

Peabody Square was once thriving blacksmith area

by Anthony Mitchell Sammarco

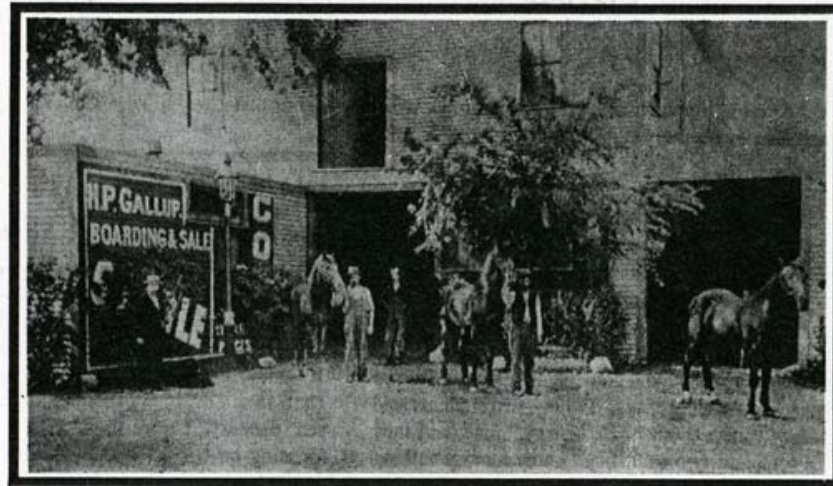
Hollis Gallup's stable was located on Barnes St., off Dorchester Ave. near Peabody Square. Though the area has a large lot bounded by a white picket fence, it was once a thriving area with stables, blacksmith shops and small businesses including that of Mr. Gallup.

Hollis Gallup had a large wood stable where he not only boarded horses, but also offered many for sale. He was an expert on horseflesh, so to speak, and was as knowledgeable about horses as anyone in Dorchester. It was in his stable in 1899 that the Dorchester Gentlemen's Driving Club was organized. As an avid racer of horses, Gallup was a member of the Readville Trotting Park and the Metropolitan Racing Club in Boston. As more residents of Dorchester began to board their horses at Gallup's Stable, he realized that there were others who joined his enthusiasm for horse racing.

Gallup lived at 33 Wrentham St., just a short distance from his stable, and with a small group of fellow Dorchesterites, he started a club that was composed of men who enjoyed racing their horses in a competitive manner for awards and recognition. A small one-seated chaise with large rubber tires would be harnessed to the horse and raced in an improvised race track along what is now Blue Hill Ave. just south of Talbot Ave.

Within a short period of time, however, a proper race track was laid out at Franklin Field and races were held

Hollis Gallup's large wood stable, located on Barnes Street off Dorchester Avenue, where he not only boarded horse, but also offered many for sale.



weekly during the warmer weather between fellow members of the Dorchester Gentlemen's Driving Club and competitive clubs.

However, the care and keeping of a horse is a much more involved scenario that one might expect. A horse must be brushed down, fed, hooves filed and shod and generally looked after on a daily basis. An expensive commodity, even a century ago, horses were the livelihood of many including milk companies, delivery wagons and omnibuses, and the enjoyment of those who raced them.

Though Hollis Gallup's Stable has been gone for over 70 years (he died in 1922) and the demand for horses in Dorchester has decreased, the image of men enjoying each others' company at a stable is a romantic image of old Dorchester.

Anthony Mitchell Sammarco's award-winning history column is a regular feature of Dorchester Community News.