

## Civil War Show *continued*

energetic group of volunteers is coordinating all aspects of this project – from photo selection, to wall construction, to publicity. One of the biggest contributions to *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War* is from UMass professor of American history, Michael Chesson, who will be writing the show's text. A lecture series will accompany the show (see sidebar).

Please contact us if you would like to learn more about *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War* or if you are interested in volunteering to help. –*Jim Kiely*

## Whole Foods and Boloco Inspired Burritos Support MHS

If you buy groceries or eat out locally this January, **Whole Foods** and **Boloco Inspired Burritos** are giving you two simple ways of contributing to the Medford Historical Society.

On Tuesday, January 20 **Whole Foods of Medford**, Mystic Valley Parkway, donated over \$2200 which represented 5% of all sales for the day to MHS to help fund our portrait exhibition titled *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War*. MHS had an information table set up inside the store and spoke with people about the organization and the exhibition.

**Boloco Inspired Burritos**, located at 340 Boston Avenue, will be supporting the Medford Historical Society's upcoming show with their offer to donate one dollar to the exhibit for every burrito sold during the following times:

**Tuesday, January 27** (4–10 p.m.)

**Sunday, February 1** (11 a.m.–10 p.m.) Super Bowl planners take note!

**Wednesday, February 4** (4-10 p.m.)

**Thursday, February 12** (11 a.m.–10 p.m.) Lincoln's 200th birthday

Please lend your own support for this generosity and patronize **Boloco Inspired Burritos** during these special fundraising periods.

## Appraisal Night Held

On November 7, MHS and the Kaminski Auction House of Beverly sponsored Antique Appraisal Night at MHS headquarters on Governors Avenue. The event was a fundraiser for MHS as well as an educational opportunity for the 50 people who attended. Bringing everything from paintings and tea sets to watches and toys, visitors had a chance to meet with a Kaminski representative to have their items historically analyzed and financially appraised. While waiting for their turns, audience members were encouraged to listen to what was being said about other people's items so they could have a quick, but thorough, introduction to the history of mostly American art and artifacts.

Antique Appraisal Night was a success from all perspectives. MHS raised \$1,000 which it will use to pay for programs, collection preservation and general operations. As important was the opportunity for Medford citizens to meet one another, share a passion for history and learn within a relaxed, unique environment.

True to the spirit of such events, one had some surprising moments. Perhaps the most surprising came with the appraisal of a toy train. To an untrained eye, the train appeared to have no features that set it apart from other similar toys. Upon inspection, however, the Kaminski representative explained that this one was rare, in unusually good shape, and worth over \$3,000. Applause filled the room and, of course, the owner lit up.

MHS is considering holding more antique appraisals, perhaps as early as this coming spring. Old items such as books, records and jewelry require specialists for appraisal. Since there seems to be no end of their number in the world, we would like to give their owners an opportunity to share stories of inheritance and garage sale finds and, in the process, perhaps find their equivalent of the toy train. –*Jim Kiely*

## Medford High School Graduates 1879 *From the Archives...*

Ella Louise Alden	Arthur Benjamin Bean
Amy Dell Emerson	Alfred Harry Blake
Frances Amelia Harris	Warren Randall Gilman
Ida Francis Hayden	George Maurice
Edith Eugenia Hodgson	Haushalter
Caroline Kidd	Charles Holyoke
Bertha Maria Libby	Anselm Augustus
Celia Frances Osgood	Lauriat
Ella Josephine Parker	Joseph Chapman
Frances Helen Poor	Miller, Jr.
Maria Louise Stevens	Ralph Jacob Saxe
Jeannie Symmes	

Here is a list of the Medford High School graduates in 1879:

This list is from the Graduation Program of June 27, 1879. The Medford Historical Society has such programs, dating from 1863-1894, as well as scattered years from 1900 - 1936 in our "Schools" file. This is just one of numerous sets of materials, found in the archives at MHS, that can be used for various historical research projects. –*Jerry Hershkowitz*

### 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](mailto:vickihh@verizon.net).

## Asked and Answered

### Q: How would I find information about town-wide illnesses in Medford in the 1870s?

**A:** As far back as the 1830s, the town of Medford published an annual report which included short reports by each city department. To answer this question, we looked in the annual reports for the 1870s. We discovered that Medford did not have a Board of Health until 1871. The first report of the Board of Health was in 1872. During the 1870s, the Board reported the different kinds of illnesses that occurred every year including a small pox epidemic in 1872 and 1873. One of the main health concerns of the 1870s, prior to indoor plumbing, was the healthy disposal of sewage. This topic recurs over and over in the reports, and one gets the sense that the Board of Health despaired of the common sense of the population, as in this excerpt from 1872: "Typhoid fever, and many diseases of the most fatal character, are attributed to water poisoned by the soakage from soils charged with sewage, and not from the visitations of Providence."

## Winter/Spring Events Schedule

### Local Roadside Memories, a Slide Lecture by Larry Cultrera of Diner Hotline

Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 PM at the Medford Public Library. Larry Cultrera is a well-known expert on diners and other 20th century roadside attractions. His Diner Hotline website is a mecca for diner aficionados. Join Larry in March for a look at some favorite Medford roadside landmarks. This program is guaranteed to bring back fond memories!

### African-American Soldiers in the Civil War, presented by Michael Chesson

Friday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the West Medford Community Center at 111 Arlington Street

### Fort Warren in the Civil War, presented by Jay Schmidt

Tuesday, March 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Royall House at 15 George Street

### I'll Pass for Your Comrade: Women Soldiers in the Civil War, presented by Anita Silvey

Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Medford Public Library at 111 High Street

### The Boston and Maine Railroad, a Lecture by Frederick Nowell, Boston and Maine Railroad Historical Society

Wednesday, May 20 at 7:00 PM at the Medford Historical Society. The Boston and Maine Railroad was the first railroad to come through Medford, and this new transportation changed the town forever. Railroad historian, Frederick Nowell, will talk about the history of this early rail service and its effect on the towns served by the Boston and Maine.

For more information and other events currently being planned, visit the Medford Historical Society website at [www.medfordhistorical.org](http://www.medfordhistorical.org), or e-mail us at [mhsrsvp@yahoo.com](mailto:mhsrsvp@yahoo.com).

## President's Message *continued*

when I arrived on a Saturday at the Woburn Cinema parking lot for the canal walk portion of the event and found more than 50 people waiting to begin. The second half of the event was a slide show lecture on the canal at MHS headquarters the following week. If you missed any of it, copies of *The Incredible Ditch* are available for sale at MHS which sponsored this book about the construction and history of this amazing and almost forgotten canal.

Given all of this, I believe we have the opportunity to continue to strengthen the organization. Let us hope that the challenges we face in the New Year bring us a heightened sense of community and an increased desire to work together for the common good, which springs in part from understanding our community's history and thus developing a unique "sense of place" for ourselves and our fellow citizens. –*John Anderson*

## Treasurer's Report

The Medford Historical Society is in the business of preserving history. As such, money is needed to ensure the organization's survival. The following is a brief picture of its current financial situation.

For the fiscal year that ended in August, 2008, the Society earned about \$13,000 (except for special accounts) and spent about \$19,000. The expenses seem high, but they include certain costs that had actually been billed during the previous year. We are trying to reduce expenses for the current fiscal year.

The Board of Directors has approved a tight budget of less than \$13,000 in expenditures to match a conservative estimate of income. Those expenses include the building's utilities and upkeep, insurance, and accounting fees. We'd like to do be able to do more, but we are trying to spend within our means, a common outlook in today's economy. On the income side, we are hoping to exceed last year's \$5000 membership income and \$2000-\$4000 in donations from the annual appeal. Miscellaneous smaller sources of income should bring the amount up to meet our spending needs.

There are some special accounts. The Society owns and maintains the Peter Tufts House which has its own income and expense streams. There are also some small grants awarded to MHS for targeted projects. These funds are kept separate from the general operating expenses in order to maintain clarity and determine need more effectively.

As you can see, MHS operates on a tight budget. Your membership dues and other donations are vital to keeping the Society open and running properly. We hope you will all be able to renew your membership, help us find new members, and, where possible, take part in some of our fundraising activities. –*Jerry Hershkowitz, Treasurer*



# Of the People:

FACES OF THE CIVIL WAR

February 27 – April 30, 2009  
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

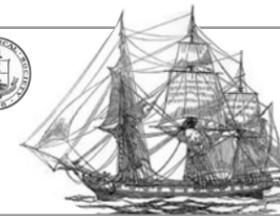


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Your Medford Historical Society Newsletter

# MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



WINTER, 2009

## President's Overview



Happy New Year to everyone! I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday season in spite of what continues to be difficult times for most people. As with most non-profit organizations that survive by volunteer effort and donated funds, we face a challenging 2009, but I am optimistic and enthusiastic. Let me tell you why.

New volunteers continue to join committees, bolstering the House Committee and the Events Committee. Special thanks go to Fred Schlicher who has spearheaded this effort. Please email him at fredsclicher@comcast.net or call me at 781-395-5138 if you'd like to join our volunteer corps.

We can be proud of our success with the Annual Appeal. Thanks go to everyone who participated, and especially Jim Kiely and Jen Gilbert who did most of the publicity, mailing, emails, thank you letters, and all the other work in running a campaign such as this. We raised \$3010 so far, a significant improvement over last year's \$2220, quite remarkable given the dismal economic situation. Most importantly this was done with the help of 33 new contributors. Kudos to Jim and Jen, and all the contributors! This will help us close the operational

budget gap, described by our Treasurer, Gerry, elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our modest endowment is 100% in CDs insured by the FDIC. In the past, I have wondered if we should chase gains in the stock market with these funds, but since our endowment is small, it is really more of a rainy day fund and has thus been invested very conservatively. I wish some of my personal funds had followed this strategy!

This year, we plan on building upon the success of our public programs. One of the highlights of the fall was a "double header" walk and talk about the Middlesex Canal which connected the Charles and Merrimack rivers in the early 1800s, running through Medford to Woburn and beyond. A big piece of the event's success involved partnering with other organizations, in this case the Middlesex Canal Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Imagine my surprise and delight

### Society Officers

*President*  
**John Anderson**  
*Vice President*  
**Sharon Guzik**  
*Recording Secretary*  
**Susan Gerould**  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
**Beth Fuller**  
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**Gerald Hershkowitz**  
*Assistant Treasurer*  
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*Director of Collections*  
**Barbara Kerr**

### Directors at Large

**Lorna Wilkerson**  
**Jim Kiely**  
**John Lonergan**  
**Penny Outlaw**

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## Civil War Photo Show to Open

One day after the Martin Luther King holiday and 200 years after Lincoln's birth, the nation inaugurated Barack Obama as its first African-American president. MHS will honor this remarkable series of events with *Of the People: Faces of the Civil War*, an exhibition of over fifty portraits from our collection of original Civil War photographs — the fifth largest of its kind in the world. The show is scheduled to open on February 27 (Lincoln's birthday) and mark the first time that any of the portraits have been publicly displayed.

Portraits included in the exhibit will be of soldiers, civilians and freed slaves taken on or near war fronts on which 620,000 Americans would eventually die. MHS owns a large number of photographs depicting wartime ruins, field armaments and troop formations. Though they are important, we are focusing on portraits because, viewed together, their subjects' expressions, clothing, skin color, gender and age present the war in basic human terms. They also depict the diversity of the



American population in the nineteenth century and much of its social order.

With the national economy in disarray, MHS has been fortunate to receive financial assistance for this exhibition from area residents and businesses. An

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