



## President's Remarks

Once again it is year-end, and once again we are conducting our annual request for member donations to help support MCMA. Last year, we were pleased that the *number* of member responses increased over 50% from the year previous, and this year we are hoping to see a similar increase in participation. The turbulence of the markets over these past two years, combined with the absence of “safe” investment alternatives that can generate the returns needed to meet our obligations, have really driven home the need to supplement the income we derive from our investments. Your support can and will help, so once again I will say it: if you are able to and wish to make a year-end donation to benefit MCMA, your gift will be greatly appreciated, it is tax-deductible (you will receive a written acknowledgement), and you may instruct Rick Purdy to record it as an anonymous contribution if you so choose. Thank you again.

Marty Joyce

## Recent Happenings

Our October Quarterly was held at Spinelli's in Lynnfield, and we were pleased to have as our guest speaker Mr. Ed McCabe, Maritime Program Director for the Hull Lifesaving Museum. MCMA has supported the Museum's boat building program on the Boston waterfront for several years, and Mr. McCabe was able to give us an interesting overview of the Museum's history, details of the program itself, and most importantly the results they are achieving with troubled youths who really want to succeed.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of recently deceased Past President Raymond Purdy and member Byron R. Cleveland. (Mr. Cleveland died in May, but we did not receive word of his passing until early October.) Trustee Paul Lohnes recalled for us his initial meeting with Ray when, as a recently elected member, he was asked to visit the office to enter his name in our signature book. Admittedly only moderately interested in MCMA prior to his visit, Paul spent two and a half hours with Ray, during which he could not get over Ray's enthusiasm and affection for this organization, and Paul left that meeting with a far deeper appreciation for MCMA that remains with him today, nearly 25 years later. We thank Paul for putting into words the feelings and appreciation for Ray that are shared by all of us.

In addition to our “normal” business, Dick O'Meara gave us an update on the planning for our Triennial on February 6, and informed the membership that the Seaport Hotel in Boston has been chosen as the venue, while Carl Wold, Peter Lemonias and Tony Scalese filled us in on other elements of the planning for that event. Additionally, we were pleased to see David Dalzell, who has thankfully recovered well from his recent surgery-with-complications. On the other hand, we missed Perry Pratt, and were a little envious to learn that he is already wintering in Mexico, where he has bought a home.

## Helping Others

Many of our members are very familiar with some of the organizations, such as National Braille Press or the North Bennet Street School, that receive MCMA support, but today we're going to focus on a recipient that is perhaps less well known but is by no means less deserving. Beverly School for the Deaf was founded in 1876, making it one of the oldest schools for the deaf and hard of hearing in the country. It was initially called The New England Industrial School for Deaf Mutes, and students were at first taught trades like farming, carpentry, chair-caning and homemaking in a residential setting. In 1880 the education department opened, and the number of students began to grow. And in 1922 the name was changed to Beverly School for the Deaf, reflecting a change in focus from industrial training to more academic education, as well as recognition that students could develop oral language skills.

In the 1970s the school expanded its mission to accept children with other learning and developmental disabilities *in addition to* being deaf or hard of hearing. And in 2004 the school began an expansion of its services to students with Autism, developmental delays and other disabilities under the umbrella of "communication challenges". In 2008, with a student population about 40% hearing and 60% deaf or hard of hearing, the organization formally changed its name to the Children's Center for Communication, with Beverly School for the Deaf remaining an integral part of the school's mission.



Currently, in response to the diverse needs of students, the school uses a range of total communication modalities that includes voice, sign language, computers, pictures and various other technologies. In 2007 MCMA provided touch screen computers, an interactive white board, and voice output devices to the school. One piece of equipment (the interactive white board) proved so successful that classes for different age children were constantly scheduling their turn to use it, and in 2008 we were asked and were able to provide another of these interactive boards for their use.

These interactive "white boards" are large (roughly 4'x6'), Teflon-coated, touch-sensitive, dry-erase projection screens. Linked to a computer, and equipped with an overhead projector, the screen can be written-on with a finger or with standard, dry-erase markers to interact with projected images. All computer applications can be controlled via an on-screen keyboard, or by using an intuitive remote control from anywhere in the room. (For example, an instructional video can be paused or otherwise manipulated so the instructor can add emphasis or explanation even while walking among the students.) And anything written on the white board can be instantly saved or printed. These "tools" have been so successful and have become so valued by the instructors that the school is making a concerted effort to obtain one for each of their thirteen classrooms.

From everything we can see, Beverly School for the Deaf is a well-run organization with a talented, caring and dedicated staff that works hard to educate and develop, as well as improve the lives of, children facing very difficult challenges. We are always, because of the due diligence performed by our Planning Committee, confident that any support we provide to an organization will be well used, but it is particularly evident that the support we have given to Beverly School for the Deaf has had immediate and very rewarding impact.

## MCMA History



In this issue we feature another MCMA man whose memory has faded, but whose work, at least in part, remains with us. **Alexander Parris**, who joined our organization in 1818, was one of the most prominent architect-engineers of Massachusetts in the first half of the nineteenth century, responsible for designing and/or superintending the construction of many significant buildings and structures both within the Commonwealth and beyond.

Born in 1780 in Halifax, Massachusetts, he was at age sixteen apprenticed to a Pembroke housewright, but soon after marrying in 1800 Parris moved to Portland, Maine to take advantage of that town's building boom. *[Portland had been largely destroyed in 1775 by British naval bombardment during the Revolutionary War.]*

By 1809, he had designed and built commercial buildings as well as a number of Federal-style houses for the town's elite, though most of his work was subsequently lost in Portland's Great Fire of 1866. (One structure that has survived is the Hunnewell-Shepley Mansion.)

Portland's economy suffered greatly as a result of Jefferson's Embargo Act of 1807, however, as did its work opportunities, so in 1810 Parris traveled to Richmond, Virginia, where he received commissions to construct several houses, including the **Virginia Governor's Mansion** and the **Wickham House**. *[Wickham was a successful attorney who defended former Vice President Aaron Burr during his trial for treason.]* Both of these structures still exist. *[The former is still in use as the Virginia Governor's Mansion, the oldest occupied governor's mansion in the country, while the latter now houses the Valentine Museum.]*



The War of 1812 interrupted Parris' career, and he joined the U.S. Army as a superintendent of the Corps of Artificers *[later, the Corps of Engineers]*. With the conclusion of the war in 1815, Parris moved to Boston, where he found a position in the office of Charles Bulfinch. Like his famous employer, Parris produced refined residences, churches and commercial buildings. When in 1817 Bulfinch was called to Washington to work on the U.S. Capitol Building, Parris helped complete the Bulfinch Building at Massachusetts General Hospital. With Bulfinch's departure, Parris soon emerged as Boston's leading architect, and a proponent of what would be called the "Boston Granite Style," with austere, monolithic stonework.

Parris' early work in Boston, in addition to MGH, included the **Cathedral Church of St. Paul**, the **David Sears House** (later to become the Somerset Club), the **Appleton House** at 39 Beacon Street [*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow married the Appleton daughter, Fanny, in this house in 1843*], and of course, in 1828, **Quincy Market**. Outside Boston, he added the Watertown



Arsenal, Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth, the Naval Hospital in Chelsea, and the **United First Parish Church** in Quincy, burial place of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. [*Parris rebuilt the original structure, which dated from 1639.*]

In 1824, Parris began an association with the **Charlestown Navy Yard** that was to endure for twenty years, and by 1827 federal engineering projects began to dominate Parris' practice to the exclusion of private clients. His works at the shipyard, in addition to the master plan for the yard, included Drydock 1, one of the first two drydocks built in this country, and the 1325' long Ropewalk, which made all of the U.S. Navy's rope for the next 135 years. In the 1830s Parris began to design and construct lighthouses and beacons for the U.S. Treasury Department. His work for the government took him up and down the east coast, from Maine to Florida. (In Maine alone his works included the *Saddleback Ledge, Mount Desert Rock, Libby Island, Matinicus Rock, Whitehead Island and Monhegan Island Lighthouses*.) Parris' lighthouses were typically built of stone, in a tapered style often referred to as "windswept", and in some quarters these structures are what he is most remembered for today.



Parris ended his career as chief engineer of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and died in Pembroke, Massachusetts in 1852. Much of his work survives, however, and it is treasured: *all of the **bolded** structures are listed as National Historic Landmarks.*

*[Illustrations: Alexander Parris; Virginia Governor's Mansion; Quincy Market; Execution Rock, N.Y. Lighthouse]*

## Reference data

- Joseph Holt Ingraham House \_ Portland, Maine (1801?)
- Hunnewell House \_ Portland, ME (1805)
- Commodore Edward Preble House \_ Portland, Maine (1805)
- Moses Payson Mansion \_ Bath, NH (1810)\_ still standing
- Wickham House \_ Richmond, VA (1812) \_ also known as the Wickham-Valentine House, and the Valentine Museum \_ a National Historic Landmark \_ Wickham was a successful attorney who defended Aaron Burr during his trial for treason
- Virginia Governor's Mansion \_ Richmond, VA (1812?) \_ a National Historic Landmark
- **Appleton House** \_ 39 Beacon Street, Boston, MA(1818) \_ a **National Historic Landmark** \_ Longfellow married the Appleton daughter, Fanny, in this house in 1843
- **David Sears House** \_ 42 Beacon Street, Boston, MA (1819) \_ this house, with an addition, was to later become (and remains) the Somerset Club
- Master Plan for Charlestown Navy Yard (1827)
- **Watertown Arsenal** \_ Watertown, MA (1819?)
- **Quincy Market** \_ Boston (1828?)
- **Ropewalk**, Charlestown Navy Yard (1836) \_ a **National Historic Landmark** \_ made all of the U.S.Navy's rope for over 150 years
- **United First Parish Church** \_ Quincy, MA (1828 rebuild \_ original structure had been built in 1639) \_ a **National Historic Landmark**
- **Drydock**, Charlestown Navy Yard (18\_\_)...???
- **Chain Forge**, Charlestown Navy Yard (18\_\_)...???
- Naval Hospital \_ Chelsea, MA (1839?)

1801 - *Joseph Holt Ingraham House*, Portland, Maine 1803-1804 - *Maine Fire & Marine Insurance Company Building*, Portland, Maine 1804 - *James Deering House*, Portland, Maine 1805 - *Commodore Edward Preble House*, Portland, Maine 1805 - *Hunnewell-Shepley House*, Portland, Maine 1806-1807 - *Portland Bank*, Portland, Maine 1807 - *St. John's Church*, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 1812 - *Wickham House*, Richmond, Virginia 1813 - *Governor's Mansion*, Richmond, Virginia 1816 - *Watertown Arsenal*, Watertown, Massachusetts 1819 - *Cathedral Church of St. Paul*, Boston, Massachusetts 1819 - *David Sears House*, Boston, Massachusetts 1822 - *St. Paul's Episcopal Church*, Windsor, Vermont 1824 - *Pilgrim Hall*, Plymouth, Massachusetts 1826 - *Quincy Market*, Boston, Massachusetts 1828 - *United First Parish Church*, Quincy, Massachusetts 1834 - *St. Joseph's Church*, Boston, Massachusetts 1834 - *Ropewalk*, Boston Navy Yard, Charlestown, Massachusetts 1836 - *Naval Hospital*, Chelsea, Massachusetts 1839 - *Saddleback Ledge Lighthouse*, between the islands of Vinalhaven and Isle au Haut, Maine 1847 - *Mount Desert Rock Lighthouse*, south of Mount Desert Island, Maine 1848 - *Libby Island Lighthouse*, Machiasport, Maine, at the entrance to Machias Bay 1848 - *Matinicus Rock Lighthouse*, 6 miles south of Matinicus Island, Maine 1848 - *Whitehead Island Lighthouse*, Whitehead Island, Maine -- southern entrance to Penobscot Bay 1849 - *Execution Rocks Lighthouse*, Long Island Sound, New York 1850 - *Monhegan Island Lighthouse*, Monhegan Island, Maine

