

Grace A. Phillips in 1900 opened a dry goods store on the corners of River and Auburn Streets selling women and children's hosiery and underwear, dressmakers' supplies, and children's school supplies.



Boardinghouse keeper Mrs Colvin of 38 Pearl Street hosted a party given by her guests for her retiring domestic Sarah Thornberry who was about to be married (*Cambridge Tribune* 23 April 1887). They presented a marble clock to Sarah and celebrated with games and taffy pulling.

Early 20th century taffy pull at boarding house.



Emma J. Moore, the treasurer of Squirrel Brand Company (a company that made penny candy and roasted nuts just outside the Cambridgeport area on Broadman Street), had a home at 172 Magazine Street (*Cambridge City Directory*, 1929-30, and 1944). A park now replaces the old factory.



## Women and Organizations

The WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union), that advocated prohibition of alcohol, had a branch in Cambridgeport. The head of the Cambridge organization was Mrs J.G. Thorpe (Anna Allegra Longfellow Thorpe), daughter of poet Henry W. Longfellow of Old Cambridge. The Cambridge group did not advocate direct confrontation of saloon keepers.

Hannah Reid (employee then forewoman at Riverside Press and Cambridgeport resident) was the vice president of the Girl's Club of the Social Union. In 1900, she traveled as a delegate to the grand conference of Working Girls Associations in New York City. She and her two sisters lived on Green Street. Later she moved with her sister Mary, a telephone operator, to 300 Mass. Avenue.

Mrs C. M. Hartwell was president of the Cambridge Industrial Society of Spiritualists that met regularly in Cambridgeport in the early 1900s. A famous Boston medium, Mrs Minnie Soule "gave messages from the spirit world."



The Home for the Mass. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was at 74 Hancock Street. (The office was in Boston.) In 1900, Miss Susie L. MacComber was matron.

Betsey Richardson Comstock, widow of Hiram Comstock, lived at 24 Kelly Street in the 1880-90s. She went to Paris to study art and on return built a two family house that she rented for income. She sold her paintings for the benefit of the YWCA and the YMCA.

Although most officers of the Cambridge Woman's Suffrage League in the early 1900s lived in Old or North Cambridge, the treasurer, Alice Geddes, lived at 722 Main Street in Cambridgeport.

During the First World War, women like the principal of Morse Grammar School, Mary A. Townsend and her assistant principal Mary E. Towle, were active in the Cambridge Red Cross.

