



## LETTERS

# Actually, it's Heart Pond

The erroneous quoting of established historical facts frequently leads to the general acceptance of names, places or events that are historically incorrect. A case in point is the referring to "Baptist Pond" in South Chelmsford as Hart Pond rather than using the correct name, Heart Pond, from time to time in *The Sun*.

As early as 1820, the Rev. Wilkes Allen speaks of Heart Pond in his History of Chelmsford, which he says "in form resembles a heart." A look at a map will confirm this.

It has been suggested that the early settlers might have called it Hart Pond if there were very large herds of red deer, or hart, found in the area. However, no unusual number of these deer has ever been reported. There is no record of any family by the name of Hart residing in the area in the early days.

Some might argue that several early documents use the spelling "hart." However, spelling in the 1600s is not what we accept today as correct. For example, in some of these same early documents we find "vew" for view, "incoraged" for encouraged and the name Parkhurst spelled "Parkis."

A few years ago, the Cemetery Commission corrected the spelling on the stone posts at the entrance to Heart Pond Cemetery.

So, please "have a heart" — not a hart — when writing about this pond.

GEORGE PARKHURST  
Chelmsford historian  
Chelmsford

# What is a WA trustee?

By George Parkhurst  
Contributing Writer

Until about a century ago, Westford Academy was a private institution, governed and administered by the Trustees of Westford Academy. When the state mandated that Westford must have a public high school, operation of the academy was turned over to a School Committee which was then running the elementary schools. The town and trustees were jointly involved in the school for several years but the trustees gradually withdrew from active participation in Academy operations.

The second Academy building (now Roudenbush Community Center) was opened in 1897, replacing the original school house (now Westford Museum). The new building was owned by the trustees. The town rented it.

In 1928, the trustees sold the Academy building and land to the town, thus removing the trustees fi-

nal responsibility in the operation of the Academy.

The trustees did not just fade away, however. Over the years, they had built up an endowment fund which they continue to administer today. Growth of the fund, through investment and donations from the public, has built it up to more than a million dollars, the income from which provides approximately \$50,000 in scholarships and gifts for graduates and \$10,000 for the school for special equipment annually.

For 184 years, the trustees were exclusively male. This changed in 1976 when Bette Hook was named to the board. Since then, three other women have joined the ranks of trustees. In 1986, Barbara (Hildreth) Parkhurst was elected president of the Trustees, the first woman to hold this office in the history of the Academy. The current president is Eileen Anderson, an Academy graduate and Westford resident.

# Spalding roots trace to pre-Mayflower days

Mayflower ancestry is of prime importance to most genealogically inclined people. However, many descendants of the early Chelmsford families (including this writer) can claim relationship to one of the town's founders who arrived in this country a year before the Pilgrims disembarked at Plymouth.

He was Edward Spalding. History tells us that Spalding migrated, with his family, from England to the Jamestown, Virginia area about 1619 and came north to Braintree, Massachusetts around 1634.

Edward Spalding settled in Chelmsford in 1653 or 1654 as he was one of the Town officers elected at the first Town Meeting held at William Fletcher's house on what is now Crosby Lane in November of 1654.

The name Spalding (or Spaulding) has been well known in Chelmsford, Westford, and the surrounding communities for 335 years. While some members of the family inserted a "U" into the name, others hold to the old spelling of Spalding. Both, however, are descendants of the same original Edward.

In the program, "Albert Spalding in Remembrance," at the Carriage House on June 1, Suzanne Spalding Winston told about the most famous of Edward's many descendants, Albert Goodwill Spalding, who was acclaimed as one of the world's greatest violin virtuosos. Mrs. Winston is a niece of the violinist.

Albert Goodwill Spalding achieved international fame as America's first violin virtuoso.

## THE WAY IT WAS

George  
Parkhurst



Born in Chicago, August 15, 1888, he showed an unusual musical talent from a very early age and received the degree of Professor of Music from the Conservatory of Bologna, Italy when he was only 14 years old. He made his musical debut in Paris three years later, while his first soloist appearance in America was in 1908 with the New York Symphony orchestra. He was also a prolific composer of works for the violin, piano, and voice and also wrote several orchestral compositions.

During World War I, he was a member of the flying service and, following the Armistice in 1918, he served as Adjutant of Fiorello LaGuardia (later mayor of New York City) where he was involved in "cloak and dagger" operations in Italy.

His excellent command of the Italian language was put to use in Allied radio broadcasts to the Italian resistance during World War II. Albert died in 1953.

Almost everyone is familiar with the name "A.G. Spalding and Bros." on all kinds of athletic equipment. The co-founders of this, the first ma-

jeor sporting goods company in America, Albert G. and J. Walter Spalding, uncle and father, respectively, of the violinist.

While many local members of the family not have achieved as wide spread fame, a few worthy of mention. Col. Simeon Spaulding, of those who marched to Concord on April 1775, was very active in Town affairs. It was he who built the Greek Revival house at the corner of North and Dalton Roads. His son, Simon Spaulding, Jr., built the "Fiske House" at North Billerica Road.

Joseph Spaulding, a member of Capt. For company, is reported to have fired the first shot at the Battle of Bunker Hill, contrary to order for which he received a blow on the head from Gen. Putnam. He claimed that he killed British Major Pitcairn but this was hard to prove since the major fell with four musket balls in his body. Joseph Spaulding built the house that stands today at 55 Spaulding Road.

Oscar Spalding (1867-1941) was prominent in Westford town affairs and in 1935 gave to his fellow townspeople the Spalding Town Forests, some 122 acres of woodland. Ten years earlier he had donated land in the center of Carlisle which became Spalding Park.

After more than three and a third centuries, descendants of Edward, some bearing the Spalding (Spaulding) name and others whose genealogy is traced through the female lines, are still active in the Chelmsford area.

George Adams Parkhurst is a Chelmsford historian whose family has lived in town since 1634.