

# Boston Sunday Globe

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

## A rare sight on the horizon — hope

With a little luck, social distancing, and vaccines on the way, the pandemic may wind down sooner than we think, experts predict

By Dasia Moore  
GLOBE STAFF

While the coronavirus continued to rip through the country and daily counts of new infections rose to record heights, the seemingly impossible occurred: good news. Promising trials from Pfizer and Moderna suggest that highly effective COVID-19 vaccines could be available in a matter of weeks, bringing the end

► Massachusetts reports 2,991 more virus cases, 19 deaths. B4.

of the pandemic in view for the first time since March.

But the end of the pandemic does not necessarily mean the eradication of COVID-19, epidemiologists said. The closing act of this public health calamity is likely to be a gradual return to a

THE END, Page A8



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF/FILE

An early sign of hope was seen on Washington Street at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in March.

## For police, a milder form of justice

Boston officers rarely face punishment, prosecution

Second in an occasional series

By Evan Allen and Andrew Ryan  
GLOBE STAFF

Danielle Coughlin lay in the intensive care unit at South Shore Hospital the day after the crash and struggled to understand what was going on. Each breath shot bolts of pain through her chest.

**BEHIND THE SHIELD**  
Inside the Boston Police Department

The 35-year-old remembered driving home to Rockland from her job as a nurse just before midnight on Dec. 11, 2013. Slowing down to turn into her driveway. Watching a line of cars head toward her from a nearby golf club. Wondering at the late hour. She didn't even see the black Honda veer into her lane and hit her.

Her head smashed the windshield so hard the glass broke. She blacked out. The man who drove into her had alcohol on his breath and was slurring his words, according to hospital records.

Now, Coughlin was in bed with a broken sternum, a lacerated liver, and a head wound, and a nurse was asking if she knew anyone in the Boston Police Department. No, Coughlin said. Why?

BPD, Page A12

## OUT OF SLAVERY AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE



WILLIAM B. GOULD IV/STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, ABOVE, AND PHOTOS BY LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF, BELOW



Above, William Benjamin Gould, seated, is pictured in 1917 with his six sons, all of whom served in the military. His Civil War-era diary was discovered in an attic in his Dedham home.

A long forgotten diary leads Dedham to honor William Gould, his daring escape from a plantation, and service to the country that once enslaved him

By Brian MacQuarrie  
GLOBE STAFF

DEDHAM — The extraordinary life and legacy of William Benjamin Gould had been all but forgotten here, the town where he raised eight children, was a founding member of an Episcopal church, and served as commander of the Civil War veterans post.

His descendants knew Gould had fought during the Civil War. But it

wasn't until his diary was discovered by accident in 1958 that this remarkable story began to emerge: Gould made a daring escape from slavery in North Carolina and had served three years in the US Navy that rescued him from the Confederacy.

Gould's great-grandson wrote a book about his forebear's diary — the only such document known to have

DIARY, Page A17

## In transition, Biden strikes a presidential air

A deliberate and calming contrast to Trump tumult

By Liz Goodwin  
GLOBE STAFF

WILMINGTON, Del. — President-elect Joe Biden is locked out of the machinery of the federal government and has so far been denied funds to launch his own administration. Most congressional Republicans are refusing to acknowledge his victory, and his personal staff is scheduling calls with world leaders because the State Department won't help.

But inside The Queen, a live-music venue located near a pawn shop and a courthouse in downtown Wilmington, all those obstacles seemed to fall away on Thursday as Biden held a sober, virtual discussion about the ongoing pandemic with a bipartisan group of governors.

"I want you to know I will be your partner in the White House," Biden told the governors —

TRANSITION, Page A2

### Going gray

Sunday: Cloudy, cooler.  
High: 42-47. Low: 40-45.  
Complete report, B14.

**Our country feels deeply divided.** Could we take some lessons from marital therapy?  
**Ideas, K1.**

**COVID-19 laid waste to the 2019-20 collegiate winter sports championship tournaments,** most spring and fall sports, and now is threatening colleges' 2020-21 winter seasons. **Sports, C1.**

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## Virus upends career gains, goals for working mothers

By Katie Johnston  
GLOBE STAFF

Tiarra Noblin tried to keep up with her job after the pandemic hit. She had just started working as a health care coordinator helping homeless clients at Bay Cove Human Services. It was, she said, her dream job. But after a few months watching over her daughters, a kindergarten and a high school

senior, on her own while struggling to work from home in Roslindale, she felt she had to quit.

Noblin, 35, is among a wave of women who have been forced to scale back their careers in recent months to take care of their children while day care and in-person schooling have been disrupted. In Boston, nearly 12 percent of working

mothers had to reduce their hours or stop working between January and October for this reason, according to the workforce solutions company ManpowerGroup, which cross-referenced local jobless numbers with population data and day care closures by ZIP code.

Statewide, more than half of women whose jobs have been

'As long as I'm the teacher and the therapist and all of that, then I can't get back to work.'

TIARRA NOBLIN, who left work to care for her children

MOTHERS, Page A8



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# From slavery to Navy service, diary details an extraordinary life

## DIARY

Continued from Page A1

been authored by a formerly enslaved Union sailor — but his exploits have long faded from local memory. Few in today's Dedham know much of the man, a plastering contractor whose work graces St. Mary's of the Assumption Church and whose 1923 obituary described him as one of the town's leading citizens.

But now, prompted by a grass-roots effort, Dedham is seeking to make Gould's name resonate again, joining a broad movement to honor Black Americans whose lives, however notable, have been overlooked by history.

The town recently renamed a park for Gould and is considering further tributes to a veteran who saw one son serve in the Spanish-American War and five others in World War I.

"I started reading his story and was overwhelmed by it," said Chuck Dello Iacono, the town official who made the motion to rename the park. "The things this man survived. It just amazes me. I think this is a great opportunity."

The park near Mother Brook in East Dedham is 1.3 acres of little-used green space, a narrow strip of grass and trees on Milton Street near the home where Gould raised his family. No signs have been erected since the Parks and Recreation Commission voted Nov. 9 to rename Passive Park, but several ways to honor Gould are being discussed.

A statue, perhaps. Or maybe a garden. A formal dedication is expected, COVID-19 permitting, next spring or summer.

"This was just a crazy 2 a.m. idea I had," said Brian Keaney, a 39-year-old Dedham writer who approached the parks commission about Gould. "Until his diary was discovered, there really wasn't any way to know about him."

Keaney learned of Gould through "Diary of a Contraband," a 2002 book by William B. Gould IV, the veteran's great-grandson, who was chairman of the National Labor Relations Board under President Bill Clinton.

Like the rest of his immediate family in New Jersey, Gould IV had not known of his namesake's life as a slave, which he pieced together years after his father rescued the diary as workers tossed out the contents of a family attic in East Dedham.

Since that day more than 60 years ago, Gould has been enthralled and inspired by his ancestor's life.

"His legacy should be one of inspiration, particularly to young people, to hold their heads high and have a sense of pride in what those who went before them did," said Gould, 84, a law professor emeritus at Stanford University.

"Here is a man who under the most difficult, adverse circumstances that one can imagine was able to stand up, speak in a mature and independent fashion, and evaluate the world around him critically," Gould said.

Gould's great-grandfather escaped from Wilmington, N.C., by rowing 28 nautical

miles down the Cape Fear River with seven other slaves, past a gantlet of Confederate sentinels, on a stormy night in late September 1862.

As daylight broke, the eight made a desperate dash toward the USS Cambridge, a Union ship that picked them up while on blockade duty off the coast. Several days later, the 24-year-old Gould enlisted in the Navy, a relatively integrated branch of the military where he spent the rest of the war.

On Oct. 3, 1862, he wrote in his diary of "taking the Oath of Allegiance to the Government of Uncle Samuel."

Gould served first on the USS Cambridge as a low-ranking crewman before transferring in 1863 to the USS Niagara, a steam frigate that pursued Confederate warships in European waters. He saw combat, survived ferocious gales on the high seas, and wrote proudly of the Navy he served.

When the news reached Gould that Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, the young sailor was aboard the Niagara off Cadiz, Spain.

"I heard the Glad Tidings that the Stars and Stripes had been planted over the Capital of the D--nd Confederacy by the invincible Grant," Gould wrote.

"While we honor the living soldiers who have done so much, we must not forget to whisper for fear of disturbing the Glorious sleep of the many who have fallen," he continued. "Martyrs to the Cause of Right and Equality."

His writing is concise and often eloquent. The penmanship is extraordinary by modern standards. And the literacy that Gould displays in his diary is remarkable at a time when slaves throughout the South were barred from any formal education.

Indeed, Gould IV was unsure whether his great-grandfather had been free or slave when he began studying the diary, which he gave to the Massachusetts Historical Society in 2006.

"Many thought it would be impossible to be enslaved and have this degree of literacy," Gould IV said. "I can remember my father sitting down in the living room and saying, 'This is something really important. You ought to read this.'"

Gould would spend more than 50 years stitching together clues from his great-grandfather's life. He explored the Dedham years while teaching at Harvard in the early 1970s, scoured the National Archives when he was the National Labor Relations chairman in the 1990s, and traveled to Wilmington, N.C. — "where I didn't know a soul" — in search of his ancestor's roots.

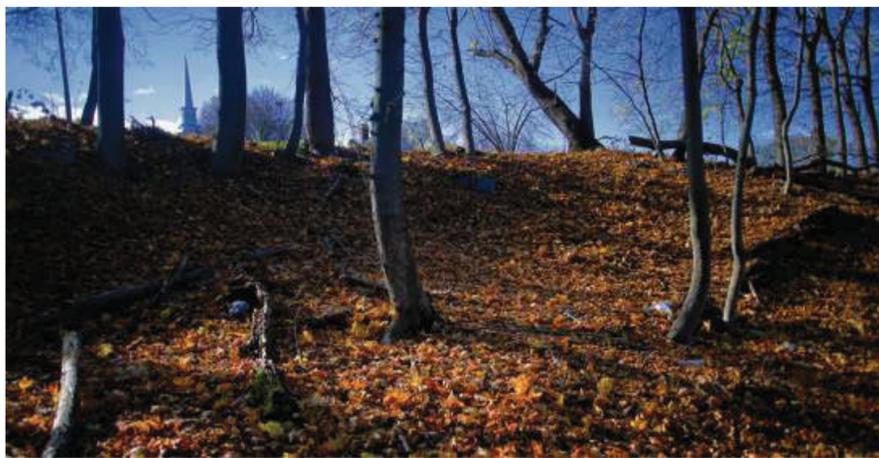
In 1989, he found a breakthrough — a telltale notation in the Civil War log of the USS Cambridge, the ship that had rescued Gould near the Cape Fear River.

"It showed his name and the names of his seven other comrades, and it listed the names of their masters," Gould IV said. "They called them 'contraband.' He had, in fact, been enslaved."

Gould IV also learned of



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LANE TURNER/GLOBE STAFF

Above, William B. Gould IV, great-grandson of William Benjamin Gould, looked at a picture from the USS Niagara, which his great-grandfather had served on, at his home in Stanford, Calif. At left, the park that was recently renamed for the elder Gould. Bottom, a family photo.

gaged in community life. Gould was a founding member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in town, spoke in the schools, owned a plastering business, and was a fixture at veterans events.

During World War I, Gould received an ovation when he was introduced at Patriot Night in Dedham, according to the Dedham Transcript. Two of his sons already were in Europe with the Army, and a third was about to embark.

"I have ever tried to set them a good example," Gould said, "and I expect to hear some good things from those boys."

To Peter Drummey, librarian at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Gould's diary is a treasure on several levels.

"Gould lives in this world full of adventure and extraordinary events. His diary is a window into it, but it's not the whole story," Drummey said.

"Having been enslaved, Gould knows what freedom means, and he knows that he's willing to fight for freedom for the 4 million people who are still enslaved."

Nearly 150 years after Gould moved to East Dedham, in a small park near his former home, that vision and his military service will be honored anew. "It's something, I think, that's a long time coming," parks commissioner Jon Briggs said this month when the park was renamed. "But now is the time."

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Nicholas Nixon, a Wilmington peanut farmer who owned his great-grandfather and dozens of other slaves. He sought out the riverbank where the escape began. And he visited Bellamy Mansion there, where his ancestor's initials were found carved in the plasterwork.

"I went walking the streets looking for him," Gould IV said.

Gould's diary contains occasional references to race relations, writing with almost palpable sadness of how USS Niagara sailors greeted Black soldiers from a Maryland regiment who had been taken aboard temporarily.

The soldiers "were treated

very rough by the crew," Gould said. The sailors "refused to let them eat off the mess pans and called them all kinds of names. . . . In all, they were treated shamefully."

Although Gould was outraged by the episode, his account appears suggestive, his great-grandson said. "He seems to have considered the incident out of the ordinary or exceptional," Gould IV wrote in his book.

A year later in 1865, Gould adamantly opposed the suggestion that American Blacks be colonized elsewhere as a way to address the country's racial divide. It was an idea promoted at one time by President Abraham

Lincoln, and later by some white Americans as the war ended.

"This move . . . must and shall be resisted," Gould wrote. "We were born under the Flag of the Union, and we never will know no other."

Gould had advanced to a petty officer position of wardroom steward when he was honorably discharged in September 1865 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. He soon married Cornelia Williams Read of Nantucket, a former slave whose freedom had been bought in 1858. The couple later lived in New Hampshire and Taunton before settling in East Dedham in 1871.

Why he chose Dedham is unclear, although Gould had cousins in the Boston area whom he visited during the war. His great-grandson, a Hyde Park native who moved to New Jersey as a child, visited his father's relatives on summer trips to Dedham.

The Goulds, one of only two Black families in Dedham, "must have been very much alone," Gould IV said.

"Most of my great-uncles never married, and those that did, married late in life," he said. "I have to think they were relatively isolated."

Still, they were deeply en-

## Mortar shells hit Kabul residential areas; at least 8 killed, dozens hurt

By Tameem Akhgar and Kathy Gannon

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KABUL — Mortars slammed into a residential area of the Afghan capital, killing eight people Saturday, hours before outgoing US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held what are likely his last meetings with the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators trying to hammer out a peace deal.

The attack in Kabul, which was blamed on Islamic State militants, also injured 31 people.

The assault came as peace talks were underway in Qatar, where Pompeo told Afghan government negotiators that the

United States will "sit on the side and help where we can" in the negotiations with Taliban militants.

Two Taliban officials told the Associated Press that the two warring sides have found common ground on which to move forward the stalled talks. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media, did not elaborate.

In Kabul, at least one of the 23 mortar shells fired from two cars hit inside the Iranian Embassy compound. No one was injured, but it damaged the main building, the Iranian Embassy said in a tweet. At least 31 people were hurt elsewhere in

the city, according to the Afghan Interior Ministry.

The local Islamic State affiliate issued a statement claiming the attack that targeted the so-called Green Zone in Kabul that houses foreign embassies, the presidential palace, and Afghan military compounds, according to SITE Intelligence Group.

In Doha, Pompeo also met with the co-founder of the Taliban, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who signed the peace agreement with Washington in February ahead of the so-called intra-Afghan talks. The insurgent group's spokesman, Mohammad Naem, tweeted that further prisoner releases were discussed in the meeting, in ad-

dition to those that the two warring sides committed to ahead of peace talks under the US deal.

Naem said the Taliban also repeated their demand that Taliban leaders be removed from the United Nations sanctions list. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed earlier Saturday issued a statement assailing the Afghan government for requesting the United Nations maintain sanctions on Taliban leaders.

For most Afghans, the overriding concern has been a sharp rise in violence this year and a surge of attacks by the Taliban against Afghanistan's beleaguered security forces, since the

start of peace talks in September.

The announcement this past week that the United States will accelerate its planned troop withdrawal has lent greater urgency to the intra-Afghan negotiations and to the calls for a reduction in violence. Washington announced it would withdraw another estimated 2,500 troops before the middle of January, leaving about 2,000 American soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Taliban have, however, held to their promise not to attack US and NATO troops.

The United States has been pressing in recent weeks for a reduction in violence, while the Afghan government has been

demanding a cease-fire. The Taliban have refused, saying a cease-fire would be part of negotiations.

There are many within the Afghan government who want February's peace deal scrapped. President-elect Joe Biden has previously advocated a small, intelligence based force in Afghanistan to focus on counterterrorism.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Abdullah, head of the government's High Council for Reconciliation, condemned in a tweet Saturday's attack on the capital, calling it a "cowardly" act. The council oversees the government's negotiating team at the table with the Taliban in Doha.