

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating the History of Waltham Workers

Waltham, MA – August 13, 2018 – This Summer a number of Waltham organizations are coming together to highlight and celebrate local workers through the ages. Different cultural events will occur around Waltham the weeks before and after Labor Day 2018.

Here is a list of those events with brief descriptions:

Wednesday, August 29, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Combined Walking Tours: Brick and Windows Tour and Walking Tour of Mill Workers' Housing

Cost: FREE

Location: Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation (see website for directions)

Presenting Organization: Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation and the Waltham Historical Society

We will walk around and explore the outside of the buildings that once housed the Boston Manufacturing Company (BMC). As you do, you will see the progression through the years from a small company site to a sprawling manufacturing complex. Then we will visit the nearby housing used by the individuals who worked at the BMC. (See more details in the description of the September 8th tour.)

Wednesday, August 29, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Mill Talk: Bells & Bonnets; Mill Girls Both Dutiful and Defiant

Cost: FREE

Location: Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation (see website for directions)

Presenting Organization: Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation

We will explore how Yankee farm women became the first large-scale industrial labor force in the U.S. , how factory work transform the lives of these women; and how

women transformed the world they worked in.

Thursday and Friday, August 30 and 31, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Made in Waltham; The Items, Industries and Community Created by the Workers of Waltham

Cost: FREE

Location: The Waltham Museum, 25 Lexington Street

Presenting Organization: The Waltham Museum

From the Native Americans and their earliest artifacts to today's most cutting edge industries we will explore the items, industries and community created by the workers of Waltham.

Saturday, September 1, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Workers' Walk at the Paine Estate

Cost: FREE

Location: Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate, 100 Robert Treat Paine Drive

Presenting Organization: Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate, Healthy Waltham, Waltham Land Trust and Waltham Public Library

A special tour of the landscape honoring workers in celebration of Labor Day.

Tour the fields, farm & forest

- created by influential worker advocates at the height of the labor movement
- enjoyed by workers for health and refreshment since the 19th century
- covered with forgotten orchards, vegetable gardens and ruins tended by past farm workers.

Some areas on this mile-long walk are off the beaten path, so please wear sturdy shoes. Bring a water bottle and bug spray.

Wednesday, September 5, 7:00 PM

Migrant, Millworker, Servant, Survivor: Extraordinary Stories about Ordinary Women who worked for the Paine Family of Waltham

Cost: FREE

Location: Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate, 100 Robert Treat Paine Drive

Presenting Organization: Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate

Join us for an illustrated talk about the challenges and successes of two of the dozens of young women who made Stonehurst tick, then visit the back of the house where they lived and worked. This program honors workers of Waltham and beyond in celebration of Labor Day.

Friday, September 7, 7:30 PM

What the Butler Knew: a Moonlight Tour of Gore Place

Cost: \$10-\$17. Order online at goreplace.org

Location: Gore Place, 52 Gore Street

Presenting Organization: Gore Place

In 1827, Robert Roberts, the African American butler to Christopher and Rebecca Gore, was 45 years old and had spent the last 25 years as a servant in some of the most prominent home in America and Europe. He put the combined knowledge of those 25 years into a book, *The House Servant's Directory, or A Monitor for Private Families*; comprising hints on the arrangement and performance of servants' work. More than a simple book of instructions, Roberts's book speaks eloquently of the respect due to employers, the rights due to employees, and of the pride and honor to be gained in a job well done. On this tour, you'll hear Roberts own words as you explore one of America's great historic homes.

Saturday September 8, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

A Walking Tour of Mill Workers' Housing, and Other Historic Houses, near the Boston Manufacturing Company's Textile Mill

Cost: FREE

Location: Tour begins and ends in Landry Park between the Charles River and the Mill Building.

Presenting Organization(s): Waltham Historical Society with the assistance of Mort Isaacson, Chair of the Waltham Historical Commission

Join us for a one hour walking tour that will include early workers' housing near the Boston Manufacturing Company's original textile mill. This tour will describe the historical development of the living accommodations of both workers in the mill and their neighbors along River, Jackson, and Central Streets. We will view and discuss some houses from as early as the 1830s that are still on their original foundations, along with others that have been moved and renovated to accommodate changes in use. The latter include the earliest mill-girl boarding houses in the nation, from 1817, and the mansion of Patrick Tracy Jackson, a founder of the BMC and a giant of the American Industrial Revolution. This walking tour constitutes a small portion of Mort Isaacson's forthcoming book that will expand to include the area as far north as Main Street, and as far East as Newton Street, due for publication by the Waltham Historical Society in the fall.

Contact:

Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation: info@charlesrivermuseum.org

Gore Place: <https://goreplace.org/about/contact/>

Healthy Waltham: info@healthy-waltham.org

Stonehurst, the Robert Treat Paine Estate: info@stonehurstwaltham.org

Waltham Historical Society: <http://www.walthamhistoricalsociety.org/contact-us.html>

Waltham Land Trust: info@walthamlandtrust.org

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