

Charitably



Speaking

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President's Message

As we approach the end of another New England winter, we finally see hope for a return to normalcy after having dealt with the coronavirus for over a year. Until we can meet again in person, MCMA will continue to operate without personal contact. We used Zoom for our January quarterly meeting (some of the attendees are shown in the accompanying screen shot) and to hear presentations of interest to our members, and will do so again in lieu of our regular April quarterly. Watch for an email or mailing with details.

With 2020 behind us, I want to offer a sincere thank you to those members who made contributions to MCMA during the year. I urge all of you to make a financial contribution to MCMA in 2021, large or small, whatever you feel comfortable with. These contributions help keep MCMA strong for our future. MCMA's finances do remain strong, despite a scare early in 2020. Our investments, managed by State Street Global Advisors and watched over by our Finance Committee, bounced back and we finished the year better than we started it even after our expenses and our 2020 grants.



We have our Triennial Banquet scheduled for December 4, 2021 and it will be an especially good one coming on the heels of the pandemic. The event will be at the Liberty Hotel in Boston. This is a beautifully restored building (formerly the Charles Street Jail, designed by MCMA member Gridley J. F. Bryant). I look forward to seeing you there as we celebrate the installation of a new president. Another silent auction is planned for that night, so please let Chuck Sulkala or me know if you have anything you would like to offer for that event. – Peter

Helping Others

The coronavirus pandemic has dramatically affected all the charitable organizations we support. In our previous issue we noted how **Citizens Inn** had to deal with greatly increased demands on their food pantry, but for most the problems involved full or partial closures, followed by necessary modification of their operations as they work to recover. Here's how two of those organizations are coping.

When by state mandate **North Bennet Street School** closed its building in March of 2020, it disrupted schedules and in-progress work, but also upended its educational model which emphasizes hand-based skills and in-person in-shop practice. So the school dove into the untested waters of remote learning. Some programs adapted more easily than others, as instructors explored a wide range of methods to teach their students. Many maintained hand skills with projects that could be done at home, some went deeper into business and marketing, or took on research projects they wouldn't normally have time to cover. The school provided computers to those in



need, made sure internet connectivity was sound, and offered tutorials for those with a software learning curve. And faculty assembled kits, tools, and samples to send to students.

NBSS was able to re-open in September, albeit with significant precautions and protocols in place ... staggered classes, reconfiguring of spaces to permit social distancing, use of PPE, frequent disinfecting, and minimizing the shared use of tools are just a few of them. But as they slowly return to “normal,” and remain fully committed to hands-on training of the highest quality, NBSS’ experience with remote learning revealed an opportunity to effectively reach a wider audience through online education and to be a leader in best practices in that regard. The school is pursuing that opportunity in earnest. One example is that part of MCMA’s grant was used to purchase a hands-free Nano camera, used for surgical magnification, that will enable students in the Violin Making Program to view the smallest details whether in the classroom or at home on a Zoom call. In short, NBSS is both adapting to the new normal and making the most of technologies they have had to adopt during the pandemic.

Some of the difficulties encountered by NBSS were felt as well by **Cardinal Cushing Centers**, which supports students and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Cushing’s programs include education, employment training, residential care, therapeutic services, and transition training, and this wider range of programs brought a wider range of complications. In March the schools and the day programs were shut down by state mandate. Remote learning began in April, as grant funding helped equip students with Chromebooks and other technology. In-person learning returned on a restricted basis in the summer, and today the schools continue to operate on a hybrid basis that is gradually moving toward full-time in-person learning. Day programs also are moving gradually to a return to normal, though with increased attention to PPE and social distancing.

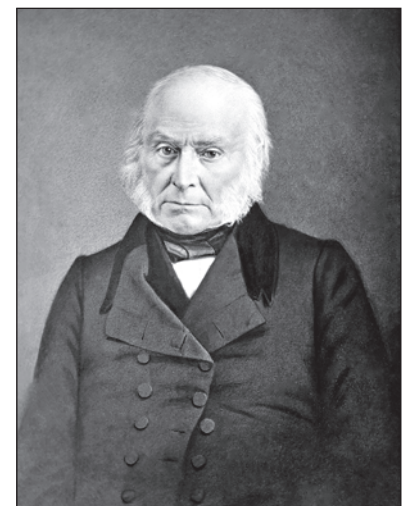


Cushing’s residential care program presented particular problems as some 100 residents remained on campus and required care from staff who, particularly in the early weeks and months of the pandemic, admittedly came to work “in fear” but came nonetheless. And part of that care involved Cushing’s main kitchen, which provides meals for residents, staff, and students, and remained open throughout. (MCMA’s grant last year was used to replace an aging, unreliable steamer in that kitchen.) On the “good news” front, Cushing was able in December to open its new MarketPlace building on Route 53. It serves as the new home for its three retail shops and some of its vocational programs. All in all, it’s been a very challenging year for Cushing’s staff, students, programs, and participants, but they are successfully working their way through it.

MCMA History

Of the 89 Honorary Members in the history of our Association, there are likely few more familiar to our current membership than the sixth president of the United States, John Quincy Adams, but we suspect some of the following information will be new even to them. Again we are indebted to MCMA president Lemonias for doing much of this research, and for pointing out that, as divisive as was our recent presidential election, it could hardly have been more bitter than the election of 1824.

John Quincy Adams’ election as president marked a significant change in American politics. Since the John Adams presidency there had been only one major political party, the Democratic-Republicans, and until 1824 their candidates had won the previous six presidential elections. The first five presidents were a who’s who of the Founding Fathers: George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe. But as the 1824 election approached, the now 24 United States had become more complicated as a new generation was entering politics. The Democratic-Republican Party was splintered as five different candidates ran for president,



John Quincy Adams
(1767-1848)
(1843 daguerreotype by Philip Haas)

each appealing to different regions and issues. The four main candidates, in addition to Adams, were Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, and William Crawford. Adams won New England, Jackson and Adams split the mid-Atlantic states, Jackson and Clay split the western states, and Jackson and Crawford split the southern states. While Jackson won the most votes in the election, he did not have enough electoral votes to be declared the winner. As a result, per the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution, a contingent election was held in the U.S. House of Representatives.



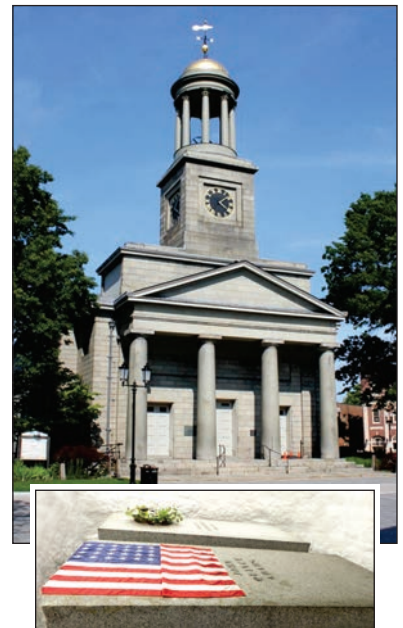
**John Quincy Adams birthplace
in Quincy, Mass.**

Each of the 24 states was given one vote, with 13 votes needed for victory, and per the Constitution only the top three vote-getters from the general election (Jackson, Adams, and Clay) were considered. On February 9, 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as president of the United States. Andrew Jackson was more than a little upset. Having won the most popular votes and the most electoral votes in the general election, Jackson had expected the House would elect him. Rumors spread that Clay, the House Speaker and a very powerful leader, had offered his support to Adams in exchange for becoming his Secretary of State. While the deal was never confirmed, Adams did indeed select Clay to be Secretary of State after his election, and Jackson and his supporters accused Adams and Clay of having struck a “corrupt bargain.” Though he faced constant hostility in Congress, Adams nevertheless worked throughout his presidency to bring the sections of the country together with a network of highways and canals. Jackson, meanwhile, campaigned tirelessly on the “corrupt bargain” issue for the next four years and, amidst much mud-slinging by both candidates, defeated Adams in the 1828 presidential election.

But Adams political career did not end in 1828. He had initially expected to retire to his farm and his books, but in 1830 he was persuaded to run for and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and for the remainder of his life, through nine terms, he served there as a powerful leader. He is recognized in particular for his opposition to a “Gag Rule” passed in 1836 by southern congressmen that automatically tabled petitions against slavery.

[Adams had tried forcefully to speak in opposition to its passing, but the Speaker of the House refused repeatedly to recognize him ... causing Adams to shout “Am I gagged, or am I not!”, giving rise to the bill’s name.] Adams, a longtime opponent of slavery, fought the rule relentlessly until he finally obtained its repeal in 1842. That effort generated intense interest across the country, and won for Adams enormous admiration. *(Charles Dickens, then an international celebrity himself, asked Adams for his autograph.)* One of his opponents in that fight, Virginia’s Henry Wise, characterized Adams years later as the “acutest, astutest, archest enemy of southern slavery that ever existed ... and his prophecies have been fulfilled.” In 1848, Adams collapsed on the floor of the House from a stroke and was carried to the Speaker’s Room, where two days later he died. He is buried, with his wife, father, and mother, at First Parish Church in Quincy.

And accomplished as was his later life, Adams’ early life was positively amazing! Born in Quincy, at that time part of Braintree, in 1767, he watched the Battle of Bunker Hill from the top of Penn’s Hill above the family farm. His father was posted to Europe in 1777 as a special envoy, and again in late 1779 to negotiate the peace with Britain. In both instances young John Quincy accompanied his father, and over a seven-year period he would spend time in Paris, the Netherlands (where he attended the University of Leiden), Russia, England, Sweden, and Prussia. His education was interrupted when, already fluent in French and Dutch at age fourteen, he was asked to accompany the newly-appointed U.S. emissary to St. Petersburg and serve as his secretary and translator. A year later he traveled alone from St. Petersburg to Holland to rejoin his father (via a circuitous route that enabled him to explore the Scandinavian countries). In 1785 he returned home to America, enrolling in Harvard College as an advanced student and completing his studies in two years, following which he studied law and passed the Massachusetts bar exam.



**John Quincy Adams burial crypt,
First Parish Church, Quincy, Mass.,**



At left: Portrait of Czar Alexander I of Russia in 1809, by Stepan Shchukin.

Below: *The Signing of the Treaty of Ghent, Christmas Eve 1814*, a 1914 oil-on-canvas painting by Sir Amédée Forestier.



At age 26 he was appointed by President Washington as Minister to the Netherlands, where he carefully managed the repayment of Dutch loans made to America during the American Revolution and sent well-regarded official reports to Washington on affairs in Europe in the aftermath of the French Revolution. During his father's presidency he served as Minister to Prussia, and in 1802 he was elected to the United States Senate. Six years later President Madison appointed him the first U.S. Minister to Russia, where he developed a close relationship with Czar Alexander, whom he admired for his willingness to stand up to Napoleon. (Adams was often invited to accompany the czar on his morning walks along the River Neva, while he and his wife Louisa were frequent guests of the czar and czarina.) Adams persuaded the czar to allow American ships to trade in Russian ports, and when Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812, Adams' dispatches home provided Madison with detailed and perceptive accounts of the war. In 1814 Madison appointed Adams to travel from St. Petersburg to Ghent, Belgium to head a delegation to negotiate the peace agreement ending the War of 1812 with Britain. *[After the signing of the treaty Adams traveled to Paris, where he was rejoined by Louisa traveling from Russia, and only weeks later they witnessed Napoleon's triumphant return to the city (and power) after his escape from exile on Elba.]* Madison also offered to appoint Adams to the U.S. Supreme Court, having won approval from the Senate beforehand, but to his astonishment Adams declined.

With the election of President Monroe, Adams would serve eight years as Secretary of State and compile an impressive record of diplomatic accomplishments. At the top of the list stands his role in formulating the Monroe Doctrine, which warned European nations not to meddle in the affairs of the Western Hemisphere. Adams also achieved the transfer of Spanish Florida to the United States in the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819. This treaty also fixed the southwestern boundary of the United States (in present-day Texas) and removed Spanish claims to Oregon Country. Adams also halted Russian claims to Oregon, and arranged with Britain a shared occupancy of that territory. He also negotiated U.S. fishing rights off the Canadian coast, and established the present U.S.-Canadian border from the Great Lakes to the Rockies. And next ... he became president.

John Quincy Adams attended several MCMA events, as had his father before him. He was the featured guest at our 11th Triennial in 1839 at Faneuil Hall, and our annals note that, though he spoke for only a few minutes, Adams spoke with great emotion of the objects of the Association, concluding with the following sentiment: "The union of Art, the pride of human intellect, with Charity, the glory of the human heart."

Honorary members were not part of MCMA at the beginning, but as early as 1801 such a change was discussed. In 1818 a committee recommended that change, and a new clause was added in our by-laws authorizing honorary membership. In 1820 the first five honorary members were named, including former President John Adams. Four years later the Marquis de Lafayette (a friend of John Quincy Adams) became our tenth, and in 1828 President John Quincy Adams, the son of former President John Adams, was made our seventeenth honorary member. We're fortunate that the 1817 change to our by-laws has permitted us to enjoy a special connection, through Honorary Membership in MCMA, with men such as them.

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