

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

I hope those who attended our Quarterly Meeting at Spinelli's enjoyed as much as I did quest speaker Tony Sammarco's fact-filled presentation of the "Howard Johnson era." We thank Tony Scalese and Bud Hanson for making it happen. It seems that our most memorable meetings over the years have been connected with either a knowledgeable and enjoyable guest speaker, or an interesting site visit, or sometimes both. We do, though, need ideas in this regard for future meetings. I'm guessing that many of you have heard a speaker or visited a venue that could be of interest to all of us, and we'd very much appreciate it if you could relay such information to us. Disappointingly, attendance at our meetings has declined in recent years, and making the meetings more attractive is one way we may be able to begin to reverse that trend. Thank you all. – **Rich Adams**

Recent Happenings

We held our April Quarterly Meeting at Spinelli's Banquet Facility in Lynnfield, where once again we enjoyed a fine luncheon before attending to the business portion of the meeting. Past President Bud Hanson then introduced our guest speaker, his friend Mr. Anthony Sammarco, a noted historian, author of over 60 books on the history and development of Boston, and, importantly, an Honorary Member of MCMA.

Mr. Sammarco gave an extremely interesting presentation on the origins and history of the Howard Johnson's restaurant empire. Though all of us grew up with these orange-roofed restaurants and their fried clams, grilled frankfurters and 28 flavors of ice cream, Mr. Sammarco took us through its 1920s founding as an ice cream stand in Quincy through its phenomenal expansion over the decades to become an empire stretching from Maine to Florida and all the way to the West Coast. Johnson is considered the "Father of the Franchise Industry," and Mr. Sammarco gave us a good understanding of the man and the reasons behind his success. This talk was well received and much appreciated by all present, and we thank Mr. Sammarco wholeheartedly for treating us to it.

Our Planning Committee last month began the process of reviewing the requests we have received for 2014 MCMA Grants. That process will continue over the next weeks with visits to those schools and organizations under consideration.

**April Quarterly Meeting
guest speaker
Anthony Sammarco
at Spinelli's
in Lynnfield, Mass.**



Helping Others

It has been seven years since we began highlighting in this newsletter the various organizations that receive grants from MCMA. The first to receive that attention was **The Eliot School of Fine and Applied Arts**, and that Jamaica Plain school continues to merit both our admiration and the support we have been able to provide. Founded in 1676 to provide an education to area children (of both the Puritans and the Indians), the school relocated several times before moving in 1832 to its current location on Eliot Street. *[And, in a neat bit of coordination between MCMA “grantees,” students from the Preservation Carpentry Program at North Bennet Street School recently restored the cupola on this building.]* The curriculum was transformed through the 1800s as government began to assume responsibility for public education, and Eliot began its “manual training” era in the 1870s, introducing classes such as mechanical drawing, painting, sewing, cooking, and woodworking. Today the offerings have expanded to include specialties such as cabinetmaking, upholstery, photography and furniture restoration. The school offers both daytime and evening workshops in its many disciplines for both adults and children, continuing its history of teaching and enhancing skills in craftsmanship for amateurs and professionals alike. (Local museums, for example, send interns to take the school’s course in gilding.)

Since our earlier article, one of the new programs undertaken by the school is a partnership with the Boston public schools whereby it brings carpentry and art classes directly to the schools. This program has proved very popular, has grown to include middle schools and non-profit organizations, and is expanding this year to high schools. *(MCMA has helped to equip several of the tool kits that enable it.)* This program seeks to acquaint kids with skills and tools at a basic level, of course, but it also introduces them to architects, construction professionals, and even construction worksites. And this is just part of the work The Eliot School does, and does well, in teaching and promoting the mechanical arts, and in helping students develop or improve skills that will help their employment opportunities.



Photo by David Fricke



Photo by Nicole Murray



Photo by Jennifer Moller

MCMA Past ...

We're all familiar with many aspects of the life of MCMA's first president, **Paul Revere**, his "midnight ride" on the eve of the Revolutionary War probably foremost among them. Less well known, in particular, are his experiences during the war itself, and this article will focus on what was certainly the most consequential of those experiences. *[The information is drawn from an article prepared by our History Committee Chairman Peter Lemonias.]*

In June of 1779 Revere was serving as a Lt. Colonel of Artillery with the Massachusetts Militia, stationed at Castle William, the fortress guarding Boston Harbor on the site of what is now Fort Independence on Castle Island. When word reached Boston that the British had occupied the town of Castine on the Penobscot River to serve as a base of operations against the colonies, the new Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with some support from the Continental Congress, assembled a naval force to drive the British out of Maine. The force consisted of three Continental Navy warships plus 40 other ships, mostly privately owned, of which 16 were armed. In addition, Massachusetts mobilized 1,000 militia and six field cannon. Dudley Saltonstall was named Commodore of the naval force, Brig. Gen. Solomon Lovell was placed in charge of the land forces, with Revere in charge of the artillery.

This force left Boston on July 28, arriving in Penobscot Bay the same day to face a British force of 10 warships and 700 soldiers. The Americans immediately launched a land assault against the rudimentary British fort, and managed to establish an artillery battery beneath the fort, but a sustained fire from the British warships, and heavy casualties, forced them to discontinue the assault. Over the next two weeks, little happened while its commanders argued, Lovell refusing to continue the land assault until Saltonstall eliminated the British ships, and Saltonstall insisting the fort must be taken first to eliminate the threat it posed to his ships. Eventually, an approaching force of 14 British warships was sighted, and Saltonstall hastily ordered a retreat up the Penobscot, but the British pursued. To avoid capture, the American ships were sunk or run aground and burned, and both sailors and soldiers fled by land to make their way back to Boston.

The debacle, which came to be known as the Penobscot Expedition, would stand as America's worst naval defeat until Pearl Harbor. Back in Boston, its leaders were not well received. Saltonstall was found guilty by court-martial and dismissed from the Continental Navy. Revere was not court-martialed, nor were his activities even mentioned in the Saltonstall court-martial, but he was nonetheless accused of disobedience, incompetence, and cowardice during the retreat, and was dismissed from the militia. Revere fought doggedly to clear his name, and he was eventually able to do so when he was granted a court-martial in 1782 that acquitted him, finding the events during the retreat were too chaotic for clear orders to be transmitted, and Revere had done what he believed was needed in the interests of the responsibilities he had been given.

[As you might expect, the battle was more celebrated by the British, and this painting by Dominic Serres (c.1779) showing the "Destruction of the American Fleet at Penobscot Bay" is still on display at Britain's National Maritime Museum in London.]



... and MCMA More Recent Past

Remembrances of the 70th anniversary of D-Day are, or soon will be, in the news, and it has caused us to recollect that a good number of MCMA men served honorably and even heroically in WWII. Most of their stories are unfortunately lost to us, but we have at least a minimal understanding of the service of two young men who would later become valued members of this Association. Though both have passed away in recent years, they are fondly recalled by many of our current members, and we suspect their stories will be appreciated by newer members as well. *(This article was suggested by Past President Bill Jutila.)*

Arthur Southall had graduated from Dorchester High School, and was working by day and attending Suffolk Law School by night when he was drafted into the Army in late 1940. Initially an enlisted man, he was promoted to Warrant Officer, and was to serve in that capacity in England, France, and Germany with the 392nd Engineer Regiment, one of the segregated “colored units” of the time. His unit suffered heavy casualties in Normandy when an allied bombing mission overshot its target, and it was one of several units thrown in to hold the line during the Battle of the Bulge. Among other decorations, Arthur was the recipient of five Bronze Stars and a Presidential Citation.



Arthur Southall

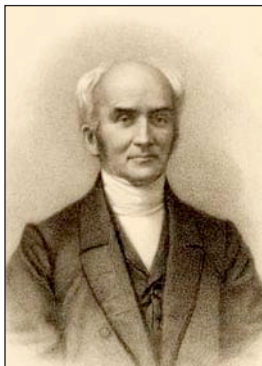
Following the war, Arthur would go on to work for, and eventually own and run, the H.M. Sanders Co., a hardware supply company on Stuart Street in Boston. He joined MCMA in 1961 and served on multiple committees, including our Board of Government, but he was also very active in many other civic and charitable organizations, and served at various times as chairman for fund-raising drives for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Heart Fund.

While Arthur Southall was engaged in Europe, **Francis A. (Frank) Doyle** was half-a-world away in the China-Burma-India Theater. Another graduate of Dorchester High School, Frank attended Northeastern University before enlisting. Serving in the Army Air Corps, he was attached to the 2nd Air Commando Group, which was formed to support British forces in re-taking Burma from the Japanese. A highly decorated fighter pilot, the Distinguished Flying Cross and multiple awards of the Air Medal are among the many decorations he earned. After the war, Frank joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard, was activated and flew missions during the Berlin crisis in the early 1960s, and retired in 1975 with the rank of brigadier general, having flown 26 types of aircraft, jet fighters included, during his career.



Francis A. Doyle

Frank was president and CEO of Boston Mechanical Corp., a firm founded by his father, and was a long-time resident of Milton. He joined MCMA in 1975 and served on our Board of Government and other committees, and was also very active in a number of veterans organizations.



Timothy Gilbert

... and MCMA Miscellany

In a past article on the famed piano maker **Jonas Chickering**, we noted that many of his competitors were also members of MCMA, and foremost among them was **Timothy Gilbert**. While Gilbert was recognized as an innovator in piano design and evolution, he was also well-known as an ardent abolitionist, and maintained his home as a station on the Underground Railroad. Upon passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which required government officials to assist slave-catchers in capturing fugitives, Gilbert advertised in the local newspaper that his door *would remain open* to runaway slaves.