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CLIFTON HEIGHTS:  
A HISTORY & PERSONAL REMINISCENCES  
By Margaret Whitem Howard  
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Clifton Heights is a small community on the Atlantic Ocean between Ticehurst Lane and Clifton Heights Lane, between the ocean and Atlantic Avenue. Clifton Heights was once a summer community, but residents have long since converted their summer houses to year-round homes, and commute to jobs in Marblehead, Lynn or Boston.

Clifton has always been part of Marblehead, and once Marblehead was part of Salem. On March 19, 1628, King Charles I of England made a grant of 350 acres "betwixt the Clifte and Forest River" to John Endicott, John Humphrey and others. Lord and Gamage in their book, "The Spirit of '76 Lives Here", indicate that the use of the word "Clifte" is surely the derivation of the present name "Clifton". On May 2, 1639, Marblehead was separated from Salem and became a town by order of the General Court. It contained forty-four families. The land known as Clifton Heights was part of "the Plain Farm" owned by John Humphrey.

In 1800 there were no roads in the area and the entire parcel that is now Clifton Heights was part of an 80-acre farm belonging to Seth Wyman. Mr. Wyman gave the farm to his daughter, Sophia. Sophia married William Hathaway in 1816. William and Sophia continued to farm the land. They had a daughter and four sons, Joseph, Seth, Amos and William. William died in 1839, and Sophia and the three sons continued the farming business.

Atlantic Avenue is shown in an 1883 photograph as a single-lane road. This road cut off the ocean end of the farm. Later in the 1880's the area became know as Clifton Heights.

An 1883 map shows Clifton Heights divided into three strips from Atlantic Avenue to the ocean:

- David Merritt had 4 4/10 acres to High Water (Ticehurst Lane area).
- Seth Hathaway had 6 6/10 acres to High Water (Casino Road area).
- Charles H. Isburg had 6 4/10 acres to High Water (Clifton Heights Lane area).

In other records, the name Isburg is properly recorded as Isburgh, and for many years the present Clifton Heights Lane was called Isburgh Road.

In 1987, Robert A. Booth, Jr. did a history on the house now owned by the Bells (formerly Weiss and Dyer). He gives the early history as follows:

"On 14 January 1879, Mrs. Sophia Wyman Hathaway died at an advanced age, leaving as heirs her daughter, Mrs. Sophia Bartlett; Hathaway sons, Joseph, Seth, and Amos; and grandson William Franklin Hathaway, son of her deceased son William Jr. The farm was then valued at \$22,000 (#41936)."

"Atlantic Avenue, which has been put through in 1870-1, had cut off the most southeasterly 18 acres of the farm. This created an opportunity for the Hathaways, since Swampscott, Marblehead Neck, and the Devereux and Clifton sections of town were just then being discovered as ideal sites for summer residence, and some areas were being used for tent encampments and for portable-cottage villages. Here, along the ocean, the Hathaway heirs rented out their land to residents of Peabody, who set up a tent colony in the summer, and so the area was known as the Peabody Camp by 1880 (according to the Hopkins atlas of that year). The camp consisted of about 25 small summer cottages."

"As early as 1879, one of the Hathaways, Seth, owned a small summer cottage here, worth \$250; at the same time, the entire 18-acre parcel was valued at \$6,000 (ref: 1879 M'head property valuation book). The 1880 valuation credits Seth with one summer cottage and two more under construction; and by 1881 he owned three summer cottages. On 2 February 1881, two of the Hathaways, Joseph and Amos, sold their

interest in the parcel to the other heirs: Seth, Mrs. Sophia Bartlett, and William Franklin Hathaway (1052:172). The last named W.F. Hathaway, died on 2 May 1881; in the papers of his estate is the notation that he was owed \$137 for 'rent from Peabody Camp' (#58215)."

"Later in the 1880's, evidently, the area made the transition from the Peabody Camp to Clifton Heights."

"On April 12, 1883, Mrs. Bartlett and the heirs of W.F. Hathaway sold their 2/3 interest in the overall parcel of land and buildings for \$4,000 to David Merritt of Salem and Charles H. Isburgh of Melrose (1106:109). And on April 27, Joseph and Amos Hathaway, holders of a mortgage on the place, released the same to Messrs. Merritt and Isburgh, who thus became equal owners of the tract along with Seth Hathaway (1109:1)."

"Not long afterward, on 12 October 1883, the three owners divided up the property in thirds of equal value: Mr. Isburgh, for his part, received the land and buildings at the southwesterly end of the tract, being a piece that fronted about 304' on Atlantic Avenue; Seth Hathaway received the central portion, and David Merritt, the northeasterly part (1186:97). Possibly these three men continued to develop and operate the area jointly as the Clifton Heights Association, for the 1897 atlas refers to the entire area (all three parcels) collectively as Clifton Heights."

Robert Booth, Jr. concludes: "Mr. Isburgh continued to reside in Melrose, but summered in a 'large' house here at Clifton Heights. He operated the property as a summer colony that consisted of ten Isburgh-owned 'beach houses' (in addition to his own house here) that were similarly furnished with couch, range, chairs, tables, sideboard, dishes, beds, and rugs."

This division of the land is still shown on a 1912 map of Clifton Heights. Elizabeth B. and Hannah B. were generally referred to as "the Hathaway Sisters". They lived in a large white house on Humphrey Street near what is now Clifton Avenue. Beth Faden recalls that it was not considered fashionable to live on the other side of the railroad tracks. However, the sisters had a coachman and servants, and they kept ownership of the land on which the Clifton Heights houses were built. In some cases, they owned the houses themselves. Babs Abramowitz recalls that her parents, the Irving Hillsons, who rented for many years tried to buy the house on the square. Finally in the early 1930's, the Hathaway Sisters relented and agreed to sell the house and land that is at the turn of Ticehurst, now owned by the Malamuds. Barbara Faden Thomas said that she was finally able about 1940 to persuade the Hathaway Sisters to sell her family the land on which their house was built, and gradually owners of houses were able to acquire their land and discontinue paying land rent each year. There is also a mention that Elizabeth B. and Hannah B. Hathaway in 1912 deeded to Atlantic Avenue a piece of land containing 5,000 square feet.

In the Essex County Court Records (Book 1109, Page 1, May 11, 1883) David Merritt's land was described as "situated in Marblehead and bounded northwest by Atlantic Avenue, northeast by land of Isaac C. Wyman's, southeast by the sea and southwest by the land of Stearns".

In the 1895-96 Naumkeag Directory, David Merritt is listed as owning a stable and summer house in Clifton Heights. He also is listed as owner of Merritt and Company, a Boston to Salem Express Company advertising three trips a day each way with a Salem office at 133 Washington Street and "telephones connecting all offices".

The Essex Historical Society in 1862 published A Short Biography of David Merritt. This David Merritt is the father of the David Merritt who purchased and owned land in Clifton Heights. It is interesting to note that the father was born in Ticehurst, a Parish in Sussex County, England, on April 20, 1775, and this is clearly the derivation of the name of Ticehurst Lane. The early David Merritt came to the United States in 1804 and in 1823 he established the Salem Express Company. He preached many Sundays as a volunteer and member of "Dissenting Communion" until his death in Salem in 1862. Young David Merritt was born in 1821 and later ran the Express Company.

Dr. Stanford Moses recalled that Merritt lived in his house at the ocean end of Ticehurst Lane. David Merritt was also a friend of A. Russell Ellis's father and gave him the land on which to build his bungalow and even prepaid some of the bills. Dr. Moses believed his house was built in 1870 and was the first house in the neighborhood. There is an old photo of David Merritt's coach and horses, and he may have purchased the stable in part for his own use. He lived to be 94 years old, and then he is reported to have said that there is no point in continuing to live as all his friends were dying. In 1916, he went to bed and shot himself in the head to end his life in the Ticehurst Lane home. Dr. Moses said that there is still a bullet hole in a bed that was in the house.

Some 1883 photographs owned by Gretchen Bishop show that there were a number of houses on the square at the intersection of Ticehurst and Clifton Heights Lane. An 1881 map shows 37 houses or garages, and a 1912 map shows 42 houses, the casino, and several small garages in addition to the large garage on Ticehurst Lane. Today there are over 60 houses. The first ones were built about the turn of the century, and there are few vacant lots today. Some small houses were apparently moved to Clifton Heights from Marblehead Neck.

During the same period, the town of Marblehead grew from a population of 6,167 in 1850 to 7,582 in 1900 and 8,668 in 1930. There was a period of more rapid growth following World War II reaching a peak of 22,026 in 1971 with a drop to 20,209 in 1990. The Marblehead Messenger of January 16, 1925 notes that the population of Clifton (a much larger area than the Heights) had grown 400% in the past four years. Charles Burns who was then the contractor for the collection of ashes was quoted as saying, "I used to use two men and two horses in Clifton four years ago, and they were able to clean up by noon time on Saturday. Now I am using four horses and five men, and they all have to step lively to get through by dark."

In the 1870's and 1880's the residents arrived by horse and carriage or by the Eastern Railway which in 1873 opened a line from Swampscott to Marblehead. The stations were Swampscott, Phillips Beach, Beach Bluff, Clifton, Devereux, and Marblehead, and the conductor would loudly announce each station.

At the Clifton Station, Ben Swazey met the trains starting at the turn of the century with his two barges, Anna May and Atlantic. They were open carriages with facing rows of seats drawn by one or two horses. An 1883 photo shows the barge. Ben Swazey lived in a house high on a hill north of Atlantic Avenue that is still there, now 57 Devereux Street near Treat Street. His route from the Clifton Station included the Clifton House, a comfortable hotel under the direction of Benjamin P. Ware, Jr., near the Swampscott town line in Beach Bluff. (Information published by C. S. Webber and W. S. Nevins in an 1877 book called Old Naumkeag.) The last stop was at the Square in Clifton Heights, and small boys in the Heights used to like to "hitch a ride" on the steps of the barges.

Elizabeth (Beth) Bowker Faden (born in 1889) and sister of Andrew Faden (born in 1883) remembers visiting Andrew's house on the waterfront during spring vacation in 1905 to paint the house. The house was painted half red and half yellow, and they repainted it green. She remembered that it was "colder than Greenland" in the house, and she had a project for high school to bake bread to take to school. Of course, the bread could not rise, but she took the hard loaf anyway, and her teacher gave her credit for effort!

Beth Faden also remembers the barges which her sister took to the station, although they often walked the three quarters of a mile. The station was about a block north of Atlantic Avenue between what is now Clifton and Rockaway Avenues.

The Marblehead Line was eventually taken over by the Boston and Maine Railroad which continued its operation until June 1959. The Clifton Station was a focal point for the community as many residents commuted by train to Lynn or to the North Station in Boston. The station was a small structure with a waiting room and a window for railroad ticket sales and postal business. Residents had postal boxes at the station, but there was no home delivery. Emmons Ellis remembers in the early thirties rigging up a small wagon behind his bike and delivering the mail along with his paper route. Martha Macquarrie Stiles also later developed a similar route for which she received ten cents a week per customer. The post office was later moved to a small building owned by Carl Oliver on Humphrey Street. It was discontinued as an independent substation when the

Marblehead post office moved to Smith Street in 1976.

One of the 1883 pictures shows a well near the Square, and Marion Perry Macquarrie remembers that the live-in maids used to come with their pitchers to the well at 5:30 in the morning to draw the cool water. A fisherman from Danvers, who established residence on Ram Island at that time, also came for water since there is no water on the island. Early pictures show outhouses and rain barrels for collecting rainwater from the roof. However, in 1889 water was provided by the Town of Marblehead. The Municipal Light Company was started in 1895. Waterfront houses discharged sewage into the Atlantic Ocean, and other houses had septic tanks until 1968 when the Town drilled through the rocky ledges and provided sewer service.

Marion Macquarrie remembers that April 19, Patriot's Day, was the unofficial day for opening up the cottages, since the danger of frost was considered over. The Harvey P. Hoods, owners of the Hood Milk Company, had a house in the Heights, and on April 19, they used to provide coffee and sandwiches for all the residents. They also for many years provided "Hoodsies", or ice cream bars, on the Fourth of July.

Marion Macquarrie also remembers a bad accident when a horse and carriage came up Clifton Heights Lane and failed to stop at the ocean end.

Some families, like David Merritt, had private garages. In 1880 a stable was built on Ticehurst Lane to house the horses, carriages, and their drivers. After World War I more families had cars and some had chauffeurs. The stable became a garage with sleeping and living quarters for the chauffeurs on the second floor.

The garage became the headquarters for the Tuesday Club started after World War II. Marcus Handy then owned the garage and the house next door, now occupied by the Cagliusos. Early members of the Club were in addition to Marcus Handy, Chester Damon, Frank Davis, Percy Gardner, and George Nichols. They cooked and sold dinner, often shrimp, and played cards afterwards. When the garage was sold to be converted to a house, the Tuesday Club moved to the Cagliuso house. Later they painted the old Mason's headquarters in Marblehead and moved there with Norman Vincent as President. When the garage was remodelled into a house, a still was reported to have been found on the second floor. The house is now owned by Barbara and Palmer Worthen.

In 1880, the Hathaway Sisters gave land and money to construct a "Casino" between what is now Casino Road and what was then called Merritt's Pond. The Casino was not a gambling casino as the word implies today, but rather a community center. It was a large frame building with a porch and railing outside and a balcony and large room inside. The screen for the stage had a beach scene painted on it, and it was operated with ropes. Beth Faden and Marion Macquarrie both remember a "black-face" minstrel show in which they took part at the turn-of-the-century. The late Barbara Faden Thomas and I remember being in a children's play about 1921 which involved frilly pink tulle costumes with silver wands as we played the part of "pink fairies."

The Casino was used in the early years of the twentieth century for weekly bridge games, plays, children's parties and other community activities. Marion Macquarrie recalls that every Sunday night there was a "Hymn Sing" and Fanny Hayden and Russell Ellis led the singing. She described Rollie (Rowland) Boutwell as a "cut-up". He and his friends used to sit in the balcony. Once Rollie requested the hymn which he called "bringing in the sheets" (instead of sheaves).

Mr. Howard, who lived at the northwest corner of Atlantic Avenue and Casino Road, was the keeper of the Casino. Mr. Howard had a large bunch of keys, and if properly approached, he would sell some five cent candy bars from a large mahogany cupboard. The Casino had a pool table, a high swing and a seesaw for the children. The Casino gradually fell into disrepair. A 1923 photograph shows it in a dilapidated state. It burned shortly after that and was not replaced.

The Casino was on the pond which was larger than what it is today. During the forties, it was filled in to make more land for houses. There were German carp in the pond. These kept it clean, and children enjoyed taking bread to feed the carp. There

was a path from Ticehurst Lane to Casino Road by the pond.

Auntie Carrie Hitchcock owned the little house on the pond in the twenties and thirties. She called it the Cosy Chimney Corner Camp Caroline Clifton. She said the seven C's in the name were from a Kipling poem called the Seven Seas. She was always friendly to the neighborhood children and encouraged games such as "playing pirate" using her boat. It is reported that once her clothes caught fire, and she put out the fire by jumping in the pond. Auntie Carrie, who was about five feet, five inches tall, and perhaps weighed over 200 pounds, was very active and enjoyed swimming for long periods of time at Greystone Beach. One day when she was swimming, she lost her hat; many people tried to retrieve it for her. She swam under the water and came up gleefully with it on her head. She would come back from swimming, roll up her long hair, and join the weekly bridge games at the Casino.

Beth Faden recalled parties at Aunt Carrie's house at the turn of the century. There were beds, downstairs and upstairs. The girls slept downstairs, and held parties there. The boys who had been dispatched upstairs to bed, managed to climb down the outside of the cabin and rejoin the girls for festivities.

Residents of the Heights banded together early to maintain the roads and the waterfront. The Clifton Heights Improvement Association was formed in the early 1920's. The early minutes are lost and the present minutes start after World War II. At first, dues were \$5 per house per year. Today, they are \$30. Maintenance of the roads was a major expense since the Town of Marblehead would not accept responsibility for the roads for many years. The Town contended that the roads were too narrow and too twisting to allow a hook-and-ladder truck to serve the area. The roads are now maintained by the Town. The Square was purchased by the Association for about \$500 in 1954, probably from John Proctor. At the same time, the Association took responsibility for the steps and right-of-way to the rocks off Clifton Heights Lane. Insurance was obtained with several people acting as unnamed "straws".

Association minutes reflect the continuing battle with the ocean in the effort to maintain a raft and steps to the ocean between early June and Labor Day. Various kinds of stairs were tried - wooden, aluminum, and concrete poured on the rocks. Every few years, a storm washed away the steps and often the raft. In the 1980's, the Association contracted to have a concrete platform and steps constructed to provide access to the water. Construction had to be between low and high tide with fast-drying cement, and a pulley system was rigged up from the bluff to carry the cement. Unfortunately since then, severe winters have badly eroded these new steps. In 1980, Melvin Sterensier financed the building of iron stairs from the bluff to the rocks.

For many years, the Association has sponsored a Fourth of July parade followed with games for the children on the Square. The parade was led for many years by Russell Ellis with a large drum. It assembled near the old garage on Ticehurst Lane. Children and some adults took part, and the parade marched to the Square. The costumes were judged and prizes were awarded to a few children. Today there are more prize categories, and almost every child receives a prize. The parade is followed by contests such as pie-eating and egg throwing. Today, the Fourth of July parade continues with a band led by Frank Cagliuso and his son. Emmons Ellis carries out the tradition set by his father by appearing costumed as General John Glover.

For years the Association sponsored a cocktail party held at a different house each year on the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends, with sometimes a German Beer party, Square Dance, or teen night in between. Recently a Fourth of July clambake on the rocks has proved highly successful for all ages. The bonfire on the rocks on the Fourth of July has been discontinued for fear a spark would set fire to one of the houses along the waterfront.

A Labor Day Auction was also a traditional event to raise funds for the Association. In the early days the attics yielded many antique treasures, but after about 1950, the items offered were apt to be used books, children's equipment, kitchen utensils, etc. There was always spirited bidding for Hedy Weiss' apricot cake. Today bidding on such items as a boat ride, photographs, or loan of a weekend cottage has been more profitable.

Until 1927, Clifton Heights residents used to walk to "the beach". The beach seemed more sandy than it is today, and

mothers used to take their children at low tide to spend a morning there. In 1927, the Greystone Corporation bought the surrounding land and started development. It made the beach exclusive property for the residents by posting a guard at the entrance to the beach. The Clifton Heights Improvement Association hired Joseph Worthen as a lawyer and made a real fight in court to retain the right to continue to use the beach. The suit lost. Later, Joseph Worthen's son, Palmer, tried to gain access by proving years of using the path. However, the Association also lost this suit in court. There is still a feeling of resentment in the Heights that the Greystone residents skate on "our pond" in the winter, but continue to deny us access to the beach.

For many years there were fire alarm boxes to call the Fire Department. Each area had its own box with a number which could be rung in case of fire. The Fire Department provided residents with cards listing the box numbers and locations. The number for Clifton Heights was 18, rung with a single horn blast, then eight in a row. Every day the alarm went off as the system was checked at 11:45 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Residents of Clifton Heights remember the blackouts during World War II when curtains had to be pulled at night on the ocean side to prevent German U-boats from identifying the coastline. After the war, the Battleship Missouri steamed into Marblehead Harbor, and the Clifton Heights residents entertained the sailors with a picnic on the Square.

Residents began to winterize their homes during the thirties, but the largest change came after World War II. Today almost all residents live in Clifton Heights year round. With winterization came the problem of snow plowing and shoveling; which has worked quite well, except for the "blizzard of 1978" when all the Boston area was snowed in for over a week.

Many changes have taken place over the years. The Clifton Heights Improvement Association still continues to operate. Residents along Atlantic Avenue and Joel Road are now part of the Association, but the boundaries remain the same. Most of the roads are one way, and traffic and parking on these narrow roads continues to be a problem. Although the community is now more diverse, and more people work all day, there is still a strong community feeling.

## PERSONAL REMINISCENCES

My first trip to Clifton Heights was in 1917 when my parents, Arthur and Ellen Whittem, bought our 1899 house from the Lincolns. The house was sold with its contents, including furniture, as apparently was the custom then. The house is now 0 Ticehurst Lane. Our house, and one other, were number 1 until a decision was made to end the confusion! The Town told us that the numbering system in the Heights was at best random, but no other residents wanted to change their house numbers.

When my parents bought the house, there were only two floors. My parents obtained architectural advice from Professor Grandgent of Harvard University. He recommended jacking up the second story and inserting a second floor like the filling in a sandwich. At that time, this method was the talk of Marblehead.

The existing structure had a living-dining room, kitchen, den, and a half-bath. The new second floor had five bedrooms and a full bath. The former second floor became the third floor with one large and three small bedrooms. The original house was made with tongue and groove panelling as was the custom, and the new second floor kept the pattern.

For many years, Clifton Heights was only a summer community with many residents coming from Melrose or Winchester for the summer. There were perhaps two or three year-round houses. The houses were not winterized, and we and other residents employed a local general handyman, Marcus Handy, as caretaker. He also turned off the water in the winter and turned it on again in the spring. My father always felt Patriot's Day (April 19) and Columbus Day (October 12) were "safe" days to mark the beginning and the end of the frost-free season. Our house always had shutters in the winter until our neighbors requested that we leave them off to give the area a more lived-in appearance.

Before the 1930's, the land around Clifton Heights was open field and marshland. On the north side of Atlantic Avenue was a farm with horses. The land was swampy with cat-o'-nine tails and redwing blackbirds. We frequently walked to the beach now called Greystone. I don't remember calling it anything but "the beach", but an early photograph refers to it as Sherman Beach. To go to the beach, we walked down Ticehurst Lane toward the ocean, and turned left just before reaching the Moses house. There were a few houses along the ocean on what is now called Coolidge Road, but cows grazed on the land above the beach. The hill always had stones to walk over, but then the beach itself was more sandy with pools of water in the rocks. At low tide, the mothers and children took picnics and stayed on the beach. I remember vanilla wafers, fig newtons, and glass thermos bottles with juice or water.

Two large houses stood over the beach. One was owned by the Shermans, and it is today a gracious rose beige house formerly owned by the Harringtons. The other, no longer there, belonged to J.F. Keith, the movie theatre chain director. For a time, it was occupied by Cardinal O'Connell, then Cardinal of Boston. He was rather a portly person, and we enjoyed watching him swim at the small beach between Greystone and Devereux.

After Greystone Beach was closed to us, the rocks in front of Clifton Heights Lane became a focal point for the community as a gathering place for all ages. Children played in "Perilous Pool" and sailed their boats. Teenagers and adults swam to the raft, or, when we had a diving board, dove off the board or the rocks. For many years, Sunday afternoon was party time at the rocks.

As a child, I climbed on the rocks, and others like Libby Moses Merrow, Barbara Thomas, and Babs Abramowitz remember going over the rocks about three miles to Swampscott. There were some difficult ledges, and some householders did not like children in front of their houses.

The cliff below what is now the Garvin house, at 42 Ticehurst Lane, was tricky, and I remember someone getting stuck on a ledge there, and being rescued with the help of ladders. There was a cave near the high water mark where we used to hide. The gully near the Moses house was a challenge, as it is a deep drop. Some of us jumped across at an easy point, and Albert Crane-fuss, something of a daredevil, jumped across at a long and high point. Dr. Moses remembers that a man named West was trying to paint the Moses house from a scaffolding, fell into the gully, hit a pipe, and came out with only a broken thumb!

Larry Burnaby tried to jump across and was badly injured in the attempt, but recovered afterward.

The first trip of the summer was always a great event for me. Until 1921, when we bought our first family car (an Essex), our neighbors in Cambridge drove us down for the summer. Our goods had already been shipped by Paine's Express. It was a slow drive through Malden, not because of traffic lights and commercial development, but because the roads went through busy towns. The roads were narrow and not well paved.

Once we arrived at the Heights, we did not go to the stores, and only rarely did we go to Marblehead. Groceries were delivered by S.S. Pierce or Osborn, and sometimes we stopped at the small store near the railroad station called "Whowell". Milk was delivered by H.P. Hood, and Mr. Conrad delivered ice in the days before electric refrigerators. We had a card with numbers on all four sides which we put in the window to indicate how many pounds we needed - usually 40 or 60 pounds. Mr. Conrad, with his rubber cape and his tongs, would put the ice in our box. We had a hole drilled into the floor so that the melting ice could drip into the open basement below.

When I was a child in the twenties, we liked to walk to the station in the afternoon to meet my father on the three or four car train which arrived in the station with a tooting and a steaming. There were grade crossings on Rockaway and Clifton Avenues. In the 1940's and 1950's, my children also liked to walk to the station, and they were alternately fascinated by the train and frightened by the noise and steam. It was a loss to the community when the line was closed in 1959, and the right-of-way owned by the town, was sold. Remnants of the right-of-way can still be seen from near the present post office on Smith Street.

We did not go to Marblehead much in the thirties, but Brown's Bakery was a favorite. The bakery was first started from the Brown's kitchen, and I remember it had cases of Washington pies, blueberry pies, blueberry muffins, chocolate chip cookies - all were delicious. My children in the fifties and sixties particularly liked the cinnamon bread with a whirl of cinnamon and sugar in a round loaf of bread. In 1964, Mr. Brown added breakfast and lunch service, and the counter shrank to carry-out size. In 1981, the store was sold to rock star Frank Sheehan, who has named it the Custom House. It now serves lunch and dinner without a bakery.

Hutchinson's Potato Chips on Pleasant Street, near where Dill's Restaurant is located, was a favorite for my children. Mr. Hutchinson opened the store in 1890 and ran it himself until 1968 when he died. He made his own chips cut thick from potatoes in the shop and fried on the premises. We thought they were the best we ever had.

Abbey May's ice cream store on Atlantic Avenue was another favorite for many years.

The Warwick Theatre in Marblehead was available for Saturday afternoon special movies when I was growing up in the twenties, and there used to be thrilling serials which always ended just as some disaster was about to happen. We used to sit in the back of the theatre and roll candy balls down to the front - it was in the days before popcorn. There were always news events, previews of coming attractions, and the MGM Lion and his roar.

When I was growing up, there was of course, no television, and the first crystal sets I recall were in the early twenties. I first remember the importance of radio when we listened to the 1928 Democratic Convention when Al Smith was nominated.

We had to make our own entertainment, and on rainy days, we played with dolls with home-made furniture in orange crate houses. We also made scrap book houses. The rooms were made from pictures advertising rugs of linoleum. We made our own paper dolls and pasted furniture into the rooms. The paper dolls acted out many dramas as they were moved from room to room. We also sent away for free samples of cosmetics and pictures of movie stars. We anxiously watched the mail for our returns.

Those days were long before the ice cream men came with their siren-like bells and music to sell ice cream bars. There was great excitement, then, when the "hurdy-gurdy" man and his assistant, dressed in gypsy-like costumes, came with their

monkey to play organ grinder music. The monkey, on a leash, held his red hat and went around to the spectators to collect pennies and coins from the onlookers.

The Square was a focal point for children and teens in the twenties and thirties. Each night after supper we gathered to play games. The favorite, when I was growing up, was "kick the can". When "it" kicked the can, the others ran to hide, and "it" tried to find us. If "it" gave up, he or she called, "Allee-allee-in-free", and the game started again. In the late thirties and forties, the game was, "Draw a Magic Circle and Place it with a Dot", which was similar. Today, Volley Ball is the favorite for all generations.

I inherited our house from my parents, and always enjoyed returning to familiar places during the summer. My younger daughter and her husband winterized the house in 1972, and my son, Richard, and his wife and children occupied the house in 1991 and 1992. Now I live in Vermont and Montreal. Formerly, I rented the house only in winters, but now it is rented year-round, but I always enjoy returning to Clifton Heights.

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#### References:

"The Spirit of '76 Lives Here", by Priscilla Sawyer Lord and Virginia Clegg Gamage

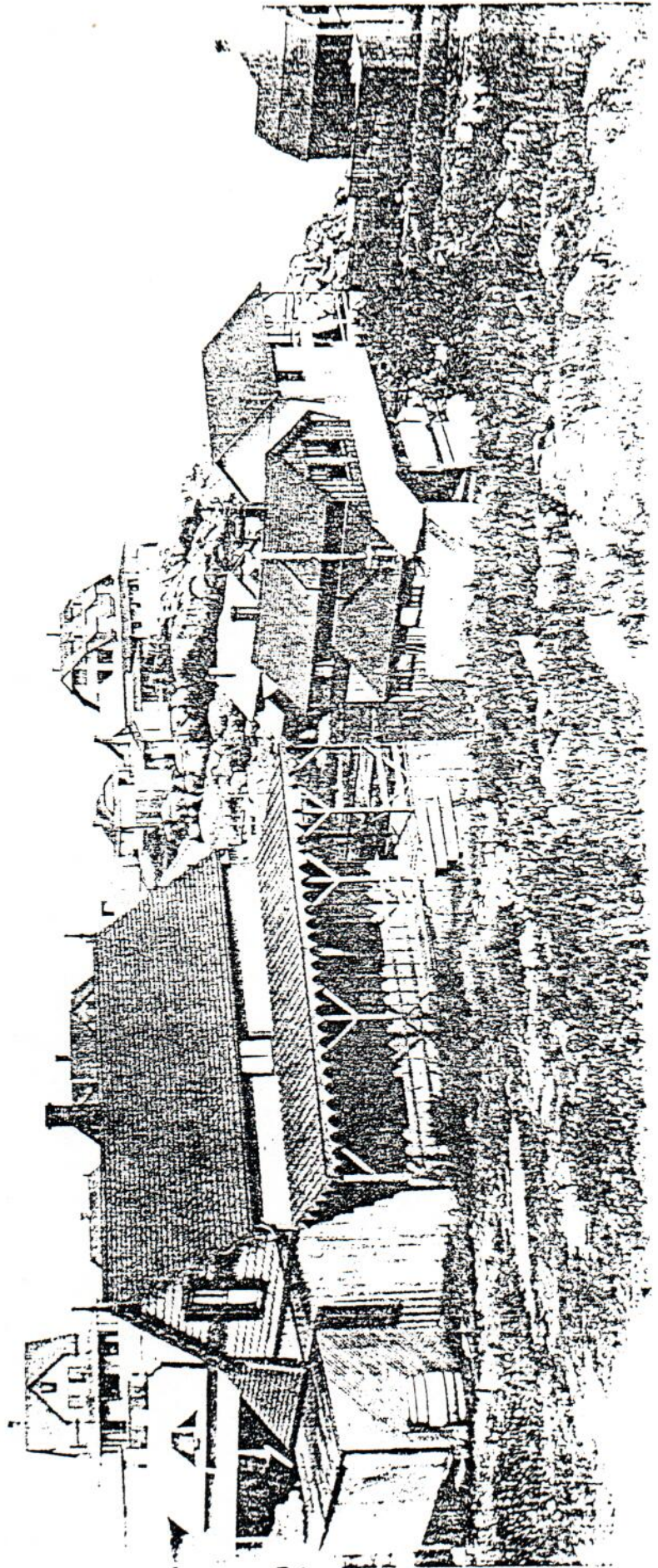
"Historic Background of Clifton (Marblehead), Massachusetts, Essex Historical Collections, Vol. LXXXII, July 1946

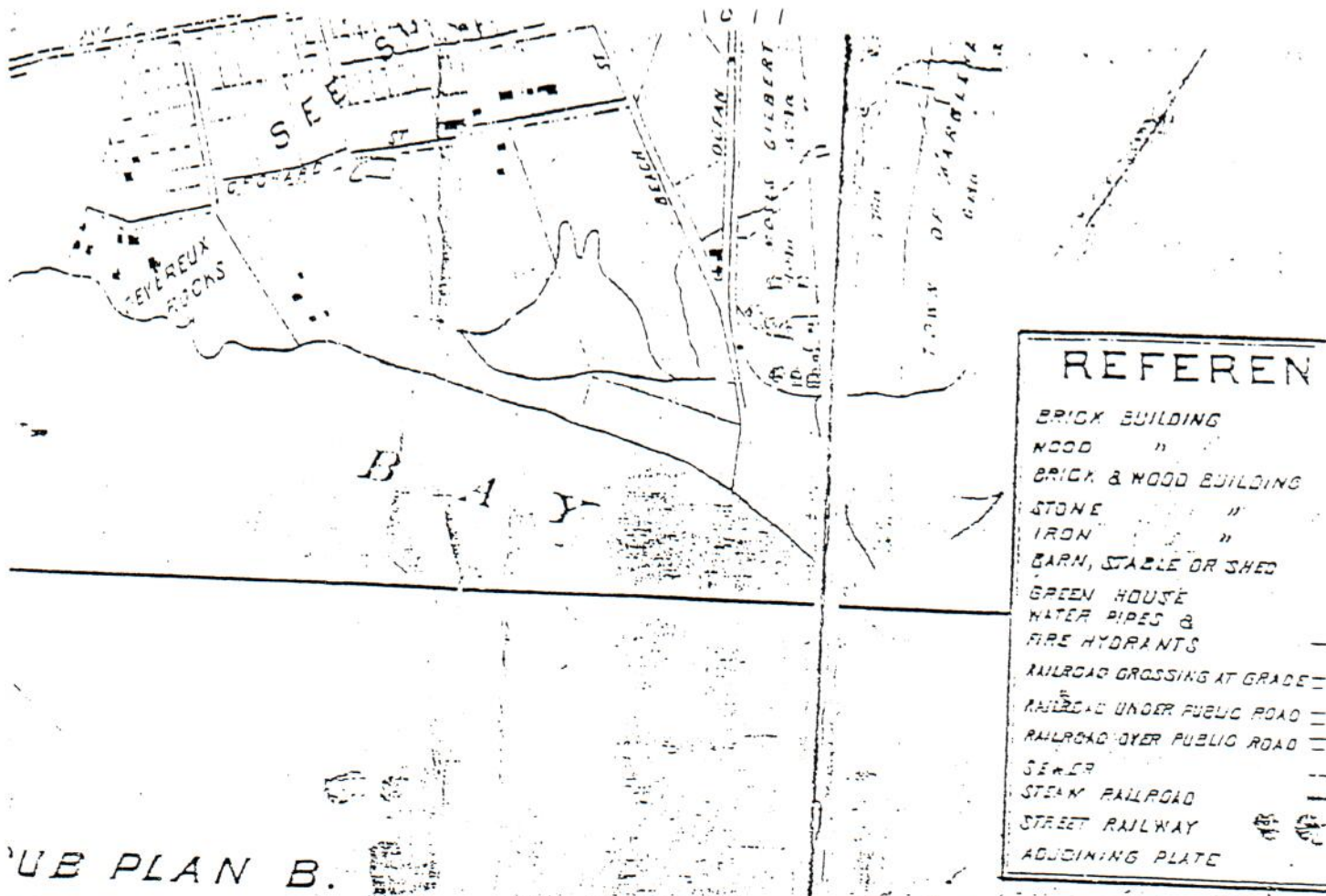
Beth Faden is the sister of Andrew Faden who owned the house on the Clifton Heights waterfront now owned by the Wakefields. Beth Faden lived in Marblehead and was active into her nineties. Her niece, Barbara Faden Thomas, also lived in Marblehead until her death in 1988.

Babs Hillson Abramowitz spent her childhood summers in Clifton Heights, and now she and her husband own a house high on the hill above the Square.

"A Short Biography of David Merritt", published by the Essex Historical Society in 1862.

Martha Macquarrie Stiles and her mother, Marian Macquarrie, provided information for this history. They had a house on the Square for many years.





UB PLAN B.

