

THE PROVIDENCE AMATEUR PRESS CLUB: 1914-1916

By

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*Photographs from the High School yearbook
'The Comrade', April 1912.*

IN MEMORY OF
THE MEMBERS
OF THE PROVIDENCE AMATEUR PRESS
CLUB (1914-1916)

KNOWN

VICTOR L. BASINET
FREDERICK A. BYLAND
JOHN T. DUNN
WILLIAM A. HENRY
GUY H. KELSO
EUGENIE M. KERN
HOWARD P. LOVECRAFT
PETER J. McMANUS
MILDRED G. (METCALF) HEALD
CAROLINE (MILLER) BARLOW
[--] REILLY
EDMUND L. SHEHAN

AND UNKNOWN

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS WORK

AT:

S. T. Joshi (ed.), *The Ancient Track: The Complete Poetical Works of H. P. Lovecraft* (San Francisco, California: Night Shade Books, 2001).

deCamp:

L. Sprague de Camp, *Lovecraft: A Biography* (Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1975).

Joshi:

S. T. Joshi, *H. P. Lovecraft: A Life* (West Warwick, Rhode Island: Necronomicon Press, 1996).

JTD:

S. T. Joshi, David E. Schultz and John H. Stanley, "H. P. Lovecraft: Letters to John T. Dunn" in *Books At Brown: 1991-1992* (vols. XXXVIII-XXXIX) (Providence, Rhode Island: The Friends of the Library of Brown University, [1995]).

YML:

L. Sprague de Camp, "Young Man Lovecraft" in Cannon, Peter (ed.), *Lovecraft Remembered* (Sauk City, Wisconsin: Arkham House, 1998). Originally published in George Hay (ed.), *The Necronomicon* (Jersey, Channel Islands: Neville Spearman, 1978).

*Before you all, in apprehension stand
The timid members of a new-formid band.
With awkward pen, but eager of success,
Our sev'ral failings must we here confess;
Let critics treat us with a kindly sense,
And frown not on our inexperience.*

...

*Thus stand the club, to ev'ry eye reveal'd.
And not a fault or virtue left conceal'd.
If in your cultur'd ranks a place there be
For letter'd novices as crude as we,
That happy place we quickly would procure.
And each become a finish'd amateur.*

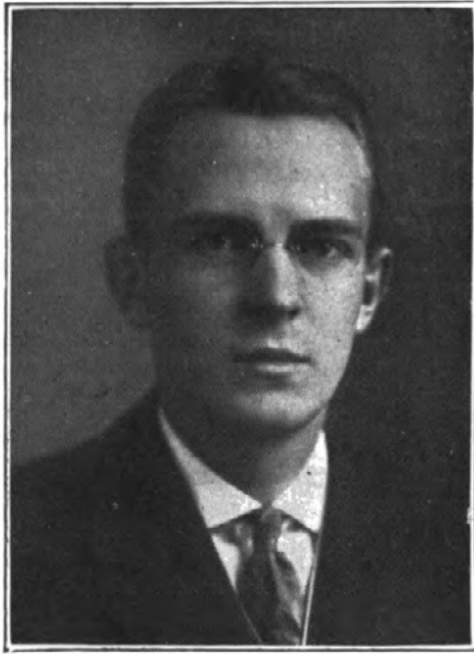
—H. P. Lovecraft, “To the Members of the United Amateur
Press Ass’n From the Providence Amateur Press Club”

INTRODUCTION

By and large, local amateur press clubs have been relatively short-lived, Boston's Hub Club (fl. 1890-1924) and Brooklyn's Blue Pencil Club (fl. 1908-1960s) being notable exceptions. Among other relatively ephemeral local clubs, the Providence Amateur Press Club which flourished for roughly two years between the fall of 1914 and the fall of 1916 was fortunate in having Howard Phillips Lovecraft as one of its members. Lovecraft's work has ascended to worldwide fame in the nearly seventy years which have now elapsed since its first posthumous book publication by Arkham House in 1939. The first-full length biography of Lovecraft, written by L. Sprague de Camp, appeared in 1975, and a second biography by S. T. Joshi followed twenty-one years later in 1996. Both of Lovecraft's biographers gave generous attention to Lovecraft's involvement with the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-1916. In addition, L. Sprague de Camp and his wife Catherine Crook de Camp travelled to Portsmouth, Ohio to interview the aged Rev. John T. Dunn (1889-1983), one of the last surviving members of the Club, on May 20-21, 1975. The result of those interviews was de Camp's separate article "Young Man Lovecraft" (YML), first published in 1978. In due course, Father Dunn's surviving letters from Lovecraft came to the Lovecraft Collection at Brown University and they were published in 1995 in *Books At Brown 1991-1992* (JTD), with an extensive editorial apparatus by editors S. T. Joshi, David E. Schultz and John H. Stanley. Earlier, Marc A. Michaud of Necronomicon Press (West Warwick, Rhode Island) reprinted the June 1915 and February 1916 issues of *The Providence Amateur* in facsimile editions (1976 and 1977, respectively).

Thus, we begin by knowing a great deal about the Providence Amateur Press Club to which Howard Phillips Lovecraft belonged. The club was founded by Providence amateur journalist Victor L. Basinet (1889-1956) among a group of seven or eight evening high school students at the urging of Edward H. Cole (1892-1966) of West Somerville, Massachusetts.¹

1 The editors of JTD cite John T. Dunn and Caroline Miller as founders of the Club (JTD, p.158). The exact citation from de Camp's account of his interview with Rev. John T. Dunn is as follows (YML, p.173): "Dunn, then twenty-four, was earning his living as a plumber. He and his colleagues heard of the amateur-journalism movement. On the suggestion of the amateur journalist Edward H. Cole of Boston, they decided to form the Providence Amateur Press Club. The leading spirits were Victor Basinet and a Miss Miller, and Lovecraft was a founding member." Perhaps the best that one can say at this remove is that Basinet, Miller and Dunn were the moving spirits in the Club's formation, with encouragement from Edward H. Cole.



EDWARD H. COLE

DeCamp (pp.86-87) quotes generously from Lovecraft's letter to Cole of November 23, 1914:

As Miss Hoffman has doubtless informed you, the members are recruited from the evening high school, and are scarcely representative of the intellectual life of Providence. Their environment has been distinctly plebeian, and their literary standards should not at this time be criticised too harshly...

Their President, Victor L. Basinet, is a socialist of the extreme type, whose opinions have been formed through contact with the most dangerous labour agitators in the country. He is, however, a man of much native intelligence, and I strongly hope that the influence of the press association may help to modify his conception of society. The Official Editor, John T. Dunn, is a wild Irishman with the usual offensive Popish and anti-English views; but he is of very fair education, and fired by real literary ambition. Of course, there is much frivolity in some of the members, which detracts from the dignity of the meetings...

The Club members were apparently recruited primarily among young adults who were attending an evening high school course in English literature. Writing to Alfred Galpin on August 29, 1918,¹ Lovecraft described the Club as “a ‘literary’ club of Micks who dwelt in the dingy ‘North End’ of the city.”² The Easter Rising against English rule intervened on April 24-30, 1916, and was harshly suppressed by England. This only exacerbated Irish feelings against England, and many Irish-Americans did not support the entry of the United States into the First World War in 1917. John Dunn refused to register for the draft and when involuntarily registered, refused to serve, for which he was court-martialed by a military court and sentenced to twenty

1 The primary source for this letter is H. P. Lovecraft (S. T. Joshi and David E. Schultz, eds.), *Letters to Alfred Galpin* (New York, New York: Hippocampus Press, 2003), p.40. The letter is also cited in de Camp (p.88) and JTD (p.164).

2 What is now the North End of the City of Providence was annexed to the Town of North Providence in 1765. The City of Providence re-annexed much of the “North End” from North Providence in 1874 to form ward 10 of the City of Providence. Two neighborhoods make up the “North End”: Wanskuck is bounded by Elmhurst to the west, Smith Hill to the south, Charles to the east, and the town of North Providence to the north; and Charles is bounded by Wanskuck and Route 146 to the west, Smith Hill to the south, the town of North Providence to the north, and West River and the New York & New Hampshire Railroad tracks to the east. Route 146, a limited access highway, bisects the North End, which occupies two hills separated by an intervening valley. The Wanskuck neighborhood takes its name from the Indian name for the valley, meaning “lowlands.” The water resources of the neighborhood attracted industry in the mid-nineteenth century, including the major woolen manufacturer the Wanskuck Company in 1862. English, Irish and French Canadian workers arrived to work in the neighborhood’s factories and by 1900 the North End had a diversified population of Irish, English, German, Scottish, and Italian immigrant families. Trolley service commenced on Branch Avenue by 1895 and on Douglas Avenue by 1908, linking the North End with the rest of Providence. By the 1930s, the North End was a densely populated residential neighborhood for both lower- and middle-class families. The closure of the Silver Spring Bleaching and Dyeing Company in 1939 and of the Wanskuck Company in 1957 marked the end of major industrial activities in the North End neighborhood. Douglas Avenue, Charles Street, and Silver Spring Street are the major streets radiating from central Providence through the neighborhood; Branch Avenue and Admiral Street are significant east-west streets. The intersection of Branch Avenue and Charles Street at Hopkins Square remains a significant commercial area for the neighborhood. As of April 1, 2000, the total population of the North End was 17,651, consisting of 10,629 whites, 2,542 blacks, and a mix of other races. There were 7,270 housing units, of which 538 were vacant. Despite the working class nature of the North End neighborhood, Lovecraft (who had spent most of his twenty-first birthday on August 20, 1911, riding streetcars all over the city) would undoubtedly have found something of interest in the neighborhood. Revolutionary War Commodore Esek Hopkins (1718-1802) lived at what became 97 Admiral Street; both Admiral Street and Commodore Street may be named for him. Whipple Street honors Lovecraft’s own remote relation Commodore Abraham Whipple (1733-1819), best known for leading the attack on H.M.S. Gaspee in 1772. Much of the information in this note is taken from the City of Providence website and the northendprovidenceri.com website.

years' imprisonment in 1917.³ (He ultimately served about two years.) Basinet, of French extraction, succeeded in registering in New York as a conscientious objector. Dunn's case attracted national press coverage and Lovecraft vowed to his correspondent Alfred M. Galpin that he was "done with Dunn."⁴ By this time, however, the Club itself has ceased to be. Lovecraft's poem "Providence Amateur Press Club (Deceased) to the Athenaeum Club of Journalism" (A.Ms., John Hay Library) is dated November 24, 1916, and has generally been interpreted to mean that the Providence Amateur Press Club was deceased by that date (q.v., AT, pp.339-341, 505).

Perhaps the harsh feelings evoked by the Easter Rising of 1916 contributed to the Club's demise by the latter part of that year. Nearly sixty years later, John T. Dunn vividly recalled Lovecraft stiff bearing and staunch defense of England in his interviews with L. Sprague de Camp. De Camp described some of Dunn's recollections (YML, p.174):

Dunn's friends considered Lovecraft "laughable," never suspecting that he would one day be famous. "Among ourselves, we kind of made fun of him, not knowing his background." Now, said Dunn, he was sorry for his lack of sympathy with H.P.L., whose handicaps he had not been aware of. Dunn added that, if he had known that Lovecraft would become an important literary figure, he would have paid closer attention to him.

In prior correspondence with de Camp (November 16, 1973), Father Dunn had also recalled how Lovecraft's lifestyle contrasted with the blue-collar lifestyles of the members of the Club (de Camp, p.88):

He told me that he would think of a piece to write and he would stay up to finish it even if it took till six in the morning. He had an income and he did not have to get up as we did to go to work.

Lovecraft served as Literary Director of the Club during the initial 1914-15 term and then as Official Editor during the 1915-16 term. Lovecraft wrote to Dunn on October 14, 1916 (JTD, pp.192-193):

Turning to amateur matters, I hope you will renew your membership in the United, and that you will be able in time to rehabilitate the

3 The editors of JTD also quote extensively from a letter of Lovecraft to Arthur Harris dated January 12, 1918, which discussed Dunn's case at length (JTD, pp.166-167, note 10).

4 Refer to note 2 for citations for this letter.

Providence Amateur Press Club. Perhaps the lack of publishing activity this year has caused the members almost to forget that there is such a thing as amateur journalism. Many of my present duties are outside the association, in connection with the Symphony Literary Service, which is now handling a goodly amount of verse. Pres. Campbell [U.A.P.A. President 1916-1917] lately requested me to remind Messrs. Kelso and Wright of this State that their membership has expired; but judging from your club's attitude toward Kelso, and the rather hopeless nature of his verse, I think I will confine my persuasions to Mr. Wright, who never became really active.⁵

The \$1 annual dues payable to U.A.P.A. were undoubtedly an issue for many members of the Providence Amateur Press Club.⁶ The average hourly wage in manufacturing in 1914 was 22 cents. A full work week of 10 hours per day Monday-Friday and 5 hours on Saturday would produce a weekly paycheck of \$12.10 and many workers (especially women) earned significantly less. Across all kinds of manufacturing, the average annual wage, accounting for hours actually worked, was \$580 in 1914, but textile industries, a very significant component in Rhode Island, paid significantly less: \$387 in cotton goods, \$479 in wool and worsted, and \$500 in men's clothing.⁷ So, investing \$1 in annual U.A.P.A. dues was a significant expenditure for the blue-collar members of the Providence Amateur Press Club. A significant number never joined U.A.P.A. Of the founding members of the Club other than Lovecraft himself, we know

5 Wright had expressed interest in establishing an amateur press club in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, but apparently never founded such a club. The editors of JTD (p.173) identify Wright as Herbert A. Wright of 301 Prospect Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I found no Herbert Wright in Pawtucket 1913, 1916 and 1917 Directories maintained online by Ancestry, Inc. The 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses recorded at least two Herbert Wrights in Rhode Island: an English-born Herbert Wright (b. 1893/94) who worked in a textile mill in North Providence RI and a Rhode Island-born Herbert Wright who resided in Riverside RI and worked as a public school teacher. The latter Herbert Wright (born November 26, 1889, died July 1969) appears in the Social Security Death Master File. However, there were other Herbert Wrights residing in Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts during these years.

6 While some white-collar occupations were better-paid than manufacturing work, \$1 annual association dues was nevertheless a significant commitment for white-collar members as well. Writing to John T. Dunn on February 19, 1917 (JTD, pp.212-213), Lovecraft reported that his recruit Louis E. Boutwell of Scottsville, New York, an English teacher in the Rochester High School, had declined to renew his U.A.P.A. membership on the grounds that he had not received "a dollar's worth of enjoyment."

7 The economic statistics cited in this paragraph are taken from Albert Rees, *Real Wages in Manufacturing: 1890-1914* (Princeton University Press, 1961). This work can also now be consulted on-line.

that Basinet, Dunn, McManus, Miller and Shehan belonged for various periods to U.A.P.A. Writing to Dunn on July 4, 1916 (JTD, p.188), Lovecraft asked his correspondent to urge McManus and Shehan to get their U.A.P.A. election ballot proxies completed and mailed. Writing on October 14, 1916 (JTD, p.198), he urged Dunn to renew his own U.A.P.A. membership. Writing to Dunn on July 20, 1915 (JTD, p.171), he had expressed concern that Basinet, who had attended the July 1915 convention of the National Amateur Press Association (N.A.P. A.), might desert the ranks of the United for the National. Despite all his efforts, Lovecraft was again the sole Rhode Island resident on the U.A.P.A. roster by November 1917 (JTD, p.200).⁸

I cannot aspire to add a great deal to the vivid picture of the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-16 provided by deCamp and Joshi. It is really a matter of adding bits and pieces at this point. In the "Report of the President" in *The United Amateur* for November 1914, we find the following paragraph written by Dora M. Hepner (1888-1968)⁹ (U.A.P.A. President 1914-15):

On October 30th, the Providence Amateur Press Club was organized with eight members. Details concerning this club, its officers, etc., will be found on another page of this paper. With such energetic amateurs as Mr. Lovecraft, Mr. Basinet and Mr. Dunn for members, this club will surely shine out as a bright spot in the Dom.

Regrettably, additional details concerning the Providence Amateur Press Club do not appear in this issue of *The United Amateur*. The only additional information is the name and address of the club secretary (Caroline Miller, 27 Henrietta St., Providence, R.I.) in the "Club Directory" (p.29) and the inclusion of one Club member (Edmund L. Shehan, 30 Alverson Ave., Providence, R.I.) among the applicants for U.A.P.A. membership listed by U.A.P.A. Secretary H. B Darrow (p.28). Shehan was proposed for membership by Victor L. Basinet; his credential was "Some Objections to Motion Pictures."¹⁰ Friday October 30, 1914—the day before Halloween—was surely a fitting date for the foundation of a Club in which the twentieth-century master of the supernatural tale was to

8 Writing to Dunn on July 20, 1915 (JTD, p.171), Lovecraft had recalled that he had been the only Providence name in the U.A.P.A. membership list in the May 1914 *United Amateur*. (He had been recruited by Edward F. Daas on April 6, 1914.)

9 Later the first wife of Anthony F. Moitoret (1892-1979) and mother of the noted amateur journalist Victor A. Moitoret (1919-2005).

10 Shehan wrote about the visit that he and Fred A. Byland paid to the Eastern Film Company in his essay "The Making of a Motion Picture" in *The Providence Amateur* for February 1916. I do not know if Shehan's credential was ever published.

play a prominent role. I do not know the place of the organizational meeting. According to Joshi (p.110, citing Lovecraft's letter to Edward H. Cole dated November 23, 1914), the Club generally met toward the end of each month. Friday does not appear to have been the regular meeting day, for we have the date of another meeting—Wednesday March 24, 1915—in the article "Our Candidate" in *The Providence Amateur* for June 1915.

We have the names of nine members of the Club as printed in *The Providence Amateur* for June 1915: Victor L. Basinet, President; Eugene [Eugenie] M. Kern, Vice President; Caroline Miller, Secretary-Treasurer; Howard P. Lovecraft, Literary Director; John T. Dunn, Official Editor; Edmond L. Sheehan [*sic* but corrected to Edmund L. Sheehan in the second number]; Fred A. Byland; Mildred Metcalf; and Peter J. McManus. I am not sure which of these nine was not among the eight founders of October 30, 1914;¹¹ I have treated them all as founding members in the material which follows. Lovecraft's poem "To the Members of the United Amateur Press Ass'n from the Providence Amateur Press Club" (originally published in *The Providence Amateur*, June 1915; reprinted, AT, pp.336-338) provides verse sketches of many of these members and of an additional member, a Mr. Reilly, as well. We know that carpenter-poet Guy Harold Kelso was a somewhat troublesome member of the Club in 1915-16. One final member of the Club, William Aloysius Henry, we know only from John T. Dunn's recollections (YML, p.174):

Another member of the Providence Amateur Press Club, living next door to Dunn, had a sister named Sadie Henry. Once Miss Henry, visiting at Dunn's house, as a joke among the circle of friends, telephoned Lovecraft and suggested that he take her out on a date. Lovecraft said: "I'll have to ask my mother," and nothing came of it.

I will leave the delectable story of the woman who asked Lovecraft for a date for my sketch of William Aloysius Henry. Sufficient to say that Sarah J. (Sadie) Henry, born June 3, 1879, was more than a decade older than Lovecraft. Young Misses Kern, Metcalf, and Miller may have found Lovecraft equally curious, but only the older woman Sadie Henry had enough interest to kid him about going out on a date. Generally speaking, it was older women who were most

11 I would be inclined to guess that Lovecraft himself was the member missing from the founding eight, and only called in later by Edward H. Cole and Helene Hoffman to assist Victor L. Basinet and his fellow evening high school students. However, it should be noted that Rev. John T. Dunn himself recalled that Lovecraft was a founding member of the Club (q.v., YML, p.173).

interested in Lovecraft: Winifred Virginia (Jackson) Jordan (1876-1959)¹² and Sonia (Haft) Greene (1883-1972) being the two names most prominently connected with him within the amateur journalism hobby.

Father Dunn explained the origins of the Club to L. Sprague de Camp as follows (YML, p.173):

Father Dunn told how he and seven or eight other students attended a night class at a high school in the northern part of Providence in 1914. They were working-class people in their twenties with literary ambitions, who wanted an advanced course in English.

The editors of JTD (p.158) put the high school in North Providence—a separate town—but I think we must defer to Father Dunn's crystal-clear recollections. Providence had opened its first public high school in 1843 at the corner of Angell and Benefit Streets (205 Benefit). A larger high school to replace the original was erected in 1877 at the corner of Summer and Pond Streets south and west of the immediate downtown Providence area. (The original Benefit Street high school subsequently served as a state normal school and as headquarters for the state Supreme Court.) The high school complex at Summer & Pond continued to grow through the years. The Manual Training School, subsequently the Technical High School, was built in 1893 and enlarged in 1908. (By 1936 it had become the School Department administration building.) The Classical High School was built on the southwest corner of Summer & Pond in 1897 around which time the original 1877 high school was renamed the English High School. (The final incarnation of the 1877 English High School before its demolition was as Central Annex A.)



Postcard showing Classical High School, Providence, possibly circa 1910s?

12 Divorced from her husband Mr. Jordan, Miss Jackson had resumed use of her maiden name by the last years of the second decade of the twentieth century.

In 1898, Hope Street High School—where Lovecraft attended—was added on the East Side of the city. Hope Street High School was replaced by a new school on the opposite side of the street (former site of Hope Reservoir) in 1936—the same year in which Mount Pleasant High School was opened in that section of the city—and eventually torn down in 1970-72. In 1923, Central High School was erected on the block defined by Summer St., Pond St., Winter St., and Montcalm Court—immediately west of the existing high school complex. A gymnasium was erected at Pond and Spring Streets in 1924 and Central High was further expanded in 1926. Today, Central High and Classical High remain of the original downtown high school complex. Central High School still embodies some of the original 1920s architecture but Classical High School is all modern architecture. Summer Street, Winter Street, and Pond Street no longer traverse the high school complex.¹³



The Science Room at Hope Street High School, *School Board Journal*, 1927.

Lovecraft had attended the 1898 Hope Street High School for the 1904-05, 1906-07 and 1907-08 terms with a reduced course load in the final term. He apparently had to skip the 1905-06 term on account of poor health. His high school transcript as summarized by de Camp (pp.42, 45, 50-51) and Joshi (pp.62-63) does not mention any subsequent pursuit of evening classes although Lovecraft upon encountering the job market for clerical and other “white collar” occupations must have sorely felt the lack of a high school diploma. It is not impossible that he was among the evening high school students who formed the nucleus of the Providence Amateur Press Club—but I think it is more likely that he was called in to add some literary substance to the Club after it had been founded by Victor L. Basinet and John T. Dunn among

13 The information concerning Providence high schools in this paragraph derives primarily from John H. Cady, *The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence* (Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1957).

the evening high school students. The Club members tended to be clustered around John T. Dunn's home at 83 Commodore Street on Providence's "North Side" but in actuality were widely scattered over the urban landscape in 1914. The following list shows the 1914 address of each member and the distance (in Mapquest miles) from the 83 Commodore Street focal point:

Victor L. Basinet, 14 Gordon Av., 4.25 miles
Frederick A. Byland¹⁴, 29 Republican St., 3.38 miles
John T. Dunn, 83 Commodore St., 0.00 miles
Eugenie M. Kern, 372 Branch Av., 0.14 miles
Howard P. Lovecraft, 598 Angell St., 3.11 miles
Peter J. McManus, 3 Jackson, 2.86 miles
Mildred G. Metcalf, 14 Catalpa St., 1.31 miles
Caroline Miller¹⁵, 45 Shiloh St., 1.06 miles
Edmund L. Shehan, 30 Alverson Av., 4.57 miles
William A. Henry, 93 Commodore St., 0.02 miles
Guy H. Kelso, 56 Olney St., 1.53 miles

While strictly speaking only Dunn, Henry, Kern and Miller lived within the "North End" (Wanskuck and Charles neighborhoods), Kelso and Metcalf were also not far removed, within a mile and a half of the Club's Commodore Street headquarters. Lovecraft, Byland and McManus all lived about three miles from 83 Commodore Street—Lovecraft on the far East Side, Byland on Federal Hill, and McManus near Cathedral Square downtown. Basinet, on the south side of the city, and Shehan, on the west side, were farthest removed from the 83 Commodore Street focal point in the "North End." All things considered, if the members of the Providence Amateur Press Club were attending evening high school classes at one of the regular high school buildings, Hope Street

14 Fred Byland does not appear in the 1914 Providence Directory under either Byland or Bylund, but his widowed mother Margaret (Margheret) Bylund was listed at 29 Republican Street in both the 1913 and 1915 Providence Directories and I believe it is a safe assumption that Fred was living with her. A twentieth-century Democratic party stronghold like Providence could not allow a street name like Republican to endure and the street has been renamed; I have used its starting point at 286 Atwell's Avenue to measure the distance from the Byland residence. It was certainly in close proximity to the present intersection of Atwell's Avenue and Knight Street. Republican St. originally ended at Kent St., which originated at Knight Street. An 1870 Providence Directory listed both Republican St. and Kent St.; an 1856 Providence Directory listed neither. The 1911 Providence House Directory indicated that Kent St. had been renamed Republican St.

15 Miss Miller's 1914 Providence Directory address is 45 Shiloh St., However, her November 1914 *United Amateur* address (27 Henrietta St.) is in close proximity to 45 Shiloh St., being 1.18 miles from 83 Commodore Street. Both the Shiloh Street and the Henrietta Street addresses were in the Wanskuck neighborhood of Providence, named for Wanskuck Pond.

High School would probably have been the most convenient. From the Dunn home at 83 Commodore Street, it was 1.85 miles to Hope Street High School (modern 324 Hope Street address) and 3.23 miles to Classical/English High School (modern 770 Westminster Street address). There is a modern high school at 1828 Mineral Spring Avenue in North Providence, Rhode Island; this is 2.67 miles from 83 Commodore Street. On the other hand, available transportation might have favored attending evening classes at the downtown high school complex at Summer & Pond. It is certainly possible that the public schools held evening high school classes in locations other than the four existing high schools in 1914. Unless the Providence Public School system has retained records of enrollments in evening high school classes, I fear that we may never know for certain where the Club members attended their evening classes.¹⁶ Despite their separation in miles, an excellent public streetcar system would probably have made Club meetings in individual homes a possibility. We do not know for a fact where the Club meetings were held—certainly there does not appear to be any surviving record to indicate that Lovecraft hosted any Club meeting at 598 Angell Street. The response provoked in Susie Lovecraft by a lively mixed-sex group of working class young people in their twenties would not have been difficult to predict; if she had been offended by the crudities of Arthur Fredlund in 1905, she—who nearly turned W. Paul Cook away from the door of 598 Angell Street because of his dress—would surely have reacted adversely to the lively members of the Providence Amateur Press Club. It is possible that a friendly teacher allowed Club meetings consisting primarily of evening high school students to take place at the high school facility. However, administrators, janitors and insurance policy provisions are perennially hostile to such “extraneous” use of public facilities.

Is it accurate to refer to the club members as “working class”? Overall, I do not believe it is unfair. The following list shows the 1914 occupation and the longtime occupation for each club member:

Victor L. Basinet: (1914) designer; (longtime) nurse, artist

16 It may be noted that Club member (and 1914-15 Vice President) Eugenie [Eugene] M. Kern was already listed with occupation teacher in the 1914 Providence Directory. However, I do not find her listed among the faculty shown for the Providence High Schools in that Directory (p.45). In the 1920s, Miss Kern taught at Knightsville School in Cranston, in the 1930s at Samuel Slater Junior High School in Pawtucket, and in the 1940s at West High School (now Charles E. Shea High School) in Pawtucket. Born December 25, 1893, Miss Kern was probably just commencing her teaching career when the Providence Amateur Press Club was founded. I do not think it is likely that she was actually the teacher of the evening high school class in advanced English which many of the Club members attended. However, I’m willing to be surprised!

Frederick A. Byland: (1914) [not found]¹⁷; (longtime) silversmith, tea & coffee merchant, state employee
 John T. Dunn: (1914) plumber; (longtime) Roman Catholic priest
 Eugenie M. Kern: (1914) teacher; (longtime) teacher
 Howard P. Lovecraft: (1914) student; (longtime) writer & reviser
 Peter J. McManus: (1914) [none listed]¹⁸; (longtime) public school janitor
 Mildred G. Metcalf: (1914) [not found]¹⁹; (longtime) hat shop proprietor
 Caroline Miller: (1914) stenographer; (longtime) homemaker
 Edmund L. Shehan: (1914) [none listed]²⁰; (longtime) machinist
 William A. Henry: (1914) express company clerk; (longtime) sporting goods store proprietor
 Guy H. Kelso: (1914) carpenter; (longtime) carpenter

Surprisingly, all of the known Club members were Rhode Island natives except for Guy Kelso (born in Maine), Peter J. McManus (born in Ireland) and Caroline Miller (born in Pennsylvania). Of their parents I can say the following from Census records:

Victor L. Basinet: father (born Canada), mother (born Rhode Island)
 Frederick A. Byland: father (born Sweden), mother (born Ireland)
 John T. Dunn: father (born Ireland), mother (born Ireland)
 Eugenie M. Kern: father (born Germany), mother (born New Jersey)
 Peter J. McManus: father (born Ireland), mother (born Ireland)
 Mildred G. Metcalf: father (born Rhode Island), mother (born Massachusetts)
 Caroline Miller: father (born France), mother (born France)
 Edmund L. Shehan: father (born New York), mother (born Rhode Island)
 William A. Henry: father (born Ireland), mother (born Ireland)
 Guy H. Kelso: father (born New Brunswick, Canada), mother (born Maine)

17 Probably living at home with his widowed mother at 29 Republican St. His 1914 occupation is unknown but he was already at Gorham when he registered for the draft in 1917-18.

18 Probably a laborer or janitor if employed.

19 Probably living at home with her parents at 14 Catalpa Street.

20 He was a loom maker in 1910 and a reed maker in 1917-18; if employed in 1914, he was probably still employed in some branch of the textile industry, in which his father worked as a wool-sorter.

Father Dunn's remembrance of the Club members as twenty-year-olds during the Club's active period is accurate. I list below known Club members, from the earliest-born to the latest-born:

Guy H. Kelso, born June 28, 1878, Island Falls, Maine
William A. Henry, born April 3, 1884, Providence, Rhode Island
Peter J. McManus, born August 4, 1888, Rooskey, County
Roscommon, Ireland
John T. Dunn, born January 2, 1889, Providence, Rhode Island
Victor L. Basinet, born March 14, 1889, Providence, Rhode Island
Howard P. Lovecraft, born August 20, 1890, Providence, Rhode Island
Edmund L. Shehan, born March 12, 1891, Johnston, Rhode Island
Caroline Miller, born July 16, 1891, Pennsylvania
Eugenie M. Kern, born December 25, 1893, Providence, Rhode Island
Mildred G. Metcalf, born January 5, 1894, Providence, Rhode Island
Frederick A. Byland, born June 5, 1894, Providence, Rhode Island

By and large, the Club members were long-lived. I list below known Club members, from the earliest-deceased to the latest-deceased:

Howard P. Lovecraft, died March 15, 1937, Providence, Rhode Island
Victor L. Basinet, died October 9, 1956, Los Angeles, California
Mildred G. (Metcalf) Heald: died at some point in 1964, probably
Providence, Rhode Island
Frederick A. Byland, February 1967, Providence, Rhode Island
Peter J. McManus, October 1971, Providence, Rhode Island
Edmund L. Shehan, May 1972, Warwick, Rhode Island
Eugenie M. Kern, April 1977, Providence, Rhode Island
Caroline (Miller) Barlow, July 1979, Sudbury, Massachusetts
John T. Dunn, May 24, 1983, Portsmouth, Ohio

For some Club members I can offer only guesses for dates of death:

William A. Henry: probably between 1947 and 1952, probably
Providence, Rhode Island
Guy H. Kelso: probably between 1947 and 1952, probably Providence,
Rhode Island

It is amazing to think that a fiftieth reunion of the Providence Amateur Press Club on October 30, 1964 would have found six club members still living:

Fred Byland, Peter McManus, Edmund Shehan, Eugenie Kern, Caroline (Miller) Barlow, and John T. Dunn.²¹ A sixtieth reunion on October 30, 1974 would have found three club members still living: Eugenie Kern, Caroline (Miller) Barlow and John T. Dunn. However, from July 1979 until his death in May 1983, there was only one survivor remaining: John T. Dunn. We are richly blessed that Father Dunn was interviewed by L. Sprague de Camp about the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1975. His crystal-clear memories are the best picture we have of the Club, its members and the young lady who dared to ask H. P. Lovecraft for a date. Hopefully, the tapes of the de Camp interviews of Father Dunn²²—or at least transcripts thereof—survive.

I do not know whether any of the Club members remained friends after the 1914-16 period when the Club was active. What the seven survivors might have made of each other had a fiftieth Club reunion been held on October 30, 1964, and what they might have remembered about the Club itself and the famous H. P. Lovecraft, we will never know. I certainly do not share Lovecraft's class-based disdain for the members of the Club. He was probably right to remember Victor L. Basinet and John T. Dunn as the best intellects of

21 A twenty-fifth Club reunion on October 30, 1939 would sadly already have missed H. P. Lovecraft, who died on March 15, 1937. A twentieth reunion on October 30, 1934 could still have included Lovecraft. In my imagination, all of the Club members except Victor L. Basinet (then resident in Los Angeles) were able to attend this special event. Father Dunn came by train from Portsmouth, Ohio and his sister Anna L. Dunn by train from New York City. Fred and Winnie Byland hosted the anniversary celebration at the Irish-American Club at 767 Westminster Street and Peter J. McManus provided a tour of the Central High School complex as a preliminary event. There were four tables with six guests at each table: (a) the "Henry" table with William & Mary Henry, John and Mary (Henry) O'Haire, Arthur E. Henry and Eugenie M. Kern; (b) the "Dunn" table with Rev. John T. Dunn and Anna L. Dunn, John T. & Margaret (Dunn) Clark, James J. Dunn and Margaret G. (Metcalf) Heald; (c) Fred & Winifred Byland, Guy & Elizabeth Kelso, and Edmund L. Shehan & Catherine E. Shehan (his daughter); (d) H. P. Lovecraft and Sarah J. Henry (the sought-for date finally accomplished!), John & Catherine (Miller) Barlow, and Peter & Margaret McManus. I like to imagine what fun the guests might have had at this imaginary gathering. An invocation by Father Dunn would doubtless have commenced the proceedings, followed perhaps by a telegram from former Club President Victor L. Basinet in California. At some point in the rounds of speeches and toasts it would have been the turn of Lovecraft himself and I like to imagine some of his words: "A nonentity such as I requires no biographer, but were I to have one he would doubtless be negligent to omit the important formative influence the members of this Club had on his subject. ... I am pleased to remedy a long neglect by escorting to the festive table Miss Henry, who so long ago asked me a question and received no reply. I have to admit that my late mother had no very high opinion of this Club and its members; had I been free to make my own choice, I would doubtless have accepted Miss Henry's request for a 'date.' I can say tonight that she remains as lovely and charming as she was when I first encountered her at the Club's Commodore Street meetings twenty years ago..."

22 De Camp (YML, p.173) specifically noted that much of his two-hour interview with Rev. John T. Dunn on the afternoon of May 20, 1975 was tape-recorded.

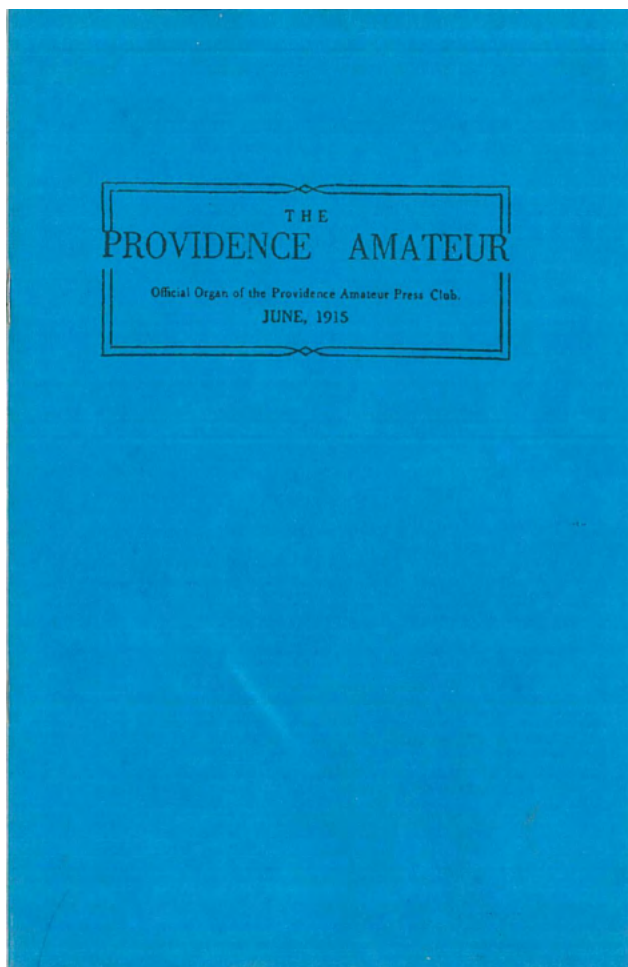
the club, and both of them went on to careers of accomplishment—Basinet as an artist and Dunn as a Roman Catholic priest. But the others certainly did not lead lives worthy of contempt. William A. Henry became the proprietor of his own sporting goods business, and his sister Sarah J. Henry (she who dared ask Lovecraft for a date) was a jewelry saleswoman for the prestigious Cherry & Webb department store. Caroline (Miller) Barlow married a university professor and raised a family. Eugenie M. Kern never married and ended a lifelong teaching career at West High School in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Mildred (Metcalf) Heald took over her deceased husband's hat business in Providence and continued it for over twenty years. Edmund L. Shehan was a skilled machinist, Guy H. Kelso a carpenter, and Peter J. McManus a public school janitor. Fred A. Byland had a varied career, working for many years at Gorham, then as a coffee and tea merchant, then as a state of Rhode Island employee. Byland and his wife Winifred were minor figures in the Democratic party machine in Providence.

I do not make any representation that the bare vital statistics which comprise the majority of this monograph succeed in bringing to life the erstwhile members of the Providence Amateur Press Club. We can only imagine the lively meetings of those twenty-year-olds in 1914-16 with the help of Father Dunn's recollections and the other facts developed by Lovecraft's biographers. However, I hope this monograph does achieve the objective of informing us about the members of the Club from the perspective of the outer events of their lives. Of the Club members other than Lovecraft, I had — until the pictures found for this second edition — seen only the photograph of Victor L. Basinet at the 1915 N.A.P. A. convention. The Club fiftieth reunion on October 30, 1964 must remain forever a fantasy. As a poor substitute I offer in the remainder of this monograph what little I have been able to discover about the erstwhile members of the Providence Amateur Press Club. I have relied primarily on the electronic records of Ancestry, Inc., consulted at the Glenview Public Library, and on the New England Historic Genealogical Society's on-line database of the Providence, Rhode Island vital records. I could have done better work had I had access to a complete set of Rhode Island Directories. I am grateful to bookseller Jim Weyant for selling me a copy of the 1914 Providence Directory—this purchase inspired me to continue research on the members of the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-16.

I hope there will be more advances in research regarding the Club in future years. Perhaps the Providence School Department does retain records of evening high school enrollees which include various Club members. If so, we may be able to find out where they attended their advanced English course. It may even be possible that H. P. Lovecraft attended such a course, if

the record would be separate from his regular high school transcript at Hope Street High School. Perhaps other researchers interviewed other members of the Providence Amateur Press Club before they died. It is only a shame that Edward H. Cole's vast correspondence files, apart from his correspondence with H. P. Lovecraft, were destroyed. They would probably have contained correspondence with Victor L. Basinet and John T. Dunn which would shed further light upon the Club. Lovecraft's own surviving letters need to be reviewed further for more references to the Providence Amateur Press Club and its members. Perhaps we can even find the given name of Club member — Reilly in a surviving Lovecraft letter. A more skilled family history researcher than I with complete access to local resources in Providence can undoubtedly clear up some of my doubts and correct some of my errors. In the meantime, we can only imagine what fun those young members of the Providence Amateur Press Club must have had back in 1914–16. What a strange creature most of them must have found Howard Phillips Lovecraft! If they made fun of him, I nevertheless doubt that they were very cruel. Lovecraft's biographer L. Sprague de Camp believed that Lovecraft's involvement with these young, blue-collar contemporaries probably helped to broaden his horizons at an earlier stage than might otherwise have occurred.

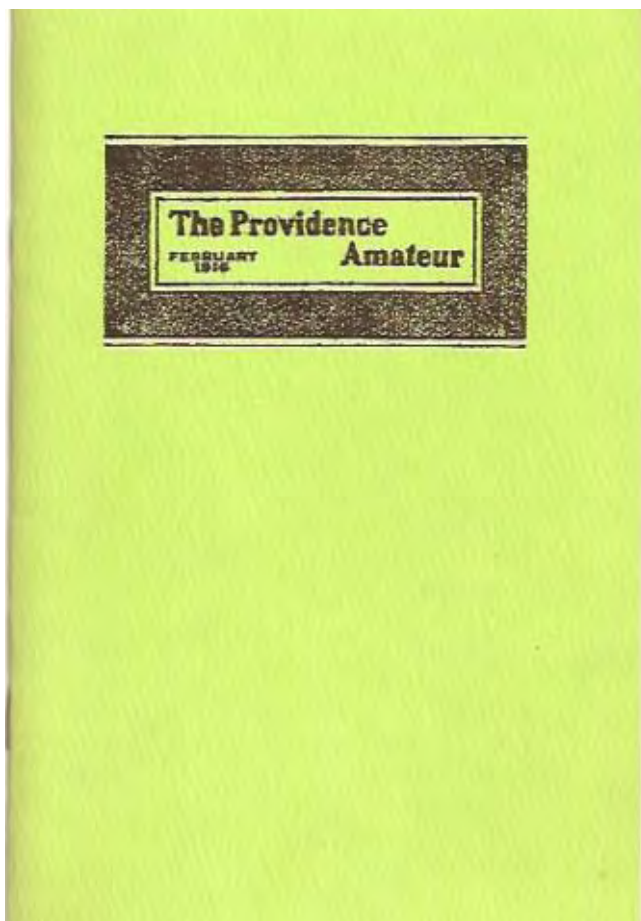
In the following sketches, the lines appearing in italics at the beginning of each sketch derive from Lovecraft's poem "To the Members of the United Amateur Press Ass'n From the Providence Amateur Press Club," first published in the June 1915 number of *The Providence Amateur*. Appendix I provides further details concerning the parents and siblings of John T. Dunn. Appendix II provides further details concerning the parents and siblings of William A. Henry. Appendix III, added for the this second edition, gives suggestions for further and contextual reading.



Cover of *The Providence Amateur*, June 1915 (5" x 7¼")

The Providence Amateur, Vol. 1, No. 1, June 1915.

- 1 · To the Members of the United Amateur Press Ass'n from the Providence Amateur Press Club · H. P. Lovecraft · poem
- 3 · Our Candidate · Anon. · article
- 5 · Exchanges · Anon. · article
- 7 · Editorial · John T. Dunn · editorial
- 8 · On acknowledgements · John T. Dunn · article
- 10 · For Historian — Ira A. Cole · Anon. · article
- 11 · Members of the Providence Amateur Press Club · Anon. · article



Cover of *The Providence Amateur*, February 1916 (4¾" x 6¾")

The Providence Amateur, Vol. 1, No. 2, February 1916.

- 1 · Death · Edmund L. Shehan · poem
- 2 · Editor's Note to The Irish and the Fairies · H. P. Lovecraft · note
- The Irish and the Fairies · Peter J. MacManus · article
- 6 · A Post-Christmas Lament · John T. Dunn · poem
- 7 · The Making of a Motion Picture · Edmund L. Shehan · article
- 9 · Editorial · H. P. Lovecraft · editorial
- 13 · To Charlie of the Comics · H. P. Lovecraft · poem; uncredited.
- 14 · The Bride of the Sea · Lewis Theobald, Jr. · poem; H. P. Lovecraft under a pseudonym.

FOUNDING MEMBERS



Victor L. Basinet, in 1912.

Victor L. Basinet

*As President above the others set,
Firm in his rule, see gifted Basinet,
By his bright genius all the club was made;
In every act his wisdom is displayed.
Of broadest sympathy, he seeks to lend
A pitying ear to all, and all befriend;
With fearless mien he scorns oppressive laws,
And stands a champion of the people's cause.*

Date & Place of Birth: March 14, 1889, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: October 9, 1956, Los Angeles, California

1914 Providence Directory Address: 14 Gordon Avenue

Club Offices: President, 1914-15

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

Victor L. Basinet served as the first president of the Providence Amateur Press Club and was one of the prime movers in its foundation.²³ He was the son of the veteran printer Louis A. and his wife Effie R. Basinet. In 1914, Louis Basinet was operating the Atlantic Printing Company at his father's print shop at 35 Cranston Street in Providence. The display advertisement on page 1198 of the 1914 Providence Directory indicated that the company performed "book and job printing" and indicated a specialty in "translating and printing in French." — his father had been raised in Quebec , so must have known French well. The 1914 and 1915 Directories list Victor as a designer boarding in his parents' home at 14 Gordon Avenue in Providence; in the 1913 Directory, Victor had been listed as an artist at the same address. He had been enumerated as an artist boarding in the Providence home of his 49-year-old Canadian-born father Louis A. and 45-year-old Rhode Island-born mother Effie R. when the 1910 census was taken. When Victor registered for the draft on June 5, 1917, he was residing at 431 East 26th Street in New York City and was working as a nurse at Bellevue Hospital. He had brown eyes and black hair and classified himself as a conscientious objector. Lovecraft remarked in his letter to Edward H. Cole of November 23, 1914, that Basinet was an extreme socialist and Basinet's name can be found in FBI "Old German Files 1909-1921" available on a fee basis on the Internet. By January 1920, when the U.S. census was enumerated, Basinet had removed to Los Angeles, California, where he was living in the home of physician William D. Judge and working as a hospital orderly. He claimed birth in Kentucky of a Canadian-born father and an Irish-born mother.

Changing his name to "Victor Hugo Basinet" (perhaps in admiration for the famous French writer), Basinet did eventually attain recognition as an artist. A short biography on the Ask/ART site on the Internet (citing Edna Hughes's "Artists in California, 1786-1940," *Who's Who in American Art 1938-41* and *Artists of the American West* (Doris Dawdy), provides the following information:

"Born in Providence, RI on March 14, 1889. Basinet was a pupil of Hugo Bruel, Jean Goucher, Antonio Cremonini, Angelo Carducci, and David Siqueiros. He lived in both Monterey and Los Angeles during

23 Next to Lovecraft himself, Basinet was probably the Club member who was most active in the amateur journalism hobby. He attended the convention of the National Amateur Press Association (N.A.P. A.) in Brooklyn, New York in July 1915, which caused Lovecraft to express concern about his loyalties to John T. Dunn (JTD, p.171). The October 1915 number of Lovecraft's own amateur journal, *The Conservative*, mentioned that Basinet intended to issue his own amateur journal, *The Rebel* (q.v., JTD, p.166, note 8). I do not know whether Basinet ever actually published any numbers of *The Rebel*.

the late 1930s. He died in the latter Oct. 9, 1956. Member: LA AA; Charcoal Club (LA); Bloc Mural Painters (LA), American Artists Congress (LA), 1938. In: USC; NMAA; Gaelic School (Dublin Ireland).”

Who's Who in American Art (1935), gives further details...

“BASINET, Victor Hugo, 2600 So. Hoover St.; h. 1008 West Adams St., Los Angeles; summer, Monterey, Calif. Mural P. Des. Dec — Born Providence, R.I., March 14”

Basinet is also listed in Peter Hastings Falk (ed.), *Who Was Who in American Art* (1999). He illustrated Ernest R. Trattner's *The Autobiography of God* (New York: Scribner, 1930). Four of his paintings are owned by the Smithsonian Museum of American Art: “Don Francisco Avila House, Los Angeles” (1936) [1979.10.2], “Fisherman's Wharf” (1936) [1964.1.170], “Point Lobos” (1935) [1967.74.2] and “Wharf Markets” (1936) [1964.1.171]. The painting “Point Lobos” had formerly been in the collection of the U.S. Department of Public Welfare, Receiving Home for Children, Washington, D.C.

Frederick Aloysius Byland



Frederick Aloysius Byland, in 1912.

*Next of the band, the quiet Byland see,
Whose gifts are mix'd with gentle dignity.
With forceful logic does the scholar think;
With pleasing style his thoughts are trac'd in ink.*

Date & Place of Birth: June 5, 1894, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: February 1967, Providence, Rhode Island
1914 Providence Directory Address: [not listed; but probably living
with his widowed mother at 29 Republican St. (her address in 1913
and 1915 directories)]

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

Fred was the son of Swedish-born Albert and Irish-born Margaret Byland. His father Albert was listed as a watchman boarding at 46 South Main Street in the 1892 Providence Directory. Albert (last name spelled "Bylund") married Margaret Sullivan in Providence on May 17, 1892. They had a first son Albert W. Bylund, born in Providence on March 3, 1893, who died there on October 5, 1893, aged seven months. Younger brother Frederick was born in Providence on June 5, 1894. Albert apparently returned to Sweden for a visit in 1897. A 1900 Providence Business Directory lists Albert as proprietor of a wine and liquor business at 334 Atwell's Avenue; another directory of the same year lists Albert as a clerk at 64 Fountain Street, residing at 33 Spruce Street. In the 1900 U.S. census, Albert and his family were enumerated at 4 Brayton Avenue in Ward 4. Albert, born August 1861 in Sweden, was a naturalized citizen, having emigrated to the United States in 1882, and was working as a bartender. His wife Margaret, born in Ireland in May 1867, had emigrated to the United States in 1886. Albert, aged 46, died in Providence on October 6, 1906. I did not find either Fred or his widowed mother Margaret (Sullivan) Byland in the 1914 Providence Directory. However, Margheret Bylund, widow, was listed at 29 Republican Street in the 1913 Providence Directory and listed there again in the 1915 Providence Directory. I conclude that Fred and his mother were probably at 29 Republican Street when the Club was founded in 1914. Fred's mother, Margaret followed her husband in death at age 58 in Providence, Rhode Island on March 11, 1926.

When Fred registered for the World War I draft in 1917-18, he was residing at 1 Ericsson Place (off Atwell's Avenue) and working as a metal turner for the Gorham Manufacturing Company in the Elmwood section of Providence; he listed his widowed mother as a dependent. When the 1920 census was enumerated, Fred was recorded with his widowed mother Margaret at 1 Ericsson Place and his occupation listed as a jeweler at Gorham; in this census Fred claimed that both his mother and his father were born in Ireland.

(The home at 1 Ericsson Place was shared for many years with members of the Vallely family, who may have been relatives.) Providence directories through 1930 continued to list Fred at this address. On September 14, 1922 Fred married Winifred C. Hand in Providence. The 1930 census recorded Fred residing at 1 Giles Place with his wife Winifred; he was apparently still at Gorham since his occupation was listed as silver worker in a silver factory; the 1931 Providence Directory also reflected Fred's changed address.



Gorham Silversmiths, Providence, 1906. Gorham was one of the biggest local employers in Providence, and the possible employer of H.P. Lovecraft's father as a salesman.

Fred continued to be listed as a silversmith in the Providence Directories through 1935; beginning in the 1938 Providence Directory, however, Fred was listed as proprietor of a tea and coffee business operating from his home at 1 Giles Place. Fred and his wife Winifred continued to be listed in the tea and coffee business at 1 Giles Place through the 1947 Providence Directory. It's interesting to note that from 1900 onward the Byland [Bylund] family resided in the Atwell's Avenue area, gradually moving westward along the avenue from Spruce Street, to Republican Street, to Ericsson Place, and finally to Giles Place.

The 1932 Providence Directory reflected Fred's service as secretary of the Irish American Club at 767 Westminster Street and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. By 1941 and 1942, he was serving as secretary of Hope Council no. 398 of the Knights of Columbus at 14 Greene Street. When registering for the draft again in 1942, Fred listed his employer as the State Department of Public Works in the State Office Building in Providence. The 1942 Directory also listed his wife as president of the Rhode Island Women's Democratic Club meeting at 340 Weybosset Street the fourth Thursday of every month. In the 1952 and 1957 Directories, Fred was listed as co-ordinator in the state Division of Automotive Equipment. In the 1964 Providence Directory, Fred was listed as superintendent of the State Automotive Maintenance Unit—perhaps he had received a promotion. During all this time he and his wife remained at 1 Giles Place in Providence. The Social Security Death Master File records Fred's

death in Providence in February 1967. His widow Winifred (born May 11, 1895) died in Pawtucket, Rhode Island in July 1981.

John Thomas Dunn



John Thomas Dunn, seen in 1912

*Next Dunn behold, whose active, well-stocked mind
Is worth a hundred of the pompous kind.
Learned but modest, sure of what he knows,
His wit and sense in endless ways he shows.
Skilled in dispute, with none he fears to vie,
But picks up L——’s faults in history.
From his quick tongue the proofs abundant roll,
And Hugo’s quoted ‘gainst the mighty C——!*

Date & Place of Birth: January 2, 1889, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: May 24, 1983, Portsmouth, Ohio

1914 Providence Directory Address: 83 Commodore Street

Club Offices: Official Editor, 1914-15

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*:
[unsigned editorial material], June 1915
“Editorial,” June 1915 [signed J.T.D.]
“On Acknowledgements,” June 1915 [signed J.T.D.]
“A Post-Christmas Lament,” February 1916

John was the son of Patrick and Mary Dunn. His father Patrick Dunn, the son of Thomas and Mary Dunn, was born in Ireland in December 1847 and died in Providence on June 4, 1908. Patrick Dunn was a house builder which probably explains why his sons James and John became plumbers. John's mother Mary Dunn, was born in Ireland in March 1847 and followed her husband in death in Providence on February 3, 1911. When the 1900 census was enumerated, John was enumerated in his parents' home at 83 Commodore Street in Providence along with siblings Mary (b. June 1874, bench hand); James (born August 1878, plumber); Anna (born March 1883, at school); and Margaret (born August 1886, at school). All the children had been born in Rhode Island. When the 1910 U.S. census was taken, the widowed Mary Dunn was the head of household at 83 Commodore Street, where her children Anna L. (saleswoman, shoe store), Margery C. (dressmaker), and John T. (plumber) were also enumerated. Providence Directories from 1915 through 1923 continued to list John T. Dunn as a plumber at 83 Commodore Street. His sister Margaret was also listed there in the 1917, 1919 and 1921 Directories and his brother James (also a plumber) in the 1917 Directory. In the 1921 and 1923 Providence Directories, there was apparently another John T. Dunn in Providence, a salesman at 88 Massachusetts Avenue.

Some of Dunn's letters from Lovecraft have survived and are preserved in the Lovecraft Collection at Brown University. They were edited by S. T. Joshi, David E. Schultz and John H. Stanley and published in *Books At Brown: 1991-1992* (JTD). Dunn refused to register for the draft in 1917, and was sentenced to twenty years in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia. Dunn was, however, released after two years of imprisonment and apparently returned to the plumbing trade in Providence, Rhode Island. However, he eventually entered Mount St. Mary's College and Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland and was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood on May 29, 1930. Assigned to the Diocese of Columbus Ohio, he worked as chaplain at Mercy Hospital from 1932 until his retirement in 1969. Late in life, he was interviewed by L. Sprague de Camp regarding his association with Lovecraft for de Camp's 1975 biography of the author.

Lovecraft ghost-wrote the poem “Lines on Graduation from the R.I. Hospital's School of Nurses” (AT, pp.104-106) for Dunn's sister Anna L. Dunn

to read at her graduation; the poem was published under the name of John T. Dunn in *The Tryout* for February 1917. Lovecraft sent the poem to Dunn along with his letter dated January 31, 1917 (JTD, pp.210-211). Lovecraft's letter to Dunn dated February 19, 1917 (JTD, pp.212-213) further noted that the author had sent the poem to Charles W. Smith for publication in *The Tryout* under Dunn's name. I do not know whether Anna L. Dunn actually read the poem before her graduating class at the Rhode Island Hospital School of Nursing, nor do I know whether Lovecraft ever had the opportunity to meet the proud graduate.

I have not found John T. Dunn in the 1920 or 1930 U.S. censuses. He did not repeat his refusal to register for the draft in 1942. His registration reflected his employment as chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Portsmouth, Ohio. He gave the name of Anna L. Dunn of 33 Ardmore Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island as his nearest relative.

Please refer to Appendix I for a further discussion of the parents and siblings of John T. Dunn.

Eugene [Eugenie] M. Kern



Eugene M. Kern, in 1912.

*Amongst the throng a shining light discern:
'Tis Kipling's own disciple, Mistress Kern.
Th' instructed fair, with ev'ry talent grac'd,
Decides the mode in literary taste.*

Date & Place of Birth: December 25, 1893, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: April 1977, Providence, Rhode Island

1914 Providence Directory Address: 372 Branch Avenue

Club Offices: Vice President, 1914-15

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

This club member was of German ancestry; in German, Eugene is the female form of the male name Eugen. I will use Eugenie here to make her sex clear although both Eugene and Eugenie appear in the vital records. Her father Augustus M. Kern was born in Germany in October 1870, the son of Michael and Eugene Kern. Her mother Susan J. (McGill) Kern was born in New Jersey in January 1871, the daughter of an Irish-born father and a Nova Scotia-born mother. Eugenie's parents wed in Providence on June 4, 1890. They had a large family, all born in Providence, including Joseph (born October 17, 1891), Eugenie (born Christmas Day, 1893), Helen L. (born February 15, 1896, died December 15, 1911); Augustus F. (born November 18, 1897), Rosa (born August 17, 1899), Susan (born September 10, 1901), Charles (born September 8, 1903), George A. (born April 21, 1905), William (born June 15, 1908, died May 10, 1910) and Mary (born December 7, 1910). When the 1900 census was taken, Augustus M. Kern was recorded with his large family at 605 Charles Street in Providence; his occupation was given as teamster. By the time of the 1910 census, August had moved his large family to 21 Touro Street. However, Augustus M. Kern died young, aged only 41 years, on May 16, 1912 in Providence. In the 1914 Directory, widow Susan J. Kern remained in the home at 21 Touro Street while Augustus F. Kern, a clerk, and Eugenie M. Kern, a teacher, were boarding at 372 Branch Avenue. When the 1920 census was enumerated in January 1920, Susan Kern and her children Augustus F. (accountant in bleachery), Eugenie M. (teacher), Rosa (hooker in bleachery), Charles (stretcher in bleachery) and George were all recorded at 372 Branch Avenue. Augustus F. Kern married Anna V. Sullivan in Providence on

February 16, 1920 and their daughter Eileen A. Kern was born in Providence on August 21, 1920.

The widowed Susan J. Kern continued to reside at 372 Branch Avenue through the 1931 Providence Directory. Her daughter Eugenie M. Kern was recorded in the Cranston Directories in 1924 and 1926; she was teaching at Knightsville School under Principal Mildred L. Watrous and residing in Providence. The 1928 Pawtucket Directory recorded Eugenie M. Kern as a teacher at Samuel Slater Junior High School at 23 Abbott Street under Principal Albert L. Copeland and Dean S. Wilhelmina Bennett. She was still at Samuel Slater Junior High School in 1935, residing at 225 Lowden Street in Pawtucket, but had transferred to West Senior High School (now Charles E. Shea High School) by 1942.²⁴ Her residence address from 1938 onward appears to have been 14 Hillside Avenue in Providence. Her brother Augustus Ferdinand Kern died in East Providence, Rhode Island in September 1971. At least two other siblings married in Providence: Rosa L. Kern and Dennis A. Lawton on April 14, 1926 and George A. Kern and Evelyn L. Shea on June 22, 1929.

Howard Phillips Lovecraft



Howard Phillips Lovecraft, in 1915.

²⁴ I thank Robin Panchuk, Library Media Specialist at Charles E. Shea High School, who searched the school yearbooks from the 1940s through the 1950s for a photograph of Eugenie M. Kern for me. Unfortunately, the yearbooks from this period did not include faculty photographs.

*Gaze last on H.P.L., whose bookish speech
But bores the auditors he tries to teach:
Whose stiff heroics ev'ry ear annoy;
Whose polysyllables our peace destroy.
The stilted pedant now can do no worse,
For he it is that writ this wretched verse!*

Date & Place of Birth: August 20, 1890, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: March 15, 1937, Providence, Rhode Island

1914 Providence Directory Address: 598 Angell Street

Club Offices: Literary Director, 1914-15; Official Editor, 1915-16

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*:

"To the Members of the United Amateur Press Ass'n from the Providence Amateur Press Club," June 1915

"Editor's Note" [prefacing "The Irish and the Fairies"], February 1916 [signed H.P.L.]

"Editorial," February 1916

"To Charlie of the Comics," February 1916 [as by "Lewis Theobald, Jr."]

"The Bride of the Sea," February 1916 [as by "Lewis Theobald, Jr."]

Lovecraft also wrote a note on a Club member in the Dept. of Public Criticism column of the *United Amateur*, May 1915:

"Some Objections to Moving Pictures", by Edmund L. Shehan [as printed in Daas's amateur journal *The Lake Breeze*, March 1915], presents a strong array of evidence against one of the most popular and instructive amusements of today. We do not believe, however, that the objections here offered are vital. The moving picture has infinite possibilities for literary and artistic good when rightly presented, and having achieved a permanent place, seems destined eventually to convey the liberal arts to multitudes hitherto denied their enjoyment. Mr. Shehan's prose style is clear and forceful, capable of highly advantageous development.

Peter Joseph McManus

[Not included in Lovecraft's poem on the members of the Club.]

Date & Place of Birth: August 4, 1888, Mullagh, Rooskey, County Roscommon, Ireland

Date & Place of Death: October 1971, Providence, Rhode Island 1914
Providence Directory Address: 3 Jackson²⁵

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*:

"The Irish and the Fairies," February 1916

It seems appropriate that the author of "The Irish and the Fairies" (*The Providence Amateur*, February 1916) was the only one of the original eight members of the club to be born in Ireland. Listed as a laborer, he sailed on the *S.S. Majestic* from Queenstown on May 20, 1909, arriving in New York City May 27, 1909, with final destination in Providence, Rhode Island. His contact person was "Mrs. McManus" at his birthplace address. Peter appears to have engaged in janitorial work for most of his working lifetime in Providence and was employed in this capacity for many years by the Providence Public Schools. He married Margaret M. Aldworth in Providence on June 11, 1918.²⁶ There were at least two Peter McManuses in Providence during these years, both of whom registered for the draft in 1942: (1) our Peter Joseph McManus, residing at 90 Moore Street and working at the Providence School Department Administration Building at 20 Summer Street and (2) Peter Francis McManus (born December 2, 1890, Fall River MA), residing at 86 Comstock Avenue, and

²⁵ Since there were at least two men named Peter McManus in Providence during these years, this identification is only tentative. The 1914 Directory listing for Peter McManus at 3 Jackson Street does not provide any additional information. In the 1913 and 1915 Providence House Directories, 3 Jackson Street was identified as "The Laurence"—a boarding house. By 1917, it was occupied by Mrs. Mary Fuller, who operated a rooming house at the adjoining address 5 Jackson Street. Today Jackson Street remains as Jackson Walkway ending at Cathedral Square.

²⁶ When the 1910 U.S. census was enumerated, Margaret M. Aldworth, a white single female aged 23 years, and Hannah M. Aldworth, a white single female aged 20 years—both born in Ireland of Irish-born parents—were working as servants in the home of Matthew S. and Alice B. Dwyer at 70 East Manning Street in Providence. Mr. Dwyer, a white male aged 50 years, born in Massachusetts of Irish-born parents, was then working as a newspaper journalist. The Dwyers' daughter Mary M. aged 1 year 8 months, was also living in the household.

working for Merritt-Chapman-Scott & George A. Fuller at the Naval Air Base in Quonset, Rhode Island.

So care must be taken and I am not absolutely sure that the sole “Peter McManus” of the 1914 Providence Directory (see above) was our Peter. I have not found our Peter in either the 1910 U.S. census or the 1920 U.S. census nor have I found him in the 1917-18 World War I draft registrations.²⁷ There were three Peter McManuses listed in the 1913 Providence Directory: a laborer residing at 191 Lockwood Street; a porter, residing at 9 Alphonso Street; and another laborer boarding at 49 Robinson Street. By way of contrast, the 1914 Providence Directory, listed only one Peter McManus, boarding at 3 Jackson.²⁸ The Ancestry, Inc. database of Rhode Island city directories includes the 1915 and 1917 Providence House Directories but at the time of writing they were not searchable. I am reasonably confident that the Peter J. McManus who resided at 54 Canton Street in the 1919, 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1926 Providence Directories was our Peter—in 1919 and 1921, Peter’s occupation was recorded as “clerk,” in 1923, 1925 and 1926 as “packer.”²⁹ In the 1927 Directory, Peter J. McManus, residing at 73 Regent Street, was listed as janitor at Althea School at 245 Althea Street. In 1929 and 1930, Peter J. was janitor at the Hammond Street School and still resided at 73 Regent Avenue. By 1930, there was another Peter J. McManus (wife Elizabeth) residing at 235 Dean Street. (To

27 The 1910 U.S. census provides two reasonable possibilities, both outside Providence. Peter McManus, a single white male aged 23, and Owan McManus, a single white male aged 20, were recorded as boarders at St. Joseph’s Hospital on Pleasant Street in New Bedford, Massachusetts. Both were born in Ireland of Irish-born parents. Peter worked as a gardener for the hospital, and Owan worked as a coachman for the hospital. Less likely, Peter McManus, a single white male aged 23, and Thomas McManus, a single white male aged 21, were living in the home of Oscar and Martha Reehil at 505 47th Street in Manhattan. Both had been born in Ireland of Irish-born parents, and they were both nephews of the head of household. Mr. Reehil was a street railway conductor, and his nephew Thomas (a 1906 emigrant) also followed that occupation. Peter McManus, a 1906 emigrant, was a saloon bartender. It is interesting to note that the 1910, 1911 and 1912 Providence Directories listed a Peter McManus, laborer, residing at 246 Richmond Street, and an Owan McManus, gardener, residing at 100 Lockwood Street. I am uncertain whether these were the same McManuses (brothers?) who resided in New Bedford, Massachusetts when the 1910 U.S. census was taken and whether this Peter McManus may be identified as our Peter J. McManus. The 246 Richmond Street address was listed as vacant in the 1913 Providence Directory.

28 The 1914 Directory also listed one decedent Peter McManus, laborer, who died, December 24, 1913. According to the Providence vital records, the decedent Peter McManus was the son of Francis and Margaret McManus, and was 41 years old when he died.

29 The 1917 Providence House Directory listed Mrs. Catherine McManus and Felix McManus (jeweler) at 103 Canton Street, but the McManus family is so numerous I do not believe there is much chance that they were related to our Peter. In 1917, 54 Canton Street was occupied by Arthur Hoyle (carpenter).

make things even more interesting, there was a Peter McManus, clerk, residing at 110 Prairie Avenue as well.) When the 1930 U.S. census was taken, Peter J. McManus and his wife Margaret were recorded at 73 Regent Avenue on April 10, 1930. Peter was paying \$20 monthly rent and working as a public school janitor. He was a naturalized U.S. citizen and gave 1908 as his emigration year. Both he and his wife Margaret gave their ages as 42 and stated that they were born in the Irish Free State of parents also born there. Margaret did not work outside the home and was also a naturalized U.S. citizen and gave 1908 as her year of emigration. They had no children in their household and both stated they had been married at age 30. Regrettably, the 1930 U.S. census did not ask for number of children born and number of children living.

In 1933, our Peter J. was listed at 32 Canton Street and in 1935 at 17 Huron Street, with occupation listed as janitor in both years. In the 1938 Directory, Peter J. McManus and his wife Margaret M. were listed at 68 Regent Avenue; Peter's occupation was listed as "helper" at 20 Summer Street room 105 (this was the administration building for the Providence School Department). By 1940, Peter and his wife had removed to their longtime address at 90 Moore Street, where he was residing when he registered for the draft in 1942. In the 1942, 1943, and 1944 Directories, Peter's occupation was given as assistant janitor for the School Department. In the 1947, 1952, 1953, and 1956 Directories, Peter and Margaret remained at 90 Moore Street. Peter's occupation was listed as custodian for the School Department. In the 1957 Directory, Peter's occupation was listed simply as janitor, and starting with the 1958 Directory, Peter no longer had any occupation listed—perhaps he had finally retired at age seventy. Peter's wife Margaret M. McManus continued to be listed with him in Directories through 1960; however, she is missing from the 1964 Directory and presumably died between 1960 and 1964.³⁰ In the 1964 Directory—the last available to me on Ancestry—Peter was listed as retired, with home at 90 Moore Street.

For a Club which had its origins in an evening high school class, it seems appropriate that one of the last survivors, Peter Joseph McManus, spent most of his working career as a janitor for the Providence School Department. He seems to have worked at the central high school complex in downtown Providence during the final years of his career with the School Department.

30 Between 1958 and 1964, there was another Margaret M. McManus in Providence, working as a operator or supervisor at New England Telephone & Telegraph, and residing at 12 Grover Street. Perhaps she is the Margaret McManus in the Social Security Death Master File, born October 27, 1897, who died in August 1986, with last residence in Providence, Rhode Island.

Mildred G. Metcalf [married name Heald]

[Not included in Lovecraft's poem on the members of the Club.]

Date & Place of Birth: January 5, 1894, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: Probably 1964, probably in Providence

1914 Providence Directory Address: 14 Catalpa Road³¹

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

Mildred's parents Edward P. Metcalf and Mary E. Gardiner married in Providence, Rhode Island on June 18, 1885. Edward, the son of Franklin and Narcissa S. (Potter) Metcalf, was born in Providence on September 6, 1859. Franklin, the son of Jesse and Eunice H. (Horton), Metcalf, married Narcissa S. Potter in Providence on July 11, 1855 and died in Providence on January 28, 1908, aged 75 years. Jesse Metcalf and Eunice D. Horton (daughter of John) had married in Providence on April 19, 1812; Eunice died as Jesse's widow in Providence on May 17, 1858, aged 65. So Mildred G. Metcalf came from a long line of Providence Metcalfs. When the 1900 census was taken in June 1900, Edward P. Metcalf and his family were enumerated at 179 Pocasset Avenue in Providence. Edward was working as a bank examiner. In addition to his wife Mary (born April 1864, New Jersey), there were three daughters: Alice B. (born October 1888, New Jersey), Margaret (born April 1890, New Jersey), and Mildred G. (born January 1894, Rhode Island).

Mildred married Herbert S. Heald in Providence on January 28, 1919. Herbert Shepley Heald had been born in Valisburg, New Jersey on May 11, 1894, the son of another Herbert Heald. When the family was enumerated in Orange, New Jersey on June 11, 1900 for the U.S. census, the senior Herbert Heald (born September 1865 in England) was residing at 17 Berwick Street and working as a hat finisher. With him were his wife Maria Heald (born December 1870 in England) and their children Herbert Jr. (born May 1894, New Jersey) and Alice M. (born February 1898, New Jersey). By 1910, Herbert Sr. and his family had removed to 105 Jenkins Street in Providence. Herbert Jr. soon took over the hat finishing business at 103 Westminster Street

31 Mildred Metcalf has no listing in the 1914 Providence Directory, but was probably living with her parents Edward P. and Mary E. (Gardiner) Metcalf at this address.

in Providence from his father. However his 1919 marriage ended tragically; for Herbert Shepley Heald, aged only 25, died in Providence on August 28, 1919, after only seven months of marriage.

As Herbert's widow, Mildred M. Heald continued the hatting business at 103 Westminster Street. When the 1920 census was taken on January 8, 1920, she was enumerated with her parents at 14 Catalpa Road. Her occupation was listed as "proprietor—hat store."

Mildred M. Heald, Raymond H. Burton and Thomas Z. Lee have received a charter under the name of the Heald Hat Works, Providence, R. I., and will continue the business of making and repairing hats at the present location in that city. The company is capitalized at \$10,000.

Heald noted in the journal *America Hatter*, c.1919.

Her father Edward P. Metcalf died in Providence on July 20, 1924, aged 64 years, but Mildred continued to reside at 14 Catalpa Road. In Providence Directories from 1929 to 1938 her business at 103 Westminster Street was listed as "Heald Hat Works." When the 1930 U.S. census was taken, Mildred was listed with her widowed mother at 14 Catalpa Road; her occupation was given as "proprietor millinery shop." In the 1933 and 1935 Providence Directories, Mildred M. Heald was also listed as an active member of the Providence Quota Club.

Between the compilation of the 1938 and 1940 Providence Directories, Mildred sold the Heald Hat Works at 103 Westminster Street (room 1) to Benjamin F. Bachand. Mr. Bachand was still listed as proprietor of this business in the 1944 Providence Directory, but the business disappeared from the Providence Directories in 1947 and later. Perhaps like many small service businesses it fell victim to societal changes in the postwar years. Mildred M. Heald, widow of Herbert S. Heald, continued to be listed at 14 Catalpa Road through the 1947 Providence Directory; beginning with the 1952 Providence Directory, she was listed at 161 Medway Street. In the 1964 Providence Directory, she had removed a few doors to 159 Medway Street. It seems most likely that Mildred M. Heald died sometime during the remainder of the 1960s—before the Social Security Death Master File became very comprehensive. Probably in 1964, probably in Providence. None of the Mildred Healds listed in that reference are a reasonable match for Mildred (Metcalf) Heald.

Caroline Miller [married name Barlow]



Caroline Miller, in 1912

*Prepare ye now to shed unwonted tears,
As Mistress Miller with her pen appears:
The Queen of Fiction; with pathetic art
She melts the coldest and the hardest heart.
The reader tries to leave such scenes of pain,
Yet, charm'd against his will, he reads again.*

Date & Place of Birth: July 16, 1891, Pennsylvania

Date & Place of Death: July 1979, Sudbury, Massachusetts

1914 Providence Directory Address: 45 Shiloh Street

Club Offices: Secretary-Treasurer, 1914-15

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

A Caroline Miller was born to Charles and Margaret S. Miller in Providence, Rhode Island on October 18, 1881, but I do not believe she is

our Caroline Miller. Perhaps this other Caroline Miller was she who married Charles Harris on Providence on September 26, 1900. Our Caroline Miller was a stenographer at 327 Westminster Street in the 1914 Providence Directory, but it is her residence address “bds. 45 Shiloh” that provides the crucial clue. In the same Directory, we also find at 45 Shiloh Street Mrs. Mary Miller (head) and additional boarders Marie and Louise (working as sewer). The 1910 census taken in April 1910 provides additional information about this family. Enumerated on Shiloh Street in that census were Marie Miller (head), widow, aged 57, born in France; her daughter Marie, aged 29, also born in France; her daughter Caroline, aged 18, born in Pennsylvania; her daughter Louise, aged 16, born in Pennsylvania; and her son Henry J., aged 8, born in Rhode Island. All three daughters were working in a woollen mill when the 1910 census was enumerated. Caroline Miller was the Secretary-Treasurer of the club for the 1914-15 term and *The United Amateur* for November 1914 gave her address as 27 Henrietta Street, which is not far from Shiloh Street in the Wanskuck neighborhood of Providence. (The 1915 Providence House Directory listed Joseph Curran (weaver) and James Appleton (laborer) at 27 Henrietta Street; neither man was listed at this address in the 1914 Providence Directory. So perhaps Caroline Miller was at 27 Henrietta Street briefly in 1914-15.) The 1915 Providence House Directory listed Mrs. Marie Miller at 45 Shiloh Street and indeed the entire street was full of weavers and spinners. A Mrs. Marie Miller was also listed at 1497 Broad Street as housekeeper for travelling salesman William L. C. Potter; if the housekeeper at 1497 Broad was live-in she was probably Caroline’s sister Marie rather than her mother Marie although the residence at 45 Shiloh could still have been listed under the elder Marie’s name even in her absence. The Marie Miller, widow of John³², aged 64 years, who died in Providence on April 16, 1918 was in all likelihood the elder Marie.

In the meantime, daughter Caroline Miller had married John Barlow in Providence on December 20, 1917. That our Caroline was indeed the 1917 bride is shown by the 1920 U.S. census of South Kingstown, Rhode Island taken in January 1920. Therein, John Barlow, aged 50 (born New York), teacher in the agricultural college, was enumerated with his wife Caroline Barlow, aged 28 (born Pennsylvania of French-born parents) and their son John P. Barlow, aged 1 year 2 months (born Rhode Island). I think the wife’s French-born parents (i.e., the elder Marie and her husband) make our identification of the

32 If Marie Miller’s husband John Miller died in Providence during the period 1901-10, the following are possibilities: John W. Miller of Joseph & Mary, aged 37 years, died June 16, 1901; John S. Miller of John G. & Lorena, aged 59 years, died November 2, 1906; or John L. Miller of John & Susan, aged 48 years, died November 2, 1909.

1917 bride very likely. In the 1917 South Kingstown & Narragansett Directory, John A. M. Barlow (wife Caroline) was listed as a professor of Zoology at RISC with home on South Road in Kingstown. In the 1930 census, John Barlow, aged 56, college professor, was enumerated on South Road in South Kingstown with his family: wife Caroline, aged 39 (born Pennsylvania, parents born in France), son John P., aged 11, born Rhode Island; son David E., aged 9, born Rhode Island; and daughter Caroline M., aged 3, born Rhode Island. The dates of birth and death and place of death for my Caroline Barlow are taken from the Social Security Death Master File record. Caroline F. Barlow, born August 13, 1927, died November 10, 1993 in Harmony, Rhode Island also appears in this file and may very likely be the daughter of John and Caroline (Miller) Barlow.

Edmund Leo Shehan

*Turn now to Shehan; his pointed prose reveals
A man whose mind the censor's duty feels.
The flickering film, the moving picture stage,
Are lash'd in scorn by his discerning rage.
The bold reformer naught of vigour lacks,
And idle Pleasure shakes at his attacks.*

Date & Place of Birth: March 12, 1891, Johnston, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: May 1972, Warwick, Rhode Island

1914 Providence Directory Address: 30 Alverson Avenue

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*:

"Death," February 1916

"The Making of a Motion Picture," February 1916

In the 1900 U.S. census of Providence (ward 8) taken in June 1900 we find enumerated on Whittier Avenue the household of John Shehan (born November 1859, New York), wool-sorter, including: wife Caroline Shehan (born March 1864, Rhode Island); son Edmund Shehan (born March 1891,

Rhode Island); and son Thomas Shehan (born March 1893, Rhode Island). In the 1910 U.S. census, taken in April 1910, the same family was still at 224 Whittier Avenue. John Shehan was still working as a wool-sorter at a woollen mill while son Edmund L., aged 19, was working as a loommaker at the loom works and son Thomas E., aged 14, was working as a clerk in a drug store. The 1914 Providence Directory recorded John H. Shehan, wool sorter, residing at 30 Alverson Avenue, and sons Edmund L. and Thomas E. (steamfitter) boarding at the same address, far out the Plainfield Pike near Neutaconkanut Hill Park. When he registered for the draft in 1917-18, Edmund L. Shehan, still single, was still residing at 30 Alverson Avenue and working as a reed maker for Crompton E. Knowles in Providence. When brother Thomas E. Shehan (born March 4, 1893, Johnston, Rhode Island) registered for the 1917-18 draft, he was also residing at 30 Alverson Avenue, he was also still single and listed his occupation as steamfitter although he was currently unemployed. John H. Shehan (wool sorter) was still head of household at 30 Alverson Avenue in the 1917 Providence Directory, with son Edmund L. Shehan (lensmaker) as a boarder.

Sometime before May 9, 1920, Edmund L. Shehan married, because Catherine Shehan, daughter of Edmund L. and Ida Shehan, was born in Providence, Rhode Island on that date. Daughter Helen was born in Providence on May 14, 1922, and an unnamed son was born (and died the same day) in Providence on August 12, 1926. In the 1921 Providence Directory, Edmund L. Shehan, machinist, was residing at 135 River Avenue. In the 1941 Providence Directory, we find residing at 50 River Avenue Catherine Shehan, widow of John; Catherine E. Shehan, clerk; Edmund L. Shehan, clerk; and Helen Shehan, hairdresser. When he registered for the draft in 1942, Edmund Shehan was still residing at 50 River Avenue and working for the Department of Public Works (sewer maintenance) at 37 Ernest Street. In the 1953 Providence Directory, Catherine E. Shehan was recorded as secretary for the Imperial Knife Company, residing at Cranston, Rhode Island. Perhaps her father had removed from Providence by this time as well; he would have been approaching retirement age by 1953.

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

William Aloysius Henry

[Not included in Lovecraft's poem on the members of the Club.]

Date & Place of Birth: April 3, 1884, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

1914 Providence Directory Address: 93 Commodore Street

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

Our sole reference from this member of the Club is L. Sprague de Camp's interviews with Rev. John T. Dunn, M.F., on May 20-21, 1975, which he reported in his essay "Young Man Lovecraft" (YML). Dunn, of course, had been one of the leaders of the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-16 and shared his vivid memories of Lovecraft with de Camp.

Dunn acknowledged in his interviews with de Camp that the twenty-somethings who made up the club tended to make fun of the staid Lovecraft. De Camp reported (YML, p.174):

"Another member of the Providence Amateur Press Club, living next door to Dunn, had a sister named Sadie Henry. Once Miss Henry, visiting at Dunn's house, as a joke among the circle of friends, telephoned Lovecraft and suggested that he take her out on a date. Lovecraft said: 'I'll have to ask my mother,' and nothing came of it."

William's birth record in the Providence vital records (April 3, 1884) specifies his middle initial as "J", not "A"—perhaps he adopted a confirmation name for use as a middle initial in adult life. William was working as a clerk for Adams Express and boarding at his father's home at 93 Commodore Street when the 1914 Providence Directory was compiled. When he registered for the draft in 1917-18, he was living at 60 Pinehurst Avenue in Providence and working as a clerk for the U.S. Finishing Company in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. He had married Mary C. Sullivan in Providence on November 8, 1916.

William A. Henry was later, according to the *Providence Magazine* (1922, Vol.34, p.161) one of the Town Criers, independent publicists for the city:

The Town Criers by William F. Baker, William A. Henry, Edward Sartorius, Samuel Burchiel, and H. Harold Price.

This group appears in the online record as early as 1912. The book *Music, Sound, and Technology in America* (2012) tells us more of this group, in respect of the experience of a visiting musician in March 1924:

The first intimation of the widespread interest in this trip was the receipt by Mr. Rothafel of hundreds and hundreds of postal cards from an organization known as the Town Criers welcoming him to Providence...

The book *Making Time: Lillian Moller Gilbreth* (2004) notes the group as “the Town Criers, a Providence ‘booster’ club”. The contemporary journal *Gas Age-Record* (1924, Vol.53, p.22) is a tad more specific, noting the group as:

The Town Criers of Rhode Island, the advertising club of Providence R.I., is one of the liveliest clubs of its kind in the United States. It has a large membership and holds weekly noon-day luncheons at the largest hotel in the city.

By the time of the 1930 census, William and his wife Mary were residing at 38 Gantian Avenue in Providence and their household included a daughter Barbara A. Henry, aged 12 (born November 18, 1917, Providence), and a son William A. Henry [Jr.], aged 3 years 10 months (born June 28, 1926, Providence). William was then working as manager of a sporting goods store.

In the 1942 and 1947 Providence Directories, William was recorded as president-treasurer of W. A. Henry, Inc. (incorporated under Rhode Island law in 1936), a sporting goods business operating at 8 Weybosset Street in Providence. His home remained at 38 Gantian Avenue in Providence. When the 1952 Providence Directory was compiled, William A. Henry was deceased and his widow Mary C. Henry, still residing at 38 Gantian Avenue, was serving as president-treasurer of the sporting goods business at 8 Weybosset Street. In the 1957 and 1964 Providence Directories, Mary remained at the same home and in the same business. Son William A. Henry Jr., also in the sporting goods business, was recorded with his wife Hope L. Henry, residing at 98 Kentland Avenue. In the 1964 Providence Directory—the most recent accessible to me

online—William A. Henry, Jr. had replaced his mother as president-treasurer of the athletic goods business at 8 Weybosset Street and Mrs. Barbara A. Powers (probably William's daughter Barbara) had joined the firm as secretary. The Mary Henry (born April 10, 1896) who died in March 1982, with last residence East Providence, Rhode Island, may possibly have been William's widow.

William A. Henry, Jr. served in the U.S. armed forces in the Pacific theater during World War II and was a 1951 graduate of Brown University. After closing or selling the family sporting goods business, he worked for twenty years for the Rhode Island Department of Employment & Training. He and his wife were the parents of five sons. He died on October 1, 2005 in North Providence, Rhode Island. He was a longtime parishioner of St. Augustine Church in North Providence.

It is really speculation that William Aloysius Henry, the youngest son and Charles H. and Catherine Henry, was the member of the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-16, but he seems by far the most likely candidate among the five Henry brothers. In the 1914 Providence Directory, the sons listed in the family of Charles H. Henry at 93 Commodore were Arthur E. (laborer) and William A. (clerk, Adams Express Company). Son John F. Henry (laborer) had his own home at 71 Commodore Street. Son Charles S. Henry (car repairer) had his own home at 34 Waling Street. Son Robert J. Henry had his own home at 363 Manton Avenue. Daughter Mary E. Henry had married John J. O'Haire in Providence on September 25, 1912 and she and her husband also made their home at 93 Commodore Street. Daughter Margaret E. Henry had married neighbor William Shierson in Providence on April 16, 1896; she and her husband made their home at 49 Commodore Street. Unmarried daughter Sarah J. Henry (of whom more anon) remained at home at 93 Commodore Street. So we are left with the youngest son William Aloysius Henry as the probable member of the Providence Amateur Press Club in 1914-16.

What then of Rev. John T. Dunn's "Sadie" Henry, sister of William Aloysius, who made bold to ask Lovecraft for a date over the telephone? As remarked above, our best date of birth for Sarah J. Henry (June 3, 1879) comes from the published Providence vital records. Some sources give her middle initial as "L" rather than "J"—perhaps reflecting a variation in name preference between second baptismal name and confirmation name. Sarah was enumerated in the parental home at 93 Commodore Street (numbered 22 in 1880) in the 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 U.S. censuses. She was also enumerated in this home with her sister Mary E. (Henry) O'Haire (with her husband John J. O'Haire and three sons) and her brother Arthur E. Henry in

the 1930 census. In all of these censuses, her marital status was single—never married. In 1900 and 1910, her occupation was given as stone setter in the jewelry business. In 1920, she was an inspector in a machine shop. In the 1923 Providence Directory, she was listed (as Sadie L. Henry) as a jeweller residing at 93 Commodore Street. By 1930, however, she had become a saleslady in a department store, in which occupation she remained for the rest of her working lifetime. The 1940 and 1941 Providence Directories listed her at 93 Commodore Street and listed her occupation as saleswoman at Cherry & Webb. The 1947 Providence Directory was the last to list Sarah J. Henry's occupation as saleswoman; she was still listed as residing at 93 Commodore Street in the 1952 Providence Directory but with no occupation given. The 1958 Providence Directory listed Sarah J. Henry for the last time, giving her residence as 93 Commodore Street and her date of death as June 26, 1957.

Whether H. P. Lovecraft ever ventured within the portals of the Henry family home at 93 Commodore Street is unknown. One wonders what the family patriarch Charles H. Henry would have made of the young Anglophile, especially in the wake of the bloody suppression of the 1916 Easter Rising by England. Of his numerous children, the youngest son William Aloysius Henry and the middle daughter Sarah J. ("Sadie") Henry (born between her sisters Margaret E. and Mary E.) seem to have been the most ambitious and upwardly mobile. William became the proprietor of his own sporting goods business and Sarah worked the jewelry counter at the prestigious Cherry & Webb department store. It is wonderful that John T. Dunn's recollections make it possible for us to identify these early acquaintances of H. P. Lovecraft in the amateur journalism hobby.

It should be noted that the Providence Directories for many years listed "Sadie G. Henry" as a dressmaker or milliner at 851 Atwell's Avenue. This Sadie G. Henry (Sarah Henry) was born in July 1876 according to the 1900 census. According to the 1952 Providence Directory, this Sarah G. Henry died on May 20, 1951. It should also be noted that the William Alan Henry (1867-1941) of 111 Priscilla Avenue in Providence who married into H. P. Lovecraft's branch of the Phillips family came from a completely different family than that of Charles and Catherine Henry of 93 Commodore Street; his parents were of Scottish rather than Irish birth.³³ Further details concerning the parents and siblings of William A. Henry may be found in Appendix II of this work.

33

For the William Alan Henry who married into Lovecraft's branch of the Phillips family, refer to Kenneth Faig, *Some of the Descendants of Asaph Phillips and Esther Whipple of Foster, Rhode Island* (Glenview, Illinois: Moshassuck Press, 1993), pp.144-146.

Guy Harold Kelso

[Not included in Lovecraft's poem on the members of the Club.]*

Date & Place of Birth: June 28, 1878, Island Falls, Maine

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

1914 Providence Directory Address: 56 Olney Street

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

H. P. Lovecraft wrote to John T. Dunn on October 14, 1916: "Pres. Campbell lately requested me to remind Messrs. Kelso and Wright of this State that their membership has expired; but judging from your club's attitude toward Kelso, and the rather hopeless nature of his verse, I think I will confine my persuasions to Mr. Wright, who never became really active" (JTD, p.199). Paul J. Campbell was President of the United Amateur Press Association in 1915-16 and had written Lovecraft to ask that he encourage Messrs. Kelso and Wright to renew their memberships. Guy Kelso may be found in the 1909 Cranston Directory, boarding at 45 Wilbur; his occupation was given as carpenter. In the 1910 U.S. census of Providence, he was enumerated as a lodger on Walnut Street, occupation carpenter. Guy Kelso married Elizabeth A. Kelley in Providence on October 5, 1911. In the 1914 and 1915 Providence Directories, he was listed at 56 Olney Street. In 1915, a clerk James Kelly, perhaps a relation of Guy's wife, was residing at the same address.

When he registered for the draft on September 10, 1918, Guy was residing at 49 Grand View Street in Providence. He worked as a carpenter for Charles Maguire in Newport, Rhode Island. His contact person was Lily A. Kelso, also residing at 49 Grand View Street. In the 1920 U.S. census of Providence, taken in January 1920, Guy was enumerated with his wife Elizabeth A. Kelso (aged 42, born Rhode Island) and his son Harold J. Kelso (aged 7, born Rhode Island). Guy was still working as a carpenter. He was born in Maine of a New Brunswick-born father and a Maine-born mother. He appears to have briefly tried his hand at songwriting for the music halls and recording industry, as evidenced by *The Catalog of Copyright Entries* 1922 recording the song "Kissing is the soul of love", with music by A. Leopold

Richard, and words by Guy H. Keslo. The 1929 Providence House Directory recorded Guy Kelso at 99 Doyle Avenue and gave his occupation as “internal revenue.” (This is the only record I have found where he is not identified as a carpenter by trade—perhaps he had secured government employment as a carpenter.) In 1930, he was recorded in the Cranston Directory at 62 Tucker Avenue. When he registered for the draft again in 1942, Guy was residing at 4 Mallett Street in Providence. He gave his birthplace was Island Falls, Maine and designated Lily A. Kelso as his contact person. His employer at the time was Merritt-Chapman-Scott on Quonset Point in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. In the 1947 Providence Directory, Guy H. Kelso, carpenter, with wife Elizabeth, was listed at 4 Mallett Street. The 1952 Providence Directory listed Elizabeth Kelso, widow of Guy H., at the same address, so presumably Guy Kelso died sometime between the compilation dates of the 1947 and 1952 Providence Directories. Keslo died 1950, according to a family tree enquiry I found at genforum.genealogy.com.

(*) But note the following poem “[On Kelso the Poet]” (A.Ms., Lovecraft Collection, Brown University) (AT, p.223):

*Poor Kelso the poet, defending his verse,
Forbids us to laugh, since we're like to write worse.
Sure, 'tis horribly rough, and unmanly as well,
To sneer at a bard whom you cannot excel!
But I'm thinking myself, that although I am told
That my rhyming is bad, and my manner be old,
It would hardly be difficult, dull tho' I be,
To prove I'm not quite such a bungler as he.
So in spite of his warning, I must, for a while,
Give vent to my feelings by cracking a smile!*

— — **Reilly**

*Observe skilled Reilly, erudite and wise.
Who all his art to stately prose applies.
Of matchless culture, and refinement rare.
His polish'd page reflects the author's care.*

Date & Place of Birth: [missing]

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

1914 Providence Directory Address: [missing]

Club Offices: [none known]

Writings in *The Providence Amateur*: [none]

The 1914 Providence Directory recorded 114 males with the surname Reilly, distributed as follows: Andrew, 1; Bernard, 4; Charles, 9; Clarence, 1; Cornelius, 1; Daniel, 2; Edward, 5; Felix, 1; Francis, 6; Frank, 3; George, 5; James, 14; John, 18; Joseph, 4; Lawrence, 2; Mathew or Matthew, 2; Michael, 3; Nicholas, 1; Owen, 2; Patrick, 5; Peter, 7; Philip, 1; Richard, 1; Robert, 1; Sylvester, 1; Terrence, 1; Thomas, 9; William, 4. In the Providence births for the period 1875-1900, there are 62 males with surname Reilly. Identification of Club member — Reilly appears unlikely unless we can find a Lovecraft letter or another source which provides his given name (or better yet, full name and address). Since the home of John T. Dunn at 83 Commodore Street served as something of a center for Club activities, I did search for male Reillys living on nearby streets in the 1914 Providence Directory and came up with John P. Reilly, clerk, residing at 192 Silver Spring Street, located about 0.40 Mapquest miles from the Dunn home at 83 Commodore Street. Margaret Reilly, clerk, was listed as a boarder at 192 Silver Spring Street in the 1914 Providence Directory. The only John Reillys born in Providence without conflicting middle initials whom I found in the 1875-1900 period surveyed were: John of John W. and Mary E., born November 19, 1889, and John of John P. and Catherine M., born November 14, 1891.³⁴ (In all, there were twelve John Reillys born in Providence during the period surveyed but all but these two and John P. J. Reilly had conflicting middle initials. John P. J. Reilly, of Patrick and Mary, born September 13, 1891, alas, died May 11, 1896, aged 4 years.) I have not

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Of course, middle initial usage can vary, especially among Catholics who may favor a second baptismal name at one point during their lives, and a confirmation name at another point. The twelve John Reillys born in Providence, Rhode Island between 1875 and 1900 whom I found were: (1) John J., of John J. & Margaret, born March 5, 1877; (2) John E., of Edward & Ann, born September 18, 1884; (3) John J., of Peter & Annie, born May 18, 1886; (4) John M., of John F. & Catherine R., born May 20, 1886; (5) John, of John W. & Mary E., born November 19, 1889; (6) John F., of Daniel J. & Mary A., born May 24, 1890; (7) John P. J., of Patrick & Mary, born September 13, 1891 (died May 11, 1896, aged 4 years); (8) John, of John P. & Catherine M., born November 14, 1891; (9) John R., of Peter J. & Catherine, August 24, 1897; (10) John J., of John & Bridget, born November 2, 1897; (11) John J., of John & Anastasia, born March 10, 1898; (12) John R., of John & Annie, born October 29, 1898.

been able to find a sister Margaret with the same parents as either of the two John Reillys identified as candidates. With only propinquity of residence to the Dunn household as an identifying factor, it does not seem worthwhile to pursue further research concerning John P. Reilly of 192 Silver Spring Street. The next step would surely be to look for him in the U.S. censuses and additional Providence Directories. It is quite possible that he was not born in Providence.

Appendix I

The Parents and Siblings of John Thomas Dunn

Father: Patrick Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: December 1847, Ireland [1900 U.S. Census]

Date & Place of Death: June 4, 1908, Providence, Rhode Island, stated age 58 years

According to his Providence death record, Patrick Dunn was the son of Thomas and Mary Dunn. His occupation was given as housebuilder in the 1900 census. According to his daughter Anna's 1925 passport application, Patrick sailed from Liverpool, England in 1870 and settled in Providence. Patrick and his family were already had their home on Commodore Street in Providence when the 1880 U.S. census was taken.

Mother: Mary (— —) Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: March 1847, Ireland [1900 U.S. census]

Date & Place of Death: February 3, 1911, Providence, Rhode Island, stated age 61 years

Widow Mary Dunn was head of the household at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1910 U.S. census was taken.

Brothers and Sisters

(I) Francis P. Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: between January 27, 1870 and November 22, 1870, place unknown

Date & Place of Death: January 26, 1880, Providence, Rhode Island, stated age 9 years

Francis died the same day as his younger brother Henry W. Dunn (II).

Francis was probably born not less than nine months before the birth of his younger brother Henry. Francis's birth is not recorded in the Providence vital records, so he may have been born in Ireland, at sea, or in transit to Providence.

(II) Henry W. Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: August 22, 1871, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: January 26, 1880, Providence, Rhode Island, stated age 8 years

Henry died on the same day as his older brother Francis P. Dunn (I).

(III) Mary E. Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: June 8, 1875, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Mary was recorded in her parents' home at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1900 U.S. census was taken. She was then unmarried and working as a bench hand. Her date of birth was misstated as June 1874.

I lose track of Mary E. Dunn after the 1900 U.S. census. She was not in her widowed mother's home at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1910 U.S. census was taken. It is possible that she was the Mary Dunn who was employed as a cook in the home of widow Sarah G. (Mrs. Leander) Peck at 369 Broadway in Providence when the 1910 census was taken. This 39-year-old single female servant was born in Rhode Island of Irish-born parents—however, her age stated age was five years older than Mary E. Dunn's actual age (34) in early 1910. (It is possible that Mrs. Peck favored older women for employment as servants and that Mary Dunn misstated her age to gain employment. The other servant in Mrs. Peck's 1910 household was Irish-born Elizabeth L. Curry, whose age was stated as 36 and whose occupation was given as "waitress—private family.")

The Providence vital records contain two marriage records for Mary E. Dunn that could possibly fit our Mary Dunn: (1) Mary E. Dunn and William A. Miner, September 9, 1920) and (2) Mary E. Dunn and Patrick Maguire, November 25, 1922. I searched the 1930 U.S. census on Ancestry for "Mary Miner" and "Mary Maguire" born in Rhode Island during the period 1870 to 1880 but failed to find any matches. Both of these marriages would have been

later life marriages for our Mary E. Dunn.

In the 1922 Providence Directory, there is a Mary E. Dunn residing at 47 Gordon Avenue and another Mary E. Dunn, clerk, with home at 43 Irving Avenue. I do not know whether either of these listings could be our Mary Dunn.

(IV) James Joseph Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: August 28, 1878, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: Frances M. Doyle, November 27, 1905, Providence, Rhode Island

James was recorded in his parents' household at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1900 U.S. census was taken; his occupation was plumber. James undoubtedly followed his father into the building trades, and James's younger brother John (VII) probably followed his older brother into the plumbing trade. James did business as a plumber in Providence and surrounding communities for nearly fifty years.

After his marriage in 1905, James and his wife resided in East Providence. When the 1910 U.S. census was taken, they were recorded at 33 Turner Avenue in East Providence, along with their young son John Dunn, aged 1 year, born in Rhode Island. James's wife Fannie was stated to be 33 years old, born in Rhode Island of Rhode Island-born parents, the mother of one child. James was a plumber with his own business.

By 1914, however, James was again listed at 83 Commodore Street. When he registered for the draft on September 12, 1918, he was residing at 243 Vincent Avenue in East Providence and was employed as a master plumber by Meriwether & Dunn at 31 Turner Avenue in Riverside, Rhode Island. He listed Margaret C. Dunn (sister) at 83 Commodore Street as his nearest relative. The 1917 Providence Directory listed both James and his younger brother John T. Dunn as plumbers at 83 Commodore Street.

I have not found James Dunn in the 1920 or 1930 U.S. censuses. When he registered again for the draft in 1942, James Dunn was residing at 11 Turner Avenue in Riverside, Rhode Island. He was self-employed and gave his business address as 9 Turner Avenue in Riverside. His sister Margaret C. (Dunn) Clark of 31 Ardmore Avenue in Providence was listed as contact person. The 1941-42 East Providence Directory listed James J.

Dunn's plumbing, heating and sheet metal work business at 9 Turner Avenue in Riverside; his home was listed as 31 Ardmore Avenue in Providence. The 1946 East Providence Directory listed James J. Dunn, plumber, at 9 Turner Avenue with residence in Providence. The 1947 Providence Directory listed James Dunn, plumber, residing at 31 Ardmore Avenue. I do not find James J. Dunn in the 1952 Providence Directory or the 1953 East Providence Directory. He probably died between 1947 and 1952.

(V) Anna Lorennna [Loretta] Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: March 7, 1883, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Anna's Providence birth record gives her name as Rose A. Dunn. She apparently abandoned use of her given name Rose in favor of her middle name Ann or Anna. Lorennna is written on her 1925 passport application while Loretta appears on later ship manifests. Perhaps Lorennna [Loretta] was Anna's confirmation name.

Ann Dunn was recorded in her parents' household at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1900 U.S. census was taken. Aged 17, she and her younger sister Margaret (VI) and her younger brother John (VII) were "at school." When the 1910 U.S. census was taken, Anna L. Dunn was recorded in her widowed mother's household at 83 Commodore Street, along with her younger sister Margaret C. Dunn and her younger brother John T. Dunn. Aged 27 and single, Anna was then working as a saleswoman in a shoe store. Annie L. Dunn was recorded as a clerk boarding at 83 Commodore Street in the 1914 Providence Directory.

Anna, however, had higher ambitions than working in a shoe store. In 1917, she was graduated from the school of nursing at Rhode Island Hospital. Her brother's friend H. P. Lovecraft wrote a poem "Lines on Graduation from the R.I. Hospital's School of Nurses" for her to read at her graduation ceremony; Lovecraft sent this poem to John T. Dunn enclosed with his letter dated January 31, 1917. For some time, I was in doubt regarding which of John T. Dunn's three sisters (Mary E., Anna L. or Margaret C.) became a nurse, but a listing in the 1927 Providence Directory ("Dunn, Anne, nurse R.I. Hospital, res. at Edgewood") clinched the matter.

The 1927 entry is the only Providence Directory entry for Ann L. Dunn that I can find until the 1938 Directory, when she was first listed (no occupation given) at her long-time address of 33 Ardmore Avenue. Ann L.

Dunn continued to be listed with home at 33 Ardmore Avenue in Providence Directories through 1960. She was no longer listed in the 1964 Providence Directory and probably died between 1960 and 1964.

However, Miss Dunn spent a major part of her nursing career in the 1920s and 1930s in private duty nursing in New York City. When the 1930 U.S. census was taken, she was recorded in the home of widowed stock broker Walter Morgan, aged 72, in apartment 236 at 399 Park Avenue. Aged 40 and single, her occupation was listed as “nurse—private family.” Also in Mr. Morgan’s household in that year were: Anselmo Dunkley, a 27-year-old single Negro male born in the British West Indies, employed as butler; Maria Conway, a 52-year-old single white female, born in Ireland, employed as maid; and Susan Mahon, a 58-year-old single white female, born in Connecticut, employed as janitress. When the 1910 U.S. census was taken, Walter J. Morgan, aged 61, stockbroker, and his brother Edward A. Morgan, aged 58, also a stockbroker, were recorded at the Lorraine Hotel on East 45th Street in New York City, along with their spouses Sarah W. (Walter) and Grace S. (Edward). The Morgan brothers were apparently self-made men. While New York-born Walter Morgan claimed English-born parents in the 1930 U.S. census, the 1860 U.S. census of New York City recorded his father Walter Morgan as a butcher born in Ireland.

I do not know when Ann Dunn first entered the employment of Walter J. Morgan as private duty nurse. When she applied for a passport on March 14, 1925, she gave her residence as 350 West 110th Street in New York City and her occupation as “trained nurse.” She intended to depart by ship for Mexico on March 18, 1925. Her application was approved and her passport was issued in Washington, D.C. on March 17, 1925.

Miss Dunn had the opportunity for more international travel in connection with her employment by Walter J. Morgan. Anna Dunn sailed from Cherbourg, France on the *S.S. Deutschland* on September 9, 1932 and arrived in New York City on September 16, 1932. Her address was given as 983 Park Avenue, New York City. Her U.S. Passport 539774 had been issued in Washington, D.C. on July 16, 1932. (Walter Morgan, born July 23, 1858 in New York City, appeared on the very next line of the ship’s manifest. His U.S. Passport Number 540671 had been issued in Washington, D.C. on July 19, 1932. His residence was 983 Park Avenue, New York City.) Ann Loretta Dunn sailed from Naples, Italy on the *S.S. Conte di Savoia* on September 20, 1933 and arrived in New York City on September 28, 1933; her residence was given as 983 Park Avenue, New York City. Anna L. Dunn sailed from Southampton, England on the *S.S. Berengaria* on August 25, 1934 and arrived in New York City on August 31, 1934. Her residence was given as 983 Park Avenue, New

York City. Finally, Anna L. Dunn sailed from Cherbourg, France on May 8, 1937 on the *S.S. Europa*, and arrived in New York City on May 13, 1937. Her residence was given as 33 Ardmore Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island. Perhaps this was a final tour with her employer Mr. Morgan and she thereafter returned to Providence.

(VI) Margaret J. [C.] Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: August 28, 1886, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: John T. Clark, December 26, 1922, Providence, Rhode Island

Margaret's middle initial "J" probably reflects her second given baptismal name, while "C", also given in many records, may reflect her confirmation name.

Margaret was recorded as a schoolgirl in her parents' home at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1900 U.S. census was taken. She was recorded in the household of her widowed mother at 83 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1910 U.S. census was taken. Aged 23 and single, she was then working as a dressmaker. The 1917, 1919, and 1921 Providence Directories recorded Miss Margaret C. Dunn as a boarder at 83 Commodore Street. When the 1930 U.S. census was taken, Margaret J. Clark was recorded in her husband's household at 33 Ardmore Avenue in Providence. John T. Clark, aged 50, born in Rhode Island of parents born in the Irish Free State, was working as a jeweler. Margaret, his wife, listed no occupation, and stated the birthplace of her father as Northern Ireland and of her mother as the Irish Free State. The 1927, 1931, 1933 and 1935 Providence Directories also list John T. Clark as a jeweler with home at 33 Ardmore Avenue. About 1937, Margaret's sister Anna L. Dunn appears to have purchased 33 Ardmore Avenue; John T. Clark and his wife moved one door down the street to 31 Ardmore Avenue. The 1942, 1943, and 1944 Providence Directories listed John T. Clark (jewelry worker), with spouse Margaret J. Clark, residing at 31 Ardmore Avenue; Margaret's older brother James Joseph Dunn (IV) also resided at this address in the 1940s. John T. Clark and Margaret J. (Dunn) Clark no longer appeared in the 1947 and later Providence Directories. I do not know whether they died or relocated. James Joseph Dunn remained at the 33 Ardmore Avenue address in the 1947 Providence Directory but was no longer listed in the 1952 Providence Directory.

(VII) John Thomas Dunn

Date & Place of Birth: January 2, 1889, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: May 24, 1983, Portsmouth, Ohio

Please refer to the entry for John Thomas Dunn in the main section of this work for a biographical sketch.

Appendix II

The Parents and Siblings of William Aloysius Henry

Father: Charles H. Henry

Date & Place of Birth: December 1839, Ireland [1900 U.S. Census]

Date & Place of Death: November 16, 1926, Providence, Rhode Island, stated age 84 years

According to the 1920 U.S. Census, Charles Henry emigrated to the United States in 1865 and became a naturalized citizen in 1892. In the 1870 U.S. Census, he and his wife and two eldest sons, John and Arthur, were enumerated in Centredale, North Providence, where he worked in the woolen mill. The family was living in Providence by 1874, when daughter Margaret was born. In the 1883 Providence Directory, there were seven separate Charles Henry households in Providence, but our Charles was at 22 Commodore Street. In the 1887 Providence Directory, Charles was at 36 Commodore Street. The street was apparently renumbered in the 1890s. By 1900, the family home was at 93 Commodore Street. Charles's occupation was listed as laborer in the Providence City Directories and the U.S. censuses. One census (1900) described Charles as a day laborer and another (1910) as a laborer working in the city streets.

Mother: Catherine (— —) Henry

Date & Place of Birth: December 1842, Ireland [1900 U.S. Census]

Date & Place of Death: February 13, 1912, Providence, Rhode Island,
stated age 64 years

Brothers and Sisters:

(I) John F. Henry

Date & Place of Birth: August 1867, [probably North Providence],
Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: December 24, 1924, Providence, Rhode Island,
stated age 55 years

Married: Mary J. McCann, April 18, 1907, Providence, Rhode Island

John was enumerated with his parents and younger brother Arthur in Centredale, North Providence, Rhode Island, when the 1870 U.S. Census was taken. The family was at 22 Commodore Street in Providence when the 1880 U.S. Census was taken; 11-year-old John was "at school." The 1891-92 Providence Directories listed John as a laborer residing at 36 Commodore Street. When the 1900 U.S. Census was taken, John was enumerated as a day laborer in his parents' home at 93 Commodore Street. The McCann family at 71 Commodore Street were neighbors of the Henrys, and John and his wife lived with his parents-in-law following his marriage in 1907. John's occupation in the 1910 and 1920 U.S. Censuses was operator in a screw factory. His widow Mary J. (McCann) Henry died in Providence on February 4, 1925, aged 57 years.

(II) Arthur E. Henry

Date & Place of Birth: [probably October-December] 1869 [probably
North Providence], Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

In many records Arthur E. Henry claimed a date of birth of May 1871 (q.v., 1900 U.S. Census), but this is impossible since he was enumerated at the age of 9 months with his parents and elder brother John in Centredale, North Providence, Rhode Island, when the 1870 U.S. Census was taken.

The enumerator visited their home on August 11, 1870, which would place Arthur's date of birth between October and December, 1869, depending upon whether his age was stated as of June 30, 1870 or as of August 11, 1870. He was recorded as a laborer residing at 36 Commodore Street in the 1891-92 Providence Directories and was enumerated in his father's home at 93 Commodore Street when the 1900 U.S. Census was taken. Arthur remained single and worked as a laborer all his working life. In the 1910 and 1920 U.S. Censuses, he was recorded as a box maker in a box factory; in the 1930 U.S. Census, he was recorded as a laborer in a restaurant (i.e., probably a general helper rather than a cook or waiter). Arthur appears to have lived all the rest of his life at 93 Commodore Street. He was still listed at this address in the 1947 Providence Directory, but was no longer listed in the 1952 Providence Directory so we can probably infer that he died between 1947 and 1952.

(III) Charles Stephen Henry

Date & Place of Birth: December 15, 1872, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: (1) Catherine [Katie] T. Galligan, August 27, 1896, Providence, Rhode Island (she died, July 5, 1906, Providence, Rhode Island, aged 32 years); (2) Elizabeth Ellen Akers, April 14, 1915, Providence, Rhode Island

Charles was named for a baby brother Charles, who died in Providence on January 28, 1872, aged one month. (The existence of this baby Charles is another reason Arthur E. Henry could not have been born as late as May 1871.) Charles was the father of a son Charles S. Henry (born November 11, 1902, Providence) by his first wife Catherine and of a daughter Mary F. Henry (born January 19, 1916, Providence) by his second wife Elizabeth. His second wife Elizabeth E. Akers was a naturalized citizen, having been born in England and having emigrated to the United States in 1906. In the 1891-92 Providence Directories, Charles was listed as a laborer residing at 36 Commodore Street. When he registered for the World War I draft on September 12, 1918, he was working as a stock clerk for the Rhode Island Company (street railway) on North Main Street in Providence and residing at 1 Doyle Avenue in Providence. Charles remained in this employment when the 1920 and 1930 U.S. censuses were taken; by 1930, he and his family were residing at 67 Carver

Street in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Charles and his wife Elizabeth E. were still listed at 67 Carver Street in the 1942 and 1945 Pawtucket Directories.

(IV) Margaret E. Henry

Date & Place of Birth: December 22, 1874, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: William Shierson, April 16, 1896, Providence, Rhode Island

William Shierson was a neighbor of the Henry family on Commodore Street in Providence. The following children were born to the marriage: (i) Madeline B., May 26, 1897; (ii) William H., February 25, 1899; (iii) Helen P., November 14, 1900; (iv) Catherine R., January 31, 1908; (v) Mildred F., April 1, 1910—all births recorded in Providence except for the first-born. When the 1900 U.S. Census was taken, William Shierson and his family were residing at 49 Commodore Street in Providence. William, a naturalized citizen, was born in Ireland in December 1867 and was working as a machinist. (His wife Margaret claimed a December 1875 date of birth, shaving one year from her age.) When the 1910 U.S. Census was taken, William and his growing family were still recorded at 49 Commodore Street; William was working as a machinist in the hardware manufacturing business. (He claimed an 1882 emigration date in the 1910 census, versus 1880 in the 1900 census.) When the 1920 U.S. Census was taken, William and his family still resided at 49 Commodore Street; William was working as a school janitor, his daughter Madeline as a bookkeeper for an automobile agency and his daughter Helen as an inspector in a bleachery. In 1920, William claimed an emigration year of 1883 and an naturalization year of 1891. When the 1930 U.S. Census was taken, William Shierson, his wife and two youngest daughters were enumerated at 64 Ravenswood Avenue in Providence. William still worked as a public school janitor in 1930. Son William H. Shierson married Katherine A. Coll in Providence, Rhode Island on November 24, 1927. From 1940 onward, William's daughter Mildred F. Shierson, a stenographer or secretary at Grinnell Company, was recorded with him at 64 Ravenswood Avenue. According to the 1959 Providence Directory, William died on September 13, 1958, aged ninety years. His daughter Mildred F. Shierson remained at 64 Ravenswood Avenue in the 1959 Providence Directory, but was no longer listed in the 1964 Providence Directory.

(V) Robert Joseph Henry

Date & Place of Birth: May 6, 1877, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: (1?) Grace R. — — before 1910; (2?) Jennie — —, by 1917-18

In his early years, Robert was recorded in his parents' home on Commodore Street in Providence: as a teamster (marital status: single) in the 1900 U.S. Census; as a laborer (city streets) in the 1910 U.S. Census. When he registered for the draft in 1917-18, he was living at 139 Second Street in Woonsocket, Rhode Island with his wife Jennie Henry and was a rubber worker. In the 1920 U.S. Census, he and his wife Jennie (aged 42, born in Massachusetts of Irish-born parents) were enumerated at the same address and his occupation was listed as "vulcanizer." When he registered for the draft again in 1942, Robert was living at 261 Broad Street in Providence and was employed by Pasco Umbriaco at 90 Summer Street in Providence. He gave the name of his sister-in-law Mary (Henry) O'Haire, residing at 93 Commodore Street, as his closest relative. Joseph remained at 261 Broad Street in the 1947 and 1952 Providence Directories. He was no longer listed in the 1957 Providence Directory, which probably means that he died between 1952 and 1957. The following births to Robert J. and Grace R. Henry are recorded in Providence, Rhode Island: (i) Susie M., December 28, 1910; (ii) George I., May 20, 1912; (iii) Dorothy E., October 10, 1913. I am not certain that the father of these children was our Robert J. Henry.

(VI) Sarah J. [L.] Henry

Date & Place of Birth: June 3, 1879, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: June 26, 1957, Providence, Rhode Island

A biographical sketch of Sarah J. Henry may be found in the entry for William Aloysius Henry in the main section of this work.

(VII) Mary E. Henry

Date & Place of Birth: November 27, 1882, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: John Joseph O'Haire, September 25, 1912, Providence, Rhode Island

Mary Henry's date of birth was given as November 1881 in the 1900 U.S. Census, but the Providence, Rhode Island birth record is more reliable. She and her husband John J. O'Haire lived in the Henry family home at 93 Commodore Street in Providence after their marriage in 1912. In the 1910 U.S. Census, John J. O'Haire was enumerated as a roomer at 307 Charles Street in Providence—a 29-year-old single male, he had been born in Massachusetts of English-born parents and worked as a dyer in a bleachery. When he registered for the draft in 1917-18, John Joseph O'Haire gave his date of birth as May 20, 1879 and stated his occupation as textile finisher for the U.S. Finishing Company at 335 Division Street in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Mary Henry and her husband may have met at work, since her occupation was listed as "folder-bleachery" in the 1910 U.S. Census, and her husband's occupation was bleachery foreman (1920 U.S. census). When the 1920 U.S. census was taken, Mary and her husband had three sons: John J. O'Haire, Jr. (born September 1, 1913), Charles F. O'Haire (born ca. 1915) and Robert M. O'Haire (born January 25, 1919, Providence, Rhode Island). John J. O'Haire continued to reside at 93 Commodore Street until his death on July 1, 1956. John J. O'Haire, Jr. enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army on September 2, 1943. John J. O'Haire, Jr. (wife Elizabeth H.) was listed as a lieutenant in the Providence Fire Department, residing at 85 Brightwood Avenue, in the 1957 Providence Directory. Robert M. O'Haire (wife Amalia A.) was then working as a glass-cutter for Saintsbury's, Inc., and still resided in the family home at 93 Commodore Street. According to the Social Security Death Master File, John J. O'Haire [Jr.] died on March 12, 1988, with last residence in Providence.

(VIII) William Aloysius Henry

Date & Place of Birth: April 3, 1884, Providence, Rhode Island

Date & Place of Death: [missing]

Married: Mary C. Sullivan, November 8, 1916, Providence, Rhode Island

Please refer to the entry for William Aloysius Henry in the main section of this work for a biographical sketch.

Note: Since Catherine Henry was listed as the mother of eight children, with eight children living, when the 1900 U.S. Census was enumerated, I believe the above listing of her children to be complete. (Note in the entry for son Charles Stephen that he was actually named for a prior son Charles, who died aged one month on January 28, 1872.) The Providence vital records record the death of “Prank P. Henry” [mistranscription for “Frank F. Henry”(?)], son of Charles and Catherine Henry, on April 9, 1930, aged 49 years. While a son born ca. 1880-81 would fit into the family of our Charles and Catherine Henry, I do not believe that “Prank P. Henry” belongs to their family.

Further reading

“H. P. Lovecraft: Letters to John T. Dunn”, *Books at Brown* No 38/39, 1991/1992, pp.157-223. [Brown University journal, ‘The Lovecraft Issue.’ This is now freely available online from Brown University]

Edward McSorley, *Our Own Kind*, New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946. [Political novel of Irish American working-class family life in Providence at the start of the 20th century]

Lawrence John McCaffrey, “His own kind : Edward McSorley and the Providence Irish”, *Working Papers in Irish Studies*, 2006. [Winthrop U.]

Joel Perlmann, *Ethnic Differences: Schooling and Social Structure among the Irish, Italians, Jews, and Blacks in an American City, 1880-1935*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. [The city in question is Providence, R.I.]

Evelyn Savidge Sterne, *Ballots and Bibles: Ethnic Politics and the Catholic Church in Providence*, Cornell: Cornell University Press, 2003.

Leo E. Carroll, “Irish and Italians in Providence, Rhode Island, 1880-1960”, *Rhode Island History*, 28, 1969, pp.67-74.

The “Federal Hill Irish” blog, online at 2014, takes as its topic “The famine Irish generation and their children on Federal Hill in Providence”.

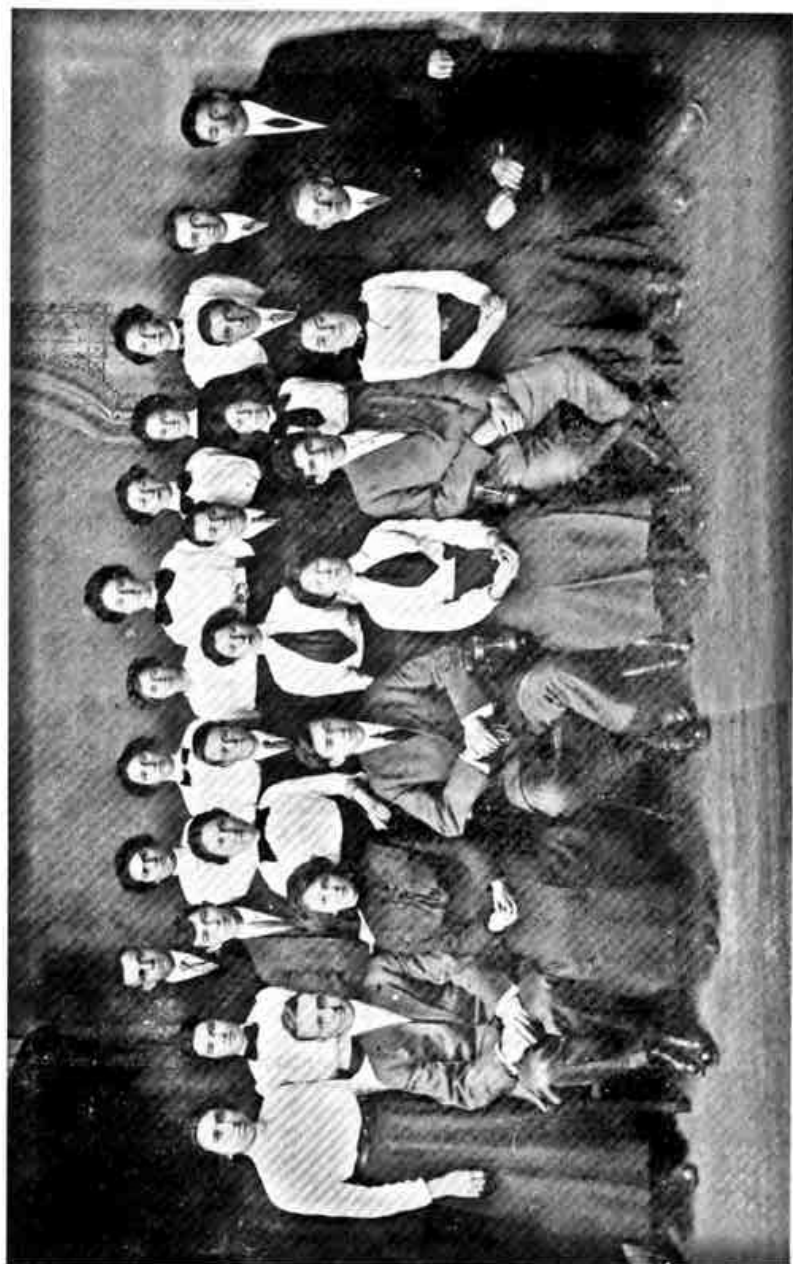


Officers of Providence Evening High School Alumni Association
 Standing—O'Brien, Jackson, Craddock, Mulvey, Hanley, McKenna.
 Seated—Coyne, Dunn, Coyle, Connorton.



Editorial Board
 Standing—Greenway, Carlson, Sloane, Basinet, Dinsmore, Coyle, Coyle, Finegan.
 Seated—Byron, Miller, Dunn, Carlson, Lavigne.

Officers the Alumni Board and the Editorial Board of the R.I. Evening High School Yearbook
 "The Comrade", April 1912. Club portraits in this book are taken from these pictures.



Graduating Class

Top Row—Smith, Miller, Band, Reilly, Flynn, Carlen, Mulry, Carlson.
 Middle Row—Miller, Crowley, Crowley, Stoeffler, Armstrong, Boys, Broughton, Jones, Greenway, Paradis, Byland, Salk.
 Bottom Row—O'Connor, Hunt, Williston, Kern, Watson, Coville, Ritzau.

From: *A Modern City: Providence, Rhode Island and Its Activities*,
University of Chicago Press, 1909.

By William Carey Poland, A.M., Litt.D.

The [Providence R.I.] evening high school, at first experimental in character, has grown in numbers and efficiency until there are today more than twenty-five members on its teaching staff. The general plan of the school as announced is somewhat as follows: Grammar-school graduates and any others who show that they are qualified to pursue the studies offered are admitted, while pupils who are not grammar-school graduates will be admitted to the classes in drawing, without examination, provided they are proficient and show some taste for the work. Instruction, elementary and advanced, is given in mathematics (commercial arithmetic, algebra, and geometry); chemistry and physics, English (grammar, composition, and literature); Latin, German, and French; drawing (mechanical, architectural, freehand, etc.); general history; commercial law, book-keeping, shorthand, and typewriting; and elocution and debating.

Whenever a pupil has completed a study as required in any course of the Providence Evening High School, and has passed an examination satisfactory to the superintendent of public schools, he receives a certificate of attainment in that study. Diplomas are awarded to those pupils who complete four hundred and sixty hours' work, and pass satisfactory examinations on the various subjects as required. Work done in day high schools receives full credit in the evening school.

In the common evening schools instruction is given in arithmetic, elementary English, geography (in higher grades), reading, spelling, United States history (in higher grades), and writing. In several of the schools, non-English speaking pupils receive special instruction in the English language. In the various schools in grammar school buildings, graded classes composed of pupils who later will apply for admission to the evening high school are given particular attention. The schools for foreigners learning English perform for the city a valuable service in making more rapid the assimilation of the large number of immigrants who naturally come to a city like Providence.

The evening schools are under the general supervision of the subcommittee on evening schools of the school committee. A supervising teacher, principals, and about one hundred and seventy-five teachers conduct the work. The evening high school in 1907 registered about 1,500 pupils, while the thirteen other evening schools numbered about 2,500 pupils, who are in attendance for a term usually covering twenty weeks.

