



President's Overview

by John Anderson

I'd like to recognize the generous donation of time and the accomplishments of our volunteers in 2017. I personally enjoyed ALL the programs and newsletters this year. Newsletter highlights for me included an article about West Medford and one noting the connection between the Brooks family and Chicago architecture. Thanks to our hardworking Program Committee, we've enjoyed a variety of events throughout the year. For me, all all events in the WWI series on the Medford-Malden historic football rivalry were special hits. This year's holiday party/lecture earned rave reviews!

Behind the scenes, volunteers have created new work spaces by cleaning out items such as broken vacuums, outdated computer equipment and excess furniture. They've also been furiously inventorying collections, entering info into our computer database, researching items' provenance and relevance to Medford and our general collection. Let us not forget those who staff MHSM on Sundays, prepare goodies for our events, clean and take out the trash and shovel our walks.

I want to thank everyone who has already given to The Annual Appeal. If you have not, it is NOT TOO LATE! Feel free to try our new PayPal option found on our website's home page. All donations large or small are welcome and appreciated!

I anticipate more progress on many Society fronts this year! Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

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Treasurer unfilled

Recording Secretary Susan Fedo

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Anne Marie Gallagher

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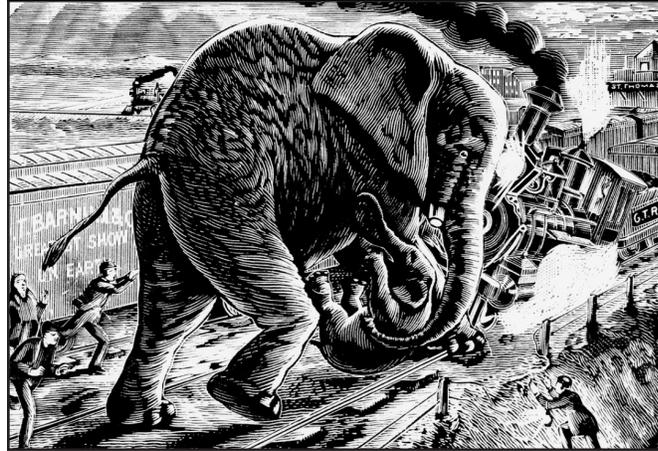
Directors at Large

Suzanne Ezekiel Charlotte Scuderi

Hallie Lee Jay Stott

Jumbo's Long Journey to Tufts

by Nancy White



Jumbo travelled with P.T. Barnum's circus for many years before he was tragically killed in a collision with a train in Ontario in 1885.

Somewhere between the years 1859-1860, a male elephant was born in the French Sudan Territory of Africa. The name given to this baby elephant was Jumbo, a Swahili name meaning chief. When fully grown, he would be the largest elephant of record, standing over 12 feet tall and weighing between 6 and 7 tons. Jumbo lived with his mother for over two years before being captured by a Sudanese elephant hunter, who sold him to a German animal dealer. Jumbo was brought to Suez, transported across the Mediterranean Sea to Germany, finally arriving at his destination, the Jardin des Plantes, a zoo in Paris.

By 1865 Jumbo was sold again, this time to the London Zoo. At the London Zoo that his name was changed to Jumbo, a combination of Sudanese names Jembe meaning chief and Jambo meaning hello. Jumbo became a national attraction because of his size and his mild and playful temperament. Matthew Scott, the zookeeper trainer, was Jumbo's lifelong caretaker. Under Scott's care, Jumbo grew and flourished. For Jumbo, a typical day's food intake consisted of 200 pounds

of hay, one barrel of potatoes, two bushels of oats, 15 loaves of bread, a slew of onions, and several pails of water. When Jumbo was not feeling well, it was reported that Scott gave Jumbo two gallons of whiskey to drink.

In London, Jumbo gained celebrity status and the admiration of both children and adults. Known as the Children's Giant Pet, he would allow and even, enjoyed, children and adults riding on him. Several notable children had this honor and privilege including the future Prime Minister of England, as well as Winston Churchill, the future President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, and the children of England's reigning monarch, Queen Victoria.

In 1882 after 17 years of successful exhibition, the London Zoo made the decision to sell Jumbo because he had reached the age of twenty, the age limit of useful zoo elephants. There was a public outcry, and thousands of school children wrote to Queen Victoria asking her to intervene and stop the sale. In spite of passionate pleas, Jumbo was sold for \$10,000.00 to Phineas Taylor Barnum (P.T.

continued page 2

Jumbo's Long Journey *continued*

Barnum), a partner/proprietor of the Greatest Show on Earth, the famous Barnum and Bailey Circus.

The purchase of Jumbo was a huge financial success for the Barnum and Bailey Circus. In the first six weeks of performing for the circus, Jumbo grossed over \$325,000.00. For three years Jumbo was the major circus attraction. But sadly, Jumbo was struck and killed by a train in Saint Thomas, Ontario in September 1885. However, Barnum had made plans, in the event of Jumbo's potential demise, to have Jumbo's hide stuffed and mounted and also have the skeleton reassembled for display. Jumbo's remains went on tour with the circus making lots of money for the circus for four more years. He was as popular as he had been when alive.

As devout member of the Universalist Church, P.T. Barnum was a generous benefactor to Medford's own Tufts College because of its Universalist affiliation, and he served as a member of the first Board of Directors. In 1888, President Capon asked Barnum for a financial donation to help with the expansion of the college, specifically the science department. Barnum gave \$50,000 to build the Barnum Museum of Natural History, a building which would house stuffed animals, science classrooms and labs. He also pledged his stuffed animals and eventually donated Jumbo, his most prized possession. The Museum opened in 1889, and Jumbo's mounted hide was delivered to the Barnum Museum while his skeletal system was donated to the Smithsonian Institute, in Washington, DC.

Shortly after the Museum was built, the scientific study became more focused on cell and gene investigation and less on stuffed animals. In 1938 under the leadership of the Dean Marshall of Tuft's science department, all the stuffed animals were removed from the Barnum Museum. The vestibule was redesigned as a shrine to Jumbo and an honor its benefactor P.T. Barnum. The Museum was renamed Barnum Hall.

The mounted Jumbo became the mascot of the college. He stood at the entrance of Barnum Hall for over 35 years greeting students and visitors. Tufts students would place pennies in his trunk and pull on his tail for good luck. Unfortunately, on April 14, 1975, a fire destroyed Barnum Hall. After the fire, nothing remained of Jumbo except his ashes which were swept up and placed in a peanut butter jar. The peanut butter jar containing his ashes was placed in the Athletic Director's office and remains there today. Athletes now continue to rub this jar for good luck.

In 1883, Jumbo's name was memorialized when it was entered into the *American Heritage Dictionary* as new word, "jumbo," meaning a very large person or thing. Today jumbo is used frequently in the English language to describe the size of an object, such as jumbo jet.

Today, Jumbo is still a presence on Tufts campus. His image is adorned on buildings; his sculpture stands in front of Barnum Hall; his image is embossed on sweatshirts, notebooks, and the uniforms of athletic teams. These reminders keep alive the celebrity status of the elephant who enchanted the world.

MHSM Objects Appear in Online Tufts Exhibit

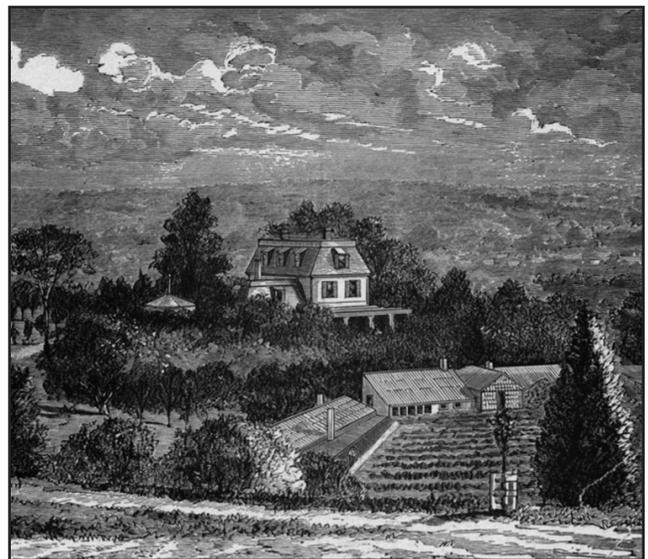
The Magnet and the Iron: John Brown and George L. Stearns, an ongoing exhibit

exhibits.tufts.edu/spotlight/john-brown-tufts

For the first time, MHSM is participating in an online exhibit. This fall, co-curator Jules Long, a graduate student at Tufts University, visited MHSM to select and photograph objects in our collections to include in this fine presentation of local abolitionist activity, of which there was quite a lot. It also offers a peek into Tufts' archives.

The inspiration for the exhibit was a pair of marble busts in the University's collections: radical abolitionist John Brown and Medford's George Luther Stearns, two men who connected immediately over their anti-slavery beliefs. Stearns's wife Mary commissioned both pieces.

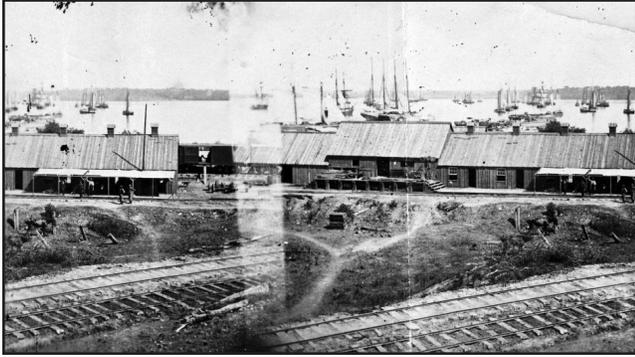
The site is nicely organized into stories, topics, and artifacts that are easy to browse. It's well worth a visit and while you're there look for MHSM's objects, about 10 in all, including a lock of John Brown's hair and the mysterious pike that may have been used in his 1859 uprising in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia; a photograph of Stearns and his ample beard; and Lydia Maria Childs' pocket watch.



An image of George Luther Stearn's estate near Tufts University is one of the items MHSM supplied to Tufts University for inclusion in its online exhibit, "The Magnet and the Iron: John Brown and George L. Stearns."

See the Civil War Photographs!

by Allison Andrews and Jay Stott



Rails link supplies brought by ship to the front lines.

The Latest

The Civil War photographs that Medford's Samuel Crocker Lawrence collected in the 19th century have reached a 21st century audience. Or, 742 of the 3,680 of them have at least. This is the first batch of photos to have been digitized and uploaded to the Digital Commonwealth website. The second batch has been digitized and is being proofed. These are the photographs that were left by General Lawrence when he died in 1911 then donated to the Medford Historical Society in 1948, only to be forgotten about until 1990.

In addition, a sampling of the photographs appears in the autumn 2017 issue of *Military Images Magazine* in the story "Unsung Pioneer Photo Collector: Samuel Crocker Lawrence and the Medford Collection" by editor Ron Coddington. It is a fine biography of Lawrence, strikingly illustrated with camp scene portraits from the collection. Ron has been a featured speaker in our lecture series. The magazine can be purchased at their website on paper or by download. To see a copy in person, come in to MHSM on a Sunday afternoon where it is on display.

Visit Digital Commonwealth to see the photos:
<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:wd376b356>

and their introduction in the DC blog:
<http://blog.digitalcommonwealth.org/>

See the *Military Images Magazine* article text:
<https://militaryimages.atavist.com/unsung-pioneer-photo-collector>

Try a Google search on the collection.

A Recap of Their Story

The collection is one of the finest in the world. Many are of the images are pristine. In the 1860s and 1870s, most photographs were printed with a process that used egg whites (albumen) that gave new prints an aubergine hue. The tint and image typically fade over time, but through a stroke of luck, the MHSM prints were stored in near-perfect conditions. As a result, many of the images have retained their original hue and sharpness.

Over the past decade, the collection has been conserved and cataloged while MHSM explored ways to share it more broadly with the public. Last year, MHSM began its partnership with a non-profit collaborative organization, Digital Commonwealth, to digitally photograph and display the collection on their website. MHSM is also negotiating a contract with a company that will market print-ready digital images from the collection for commercial use.

Research - A New Component to the Project

In coming months, MHSM will partner with other organizations in what may be a decades-long research project to expand knowledge about what the images depict, when and where they were taken, and who

took them. This project will greatly enhance the information currently displayed with the images at the Digital Commonwealth website, as well as adding more precise search terms to help users discover images of interest to them.



Flag and Color bearer of 8th Pennsylvania Reserves

New at MHSM is a corner book as well as print display, containing all manner of books by Medford authors, and current and historical prints of Medford ships and local scenes. All for sale. Open on Sundays, noon to 4:00 PM and during all MHSM events.



Events Calendar

We will be doing a bit of remodeling this winter. In the unexpected event that the work (or the weather) causes an interruption in our Sunday or events schedule, we post on our website www.medfordhistorical.org, or you may call 781 391-8739. Changes will be posted starting a day ahead of time.

Ongoing at MHSM 2018

Medford in the 20th Century

Our newest exhibit will be a continuing museum display in the main room. One section of the exhibit, the display of Ginny Dolls, will be shown through the month of March, 2018. See articles in this Newsletter on both exhibits.



Coming Up

(Date TBA)

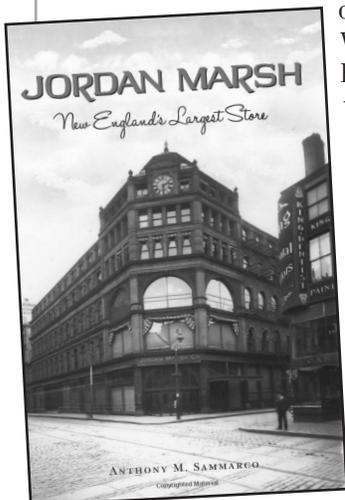
A Friday Night History Happy Hour

As promised, we plan to offer another History Happy Hour gathering, a chance to relax and enjoy some refreshments, hear about a few selected pieces of Medford history, and meet some new people. We will watch the weather reports before we set the date. See our MHSM website and Facebook page for updates.

Tuesday, February 27, 7:00 PM

Jordan Marsh: The World's Largest Department Store Presented by Author Anthony Sammarco

This author/historian returns to MHSM with his book, *Jordan Marsh, the World's Largest Store*. Mr. Sammarco brings this Boston icon back to us. The Store opened in 1851, before the Civil War, and eventually made its home on the corner of Washington Street in Downtown Crossing, where we remember it so well. Always a destination for shoppers who went into town, the five-story building, designed by Winslow & Wethell, was the first of a new concept, the department store, with its many departments under one roof. Come and enjoy this history adventure as only Mr. Sammarco presents it. At MHSM.



Saturday March 31, Time?

Trivia Night Fundraiser

For the third year, MHSM and the Medford Public Library have joined forces to produce a Trivia Night. Practice makes perfect!

Join a fun and sometimes hilarious night out in Medford with friends and neighbors. Light refreshments included in the \$20.00 admission price (21 and older). Soft drinks, beer and wine sold at the Circulation Desk. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$5.00, 15 for \$10.00. Tickets will be on sale at the Library beginning March 1st and at the door. At the Medford Public Library.

Sunday April 22, 2:00 PM

West Medford Memories with Oscar Greene, Author and Memoirist

Lively, funny, and writer and storyteller par excellence, Oscar Greene has 99 years of history to share. Moving to Medford as a young man, he was part of the proud neighborhood community of African-American people recognized far and wide as a standard for race relations. What was that like? Just ask him! Every gathering with him gives us reason to be celebrate his life in West Medford. Mr. Greene's work has appeared in newspapers, magazines and anthologies. He is the author of several books, including *House of Strangers*, *Hampton and the War Years*, *From Homecoming to Twilight*, and *Ruby: A Love Story*.

A SNEAK PREVIEW of West Medford Open Studios, the annual West Medford two-day, Arts Festival, April 28 and 29th, will be a part of this Oscar Greene event. At MHSM.

Friday May 19, 7:00 PM

MHSM Annual Meeting.

Join us for a recap of the highlights of 2017, a guest speaker, elections of officers and party. Open to all, members, and non-members. We hope to see you there! At MHSM If not a member, we hope you will consider joining. Watch for more information on our MHSM website and Facebook page and in the Transcript. At MHSM.

Joe Camara, the Medford Mustangs football captain, speaks to the audience on November 8, 2017 at the Medford-Malden program about the 130th game in the rivalry between the two high schools.



*Thank You! The 20th Century Exhibit was supported in part by grants from the Medford Arts Council (MAC), a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Who was James Lord Pierpont?

by Kyna Hamill

Many important figures from the past contribute to Medford's history; we find pride in Fanny Farmer's cookbook, Michael Bloomberg's high school, Lydia Maria Child's birthplace, and Alonzo Fields' service (he was chief butler to four presidents). But at Christmastime, our hometown hero is the composer of "Jingle Bells"—James Lord Pierpont. But how well do you know this man? Wouldn't you like to learn a little more beyond the song? There is always more to a story, even a beloved one.

Walking past the plaque at 21 High Street, we read that "On this site stood the Simpson Tavern, where in 1850 James Pierpont (1822–93) wrote the song 'Jingle Bells.'" The plaque was placed there by the board of the Medford Historical Society in 1988 when many plaques were laid around the city to commemorate historical places and moments in Medford's past. However, research on a number of these sites has begun to reveal new insights into old cherished stories. Because the "Jingle Bells" plaque was written in bronze, the story is fixed and we cling to its nostalgic roots. Yet, the incorrect date of 1850 has become misleading not only because James did not live in Medford for much of 1850, but also because there is a typo in the date. Records at the Medford Historical Society & Museum today reveal that the song was written in the "1850s", and we now know that the song received copyright in 1857. The erasure of this little "s" that turned the date to 1850 has led to some misleading ideas about who Pierpont was and when he wrote the song. Yes, James Pierpont did compose "Jingle Bells" and he did live in Medford in 1852-1853, 1855 and 1856, but there is much more to his story.

James Pierpont's father, Rev. John Pierpont Sr. moved to Medford in 1849 after becoming the new minister of the Unitarian Church on High Street. Rev. Pierpont built a house on Mystic Street and moved his family there from Boston. Based on letters, poll tax, and census records, James Pierpont did not move into this house until 1852 although his wife Millie and their two children did reside on Mystic Street as early as 1849-50. James never had an easy time of finding a job to take care of his family. He had a stern and successful father, and James had a desire to be a success, but never seemed to be able to keep an occupation, or stay close to his wife. Between 1849-1860, I have been able to identify James Pierpont with the following occupations: clerk, daguerreotype photographer, dressmaker, secretary, gold miner, street sweeper, bookkeeper, co-owner of a paint store, music teacher, working for a dairy, (almost) serving as a quartermaster, composer and Confederate soldier.

In 1846, James married his wife Millicent Cowee in Troy, NY. We know based on letters at the Morgan Library in New York that he spent the later part of 1850 and early part of 1851 in San Francisco trying



to be successful at anything. Another disappointment for James was that his daguerreotype shop was burned in the San Francisco fire of 1851. He does not show up in the Medford Poll Tax records until 1852 (paying \$1.50 as a resident but not a property owner). He is in Medford in 1853 and then moved to Savannah, Georgia to play organ at his brother's Unitarian parish. Newspaper records in Savannah include advertisements in November 1853 for a "Mr. James Pierpont" selling "classes for instruction in vocal music." By 1855 he appears on the Medford Census as a "clerk" and by early 1856, he is living on Mystic Street and occupied not only as his father's secretary, but also as dressmaker, "I have over 1000 yards of linen to make into bosoms and Millie & I are drove most to death." Sadly, on August 17, 1856, Millie died of consumption and James left his children with his father in Medford and moved again.

According to the *Boston Directory* of 1857, James Pierpont lived above a shop at 109 Washington Street; he is listed as a daguerreotypist. On September 15, 1857 a few doors down at Ordway Hall at the rear of 165 Washington Street, "One Horse Open Sleigh" was performed for the first time on stage. Playbills at Harvard's Houghton Library confirm this date. The song was composed to be performed by the blackface minstrel singer, Johnny Pell—an important detail of the song that has been lost. The printed sheet music to accompany the song was sold by Oliver Ditson & Co. at 277 Washington Street where members of the audience were encouraged to purchase the sheet music to take home to play on the piano. How the song became a beloved Christmas carol belongs to the twentieth century, not the nineteenth century. "Jingle Bells" eventually found its way into glee and parlor anthologies, and since it has long been out of copyright, many artists have sung the song for free on Christmas recordings. James Pierpont made very little money on the song, and he never knew of its success. On September 24, 1857, James married Eliza Purse in Savannah, Georgia, and a new chapter of his life began in the South.

The Ginny Doll – Designed and Made in Medford

by Beth Hayes

Those of you who were a grandmother, a mother or a young child in the 40s to the 80s will remember “Ginny”. She was that sweet 8” toddler doll who looked like everyone’s idea of an adorable kindergartener and the forerunner of Barbie and all the imitators. Ginny was manufactured in Medford by the Vogue Doll Company and eventually sold nationally.

Ginny was designed by Jennie Adler Graves, a very talented dress maker who began her career in dolls in 1922 making elaborate, specialized doll clothes

for German import dolls. A friend asked her to dress some dolls for a charity and, instead of using them for that purpose, sold them to the Jordan Marsh Department store in downtown Boston. Mrs. Adler realized she did not need a middle man/woman to sell dolls so beautifully dressed and ordered her own dolls from Germany, dressed them and gave them to Jordan Marsh Co. to sell. Eventually, in the 1940s, Mrs. Adler designed her own doll to be manufactured under her supervision and Ginny was born.

Whenever you speak to anyone who had a Ginny doll, the first thing they say is that her clothes were wonderful and beautifully made. True to the style Mrs. Adler started, the clothing was a cottage industry employing hundreds of women who made the clothes by hand in their homes and were then paid by the Vogue Doll Company. Remarkably many clothes and tiny accessories have survived in excellent condition, even such tiny items as socks, shoes, hair brushes and tiny toys. The needlework was excellent and the chosen fabrics were of the highest quality, made by people who had honed their skills making family clothing and this translated to the miniature clothing for Ginny.

As the years went on, other dolls joined the family: a big sister, a friend, and eventually a baby, but Ginny remained the best known and most beloved.

Come and visit Ginny, her clothes, furniture, and accessories now being exhibited at the Medford Historical Society & Museum until April 1, 2018.



Medford in the 20th Century New and Ongoing Display

The 20th century is history. Now that it’s over, our attention turns to items in the collections from the last century when Medford came out of the era of ship-building and rum-making that we’ve come to associate with our local history. Following the trends of the time, immigration increased Medford’s population and there was a sharp rise in land development for housing. Commerce and manufacturing grew and diversified, and modern conveniences became everyday items.

These changes are reflected in the objects on view, like the early Medford-manufactured products, advertising for new housing developments, recreation-related items like movie tickets, Ginny dolls, and a decal from the Bal-a-Roue rink. Late-century relics include the faceplate from a parking meter and a bumper sticker promoting the new concept of recycling. A good deal of the display will be recognizable to Medford’s long-time residents.

An opening reception for the exhibit was held on Sunday afternoon, October 15 with guest speakers from local businesses: Judy Lonergan, Lonergan Real Estate and Insurance; George Thurrott, Modern Hardware; Andrea Bates McGrath, Bates Insurance; and Maury Carroll, Carroll’s Restaurant; and moderator Chris Donovan. There were nods, smiles and commentary from the audience as they reminisced along with them.

Our thanks go to Rick Leary, a long-time collector of Medfordabilia, who donated many of the objects. This project was made possible by support from the Medford Arts Council. Thanks also to the Medford Chamber of Commerce for arranging the speakers, and to CACHE for including this opening reception in its **Arts Across Medford** program series.

This Just In... Collections Assessment Grant Approved

We have been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities "Preservation Assistance Grant." This will pay for a professional assessment of the condition and needs of everything in our collections. It will be conducted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. NEDCC is a nationally respected resource for preservation services, so we will be in good hands. NEDCC did

a first-rate job flattening and conserving the delicate Civil War photos when they were rediscovered in the 1990s.

The resulting report will advise our handling and storage procedures, as well as building renovations that impact the interior environment. It will also serve as the supporting documentation for future grant requests for collections preservation.

The award is \$6,000 which covers the assessment in full and requires no matching funds from us! The project will begin in 2018.

Odds and Ends at the Medford Historical Society & Museum

by David Fedo

Museums and libraries, including the Medford Historical Society & Museum (MHSM), are not infrequently the temporary and inadvertent repository of documents, books, and artifacts which at first glance have little to do with their purpose and mission. Such is the case with a recent gift to the MHSM of fragments from three slim and crumbling volumes of the **Boston College Stylus**, a sort of in-house BC tabloid and literary journal dating back to December, 1883, January, 1884, and March 1884. The **BC Stylus** was first published some 20 years after the founding of Boston College, in 1864, on Harrison Avenue in Boston. "A small streetcar college," as the liberal arts institution was called, BC would not move to the Heights until 1910, and over the last 100-plus years has become a multiversity far beyond what its Jesuit founders could have imagined.

The MHSM was founded in 1896, 32 years after BC, and moved to its current location at 10 Governors Avenue in 1916, six years after BC packed up and settled in Chestnut Hill. No two institutions could be so different in goals, aspirations, size, and clientele, and yet even a cursory reading of the **Boston College Stylus** is not without its human interest. That interest might include BC alumni who may now reside in Medford.

For example, I was pleased to see, in the various **BC Stylus** issues, that the dominant focus was on the world of letters. There were learned pieces on, among others, British Cardinal John Henry Newman, Shakespeare, and the intersection of the ancient languages: "That there is a remarkable similarity between the Greek and Latin tongues no one will attempt to deny," wrote a BC student of philology. "First, because the likeness between many words in each language is striking, and secondly, because the resemblance in the construction of sentences is especially noticeable in both." And on poetry, one **Stylus** author justly claims that, "To write poetry, one must not only see beneath the surface of things, but he must feel what he sees." Especially saluted are Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Tennyson. John Ciardi (1916-1986),

Medford's most famous poet, would likely agree with the **Stylus**, although he might have added the pronoun "she" with "he."

The short news notes embedded in the three issues convey both the good news and bad:

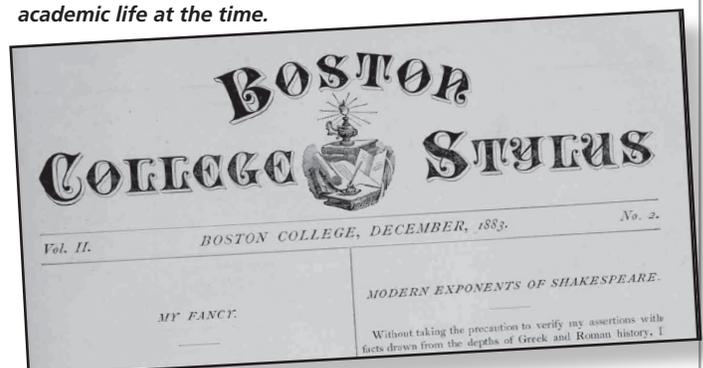
We are pleased to make mention of the success of Edward J. Flynn, valedictorian of the class of '81, who was recently admitted to practice at Suffolk Bar.

On Saturday, February 16, David Reagan, a student at Boston College, and his brother Morris, eighteen and nineteen years of age respectively, while skating on the pond at Winchester, fell in and were drowned. The sudden loss of two such promising children of one of the most respected Catholic families of the town, was one of the heaviest blows that has fallen in that community for a long time.

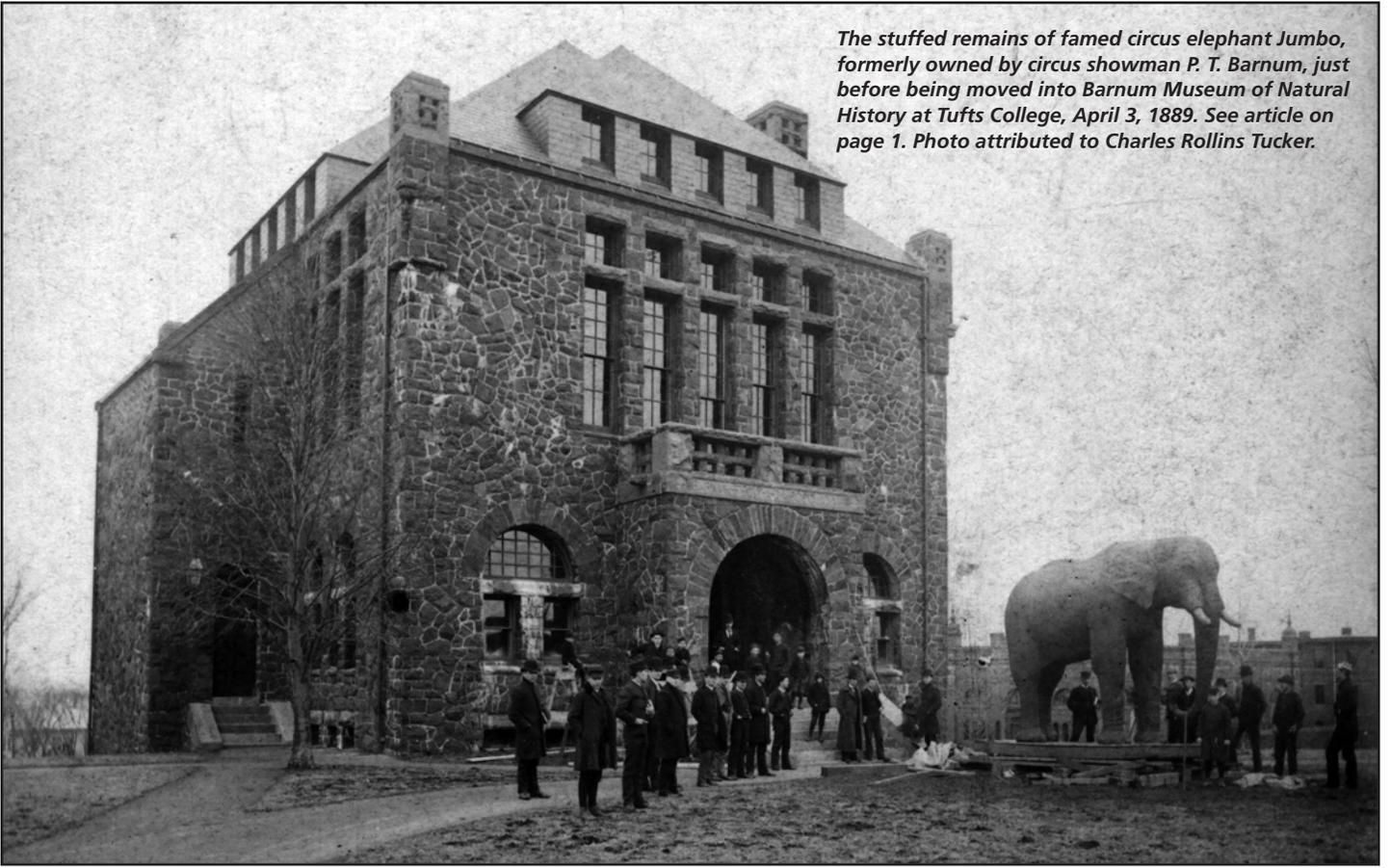
A subscription to the **BC Stylus** cost 50 cents; a single copy went for 10 cents. Other expenses were presumably covered by the publication's advertisers, some of which were the following; Hannon & Co., Fine Harness, Saddlebery Etc., Corner Boylston and Tremont Street, Frank J. McQueeney, Fine Printing, 286 Washington Street, Edward F. Hoynes, Attorney & Counselor at Law, 23 Court Street

Of course, many miscellaneous gifts, including the issues of the **Boston College Stylus**, are usually not added to the MHSM's permanent collections, but they do reveal the wide interest in history, Medford or not, that exists in our city.

Three volumes of the Boston College Stylus from the 1880s recently donated to MHSM provide a time capsule to academic life at the time.



The stuffed remains of famed circus elephant Jumbo, formerly owned by circus showman P. T. Barnum, just before being moved into Barnum Museum of Natural History at Tufts College, April 3, 1889. See article on page 1. Photo attributed to Charles Rollins Tucker.



Your Medford Historical Society Newsletter

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