

Harry Bagan Photographs

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Collection ID: P027

Provenance and Biography Note:

The photographs were donated by Maria Sousa in October of 1995. There is little biographical information on the donor.

Dates: ca. 1910-1951

Extent: 1 folder, 3 print photographs

Processed by: Brittany Fox, February 2019

Access: Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use

Collection Description:

The Harry Bagan Photograph Collection consists of three photographs with Harry Bagan. The images date between 1910 and 1951 because Bagan was an active officer between 1910 and 1944. Other members of the Fat Man's Club are unidentified.

Historical Context and Biographical Note:

Harry Bagan (d. 1952) was born on Prince Edward Island but lived at 1105 Mass Ave. during his residency in Cambridge. He joined the Cambridge police in 1910 as a reserve officer and retired from the force in 1944. He married Helen M. Bagan (1896-1986) and they had two children, Helen M. and George. Helen was a member of the Cambridge Women's Club and the couple were known to be close to President Roosevelt and his family. During the 1930s, Bagan was a member and then president of the United States Fat Man's Club. He died on April 29, 1952 and was buried at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

The Fat Man's Club was a widespread trend that began around 1910 that celebrated physical girth and required a weight qualification of over 190 pounds. There were many regional and state groups, including the one in Cambridge. Most annual meetings for this branch were held at the Pocahontas Club, Lynnfield Center but there were variations some years.

Items:

1. Photograph of Harry and Helen Bagan, undated. Harry Bagan is in police uniform. Verso: "Helen and Harry Bagan. Gift of Maria Sousa 10/1995."
2. Blurry portrait photograph of Harry Bagan in police uniform." Verso: "Harry Bagan. Gift of Maria Sousa 10/1995."
3. Photograph of six men from the Fat Men's Club pulling on a rope with Harry Bagan in the center, June 24, 1951. Front inscription: "Sunday June 24, 1951. Outing of Fat Men's Club. Silver Lake, Thompson Grove." Verso: "The Fat Man's Club – June 24, 1951, with

Harry Bagan (Cambridge Police Department) standing in middle. Gift of Maria Sousa 10/1995.”

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