EWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2019

President's Overview

My Life as a Volunteer

by John Anderson



I want to thank all the members who spend countless hours at MHSM. We all have our own reasons for volunteering ranging from

socializing, the pride of organizing exhibits and programs, answering research questions from members of the public, and the thrill of finding something really interesting in our collections.

Personally, I've spent many hours at MHSM over the last 10 years involved in a great variety of projects at MHSM. Like everything else in life, many of the tasks are mundane, but then you come across something that makes all the effort worthwhile.

For example, I recently saw a fascinating artifact relating to Amelia Earhart. She was treated to a huge celebration when she returned to Medford on July 10, 1928. If you google "Amelia Earhart 1928 celebration Medford MA," you'll find a number of images including one where she and her entourage are surrounded by a huge crowd as part of an elaborate sit-down program at a park in Medford.

If you look carefully beyond the crowd, you can see bleacher seating in a u-formation. But where was this?

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Remarkable Collection of Civil War Photos, Now Digitized

An Interview with Our Own Medford Historical Society & Museum Expert, Jay Stott



Company A, 30th PA Infantry Regiment. Soldiers in formation with arms at parade rest. Arbor in background reads "Hooton" and "A".

With the help of technology, the Medford Historical Society and Museum has taken yet another major step in moving to provide new access to its extraordinary collection of Civil War photographs. MHSM Board member Jay Stott has served as the key point person collaborating with Digital Commonwealth of Boston on this exciting project.

David Fedo, of our Newsletter, spoke recently with Jay about what has been accomplished thus far, and what is potentially ahead for serious Civil War scholars and an interested general public. His answers follow. MHSM is grateful to Jay for his keen oversight of the digitization task.

Digitization of the Civil War Images

The Medford Historical Society's extraordinary collection of Civil War photographs span a variety of locations and subjects.

What are the subjects of the photos?

Most are portraits of individuals, groups or military units, or are landscapes of important locations, events or objects (ships, trains, bridges, military equipment, etc.).

Is it one of the largest collections of Civil War photos in existence?

Yes, with more than 4,000 images, it is thought to be the fifth largest collection of Civil War photographs worldwide.

What is special about the collection?

It is comprised mostly of unmounted albumen prints. These are 'contact prints' made at the time by placing a glass plate negative directly on sensitized albumen paper and using sunlight to 'print' the image on the paper. In some cases, the glass plates were subsequently lost, broken or deteriorated, so these prints are the best (and perhaps only) copies of the original photographs that remain. The images are often early generation prints rather than later copies of copies, so they are particularly crisp and clear. Through good fortune, the albumen prints were stored in near ideal conditions. Many of the images are pristine and still retain a slight aubergine hue typical of new albumen prints.

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President's Overview continued

Now, over 80 years later, I'm helping a volunteer, Eric Menn, catalog the hundreds of engineering drawings we "inherited" from City Hall many years ago. They are mostly beautifully hand drawn on paper or linen and detail the many street projects, sewers, and other infrastructure projects of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Some are quite interesting, others less so. In any case, after looking at a hundred or more, they start to look the same. Imagine our surprise when we found a detailed drawing of the seating plan for the Amelia Earhart celebration. It was hand drawn, mixed among the drawings of streets and sewers.

Judging by the streets indicated on the map, I believe this is Gillis Field. Back in the day, I suspect Gillis Field was larger, with part of the original field now underneath Interstate 93. I just wish we could find the guest list! I'm sure it included my former neighbor, the late Muriel Morrisey, Amelia's sister who lived in Medford most of her life.

Another surprise recently arrived in a plain brown envelope from Franklin, West Virginia. A gentleman who visits his daughter in Medford twice a year sent me an article called "Time in a Bottle" from the April 2019 Smithsonian magazine. It's about a fanatical guy named Bryan Davis from Los Angeles who applies high tech analysis to samples of aged spirits in order to clone them. After considerable analysis he can create an "aged" whiskey in six days that is said to taste like one aged for decades. At some point his attention turned to Medford Rum, the real stuff from the Lawrence Distillery in the 19th-century. Medford Rum was immensely popular at one time, and a few bottles still exist. This time-machine chemist obtained a tiny sample from a collector. It was enough to analyze the range of complex compounds that leached from the original oak or chestnut barrels and were then further processed by the yeast fungi while they converted the sugar from molasses to alcohol.

Reading on, I learned there's something special about Medford yeast and some recent "funny business" in our own Salem

Street Burial Ground! Yeast is everywhere in the air all the time but the strains are geographically unique. As you may know, the Lawrence Distillery was close to the Salem Street Burial Ground. According to the article:

"If you happened to be in Medford Square one hot night in July, 2017, you might have witnessed a stocky, middle-aged man creeping around the Salem Street Burial Ground laying petri dishes by the gravestones. Each one contained grade A molasses and distilled water designed to capture wild yeast which floats in ghostly traces in the air and, despite mutations over time, remains specific to the location. He continued to the Mystic River to lay other petri dishes at the spot where Caribbean molasses was once unloaded from boats, and he ventured beneath the stone Cradock bridge, which Revere had crossed on his famous ride. (The researcher asked to remain anonymous, worried that is his nocturnal mission had a certain grave-robbing air. "Laying petri dishes in a public cemetery," Davis pondered. "Do you need a permit for that?")

"The next morning, some petri dishes had disappeared, others were spoiled by dog's paw prints and apparent 'canine saliva,' but nine had captured yeast strains that could be isolated. The researcher incubated them for three days in his hotel room with the temperature set at a yeast-friendly 80 degrees. ("It was an uncomfortable weekend.") Two strains from the cemetery turned out to be almost identical to the 1860 version, perhaps because the verdant site has changed very little over the generations. Back in Los Angeles, the cultures were grown and distilled into raw, white rum. "I'd never seen anything that potent," marveled Davis. "It's as fragrant as hell. It's as flavorful as it gets, right at the beginning. I just like opening the jar of it and breathing it in."

"'Now try this," he said, passing me the second vial from his case. "It's the first real Medford rum made in over 105 years."

"I reverently sipped the rum clone in its raw form; it had a searing potency, living up to its reputation as being strong enough 'to make a rabbit bite a bulldog'."

I've never thought of the Salem Street Burial Ground as a "verdant site changed very little over generations." But, if you're from Los Angeles, you might have a different perspective! Needless to say, this article is now in our archives.

If you enjoyed reading this, it's another reason to volunteer at the Museum. You will always find something to surprise or interest you!

Amelia Earhart was treated to a huge celebration when she returned to Medford on July 10, 1928. She and her entourage are surrounded by a huge crowd as part of an elaborate sit-down program to honor her.

Civil War Photos continued

Are the photos dated?

Most photos are not dated. However, the images often provide clues as to when and where they were taken. For example, the dates of some events depicted, such as Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, are well known. In other cases, uniforms, equipment, indications of the season, historical records, etc., point to the date or range of dates when the photograph must have been taken.

Do we know the names of the people in the photos?

Some people are identified in notations on the photos or the envelopes that contained them, but the notes and captions are sometimes cryptic, misleading, or wrong. Some others pictured were famous and frequently photographed, such as U.S. Grant. But many of the rank and file remain known. We hope that publishing the collection online will lead people to contribute information that allows us to put names to the faces. Digitization of the collection will also allow us to employ new facial recognition technology to match images to other photographs where the same individual appears and perhaps is identified.

How did the Historical Society come to acquire this collection? Can you provide the names and circumstances of Lawrence and any others who may have been involved in the acquisition process?

Nearly all of the photographs are from Samuel Crocker Lawrence's collection. The introduction to the **Land-scapes of the Civil War** book published in 1995 about the collection was written by Dr. Joseph Valeriani, then president of MHS. Dr. Valeriani states that:

"The collection had been amassed by General Samuel Crocker Lawrence, commander of the Lawrence Light Guard during the War and later mayor of Medford. Upon General Lawrence's death, in 1911, the collection passed into the custody of the Light Guard, and in 1948 Colonel John J. Carew of the guard and Mrs. U. Haskell Crocker, General Lawrence's grand-daughter, donated the chestful of photographs to the Medford Historical Society."

Over the years has the MHSM ever had a program to display and publicize the photos to the public?

Selected photos from the collection have been exhibited, and the collection has been written about many times following its rediscovery in 1990. Digitization will introduce the collection to a broader audience. New programs, publications and offerings, possibly online, will be developed as demand warrants them.

Who is in charge of this project?

The collection is being digitized and hosted online by Digital Commonwealth, a non-profit collaborative organization that provides resources and services to support the creation, management, and dissemination of cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives.



Mortar "Dictator" in front of Petersburg, served by Company G of the 1st Connecticut Heavy Artillery Regiment. c. July 1864.

What are the technical challenges in making these photos available online to the general public as well as to scholars?

It has been a long road. Soon after its rediscovery, the collection underwent an extensive, privately funded conservation effort at Northeast Document Preservation Center. That work, completed in 1993, involved carefully unrolling, repairing and readying the collection for safe, long-term archival storage.

In 1994, MHSM contracted with a company to digitize and commercially host about two-thirds of the collection in return for a small share of any royalties from sales of the digital images. MHSM earned some royalties over the life of the contract, which expired in 2017. With the expiration, MHSM recovered full ownership of the collection.

From 2009 through 2012, volunteers cataloged the collection contents and related information in MHSM's collections management software (PastPerfect). Each image was measured, described, and assigned an identification number and storage location.

Beginning in 2010, various alternatives were considered for digitizing and hosting the collection to allow free public access, something that the existing royalty-sharing contract did not provide. Digital Commonwealth (in Boston) was selected in 2015 as the best option in terms of technology, capabilities, support, and compatibility with MHSM's mission, goals and objectives. In particular, all images would be digitized front and back in color at high resolution to ensure no meaningful information was lost in the digitization process.

A licensing agreement with Digital Commonwealth was developed during 2016. Given the legal complexity of digital ownership and usage rights, this took time and careful thought. Metadata to describe each photo in the format needed by Digital Commonwealth was co-developed with them during 2016 and 2017. The first batch of photos was submitted for digitization in the fall of 2017 and became publicly available online late that year. The final batch is now in process and should be online this fall.

What if anything is the cost for this task?

Digital Commonwealth does not charge for their services but requires that a copy of the digital images is made freely available to the public for non-commercial use. This is fully compatible with MHSM's overall mission and goals for the collection.

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The Massachusetts 20th Volunteer Infantry Regiment, "The Harvard Regiment"

by Nancy White

It was not accidental that Massachusetts military regiments were comprised of many Harvard graduates and students. It was part of Governor Andrews' strategic plan to enlist Harvard men into the volunteer army. Andrews believed that it was his duty to prepare all Massachusetts military regiments for war as well as obtain financial support from the wealthy Boston Brahmin families who controlled Massachusetts' banking industry and economy.



John Albion Andrews

John Albion Andrews was elected governor of Massachusetts in November 1860 and took the oath of office on January 5, 1861. Between his election and being sworn in as governor, he began to develop a plan to reorganize, expand, and mobilize the Massachusetts military units. He used the help of trusted advisors to accomplish this mission.

In addition to expanding the militia, the other goal was to professionalize the military officers.

Andrews knew there were few experienced military officers, even including West Point graduates living in Massachusetts. In the 1850s most military appointments had little, if any, military training or experience. At that time, military appointments were part of the political patronage system. The role of military officers was ceremonial and political. Most were not prepared to fight. Knowing that war was imminent, Andrews needed to attract the right type of young men to volunteer for military service.

By the end of January 1861, Andrews had appointed four advisors, all Harvard graduates with substantial military experience, to serve on his military recruitment commission. Immediately they were appointed to the rank of colonel. Their primary job was to make recommendations for military appointments, to weed out men who were not physically fit for battle or leadership roles, and to encourage young men to volunteer for military service. One of Andrews' advisors, Colonel Henry Lee, Jr., developed a profile for the commissioners to use when selecting candidates. The profile included first and foremost, being an alumnus of Harvard or having extensive military experience as well as being a responsible citizen, a gentleman, and possessing the qualities of integrity and competence.

One of the regiments transformed under Andrews' plan was the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry also known as the Harvard Regiment. In 1861, almost fifty percent of the officers and some of the enlisted men were affiliated with Harvard, hence the name the Harvard Regiment. The majority of enlisted

men were first and second generation Irish and German immigrants and others who were foreign born.

The 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was commanded by Colonel William Raymond Lee, a West Point graduate and an experienced military leader. The regiment trained at Camp Meigs in Readville (Hyde Park) during the week of August 29, 1861. After training, the Regiment was sent immediately to Washington D.C. and then to the battle front. This regiment fought in most of the major battles until the end of the war in July 1865. The 20th Regiment incurred more deaths than any other Massachusetts regiment and ranked fifth among Union losses. Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., in his 1895 Memorial Day address, referred to the 20th Regiment as "The Lost Name." Holmes said, "The Twentieth has shrunk to a skeleton, a ghost, a memory, a forgotten name which we other old men keep in our hearts."

Some officers assigned to the 20th Regiment not only had a Harvard affiliation, they also had name recognition. Paul J. Revere and his brother, Edward Hutchinson Robbins Revere, grandsons of Paul Revere, were officers in this regiment. Paul was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel, and Edward was assigned to the medical division as an assistant surgeon. Both brothers were mortally wounded in action, Paul during the Battle of Gettysburg and Edward at Antietam. They are buried side by side in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., son of physician and poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, served as a First Lieutenant in this unit. He was seriously wounded three times. He finished his tour of duty in July of 1864 and did not re-enlist. Edward Needles Hallowell and his brother Norwood Penrose Hallowell initially served in the 20th Regiment. In 1863, they were given command of the 54th and 55th Regiments. Edward served as Colonel of the 54th Regiment until the end of the war. Norwood "Pen" served as Colonel of the 55th until his discharge from the military in 1863 due to severe injury. Norwood "Pen" Hallowell and Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. met at Harvard and developed a close relationship that lasted a lifetime.

Shortly after the Civil War, Harvard alumni began to fund and erect magnificent memorials to commemorate Harvard men who sacrificed their lives. In the Boston area there are buildings, cemeteries, paintings, and sculptures dedicated to Harvard College Civil War heroes. One of the greatest Boston public arts Civil War sculptures are the two majestic lions inside the entrance of the Boston Public Library. They were sculpted by Louis Saint-Gaudens, bother of Augustus Saint-Gaudens. One of the lion sculptures is dedicated to the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Army.

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Harvard Regiment continued

As you enter the McKim building, your eyes are immediately drawn to the stately marble lions guarding the grand staircase.

Another Civil War monument is Memorial Hall at Harvard University. It is a beautiful, colorful space honororing Harvard graduates. The building was funded by Harvard alumni who survived the Civil War and is dedicated to the memory of Harvard classmates who served in the Union Army. Annenberg Hall contains replicas of regiment and infantry flags. Memorial Transept has 28 tablets containing the names of all the Harvard men who died.

The Union Club located at, #7 Park Street in Boston, also has Civil War connections. It was established in 1864 by former members of the exclusive Brahmin Somerset Club due to political differences with club members. The members of the newly formed Union Club supported President Lincoln. The only qualification for membership to the Union Club was that one give "unqualified lovalty to the Constitution and Union of the United States and of the Federal Government." Legend has it that Norwood Pen Hallowell initiated the movement. Members of the Boston Union Club proposed to erect an equestrian statue to memorialize Colonel Robert Shaw and to re-inter his body from Fort Wagner to Mount Auburn Cemetery. Shaw's parents made it clear they wanted a memorial dedicated to the 54th Regiment, not one exclusively



Memorial Hall displays tablets dedicated to Harvard classmates who served in the Union Army.

dedicated to their son. Augustus Saint-Gaudens was eventually given the commission to design and sculpt the 54th Regiment Memorial. Today the memorial is considered one of the greatest 19th-century outdoor sculptures in America.

Civil War Photos continued



Francis E. Brownell, Co. A, 11th NY Infantry Regiment "Fire Zouaves" c. 1861. Attributed to Mathew Brady Studio.

How will interested parties gain access to the online digitized photos?

The collection can be viewed on the Internet at https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:wd376b356

Will there be a fee attached to those who access and use the photos, either out of curiosity or for scholarly research?

There is no license fee for non-commercial use of the digital images hosted on the Digital Commonwealth website. The images may be downloaded for personal, educational and research use. The images are in a compressed format but are clear, highly detailed and suitable for the intended uses.

Images in an uncompressed format suitable for publication and commercial use are available from MHSM. Appropriate royalty fees may be required depending on proposed usage.

Will there be some expert or experts from MHSM or anywhere else available to respond to inquiries online about the photos?

Inquiries received by Digital Commonwealth are forwarded to MHSM and routed to an appropriate volunteer or staff person for response.

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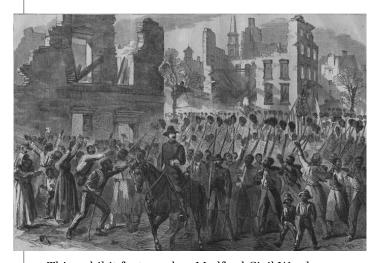
MHSM Events Calendar

Ongoing Exhibits (continuing into the Fall, 2019) Sundays, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, or by appointment, at MHSM, 10 Governors Avenue

EXHIBIT: Lydia Maria Child: Author and Abolitionist: *Gathering Up the Fragments*

Learn how Lydia Maria Child, a Medford-born daughter of a baker, became one of the most important writers and activists in 19th-century America. Special focus is given to her portraits and personal items.

EXHIBIT: Stearns, Shaw, the Hallowells, and the Massachusetts 54th and 55th



This exhibit features key Medford Civil War heroes and MHSM Civil War Collection items, drawing attention to the connections among George Luther Stearns, Robert Gould Shaw, and the Hallowell brothers, Edward and Norwood.

While visiting MHSM, view additional 19th-century exhibits and displays on clipper ships, rum, books on Medford. Enjoy the diorama of Medford Square (circa 1855) and find recognizable buildings today as well as the location of the Medford ship building industry.

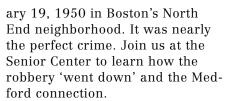
SEPTEMBER AUTHOR/LECTURE The Brink's Robbery, the Crime of the Century

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 1:00 PM Medford Senior Center, 101 Riverside Avenue

Historian, author, and Medford resident Stephanie Schorow will share the captivating story of a ragtag gang of petty thieves who committed the largest robbery in the United States on Janu-

BRINKS
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Lydia Maria Child: Author and Abolitionist and Stearns, Shaw, the Hallowells, and the Massachusetts 54th and 55th events are funded in part by a grant from the Medford Arts Council, a local commission that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the City of Medford. They are also funded by the Tufts Neighborhood Service Fund.



Jointly sponsored by the Medford Council on Aging, the Medford Public Library, and MHSM.



OCTOBER AUTHOR/LECTURE Hikes Through History Friday, October 4, 2019, 7:00 PM, at MHSM

Author Alison O'Leary, award-winning journalist and contributor to Appalachian Mountain Club

publications will share some of her favorite hikes using maps and historic photos. Hiking, she highlights, "is more than a stroll through the woods when you know how the land was used in the past. In Massachusetts, many parks and trails have been carved out of historic sites, whether ancient Native villages, industrial sites, or grand estates." The talk and hike in the Fells (below) are jointly sponsored by the Friends of the Fells,



the Medford Public Library, and MHSM.

There will be a brief MHSM business meeting prior to the program to vote on the proposed new bylaws for MHSM which were printed in the June, 2019 Newsletter. You can view that newsletter if you go to medfordhistorical.org and click on the "News" tab.

Botume House Visitors Center to Pickerel Rock and

FELLS HIKE/HISTORY TOUR

Back Led by Doug Heath and Alison Simcox, Friends of the Fells, Meet at Botume House, 4 Woodland Road, Stoneham, Saturday, October 5, 2019, 10:00 AM

Starting from the lovely stone Botume House, built by William Foster in1847,this 1.5 to 2-hour, level path hike will take us to Pickerel Rock, a favorite destination in the 19th and early 20th-centuries. We will stop at the Tudor Barn, once owned by Fanny Foster, hear about other former stone mansions and learn about the important role Spot Pond has played in Boston's water supply since 1823. Participants are invited to bring lunch to eat together on the Botume House grounds following the hike. The Fells are gorgeous in October.

POETRY ON HOPS MINI FUNDRAISER

Friday, October 25, 2019, 7:00 PM, at MHSM Sponsored and Arranged by Poet, and Medford Brewing Company Co-Founder, Max Heinegg.

Join us for the third Poetry on Hops, featuring local poets. Refreshments provided at no cost; a contribution requested at the door. Age 21+.

NOVEMBER AUTHOR/LECTURE Anthony Sammarco, Molasses: From the Slave Trade to the Great Flood Sunday, November 3, 2019, 7:00 PM, at the Medford Senior Center, 101 Riverside Avenue

Massachusetts has an integral connection with molasses and was a part of the Triangle Trade of the 18th-century world economy. Rum from New England was traded in Africa for slaves, who were brought to the West Indies and the Caribbean where they cultivated sugar cane. The sugar cane was later refined into molasses which was shipped to New England and often used in the distillation of rum. This lecture will explore the Isaac Royall family in Medford and the Lawrence Rum Distillery on Ship Avenue (now Riverside Avenue) as Sammarco traces this history from the 18th-century through the tee-totalism and abolitionist causes of the 19th-century to the Great Molasses Flood of 1919.

DECEMBER MHSM HOLIDAY PARTYSunday, December 8, 2019, 7:00 PM, at MHSM

Guest speaker for this annual party to be announced. Holiday refreshments will follow. Mark your calendar and watch for details at www.medfordhistorical.org closer to the date.

JANUARY AUTHOR/LECTURE Richard Smith: Transcendentalists, Abolitionists, John Brown and Beyond: The New Englanders Who Made John Brown a Hero Sunday, January 12, 2020, 7:00 PM, at MHSM



John Brown's raid on the Harpers Ferry arsenal in 1859 brought the United States one step closer to civil war. Many people, South and North, considered him a deranged fanatic. And while his actions were misunderstood, a

small but vocal group of New England writers, poets and abolitionists did their best to make Brown a hero. It was, after all, a a "secret six" coalition of New Englanders who'd given Brown the money and weapons for the raid! Learn why the New England literati adored Brown and how Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau, Lydia Maria Child, George Luther Stearns and others reinvented Brown and turned him into an Abolitionist martyr. Jointly sponsored by the Royall House & Slave Quarters, the Medford Public Library, and MHSM.



Horses and wagon carrying photography equipment for photographer Mathew Brady.

Civil War Photos continued

Other questions.

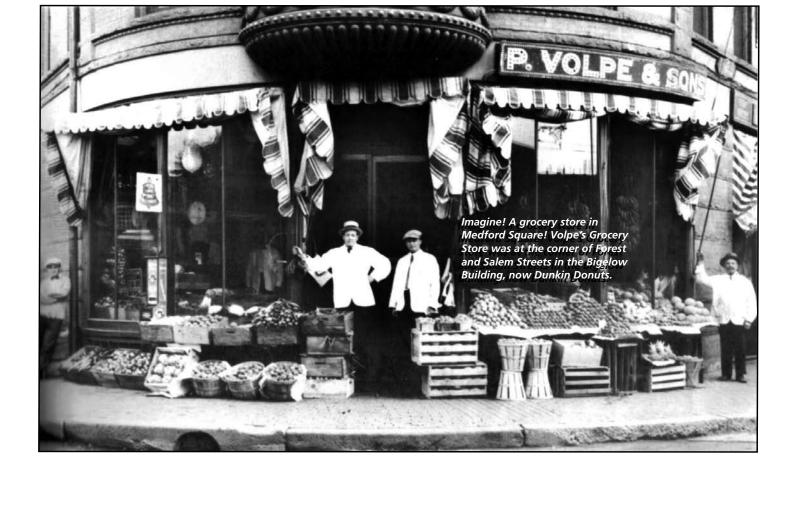
What will happen to the original photos?

Once digitization is complete, the photos will be prepared for long-term, secure archival storage. A catalog will allow photos to be located and retrieved when necessary, but handling will be kept to a minimum to preserve the photos.

Next steps?

Once digitization is complete, we can focus our efforts on research. Quite a journey lies ahead. Much of the information we presently have about the photos is incomplete, and some of it is incorrect. It will take considerable detective work to uncover the stories captured in each photo. Who and what is in the photo? When, where and why was it taken? How is it related to other photos? What became of the people shown? Who took the photo? Where is the original glass plate negative used to produce the photo? Which photos are unique to this collection?

Over time, MHSM aims to make this collection among the most thoroughly researched and documented of its kind. Doing so will require engaging the efforts not only of volunteers from within MHSM but also of many others interested in Civil War photos who may never physically visit MHSM. MHSM will need to develop new processes to support and act as a clearinghouse for gathering, vetting, and widely disseminating information about the collection. New relationships and partnerships will develop beyond MHSM's presently perceived boundaries. No doubt there will be unforeseen challenges, but the effort will be transformative in helping us learn how to better leverage the Internet to share MHSM's many other collections with the world.



Your Medford Historical Society Newsletter

10 Governors Avenue Medford, MA 02155

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Ветиви Ѕевуісе Ведиезтер