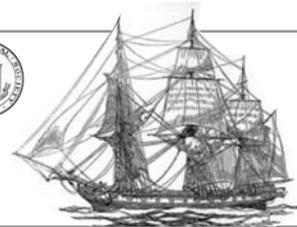


MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



SUMMER, 2009

President's Overview



As I sit at my desk and write this letter, I have to look at the calendar on this gray, rainy day to be sure it is actually the summer solstice and longest day of the year. By the time you read this, I hope the sun is shining, and you are reading this outside enjoying the great New England summer.

Inside the newsletter, you'll see the list of Society Officers and four new names – Pam Bybell, Jenny Gilbert, Maura McEnaney, and Kyna Hamill. These wonderful people and their skills in education, community organizing, writing, and directing non-profits will be valuable additions to our Board. I want to thank everyone who came to the Annual Meeting and Members' Reception as well as the old and new Board members who agreed to serve this year. A special thanks goes to retiring board members, Lorna Wilkerson, Penny Outlaw, and Gerry Hershkowitz. They plan to continue supporting the Society as they step aside to allow new people to refresh the Board.

Our thoughts and condolences remain with the family of John Lonergan, who passed away shortly before the annual meeting. After serving as President for two years during a challenging time, John remained a Board member at large, always coming

up with new ideas and launching projects. He reminds me of the saying, "We don't grow old. When we quit growing, we are old." John never stopped growing. We thank his family for naming MHS as one of the organizations to receive contributions in John's memory.

In May, the House Committee organized a work day. We attacked the wilderness in back of the building. Tree branches were interfering with the roof, and debris and trash had built up over the years. A team also removed the suspended ceiling in the entrance hall. No doubt the suspended ceiling looked clean and neat when it was put up many years ago, but the original wood rafters and ceiling are an improvement over the drab and worn look of the old ceiling tiles. We are planning for more work to improve the lighting and organize the wires that were installed above the suspended ceiling. During the cleanup day, others worked on

Society Officers

President
John Anderson
Vice President
Sharon Guzik
Recording Secretary
Susan Gerould
Corresponding Secretary
Beth Fuller
Treasurer
Ruth Roper
Assistant Treasurer
Pam Bybell
Director of Collections
Barbara Kerr

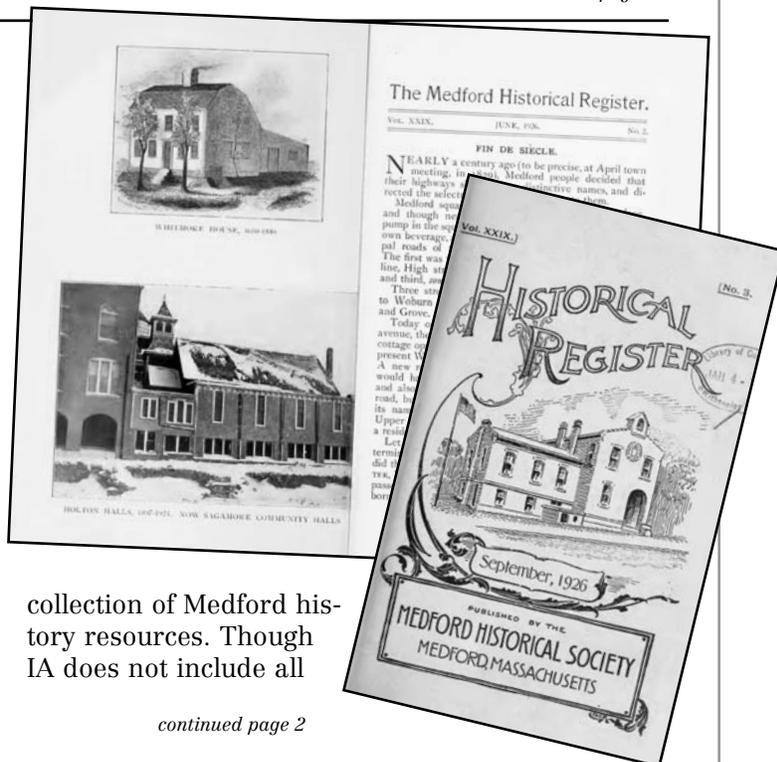
Directors at Large
Jenny Gilbert
Kyna Hamill
Jim Kiely
Maura McEnaney

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Medford History via the Internet Archive

The staff of the MHS recently discovered a trove of Medford historical resources available online at the Internet Archive at <http://www.archive.org/>. The Internet Archive is a free online library made up of scanned versions of books and other media.

The Archive includes a very nice selection of Medford-related materials including multiple volumes of the *Medford Historical Register*, published by the Historical Society from 1894-1940. As many of our readers know, the first thirty volumes of the MHR are already available through Tufts University. However, the registers on Internet Archive include later editions that are not on the Tufts site. Internet Archive presents its publication in book form – you turn a virtual page to read the volume— so all the illustrations from the original Registers are preserved along with the advertisements that were included in some volumes. You can also download the volumes and start your own



collection of Medford history resources. Though IA does not include all

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President's Overview *continued*

the garden out front or cleaned up the basement or a host of other tasks.

The Civil War photography exhibit was taken down in early June. I hope you all had a chance to see this wonderful show. The ad-hoc committee, chaired by Jim Kiely, not only created a professional level exhibit but also raised the funds to pay for it. I am proud that the Society was able to support their work.

While the pace at the Society is beginning to slow for the summer, there is still much to discuss.

- 1. Strategic Plan:** As a first step in developing a five year plan, the officers have committed to develop a formal list of goals for this year so that we can focus on the most important activities which will grow the Society and serve the community. If you have any input regarding goals, please contact me at 781-395-5138 or by emailing jwa02155@yahoo.com.
- 2. Programs:** Our new Program Committee, now jointly chaired by Kyna Hamill and Fred Schlicher is working hard to finalize our fall schedule. This will allow Barbara Kerr, our curator, more time to devote to cataloging and caring for our collections. But the season isn't over yet! Map Night is July 16, at 7:30PM. We'll bring out maps from our collection so you can see how your neighborhood has developed over

the years and perhaps envision what it would have been like to live there at different times in the past. And there are still some tour dates for the Peter Tufts House; check the dates elsewhere in this newsletter. I want to send a special thanks to Lou Cohen who worked effectively to line up some exceptional speakers for the coming year.

- 3. Civil War Photograph Digitization:** This ambitious project will scan our entire collection of Civil War photographs, enabling further cataloging and research without the need to continually handle the fragile physical photographs. It will also allow wider access to the collection without the risks associated with handling the originals. We have been fortunate to recruit one of our members, Jay Hurd, to manage this project. He recently retired from the preservation and imaging department at Harvard's Widener Library and we are proud to have his participation. We're fortunate that such amazing human capital resides in Medford, a perfect example of why we need to continue reaching out to the community to find new members, volunteers, directors, and officers for the Society. If you would like to volunteer to help with this or any project, please get in touch with Fred Schlicher (fredschlicher@comcast.net or 781-395-7207).

Best wishes for a great summer! –*John Anderson*

Medford History *continued*

MEDFORD BIRTHS.

TO THE YEAR 1850.

ABBOT, Phebe [w. Jona[than] Porter], Jan. 25, 1766, in Andover. P.M. 16.
ABRY (see Albrete, Alberry, Albree), Susanna (Abvy), d. John and Elisabeth, Oct. 7, 1774.
ADAMS, Almira, d. Dea. Nathan, bp. Nov. 21, 1819. C.R. 1.
Andrew B., s. Nathan Jr., Nov. 23, 1823. [s. Dea. Nathan Jr., C.R. 1.]
Annis Clark, d. James and Persis of New Boston, N. H., — [1823]. C.R. 1.
Artemas, s. John, bp. Nov. 13, 1774. C.R. 1.
Catherine Augusta, d. Dea. Nathan, bp. May 11, 1828. C.R. 1.
Charles, s. John, bp. Aug. 14, 1785. C.R. 1.
Charles, s. Joseph, bp. Apr. 2, 1809. C.R. 1.
Charlotte, d. Nathan, bp. Dec. 4, 1796. C.R. 1.
Charlotte, d. Nathan, bp. Apr. 21, 1799. C.R. 1.
Edward Everett, s. Dea. Adams, bp. Nov. —, 1833. C.R. 1.
Eliza, d. Joseph, bp. Jan. 9, 1814. C.R. 1.
Elizabeth, d. Benjamin and Elizabeth, May 12, 1737.
Elizabeth Ann, d. Nathan Jr., bp. Oct. 24, 1813. C.R. 1.
Frederick Hazen, s. George E., labourer, and Susan K., Oct. 15, 1849.
George Edward, ch. George E. and Susan K., Mar. 14, 1848. C.R. 4.
Hannah, d. Amos, bp. Jan. 12, 1794. C.R. 1. [b. Jan. 10, P.M. 42.]
Harrietta Kebecca, d. Peter T., farmer, and Martha J., July 3, 1849.
Harriot, ch. Joseph, bp. June 2, 1816. C.R. 1.
Joel, s. John, bp. July 15, 1787. C.R. 1.
John, s. Nathan, bp. Feb. 27, 1791. C.R. 1.
John Q., s. Nathan Jr., Oct. 14, 1825. [John Quincy, s. Dea. N., C.R. 1.]
Louisa, d. Nathan, bp. Oct. 9, 1808. C.R. 1.
Lucy, d. Joseph, bp. Apr. 21, 1811. C.R. 1.
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the volumes of the MHR, adding them to those available at Tufts means the majority of the volumes are now online.

Other treasures on the IA site include *Vital Records of Medford to 1850*, which has the birth, death, and marriage listings for early Medford. This is a great resource for early genealogy as is *the Register of families settled at the Town of Medford*. The site also includes the *History of the Town of Medford* by Charles

Brooks, which covers the period up to 1855.

IA also includes *Medford in the Revolution* by Helen Tilden Wild, which is a very good, comprehensive treatment of Medford's participation in the Revolution – it includes lists of all the Medford citizens who took part. *The Proceedings of the 275th Anniversary of the Settlement of Medford* is another

great volume – the first half of the book consists of a good concise history of Medford as well as organizations, churches and people.

And if you are a Victorian Medford aficionado, Internet Archive has *Medford, Past and Present*, which is a true treasure. *Past and Present* was published in 1905 as part of the 275th anniversary. What makes it a great resource is its capsule biographies of some of the “notable citizens” of the town in 1905. The problem with the paper version is that it was not published with an index but the online version and wonders of keyword searching eliminate that problem very nicely. There are people listed in this book who are not listed in any other resource – if you have a Victorian era home, you may very well find some previous residents in this book.

While we hope that online resources never eliminate the personal touch of a visit to the MHS or the Medford Public Library, having these resources available for home use is a very convenient option for the Medford historian. We hope you will take advantage of what is out there. And keeps your eyes open – more new online items are being added all the time.

Barbara Kerr

Historical Marker Program Committee Seeking Additional Prospects

The MHS Historical House Marker Program Committee is conducting its second outreach effort to Medford homeowners. The Committee has targeted 332 attractive and well maintained houses from neighborhoods across the city with a direct mail campaign inviting homeowners to purchase a custom made wooden marker for \$175 (\$150 for Society members) which carries the official Society logo and displays the year the house was built.

Any house in Medford can proudly display the historical marker. The house does not have to be "historic" or of special architectural significance to participate in this program that celebrates Medford's historic heritage and promotes its preservation. If you know of a home owner in your neighborhood who might be interested in purchasing a marker please pass the referral on to Committee Chair Fred Schlicher at 781.395.7207 or fredschlicher@comcast.net.

Join the Collection Committee

A Collection Committee will begin meeting this Fall to create policies and plan the future of the Society's collection. If you would be interested in joining, please contact Barbara Kerr at mhsqueries@yahoo.com.

Civil War Exhibit a Success

From February through May, MHS hosted *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War*, a selection of photographs from the Society's renowned Civil War collection. The exhibit was a great success. 476 visitors came to view the show during its weekend hours. Our volunteers, John Lonergan and Peter Escott, also welcomed a number of classes from St. Joseph's School and the Medford Public Schools. In addition to those visitors and more who attended the opening reception as well as our members' reception in May, more than 800 visitors came through the doors.

This was a truly collaborative effort, and we certainly appreciate all the people who contributed to project. We hope the success of this venture will lead to many more.

The Medford Historical Society would like to thank the following people and organizations for their time, skills, and efforts, all of which made *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War* possible:

Dorothy Eckstein, Stan Eckstein, Sue Gerould, Jennifer Gilbert, Marc Gurton, Kyna Hamill, Barbara Kerr, Jim Kiely, Ken Krause, Maura McEnaney, Doug Packer, Meryl Perlson, Fred Schlicher, Will Tenney. Special thanks to Michael Chesson for writing the text for the exhibit and the exhibit book.

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals for financial and in-kind contributions:

Blue and Gray Education Society, Boloco Restaurant, Brookline Bank, Genzyme Foundation, GIS Labs- Tufts University, Lenny Goldstein, KenCo Printing of Medford, Diane McCloud, Pageworks, Juliette Shih, Supreme Paint, Somerville and City Paint, Cambridge, Whole Foods of Medford

Old House Ownership Series

Learn how to preserve the character of your old house, trace its history and how to make your older home more energy efficient.

The Medford Historical Society and the Medford Historical Commission are pleased to sponsor the Old House Ownership Program Series for local residents starting on July 16, at 7:30 p.m. This three part speaker series will feature preservation, historic research and energy professionals from around the state who will provide practical solutions on how to preserve the character of your old house, trace the history of your house and neighborhood and reduce your home's energy costs.

Old House Ownership Basics Saturday, October 17, 10:00 a.m.

*Sally Zimmerman, Preservation Specialist,
Historic New England*

*Barbara Kerr, Associate Director,
Medford Public Library*

*Nino Susi, President,
Medford Historical Commission*

Receive practical advice on maintaining the character of your old house and learn ways to enhance its appearance. Participants are encouraged to bring photos of their houses so the discussion can be tailored to cover individual questions on structure and historic restoration. The presentation will also include information on research resources available at the Medford Public Library, Medford Historical Society and Registry of Deeds to trace the history of your Medford house along with a Medford Historical Commission activity update.

Program will begin at 10 a.m. at the Royall House Slave Quarters located at 15 George Street in Medford.

Greening the Older Home Saturday, January 16, 2010

*Sally Zimmerman, Preservation Specialist,
Historic New England*

Other speakers, time and location to be determined

Historic preservation meets energy efficiency. Learn how to green up your older home without damaging its historic integrity. Panelists will present up-to-date information on insulation, windows, lighting and exterior sealing.

In Memory of John Lonergan

When John Lonergan passed away in April, the Medford Historical Society lost one of its best friends. He served a two-year term as president of MHS and then continued as a board member at-large. I often told him that he was the best possible president for the transition we were going through in those two years. He never agreed with me and often said he didn't sleep peacefully through the night until he turned in his key after his two year term. I still think he was just the right person for the job at that time of transition which could have done some damage to the Society but didn't because it was in John's hands. He listened; he asked questions; he reached out; he built bridges instead of burning them.

John loved Medford history and got a big kick out of the Society. He would sit in the building and read volumes of the Historical Register. He would learn things he never knew, and when he talked about them, his enthusiasm became contagious. When he talked about ships, and the Baldwin apple, and treasure in the Middlesex Fells, he shared a sense of wonder about what had happened in Medford and the people who had made it happen. His curiosity and excitement gave me heart in those first few years when it seemed that we could not possibly do what we were trying to do.

Another of John's qualities that helped get us through those first years was his sense of humor. The building was a mess, and it was easy to be discouraged, but John saw the funny side. One afternoon, the door knob fell off, and I couldn't get out of the building. I thought



about who to call and decided John would get the biggest laugh. When I explained my predicament he said, "How much money do you have?" and then came cheerfully up the hill and let me out.

John wanted everyone to know and love Medford history as much as he did. He was full of ideas and was always looking for new ways to tell people what we were doing. He would have ten projects going at once with ten different people, and we still aren't sure we know what all of the projects were! He was particularly happy to pass on Medford history to kids; in the winter and spring of this year, he had a wonderful time bringing school groups over to the Society to see the Civil War exhibit. He was working on so many plans for what we could do in the future to get kids more involved, and I hope we can do this for him.

The Sunday after his funeral we put a John Lonergan Sr. folder in our historical files and started filling it with articles and other items so that he could take his esteemed place in the history of Medford. I think he'd get a kick out of that. We've come a long way since John first became president, and I know he was proud of what the Society has accomplished. As we go forward, I hope that we continue to carry with us his humor, his sense of wonder, and his great heart.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who donated to the Society in memory of John Lonergan, and thank you to the Lonergan family for thinking of the MHS.

Barbara Kerr

Summer Tours Offered at the Peter Tufts House

Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 18 at 2:00 p.m.

The Peter Tufts House at 300 Riverside Avenue is one of the oldest brick structures in the United States, constructed in the late 1600s.

The Medford Historical Society and the Medford Public Library sponsored two June tours and will sponsor additional group tours, limited to 10 persons each, of the house on the following dates. (If the 2:00 fills there will be an "overflow" tour at 3:00 pm)

To register for any of these tours please call the Library at (781) 395-7950. The tours will meet at the Tufts House.

View of Tufts House before it was renovated by Samuel Crocker Lawrence for his daughter in the 1890's ►



MHS Board Welcomes New Faces

At the Annual Meeting in May, MHS welcomed four new faces to the Board. We would like to introduce them to you all as well as express our appreciation for sharing their enthusiasm and talents in the coming year.



Pam Bybell and her family have lived in Medford since 1985. She is currently an at-home parent, but her former employment included serving as the Public Information Officer for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and later as the

CEO/Executive Director of The Boston Computer Society, a non-profit educational membership organization. She has a Master's degree in education from the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Over the years, she has been active in several local groups including the Medford Garden Club (co-founder), the Medford Family Network (volunteer and instructor), and is a member of many others. She has volunteered with and/or have been on the boards of several Massachusetts organizations serving children and families affected with autism and other developmental disabilities.



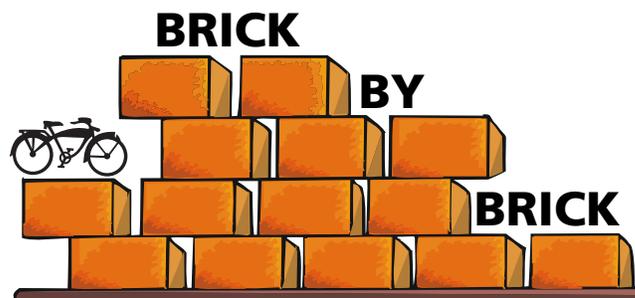
Jennifer Gilbert received her Masters Degree in Art History from UMASS Amherst where she studied a traditional course in American Art, with a focus on the decorative arts. Gilbert was the curator and later Executive Director of the New England Quilt Museum. She is

the recipient of scholarships from the New England Museum Association, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the American Quilt Study Group. She has written two books about quilting, *The New England Quilt Museum Quilts: Featuring the Story of the Mill Girls* and *Old and New Quilts: from Ancient and Modern Cities*. She has lectured widely on both historic and contemporary quilts. Gilbert has served as a juror for the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Maine Arts Commission and as a reviewer for the Institute of Museum and Library Science. Gilbert has worked as the Director of Annual Giving at Mount Auburn Cemetery where she oversaw the organization's annual appeal and coordinated grant applications. She is currently a Major Gifts Officer at Lesley University focusing on individual philanthropy.



Kyna Hamill is originally from Canada, and settled in Medford in 1999. She received her PhD in Theatre History from Tufts University and has written articles on Irish theatre, seventeenth-century print artists and the Italian Commedia dell'arte. She joined the MHS

in 2007 and served on the exhibit committee for *Of The People: Faces of the Civil War* (2009). She cur-



A Bicycle Tour of Historic Medford Saturday, September 26

Learn about the history of Medford's brick industry and explore some of the city's most interesting brick houses, buildings and structures. The tour will begin at City Hall at 2:00 p.m and cover about 9 miles.

Helmets required, recommended for children 10 and older. All cycling levels welcome. No registration required

Suggested donation \$3.

Organized by the Medford Historical Society with the Medford Bi-Peds and Medford Saving Lives.

For more information email kynahamill@yahoo.com

Raindate Saturday, October 3 at 2:00 p.m.

rently teaches at Boston University and is a trustee of the Old Medford High School Condo Board.



Maura McEnaney is a business writer and biographer. A graduate of Syracuse University, she grew up in the Boston area and worked at a number of news organizations around the country including *The Patriot Ledger*, *The Akron Beacon Journal* and

Bloomberg News. In Akron, Maura was on the reporting team of a Pulitzer Prize-winning project examining race relations in Northeastern Ohio. She relocated to Medford as an editor for Fidelity Investments and, later, State Street Corporation. Today, she is writing a biography of a Great Plains entrepreneur and appreciates the vast importance of preserving the history that affects our lives each day.

Looking for an Angel

The Society needs a working PC laptop for our volunteers to use to catalogue the collection and for researching online. We are looking for a machine recent enough to run Past Perfect and QuickBooks, and with wireless capability. It should have a network card and be running Windows XP. If you have upgraded and have one you could donate, and are looking for a worthy recipient, we will provide you a receipt for a tax deduction. Contact Barbara Kerr at mhsqueries@yahoo.com.

Newsletter Submissions

The MHS newsletter is published quarterly. We are looking for submissions for future issues. If you would like to submit an article about a topic of Medford history or a reminiscence about your personal Medford history, please send it to vickihh@verizon.net.

Thinking about volunteering? Check inside for opportunities at MHS!



*Medford Square, showing
Millitamen being reviewed
on High Street for
Medford's Patriot's Day
parade April 19, 1925*



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