

Charitably



Speaking

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A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

The Christmas season is here once again and we hope it heralds a time of joy. And, since this is the season where thoughts are of giving and helping those in need, I hope Mass Charitable is in your heart. As you know, we are mandated to give away to qualifying charities a certain percentage of our total worth each year. Even though the Association is run by volunteers, none of whom takes a salary, it is a challenge to meet our costs through earnings on our investments alone, so we depend also on the generosity of our members. I hope this year you will be able to help, for the work that we do reflects who we are.

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting. Have a safe and joyful holiday. – **Arthur**

Recent Happenings

Our Fall Quarterly Meeting was held October 26 at Montvale Plaza in Stoneham, where we enjoyed a fine luncheon prior to the conduct of business. President Anthony thanked trustee Paul Lohnes for hosting our Summer Quarterly at his Gloucester home, while several members both expressed their appreciation to Paul and noted how much they had thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.



Bud Hanson (l.) receives his award plaque from President Arthur Anthony.

Awards were then presented by the president to two of our members to recognize their long-term contributions to MCMA. A Revere Bowl was presented to Mr. Paul Ayles to celebrate his 50 years of service. And a bronze plaque (in the form of the MCMA logo) was presented to past-president Bud Hanson to recognize his 45 years of service and multiple contributions to the Association. (As President Anthony noted, the plaque was cast, polished, and engraved by three different members of MCMA.)

Also during this past quarter, Vice President Lemonias continued his efforts to research the history of the *Wounded Indian* statue, to document our past ownership of it, and to evaluate the remedies that may be available to reassert our claim to it. And lastly, we have as yet been unable to re-let the tenant space adjacent to our Quincy office. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact us.

Helping Others

Our Association has provided support to the following organization for several years, and, though comparatively modest, that support has helped them establish a very worthwhile program. **Jones River Landing** in Kingston was formed in 2003 by the Jones River Watershed Association to be a center for the study, restoration, and stewardship of sensitive ecological systems vital to the health, habitat, and species of the Jones River and Cape Cod Bay. The Landing engages in many activities including monitoring of aquatic environments, projects to restore water quality and coastal ecosystems, and water-based recreation such as boating and fishing. Importantly to us, it is also home to Mass



Bay Maritime Artisans (MBMA), which works to develop and support the wooden boat-building and restoration trades, reviving these maritime traditions at the oldest continuously operating boat building site in the country. And it is MBMA that has drawn our support.

The maritime history of the Jones River Landing area reaches back beyond the beginnings of America's colonial period. In 1605, French explorer Samuel de Champlain visited and charted what is now Kingston, Plymouth, and Duxbury Bays, while stories of Leif Ericson's Cove, the discovery of a Norse axe, and the proliferation of archeological digs suggest the history goes back much further. When the Pilgrims arrived in New England in 1620, they recorded traveling at least three miles up the Jones River in search of a settlement site, and they named the river for Christopher Jones, their *Mayflower* captain. John Bradford, son of the longtime governor of the Plimoth colony, moved to the Jones River Landing area in the mid-1600s, and by the 1700s the Jones River had become a key location for shipbuilding and its supporting industries. The first commissioned naval vessel of the United States, the brig *Independence*, was built along the banks of Jones River Landing, and an image of that vessel appears on the Seal for the Town of Kingston.

By the 1800s, Joseph Holmes owned the Landing and was the largest owner/shipbuilder in the nation. He and others were responsible for launching thousands of tons of merchant shipping destined for ports around the world. In the late 1800s, Nate Watson perfected the design of the Kingston Lobster boat at his Jones River shop, now owned by the Landing. And George Shiverick, builder of hundreds of sail and powerboats for local use, operated his boat shop from 1895 to 1940, and launched those boats out of the very building that houses the Jones River Landing boat shop today.

MBMA today is a resource for professional and amateur boatbuilders, curators, sailors, and boat nuts. They conduct workshops taught by practicing local artisans and hold a Speakers Series featuring boatbuilders as well as manufacturers of marine goods, all operating right here in Massachusetts. And they take on challenging projects in these workshops. One of their first was the complete restoration of a Duxbury Duck vessel that had been built by the above-mentioned George Shiverick in this same boat house in 1928. (Re-launched in 2013 and taken out under sail many times since, at one time it was in such a sad state of deterioration that its keel fell out while it was being moved into the boat house.)

Currently, volunteers in the workshop are building an 18-foot Kingston Lobster boat, a replica of the Watson-designed craft built on the river since 1870. MBMA works to introduce woodworking and wooden boat building to young students as well. For students at a nearby Duxbury middle school, MBMA teaches classes in which they produce a pair of prams each year, culminating in the spring with students launching and rowing the craft they labored on over the winter. To support these programs, MBMA has over the past decade provided woodworking equipment (Delta Unisaw, drill press, band saw, 20-inch planer), a dust collection system, and a variety of hand tools and clamps. MBMA credits that support as "instrumental" in advancing the progress of those programs.



MCMA History

At our recent Quarterly Meeting, member Paul Ayles was presented with an engraved Revere Bowl marking his membership of 50 years and his extensive service to MCMA. This action revived an old tradition of this Association, and it invited the questions “What is a Revere Bowl?”, “How was our first president connected with it?”, and “Why is it significant?” Thankfully, our vice-president, Peter Lemonias, made the effort to find out for us, and the following is a summary of his research into those questions.

The story of the Revere Bowl begins in February 1768 in the Massachusetts Assembly. Two members, Samuel Adams and James Otis, drafted both a resolution that was adopted by the assembly and a letter to the other 12 colonial assemblies asking them to also adopt the same resolution. The resolution stated that the Townsend Acts, adopted by the English Parliament in February 1767, were “obviously unconstitutional” because the colonies had no direct representation in the English Parliament. The letter to the other Colonies asked them to join Massachusetts in petitioning King George III to use his influence to get Parliament to repeal the Townsend Acts.

The Townsend Acts provided for import taxes on most products entering the colonies, primarily from England and English shippers. The funds raised by these taxes were to be used to pay the expenses of the British army stationed in the colonies to protect the colonists from the French and the Indians and to pay for the costs of the French and Indian War. Parliament justified this action because the colonists had not raised sufficient funds or manpower to provide for their own self defense. Though most provisions of the Townsend Acts were later repealed due to their unpopularity, the tax on tea is the one that remained, and it eventually resulted in the Boston Tea Party.

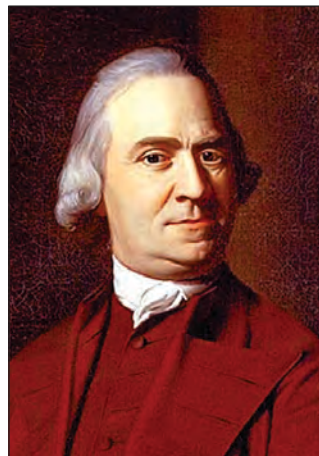
Upon learning of the vote by the Massachusetts Assembly, Lord Hillsborough, Royal Secretary of the colonies, based in Boston, ordered Francis Bernard, the Royal Governor of Massachusetts, to go to the Assembly and demand they rescind the resolution and the letter. The Assembly took up the Governor’s request and debated for two hours. During this debate James Otis allegedly made the now famous statement “no taxation without representation.” The Assembly finally voted on whether or not to rescind the resolution and letter, and voted 92 to 17 *not to rescind*.

This was a major turning point in what was to be American history, and those participating knew this was a very significant event. The secretive Sons of Liberty were especially proud of the assemblymen who stood up to the Royal Governor and the British government. The Sons of Liberty commissioned Paul Revere to make a silver tribute to commemorate the vote and the 92 who stood up to British authority. Revere, who was a Son of Liberty, was instructed to design a silver rum punch bowl to be made of 45 ounces of silver.

Revere designed a bowl inspired by Chinese commemorative porcelain bowls that were in those times being produced for the American and British



Paul Ayles receives his award, flanked by Joseph Valante (l.) and President Arthur Anthony (r.).



Samuel Adams
(1722-1803)



James Otis, Jr.
(1725-1783)

markets. The iconic bowl that Revere made includes the names of the 15 members of the Sons of Liberty who commissioned the bowl and includes the numbers 45 and 92. “The Glorious 92” references the number of assemblymen who voted not to rescind. The number 45 refers to John Wilkes, who was imprisoned in Cell 45 of the Tower of London for writing critical articles about the King of England. He was elected to Parliament while he was imprisoned and was tremendously popular at the time among those who valued liberty both in England and in the American colonies.



Paul Revere named his bowl The Liberty Bowl, but replicas are now referred to as Revere Bowls, and are widely used by organizations to commemorate special achievements of individuals. The Sons of Liberty named on the Liberty Bowl are: “Caleb Hopkins, Nathl Barber, John White, Willm Mackay, Danl Malcom, Benjm Goodwin, John Welsh, Fortescue Vernon, Danl Parker, John Marston, Ichabod Jones, John Homer, Wilm Bowes, Peter Boyer, and Benja Cobb.” The Bowl has engraved on it a scroll flanked by flags labeled “Magna Carta” and “Bill of Rights” as well as No. 45-Wilkes & Liberty. The inscription on the bowl reads:

“To the Memory of the glorious NINETY-TWO: Members
of the Honbl House of Representatives of the Massachusetts-Bay
who, undaunted by the insolent Menaces of Villains in Power
from a Strict Regard to Conscience, and the LIBERTIES
of their Constituents, on the 30th of June 1768
Voted NOT TO RESCIND.”

The Liberty Bowl was privately held by descendants of William Mackay (one of the named Sons of Liberty on the bowl). In 1902 it was transferred to Marian Lincoln Perry of Providence, Rhode Island, a great-great-granddaughter of John Marston, another of those named on the bowl. When the bowl was to be sold in 1948, Mark Bortman of Boston headed a committee to purchase the piece for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. It was purchased from Marsden J. Perry of Providence in January 1949 for \$52,500.

The Liberty Bowl now welcomes visitors to the Arts of America wing of the MFA.

Sources:

Museum of Fine Arts (www.mfa.org/collections/object/sons-of-liberty-bowl-39072).

George Santos, M.D., New England Ophthalmological Society (www.neos-eyes.org/TheRevereBowl).

Esther Forbes, *Paul Revere and the World He Lived In*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1999.