

Our Medford

An Elementary Guide to the History of Medford



Written by
Michael M. Coates

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*River Life
Mural at
Andrews
Middle
School
by David
Fichter,
and Pete
Gallagher's
art students,
2013.*

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A ford is a crossing place through shallow water in a river.



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My 2014-2015 Brooks Elementary School Third Grade Class

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Medford Public Library

Medford Public Schools

Medford Transcript

My wife, Maria Amato-Coates

My son, James Coates

This book was produced in collaboration with the Medford Historical Society & Museum. All artifacts pictured are from the MHSM Collections.



Dedication

Paul F. Coates, Sr.

July 17, 1933 - December 25, 2003

To Dad, a proud and devoted Medfordite, who instilled in me my strong sense of Medford pride.

Matthew Cradock's private property

Penned two famous Thanksgiving songs

Made bricks, rum, crackers, and ships

Founded in 1630

Incorporated a city in 1892

Revere rode down High Street

For by the Meadow

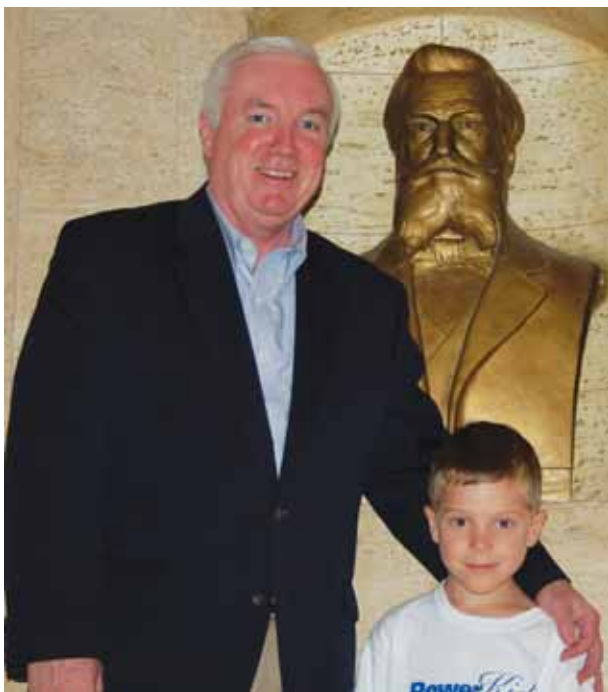
by Mr. Coates' 2014 third grade class



Dear Students,

Welcome to Medford, Massachusetts, one of the oldest European settlements in North America, settled in 1630, and incorporated a city in 1892. Governor John Winthrop wrote in his journal; "Thursday, 17th of June, 1630, we went to Massachusetts to find out a place for our sitting down. We went up the Mystic River about six miles." Medford's first settlers came from Suffolk, Essex, and Lincolnshire in England. Medford has kept its rich history alive through the preservation of historical places of interest for all to visit such as the Sir Isaac Royall House & Slave Quarters, the Shepard Brooks Estate, and the Peter Tufts House (one of the oldest brick structures in the United States). 2015 marked Medford's 385th birthday!

In its earliest years, Medford was a seaport town, famous for its clipper shipbuilding, brickmaking and the distilling of Medford



rum. Paul Revere rode through Medford, alerting residents that "the Regulars were coming." Cookbook author Fannie Farmer, aviator Amelia Earhart, School Committee member Madeleine Dugger Andrews, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and abolitionists Lydia Maria Child and Prince Hall all called Medford home, as well as professional sports figures such as Boston Red Sox Pitcher Bill Monbouquette, New York Yankee Third Baseman Mike Pagliarulo, and NHL greats Keith Tkachuk and Shawn Bates. Maria Menounos of E! Entertainment television calls Medford home and her first job was at the local Dunkin Donuts! "Jingle Bells" was written by Medford resident James Pierpont. Tufts University, a worldwide leader in education, opened in 1852.

Medford is a place where families live, learn, work, and play. It is a residential community surrounded by many natural resources including 26 parks, the Middlesex Fells Reservation, Wright's Pond, and the Mystic River. Our neighborhoods are diverse and our residents are bonded together by common good will. While we celebrate our 385th birthday, I hope you will learn a lot from this informative book. You live in a very historic place! Medford has so much to offer, so much to see, so much to do. It is truly the "Ford by the Meadow."

I remain your friend,



The Honorable Michael J. McGlynn

Medford, Massachusetts



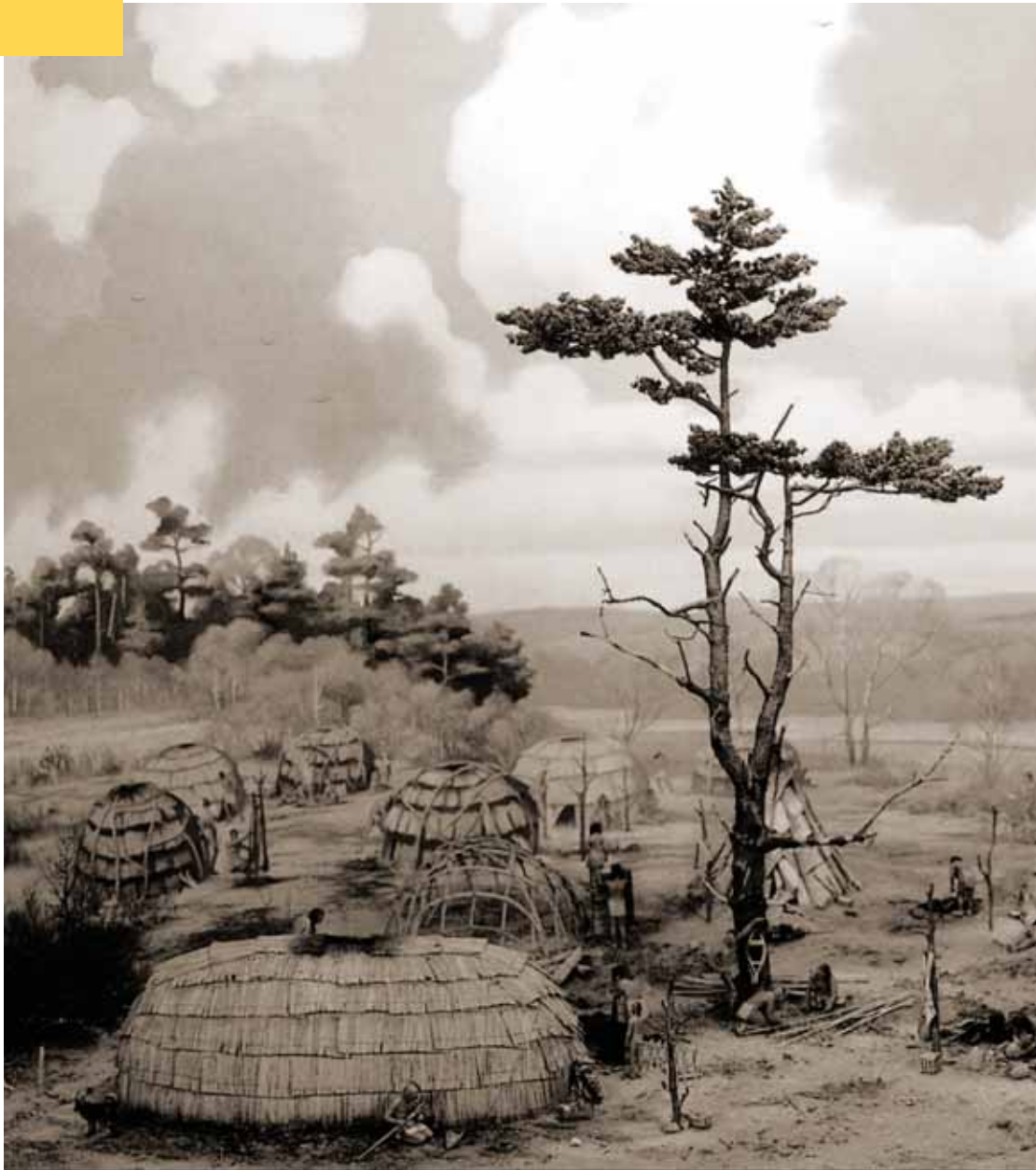
Medford Facts

Total Area = 8.6 square miles
Land Area = 8.1 square miles
Water Area = 0.5 square miles

CHAPTER



1601 to 1700



The first people on the land known as Medford were the Pawtucket Native Americans. They called the river "Missituk" meaning "great tidal river." The early English settlers changed the name's spelling and pronunciation many times, finally ending with Mystic.

17th Century Medford

1601 to 1700

Our Medford's long history began almost 400 years ago. It began on land that had been the plantation of a wealthy businessman who lived in London, England. His name was Matthew Cradock. He is considered the "Father of Medford," even though he never lived on the plantation or even visited America. Here is how it happened.

In 1628 the King of England, Charles I, gave permission for the land near Massachusetts Bay in our country to be colonized. So Mr. Cradock and a group of Puritan businessmen in London created a trading company. They named it the Massachusetts Bay Company because they wanted to do business in the new colony.

However, none of the owners of the company wanted to go to America. So they chose Mr. Cradock to be its head (or governor) in England and John Endecott to be the company's governor in Massachusetts. In 1629, after receiving a grant of land in the Massachusetts Bay area, the company sent Mr. Endecott and a small group of tradesmen to establish a colony in Salem, Massachusetts. It was the second English settlement, after Plymouth, in New England.

Later that year, King Charles I granted the Massachusetts Bay Company a charter (a legal document) to protect its rights in the new colony.



King Charles I gave permission for the land near Massachusetts Bay to be colonized in 1628.



John Winthrop was greeted by John Endecott in Salem after his long journey from England.

The company and the settlement in Salem were then combined to form the Massachusetts Bay Colony. John Winthrop, a wealthy English lawyer, was chosen to bring the charter to New England and become the first Governor of the Colony. Governor Winthrop landed in Salem in June of 1630. Among those who traveled with the new governor were a number of carpenters, fishermen, and farmers who worked for Matthew Cradock.

When Governor Winthrop chose Boston to become the capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Matthew Cradock's men formed small groups to explore the land around Boston. Their purpose was to find a suitable location to build a

plantation for their employer. One group went to Ipswich; another to Marblehead. One group even went up to Kennebunk, Maine. The group that ended its search in the area that was to become our city was confident Mr. Cradock would be pleased with its discovery. It was near a ford (a crossing place through shallow water in a river) by a meadow near what is now Medford Square. In 1634, the Massachusetts Bay Colony officially granted the land to Cradock as his private property.

Medford's Name and 17th Century Medford

The name Medford may have come about because of the Mystic River ford by the meadow. But it's more likely that it was chosen because the region in England that Mr. Cradock represented in Parliament (the government of that country) was named Meadford. Historians are not certain this is true, so you decide.

Native Americans and 17th Century Medford

The first people who lived in our area were Native Americans. They were members of the Pawtucket tribe. The Medford group was small with only 30 to 40 followers. They lived in domed shelters called wigwams (called a wetu by the Wampanoag tribe that lived near Plymouth Colony). Their chief was Sagamore John.

He was very friendly with the colonists. For example, he would inform

This monument stands on Sagamore Avenue in West Medford. It honors the memory of Sagamore John and some of his followers.



FIND it at the MUSEUM



These arrow heads were collected between 1880-1885 on Pine Hill near Wright's Tower in the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

them of coming attacks by unfriendly Indians. Sadly, during this time there was an outbreak of the horrible disease called smallpox. By 1633, Sagamore John and nearly all of his people had died from the disease. The monument on Sagamore Avenue was erected to honor his memory. It is believed that he and some of his followers are buried beneath it.

Business in 17th Century Medford

In the 10 years after it was founded by Matthew Cradock's men, the place that became our Medford was a lively spot. Mr. Matthew Cradock's employees kept busy farming, fishing, and building ships. Of the three businesses, fishing was the most profitable. It was greatly helped when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634 gave Mr. Cradock permission to build two weirs in the Mystic River. A weir is an underwater fence that directs fish to go to one location. It makes catching fish much easier.

The Bridge in 17th Century Medford

Around 1637, Mr. Cradock's men built the first bridge over the Mystic River. The bridge was 154 feet long and ten feet wide and made of wood. It was a toll bridge, which meant travelers had to pay a fee to cross it. It remained the only bridge crossing in the area until 1787. In those days, the



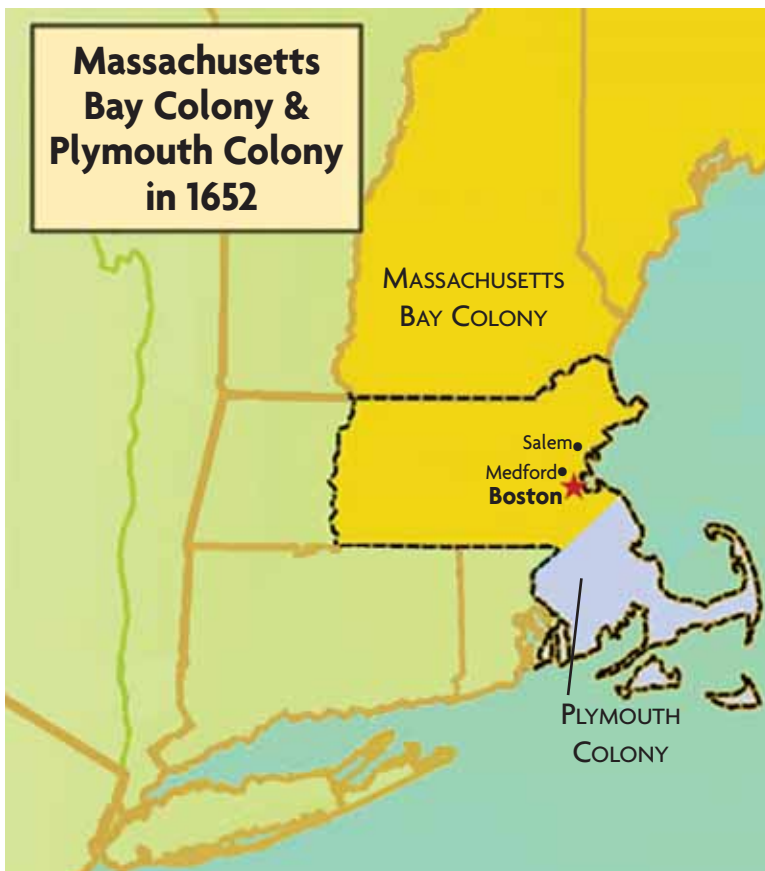
only other way to cross the Mystic River was by ferry or the free ford.

Edward Collins and 17th Century Medford

Medford was still not a town at this time. It was the private property of Matthew Cradock. Since he owned the land, he made all the decisions. But he was still in London. So he left the day-to-day business to his employees who took care of the plantation. When Mr. Cradock died in 1641, he left his property to his widow and the people in England who were closest to him. In 1644, Mrs. Cradock rented the plantation in Medford to Edward Collins. In 1652, Mr. Collins bought the plantation. So the future city of Medford continued to be owned by one man.

Mr. Collins was a very important man. He was the Deacon of the First Congregational Church in

These sticks and nets in the Mystic River make up a fishing weir.



Cambridge. He also was a representative to the General Court of the Colony.

In 1656, Mr. Collins decided to break up his plantation and sell parts of it to several people.

Medford Square in 17th Century Medford

The land near the bridge that Matthew Cradock's men built across the Mystic River was the first to be purchased. Eventually,

the land was sold in smaller lots and people began to build homes and businesses, including inns, taverns, and specialty shops. Even the parish church was moved to the area. It soon became a center of much activity.

Many people passed through Medford because of the bridge. It was an important route for people traveling north to Salem or south to Boston. Medford Square also became a great meeting spot. Many travelers spent time in Medford, trading goods and enjoying what the town had to offer.

Community Life in 17th Century Medford

For the first time in its history, our future Medford was not owned and controlled by one

person. It still was not officially a town. But that did not stop the families who lived in the area from getting together to discuss issues and problems affecting Medford. At first they met in neighbors' homes. In 1674, they created a board of selectmen.

Ten years later, in 1684, they asked the General Court of the Colony for permission to raise money for local projects. Their request was granted. And in 1689, they chose Peter Tufts, an important member of the community, to be their representative on the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Things were changing in Medford; a real community was rising.



This was Peter Tufts' home. It still stands today on Riverside Avenue. It is considered to be one of the oldest all-brick houses in the United States.

A wagon headed towards Cradock's Bridge and Medford Square.





Medford Bricks

Chief business from 1650 to 1750

These men were workers at the College Hill brickyard. The man on the right is holding a board filled with newly made Medford bricks.

The first brickmakers in the history of our Medford were the men who built Matthew Cradock's plantation in 1634. As soon as the Massachusetts Bay Colony officially granted the land to Mr. Cradock his men began building houses to live in and keep them safe from wild animals and unfriendly Indians. At the time, there was almost nothing man-made stronger or more lasting than brick. Fortunately, there was a great deal of clay in the land owned by Mr. Cradock. So in the spring when the ground thawed, his men

dug up the clay and began making bricks. Clay is a firm earthy material that's plastic when wet and hardens when heated. It's used in making tiles and pottery, as well as bricks.

As time passed, more houses and buildings were built in the area with Medford bricks, including the historic Old North Church in Boston. The land around the Mystic River held lots of fine clay. Ashland Street, which is in the Medford Square area, was called "a way to the clay land." By the middle of the 17th century, Medford had become the leader in brick manufacturing in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In fact, it was the town's first important industry from 1650 to 1750.

Do you know where Fulton Street is in our Medford? If you do, then you know where some early brickyards were operating in the 17th century. Some of largest yards were located on both sides of Fulton Street.

There also were two brickyards near what is now Tufts University. One was on College Avenue. It became one of the university's many athletic fields, directly across from Cousens Gymnasium. The other was located where Tufts Park in South Medford sits today.

During the winter months the clay was too stiff to be formed into bricks. So brickyard employees usually worked from March to September. In

**Find it
at the MUSEUM**



Engraved with "TS 1756", this brick was taken from the site of the house built by Thomas Seccomb, the Medford town clerk from 1745-1767.

August, the clay would be dug out of the pits and put into large mounds in preparation for spring.

In the spring, the clay was spread over the ground, watered, and walked on by lots of workers and horses. The purpose was to make it easier to change the clay into brick.

Strong, muscular horses were also used to turn the pug mill that pushed the clay through a brick sized opening. Then the workers would cut the wet clay into different brick sizes. The newly formed bricks were placed into ovens called kilns to dry and harden. The kilns required a steady

high temperature to bake the bricks, so the workers added wood to the fire around the clock. The bricks baked for 12 days and 12 nights.

Medford bricks were sold and traded throughout the colonies. The bricks were stacked on small boats called lighters and sent down the Mystic River to Boston Harbor. From there they were transported to seaports up and down the East coast.

Medford's largest and most successful brickyard,



These men are using a brick pressing machine at the College Hill brickyard.



The New England Brick Company yards were located off of Riverside Avenue.

the Bay State Brick Company, was set on Riverside Avenue. During the 1890s, the company produced well over 15 million bricks a year! In 1900, the company was bought by the New England Brick Company. However, during the early 1900s, brickmaking slowed down dramatically in America. Steel became the new popular building material. Eventually, the New England Brick Company became the last working brickyard in Medford. It closed in 1923.

Once all the yards were closed, Medford was left with many crater-like pits all over the city. These old clay pits were an ugly sight. One was used as the city dump. Rainwater and trash filled the others. Many local boys and girls would sneak a swim in the water-filled pits every now and then. Sadly, some young people lost their lives by drowning. So in time, all of the remaining clay pits were filled in and brickmaking soon became an old Medford memory.

CHAPTER

2

1701 to 1800



This painting of Isaac Royall Jr. and his family was made in 1741. The Royalls were considered one of the wealthiest families in the colony. Their home in Medford was thought to be the greatest mansion in all of colonial New England. "Isaac Royall and His Family", painted by Robert Feké (1707-1750). Historical & Special Collections, Harvard Law School Library. Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

18th Century Medford

1701 to 1800

If you lived in the small town of Medford in the eighteenth century you would have experienced many changes. For one thing, the number of people living in the town increased from 230 to 1,114. That's almost five times the number of people who lived in town during the 17th century. And you would have been the 1,115th resident.

To keep up with the need for more space, the town looked toward some of its bordering communities for land. The General Court of Massachusetts agreed with Medford's need and allowed the town a large section of Charlestown and some land from Woburn.

The Royall House Slave Quarters is located on the corner of Main and George Streets. Isaac Royall moved his family and 27 slaves to Medford in 1734.

Slavery in 18th Century Medford

You also would have noticed that slavery came to Medford



Bridge Town Barbados Augt 24 1759
 An Acct of what Slaves was sold at Publick Auction
 Belonging to Mr Timothy Titch March in
 Boston New Eng: &
 Tuesday Augt 4:21 1759 ————— Currency £

1 Boy	2 00 0
1 Girl	5 02 6
1 Do	10 00 0
1 Woman	13 15 0
1 Girl	11 05 0
1 Boy	20 05 0
1 Do	06 02 6

This is a bill of sale for slaves bought in 1759. The slaves were from Bridge Town, Barbados and sold to a man from Boston. The paper shows the price of each person.

during the seventeen hundreds. In 1755, there were 34 slaves in town, 27 male and seven female. The number grew to 49 men and women by the end of 1765. A number of people in town owned slaves. But the owner of the largest number of slaves in Medford was Isaac Royall. He was a wealthy merchant who traded in slaves and rum. He and his family lived in the Royall House on the corner of Main and George Streets, not far from where Medford Square is today. Fortunately, slavery was forbidden in Massachusetts in 1787. Sadly, it continued in many of the other colonies. Today, it's believed that the only remaining evidence of slavery in Medford is the Slave Wall

on Grove Street and the Royall House Slave Quarters. Have you ever been to those sites?

Religion in 18th Century Medford

Religion was very important to town life during the 18th century. The main religion was Puritanism. Three ministers attended to the spiritual needs of most people. The first was the Reverend Aaron Porter. He was followed by the Rev. Ebenezer Turell who was followed by the Rev. David Osgood. Services were held in what were called meetinghouses. The last one was on High Street where the Unitarian Universalist Church is today.

People in town did not go to the meetinghouse just to worship. They also went there to learn

Reverend David Osgood was Medford's third minister. His house still stands on 141 High Street next to the Unitarian Universalist Church.



Medford's original schoolhouses were simple brick structures.

Students used an abacus to work out their arithmetic.



about the news of the day. At the time, few citizens in Medford could read or write, so the ministers

and others kept them informed.

Reverend David Osgood, who served the community for 48 years, kept the members of his church up to date on the important topics of the Revolution and slavery. Shortly after his death in 1822, most of the church members changed their Puritan beliefs to Unitarian.

FIND it at the MUSEUM



Girls sewed samplers to practice their needlework skills. Their designs included pictures, alphabets, numbers and even prayers.

Education in 18th Century Medford

If you lived in our Medford during the early years of the 18th century, you would have noticed that there were no schools until 1732. Many families wanted a school where their children could receive a good education. But the law of the Massachusetts Bay Colony said only towns with 50 families or more were

required to have an elementary school. Medford was below the 50 families requirement. So parents taught their children at home as best they could.

In 1719, the town had enough families to open a school. The people in town voted to open their first school in the home of Thomas Willis, Jr. Soon after that, Henry Davison was hired as Medford's first formal teacher. Over the following years other schools were opened in private homes. By 1732, there were enough children in Medford schools to have an actual schoolhouse. The first school was built on High Street. Others were built in 1771 and 1795.

The girls will not like this, but at first, only boys attended school. The boys were taught the



The old Cradock Bridge is being taken down to make way for a stronger bridge. Notice the low tide in the river. The Mystic was a tidal river, so the water level rose and fell with the ocean's tides.



The Fountain Tavern was located at what is now the corner of Salem (the road to Salem) and Fountain Streets.

basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Finally in 1776, the year after the beginning of the Revolutionary War, girls were allowed to attend school but for only two hours after the boys left for the day. It took another 24 years for girls to be allowed to study with boys in the classroom, but only during the summer months. The colonists knew of the importance of education for both girls and boys.

Community Life in 18th Century Medford

The area near the bridge that Mathew Cradock's men built in 1637 continued to be the center of community life in Medford throughout most of the 18th century. That's because people from Medford and neighboring towns traveling north to Salem or south to Boston had to cross it. A rebuilt version of the bridge is still there. It's called the Cradock Bridge and if you ever went from Medford Square to Main Street or Main Street to the Square, you crossed over it.

Lots of people came to town to cross the bridge. Others came to do business, shop or relax. Most visitors came on foot or horse. Wealthy people usually came by carriage or stagecoach. With so many people in town for one reason or another, there was a great need for places where they could relax and enjoy a beverage or a meal. For many travelers, there also was a need for a place to sleep for the night.

So a number of taverns, which were the hotels of the time, soon opened close to the bridge. Among the better-known taverns where visitors to town could eat, drink, and rent a room for the night were the Fountain, Admiral Vernon, Royal Oak, and Blanchard taverns. The Fountain Tavern opened in 1713, the Admiral Vernon Tavern at the corner of Main and Swan Streets opened in 1717, the Royal Oak at the corner of Main Street and Riverside Avenue opened in 1720, and the Blanchard Tavern opened in 1752.

The Revolutionary War and 18th Century Medford

In the late 1700s, the British parliament passed a number of laws or Acts that angered the colonists. And they began to protest against them. During a protest against the Stamp Act (a tax placed on newspapers and many documents in 1765) five colonists were shot dead by British soldiers. Among those who were wounded was 17-year-old, John Clark of Medford.

The model for the Minuteman statue on Lexington's Battle Green was a Medford athlete named Arthur Mather.



A group of colonists who called themselves the Sons of Liberty were very active in the protests, especially the one against the Tea Act of 1773. It required colonists to buy their tea from one company, the British East India Company. On a cold December night of that year members of the Sons of Liberty, disguised as Mohawk Indians, boarded three ships in Boston Harbor and dumped 340 boxes of tea into the water. The event became famous as the Boston Tea Party.

John Fulton of Medford was one of the Sons of Liberty who boarded the ships and dumped the tea. Sarah Bradlee Fulton, John's wife, helped plan the protest. She and the wife of Nathaniel Fulton, John's brother, painted the men's faces and put feathers in their hair to look like Mohawk Indians. When the men returned, the women helped clean the paint off the men's faces and destroy any evidence of the Indian disguises.

In the event known as the Boston Tea Party, colonists dressed up like Indians and dumped chests of tea into the Boston Harbor. The "party" was in protest of the Tea Act of 1773.



For the part she played in the protest, Sarah Bradlee Fulton became known as the “Mother of the Boston Tea Party.”

When the revolution began in 1775, many citizens of Medford volunteered to fight for freedom. Among those with familiar names who represented the town were Brooks, Tufts, Bradshaw, Francis, Blanchard, Oakes, and Pritchard, to name a few. Captain Isaac Hall led the Medford Minutemen Company. Minutemen were colonists who organized themselves into military companies during the Revolutionary War. They were self-trained soldiers who were known for being ready to fight at a minute’s notice.

Another famous event of the Revolutionary War was Paul Revere’s famous ride to Lexington and Concord on the evening of April 18, 1775. His original plan was to ride to warn two colonial leaders, Samuel Adams and John Hancock, that British soldiers were coming to arrest them.

To avoid British patrols, Revere went through Medford, crossing Cradock’s Bridge, stopping at Captain Hall’s house on High Street to warn of the British plan. Captain Hall quickly gathered his Medford Minutemen Company, sent a few messengers to warn Malden, and began the march to Lexington. When it was decided that the British were really after the colonist’s war supplies (guns and ammunition) stored in Concord, Revere got back on his horse to warn the citizens that the Regulars were coming.



Paul Revere rode down Medford's High Street to warn the colonists that the Regulars (British Army soldiers) were coming.

Many Medford men fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775. Even though the colonists lost the battle, they fought well. Their brave fight sent a message to the King that the war would be long and difficult.



There were rumors that the British intended to invade Medford by going up the Mystic River. To avoid a surprise attack, cannons were positioned on Bunker Hill in Charlestown and fireboats patrolled the mouth of the Mystic River. It did not take long for Washington to send additional soldiers to be posted in Medford. General John Stark's company of New Hampshire moved in and made the Royall House on Main Street his headquarters. Isaac Royall, who was a supporter of the British, fled to England shortly after the war began.

On June 17, 1775, after a long cold winter and a difficult spring, the Medford Minutemen Company joined the resistance at the Battle of Bunker Hill. During the night all the wounded New Hampshire men were brought to Medford. Sarah Bradlee Fulton, the Mother of the Boston Tea Party, was there with others to care for them. Many months later, Sarah volunteered to deliver an important

message to George Washington behind enemy lines. Mrs. Fulton died in 1835. She is buried in the Salem Street Burying Ground. In 1900, a stone marker with the inscription “A Heroine of the Revolution” was placed there in her honor. Fulton Street also is named for her.

The British finally left Boston in March of 1776. Little by little, the men of Medford who fought in the war returned to their families and homes. The long struggle and the loss of family members and friends would not be forgotten. But in time, the town returned to normal day-to-day activities and business. The citizens of Medford now looked to the future with hope. With their new freedom and own government what would the next century hold?

Every April proud Massachusetts citizens celebrate Patriots' Day. Thousands of men, women, and children enjoy recreating the events from the first day of the Revolutionary War.



CHAPTER

3

1801 to 1900



Children gather around the City of Medford's newly purchased steamroller. This photo was taken on Emery Street, October 8, 1896.

19th Century Medford

1801 to 1900

Your great-great grandparents probably lived in the nineteenth century. If they lived in our Medford they would have seen much growth and progress. The changes started slowly. However by 1850, Medford was moving like a fast clipper ship toward the 20th century. Once the local farmland and large estates were divided into small house lots, the middle class had a chance to buy land and build homes.

With more homes and people came better roads and public services, such as schools, a post office, and fire and police departments. Gas lighting, electricity, telephones, and railways also were becoming more common throughout the town. And throughout most of the 19th century the businesses involved in making bricks, rum, crackers, and ships thrived.

The Medford Police Department was organized in 1870.



Medford Fire Department's Ladder One crosses the Cradock Bridge and heads down Main Street.



FIND it at the MUSEUM



Before fire departments were common, houses always had a fire bucket handy. This one was used in Medford. H&L stood for the Hook and Ladder Company.

Transportation in 19th Century Medford

In the 16th and 17th centuries, people in Medford got around town on foot, horseback, carriage, or boat. However, during the 19th century the choices of travel increased and improved. The Middlesex Canal was one of the first new ways for people and goods to be transported during the first half of the century. It connected the Merrimack River to Boston. The downfall of the canal as a major way of travel began in 1835 as railroad trains became more and more popular. (Read more about the canal later in this chapter.)

Horse-pulled streetcars were another way for people in Medford to get around town and beyond. The cars were pulled on tracks that were placed on top of the road. Although not as fast as trains, horse-pulled streetcars were cheaper and easier to maintain. By 1892, electric streetcars had become the new way of getting around town. Not everyone was happy with the idea of electric streetcars zipping around town. They thought them to be too dangerous.

Many new bridges that crossed the Mystic River were built during the 1800s. Nevertheless, the first bridge that crossed the river near Medford Square was still the center of attention. In 1808 it was rebuilt as a drawbridge, which allowed tall ships to pass through. All ships that required the bridge to be raised had to pay a fee. Naturally, the

This electric powered trolley on High Street must have seemed like a very modern way of travel when you were used to riding in a carriage pulled by a horse.





The first stone Cradock Bridge was finished in 1880. All of the earlier bridges were made of wood.

larger ships paid a higher fee than the smaller ones. In 1880, the bridge was rebuilt without a draw. The draw was no longer needed because steam powered vessels had replaced sailing ships and Medford's shipyards were no longer building tall ships. The new crossing was officially named the Cradock Bridge. The early bridges had been known as the Medford or Mistick Bridge.

Education in 19th Century Medford

Tufts, the College on the Hill.



By the 19th century, girls and boys in public schools were taught in the same classroom.

As the number of families in town grew so did the need for new schools. In 1835, the town government decided to divide the schools into grades. As a result, construction of the first high school (grades 9-12), two grammar schools (grades 4-8), and one or more primary schools (grades K-3) got underway. In addition, Tufts College opened its doors in 1852 to students from Medford and elsewhere.

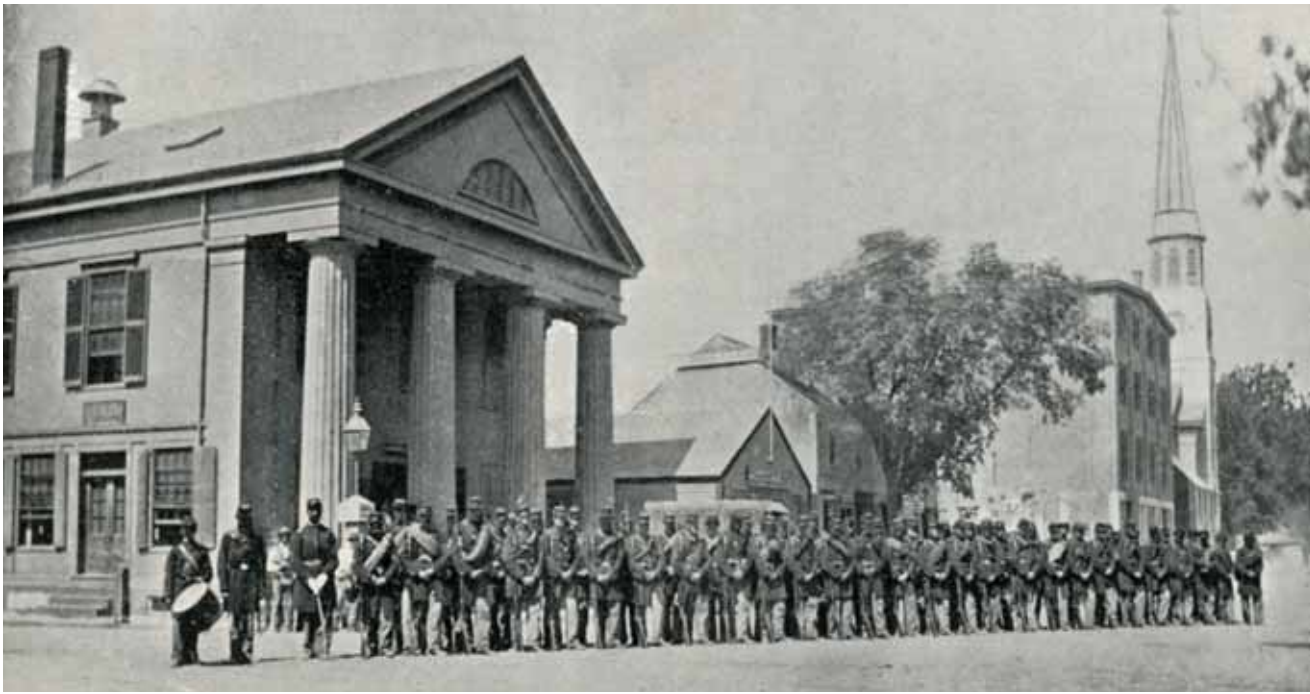


Anti-slavery in 19th Century Medford

Several citizens of Medford were abolitionists, people who fought against slavery, which had been brought to an end in Massachusetts in 1787. Their efforts to abolish it elsewhere began as early as 1837. Sadly, there were more people who supported it. It seemed as though everyone had a passionate feeling on the subject. One champion of the anti-slavery movement was George Luther Stearns. He lived near today's Cousens Gym at Tufts University on College Avenue. He believed that slavery was wicked and sinful and was prepared to do whatever it took to end it. His home became a stop on the Underground Railroad, a temporary hiding place for escaping slaves traveling north to find freedom. By the end of the Civil War, slavery was abolished and the country was saved.



Slaves moved at night and traveled 10 to 20 miles between stations on the Underground Railroad. George Luther Stearns's house that stood near College Avenue was a Medford stop.



The Lawrence Light Guard stands in front of old Town Hall on High Street, September 23, 1862. Members of the Guard returned from fighting in the Civil War. In total, 769 Medford men had served.

FIND it at the MUSEUM



Civil War ceremonial hat replica worn by Samuel Crocker Lawrence's troops.

Government in 19th Century Medford

Near the end of the century, Medford finally moved from a form of town government to that of a city. The change did not come easy because citizens of the east and west sides of Medford did not get along with one another. The rivalry between the two sides was so strong that on four occasions, beginning in 1885, a group of West Medford citizens asked the General Court of Massachusetts permission to form a separate and new town. They wanted to call it "Brooks." The General Court rejected all of their requests.

By 1891, the population of the town had grown large enough to become a city. The town leaders asked the General Court for permission to change its form of government. While the Court agreed to the change, the final decision was left to the citizens of the town. In 1892, the voters of Medford agreed to become a city by a slim majority of 382 to 342. In December of that year, Civil War general Samuel Crocker Lawrence was elected Medford's first mayor in a citywide election.



Samuel Crocker Lawrence was Medford's first mayor.

Medford Square was a busy place in the 1890s.





This ship was built in the James O. Curtis shipyard on Union Street some time around 1873.

Medford Shipbuilding

1631 to 1873

Medford shipyards were exciting places to be in the nineteenth century. There was a constant hustle and bustle throughout. Horse drawn wagons and men were going here and there. Many were hauling wood that arrived by canal or railroad from the north.

Shipbuilding was hard work and the days were long. If there was daylight, ships were being built. On average it took about six months for a crew of sixty



This clamp was one of the tools used by carpenters to build Medford ships.

men or so to build one ship. The launching of a new ship became a reason to celebrate, so much so that boys and girls were given a half day off from school so they could join the ship launching celebration.

The building and launching of ships from the shores of the Mystic River spanned three centuries, from 1631 to 1873. The first great shipbuilder in Medford was Thatcher Magoun. At an early age, he chose to be a ship carpenter. He worked under master craftsmen for seven years. All the while he dreamed of making his own ships. He made a small ship model and named it *Mt. Aetna*. Shortly after the model was complete, he decided to start his own shipbuilding business.

The Mystic River was an ideal location for a shipyard. It was a tidal river where the water

The ship *Talisman* had two masts and flew square sails. It was built at the E. and A. Rogers Shipyard on Riverside Avenue, opposite Cross Street.



level rose and fell each day. When the tide was high and the water level at its highest, there was plenty of depth to float a ship down the river to Boston and out to the Atlantic Ocean. Also, there was a branch of the Middlesex Canal that connected directly to the river which would allow inexpensive wood from New Hampshire and points north to float down straight to Medford.

The land on the shores of the Mystic River was inexpensive and there were plenty of men looking for work. So in 1803 Thatcher Magoun opened Medford's first shipyard, on the

riverbank near Riverside Avenue.

His first ship was a full size version of his dream ship, the *Mt. Aetna*.

He continued to build ships for the next 33 years. In all, 84 ships were built and launched from the Magoun shipyard.

The shipbuilding business made Thatcher Magoun a very wealthy man. It gave him the ability to build and live in a huge mansion on High Street. When he passed away, his son donated it to the town for its use as a public library. Today our present library stands on that same property.

Other shipbuilders followed Thatcher Magoun's lead and opened yards along the Mystic River. Among the more well known of these powerful men were Turner,

FIND it at the MUSEUM



Shipbuilding tools like these helped build Medford's fast moving clipper ships. From left to right, is a drilling tool, an auger, and a mallet.

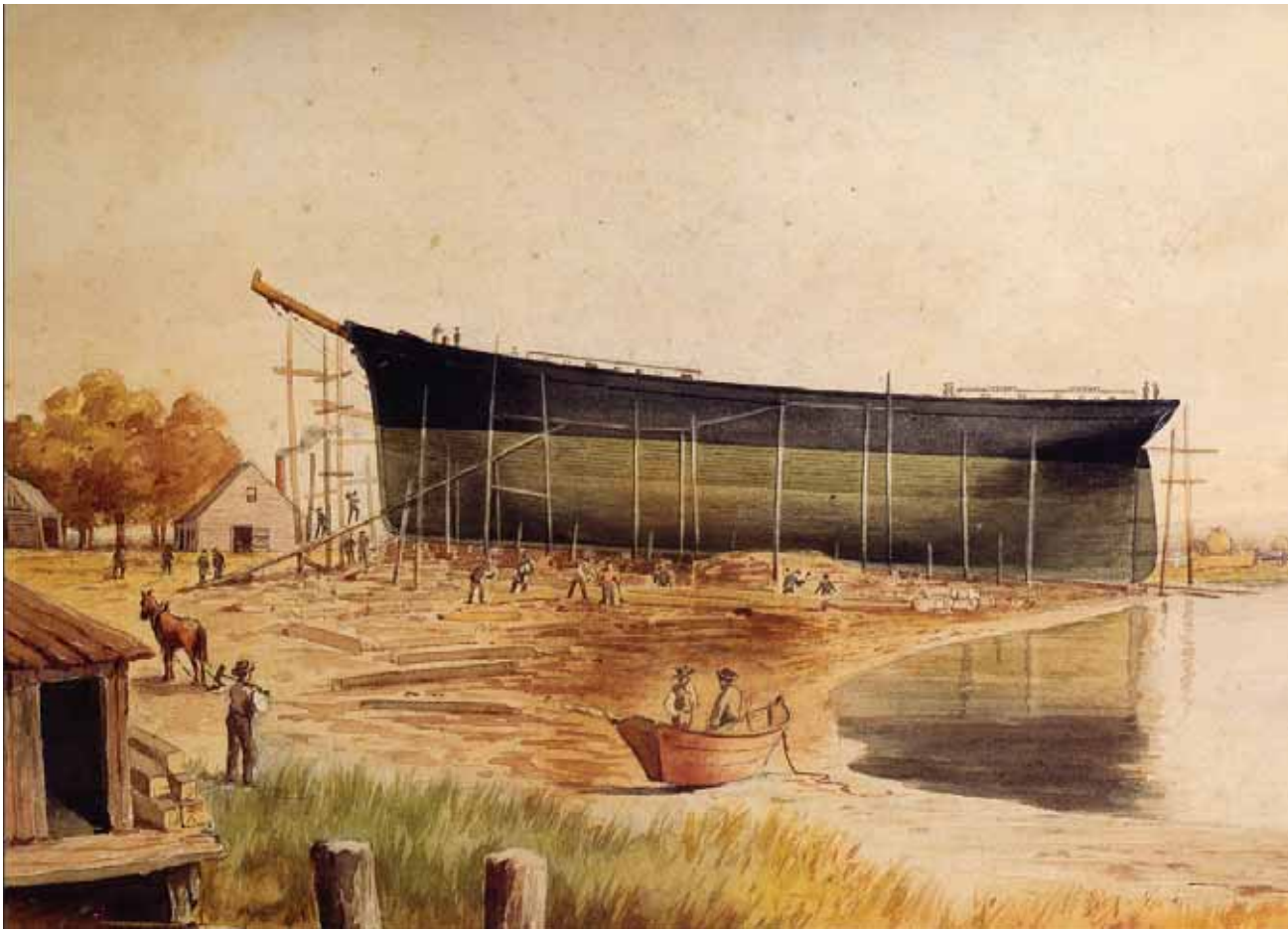
Lapham, Sprague, James, Rogers, Stetson, Waterman, Ewell, Curtis, Foster, and Taylor. During the 1830s there were about 350 men working in their yards. Medford-built ships were known throughout the world for nearly 75 years.

The more noteworthy Medford-built ships included the *Blessing of the Bay*, the *Ocean Express*, and the *Avon*. The *Blessing of the Bay* was one of the very first ships built in Medford in 1631. The *Ocean Express* was the largest ship built along the Mystic River. It was almost 2,000 tons in weight. And the *Avon*, built in only 26 days, was the fastest-constructed ship in Medford.

The decline of shipbuilding in Medford began in 1863. In fact, only 14 ships were constructed in the next decade. Ships made of

Advertisements encouraged people to buy tickets for an exciting journey to San Francisco aboard Medford-built clipper ships.





This is a watercolor of the building of the *Pilgrim*. She was the last ship built in Medford at Foster's shipyard. The vessel weighed 956 tons. Painted by Fred H. C. Wooley

wood were considered old-fashioned. People were switching to the new steam-powered iron ships. Also, it was much less expensive to build ships in other parts of the world. The new steam-powered vessels were too large for the Mystic River. The *Pilgrim* was the last Medford-built ship launched from the shores of the Mystic River in 1873. The event marked the close of the glory days of shipbuilding in Medford.

The Medford Cracker

1797 to 1915

The baking and selling of crackers, like shipbuilding, was a very active and successful industry during the early days of Medford. The cracker that brought fame to the city was created by Convers Francis. Mr. Francis was the father of Lydia Maria Francis Child, the author of the famous popular song "Over the River and Through the Wood." The Medford cracker, as it was known, was famous all over the world. It was considered a delicious and healthful cracker.

Convers Francis learned the baking business working at Captain Ebenezer Hall's bakery on Salem Street. He bought the bakery from Captain

Crackers similar to the ones made at Withington Bakery are still baked today. However, the Medford cracker was unique because it had a seam across the top.





Henry Withington Bakery on Salem Street was the home of the Medford cracker.

Hall in 1797 and carried on the successful business. As a baker, Mr. Francis was very fussy about the flour he used. He would examine every barrel of flour before he bought it. He knew all great baked goods begin with quality flour.

A few years after buying the bakery, Mr. Francis decided to create a new kind of bread. The bread was called a cracker because it had a seam through the center, which made it easy to break into two halves. When the bread was split, it made a cracking noise, and that is how it got its name: cracker.

Making crackers was hard work. They had to be rolled flat by hand, which was difficult to do and required a lot of strength.

The Medford cracker was about 4 inches wide, about double the size of today's crackers. They were very yummy. The crackers also stayed fresh for long periods of time. Regular bread quickly went stale.

When Mr. Francis retired he sold the business to Henry Withington, who continued to make the Medford cracker, which grew in popularity throughout the world. In 1834, a traveler described seeing a sign in a London shop in England that said "Medford Crackers Sold Here."

The Withington Bakery remained open until 1915. The bakery used to stand in Medford Square, where offices are today. Only a few yards to the left is today's Medford Square bakery, Modern Pastry. Maybe they'll bring back the legendary Medford cracker. We can only hope!





After 50 years of operation, the Middlesex Canal closed in 1851.
The Boston and Lowell Railroad took over as the new choice of travel.

Painted by Thomas Dahill

The Middlesex Canal

1803 to 1851

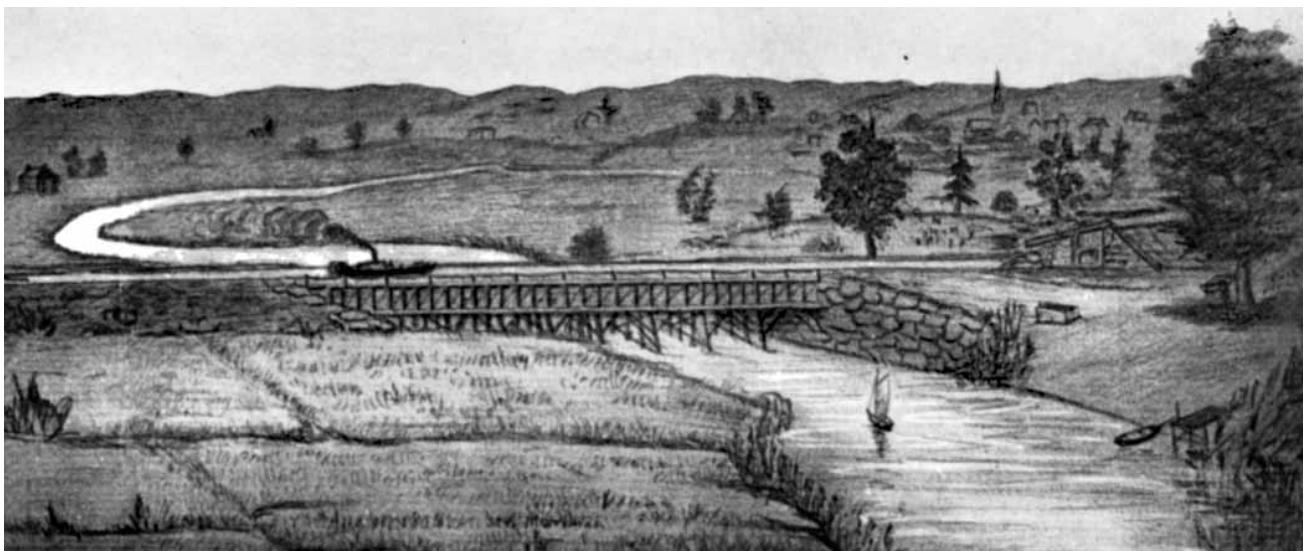
The Middlesex Canal was one of the main waterways in eastern New England during the first half of the 1800s. It was a man-made ditch, 3 feet deep, 30 feet wide and 27 miles long. It opened in 1803 and went from the Merrimac River in Lowell, through Medford and other towns, ending up in Boston Harbor. In the beginning, Medford was to be the end of the canal and boats would continue down to Boston Harbor by the Mystic River. However, it was

finally decided to build the canal all the way to Boston.

Among the earliest supporters for a canal (a man-made waterway) linking Boston with the Merrimack River were Medford farmers, merchants, and landowners. People in Lowell wanted a better way to carry goods from its mills to Boston. At that time, there were no railroads or superhighways, only narrow dirt roads, and the only power to pull cargo was animal power. While a horse could haul a ton of cargo by wagon, it could tow a boat with up to 25 tons on the canal.

As mentioned earlier, the Middlesex Canal was important to two of Medford's biggest businesses. The canal made it possible for inexpensive lumber from New Hampshire forests to come directly to shipyards along the Mystic River. Bricks from the brickyards were shipped up the canal and used to build mills in Lowell and New Hampshire.

The canal crossed over the Mystic River with the help of a special water bridge called an aqueduct.





The horse on the left pulls the canal boat as it walks on the canal's tow road.

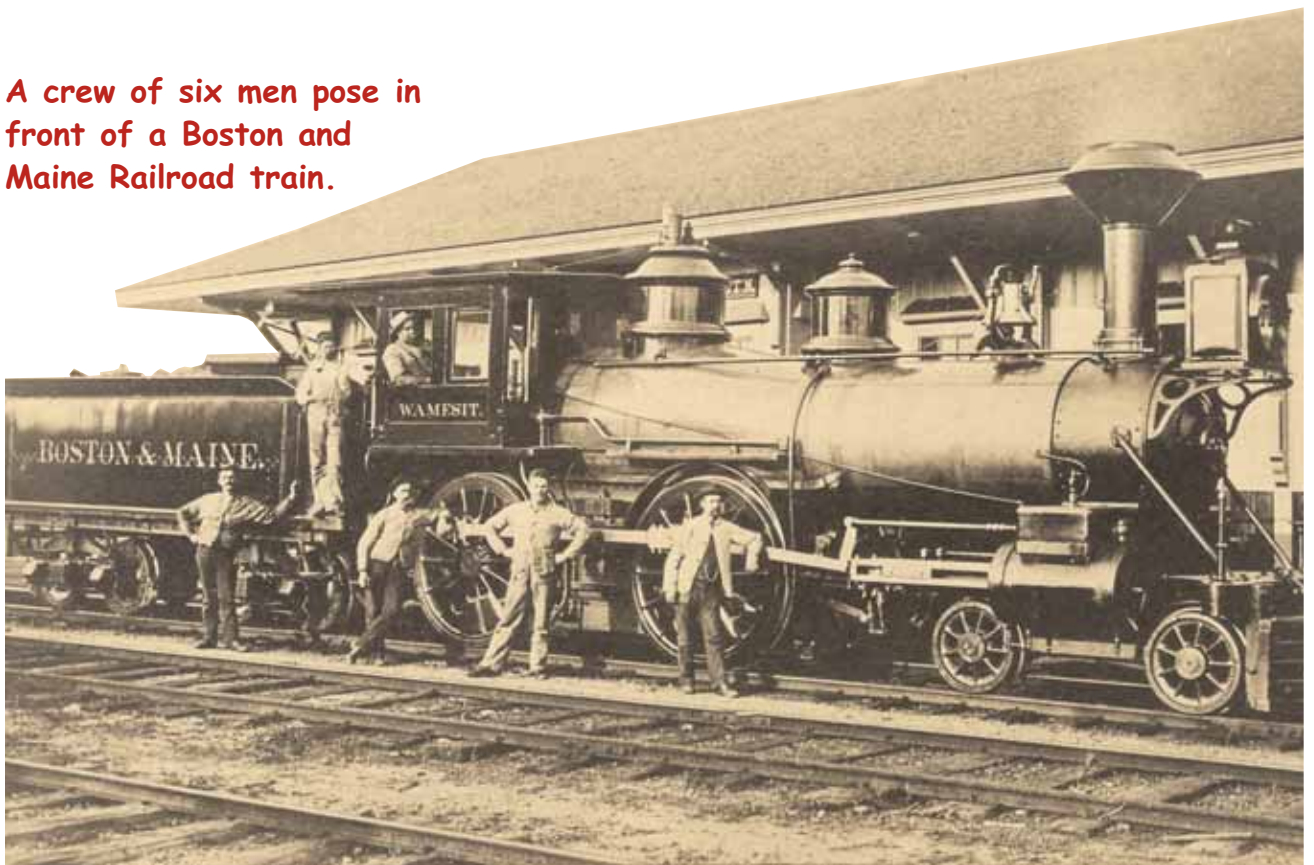
The boats that traveled up and down the Middlesex Canal were towed by horses or other similar animals. The animal towing the boat would walk along a path beside the canal. The path was called a towpath. Most of the boats carried cargo but some carried passengers. The stagecoach was faster, but the ride by boat was much smoother. And during the fall, spring, and summer, children and adults could hop on and off the canal boats for a free ride. The boatmen never minded.

The canal also was a beautiful addition to the Medford countryside. It was a major part of Medford life. Peter Brooks built an extraordinary granite bridge over the canal and added beautiful pathways for people to walk along. Local children enjoyed having the canal so close to home. During

the winter, the canal would freeze early and smooth, usually by Thanksgiving. It was shallow and without a current, which made it great for safe ice skating. There also were all kinds of tasty fish in the canal. So fishing was another great activity for people in Medford.

The canal eventually went out of business because of the growth of the railroad industry. Trains were cheaper, faster, and more convenient. For instance, it took passenger boats 8 hours to get from Lowell to Boston. It took cargo boats 12 hours to travel the same distance. The Boston and Lowell Railroad trains, on the other hand, took only 45 minutes. The downfall began in 1835 and ended in 1851 when the last boat dropped off its cargo.

A crew of six men pose in front of a Boston and Maine Railroad train.



Medford Rum

1830 to 1905

Rum was made in Medford for over 200 years and for 75 of those years it was known as the best. It was the third industry, along with shipbuilding and brickmaking, that helped Medford grow into a very rich town.

The making of rum in Medford started with the Puritans who settled in town in the early 1600s. They made it in their homes with a device called a still. Most of the drink was used to help the sick but it has been said that they enjoyed a taste of it from time to time, even when they were healthy.

The distillery on the right was located near Medford Square. It made rum until 1905.



The first person to start a rum-making business in Medford was John Hall sometime between 1715 and 1720. He opened his business near Riverside Avenue where he constructed a still over a fresh water spring. People in town could purchase rum there for more than fifty years. Other distilleries, places where rum was made, were opened by Isaac Hall, John Bishop, and Hezekiah Blanchard, to name a few.



A label from an old bottle of Medford Rum.

However, by 1830 there was only one rum distillery left in Medford. It was operated by the Lawrence family. Daniel Lawrence had settled in Medford in 1823. He began working at John Hall's distillery. He eventually took over the business and changed the name to the Lawrence Distillery. The Lawrence name and the rum made at his distillery became famous and known around the world. When Mr. Lawrence passed away in 1879, his brother Andrew and his two sons took over the business.

The Lawrence Distillery closed unexpectedly in 1905. It was thought by some that the business closed because it was losing money. Others felt it was because the Protestant churches in town believed that drinking alcohol was sinful and should be stopped. The true reason will never be known.

The dark side of making rum in Medford and the colonies is the part it played in creating the slave trade, sometimes called the Triangular Trade or the African Slave Trade. Rum made in Medford and elsewhere in the colonies was loaded on ships to sell or trade in Africa to buy slaves. The slaves were then brought to the West Indies and traded for molasses, which is used to make rum. Finally, the molasses was shipped back to Medford and other locations to make rum all over again. Unfortunately, this cycle continued for many years. It is part of the rum-making history that often is hidden from history books and remembrance plaques.

*The **Golden Triangle of Trade** mural is located at the Medford Post Office on Forest Street. It was painted by Henry Billings.*

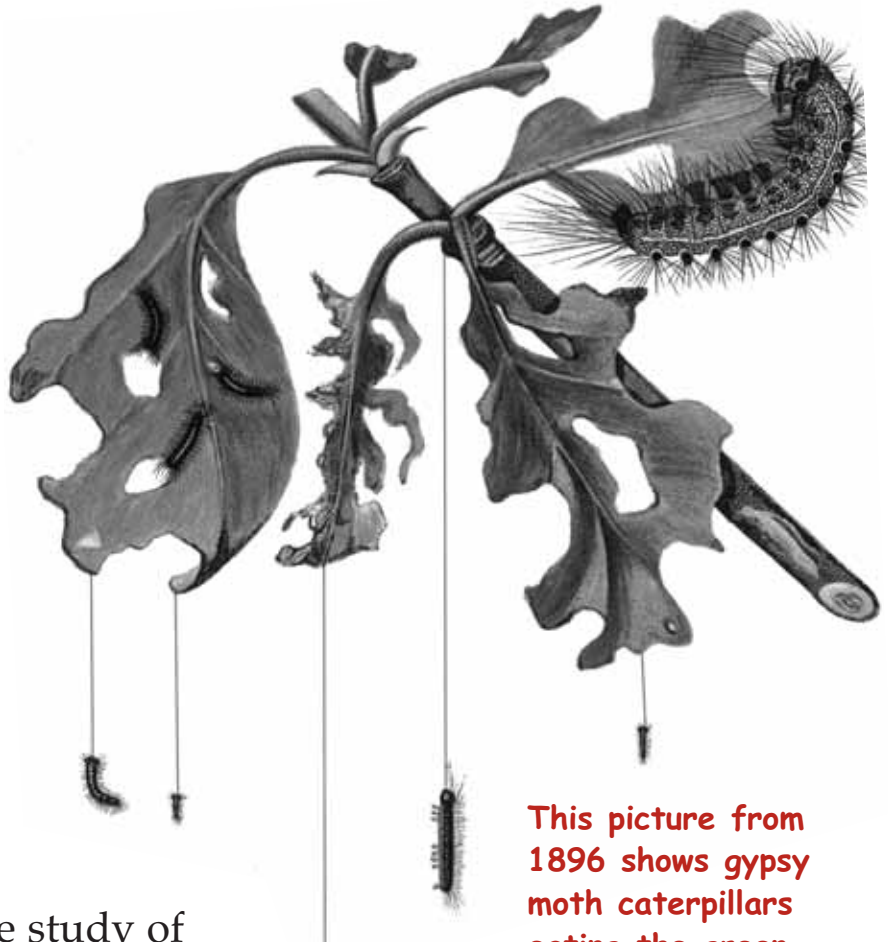


Medford's Gypsy Moth Escape

1869-Present


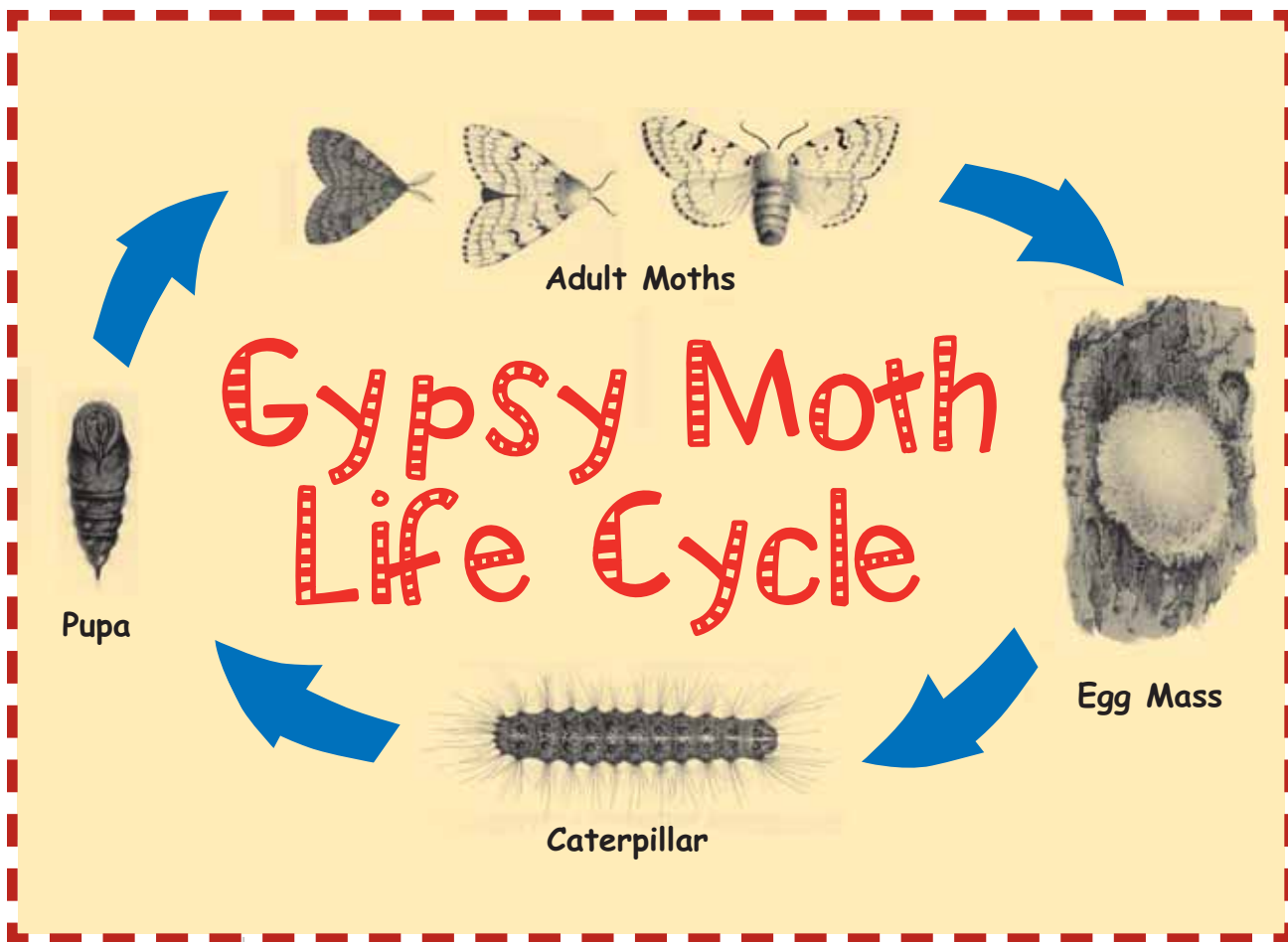
The gypsy moth caterpillar is an insect pest that feeds on the leaves of trees in the summer. Large numbers of them can ruin nearly all of the trees in a town or forest. The eggs of these caterpillars were brought to this country by a Medford citizen. His name was E. Leopold Trouvelot. He was an artist, who also had a minor interest in entomology, which is the study of insects. He lived with his family at 27 Myrtle Street in Medford.

Mr. Trouvelot brought gypsy moth eggs home to Medford when he returned from a trip to France in the early 1860s. His plan was to breed a new kind of silkworm that could survive the cold temperatures of North America. Then he would use the new caterpillars to create a silk business. By 1865 he had thousands of caterpillars at his house in jars and under secure netting.



This picture from 1896 shows gypsy moth caterpillars eating the green leaves off this branch.





Somehow, a few of the caterpillars escaped in 1869. Trouvelot knew that the caterpillars could destroy many of the trees in Medford and beyond. He quickly contacted the authorities, but nothing was done and by 1889 the population of gypsy moths was out of control.

Millions of eggs hatched that spring and by May the caterpillars were everywhere. Even walking on sidewalks was challenging because of the number of caterpillars on the ground. Soon the trees in Medford were as bare as they were in the winter. Samuel Crocker Lawrence, one of the owners of the Lawrence Distillery, did his part by donating \$500,000 to have the trees in

Medford sprayed and to pay men to hand pick the egg masses off the trees.

It didn't take long for the gypsy moths to extend to other parts of Massachusetts and the country. Today, trees are sprayed with a solution to kill the eggs of the gypsy moths before they hatch into caterpillars.

In 1905, Samuel Crocker Lawrence used his own money to save Medford's trees. He hired groups of men to hand pick gypsy moth egg clusters off of the trees. These men are working on Salem Street.



CHAPTER

4

1901 to 2000



1976 Miss Medford Bicentennial Finalists: Catherine Coates, Jayne Labadini, and Sheryl Willwerth

20th Century Medford

1901 to 2000

The twentieth century was one of great change in Medford and the rest of the world. It was the century of your grandparents. It also was the century in which more advancements were made in our Medford than many of the previous centuries combined. Your grandparents saw electric calculators advance to computers, dial phones advance to cell phones, propeller airplanes advance to jet planes and space shuttles, and so on.

Population in 20th Century Medford

During the first decades of the century, the population in Medford exploded. In 1900 just over 18,000 people were living in the city. Over the next 20 years the number of people in the city doubled to more than 36,000 residents. Irish, French Canadian, and Italian immigrants were flooding into America during this time and helped increase the population tremendously. The number of people living in Medford grew so fast that it was hard for enough homes to be built for them to live in.

Horse Racing in 20th Century Medford

Did you know that there were still two horse race tracks in Medford at the beginning of the 20th century? One track was named Combination Park and the other was called Mystic Trotting Park.

In 1969 Apollo 11 was the first space mission to land humans on the Moon.



Drivers race horse-drawn sulkies (light two-wheeled vehicles) at Mystic Trotting Park on Mystic Avenue.



Both tracks were located in South Medford and both were very popular attractions at the time. Unfortunately, they did not stay open long. Combination Park closed in 1901 and Mystic Trotting Park closed in 1903.

Theater Entertainment in 20th Century Medford

Theater-going was another popular source of entertainment in the early 1900s. If your grandparents lived in Medford at the time, they may have enjoyed these forms of entertainment. The Boulevard Theater specialized in live performances and was open only during the summer months. It was an open theater with just a roof covering. The open sides invited in cool breezes during hot summer nights. It stood at the bottom of the hill on the corner of Fellsway and Fells Avenue. There also was the fancy Medford Opera House in old Medford Square. But when the movies came to Medford, everyone took notice.

For no particular reason, shortly after 1914, Medford became home to four film companies. At one point, part of Medford was called Filmland City, a sort of Hollywood of the East Coast. The Society Players Film Company set up shop near

Wright's Pond off of Elm Street. Unfortunately, the film industry slowly moved to the West Coast in California. But two movie houses remained, the Medford and Fellsway Theaters. The author remembers going to the Medford Theater in Medford Square with his brothers and sisters in the 1970s. Today, the theater building is used for offices. Ask your grandparents if they went to one of these movie theatres when they were growing up.

World War I and 20th Century Medford

In 1914, the United States entered World War I. Many Medford men volunteered to serve in the armed forces. Others were drafted, a method of randomly selecting men to serve in the military. Medford's Lawrence Light Guard, the same company that fought in the Civil War in the previous century, joined the fight for our country. More than two thousand Medford men fought in the war.

All citizens made sacrifices during the war, even those who stayed home. Some in the city

The Glass House at Wright's Pond was a filming studio for many silent movies.





"The Supreme Sacrifice" memorial shows a standing WWI soldier with his arms stretched out from his sides and his face raised toward the heavens.

joined the Red Cross or other organizations that helped the war effort. Happily, after four long years, an armistice, or truce, was called and the war ended on November 11, 1918. A war memorial statue called "The Supreme Sacrifice" was raised in Oak Grove Cemetery in 1941 to honor the Medford men who served and died while fighting for our country. The statue was sculptured by Emilius Ciampa. He served as a soldier in France during the war at the age of 22.

Radio in 20th Century Medford

It was during World War I that an experimental radio station was built on the campus of Tufts College. The station was started by Harold J. Powers, a former student of the college. But like all experimental radio stations, it could not broadcast until the war ended. It resumed broadcasting music and talk programs in 1919, making it one of the first radio stations in the country. A number of other stations in the United States and Canada also claimed to be the "first" broadcast radio station resulting in a disagreement that was never settled.

Amelia Earhart and 20th Century Medford

In 1920 women finally won the right to vote, and large numbers of Europeans were moving to the United States seeking a new and better life. A few



years later, the famous airplane pilot Amelia Earhart and her mother and sister settled in Medford. In 1932 she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone. And she did it twice. Some newspapers called her “The Queen of the Air.”

Mayor Larkin and Amelia Earhart at her Medford homecoming celebration on July 10, 1928.

When she returned to the United States after her first historic flight, several cities, including New York and Boston, honored her with huge parades with thousands of people lining the streets to wave to her. When she returned home to Medford, the city hosted a wonderful parade in her honor that finished at Fulton Field, now known as Gillis Park. A joyous crowd of over 20,000 citizens greeted her with a hero’s welcome home. Even though she only lived in Medford for a few years, Amelia Earhart remains the pride and joy of the city.

The Great Depression and 20th Century Medford

Around the time that Medford celebrated its 300th anniversary, few people enjoying the

The Fellsway Theater (also known as "The Bug House") was in Haines Square at the intersection of Spring and Salem Streets. During World Wars I and II, money was collected to support the troops during the double feature intermission.



festivities realized that the country was headed into a very sad period in the history of the country. The Great Depression lasted ten years. It began in October of 1929 when the stock market crashed. Hundreds of banks ran out of money. Thousands of companies went out of business and millions of people lost their jobs.

No one knew when things would get better. People all over the country had to quickly learn to save and do without many things they were used to. They learned to never waste a thing and to be grateful for the little they had. In Medford, as in other parts of the country, movies were a welcome distraction during the Depression. For children, Saturday shows were all-day events. For 10 cents they could watch a cartoon, two movies, coming attractions, news reports, and a short travel story.

The government tried many things to help the country recover from the depression. It offered federal grants (money) for local improvements. The new projects got a lot of people working again. Some of the many improvements the grants brought to Medford were the traffic circle at

Winthrop Square, the Wellington bridge, new sewers, sidewalks, and pools at Tufts Park, to name a few. The larger projects were the construction of the present day City Hall and the Post Office on Forest Street. Things started to look up for the city and country. The government's effort to lift us out of the Depression seemed to be working.

World War II and 20th Century Medford

The second world war of the century began in Europe in 1939. Our country tried to stay out of the war but on December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The country found itself fighting in two different parts of the world. Hundreds of thousands of men and women joined or were drafted into the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard. A total of 8,600 Medford men and women bravely served. The author's uncle, Roy Coates, was one of them. Did anyone in your family serve in the armed services? Sadly, two women and 287 men from Medford gave their lives fighting for our country.

Throughout the war there was constant concern in Medford, and other cities and towns in the United States, of possible attacks by the enemy. State national guards would patrol bridges and highways,



Roy F. Coates, Jr. was awarded the Purple Heart, the most respected medal of honor, after his plane was shot down by enemy fire in the last few months of World War II. The Purple Heart award recognized wartime injuries and deaths during war.



sometimes day and night. Street lights were dimmed at night to protect against attacking planes. Civil Patrol Officers walked the streets at night to make sure lights were out and everyone was inside their homes.

The war in Europe ended on May 8, 1945. The war in the Pacific ended four months later on September 2nd. Service men and women came home. Many of them took advantage of the G.I. Bill of Rights which provided veterans with money for college, housing, and support while they looked for work.

After World War II in 20th Century Medford

Things soon were looking up for the country after the war. In Medford old and new businesses were providing lots of well-paying jobs for veterans and anyone else looking for work. Many

families used the money they earned to buy homes. Old and new forms of entertainment were available to help people relax and enjoy life in the evenings and weekends. Television was becoming more and more popular, and by the early 1950s, color sets began to be sold.

In Medford, auto racing became a popular pastime. The

This is a grand opening advertisement for the Twin Drive-In Theater from July 1956. In time, two more screens were added, making a total of four.

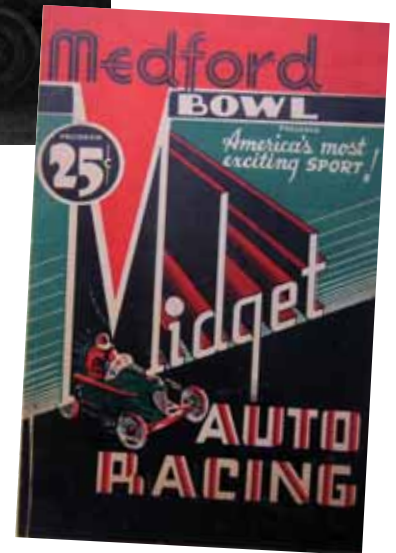




Race cars circle the Medford Bowl track on Revere Beach Parkway.

city even had its own race track called the Medford Bowl. It was a quarter-mile oval course on the Revere Beach Parkway near today's Wellington Circle. Drive-in movie theaters also became very popular after the war. Medford had two: the Meadow Glen Drive-In, which was located where the mall is today, and the Twin Drive-In Theater, which was located across from today's Wellington T Station. The Twin Drive-in Theater was one of the largest drive-ins in New England and the entire East Coast, with spaces for up to 2,000 cars!

Many cars at drive-in theaters were filled with entire families. The children would be dressed in their pajamas because they usually were asleep before the movies ended. The author remembers his parents placing his younger sister, Mary, and himself in sleeping bags on the roof of the family station wagon. The movie that night was *Bambi*.



Religion in 20th Century Medford

In the 17th century most people in Medford were Puritans and members of a Congregational

The Shiloh Baptist Choir gathers in West Medford at the corner of Fairfield and Lincoln Streets in 1933.



In the 1960s, the Mystic River was straightened to make way for Interstate 93. During the highway's construction the wetlands were filled in and the river's path was changed.

Church. The only church in town was the First Parish. As the years and centuries passed, other religions appeared. Today there are many faiths practiced by people who live in Medford, including Baptist, Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, Congregational, 7th Day Adventist, Pentecostal, and other Christian denominations. There also are those of the Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, and Muslim religions.





In 1959 the City decided to tear down their old library buildings. They were proudly replaced with a structure newly furnished in the modern style which is your library today.



Construction in 20th Century Medford

In the mid-1950s, when Route 93 was being built, it was decided that the Mystic River that snaked beautifully through the city needed to be straightened. It was a major construction project that changed Medford and the Mystic River forever. Also, in 1959 the city decided to tear down the old library building and replaced it with a more modern-styled structure. The old library was originally the home of the 19th century shipbuilder, Thatcher Magoun. It was donated to the city by his son in 1875 and

became Medford's town library. The library you go to today opened its doors in 1960. If you haven't visited it, check it out!

The Civil Rights Movement and 20th Century Medford

The 1960s also saw the growth of the Civil Rights Movement nationwide. It began around the time of the Vietnam War with the goal of achieving equality for all African-Americans. It believed that all Americans should have the same rights and opportunities regardless of their skin color.

At the time, the opportunities to get work, find housing, and get a good education were not the same for black Americans as they were for white Americans. For more than half of the century, for example, black children in the South could not attend schools with white children. The movement also worked very hard to get the same voting rights and opportunities to hold public office for African-Americans as for white Americans.

African-American women and men, along with whites, nonviolently demand African-American access to the basic privileges and rights of U.S. citizenship. These protesters are in Washington, DC in 1963.



Our Medford has always had a strong African-American community. Yet it wasn't until 1963 that the first black resident of the city was elected to public office. Her name was Madeleine Andrews and she was elected to serve on the Medford School Committee. She was a great educator and served the city well. The Andrews Middle School is named in her honor. Over the years, Medford has made much progress towards reaching racial equality. However, the city, and the country for that matter, still have a long way to go.



Madeleine Dugger Andrews was the first African-American to be elected to public office in Medford.

Many other great and challenging events and advancements happened in the 1960s, especially during the summer of its last year. On July 20, 1969, an American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, became the first person to land on the moon. When he stepped on to the surface of the moon, he declared: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

The 1970s in 20th Century Medford

The 1970s was a special decade for our Medford and the United States, especially 1976 when the country celebrated its bicentennial. The official celebration was held on July 4th, which was 200 years since the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the 13 colonies. There were parades, carnivals, concerts, contests, and fireworks throughout the country. Medford celebrated the country's 200th birthday with similar patriotic and fun-filled events.

It was also around this time when the Meadow Glen Drive-In was taken down to make way for the Meadow Glen Mall to be built. It



Medford celebrates the year 2000 by parading eight huge international flags in Medford Square. Thousands of citizens happily joined in to carry the enormous flags.

became a unique place in the city because until then all of the local stores were a part of outside shopping centers. It was fun to be able to shop many stores under one roof, especially during the cold winter months.

By the end of the decade, many new technologies were becoming common around our city. For example, children and adults were introduced to personal computers, compact discs (CDs), VCRs, mobile phones, camcorders, and gaming consoles just to name a few. These new inventions changed the way people went about day-to-day activities at work and at play. Even drinking coffee changed. It was no longer something you made and only drank at home or work. Businesses like Dunkin Donuts, where you could get coffee-to-go, were popping up all over

the place. For instance, today there are ten Dunkin Donuts just in Medford. That's a lot of donuts!

The 21st Century in Medford 2001 to 2100

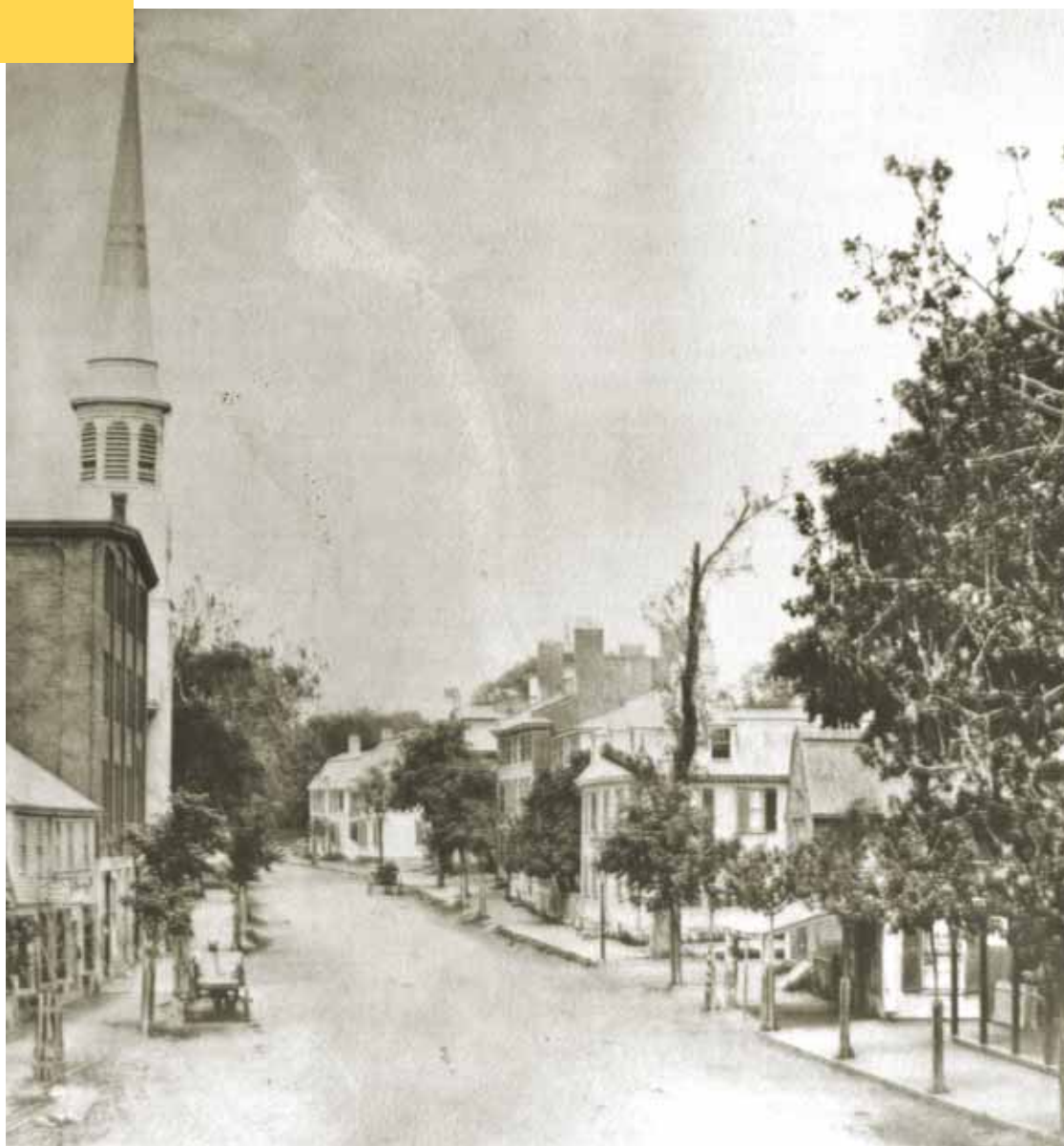
Now it's your turn to write history. Believe it or not, you are an important part of this new century and you will help to define it. How will you make a difference in our world? Will history remember you? Continue your schooling and learn something new every day. With a strong education behind you, you'll have many choices to positively influence your century.

If you can dream it, you can do it.—WALT DISNEY



CHAPTER

5



Early view of High Street before electric wires.

Timeline



View of Mystic River from Cradock Bridge.

1500	Algonquian tribes begin to inhabit the Massachusetts area. The Indians in the Medford area belonged to the Pawtucket tribe.
1620	Pilgrims settle in Plymouth Colony.
1621	The first American Thanksgiving is celebrated.
1628	Bricks start to be made on the banks of the Mystic.
1630	Puritans settle in Massachusetts Bay Colony.
1630	Medford is founded by Governor Matthew Cradock.
1631	The ship, Blessing of the Bay, believed to be the first ship built in Medford, is launched into the Mystic.
1633	Governor Winthrop reports that Sagamore John and his people died of smallpox.
1636	Matthew Cradock's men build the first bridge across the Mystic, Cradock Bridge.
1637	The first part of the Royall House is built.
1641	Matthew Cradock dies.

1650 to 1750	Bricks are Medford's main business.
1652	Edward Collins buys Medford.
1683	The Peter Tufts house is built ca. 1683-84.
1684	General Court lets Medford raise their own money, even though Medford was never formally made a town.
1696	Medford's first meetinghouse is built.
1715	Medford begins to make its famous rum.
1720	Isaac Hall (Captain of the Medford Minutemen) House is built.
1732	Medford's first school house is built.
1732	Isaac Royall Sr. builds the Royall House Slave Quarters.
1765	The slave, Pomp, is ordered to build the Slave Wall on Grove Street.
1766	Medford girls are allowed two hours of school after the boys go home.
1773	Sarah Bradlee Fulton helps disguise her husband as an Indian for the Boston Tea Party.
1775	Paul Revere makes his historic ride's first stop in Medford.
1775	The American Revolutionary War begins at Lexington and Concord.
1776	Prince Hall becomes the Grand Master of the first Freemason African Lodge.
1783	The Revolutionary War ends.
1789	President George Washington visits Governor Brooks in Medford.
1790	Medford girls study with the boys but only during the summer months.
1797	Convers Francis, creator of the Medford Cracker, begins his bakery in Medford.
1803	Shipbuilder Thatcher Magoun opens Medford's first shipyard.
1804	Medford's branch canal is built off the Middlesex Canal for a direct connection to the Mystic River.
1816	Medford's John Brooks serves as governor of Massachusetts from 1816-1823.

1834	The Medford Cracker is sold in London shops.
1835	The Boston and Lowell Railway is open and passes through Medford.
1835	The first Medford High School opens its doors.
1844	Medford's Lydia Maria Child writes her famous poem "Over the River and Through the Wood."
1851	Middlesex Canal closes.
1854	Tufts College opens.
1857	Medford is introduced to gas lighting.
1857	The song, "One Horse Open Sleigh", is published in Boston.
1861	Civil War begins.
1865	Civil War ends.
1868	Gypsy moths escape from 77 Myrtle Street.
1873	The ship, Pilgrim, the last ship to be built in Medford, is launched into the Mystic.
1875	Thatcher Magoun Jr. gives Medford his father's mansion for a new town library.
1879	A telephone line is strung from Medford Square to West Medford.
1880	<i>Medford Mercury</i> newspaper begins.
1880	The Shepherd Brooks Estate and Carriage House are built.
1883	Medford enjoys a working telephone system.
1887	Electric lights come to Medford.
1889	The escaped gypsy moths begin to destroy Medford's trees.
1892	Medford becomes a city.
1893	General Samuel Crocker Lawrence is elected Medford's first mayor.
1896	The Medford Historical Society is organized.
1896	Fannie Farmer writes <i>The Fannie Farmer Cookbook</i> .
1902	Fannie Farmer opens her School of Cookery in Boston.
1902	The Medford Lawrence Light Guard Armory opens.
1903	Mystic Park Race Track closes.
1905	The making of the well-known Medford Rum ends.

1914	The film industry comes to Medford.
1918	Part of Medford is called Filmland City because of the four film companies that made Medford their home.
1924	Amelia Earhart settles in Medford.
1924	The Lawrence Memorial Hospital opens.
1932	Amelia Earhart becomes the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.
1937	Present day Medford City Hall is built.
1937	Amelia Earhart's plane disappears while attempting a round-the-world flight.
1958	First service is held at Temple Shalom.
1960	New library on High Street opens.
1964	Route 93 is completed through Medford.
1966	Amelia Earhart Dam is dedicated.
1974	Shirley Kountze becomes the first African American principal in Medford.
1998	Medford receives the Governor's Award for Open Space Preservation.
1999	Medford is selected a "Tree City USA."
2000	West Medford Open Studios forms a non-profit organization.
2003	Medford finishes rebuilding all Public Elementary and Middle Schools.
2004	Mayor McGlynn creates the Medford Clean Energy Committee.
2004	Medford is placed in the Guinness Book Of World Records for the largest group of carol singers at "Medford's Jingle Bell Caroling Festival."
2005	Medford's Victory Park Tot Lot is named after long time active citizen, Paul F. Coates, Sr.
2006	The "Doc" Kountze film festivals begin.
2013	Medford's Mayor McGlynn is elected to his 13 th term. He becomes the longest active serving mayor in Massachusetts, making him the "Dean of Mass Mayors."

Medfordites



Madeleine Dugger Andrews

(December 13, 1922 – June 26, 1986)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Teacher
- First African-American woman on Medford School Committee
- Started a Medford program to recruit high-quality teachers (especially teachers of color). This program created a racial balance plan for Medford Schools, evaluated school building needs, strengthened the existing guidance program, and introduced a skills-training program for students who did not wish to pursue higher education.
- The Madeleine Dugger Andrews Middle School was named in her honor.



Mary Louise Carew Armstrong

(September 8, 1913 – July 12, 2002)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- American athlete who participated in track events
- Competed for the United States in the 1932 Summer Olympics
- Won the gold medal with her teammates (4 x 100 meters)



Rev. Hosea Ballou II

(October 18, 1796 – May 27, 1861)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- American Universalist minister
- First president of Tufts College of Medford from 1853 to 1861



Michael Rubens Bloomberg

(Born February 14, 1942)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- American businessman, philanthropist, and the founder of Bloomberg L.P.
- 108th Mayor of New York City
- 2015 net worth of \$34 billion, eleventh-richest person in the United States and the sixteenth-wealthiest in the world



John Brooks

(Baptized May 4, 1752 – March 1, 1825)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Doctor, military officer, and politician
- Served seven years as Massachusetts Governor from 1816 to 1823
- Served under George Washington in the NY and NJ campaign of 1776
- Considered Medford's favorite son
- Governors Avenue is named in his honor
- Buried in Salem Street Burying Ground



Terri Lynne Carrington

(Born August 4, 1965)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Grammy Award-winning jazz drummer, composer, record producer, and entrepreneur
- Served as Artistic Director of the Berklee Beantown Jazz Festival
- Made professor at her alma mater, Berklee College of Music, in 2007
- Received an honorary doctorate degree from Berklee College of Music in 2003



Painted by Francis Alexander

Lydia Maria Child

(February 11, 1802 – October 20, 1880)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Writer
- Abolitionist (someone who fought against slavery)
- Supporter of women and Native American rights
- Author of the poem “Over the River and Through the Wood” which was originally entitled “The New-England Boys Song about Thanksgiving Day”
- Published the first magazine for children in the US, called *Juvenile Miscellany*, in 1826
- Home site is on the corner of Ashland and Salem Streets



Amelia Mary Earhart

(July 24, 1897 – disappeared July 2, 1937)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford for several years in the 1920s

Remembered for:

- First woman pilot to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone
- First person to fly over the Atlantic Ocean twice
- Attempted to fly around the world at the equator
- Disappeared over the Pacific Ocean in 1937
- Author of the poem “Courage”



Fannie Merritt Farmer

(March 23, 1857 – January 15, 1915)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- American cooking expert
- Principal of Boston Cooking School
- Wrote the world famous *Fannie Farmer Cookbook* (a.k.a. The Bride’s Bible)
- Opened the Miss Farmer’s School of Cookery
- Introduced the concept of using exact measuring spoons and cups
- Named “the mother of level measurements”
- Believed strongly in proper food for the sick



Sarah Bradlee Fulton

(December 24, 1740 – 1835)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- Patriot
- Known as the “Mother of the Boston Tea Party”
- Active member of the Revolutionary War
- Organized women to nurse wounded soldiers after the Battle of Bunker Hill
- Volunteered to deliver an important message to George Washington at the dangerous war front
- She and her husband used their own boat to give the Medford troops wood and fuel.
- Fulton Street was named in her honor.



Painted by Adele Travisano

Prince Hall

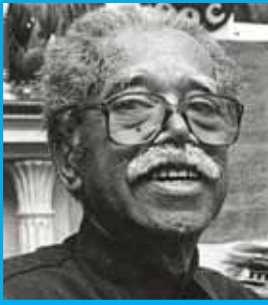
(Approximately 1735 – 1807)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- African-American abolitionist (someone who fought against slavery)
- Leader in the free black community in Boston
- Considered the founder of “Black Freemasonry”, known today as Prince Hall Freemasonry
- One of a few blacks who is believed to have fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill



Mabray “Doc” Kountze

(March 22, 1910 – September 27, 1994)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Writer, author
- Spokesman for the Negro Baseball League
- First African-American to receive a press pass from the Boston Red Sox, the Boston Braves, and the Boston Bruins
- Recognized by many for the desegregation of the Boston Red Sox
- The Mabray “Doc” Kountze Arts Festival has been organized in his honor in his hometown of Medford, Massachusetts.



Daniel Warren Lawrence

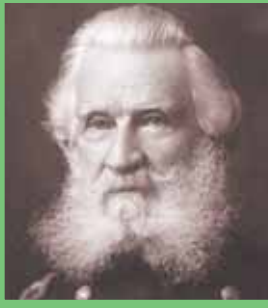
(October 8, 1830 – May 9, 1921)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- Successful in the rum-making business
- Founder of the Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Donated large sums of money to the hospital
- His house was located on Forest Street where the Post Office stands today.



Samuel Crocker Lawrence

(November 22, 1832 – September 24, 1911)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Member of the Lawrence rum family
- Served as colonel and then general of the Medford Lawrence Light Guard during the American Civil War
- Wounded at the First Battle of Bull Run
- Built the Lawrence Light Guard Armory on High Street
- Served as Medford's first mayor
- Spent \$500,000 of his own fortune to control the Gypsy Moth infestation



Thatcher Magoun

(June 17, 1775 - April 16, 1856)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- First Medford shipbuilder
- Made the first shipyard in Medford
- His first ship was called the *Mt. Aetna*, built in 1803
- Built 84 extraordinary ships



Dave McGillivray

(Born August 22, 1954)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered For:

- Motivational speaker, gives to good causes, author, and athlete
- In 1978, he ran across the U.S. from Medford, Oregon to his hometown Medford, MA to benefit the Jimmy Fund and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.
- Race director of the B.A.A. Boston Marathon



Michael J. McGlynn

(Born April 23, 1953)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Mayor of Medford, January 1988 to December 2015
- Longest serving mayor in the state of Massachusetts
- Served from 1977-1988 as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives



Maria Menounos

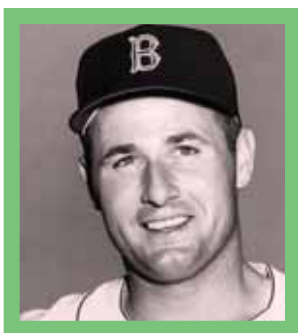
(Born June 8, 1978)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- American actress, journalist, TV hostess, and occasional professional wrestler
- Known for her appearances as a TV correspondent for *Today*, *Access Hollywood*, and *Extra*



William Charles (Bill) Monbouquette

(Born August 11, 1936 – January 25, 2015)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- Former Major League Baseball right-handed pitcher
- Played for the Boston Red Sox (1958–1965), Detroit Tigers (1966–1967), New York Yankees (1967–1968), and the San Francisco Giants (1968)



Reverend David Osgood

(1747 – 1822)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- Medford's third minister
- Preached for 48 years
- Harvard graduate
- Abolitionist
- Patriot
- Assisted the people of Medford to make choices about the revolution and slavery
- His house still stands at 141 High Street.



Michael Timothy Pagliarulo, (“Pags”)

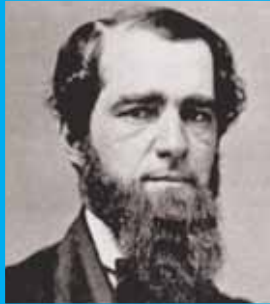
(Born March 15, 1960)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Former Major League Baseball third baseman
- Played during the 1980s and into the mid-1990s
- Drafted by the New York Yankees in the sixth round of the 1981 amateur draft
- Played college baseball at Miami



James Lord Pierpont

(April 25, 1822 – August 5, 1893)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- Songwriter, organist, and composer
- Best known for writing “Jingle Bells,” originally entitled “One Horse Open Sleigh”
- His “Jingle Bells” is one of the most performed and most recognizable songs in the world.
- Wrote “Jingle Bells,” perhaps after watching a sleigh race from Medford to Malden, MA
- “Jingle Bells” later became associated with Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Mark Christopher Roopenian

(Born July 10, 1958)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Former NFL nose tackle
- Played two seasons with the NFL Buffalo Bills
- Played college football at Boston College



Isaac Royall, Jr.

(1719 – 1781)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- Took over his father's estate which is now the Isaac Royall House, a museum which has the only slave quarters in the northeast United States
- Helped with the creation of Harvard Law School
- Moved to England at the beginning of the Revolutionary War and never returned



Joseph William Sacco

(Born February 4, 1969)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford
- Attended Medford High School

Remembered for:

- NHL player
- Assistant coach of the Boston Bruins
- Brother David Sacco also played in the NHL



Clifford Glenwood Shull

(September 23, 1915 – March 31, 2001)

Connection to Medford:

- Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- M.I.T. professor who won the 1994 Nobel Prize in Physics for developing techniques of neutron scattering.



George Luther Stearns

(January 8, 1809 – April 9, 1867)

Connection to Medford:

- Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Operated a Medford station of the Underground Railroad (a system to help escaped slaves reach freedom) at his estate on College Avenue
- Recruited blacks to join the Union Army during the American Civil War
- Abolitionist
- Worked for the civil rights of blacks



Léopold Trouvelot

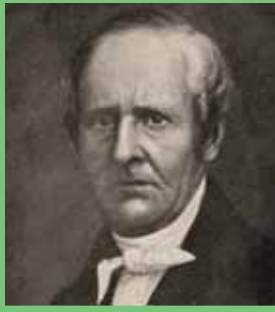
(December 26, 1827 – April 22, 1895)

Connection to Medford:

Lived in Medford

Remembered for:

- Artist, astronomer (studied space) and amateur entomologist (studied insects)
- Known for accidentally releasing the Gypsy Moth into North America
- In 1868, he tried to breed a new silkworm using Gypsy Moths from Europe. Some moths escaped from his home at 27 Myrtle Street. Ten years later, the insect had destroyed the local trees by eating their leaves.



Charles Tufts

(July 16, 1781 – December 24, 1876)

Connection to Medford:

Born in Medford

Remembered for:

- Founder of Tufts College
- American businessman and philanthropist (gave to good causes)
- Relative of Peter Tufts, the early colonist
- Made a fortune through his brickmaking business
- Donated 100 acres of land in Medford for what was to be named Tufts College

Children stand on Boston Avenue's wooden bridge over the Mystic River in 1891.



MEDFORD

Points of Interest



Amelia Earhart Home Site
76 Brooks Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Paul Camerlo

Amelia Earhart, the famous pilot, lived in Medford from 1924 to 1928. She lived here with her mother and her younger sister, Muriel. Her sister was a teacher in the city. Amelia left Medford to become the first women to fly across the Atlantic Ocean on July 17, 1928.

She was a very brave woman and has a very important place in our history. Ms. Earhart wrote the well-known poem, "Courage," in this house. Unfortunately, she disappeared in a flight over the Pacific Ocean in 1937.





Chevalier Theatre
30 Forest Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Mr. Tuttle (Mr. Coates' assistant teacher)



The Chevalier Theatre was constructed in 1939 as part of Medford High School. It has 1,800 seats. The playhouse is the sixth largest theatre in the Metropolitan Boston area. The theatre was dedicated to Godfrey de Courcelles Chevalier. Mr. Chevalier grew up in Medford and went to Medford High School. After high school, he served in World War I with honor and became a hero. The theatre was used mostly as a school auditorium. The high school would have student performances there and occasionally some graduation ceremonies. However, several famous people spoke or performed there as well, including John F. Kennedy, Frank Sinatra, and Lou Rawls. Sad to say, the Medford High School suffered a fire in 1965. Amazingly, the theatre experienced very little damage. Before long the city built a new high school which was located off of Winthrop Street. Yet the theatre was neglected for years. Finally, in 1981, a group of hardworking, concerned people pulled together to bring the Chevalier back to its original glory. It did re-open and in 1983 it was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. Try to catch a performance there soon!

Fannie Merritt Farmer Home Site Corner of Paris and Salem Streets Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Caitlin Canavan

Fannie Merritt Farmer was born on March 3, 1857. Fannie Farmer lived on the corner of Paris and Salem Streets where the plaque is now. Fannie's two-family house was burned down in 1979. Fannie Farmer was



paralyzed from the waist down when she was 13. She dropped out of Medford High School. Fannie Farmer went to a cooking school when she got the feeling in her legs back. She graduated from The Boston Cooking School in 1889. *The Fannie Farmer Cookbook* is still in print today. It is still known as the "Bride's Bible." I have the fifteenth printing. She started a cooking school business. Alice Bradley took over the business and ran it until the mid-1940s. Ms. Farmer is remembered as the mother of level measurements. Fannie died January 15th, 1915 when she was 57 years old. I think this site is important because she always considered Medford her home and she became a famous cook.

Grandfather's House / Paul Curtis House
114 South Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Catherine Barry



This house is located on one of the oldest streets in Medford, South Street. The house is white and large. It has doors on the side and columns on the front. It is directly in front of the Mystic River. It is historically important because Lydia Maria Child wrote the poem "Over the River and Through the Wood" about this house. It was here where Lydia's

grandfather lived. Years later, Paul Curtis, a well-known shipbuilder, moved in and made it much bigger. He built a local shipyard where he built 27 ships. Check it out today!



Isaac Hall House
43 High Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Patrick Keen

Isaac Hall House was built in 1720. It's the oldest surviving house in Medford Square. Mr. Hall was born in Medford on January 24, 1739 and died November 24, 1789. He was captain of the Medford Minutemen. It was here that Paul Revere stopped on the night of April 19, 1775 to warn that the Regulars were coming. Today it is used as a funeral home run by the Gaffey family. This house is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.



Isaac Royall House
15 George Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Michele Began



The Isaac Royall House is a National Historic Landmark and a local history museum. It has three floors and four chimneys. The original portion of the Royall House appears to have been a farmhouse constructed in 1637 by Governor Winthrop as a part of his Ten Hills Farm. New Hampshire Lt. Governor John Usher enlarged the house and lived in it from 1692 until

1726. Colonel Isaac Royall Sr., purchased the house in 1732 and had the house rebuilt. His son, Isaac Royall Jr., lived in the house from 1739 until 1775 before going back to England after the Revolutionary War started. The house was used by Continental Army troops during the American Revolutionary War. General Washington and John Stark visited the house and one of Washington's aides lived in the house from 1782-1784. The Royall family was given the house back in 1806 and the house was sold. Some of the money from the sale of the house was used to found Harvard Law School in Cambridge, MA.

Today, the house is owned by the Royall House Association. The house is still used for events. In fact, when I was there they were filming a movie inside the house.

Isaac Royall Slave Quarters 15 George Street Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Molly Lappin

The Isaac Royall Slave Quarters was built by Isaac Royall, Sr. in 1732. The building is part brick and clapboard. Mr. Royall built it for 27 black men and women slaves he bought in Antigua.

It's the only surviving slave quarters in the northern United States. The quarters and the Slave Wall are two structures left to prove that there once was slavery in Medford.



**"Jingle Bells" Plaque
19 High Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155**

by Jasper McIntyre



The song "Jingle Bells" was written by James Lord Pierpont, possibly at the Simpson Tavern in Medford, MA. It was originally called "One Horse Open Sleigh" when it was copyrighted in 1857, but was reprinted as "Jingle Bells" in

1859. "Jingle Bells" may have been based on the sleigh races on Salem Street that were popular in Medford in the early 1800's.

"Jingle Bells" has become a well-known song for Christmas, and sometimes Thanksgiving! It was also the first song broadcasted in space!

Lawrence Memorial Hospital
170 Governors Avenue
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

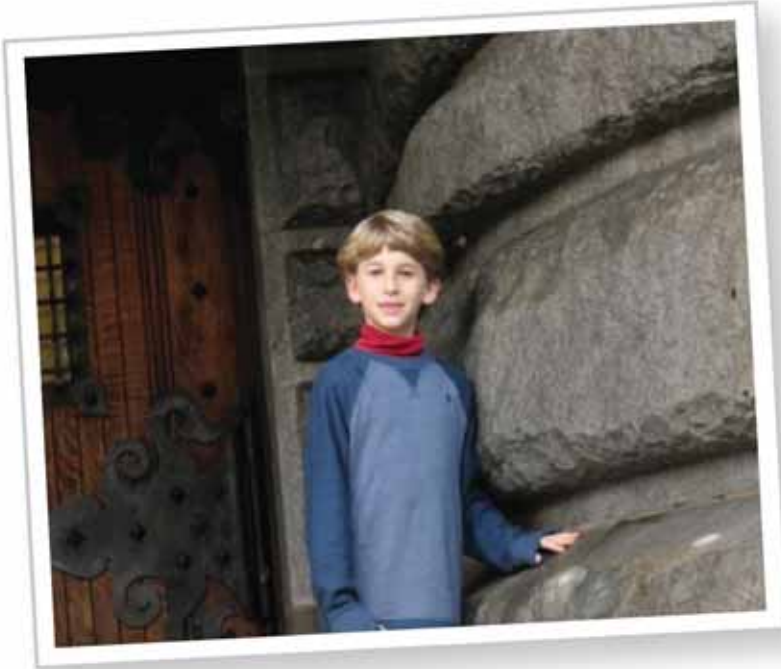
by Dakota Mahoney

Daniel Warren Lawrence was the founder of Medford's Lawrence Memorial Hospital. He was born in Boston on October 8, 1830. However, he was raised in Medford. Daniel went to school here and graduated from Medford High School. When he grew up, he joined the military. He was in the Civil War. After the war, he went back home to Medford. He became an officer in the Volunteer Militia and a member of the Fire Department. Daniel loved Medford and was very active around the community. He grew very wealthy working with his father in the rum business. He invested his riches into Medford. When Daniel died in 1921, he donated the money to build the only hospital in Medford. That is why the hospital has his last name.



**Lawrence Light Guard Armory
92 High Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155**

by Jacob Steckerl



The Lawrence Light Guard Armory is an historic building. An armory is a military location used to store weapons and ammunition. This armory probably did not store weapons. However, its large open halls were used for military drills. It was

built in 1901 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on



March 10, 1975. General Samuel Crocker Lawrence, Medford's first mayor, built it in honor of his father, Mr. Daniel Lawrence. Today it's filled with office condominiums.

Medford City Hall
85 George P. Hassett Drive
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Emma Cohen

Medford City Hall was built in 1937. It was built on the old Medford Common. City Hall was designed by a Medford man named Michael Dyer. It has a beautiful gold dome that can be seen from afar. In the early days, Medford's town meetings were held in private homes. Eventually, a town hall was made in 1833. Unfortunately, it burnt down, but was re-built in 1835. We're lucky to have the City Hall we have today.



Medford Historical Society & Museum
10 Governors Avenue
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Rosalie Nicholas



The Medford Historical Society was organized in 1896. The current Historical Society & Museum building on Governors Avenue, was constructed in 1916. They have ship tools, Medford rum, Medford bricks, and much more on display. It also has one of the largest and finest collections of Civil War photos that have ever existed.

The collection was gathered by General Samuel Crocker Lawrence, who was commander of the Lawrence

Light Guard during the Civil War and later was the city's mayor. The Medford Historical Society & Museum helps keep Medford's rich past alive. It's open every Sunday afternoon from

12:00-4:00 P.M.

Volunteers are available during these hours to help with your Medford questions.



Medford Rum Distilleries Plaque **Medford Square, in front of Century Bank** **Medford, Massachusetts 02155**

by Gus Rotramel

The first distillery in Medford was built by John Hall in 1715. It remained in the Hall family until 1801. Eventually, Daniel Lawrence and son took over the business and made the rum famous. Medford Rum was important to the town because it was traded worldwide. It also provided many jobs for the citizens of Medford. It was considered the best rum in the States.



Middlesex Canal Plaque
Boston Avenue
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Will Kelley



Before the railroads, the Middlesex Canal was important for moving lumber, goods of all kinds, and even people from New Hampshire through to Boston. The canal helped the people of Medford because they needed inexpensive wood from the north to build their ships

on the Mystic River. It ran from Charlestown through today's Somerville, Medford, Winchester, Woburn, Wilmington, Billerica, and Chelmsford to Lowell. Parts of Medford's Boston Avenue and the Mystic Valley Parkway were once this waterway. It was filled in a long time ago.

Flat bottomed boats were pulled by a mule/horse which was on a tow road next to the canal. The canal was a little over 27 miles long. It was 20 feet wide at the bottom, 30 feet at the top and only 3 feet deep.



Sketch by A. E. Herrick

Mystic River Plaque
Clipper Ship Park, located behind CVS behind
Riverside Avenue in Medford Square
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Joseph D'Orazio

The name Mystic River comes from the Algonquian word *missituk*, which means great tidal river. The Mystic River had a lot to do with the growth of Medford, Massachusetts. It was Medford's connection to the world and famous for floating Medford-built ships to the open ocean.

The river contained natural resources such as fish (alewife) and clay, which were used for many purposes. The river also was used as a main transportation waterway for Medford to move timber for ship building. This is likely why they called it the Clipper Ship Park.



Peter Tufts House
350 Riverside Avenue
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Neha Mankekar



Peter Tufts House was also known as the Cradock House, the Old Fort, and the Garrison. Peter Tufts was an early citizen of Medford who was related to Charles Tufts. Charles Tufts was the man who donated land for the Tufts University campus.

Peter Tufts came from England to Charlestown, Massachusetts. In 1638, Peter Tufts owned 43 acres of land in Malden. His house was made with local bricks. Some historians believe that Peter Tufts' house is the oldest brick house in the United States.



Sagamore John Monument Sagamore Park on Sagamore Avenue Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Carsten Mangan

Sagamore John's Native American name was Wonohaquaham. He was the chief (leader) of 30-40 men and lived along the Mystic River. He was pro-colonist and would warn them of any tribal danger. He died in 1633 from smallpox (a disease) along with most of his people. At the location of the memorial are the remains of 17 other Indians along with pipes and weapons of war. The monument was placed on the Brooks Estate by Francis Brooks in 1884.



Salem Street Burying Ground Medford Square Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Cormac Lynch



The Salem Street Burying Ground is the oldest burial place in Medford. The first marker is dated 1683, and the most recent is 1881. It has 485 markers. However, there are more than 600 people buried there. The reason for the difference in the numbers is because some families only had one stone for many family members, 50 slaves were buried without markers, and some tablets were stolen. In the middle of

the grounds, there is a tall monument in honor of Governor John Brooks. He was born in 1752 and died in 1825. Gov. Brooks was a doctor and a captain of the Reading Minutemen. At the start of Revolutionary War, he helped lead the fight in the battles of Concord and Bunker Hill. He took part in many Revolutionary War battles. After the war, he came back to Medford and ran for Governor of Massachusetts in 1816. He won and was governor for seven years. In addition, Sarah Bradlee Fulton and Benjamin Hall also have markers on the ground.

Samuel Crocker Lawrence Plaque Corner of Wyman and Winthrop Street Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Riley Maher

Samuel Crocker Lawrence was born on November 22, 1832. He attended and graduated Medford Public Schools. He was colonel of the Medford Lawrence Light Guard in the Civil War. In 1879 when Daniel senior died, Samuel and his brother Daniel took over their father's Medford Rum Distillery and ran it for the next 25 years. Samuel Crocker Lawrence was also the Manager of the Eastern Railway. He even was the first Mayor of Medford! Samuel C. Lawrence was an important person. He died in 1911 and was buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery.



**Sarah Bradlee Fulton Home Site
100 Main Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155**

by Evan Calvert



Mrs. Sarah Bradlee Fulton was a great patriot and called the “Mother of the Boston Tea Party.” She helped her husband and others disguise themselves as Indians for the Boston

Tea Party. She also helped wounded soldiers after The Battle of Bunker Hill.

During the Revolutionary War, Mrs. Fulton journeyed by herself in the middle of the night to Boston. She delivered a secret message to General George Washington while the city was under attack. She was very brave.

Eventually, she moved to Stoneham Road which was renamed Fulton Street in her honor.

Shepherd Brooks Manor / Brooks Estate 275 Grove Street Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Sarah Braverman

I went to Shepherd Brooks Manor. The 21 room Queen Anne Victorian Manor and Carriage House was built in 1880 as a summer house and farm for Shepherd Brooks and his family. I think the Shepherd Brooks Manor is important because its our last link to the Brooks family. They helped people in Medford by letting them use their resources and property that the Brooks family owned.

The Brooks family was one of Medford's founding families. The family owned 400 acres which is in West Medford. They gave the city and state some of the land they owned. For example, they gave Playstead Park, the shoreline of Mystic Lakes, Oak Grove Cemetery, the Lowell Railroad, Brooks Pond and the Manor. There are tons of places that used to be Brooks family property.



Slave Wall **275 Grove Street** **Medford, Massachusetts 02155**

by Coral Chaves



The Slave Wall is a brick wall built by a slave named Pomp in 1765. It was used as the entrance of Thomas Brooks' house on his family's estate on Grove Street. Pomp was a slave that worked for Thomas Brooks. Pomp was his general utility man and he also made the bricks himself from the clay on the property.

At the time the wall was built, there were 49 slaves living in Medford. They were involved in the "triangle trade" which brought them from Africa to support the rum industry which was important to Medford at the time.

The Brooks were an important family in Medford's early history. The wall is really important to Medford because it is a reminder of our past and the important work of a skilled

and humble man named Pomp. Fortunately, slavery was abolished in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1787 (the first state to do so).

Today, there is a public park behind the slave wall, and it was donated to the City of Medford in 1924. The wall is older than the United States (249 years old).



Tufts University
419 Boston Avenue
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Kira Correia

Charles Tufts was the founder of Tufts College. He lived in Charlestown and was a famous brickmaker. He was given land on a hill by a relative that passed away. He was asked by friends what he was going to do with the hill. Charles said he was going to put a light on it. He gave the land to the Unitarian Universalist Church and they built him a college (Education is truly a light). The college opened its doors for the first time in 1854. In 1955, the college changed to a university. It's one of the best schools in our country, and it's in our city!



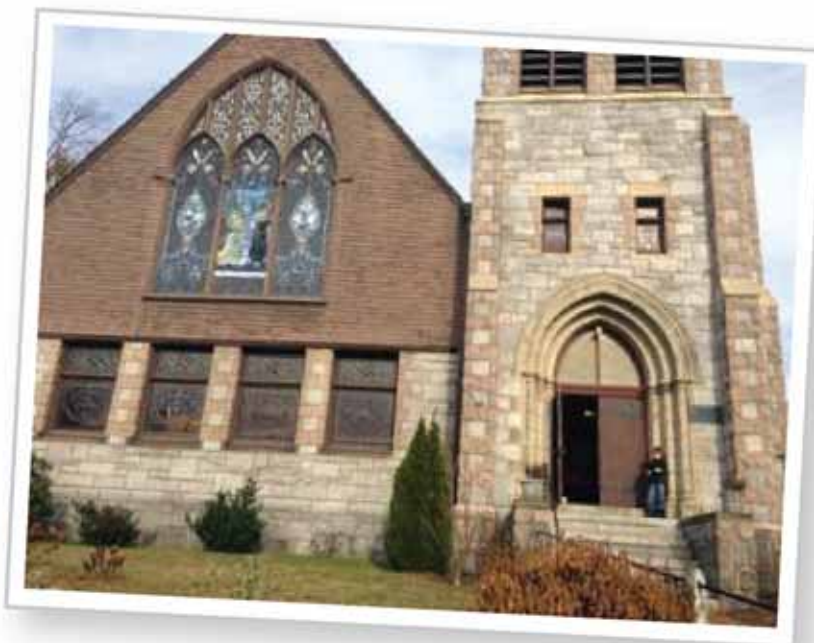
Unitarian Universalist Church of Medford
147 High Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Samuel Buxton



Unitarian Universalist Church is the combination of three churches from the past – each with different perspectives. The three churches were the First Parish of Medford (1630), the First Universalist Church (1831), and the Hillside Universalist Church (1897). They all came together in 1961 when it became the church we know today. The First Parish of Medford was built by the Puritans and evolved into the church today.

Lydia Maria Child, the creator of "Over the River and Through the Wood," and Fannie Farmer, the great chef, were members of this church. Rev. John Pierpont, Sr., the father of James Lord Pierpont ("Jingle Bells" composer), became minister here in 1849.



West Medford Community Center
111 Arlington Street
Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by West Medford Community Center

For sixty years the West Medford Community Center has connected the diverse people of West Medford and the Mystic River Valley through social, educational, cultural, health and recreational activities. While programs for children and adults have always filled the center's calendar, the magic lies not in their programs but in the people. Programs have been and always will be a fixture. Yet the goal goes beyond great programs. The center wants community, a quality where people know they belong and that others have their interest at heart. While the makeup of this historic African-American community is changing, the neighborhood character remains. The West Medford Community Center brings people together. The Center is open Tuesday through Thursdays from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and for scheduled events.

Old



New



Wright's Observatory Tower Middlesex Fells Reservation, Pine Hill Medford, Massachusetts 02155

by Gavin Gagne



Wright's Tower is named after Elizur Wright (February 12, 1804 – November 22, 1885). Wright's Pond is named after him, too. A successful businessman in the field of life insurance, he encouraged the founding of the Middlesex Fells Reservation in the late 19th century. These 2,575 acres of woodland spans five cities. The tower is on the south end of the park, sitting on top of the 243 foot high Pine Hill. The view of the Boston skyline is awesome from the top of the tower.

Medford Local Government 2016

Stephanie Muccini Burke, Mayor

City Council

Frederick N. Dello Russo, Jr., *Council President*

Breanna Lungo-Koehn, *Council Vice-President*

Richard F. Caraviello

John C. Falco, Jr.

Adam Knight

Michael J. Marks

George A. Scarpelli

School Committee

Stephanie Muccini Burke, *Chairperson*

Ann Marie Cugno

Erin DiBenedetto

Kathleen P. Kreatz

Mea Quinn Mustone

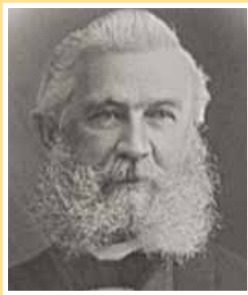
Robert E. Skerry, Jr.

Paulette Van der Kloot

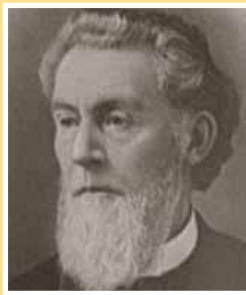
This view overlooks the old drawbridge over the Mystic River in Medford Square. You can see this diorama up close at the Medford Historical Society & Museum.



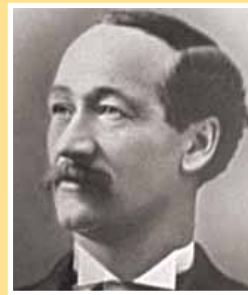
Mayors of Medford



1. Samuel C. Lawrence,
1893-1894



2. Baxter E. Perry,
1895-1896



3. Lewis H. Lovering,
1897-1900



4. Charles S. Baxter,
1901-1904



5. Michael F. Dwyer,
1905-1907



6. Clifford M. Brewer,
1908-1910



7. Charles S. Taylor,
1911-1914



8. Benjamin F. Haines,
1915-1922



9. Richard B. Coolidge,
1923-1926



10. Edward H. Larkin,
1927-1931



11. John H. Burke,
1932-1933



12. John J. Irwin,
1934-1937



13. John C. Carr,
1938-1943, (*entered
armed forces July 25, 1943.
George L. Callahan, Acting
Mayor*)



14. Walter E.
Lawrence,
1944-1949



15. Frederick T.
McDermott,
1950-1951



16. John C. Carr, Jr.,
1952-1954



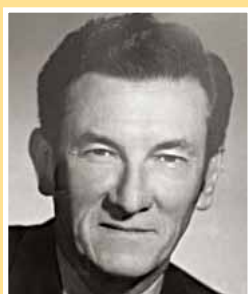
17. Arthur Dello Russo,
1955



18. Alfred P. Pompeo,
1956-1957



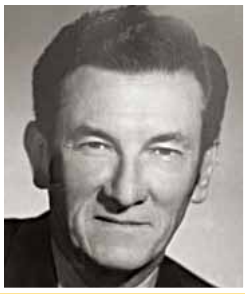
19. John C. Carr, Jr.,
1958-1961



20. John J. McGlynn,
1962-1967



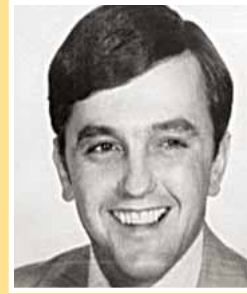
21. Patrick J. Skerry,
1968-1969



22. John J. McGlynn,
1970-1971



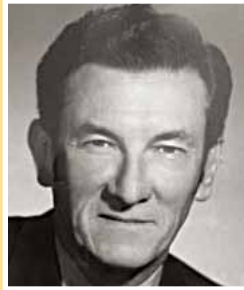
23. Angelo Marotta,
1972-1973



24. Frederick N.
Dello Russo, 1974



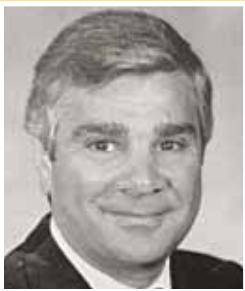
25. James K. Kurker,
1975



26. John J. McGlynn,
1976-1977



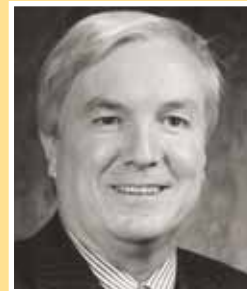
27. Eugene F. Grant,
1978-1979



28. Paul J. Donato,
1980-1985



29. Marilyn Porreca,
1986-1987



30. Michael J. McGlynn
1988-2015



31. Stephanie
Muccini Burke
2016-



Medford Schools

Elementary

Public

Brooks Elementary
Christopher Columbus Elementary
John J. McGlynn Elementary
Milton Fuller Roberts Elementary

Private

Eliot-Pearson (PK-2)
Merry-Go-Round Nursery (PK)
Play Academy (PK-K)
Oakland Park Children's Center (PK)
Six Acres Nursery (PK-K)
St. Joseph's (K-8)
St. Raphael's (PK-8)

Middle School

John J. McGlynn Middle
Madeleine Dugger Andrews Middle

High School

Public

Medford High
Medford Vocational Technical
Curtis Tufts Alternative High School

Private

Saint Clement's High (7-12)

College

Tufts University



Elementary students working on their math skills at the Swan School in 1907.

Medford Parks

Barry Park - Summer Street

Brooks Park - Main Street

Capen Park - Capen Street

Carr Park - Winslow Avenue

Columbus Park - Hicks Avenue

Cummings Park - Coting Street

Dugger Park - Mystic River Road

Gillis Field - Fulton Street

Grant Park - Boston Avenue

Harris Park - Second Street

Hastings Heights Park - Allston Street

Grant Park - Boston Avenue

Hickey Park - Brogan Road

Hormel Stadium Facility and Riverbend Park - Locust Street

Logan Park - Otis Street

Magoun Park - Pembroke Street

McNally Park - Webster Street

Veterans Memorial Park - Winthrop Street

Middlesex Fells

Morrison Park - Central Avenue

Playstead Park - Playstead Road

Prescott Park - St. James Road

Royall Park - George Street

Thomas Brooks Park - Grove Street

Tufts Park - Main Street

Victory Park - Winthrop Street

Wright's Pond - Elm Street



Medford boys playing football in 1895.

Neighborhoods

Brooks Estates

Fulton Heights (North Medford)

Lawrence Estates

Medford Hillside

Medford Square

South Medford

Tufts University

Wellington/Glenwood

West Medford

How Many People Lived Here?

Medford Population Numbers

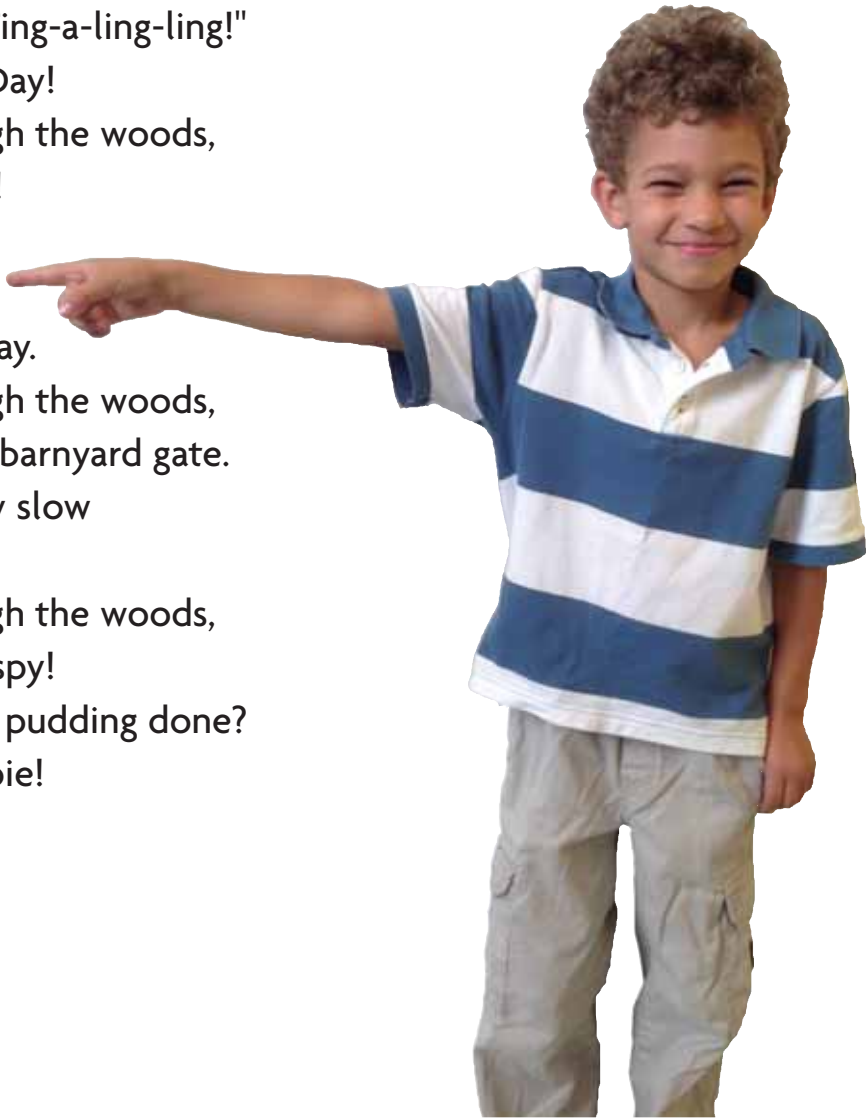
1646	100	1890	11,079
1707	230	1900	18,244
1736	665	1910	23,150
1776	967	1920	39,038
1790	1029	1930	59,714
1800	1,114	1940	63,083
1810	1,443	1950	66,113
1820	1,474	1960	64,971
1830	1,755	1970	64,397
1840	2,478	1980	58,076
1850	3,749	1990	57,407
1860	4,842	2000	55,765
1870	5,717	2010	56,173
1880	7,573		

The busy square continues to be the heart of Medford.



"Over The River and Through the Wood"

by Lydia Maria Child

Over the river and through the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh,
Through (the) white and drifted snow!
Over the river and through the woods,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.
Over the river and through the woods,
To have a first-rate play;
Oh, hear the bells ring, "Ting-a-ling-ling!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day!
Over the river and through the woods,
Trot fast, my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting hound! 
For this is Thanksgiving Day.
Over the river and through the woods,
And straight through the barnyard gate.
We seem to go extremely slow
It is so hard to wait!
Over the river and through the woods,
Now Grandfather's cap I spy!
Hurrah for the fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!



Grandfather's house is on South Street. It's the small farmhouse in the back of the 1839 addition.

"Jingle Bells"

by James Lord Pierpont

Dashing through the snow
In a one horse open sleigh.
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.

Bells on bob tails ring,
Making spirits bright.
What fun it is to laugh and sing
A sleighing song tonight!

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh.

A day or two ago,
I thought I'd take a ride
And soon Miss Fanny Bright
Was seated by my side;

The horse was lean and lank.
Misfortune seemed his lot.
We got into a drifted bank,
And then we got upsot.

Oh, jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh.

Jingle bells, jingle bells,
Jingle all the way!
Oh, what fun it is to ride
In a one horse open sleigh.



Glossary

abolitionist	someone who fought against slavery
acre	area of land
alewife	fish
armory	military location used to store weapons and ammunition
bay	part of the ocean that is partly surrounded by land
canal	man-made waterway
cargo	the goods carried in a ship, airplane, or vehicle
century	period of 100 years
citizen	someone who lives in a town or city
colony	a settlement far from the country that rules it
community	group of people who live in the same area
decade	period of 10 years
economy	the way money, business, and products are organized in a area
entomology	the study of insects
established	started
fells	wild, hilly country
ford	crossing place through shallow water in a river
governor	leader of a colony or state
heirs	receivers of money or gifts from someone who has died
incorporated	legally established as a city
industry	business
kiln	an oven to bake bricks
manufacture	to make something

meadow	field
patriot	supporter or defender of his/her country
philanthropist	someone who gives time, money, and/or name to helpful causes
population	number of people who live in an area
sachem	chief
tavern	a place of business where people gather to drink alcoholic beverages and be served food, and in most cases, where travelers receive a place to sleep
toll	money paid by citizens to use a road or bridge
weir	an obstruction placed in tidal waters across a river, to direct the passage of fish

Children reading in the old Medford Library.



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Every effort has been made to credit all photographic material. The author sincerely regrets any oversight and promises to correct mistakes called to his attention in future editions. Except where noted, all photographs are courtesy of the Medford Historical Society & Museum, and artifacts pictured are from the MHSM collections, photographed by Allison Andrews.

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Harvard Law School Library, Historical & Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Isaac Royall and His Family, painted by Robert Feke (1707-1750). p. 14, 83

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About the Author

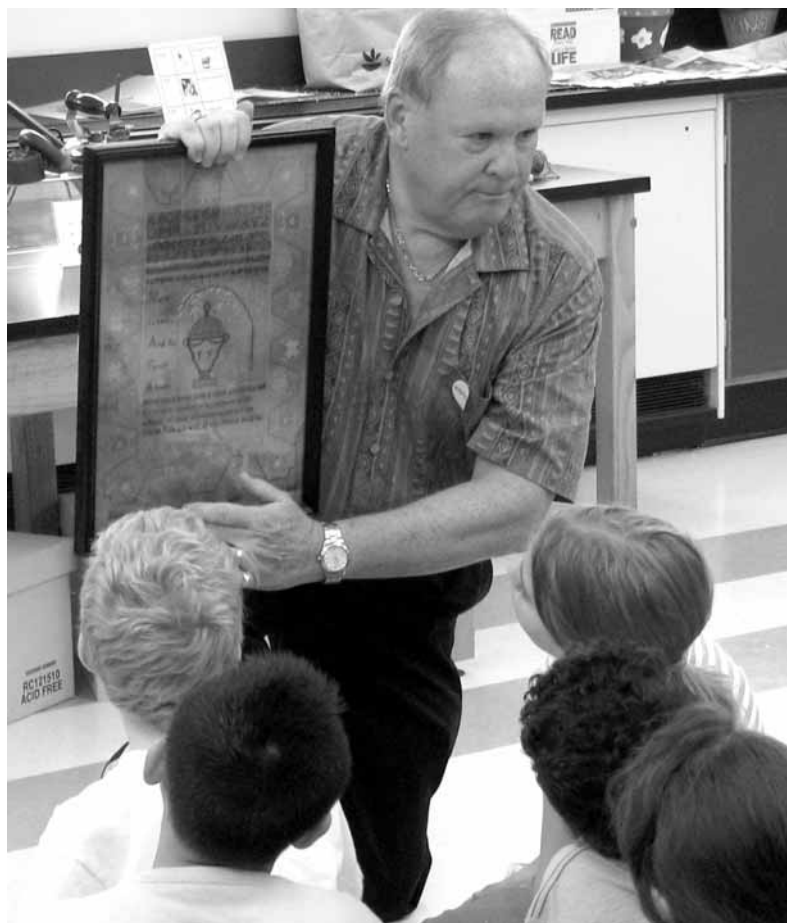
Michael Coates grew up in Medford. Since 1995, Michael has been an elementary educator in the Medford Public School system. He started his teaching career at the Hervey Elementary School. While teaching at the Hervey full-time, he also served as the assistant principal for two years before it closed in 2002. Michael is currently a third grade teacher at the Brooks Elementary School.

In addition to teaching, Michael is the founder and owner of **Power Kids Summer Enrichment Program**. Since 2007, the program has been helping children support their peers and community. In 2014, **Power Kids** received Medford's *Key to the City* for outstanding and dedicated service to the community.

The other half of Mr. Coates' 2014-15 third grade class



**Medford
Historical Society
& Museum
volunteer
Peter Escott
with Medford
third graders.**



**Medford Historical Society & Museum
10 Governors Avenue – Medford Square
Medford, MA 02155
www.medfordhistorical.org**

Founded 1896 as the Medford Historical Society, our mission is to collect, preserve, and promote Medford's history. We invite the public to visit our collections of Medford-related historical objects and research materials, and to join us for events and lectures.

An important part of our mission is education outreach, with a special effort to reach Medford's third graders when they are introduced to local history. This book was created with those students in mind, and is here for anyone interested in Medford's rich history.

See our website to learn more about historic Medford and for news, upcoming events, and membership. We are Medford's museum — come visit us!

**Century Bank
is pleased to underwrite the
printing of this book.**

Founded in 1969 by Marshall Sloane, Century Bank is New England's largest family-run bank. Marshall's son, Barry, is the President and CEO and his daughter Linda is the Executive Vice President. Century Bank's headquarters are on Mystic Avenue in Medford where the Bal-A-Roue roller skating rink was located. In 2005, the bank expanded their facility with the addition of a new five story office building next to the old Bal-A-Roue. The Sloane family owned a furniture store in Medford Square during the 1950s. The Sloane building in Medford Square is home to a number of businesses including a Century Bank branch. Today, the community area in front of the building is the Rose Sloane Garden dedicated to the memory of Marshall's mother Rose. Century Bank and the Sloane family want you to know that you too are part of Medford's history and kids in the future will learn about the great things you do.

Century Bank.

Our family's bank. And yours.



Official Seal of Medford, Massachusetts

The Medford Seal consists of a ship under construction in the middle. This picture represents the shipbuilding business that allowed early Medford to grow and thrive. To the left of the ship is the historic Peter Tufts House (a.k.a. Cradock House), which honors Matthew Cradock, the founder of Medford. To the right of the ship is the Mystic River which connected Medford to the world. In the distance behind the river is the Bunker Hill Monument, reminding us of Medford's involvement in the fight for independence. Located on the bottom of the seal is a crown of bricks. This image suggests that Medford was king in the brickmaking industry. Behind the ship are climbing rays of sunshine illustrating that Medford is a brilliant city whose future is bright. Finally, encircling the center image are the words: Medford, founded in 1630, incorporated a city in 1892.