



The Penny News

Newsletter for the

EDWARD BELLAMY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

November 2019

Volume 3, Number 1

OUTSIDE THE ARCHIVES

We've been busy this year, and not just behind the scenes. Here's a look at where we've been.

Looking Backward to Life with the Hanifans

This summer, Jason Amos and Alison Kobierski had the pleasure of conducting an oral history with Catherine (Hanifan) Connor, whose family purchased the Bellamy House from Emma Bellamy in 1905. Mrs. Connor, daughter of photographer Daniel Hanifan, spoke about her family, the house, and her recollections of growing up in Chicopee Falls.

The information she shared will be used to expand our exhibit about the Hanifans, which currently consists of framed reproductions of Daniel Hanifan's work and a brief description of his former studio space. A new, larger panel will replace the small room description and introduce visitors to life with his family. In another corner of the former studio, we plan to create a complementary display on the history of photography.

The expanded exhibit will open to the public in 2020.

Bellamy in the Berkshires

In August, EBMA's clerk, Alison Kobierski, was invited by the Adams (Massachusetts) Historical Society to speak about Edward Bellamy's novel, *The Duke of Stockbridge*, in which Bellamy uses historical fiction to compare the events of Shays's Rebellion to the political and economic climate of the 1870s. She and EBMA president Jason Amos also had an opportunity to tour Adams's historic sites—including the Quaker Meeting House and Susan B. Anthony Birthplace Museum—with AHS president Eugene Michalenko.



Left: Alison giving her talk at the Adams Historical Society

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Right: Portrait of Daniel Hanifan that hangs in the Hanifan Room of the Edward Bellamy House



From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

The changing weather once again means that it is time to close the Bellamy House for the winter. This past year has been one of the most exciting years of my involvement with the Bellamy House, as we were able to open parts of the first floor as a museum. We began in June with a book sale to help raise money for a new roof. Then, once a month from July through September, the house was open to the public. Visitors were welcome to view the exhibits or sit in the period-furnished parlors for a 30 minute talk about the house, the Bellamy family, and the impact that Edward's writing had.

Although we were able to open some spaces to the public, a long list of repairs stands in the way of our ability to utilize the entire house to its full potential. As a non-profit, we rely solely on membership dues and donations. If you are a long-time member, I thank you for your continued support as we move forward with plans to restore the Bellamy House, Chicopee's only National Historic Landmark. If you are just learning about the Bellamy House, I encourage you to join us as a member or follow us on Facebook ([Fb.me/EdwardBellamyMemorialAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/EdwardBellamyMemorialAssociation)).

Jason Amos
President

Did you know...

...that our newsletter is named after the newspaper that Edward and his brother Charles started in February 1880? Originally a triweekly paper, the *Penny News* was more left-leaning than the other papers in Springfield. Its popularity increased so much that on May 13, 1880 it became a daily paper called the *Springfield Daily News*. By the end of the year, Edward turned his share of the newspaper over to Charles and changed his focus back to his own writing.

The *Daily News* stayed in the family until 1915. Charles continued to run the paper until his death in 1910, at which point his wife took over its management. After her death, their son, Charles Bellamy, Jr. became the owner. In 1915, Charles Jr. sold the majority of the company to Richard Hooker and Sherman H. Bowles, the president and treasurer of the *Springfield Republican*, but stayed on as the *Daily News's* president, eventually retiring in 1969.



Springfield Daily News masthead from September 1, 1954

Around the House

A big thank you goes to our volunteer yard crew this year! Donna Bigos, along with Board members Chet and Nancy Kobierski, did a fantastic job of maintaining the lawn, cleaning up the front walk, and removing trees and vines that were growing into the foundation and under some clapboards.



Left: Front walk of the Edward Bellamy House



Above: The rear ell of the house had become overgrown with vegetation that had begun to work its way into the gaps around the window and into the house

In the Archives

One of the exciting things about having done an oral history interview with Catherine (Hanifan) Connor is that it is a perfect complement to the interviews that were done with Marion (Bellamy) Earnshaw, Edward's daughter, in the 1970s. Marion was an early supporter of the Association and is the reason that we have the family items that we do. Over the course of three interviews, she talked about the house and the items she donated.

Because these interviews are on audio cassettes that are over forty years old, there is the chance that putting them in a tape player will cause them to break. One of our goals for the next year is to have them professionally digitized so we can make the content accessible without putting the recordings at risk. Once the tapes have been digitized, we hope to be able to use both Marion's and Catherine's interviews to tell the story of the house in the voices of those who lived there.

How You Can Help

- 1. Renew your membership!** The bulk of our funding comes from your annual membership dues. We wouldn't be here without you!
- 2. Volunteer to clear snow.** We're looking for a few people to take turns keeping the sidewalk and front walk free of snow this winter. Please email us if you're interested.
- 3. Lend your expertise.** If you're an experienced fundraiser or have ideas for fun and effective fundraisers, send us an email. We'd love to hear from you!
(EdwardBellamyassociation@gmail.com)



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