

## Crane Brinton 1898-1968

### THE FIRST ACADEMIC SUMMER PEOPLE

*Played by Jock Gill and Annie Danielson*



Crane was born in Connecticut and educated at Harvard and Oxford. He was a young professor of history at Harvard when he set out with his mother to find a quiet place to spend summers writing books. They vacillated between the seashore and the mountains, but fell in love with Peacham. They were able to buy a Greek Revival farmhouse on Penny Street from farmer Mark Abbott, whose barn had just burned

down. Over his career, Crane wrote 13 books in Peacham. He was one of the first of a wave of academics who found Peacham to be the ideal place to write, and to visit with each other, sharing research and ideas. They were perhaps inadvertently responsible for saving much of the early 19th century farmhouse architecture, as they bought houses that might have been abandoned, as many smaller farms were closing.

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#### Ghost Walk Volunteers

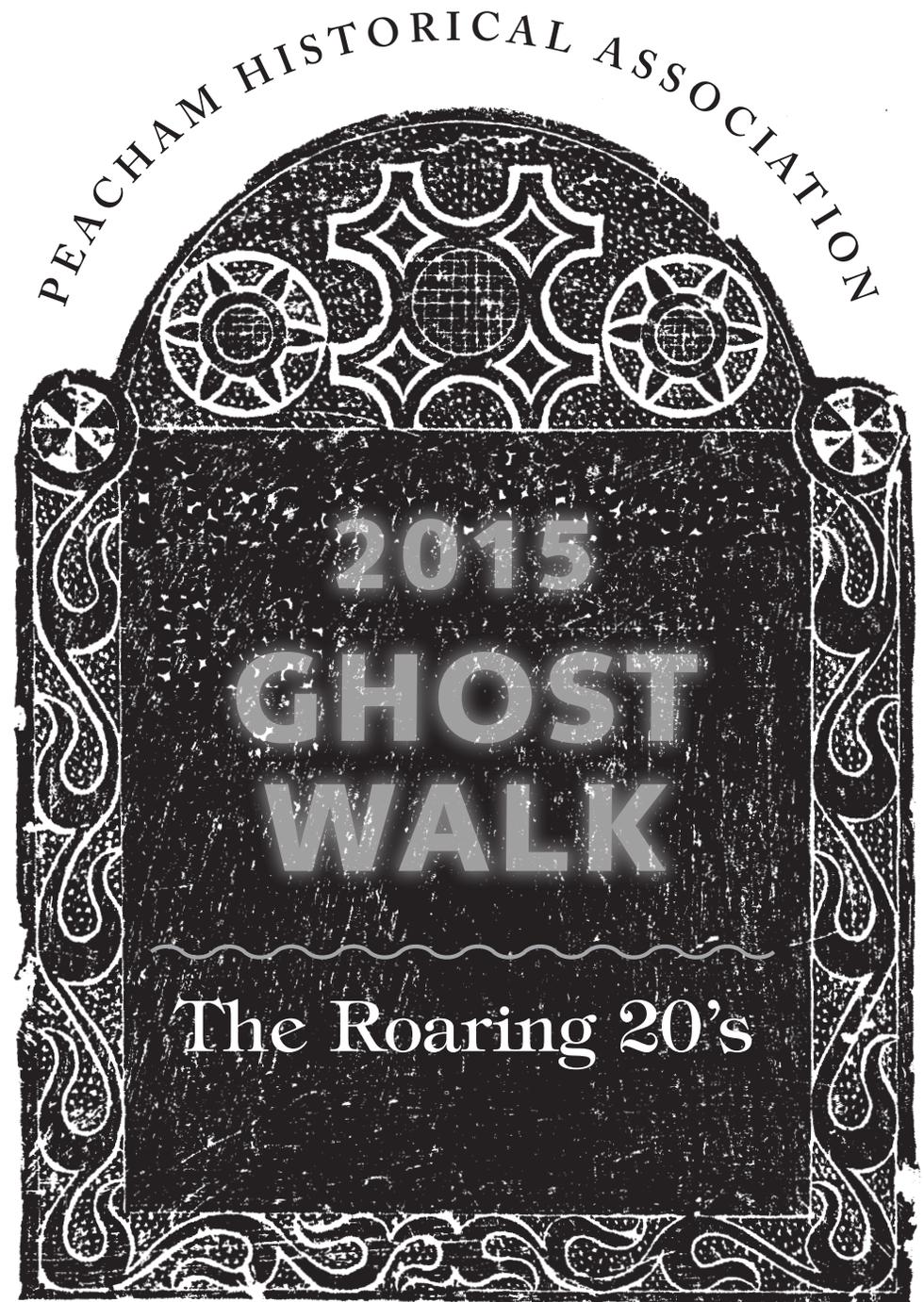
Coordinator: Dart Thalman

Historical advisor: Lorna Quimby

Docents: Jean Dedam, Lynne Lawson, Marilyn Magnus, Brad Toney

Tickets: Jane Alper

Brochure design: Joanna Bodenweber



Peacham Cemetery, 2:00 P.M.

*In case of rain, the event will be held upstairs in the Town Hall gym*

This year's Ghost Walk was inspired by Jean Dedam's recent donation to the Peacham Historical Association of a quilt made in the 1920's. It was made as a fundraiser for street lights in East Peacham, and has 20 blocks, each with the embroidered names of donors extending like rays out from a central circle; gold on white, it must have been meant to symbolize light coming to town. Town Clerk Walter Thorn, also an electrician, provided the penmanship for the names.

The 1920's were a time of tremendous change and contrast in Peacham. There was electricity in the villages, which transformed people's lives in many ways (but it took another 20 years to reach the farms). Some enterprising young people educated themselves in various new kinds of technology—electricity, the radio—to make a living. Others felt driven to move away to make their fortunes; many of them moved back later in life. And the first wave of academic summer people was just beginning, professors seeking a quiet place to write during their summers. Through it all, the quilters used every scrap of fabric they could find to piece together their work. These quilts form material records of their makers' lives.

## GHOSTS

### Walter Thorn 1864-1954 | TOWN CLERK

*Played by Steve Galinat*



Thorn was graduated from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and practiced as a druggist in Massachusetts until 1915. The rumor is his business struggled. He married a Peacham girl, Carrie Dubois, and the couple moved here with their children. He became Town Clerk in 1925 and served until 1945. He did the town a great service in copying the oldest records, dangerously fading, in a clear hand that is still legible today. His salary as Town Clerk was raised from \$50 to \$150 in 1927, perhaps in recognition of his effectiveness in the office. He also trained as an electrician and advertised his services starting in 1925. His interest in electricity and his fine penmanship came together in the quilt made to raise funds for street lamps in East Peacham.

### Mary Craig 1870-1952 | QUILTER

*Played by Marsha Garrison*



Mary Stevenson married Robert Craig on January 1, 1891; they went on to have 11 children. They moved around a good deal to various nearby towns; Mr. Craig was a farmer, but would work at anything to support his family. He died when their youngest child was 4, leaving Mary to support their family. She practiced midwifery, and often left her oldest daughter in charge of the youngest children, who complained of the extra work and responsibility. She was an active quilter, like most women of her generation. Forced by circumstances to be thrifty, they used and reused every scrap of available fabric to fashion their quilts.

### Eleanor Bayley 1914-1999 | ONE WHO MOVED AWAY

*Played by Diana Senturia*



Eleanor grew up in East Peacham with three sisters and 1 brother. She was graduated from Peacham Academy in 1931, where she was a member of the winning girls' basketball team. She also earned a BS from the University of Vermont and MA from Syracuse University. Although she returned often to Peacham, she found she enjoyed academic life. She served as Assistant Dean of Women and Director of Dormitory Life at UVM, and then became Dean of Women and Director of Student Personnel at Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia. At Fairmont she met her partner, Louise Hitchcock. Leaving academic life, Eleanor and Louise ran grocery stores in and near Ithaca, New York.

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