Annual Meeting. Twenty five members were present. A delicious and plentiful luncheon was served, in a delightful setting. Everyone took a tour of the house and the grounds.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Margaret Boynton. The Sec and Treas reports were read and approved. The Treas. read her Annual report. There is a balance in the treasury of \$48.03.

¹⁸ The mission of the Nature Conservancy of Maine is to conserve lands and waters on which all life depends. Founded in 1956, the Maine chapter is the fourth oldest in the global organization. The organization is one of the few in Maine that comprehensively addresses the conservation of the state's forest, fresh water, and marine resources. At stake are many of Maine's most remote and wild treasures – untouched lakes, uninhabited coastal islands, irreplaceable wetland forests.

Marjorie Chase, chairman of the committee to look into where the Club should hold its meetings, gave her report. The members on the committee are Aurelia Tripp, Rena Lamson, and Joyce Wiles, the committee to study the advisability of having a central meeting place. Mrs. Chase reported that the committee had met and considered, the Jeannette Farwell room at the Parish House (\$17.00), the downstairs room of the Parish House (\$15.00) and the Mabel Wilson School as a possible meeting place for the winter months. And that to hire a room would necessitate raising the dues. A general discussion followed. It was voted to hold the meetings as follows: Sept. at Elaine Maxey's, Oct. at Iris Almy's, Nov. Gentlemen's Night, Christmas meeting at the Prince Memorial Library, Jan - Feb - March in the Jeanette Farwell Room. Mrs. Chase report was accepted.

It was voted to raise the dues from \$2.00 to \$3.00 a year. This is a change in the Constitution.

Mrs. Boynton, retiring Pres. said she had enjoyed her year as Pres. Miss Almy presented her with a cute poem and a gift certificate from Skillins Greenhouse.

Name of new member presented by Helen Loose: Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn was elected to membership.

The Sunshine collection was taken. Mrs. Joyce Wiles read the Annual Report of the Sunshine Committee. Balance on hand: \$19.23.

Mrs. Helen Loose gave the report of the Nominating Committee. The committee being Elaine Rice and Rena Lamson. The report was accepted and the following are new year's officers:

President: Aurelia Tripp
Vice President: Katherine Sawyer
Secretary: Evelyn Chase
Treasurer: Lillian Hulit
Program Com: Janet Shaw, Marjorie Chase, Elaine Moxie and Grace Lincoln.
Sunshine com: Marguerite Ross and Helen Chandler
Hospitality Com: Elaine Rice and Margaret Boynton

The new Pres. - Aurelia Tripp - took the gavel and introduced the officers.

Janet Shaw circulated a paper for ideas for programs for next year.

Marguerite Ross asked if the members would please notify her when they know of anyone who should have a card.

Phyllis Sweetser suggested that the by-laws should be brought up to date and new copies made to be given to the members. It was so voted and the Sec. is to see to it.

The Pres. extended best wishes to the members for the summer. Helen Chandler was reported as being in the hospital.

Pres. thanked Abby Judson and her committee for making arrangements for the lovely meeting place and lovely luncheon. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

September 10, 1969

Picnic and First Meeting

The first meeting of the year for the We Neighbor's Club was held at the home of Mrs. Clifton Moxcey on Sebago Lake. Mrs. Lawrence Lamson & Mrs. Russell Boynton were hostesses. 25 members and one guest arrived for coffee at 10:00 A.M. Delicious coffee cakes were served. A social hour followed with everyone enjoying the lovely view and beautiful surrounding on Sebago Lake. Lunch was at noon with the members bringing their own sandwiches and cake and coffee furnished by the hostesses.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. She welcomed so many people to the meeting and thanked the committee. She introduced our new member Martha Sanborn to the club. The secretary's report was read and approved and letters from Mrs. Bonney, Mrs. Boynton, Mrs. Sanborn and Miss Almy. The treasurer's report was read and accepted. The treasurer has a bal. of \$48.03 plus dues received today. The Sunshine Committee reported a balance of \$125.64.

Helen Chandler thanked the Club for cards and flowers sent her. Mrs. Theresa Kinney was reported in the hospital. The new copies of the Constitution were distributed. The Sec. was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Kenneth Smith of the Canal Bank for printing the Constitution and Programs.

Janet Shaw program chairman and the program committee passed around the new programs and asked the members to look and see when they were on. If anyone can't serve on the day they are scheduled it is up to them to find a replacement. The first person named on the list is to be chairman.

Dues of \$3.00 each are now payable, and must be paid by Dec. or the Treasurer will send a bill.

The next meeting will be Gentlemen's Night at Westcustago Inn, Yarmouth. A paper was passed around for those who wished to sign up to go. The Inn must know 3 days in advance how many are coming. If someone signs up and does not come, the meal will have to be paid for just the same.

The Pres. asked for new business and it was suggested that the Club get a large coffee urn with Gold Bond Stamps. It was discussed and voted to buy a 50 cup coffee maker. Mrs. Reynolds was to find out about getting one at a discount. The coffee maker will be kept by each chairman of refreshments.

Someone asked if there were any more program covers? It was reported that Mrs. Sweetser has them at the Library.

A collection will be taken at the next meeting for the Blind Children's Research Center instead of exchange of gifts among ourselves. Those not attending the November meeting can contribute in December when the speaker will be from the Blind Children's Research Center.

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

October 8, 1969

Twenty members and fifteen guests of the "We Neighbors" Club met at the Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth, Me. At 6:30 P.M. for a delicious smogasbord. The dinner was presided over by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp.

She thanked the committee for making the arrangements, and introduced Marjorie Chase of the Program committee who in turn introduced the speaker, Rev. Herbert Pressey. Mr. Pressey, veteran of two World Wars and the Korean conflict, gave a very inspiring talk, including events that took place during his time as chaplain in the Army.

Respectfully Submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 12, 1969

The We Neighbors Club met at the home of Iris Almy on Main St. Twenty-seven members and one guest were present. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. The secretary's reports were read and approved. Communications were read from Mrs. Lyonel Winkler and Mrs. Wesley Kinney, stating that they would not be joining the Club this year, but they might like to at some future time. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. The balance on hand is \$122.28.

The Pres. reported that she found that a fifty cup coffee urn was too expensive, but that she had purchased a forty cup urn at Day's for \$11.03. It was voted to accept the forty cup urn.

Janet Shaw, program chairman, took up a collection for the Blind Children's Resource Center which will be given to the speaker next month. The Sunshine collection was taken and the report given. There is a balance of \$28.29.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned. The Pres. thanked the hostesses; Miss Iris Almy, Mrs. Herman Sweetser and Mrs. Clifton Chandler for the lovely refreshments. Mrs. Tripp introduced the speaker – Mrs. Ruth Brown who showed us many delightful and interesting Christmas decorations that she had made.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

December 10, 1969

Twenty members were present at the "We Neighbors" Club meeting in the Jeanette Farwell Room of the Congregational Parish House. Tea was served. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. The Sec. report was read and approved. The treas. was absent but sent her report, which was read and approved. The balance in the treasury is \$116.25. The Sunshine collection was taken and the balance on hand reported as \$36.01. It was reported that Iris Almy is in the Mercy Hospital. A card was circulated for her, which all those present signed. A card was circulated for Lena Foster and all those present signed.

Under old business Mrs. Loose asked for a replacement on her committee of hostesses as Mrs. Kinney has resigned. The Pres. said there would be a replacement.

Under new business the Pres. announced that Janet Shaw had resigned as chairman of the Program Committee and Marjorie Chase would take her place as chairman. It was asked if anyone had a suggestion for the program at the March meeting.

The Pres. thanked the hostesses – Mrs. Eileen Rice, Mrs. Ialeen Rice and Mrs. Katherine Sawyer – for delicious refreshments. The business meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Tripp introduced the speaker – Sister Miguel, Director of the Blind Children's Resource Center in Portland. Sister Miguel, showed slides and told of the work at the Center. At the end she was presented with an envelope containing \$32.00 as a gift from the members of We Neighbors Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 14, 1970

We Neighbors' Club meeting was held in the Jeannette Farwell Room of the Parish House with nineteen members and one guest present. Tea was served. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. The secretary's report read and approved after one correction that the speaker was introduced by Mrs. Lincoln and not the pres. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted and filed. There is a bal. on hand of \$109.25. The Sunshine com. report was read and a balance on hand of \$19.02 reported.

Thank you notes were received from K. Bonney, Jennie Burnell and Caroline Rand for the Christmas gifts sent them. Thank you's were read from Iris Almy and Lena Foster for flowers and from Sister Miguel of the Blind Children's Resource Center for the \$32.00 we gave. A card was circulated for Lena Foster and all those present signed.

Under old business Marjorie Chase, chairman of the Program Com. said there would be a change in the program. Mrs. Foster will give her program in March instead of Feb. And at the next meeting the speaker will be Baneju on India.

The Pres. thanked those on the hostess com. with her – Marjorie Chase and Blanche Keating. The business meeting was adjourned.

Mrs. Chase introduced the speaker of the day Mrs. Grace Lincoln who showed slides and told of her trip to Ireland,

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

February 11, 1970

The We Neighbors Club met in the Jeanette Farwell room of the Congregational Church Parish House. Tea was served. In the absence of the Pres. the V. Pres. K. Sawyer presided. There was one guest present – Miss Margaret Wyman. The Sec. report was read and accepted. The treas. report was read and accepted, with a balance on hand of \$98.57. The Sunshine com. report was read and the collection taken. A bal of \$24.87 was reported.

Lena Foster thanked the Club for the attention shown her while she was in with a broken ankle. As there was no new business the meeting was turned over to the program committee. Marjorie Chase announced that Mrs. Baneyu could not speak to the Club today, but hoped to be here for the next meeting.

The V. Pres. Thanked the hostesses – Mrs. Hilda Edwards, Mrs. Alma Pressey and Mrs. Lillian Huylit for the delicious refreshments. The business meeting was adjourned and Mrs. Chase introduced Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr. who presented a program on “The History of We Neighbors Club.”

The Club was organized in 1894. The name was selected from many presented. It was presented by Cora Adams. Mrs. Davis, a minister’s wife founded the Club and was the first Pres. There were 9-10 people to the first meeting. Among the Charter members were Harriet Merrill, Evelyn Sweetser, Evelina Dunn, and Laura Wyman. They studied reading and parliamentary law. Mrs. Davis moved away and the club went down, but was reorganized again when she moved back to town. In 1903 they voted to have 25 cent dues. They met from the 1st of Oct. to the 1st of May, 3 times a month.

March 8, 1905 was 1st Gentlemen’s Night and became a very special occasion at which the members presented charades, songs, and plays. There were 18 members until in 1915 they decided to increase their membership and ask daughters and daughters-in-law to join. At one time Elizabeth Blanchard, grandmother, Geneva Chase, mother, and Helen Bragg all belonged to the Club.

The Club colors are Red, White, and Blue chosen in 1911.

They had a domestic science day to which each brought a favorite recipe and our present luncheon is an outgrowth of that.

Honorary members were honored with a birthday cake.

The Constitution and By laws were adopted in 1909.

In 1942 was the first Gentlemen’s Night that the ladies did not prepare the meal themselves.

First covers for programs were made by hand. 1923 Ernest Rand made covers and each one was different. 1938 Lillian Hanson Hulit designed our present cover and made each one by hand. The Cover represents what the club stands for Art – Music- Literature & Science. A die was made of the design and it is kept in the Library.

1940 the flower collection was started and it was 1 cent, and dues went up to 50 cents.

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1949 there were 29 members.

Some outstanding programs were Book Reviews, Travel talk, slides and Living Portraits.

The first guest day was in 1912.

The club ode was written by Mrs. Mary Chase to the tune of “America the Beautiful” and adopted in 1942:

Hail to the Club of We Neighbors
Enduring through the years
Carried on by our faithful labor
Always with hope, no fears.
We Neighbors Club, We Neighbors Club
Long may we work for thee
With pride and love our aim inspire
Forever and for aye

At a Gentlemen's Nite on Mar 23, 1911, the following toast was made by Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sweetser:

What does our Club mean to us?
It means knowledge of the past,
Usefulness in the present,
And the brightest hope for the future.
Here's to the health of it,
Here's to the wealth of it,
Here's to the long life of it – We Neighbors!

This toast has been used many times since at Gentlemen's nights.

In 1909 and 1934 the National Federation of Women's clubs tried to get We Neighbors Club to Federate but we have always turned it down to remain a small, neighborly group with our own programs.

March 11, 1970

The We Neighbors club met in the Jeanette Farwell room, the Congo. Church Parish House with seventeen members and one guest present.

Pres. Aurelia Tripp presided. The Sec. report was read and accepted with the addition to the History of the Club that in the beginning the Club met three times a month.

The Treas. Report was read and accepted with a bal. on hand \$87.89. The Sunshine Com. reported a balance of \$30.93 on hand. Margaret Merrill reported that she had called Abbie Judson in Florida. Mr. Judson is in the hospital and has improved slightly and may be moved to a Nursing Home. It was suggested that the Club send cards. It was reported that Elaine Moxcey is going to the Osteopathic Hospital tomorrow.

The Pres. thanked the hostesses Mrs. Helen Loose, Mrs. Margaret Merrill and Mrs. John Brown.

The Pres. appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Com – Phyllis Sweetser, chair, Marjorie Chase, and Lena Foster.

The next meeting will be guest day at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland.

The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Chase of the program com, who introduced Mrs. Baneyu who spoke on how the women dress in India and showed us many saris¹⁹ and ways of wearing them.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

¹⁹ **A sari** is a South Asian female garment that consists of a drape varying from 5-9 yards in length and 2 to 4 feet in breadth. Typically it is wrapped around the waist with one end draped over the shoulder, baring the midriff. In the history of Indian clothing, the sari is traced back to the Indus Valley Civilization which flourished 2800-1800 B.C.E.

April 8, 1970

Guest Day of the We Neighbors Club was held at the Trinity Episcopal Church 113 Coyle St. Portland with 31 members and guests present. Tea was served by the ladies of the Church under direction of our hostesses.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. She thanked the hostesses for making the arrangements for the day. She welcomed the members and guests, and introduced the guests.

The Sec. report was read and accepted. In the absence of the treas. her report was read by the Sec., accepted and placed on file with a bal. on hand of \$77.91. It was reported that Mrs. Yeomans is in the hospital, and Abbie Judson is home from Fla. A card was circulated for each and signed by all the members present.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting and luncheon at Rockcraft Lodge, Sebago. The Pres. announced that as some of the members on the com. couldn't serve, she had put herself and Martha Sanborn on the com. Three members were voted on and it was decided to have chicken pie. A paper was circulated for all those who plan to attend to sign. The Com. will contact only those not present. The meal has to be paid for if one signs up and doesn't show up. The luncheon is at 12:00 noon. We will all plan to meet at the Congo Church at 11:00 A.M.

The Pres. turned the meeting over to Mrs. Grace Lincoln of the program Com. who introduced the speaker, Miss Fran Hapgood,²⁰ of "The Clearing House" of the Portland Press Herald, who presented an interesting talk on being a volunteer, Christmas Caravan, and things related to her newspaper column.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

Annual Report 1969-1970 We Neighbor's Club

The We Neighbors club started the year Sept. 10, 1969 with a picnic at Mrs. Clifton Maxcey's home on Sebago Lake. We welcomed one new member, Mrs. Martha Sanborn. The officers are as follows: Pres. Aurelia Tripp, V. Pres. Katherine Sawyer, Sec. Evelyn Chase, Treas. Lillian Hult. Program com: Janet Shaw, chair Marjorie Chase, Elaine Moxcey and Grace Lincoln. Hospitality Com: Alaine Rice and Margaret Boynton. Sunshine Com. Marguerite Ross and Helen Chandler. The program for the year and copies of the revised by laws, printed by the Canal Bank were given to each member.

²⁰ Fran Hapgood wrote the popular "Clearing House" column in the *Portland Press Herald* and the *Maine Sunday Telegram* for 32 years. Her goal was to use the daily column to help people help one another with big and small problems of daily life. Initiated in 1952, the column initially became a forum for exchanging housekeeping ideas, but soon it evolved into a powerful tool for helping those in need. Hapgood's tall eccentric hats made her easy to spot among the thousands of people who gathered at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick for the newspaper's annual Clearing House picnic. In 1957, Hapgood used the column to launch Christmas Caravan. The goal of this program was to provide clothing or toys to children who might not otherwise receive gifts. Readers responded to the annual appeal by contributing countless handmade items. Also, her column also created a group called Friendship Club, composed of people who wrote to the column and wanted to meet each other.

The Oct. meeting was Gentlemen's Nite held at Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth with 35 members and guests present.

Nine meetings were held in all, with four of them in the Jeanette Farwell room of the Congo Church Parish House. We had an average attendance of 22. Janet Shaw resigned as chairman of the program com. and Marjorie Chase took her place.

The program consisted of four outside speakers who spoke on Christmas decorations, Blind Children's Resource Center, clothes of India and the Clearing House. Two programs by our own members' slides of Europe and History of We Neighbors. Rev. Herbert Pressey was the speaker for Gentlemen's Nite. Annual meeting and luncheon held at Rockcraft, Sebago Lake.

We started the year with a bal in the treas, of \$48.03 and ended with \$58.16. The Sunshine Com. started with \$25.64 and ended with 26. 66.

We have 33 regular members and 3 honorary members.

We purchased a 40 cup coffee urn. We gave money to Blind children's Research Center at Christmas instead of exchanging gifts among ourselves. Remembrances were sent to the honorary members. Many thanks should go to the hostesses, the program com. and special thanks to the Pres. for making this a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

May 13, 1970

Twenty six members of We Neighbors club met at Rockcraft Lodge – Sebago Lake for a delicious chicken pie luncheon and the annual meeting.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Aurelia Tripp. The Sec. report was read and accept and the Secretary's Annual report was read and accepted. The treas. report was read and accepted and her annual report was read and accepted with a balance on hand of \$58.16 which is \$10.00 more than we started with in the fall. There are 35 paid members. The Sunshine Com. gave their report and annual report with a balance on hand of \$26.06. A note was read from Abbie Judson thanking us for cards sent to her while in Fla.

Phyllis Sweetser chairman of the Nominating com. gave her report and following officers were elected:

President: Mrs. Kenneth Chase

Vice President: Mrs. Philip Chase

Secretary: Miss Iris Almy

Treasurer: Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Program Committee: Mrs. Herbert Foster Sr. chair

Mrs. Royden Tripp

Mrs. Clyde Reynolds

Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn

Mrs. Russell Ross

Sunshine committee: Mrs. Lawrence Lamson, Mrs. Paul Brown

Mrs. Tripp thanked the Club for the opportunity of being Pres. and turned the Meeting over to the incoming Pres. Mrs. Chase. Mrs. Moxcey presented the outgoing Pres. Mrs. Tripp with a gift certificate from Skillin Greenhouse.

Mrs. Tripp thanked the club for the gift. Mrs. Chase said she would not thank the Club for electing her Pres. because she was on the Nominating Com. and they all took a job to do. She said that with the help of all concerned she hoped they would all have a good time together.

A note was read from Anita Young thanking the Club for attention shown her neighbor Mrs. Viola Yeomans who is still in the hospital.

Under new business the pres. asked if the group were all in favor of holding meetings in the Janet Farwell Room during the winter again this year. All were in favor of holding the meetings there. Janet Shaw offered her cottage on Sebago Lake for the September meeting and picnic. If when the time comes Mrs. Shaw can't have it, Elaine Moxcey will or she will have some other meeting.

Gentlemen's Night was discussed and it was voted to leave the plans up to the program Com. Lena Foster chairman of program com. Said any member could bring a friend to gentlemen's nite if she wanted to. She asked the member on the program com. to stand. There is no separate Com for hostesses this year, but the program com. will make all the plans. They asked for suggestion from the group, someone suggested a music program would be good. Guest Day was mentioned and it was decided it was a good idea to keep it in the spring.

The following names were presented for membership: Miss Grace Trappan presented by Phyllis Sweetser and Miss Margaret Wyman presented by Iris Almy. They were voted into membership. Helen Bernard's name was mentioned, but she has already been asked to join and may join at any time.

After some discussion about members who had dropped out rejoining, the pres. suggested that if any member knew of a former member who would like to rejoin that the member approach them and let the Sec. know.

The Sunshine collection was taken. It was voted to consider having Gentlemen's Nite on a Sat. nite at Rockcraft.

Phyllis Sweetser announced that there would be a coffee at her house Wed. May 27th from 11:00 to 1:00 to benefit SAD 51 Library Fund.

The Pres. said this would be the last meeting of the year, she wished everyone a pleasant summer and said she hoped to see them all at the picnic meeting at Janet Shaw's cottage at the lake. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

In memory of

Viola Yeomans

September 8, 1970

1970-1971

September 9, 1970

The first meeting of 1970-71 was a picnic meeting at the delightful Sebago Point home Janet Shaw, Sept. 9, 1970. Excellent coffee and doughnuts greeted the members upon arrival served by the hostesses. The day was cool and damp and we stayed inside chatting until time for luncheon. Wonderful cakes and coffee completed the sandwich - from home - meal. Mrs. Kenneth Chase, president, then called the business meeting to order after the dishes were washed.

The secretary's monthly and annual reports were read and accepted. The secretary was instructed to set aside a memorial page for Mrs. Viola Yeomans who had died the day before the meeting. Memorial flowers were to be purchased and placed on the Congregational Church altar the Sunday afterward, then to be taken to Mrs. Yeoman's daughter, Mrs. Anita Young.

The secretary was also instructed to thank Mr. Kenneth Smith of the Canal Bank sales department for the year's programs. The letter thanking him was sent Sept. 10, 1970.

The treasurer's report was read by Mrs. Halvor Merrill: in the bank \$42.60, cash fund \$15.56. Sunshine fund report read by Mrs. Joy Brown for Mrs. Lamson: balance \$28.62. The Sunshine committee was instructed to write to Mrs. Young expressing sympathy for the death of Mrs. Yeomans.

Mrs. Chase then turned the meeting over to the program committee chairman, Mrs. Lena Foster, who outlined and developed the programs planned for this year. Mrs. Foster complimented her committee for their helpfulness and ability. The series sounds interesting, worthwhile and delightful.

Mrs. Chase thanked Mrs. Shaw for having us and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Iris Almy, Sec.

October 14, 1970

The second meeting of the year was held Oct. 14, 1970. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. Mrs. Chase called a short business meeting with the Secretary's report. Treasurer's report - new balance 116.43 and incl. 57.00 dues.

Letter from Helene Thompson saying she cannot belong now, but hopes to later when perhaps she will be staying here in the winter.

Discussion of menu for gentlemen's night November 11. To be held at Cumberland Center Congregational Church, the Church ladies to serve Roast beef at \$2.50 each was chosen

Program for the day was a very fine book review and resume by Phyllis Sweetser of the book "Child of [from]the Sea"²¹ by Elizabeth Goudge. An imaginative historically based novel of the time of England's King Charles I. Mrs. Sweetser developed the story and excerpted the very long novel very well indeed. A floral arrangement was given to her. Meeting adjourned.

43 people present.

There was no business meeting at the gentlemen's night gathering. A bounteous and delicious pot roast of beef dinner with many vegetables and salads was served. Mrs. Chase welcomed the group very briefly and Mr. Arlyn E. Barnard, executive director of Maine Automobile Association, showed his Hong Kong pictures which were very interesting and beautiful. He refused our offered honorarium and the secretary wrote him to say the money would be put into our Christmas fund for a boys' home in Maine.

Very respectfully submitted,

Iris E. Almy, Sec.

December 9, 1970

Mrs. Chase called the business meeting to order after delicious coffee and sweets were served by the hostesses. Fifteen were present. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Balance in the treasury \$104.87. A sum of ten dollars was appropriated to the Rescue Vehicle fund and a collection was taken for the Peterson's New Life Centers with the ten dollars added that Mr. Barnard would not accept for his talk in November. The Sunshine committee were to make special remembrances for Christmas gifts to honorary members. Adjourned.

The program chairman then introduced Mrs. Mary Lou Smith of Cumberland Foreside who demonstrated making decorations arrangements using natural materials. They were very beautiful and she made the craft sound possible for anyone. Mrs. Smith advocates simplicity and feels that people are too apt to overdo things. She has a warm and pleasing personality, has a nice creative sense and is very attractive herself.

The meeting was adjourned with good wishes on all sides for the holidays.

Respectfully,

Iris Almy, Sec.

²¹ Goudge, Elizabeth, *Child from the Sea*, New York: Coward-McCann, 1970. Goudge's novel is a romanticized version of the life of Lucy Walter, long-time mistress to Charles Stuart, before he ascended the Throne of England. Raised at Roche Castle in Pembrokeshire Wales, Lucy is a bit of a tomboy who loves the sea, but her parents become estranged and she must leave her beloved home and start a new life with her mother in London. As a child, Lucy meets Charles by chance and a friendship is born. When they meet again at 16, love blossoms and they marry in secret. After only a couple days of bliss at Roche castle, Charles must return to his family and the struggles with the Parliamentarians. Eventually, Charles must flee to Europe and heartsick Lucy follows him, although Charles now is a poor refugee living on the charity of his royal relatives. Lucy can only be acknowledged as his mistress, not his wife. In his new role as King of England, Charles soon finds Lucy entirely inappropriate as his wife and discovers he needs a wealthy heiress to fund his efforts to oust Cromwell. Unknown forces conspire to discredit Lucy and take her child. This is a tale about the consequences of youthful indiscretion.

January 13, 1971

Mrs. Chase called the meeting to order after excellent cake and coffee. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. \$94.87 balance in treasury, \$6.00 dues were paid. Sunshine committee balance 34.64. 6.35 from the collection made. A letter was read from Mrs. Jennie Burnell thanking for the Christmas book. The Christmas project for Mr. Peterson for New Life Center was mentioned, amounting to 21 and 10 from Arlyn Barnard. 22-23 members were present.

The program chairman, Mrs. Foster, then introduced Mr. and Mrs. Reinsborough from North Yarmouth academy. They had been members in the Peace Corps in Tanzania working in soil conservation and experimenting with the best sort of cotton to be grown there. Mrs. Reinsborough comes from County Antrim near Belfast in Ireland. Their slides are very beautiful and very good and they have attempted to bring together a good description of the country, dwellings as well as countryside and flowers, insects, birds and animals. Thrilling color everywhere. He spoke of the rainy seasons and the dead dry season and showed pictures also of the native tribes and their unusual customs and traditional clothing and behavior. Visiting the natural preserves allowed him to get pictures of the African animals which, were remarkable indeed. A climb up Kilimanjaro was also included for an added thrill. A very instructive and delightful lecture from two very pleasant young people.

Respectfully,

Iris Almy, Sec.

February 10, 1971

Mrs. Chase, president, called the business meeting to order. Seventeen were present. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted. Bank balance \$83.57. Sunshine committee has a balance of 35.65. The Committee was instructed to arrange to send Valentine flowers to compliment three honorary members: Mrs. Judson, Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Sweetser. The Club voted to buy space on the Women's Fire Auxiliary club birthday calendar. It was voted to devote whatever proceeds we realized on the penny auction to the Fund for Mr. Peterson's New Life Centers project. Six dollars was realized to add to the sum already collected.

The meeting was adjourned and we then had a high old time at the auction. A great spirit of rivalry for the very interesting items made itself felt. We were in fine trim for the fun, fortified by delicious coffee and sweets served before the meeting.

Respectfully,

Iris Almy, Sec.

March 1971

Twenty members and five guests met at the Jeannette Farwell room in the Congregational Church Parish house for "We Neighbors" club guest day. A social time was held and dessert and coffee were enjoyed. Mrs. Chase then called the business meeting to order but no business was transacted. She paid tribute to our long time member, Mrs. Ernest Burnell who died March 8. Mrs. Tripp spoke of the April meeting to be held at "The Hitching Post" (pottery) in Gorham and offered transportation to those needing it.

Mrs. Russell Ross introduced the speaker, Mr. Robert Peterson of Limerick, director of New Life Centers, Inc., with two homes for boys: Boys' Port in Limerick, and 2nd Boys' Haven in North Parsonfield's charitable institution for the rehabilitation of problem homeless boys, who no longer have any connection with their parents and are in the custody of the Health and Welfare Department of the State. These are neglected, rejected children who pose enormous problems. Mr. Peterson spoke most interestingly of his work, and showed pictures of the boys at work and play in the very pleasant home-like surroundings of New Life Centers. A gift was presented to Mr. Peterson for his work of money collected as our Christmas project, plus the honorarium Mr. Barnard would not accept plus the proceeds (6.00) from the penny auction held in February, a total of \$40.00. There are now 9 boys at Boys' Port and 10 at Boys' Haven. They usually stay about 4 years and their ages run from 10-14 years of age and are then placed in foster homes with 90% successful rehabilitation records. Mr. Peterson is an attractive young man, fine speaker and is dedicated to his work. We were delighted to help in his work even a little.

Respectfully,

Phyllis Sweetser, Sec. pro tem

April 14, 1971

"We Neighbors" journeyed to Gorham to "The Hitching Post" a pottery making firm and salesroom run by a couple, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno. There were 21 present. Sweets and coffee were served by the hostesses and a short business meeting was held. Secretary's report was read and accepted. No treasurer's report because Mrs. Merrill was not there. Sunshine committee balance was 25.22. Announcement of the annual meeting to be held at Rockcraft on May 12 was made. Chicken pie was once again the choice, the price 3.00. Mrs. Chase appointed the nominating committee, Mrs. Phyllis Blanchard, Mrs. Lillian Hulit, Mrs. Blanche Keating for officers for next year, and the meeting was adjourned.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruno, owners of the pottery house then showed us their work. We went to the basement where the liquid pottery is poured into molds and left to harden – then removed and smoothed. Then we were shown the various kinds of paint, slips, and design arrangements, and the kilns in which the items are baked at a fiercely high temperature and then cooled slowly. Mr. Bruno says that they must be very successful as they now have been able to achieve a debt of \$200,000 in 4 years as investment. Many bought items from the salesroom and the genial Brunos were enjoyed by all.

May 12, 1971

After a delicious chicken pie (3.00 ea.) luncheon at Rockcraft, Mrs. Chase called the annual meeting to order. The secretary's report of the April meeting was read and accepted and then the annual report was read. The treasurer reported a balance of 62.81; dues collected 96.00. The Sunshine Committee reported a balance of 29.82, listing disbursements totaling 36.25 for the year.

A letter was read from Mr. Peterson the March speaker to whom the Club gave 40.00, our Christmas donation plus the penny auction fund, for the New Life Centers.

The nominating committee reported the following names for 1971-1972: Mrs. Philip Chase, President; Miss Margaret Wyman, Vice president; Mrs. Halvor Merrill, Secretary; Mrs. Theron Loose, Treasurer; Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn, Program Committee Chairman. These were elected. New members elected were Mrs. Frances Newell, Woodside Drive and Mrs. Richard Merrill of Main Street.

Discussion on types of programs, the next Christmas donation, the time of year for Gentlemen's night followed. Some discussion also concerning the sort of thing we would support. The only real conclusion reached was that we would like to go to Homewood for the 1972 annual meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Almy, Sec.

Sunshine Committee 1971-1972:
Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Clifford Sawyer
Program: Mrs. Sanborn, Chairman, Mrs. Lincoln, Mrs. Moxcey, Mrs. Pressey

1970-1971 Annual Report

Nine meetings have been held this year, with attendance averaging 24.

September, the delightful picnic at the home of Mrs. Leslie Shaw at Sebago Point.

October, scheduled for Mrs. Moxcey's Sebago home, but because she was ill, was held at the church. Mrs. Herman Sweetser gave a fine resume of "Child of the sea" by Elizabeth Goudge.

November, Gentlemen's night, with the dinner prepared and served in the church by a church women's circle. Mr. Arlyn Barnard showed slides and described his experiences in several visits to Hong Kong.

December. Mrs. Granville Smith demonstrated delightfully the way she makes fascinating holiday decorative pieces for the home.

January. Mr. and Mrs. John Reinsborough, a splendid young couple, showed slides of the work of the U.S. Ecological mission in Africa with which he worked, and some of Mrs. Reinsborough's elementary school there. They met there and married. He is now teaching in North Yarmouth Academy.

February. A penny auction was held for fun and games, and we netted 6.00 for the fund for Mr. Peterson's New Life Centers.

March. Mr. Peterson of New Life Centers spoke about the rehabilitation project for homeless, maladjusted boys. He is a dedicated man, and a fine speaker.

April. A visit to the Hitching Post pottery at Gorham, where the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bruno, made us very welcome and painstakingly demonstrated and described their work.

May. The annual meeting at Rockcraft where the atmosphere is always friendly, the gardens beautiful, and the food so very, very good.

We have had excellent and interesting programs for a very successful year, from the Committee with Mrs. Lena Foster as chairman. Mrs. Chase expressed anxiety when she took over as President last year, but she need not have felt so – she has been a gracious president and nice to work for.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie Farwell Burnell

1883 – 1971

Charter member

And

Honorary member

Of

We Neighbors Club

In Memory of

Helene Thompson

May 20, 1971

In Memory of

Marguerite Ross

August 19, 1971

1971-1972

September 8, 1971

Eighteen We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Clifton Moxcey on the above date. The business meeting was called to order by our President Mrs. Philip Chase. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted.

Thank you notes from Russell Ross, Alvah Thompson, Abbie Judson, Phyllis Blanchard, Helen Loose and Janet Shaw were read.

A letter from Mrs. Richard Merrill was read declining our invitation to We Neighbors at this time due to other commitments.

We were informed the rent for the Jeanette Farwell room would be more this year. It would be ten dollars for the room and three dollars for the janitor service. This would be an increase of six dollars but we decided that we couldn't get any other room cheaper or in the more convenient location for the winter months.

Martha Sanborn passed out the programs and went over them with us. The money collected at our Christmas meeting will go to the Bruce Roberts fund.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemen's night and the Ladies Circle will put on a ham dinner at \$2.50 a person and the program will be Sound of Color by Mr. Carl Langhrige.

It was moved and seconded that we express our appreciation to the program committee for a job well done.

Our President thanked the hostesses for the splendid refreshments provided.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

October 13, 1971

Gentlemen's night was held at the Cumberland Parish House on October 13, 1971 with thirty six present. A social hour was enjoyed by those attending. A delicious ham dinner was served by the Ladies Circle. Our President Mrs. Philip Chase greeted the gentlemen. The meeting was then turned over to the program Chairman, Mrs. Kenneth T. Sanborn and she introduced the speaker Mr. Carl Langhrige who had a delightful program called the Sound of color. He informed the Club that he is now working on a new program which he will call the Four Seasons.

Our meeting will be held in the Jeanette Farwell room and it will be the auction. Mr. Brown was unable to be with us for the meeting but will speak to us at our February meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 10, 1971

Eighteen We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell Room on the above date. The meeting was called to order by our President Mrs. Philip Chase. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Report of the Sunshine Committee was read. Our President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments served. As there was no other business the business meeting adjourned. The meeting was turned over to Mrs. Kenneth Chase who guided us in a hilarious penny auction. We weren't always sure who had the last bid but we did have lots of fun.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret E. Merrill

December 8, 1971

Twenty seven We Neighbors met at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase for our Christmas party. The meeting was called to order by our President Mrs. Philip Chase. Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. It was reported that our penny auction in November netted ten dollars and twenty cents.

Thank you notes from Lillian Hult and Lillian Pollock were read. It was moved and seconded that we leave it up to the Sunshine Committee to pick out an appropriate gift to be sent to honorary members. Sunshine offering was taken and also the offering for the Bruce Roberts fund.

Mrs. Chase thanked the hostesses for the splendid refreshments provided. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the President turned the meeting over to Mrs. Lincoln who elegantly introduced Mrs. Babs Murdock who presented an organ concert.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 12, 1972

We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date with sixteen members present. The President called the meeting to order. The Secretary and treasurer 's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that twenty dollars was sent to the Bruce Roberts Fund. Mrs. Chase thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments provided. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Mrs. Lincoln introduced Mrs. David G. Stanley who talked on Restoration of old homes. She showed movies of the Old Leighton Tavern being moved from West Cumberland to its present location at Schooner Rocks, Cumberland Foreside.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 9, 1972

Fourteen We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell Room on the above date. Mrs. Philip Chase our president called the meeting to order and the secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Thank you notes from Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn and the Bruce Roberts Fund were read.

It was moved and seconded that we spend \$2.25 to have the dates of our meeting put on the Community Calendar sponsored by the Ladies Auxillary of the Fire Department.

The President announced that Mrs. Robert Sterns would speak at our next meeting on antiques. She urged that each bring one or more guests so that guest day would well attended.

Mrs. Kenneth Chase announced that Mrs. Luther Bonney an honorary member would be celebrating her 90th birthday on April 8 and she suggested we send her a shower of cards from the Club.

The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The Program Chairman introduced the speaker Mr. George W. Brown who is the founder of Donor Call. There are two ways in which a family can enroll in Donor program. First one member in your family can give one pint of blood per year or if you are unable to be a blood donor, you give \$10 a year in lieu of the blood donation to protect your family. Donor prevents your frantic search for blood donors when you or a member of your family suddenly needs a transfusion. If your family gives more than one pint of blood in a given year this entitles you to free paid membership years when you can no longer be a blood donor. Looks like an excellent program for any family to be a part off.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 8, 1972

Eighteen members and eleven guests met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date. Mrs. Philip Chase our President called the meeting to order. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that we send Mrs. Luther Bonney a plant on her ninetieth birthday which is April 8.

Mrs. Carrie Sweetser will celebrate her 91 birthday on April 30th.

Under new business a letter from the Kennebec Girl Scout Council Campership fund was read, asking our organization for money to send some needy child to camp. It was suggested that we consider this as our Christmas project this coming fall.

The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments served.

Business meeting adjourned and Mrs. Sanborn introduce our speaker Mrs. Robert Stevens who gave us an interesting talk on antiques.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

April 12, 1972

Twenty members and one honorary member met in the Jeanette Farwell Room on the above date. Mrs. Philip Chase called the meeting to order. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted.

Treasurer reported we have \$61.43 in our treasury. Sunshine committee reported on the card and flowers sent to members. We have \$33.40 in the Sunshine fund. Mrs. Chase welcomed our honorary member Mrs. Luther Bonney. Mrs. Bonney said she was powerful glad to see all those she knew.

A thank you note was read from Kay Sawyer.

Mrs. Chase thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments served.

Under Unfinished business, Mrs. Chase appointed the nominating Committee:

Mrs. Royden Tripp, Chairman, Mrs. Herman Sweetser, Miss Iris Almy

Under new business, we discussed at length about raising the dues next year to cover the increase in cost of the room and programs. It will be voted at our next meeting to increase the dues one dollar. Several members will look into other places where we might hold our meetings and report at the next meeting.

Voted to send Carrie Sweetser Jonquils on her 91 birthday.

Miss Grace Trappan reported on the luncheon at Homewood Inn on May 10. The cost will be \$3.60 for a buffet type luncheon. Business meeting adjourned and Mrs. Lincoln introduce our speaker Mrs. Herman Sweetser. Everyone enjoyed the lovely book review of *One Crow, Two Crow*, by Virginia Chase.²²

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

Annual Report 1971-1972 We Neighbors Club

Nine meetings were held this year with average attendance of 18.

We Neighbors started the year on September 8, 1971 with a delightful picnic at the home of Mrs. Clifton Moxcey on Sebago Lake.

October 13, 1971 was Gentlemen's night held in the Congregational Parish House with thirty six present. The program was sound of color by Carl Langhridge.

²²Chase, Virginia, *One Crow, Two Crow*. New York: Vanguard, 1971. One crow sorrow, two crow joy is a childish country game often played in rural Maine during the depression years. Until you grow up to find it, life may be all sorrow for someone like sixteen old Laura Leighton who, against the advice of her older sisters, marries Joel right out of high school. (The sisters were orphaned early.) Joel is difficult, undemonstrative, in fact plain disagreeable. It is only Laura and Joel's child Jesse that makes their quiet, despondent lives bearable. After Joel loses his job, he just hangs around the house. Eventually he commits suicide. Jesse, like his father, seems to be taking the wrong paths in life. Laura is forced to take work in a sardine factory before there's some hope of a blueberry field or two of her own. The task is one of sustaining hope something better much farther away, even as the crow flies, will appear, although presently it is unseen. Virginia Chase (1910-1987), educator and novelist, was born in Blue Hill, Maine and was the younger sister of Mary Ellen Chase.

November we had the penny auction.

December was a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Philip Chase and Babs Murdock presented an organ concert.

In January Mrs. David G. Stanley showed movies on moving the Old Leighton Tavern from West Cumberland to Schooner Rocks.

February our speaker was the founder of Donor call.

In March Mrs. Robert Stearns talked on antiques and she brought some from her shop to show us.

April we were honored by the presence of our oldest honorary members Mrs. Luther Bonney. Mrs. Herman Sweetser reviewed the book One Crow, Two Crow.

The Annual meeting will be held at Homewood Inn

We were saddened by the death of two of our members this past year, Helene Thompson and Marguerite Ross.

Many thanks should go to our program committee for an excellent program and a special thanks to our President for making this a very pleasant year.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

May 10, 1972

The annual meeting was held at Homewood Inn on the above date with twenty one present. The President thanked everyone for coming. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The Sunshine Committee reported on cards and flowers sent. The sunshine collection was taken. A thank you note was read from Millie Knight.

The president then asked for the annual reports. This year with the balance from the previous year and due collected and interest on bank account we took in 174.93 and spent for rent, speakers, gifts etc. 137.75 leaving a balance at the end of the year \$37.93 in the treasurers account.

The sunshine Committee ended the year with \$36.37.

Voted to authorize the treasurer to purchase a new record book.

Under unfinished business we had a motion made to increase the dues one dollar for the coming year: (\$4.00)

We discussed meeting places for next year and Mrs. Reynolds reported that we could use the North Yarmouth Fire House room for nothing. It was suggested we try a few meetings this coming year to see if we would like it. We would leave it to the discretion of the program committee.

Under new business a slate of officers were presented by the nominating Committee for 1972-1973

President: Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn, Vice Pres. Mrs. Halvor S. Merrill, Secretary: Mrs. Richard Blanchard, Treasurer: Mrs. Paul Brown

Program: Mrs. Philip Chase Chairman, Miss Margaret Wyman, Miss Grace Trappan, Mrs. Herbert Foster, Mrs. Elbridge Rice.

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Norman Hulit, Mrs. Russell Boynton

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers as presented.

The President thanked the Club and the officers for a most pleasant year. She turned the gavel over to our new President Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn. Mrs. Sanborn presented the out going President with a gift certificate. Mrs. Sanborn suggested that we might do more of our own programs this year. She said the program committee would welcome any suggestions we might have.

The following names were presented for membership and as noted:

1. Mrs. Wesley J. Burton, 328 Greely Rd.
2. Mrs. Rodney MacGregor, 7 Woodside Dr.
3. Mrs. Louis M. Wright, Pinewood Dr.
4. Mrs. George H. Temple, 7 Blanchard Rd.
5. Mrs. John Hancock, Main Street

Our next meeting is September 13 at Mrs. Leslie Shaw's home on Sebago lake.

As there was no other business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret E. Merrill

1972-1973

September 13, 1972

Twenty two We Neighbors spent a delightful day at Janet Shaws cottage on Sebago Lake.

Our President Mrs. Sanborn welcome new members and former members which have rejoined our group.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Sunshine reported that we have \$41.71 in the treasury. A thank you note was read from Mrs. Judson.

Under unfinished business it was suggested that the hostess of the next meeting take the coffee urn rather than the President taking it home each time.

It was moved and seconded that our Christmas gift be sent to the New Life Center.

Under new business the programs were passed out.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemen's night at the Parish House and the Circle will serve a turkey dinner.

It was suggested that if anyone couldn't serve as hostess the month her name appeared on the program that she would be responsible to change with someone.

Our President thanked Janet for opening her home to the club and she also thanked those who served with her on providing the delicious refreshments. As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, sec. pro tem

October 11, 1972

The October meeting of We Neighbors Club was held at the Cumberland Congregational Parish house on Oct. 11 with 36 members and guests present, at the Annual Gentlemen's night meeting. The President greeted the guests and thanked the committee for the beautiful table decorations.

A delicious turkey dinner was served by the Women's Fellowship of the Congregational Church.

After dinner we were entertained by the "Moonlighters" a men's quartet which members and guests found very entertaining.

No business meeting was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

November 8, 1972

On the above date 18 members of the We Neighbors met at the church and drove into Portland to the Artisan Shop where we were guests of Mrs. Weickert.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses after which a short business meeting was held. The treasurer reported a balance on hand of 102.93 and 46.69 from the Sunshine Committee.

A collection was taken for Mr. Peterson's New Life Center this being our Christmas Charity project.

After the meeting we were entertained by Mrs. Weickert who showed us materials available for Christmas decorations, gifts etc. She also showed us things she had made and explained how it was done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

December 13, 1972

The regular meeting of We Neighbors Club was held in the Vestry of the Congregational Church in Cumberland. The secretary's report was read and accepted with one correction, the amount reported by the treasurer in November should read 102.93. The treasurer gave a report of finances to date. The

Sunshine Committee has a balance of \$53.15 as of Dec. 13, 1972. Twenty seven dollars will be sent to Rev. Peterson for work at New Life Center.

Mrs. Donald Hale was introduced by Margaret Wyman. Mrs. Hale gave a history of Project Maine Stream. She listed their goals and told us how they plan to accomplish the same.

She also showed slides of the location of this project before and after pictures also.

Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Hale.

Respectfully submitted,

Aurelia W. Tripp, Sec. pro tem

January 10, 1973

Twenty-eight members met at the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses after which a short business meeting was held. The Secretary report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of 134.85. The Sunshine Committee reported a balance of 44.93.

Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Pollack, Mrs. Bonney and Mrs. Judson.

A nice note and thank you was read from the boys at New Life Center.

Miss Grace Trappan showed beautiful slides which she took on her trip to Africa.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

February 14, 1973

We neighbors met at the home of Martha Sanborn with twenty eight members and one guest present. The dining room table was decorated in keeping with Valentine's Day and Valentine Cookies, tea and coffee were served.

The meeting was called to order by our President, Martha Sanborn. The Secretary's report was read and accepted and the treasurer reported \$102.93 dollars in the bank. The Sunshine committee reported a balance of \$55.02.

A letter was read from the Kennebec Girl Scout Council asking if we cared to make a donation for the purpose of sending a girl to the Girl Scout Camp. It was voted to wait until later to decide whether to give a donation to them or perhaps to some other group. The Club voted to have We Neighbors name put on the Fireman's Calendar.

Our next meeting will be held at the North Yarmouth Fire station.

The program committee presented Miss Audrey Willey who gave a most interesting organ recital.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

March 14, 1973

Twenty four members of We Neighbors met at the North Yarmouth Fire Station on Mar. 14th.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The business meeting was called to order by our president Martha Sanborn and the Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a bal of 5.62 on hand and 84.93 in the bank. The Sunshine Committee reported a balance on hand of 61.51. It was voted to put all but 25.00 in the Treasury at the end of the year.

We have an invitation to meet at the home of Elaine Moxcey for our May meeting.

We were asked to call one of our hostesses if we were to bring a guest at our April meeting.

The Secretary was asked to write a thank you note to Mr. Chester Blackstom, thanking the North Yarmouth fireman for the use of their hall.

The meeting was turned over to Margaret Wyman. She explained that Miss Flanagan was unable to get away from her school duties to speak to us today. She was able to obtain Mrs. Helen McDonald which she introduced to us. She gave us a most interesting talk. She has a daughter who is married to a Lieutenant Colonel stationed in Panama. Mrs. McDonald visits them for about two months a year, usually at Christmas time. She takes many trips from her daughter's home and from each place she visits purchases souvenirs which she brought to show us.

After her talk she answered questions and we took a closer look at her souvenirs.

Our next meeting will be our Guest Day and will be held at the Cumberland Congregational Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

April 11, 1973

Twenty seven members of We Neighbors with ten guests met in the Jeannette Farwell Room for their annual guest day.

Since some of the original hostesses couldn't be present, Mrs. Philip Chase and Mrs. Chandler were assisted in serving the delicious refreshments by Mrs. Boynton, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Chesley.

The business meeting was called to order by the president Mrs. Martha Sanborn, who welcomed the club members and especially their guests.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. The treasurer reported that she had paid twenty six dollars for two meetings at the Jeannette Farwell Room, and four dollars and sixty five cents for a gift for Mrs. McDonald who was the speaker at the March meeting, leaving a balance of ninety seven cents on hand and eighty four dollars and ninety three cents in the bank.

The Sunshine Committee reported a balance of sixty eight dollars and forty seven cents on hand.

Notes of thanks from Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Lillian Hulit were read.

Next the president asked each member to give her name and present her guest or guests.

Miss Grace Trappan introduced Mrs. Philip Stevens who was to show slides of Australia and New Zealand, taken when she and her husband were on a round-the-world trip. The beautiful slides and Mrs. Steven's interesting and informal narrative made it almost feel as if we were taking the journey with her.

Mrs. Chase, chairman of the Program Committee, announced a change in the plans for the annual meeting on May 9th. The business meeting and luncheon are to be at the Trinity Parish House in Woodfords at 1 P. M. The cost of the luncheon will be \$2.50 each. Those wishing transportation will meet at the Congregational Church at twelve noon and notify Mrs. Edward Lincoln.

The president reported that a nominating committee for officers for the next year had been appointed: Mrs. Kenneth Chase, Mrs. Iris Almy, and Mrs. Boynton.

After Mrs. Sanborn had thanked the hostesses, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Wyman, Sec. pro tem.

1972-1973 Annual Report

Nine meetings were held this year with an average attendance of 25.

The year started off with a picnic at the cottage of Janet Shaw on Sebago Lake.

In October the Gentlemen's night was held at the Congregational Parish house. The "moonlighters" a men's quartet entertained us. The Women's Fellowship served a delicious turkey dinner.

In November we were entertained by Mrs. Weickert at her shop on Forest Ave. She gave us a short talk on Arts and Crafts and showed us kits etc. that were available to purchase.

We met at the Church vestry in December the guest of France Hale, Director of Mainstream. She explained the history of Project Main Stream and explained the renovations which had been made in the vestry.

Our January meeting was held at the Cumberland Parish house. Miss Grace Trappan gave a talk and showed slides of her trip to Africa.

February we met at the home of our President Martha Sanborn. A most interesting organ recital was given by Miss Audrey Willey.

We went to the North Yarmouth fire Station for our March meeting. Mrs. Flanagan who is an art teacher in the Portland schools was to be our speaker but as she was unable to speak to us at this time, we were

entertained by Mrs. Helen McDonald who gave a very interesting talk on her trip to Panama. She spends about two months a year there with her daughter and her family and from there takes many side trips.

The April meeting was held at the Parish Hall. Mrs. Philip Stevens gave a most interesting talk and showed slides of her trip to New Zealand and Australia.

The Annual meeting was held at the Trinity Episcopal church. Luncheon was served by the women of the church. After lunch the Annual business meeting was held.

The meetings have been very interesting and the attendance very good this year. Much thanks goes to the program committee also to our President Martha Sanborn who did an outstanding job.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

May 16, 1973

On a very rainy Wednesday afternoon 29 members of "We Neighbors" drove into Portland to the Trinity Episcopal Church for their Annual meeting and luncheon. A very delicious luncheon was served by the ladies of the church. After the luncheon a business meeting was held.

The meeting was opened by the President Martha Sanborn. She thanked the officers and the committee for their cooperation during the year. She said that she felt closer to the members after having served as their President. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. A thank you note was read from Elaine Moxey also notes from our last two speakers, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. McDonald.

The treasurer reported a balance in the bank of \$135.50. The report was accepted. The Sunshine reported a balance of 13.77.

Evelyn Chase, Chairman of the Program Committee presented Martha, our President, a gift certificate in appreciation of her outstanding service during the past year.

The gavel was then turned over to our new President Aurelia Tripp. After accepting her new duties she reviewed the By Laws of the Constitution which deals with membership.

The following nine names were presented for membership: Mrs. Warren Wilkes, Mrs. Priscilla Muir, Mrs. Burton Noyes, Mrs. Frances Nelson, Mrs. Stanley Ayer, Mrs. Walter Stanford, Mrs. Charles Seyford, Mrs. Raymond Woodworth and Mrs. Theodore Merrill. These were voted on and all accepted for membership. The Secretary was directed to notify the new members of their acceptance and to notify them of the date and place of the first meeting in the fall.

Iris Almy was unable to attend the meeting but sent a message suggesting that the program committee be given more money next year to obtain speakers.

Margaret Merrill made a motion that we give the program committee \$100.00 to spend for speakers. This was voted on and accepted.

There was some discussion as to the meeting place for next year. This was left up to the program committee. It was suggested that we hold some meetings at the North Yarmouth fire hall.

Slips of paper were distributed among members and they were asked to make suggestions for next year's programs and also to indicate any preference of month to serve as hostess.

Elaine Moxcey has called and invited us to hold our September meeting at her home at Sebago Lake in September.

Marge Chasse, Chairman of the nominating Committee presented the names of the following to serve as officers for the following year:

President: Aurelia Tripp, V. Pres: Phyllis Blanchard, Secretary: Margaret Merrill, Treasurer: Joy Brown

Program Committee: Phyllis Sweetser and Betty Wright Co-Chairman, Bethany Chesley, Thelma Hancock, Ruth Marriner, Rena Lamson.

Sunshine Committee: Margaret Boynton, Iris Almy, Mrs. Marge Chase

Nominating Committee: Marge Chase, Margaret Boynton, Iris Almy

The Secretary cast one vote for the nominees and they were duly elected.

The President wished everyone a pleasant summer. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis Blanchard, Sec.

1973-1974

September 12, 1973

The We Neighbors held their annual picnic at Elaine Moxcey's home on Sebago Lake with thirty members present.

Our President called the meeting to order. She introduced the new members and thanked Elaine for opening her home. She also thanked those who served with her on refreshments. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Sunshine Committee reported they had a balance of \$17.54.

Under new business we discussed places of where to send our Christmas gift this year. It was voted we sent it to Opportunity Farm.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemen's night to be held at the Parish house with Paul Merrill as our speaker.

Helen Loose sent her best wishes to the group. She hoped she might attend the picnic. For all who would like to keep in touch with Helen, her new address is Central Ave. Camden, Maine.

A note was read from Abbie Judson expressing that she is now fully retired and she would like to hear from the group from time to time. She is now living at Seaside Retirement Home, Baxter Blvd. I am sure she will appreciate a call on the phone or a visit from time to time.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

October 10, 1973

We Neighbors met at the Parish House for their annual Gentlemen's Night with 45 present. A social hour was followed by a delicious roast beef dinner served by the Ladies' Circle.

Mrs. Tripp welcomed the group and thanked the ladies Circle for the dinner and Mrs. Herman Sweetser introduce our speaker Mr. Paul Merrill. Paul said he was delighted to have been asked to speak because he had attended many Gentlemen's night with his mother over the years and this particular night would have been her 103rd birthday. Paul spoke on his recent trip to Japan and showed us slides that he had taken.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 14, 1973

I think without a doubt that for the first time in the history of We Neighbors Club, that the business meeting was carried on "under cover of Darkness." On this date 24 members met in the Southworth Planetarium ²³ Science Building of the University of Maine in Portland. After waiting for a period time in the underground passage, very dimly lighted, our president decided to open the business meeting. The Sec. and Treas. reports were read and accepted. The Sunshine report was read and accepted, and the collection taken giving us a balance of \$25.04. A letter of resignation from Flossie Barton was read. A letter had been received from Helen Loose but was not read. Those who wished, paid their donation to the Christmas Collection for Opportunity Farm.

We adjourned to enter the Planetarium to see the wonderful display of the heavens. I cannot explain all that was told us, as it was quite impossible to take notes in the dark. We saw the sun rise, and travel across the skies to the West and set. Then the stars and planets appeared. We were told that there are now 3 planets visible, Venus, Jupiter, and Mars. We saw the Desert Canyon, the North American Nebula, The Milky Way, and many other strange and interesting forms in our Heavens. We were told about the new comet Kohoutek. It will be visible to us at times, through December. It was a most unusual afternoon and I am sure everyone enjoyed it.

Respectfully submitted,

Marge Chase, Sec. pro tem

²³ The Southworth Planetarium is in the Science building on the University of Southern Maine's Portland campus. The building's physical address is 70 Falmouth Street, Portland, Maine.

December 12, 1973

The We Neighbors held their meeting at the North Yarmouth Fire Station with twenty nine present.

Our President called the meeting to order and then she turned the meeting over to the program Committee and Mrs. Sweetser introduced Mrs. Temple who in turn introduced a group of three from the Choral Art Society. The group sang many beautiful Christmas pieces, which we all enjoyed very much. We thank Mrs. Temple and Mrs. Lincoln for bringing the group to us.

The business meeting followed the program. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Joy Brown reported we had \$36.72 cash on hand. Sunshine reported we had \$25.04 in fund. They also plan to deliver Christmas remembrances to honorary members the following week.

Our collection for Opportunity Farm was \$30. Mrs. Tripp asked the hostesses for delicious refreshments and she wished all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Our next meeting will be January of 1974 in the Jeanette Farwell room. Please bring something for a Silent Auction.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 9, 1974

We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell room with seventeen members present. Mrs. Phyllis Blanchard presided over the meeting. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$225.21 in the bank and \$29.72 cash on hand. Sunshine Committee reported that weight dollars and eighty cents was taken up at our December meeting which made a balance of \$38.92. Payed out for gifts, card and postage \$12.85, leaving a balance of \$25.12. [26.07?]. Anyone who has sent cards would they please let Marge Chase know so she can put it in her records.

Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Judson, Mrs. Chase, Mrs. C. Lesley and Mrs. Keating and Mrs. Pollock. We received a thank you note from Opportunity Farm for our Christmas gift.

Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned and Evelyn Chase took charge of the silent auction for Marge Chase who was unable to attend. We had fun and many of us went home with more than we needed and the Club treasury was richer by \$15.07.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 13, 1974

We Neighbors met at the North Yarmouth Fire house on the above date with twenty eight present. Our President called the meeting to order and the secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have 38.79 in Cash and \$225.21 in the bank. Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent to members and they have a balance of \$25.12 in treasury. A card was circulated around to sign for Lena Foster. Our President suggested that we send cards to Marge Chase who broke her arm this winter.

It was noted that we put our dates on the firemen's Auxiliary Calendar which cost \$2.25.

A letter was read from the Girl Scout Council asking us to sponsor a Child for Summer Camp. It was noted to table this till next year, where it might be considered again as our service project for the coming year.

The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Business meeting adjourned and Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser introduced the speaker Mrs. Charles Hayward who gave a very interesting talk on Landmark²⁴ and showed us slides on some of the buildings which had been saved from urban renewal and restored in the greater Portland area.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 12, 1974

The We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date with thirty three present. The President called the meeting to order and the secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported we have \$40.59 cash on hand and \$225.21 in the bank. Sunshine reported that they have a balance of \$32.57.

Lena Foster thanked the group for cards which she received while away.

Ruth Marriner extended an invitation from the Garden Club to attend the Flower Show²⁵ in Boston on the 21 of March. Anyone interested in going please contact her.

Mrs. Tripp thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Mrs. Louis Wright introduced Mrs. Herbert Foster and Mrs. Edward Lincoln and they took us on a delightful trip to Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

²⁴ Greater Portland Landmarks was founded in 1960 by Edith Sills. Its mission is the preservation and revitalization of the architectural fabric, history and character of Greater Portland. As one of the most important voices in preservation, Greater Portland Landmarks has helped Portland retain much of its great historical and distinctive character.

²⁵ The Spring Flower Show, held in Boston since about 1879, offers every March the first taste of Spring for tens of thousands of visitors from all over New England.

April 10, 1974

We Neighbors met at North Yarmouth Fire House on the above date with twenty nine present. Mrs. Tripp welcomed the guests and those who brought guests introduced them to the group. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$4.54 on hand and \$215.50 in bank. Sunshine reported a balance of \$40.82. A card was sent to Mrs. Luther Bonney on her 91 birthday.

The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. She also reminded the secretary and treasurer about an annual report to be given at next meeting. Our luncheon will be May 8 at Homewood Inn.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned and Mrs. Sweetser introduced the speaker Mr. William Prosser who talked and showed slides on antique furniture and glass.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

1973-1974 Annual Report

Nine meetings were held this year with an average attendance of 26.

The year started with a picnic at Elaine Moxcey's Home on Sebago Lake. In October was Gentlemen's night which was held in the parish house. The dinner was prepared and served by the Women's Fellowship. Paul Merrill spoke on his recent trip to Japan and showed slides.

In November the group went to the Planetarium at the University of Maine in Portland where they viewed the stars and were told about the new Comet Kahonteh²⁶ which they would be seeing sometime in December.

Our December meeting was a delightful meeting with beautiful Christmas music presented by the Choral Art Society under direction of Mrs. Temple.

January was the fun auction and I guess Tony Packard took home a great deal more than what she brought.

February Mrs. Charles Hayward brought us up to date on what "Landmark's" is doing to save the restore different buildings in the Greater Portland area and she also showed us slides.

March Lena Foster and Grace Lincoln took us to Hawaii.

April was Guest day at the North Yarmouth Fire House and our speaker was Mr. William Prosser of Falmouth who spoke and showed slides on antique furniture and glass.

²⁶ Comet Kohoutek is a long period comet. Its previous apparition was about 150,000 years ago, and its next apparition will be in about 75,000 years. First sighted on March 7, 1973 by the Czech astronomer Lubos Kohoutek, it attained perihelion on December 28, 1973, when it had a hyperbolic trajectory due to gravitational permutations from giant planets.

May we will go to Homewood Inn for luncheon and the annual business meeting will be conducted.

Six new members joined the Club this year.

Our special thanks to Aurelia for being our President and much thanks goes to the program committee who provided us with a real interesting program.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

In Memory of

Carolyn Rand

A member and honorary member

of

We Neighbors Club

Born 1891

Died 1974

May 8, 1974

Thirty one We Neighbors enjoyed a luncheon at Homewood Inn on a bright and sunny Wednesday afternoon. Our President thanked her officers and program Committee for their cooperation throughout the year, thus making it a very easy year for her. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$215.50 in bank and \$3.54 on hand. Our expenses for the year totaled \$115.55. We will start the fall with \$219.04.

A basket of goodies was sent to Carrie Sweetser on her birthday. Sunshine Committee reported they spent \$25.93 for this year leaving a balance of \$45.52.

It was moved and seconded that one hundred dollars be authorized for programs for the coming year.

It was suggested that we send Blanche Keating cards in her recent sickness.

Names presented for membership were as follows:

Mrs. Edward Lowe, 11 Crestwood Drive, Mrs. Norman Nielsen, 360 Main St., Mrs. Rutherford Drummond, Orchard Hill Rd., Mrs. Richard Pettengill, 13 Prince St.

It was moved and seconded that we accept these names as read.

Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers.

President: Phyllis Blanchard, Vice President: Margaret Wyman; Secretary: Margaret Merrill; Treasurer: Joy Brown.

Sunshine committee: Frances Nelson, Rena Lamson

Program Committee: Iris Almy, chairman; Joleen Rice; Martha Sanborn; Priscilla Muir; Grace Lincoln.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. They were duly elected.

The meeting was then turned over to the new president Phyllis Blanchard. She thanked the group for the honor of being our president.

Elaine Moxcey extended an invitation to the group to come to her home for the September meeting and we accepted.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

In Memory of

Marjorie Chase

Member

Of

We Neighbors Club

Born July 11, 1896

Died July 22, 1974

In memory of Marjorie Chase

My Creed

To live as gently as I can;
To be no matter where, I am,
To take what comes of good or ill
And cling to faith and honor still,
To do my best, and let that stand
The record of my brain and hand,
And then, should failure come to me,
Still work and hope for victory.

To have no secret place wherein
I stoop unseen to shame or sin,
To be the same when I'm alone
As when my every deed is known,
To live undaunted, unafraid
Of any step that I have made,
To be without pretense or shame
Exactly what men think I am.

To leave some simple mark behind
To keep my having lived in mind,
If enmity to aught I show,
To be an honest, generous foe,
To play my little part, nor whine
That greater honors are not mine
This, I believe, is all I need
For my philosophy and creed.

Edgar A. Guest

1974-1975

September 11, 1974

Thirty one We Neighbors met at the home of Elaine Moxcey on the above date. The President greeted members and past members of We Neighbors Club. A short business meeting was held and programs were passed out. Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent throughout the summer. Sunshine collection was taken.

Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Pollock, family of Carolyn Rand, family of Marjorie Chase, Alaine Rice, Martha Sanborn, and Aurelia Tripp.

Phyllis Blanchard read a poem by Edgar A. Guest called "My Creed" and she asked that it be incorporated into the records in memory of Marjorie Chase.

The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

Everyone had a great time playing Bingo and they all had fun picking out their prizes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

October 2, 1974

Forty five were present at Gentlemen's night at the Congregational Parish House on the above date. A social hour was held with punch and crackers and cheese dips followed by a delicious dinner served by the Ladies Circle.

Our President greeted our guests and thanked the ladies of the Church for the meal.

Martha Sanborn introduced Joe Zinn who gave a beautiful organ concert which was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 13, 1974

Thirty three were present at the North Yarmouth Fire Barn on the above date. We enjoyed the delicious refreshments prepared by our hostesses.

Our President welcomed members and guests and thanked the hostesses. She suggested that we have our program first, followed by the business meeting. Mrs. Edward Lincoln introduced our speaker Mr.

Edward Mayo of Kennebunkport. Mr. Mayo taught art at the Portland Art School²⁷ and teaches an adult art class in Biddeford school. He is also president of the Kennebunkport Dump Association.²⁸ He was certainly a delightful speaker which kept everyone in laughter with his jokes yet he had a message to put across. The way he saw it we needed quality workmanship and make equipment that can be repaired easily rather than thrown away and replaced with new. Cut down on cars and electricity. Sixty percent of our air pollution comes from cars and ski mobiles. If all the litter found along our highways was piled on the highway it, it would reach from New York to Seattle and it would be at least a foot high. It costs twenty three billion to put a man on the moon. It seems like man could find a solution to this ecology problem which faces him before all our natural resources are depleted. Mr. Mayo gave us each a Dump Credit Card which entitles us to National Dump visiting privileges making it unnecessary to use the roadside.

The business meeting followed. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted and the Sunshine Committee reported on cards sent. Thank you notes from Lillian Pollock and the Gaylord Judson were read. The club purchased four dozen glasses for the firemen in appreciation for the use of the room. It was voted that our Christmas gift would be sent to Opportunity Farm.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

December 11, 1974

We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date. The President called the meeting to order and she thanked our hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The Secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$281.50 in the bank and \$13.92 in petty cash. Sunshine committee reported that they had a balance of \$31.98. They also reported that Carolyn Schenck had been very sick and it would be nice if members remembered her with cards.

It was noted that we buy a \$10 membership with Land Marks Inc.

The meeting was then turned over to Martha Sanborn who introduced our speaker Mrs. Ule Wiles who came from Germany in 1966. Mrs. Wiles home was in the northern part of Germany, in a little town

²⁷ The Portland Art School was founded in 1882 as part of the Portland Society of Art. In 1911, the School had its first organized curriculum. In the 1920s, the School of Fine and Applied Arts awarded its first diplomas. In 1972, its name was changed to Portland School of Art. The following year, the school received NASAD and NEASC accreditation. In 1975, the first BFA degrees were awarded.

²⁸ According to Ed Mayo, founder of the Dump Association and the annual Dump Parades, weekly trips to the dump were a way for locals to meet and talk politics, gossip, chew the fat with neighbors and pick through piles of trash for "treasures" to take home. The Dump Association even had its own "credit card" of sorts to enable the holder "visiting privileges." The card was complete with the Association's logo, namely, a flower growing from an old tin can. In 1965, Ed Mayo founded the Dump Parade as a tongue-in-cheek way to celebrate environmental awareness. For the parade, local businessmen would create outlandish floats with special themes. In 1967, the Kennebunkport Dump Association's efforts were honored for its efforts by the Keep America Beautiful movement. If you were in Kennebunkport, Maine during the summers of the 60s and 70s you could observe how trash brought people together and how it was celebrated with the annual Dump Parade.

called Rinteln. The children do not hang stockings but instead they place one of their shoes on the window sill and if they have been good, it will be filled with candy. The tree is never put up till Holy Eve on Christmas Eve. Christmas morning the family attends church, has breakfast before opening the gifts. The tree is lighted with real candles and is decorated with apples, ornaments, candy and pretty stars made out of straw. Goose and red cabbage is the traditional Christmas dinner. We enjoyed Ule very much and it was nice to learn of the customs in her country.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 8, 1975

Twenty-three members met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date. The President called the meeting to order and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$281.50 in the bank and 72 cents in petty cash fund. Our Christmas gift to Opportunity Farm was twenty eight dollars.

Notes were read from Mrs. Keating, Mrs. Pollock and the Ladies Auxiliary of North Yarmouth Fire Department.

Under new business it was voted that we put the dates of our meeting on the Lions Club Calendar.

The meeting was then turned over to Miss Iris Almy who introduced Miss Grace Trappan. Miss Trappan showed us some very lovely slides on their trip to Greece last year. We appreciated Miss Trappan filling in on such short notice. Her slides were excellent and we all enjoyed the beautiful scenery, the lovely old monasteries and churches, and the wildlife.

Maybe many of us will never go to Greece but we are grateful to those who do go and share their slides with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 12, 1975

Twenty one We Neighbors met in the Jeanette Farwell room on the above date. The President called the meeting to order and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$261.50 in the bank and cash on hand \$15.47.

The Sunshine reported a balance of \$29.91 in treasury.

Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Olive Ayer, Abbie Judson and Opportunity Farm.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Mrs. Evelyn Chase and she conducted a very successful auction.

Respectfully submitted,

In Memory of

Carrie B. Sweetser

Member of We Neighbors Club.

Born April 30, 1881

Died March 26, 1975

March 12, 1975

Twenty one We Neighbors met at the North Yarmouth Fire House on the above date. Mrs. Aurelia Tripp presided over the business meeting. She thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$261.50 in bank and \$42.26 in petty cash. Our auction brought in \$41.61.

Sunshine reported \$35.49 on hand.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Miss Iris Almy who introduced our speaker Miss Ruth Trappan who gave us a delightful talk and showed slides on her trip to Ireland. She showed us jewelry, clothes, Irish handwork and pictures of art and beautiful Irish doorways. She said Ireland has a wealth of art and you couldn't begin to see it all in one trip. We appreciate Miss Trappan sharing her thoughts and slides with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

April 9, 1975

Thirty one members and guests met at the North Yarmouth Fire House on the above date.

Our President welcomed the guests and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

Our speaker Mrs. James B. Carter gave a very interesting presentation on stenciling an art which started around 1820. Then she stenciled a stool so we could see how she did it.

Our business meeting followed the speaker. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$286.88 in the bank and \$22.26 cash on hand. Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent to members and they have \$31.54 in treasury.

Thank you note was read from the family of Carrie Sweetser.

Aurelia Tripp will have charge of transportation for We Neighbors luncheon. We will meet at the Church at 11:30 on Wednesday May 14.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

1974-1975 Annual Report

Nine meetings were held this year with average attendance of 26.

The year started with a picnic at Elaine Moxcey's home on Sebago Lake.

October was our Annual Gentlemen's night. The dinner was prepared and served by the Women's Fellowship. This was followed by a beautiful organ concert by Joe Zinn.

In November we met at the North Yarmouth Fire Station and Mr. Edward Mayo of Kennebunkport was our speaker and he spoke on the Kennebunkport Dump Association of which he is president. An excellent speaker which kept the group in laughter but yet his message is important to the people of the world because we must find some way to protect our natural resources before they are depleted.

December, Mrs. Ule Wiles told us what Christmas was like in Germany and she showed us straw stars she had made for her tree.

January, Mrs. Grace Trappan showed slides on her trip to Greece.

In February Mrs. Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction.

In March, Miss Ruth Trappan showed slides on her trip to Ireland.

April was guest day at North Yarmouth Fire House. Mrs. James H. Carter shared with us her thoughts on stenciling and she stenciled a stool for us.

May, the annual meeting will be at Cheechako, Damariscotta.

Four new members joined the Club this year.

We were saddened by the death of three of our members: Mrs. Marjorie Chase, Mrs. Carrie Sweetser and Carolyn Rand.

Our special thanks to Phyllis Blanchard for her part as President and our thanks to those who served on the program Committee and provided us with a great program.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

May 17, 1975

Twenty nine We Neighbors enjoyed a delightful day at Cheechako,²⁹ in Damariscotta on a beautiful sunny warm day.

The President conducted the business meeting. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we had \$286.88 in the bank and \$11.26 cash on hand.

A thank you note was read from Lillian Pollack.

The annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted. We ended the year with \$298.14 in the treasury.

Sunshine Committee reported on cards and flowers sent and they had a balance of \$37.14.

²⁹ Cheechako restaurant is located on Lewis Point, Damariscotta, Maine.

Five new members were elected to join We Neighbors. They are as follows: Mrs. Elwyn Moore, Blanchard Rd; Mrs. Gerald Wiles, Meadow View; Mrs. Harold Small, Main St.; Mrs. Walter Fox, Tuttle Rd; Mrs. Kenneth Partyka, Blanchard Rd.

The nominating Committee presented the following names for officers for coming year.

President: Mrs. Richard Blanchard
Vice president: Mrs. Harry Muir
Secretary: Mrs. Halvor Merrill
Treasurer: Mrs. Paul Brown

Sunshine: Mrs. Norman Nielsen, Mrs. Frances M. Nelson

Program: Mrs. Wayne Merrill, chairman; Mrs. Royden Tripp; Mrs. John Handcock; Miss Grace Trappan, Mrs. Stanley Ayer; Mrs. Edward Lincoln.

It was moved and seconded the secretary cast one ballot for the above names.

Elaine Moxcey invited us to have our meeting in the fall at her home.

The president thanked the Committees for their support throughout the year.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Following the business meeting each one told where they were from and a little about their life up until now. We discovered that only one was a native of Cumberland. Members were from all over the country including Canada. It was interesting to hear the different occupations from housewife and mothers, teachers, clerks, post mistress, dental receptionist, and many other varied occupations. It proved to be one of the most interesting meetings we had this year and I felt we all knew each other a little bit better.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

1975-1976

September 10, 1975

Twenty four We Neighbors and two guests were present at the annual picnic at Elaine Moxcey's home. It was a beautiful fall day and the view was spectacular. We had a short business meeting in the morning. Our president greeted the members and guests and thanked the hostesses for the refreshments. The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. We have in the checking account \$286.88 and cash on hand of \$2.59.

It was moved and seconded that the program Committee be authorized to spend one hundred dollars on programs this coming year.

The programs were passed out and Mrs. Blanchard thanked those who served on that Committee.

It was moved and seconded that our Christmas gift go this year to the Girl Scout camp program.

As there was no other business the business meeting adjourned.

We had a very enjoyable day with a chance to visit and to take a walk.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

October 9, 1975

This was gentlemen's night for We Neighbors. Forty-two were present for a social time which was followed by a turkey dinner served by the Ladies of the Church.

Mrs. Richard Blanchard welcomed the gentlemen and guests of members and thanked the ladies for the delicious dinner.

The meeting was then turned over to the program Chairman Mrs. Wayne Merrill who introduced the Sandpipers a singing quartet. Everyone enjoyed the group very much.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 12, 1975

Twenty nine members met at Val Halla on the above date.

Our President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. We had \$304.88 in bank and cash on hand \$40.66. Sunshine Committee has \$42.34. A thank you note from Mrs. Crandall was read. Katherine Moore sent her regrets that she is unable to attend We Neighbors this year due to poor health.

It was voted to table any action on joining Landmarks Inc. until we found out what it would cost to rent a place for our next three meetings. Mrs. Velma Merrill was asked to see if we could meet at the Cumberland Fire Station for our December meeting.

It was also mentioned that three days notice must be given for canceling for Gentlemen's night or otherwise the member must pay for those tickets.

A collection was taken for our Christmas gift for the Girl Scouts.

Mrs. Velma Merrill extended an invitation to the Club to attend an open house on November 20th at the Cumberland Library for the Friends of the Library a new group which is being formed. Members representing each of the following groups would be present to answer any questions. They are as follows:

Town manager
Chief of Police

Rescue Unit
Fire Department
Recreation Department
Communications

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to our program Chairman Mrs. Velma Merrill who introduced our speaker Mrs. Clarence Halbrook of Freeport. Her topic was Master Graphs Analyst³⁰ which explains the basic principals of scientific hand writing analyses.

Mrs. Holbrook teaches a class at the YMCA and has taught evening classes.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

December 10, 1975

Thirty one We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The meeting was turned over to the program Chairman Velma Merrill who introduced the speaker Miss Dorothy McCann and two of her students from Falmouth High School. One hundred and fifty years ago a group of people in Southern France started molding out of clay the Santons³¹ or Little Saints of Christmas which they are sometimes called and dried them in the sun. Then the family shared in painting the figurines. One color was applied and then set to dry. So it took a very long time to complete a figurine. Many years later the process was improved and they are now kiln dried and aren't quite so fragile to handle. During the advent season the families displayed these Santons in the very best room in their homes. Each figurine portraits some person in the village such as the priest, mayor, drummer boy, crazy man, hunter, and all the animals including the noisy duck which quacked all the way to the manger. Miss McCann suggested we read the book called Little Saints of Christmas³² by Daniel Foley. The figurines are beautifully made right down to the most minute detail. When they first started

³⁰ Graphology is a method of analyzing and understanding a person's personality traits through strokes and patterns revealed in his or her handwriting. Purportedly handwriting analysis can identify our subconscious and conscious personality traits. For more information, see Footnote 4, this chapter, Mrs. Holbrook offered this program also on October 14, 1964..

³¹ *Santons* are small hand painted Terracotta nativity scene figurines produced in the Provence region of southeastern France. In a traditional Provençal *creche*, there are 55 individual figures representing various characters from Provençal village life such as the scissors grinder, the fishwife, the blind man, and the chestnut seller. The first clay *Santons* were created by Marseillais artisan Lagnel (1761-1822) during the French Revolution when churches were forcibly closed and their large nativity scenes prohibited. Lagnel crafted small figurines in plaster molds and let them dry before firing them. Since 1803, *Santonniers* have gathered in Marseille each December to display and sell their wares at the *Foiredes Santonniers*.

³² Foley, Daniel J., *Little Saints of Christmas: The Santons of Provence*, Boston: Dresser, Chapman, & Grimes, 1959. Foley tells how tiny hand-molded clay figurines, steeped in lore and tradition, have brought the magic of Christmas into every Provençal home at Christmas time .

importing to America you could buy a Santon for as little as \$1.50. Now you pay dearly if you are fortunate enough to find a place that sells them. It was a most interesting presentation and I am sure everyone enjoyed the program.

The business meeting followed the program. The Secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reports we have \$352.91 in bank and \$46.66 on hand. Sunshine reported that \$15.73 was spent for Christmas gifts for honorary members and a cash balance of \$33.84.

It was voted that our next two meetings be held at the fire house.

It was moved and seconded that we buy shades for the fire house so the room could be darkened for showing slides.

It was reported that Elaine Moxcey was ill.
As there was no other business, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 14, 1976

Twenty-two We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The meeting was then turned over to the program Committee and Thelma Handcock introduced our speaker Miss Grace Trappan. Miss Trappan showed us slides of her recent trip to Yugoslavia. Her slides are always a delight to see with her superb photography.

Our business meeting followed the program. The secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted. We have \$352.91 in bank and cash on hand \$26.85 on hand.

Thank you notes were read from Blanche Keating and Lillian Pollack.

We voted to have our next meeting at the fire house instead of the Tuttle Road Church as previously planned.

As there was no other business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In Memory of

Mildred E. Knight

Member of We Neighbors Club

Born: December 11, 1906

died: February 8, 1976

February 11, 1976

Twenty-seven We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

We then observed a moment of silence out of respect for Mildred E. Knight.

The meeting was then turned over to the program Chairman Velma Merrill who introduced the speaker Mr. Jared Clark, the town manager.

Mr. Clark compared how the town affairs were carried on when we had selectmen and town meetings and how it operated under the town manager system. Then he gave us some of the things he had accomplished in the three years he had been with us. The police department had increased to three full time men. We have a new town garage, a new fire truck, a new town office and Val Halla was purchased for a recreational center for the town of Cumberland. Mr. Clark said he was sorry to leave Cumberland because he had enjoyed his three years here.

Our business meeting followed the program. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$352.91 in bank and \$16.38 cash on hand.

Phyllis Blanchard thanked Ruth and John Marriner for installing the shades at the fire house. A thank you note was read from Elaine Moxcey. It was announced that on Feb. 22 there would be an open house at the town office. Several volunteered to make cookies.

As there was no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 10, 1976

Twenty-six We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. Mrs. Robert H. Pawle was introduced by the Chairman of the Program Committee Mrs. Wayne H. Merrill. Mrs. Pawle brought with her a selection of new books. She gave a brief review on each book. She had a book on where to purchase Craft Sources, another one on The Uncommon dog breeds, a new book by A.J. Cronin called *Desmonde*,¹

¹ Cronin, A. J. *Desmonde*, Boston: Little Brown, 1975. Cronin traces the friendship of two prep school boys, one poor and one rich and what becomes of their lives. He shows how people's choices affect what happens to them.

and several books on Maine including *Casco Bay* by Snow² and *Come Spring*³ by Ben Ames Williams which is in paperback and hard cover. She brought the paperback which Lena Foster has so nicely bound. Lena has been repairing books for the library for many years. Mrs. Pawle had a very interesting selection of books and we enjoyed hearing about them.

The business meeting followed the program. Our president thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have 6.38 on hand and \$352.91 in bank.

Sunshine reported that they have \$30.16.

A thank you note from Margaret Boynton was read. Under new business, Phyllis Blanchard appointed a nominating committee as follows: Evelyn Chase, Tony Packard, Grace Lincoln.

It was voted that we look into purchasing some snack trays and Margaret Merrill was to look around and report back to group.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

April 14, 1976

Twenty-two We Neighbors and eleven guests were present at our April Guest Day meeting. Velma Merrill introduced the speaker, Mr. Richard Churchill who is head of the Horticultural program at S.M.V.T.I. ⁴ in South Portland. He showed us some slides on how to prepare the soil for planting and what types of fertilizers and mulches to use. He cautioned us to use plants that are suitable for Zone 5 because of our very cold winters many plants for other zones will not do well in this climate. The slides showed

² Snow, Edward Rowe, *The Romance of Casco Bay*, New York: Dodd, Mead, 1975. For many years, Snow gathered facts and unusual stories on Casco Bay, its islands, lighthouses, ledges, ghosts, and the coastline itself. He traveled over 300 miles by canoe in Casco Bay, flown over the region, and made trips in lobster boats, cabin cruisers, and the Casco Bay Line ferry.

³ Williams, Ben Ames, *Come Spring*, New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1940. This book tells the story of the founding of a small Maine town, by ordinary people in what was then an ordinary way. The story begins with "Mima" and her father Philip Robbins, the actual founder of the settlement that became Union, aboard a sloop named *Sally*, as they prepared to enter the Georges River from the Atlantic and to land at an established village with a fort. The time is during the American Revolution and the sloop had to avoid interception by British warships. The story covers generations of early families, concluding with the birth of a baby to continue the tale.

⁴ The school first opened in 1946 under the name of Maine Vocational and Technical Institute (MVTI). At that time it opened in Augusta and operated as a day school to serve returning World War II veterans who needed to learn new skills in a post-war economy. By 1952, MVTI had 156 students and had outgrown the facilities in Augusta, and so moved to the site of the decommissioned Fort Preble, overlooking Casco Bay in South Portland. During the 1960s the name was changed to Southern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute (SMVTI). It was authorized to award associate degrees in applied science.

us gardens which had no care to the very formal gardens which were manicured. He preferred the less formal garden. He likes to plant blueberries amongst his shrubs. Last summer around the sign at S.M.V.T.I. they planted lettuce, flowering cabbage, tomato plants tucked in around the flowers which was very attractive. Following his talk was a question and answer period and many interesting questions were asked.

Our business meeting followed the speaker and our President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Then each one who brought a guest introduced them to the group. The secretaries report was read and accepted. The treasurer sent word that the treasurer's report was the same as last month. Sunshine reported that they had \$36.05. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

Annual report 1975-1976

Nine meetings were held this year with an average attendance of twenty-eight. Our first meeting was held at Elaine Moxcey's on Sebago Lake, its always a treat to go there, this is a day of fellowship and fun for everyone who attends. October was Gentlemen night with a delicious dinner served by the Ladies Circle and a delightful group called the Sandpipers sang for us. November we met at Val Halla and Mrs. Frances Holbrook spoke on Graphic Analyst.

December Miss Dorothy McCann from Falmouth High School told us the Christmas story of the Santons.

January we took a trip through Yugoslavia with Grace Trappan and her colored slides.

February "Cumberland To-day" was the theme of Town Manager Jared Clark.

March Mrs. Robert H. Pawle review new books to be found at the library.

The April meeting was the only one which had to be changed this year due to sickness and Mr. Richard Churchill from S.M.V.T.I. kindly consented at the last minute to come and tell us of his work as Horticultural Specialist at the school.

It was a good year and no meeting had to be canceled because of inclement weather.

We had two new members join us this year. Our new meeting place at the fire house proved very adequate for our needs.

Our special thanks to Phyllis Blanchard who served two years as our President and to all of you who served on Committees we thank you.

In early February Mildred Knight passed away and she will be missed by everyone.

Our year will end with the annual meeting to be held at Cheechako Inn in Damariscotta and we look forward to this outing.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

In memory of

Mrs. Helen F. Chandler

Member of we Neighbors club

Born January 17, 1892

Died May 12, 1976

May 12, 1976

Twenty two We Neighbors enjoyed an outing at Cheechako Inn in Damariscotta. It rained very hard going down and coming home the sun came out. Priscilla Muir conducted the meeting in the absents of the President. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we had \$336.85 in bank and \$2.63 cash on hand. Sunshine reported a balance of \$44.07.

Thank you notes from Margaret Boynton and Mrs. Pawle were read and Phyllis Sweetser thanked the group for her card.

The annual reports of the secretary, treasurer and sunshine Committee were read and accepted. Under old business Margaret Merrill reported on the purchase of snack trays and the group decided it would cost too much.

Under new business the nominating committee presented the following slate of officers.

President: Priscilla Muir
Vice President: Martha Sanborn
Secretary Margaret Merrill
Treasurer: Joy Brown

Program: chairman Phyllis Blanchard, Virginia Lowe, Elizabeth Stanford, Thelma Handcock, Lillian Hulit
Sunshine: Chairman Dorothy Wilkes, Rena Lamson

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers as read.

It was moved and seconded that the program committee be authorized to spend one hundred dollars for programs for the coming year.

The following names were presented for members:

Mrs. Steven Paulding
Mrs. Bradford Bonney
Mrs. Clayton James
Miss Ester Neville

It was moved and seconded that the above names be accepted into the Club.

As there was no other business Priscilla wished the group a very pleasant summer and she would be looking forward to seeing us all in the fall. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Merrill

1976-1977

September 15, 1976

The September meeting was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Merrill

October 13, 1976

Gentlemen night was held on the above date with 46 present.

The officers served punch and dips before the dinner. The Ladies Circle put on a delicious roast beef dinner.

Our President Priscilla Muir welcomed the gentlemen and thanked the Ladies Circle for a delicious dinner.

Martha Sanborn introduced our speaker Mr. Lawrence Wallace who entertained us with Chalk drawings. His first cartoon was inspired by watching the waitresses clearing the table. So he drew a cart filled with dirty dishes and one girl pushing the cart and the other rode on the front holding a tray of dirty dishes. Several people were asked to draw a line on the board and from this he sketched a picture portraying the line of work each person was in. It was a most interesting entertainment.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 10, 1976

Thirty five We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. Our President Priscilla Muir welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The meeting was turned over to the program chairman Phyllis Blanchard who introduced the speaker Miss Grace Trappan. Grace and Iris sailed to Portugal after spending many days in Camden Harbor waiting for the Longshore strike to be settled and arriving in Lisbon on Easter Morning. Their trip covered parts of Portugal and Yugoslavia. Grace certainly is an expert when it comes to taking pictures and as always we enjoyed our trip to far- away places.

The business meeting followed the program and the secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we have \$21.82 cash on hand and \$336.85 in bank.

Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent to the sick.

Phyllis Blanchard thanked the group for the pin and scarf presented her as the out going President.

A thank you note was read from Sylvia Seigford.

Tony Packard thanked the group for the rose bowl and the many cards she received while she was in the hospital.

At our next meeting our Christmas money gift will be taken and we will decide where we would like to send it this year.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

December 8, 1976

Thirty three members met at the Fire House on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The meeting was then turned over to the program committee who introduced the speaker- Mrs. Gilbert Crocker. Mrs. Crocker hobby is collecting old and new music boxes⁵ and she has a hundred sixty five in her collection. Music boxes is a very old art dating back to 1700. She showed us a lovely old snuff box and jewelry box of that period. Then about 1815 came the Cantell boxes and later the Manville toys for children. Many of her music boxes play more than one tune. Her smallest music box was a form of a locket. She finds it a challenge to buy and restore boxes and to create her own. It was a most interesting meeting and everyone enjoyed it.

The business meeting followed the program. The secretaries report was omitted. The treasurer reported that we had \$408.28 in bank and \$27.48 on hand. Velma Merrill sent her thanks to the group for the cards sent her when she broke her wrist.

Voted to send our Christmas gift to the Bruce Roberts fund.

Voted to have the dates our meeting put on the Lions Calendar.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 12, 1977

Do to inclement weather the January meeting was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

⁵ A music box is an automatic musical instrument that produces sounds by the use of a set of pins placed on a revolving cylinder or disc so as to pluck the tuned teeth of a steel comb. They were developed from musical snuff boxes of the eighteenth century and called *carillons a musique*. Music boxes could be any size from that of a hat box to a large piece of furniture, but most were tabletop specimens. They usually were powered by clockwork and originally produced by watchmakers. For most of the nineteenth century, the bulk of music box production was concentrated in Switzerland. The first music box factory opened there in 1815. There were also a few manufacturers in Bohemia and Germany. By end of the nineteenth century, some of the European makers opened factories in the United States.

February 9, 1977

Thirty three members met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported we have \$414.28 in savings account and \$19.52 cash on hand. Sunshine reported a balance of \$27.31. We collected \$32 for the Bruce Roberts fund.

Thank you notes were read from Mrs. Pollock, Mrs. Moxcey, Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Seigford; and Mrs. Bonney thanked the group for the gift sent Mrs. Luther Bonney. Martha Sanborn thanked the group for cards sent to her. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the program Chairman Phyllis Blanchard who introduced the speaker Phyllis S Sweetser.

Phyllis reviewed her book "Cumberland Maine in Four Centuries"⁶ which was written for the Bicentennial celebration of our country and dedicated to her late husband Herman P. Sweetser. For many years she has been collecting material and her family and friends encouraged her to write this book and how fortunate we are to have some of the early history of Cumberland put into writing , so for years to come people can read what Cumberland was like in those early days. So many people were helpful in writing chapters, loaning pictures and old maps. It's a great book and one we all can be proud of and the nicest part is that the author is well known to each of us and we are grateful to her family and friends who encouraged her to write the history of Cumberland.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 9, 1977

Twenty eight We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$31.35 cash on hand and \$414.28 in bank. Sunshine reported \$36.35. Under new business a nominating committee was appointed which consisted of Ruth Marriner, Thelma Handcock, Martha Pettengill. Betty Wright extended an invitation to the club to attend "Talent Day" of the Yarmouth Women's club on April 15.

As there was no other business, the business meeting adjourned and Phyllis Blanchard introduced the speaker Mrs. Ralph Williams. Mrs. Williams hobby is collecting antique kitchen utensils. Many of the early kitchen equipment was carved from treen which is a Scotch word for tree. They made bowls, cooking cutters, potato mashers, butter molds and pie lifters out of wood. If you plan to restore any wooden pieces don't use stain or varnish on them. The wood should be left in its natural state and mineral oil can be used to bring out the grain. One of her oldest pieces in wood was the maltese Cross butter pats which dates back to 1840. Later came the metals and she had several real old egg beaters, cooky cutters, toasters and nutmeg graters. She recommends if you haven't got a nutmeg grater to get one because you haven't really tasted nutmeg at its best till you grate your own nutmeg bean. All of us took part in the last part of the program trying to identify thirty five objects and the most anyone got was ten which she said was very good. Her hobby not only decorates her kitchen walls but many of her utensils she uses in to-days cooking. It was a most interesting afternoon for all who attended.

Respectfully submitted,

⁶ Phyllis Sweetser, ed., *Cumberland Maine in Four Centuries*, Portland, Maine: Casco Printing Company, 1976.

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 13, 1977

Forty one attended guest day at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the guests and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$34.52 on hand and \$403.49 in the bank. Sunshine committee sent out cards for Easter to our honorary members. They have a balance of \$43.94.

It was voted that we give the firemen an electric knife.

Voted that we meet at twelve o'clock at the fire house to go to Crescent Beach Inn for our Annual luncheon.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned and Thelma Handcock introduced the speaker, Mrs. Nancy Fearing. Mrs. Fearing has a shop which she calls "The Sailor's Wife." She shows her glass at antique shows and teaches classes on glass. She believes glass was first discovered by sailors when their ship was wrecked and burned and the chemicals and lead elements stored in the hull mixed with the sands and produced glass. Flint glass is the oldest glass dating back to 1835. She had a lovely old candleholder of that period in pale yellow which is also called vasaline. In 1860 Portland Glass started manufacturing glass. The place burned and in 1863 they rebuilt on Commercial Street and operated until 1873.

Tree of Life and shell and tassel were two of their most famous patterns.

In 1880 came the Daisy button and cross bar and the Mary Gregory vases which always depicted children and were always done in white. If the vases were done in color or pictured ladies they were believed to be European because Mary Gregory only did children.

Cranberry glass also came about 1880 and to get the lovely cranberry color gold was added to the glass. If copper was added they got a very lush pink. In 1890 cut glass came into the picture. The patterns were all cut in by hand so it took a long time. Following cut glass was the pressed glass which was less expensive to manufacture but still rather nice. About 1900 opalescent glass appeared. This was made by adding bone ash and swirling it through the glass.

Cambridge Ohio is where a lot of glass is made and they are famous for the blue stretch glass. Carnival glass is pink, blue, green; the Depression era glass and about 1940 came the black glass and Heisay glass⁷ which is flamingo color.

It was a most interesting program which everyone enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

⁷ The A. H. Heisey Company was formed in Newark, Ohio in 1885. The factory provided fine quality glass tableware and decorative glass figurines. Both pressed and blown glassware came in a variety of patterns and colors.

Report of Annual Meeting 1976-1977

Seven meetings were held this year with an average attendance of 38. Our picnic in the fall had to be cancelled at the last minute and our first meeting was Gentlemen's night in October and the Ladies Circle put on the dinner. The entertainment was Chalk drawings given by Mr. Lawrence Wallace. In November Grace Trappan showed slides of her trip to Portugal and Yugoslavia. December, Mrs. Gilbert Crocker presented a very interesting program on her music box collection. She not only collects new and old music boxes but she creates lovely new ones. The January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. In February, Phyllis Sweetser reviewed her book on Cumberland which she wrote for the Bicentennial celebration of our country. Kitchen Antiques was the topic for our March meeting given by Mrs. Ralph Williams. Grace Lincoln and Tony Packard were our experts at identifying the most antique utensils. In April we enjoyed a program on Antique glass given by Nancy Fearing.

We had three new members join the group this year.

One of our members, Mrs. Helen Chandler passed away.

Our special thanks to Priscilla Muir who served as our President this year and to all of you who served on committees, we are most appreciative.

We are looking forward to the Annual luncheon which is to be held at the Crescent Beach Inn in Cape Elizabeth.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 11, 1977

Thirty-six We Neighbors held their Annual banquet at Crescent Beach Inn on the above date. Our President welcomed the members and thanked Dorothy Wilkes for the pretty favors at each place. The reports of the secretary and treasurer were read followed by the annual reports of each. The treasurer reported we have 8.05 cash on hand and \$378.49 in bank. Sunshine reported a balance on hand of \$48.49. The nominating committee presented the following names for officers for Coming year:

President: Martha Sanborn

Vice President: Betty Wright

Secretary: Margaret Merrill

Treasurer: Joy Brown

Sunshine Committee: Dorothy Wilkes, Ialeen Rice

Program: Thelma Handcock, Evelyn Chase, Margaret Small, Helen Bragg, Madge Tame, Margaret Wyman

It was moved and seconded to accept the nominating committee report as read.

The meeting was then turned over to the new President Martha Sanborn and a gift was presented to the out-going President. The by-laws concerning new members was read and the following names were presented and voted for membership:

1. Mrs. Nelson Stevens 7 Candlewick Lane

2. Mrs. Robert W. Gatcombe 1 Settlers Trail
3. Mrs. Alfred Fearing 27 Maple St.
4. Mrs. Parker L. Brooks 7 Broadmoor dr.
5. Mrs. Barbara Grass Main street

Our business meeting was followed by a mini history of the Club given by Margaret Wyman and she did such a superb job that I didn't take notes because I was so interested in what she had to say. However, Margaret has typed her report and it will be recorded in this book. Margaret's mother, Mrs. Archie Wyman and Phyllis Sweetser's mother, Mrs. Philip Sturdivant were Charter members of We Neighbors club and Margaret and Phyllis could tell many interesting stories concerning the club. 1895 We Neighbors club was formed and eighty two years later it's still one of the nicest groups that anyone would ever want to belong too.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Olive C. Ayer

Member of We Neighbors Club

September 11, 1911

died July 24, 1977

1977-1978

September 14, 1977

Twenty eight we Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and introduced the new members. She also thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. A silent prayer was offered for Olive Ayer who passed away this summer. Olive will be missed by the group.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. A thank you note was read from the Stanley Ayer family and Priscilla Muir thanked the group for her gift certificate. She purchased two rose bushes which are doing beautifully. Sunshine committee reported on cards and flowers sent out during the summer. They have a balance of \$26.86.

Following the business meeting we had an auction and Evelyn Chase had charge of it. We each purchased envelopes of numbers and when she held something up which we liked the looks of, we would drop in a bowl as many numbers as we wished. Then a number was drawn. Several of our members drew their own number. Dorothy Wilkes and Sylvia Seyford had a delightful time, for a while their numbers kept coming up and our President went home with half of the potted plants.

It was a fun afternoon for all who were present.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 12, 1977

Thirty-six we Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Our Speaker was introduced by Helen Bragg. Cora Hawkes lived in Falmouth for many years before going to Gorham to open her own florist shop. She teaches classes on arranging flowers and several times a year she opens her home to the public.

Today she used all dried materials but if we had been at her home she would have combined fresh materials with the dried. However everything was exquisite with the dainty silk flowers and the beautiful shades of dried materials. The first thing she did was decorate a straw wreath for Christmas. Her next arrangement was made in a basket. Then she made a pretty Christmas arrangement in a tear drop jar and several other things using interesting containers. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for all who attended.

The business meeting followed the speaker. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$484.94 in bank and \$34.69 cash on hand. Sunshine reported on cards sent out and they have a balance of \$34.09.

A note from the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary was read inviting anyone who was interested to attend the doll display and luncheon at the Emmanuel Baptist church⁸ on November 17, 1977. Twenty five of the dolls on display were dressed by Cumberland women.

⁸ Immanuel Baptist Church, High Street, Portland, Maine.

No action was taken on where our Christmas gift would be sent this year. It will be voted on at our next meeting. Our next meeting will start at 1 o'clock and everyone will bring something for the tasting party and also the recipe.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

December 14, 1977

Do to inclement weather the December meeting was cancel.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 11, 1978

Twenty five members met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments and she also thanked Mrs. Wilkes for the marshmellow favors she made for the Christmas party.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$484.94 in the bank and \$38.19 cash on hand. The sunshine committee reported on cards and Christmas remembrances sent to honorary members and also Valentine Cards were sent. The balance in their account \$19.55.

Thank you notes from Frances Nelson and Blanche Keating were read.

Voted to send our Christmas money to the Salvation Army.

A sign- up sheet for Gentlemen's night was circulated. Anyone wishing to attend please sign. The cost is \$3.50 per person.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the program Chairman introduced our speaker Mrs. Alfred McGowan.

Mrs. McGowan's husband traveled a great deal in his work and she and the children were left at home. So she decided that they needed a hobby to pass the time while he was away and that is how she got interested in bird watching. No matter how many times the family moved she could always depend on the birds for her friends so she never was lonesome. There are three things which are essential to attract the birds. You need food, water and shelter. If you have shelter and water the birds will come even though you don't feed them. You also need a good bird book and her favorite book is called *Birds of North America* by Chandler S. Robbins.⁹ You don't need fancy bird feeders. You can use the top of stone

⁹ Robbins, Chandler, Bartel Brun and Herbert S. Zim, *Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification*, New York: Golden Press, 1966. This book includes distribution maps, color illustrations and statistics on 700 species .

wall, or a log cut in half, and put up on something or just mix grease, seeds, crackers, and peanut butter and press on bark of trees.

She shared with us many slides of all her bird friends. It was a most enjoyable program.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 8, 1978

Forty one attended Gentlemen's night at the Parish House. The hostesses served punch and crackers and the Ladies Circle put on a delicious roast beef dinner. The President welcomed the group and Mrs. Grace Lincoln gave the invocation. Thelma Handcock introduced the group who entertained us. The instruments were the banjo, musical saw, and piano. We enjoyed the folk songs and then we had a chance to ask for requests and everyone had fun singing some of the old favorites.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 8, 1978

Thirty four We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostess for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we had \$4468.94 in bank and \$22.04 on hand. The sunshine committee reported on cards sent and they have a balance of \$26.85. Thank you notes were read from Marcia Drummond and Blanche Keating.

It was moved and seconded the program committee be authorized \$200 for programs for next year.

It was moved and seconded that we purchase 2 three gallon thermos jugs for coffee and 2 two gallon thermos jugs for punch for the firemen in appreciation for the use of the fire house for our meetings.

A discussion was held on raising the dues but most felt it wasn't necessary at this time with the amount of money we had in the bank.

We also discussed places to go for the annual meeting and Helen Bragg suggested we look into Howard Johnson on route #1 and see what they would suggest and report back at our next meeting.

Martha also mentioned how nice it was to see Elaine Moxcey, Frances Nelson and Marcia Drummond with us again.

As there was no other business, meeting adjourned and the program committee introduced the speaker Mrs. Esther Sumpter who presented us with a travelogue on her trip to Hawaii. Instead of talking she had taped what she wanted to say and she had Hawaii music in the background. Her slides were very beautiful and we enjoyed the trip to the Hawaii Islands.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

In Memory of

Mrs. Katherine Bonney

Member of We Neighbors

Honorary Member

Born 1884

Died March 26, 1978

April 12, 1978

Forty-six attended guest day at the fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

Our President welcomed the group and those who brought guests introduced them.

A silent pray was given for Mrs. Katherine Bonney.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Sunshine committee reported on cards sent.

The annual meeting will be held at Smith Farms and we will leave the fire house at 12:30.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned and was turned over to the program committee who introduced the speaker Miss Wendy Ashley. Her topic was astrology.¹⁰ Astrology is not a new science, it has been going on for ten thousand years. It is a science, claiming to foretell the future by studying the supposed influence of the moon, sun and stars on human affairs. In studying astrology you must also study the Zodiac which is an imaginary belt in the heavens extending on either side of the apparent path of the sun and including the paths of the moon and the principal planets; it is divided into twelve equal parts; or signs, each named for a different constellation.

She went through all the signs of the Zodiac giving interesting facts of people born under each constellation. It was a most fascinating program which everyone seems to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

Report of Annual Meeting 1977-1978

Eight meetings were held this year, one being cancelled due to inclement weather. The attendance was very good ranging from 22 to 46.

September we had an auction with Evelyn Chase as auctioneer.

October a luncheon was held at the South Portland Regional Vocational Technical Center and after lunch we toured the Center.

November Cora Hawkes of Gorham made holiday arrangements.

¹⁰ Astrology is the study of the movements and relative positions of celestial bodies as a means for divining information about human affairs and terrestrial events. Astrology has been dated to at least the second millennium BCE and has its roots in calendrical systems used to predict seasonal shifts and to interpret celestial cycles as signs of divine communications. Western astrology can trace its roots to 19th-17th century BCE Mesopotamia. Contemporary Western astrology is often associated with systems of horoscopes that purport to explain aspects of a person's personality and predict significant events in their lives based on positions of celestial objects.

Our tasting party luncheon in December was cancelled on account of snow storm.

January, Mrs. Alfred McGowen gave us an interesting talk with slides on birds.

February was Gentlemen's Night with a lovely roast beef dinner served by the Ladies Circle followed by a musical group.

March, Mrs. Esther Sumpter presented us with a travelogue on her trip to Hawaii.

April was guest day when Miss Wendy Ashley spoke on Astrology.

Four new members joined the group this year.

We were saddened by the death of two We Neighbors, Olive Ayers and Katherine Bonney. They both will be missed by the group.

Our thanks to Martha Sanborn who served as our President this year and to all of you who served on committees, we are most appreciative.

The annual luncheon will be held at Smith Farms.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

May 10, 1978

The Annual luncheon of we Neighbors was held at Smith Farm with forty three present. The meal was a great disappointment. The tables weren't set when we arrived and it was nearly an hour before she was ready to serve after we sat down. Several of our members acted as waitresses. You might say the whole thing was a disaster.

Our President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses and she also thanked Mrs. Wilkes for the pretty table favors.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we had \$428.46 in bank account and \$11.25 cash on hand.

The annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

Report of the Sunshine committee was read. Expenses for the year were \$63.32 and a balance on hand of \$29.31.

Martha expressed her thanks to all of those who served on Committees this year.

The nominating committee presented the following names for officers for 1978-1979:

President: Mrs. Louis Wright
Vice President: Mrs. Alfred Fearing

Secretary: Mrs. Halvor S. Merrill

Treasurer: Mrs. Paul Brown

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Warren Wilkes, Mrs. Gerald Packard

Program: Miss Grace Trappan (chairman), Mrs. Clyde Reynolds, Mrs. Elbridge Rice, Mrs. Edwin Low,
Mrs. Nelson Stevens, Mrs. Robert Gatcombe

As there was no other nomination from the floor the secretary cast one vote for slate of officers as read.

Thelma Handcock presented the President with a gift certificate.

The meeting was then turned over to our new President Mrs. Betty Wright.

Three new names were presented for membership:

Mrs. George Wagner, Prince St.

Mrs. Robert Bailey, Farwell Ave.

Mrs. Albert Foster, Main St.

It was moved and seconded that we accept these three as new members of We Neighbors.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

In memory of

Margaret Bonyton

Member of We Neighbors

And

Past President

1896

1978

1978-1979

September 13, 1978

We had seventeen We Neighbors meet at the fire house on the above date to go to Shaker Village.¹¹ It was a beautiful September day and those who went had a lovely time touring the buildings and visiting the store. We are our lunch in the Shaker dining area.

The President thanked Miss Trappan and Miss Almy for making arrangements to visit Shaker Village. The treasurer and secretary reports were read and accepted. Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent during the summer. Thank you notes were read from Aurelia Tripp, Martha Sanborn, Alaine Rice, Ladies Auxiliary and Georgetown Fire department.

The President thanked the program committee for the splendid job they did in putting the program together and Virginia Low for the typing of it.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemen's night and those who plan to go could sign up. As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

October 11, 1978

Gentlemen's night was held on the above date at the Parish house with 46 attending. Our President welcomed the group and Margaret Merrill gave the invocation. A delicious turkey dinner was served by the Ladies Circle. Following the dinner we were entertained by Peter Conneen a magician and some of the ladies helped him with his act. I think everyone enjoyed the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

November 8, 1978

Thirty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. This was the day we were to have what they called a tasting party. Each member either brought a main dish, salad or dessert. You never saw so much pretty food as there was that day, not only pretty to look at but also delightful to taste. Everyone seem to enjoy the meal and fellowship. Many said they would like to do it again.

Following the meal we had a short business meeting. The President thanked the hostesses. She introduced to the group a new member Barbara Grass.

¹¹ Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village is a Shaker Village near New Gloucester and Poland, Maine. The community was established either in 1782, 1783 or 1793, at the height of the Shaker movement in the United States. The community grew to over 200 members in less than a year. In 1794, the Sabbathday Lake meeting house was built. By 1850, the community grew to a size of 1900 acres with 26 large buildings. These buildings included the meetinghouse and the Brethren's Shop which held the blacksmith shop and woodworking operation. A large new Central Dwelling House was built in 1883 or 1884. Shakers strive to be entirely self-sufficient. They built a mill and a farm that enabled them to sell produce to the outside world. The entire property was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read. Treasurer reported we have \$51.25 cash on hand and \$368.16 in bank. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have a balance of \$18.79. Notes were read from Mrs. Pawle and Priscilla Muir.

Our Christmas gift this year will go to Pineland Hospital.

December meeting will be an exchange of Christmas gifts. Each one is to bring something that she made.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

December 13, 1978

Thirty five We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The president welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported cash on hand \$89.70 and \$387.66 in bank account. Sunshine reported on cards sent and gifts given to honorary members leaving a balance of \$11.26.

Thirty seven dollars was collected for our Christmas gift for Pineland Training Center.

Our meeting was then turned over to Evelyn Chase and she called the numbers on each gift. Members out did themselves in making all kinds of attractive gifts from coat hangers, pot holders, aprons, home-made cookies and jams and many other things too numerous to mention. It was a fun time for all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

January 10, 1979

Twenty four We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$411.66 in bank account and \$97.70 cash on hand. Sunshine reported on cards and flowers sent. They have a balance of \$11.14.

Thank you notes from Lena foster, Katherine Sawyer were read and Iva Bonney thanked the group on behalf of Priscilla Muir for all the nice things that We Neighbors did for her while confined to her home from the auto accident early last fall.

Our meeting was then turned over to Miss Grace Trappan and she showed us slides on her trip she and Iris went on last spring to Spain and Portugal. Grace always brings back beautiful slides and we look forward to them each time she goes. We thank Grace for sharing with us her slides because many of us will probably never visit foreign shores.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 14, 1979

Twenty-six We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The tables were decorated for Valentine Day with a Valentine Card for everyone and Dorothy Wilkes read a poem she had written and presented everyone with a candy heart for Valentine's Day. Mrs. Wright welcomed Priscilla Muir back to the group.

The meeting and treasurers reports were read and accepted. We have \$454.95 in bank and cash on hand of \$57.40.

Thank you notes from Pineland Hospital, Mrs. Stevens and Mrs. Judson were read.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$8.69 on hand.

The meeting was then turned over to the program committee and Grace Trappan introduced Iris Almy who reviewed the book called Essays by E. B. White.¹² Mr. White was born in Mr. Vernon, New York and now lives in Brookland, Maine. For many years he wrote for the New Yorker Magazine.

Iris read several of his Essays which are amusing because the man has such a colorful way with words. It certainly was a delightful book and Iris kept us all laughing over the parts she selected for us to hear. I am sure it will be book many will put on their reading list.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 14, 1979

Thirty-three We Neighbors meet at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses. The secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported that we have \$40.05 cash on hand and \$454.95 in bank account. The Sunshine Committee reported on cards sent.

Evelyn Chase was asked to look into buying a kettle for the firemen and report back to the group.

Hazel Reynolds reported that the luncheon this year will be held at S.M.V.T.I. and we will be able to order from the menu.

The nominating committee was appointed as follows: Martha Sanborn, Leona Crandall, Evelyn Chasse. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the program committee and Grace Trappan introduced the speaker, Mrs. Eleanor Downes.

¹² White, E. B., *Essays of E. B. White*, New York: Harper, 1977. This is a classic collection by one of the greatest essayists of our time. The collection is divided into seven sections: The Farm, The Planet, The City, Florida, Memories, Diversions & Obsessions, and Books, Men and Writing. Mr. White moved to Brooklin, Maine.

One of Eleanor's hobbies is making and dressing dolls for her family and friends using scraps of materials, laces, and ivory soap bottles for the bodies. She said she doesn't throw out a thing because sometime it might be just what she needs. One of her dolls she dressed was pictured in the Yield House Catalog. Her favorite one was the fishman she designed for her husband. When she was asked to speak to the group she had to go around and borrow all the dolls to show us. It really was a lovely collection and we enjoyed hearing her tell why she made each one.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 11, 1979

Twenty eight We Neighbors and ten guests met at the Fire House on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses. Those who brought guests introduced them to the group.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$40.05 cash on hand and \$459.95 in bank.

Sunshine reported on cards sent to members with cash on hand of \$13.48.

A thank you note was read from Eleanor Downes.

Evelyn Chase is to purchase a kettle for the firemen.

The luncheon date at S.M.V.T.I. was moved back to April 25 and we will leave the fire house at 11 o'clock.

The meeting was then turned over to the program chairman, Miss Grace Trappan and each member was called on to show an heirloom that she prized. Just to name a few, a bill of sales for a negro family, tinder box with flint and stove, tin types, Crewel embroidery, a basket which brought many happy memories to a member when she was growing up on her grandparents farm, a two hundred year old clock which made many trips from Nova Scotia to Maine. We mustn't forget to mention Sadie a lovely old rag doll which was Iva's treasure from a little girl.

Everyone enjoyed the program very much.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

Annual Report

1978-1979

Nine meetings were held this year and we were fortunate in not having to cancel one meeting. The average attendance was 31.

On a beautiful day in September we went to Shaker Village and toured the buildings and had lunch in their dining room.

October was gentlemen's night which was a very interesting as we were entertained by a magician.

November's tasting party was enjoyed by all.

December was a Christmas party and members brought Christmas gifts they had made.

In January Grace Trappan showed slides on her trip to Spain and Portugal.

February Iris Almy reviewed the book called Essays by E. B. White.

March Eleanor Downes shared with us her hobby on making and dressing dolls.

The April meeting was guest day and members shared with the group heirlooms they treasured. Grace Trappan brought a beautiful Crewel piece that her mother had designed and embroidered especially for her. The shading and the colors were lovely and all the animals and birds looked so real.

Two new members joined the group this year.

We were saddened by the death of one of our members Margaret Bonyton.

Our thanks to Betty Wright who served as our President this year and to all of you who served on Committees, we are most appreciative.

The Annual luncheon will be April 25 at S.M.V.T.I. in South Portland.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

April 25, 1979

Twenty six members and one guest attended the Annual luncheon at S.M.V.T.I. in South Portland.

The President welcomed the group and thanked those who made the arrangements for the luncheon. We couldn't have picked a more perfect day with the temperature in the seventies.

Our business meeting was held in one of the classrooms. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we ended the year with \$454.95 in bank and \$40.05 cash on hand.

The annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have a balance of \$17.24.

Thank you notes from Abbie Judson, Iris Almy and Beth Chesley were read.

Evelyn Chase showed the group the kettle she purchased for the firemen.

Members were asked to write down suggestions for programs for next year.

The nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year.

President: Nancy Fearing
Vice President: Hermine Stevens
Secretary: Elizabeth Stanford
Treasurer: Sylvia Seigford
Program: chairman Elva Brooks, Iris Almy, Dorothy Wagner, Martha Pettengill
Sunshine committee: chairman Phyllis Blanchard, Priscilla Muir

Two names were presented for membership, Mrs. Georgia Adams and Priscilla Kelly. It was moved and seconded that we accept them as members.

Our President was presented with a gift of money.

The gavel was then presented to our new president Nancy Fearing. Nancy says she is looking forward to being our President and she wished us all a pleasant summer and will see us all in September.

June 10th is Abbie Judson's ninetieth birthday and it was suggested that we all send her cards at Seaside Nursing Home.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill Secretary

In memory of

Blanche Keating

Member of We Neighbors

1892

Sept. 10, 1979

1979-1980

September 12, 1979

Members met at the Cousins Island dock for a boat trip to Hermine Stevens' cottage at Chebeague Island. Total number present were 24.

The "Powers That Be" cooperated to give us perfect weather.

The President welcomed one and all and thanked Hermine for sharing her summer home with those of us who could go.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$444.05.

The Sunshine Committee reported 89 cents in the red.

Thank you cards were read from Iris Almy and Sylvia Seyford.

We have one new member Georgia Adams. A note was read from Priscilla Kelly thanking the Club for inviting her to become a member, but she was unable to accept at this time.

It was decided to continue sending a rose bowl to all members but delivery to be made in person to cut down on the delivery charge.

There was a moment of silence for Blanche Keating, who passed away Sept. 10, 1979.

It was moved and seconded to send flowers to Blanche Keating's services, the cost to be paid from the Club Treasury.

A motion was passed to use a page in the Report book in memory of Blanche Keating.

The Christmas Auction was discussed and each member is to bring something useful – homemade or otherwise, and unwrapped.

Ialeen Rice thanked everyone for the sympathy and kindness extended to her in her recent bereavement.

A round of applause was given to the Program Committee for a good job, well done.

Hostesses were thanked for their excellent efforts in making the luncheon so delicious. Another good job, well done.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Stanford, Secretary

November 14, 1979

Twenty-three We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$342.06 in bank and \$25.95 cash on hand. Thank you notes were read from Sylvia Seyford, Tony Packard and Mr. Keating. Hazel Reynolds thanked the group for the cards sent her in her recent bereavement.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$1.10 in cash fund.

Under old business Elizabeth Stanford resigned as secretary and Margaret Merrill agreed to fill out her term.

Under new business it was voted to keep the coffee urn in the firehouse store room.

At our next meeting will vote on where our Christmas offering will be sent. The Secretary will make a list of group we have sent to in the past.

The program Committee reminded us to bring unwrapped gifts for our next Christmas party and they will be auctioned off. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the program chairman Alva Brooks who introduced the speaker from Stretch and Sew which is in the Rainbow Mall. What a delightful person she was and such beautiful outfits she modeled for us. Everything she put on was most attractive and everyone seemed to enjoy her presentation immensely.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

December 12, 1979

Thirty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The president welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$374.06 in bank. Cash on hand \$25.95.

Sunshine reported on cards sent, they have a cash balance of \$8.44.

It was moved and seconded that our Christmas fund be sent to the School for the Blind on Park Ave. It was voted that we take some money from our treasury to make \$35.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Evelyn Chase who conducted a very successful auction. Everyone had fun bidding on the different things. Next month we will know the exact amount we made.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

February 13, 1980

Twenty seven We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$474.81 in bank and \$25.95 on hand. A thank you note was read from Beth Chesley.

It was suggested that we have our annual meeting at the fire house and have a casserole luncheon. Then plan our trip at some later date when more places are available.

The meeting was then turned over to the program Chairman Elva Brooks who introduced the speaker Mary Webber who talked on feeding the family. It costs 30% more to feed one and [than] two and waste is the major factor of the higher cost because we waste 20% of our food budget. People living alone find it very depressing so they don't eat right and seldom do they sit down to a balance meal. Some schools have asked senior citizens to eat their noon meal with them. It has been a very successful program and the children and the Senior citizens seem to enjoy the fellowship.

60-65% over 40 are on restricted diets of some sort.

She suggested that we should sit down when eating and don't watch T.V. while eating because you may eat more than you need thus putting on extra weight.

Joining a co-op is a good way to save on your food bill and buying your meat in quantity and freezing.

This was a most informative program which was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

March 12, 1980

Twenty nine We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we have \$490.81 in bank and \$25.95 cash on hand.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$18.69 in sunshine account.

The President appointed the nominating committee. They are as follows: Janet Shaw, Grace Lincoln, and Priscilla Muir. Our next meeting will be guest day.

We will plan an outing for some time in June. It was suggested we have lunch at the Stowe House and then attend the Brunswick theater, or we may go to Ogunquit theater. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the chairman of program Committee who introduced the speaker Melville O'Donnell who is owner of Chem-Clean furniture Restoration Center in Yarmouth.

In restoring furniture you can use a hot alkaline water-based tank system while another process is using organic solvents which is the best because it doesn't hurt the wood. You can remove the layers of paint one at a time and you might find valuable stenciling under a layer of paint and be able to save it.

The second step is to select a stain and apply.

Third, selection and application of a finish. This is the most important step in refinishing for the beauty and durability of the finish. He recommended polyurethane Satin finish varnish by Union Chemical Co.

Then to keep your finish looking nice use Wilbert's lemon oil. The lemon oil doesn't break down the finish as some polishes do after long uses.

This was a very informative program and enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 9, 1980

Forty nine We Neighbors and friends enjoyed Guest Day.

The President welcomed the group and each member introduced her guest. We didn't have a business meeting but we did pass around a slip for people to sign for the pot luck luncheon. Grace Trappan and Helen Bragg offered to be on the Committee next time. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The speaker for guest day was Nancy Fearing. She told us what it was like to be stationed in the Aleutian Islands for two years with just one mile between them and Soviet Russia. The wind blew constantly and it rained nearly every day and at least once a week they had earth quakes. The base was built on volcanic ash with no vegetation on the Island just a lonely place too far away to take a trip to Alaska and very expensive if you did go. When her husband was on sea duty attending navigation aides from Bristol Bay to Point Hope she was left alone for a month at a time with her children but she did enjoy visiting with the other families and they got together real often for the holidays. They made many lasting friends which they still hear from. We all decided that this is one place we really wouldn't want to go to but we were glad that Nancy shared her experiences with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

1979-1980 Annual Meeting of We Neighbors

Nine meetings were held this year with no cancellation of meetings.

What a delightful way to start the year with a boat trip to Chebeague Island on a beautiful September day to enjoy the day at Hermine Stevens Island Home.

In October the Ladies Guild put on a dinner at the Parish House for Gentlemens night and Frank Farwell's German Band entertained us.

In November we enjoyed the girl from Stretch and Sew who modeled many outfits.

In December everyone brought something she had made and Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction and the money will help defray expenses to a play sometime in June.

January Cumberland Police Chief Planche spoke on safe guarding our property from burglars.

February our speaker was Mary Webber who talked on feeding the family and she made suggestions as to how we could save on our food bills.

March Melville O'Connell of Chem Clean Furniture Restoration Center in Yarmouth gave us pointers on refinishing furniture.

April was guest day and our President showed slides on the Aleutians.

May we will have a pot luck luncheon and annual meeting.

Mrs. Christopher Adams joined We Neighbors.

We were saddened by the death of one of our members Blanch Keating.

Our thanks to Nancy Fearing who served as our President and to all of those who served on Committees.

The Annual meeting will be held at the fire house on May 14, 1980.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

May 14, 1980

Thirty We Neighbors attended lunch and annual meeting at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the Committee who made arrangements for the luncheon. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. We have \$527.92 in the bank and \$25.95 cash on hand. The annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted. Sunshine Committee reported on cards sent and they have \$18.69.

Lillian Pollack is in Maine Medical and we were asked to send cards on her 90th birthday.

Plans for the theater party are not complete at this time so members will be called when arrangements have been made.

Our gift to the fire station was a electric can opener, two serving forks, two small knives and 2 large knives and pretty red Checked Curtains for the kitchen.

Margaret Merrill was appointed by the President to review the by laws.

The nominating Committee presented the following list of officers for 1980-1981:

President: Mrs. Nelson Stevens
Vice President: Mrs. Parker Brooks
Secretary: Mrs. Halvor Merrill
Treasurer: Mrs. Charles Seyford
Sunshine Committee: Mrs. John Handcock, Mrs. Kenneth Sanborn

Program Committee: Chairman Mrs. Warren Wilkes, Mrs. Louise Wright, Mrs. Robert Gatcombe, Mrs. Wayne Merrill

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for officers as read.

The following names were presented for membership:

Mrs. Leland Anderson Sr., 193 Main Street
Mrs. Charles Ferris, 8 Broadmoor Dr.
Mrs. Roger Sherman Jr., Candlewick Lane
Mrs. Orland Knight, 23 Farwell Ave.

It was moved and seconded that we ask these people to join We Neighbors.

Elva Brooks thanked the out- going President and presented her with a gift.

The meeting was then turned over to our new president and she thanked the group for electing her as President and she was looking forward to filling her position in the fall. She wished us all a very happy summer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

1980-1981

September 10, 1980

Thirty three We Neighbors enjoyed a delightful September day on Chebeague Island. The hostesses served fresh crabmeat sandwiches which were a great treat.

The President welcomed the group and introduced a new member Mrs. Forrest Babbidge.

The Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$412.18 in bank and \$15.27 in petty cash.

The secretary read thank you notes from Janet Shaw, Rena Lamson, Fire Department and Nancy Fearing.

Sunshine reported on cards sent during the summer. Cash on hand \$15.98.

Velma Merrill printed the programs this year and our thanks to her for a job well done.

The curtains in the fire house kitchen were made by Evelyn Chase.

Voted to buy a metal box to keep We Neighbors record in.

Voted to take from the treasurer the cost of crabmeat.

Voted to authorize the treasurer to open a checking account.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemens night which will be held at Val Halla and Verrills will cater the meal.

As there was no other business the business meeting adjourned and it was turned over to the program Committee who introduced Phyllis Sweetser. Phyllis read the We Neighbors Ode written by Mary Chase in 1942 and sung to the music of America the Beautiful. Then she told about the program covers that Lillian Hulit and Hattie Wallace designed. The first covers were all painted by hand. The pallet represents art, the harp music, the book in center literature, and the masks at the bottom drama. It is great to have a meeting such as this to remind us all about the early years of We Neighbors.

Our day ended with a lovely boat ride back to the mainland.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 8, 1980

We Neighbors held their Annual Gentlemen's night at Val Halla with fifty one present. The hostesses served punch, crackers and dips. This was followed by a delicious ham dinner served by the Verrills.

A Scotch and Irish program was the entertainment for the evening with the singing of Scotch and Irish songs, the playing bag pipes and Irish dancing.

A fun evening was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

November 12, 1980

Twenty three We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Betty Knight was welcomed into the group. She is the fourth generation in her family to join We Neighbors. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$381.73 in now account and \$15.95 on hand. A thank you note from Lillian Pollack was read.

It was moved and seconded that our Christmas gift go to the New Life Center for Boys.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$24.53 on hand.

At our next meeting we are to bring a Christmas gift which we have made.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the program Chairman who introduced the speaker Mrs. Lester Meyerhoff and son who presented a Patriotic program that she had prepared for her Church group. We all took part by guessing what famous person it was from the clues given. Everyone had a great time.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

December 10, 1980

Thirty four We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments and she welcomed Mary Wiles and Iva Bonney back to the group.

The secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$387.73 in now account, and \$10.27 in petty cash. A thank you note from Lillian Pollack was read. Sunshine reported on cards sent and gifts for honorary members.

A collection was taken for the New Life Center.

As there was no other business the business meeting was adjourned and the program chairman introduced the Bell Ringers from the Seventh Day Advent Christian School in Freeport. They presented a very lovely Christmas program which was enjoyed by all. Following the program we exchanged gifts.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

January 14, 1981

Twenty five we Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$416.71 in now account and \$10.27 in petty cash.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and Christmas gifts sent to honorary members.

Thank you notes from New Life Center, Abbie Judson, Elaine Moxcey, and Lena Foster were read. Phyllis Sweetser and Sylvia Seyford thanked the group for their remembrances.

It was voted to reimburse Sylvia Seyford for the money she put into the fund for New Life Center.

As there was no other business the meeting was closed and Alva Brooks conducted a very successful auction by selling all the items and some us went home with more than we brought in the beginning.

What better way is there to raise so much money and have fun doing it.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

February 11, 1981

Twenty-five We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported that we had \$510.24 in bank and \$10.27 in petty cash. The sunshine reported on cards sent. A motion was made and seconded to spend \$50 for a fire proof file to keep records in. Under new business the President appointed a nominating committee as follows: Iris Almy, Evelyn Chase, Dorothy Wagner. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to program committee who introduced the speaker Mrs. Pawle from Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. Pawle brought some of the newest books.

Guide Post and Readers Digest are in large print for those who have difficulty in seeing. Each month they receive from the State library a good selection of large print books.

The Blue Hammer¹³ by Ross MacDonald is now available in large print.

Prima Donna¹⁴ by Nancy Freedman, Queen of Sheba ¹⁵by Joy Adamson, Roll call¹⁶ by Senator William Cohen and the delightful children's story called Lost and Found ¹⁷ by Dahlov Ipcar were only a few of the new books she brought.

Other services provided in our library are road maps, telephone numbers for anywhere in Maine and Massachusetts, magazines, paperbacks and newspapers. For those of you who are interested in any bills coming up in legislation you now can obtain a copy of those bills from our library. These are only a few of the services provided for us. Mrs. Pawle is interested in hearing from each of us on what types of books we would like. With our help she can serve the public the kind of books they desire.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 11, 1981

Twenty-six We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

¹³ MacDonald, Ross, *The Blue Hammer*, New York: Knopf, 1976. The desert air is hot with sex and betrayal, death and madness. Only Detective Archer can make sense of a killer who makes murder a work of art. Finding a purloined portrait of a leggy blonde was supposed to be an easy paycheck for Detective Lew Archer, but that was before the bodies began piling up. Suddenly, Archer finds himself smack in the middle of a decades-long mystery of a brilliant artist who walked into the desert and simply disappeared.

¹⁴ Freedman, Nancy, *Prima Donna*, New York: Morrow, 1980. This novel is the story of an opera star's miserable rise and fall. Reviews have not been favorable, partly due to Freeman's tortured prose, awkward injections of musicology, and murky symbolism. A reviewer observed the book to be "A strangely unpleasant melodrama," with parallels to the career of Maria Callas.

¹⁵ Abramson, Joy, *Queen of Shaba: The Story of an African Leopard*, New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1980.

¹⁶ Cohen, William, *Roll Call: One Year in the United States Senate*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1981.,

¹⁷ Ipcar, Dahlov, *Lost and Found: A Hidden Animal Book*, New York: Doubleday, 1981. The narrator looks for her pets which are hiding right under her nose.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$512.11 in bank and \$10.27 petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have a cash balance of \$32.83.

Our next meeting will be guest day.

A discussion was held on places to go for our annual luncheon. Southern Maine Vocational School, Gorham station, Country Kitchen and Copper Hearth were some of the places mentioned. The program committee will look into it and report at our next meeting.

It was voted to use the auction money for gentlemen's night.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the program committee. Mrs. Wilkes asked each member to tell a little bit about the craft she brought.

Several members did painting and gold leafing on trays, milk cans, and boxes. Lovely hand- made quilts which included patterns of Cathedral Window, Vow tie, and Grandmother's Garden, Hermit the frog, the Clown, mittens, sweaters, baby afghan and hot mats were some of the things displayed in crocheting and knitting.

Dried flowers, needlepoint and photo grams were among the framed pictures.

Candle making, ceramics and home-made Christmas ornaments and a photo collection of Victorian Doors, Hoods and Bay Windows.

Two of our members brought Crafts done by their husbands. They were miniature Shaker Doll furniture and beautiful wood carved birds.

We must agree we have a very talented group with many unique crafts.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 8, 1981

Thirty four attended We Neighbors Guest Day which was held at the fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. The President welcomed the group and those who brought guests introduced them to us. There was no business meeting. A paper was circulated around to sign up for the annual luncheon which is to be held at Southern Maine Vocational E. Institute in South Portland on May 13 at 12 o'clock. We will leave the fire house at 11:15.

The Program committee introduced the speaker Mrs. Nancy Sawyer from Sun Savings and Loan Association, who spoke on the Special Organization services which is a service primarily designed to assist you in organizing your personal business and financial affairs. Anyone may obtain SOS assistance simply by asking for it. You do not need to be a customer and there is no charge or obligation. It's nice to know there is such a program available. Mrs. Sawyer said to drop into any Sun Saving and Loan and pick up the SOS packet which will furnish you with a great deal of helpful material.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Annual Report 1980-1981

Nine meetings were held this year with an average attendance of 23. The weather cooperated so we didn't have to cancel any of our meetings.

In September thirty three boarded the boat at Cousins Island for a trip to Chebeague Island. It was a nice warm sunny day and we enjoyed the walk to Hermine Cottage. The crabmeat sandwiches served by the Committee were delicious.

In October Gentlemens night was held at Val Halla with a ham dinner served by the Verrills and followed by a Scotch and Irish program.

In November we had a Patriotic Program.

The Bell Ringers from the Seventh Day Advent Christian School gave us a very nice program for our December meeting.

In January Alva Brooks conducted a very successful auction.

In February Mrs. Pawle from Prince Memorial Library brought some of the latest books for us to see.

In March members brought crafts they had made and each one told a little about the crafts.

April Nancy Sawyer spoke on Special Organizational Services.

We had three join We Neighbors. They were Mrs. Charles Ferris, Mrs. Forrest Babbidge and Mrs. Orland Knight.

Our thanks to Hermine Stevens who served as our President and to all of those who served on the committees.

The Annual meeting will be held at S.M.V.T.I. on May 13, 1981

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In Memory of

Margery L. Wilson

New member of We Neighbors

May 13, 1981

Thirty three We Neighbors attended a luncheon at S.M.V.T.I. in South Portland.

Following the luncheon there was a short business meeting. The secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$516.63 in bank and \$10.27 petty cash fund. Sunshine reported on cards sent.

Report of Nominating committee was read as follows:

President: Mrs. Elva Brooks
Vice President: Mrs. Thelma Handcock
Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Merrill
Treasurer: Mrs. Sylvia Seyford
Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Joy Brown, Mrs. Toni Packard
Program Committee: Mrs. Martha Sanborn Co-Chairman, Mrs. Theda Ferris Co-chairman; Mrs. Priscilla Muir; Mrs. Georgia Adams; Mrs. Martha Pettengill; Mrs. Phyllis Blanchard.

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for slate of officers as read.

The following names were presented for membership:

Mrs. George Young, Range Road
Mrs. Joyce Evans, Woodside Dr.
Mrs. William Ballard, Hillcrest Dr.
Mrs. Margery L. Wilson, 1 Linda St.

It was moved and seconded that the names above be asked to join We Neighbors in September.

A gift was presented to our out-going President Hermine Stevens. The gavel was then turned over to our new President Elva Brooks. Elva wishes us all a very pleasant summer and she would be looking forward to seeing us all in the fall. Meeting adjourned.

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

September 9, 1981

Twenty We Neighbors enjoyed a very pleasant day at Hermine Cottage on Chebeague Island. The hostesses served fresh crabmeat sandwiches which is always a treat.

Our President Elva Brooks resigned because she moved away and our Vice President was unable to attend the meeting so the Secretary Margaret Merrill acted as President and secretary for a short business meeting. A moment of silent prayer was observed for Margery Wilson who died July 19, 1981.

The secretary thanked Hermine Stevens for having us. And also thanked the hostesses for preparing the luncheon.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we have \$525.77 in the bank account and \$10.27 petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent. Cash on hand \$39.44.

A thank you note from Martha McCullen was read.

Martha Sanborn gave out programs and went over them with us.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was turned over to Martha Sanborn and Theda Ferris who had prepared some interesting games for us to play. Prizes were given to all the winners.

After the games we picked up and started back to the dock for the return trip to the mainland. We had such a lovely time that we hated to see the day come to an end.

Respectfully,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 14, 1981

Gentlemen's night was held at Val Halla on the above date with 46 present. A report of the nominating committee was given by Iris Almy and Velma Merrill is to be our new President for this year. Velma welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses. Iva and Brad Bonney were asked to give the toast given by Kay and Luther Bonney in 1954. It brought back fond memories of Kay and Luther for those of us who knew the Bonneys.

Dinner was served by the Verrills.

After dinner Martha Sanborn introduced the Ya Salome Dancers which presented an interesting program of Far East dancing,

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merill, Sec.

November 11, 1981

Twenty eight We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses. The Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$535.20 in bank and cash on hand \$10.27. A thank you note from Janet Shaw was read. Sunshine reported on cards sent. It was voted that our Christmas offering be sent to New Life Center Inc. in Limerick Maine. It was moved and seconded that the auction money be given to the Center. As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned. The president turned the meeting over to the program committee who introduced Evelyn Chase as the auctioneer. Evelyn did a splendid job and made quite a little money for the club. We all had fun and some got their annual supplies of home-made pickles and jams.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

December 9, 1981

Twenty five we Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Mrs. Wilkes decorated the tea table with a Christmas tree and made pretty favors for the tables which gave it a festive occasion.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$550.40 in bank. Cash on hand \$10.27. Sunshine reported on gifts given to honorary members. Cash on hand \$39.92.

It was moved and seconded that our auction money be added to our Christmas donations for the New Life Center.

A thank you note from Lillian Hulit was read. Mrs. Judson wanted me to thank the We Neighbors for her Christmas gift. Her eye sight is failing so it's hard for her to write letters.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned and the program chairman introduced the speaker Mrs. David Pomeroy. Mrs. Pomeroy made an advent wreath using herbs from her garden and a potpourri of rose petals and oils. A name was drawn for the advent wreath and our President Velma Merrill won. Mrs. Pomeroy showed us some of the products she packages and sells in her shop. It was a real nice program for the advent season.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Helen F. Bragg

Member of We Neighbors

1905

died Dec. 19, 1981

January 13, 1982

Twenty-five We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Our President Velma Merrill welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Our president introduced a new member Mrs. Wilma Ballard and a guest Mrs. Marion Miller.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported we have \$544.36 in bank and \$10.27 in petty cash fund.

Sunshine reported on cards and gifts sent to honorary members. They have a balance of \$22.93.

Thank you notes were read from Lena Foster, Phyllis Sweetser, Margaret Wyman and the New Life Center.

It was moved and seconded that we give twenty five dollars to the Cumberland Congregational Church in memory of Helen Bragg.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Phyllis Blanchard who introduced our speaker Mrs. Harriet Thurston. Mrs. Thurston's hobbies are quilting and making apple dolls. For many years Mrs. Thurston lived in Portland before moving to North Yarmouth so she thought it would be fun to make a memory quilt of her years in Portland. Each square represents something in her past. Some of the squares were the City Seal, Portland Light, Deering Park, Burnham Morrill and the organ pipes at City Hall.

Her selection of materials and colors were excellent. It took her a year to complete the quilt. It certainly is something her family and friends will enjoy for many years.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill

February 12, 1982

Thirty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The president Velma Merrill welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$389.04 in bank and \$10.27 in petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$29.68 in petty cash.

Under new business a sign up -sheet was circulated for the luncheon at Rockcraft in May.

A nominating Committee was appointed by the President consisting of: Mrs. Hermine Stevens, Mrs. Lois Gatcomb, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Mrs. George Adams introduced the speaker Mrs. Kim Murphy who writes for the Portland Evening Express. Kim graduated from Simmons College and started her career as a police reporter. Some of her other assignments included reporting on the

servicing of light buoys by the Coast Guard, interviewing Ann Landers and Walter Cronkite, a trip with the Maine Mariners Hockey team, and an open heart operation. Kim is a very dynamic speaker and obviously she enjoys what she is doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 10, 1982

Twenty nine We Neighbors met on the above date at the firehouse. Our President Velma Merrill welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious St Patrick Day pie and decorations.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that we have \$384.46 in bank and \$10.27 in petty cash.

Under old business, voted to pay our speaker for guest day \$50. Out of this will come her expense and the rest will go as a gift to Washburn Norland in Livermore Falls.

A thank you note from Cap Bragg and family and Elaine Moxcey were read.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have cash on hand of \$38.13. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Our speaker was Miss Judy Johnson the horticulturist at O'Donal's Nurseries. Miss Johnson gave us tips on lawn care and plantings around your house. Its very important to have good soil for planting. Color coordination is important and using colors that don't clash with your house or other plants. Select a variety of shrubs which will bloom all through the summer. Landscaping should be spread out over a period of time. It may take several years to complete but the end result will be pleasing.

If you want to screen an area, fruits, firs and lilacs are good because they grow fast. Spruce and cedar trees make good wind breakers on north side of house.

Bankings which are hard to mow can be planted with juniper, Virginia Creeper, vines or pachysedra and mulched with bark mulch.

To keep children cutting through the yard use the old fashion beach rose.

To keep your house cool in summer plant shade trees on the south side of the house

Don't be afraid to prune your shrubs especially the flowering type after it has flowered.

Another important point to remember is to feed your lawn and feed your plants for good results.

We enjoyed Miss Johnson's talk and she answered many questions from the group about different plants.

She invited us to come and see the nursery and house around.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 14, 1982

Guest Day. Thirty-eight We Neighbors and guests met at the firehouse on the above date. The Pres. Velma Merrill welcomed everyone, commented on the large attendance, thanked the hostesses for the delicious cherry cheese cake pie and lovely floral centerpiece. The members introduced themselves and their guests. The Pres. turned the meeting over to the program committee and Phyllis Blanchard introduced the speaker, Mrs. Alfred Gammon, director of Washburn-Norlands¹⁸ in Livermore, Me. Only four people present have ever been to Norlands and seen its 430 acres of woodland and farmland with 3000 ft. of lake shore frontage. The buildings are the Washburn home with its attached "families cottage," an 1820 schoolhouse, an 1828 Church and an 1883 store library. "Once the Center of a County crossroads community, Norlands is the home of one of America's great political families." There were seven brothers and three sisters. Two of the brothers were governors, of two different States, four were congressmen, one a United States Senator, a navy captain, an Army General, a Secretary of State and two Foreign Ministers. The 5th brother named the place "Norlands" when he came home and was standing on the porch reciting a poem by Tennyson. They try to keep the heritage of the Washburn family. 21,260 people visited the place last year. They are better known out of State than in State. June 8th is their annual festival. They have a working farm, all the buildings are experience centered. The cow just had a calf, six pigs are expecting babies. They have sheep, horses, oxen and cats. The Dec. 1979 Yankee Magazine had an article on the Norlands, also in the summer of 1981 it was mentioned in the Yankee Guide. School children from all over the state come here to visit. They have an adult live-in program where teachers, history students, museum staff or anyone can come and live for their days and nights as they did in the 19th century, sleeping on corn husk mattresses, doing farm chores, cooking, quilting etc. They have material culture, teach with things that can be touched, old ledges and original source material. Mrs. Gammon told us about the pauper auction, where in the old days poor people were auctioned off to the lowest bidder by the Town. The person who was the lowest bidder would keep the pauper for a year with the Town paying \$1.75 or \$2.45 or whatever a week towards the paupers room and board, and the pauper in turn would have to work for the family for the year. Mrs. Gammon went to the kitchen for a dish of water. When she returned she was dressed like an old poor women of the 1800s. Then she did a skit, taking the part of Mercy Lovejoy, a poor farm woman who never learned to read or write. She had 5 "young ones." Her husband, Azel "took sick" and "crossed the river." Lo she and the children were sold at the pauper's auction. Later on as the children grew and were of more use to work for people, they were "sold" to different people then Mrs. Lovejoy and she never saw them again. Abner and Fronie couldn't pay their taxes so the town took the farm and put all the paupers on it, so that was the first "Town Farm."

¹⁸ Washburn-Norlands Living History Center offers visitors a variety of programs to enable them to experience life as it truly was in 18th and 19th Century Maine. Norlands is the family home of the Washburns, one of the great political and industrial dynasties in the nineteenth century. Of the ten children born to Israel and Martha Washburn, seven sons rose to serve as governors, congressmen, a U. S. Senator, Secretary of State, foreign ministers, a Civil War general, and a Navy captain. As industrialists, the brothers' achievements included founding of the Washburn-Crosby Gold Medal Flour Company, inventor of a typewriter, and serving as president of a railroad.

The skit was all true happenings. Washburn-Norlands is open 10 to 4 Wed. thru Sun. It takes two hours to see the place.

The Pres. accepted a motion to dispense with the reading of the Sec. and Treas. Reports. The Sunshine collection was taken. The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting and luncheon to be held at Rockcraft Lodge, Sebago Lake. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.50. Members will meet at the firehouse at 10:30 A.M. to carpool.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. pro tem.

1981-1982 Annual Meeting of We Neighbors

Nine meetings were held this year with an average attendance of 27.

In September we made our annual trip to Chebeague Island. The weather was beautiful and we enjoyed the day at Hermine's Cottage.

In October we held Gentlemen's night at Val Halla. At this meeting we elected Velma Merrill as President because Elva Brooks moved away. Dinner was served by the Verrills and the entertainment was the Salome Dancers. November Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction.

In December, Mrs. David Pomeroy made an advent wreath using herbs from her garden.

January, Mrs. Harriet Thurston of North Yarmouth showed us her memory quilt. It was beautifully done, each square representing something in her past when she lived in Portland.

February Kim Murphy gave a very dynamic talk, as reported for the Portland Evening Express.

March our speaker was from O'Donal's Nurseries, Miss Judy Johnson who gave us excellent tips for landscaping and planting.

April was guest day with a most interesting speaker from Washburn Norlands in Livermore, Maine.

We had three join We Neighbors this year. They are Mrs. Joyce Evans, Mrs. William Ballard, and Mrs. George Young. Miss Margery Wilson was to be a new member but she died during the summer. We were saddened by the death of a long time member of We Neighbors, Helen Bragg.

Our thanks to Velma Merrill who served as President and to all those who served on Committees.

The annual meeting will be held at Rockcraft on May 12, 1982.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 12, 1982

Thirty six We Neighbors attended a luncheon and annual meeting at Rockcraft Lodge in Sebago. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses.

Mr. Harold Batke gave us a history of Rockcraft Lodge. Rockcraft was built in 1917 by Mr. Spaulding for a hunting lodge. He brought Italian stone makers to this Country to build it. In 1927, Mr. Spaulding died and Mrs. Spaulding continued to come till her death in 1963. The Spauldings had a staff of seventeen to care for the house and grounds. The Spauldings were very generous people always doing things for the town. Some of things they did was build an elementary school, library and a gym for the high school. They gave back area to the town so the people of Sebago could have a place to swim. When Mrs. Spaulding died the property went to her niece Mrs. Gaines and she didn't want it and she offered to give it to the Connecticut Conference to be used as a retreat but they felt it was too far away and they asked if it would be alright to give it to the Maine Conference and she agreed so that is how the Maine people acquired Rockcraft in 1965. The place is now used for retreat, weddings, luncheons and dinner parties. The garages are now being renovated for a small retreat Center for young people and a learning center. Rockcraft is a beautiful place and we are most fortunate to have the property.

The Secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$351.36 in bank and \$10.27 petty cash.

Sunshine reported \$38.90 cash on hand.

The annual reports of secretary, treasurer and Sunshine were read and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that we spend \$60 on our gift to the fire house. It was suggested that we buy an electric tea kettle and some cream pitchers. Evelyn Chase and Margaret Merrill will purchase the gift.

Under new business the report of the nominating Committee was read:

President: Mrs. Phyllis Blanchard

Vice President: Mrs. Elizabeth Wright

Secretary: Mrs. Margaret Merrill

Treasurer: Mrs. Priscilla Muir

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Joy Brown, Mrs. Toni Packard

Program Committee: Mrs. Mattie Bailey and Mrs. Martha Pettengill, Co-chairperson; Mrs. Joyce Evans;
Mrs. Elizabeth Knight

It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the above slate of officers.

The following names were presented for membership and duly elected:

1. Mrs. Mildred Haskell, 39 Hillcrest Ave.
2. Mrs. Connie Poulin, 9 Sparhawk Lane
3. Mrs. Dorothy Kailis, 24 Woodside Dr.
4. Mrs. Alma Hayes, 447 Greely Road Extension
5. Mrs. Burell Lowell, 29 Woodside Dr.

Our President Velma Merrill was presented with a Margaret Smith bag.¹⁹

The President presented the gavel to our new President Mrs. Phyllis Blanchard. Phyllis thanked the group for electing her and she wished us all a very happy summer and she would be looking forward to seeing us in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

1982-1983

September 8, 1982

Twenty seven We Neighbors met at the fire station at 10:00 A.M. on the above date to go to Chebeague Island for our annual picnic at Hermine Stevens Cottage. It was a beautiful warm sunny September day. A delicious crab meat roll luncheon was served by the hostesses.

In the absence of our President Betty Wright conducted the business meeting. She thanked Hermine for the use of her cottage and the hostesses for the luncheon.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$341.06 in bank and \$9.48 petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent to Toni Packard and Esther Neville.

A thank you note was read from Velma Merrill for the Margaret Smith bag which she was given at the completion of the year as our President.

A sign- up sheet for gentlemen's night was passed around.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Hermine took a group on a tour of the Island. We always have a nice time when we go to Chebeague and it always ends too quickly.

¹⁹ Margaret Chase Smith (1897-1995) served in the U. S. House of Representatives (1940-1949) and in the U. S. Senate (1949-1973). A moderate Republican, she is perhaps best known for her 1950 speech , "Declaration of Conscience" in which she criticized the tactics of McCarthyism.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 13, 1982

Fifty attended Gentlemen's Night at the Unitarian Universalist Church. The ladies of the Church prepared punch and dip and a delicious turkey dinner. Velma Merrill gave the invocation.

Our speaker was Joe Cupo the weatherman for Channel six. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Antoinette N. Packard

Member of We Neighbors

1904

Oct. 28, 1982

November 10, 1982

Twenty six We Neighbors met at the Firehouse on the above date. A moment of silent prayer was observed for Toni Packard, a long time member of We Neighbors.

Our President Phyllis Blanchard welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. In observance of Veterans Day the table decoration was done in red, white, and blue carnations.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$397.76 in bank and 9.48 in petty cash fund.

Thank you notes from Martha Sanborn, Hermine Stevens, and Margaret Merrill were read.

Members are asked to send a shower of cards to Georgia Adams, Hilda Bennett and sympathy cards to Hazel Reynolds whose great grandson was killed in an auto accident.

Martha Sanborn brought to the attention of the group that she felt it wasn't clearly stated in the by-laws the duties of the officers and Committees and she wished something would be done so everyone would understand what she should be doing. A committee of three was appointed by the President to set up guidelines to be followed. Martha Sanborn, Velma Merrill and Phyllis Blanchard will serve on the committee.

A Committee of three was appointed to select a new place to send our Christmas donation this year. Members are asked to bring a two dollar Christmas gift for the Christmas party.

Phyllis Blanchard reported that a book called *Christian Concepts in Art*²⁰ will be placed in the church library in memory of Toni Packard and a letter be sent to her daughter Virginia Hutchins telling her about the book. As there was no other business the business meeting adjourned.

Matty Bailey, program Chairman, introduced our speaker Mrs. Carson from Central Maine Power Co. She gave us many simple energy saving hints which could help save energy in our homes such as using small appliances, turning down burners when things begin to boil, don't fill tea kettle when you only need a little hot water. Cover windows at night to keep out cold. Also using fluorescent lights will cut down on energy.

Mrs. Carson gave out small appliance cookbook and Holiday Recipes in large print and directions for covering hot water bottles and draft stopper Doggie. It was a most informative program which we all enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

²⁰ Evergood, Philip, contributor, *Christian Concepts in Art*, Pilgrim Press, 24 pages.

December 8, 1982

Thirty-four We Neighbors met at the Fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served and the tables were attractively decorated for Christmas. One table held a Christmas tree, and we all brought gifts to exchange. During the refreshments Mrs. Hans Hansen of Gray played her harp and told us a little about the instrument. When they make a harp, they always make two at the same time. Mrs. Hansen has played for 30 years, and plays with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra.

The Pres. Phyllis Blanchard called the meeting to order. The secretaries and treasurers' reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$420.59 in the bank and \$9.48 on hand. Velma Merrill reported that the Pres. and two past presidents had gotten together and decided that this year Christmas donation be given to the Bruce Roberts Fund. After some discussion it was decided that it should be a free will offering and all sent to the Bruce Roberts Fund. The collection was taken and \$42. was collected.

The Sunshine collection was taken and the report given by Joy Brown, \$7.25 was collected last month. She sent cards, and Christmas gifts were sent to honorary members. She now has \$22.64 cash on hand in the Sunshine fund. Hazel Reynolds thanked the group for the card sent her in her recent bereavement.

The Pres. thanked the hostesses and adjourned the meeting.

The exchange of gifts followed with Dot Wiles in charge of cut Christmas cards to see who would get what gift. Many interesting gifts were received.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec. pro tem.

January 12, 1983

Twenty-eight We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President Phyllis Blanchard welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$366.25 in bank and \$8.69 in petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$32.49.

Notes were read from Phyllis Sweetser, Elaine Moxcey, Virginia Hutchins and the Congregational Church. Martha Sanborn had a letter from Alva Brooks and she wanted to be remembered to the group.

Velma Merrill reported to the group that the Friends of the Library are having a pot luck supper at the Wilson School on April 14. The speaker will be Bill Caldwell and the price is three dollars per person. Anyone interested in going contact her.

Our next meeting is a tasting party and sharing of hobbies. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Evelyn Chase who conducted a very successful auction.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

February 9, 1983

Nineteen We Neighbors met at the Fire House for the "Tasting Party", everyone brought a dessert and the recipe. The hostesses had the table decorated for Valentine's Day. The Pres. Phyllis Blanchard called the meeting to order and thanked everyone, not just the hostesses, for the lovely refreshments. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported that last time the Auction made \$53.90. There is a balance on hand of \$421.82. The Sunshine collection was taken and \$4.55 was collected. None of the Sunshine committee were present. Someone had a letter from Rena Lamson and she wanted to be remembered to everyone. Elaine Rice is sick. The hostesses are sending her the centerpiece used today and a box of goodies.

There was no old or new business. The next meeting the program will be Jan Tardiff talking on quilts. The pres. turned the meeting over to Mattie Bailey, chairman of the program committee. Several people had brought hobbies to tell about. Some of the things displayed were china, bottles, and a centennial booklet from Poland Spring, a Sampler about a garden, Bread Board with spice display for a wall plaque, mice dressed as people, Paintings, Quilted wall hanging shaped like a basket, a knitted sweater, log cabin quilt and mustard mugs.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. pro tem.

March 9, 1983

Twenty seven We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Our President Phyllis Blanchard welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we had \$423.64 in bank and petty cash on hand \$8.69. Sunshine reported on cards sent and their cash balance is \$51.29.

Under old business Evelyn Chase reported on cream pitchers that she purchased and is still looking for three more to match the ones she had already purchased.

Velma Merrill researched old records and came up with the duties of officers and she will type up a list of duties to be kept in secretary's records.

Under new business the nominating committee was appointed by the President: Evelyn Chase, Janet Shaw, Frances Nelson will serve on this committee.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Velma Merrill introduced our speaker Mrs. Jan Tardiff who teaches quilting here in Cumberland. Quilting is a very old craft dating back to 5000 B.C.

In the beginning it was done by men and all done by hand. Now quilting is coming back and is used for many things such as rests, pillow tops, placemats, table cloths, pictures, bags and many other things.

There are many books and magazines on quilting. Her group placed in Prince Memorial Library a hundred dollars worth of books on quilting.

Quilting can be fun to do picking out your pattern and selecting your colors. We enjoyed seeing the State of Maine Sampler quilt and many other things she had made over the years she has been quilting.

Janet Shaw is attending one of her classes and she brought a sample of her work for us to see. It was a most interesting meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 13, 1983

Thirty-seven attended guest day at the Fire house on the above date. Our President Phyllis Blanchard welcomed the guests and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$423.52 in bank and 8.69 in petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent.

There was no old business and under new business Velma Merrill explained the blue light project sponsored by the realtors. Placing the light in a front window will enable the rescue Unit to find the place easier, especially at night. The blue light and winker cost \$2.37.

A discussion was held on our gift to the fire house. Someone suggested we buy more saucers because all the cups didn't have saucers. It was suggested that we buy four baking pans for the oven. Evelyn Chase and Margaret Merrill will have charge of getting something for the fire house.

The annual meeting will be held at Camp Hammond in Yarmouth on May 11th. You will be able to order from the menu. The price is \$3.95 and \$4.95.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the Program Committee and Velma Merrill introduced our speaker Fran Hapgood.²¹

Fran started writing her column in 1952 and the Christmas Caravan started in 1957. It's through this group that 1500 Children are remembered at Christmas time.

In 1959 they started having the Clearing house picnics. The first two were held in Bridgton and Naples. The following year at Thomas Point in Brunswick. The picnic has something for everyone such as a hobby show, chess games, auction, square dancing, Rock bank, Country Western music and many other

²¹ Fran Hapgood of "Clearing House" also spoke to We Neighbors on April 8, 1970. For more information see Chapter XIII (1962-1975), footnote 20.

interesting events during the day. The auction money all goes to the Christmas Caravan. You could tell that Fran Hapgood loves what she is doing and she was a delight to listen to.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Annual Report for 1982-1983

Eight meetings were held this year with the average attendance of 31.

In September twenty seven We Neighbors went to Chebeague Island for the day. As usual the weather cooperated and we had a delightful day at Hermine's cottage.

In October gentlemen's night was held at the Unitarian Universalist church on Allen Avenue. The ladies of the Church prepared a turkey dinner. Our speaker was Joe Cupo the weatherman for Channel 6.

Our November speaker was Mrs. Carson from Central Maine Power Co who presented an interesting program on energy saving hints.

December was the Christmas party and exchange of gifts and Mrs. Hans Hansen from Gray played her Harp.

January Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction.

In February everyone brought desserts to taste and the recipes. The program for that day was hobbies and each member told about her hobby. Some of the things displayed were China, bottles, Centennial booklet, a sampler about a garden, mice dressed as people, paintings, mustard mugs and a log cabin quilt.

March Jan Tardiff and an interesting talk on quilting.

Our April meeting Fran Hapgood from Clearing House gave us an insight on what she is doing and how she came about to writing the column.

We were saddened by the death of a long time member of We Neighbors Tony Packard. We also lost a new member Margery Wilson who never got to attend a meeting.

Our thanks to Phyllis Blanchard who served as President this year and to all of those who served on committees.

The Annual meeting and luncheon will be held at Camp Hammond on May 11, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 11, 1983

The Annual meeting of We Neighbors was held at Camp Hammond in Yarmouth on the above date with twenty five present. It was a beautiful warm day. Most of the group enjoyed their meals but felt the service was slow for no more than we had attending.

Our President Phyllis Blanchard welcomed the group and thanked those who selected the place and made arrangements for the luncheon.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$404.42 in bank and petty cash \$7.89. Sunshine Committee reported on cards sent and they have \$66.23 on hand.

The Annual reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

It was voted that the program committee be authorized to spend \$250 if they felt it was necessary to get good programs.

The officers for 1983-1984 were presented:

President: Mrs. Louis Wright

Vice President: Mrs. Robert Gatcombe

Secretary: Mrs. Halvor Merrill

Treasurer: Mrs. Harry Muir

Sunshine Committee: Mrs. Paul Brown, Mrs. George Hayes

Program Committee: Mrs. Bradford Bonney Chairman, Mrs. W. S. Ballard, Miss Grace Trappan, Mrs. Arthur Poulin, Mrs. Christopher Adams.

It was moved and seconded that we accept the slate of officers as read.

The President asked if there were any new names for membership. No one presented names this year. Betty Knight presented the out- going President with a gift. The President then turned the gavel over to our new President Betty Wright. Betty said she would be looking forward to seeing us all in the fall, and have a wonderful summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Abbie. M. Judson

Member of We Neighbors

June 10, 1879

July 15, 1983

1983-1984

September 14, 1983

On a beautiful fall morning twenty six We Neighbors went out to Chebeague Island for our annual fall picnic at Hermine's Cottage. While lunch was being prepared some of the ladies walked along the shore and others sat on the porch and talked. The crabmeat sandwiches were yummy and the sweets were extra special.

After lunch we moved to the back yard for our business meeting. Our President Betty Wright conducted the meeting. She thanked the hostesses and Hermine for the use of her cottage.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$409.42 in bank and \$6.95 petty cash on hand.

Sunshine reported a balance of \$66.23.

It was voted that \$25 be sent to the Congregational Church Library for a book to be purchased in memory of Mrs. Abbie Judson.

A sign-up sheet was sent around for Gentlemen's night which will be held October 23, 2983 at the Parish House.

We wish to express our appreciation to Iva Bonney and her Committee for the many hours they spent on preparing the proms. It certainly looks like a great year ahead. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 12, 1983

Forty two attended Gentlemen's night at the Parish House. Our President Betty Wright greeted the members and guests. The hostesses served punch and snacks.

Margaret Merrill gave the invocation. A delicious chicken dinner was served with ice cream pie for dessert.

Iva Bonney introduced the Barber Shop Quartet called the O Ceanaires. It was a delightful program which everyone enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In Memory

Of

Sylvia C. Seyford

Member of We Neighbors

Born 1913

Oct. 12, 1983

November 19, 1983

Twenty-one We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. The Pres. Betty Wright called the meeting to order. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Sylvia Seyford who passed away Oct. 12, 1983.

The Sec report was read and approved. The treas. Report was read and accepted with a balance of \$342.43. The Sunshine collection was taken, the report was given with a balance of \$70.23. A thank you note was read from Hermine Stevens for the gift certificate from Howsie's Yarn Barn, where she selected yarn for a sweater. There was no old business.

Under new business it was discussed that when there is a funeral for a We Neighbors member it would be nice for the club to attend in a group. Some said they belong to more than one group that might be represented, some felt they would want to sit with their husbands. It was left that we might try to work something out another time.

It was voted to give \$25. to the Tuttle Road United Methodist Church in memory of Sylvia Seyford. The Christmas charity was discussed. The sec. read the following list of where the money had been donated in the past five years, 1976 Bruce Roberts Fund, 1977 Salvation Army, 1978 Pineland Hospital, 1979 School for the blind, 1980 New Life Center for Boys, 1981 New Life Center for boys, and 1982 Bruce Roberts Fund. It was generally agreed that it was nice to donate to a different charity each year. It was voted to give to the Portland Home for Abused Women and Children this year. The collection will be taken at the Dec. meeting. It was reported that Hazel Reynolds is sick. The Pres. thanked the hostesses for delicious refreshments, and told all the members present that they were really courageous to come out in the rain.

The meeting was adjourned and turned over to Aurelia Tripp who introduced the speaker, her daughter-in-law, Judy Tripp. She told how she started her business which is called "Mainely shades" after moving to Falmouth, Me. from California. She works out of her garage and started with a painting class of 8 people, then she went into craft shows, and finally lamp shades. There were no instruction books, so she has written two: "Basics of Lamp Shade Crafting" and "Bright Ideas." After being asked where one could buy the materials to make the lamp shades, she became a distributor of the supplies. She teaches for Sturbridge Yankee Workshop. Last summer she gave a Seminar at the Eastland Hotel and 33 people came from all over the country. Her business has grown from a class of 8 people to a National company written up in many well-known magazines. Her talk was very interesting.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. Pro Tem.

December 14, 1983

Twenty-six "We Neighbors" met at the Fire Station on the above date. The Pres. called the meeting to order and turned it over to the program committee who introduced the speaker, David Chase, from

Golden glow Gardens, ²² Siligo Rd. North Yarmouth. He retired, moved to Maine, got interested in gardening as a hobby, which soon became a business. He showed us slides of beautiful flowers, all taken from his garden. He took us on a "tour" of his garden from early spring to late fall. He deals in perennials, and individuals or groups can see his gardens by appointment from mid -April to Nov. He said anyone interested in flowers should learn the Latin names. He suggested two books "Perennials for your Garden," ²³ and "Alpines for your Garden" both by Alan Bloom.²⁴ He also recommended the Time Life Encyclopedia of Gardening.

After the program refreshments were served.

Pres. Betty Wright called the business meeting to order and the Sec. and treas. reports were read and approved. The Treas. reported a balance of \$381.40. Sunshine Com. reported a balance of \$30.23 after depositing some money with the Treas. Joy Brown asked the group for suggestions of what to give honorary members for Christmas. Candy has been given in the past. It was decided to have it up to the com. Velma Merrill had blue light on display which may be purchased to put in your window if you need rescue or police. The collection was taken for our Christmas Charity "Family Crisis Center." As no collection was taken in Nov., it was moved, 2nd and voted to wait and take another collection in Jan for those who weren't here today, and send it in later. Notes were read from Elaine Moxcey and Rena Lamson. The Pres. thanked Aurelia and her committee for refreshments. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. pro tem

February 8, 1984

Thirty-five "We Neighbors" members and three guests met at the Fire Station on the above date. The Pres. Betty Wright welcomed them all and said what a nice day it is. She mentioned that the Jan. meeting had been cancelled because of snow, and the fact that the speaker couldn't get out of her driveway. We all sang Happy Birthday to Phyllis Sweetser as today is her 86th birthday. The Pres. thanked the refreshment committee for delicious refreshments. The Sec. report was read and accepted. Under correspondence Joy Brown read a thank you note from Phyllis Sweetser, and Lou Gatcombe thanked the club for money sent to the Tuttle Rd. Church in memory of Sylvia Seyford. The treasurers report was read. She reported a bank balance of \$393.43 and \$6.95 cash on hand. \$39.00 was taken in for our Christmas Charity at the last meeting, to go to the "Family Crisis Center". The Sunshine Committee report was given and there is a balance of \$23.0 4 after the Christmas gifts were paid. The Sunshine collection was taken. Cards were passed around to be signed for Velma Merrill, Iva Bonney and Madge Tame.

²² Golden Glow Gardensis located at 115 Siligo Road, North Yarmouth, Maine.

²³ Bloom, Alan, Perennials for Your Garden, New York: Scribner, 1971.

²⁴ Alan Bloom (1906-2005) was a horticulturist and steam engine enthusiast. During his life he created over 170 new varieties of hardy perennial plants. Perennial plants, alpine plants, and conifers were his specialties. He invented the garden feature of free standing island beds, set in open lawn.

Old business, the Pres. announced that anyone who had not given to the Christmas charity, but who wished to, could give today. The collection was taken and in all \$50.00 will be sent to the "Family Crisis Center". The money was entrusted to Nancy Fearing to see that it gets to the right place. New business, the next meeting will be a Chinese Auction. Each member is to bring one gift, wrapped worth \$1.00 or \$2.00 dollars. When you arrive at the meeting you will pass in your gift and pay \$1.00 for a number, then a fun afternoon will follow.

As there was no further business, the Pres. turned the meeting over to Phyllis Sweetser who introduced the speaker, Sally Merrill, saying that both her grandmothers had belonged to "We Neighbors." She has travelled in Taiwan, Japan, and mainland China. She showed slides and told us about the trip she took to China two years ago, when she was one of twenty-two people who went to Shanghai to study the Chinese language. She showed slides of the Great Wall of China built between 221 BC and 210 BC. It is 1400 miles long, 50 feet high and 25 feet wide, a monument to the first Chinese Sovereign but a graveyard for the many workers who were killed constructing it. In the past 20 years they have been repairing the wall. The 1st Chinese Emperor also had a canal built between two large rivers in China. He tried to unify the thinking, so he had all the books burned except those on agriculture and Dr's books. She had a chance to ride a camel. Everyone was dressed in warm clothes, as the Cold Wind blew down from Siberia. The temperature would be about 10 degrees F but they only had a dusting of snow. She showed pictures of the Forbidden City of the Ming Emperor which is built on 23 acres, and has a special temple where he goes to pray for rain. The Chinese built a boat completely of marble with funds designated for the navy. It sits in the water, but of course does not float. It is used only for looks, and tea is served there. They were defeated by the Japanese in 1895 and ten years later by the Russians. She showed pictures of a Farmers Market which had vegetables, fish and pork. 1983 was the "Year of the pig". Shanghai has 11,000,000 population. 60-70% of the people burn coal, but do not have central heating. There is a lot of smog. Everyone is studying a foreign language, even a nine year old. Protestant church services are allowed, but it lasted three hours, all in Chinese. Her teacher spoke no English. Many things, such as music were not allowed during the Cultural revolution but the people held no grudge. They respect older people as those who have brought them where they are. The Chinese make silk, grow rice, do anything well that need a lot of hard labor. She ended by reading poem in Chinese, and the last picture was of her own back yard on the farm in Cumberland. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. pro tem

March 14, 1984

Meeting cancelled due to inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Marjorie (Madge) Tame

Member of We Neighbors

Born 1912

died March 3, 1984

April 11, 1984

Twenty five We Neighbors and seven guests attended guest day at the Fire House on the above date. The President welcomed the group and those who brought guests introduced them. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$364.43 in checking account and \$6.95 petty cash.

Sunshine reported a balance of \$22.58 in their account.

Thank you notes were read from the Family Crisis Shelter and Iva Bonney. Velma Merrill thanked the group for all the lovely cards sent to her when she broke her hip.

Nominating Committee was appointed by the President Betty Wright: Margaret Small Chairman, Lillian Hult, Leona Crandall. A list was sent around to sign up for the Herb Luncheon which will be held at the Fire House on May 9 at 12:30.

Voted to send \$15. in memory of Marjorie Tame to the Congregational Church.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned and Iva Bonney introduced her brother David Moody who showed beautiful slides of his garden and family and some very spectacular slides of sunsets. It was a most enjoyable afternoon for those who attended.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Annual Report 1983-1984

Seven meetings were held this year, with the average attendance of 30. Two meetings were cancelled due to inclement weather.

In September the annual fall picnic was held at Hermine cottage with twenty six present. It was a delightful fall day. We never cease to wonder how we luck out every September and have such ideal weather for the outing.

Forty two attended Gentlemen's night at the Parish House. Following the dinner a barber shop quartet called the O Ceanaires presented a delightful program which everyone enjoyed.

Our speaker in December was David Chase from Golden Glow Gardens. Mr. Chase showed slides of his garden from early spring till late fall.

Our January meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

February was a slide presentation by Sally Merrill on her trip to mainland china two years ago.

March meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

April thirty two were present to hear David Moody and see his colored slides on his garden and spectacular sunsets.

We were saddened by the death of three members this year: Abbie Judson, Sylvia Seyford and Madge Tame.

Our thanks to Betty Wright who served as President this year and to all of those who served on Committees.

The annual meeting and luncheon will be held at the fire house on May 9, 1984.

May 9, 1984

Twenty nine We Neighbors met at the fire house on above date for an herb luncheon served by Marilyn Pomeroy and Leni McCollor. Our President Betty Wright welcomed the group and she thanked the hostesses. Mrs. Pomeroy told the group what herbs she used in the dishes prepared. Also suggested several good books on herbs. Our President thanked them for putting on the luncheon.

Following the luncheon was the annual meeting. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$279.01 in bank and \$6.95 in petty cash.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have a balance of \$29.33.

The annual reports of secretary, treasurer and sunshine committee were read and accepted.

Under old business, a discussion was held on amending the by- laws so our Annual Meeting will come in April instead of May. The reason being that it is getting increasingly hard to find a place with a private dining room. Everyone seemed to think it would be an excellent suggestion. This will be presented at our September meeting and voted on at that time and incorporated into the by- laws.

The nominating committee presented the following names for the coming year:

President: Lois Gatcombe

Vice President: Aurelia Tripp

Secretary: Margaret Merrill

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Sunshine committee: Joy Brown, Alma Hayes

Program Committee: Nancy Fearing chairman, Hermine Stevens, Iris Almy, Evelyn Chase, Mildred Haskell

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee.

Three names were presented for membership. They are as follows:

1. Mrs. Mildred Moegling, 3 Crystal Lane
2. Mrs. Janet Bragg, Maine Street
3. Miss Sally Merrill, 42 Winn Road.

It was moved and seconded that they be asked to join We Neighbors at our September meeting.

As there was no other business, the business meeting adjourned. Betty was presented with a gift from the group for being President this year. She then turned the gavel over to Lois Gatcombe. Lois thanked the group for electing her President and she was looking forward to seeing us all in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Dorothy H. Kailes

Member of We Neighbors

Born 1916

June 21, 1984

September 12, 1984

Seventeen We Neighbors and one guest enjoyed the bus trip to Cousins Island where we took the boat to Chebeague Island for the annual picnic at Hermine Stevens. It was a perfectly gorgeous day and we enjoyed the Crabmeat sandwiches and goodies provided by the hostesses.

After lunch we had a short business meeting. The president Lois Gatcombe welcomed the members and introduced the new members. She thanked the hostesses and Hermine for inviting us to the Island for our picnic.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$212.21 balance in checking account and \$6.05 in petty cash.

Sunshine Committee reported \$32.88 in account. She also reported on cards sent during the summer.

It was suggested that we send cards to Alaire Rice.

Under old business a discussion was held on changing the Annual meeting to April. The group decided to leave the annual meeting in May.

A thank you note from Central Station was read for our gift of two Coffee servers and cream pitchers to the fire house.

Dorothy Wilkes thanked the group for cards she received this summer.

Our second letter from Chief Wagner was calling our attention to the Cumberland Fire Department regulations prohibiting the use of alcoholic beverages in any Department building and our compliance with these regulations is expected.

He also would like us to use the back row of the parking lot or in back of the building so in the event of a fire or rescue, members will have a place to park.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Hermine conducted a tour of the Island for new members and others who hadn't been before.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 10, 1984

Twenty four "We Neighbors" and the speaker met at the fire station on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by Nancy Fearing and her committee. The speaker was Joan Irish from Yarmouth. She worked with the Mass. Audubon Society for 14 years. She is still an ardent bird watcher and has a camp on Kezar Lake, Lovell, Me. She is also a free-lance artist and draws houses that can be put on note paper. Her subject was "50 common birds by sight and sound." She showed slides of birds and had a tape recording of their songs. It was divided into three parts, 1. Birds that are here all year long,

which included blue jays, chick-a-dees, nut hatches, starlings, finches, sparrows, doves, and more. 2. Birds that some migrate and some don't (and therefore some don't make it through the winter) which included brown thrasher, mocking bird, Rufus Towhee, barred owl and others. 3. Migrant birds in our back yard, including scarlet tanager, Baltimore oriole, yellow warbler and others. She had a display of bird feeders and books about birds which are on sale at the Me. Audubon Society in Falmouth.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Lois Gatcombe. She thanked the refreshment committee. The secretary's report was read and approved. A thank you note was read from Hermine Stevens for her gift certificate from Howsie's Yarn Barn, but she said she had requested no gifts for entertaining us at her cottage on Chebeague Is. The treasurer reported a balance of \$288.21 in the bank and \$6.05 on hand. On the program, Elaine Moxcey's name should be added. And under the hostesses Aurelia Tripp will swap with Priscilla Muir and Joy Brown will swap with Janet Shaw. The Sunshine Com. reported a balance of \$38.62 and the collection was taken. A note was read from Alaine Rice, and she was reported as still having treatments at the hospital.

Old business – the Pres. reminded us that we are to park cars next to the grass and out back of the Fire Station to leave room for the firemen next to the building. There was no new business. The next meeting will be a speaker from the U.S. Immigration Service. The Pres. declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec. pro tem

November 14, 1984

Twenty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses.

The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$299.21 in bank and cash on hand \$6.05. Sunshine reported on cards sent and cash on hand \$45.22.

It was moved and seconded that our Christmas gift be sent to the Cleo Shelter this year.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Lois Gatcombe introduced our speaker Mr. Sidney Darrah who spoke on Immigration and Naturalization Service which is under the Department of

Justice. The Border Patrol²⁵ of the Immigration and Naturalization Service is a highly trained officer corps. Its primary mission is detecting and preventing the smuggling and illegal entry of persons into the United States. These men work around the clock. They need many more of these highly skilled men to do the job properly. It costs our government 230 billion dollars a year for welfare and unemployment benefits for illegal aliens each year.

Just recently a professor at the University of Maine was sent back to Korea after seven years as a professor of the University who came here as an illegal alien. It sometimes takes year to catch up with these people.

It's a tremendous job that the Immigration and Naturalization Service is trying to do to protect our country from illegal aliens.

We found it most interesting and rather scary as to what is taking place.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

December 12, 1984

Thirty seven attended Gentlemen's night at the Parish House on the above date. A delicious turkey dinner was served by the ladies of the Church.

Our president Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the refreshments and thanked the ladies of the Church for the dinner.

The President introduced the Bell ringers from the Freeport Christian School which gave a very nice program of Christmas music.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

²⁵ The primary mission of the Border Control is to detect and prevent illegal entry of aliens into the United States. Specifically, Border Control is responsible for patrolling 6000 miles of Mexican and Canadian international land borders and over 2000 miles of coastal waters surrounding the Florida peninsula and the island of Puerto Rico. Agents work around the clock in all types of terrain and weather conditions. All Border Patrol agents spend 13 weeks in training at the Border Control Academy in Artesia, New Mexico. Line watch operations are conducted near international boundaries and coast lines in areas of Border Patrol jurisdiction to prevent illegal entry and smuggling of aliens into the US, and to intercept those who do enter illegally before they can escape from border areas. During the 1980s, illegal immigration increased significantly. Border Patrol responded with increase in manpower and the implementation of modern technology, such as infrared night-vision scopes, seismic sensors, and modern computer processing.

In memory of

Marion Fox

Member of We Neighbors

Dec. 1984

January 9, 1985

Twenty-four We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses. The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$251.21 in checking account and cash on hand \$6.05.

A thank you note was read from Lena Foster.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and cash on hand \$29.56.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned and Nancy Fearing introduced the speaker Donna Damon from Chebeague Island. Donna has collected old post cards of Chebeague Island. Chebeague Island is five miles long and 2 and one half miles wide. The glaciers shaped the Island like a turtle. Chebeague means Island of many springs. Before 1821 Chebeague was part of North Yarmouth and in 1821 they became part of Cumberland. At one time there were fourteen boarding houses on Chebeague and the farm people provided fresh vegetables, fruits, eggs, meat, and milk. Fish, lobster and clams were available from the fishermen. They had a canning factory and canned Chebeague Little Neck Clams and apples. It is said:

Long Island poverty

Peaks Island Pride

If it hadn't been for Clam flats

Chebeague Island would of died.

For many years the men worked on the Chebeague Rock Stone sloop which carried granite. They carried the granite for the Washington Monument.

The oldest house on the Island was built in 1760 and the Methodist Church was built in 1855.

We all enjoyed Donna's presentation of slides of early living on Chebeague Island.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

February 13, 1985

Twenty-four We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

Our President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$247.21 in bank and \$6.05 petty cash.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have a balance of \$37.31. Members reported on sick members, Georgia Adams, Lena Foster, Frances Nelson, Alaire Rice and Margaret Small.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned and Nancy Fearing introduced our speaker Letty Berkovich who is art instructor at N. Y. A. Letty studied art at Boston University and has taught five years. She started her talk with a definition of art. Art is anything you do well is considered art.

The earliest art recorded was done by Egyptians followed by the Greeks. Following the Greek art came the mid Evil times or the dark ages. Rococo era was a gaudy tasteless art which was short lived. Then came the scenic art which painted happy scenes using color.

Two great painters were Leonardo and Michelangelo. Michelangelo was better known for his beautiful sculptures. The Americans are noted for abstract, pop and optical art.

It was a delightful afternoon and her students must enjoy being in her art classes.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Alaire R. Rice

Member of We Neighbors

Born 1919

Died March 1, 1985

March 13, 1985

Seventeen We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$232.21 in bank account and \$6.05 in petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$38.86.

Under old business it was voted to send \$15 to Cancer Society in memory of Alaire Rice.

Under new business the President appointed the nominating Committee for next year. They are as follows: Chairman Velma Merrill, Phyllis Blanchard, and Betty Wright.

The annual meeting and luncheon will be held at the Down East on May 8. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was turned over to the program Committee who introduced our speaker David Wallace. Mr. Wallace is in charge of restoring the Kotzschmar Memorial Organ²⁶ at City Hall. This magnificent organ was installed in 1912 and for many years organ concerts were rended to a packed house several times a week. As the years went by the organ needed expensive repairs and the city decided it was just too expensive to retain and abandoned the organ. Then a group called the Friends of Kotzschmar Incorporated was formed and the purpose of the group was to raise money to restore the organ. The work has begun and it showed us the work which is taking place. Every little piece is taken apart, cleaned and replaced. Parts that are worn out are replaced with new parts. When the restoration is completed the organ will last another 75-100 years with minor maintenance.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

²⁶ The Kotzschmar Memorial Organ is a pipe organ located in City Hall Auditorium of Portland, Maine. Built in 1911 by Austin Organ Company as Opus 323, it was the second largest organ in the world at the time. The organ was donated by Portland native Cyrus Hemann Kotzschmar Curtis (founder of Curtis Publishing in Philadelphia) as a memorial to Hermann Kotzschmar, a close family friend and Cyrus Curtis' namesake. Hermann Kotzschmar was a German born musician who came to Portland in 1849, acquired a reputation as the city's most prominent musician, and lived there until his death in 1908. The Kotzschmar Organ is a prime example of the US style of municipal organs which were once a prevalent part of American culture throughout the first half of the twentieth century. It was the first municipal organ built in the US and is one of only two US municipal organs still owned by a municipality – the other being the Spreckels Organ in Sand Diego, California.

April 10, 1985

Guest Day was held at the Fire House on the above date with thirty five present. Our President welcomed We Neighbors and their guests and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Those who brought a guest introduced them to the group. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$200.21 in bank and \$6.05 in petty cash. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$43.61 cash on hand.

A thank you note was read from the family of Alaire Rice.

It was moved and seconded that we give fifty dollars to the fire house for the use of the room.

Under new business the nominating Committee reported on officers for 1985-1986. They will be voted on at our annual meeting.

The Annual luncheon will be held at Down East on May 8. We will meet at the fire house at 11:30 and pool cars.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Nancy Fearing introduced our speaker Patti Kirk from Pail and Puddle. She gave us tips on how to save money when shopping. How to store foods in refrigerator. Bananas will keep in refrigerator 5-6 weeks wrapped individual in Aluminum foil. She gave us tips on caring for rugs. Vacuum everyday; steam clean every three years. Do not use water on your rugs, it weakens the fibers. It was a very informative program which everyone enjoyed.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

The Annual Meeting of We Neighbors 1984-1985

Nine meetings were held this year with average attendance of twenty five. No meetings had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

On a beautiful fall day in September we boarded the bus to go to Cousin Island and take the boat to Chebeague Island. As always we had a delightful day at Hermine Stevens' Cottage.

October Joan Irish of Yarmouth who is a free- lance artist spoke. Her subject was 50 common birds by sight and sound.

In November Mr. Sidney Darrah spoke on Immigration and Naturalization Services.

In December gentlemen's night was held at the Parish House and the entertainment was the Bell ringers from Freeport Christian School. They gave us a very nice program of Christmas music.

In January, Donna Damon from Chebeague Island talked on the earlier days on Chebeague.

In February Letty Berkovich an art instructor at N.Y.A. gave us an interesting history of early art.

In March David Wallace showed us slides on the restoration of the Kotzchmar Organ.

April was guest day and we had Patti Kirk from Pail and Puddle speak.

We were saddened by the death of three members this year: Dorothy Kailis, Marion Fox, Alaire Rice.

Our thanks to Lois Gatcombe who served as President this year, and to all those who served on Committees. The Annual Meeting will be held at Down East May 8 at 12 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 8, 1985

Twenty six We Neighbors attended a luncheon and annual meeting at Down East Restaurant on the above date.

The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Sunshine reported on cards sent.

Under correspondence a thank you note from Margaret Small was read and a thank you note from the Cumberland Fire department for our gift of fifty dollars to the fire department for the use of the room.

Under new business the Secretary, treasurers, and sunshine Committee annual reports were read and accepted. Sunshine Committee turned over to the treasury \$27.00.

The President appointed a Committee of three to review the by-laws and suggest changes. Those appointed were: Aurelia Tripp chairman, Hermine Stevens, Janet Shaw.

The nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for 1985-1986:

President: Lois Gatcombe

Vice President: Aurelia Tripp

Secretary: Margaret Merrill

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Sunshine: Alma Hayes Chairman and Joy Brown

Program: Martha Sanborn, chairman, Katherine Sawyer, Grace Trappan, Rena Lamson, Betty Wright

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one vote for the slate of officers presented by the nominating Committee.

It was moved and seconded that we stop giving gifts to honorary members at Christmas time.

It was moved and seconded that we dispense with sending cards for our first meeting.

It was moved and seconded that members pay for crabmeat rolls on our picnic in the fall.

All these changes were made to save on our treasury which is quite low at this time.

Six names were presented for membership:

1. Donna Bolduc, 31 Maple Street
2. Margelia Potter, Blanchard Road
3. Peggy Howe, 13 Pinewood Dr.
4. Marion Griffin, Pinewood Dr.
5. Kathleen Taylor, 25 Farwell Ave.
6. Leslie Fitzgerald, Main St.

It was moved and seconded that they be asked to join We Neighbors at our September meeting.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned and our President wished us all a very pleasant summer and she would be looking forward to resuming her office in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

1985-1986

September 11, 1985

Twenty-seven We Neighbors attended the meeting at the fire house on the above date. We were scheduled to go to Bradbury Mountain but the weather turned cool and it rained the night before so the Committee decided it would be best to hold our meeting at the fire house. Everyone enjoyed the crabmeat sandwiches.

Our President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$114.31 in bank and \$2.53 petty cash fund. Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$27.40 on hand.

It was reported that Iva Bonney was in Maine Medical Center.

Under correspondence a letter was read from Mildred Haskell asking us to accept her resignation from We Neighbors as she no longer was a resident of Cumberland. We regret that she will no longer be attending our meetings.

Aurelia Tripp went over the by-laws with the suggested changes to be made and at our November meeting we will vote whether to accept the changes made by the by-laws committee.

Our next meeting will be Gentlemen's night at the Parish House. The meal will cost six dollars.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

October 9, 1985

Gentlemen's night was held at the Parish House on the above date with 32 attending.

A chicken dinner was served by the Church guild.

The speaker was Mr. Donald Haskell our new Postmaster of Cumberland Center Post Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

November 13, 1985

Twenty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The vice President Aurelia Tripp filled in for the President in her absence. Aurelia welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$222.31 in bank. Petty cash of \$2.53. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$29.10.

It was moved and seconded that we accept the changes made by the by-laws Committee at our previous meeting.

Kathleen Taylor so graciously agreed to type up the stencil for the revised by-laws.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Evelyn Chase was the auctioneer and although the group was small we had lots of fun.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory

Of

Lillian M. Pollock

Member of

We Neighbors

Born 1890

died 1985

December 11, 1985

Twenty-one members met at the fire house on the above date.

In the absence of our President and Vice President, Margaret Merrill conducted the meeting. The secretary thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. We had a moment of silent pray for Lillian Pollack a former member who passed away. The secretary and Treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported that our auction brought \$38.75 which made our checking account balance \$269.06.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have a balance of \$21.42. Members were asked to send cards to Lena Foster, Georgia Adams, Aurelia Tripp and Lois Gatcombe.

Voted to send \$10 to the Faith Baptist Church in memory of Lillian Pollack.

Our Christmas donation this year will go to the Cumberland Rescue Unit and Rev. Joseph Shank asked that the money we would of paid him be applied to our Christmas donations. It was moved and seconded that we take \$15 from the treasury.

It was suggested that the secretary send Rev. Shank a thank you note.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Betty Wright introduced the speaker Mr. Joseph Shank minister of the Yarmouth Congregational Church. He spoke on Christmas symbols - which was most interesting. I especially liked the one about the spider and the web. Joseph and Mary and the baby hide in the cave and spider spun his web over the opening and the soldiers knew no one could be hiding in the cave so they went away without looking. It was nice to be reminded of all the symbols of the Christmas season. We sometimes forget what Christmas really stands for.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

In memory of

Ialeen D. Rice

A member of

We Neighbors

Born 1915

died Dec. 27, 1985

January 8, 1986

Twenty-one We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. Our President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$283.06 in checking account. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$28.56 on hand.

Voted to send \$10 to cancer fund in memory of Ialeen Rice.

Our Christmas gift this year was given to the Cumberland Rescue Unit.

A thank you note was read from Lena Foster.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the program chairman introduced the speaker Chief Kenneth Wagner who spoke on the Rescue Units in Cumberland. We have two units one on the mainland and the other on Chebeague Island. Cumberland has fifteen members and Chebeague have eleven members. The Cumberland Unit has E.K.G. machine²⁷ which is connected with the three hospitals so the doctors can monitor the heart and advise the A. L. S.²⁸ what drugs to administer. This machine cost \$14,000 and today they cost \$17,000.

In order to belong to a group you are required to have 14 hours of training and every two years renew your license. The A. L. S. have additional training. Cumberland has five A.L.S. technicians so we always run with one aboard. If one isn't available we call on another town to help us out. Cumberland has been assisting Gray a great deal because they have the equipment in their unit but only one A.L.S. technician so one of ours responds to calls when needed.

We are indeed fortunate in having such a dedicated group of men and women serving our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

²⁷ An electrocardiogram (EKG) is a test that checks for problems with the electrical activity of a patient's heart. An EKG shows the heart's electrical activity as line tracings on paper. The spikes and dips are called waves. The heart is a muscular pump made up of four chambers. The two upper chambers are called atria. The two lower chambers are called ventricles. A natural electrical system causes the heart muscle to contract. This pumps blood through the heart to the lungs and the rest of the body. The EKG is done to find the cause of unexplained chest pain or pressure. This could be caused by a heart attack, angina, or inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart. Also the EKG test is done to find out if the walls of the heart chambers are too thick.

²⁸ Advanced Life Support comprises a set of life-saving protocols and skills that extend Basic Life Support to further support circulation and provide an open airway and adequate ventilation (breathing). These include tracheal intubation, cardiac monitoring, cardiac defibrillation, advanced medication and intravenous cannulation.

February 12, 1986

Twenty-three We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. In the absence of the treasurer Betty Wright read the report. We have \$270.06 in bank account. A thank you note was read from the Cumberland Rescue for our gift of \$57. The sunshine Committee reported on cards sent. They have \$34.97.

It was moved and seconded that we purchase a box of place mats.

The President appointed a nominating Committee. They are as follows: Nancy Fearing Chairman, Dorothy Wilkes, Joy Brown.

The Annual luncheon will be held at S.M.V.T.I. on May 14.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the program Chairman introduced the speaker Miss Grace Trappan. Grace showed us slides on living in Maine in the four seasons. Spring with the budding of the trees and the crocus peeping through the snow and the returning of the puffins to their nesting grounds on April 16 and on August 28 they leave again for their winter quarters.

In summer visiting such places as the Merritt House in Standish with their flowers and herb garden or attend a play at the old Monmouth Theatre in Monmouth or visiting Aroostook county when the potato fields are in blossom. For those who enjoy sailing a trip to Monhegan Island is most enjoyable.

In fall, a visit to the apple orchard or the Cumberland fair. In late fall the beautiful fall foliage can be enjoyed almost everywhere you go in Maine.

In winter the snow covers the falling leaves and we can enjoy the snow and the winter sports. On a clear day in winter with the snow cover on Mt. Washington it is a spectacular sight to see.

Our thanks to Grace for sharing the four seasons with us and reminding us all of the great state we live in.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 12, 1986

Twenty five We Neighbors and one guest met at the fire house on the above date. The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostess for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have \$269.11 in checking account.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$45.05 in Sunshine fund. The program committee reported that the annual meeting and luncheon in May will be S.M.V.T.I. in South Portland. We will meet at the fire house at 11:30 and pool cars.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the program Chairman introduced our speaker Miss Iris Almy. Miss Almy gave us a delightful book report on The Fall River Murder written by Lester Pearson.²⁹ The story took place in Fall River, Mass. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Borden. They had two daughters Emma 42 and Lizzy 32. Lizzy³⁰ had an argument with her parents because they wouldn't allow her to entertain her church group at home.

So on a hot sultry day in 1892 her parents were murdered. They were pretty sure it was Lizzy who did it but no substantial evidence was ever found that linked Lizzie with the murder of her parents so she was released from jail and lived out her life in Fall River.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 9, 1986

Thirty-four We Neighbors and guests met at the fire house on the above date. The President Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. At this time those who brought guests introduced them to the group.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$278.11 in checking account and petty cash fund of \$2.53. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$53.48 in their fund.

Georgia Adams thanked the group for cards sent to her when she was sick.

Under new business voted to give \$50 to the Cumberland Fire Department. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was turned over to the program Chairman who introduced the speaker Mrs. Dorothy Cousins. Mrs. Cousins was originally from Georgia and now resides in Maine. Her hobby is weaving and she brought with her a small weaving loom and a drop spindle. She showed us how the wool is carded and spun into wool. Her outfit she was wearing was woven on her loom.

²⁹ Edmund Lester Pearson (1880-1937) was an American Librarian and author. He is best known for his accounts of the notorious Lizzie Borden murder case. He wrote five books on the subject during the period from 1924-1937.

³⁰ Lizzie Borden (1860-1927) was tried and acquitted for the 1892 axe murders of her father and her stepmother at Fall River, Massachusetts. The case was memorialized in a popular skipping rope rhyme: "Lizzie Borden took an axe/And gave her mother forty whacks/When she saw what she had done/She gave her father forty-one." In reality, Lizzie's stepmother suffered 18 or 19 blows, her father suffered 11 blows. In the history of legal proceedings, the trial was a landmark in publicity and public interest. Following her release from prison after the trial, Lizzie Borden chose to remain as a resident of Fall River. Speculation about the crimes continues to this day.

It was surprising the things you could create on such a small loom such as scarfs, shawls, placemats, material for dresses and suits and many other things too numerous to mention. She had some beautiful pieces waiting to be made into something. She hasn't been weaving very long but she finds it a very fascinating hobby. We certainly enjoyed seeing her work.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Annual Report 1985-1986

We had a good year and no meetings had to be cancelled due to inclement weather.

In September we held our first meeting at the fire house and we all enjoyed the Crabmeat rolls, of course we missed our boat ride to beautiful Chebeague Island but we found more could attend when having it on the mainland.

October was gentlemen's night at the Parish Hall and the speaker was Mr. Donald Haskell our new Cumberland Postmaster.

November, Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction.

December, the Rev. Joseph Shank minister of the Yarmouth Congregational church spoke on Christmas Symbols.

January, Kenneth Wagner spoke on Rescue Unit in Cumberland and on Chebeague Island. Our Christmas gift this year was given to them. February Grace Trappan gave a slide presentation on the four seasons in Maine.

March, Iris Almy gave us a delightful book review on the Fall River Murder.

April was guest day and the speaker was Mrs. Dorothy Cousins who talked on weaving.

We were sadden by the death of two members: Lillian Pollack and Ialeen Rice.

Our thanks to Lois Gatcombe, who so ably served us these past two years and to all of those who served Committees.

The Annual meeting and luncheon will be held at S.M.V.T.I. March 14 at 12 o'clock.

Respectfully submitted

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 14, 1986

Twenty-six We Neighbors attended the annual luncheon at S.M.V.T.I. The luncheon was very poor. They ran out of the main courses and dessert had to be shared and the service was something to be desired. They knew way in advance how many were coming so it seems to me we could have been treated much better than we were.

The business meeting followed the luncheon. Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$203.11 in checking account and \$2.53 in petty cash fund. Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$60.43.

Under old business it was voted to raise the dues to \$5.00.

It also authorized the program committee \$150 for programs.

Under new business the annual reports of secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

The nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers:

President: Dorothy Wilkes

Vice President: Elva Brooks

Secretary: Margaret Merrill

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Sunshine: Elma Hayes Chairman, Joy Brown

Program: Evelyn Chase chairman, Nancy Fearing, Lois Gatcombe, Hermine Stevens, Kathleen Taylor, Elva Brooks

It was moved and seconded that we accept the slate of officers as read.

The out-going President was presented with a gift from the group.

Seven names were presented and duly elected to join We Neighbors in the fall. They were as follows:

Mrs. Thomas E. Powers, 306 Main Street

Mrs. Gregory T. Foster, 3 Acorn Lane

Mrs. Lewis A. Keith, 4 Willow Lane

Mrs. Dorothy Cousins, 11 Crestwood Dr.

Mrs. E. Ross Hammons, 29 Skilling Rd.

Mrs. Charles Googins, 95 Bruce Hill Rd.

Mrs. Leslie Fitzgerald, 277 Main St.

Lois then turned the meeting over to our new President Dorothy Wilkes. She wished us all a very pleasant summer and she was looking forward to seeing us all in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

1986-1987

September 10, 1986

Our Annual picnic was at Lois Gatcombe's House-by-the-sea in New Harbor Maine. It was a beautiful fall day and the few that attended had a great time.

The President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group. The secretary's report was read and accepted. No treasurers report.

Evelyn Chase passed out the new programs. A paper was passed around to sign up for gentlemen's night. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

Georgia Adams

Member of We neighbors

Born 1903

Died 1986

Grace S. Lincoln

Member of We Neighbors

Born 1893

Died 1986

1986-1987

October 8, 1986

Thirty seven attended Gentlemen's night at the Knights of Pythias³¹ Hall. A delicious turkey dinner was served by the Pythians.

Our President welcomed the group and thanked the Committee for putting on the supper.

Evelyn Chase introduced Woodie Woodward a Magician who entertained us with his magic.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

November 12, 1986

Twenty-five We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date.

The President Mrs. Wilkes thanked the group for the delicious refreshments. She also introduced new members.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$163.87 in the checking account. Moved and seconded that we accept the reports as read.

Voted to send \$20 to the Historical Society, in memory of Grace Lincoln and Georgia Adams.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They had \$67.60.

Our Christmas gift this year will be sent to the Cumberland county Jail to aid the street people's project.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and the Program Chairman introduced our speaker Sue Taylor. She lives in Cumberland and is a member of the Cumberland rescue Unit. Last year

³¹ Knights of Pythias is a fraternal organization and secret society founded in Washington D. C. on February 19, 1864. It was founded by Justus H. Rathbone, who had been inspired by a play by the Irish poet John Banim about the legend of Damon and Pythias. The legend illustrates the ideals of loyalty, honor and friendship that are the center of the order. Early in the group's history when a man was inducted into the Knight of Pythias, he received a ceremonial sword. In recent decades, rather than require member to own a sword, the local chapter maintains a collection of swords for all by its members. Most swords were inscribed with the acronym FCB (Friendship, Charity, and Benevolence). Membership has historically been open to healthy males who believe in a Supreme Being. The structure of Knights of Pythias is three-tiered. The local units are called "Subordinate Lodges," State organizations are called "Grand Lodges" and the national structure is called "Supreme Lodge" and meets in convention biennially.

she took a year away from her studies to join the group called Up with People,³² and traveled here in the States and abroad. This group sings and dances. One of Sue's favorite places she visited was China and she hopes that someday she might go back again. They met lots of wonderful people in the year they were on tour. Sounded like a great experience for Sue and other young people her age.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

December 10, 1986

Thirty-seven We Neighbors met at the home of Sally Merrill on the Winn Road. Our President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$218.87 in checking account. The Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$45.45 in sunshine fund. The president asked those who hadn't contributed to our Christmas fund in November if they would please do so today. It was voted to take some money from the Sunshine Fund to make \$75 to be sent for the Street people of Portland.

Evelyn reminded us that our next meeting would be the auction which is the only money making project of the year. So if you found no use for something you might of received at Christmas bring them along because someone else might find it to their liking. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The Program Chairman Evelyn Chase introduced to the group Sally Merrill. Sally introduced the two ladies who would be playing piano selections. Emily Cram from Cumberland Foreside and Sadie Rubinoff from Portland. They played selections from Franz Liszt. After the three played Sally played some Christmas pieces and we all joined in and sang. It certainly was a delightful afternoon.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

January 14, 1987

Twenty-three We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

³² Up with People is an educational organization whose stated mission is to bridge cultural barriers and create global understanding through service and a musical show. Headquarters are in Denver, Colorado. After training in Denver, each group travels to nearly 20 cities across two or three continents, spending about one week in each community. Each week they live with a local host family, participate in service projects and learn about different cultures through educational workshops. The roots of Up with People can be found in the Sing Out shows of Moral Re-'armament in the mid-1960s. In 1976, Up with People begin to make frequent appearances at the Super Bowl. Among notable alumni is the actress Glenn Close, who was a featured soloist during the 1960s.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$240.87 in checking account.

A letter was read from Martin S. Joyce Jr. Sheriff of Cumberland County thanking us for our gift for the street people.

Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$45.75 in their fund.

As there was no other business, the business meeting adjourned.

The program Chairman Evelyn Chase conducted a very successful auction which swelled our treasury considerably.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

February 11, 1987

Twenty We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date. The President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported a balance of \$345.07 in checking account.

As there was no old business or new business the meeting adjourned and the program chairman Evelyn Chase introduced the speaker Nancy Fearing who gave a most interesting account of tracing the family roots of her husband back to England and how they are planning another trip this spring to continue the search for more of his family tree and to visit some of the people they met while searching who have become very good friends. We wish her luck as she continues the search of the Hill family.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

March 11, 1987

Nineteen We Neighbors and six guests met at the fire house on the above date.

The President Mrs. Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. Those who brought guests introduced them at this time.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported that we have \$320.07 in the checking account. Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have a balance of \$58.93. There was no old business to be discussed and under new business the President appointed a nominating committee: Lois Gatcombe, Hermine Stevens and Kathleen Taylor.

April 8 will be the annual luncheon at Dunstan School Restaurant. Those attending will meet at the fire house at 12:00 to pool cars.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned and Hermine introduced the speaker Mrs. Freda Ellis. Mrs. Ellis was widowed at a very young age with two children to support with seventeen dollars in her pocket she set out for New York. She found a place to live with ten other mothers and twenty children. The mothers worked cleaning and cooking for their board and room. Mrs. Ellis found a job with the New York Dress trade designing women's clothing. She went to Paris to study. Later she returned to Maine and opened a dress shop which she operated for many years. A few years ago she took up Porcelain painting³³ and has studied the art all over the world and has been teaching at her home and many foreign countries. She brought some of her work for us to see. Her latest piece was done for the Rose Society. I am sure all who attended enjoyed seeing Mrs. Ellis' work.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

April 8, 1987

The annual luncheon was held at the Dunston School Restaurant in Scarborough on the above date. We met at the fire house at 12:00 pool cars. Seventeen attended the luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

³³ Porcelain painting is the decoration of glazed porcelain objects such as plates, bowls, vases or statues. The body of the object may be hard-paste porcelain, developed in China during the seventh or eighth century, or soft-paste porcelain (often bone china) developed in the eighteenth century Europe. Porcelain painting was developed in China and later taken up in Korea and then Japan. Trade with Europe began in the sixteenth century. By the early eighteenth century, European manufacturers had discovered how to make porcelain. Technology and styles evolved. By the latter part of the nineteenth century, porcelain painting became a hobby for middle class women in North America and Europe. For many years porcelain painting was categorized as a craft. In the 1970s, Judy Chicago, a feminist, restored it to the status of art.

In Memory of

Phyllis F. Blanchard

A member and

Past President

Of

We Neighbors Club

Born 1909

died 1987

The Annual Report 1986-1987

Another good year with no cancellations for stormy days.

In September our annual picnic was held at Lois Gatcombe's House-by-the-sea in New Harbor, Maine. It was a beautiful fall day and those who attended had a great time.

October was Gentlemen's night held at Knights of Pythias Hall at Woodfords Corner. Woodie Woodward the magician entertained us with his magic.

November Sue Taylor a University of Maine student was our speaker. A year ago she took off a year from her studies to travel with a group called Up with people. They are a singing and dance group which travel here and abroad. Sue enjoyed her stay in China.

December the Christmas party was held at Sally Merrill's on the Winn road and we had a very lovely piano recital with Emile Cram, Sadie Rubinoff and Sally Merrill participating and we ended the afternoon by singing Christmas Carols.

January we had the annual auction with the great auctioneer Evelyn Chase. We not only had fun but we made quite a lot of money for our treasury.

February Nancy Fearing gave a most interesting account of tracing the family roots of her husband back to England.

March being guest day we had as our speaker Mrs. Freda Ellis from Cumberland Foreside who gave a very interesting talk on Porcelain painting. She also showed us pieces which she had painted.

April the Annual banquet was at the Dunstan School restaurant in Scarborough.

We were saddened by the death of three of our members this year. They are as follows:

Grace Lincoln

Georgia Adams

Phyllis Blanchard

Our thanks to our President Dorothy Wilkes and to all of you who served on Committees.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

May 13, 1987

Twenty-two We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date for our annual meeting.

The President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurer reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$315.07 in checking account.

A note from the Congregational Church was read, thanking us for our gift to Phyllis Blanchard Memorial Fund.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$63.91 in their account.

Under old business Evelyn Chase reported on several places she checked for printing covers for our programs. After some discussion they voted to purchase 100 covers for \$65. Evelyn will assist Dorothy Googins in purchasing the covers.

Under new business the annual reports of the secretary and treasurer were read and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that we give \$150 to the program committee for programs this coming year.

It was moved and seconded that we give the Cumberland Fire Department \$50.

The nominating committee presented the slate of officers for the coming year:

President: Dorothy Wilkes

Vice President: Elva Brooks

Secretary: Evelyn Chase

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Sunshine Committee: Alma Hayes, Chairperson; Joy Brown

Program Committee: Dorothy Googins, chairperson, Mattie Bailey, Mildred Moegling, Martha Pettengill.

As there were no other nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for slate officers presented.

One name was presented for membership and duly elected: Mrs. George Temple. 7 Blanchard Road

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was turned over to the program Chairman who introduced our speaker Mildred Moegling and her husband John who ran the slide projector. Mildred gave us a very interesting presentation on her trip to Russia. Christianity had been introduced to Russia in the year 988 and the Russian Orthodox Church³⁴ developed its own unique style of ecclesiastical architecture with gold-encrusted "onion" roofs on the churches and cathedrals, and within ornate icons – gold and silver decorated paintings of the

³⁴ The Russian Orthodox Church is traditionally said to have been founded by the Apostle Andrew who is thought to have visited Scythia and Greek colonies along the northern coast of the Black Sea. According to one of the legends, St. Andrew reached the future location of Kiev and foretold the foundation of a great Christian city. The spot where he reportedly erected a cross is now marked by St. Andrew Cathedral.

Holy Family and various saints on wooden panels. The most famous church in Moscow Red Square is the Church of St. Basil the Blessed.³⁵

She mentioned there are quite a few changes she noticed from her first trip she made seventeen years ago. Many new and modern buildings being built. The people are still not free to move about without Government approval. Twenty percent still share very small apartments.

Russia gets very cold in winter and when the temperature gets 32 below the children stay home from school and 38 below the working class doesn't go to work. Her slides were lovely and we did enjoy her program.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec.

1987-1988

September 9, 1987

Twelve We Neighbors and one guest met at the fire house on the above date at twelve o'clock to go to Pettengill Salt Farm³⁶ in Freeport. We were met at the gate by Gail Shelton of Georgetown who was to give us a tour of the historical farm given to the Freeport Historical Society. The house was built in the 1800, slowly it is being restored.

The exterior has new clapboards and all new windows and the chimney has been rebuilt. During the summer months meals are prepared over the fire place and muffins and breads are baked in the brick oven. Two families have lived on the farm. The Rodicks were the first and they had eight children. Then the Pettengills bought the farm in the early nineteen hundreds. Miss Pettengill and her brother lived there for many years and when her brother died she lived alone without running water, lights, or telephone. Every day she walked two miles into town for supplies.

Mrs. Eleanor Smith bought the property and gave it to the Freeport Historical Society with the stipulation that the 140 acre farm always remain as it is with no other buildings built on the property except a barn which originally went with the property and that Miss Pettengill could live there as long as she lived but poor health finally forced her to move to town. The place remained empty and the inside was completely destroyed by vandalism. After we toured the house we had lunch in the living room.

³⁵ The Cathedral of Vasily the Blessed, commonly known as St. Basil's Cathedral, is a church in Red Square in Moscow. It was built from 1555-61 on orders from Ivan the Terrible and commemorates the capture of Kazan and Astrakhan. The original building contained eight side churches arranged around the ninth. The tenth church was erected in 1588 over the grave of the venerated local saint Vasily (Basil). The buildings are shaped as a flame of a bonfire rising into the sky.

³⁶ Pettengill Farm is a nineteenth century salt-water farm on the estuary of the Harraseeket River. It includes a saltbox house (ca. 1800) on 140 acres of fields, woods, antique apple orchards, and salt marsh. The farmhouse remains without plumbing, central heat, and electricity. The grounds, including gardens, fields, and four forest trails, are open to the public, dawn to dusk, year-round.

The President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the beverages and goodies for dessert. The Secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$265.07 in checking account. Sunshine reported \$155.50 in there account.

A thank you note from the Cumberland Fire Department was read.

There was no old business. Under new business Dorothy Googins passed out the new programs and went over them with us. Gentlemen's night will be at the Parish House on Oct. 14 and the price will be six dollars. The President thanked the program Committee for the programs.

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

October 14, 1987

Gentlemen's Night. Twenty nine members and guests of We Neighbors club and four girls who furnished the program met at the Cumberland Congregational Church for a roast beef dinner. The Pres. Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and thanked the supper committee. Dorothy Googins, program chair, introduced the Sea Notes group for the Casco Bay chapter of Sweet Adolines, who presented a very interesting program songs.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 11, 1987

The We Neighbors met at the Fire Station with 21 members present. Delicious refreshments were served by the committee Nancy Fearing, Lois Gatcombe, and Hermine Stevens.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Dorothy Wilkes, who welcomed our new member Lorraine Temple. The Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. report was read and approved with a balance of \$264.07. The Sunshine com. reported a balance of \$56.86 and the collection was taken. A letter was read from Sally Merrill saying she is not joining the club this year and possibly next as she will be away on Wednesdays. A thank you note was read from Lois Blanchard Widmer for the gift We Neighbors gave to the Cumberland Congregational Church in memory of her mother Phyllis Blanchard.

There was no old business.

New business: It was announced that there would be a Cole Porter program in Portland to benefit Ingraham Volunteers³⁷ and the Soup Kitchen on Dec. 4th.

Our Christmas charity was discussed. Bruce Roberts, the Salvation Army, Aids, and the Homeless were discussed. Phyllis Sweetser moved and Lois Gatcombe seconded a motion to give our money to the Cumberland County Jail for use for the Street People. Motion was voted and passed.

The Pres. thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The program was turned over to the Program Chairman Dorothy Googins. She asked if everyone had a program. Marion Griffin chairman of the Dec. hostesses has moved away. Margaret Small volunteered to take her place. The Jan and Feb programs will be interchanged because Nancy Fearing is making another trip to England in Jan. Dorothy said we would leave the luncheon meeting open until the first of the year. And wait until later to see if Janet Shaw can be a hostess in May. The meeting was adjourned.

The program was an Auction by Evelyn Chase.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 9, 1987

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire Station with 23 members present. Refreshments were served by the committee, Margaret Merrill and Margaret Small. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Dorothy Wilkes. She thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and approved with a balance of \$408.07. There was no correspondence. The sunshine collection was taken and the Committee reported a balance of \$64.16. A collection was taken for our Christmas Charity and that made the total of \$56.00. There was no old business.

New business, Martha Sanborn moved and Elva Brooks seconded a motion to take enough money from the Sunshine fund to make up \$75.00 to give to our Christmas Charity, the street People at the Cumberland county Jail. It was reported that Iva Bonney, Phyllis Sweetser, and Alma Hays had been ill in the hospital. Alma was out and present at the meeting.

The Jan and Feb programs will be interchanged, as Nancy Fearing is going to England in Jan. Therefore the Jan program will be Iris Almy's book review.

³⁷ Ingraham Volunteers Inc. is a Non-Profit State Licensed Mental Health Agency comprised of four social service components. The organization is a member of United Way and is based at 74 Elm Street, Portland.

For today's program Dorothy Wagner read several Christmas readings including "Definition of Christmas"³⁸ by Charles Dickens, "Once Upon a Christmas"³⁹ by Thyra Bjorn about Christmas in Sweden. "My Gift"⁴⁰ by Phillips Brooks, "Christmas Bells" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Let's Keep Christmas"⁴¹ by Peter Marshall, "Mr. Edwards meets Santa Claus"⁴² by Laura Ingalls Wilder and closed with the Christmas Story from Luke in the King James version of the Bible, which made a very interesting program.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 13, 1988

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 22 members present. Refreshments were served by Chairman Joy Brown and friends. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Dorothy Wilkes. She thanked the hostess for the delicious refreshments.

The Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. Report was read and approved with a balance of \$408.07. The Sunshine Com. reported a balance of \$47.69, and the collection was taken. Correspondence: a thank you letter was read from County sheriff Martin Joyce for the money we sent to the jail for the street people.

There was no old business.

³⁸ Charles Dickens quotation: "Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused – in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened – by the recurrence of Christmas."

³⁹ Bjorn, Thyra Ferre, *Once upon a Christmas*, New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1983. This book features recollections of Christmas in Sweden. The holiday began with the Festival of Lights on December thirteenth and ended with Epiphany on January sixth. Between times, there came Christmas baking and cleaning, the demise and preparation of the Christmas Pig, buying small gifts, and traditional smorgasbord. The church service followed some days later with a boisterous ceremony of robbing the Christmas tree.

⁴⁰ Brooks, Phillip, *My Christmas Gift: A Little Book of Christmas*, Chicago: P. F. Volland & Co., 1912. This book is in a box. It is bound with a silver ribbon and printed in red ink throughout. The booklet has 64 pages. Text is a collection of short poems by authors such as Dickens, Whittier, Shakespeare, Eugene Field, Brooks and many more. Bishop Brooks (1835-1893) is the author of the hymns "Silent Night" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

⁴¹ Marshall, Peter, *Let's Keep Christmas: A Sermon by Peter Marshall*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1953. Marshall reminds us Christmas means the birth of Jesus Christ, the gift of God with us.

⁴² Wilder, Laura Ingalls, "Mr. Edwards Meets Santa Claus," is the nineteenth chapter in the third book in the Little House Series, *Little House on the Prairie*, New York: Harper-Collins, 1935. It continues the story of the inaugural novel and features the Ingalls family.

New business: Mildred Moegling suggested that we collect clothing to give to the jail or the Salvation Army. Elva Brooks said that her Church, Emanuel Baptist did that. It was left that everyone give what they wished where they wished.

The meeting was adjourned and turned over to the Program Chairman Dorothy Googins, who introduced Iris Almy who reviewed several books by James Herriot,⁴³ whose real name was James Alfred White. He was born in Scotland, and went to live in Yorkshire in Northern England. He went there as a veterinary surgeon. He fell in love and married Helen. He went into the RAF and became a pilot and got lost in his first flight alone. He loved animals and his stories are about them. He is now in his late 70s. He wrote "All Creatures Great and small," "All Things Bright and Beautiful," "All Things Wild and Wonderful." The books and some calendars have wonderful pictures.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

⁴³ James Herriot was the pen name for James Alfred Wight (1916-1995). He was a British Veterinary surgeon and writer who wrote a series of books about animals and their owners. He is best known for the semi-autobiographical works, beginning with *All Creatures Great and Small* in 1972.

In Memory

Of

Lena G. Foster

A Member and

Past President

of

We Neighbors Club

Born Feb. 2, 1901

Died Feb. 6, 1988

February 10, 1988

Twenty members and one guest, Betty Sweetser, met at the Fire station for the We Neighbors Club Meeting. The refreshment committee were all present and served us delicious refreshments. The theme was Valentines.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Dorothy Wilkes. She thanked the refreshment committee. The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read; there is a balance of \$429.07. There was no correspondence and no old business.

We observed a moment of silence in memory of Lena Foster who died Feb. 6, 1988. The Treasurer sent a donation in her memory to the Prince Memorial Library.

The Sunshine report was given; collection taken and a balance of \$35.25 was reported.

New business – the program chairman Dorothy Googins said they were not sure of their program for next month. So she suggested that we eat out next time and that would give the committee more time to get a program. It was decided that we would meet at the Fire Station at 11:30 A.M. and car pool to go to Gray to the Rock-A-Way on to Windham to Horsefeathers for lunch.

Program: Nancy Fearing told us about her recent trip to England. Nancy spoke to us a year ago and told us about searching for John Hill's roots. John Hill died 102 years ago. He was the great, great grandfather of Nancy's husband - Alfred Fearing. John Hills daughter, Florence, grew up in Brixham, England, and then came to this country. John Hill was the illegitimate son of Lord Lee. Nancy met the present Lord and Lady Lee on her last trip to England and saw their home, Stoneleigh Abbey⁴⁴ which had been in Lord Lee's family 500 years. It was a beautiful stone mansion with 700 acres of land, but it had to be sold as they couldn't support it. Now it has been sold to a British gas company who will use it for their main offices. Lord and Lady Lee will live there until spring. Nancy and Alfred went to Brixham, and were surprised to find palm trees. John Hill had been an inn keeper there and his place was called the "Commercial Inn." The Fearings ate lunch in Brixham and while they were eating Nancy noticed the paintings on the wall and there was a picture of Hills Commercial Inn with the name and 1868-1926 on it. So then they wondered if it was still standing. They found the place now called The Sprat and Mackerel, a pub, but not used as an inn. Nancy also talked to the 78 yr. old town historian who did find three people who could be relatives of the Fearings. One can get almost all of the English records from the Mormon Church. They have them on microfilm in Salt Lake City. They can be obtained from the Mormon Church in Cape Elizabeth.

Nancy was in England at Christmas time which she said was quite different than our Christmas celebration. It was 45 degrees to sixty degrees all the time, but very damp, no frost and the grass never turns brown. They have an outdoor carnival for children in London. Very few people have Christmas trees; those who do are artificial trees about 2 ft. tall. There is no Santa Claus, no outside decorations, no

⁴⁴ Stoneleigh Abbey was founded by the Cistercians in 1154. After dissolution of the Monasteries, the estate was acquired by Sir Thomas Leigh, Lord Mayor of London in 1558 and a house was built on the site of the monastic buildings. It was the home of Leigh family from 1561-1990. In 1996 Lord Leigh transferred the ownership of Stoneleigh Abbey and its 690 acres of grounds to a charitable trust. Between 1996-2000, it was extensively renovated.

lights because electricity is too expensive. They decorate inside of houses with baubles. They go away to an inn for Christmas and stores are closed for 10 days. A very interesting program.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

March 9, 1988

Twenty four We Neighbors members met at the fire station at 11:30 A.M. to go to the Rock -A-Way restaurant on rt 100 in Gray. We ordered from the Menu and had separate checks.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

In Memory

Of

Alma B. Hayes

Member of

We Neighbors Club

Born May 15, 1914

Died March 14, 1988

April 13, 1988

Eighteen members and three guests met at the fire station on the above date.

Our President Dorothy Wilkes welcomed the group and a moment of silence was observed for Alma Hayes. Those who brought guests introduced them to the group. The President thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported a balance of \$430.07. Sunshine reported a balance of \$40.75.

Thank you note from Lena Foster's family was read. Thank you note from Prince Memorial Library for the gift of money sent in memory of Lena. We also had a nice note from Elaine Moxcey.

Money will be sent to the Congregational Church to be put into a memorial flower fund for Alma Hayes.

The nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year.

President: Elva Brooks

Vice President: Hermine Stevens

Secretary: Evelyn Chase

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Sunshine: Joy Brown, Wilma Ballard

Program: Lois Gatcombe Chairman, Lorraine Temple, Dorothy Wagner, Nancy Fearing

The slate of officers will be voted on at our Annual Meeting in May.

As there was no other business meeting adjourned and Dorothy Googins program chairman introduced the speaker Harriet Thurston who showed us some of her extensive collection of dolls that she has been collecting for many years. Most of her dolls were purchased at garage sales and flea markets. She has also made many apple dolls, soft dolls, wooden dolls and double dolls.

She has a collection of Heritage dolls⁴⁵ and she brought with her Betsy Ross, Eskimo, India, and Union doll.

Her oldest doll dates back to 1860 with China head, dark eyes, woken arms and hands. She is not sure that the arms and hands were originally wooden.

She has a small collection of black dolls. Sally Joe was a black baby doll from Spain, black baby doll and black cabbage patch doll.

⁴⁵ Antique dolls are those made between 75-100 years ago. Vintage dolls are defined as those made before 1960.

Other well-known dolls are the Bradley,⁴⁶ Diversty, Carlson⁴⁷ and Madame Alexander dolls.⁴⁸

Someone thought she should have a man doll in her collection so she was given the Lone Ranger.

Everyone enjoyed seeing her dolls and talking with her after the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

Annual Report – 1987-1988

The We Neighbors Club held nine meetings this year. Six meetings were held at the Fire Station. Gentlemen's Night was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church, the annual luncheon was held at the Rock-A-Way restaurant in Gray and our first meeting of the year was held at Freeport at the Pettengill Salt Water Farm that has been given to the Freeport Historical Society. We had an average attendance of twenty-one. We wish to thank Dorothy Googins and the program committee for the interesting programs. Five programs were furnished by our own members, the auction by Evelyn Chase, Christmas Readings by Dorothy Wagner, In search of Roots in England by Nancy Fearing, a Review of the books written by and the life of James Herriot by Iris Almy and today's Show and Tell program. We had one guest speaker Harriet Thurston who showed her doll collection on guest day, one music program the Sweet Adelines who performed for Gentlemen's Nite, one field trip to the Pettengill Farm in Freeport and the annual luncheon.

For our Christmas Charity we gave the money to the Cumb. County Jail for the Street People.

We were saddened by the death of two members, Lena Foster and Alma Hayes.

One new member Lorraine Temple joined our group.

Our thanks to our President Dorothy Wilkes, and the officers and committees who worked with her to make this year a successful year for We Neighbors Club.

Respectfully submitted,

⁴⁶ Bradley Dolls (1954-1984) was founded in 1954 in Los Angeles and imported dolls made in Japan and Korea. Dolls were 12-13 inches tall, had foam in beige nylon over a wire body, came in many different long gowns and other accessories, and were on a wooden stand.

⁴⁷ Carlson Dolls were founded in 1946 by Raymond and Ann Carlson. These dolls represent many Native American tribes and historical characters.

⁴⁸ Founder Madame Beatrice Alexander Behram grew up surrounded by dolls. She lived above her father's doll hospital, the first ever in the United States, and started her own cloth dolls during World War I to help his business. These cloth dolls are rare and highly collectible today. Some of Madam Alexander's first creations were dolls representing popular characters, such as Alice in Wonderland, Little Women, and Three Little Pigs. She produced the first doll based on a licensed character (Scarlett O'Hara from *Gone with the Wind*) and she was the first doll manufacturer to make dolls based on living people.

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

May 11, 1988 Annual Meeting

Eighteen members of the We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station for the annual meeting. The Pres. Dorothy Wilkes called the meeting to order and thanked the hostesses Dorothy Googins and Aurelia Tripp for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary's report was read and accepted. The treasurer's report was read and approved. Balance on hand \$425.07. The Sunshine collection was taken and there is a balance of \$47.14. There was no correspondence.

Old business: it was noted to accept the report of the Nominating committee. It was moved and seconded that the secretary cast one ballot for the following officers: Pres. Elva Brooks; V.Pres. Hermine Stevens; Sec. Evelyn Chase; Treas. Priscilla Muir; Sunshine Com. Joy Brown and Wilma Ballard; Program Com. Lois Gatcombe, chair, Lorraine Temple, Dorothy Wagner, and Nancy Fearing.

The Secretary's Annual Report was read. The Treasurer gave her annual report. The year started with a bal. of \$265.07. We had an income of \$601.79 and now have a balance of \$425.07. The Sunshine com. gave their annual report. They started the year with \$55.50, their total expenses were \$50.81. They gave \$20 to the Club Treasurer at Christmas time and ended the year with a bal. of \$47.14. It was noted to allow the program \$150 for programs. It was voted to give the Cumberland Fire Dept. \$50 for allowing We Neighbors to meet at the Fire Station this year.

The Pres. read the section of the by-laws on membership. Dorothy said she thought a year was too long to wait before asking a person to join the club. The following names were presented membership: Mrs. Fred (Linda) Hicks, 321 Main St.; Mrs. George (Margaret) Clark, 3 Longview St.; Mrs. Clifford () Howe, 2 Hedgerow Dr.; Mrs. Meredith (Mildred) Heyl 471 Range Road; and Neva Deroche (168 Main Street). All names were duly voted into membership and will be notified in writing by the Sec. during the summer.

It was suggested to the program Com. that two hostesses might be enough to serve at some of the meetings, but others thought three members would be better.

The out-going Pres. Dorothy Wilkes turned the gavel over to the V. Pres., Hermine Stevens in the absence of the incoming Pres. Elva Brooks. Dorothy Googins chair of the program com. presented Dorothy Wilkes with a gift in appreciation of her work during her term as pres.

The Vice Pres. turned the program over to the program com. Dorothy Googins thanked her com. and started the program of show and tell. We had a music box from Australia, a box made by Indians, palm seeds from FL, a friendship quilt, a stick that was used as a calendar when people couldn't read and many interesting pictures.

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn Chase Sec.

1988-1989

September 14, 1988

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station at 11:30 A.M. to car pool to go to Smiling Hill Farm 781 County Rd. Westbrook.

We all brought a bag lunch and the hostesses Margaret Merrill, Rena Lamson and Lois Gatcombe furnished delicious desserts and beverages. We ate on the porch of Smiling Hill Farm's ice cream parlor and afterwards some of us wandered into the parlor to try some of the many kinds of ice cream. Then we went on a walking tour of the Farm to see the many tame and wild animals and fowl on display. There were 18 members present and we had an enjoyable day. No business meeting was held, but dues were collected.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

October 12, 1988

Thirty two members and guests of We Neighbors Club met at the Trinity Episcopal Church on Coyle St. in Portland for Gentlemen's Nite. A delicious smothered [sp] beef dinner was served by the women of the Church. The Pres. Elva Brooks welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses, Evelyn Chase, Mildred Moegling, Priscilla Muir, Lorraine Temple and Rena Lamson. She then turned the meeting over to Lorraine Temple who introduced the program. Marjory Schuster sang accompanied by her husband Stuart Schuster on the piano. They presented an interesting, professional and delightful musical program.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 9, 1988

Twenty-two members of the We Neighbors Club met at the fire station. Two new members attended and they stood and were introduced to the other members. Delicious refreshments were served by Dorothy Googins, Nancy Fearing and Velma Merrill.

The meeting was called to order by the V. Pres. Hermine Stevens in the absence of the Pres. The Sec. report was read and approved. The Treas. Report was read and balance on hand of \$342.07 reported. The Sunshine report was given and a balance of \$29.50 reported. The Sunshine collection was taken. It was reported that Hilda Bennett is in the N. E. Rehabilitation Hospital of Me., 13 Charles St., Portland, Me. 04102.

There was no old business. New business Lois Gatcombe reported that the Program Com. had selected three charities for the group to choose one from for their Christmas Charity this year: the CC Sherriff's Dept - Street People, the Salvation Army, and St. Vincent DePaul's Sour Kitchen. A motion to have St

Vincent DePaul's Soup Kitchen for this year's charity. It was so voted and a collection was taken. Martha Sanborn invited us to the Art Exhibit at St. Joseph's Manor and the Doll Tea at Woodfords Cong. Church. The meeting was followed by the annual auction by Evelyn Chase auctioneer. We made about \$75. Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 14, 1988

Sixteen members met at the Fire Station for the We Neighbors' Club meeting. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She welcomed the people who were there and thanked the hostesses, Dorothy Wilkes, chair, Dorothy Wagner, and -----, for the delicious refreshments and beautiful Christmas decorations.

The Sec. report was read and approved. The Treas. report was read by Aurelia Tripp in the absence of the Treasurer Priscilla Muir. It was reported that the balance on hand is \$453.42. Letters from Elaine Moxcey and Mildred Moegling were read. We took up a collection for St. Vincent DePaul's soup kitchen as everyone was not present at the last meeting. The Sunshine collection was taken and a balance of \$34.50 was reported. It was decided that the Sunshine chairman should send Christmas cards to our shut-in members. Forty four dollars (44.00) was collected for the soup Kitchen and the Sec. will see about sending the money to them. Marion Chandler will be the speaker for the Jan. meeting and would like to bring a friend Katrina Rich. We decided we would be glad to have her attend our meeting.

The meeting was turned over the program chairman Lois Gatcombe who introduced Beth Harmon, choir director of the Cong Church and teacher at Waynfleet School. Mrs. Harmon played the guitar and sang Christmas carols, one in German as her grandmother was German. She sang many carols we don't ordinarily hear and some request, and ended by us all singing Silent Night.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 11, 1989

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with sixteen members one guest and the speaker present. The hostesses Madeline Baily, chairman and Iris Almy and Patricia Powers served delicious refreshments.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She welcomed the group to the meeting and thanked the hostesses. The Sec. report was read and accepted. It was reported that \$44.00 was sent to St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen but on the thank you note has been received. The Treas. was absent and her report was read by the Sec. There is a balance on hand of \$456.23. Both members of the Sunshine Com. were absent. Lois Gatcombe, program chairman took the Sunshine collection. The Pres. asked if we know of any members who are sick. It seemed that Joy and Priscilla were the only ones.

Old business: Lois reported that there would be change in the programs next meeting as Ruth Trappan is sick and can't give the program. Mrs. Pawle the Cumb. Librarian will speak. She would like to have the meeting at the Library. Margaret Merrill moved and Hermine Stevens seconded a motion that we meet at the Library at 2:00 P.M. for the next meeting. It was so voted. The Pres. said that it was good to see Margaret Small back as this is the first meeting she has attended this year.

As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to the Program Com. Katrina Rich recorded the program for the Cumb. Historical Society. Lois introduced the speaker Marion Chandler, saying that she is a native of Cumberland and is now living in the house where she was born, and there aren't many people in town who can say that. Marion Chandler's subject was Poland Corners – the section of town at the intersection of Middle and Tuttle Roads. She said she first heard of the We Neighbors Club when she was in High School. But she knew more about the Greely Rd Club as her mother belonged to that. In the 1920s Poland Corner was the busiest place in town the "hub of the universe" as Marion called it. There was a Post office, the first one in town, a store, school, church, railroad station, electric cars, and the Town Landing at the ocean. The freight and passenger train went to Montreal once a day. There were several homes in the area. The children had to walk up a large hill known as "stone hill" on the Tuttle Road to go to school. The school had grades 1 thru 8. The eighth graders had to help the teacher with the wood stove, and the water pail and set a good example for the younger children. Hay was shipped to Boston on boats from Town Landing. Spear's Shipyard⁴⁹ was next to Town Landing and this is where Marion learned to swim. It was a very interesting program.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

February 8, 1989

The We Neighbors' Club met at the Prince Memorial Library at 2:00 P. M. there were 21 We Neighbors present and the librarian Mrs. Martha Pawle present. Mrs. Pawle gave us a complete tour of the library beginning with the old part where there were two tables set up for our meeting and used for other meetings. Then into the Maine room where the fireplace and comfortable leather chairs are. There are many antique books about Maine and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings pertaining to the people of Cumberland and North Yarmouth. Then we went back through the meeting room and into the Merrill wing where a painting of Paul Merrill hangs. There are exhibits here and a continuous book sale for the Friends of the Library. In back of this is a small kitchen, stairs to the basement, where the computer is and a work room to prepare books to be put on the shelves. The tour continued to the new part of the library where the circulation desk, book stacks, librarian's office, copy machine, nooks in which to study,

⁴⁹ In 1812, the area that later became Cumberland Foreside was the location of the Spear Shipyard. It was started by David Spear and carried on by his son David Spear Jr. until 1869. Spear Shipyard was one of the most famous and most active in Casco Bay.

periodicals, inviting chairs by the windows and the children's section are – which were all very interesting, and showed us what is available.

The business meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses Grace Trappan and Betty Wright for the refreshments. The sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. report was read and a balance of \$451.23 reported.

Old business: the cancelled check from St Vincent de Paul soup kitchen is in, but we received no thank you note for our donation.

New business: Lois Gatcombe, program chairman, announced that the next meeting would be our luncheon and we will be going to Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth. We can order off the menu and no minimum number of people are required. We will meet at the Fire Station at 11:30 to car pool. A sign up sheet was passed around. The hostesses will call those not present.

The sunshine report was given and the collection taken. There is a balance of \$48.25. It was reported that Hermine Stevens has fallen and had to have stitches taken in her head.

No one seems to know where the Club place mats are.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

March 8, 1989

Twenty-one We Neighbor's club members met at the Fire Station at 11:30 A.M. to car pool to go to the Westcustago Inn (Moonlight Roasters) in Yarmouth for the Annual Luncheon. Joy Brown and Wilma Ballard were the hostesses. We ordered off the menu and had separate checks. We had the "sun porch" area of the dining room so we could all sit together.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

April 12, 1989

The We Neighbors Club met at the fire station at 2:00 P.M. for Guest Day. There were 16 members, 3 guests, and the speaker present.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks, she thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments, Martha Sanborn, Margaret Small and Aurelia Tripp. The secretary's report was read and

approved. The treasurer was absent, but Betty Wright reported the balance on hand is \$471.23. The Sunshine committee reported a balance of \$50.25, and the collection was taken.

There was no old business.

New business: The Pres. had appointed a nominating committee consisting of Lois Gatcombe, Mattie Bailey and Dorothy Wagner. They gave their report for the following officers: Pres. Elva Brooks, Vice Pres. Hermine Stevens, Sec. Evelyn Chase, Treas. Priscilla Muir, Sunshine Committee Joy Brown and Wilma Ballard, Program committee, Martha Sanborn, Linda Hicks, Velma Merrill, Lorraine Temple and Grace Trappan. It was moved and seconded and voted to accept the report of the nominating committee. As no one could find the placemats Lois Gatcombe, program chairman decided we should buy some more. Mattie Baily purchased 1000 placemats for \$9.95. It was decided to take the money from the Sunshine Fund. It was suggest that the program chairman keep the placemats and give the correct amount to the hostess chairman for the day each time. A gift for the Fire Dept. for letting us use their meeting room will be discussed next meeting.

The meeting was turned over to the chairman of the program committee Lois Gatcombe who introduced the speaker Andrea Philbrick of North Yarmouth, who is design editor of the Maine Sunday Telegram. She told us of the changes made and new features added to the paper. Readers had become dissatisfied with the paper and it was not attracting younger readers. Newspaper readers listen to TV and only want to spend twenty minutes reading the paper, they want to know about people, their neighbors etc. Newspapers all over the country are changing. Three years ago the Sunday Telegram made some changes after they made a study which included a 125 page report. They hired more reporters and specialized reporters, a local columnist, a "yes desk" to answer peoples questions. They added the "Style" and "Applause" sections and color. They are going to have a new facility in S. Portland that will print with a new process. It will print color in an ink that won't rub off. Then she answered questions.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

Annual Report 1988-1989

The We Neighbors club held nine meetings this year. Five meetings were held at the Fire Station, one at Prince Memorial Library, one at Smiling Hill Farm in Westbrook, gentlemen's Night at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland and the annual luncheon at Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth. We had an average attendance of twenty. We wish to thank Lois Gatcombe and the program committee of the interesting programs. We had one picnic, one auction, two musical programs, two speakers, a field trip to the library, the annual luncheon and the annual meeting. Three new members joined the club. Thanks go to our president Elva Brooks and the officers and committees who worked with her to make this a successful year for We Neighbors Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Annual Meeting May 12, 1989

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire Station with sixteen members present. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses, Hermine Stevens and Martha Pettengill for the delicious refreshments. The Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. Report was read and accepted with a balance of \$476.23. The Sec. read the Annual report and it was accepted. The Treas. read her annual report, \$253.99 was spent, leaving a balance of \$476.23. The Sunshine report was given. There is a balance of \$42.35. The annual Sunshine report was given \$31.05 was collected and \$18.20 was spent. The Sunshine collection was taken. There was no correspondence.

Old Business: A gift for the Fire Dept. for the use of their building for our meetings was discussed. No one knew of anything that they needed. The hostesses said that the room needed cleaning when they came, they washed the floor and the tables. Martha Sanborn said some of our members are not able to clean the place and lift the tables which are sometimes not in place. Betty Wright asked if we could hire someone to clean and set the place up for us. We would have to pay them, but how much. Betty Wright moved and Lois Gatcombe seconded a motion to give the Fire Dept. \$50.00 for allowing us to meet at the Fire Station this past year, and it was so voted. The possibility of holding our meeting somewhere else was discussed. The library kitchen is too small. The Historical building is not heated and does not have tables. It was decided that Evelyn would talk to Fire Chief Kenneth Wagner to see if he could have someone set up and clean the room for us, or if we could hire the Fire House janitor to do it.

New Business: The chairman of the nominating com. Read the slate of officers for the 1989-1990 year. The Pres. asked if there were any nominations from the floor. As there were no other nominations it was moved and seconded and voted that the following list of officers be elected for next year:

President: Elva Brooks

V. Pres. Hermine Stevens.

Sec. Evelyn Chase

Treas. Priscilla Muir

Sunshine Com. Joy Brown and Wilma Ballard

Program com: Martha Sanborn, chair, Linda Hicks, Velma Merrill, Lorraine Temple, and Grace Trappan.

The Pres. asked if there were any names to be presented for new members. The by-laws concerning membership was read. Lois Gatcombe presented Crystal Wing's name. Evelyn Chase presented Priscilla Beane's name and Grace Trappan presented Marion Chandler's name. It was moved and seconded and voted that these people be asked to join We Neighbors club. It was suggested that Katrina Rich might be interested to join next year.

The Pres. suggested that we might get better attendance at meetings if we had a telephone com. After discussion it was decided that Dorothy Wilkes, Hermine Stevens & Priscilla Muir be the Telephone com. It was discussed that it made it hard for her people when some do not take their turn on the hostess committee. The Pres. would like to have a June meeting to eat out or something, but most people wanted to end the year now.

Martha past papers around to sign up for hostesses and suggest programs. Joy moved that the program can have \$200.00 to spend. Priscilla seconded the motion and it was so voted. Martha asked for a discussion of Gentlemen's nite, but no one said much.

Program Lois Gatcombe thanked all those who had served on hostess committee this year. The program was "Sharing a Happy Memory". Martha Sanborn read a letter from her 92 year old cousin that told about family picnics and trips when she was a child. Evelyn Chase told about VCR tapes of WW2 and memories it brought back. Betty Wright told going to Germany the day before WWI was declared. Elva Brooks told about going to Nova Scotia in 1932 with her mother and how she had taken her two boys there and she had been back every summer since.

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

1989-1990

September 13, 1989

The We Neighbors Club "Gentlemen's Night" was held at the Cumberland Congregational.

A social hour began at 6:00 P.M. with the supper being served at 6:30 at a cost of \$6.00 each. Hope Foster and her crew prepared the chicken dinner. Thirty-six we neighbors and guests attended. The Pres. Elva called the group together and said the blessing. After dinner program chairman Martha Sanborn introduced Carl Laughridge who gave a talk and showed slides about his trip to Greece. Dues were collected.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, sec.

October 11, 1989

Twenty We Neighbors club members, one guest and the speaker met at the Fire Station for the meeting. The hostesses were Aurelia Tripp chair, Mildred Hegl, Martha Pettengill and Rena Lamson. Rena had exchanged places with Betty Wright, as she will be away for the winter.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. She welcomed the new members, Crystal Wing and Neva Deroche, and our guest, who is Aurelia's friend. The Sec. report was read and approved. The treasurer read her report and reported a

balance of \$434.85. The Sec. read the correspondence, a thank you note from the Fire Dept. for the \$50.00 we gave them for the use of their building last year. A note from Elaine Moxcey that she had enclosed with her dues, asking to be remembered to everyone. Regrets from Marion Chandler that she cannot join the club now, and via telephone regrets that Priscilla Beane cannot join at this time. The Sunshine com reported a bal. of \$42.75 and the collection was taken. Old business, Evelyn Chase reported on the janitor situation and Alan Small will clean the meeting room and kitchen for us each meeting for \$6.00 an hour.

New business: Next meeting will be our auction. Also we will decide on what charity to give our Christmas collection to. The collection will be taken in the Nov and Dec. Program.

Karen Perry showed us the many scarves she makes and how to tie them. Lorraine Temple was in charge of the food sale which netted \$105.00

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 8, 1989

The We Neighbors club met at the fire Station with twenty-five members present. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostess com. Madeline Bailey chair, Margaret Clark and Dorothy Wilkes for the delicious refreshments. The Sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. report was read and a balance of \$565.05 reported. The Sunshine Com. reported a balance of \$51.00 and the collection was taken. There was a discussion as to what charity to give our Christmas offering to: The Street People at Cumb County Jail, St. Vincent de Paul soup Kitchen (from which we got no reply last year), Rebecca Maloney for local charity, and Pineland were suggested. The collection was taken. It was decided to take the collection again next month for those who did not contribute today, and at that time we will decide who to give to.

The hostesses have used the new Fire Dept. Bunn coffee maker and the packets of coffee that go with it. It was discussed as to whether or not we should use it, and what about paying for coffee or bringing our own. Margaret Merrill will look into the matter.

Martha Sanborn outlined the Dec and Jan programs and then turned the program over to Evelyn Chase who was the auctioneer for our annual auction. We made \$125.00

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 13, 1989

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station at 2:00 P.M. There were 19 members present and 4 people who put on the program. The hostesses were Linda Hicks, chair, Dorothy Wagner, Margaret Small and Lorraine Temple. The decorations were done by Dorothy Wilkes, a manger scene, ceramic tree and other interesting things.

The program was presented by Beth Harmon, Alice Bredenberg, Marlene Maxwell and Judy Young, the choir director and organist from the Cumb. Congregational Church and two choir members. They sang as a group, solos and duets accompanied by a Yamaha electric keyboard. Some of the songs they entertained us with were "Jesu Joy of Man's Desire" "Coventry Carol," the Jesus Gift and Silent Night in German. It was a very nice program and ended by the whole group singing carols.

The business meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses for their apple dumpling dessert. The Sec. report was read and approved. In the absence of the Treas. the Sec gave her report. There is a bal. on hand of \$709.73. Last month \$31.00 was collected for our charity. The Sunshine report was given with a bal. on hand of \$46.90. The collection was taken. It was decided to take \$5.00 from the Sunshine fund for the Christmas Charity and then after today's charity collected to make up enough for the treasure to come to \$50.00. It was voted to give our Christmas Charity to the Street People at the Cumb. County Jail.

It was reported that we may use the Fireman's Coffee packets that go with the Bunn coffee maker. The Sec. is to keep track of how many we use, and we will pay for them at the end of the year.

Martha Sanborn and Dot Wilkes made the handmade angels; and planted the Swedish Ivy seedlings for us to take home. Dot Wilkes two call lists for We Neighbors, only two said they couldn't come, but we had a small turnout.

Elva wished us all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 10, 1990

The We Neighbors meet at the Fire Station with twenty-five members present. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses Dorothy Googins chair and Iris Almy committee for the delicious refreshments. The rest of the committee were unable to serve, but the committee was ably assisted by Grace Trappan, Martha Sanborn and Elva Brooks.

The Sec. report was read and accepted. In the absence of the Treas. Martha Sanborn read the report. There is a balance on hand of \$631.73. She read a thank you note from the City of Portland Special Services Dept. for the \$50. we sent them collected in our Christmas charity collection. The Sunshine report was given with a balance on hand of \$55.00. The collection was taken. The Sunshine chairman

Joy Brown transferred \$20.00 from the Sunshine fund to the regular treasury. There was no business to come before the meeting.

Martha Sanborn chairman of the Program Com. brought it to our attention that Jeffrey Butland Representative of the Maine State Legislature would be the speaker at our next meeting and she asked us to try and get all members to attend the meeting.

Martha introduced Linda Hicks who gave today's program, Quilts. Linda said that her interest in sewing and quilts started when she was a small girl and her grandmother taught her to sew. She made her first quilt when she needed a gift for a friend who was going to have a baby. After making the crib quilt she wanted to be sure she was doing it right, so she bought and read many books about quilts and quilting. And she really got into quilting when she taught an Adult Ed course in Quilting for several years. She is a member of the United Maine Craftsmen.⁵⁰ Linda showed us many things other than quilts that could be made using quilting such as pillows, place mats, table cloths, children's clothes, vests, tote bags, wall hangings, sweatshirts, Christmas stockings. She displayed quilts made of many different patterns including, pin wheel, star, grandmothers garden, Dresden plate and variations of log cabin. The program ended with other members showing quilts that they had brought. Grace Trappan had one made in 1867 by hand that contained 18,252 pieces. Evelyn Chase brought 2 quilts one made by her mother and one made by her daughter. Iris Almy brought an antique quilt made in the basked pattern, Betty Wright showed one made of silk necktie pieces, Phyllis Sweetser brought cabin quilt that was in her husband's family. Lorraine Temple brought a quilt that her mother had made at age 80 and another that was 200 years old and all hand sewn. Mildred Moeglin showed a quilt made by her husband's mother using only red and white material. Crystal Wing brought a quilt made by her grandmother in 1896 in the crazy patchwork pattern and her grandmother had embroidered over all the seams. Dorothy Googins brought three antique quilts from the Cumberland Historical Society and the last one displayed was the one the Historical Society ask various people to make a square for and then they raffled it off. Now they have bought the quilt back.

Meeting adjourned.

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

February 13, 1990

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with twenty-one members present, one guest Allisha Hynes and the speaker State Rep. Jeffrey Butland. The Pres. Elva Brooks thanked Mr. Butland for the flowers he sent to the club. Lorraine Temple introduced the speaker Jeffrey Butland who represents District 38 which includes the towns of Windham, Yarmouth, and most of Cumberland. Mr. Butland said he appreciated the chance to speak to us. He graduated from Bates College in 1969, then spent 4 yr in the Marines. He works for L. L. Bean. He is married to the former Nancy Pettengill and they have 3 children. He became interested in politics because of Harry Richardson, a near neighbor. Mr. Butland spent 3 yr. on the Town council and then was elected to the State Legislature. He was sworn in on his 38th birthday.

⁵⁰ United Maine Craftsmen is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to promote Maine artists by providing opportunities for marketing, education, and collaboration.

Mr. Butland explained that the Legislature is now in its second session which is supposed to be for emergencies, but the definition of an emergency is not exactly clear. This session will go into the middle of April. They do not have as much money as they thought they would when the budget was made two years ago. This is a common problem throughout the Northeast. He said there are more people over 65 than there are teenagers – 90% of a person's health care costs come in the last 10 days of their life. He outlined some things that the States do to help the elderly and gave us some literature.

The Pres. thanked Mr. Butland for speaking. She thanked the hostesses, Margaret Merrill, chairman, Lois Gatcombe, Mildred Moegling and Velma Merrill. The Sec. report was read and accepted. Betty Wright read the Treas. Report as Priscilla Muir couldn't be here. There is a balance in the treasury of \$631.73. There is a balance in the Sunshine fund of \$43.45.

It was reported that Dorothy Wagner has had a hip replacement and is now home. She would enjoy cards. The bouquet of flowers was sent to Dorothy Wagner. The program next time will be on "Victorian Jewelry" and the members were reminded to bring jewelry for the speaker to look at.'

As there was no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

March 14, 1990

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire Station at 2:00 P.M. with eighteen members and the speakers present. Delicious refreshments of cup cakes and ice cream were served by the hostesses Joy Brown and Wilma Ballard. The other two on the committee couldn't come, but everyone pitched in and helped.

Grace Trappan introduced the speaker Karin Pride. Her husband is the great grandson of the man who started Cross Jewelry store. She used to work in the store, but after she got married and now has a small child she works out of her home. Her topic was "Victorian Jewelry".⁵¹ She showed slides taken of various

⁵¹ Victorian Jewelry is named for Queen Victoria of England, the monarch who presided over the British Empire, 1837-1901. Until the reign of Queen Victoria, fine jewelry had been mostly acquired by aristocrats. However, during the Victorian period, jewelry became more broadly accessible, as emerging middle classes in Europe and the United States began to wear jewelry that was luxurious enough to be fit for kings and queens. Because jewelry happened to be one of Queen Victoria's favorite realms, her exquisite taste helped guide public preferences. Victorian jewelry styles mirror the phases of her life, as she moved from joy, despair, and then back to joy. During the Romantic Period, 1837-1861, Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert were deeply in love. Prince Albert's gift of a ring to Queen Victoria was a snake with its tail in its mouth, which was considered a symbol of love eternal. Jewelry from those years expressed confidence, serenity, and romance. Hearts, bows, flowers and birds were common motifs, as were enameled serpent and snakes. After Prince Albert's death in 1861, Queen Victoria entered a long period of mourning. During the period 1861-1880, jewelry became darker and more melancholy. Black jewelry made of jet, a form of fossilized coal, became popular as did jewelry made of black onyx and black enamel. During the late Victorian period, 1880-1901, jewelry styles were characterized by a return to whimsical, buoyant designs. Stars, dragons, griffins, and crescent moons made their way into jewelry. Gemstones and precious metals became increasingly available.

pieces of jewelry. This period was named after Queen Victoria of England. She ruled for 63 yrs. and died in 1901. During that period people wore a lot of ornate jewelry. Women must have jewelry and when they were first married the husband would give the wife the jewelry he wanted her to wear, according to his station in life. Children of 8 or 9 years old wore jewelry and men wore jewelry. Gold was discovered in S. Africa in 1860 and in California soon afterward. At this time gold watches in cases were popular and watch foles [sp.?] and gold chains. They made pins that contained human hair. They had boxes to keep their jewelry in and when someone came to call they would get the box and show the jewelry to them. At the turn of the century Princess Alexandra of England and Princess Eugenia of France set the fashion. The emphasis was on gems and very little gold was used. Platinum was introduced at this time. After 1901 it was the Edwardian period.⁵²

Many of the members brought jewelry for Mrs. Pride to look at.

A short business meeting was held after the program. The meeting was called to order by the Sec. Evelyn Chase in the absence of the president. The sec. report was read and accepted. The Treas. report was read with a balance of \$657.73. The Sunshine collection was taken. The sunshine chairman reported a balance of \$51.25. The following people were appointed to the nominating committee: Martha Pettengill, chairman, Dorothy Wilkes and Aurelia Tripp. As there was no other business the meeting adjourned. Martha Sanborn, chairman of the program committee said that the next meeting would be guest day with Ken Cole as speaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

April 11, 1990

We Neighbors met at the fire house on the above date with twenty three members and four guests present. Martha Sanborn introduced the speaker Kenneth Cole who showed slides of Norman Rockwell's works. Rockwell⁵³ started his career in painting at a very early age of fifteen when he painted four greeting cards and received twenty five dollars for each card. He told his mother that he wanted to earn his living by painting so he would quit school and start paintings. So he went to the Boy Scout head-

⁵² Edwardian Jewelry (1901-1915), like Georgian and Victorian eras before it, derives its name from the reign of an English King, Edward VII (1901-1910). King Edward was the lighthearted, luxury loving antithesis of this mother. Even while he was still the Prince of Wales, Edward was infamous for being a playboy and a gambler. After his coronation, he continued to surround himself with fast moving, nouveau riche plutocrats and spent the majority of his time engaged in various social endeavors. Jewelry was an important part of the lifestyle cultivated by the wealthy upper class. Around the turn of the century, jewelry went from large and ostentatious to ethereal and delicate almost overnight. Employing what was to become known as the "garland" style, jewelers who chose not to embrace Arts Nouveau borrowed the fluidity of their lines and incorporated them into more traditional motifs, thereby creating Edwardian jewelry. Garlands and ribbons, laurel wreaths, bow knots, tassels and lace were rendered with new lightness thanks to the advances made in platinum fabrication.

⁵³ Norman Rockwell (1894-1978) was a twentieth century American painter and illustrator. His works gained popular appeal for their reflection of American culture.

quarters and talked them into letting him paint for their magazine and for many years he painted for the Boy Scouts and all his children were in the Boy Scout movement. When he left them he painted for the Saturday Evening Post. But every year till he died he painted one picture for the Boy Scouts free of charge.

He was a very interesting man. He was five feet tall and weighed ninety eight pounds. He never used models to paint. All his paintings were done from photos. He didn't like doing the back grounds for his paintings so he hired others to that and he never sign his name to any of his paintings It was always done by the one who did the background. He joined the navy in World War one and never went to sea. Instead he painted posters for recruiting men into the service.

He married three times. His first marriage ended in divorce. His second wife lasted a good many years and she bore him three sons and when she died he thought he would never marry again but he found the house to quiet and lonely so he took his third wife. He lived six years longer. His last pictures weren't as good because of his failing health. Some of his best works were of his own children.

The business meeting followed the pictures. Those who brought guests introduced them to the group. Elva Brooks thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments. The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. The treasurer reported \$655.73 in checking account. Sunshine reported on cards sent and they have \$56.75 in their fund.

There was no old business and under new business Martha Sanborn passed a paper around to sign up for the luncheon on May 9th at Salmon Falls Country Club. Cost will be \$10. We will meet at 10:30 at the Fire Station and pool.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

Annual Report 1989-1990

The We Neighbors club held nine meetings. There was a variety of programs. One music program, one on jewelry, one on quilts, one on tying scarves, one political program, one travel program, one program about an artist, the auction, the luncheon and the annual meeting plus new idea, a bake sale.

There was an average attendance of twenty-three.

We wish to thank Martha Sanborn and her committee for the interesting programs. Two new members joined, Neva Deroche and Crystal Wing. Our thanks go to our Pres. Elva Brooks and the officers and committees who gave us a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

May 9, 1990 Annual Meeting

Twenty-two We Neighbors met at the Fire House at 10:30 A.M. and cars were pooled. It was a beautiful warm day when we headed to Salmon Falls Country Club. Our President Elva Brooks greeted the group and welcomed Vera Babbidge who was celebrating her ninetieth birthday and looks like a young women.

The luncheon service was excellent and everyone seemed to enjoy what they ordered.

After lunch we adjourned to a cold dark room on the lower level of the building. It was a miracle no one got hurt going down a dimly lighted stairway.

The President Elva Brooks thanked Martha Sanborn for the beautiful job done in setting up the luncheon. It was nice to just attend and hand Martha the bill. We all thank you Martha for a job well done.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$634.73 in checking account as of May 9th. Sunshine reported \$53.25 in their account.

Under old business it was moved and seconded that we continue our arrangement of cleaning the room at Central Station. It seems to work out very well.

It was moved and seconded that we give the fire department \$50 for the use of the room.

Under new business we discussed moving our annual meeting in April and updating the By-laws. This means a committee be appointed and go over the By-laws and present them at our September meeting and to be voted on at our October meeting. Elva Brooks appointed the following people: Chairman: Aurelia Tripp, Lorraine Temple, Phyllis Sweetser, Margaret Merrill, Elva Brooks ex officio.

At the Annual meeting the secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$948.11 in Receipts minus 313.38 Paid out, leaving \$634.75 as of May 9, 1990. Moved and seconded we accept these reports as read.

Nominating Committee was Martha Pettengill, Dorothy Wilkes and Aurelia Tripp and they presented the following names for officers for 1990-1991:

President: Elva Brooks

Vice President: Aurelia Tripp

Treasurer: Priscilla Muir

Secretary: Evelyn Chase

Sunshine Committee: Joy Brown

Program: Chairman Wilma Ballard, Crystal Wing, Lois Gatcombe, Dorothy Wilkes.

It was moved and seconded that we accept this report as read and the secretary Pro tem cast one ballot for the slate of officers as read.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Elva was prepared to give a reading but everyone agreed that it would be better to have it in our own meeting room at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

September 12, 1990

The first meeting of the year was held at the Fire Station because of inclement weather. The Program Committee had planned a picnic at Winslow Park, Freeport. Sixteen We Neighbors were present to eat their sandwiches inside and enjoy the delicious sweets provided by the hostesses. In the absence of Pres. Elva Brooks, the V. Pres. Aurelia Tripp presided. The Sec. report was read and approved. The Treas. report was read and accepted with a balance on hand of \$607.73. Dues were collected. A thank you note was read from the Cumberland Fire Dept. thanking us for the \$50.00 we donated for the use of the Fire Station. As Joy Brown was recently home from the hospital there was no Sunshine Report. Martha Sanborn collected for the Sunshine committee and Margaret Clark offered to take the money to Joy.

Old business: the revised By-laws were given to those present. They will be voted on at the next meeting. It was decided to have Alan Small clean the meeting room again this year. Evelyn will contact him. Dorothy Wilkes, program chairman distributed the program booklets. She said the Dec. program would be a luncheon at the Cumb. Congo Church. She asked if we wanted to pay for lobster in the Seafood Newburg. Evelyn moved and Louise 2nd a motion to have lobster. The annual luncheon will be at [Salmon] Falls with the same menu as last May. People who cannot serve as hostess when their turn comes shall get their own replacement. If anyone is unable to work they can pay their share and the other hostesses will do the serving. The first person listed is chairman of the hostesses. Evelyn reported that Fire Chief Ken Wagner had said that we could have the coffee packets for free as we gave such a generous donation to the Fire Dept.

New business: Priscilla Muir, treas. asked how long she should keep old bank statements. It was the general opinion that they could be thrown away after seven (7) years. A list was passed around for those to sign who are planning to attend Gentlemen's Nite.

Program: We all played Beano using small gifts we had brought for prizes.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn C. Chase, Sec.

November 14, 1990

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire Station with seventeen members and two guests present. The hostesses were Mattie Baily, Martha Pettengill, Margaret Clark, Margaret Small and Leona Crandall.

The speaker was Peter Hagerty from Kezar Falls. He started a business bring wool from Russia and blending it with American wool into a yarn he calls "Peace fleece." ⁵⁴ He went to Russia in 1985 and 1989. He met Victoria Butanko⁵⁵ and her family who have a family business. So they started a business together. Materials are sent from America and the Russian young people make knitting needles and buttons and send young people them back here to be sold. The young people came here last summer and sold things at the Common Ground Fair in Union, Me. Most of the business is done by mail. They have 7000 customers. He showed two video tapes and told about his trip to Russia and Northern Tibbett. [sp.] He brought yarn and sweaters to sell.

The business meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses and welcomed the guests, Virginia Hutchins and Dorothy Green. The sec. report was read and accepted. The treas. Report was read and approved. There is a balance on hand of \$676.48. In the absence of treas. the Sec. read her report.

Old business: The revised constitution and by-laws were discussed. The Sec. read the articles that were changed. Aurelia Tripp moved and Martha Sanborn seconded a motion to accept the Constitution and bylaws as revised and it was so voted. The Sunshine Com. reported a bal. on hand of \$76.65 and that Janet Shaw and Margaret Wyman were sick. The Christmas donation to a charity was brought up. The Program com submitted 3 choices: Friendship House – home for the homeless; The Children's Cancer Society;, and something local. Evelyn moved and Betty Wright seconded a motion to give the donation to Friendship house and it was so voted. \$19.00 was collected. Letters were read from Kay Sawyer, Elaine Moxcey. The next meeting will be the Christmas luncheon at the Congregational Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 12, 1990

The We Neighbors Club met at the Cumberland Congregational Church for a Christmas Luncheon at 12:30 P.M. The seafood Newberg luncheon was put on by Hope Foster and her able crew. Twenty-two members and guests were present including Dorothy Green, Virginia Hutchins and Betty Brooks. There was a short business meeting but no reports were read. A collection taken for our Christmas charity "Friendship House". \$20.10 was collected. Kay Sawyer moved and Janet Shaw seconded a motion to take

⁵⁴ In 1974, Peter and Marty Hagerty, as part of the back to land movement, moved to Porter, Maine, in the foothills of the White Mountains. However, living at the end of the dirt road, growing their own food, shearing their own sheep, and cutting their own firewood did not protect them from the threat of nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States. So in 1985, Peter went to Moscow with a proposal. If he could find a Russian who would sell him wool, he would bring it back to Maine, blend it with American wool and make a yarn called Peace Fleece. Central to the creation of Peace Fleece was the belief if historic enemies could do business together, then the potential for conflict might be reduced. The Russian and American fiber would be spun together and the hats and sweaters knit from this yarn would affirm that Soviet-American cooperation was possible. "Warm wool from a Cold War" became the Peace Fleece motto.

⁵⁵ Victoria Boutenko was an early Russian contact who helped Peter coordinate Russian sources of wool.

enough money from the Sunshine Fund to send \$75.00 to Friendship House and the motion carried. Program Lois Johnson Jr. choir director from the Trinity Episcopal Church brought hymn books and led us in singing Christmas Carols. Six members of the Casco Bay Cloggers club, under the direction of Janet Waterhouse of Windham, danced for us. Casco Bay is the largest of the 11 clubs in Me.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 9, 1991

The meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

February 13, 1991

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with fifteen members present. The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She thanked the hostesses, Martha Pettingill, Mildred Moegling and Dorothy Wagner for the delicious refreshments and pretty valentine decorations. The sec. report was read and accepted. In the absence of the Treas., her report was read by the Sec. The bal. on hand is \$555.48. A thank you note was read from Louis Montgomery for the money we sent to Friendship House for Christmas. The Sunshine report was given. Mrs. Bethany Chesley is in a nursing home. Joy read a nice letter from Mrs. Chesley's daughter. Bal. on hand in the Sunshine fund is \$74.22. Margaret Clark is in the hospital.

Old Business: According to the by-laws after a person has attended 3 meetings the officers are to vote on whether or not that person shall become a member. Dorothy Green had met the requirements and we now welcome her as a new member of We Neighbors Club. Betty Brooks has lived in Cumb. for many years, but now lives in Windham. She is willing to drive Janet Shaw to our meetings. So it was decided that Betty can attend the meetings she brings Janet to as a guest but will not have the status of a member as to voting or being on committee. Mildred Heyl sent greetings as she could not be here. Iris Almy is at the Barron Center Room 104. She is not well at all, and very helpless. Priscilla Muir is better and at home, but still not able to come to the meeting.

Dorothy Wilkes, program chairman, told about next month's meeting. Brenda Allen will show us how to make baskets. Dorothy passed a paper around for all to sign who plan to be here next time to make baskets.

Meeting adjourned.

Program: Auction – Evelyn Chase auctioneer. The auction took in \$44.10

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

March 13, 1991

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire station with twelve members and the speaker present. None of the hostesses were able to serve. However, Martha Sanborn and Elva Brooks furnished us with delicious refreshments. Evelyn Chase made the coffee and Dot Wilkes did the decorating.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Elva Brooks. She welcomed the group and thanked the substitute hostesses. She welcomed Virginia Hutchins, as this is her third meeting. The Sec. report was read and accepted. In the absence of the Treas. her report was read by Betty Wright. There is a balance of \$598.58. There was no Sunshine report. However, the collection was taken. There was no old business.

New business: the Pres. asked for volunteers to be on the Nominating committee. Crystal Wing and Margaret Merrill volunteered. The Pres. will find a chairman. The annual meeting will be next time. In April we will sign up for the May luncheon. The Pres. turned the meeting over to the program committee.

Dorothy Wilkes introduced Brenda Allen who showed us how to make baskets. So we went home with cute little baskets, which made an interesting hands on program.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

Annual report 1990-1991

The first meeting of the year was a picnic held at the Fire Station because of inclement weather instead of at Winslow Park as planned. We played Beano. Gentlemen's nite was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church with Rev. Carleton Gunn, down East humorist. In November Peter Hagerty spoke on "Peace Fleece, his Soviet-American program to sell wool and related products. Our Christmas program was a new idea, a luncheon at the Cumberland Congregational Church and the program included a hymn sing led by Lois Johnson, Jr. Choir director at Trinity Episcopal Church and the Casco Bay Cloggers danced for us. The auction was held in Feb. In March, Brenda Allen showed us how to make baskets. The April meeting will be the annual meeting and the program will be Becca Begin speaking on Friends of the Maine Medical center. Our spring fling in May will be at the Salmon Falls country club. Five meetings have been held at the Fire Station, two at the Congregational Church and one meeting was cancelled because of bad weather. There was an average attendance of eighteen. This year we have tried a new way of taking in new members. Any resident of Cumberland can attend three meetings to see how she likes the club. If she wishes to join, her name will be voted on by the officers. We have two new members Dorothy Green and Virginia Hutchins. We wish to thank the Program committee, the hostesses and the officers for their work in making this year a successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

April 10, 1991 Annual Meeting

Eighteen members of We Neighbors met at the Fire House on the above date. Our President Elva Brooks greeted the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments.

The secretary and treasurers reports were read and accepted. Treasurer reported \$541.58 in checking account.

Sunshine reported on cards sent. They have \$64.35 in the account. It was voted to put \$50 of that account in checking account. No old business.

Under new business, Margaret Clark and Priscilla Muir are home from the hospital. Miss Almy is in Barron Center.

It was moved and seconded that we pay \$50 for the use of fire house.

It was moved and seconded that the program Committee be authorized to use \$250 for speakers if needed.

Moved and seconded that we continue our arrangement of cleaning the room at central station. It seems to be working well.

The annual reports of secretary, treasurer and Sunshine Committees were read and accepted.

The nominating Committee presented the following names for officers for 1991-1992:

President: Lois Gatcombe

Vice President: Aurelia Tripp

Secretary: Evelyn Chasse

Treasurer: Margaret Merrill

Program: Co-chairmen: Elva Brooks and Nancy Fearing, Mattie Bailey, Martha Pettengill, Dorothy Wagner

Telephone committee: Dorothy Wilkes, Crystal Wing, Betty Wright

Sunshine Committee: Joy Brown, Wilma Ballard

Moved and seconded that we accept the officers as read and the secretary pro tem cast one ballot for the officers as read.

Our next meeting will be the luncheon at Salmon Falls Country Club. We will meet at the fire house at eleven and pool cars.

As there was no other business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret E. Merrill, Sec. pro tem

Lois Gatcombe introduced the speaker Bessa Begin President of friends of Maine Medical Center. Maine Medical is the largest Hospital in the State with six hundred beds. Friends of the center are divided into three volunteer auxiliaries. The women's board runs the coffee shop and gift shop. The visiting board visits the patients, change the art in rooms at different times. They also bring reading material. The third auxiliary make dolls for the children's ward. Many groups help make these dolls. If a child has a broken arm a cast is put on the doll or if they lose an arm or leg, the limb is removed. They provide color books and crayons. Sometimes they need fifty or sixty dolls a month. Church groups and auxiliaries help cut out dolls and sew them together. The Ladies Auxiliary of Cumberland Fire Dept. spend one evening each year cutting out dolls and Johnnies for the Friends of Medical Center.

It was a very interesting program which everyone seem to enjoy.

May 8, 1991

The We neighbors club met at the Fire Station and car-pooled to go to Salmon Falls Country Club in Bar Mills for their annual luncheon. The menu was sirloin steak, haddock, or chicken cordon Blue for \$8.50. There were 18 members and 1 guest present. All enjoyed the meal and the lovely view of the golf course and Saco River. After the luncheon the Pres. Elva Brooks welcomed the group. She thanked all the officers who had worked with her during her term as Pres. She said there is a good group here today and for us all to come next fall and bring friends who would join We Neighbors. Dot Walker chair of the Program com. thanked Elva for her 3 yrs of service and presented her with a gift of money. Elva thanked the group. She passed around a paper for suggestions for next year's programs. Dot Wagner's reading was not given because of so much noise in the room. Elva asked how many would like to come back here for the luncheon next year. Most people would, a few thought 2 years would be too much. Elva passed the gavel over to the new Pres. Lois Gatcombe.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

In Memory of

Margaret Clark

Member of

We Neighbors Club

Born: Jan. 4, 1923

Died: May 21, 1991

September 11, 1991

The We Neighbors met at the Fire Station to car pool to Winslow Park⁵⁶ in Freeport for a picnic. The day was sunny and windy. The hostesses were Evelyn Chase, Mattie Bailey, and Janet Shaw. They served dessert and beverage. There were 14 present, 12 members and 2 prospective members, Kay Rawsley and Nancy Hall.

The Pres. Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and brought two items to their attention. Betty Wright does not want to be on the telephone committee. Kay Rawsley volunteered for this; and dues are due today. Evelyn Chase will collect the dues in the absence of the Treas. Margaret Merrill. There was no meeting or reports. The next meeting will be Gentlemen's nite at the Cumb. Congregational Church. After lunch, some people walked around the Park and others played catch or paper and pencil games.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

October 9, 1991

The We Neighbors club Gentlemen's Nite was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church with 27 members and guests attending. A delicious chicken dinner was served by Hope Foster and the crew at a cost of \$6.00 each. Mrs. Boothby from Norlands Living History Center entertained us by coming dressed as a teacher and homemaker from the 1800s. She brought many artifacts from that period and asked us to tell what they are.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

November 13, 1991

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 18 members present. The Pres. welcomed the group and thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments, Chairman Madeline Bailey, Grace Trappan, and Martha Pettengill who took Betty Wright's place. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Margaret Clark.

The sec. report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was read and approved with a balance on hand of \$549.70. The summer [sunrise] balance was \$18.75. There are no sick people that we know about. The Sunshine chairman read notes from George Clark and Mildred Hyel. There was no old

⁵⁶ Winslow Memorial Park and Campground is located on Staples Point Road in South Freeport, Maine. The Park is on a small peninsula of land between the Harraseeket River and Casco Bay. There are trails for walking, beaches for summer swims, and many picnic tables under cover.

business. The Christmas program will be as listed in the program and there will be a door prize. Martha Sanborn asked if Elaine Moxcey got a program, and a member of the program committee said "yes" she did as she is on the list of members.

New business: Dorothy Wilkes asked if the group would like to have a Christmas luncheon as we did last year at the Cumb. Congregational Church. It was voted that we would have the luncheon. Dorothy Wilkes will make the arrangements. She passed a paper around for those who plan to attend to sign.

The chairman of the Program committee gave a list of three suggested charities for us to choose which one to send our Christmas charity money to – A homeless shelter, a home for abused women and children, or food banks and local soup kitchens. It was voted to send it to Faith House, a recently opened home for Mothers and children run by Louise Montgomery. It was suggested to ask if they could use household items and if they can, we will bring them to the next meeting.

The program was the annual Auction of white elephants and food with Nancy Fearing as auctioneer. We made \$114.00

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

December 11, 1991

The We Neighbors Club Christmas program and luncheon was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church with 18 members and the speaker present. Dorothy Wilkes had made for Hope Foster to put on the delicious seafood Newburg luncheon. The hostess committee was Martha Pettengill, chair and Dorothy Wagner, and Virginia Hutchins on the committee. We had Christmas decoration and favors. Everyone brought household item for Faith House and Lois Gatcombe and Nancy Fearing will take these in to Portland. We gave a \$35. donation. There was no business meeting, but the President Gatcombe thanked the hostesses and Dorothy Wilkes and thanked Hope and her committee for the luncheon. The next meeting will be at the Fire Station. The program will be "Around the world in 30 Minutes" with Dorothy Wagner. Nancy Fearing introduced the speaker Sally Barter formerly of Chase Greenhouse. She gave a very interesting demonstration of making a Christmas centerpiece in a basket and ended by giving us all a corsage. The centerpiece was the door prize. The lucky person had a sticker on the bottom of her nut cup – but no one could find it! Nancy Clark left early with two nut cups and one must have the sticker on it. So the centerpiece was sent home to her! Nancy Hall, Kay Rawnsley attended the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

January 8, 1992

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 20 members present. The Pres. Lois Gatcombe welcomed the group and thanked the hostess committee for the delicious pecan pie. The hostesses were Elva Brooks chairman and Mildred Hegl. We thought that either Dorothy Green or Nancy Hall won the door prize last time but Martha Pettengill said that when she packed up the decorations she found that a sticker on the bottom of the nut cup and fallen off in her basket.

The meeting was called to order and the Sec. report was read and accepted. The treas. report was read and a balance of \$612.91 reported. She also reported that when all the money was in \$52.00 was sent to Faith House as our Christmas charity. She also said that she would like to change our bank account from Key Bank to Fleet Bank. Lorraine Temple moved and Joy Brown seconded a motion to do this and it was so voted. The Treas. also said that there should be another name on the bank book besides hers, so that two people in the group could take out money. The Sunshine chairman reported that there were no sick people as far as she knew. The Sunshine account has a balance of \$33.18. It was reported that Phyllis Sweetser will be 94 in Feb. Also Elaine Moxcey's husband has had to have oxygen for four years. It was reported that Nancy Fearing took our donations of household items to Faith House and Louise Montgomery showed her the whole house.

The Pres. welcomed Kay Rawnsley and Nancy Hall as official members as they have now attended 3 meetings and have been voted in by the officers.

Mildred Moegling brought many souvenirs from all around the world to show us. A wedding dress from Iran which she bought thinking it was just a pretty dress. Another dress was from Cairo Egypt where her son is Consul General for the United States. He sent someone with Mildred to buy souvenirs, because there everything is priced high and everyone is expected to beat the price down. Overpopulation is a great problem. Egypt is second to India in population.

Dorothy Wilkes would like to make the Christmas luncheon an annual event in the program to be planned on the same as Gentlemen's nite and the spring luncheon. Those who did not care to come to the Christmas luncheon could arrive just in time for the program. Dorothy Wilkes made this in the form of a motion and Dorothy Green seconded it. It was so voted for the Program committee to plan on it in the future. The Pres. adjourned the meeting.

Elva Brooks introduced the speaker Dorothy Wagner who presented a slide show called "Around the World in 30 minutes." Dorothy's husband George Wagner lived in New York City as a boy. He got interested in birds when he was a Boy Scout. He watched them in the park. Mr. Wagner has been around the world twice and in every State in the U.S. and every Province in Canada. All the time looking for birds and taking their picture. The slides started in Machias, Maine with pictures of puffins. Then he went around the world by pictures from Yosemite National Park, the Grand Tetons, Mexico where there were cities 1000 years before Columbus came to America. On to Ecuador, New Zealand, Australia, where

they celebrate "Remembrance Day" as we do Memorial Day. To see the Taj Mahal ⁵⁷which was erected for the Emperor's wife; Nepal, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bali where women carried things on their heads, Cairo to see the pyramids, St Peters cathedral in Rome, Berlin, cliffs of Normandy, London. She had our complete attention when she suddenly brought us back to Cumberland by showing us a picture of Main St. which she said was home and the best place of all.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

February 12, 1992

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 20 members present. The meeting was called to order and the Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer report was read and a balance of \$615.38 reported. The Sunshine Chairman reported cards to Kathryn Sawyer, Phyllis Sweetser and Evelyn Chase were sent. \$5.05 was collected in January bringing the balance to \$29.60.

Hostesses for the afternoon were Nancy Fearing, Lorraine Temple, Dorothy Wilkes and Lois Gatcomb. The refreshments were delicious as well as having that special party look. Lois Gatcomb was at the head of the table pouring coffee and tea. The tables were especially attractive with Cupids, hearts, bows and arrows and little red candies against a white background.

Mrs. Linwood Crandall spoke first and described her first month in Cumberland. It was suggested to her, that as the wife of the Greely Institute English teacher, she should belong to the "We Neighbors Club." Mr. Crandall spoke of some of the women who might be there. Mrs. Harriet Merrill known as Hattie Wallace to distinguish her from Miss Harriet Merrill, Mrs. Mildred Doane who was described as a super librarian and Mrs. Herman Sweetser, wife of a trustee of the School. She mentioned that she could not get the Burnells straightened out.

She was very nervous at first but found this group of ladies to be very friendly and welcomed her into their club.

Meetings were held at club member homes. The refreshments were always good and home made. The programs were given by the members of the club. The History of Cumberland was a favorite program for meetings. Miss Harriet Merrill and Miss Gertie Bragg (her sister) had old family maps and photographs of Cumberland.

Each year one of the members of the club gave a Book Report.

⁵⁷ The Taj Mahal, Persian for "Crown of Palaces", is an ivory white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna River in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan (reigned 1628-1658) to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The tom is the centerpiece of a 42 acre complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenellated wall. Many regard it as the best example of Mughal architecture and a symbol of India's rich history.

"I can't recall a program I didn't enjoy," Mrs. Crandall said. Mr. Crandall also stated that the We Neighbors Club still holds to the values of the Founder.

Mrs. Phyllis Sweetser, who was 94 in February, then spoke on some of the programs she remembered.

Meetings were held on the second Wednesday of the month. A program could be a picture described, then a group of women posed and brought this picture to life. I am sure they took great pride in the accuracy of copying details in their scenes. The pictures that came to her mind were:

- (1) Feeding the Flock
- (2) Laughing Cavalier
- (3) Whistler's Mother

Sally Merrill then showed pictures of her parent's camp at Jordan Bay on Sebago Lake where the We Neighbors Club had their picnics every year. We saw pictures of Carolyn Rand, Ernest Rand, Mildred Doane, Margaret Wyman, Mary Chase, Grace Hutchinson, and Jenny Burnell.

This brought to an end an afternoon of the history of "The We Neighbors Club" in its early years.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec. pro tem

March 11, 1992

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 13 members present. The hostesses were Joy Brown, chairman, Wilma Ballard, and Crystal Wing. They had lovely decoration in green and white and a delicious "Hawaiian Chop Suey Cake" for dessert.

The meeting was called to order by the Pres. Lois Gatcombe. She welcomed those present and praised them for coming out on such a stormy day. She thanked the hostesses for the refreshments. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report read and approved, with a balance of \$621.64. The Sunshine committee collected \$4.50 at the last meeting making a balance of \$34.10. The collection was taken. Old business: None.

New Business: The Friends of the Prince Memorial Library asked if we would like to have a booth at the sale after the Memorial Day Parade? It was discussed and although some thought it was a good idea, most thought it would be too hard to get enough people to work on that week-end. The Pres. appointed a nominating committee: Evelyn Chase, chairman, Lorraine Temple and Grace Trappan. As there was no other business the meeting was turned over to Program Committee co-chairman Elva Brooks who introduced the speaker.

Kenneth Cole ⁵⁸ spoke on "Our Backyard Gardens." Mr. Cole said he and his wife had written a book for the Boy Scouts called "Field Book on Edible Plants." His wife came with him and they showed slides of many wild flowers and edible plants. Some plants he called survival plants. Cat tails can be eaten. The bottom third of the plant can be cooked and eaten and the blossom can be dried and eaten. Sunflower seeds can be boiled and the oil can be used as salad oil. The Canadian Thistle is a member of the parsnip family so it can be boiled and the root eaten. Onion grass can be used both for soup and as insect repellent. Sorrell can be used in a salad. The dandelion came from England. We dig them out of our laws but before they had lawn mowers they planted dandelions to grow so as to kill out the grass and make a short ground cover that would not need to be cut. Mullein is in the cabbage family. It comes up for three years in a row and then rests for ten years. The stalks work like a wick in oil and were used by the Eskimos. Golden rod leaves can be used for tea. Poison sumac's blossoms are white and the leaves hang down. Our present day carrot came from Queen Anne's Lace plant. You can see a star in all edible berries. Acorns should not be eaten raw. Violet leaves can be eaten. Mr. Cole suggested a good book on wild plants that can be obtained from the Audubon Society "Field guide of Edible wild Plants" by Lee Peterson. And he gave one piece of advice: "Never teach about edible plants unless you have eaten them." The meeting was adjourned.

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

Annual Report 1991-1992

The We Neighbors Club held nine meetings this year. Six were held at the Fire Station, two at the Cumberland Congregational Church, one at Winslow Park and the annual spring luncheon at Harraseeket Inn in Freeport. The average attendance on the first seven meetings was 17. The least in attendance was 13 and the largest 20. We took in two new members, Kay Rawnsley and Nancy Hall. Our Christmas Charity money went to Faith House in Portland, a home for needy mothers and children. We had four outside speakers: Mrs. Boothby from Norlands, Sally Barter on flower arrangements, Ken Cole on wild plants, and Mrs. Robert Pawle on "Good Reading." [The latter name is crossed out.] Programs put on by our own members were "Around the World in 30 minutes" by Dorothy Wagner, Auction and Food Sale with Nancy Fearing, and Sweetheart tea honoring our Senior members by Nancy Fearing and her committee. Our programs consisted of one picnic, an auction, flower arrangement, one on travel, one on books, one on plants and herbs, two on history, one on life in a small town 100 years ago, the other on We Neighbors Club as far back as those oldest in membership can remember and two luncheons, the annual spring luncheon and a Christmas luncheon which we voted to have every year and have it on the program the same as the Spring luncheon,. Many thanks to Elva Brooks and Nancy Fearing and their committee for these interesting programs. And many thanks to President Gatcomb and the other officers and committees for making this a successful year.

⁵⁸ Kenneth Merle Cole, Jr. was born in Windham, Maine. After graduating from Westbrook High School, he attended King's Point Maritime Academy and then served in the Army Air Corps and Army Transport Corps in World War II. All his life he was active in scouting and became a professional scout executive in the 1950s. He directed summer camps for 25 years, including Camp Hinds in Raymond. He spent 18 years on the national staff of the Boy Scouts of America. After retirement he retired to his home which he built on his former family farm in Windham. He lectured widely on edible plants and camp craft.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Chase, Sec.

April 8, 1992

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 20 members present. The hostesses were: Martha Sanborn, Dorothy Green, and Elva Brooks. A great chocolate sheet cake was served. The meeting was called to order by the President, Lois Gatcomb. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer report was read and approved with a balance on hand of \$596.64. The Sunshine collection was taken and a year- end balance of \$43.60 was reported. Also Joy would be passing along the excess to the club Treasurer.

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary cast one ballot for the following officers:

President: Lois Gatcomb

Vice President: Nancy Fearing

Secretary: Virginia Hutchins

Treasurer: Margaret Merrill

Sunshine Committee: Wilma Ballard and Joy Brown

Program Committee: Martha Sanborn, Dot Wagner, Mildred Hely, Aurelia Tripp, Maddie Baily

Under old business, Dot Wilkes reminded members that it had been voted to make the December meetings a luncheon meeting in the future.

Under new business, a discussion as to the choice of restaurant for the May luncheon went on. The final vote went to the Cascades with everyone meeting to car pool at 11:15 at the Fire Station. The calling committee will determine the number going on this outing.

Martha Sanborn inquired as to when new member would be expected to pay dues; it was the consensus of the group that no matter when the new member joined, her dues would begin the following Fall when we all pay.

It was agreed that next year's Program Committee could be allowed \$250.00 for Program expenses.

It was moved and seconded that \$50.00 would go to the Fire Dept. for use of the fire station.

This concluded the regular business meeting and the President then called for annual reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer which were approved as read. Our year end Treasury balance was \$596.64.

Nancy Fearing, program chairman announced that Mrs. Pawle could not speak as scheduled because of a medical emergency in her family. She then suggested on an alternative program that each of us relate either how we met our husbands or experiences or our first job or whatever. There followed 16 entertaining and amazing stories of first lovers and first jobs. As a group we seem to have been blessed with long term, happy marriages and interesting careers.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

May 13, 1992

May Luncheon, Cascades, Saco

The We Neighbors Club met at the fire station and car-pooled to the Cascades in Saco on May 13th. Nineteen members and one guest were present. We ordered from the Menu of Specials which were \$3.95 and \$4.95. Upon leaving I heard two comments made. "It was good" and "It was OK." The usual responses to any restaurant.

No reports were read and we had no discussions of business at the luncheon meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

1992-1993

September 9, 1992

The September meeting was held at the Fire Station for an Indoor Picnic. We brought a bag lunch with dessert and a beverage provided by the Hostesses, Madeline Baily, Aurelia Tripp, and Dot Wagner.

Eighteen members and two guests were present.

Dues were collected for the coming year. Our Treasurer reported that we had a balance of \$596.64 in our treasury.

Martha Sanborn reminded us of our Gentlemen's night meeting for October. She also told us that John Wilcox would not be able to relate to us the experiences of the Six Year Sail in their '42' foot boat "Harmony" around the world; but that his wife has consented to speak to us on their experience. They have requested that the Speaking Fee be a donation to the Heifer Project which is a special interest of their family.

We then went to the Cumberland Historical Society building on Blanchard Road. Barbara Garsoe gave us some additional information on a quilt and a picture and dresser and other interesting articles on display in the well-organized room. Barbara mentioned that new members to the Historical Society will be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Hutchins, Secretary.

October 14, 1992

The We Neighbors Club, Gentlemen's Night was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church with 45 members and guests attending. A delicious chicken dinner was prepared and served by Hope Foster and her crew at a cost of \$6.50 per person.

The program consisted of slides of the Six Year sail in the 42 foot boat "Harmony," around the world, that Eunice and John Wilcox took with their daughter Laura Jean.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

November 11, 1992

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 7 guests and 20 members present. Pineapple Upside Down Cake and Coffee were served.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$684.21 and the Sunshine Committee reported a balance of \$8.30.

The bake sale was most successful. We signed up for an annual Christmas Luncheon to be held Dec. 9th at 1:00 at the Parish House at a cost of \$6.00. A musical program is planned for this meeting.

We observed a moment of silence in honor of Hilda Bennett, who passed away at the age of 96.

Three choices were presented to us so that we could make a decision on where to send our donation this year. They were: (1) Faith House; (2) Pineland; (3) The Vietnam Veteran living in a make shift structure with no plumbing or heating.

A motion was made and seconded that our contribution be made to Faith House in Memory of Louise Montgomery.

A collection was taken at the November meeting and another one will be taken at the December luncheon. Also linens will be brought by members to be donated to Faith House.

The rest of the meeting was turned over to Carlene Griffin from L. L. Bean who wrote "Spillin the Beans."⁵⁹ She has worked for Beans for 47 years. She took 4 years to write her book. She had many little short stories concerning different employees.

There were only 60 people working there in 1935, but during the Xmas season the number of employees goes to 6000 people. Most of the year 3400 people make up the work force. 23 different catalogues go out during a year. Carlene's book sells for \$12.95 and can be purchased at Bookland.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Hutchins, Sec.

⁵⁹ Griffin, Carleen, *Spillin' the Beans: Behind the Scenes at L. L. Bean*, Farmington, Maine: Knowlton and McLeary Printing, 1992. Griffin is a 45 year employee who offers a treasure house of employee anecdotes and vignettes, some stretching back sixty years or more to the early days of L. L. Bean.

December 9, 1992

The We Neighbors Club's annual Christmas Luncheon was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church. Twenty-seven people were on hand for a delicious Seafood Newberg, prepared and served by Hope Foster, Barbara Garsoe and Norma Seekins.

Evelyn Chase gave the blessing. Another collection was taken for Faith House. Forty-three dollars was collected in November and twenty-five dollars for December making a total of seventy-eight dollars.

Linen and household items were also brought to be sent to Faith House.

The musical program that had been scheduled was cancelled due to sickness in the group. Martha Sanborn reacted quickly and called on a friend only hours before she appeared before our group. Rachel Bennett gave us a wonderful hour of standard and traditional Christmas music. Then we joined in for a Sing-A-Long.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Hutchins

January 13, 1993

The January 13th meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia L. Hutchins, Sec.

February 10, 1993

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 22 members present.

There was no old business to be discussed. Under new business, Martha Sanborn decided that the problem of getting the placemats could be remedied by the program chairman keeping them.

The Sunshine Committee reported a balance of \$12.50.

Martha Sanborn from the Program committee received a letter from Eunice Wilcox acknowledging our fee contributed to the Around the World Heifer Project. Mrs. Wilcox wanted her speaking fee contributed to their project.

Dorothy J. Stanhope responded to a gift of towels and sheets and household items. She is the new director of Faith House replacing Louise Montgomery who died as the result of a car accident.

The program was made up of slides of Egypt taken in 1983 by Carolee Withee from the Greely Jr. High teaching staff. Egypt is made up of 95% desert and 5% for any other kind of living. In the slides we saw

boats with a mast in two sections. Carolee explained that as they don't have tall trees, they have to make tall masts in 2 sections.

The homes are away from the cropland, as crops come first. Living conditions are quite poor. Corn is grown and the work is done by peasants. Donkeys are useful and the same type of plow is used that were used for 5000 years. Some few might have a tractor.

Women, when they are outside of their home, wear a black covering over their hair, arms, and body. In side of their homes they wear colorful clothes and jewelry. Men can wear a white cotten for their clothes and this makes for a much cooler type of dress for them.

80 pyramids have been discovered so far.

People were buried with their possession and wore their jewelry. Of course this encouraged robberies.

These are only a few of the interesting things Mrs. Withee explained to us in her hour of slides and commentary.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

March 10, 1993

The We Neighbors Club met at the fire station with 19 members present. Margaret Merrill gave the Treasurer Report and reported that she had made a deposit of \$12.00. We were credited with \$2.12 for interest, making a total balance of \$774.10.

The Sunshine Report was given by Wilma Ballard. She reported a balance of \$14.80. Fortunately, no Get Well Cards have been sent.

There was no old business to report. Under New Business, it was mentioned that a shade for the back door in our meeting room might be appropriate. Nothing was decided on a way to purchase this or how we would donate it. This would have to be discussed again and voted on.

The meeting was then turned over to Dorothy Wagner from the program committee with a review of Chimney Pond.⁶⁰ Dot introduced Elizabeth Harmon who had an active part in the assembling of these thirty some tales. They were told by Leroy Dudley, a Maine Guide and spinner of tales, at Chimney Pond on Mount Katahdin. Roy entertained people with his stories about Pamola the Indian god of thunder and Protector of the mountain. These tales are about people who visited Chimney Pond, as well as the character who mostly came from Roy's vivid imagination.

Betty [Beth] told us about the problems that held up the publication of this work and final OK to get it on the market.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

Annual Report 1992-1993

The We Neighbors Club held 7 meetings this year with 5 being held at the Fire Station, 2 at the Cumberland Congregational Church, 1 meeting in January was cancelled due to a snowstorm and the Annual Spring Luncheon was held at Smith Farms Revers Enolu [?] in Falmouth.

The average attendance was 19 members per meeting this year, with 2 new members. Joining our group, Estelle Heraphtha and Carrie Whiteside.

Our Christmas donation of money went to Faith House this year along with a good supply of linens and household items.

There were 6 outside speakers beginning Sept. 9th. After our indoor picnic at the Fire barn, we went to the Cumberland Historical Society building on Blanchard Road. Barbara Garsoe gave us a good accounting of items on display there, and answered questions.

Eunice Wilcox shared the experience of her husband her daughter and herself on their 42 Foot boat "Harmony" on their sail around the world.

The November meeting was a food sale.

⁶⁰ Hall, Clayton, editor, *Chimney Pond Tales: Yarns Told by Leroy Dudley*, Pamola Press, 1991. High in a basin of Maine's Mount Katahdin is crystal-clear Chimney Pond. There, during the first half of twentieth century, Leroy Dudley, guide and trailblazer, enchanted countless hikers with his tales. Dudley guided from the 1890s until his death in 1942. He had originally been exposed to Penobscot Indian legends about Katahdin by his father, who had been a long-time friend of Penobscot Governor John Neptune. Dudley took these stories and made them his own, augmenting them in the storyteller tradition and entertaining countless visitors with his droll humor. Elizabeth Harmon found the manuscript of Leroy Dudley's tales when cleaning out an uncle's attic in 1982. Another uncle, Clayton Hall, had been so obsessed with Roy's wonderful stories that he carried a wax cylinder dictating machine and a Royal typewriter up to Chimney Pond in order to transcribe them in the 1930s. After that uncle, Clayton Hall, became ill and died, the manuscript floated around to various family members until Beth Harmon found it. Along with illustrator and editor Jane Thomas, Beth prepared the manuscript for publication.

Rachel Bennett gave us a wonderful hour of standard and traditional Christmas music at the organ for our December meeting.

A snowstorm dominated our January meeting with a cancellation the outcome.

February found us in Egypt with Carol Lee Withee along with slides and commentary.

Elizabeth Harmon, who had an active part in assembling, "Chimney Pond Tales" joined us in March.

The final program of the year "Jewelry from the Sea" was given by Margery Niblor. [sp?] We would like to thank our officers led by Lois Gatcombe, our hostesses who satisfied our appetites, the Program Committee who made it interesting, the Sunshine Committee for not forgetting our under the weather members. Also the Telephone Committee for getting in there us there on the right day.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

April 14, 1993

The We Neighbors Club met at the Fire Station with 18 members present.

Margaret Merrill reported a balance of \$686.10 as of April 14, 1993 in the treasury. Joy Brown reported a balance of \$14.80 in the Sunshine Acct.

There was no old business. Under new business it was moved and seconded that the program committee be authorized to use \$200.00 for speakers if needed. The annual reports of the Secretary, Treasurer and Sunshine Committee were read and accepted.

The nominating Committee presented the following names for officers for 1993-1994:

President: Evelyn Chase

Vice President: Nancy Fearing

Treasurer: Margaret Merrill

Secretary: Martha Sanborn

Program Committee: Chairperson Virginia Hutchins; Members: Neva Derocke, Mildred Moeglinig, Lois Gatcombe

Sunshine Committee: Wilma Ballard, Joy Brown

Telephone committee: Kay Rawnsly, Dorothy Wilkes, Crystal Wing

Nominating Committee: Elva Brooks, Kay Rawnsly, Aurelia Tripp

It was moved and seconded that we accept the officers as read and the Secretary cast one ballot for the officers as read.

The meeting was then turned over to our guest speaker, Margery Niblor.[sp?] She had an extensive collection of very interesting jewelry which she assembled in her own style. The jewelry centers around glass from beaches which she clean up.

The next time we meet will be for the Spring Luncheon at the Reven Enola.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Hutchins, Sec.

1993-1994

An indoor picnic was held at 12 N. at the Cumberland Fire Barn with 21 We Neighbors present for an "Auction Lunch." Those that preferred brought a lunch to be auctioned and made a bid on one for sale while others made a contribution. In all \$12.00 was realized. The hostesses, Aurelia Tripp, Dorothy Wagner and Rena Lamson furnished dessert and beverages.

The business meeting was then called to order by our President Evelyn Chase and the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read and approved with a balance on hand of \$629.40 and \$3.75 collected for a Sunshine account.

Two members changed their residence, Grace Trappan now lives in Room 424, 75 State St., Portland and Margaret Wyman is at Falmouth By the Sea, Route 88, Falmouth.

Dues were collected for the 1993-1994 year. Three names will be presented for membership in November.

Virginia Hutchins our Program Chairperson gave a brief outline of programs for 1993-1994 with special emphasis on "Gentlemen's Night" October 13, 1993. A discussion was held in regard to additional covers for programs for those who needed or wanted one with rates and method of attaching them to the new program schedule each year to be presented at the November meeting.

It was also decided that past records of "We Neighbors" held in storage with Velma Merrill for a number of years be transferred to the vault at Cumberland Historical Society with instructions they are to be used only with supervision of the Historical Society.

The business meeting was closed and the Program Com. introduced our guest speaker June Hawkes. "Gardens" was the theme, and a most informative talk on all aspects of Annuals, perennials and vegetables, planting, transplanting, watering, and treatment of each kind of plant was given. It seemed to be very enjoyable to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

October 13, 1993 Gentlemen's Night

Our annual get together for spouses and friends was attended by twenty-two for a social evening and a turkey dinner with all the trimmings prepared and served by Frankie Oulton and her committee at the Congregational Church in Cumberland.

The entertainment was provided by Judith Magyan Isaacson,⁶¹ the author of an interesting account of her experiences during the Holocaust at Auschwitz. At that time she was 19 years of age, a Hungarian Jewish girl. She talked of her friends there and at the labor camp as a slave. She maintained her hopes and courage in spite of the conditions and met her husband to be. She was most generous in answering questions and left all with a renewed sense for facing obstacles. Her autographed book "Seed of Sarah" was available for buyers.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

⁶¹ Judith Magyar was born 1925 in Kaposvar, Hungary and was an only child whose dreams of writing poetry and studying in Paris were dashed during the German occupation when her family was forced to move to a ghetto, stripped of belongings and ultimately sent to a concentration camp. She arrived at Auschwitz two days before her 19th birthday. After a month at Auschwitz and nearly a year working at a underground munitions factory, she, her mother and aunt were liberated in Leipzig by American forces in April 1945. A month later she met Irving Isaacson, a Lewiston native serving as a captain in US Army Office of Strategic Services. They were married within months. The Isaacsons returned to Maine where they settled in Auburn and raised three children. In 1964, she earned a bachelor degree in mathematics at Bates College and then in 1969, a master's degree at Bowdoin College. That year, 1969, she was hired as Dean of Women at Bates College. In 1975, she was promoted to Dean of Students. While she was Dean, she became an advocate for equal treatment between men and women as well as a public advocate for Women's rights. She authored the best-selling book *Seed of Sarah: Memoirs of a Survivor*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1990. She wanted everyone to know her Holocaust story in the hope that if people could remember such evil, they would not allow it to happen again.

In Memory of

Lillian Hulit

Past President and Member of

The We Neighbors Club

Born: Nov. 13, 1906

Died: October 27, 1993

November 12, 1993

Nineteen members met at the Cumberland Fire Station. The meeting was called to order by our President Evelyn Chase. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Lillian Hult who passed away Oct. 27, 1993. A donation of \$10.00 was given for books to the Youth Section of Prince Mem. Library in her memory.

The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$631.87. Sunshine Committee collected \$5.85. Thank you notes were read from Margaret Merrill for the flowers the club sent her for her "Open House" and Lois Gatcomb our retiring President. We also received letters from the daughter of Louise Montgomery asking for our continued support and an up-date from Dorothy Stanhope, the new director of Friendship and Faith House.

Virginia Hutchins reported the cost of a supply of new programs covers would be \$150 to \$200. The matter will be taken up again at a later meeting. It was moved, seconded, and voted that the Vice Pres. would be in charge of buying a gift for the retiring Pres. each year with the cost not to exceed \$35.00. By-laws are to be changed to reflect this.

President Evelyn Chase presented a report on the old records of "We Neighbors" that are now stored as of Oct. 20, 1993 at the Cumberland Historical Society. This consists of miscellaneous pictures, program booklets, Treasurer and Secretary reports from 1894 to 1972 and 1904 to 1975 respectively. The printing plates for the cover will also be stored with the Historical Society after the present use.

Faith House was voted as our Christmas Charity. Margaret Dickens, author of three books titled "Chronicles Wine River" that in time she hopes will develop into twelve books about mythical towns along the Wine River, is the current project was our guest speaker. She congratulated us and said she felt privileged in addressing us. She is from N. Lee Maine and a graduate of Bates College. A delightful person that seemed to have charge of her life.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

December 8, 1993

The annual Christmas luncheon hosted by Virginia Hutchins and Madeline Bailey was celebrated by 24 members of We Neighbors at the Cumberland Congregational Church. Frankie Oulton prepared a seafood dinner, served by Olga Hammond. Dorothy Wagner gave a very impressive blessing. The table decorations were outstanding with favors of a chocolate Santa and candy cane at each place setting along with a special Christmas poem. Lighted baskets of greens and colored glass bells with the insignia "We Neighbors Club 1994" inscribed on it for each guest to take home as a souvenir in honor of our 100th Anniversary. Kay Rawnsley was the winner of a drawing for a Xmas Corsage.

The group then retired to the new chapel for an organ concert presented by Rachel Bennett. She played traditional Xmas Carols, a selection of varied music and requests from the audience followed by a sing-

a-long which included "The Twelve Days of Xmas" with everyone participating. It was a great start for a Merry Xmas!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

January 12, 1994

The We Neighbors club met at the Fire station with 17 members present. Hostesses Martha Pettengill, Neva DeRoche and Dorothy Green served Peach Melba sauce on ice cream. In the absence of President Evelyn Chase, Secretary Martha Sanborn conducted the meeting. The Secretary's report was read and approved for the months of November and December. The Treasurer, Margaret Merrill, reported a balance on hand of \$614.12 which was approved. The Sunshine committee has \$17.59 on hand. Member Virginia Hutchins reported that we would be able to have 300 program covers produced for \$150. It was so voted. A second collection was taken to add to our Christmas charity for the Faith House.

A letter of thanks from Martha B. Pawle, Librarian of Prince Memorial Library, was read. It suggested that a new edition of "Kidnapped" by Robert Louis Stevenson, be purchased for the Children's Library with the money we donated in memory of Lillian Hulit.

Due to the uncertainty of the wording of a motion made at the November meeting concerning the amount of money allotted for a gift to retiring presidents, a discussion was held and a new motion made to clarify the situation before voting the issue at the next meeting.

Our guest speaker was Michele G. Haward of Mercy Hospital, Portland. She gave a very informative talk on "Healthy Diets" and passed out literature on the Food Guide Pyramid to plan balanced meals and explained the new food labels to assist in shopping. Specific questions were discussed.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

February 9, 1994

In spite of all the snow and ice, 18 members and our guest speaker, Dorothy Stanhope of the "Faith" House in Portland (shelter for women) met at the Fire house. A very successful food sale netting \$40.30 was headed up by Neva Deroche and dessert served by Crystal Wing and her helpers.

The meeting was called to order by President Evelyn Chase. The secretary's report was read and approved as was the Treasurer's report, with balance on hand of \$588.26. \$37.00 was collected at our November meeting and \$22.00 added to the collection in January, making a total of \$59.00, Xmas gift to the Faith House. Members also brought various items for the "wish list" of Faith House which included a Dust Buster, pencil sharpener, clear plaster, laundry detergent, linen and towels and men's share for the Friendship House. A new motion was made and seconded as follows: "The Vice President shall select,

purchase and present a gift to the outgoing President at the annual Spring Luncheon, the gift not to exceed \$17.50 for one year or \$35.00 for a two year term.

The President announced that the annual meeting will be held April 13, 1994 with reports from the Secretary, treasurer, and Sunshine Committee. The Nominating Committee is Dorothy Wilkes, Chairperson; Dorothy Green and Estelle Heraptha.

New business consisted of a report on program of The Centennial Tea at our next meeting March 9, 1994 to be held at the home of Sally Merrill, 42 Winn Road, Cumberland at 2 P.M. Volunteers were assigned to furnish "All English food." Twenty hand written invitations were sent to close relatives of members – also past Presidents. James Saunders of the "Forecaster" will handle publicity and photos. Tea servers will be Virginia Hutchins, Madeline Bailey, Dorothy Wagner and Martha Pettengill. Margaret Merrill will be in charge of the kitchen. The committee asked for \$50.00 to cover incidental expenses.

The meeting was adjourned and Lois Gatcomb introduced Dorothy J. Stanhope, the new Director of the Faith and Friendship Houses. A brochure and recent newsletter was distributed. Friendship house for men was inaugurated in 1985 and housed both men and women for a short while. In 1991 Faith House for women and children opened. Both shelters are funded entirely through private donations. They provide food, clothing and shelter and a spiritual homelike setting to the homeless until they are able to adjust and provide for themselves through completing school and training programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

March 9, 1994

Our President Evelyn Chase welcomed 43 members and guests to the 100th anniversary of We Neighbors club as the guests of Sally Merrill who graciously acted as Hostess for the Celebration at her home. The Centennial Tea committee was chaired by Nancy Fearing with Lois Gatcomb, Dorothy Wilkie and Evelyn Chase assisting. Robert Gatcomb prepared attractive programs with a Red crest on the cover. A Club History was presented then by Nancy Fearing and followed by a list of early members. A song written by Mary M. Chase (Member 1942) was also included, entitled "Club Ode" and was sung to the music of "America the Beautiful." A lovely poem was written and presented by Hope Dillaway. Donald Blanchard had charge of the attractive floral arrangements. Myron and Rebecca Hilton video- taped the entire proceedings. Margaret Merrill was in charge of refreshments. Assisting her at the Tea Table and serving an authentic English Tea prepared by volunteer members were Virginia Hutchins, Madeline Bailey, Dorothy Wagner and Martha Pettengill. Sally Merrill presented a delightful musical program on the piano with appropriate comments by composers Mozart, Chopin and Schumann, including Schumann's Seven Pieces from Childhood and Chopin Ballade in A flat. The consensus of opinion was that it was a most fitting and successful 100th Anniversary celebration enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

Annual Report 1993-1994

The We neighbors club held seven meetings with an average attendance of 20 members, plus the Centennial Tea at the home of Sally Merrill 42 Winn Road, Cumberland on March 9 and the Spring Luncheon at Verrillo's Restaurant in Portland on May 11, 1994. Five meetings were held at the Cumberland Fire Station, the first on Sept. 8, 1993 which was an indoor picnic with the option to auction the lunches brought by individuals. This netted the club \$12.00. June Hawke gave us informative talk on gardening. Dues of \$5.00 were collected from those present. Judy Isaacson, a survivor of the Holocaust was the speaker at Gentlemen's Night on Oct. 13 with dinner at the Cumberland Congregational Church. Our Christmas luncheon on Dec. 8 was also held at the Cumberland Congregational Church with a repeat performance on the chapel organ by Rachel Bennett. A local author, Margaret Dickson discussed a series of her publications at the November 10th meeting at the fire House. On January 12, Michelle Howard, Clinical Dietician of Mercy Hospital entertained and educated us on "New Choices to Healthy Eating."

Neva Deroche directed a successful Food Sale at the Feb. 9 meeting netting \$40.30. This was followed by a talk given by the Director of the Faith and Friendship houses in Portland – the recipient of a \$59.00 Christmas donation by members.

We now look forward to a Hand Spinning demonstration by Dorothy Googins on April 13, 1994 and our Spring Luncheon at Verrillo's Restaurant in Portland on May 11.

A thank-you to all who made it such a pleasure to be an active member of the prestigious "We Neighbors Club"!

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

Addenda to Annual Report April '93

The We Neighbors Club was saddened by the passing of two members both past Presidents: Lillian Hulit – Oct. 27, '93 and Aurelia Tripp – April 22, '93. They will both be greatly missed.

April 13, 1994

Fifteen members plus our guest Dorothy Googins (former member) met at the Fire House. The Secretary's report was read and approved as was the Treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$420.64. The sunshine committee reported a balance of \$24.40 and it was decided that a reasonable amount be turned over to the Treas. It was also moved, seconded, and voted that \$50.00 be given to the Fire Dept for the use of the meeting room for the past season.

Thank you notes from Centennial guests, Shirley Alling, Mildred Hegl, Don Blanchard and Mrs. Elizabeth Barker Murphy and husband "Mac" were read.

Dorothy Wilkes, Chairperson of the Nominating com. presented the following slate of officers for the 1994-1995:

President: Evelyn Chase

Vice President: Nancy Fearing

Secretary: Carrie Whiteside

Treasurer: Margaret Merrill

Sunshine Com. Joy Brown,

Telephone com. K. Rawnsley, Dorothy Wilkes, Crystal Wing

Program com. Virginia Hutchins, Elva Brooks, Dorothy Green, Martha Sanborn.

Annual Reports for 1993-1994 were read by the Secretary and Treasurer. Sign- up sheets for the program and hostesses for 1994-1995 were distributed. A nice display of Centennial photos was displayed and enjoyed.

Former member Dorothy Googins was our guest speaker. She gave an explanation of the intricacies of a spinning wheel and gave us a demonstration. She also had a display of different yarns that could be created. She graciously invited the members of We Neighbors to attend a weaving class on Tuesday.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

May 11, 1994

A goodly crowd celebrated our Spring Luncheon at Verillo's Restaurant near Exit 8 of the Maine Turnpike. Members met at the Fire Barn at 11:15 to pool rides. No business was conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec.

In Memory of

Aurelia Tripp

Past President and member of

We Neighbors Club

Born: November 6, 1905

Died: April 22, 1993

1994-1995

September 19, 1994

Gentlemen's Night was held at the Old Mill on Skillins road with nineteen members and friends in attendance. This was a joint meeting with the Cumberland Historical Society beginning at 6 P.M. with a pot luck dinner featuring many good dishes and ending with a large cake celebrating the 100th birthday of the We Neighbors Club. The candles were lighted, after which the cake was served to the 60 or more guests present.

After the Historical Society's business meeting, the program was presented by Nancy Fearing, who gave an overview of the We Neighbors' history, beginning as a Literary Society in 1894, and continuing up to the present time, with many interesting stories about members and events connected with the Club over the years.

A plaque from the Maine House of Representatives honoring the Club's 100 years was presented to the President Evelyn Chase, by State Senator, Jeff Butland, after which the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Secty.

October 10, 1994

Eighteen members and three guests of We Neighbors club met at the Fire House at 2 P.M. Following refreshments, the meeting was called to order by the President, Evelyn Chase. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a disbursement to the Fire House of \$50.00 in appreciation of allowing us the use of their facilities for the past year. She reported a total balance on hand of \$355.14. The sunshine committee reported a total of \$22.40 on hand, and a collection was taken up for them.

The correspondence was read. A card from Leona Crandall, resigning her membership due to ill health was read, and a motion made to accept her resignation with regrets. There was a "thank you" note from the Cumberland Congregational Church, thanking the Club for the memorial donation in honor of Aurelia Tripp. A "thank you" note from Elaine Moxcey for her program booklet, clarifying her address, and stating that she hoped to be back again after treatment for her heart attack and broken shoulder last Oct.

The portion of the by-laws relating to membership was read by the secretary, following which it was voted to accept Mrs. Virginia Larsen as a new member. Members were reminded that yearly dues of \$5.00 are now due. Virginia Hutchins gave a review of coming programs, the Dec. luncheon will be served by the ladies of the ladies [sic] of Cumberland Congregational Church at 1 o'clock on Dec. 14. The menu was presented and accepted. There will be music from Greely High School and a program by Elva Brooks and Dorothy Wagner.

The Secretary was instructed to write a note to the Historical Society, thanking them for helping with our 100th Anniversary meeting in Sept. and for the plaque, "A Legislative Expression of Sentiment." which

was presented to the Club by Senator Jeffrey Butland at our anniversary celebration. This plaque was displayed for the members to see.

Elva Brooks then presented Phyllis Price, who gave the program on "Victoria Mansion"⁶² in Portland. Mrs. Price has been a volunteer at the Victoria Mansion for 20 years, and had an interesting presentation of this landmark, built between 1858 and 1860, which attracts many visitors.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

November 9, 1994

Seventeen members of We Neighbors club met at the fire house. After enjoying delicious refreshments, the meeting was opened by the President, Evelyn Chase. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported \$373.33 on hand. The Sunshine committee reported a balance of \$31.50 and gave \$16.00 of this to the Treasurer for the general fund.

A "thank you" note was read from Riches, thanking the Club for the old picture of the mill. June Callaghan was admitted as a new member.

The matter of our Christmas project was brought up, and three suggestions were: Faith House, a refuge for battered women, Habitat Housing, or Brentwood Manor. It was decided to take a contribution for Faith House. Individuals can help the activities director at Brentwood Manor by donating tapes for their use. Martha Sanborn explained the needs at Faith House, and besides our Christmas gift, members were urged to bring linens and other needs for people who are setting up housekeeping.

⁶² Located in Portland, Maine, the Victoria Mansion, also known as the Morse-Libby house, is a landmark example of American residential architecture. The brownstone exterior, elaborate interior design, opulent furnishings, and early technological conveniences provide a detailed portrait of lavish living in nineteenth century America. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971 for its architectural significance as a particularly well preserved Italianate mansion. The house was completed in 1860 as a summer home for the hotelier Ruggles Sylvester Morse. The house was designed by New Haven architect Henry Austin. Its distinctive asymmetric form includes a four story tower, overhanging eaves, a veranda, and ornate windows. Frescoes and trompe l'oeil wall decorations were created by the artist and decorator Giuseppe Guidicini.

The program was presented by John Moulton,⁶³ a local mathematics teacher, who gave an overview of the Casco Bay Islands, of which he says there are 750, 10 of which are inhabited. Mr. Moulton has written 2 books, one about the Portland Observatory and one on Casco Bay. The program proved very interesting. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

December 13, 1994

Eighteen members of "We Neighbors Club" met at the Cumberland Congregational Church for a Christmas luncheon prepared by the women of the Church. The hostesses decorated with Christmas motif, and lunch was very good at \$6.50 per member. Donations were taken for our Faith House gift, to add to the contributions received at our last meeting.

A note from Phyllis Sweetser stated she is now a resident of Cedars Nursing Facility at 630 Ocean Ave. in Portland. She sent her greetings. Dorothy Wagner sent greetings from the Rehab Center, and Mildred Heyl was sorry not to be able to attend, but was glad to be remembered.

The program consisted of music by a group of about 15 members of the Greeley High School band, playing Christmas numbers under the leadership of music director, Martin Naas, followed by group

⁶³ John Moulton has written several books on the Casco Bay Islands. His book *Peaks Island: An Affectionate History*, published by the author in 1993, is grounded in his own personal experience. As a boy Moulton spent summers on Peaks Island and wrote about that era, so different from our own. "The simple aspects of life were paramount. Passage to the islands was by steamboat, a quiet, slow journey. It was a journey to be enjoyed rather than endured. Once on the island, families settled in for a month or two. They were there, why travel elsewhere?" During that era, nearly every island in Casco Bay boasted fine hotels and cozy boarding houses. On Cushing Island there was the sumptuous Ottawa House. On Cliff Island, you could stay in Aucocisco or The Beeches. Bailey Island offered the Ocean View Hotel. On Chebeague Island, five major hotels and boarding houses could together accommodate more than 400 vacationers. On Long Island, the Golden Age ended on June 28, 1914 when a fire started in the Granite Spring Hotel and quickly spread. The hotel's housekeeper smelled the smoke and woke the owners who cleared the building. No one was killed, but eight structures were destroyed, including the hotel, a bakery, a grocery store, and a confectionery store. World War I marked the end of the grand island hotels. When people started traveling by car rather than by train and steamer, "they weren't wedded to getting on island steamers, going to one place, and staying there. The fascination of touring just captured everyone's imagination. One era faded and another era came into focus."

singing of carols. Elva Brooks then told the story "Why the Chimes Rang"⁶⁴ and read "All I want is to not know what I didn't know then," by Erma Bombeck.⁶⁵ The meeting was then closed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

January 11, 1995

We Neighbors met at the fire house, with 18 members present. The meeting was called to order by the President, Evelyn Chase. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$412.26 on hand. The Sunshine committee reported a balance on hand of \$14.85. Estelle Hereptha reported visiting Margaret Wyman. Phyllis Sweetser is reported as not doing well, and Dorothy Wagner is improving.

Members were reminded to bring something home-made for the food sale next month, labeled and priced. There was no old or new business, so the meeting was turned over to the program committee.

The program was presented by Diana Fletcher of T.V. channel 13, on consumer Scams, and how they operate. She spoke of telephone scams and mail order scams. "Anything that sounds too good to be true, probably is." Report scams to the Better Business Bureau. CONTACT at Channel 13 can refer your problem to the proper agency.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

February 8, 1995

We Neighbors met at the fire house at 2 P.M. with sixteen members present. The meeting was called to order, and the president Evelyn Chase thanked the hostesses for the delicious refreshments and the attractive Valentine decorations.

⁶⁴ Alden, Raymond Macdonald, "Why the Chimes Rang," (1906) is a classic story of Christmas chimes that ring when the greatest and best offering is laid on the altar. Someone places an especially pleasing gift on the altar as an offering, and then the chimes ring after the having fallen silent for years. This story is a highly imaginative modern fairy tale which inspires children to right behavior.

⁶⁵ Erma Bombeck (1927-1996) was an American humorist who achieved great popularity for her newspaper columns that described suburban home life from the mid-1960s until the late 1990s. Bombeck published 15 books, most of which became best sellers. From 1965-1996, Erma Bombeck wrote over 4000 newspaper columns, using broad and sometimes eloquent humor, chronicling the ordinary life of a Midwestern suburban housewife. In the 1970s her columns were read twice weekly by 30 million readers of 900 newspapers in the United States and Canada.

A moment of silence was observed for former member, Phyllis Sweetser, who died Jan. 16, three weeks before her 97th birthday. At the time of her death, she was the oldest member of the club, in age, and in the period of membership. She was very influential in the life of the club during her early years.

It was reported that Crystal Wing is still in Texas after her trip there in October. Mildred Heyl is in the hospital with pneumonia, and Dorothy Wagner is home and doing better.

The Secretary report was read and approved. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$342.26. The sunshine committee has a balance of \$19.00.

Under old business, the matter of our Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting was brought up. Martha Sanborn was appointed to check with Harraseeket Inn regarding prices and menu, and to report on it at the next meeting.

Under new business, it was voted to set aside a page in the Secretary's book in remembrance of Phyllis Sweetser. The club voted to send a memorial gift of \$10.00 to Prince Memorial Library, where she worked for many years, to be added to the Sweetser Fund.

A nominating committee was appointed by the president, consisting of Lois Gatcomb, chairman, and Madeline Bailey and Martha Pettengill.

The meeting was then turned over to the program committee and Virginia Hutchins presented Mr. Bob Miller from Casco, a member of the Audubon Society of Maine,⁶⁶ who presented a most interesting program on the wild animals of Maine. He had stuffed specimens to illustrate his talk, beginning with the deer mouse, the vole, and the mole, on up to the muskrat, weasel, skunk, and red fox. The Audubon Society has over 10,000 members in Maine and carries out an extensive educational program. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

⁶⁶ The Maine Audubon Society works to conserve Maine's wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people of all ages in education, conservation, and action. Specific concerns include stemming population decline of endangered species and promoting public awareness of lake-ecology issues. There are about 7 chapters of the Audubon Society in Maine

In Memory of

Phyllis Sweetser

Past President and Member of

We Neighbors Club

Born February 8, 1998

Died Jan. 16, 1995

March 8, 1995

Fourteen members were present in the Fire House when the meeting was called to order by the President, Evelyn Chase. Our hostess Martha Pettengill and her volunteer helpers were thanked for the refreshments. The tables were most attractive with arrangements of Ivy.

The Secretary's report was read and approved. The Treasurer reported receiving 87 cents interest on the bank balance and \$31.82 from the bake sale making a balance on hand of \$369.95. The Sunshine com. collected \$4.00 last meeting and report a current balance of \$21.83.

A letter of thanks was read from the Prince Memorial Library for the \$10.00 donation in memory of Phyllis Sweetser. Dorothy Wagner is recuperating at home. It was voted to give the Firemen \$50. for the use of their facility.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the coming year 1994-1995 to be voted on at the next meeting (April).

The meeting was then turned over to the Program Chairperson, who introduced Mrs. Pawle, Librarian for the Prince Memorial Library. Mrs. Pawle was kind enough to serve as a substitute speaker on short notice. She introduced us to the new equipment now in use.

The program chairman announced the April meeting would be a taped program on National Parks and that annual reports should be presented at the annual meeting on May 10 which will be a luncheon at Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Sanborn, Sec. pro tem

April 12, 1995 Annual Meeting

Seventeen members of We Neighbors Club met at the Firehouse at 2 P.M. The President, Evelyn Chase, called the meeting to order. She thanked Dorothy Wilkes and her volunteer committee for serving delicious refreshments. Crystal Wing was welcomed back after her winter in Florida. Dorothy Wagner was glad to be back after her long illness. It was noted that Priscilla Muir is not well, but is at home.

The Secretary's report was read and approved with the following corrections: The slate of new officers mentioned is for the year 1995-19996, and annual reports were to be read in April instead of May. The Treasurer's report was read by the President, as the Treasurer, Margaret Merrill is out of town caring for her sister-in-law, who is ill. She reports a balance of \$326.65 on hand. The Sunshine Committee reports a balance on hand \$45.98. A note was read from Dick Sweetser, thanking the Club for our Memorial gift to the library in remembrance of Phyllis Sweetser. The Sunshine Committee read a note, thanking them for her card from Mildred Heyl. They were asked to send a congratulatory card to Diana Fletcher on the birth of her baby girl, as she was the speaker at one of our recent meetings. The Program Chairman, Virginia Hutchins, announced that our Spring Luncheon will be May 10, at the Westcustago Inn in

Yarmouth. We will meet at the fire barn at 11:15 to pool rides. She went over the plans and the menu which she has sorted out with the Inn.

The President, Evelyn Chase, displayed the 100 years plaque which was presented to the Club by the Maine Legislature and plans for a permanent display were discussed. It was suggested that the Historical Society should be contacted about placing it in their care. There is also a VCR tape which was made at the Historical Tea, that needs a permanent home. The Prince Memorial Library was suggested as a possibility, and Evelyn Chase will contact them about it. Reports were given and accepted, for the year, from the Treasurer and the Sunshine Committee. The Secretary's Annual report will be read later. The Nominating committee presented its slate of officers, and their report was accepted. As there were no further nominations the Secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the following officers for 1995-1996.

President: Virginia Hutchins

Vice President: Madeline Bailey

Secretary: Carrie Whiteside

Treasurer: Margaret Merrill

Sunshine Committee: Joy Brown

Program Committee: Martha Pettengill, chair, Evelyn Chase, Neva DeRoche, and Virginia Larsen

Telephone Committee: Kay Rawnsley, Dorothy Wilkes, and Crystal Wing.

As the meeting has been long and time-consuming, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to cancel the program of Dorothy Green's VCR on National Parks and use it at another time. The meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

May 10, 1995

The Annual luncheon of "We Neighbors Club" was held at Westcustago Inn in Yarmouth, with 17 members attending. After a good meal and much pleasant conversation, the President called a short meeting to order. The Secretary's annual report was read and approved. The vice president, Nancy Fearing, presented our outgoing President, Evelyn Chase, with a gift of a pin inscribed with her initials on the front, and "Ye Neighbors" on the back. It was generally agreed that she has been a good president.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

Annual Report – 1994-1995

The We Neighbors Club had a full, successful year, with 8 meetings, 6 of which were afternoon meetings held at the Fire house where the program committee provided interesting speakers: Mrs. Price, on "Victoria Manor," John Moulton on "Casco Bay Islands," Diana Fletcher, on "Consumer Scams," Bob Miller on "Wild Animals of Maine," and Mrs. Pawle on "New equipment at the Prince Memorial Library. Our Christmas Luncheon was held at the Cumberland Congregational Church, with music provided by members of the Greeley High School Band, and readings by Elva Brooks. The highlight of the year was our Gentlemen's Night in September, which was a pot luck dinner at 6 P.M. at the "Old Mill" on Skillings Road. This was a joint meeting with the Historical Society, celebrating our 100th Anniversary as "We Neighbors Club," at which we were presented with a plaque from the Maine Legislature, in commemoration of the occasion.

We received two new members, Virginia Larsen and Jane Callaghan, and were saddened by the death of a long time member, Phyllis Sweetser.

Each meeting was preceded by members serving delicious refreshments. With all members doing their share, we had an enjoyable year.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

1995-1996

September 13, 1995

Eighteen members, and one guest, Rosemary Malcolm, met at the fire house at 12 o'clock for a picnic lunch, which was planned for an outside meeting at Hawthorne Ct., but was cancelled due to rain. Each member brought her own lunch, and the hostesses provided desert and drinks. After lunch, the president, Virginia Hutchins, called the meeting to order. She thanked the hostesses for the lovely refreshments.

The Secretary's and Treasurers' reports were read and approved. The treasurer reported a balance of \$303.05 on hand. The Sunshine committee reported a balance of \$31.00. It was announced that \$5.00 dues are due for the year. The group was notified that Grace Trappan is in Seaside Nursing Home in Portland.

We Neighbors have a large supply of program covers, which are to be kept by the Secretary. The Secretary reported that her record book for club meetings has been filled and a new one is needed; after 19 and one half years of minutes reports. A motion was made and passed to purchase a similar new one. They are available at Staples. Copies of the Constitution and by-laws of We Neighbors were handed out, and the President read the section on Membership rules. Martha Pettengill, chair of the program committee presented an over-all report of the programs for the coming year.

The planned program for the day was unable to be present, so the group viewed a video of our 100th Anniversary tea on March 9, 1994 at the home of Sally Merrill. It was a pleasure to review this occasion six months later. The meeting was then adjourned by the president.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie B. Whiteside, Sec.

November 8, 1995

The We Neighbors Club met at Carolyn Small's home on Tuttle Road with 16 members present. After enjoying lovely refreshments, the club meeting was called to order by the President, Virginia Hutchins. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and approved. It was reported that Mildred Moegling is recovering from cataract surgery. Evelyn Chase read a note she received from Louise Montgomery's daughter saying that she and her husband have taken over Friendship House and we are invited to an Open House there. A note from Cathy Richards to Martha Pettengill thanked her for inviting the Magical Moment group to sing at our last meeting. The President announced that the video tape of 100th Anniversary has been placed in the library, and can be borrowed at any time. Also, the plaque from Senator Butland has been placed on display at the Historical Society. Our December meeting will be a pot luck luncheon at the Tuttle Road United Methodist Church at 11:30 A. M. on Dec. 13. The meeting was adjourned, and turned over to Carolyn Small who gave a program on "Milk Bottles."⁶⁷ She had an interesting display of many styles and sizes of milk bottles, many from local dairies. She has 300 bottles, all different in her collection. It was a very enjoyable program.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

December 13, 1995

18 members of We Neighbors met at the Tuttle Road Methodist Church for a delicious pot-luck luncheon at 11:30 A.M. The President thanked the hostesses for a lovely luncheon. Grace Trappan will be 90 years old Friday, and a birthday cake will be delivered from the club, with members to send cards. Mildred Moegling had eye surgery, and is homebound after a fall. Cards would be suggested for her. We received

⁶⁷ Milk bottles are reusable glass bottles used mainly for doorstep delivery of fresh milk by milkmen. Customers were expected to rinse the empty bottles and leave them on the doorstep for collection. The standard size of a bottle varied with location; common sizes were one pint or one quart, although cream could be delivered in smaller bottles. Before milk bottles, milkmen filled the customer's jugs. For many collectors, milk bottles carry a nostalgic quality of a bygone age. The most prized milk bottles are embossed or painted with the names of dairies on them. The New York Dairy Company is credited with having the first factory that produced milk bottles, and one of the first patents for a milk container was held by the Lester Milk Jar. In 1878, George Lester received a patent for a glass milk container. By 1920, advertisements began to appear on milk bottles. A sand blasting technique was used to etch them in the glass.

a nice thank you note from Carolyn Small who appreciated the club members' interest in her bottle display in Nov.

For our Christmas contribution, three charities were presented: "Opportunity Farm", Salvation Army, and Faith House. "Opportunity Farm" won the vote, and a special donation from club members of \$31.00 was received to be brought to \$50.00 by adding \$19.00 from the Treasury. The Fire House is remodeling the kitchen, so the meeting place for our Jan. meeting will be decided later by the hostesses for that meeting. A door prize was won by Lois Gatcombe.

The program consisted of viewing a video on National Parks of the U.S. loaned by Dorothy Green.

Respectfully submitted,

Carrie Whiteside, Sec.

