



December 1, 2012
The Colonial Inn
Concord, MA



The Music

Bach
Cantata No. 29, "Wir danken dir, Gott, wir danken dir"

Handel
Samson, Andante – Adagio

Corelli
Concerto fatto per la Notte di Natale, Allegro – Largo

Handel
"Zadok the Priest" Coronation Anthem

Bach
Cantata No. 147, "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Vivaldi
Concerto No. 3, Op. 8, "L'autunno,"
Allegro – Adagio molto – Allegro

Handel
"Sing unto God" Wedding Anthem
Processional

Bach
Christmas Oratorio, "Nun seid ihr wohl gerochen"
Recessional

Greg Rector
Music Manager

The Marriage of
Melissa Clemence
and
Martin A. Padley

The Colonial Inn
Concord, Massachusetts

December 1, 2012

Officiant

The Reverend Thomas Rosiello
First Parish Church of Stow and Acton

Best Man

Jonathan Chalon
Nephew of the groom

Attendants

Martha Downes
Friend of the couple

Roy Palmeri
Friend of the couple

Alice Stebbings
Cousin of the bride

Readers

Catherine and Theodore Prescott
Cousins of the bride

Some Personal Notes

It all — quite literally — began on a golf course, which is not only how Martin met Melissa but how Martin came to be, but more of that later.

Golf

The story goes like this. Martin has been a die-hard golfer for many years and until recently played Nehoiden Golf Club in Wellesley just about every day of the year when golf could be played and some when you'd have thought it wasn't possible. In 2005 the book he had been working on for four years, *The History of Nehoiden Golf Club and Golf at Wellesley College, 1894–2005*, was published, and he was asked to speak about it at a fund-raiser for the Wellesley Historical Society. The talk went well and he was asked to join the board of the Society, to which Melissa had just been elected.



History

Over the years Martin and Melissa worked together on various projects for the Historical Society, beginning with the townwide celebration of Wellesley's 125th anniversary at Wellesley Country Club in 2006 and, in subsequent years, the Society's annual calendar, annual model trains and old toys display, annual dinner, and, yes, annual golf tournament.

Because Martin's career had been in advertising and public relations and involved a lot of writing and graphic design, he was in a position to produce the book about Nehoiden and to create a new image for the Society through its newsletter, program books, calendars, and so on. And because much of Melissa's career was as an editor, she proofed and edited just about everything that Martin produced. At Little, Brown



Melissa was a competitor in the Society's putting contest at Wellesley Country Club in 2006. This is the first known photo of her with a golf club in her hand. As it turned out, Martin won the contest.



Melissa's mother, Eleanor, played golf at Nehoiden, and her father was an economics professor at Wellesley College.



and the Atlantic Monthly Press in Boston, Melissa had worked closely with writers like Lillian Hellman and William Manchester, and on projects like Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*, and had prepared the index for Henry Kissinger's memoirs. Melissa was clearly in an unsailable position to deal with Martin's sometimes tortured prose.

Purple

The signature color Martin chose for the Wellesley Historical Society was purple, partly because purple is a very Victorian color and the town was incorporated in 1881 pretty much at the height of the Victorian era, and partly because much of Wellesley's early history is tied up with the Hunnewell family, Wellesley's closest thing to royalty. Purple is a color associated with royalty, and, as it turns out, Melissa's family tree goes all the way back to Alfred the Great by way of many generations of Prescotts — but more about that later — and that English monarch whose name has delighted schoolchildren for centuries: Ethelred the Unready. Now all of this is by way of explaining why the engagement ring that Martin gave to Melissa has a very purple amethyst stone.



Melissa is a descendant of King Alfred the Great (849–899) of England

Switzerland

This brings us to Switzerland, where Martin's mother was living in the 1920s. She had three children — one of whom was the father of Martin's best man, Jonathan Chalon — and one day her mother suggested that just the two of them get away and spend a week at a resort hotel in Zurich called the Dolderschloss, which still exists. Things were fairly quiet at the hotel, but golf was very popular at the time, and Martin's grandmother suggested that his mother take some golf lessons at the resort, which had a golf course and a pro who was available for lessons. As it



Martin's mother, Helen, was taught how to play golf by his father, Arthur, below



Martin and his sister, Carola, in 1949 in Scarsdale, NY, where they hit golf balls in a field on the Bronx River Parkway behind their apartment building

turned out, the pro was an Englishman named Arthur Padley, who would become Martin's father, and the rest, as they say, is history.

So you see, if it weren't for golf, Martin wouldn't have joined the Wellesley Historical Society and met Melissa. And if Martin's mother hadn't taken golf lessons in Zurich from his father, chances are that Martin and his sister, Carola, wouldn't even be here with us today.



Arthur Padley, left, with Walter Hagen at the Dolderschloss golf course. Hagen was on a European Grand Tour after playing in the 1928 British Open.

Some historical notes

Concord's Colonial Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The original structure was built in 1716, and the property has been operated as a hotel since 1889.

It all started here

In 1775, one of the inn's original buildings was used as a storehouse for arms and provisions. When the British came to seize and destroy the supplies, the local Minutemen met them at the North Bridge on April 19 for what would become the first battle of the American Revolution.



Because arms were stockpiled on the inn's property and elsewhere in town, the British sent troops to Concord in 1775



The Old North Bridge, where "the embattled farmers stood, and fired the shot heard round the world," is just up Monument Street from the inn

A key figure in the events of that day was Dr. Samuel Prescott (1751–c.1777), who had gone to Lexington the day before to visit his fiancée, Lydia Mullikin, the daughter of a well-respected clockmaker. Close to 1:00 a.m. on April 19, Prescott took leave of Lydia, mounted his bay mare, and struck out for home, riding past Lexington Green, where he encountered two riders — Paul Revere and William Dawes — who



While Paul Revere is very well known for his role in alerting the citizens of Lexington and Concord about the advancing British troops, it was Dr. Samuel Prescott who carried the word from Lexington to Concord

were on their way to warn the citizens of Concord about the approaching British troops. The doctor, being recognized as a “high son of Liberty” and knowledgeable about the area, was asked to join in the mission.

Within a few miles, the men were apprehended by a British patrol. Prescott exclaimed to Revere, “Put on!” and an escape was attempted. But only the doctor, jumping his horse over a low wall, was able to flee through the Lincoln woods in the direction of Concord, where he gave the alarm.

A philosophical aside

Things, as we know, finally calmed down in Concord and elsewhere in the colonies, the British packed up and went home, and the colonies became the United States. By the early 1800s the inn had become a private residence, and one of Concord’s best-known philosophers, Henry David Thoreau, lived there, in what was then the Thoreau family home, from 1835 to 1837 while he attended Harvard College. Concord’s other best-known philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson, lived just down the street on Lexington Road from 1835 until his death in 1882.

The Prescotts among us

Melissa’s mother, Eleanor, was a Prescott, and Melissa’s cousin Theodore, who read from Kahlil Gibran’s *Prophet* during the wedding, is a Prescott, and along with Melissa they are all related to the Prescotts of Concord including Samuel, who gave the alarm that the British were coming and that it was time to take a stand.



The dean of science at MIT, Melissa’s grandfather, Samuel Prescott, won the license plate number below as a prize in a state-sponsored patriotic essay contest

Massachusetts. The prizes were two license plates with the numbers 1775 and 1776. Samuel Prescott wrote one of the prize winning essays, and the license plate he won was passed down to his son and then to his daughter, and can now be seen on Melissa’s car, which is parked in front of the inn.

The site for the wedding ceremony is the Colonial Inn’s Prescott Room. Samuel’s ride lives on in Concord today, where it is reenacted every year and is preceded by a Patriots’ Ball. The Minutemen march with fife and drum and the captain of the Concord Minutemen reads a message handed to him by “Dr. Samuel Prescott” on horseback.

In the 1930s, Melissa’s grandfather, also named Samuel Prescott, entered an American history patriotic essay contest sponsored by the Commonwealth of





Melissa and Martin
at Blissful Meadows Golf Club
in Uxbridge, MA

