

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Well, what a year this has been. One which we hope we will never see again. So much illness and death, so much isolation, so many changes in how we live our lives. Fortunately, vaccines and therapeutics are on the way, so hopefully by spring we all can begin to return to life before Covid.

As you know, our Association has continued to function. Your Board of Government and our Committees have been communicating by Zoom video conference and phone calls, and the Planning Committee made their annual grants to the organizations we support by making virtual visits and holding virtual meetings.

When it became clear that we were not going to be able to hold Quarterly Meetings for the rest of the year, plans were made to connect to one another via Zoom. We had one meeting with James Russell, direct descendant of Benjamin Russell, our third president. (Benjamin was gifted the Paul Revere snuff box by Paul Revere when he became President; the family later gifted it to us and it is passed on to each new President at our Triennials.) The meeting was enjoyed by those who tuned in. For the holiday season, we have scheduled Honorary Member Anthony Sammarco to speak to us about Christmas in Boston over the years. I'm sure this will be another enjoyable event.

Finally, I urge each of you to consider making a gift to MCMA as this year draws to a close. You know the good and important work that MCMA does. Please help us stay strong so we can continue our strong traditions of helping others and building fellowship among our members. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I join you in looking forward to a much happier New Year. Be Just and Fear Not. – **Peter**

Helping Others

Last year we encountered for the first time a Peabody organization, **Citizens Inn**, that works to address the problems of homelessness and hunger on the North Shore. Founded in 1983 (it was initially called Citizens for Adequate Housing) to find emergency shelter for families in need, it later expanded to provide separate shelter (Citizens Inn Transition) that included a recovery program to address the issue of homelessness caused by substance abuse. Beginning in the 1990s it began to create permanent, affordable rental housing, and in 2017 Citizens Inn merged with Haven from Hunger, a nonprofit founded in 1985 to address hunger and food insecurity in the Peabody area. Haven from Hunger operates a food pantry and a community meals program, serving over 9,000 people annually. Significantly, volunteers are critical to Citizens operations, with over 500 participating in an average year.

While we applaud the overall work being done by Citizens Inn, our focus as always is with jobs training activities, especially when they afford opportunities to individuals with disabilities or other disadvantages. Citizens supports two programs in that regard. Through a partnership with Northeast Arc, clients from that organization work in Citizens' Haven from Hunger kitchen, learning skills to help them find meaningful employment in the culinary





arts field. (In addition, they prepare baked goods and other food for use in Northeast Arc's Breaking Grounds Cafe, featured in a previous issue of this newsletter.) In a different program (First Jobs), Citizens employs students to help prepare meals for over 600 children during the months of July and August. The program also connects students seeking summer work with local businesses and nonprofit organizations seeking summer help, benefiting teens by providing valuable job training, experience, and income.

Our support for Citizens (a heavy-duty automatic-feed meat slicer and a continuous-feed food processor/dicer) was specifically directed to their Haven from Hunger kitchen, and it has helped them improve and expand the program. That was significant in this Covid year as demand for their services has grown greatly. New registrations for the food pantry have seen an increase of over 350%, even as operations had to be moved outdoors to comply with social distancing standards, and fully one in 20 Peabody households have made use of the pantry since Covid-19 restrictions began in March. Many of the organizations we support have had to severely curtail operations this year, but Citizens Inn has been able to cope in spite of the pandemic, and we applaud them for that.



MCMA History

We always try in these articles to include multiple images, when possible colorful ones, both to brighten up the pages and to help tell the stories. The following article doesn't provide us with that opportunity, unfortunately, but it identifies a gentleman who was extremely important to MCMA and our history, and we need to tell his story. Once again, we thank Peter Lemonias for the research that brings it to us.



Joseph Tinker Buckingham was born in Windham, Connecticut in 1779. His father's name was Nehemiah Tinker, and Joseph's name at birth was Joseph Buckingham Tinker. Joseph's father was either a tavern-keeper or a shoemaker (sources disagree on this) who once had considerable property. But Nehemiah Tinker was ruined financially when the Continental currency was devalued, as he held most of his wealth in Continental currency received for supplying the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. By the time Joseph was born into the family they were destitute, and Joseph's father died when he was four-years-old. Three years later his mother indentured him to live with and work for a local farmer until he was 16.

When he was 14-years-old, he happened to see the inside of a printing office. He was so impressed with the type, the presses, and other equipment, he decided then that he wanted to learn the printer's trade, and upon turning 16 he became an apprentice in a small printing office. He learned the printer's art and in 1800 moved to Boston where he got a job with Thomas and Andrews, printers and publishers. Joseph had no schooling, but obtained books whenever he could and educated himself as best he could. In 1804 he obtained permission from the Massachusetts state legislature to change his name from Joseph Buckingham Tinker to Joseph Tinker Buckingham (Buckingham being his mother's maiden name). That same year he obtained control of the printing office and began a 40-year career in printing and journalism. In 1805 Buckingham married Melinda Alvord and they raised nine sons and four daughters.



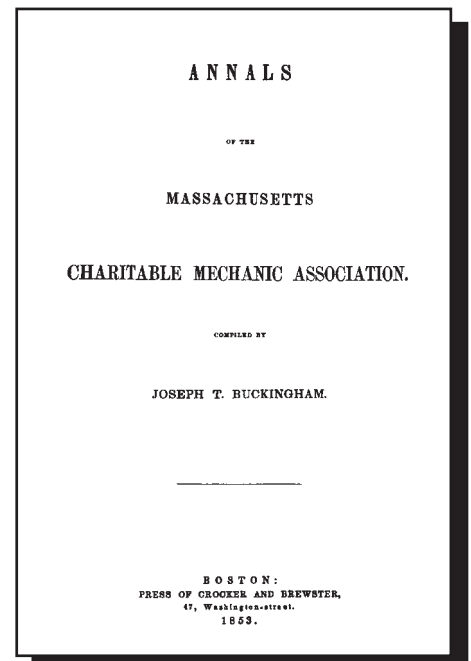
Joseph T. Buckingham
(1779-1861)

But he went bankrupt in 1815, with both his publishing and printing businesses devastated by the War of 1812. By 1817, Buckingham was back in business, founding the *New England Galaxy* which was for many years the leading family newspaper in New England. He later founded the *Boston Courier*, Boston's second daily newspaper. And in 1831, he started the highly-regarded monthly *The New-England Magazine* with his son Edwin, the contributors to which included, among others, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Edward Everett, and Oliver Wendell Holmes. (Buckingham sold that magazine in 1834 following 23-year-old Edwin's death at sea.) In addition to his successful publishing career, Buckingham was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representative where he served for seven years, and to the Massachusetts Senate where he served for four years.

Joseph Buckingham joined MCMA in 1811 as a printer. He served MCMA in office for 12 years, four as secretary, three as trustee, two as vice-president, and three as president, beginning in 1832. Buckingham also served three years as vice-president of the Bunker Hill Monument Association and 10 years as president. Many said that the monument's final completion in 1843 was made possible by his great efforts (and the support of MCMA). In his later years, Buckingham took it upon himself to compile the history of MCMA from its origins. It was he who organized and put together our *Annals*, covering the years from 1795 to 1860, and gave us biographical information for our original members. The data came in part from our own records and publications, but also from the files of Boston newspapers. And he certainly had his own personal knowledge of this association and its key figures gained over his five decades in MCMA. Had Buckingham not done this work, much of our early history would surely have been lost. We as an association owe him a great debt of gratitude. Buckingham's final words written in our *Annals* at their completion should inspire us today:

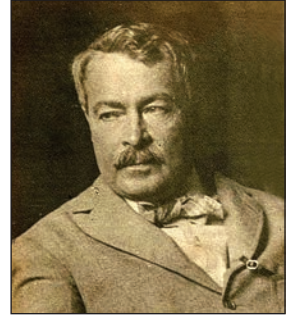
"The members of the association may pursue their course, confident in the faith that still greater and more important results await their labors. They have funds and means which are daily increasing, and will soon be sufficient for the accomplishment of high purposes and noble ends; there is still ample room ... for the exercise of all their virtuous energies. ... Ours is a glorious destiny, and its fulfillment will be followed by ages of honor, happiness, and renown."

Buckingham died at his home in Cambridge on April 11, 1861, at the age of 82. Of our very many illustrious past members, we should all remember Joseph T. Buckingham. It is because of his work that much of MCMA's early history was preserved and is available to us today.



... and MCMA Miscellany

We've noted before that the now-famous artist Frederick Childe Hassam was a frequent exhibitor (though without success) at MCMA Exhibitions in the late 1800s. One of his works is of particular interest to us, and that would be his 1892 painting titled *Quincy, Massachusetts*. In addition to Quincy now being home to MCMA, the United First Parish Church, also known as the Church of the Presidents, can be seen clearly in the background. That church was designed by member **Alexander Parris**, and in the church's basement are buried former Presidents **John Adams** and **John Quincy Adams**, both of whom were Honorary Members of MCMA. And last but not least, it gives us an opportunity to add some color to this page.



Frederick Childe Hassam
(1859-1935)

