

HARVARD SQUARE  
BUSINESS MEN'S  
ASSOCIATION



Report  
of

Committee on Future Development  
of  
Harvard Square

1913

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
831 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139  
617 849 4663

FOR STUDY PURPOSES ONLY  
WRITTEN PERMISSION REQUIRED  
FOR ALL OTHER PURPOSES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS., June 25, 1913

*To the Harvard Square Business Men's Association,  
Cambridge, Mass.*

Gentlemen:

THE Committee on the Future Development of Harvard Square, appointed January 12, 1912, begs to submit herewith the interesting and valuable report of the Committee appointed, at the request of the Mayor of Cambridge, by the President of Harvard University. The petition to the Mayor for the appointment of this Committee was presented originally by the Committee of the Harvard Square Business Men's Association.

Your Committee asks the special attention of the members of the Association to the twelve recommendations, printed on pages 23 and 24 of the report of the Committee of Harvard University. In general your Committee endorses these recommendations so far as its knowledge of the subject warrants such endorsement. However, it looks upon some of these recommendations as being only tentative, believing that further and more detailed study should be made to confirm them. For example, the proposed widening of Massachusetts Avenue from Central Square to Harvard Square should be studied block by block, existing buildings and property values being carefully considered, before a definite plan for widening could be confidently recommended to the City Government for action.

Your Committee desires to repeat at this time the opinion expressed to the Mayor of the City in its letter of February

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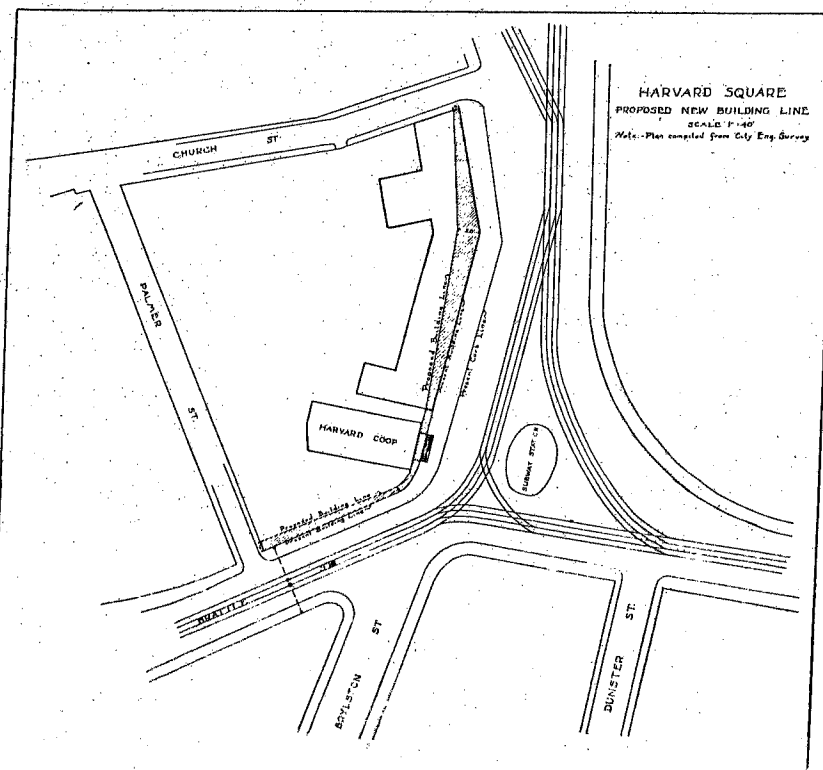
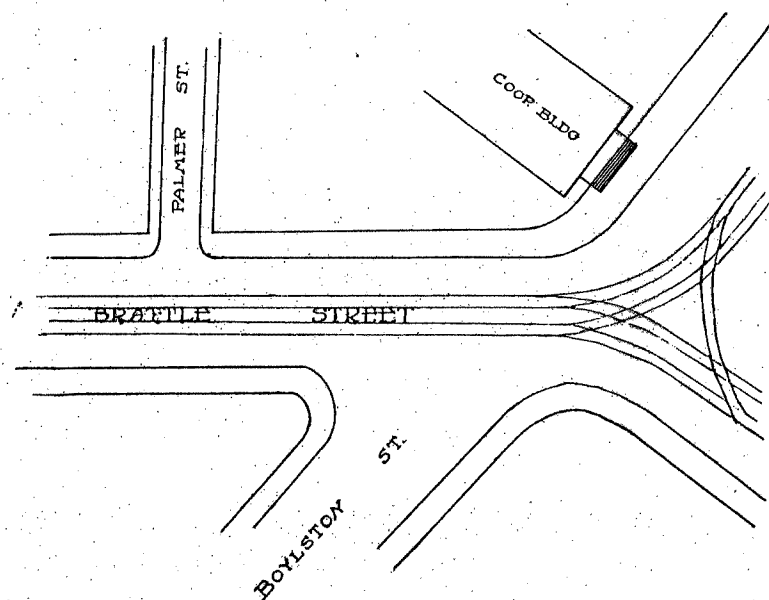
16, 1912, in which it expressed the opinion that "Harvard Square is now at the beginning of an important transition, and it would be of advantage to the City as a whole, as well as to property holders and business men, to have a plan prepared which would consider in a careful and comprehensive way all of those influences which affect the development of the Square and the streets leading from it."

The first evidence of this transition is shown in the construction, now under way, of the Dow Building, on Brattle Street, near Harvard Square. The recommendation of the Committee of Harvard University with regard to Brattle Street was as follows: "Brattle Street at this point should be widened by establishing a new building line on the north side between Brattle and Harvard Squares, as it is the one connecting link for several lines of traffic to the west and north-west which converge at Brattle Square. The present lines form a throat of only 50 feet width at this point, which is quite inadequate." In its summary the Committee said further in connection with the new building line on Harvard Square, "Especially important is the provision for greater width in the approach from Harvard Square to Brattle Square."

Between the Abbot Building and the Dow Building, Brattle Street, has at present a total width of sixty feet, divided as follows: Car tracks, 14.7 feet; two wheel ways outside car tracks, one 13.3 feet, the other 13.8 feet; two sidewalks, one 9 feet, the other 9.5 feet. Your Committee desires to call attention to the fact that the new Dow building at the corner nearest the Cooperative Society's building, is being constructed five feet beyond the building line of any previous building upon the site. In other words, the street width at this point, for a distance of fifteen feet, has actually been narrowed five feet at the time when widening is recommended. The proposed widening of a maximum

## PLAN BRATTLE STREET

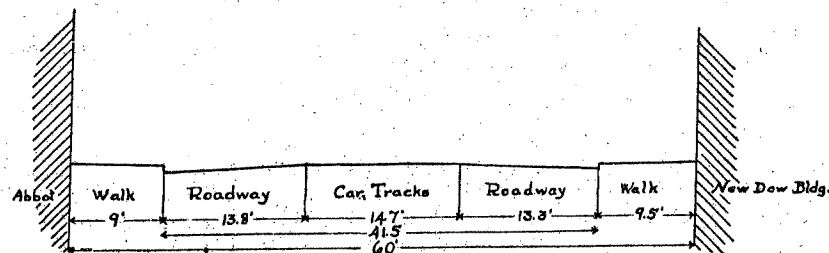
SCALE 1"=40'



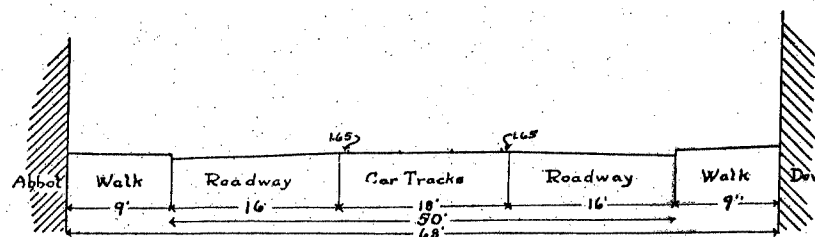
eight feet recommended by the expert Committee would have given a total width of 68 feet. This would have made possible a subdivision of the street as follows: Car tracks, 18 feet; two wheel ways of 16 feet each; and two sidewalks of 9 feet each. (See the accompanying sections of Brattle Street.)

It is very generally recognized among traffic experts that street space is valuable according to its relation to the unit width of vehicle plus the usual allowance for clearance, the total for a line of vehicles being fixed at about 8 feet. The proposed widening of Brattle Street would give 16 feet between the car tracks and the curb on each side; therefore the capacity of the wheel traffic on the street outside of the car tracks would be double what it is at present. (For discussion of street widths and a diagram illustrating least widths allowable for traffic streets, see report of the Boston Metropolitan Improvements Commission, pages 199-203.) This would be a very great advantage to the City of Cambridge, to the street car service, to all wheel traffic for business or pleasure, and especially to property owners directly abutting on the section of the street proposed to be widened. No one who has observed present traffic conditions at this point can be in doubt as to the advantages of a wider street. These advantages will increase with the growth of population, and traffic in the metropolitan district. Six months ago the widening could have been made at a cost of but a few thousand dollars, even if the entire vacant lot had to be acquired by the City. If the lot were taken under the recent constitutional amendment, it is probable that it would have cost the City little or nothing, as the remaining property on the widened street could have been sold, it is believed, for as much as the entire lot cost. While it is in no sense too late for action, the widening will now be a much more difficult and costly undertaking. The

## SECTIONS BRATTLE STREET



PRESENT CONDITIONS  
Note:—New Dow Bldg. projects 5' beyond old building line



PROPOSED SECTIONS

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139  
617 349 4683

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experience with Brattle Steet should be a lesson to the City, to the members of the Harvard Square Business Men's Association, and to other interests affected. It is an example of the cost of procrastination and short-sightedness in such matters. The incident is also a somewhat discouraging example of short-sightedness on the part of private property owners, and of the difficulty of securing effective co-operation in a general plan for public improvements. If the same spirit prevails in the future, the hope of greater convenience in streets and open spaces, and a better arrangement of buildings in Harvard Square must be permanently abandoned.

In order that no more time nor opportunity may be lost, your Committee recommends the prompt appointment by public authority of a permanent expert commission with advisory powers, to whom all projects for the improvement of Harvard Square and its neighborhood should be submitted. We believe that an effective commission of five members could be obtained by placing the appointment in the hands of the Mayor of Cambridge, the selection of members to be made from nominees by the following bodies: Harvard Square Business Men's Association, the Taxpayers' Association, Harvard University, the property owners in or near Harvard Square (the district boundaries to be defined later), and the Municipal Art Society of Cambridge. It is suggested that each of the above mentioned organizations be asked to present three names to the consideration of the Mayor from which he will select one member to represent each organization. The Committee is moved to recommend this form of appointment because of its success in somewhat similar cases to which its attention has been drawn. The method has proved good because it served to interest the members of the various bodies making the nominations in the work of the Commission, such a Commission de-

pending for its ultimate success upon the public opinion back of it.

The work of the present Committee being completed with the presentation of this report, it begs to be discharged from further duties.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN NOLEN  
GEORGE HOWLAND COX  
FRANK A. COLBURN  
ALBERT M. BARNES

## "HARVARD SQUARE"

SUGGESTION OF PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC MEETING TO BE  
HELD IN AUTUMN, 1913.

(1) *The Harvard Square Business Men's Association :*

An address of say ten minutes, explaining the purposes of the Association.

(2) *Harvard Square and other Squares :*

An illustrated address, showing by means of lantern slides (perhaps moving pictures) how similar open spaces have been developed in other Cities.

(3) *What can be done to improve Harvard Square :*

Say, five five-minute addresses as follows:

- (a) By the City of Cambridge.
- (b) By the Owners of Real Estate.
- (c) By Harvard College.
- (d) By the Citizens of Cambridge (voluntary associations).
- (e) By the Harvard Square Business Men's Association.

The meeting should be open to all and should be held, if possible, in or close to Harvard Square.

|                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>President</i>      | George G. Wright     |
| <i>Vice-President</i> | R. Currie Grovestein |
| <i>Secretary</i>      | N. Russell Cazmay    |
| <i>Treasurer</i>      | Henry F. Ramhofer    |
| <i>Auditor</i>        | Fred W. Davies       |

### *Directors*

|                   |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Joseph August     | Charles A. Stover | George E. Cole    |
| Term Expires 1924 | Term Expires 1925 | Term Expires 1926 |

### Standing Committees Appointed by the Board of Directors—1923-1924

#### *Municipal Affairs*

|                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| R. Currie Grovestein, Chairman                            |
| Thomas F. Sullivan                      Joseph W. Monahan |

#### *Membership*

|                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|
| E. Willard Phippen, Chairman                          |
| Albert F. Amee                      William T. Galvin |
| Nina Littlefield                      Fred Hayden     |

#### *Advertising*

|                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| Edgar L. Bishop, Chairman                            |
| William G. Rice                      Howard H. Fiske |

## LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

(Corrected to May 1, 1923)

| Name and address                             | Joined  |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Amee, Albert F., 21 Brattle St.              | Charter |
| Amee, John, 21 Brattle St.                   | 1913    |
| Anagnos Brothers, Harvard Sq.                | 1921    |
| Anderson, Samuel A., 19 Boylston St.         | 1919    |
| August, Joseph, 1302 Mass. Ave.              | 1910    |
| Barnes, Albert M., 719 Mass. Ave.            | 1910    |
| Bernazani, Charles, 1246 Mass. Ave.          | 1919    |
| Berry, H. F., 8 Boylston St.                 | 1915    |
| Bishop, Edgar L., 1320 Mass. Ave.            | 1922    |
| Blais, Louis A., 27 Church St.               | 1921    |
| Boland, William P., 1300 Mass. Ave.          | 1917    |
| Bragg, Dr. Henry W., 1278 Mass. Ave.         | 1911    |
| Brennan, J. J., 6 Boylston St.               | 1917    |
| Brine, James E., 1410 Mass. Ave.             | 1919    |
| Brine, Louis C., 1410 —                      | Charter |
| Brock, Frank E., 1414 Mass. Ave.             | 1910    |
| Buenke, Fred L., Reliance Coop. Bank         | 1923    |
| Burke, W. A., 1362 Mass. Ave.                | 1917    |
| Cady, Dr. Frederick B. M., 1306 Mass. Ave.   | 1921    |
| Cambridge Savings Bank, 15 Dunster St.       | 1913    |
| Cambridge Tribune, 5 Boylston St.            | 1923    |
| Cameron, Russell R., 38 Brattle St.          | 1914    |
| Caragianes, Felix, 1304 Mass. Ave.           | 1919    |
| Carrick, George H., 8 Boylston St.           | Charter |
| Caustic C. E., 20 Centre St.                 | 1915    |
| Cazmay, N. Russell, 8 Boylston St.           | 1917    |
| Chase, Fred B., Harvard Row                  | 1921    |
| Clark, Ernest W., 5 Brattle Sq.              | 1920    |
| Clarke, Joseph, 4 Brattle St.                | 1911    |
| Cohen, I., 3 Brattle Sq.                     | 1919    |
| Colburn, Frank A., 10 Boylston St.           | Charter |
| Cole, George E., Harvard Coöperative Society | 1913    |
| Conant, George H., 1122 Mass. Ave.           | 1917    |
| Cooledge, W. S., 50 Congress St., Boston     | 1915    |
| Couyow, Michael, 1310 Mass. Ave.             | 1921    |
| Cox, Geo. Howland, 1336 Mass. Ave.           | 1910    |
| Crosby, W. L., 286 Boylston St., Boston      | 1915    |
| Culolias, George C., 1280 Mass. Ave.         | 1921    |
| Cunningham, E. W., 50 Boylston St.           | 1918    |
| Cunningham, W. J., Cambridge P. O.           | 1919    |

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Davies, Fred W., Cambridge Trust Co.     | 1921    |
| Derby, John H., Harvard Row              | 1919    |
| DeWitt, Newton A., Dr., 5 Boylston St.   | 1922    |
| Dow, George L., 4 Brattle St.            | 1913    |
| Duvey, Harry F., 9a Brattle St.          | 1919    |
| Dyer, Charles H., 83 Mount Auburn St.    | 1918    |
| Eaton, Walter F., 31 Brattle St.         | 1919    |
| Ellis & Andrews, 4 Brattle St.           | 1917    |
| Ernest, Charles, 1 Boylston St.          | 1920    |
| Ferranti, Charles, 1302 Mass. Ave.       | 1921    |
| Fish, Samuel, 28 Church St.              | 1919    |
| Fiske, Howard H., 3 Brattle St.          | 1915    |
| Fridolin, J., 1290 Mass. Ave.            | 1919    |
| Frost, Henry A., 13 Boylston St.         | 1920    |
| Furniss, William E., Quincy Sq.          | 1911    |
| Galvin, William T., 57 Boylston St.      | 1918    |
| Gomatos, Georges, 27 Brattle St.         | 1919    |
| Gordon, E. A., 10 Arrow St.              | 1915    |
| Gosse, Atherton C., Charles River Road   | 1921    |
| Grovestein, R. Currie, Brattle Sq.       | 1911    |
| Gustafson, B. H., 6½ Holyoke St.         | 1921    |
| Hadley, Thomas, 5 Brattle Sq.            | Charter |
| Haley, Timothy W., 86 Mount Auburn St.   | 1912    |
| Haley, J. J., 8 Palmer St.               | 1919    |
| Haley, T. F., 8 Palmer St.               | 1919    |
| Harlow, Frank S., 1388 Mass. Ave.        | 1921    |
| Harlow, Hamilton, 1388 Mass. Ave.        | 1921    |
| Harrington, J. H., 112 Mount Auburn St.  | 1920    |
| Harwood, R. W., Harvard Crimson Bldg.    | 1921    |
| Haskell, Geo. H., 763 Mass. Ave., Room 5 | 1915    |
| Hathaway, Alvan B., 1336 Mass. Ave.      | 1920    |
| Hayden, Fred, 19 Boylston St.            | Charter |
| Hayden, James W., 19 Boylston St.        | 1920    |
| Healey, Hugh H., Brattle Square          | 1921    |
| Henderson, Arthur R., Abbot Building     | Charter |
| Hilliard, Alonzo, 1613 Mass. Ave.        | 1919    |
| Holmes, George H., 124 Walker St.        | Charter |
| Hyte, Benjamin, 32 Plympton St.          | 1920    |
| Johnstone, George J., 1360 Mass. Ave.    | 1922    |
| Keith, Hurd S., 1416 Mass. Ave.          | 1923    |
| Kinsman, Dr. E. O., 5 Boylston St.       | 1919    |
| LaFlamme, Dr. J. L., 4 Brattle St.       | 1919    |
| Lavash, Abraham, 6 Palmer St.            | 1919    |
| Leavitt & Peirce, Inc., 1316 Mass. Ave.  | 1921    |
| Levy, David, 22 Brattle St.              | 1921    |

|                                              |         |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Lowell, A. Lawrence, University Hall         | 1919    |
| Marshall, W. E., Brattle Building            | 1919    |
| Mason, Harrie E., 1408 Mass. Ave.            | 1919    |
| McCormick, Peter J., 1346 Mass. Ave.         | 1911    |
| McKenna, Joseph, 86 Mount Auburn St.         | 1921    |
| Mills, Charles W., 1444 Mass. Ave.           | 1917    |
| Monahan, Joseph W., 4 Brattle St.            | 1923    |
| Moore, Fred W., Harvard A. A.                | 1915    |
| Mörin, John B., 160 Hancock St.              | 1920    |
| Murphy, Henry C., 11 Dunster St.             | 1921    |
| Nickerson, F. R., & Co., 83 Mount Auburn St. | 1920    |
| Olsson, Frederic A., 9 Boylston St.          | Charter |
| Olsson, Miss M. L., 25 Brattle St            | 1915    |
| Peak, H. F., 5 Brattle Sq.                   | 1913    |
| Philbrook, V. H., 22 Dunster St.             | 1919    |
| Phippen, E. Willard, 1336 Mass. Ave.         | 1919    |
| Pinkos, Louis, 45 Bromfield St.              | 1911    |
| Powell, Edwin B., 2 Brattle Sq.              | Charter |
| Ramhofer, Henry F., Harvard Trust Co.        | 1923    |
| Ramsay, Harry M., 4 Brattle St.              | 1923    |
| Rice, William G., 23 Brattle St.             | 1921    |
| Richardson, Charles H., 324 Harvard St.      | 1921    |
| Ridlon, Irving F., 5 Brattle St.             | 1916    |
| Robinson, Edgar W., 2 Palmer St.             | 1919    |
| Rosencranz, L., 475 Broadway                 | 1919    |
| Sage, Edwin R., 10 Brattle St.               | Charter |
| Sale, Charles E., 4 Brattle Sq.              | 1920    |
| Sawin's Express, 1388 Mass. Ave.             | 1921    |
| Senders, Henry H., 1388 Mass. Ave.           | 1918    |
| Shea, William J., 2 Palmer St.               | 1920    |
| Shine, John J., 25 Sherman St.               | 1919    |
| Simpson, John, 1 Brattle St.                 | 1919    |
| Skoog, Karl F., 34 Boylston St.              | 1921    |
| Smith, Darwin J., 23 Church St.              | 1922    |
| Smith, Frank G., 30 Palmer St.               | 1917    |
| Spike, James E., Camb. Electric Light Co.    | 1914    |
| Sprague, C. H., 24 Leonard Ave.              | 1921    |
| Sprague, Willard H., 1408 Mass. Ave.         | 1919    |
| Stockwell, George H., 9 Brattle St.          | 1921    |
| Stover, Charles A., 1360 Mass. Ave.          | Charter |
| Sullivan, Humphrey J., 17 Brattle St.        | 1917    |
| Sullivan, Patrick M., 85 Mount Auburn St.    | 1921    |
| Sullivan, Thomas F., 302 Brattle Building    | 1919    |
| Tierney, John H., 31 Church St.              | 1923    |
| Toohy, M. P., 22 Boylston St.                | 1919    |

|                                                   |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Turner, Joseph, 11 Dunster St.                    | 1921    |
| Waldorf System, Inc., 1326 Mass. Ave.             | 1918    |
| Wallace, Joseph J., 24 Boylston St.               | 1919    |
| Watson, Charles B., 28 Boylston St.               | 1921    |
| Waugh, John, 128 Oxford St.                       | 1911    |
| Wheeler, William H., 99 Mount Auburn St.          | 1919    |
| White, Herbert H., University Press               | 1912    |
| White, Moses P., 101 Tremont St., Boston, Rm. 901 | 1916    |
| Whitford, Edward D., Harvard Trust Co.            | 1921    |
| Whitney, Fred E., 25 Brattle St.                  | 1921    |
| Whitney, Oscar L., 8 Boylston St.                 | 1920    |
| Whouley, John M., 1344 Mass. Ave.                 | 1920    |
| Wright, George G., 84 Mount Auburn St.            | Charter |
| Wyeth, Benjamin F., 1426 Mass. Ave.               | 1919    |
| Yoston, James A., 22 Palmer St.                   | 1921    |
| Zahos, John H., 1250 Mass. Ave.                   | 1921    |

#### Associate Members

|                                         |      |
|-----------------------------------------|------|
| Corcoran, Ellen, 1388 Mass. Ave.        | 1919 |
| Holbrook, Jessie F., 1410 Mass. Ave.    | 1919 |
| Littlefield, Nina, 301 Brattle Building | 1919 |
| Tupper, Mabel, 1388 Mass. Ave.          | 1919 |

**IN MEMORIAM**



**J. LEE ROBINSON**

**OUR LATE VICE-PRESIDENT**

**IN MEMORIAM**

John J. Anderson  
Elmer W. Billings  
Haliburton D. Brock  
Ossian H. Brock  
Dr. Edward R. Cogswell  
Frank F. Duvey  
Frederick B. Furbish  
George H. Kent  
Charles H. Lake  
Frederick A. Laws  
Fred H. Leavitt  
J. Leo McDonald  
Robert J. Melledge  
Harold S. Moore  
Edward O'Hara  
Wallace W. Peirce  
J. Lee Robinson  
John H. Sawyer  
Henry C. Shaw  
William H. Simonds  
Frederick Worcester