

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

We are extremely grateful to all who answered our annual request for donations to help keep this unique and historic organization moving forward. As I reported at our Annual Meeting, a record amount was raised, and many of you dug deep to make it so. On the other hand, the support was less broad-based than in the past, and to that fact I confess to being surprised as well as disappointed. I know we all agree with MCMA's ongoing efforts to support and encourage the mechanical arts, we take pride in the charitable support we are able to provide to worthy organizations each year, we enjoy the camaraderie that MCMA affords us, and we appreciate being counted among the long line of mechanics who have made this organization meaningful and effective for 218 years. But it's up to *all* of us to keep MCMA strong. – **Rich Adams**

Recent Happenings

Our Annual Meeting took place on a brisk January 29, and once again it was held at the Neighborhood Club in Quincy. Following a thoughtful invocation by Past President "Bud" Hanson, the members enjoyed an excellent luncheon, then attended to the business of the day.

Minutes of the previous Quarterly Meeting were read by Secretary Joyce, and Treasurer Kurt Hanson explained the preliminary financial results for 2013. The reports of the Board of Government and the Finance Committee were presented by Vice President Anthony and Trustee Lordan, following which reports summarizing the 2013 activities of each of the remaining committees were presented by representatives of those committees. Expenditures for 2014 were authorized in the amount of \$300,000. President Adams then addressed the membership to recount his first year as president, thanking those who worked to keep MCMA running smoothly through 2013, and those who responded generously to our year-end fund-raising request.



Lastly, the membership approved the recommendations of the Committee on Nominations, as presented by Chairman William Jutila. Elected for three years to the Board of Government were Harold Flight, William Jacobs, John Lordan, William Scott, and Thomas Crowdis III. Elected for three years to the Committee of Relief were Steven Anderson, Harry Dodakian, and Glenn Tocci. Elected for one year were Secretary Martin Joyce and Treasurer Kurt Hanson.

Helping Others

We were pleased last year to once again lend support to an organization with which we had fallen out of touch for a few years. **Mission of Deeds**, located in Reading, Mass., is a nonprofit volunteer organization that provides beds, furniture, and basic household items, free of charge, to those in need. Their clients are vulnerable families and individuals living in Middlesex and Essex Counties, and include the previously homeless and those living in shelters or transitional situations. All of those clients live at or

MISSION of DEEDS

Transforming Generosity Into Hope



below the federal poverty level, and over 70 percent of the households have children. Basically, the MOD program provides the support families need to move out of shelters and return to the community. This is especially important when children are involved, as children without homes are more prone to hunger, illness, and emotional problems, and are more likely to drop out of school.

The Mission of Deeds maintains a workshop where volunteers repair donated furniture, lamps, and household goods to assure that every donated item is in working order and safe to use. The workshop is managed by a volunteer with considerable experience (a retired teacher and director of the physical plant at a regional vocational-technical school), while the volunteers come from many different sources, including students. The workshop manager trains the volunteers on the use of the tools and equipment, as well as on safety measures, creating an environment where individuals interested in learning the craft can work with a master while performing a service that will benefit others.



We were able to provide a variety of power tools and miscellaneous equipment to MOD, including a steam cleaner system to aid in refurbishing upholstered furniture, and we have every confidence those items will be put to good use. Mission of Deeds receives no government or United Way funding, and is supported solely by individuals, businesses, and organizations such as ours. We applaud the work they do, and we are pleased we have been able to assist them.

MCMA Past ...

The MCMA-member architects we have written about to date (**Hammatt Billings, Alexander Parris, Asher Benjamin, Isaiah Rogers, Solomon Willard, Ammi Young**) practiced and made their reputations in the early- and mid-19th century. The subject of this article came along later in that century, and is perhaps less well known, but he too was accomplished in his profession, and important examples of his work remain with us today. **George A. Clough** was born in 1843 in Blue Hill, Maine, the son of a noted shipbuilder. He entered his father's shipyard at age 14, working as a draftsman until his father's death in 1863. Deciding to pursue a career as an architect, George moved to Boston and studied under Snell & Gregerson until 1869, when he opened an office on Tremont Street under his own name.



George A. Clough

Clough was elected in 1874 to serve as the city architect of Boston, a new position at the time, and he would serve in that position until 1884. His influence was considerable in the city, where he was credited with introducing a German system of architecture that called for constructing buildings around open courtyards to allow for internal light and ventilation. While he designed several types of buildings, including courthouses and hospitals, he was noted for his work with schools, designing no fewer than 25 of them in Boston alone, including the 1877 English and Latin Schools, the Dillaway School (still in use) in Roxbury, and the Prince School (now luxury condos) on Newbury Street. Clough

also handled the 1882 renovation of the Old State House in Boston. *[An earlier (1830) renovation had been done by Rogers.]*

Fourteen of Clough's structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the most well-known being the Suffolk County Courthouse (also known as the Pemberton Square Courthouse, and more recently as the John Adams Courthouse) in Boston. Clough designed the original (1893), 3-story structure after winning a design competition, and was later selected to complete the 1910 fourth and fifth-floor addition, which he designed as a large mansard roof. But Clough also designed a number of structures vital to Boston's water supply and sewerage system, such as the Sudbury Aqueduct and the Framingham Reservoir Dams and Gatehouses. Most importantly, he designed the Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex at what is now Columbia Point in Dorchester. This was the first sewage pumping station in Boston, pumping Boston's sewage through a tunnel under Dorchester Bay to Moon Island. Completed in 1883, this station was for 85 years the main headworks of Boston's sewerage system until replaced by the Deer Island facility in 1968.

George Albert Clough joined MCMA in 1871 and served on our board of directors and our building committee. He died in January, 1911 in Brookline, Mass.



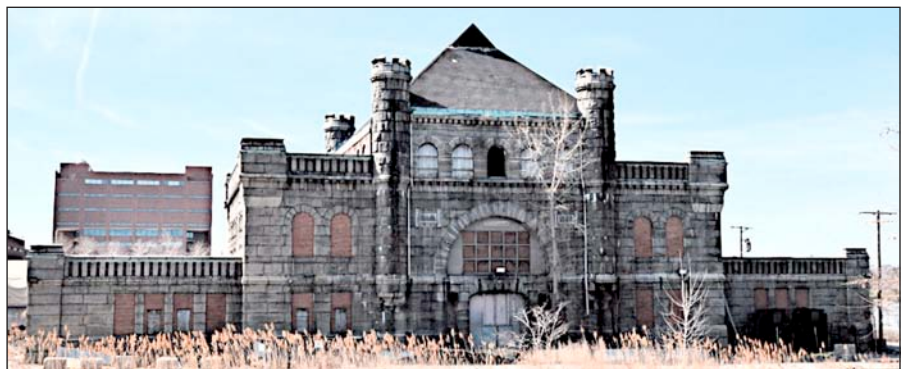
Dillaway School, Roxbury, Mass. (1882)



Suffolk County Courthouse, Boston, Mass. (1893)



Prince School, Boston, Mass. (1881)



Calf Pasture Pumping Station Complex, Dorchester, Mass. (1883)

... and MCMA Present

One might think it unlikely that we would find a current member who also is identified with schools, courthouses, and public service as well as with water and sewerage systems, but Past President **Lester MacLaughlin** actually meets those criteria with ease. Born and raised in Everett, Mass., Lester graduated from Boston Latin School before attending and receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Boston College. He also received, through BC's ROTC program, his commission as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, and served with distinction in Vietnam with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. As a platoon leader, and later as company commander, Lester saw considerable action, and was fortunate to walk away from two hard landings in helicopters taken down by enemy fire. Though he rarely speaks of it, this was service for which he received multiple decorations, Bronze Star and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry among them.



Lester next began his "official" career with J. Lester MacLaughlin & Co., though he had worked through his school years with the company founded in 1929 by his father. Based in Everett, the company provides plumbing, heating, gas fitting, and fire sprinkler services for commercial and residential customers, primarily on the North Shore. Lester earned his Master Plumber's license, took over management of the company in 1973 following the death of his father, and continues to serve as company president.

Another major demand on Lester's time is his role as an independent consultant investigating buildings damaged or destroyed by fire or other causes, a role he has filled since 1978. *(In the accompanying photo, Lester is seen speaking with firefighters on one such investigation.)* In addition to the actual investigations, that role involves offering expert testimony, often for days at a time, in courthouses throughout New England *(Clough's Suffolk County Courthouse among them)*. And in his community, he has served for 20 years as an elected member of the Everett School Committee, serves as a director of the Everett Cooperative Bank, and is active in the Everett Rotary Club. *[This is a busy guy!]*



Lester and his wife Helen have seven children, three of whom (**Joseph, Phillip, and Robie**) are also members of MCMA, and 13 grandchildren. They live in Everett, maintain a summer home in Marblehead, and enjoy



golf and travel whenever time allows. Lester joined MCMA in 1978 and served on several committees prior to becoming our 64th president in 1998. *[He initially had been in line to be president during our 1995 Bicentennial, but generously stepped aside in order that former Executive Director Ray Purdy could accept that honor.]*

... and MCMA Miscellany

The first aerial photograph in the United States was taken in 1860 (from a tethered hot air balloon above Boston Common) by MCMA member **James Wallace Black**. No mean accomplishment, given the complexity of the photographic process of the time, this is also the oldest known aerial photograph still in existence anywhere. Black would later win a gold medal at the MCMA Exhibition of 1869 for his photographs of Labrador and icebergs, and a silver medal at the 1874 Exhibition for his views of the Great Boston Fire.