

# Charitably



# Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

---

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

---

## President's Message

The Christmas season is over and I want to thank everyone for their generous donations to MCMA. Your contributions help us to pay many of our fixed costs before having to draw on our investments.

Be sure to note that we will be holding our Triennial Celebration on December 8 of this year at the Parker House in Boston, and your committee is working hard to make this event one we will all enjoy. One of the ways we keep costs down is to hold a silent auction, and this is where you can help. The more items, the greater the fun. Antiques, paintings, sports memorabilia, a ride on a boat, fishing, tickets to a movie, play, sporting event, a week at your second home. Or perhaps donate what you manufacture or a service such as electrical or plumbing. These are just a few suggestions that will raise money and make the auction fun. Even though the Triennial is months away, it is never too early to plan. – **Arthur**

## Recent Happenings

Our 223rd Annual Meeting took place on January 24, 2018 and was held once again at the Neighborhood Club in Quincy. Following an invocation by Past-President Hanson, the members enjoyed an excellent luncheon, then attended to the business of the day.

Minutes of the previous Quarterly Meeting were read and approved, as were the reports of Secretary Joyce and Treasurer Hanson. The reports of the Board of Government and the Finance Committee were presented by Trustees Stickney and Valante respectively, and reports summarizing the 2017 activities of each of our other committees were presented by representatives of those committees. Expenditures for 2018 were authorized in the amount of \$470,000, three individuals (James Kelley, Derek Heidemann, and David Elie) were voted to Associate Membership, and two new applications for membership were announced. President Anthony then spoke on the importance of our Annual Meetings, as they allow us to hear directly from our committees on their work throughout the year to keep MCMA functioning. And the full membership approved recommendations of the Committee on Nominations, electing for three years to the Board of Government Joseph Bellomo, Stephen Stickney, and Richard Ryan; for three years to the Committee of Relief James Camella, Anthony Scaleso, Joseph Bellomo, and Richard Ryan; and for one year as secretary Martin Joyce, and as treasurer Kurt Hanson.



## Helping Others

Our Planning Committee often receives grant requests from organizations with which we have no prior history, and while such requests require an added level of attention, they sometimes fit perfectly with our mission. Such was the case in 2017 with a request received from the **MassBay Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that assists MassBay Community College in obtaining grants for strengthening programs and promoting students' access, retention and success.



MassBay Community College annually serves over 6,800 students from the Greater Boston and MetroWest communities, with campuses in Framingham, Wellesley, and Ashland. Many of its students come from low- to moderate-income households, and are diverse in ethnicity as well as age. While 75% are under age 30, only 40% are within the traditional college ages of 18-21, as many adults attend in order to advance their education and careers and to obtain technical skills to boost their earning potential. And the school does this job well – MassBay was recently ranked by the Brookings Institution as one of the top schools for value-added and earned salaries in the workforce, ranking #1 among 2-year colleges in Massachusetts, #2 in New England, and #16 nationally. While the college offers a wide variety of degree and certificate programs, our support was requested specifically for their Automotive Technology Center (ATC), which operates at the Ashland campus and has trained hundreds of Massachusetts residents for jobs in automotive fields. This is a cooperative education program that combines classroom instruction, hands-on laboratories, and in-the-field work experience at regional dealerships.



The ATC's training programs are sponsored by four major automobile brands: BMW, Jeep/Chrysler, General Motors, and Toyota-Lexus. It provides students with in-depth, product-specific automotive technology training, utilizing state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment on manufacturer-donated, late-model vehicles. In addition, they participate in paid cooperative education at dealerships throughout the state, allowing students to learn in a professional setting while earning money and college credit. The automotive program is accredited by the National Automotive Technician Education Foundation, and it has a long-standing partnership with the National Automobile Dealers Association. Graduates are highly sought after because of their high level of technical skills and their comprehensive

knowledge of industry standards; and regional companies rely on them to fill their certified technician demands. Upon graduating with an associate's degree in science, 98% are employed in their field of study.

But within this program, MassBay did recognize a need to improve the teaching of complex heating, ventilating, and air conditioning technology. These systems are deeply embedded among engine components, making it physically impossible to observe how these systems operate. The school sought, and MCMA was able to provide, a ConsuLab Air Conditioning System Trainer that makes teaching, understanding, and diagnosing air conditioning systems easier. It allows instructors to simulate problems that might occur in cars for students to troubleshoot, and the equipment can and will be used with all four employer partners. The career technical education provided by MassBay's ATC program offers individuals, many from low-income and disadvantaged situations, the opportunity to develop marketable vocational skills, and enter trade professions in which they can earn family-sustainable wages. That's a mission we wholeheartedly encourage, and we are pleased to be able to support it.





## MCMA History

In our previous issue we discussed the construction and some of the history of the *USS Constitution*, and research for that article led to ... *this* article. For we came across a paper entitled "The Oldest Paint Shops in Massachusetts," that was read by William E. Wall to the Master House Painters and Decorators of Massachusetts in 1910. The following information is drawn largely from that paper (though much of the biographical info appears also in our own annals), since it described at some length the Boston of 1795 and gives us an opportunity to discuss a few of the original 83 members of MCMA.

At the beginning of the Revolution in 1775 the Town of Boston contained about 25,000 inhabitants. At the close of the war the inhabitants numbered about 15,000, and when **Paul Revere** and others formed this Association in 1795 the population had

recovered to about 20,000. George Washington was President of the United States and Samuel Adams was Governor of Massachusetts, when, on July 4, 1795, Revere helped lay the cornerstone of the present State House on Beacon Hill, and Boston began to assume the dignity of a commercial center. But to give a perhaps more realistic picture of the town, the Boston Directory for that year lists among other industries in the town 30 distilleries, two breweries, eight sugar houses, and 11 ropewalks. There were also paint shops, and three notable gentlemen engaged in that profession – Samuel Gore, John Cotton, and Samuel Perkins – would that year become Original Members of MCMA.

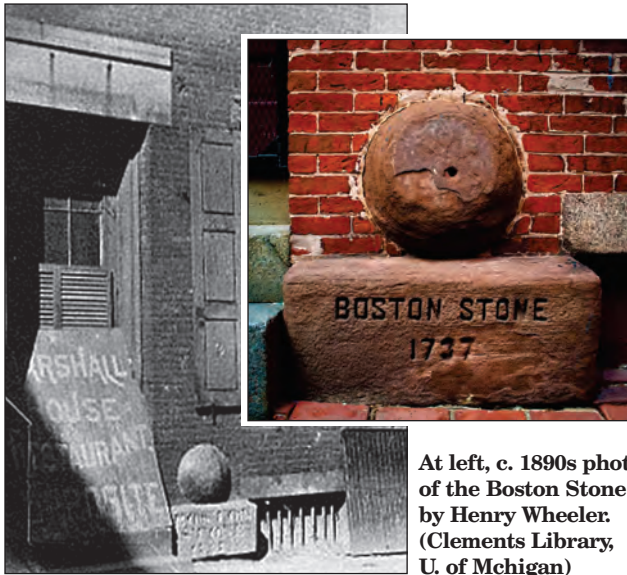
**Samuel Gore** was born in Boston in 1751. His father was John Gore, a painter by trade who, from about 1730, kept a shop and lived for more than 50 years on Court Street, at the head of a narrow passageway called Gore's Alley (which was later widened and renamed Brattle Street). His son Samuel learned the trade of his father and succeeded him in business. The father was a Tory who left Boston and went to Halifax, Nova Scotia with General Gage when the British Army evacuated the town in 1776. His son Samuel was a Whig, active in all measures opposed to the British Government, and had been one of the Boston Tea Party participants. Gore was the first Treasurer of MCMA, and was re-elected for several years. His is the seventh name in our Signature Book. He later invested a large sum in the establishment of a glass works on Essex Street, which proved a failure and made him poor, and he withdrew from the Association about this time. He died in Boston in 1831, aged eighty years. He was one of 14 or 15 children of John Gore, nine of whom survived to adulthood, and was an elder brother of Christopher Gore, the governor of Massachusetts in 1809-1810 who was later one of the first honorary members of MCMA (1820).

**John Cotton** was the eldest of 17 children of Solomon Cotton. He was born in Boston in 1771, served a regular apprenticeship to Samuel Gore, and carried on the business of house, ship, and sign painting for many years. By the death of his brother, Edward Cotton, he came into the possession of a bookstore, to which he added an apparatus for printing, and carried on the two branches of the business at the corner of Washington and Franklin Streets. He served MCMA at various times, in the capacity of secretary, trustee, vice-president, president, and treasurer, and his fellow citizens as a representative, senator, member of the board of health, fire warden, and member of the Constitutional Convention of 1820. He was well known as "a man of intelligence, sound principles, urbanity of manners, and fidelity of friendship." In early life he made a voyage to Europe, but his health was feeble in his later years. He died in 1838, in his 68th year. Cotton was the 49th member to sign our book, became the fourth president of MCMA in 1822, and later served six years as treasurer.



Above is the 1803 painting of the *USS Constitution* by Michele Felice Corne (1752-1845), the oldest known painting of the ship. (U.S. Navy Art Collection)

**Samuel Perkins** was born in Boston in 1770. His father, William Perkins, was a major in Colonel Crane's Continental Artillery Regiment in the Revolutionary Army, and after, with the rank of colonel, was commander of the troops stationed on Castle Island. When 13-years-old, Perkins went as an apprentice to Major John Johnson, a well-known portrait painter, who was located at Court Street, near the head of Gore's Alley. His object was to learn the common, as well as the ornamental branches of the art. It is not known how long he continued with Johnson, but at the age of 19 he began his own painting business, chiefly on houses and ships (one of which, we believe, was the *USS Constitution*), and continued it until about 1815, when he undertook to paint oilcloth carpets. This business he continued for some years in Boston, till the increased demand for his work induced him to build a large factory in Roxbury. He was quite successful until rival manufactories in New York created a competition which, together with his age, induced him to retire from active pursuit of business. He died in Roxbury in 1846. Samuel Perkins served as the fifth president of MCMA, and his is the 73rd name in our book.



At left, c. 1890s photo of the Boston Stone by Henry Wheeler. (Clements Library, U. of Michigan)

The history of the painting business of Boston probably deserves some mention of the Boston Stone, the oldest relic of the painting art in Boston. The stone was imported from England about the year 1700 by a painter who had a little shop on the site of the present building, and was in use till about 1737. It is a sphere of stone about 24 inches in diameter, and was fitted into a stone trough which would hold about two barrels of paint. Pigments required grinding in those days, so the paint was mixed thick and placed in the stone trough, and the heavy ball of stone was moved backward and forward the length of the trough, the friction against the sides and bottom of the trough grinding the paint in a crude manner. The round stone is now built into the wall of a building on Marshall Street near the Union Oyster House, and it is named in many descriptions of deeds of land, being used by surveyors as a starting point from which to run their lines.

### ... and MCMA Miscellany

OK, this one's a real stretch, but the previous article didn't give us much opportunity for images to brighten up these final pages, so we're going to claim a distant connection to the well-known Sargent painting *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* at the MFA in Boston. Edward Boit was the son of the very successful East Indies merchant John Boit, whose career began at age 19 on a vessel that circumnavigated the globe. That vessel was the *Columbia*, after which the Columbia River was named, and about which we wrote in a previous issue, and on which John Boit was a shipmate of ship's carpenter and future member of MCMA **Samuel Yendell**.



At right is the 1882 painting, *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit*, by John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), now held by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.