

## Charitably



## Speaking

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**A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION**

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### President's Message

Time passes quickly! This will be my last message as President and I want to thank the membership for the support I have been given. I also want to mention how lucky we were to have a Board of Government that made it possible. Since our July quarterly meeting at Paul Lohnes' house, Tom Crowdis and Derek Heidemann put together another memorable quarterly at Old Sturbridge Village where we again were able to invite guests. Always keeping in mind that MCMA tries to economize where we can, we opted to forego motorized transportation for our tour around the village and instead took the horse drawn wagon.

While we are on the subject of economy, this would be a good time to mention year-end donations. We are a charitable organization, with most of our income going to charitable institutions that correlate with the ideals of MCMA. (Old Sturbridge Village is just one of the recipients of our support.) Member donations are a key part of our income, so we once again ask that you do what you can to support MCMA and, through MCMA, the many institutions that are helped by us. And lastly, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our Triennial on Saturday, December 8. We moved the date forward to hopefully avoid severe winter weather, and nothing is more pleasant than to be in the heart of Boston at Christmastime. Rich Adams and his committee have planned a wonderful day for us, and this will be a good opportunity to welcome Vice President Peter Lemonias as our next President. – **Arthur**

### Recent Happenings

Both members and guests were invited to attend our October Quarterly Meeting at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts. A moment of silence was observed for long-time members Amelio DiOrio and Robert Furtado, Sr., both of whom passed away in September. A new application for membership was announced, and it was referred to the Membership Committee for review. And following a very nice lunch, we were able to enjoy a guided tour of the OSV museum campus, which includes more than 40 original buildings from New England of the early 1800s. The homes, trade shops, mills, farm, and other buildings illustrate life in that era and the challenges faced by those living in it. Our host and guide was Derek Heidemann, who is both OSV's Coordinator of Historic Trades *and* a member of MCMA, and we thank him sincerely for his time and attention.

Also this past quarter, we disbursed the remainder of the nearly \$280,000 in funds authorized by our Planning Committee for 2018 MCMA grants. Twenty-six very deserving charitable organizations of widely varying missions benefited from those grants, and we again thank our Planning Committee members for the time and energy they put into this effort.



**Helping Others**

Each year we receive grant requests from organizations with which we had not previously been acquainted, as those organizations “find” MCMA through various ways. Occasionally, though, it works the other way, as happened last year when MCMA member (and former trustee)

Bill Scott introduced us to the **Boys & Girls Club of Wareham**, a unit of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford/Wareham. Bill serves on the Advisory Board for the Wareham Unit, and he recognized that a new program being undertaken by them would be of interest to our Planning Committee, so he put them in touch with us.

Most of us are familiar with Boys & Girls Clubs from our younger days, so it is no surprise that a key aim of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford/Wareham is to build character through everyday leadership and guidance in behavior and attitude. Trained professional staff provide positive adult mentors and role models. Nationally-recognized programs help young people succeed in school, stay healthy, learn important life skills, pursue interests in the arts, engage in sports, and explore vocational choices. Most importantly, the Boys & Girls Club shows members that someone cares about them and wants them to realize their full potential.

In addition to a popular summer program, the Wareham unit hosts a variety of after school activities that include computer technology, homework assistance, and a tutoring program (nationally known as Power Hour), along with the “fun stuff” such as air hockey, foosball, basketball, kickball, arts and crafts, and





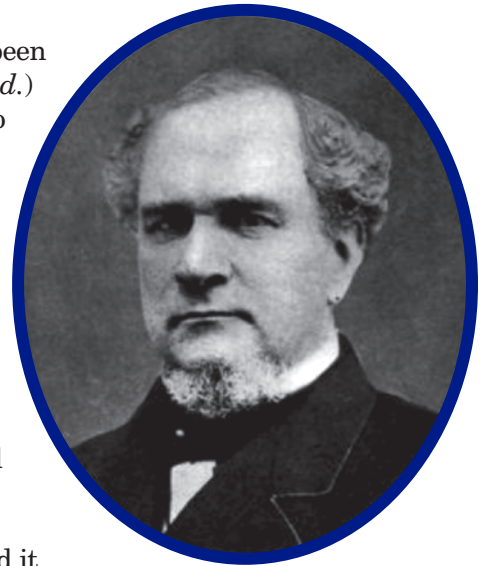
more. It relies on members (about 80% of whom are from economically-disadvantaged families) paying a minimal fee to attend the club, and it seeks various grants to fund programs it feels will benefit their kids. The club has a strong academic program that includes an emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), and last year it sought our help in introducing a new robotics program. MCMA was able to provide that help, and the program got under way in October. It was an immediate success, but it was soon evident that the equipment had limitations, especially in the area of programmability. We were able to help alleviate some of those limitations with a 2018 grant, but this is a program with even more potential.

Essentially, there are two segments within this robotics program. The “Boost” segment is for younger members 6 to 8 years of age, who work in teams of three to build a robot from plans on a Kindle tablet. The other segment is called “Mindstorm,” wherein individuals or teams of two use LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kits to design, build, and program their robots, controlling motors and collecting sensor feedback. The overall aim is to help develop essential skills such as creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. And it seems to do just that. The kids in the program work diligently on their projects and are quite proud of what they accomplish. When they do hit a snag or run into trouble, other members are quick to jump in and help. Twenty-five kids are currently engaged in the robotics program at Wareham, and the club hopes to grow it, both to enable more kids to participate and to expand its capabilities. We are really pleased that MCMA has been able to support the program, and we will keep in touch with its progress.

In the accompanying images, MCMA members Bill Scott (l.) and Charlie Gale (r.) are shown in the “robotics room” with instructor Sally Paduch and students Aleks Rocha, Davonte Perreira, and Anthony Peluso; Zareya and Kayligh-Ana build a guitar; and Tresean reacts when his robot first moves its head. (He later completed building his robot and created a simple code to make it move.)

### MCMA History

You’ll probably recognize some of the names in this article, as they have been mentioned in earlier newsletters (*names of MCMA members will be in bold.*) One of those names is that of our subject, **Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr.**, who joined our Association in 1839 as a maker of mathematical instruments, and after serving in a number of capacities became the 17th president of MCMA. A grandson of **Amos Lincoln** (who, you may recall married **Paul Revere’s** oldest daughter, Deborah, and following Deborah’s death married Deborah’s younger sister, Elizabeth), Frederic was born in 1817 to Louis Lincoln, a sailmaker, and his wife Mary. Both of his parents died by the time he was 10 years old, and he was adopted by his uncle, also named Frederic W. Lincoln. At the age of 13 he was apprenticed to **Gedney King**, a maker of nautical instruments, whose shop was located on State Street in Boston. Frederic remained there until 1839, when he opened his own business on Commercial Street, making nautical and surveying instruments, and selling seaman’s charts and equipment. He continued in this very successful business for 43 years, and it earned him both recognition and the financial freedom to become involved in the civic and business affairs of the city.



**Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr.**  
(1817-1898)

By the age of 30, Lincoln was serving the first of two terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and in 1848 he married Emeline Hall. Tragically, Emeline died while giving birth to their first child (a daughter), deeply affecting Lincoln and causing him to largely withdraw from public service for the next few years. In 1854 he was elected president of MCMA, and in that same year married Emily Lincoln (who would later give birth to two sons, one of whom, **Louis Revere Lincoln**, also became a member of MCMA), and he purchased a home at 19 Louisburg Square. In 1857 he was elected to the first of three successive one-year terms as Mayor of Boston. While his administration was largely concerned with landfills and street extensions, Lincoln also

addressed two very different issues. For the first time, uniforms were issued to Boston police officers to help people distinguish them from common citizens. And he traveled to Washington, D.C. to seek federal aid for the protection of Boston Harbor. Considerable shoaling had resulted from multiple landfill operations over many years, and by that time it posed a threat to vessels using the harbor. This visit, and Lincoln's continued efforts through the next seven years eventually resulted in Congress appropriating funds to address the problem and prevent further disruption in the ship channels.

Lincoln was replaced as Mayor of Boston by **Joseph Wightman** in 1860, but following the outbreak of the Civil War Wightman's popularity waned, particularly after he ordered the release of stores to feed and clothe Confederate prisoners at Fort Warren (which was woefully unprepared to receive them). Lincoln came out of retirement to challenge him, won election in 1862, and was re-elected three more times. What is generally considered Lincoln's biggest challenge as mayor came in 1863, after the nation's first wartime draft was instituted. The draft was especially unpopular in northern cities that were home to many recently arrived immigrants who felt forced to fight in a war that was not their affair. (For a \$300 payment to the government, or by paying a substitute, draftees could avoid serving, but those options were beyond the reach of working-class immigrants.) The day after the first major draft riot broke out in New York City, a deadly altercation broke out on Prince Street in the then largely Irish North End. The situation soon grew out of control, and overwhelmed police were forced to retreat into their station. Mayor Lincoln called out the militia and sent them to quell the rioters, and military units soon arrived as well. Eventually, the riot was brought to an end, though six policemen and several citizens were killed and many more were injured. On a more positive note, Lincoln's administration oversaw the construction and opening of both the Boston City Hall on School Street and the Boston City Hospital.

After leaving office, Lincoln continued to be active in public affairs. He served in the State Legislature again from 1872 to 1876. Among many other positions, he was a trustee of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Museum of Fine Arts, president of the Franklin Savings Bank, a director of the Continental National Bank, and president of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society. Both Harvard and Dartmouth Colleges awarded him honorary degrees. Plus, he remained very involved with MCMA, and served as our treasurer from 1880 to 1887. His distinguished life ended on September 13, 1898, when he died of natural causes at the age of 81. The following excerpt from the fully six pages devoted to his necrology in our *Annals of 1898* indicate how warmly Frederic W. Lincoln was regarded by those who knew him:

“No provocation could betray him into hasty or ill-chosen words. Never seeming in haste, he nevertheless accomplished a vast amount of work. Always approachable and courteous, to all alike, he is remembered with genuine pleasure for these characteristics by a large number of our citizens, and is spoken of by all as a man possessed of wisdom, a sweet disposition, gentle manners, kindly words, and helpful suggestions.”



Above is old Boston City Hall at 45 School Street, completed during the mayoral administration of Frederic W. Lincoln, Jr.

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Sources for the above were the article “Frederic Walker Lincoln, Mayor of Boston,” by Scott J. Evans in the Spring 2005 issue of the *Revere House Gazette*; and the *MCMA Annals of 1898*.