

HYDE PARK TIMELINE

compiled by Nancy H. Hannan, President
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1600-1650

- 1630 Hyde Park area known as "Tist" by the resident Indians.--Bay Colony
- 1639 Dedham orders a diversion canal between Charles River and the Neponset River. First such canal in America, known as Mother Brook.--Dedham.

1650-1700

- 1661 Selectmen of Dorchester name William Sumner and William Robinson to lay out a way from Dedham and Neponset Mill (now known as Milton Lower Mills). Completed in 1662, the road from Dedham to Neponset Mill was called the River Road (now River Street).
- 1668 Robert Stanton builds the first house in Hyde Park.

1700-1750

1750-1800

- 1776 General George Washington rides along River Road and up the little lane "Back Street" now known as Wood Avenue planning the bombardment of Boston.
- 1776 Fortifications from trees and brush from Readville and Hyde Park are built on Dorchester Heights.
- 1786 First Butler School is built from a former corncrib. Re-vamped many times after--1790, 1804. -- Dorchester
- 1790 William Sumner (?-1836), revolutionary war hero house on River Street is built.

1800-1850

- 1801 Tileston and Hollingworth (it was never known as Hollingsworth Tileston) paper mill is established on the site of a former mill of Thomas Sumner which was there earlier probably around 1790 -1803. This 1805 mill was moved from earlier mill sites at Dorchester Lower Mills--Dorchester.
- 1813 *Dedham Gazette* newspaper.--Dedham
- 1814 James Read builds the Dedham Manufacturing Company in 1814. This building burned and was replaced by the present brick building. Known as the Readville Cotton-mill, Smithfield Manufacturing Co. and B. B. & R. Knight Cotton Mill--largest cotton textile manufacturers in the world--Dedham. This building is the oldest brick contraction complete textile mill in America second only to the Old Slater Mill in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.--Dedham.
- 1831 Boston & Providence Railroad Company organizes.--Dorchester.
- 1834 Boston & Providence Railroad Company begins regular service to Readville from Boston.--Dorchester.
- 1837 William Sumner dies.--Milton
- 1838 Angelina Grimke becomes the first women to speak in front of the Massachusetts Legislature February 21. 1838.--later of Hyde Park
- 1846 Boston Providence Railroad line first train through Cleary Square.
- 1846-47 Henry Grew (1808-1892), multi-millionaire, moves to Hyde Park, (Grew's Hill)--Dorchester.
- 1847 (although his grandson maintained that it was 1850) Readville is named for James Read for paying back creditors of one of his businesses after bankruptcy court had absolved him from having to re-pay remaining debts. Read paid not only the original debts, but all accumulated interest to his creditors.--Dedham.
- 1850 circa Sumner sisters inaugurate the cut flower market in Boston.--Milton.

1850-1900

- 1852 Charles W. White buys 216 acres of land on either side of the Providence R. R. This forms the nucleus of Hyde Park.--
Dorchester
- 1853 Hyde Park Land Company begin settlement near present day West Street, Gordon Avenue. Three farms bought by Charles A. White, Mr. Gordon Nott and Mr. Henry Lyman on Gordon Avenue and Austin Street were the first settlers of that part of Dorchester called Hyde Park .-- Dorchester.
- 1855 Cundy-Betty Musical instruments (clarinets)
- 1855 Only three houses between the Neponset River and the Providence Railroad.
- 1855 Twenty Associates or "The Fairmount Land Company and Twenty associates"(originally twenty-five, five dropped out) buy land from Deacon Tucker in Milton to begin construction of first housing development for speculation in United States on Fairmount Hill.
The Twenty Associates gathered by Alpheus Blake (1832-?) who was only 23 years old, are :
- William E. Abbott, merchant tailor
 - Amos S. Angell, sea captain
 - Ira L. Benton, blacksmith, member of Handel & Haydn Society
 - Alpheus Blake, founder of town
 - Enoch E. Blake, wholesale fruit business
 - John N. Brown, school teacher, fire insurance salesman
 - George W. Currier, carpenter
 - Hypolitus C. Fisk, wholesale milliner
 - John C. French, School teacher
 - William E. French, master mason
 - David Higgins, master builder
 - John S. Hobbs, dealer of lime, cement coal plaster
 - Samuel S. Mooney, barber
 - William H. Nightingale, grocer
 - J. Wentworth Payson, handwriting master
 - Dwight B. Rich, director of Real Estate and Building Company
 - Alphonso J. Robinson, lawyer
 - William H. Seavey, Principal Girls' high and Normal School
Boston

1850-1900 (cont.)(Twenty Associates (cont.))

- Daniel Warren Massachusetts state senator and asst. treasurer
Mercantile Savings Institute
- John Williams Collector Boston Gas Light Company.
- 1856 George Currier's house first home built on Fairmount; he died
next year--Milton.
- 1855-'56 Warren Hilton one of the successful '49ers gold rush people
built 400 houses in Hyde Park circa 1856-1866
- 1856 Henry A. Rich (1833-1900) came to Hyde Park. He became the
first tax collector and served ten years.
- 1857 Boston and New York Central Railroad ran trains from Boston
to Fairmount station (bottom of Fairmount Hill).--Milton.
- 1857 Worst winter in memory. Fast thaw raises river over
footbridge over Neponset and sweeps it away.--Milton
- 1857 First school in Fairmount.--Milton
- 1858 Mehitable Sunderland first doctor on Fairmount is stuck in
the snow while on patient call.--Milton
- 1858 First Baptist Church organized--Dorchester.
- 1859 Mrs. J. Wentworth Payson founds the "Fairmount and Hyde Park
Lyceum" cultural club. Superseded by the Wentworth Club also
formed by Mrs. Payson in 1884.--Milton
- 1860 Parish of Christ Church, Episcopal organized--Milton.
- 1860 Houses on Fairmount completed.--Milton
- 1861 Formation of Camp Meigs one of the largest training camps of
the Civil War in Readville.--Dedham
- 1862 Hyde Park Woolen Co. organized and incorporated. Later
became R. Bleakie & Co's Woolen-Mills.--Dedham
- 1862 Robert Bleakie came to Hyde Park taking charge of the mill
owned by the Hyde Park Woolen Company.
- 1863 First Congregational Church organized--Dorchester.
- 1863 John Badger Bachelder publishes "Gettysburg battlefield", and
many, many other books, maps, paintings and other
publications of Gettysburg.--Dorchester.
- 1863 First Black troops are mustered into the Union Army at Camp
Meigs.--Dedham
- 1864 Theodore D. Weld 1803-1895), Angelina Grimke (his wife) and
her sister, Sara Grimke moved to Hyde Park.--Milton.
- 1864 Army hospital is established at Camp Meigs.--Dedham.

1850-1900 (cont.)

- 1864-1866 Many soldiers are mustered out of Union Army through Camp Meigs.--Dedham
- 1865 Benjamin Radford (1827-1894) moved to Hyde Park and influenced the American Tool and Machine Company to move its foundry to Hyde Park (1872).
- 1866 Zenas Allen (1805-1887) moves to town and becomes a member of the first board of selectmen in 1868.--Dorchester
- 1866 John Johnston's Carriage Manufactory.--Dorchester
- 1867 Methodist Episcopal Church organized--Dorchester.
- 1867 U. Holzer, Inc. bookbinders--Dorchester
- 1867 Unitarian Church organized--Milton.
- *1868 Hyde Park incorporated as an independent town from parts of Milton, Dedham and Dorchester.
- 1868 Hyde Park name taken for whole town combining Fairmount and Hyde Park sections, for Hyde Park in London, England.
- 1868 Henry Grew is named first chairman of the Hyde Park Board of Selectmen
- 1868 (by this date) N. H. Tucker coal
- 1868 Thatcher & Bailey Lumber
- 1868 *Hyde Park Journal* newspaper
- 1868 Kunkel & Son hammered forgings
- 1868 Dedham Gas Company extends pipes to Hyde Park
- 1869 Sylvanus Cobb (1823-1887) comes to Hyde Park. Prolific writer, moderator of the Town Meeting where the women cast their first vote.
- 1870 March 8, the women of Hyde Park cast the first vote by women in the United States.
- 1870 The Town Hall is moved into Hyde Park on wagons from Boston.
- 1874 Stephen B. Balkam (?-1901) Balkam Lumber Company.
- 1870 Roman Catholic Church is organized "Church of the Epiphany of the Redeemer". These parishioners are later incorporated into the Church of the Most Precious Blood. (see below).
- 1870 *Norfolk County Gazette* newspaper (oldest paper in the country)
- 1871 Brainard Milling Machine Co.
- 1871 Hyde Park Savings Bank organizes.
- 1871 Glover & Willcomb curled hair factory largest in the country by 1888.

1850-1900 (cont.)

- 1872 Union Evangelical Church organized.
- 1872 American Tool and Machine Company built in Hyde Park combining operations from two different sites in Massachusetts.
- 1872-3 Three schools built in Hyde Park; The Henry Grew (1808-1892), The Fairmount and The Elihu Greenwood (school committeeman in Dorchester).
- 1873-1874 Economic panic causes many foreclosures on houses and businesses in Hyde Park. New people moving in change the ethnic makeup of the area.
- 1874 Charles House begins making shirts and underwear at the Fairmount Manufacturing Company.
- 1874 James Gately the "Hermit of Sally's Rock" comes to Hyde Park. Later Henry Grew would give him an old cow shed on his property and Gately evidently called it his hermitage, and it is listed as such on old maps of Grew's property.
- 1874 Machinery Manufacturers, John T. Robinson & Co. organizes.
- 1875 Spring & Robinson corrugated boxes (see 1874 above)
- 1876 Peace Jubilee in Boston: Hyde Park Chorus Club sends 100 singers.
- 1880 John T. Robinson & Company (paper scorers)
- 1880 Clarendon Congregational Church organized.
- 1880 T. H. Gray's Shoddy Mill (wool) Later T. M. Buckley Mill
- 1882 Scott's Scouring Mill (wool)
- 1882 S. Z. Leslie & Co. Novelty Wood Works (home interiors)
- 1883 *Hyde Park Times* newspaper
- 1883 Boston Blower Company organizes.
- 1884 Hood & Reynolds, Dental Manufactory moves to Hyde Park
- 1884 The Hyde Park Company is founded by Joseph Hamblin (art gravure and Balsam soap)
- 1884 William Ellery Channing is president of the newly established Hyde Park Horticultural Society.
- 1885 R. L. Frampton's Morocco Works move to Hyde Park.
- 1884 Hyde Park Water Co. is organized.
- 1885 Most Precious Blood Church corner of Maple and Oak Streets is dedicated.
- 1885 Young Men's Christian Association organized
- 1885 R. L. Frampton's Morocco Works move to Hyde Park.

1850-1900 (cont.)

- 1885 Frank Blake Webster moves taxidermy shop and Museum to
 1886 Hyde Park Cooperative Bank organizes
 1887 Hyde Park Historical Society forms.
 1887 *Reveille* newspaper
 1887 *Association Review* newspaper of Y. M. C. A.
 1887 President Grover Cleveland appoints James Monroe Trotter
 Recorder of Deeds. Monroe is also the author of "The Story of a
 Musical Race", and "Music and Some High]y Musical People".
 1888 Clement B. Tower & Co., Plymouth Rock Gelatine(sic) .
 1888 Published "Memorial Sketch of Hyde Park History 1868-
 1888."
 1888 Five literary societies in Hyde Park.
 1888 Electric street lights turned on in Hyde Park for first time.
 1888 Clifton Manufacturing Company--Gossamer Rubber Company
 owned and operated by Miss A. M. Lougee.
 1889 Blue Hill Community Evangelical Society (later known as the
 Blue Hill Community Chapel and later still Blue Hill Community
 Church)
 1891 "*The High School Register*" was published -the first Hyde Park
 high school magazine
 1893 The Hazelwood Universalist Church opens.
 1893 E.C. Morris Safe Company/G. W. Stafford Company Loom
 Works
 1894 New Ralph Adams Cram (architect) Christ Episcopal Church
 building opens.
 1897-1904 John T. Robinson (automobiles) tests autos by driving up
 Fairmount Avenue, tests brakes driving down.
 1897 Mary H. Hunt is elected first vice-president of International
 Conference Against Alcoholism held in Brussels, Belgium. In
 1903, becomes the official United States delegate.
 1898 New Hyde Park Public Library building opened.
 1899 Cleary Square is named for John Augustus Cleary killed at
 Santiago, Cuba 1898: remains removed to Arlington Cemetery
 Washington, D. C. (unmarried)
 1899 The Hyde Park Avenue Arch Bridge is built (over three Railroad
 crossings) in Readville

1900- 1950

- 1900 Mehitable Sunderland presents to the people of Hyde Park on her ninetieth birthday, a tapestry of "Isaac and Rebecca on Their Return to Abraham and Sarah" worked by her own hand.
- 1900 B. F. Sturtevant Co. (ventilating, heating etc.)
- 1902 New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Readville Car Shops.
- 1902 William H. Harlow Lumber.
- 1904 Hyde Park Telephone Company building constructed.
- 1909 Dana Avenue Bridge at Neponset River is built and is the earliest surviving examples of reinforced concrete arch construction in Boston area.
- 1909 Ethel Barrymore married in Hyde to Russel G. Colt at Most Precious Blood Church.
- 1911 Merrow Brothers, Inc. (food handling, candy)
- *1912 The town of Hyde Park is annexed to the City of Boston by a very close vote of the town.
- 1912 Pruyn & Bilodeau Machinists
- 1912 William H. Harlow and Sons Lumber.
- 1912 Metropolitan Water Works builds the Hyde Park Pumping Station.
- 1913 Ideal Laundry
- 1913-'14 Neponset River dredged through Hyde Park.
- 1914 BRE (Bathroom equipment)
- 1918 Dorchester Brass and Foundry Co.
- 1919-1925 influx of immigrants from Ukraine and Russia.
- 1920 Franklin Foundry Co. (gray iron, semi-steel, brass).
- 1921 Saint Anne's Church, under Father David Regin, opens.
- 1923 John Simson--Garnetting Co. (opening up wool waste for reprocessing).
- 1925 South Boston Condit Electrical Manufacturing Company (bought by Allis-Chalmers see below).
- 1926 Norwood-White Company (office partitions).
- 1926 Bay State Upholstery Company opens on Business Street and soon has hundreds of workers.
- 1928 Present Hyde Park High School is completed on Metropolitan and Central Avenues.
- 1931 L. E. Mason Company bronze, silver, gold castings.

1900-1950 (cont.)

- 1933-1938 The Great Depression causes many foreclosures of mortgages on homes and businesses in Hyde Park. Influx of many different people buying homes at low price changes the ethnic makeup of the town.
- 1935 M. S. Dress Company women's dresses (Morris Sidell).
- 1935 Low Supply Co. (plumbing supplies).
- 1935/'36 Allied Container Corporation (corrugated boxes).
- 1936 Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing Co. (electrical equipment, circuit breakers).
- 1939 Union Paste Company (special adhesives)
- 1939 Yale Wool Waste Company
- 1939 National Wadding Company (wool) One of only three plants in the country which performs this work.
- 1939 Thomas Leyland Machinery Co. (textile, special parts).
- 1940? Severn Mills Cooperation on site of the oldest complete textile brick mill building in America.
- 1945-1950 Many new homes built in Hyde Park for veterans coming home from war. Corriganville, Huntington Avenue among the veterans' housing projects built. New houses built on Grew's Hill, the Rugby section along River Street and Truman Highway and individual homes filled in vacant lots. Many new people move into Hyde Park changing and adding to the ethnic makeup of the town.

1950-2000

- 1950's New Schools are built to replace the wooden school buildings Fairmount, Elihu Greenwood and Henry Grew. (all almost one hundred years old) Also the Franklin Roosevelt school is built in Corriganville to accommodate veterans' children.
- 1956 Saint Joseph's Church is dedicated by Richard Cardinal Cushing.
- 1962 Hyde Park celebrates fifty years as part of the City of Boston. (1912-1962)
- 1968 Hyde Park celebrates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the town. (1868-1968).
- 1969 Hyde Park High School Alumni Association formed after a long time without such a group.

1950-2000 (cont.)

- 1970 Hyde Park Historical Society regroupes, names new officers and gains many new members to prepare for the nation's bi-centennial 1976.
- 1973 Forced integration of Boston Public Schools causes many families with school age children in Hyde Park to flee to towns outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Court order. The population age of Hyde Park immediately rises as young people with children move out of the town. Many other families place their children in private schools. The numbers of families with two parents working outside the home increases. Many new people move into Hyde Park changing the ethnic makeup of the town.
- 1987 Hyde Park Historical Society celebrated 100th anniversary. Many books about Hyde Park History published during and after the centennial year--over twenty-five books total.
- 1993 Twentieth anniversary of the Forced Integration order of the Boston Public Schools by the Federal Court. Stability and new families maintaining homes causes new outlook for people and businesses in Hyde Park.
- 1993 Thomas M. Menino first mayor of Boston elected from Hyde Park.