

Charitably



Speaking

353 Southern Artery

Quincy, MA 02169

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION

President's Message

We've been busy working on the MCMA website recently and have a web hosting company to help us along the way. Look soon for an updated website with features which should be both friendlier to use and informative. All members will be able to check the website for MCMA information and current goings on.

I sadly need to mention that we've recently lost several members with the passing of Lee Clark, Ed Richards, Wendell Hollett, and Past President Bill Stickney. They will be missed and we appreciate their service to MCMA.

I would also like to send a personal "thanks" to the members who serve on our various committees, without whose time and effort MCMA wouldn't function as well as it does. And the past presidents, Vice President Arthur Anthony, Treasurer Kurt Hanson and Secretary Marty Joyce combine to make my job easy.

In closing I would like to extend a "thank you" to Paul and Jessica Lohnes for their generosity and hospitality in opening their home to us for our July quarterly meeting ... Thank you!

I look forward to our October Quarterly at Montvale Plaza in Stoneham, and hope to see all of you there. Thanks. – **Rich Adams**

Recent Happenings

As mentioned above, our July Quarterly was held on the 16th at the Gloucester home of member Paul Lohnes. The weather was not kind to us, as fog closed off the spectacular ocean views this location offers, but we were spared the heavy rains of the day, and both meeting and meal were enjoyed by all. We treat the July meeting as a casual affair, so members appreciated the opportunity to mix and mingle in great surroundings. The business portion of the meeting included a moment of silence in memory of past president Bill Stickney; a vote, upon the

recommendation of our Membership Committee, to approve the membership application of Mr. Jonathan Fiske; and an explanation by History Committee Chairman Peter Lemonias of an artifact recently donated to MCMA (*more on this later*).

Also this past quarter, our Planning Committee met to review the requests we received for 2014 MCMA Grants, visited all of the schools and organizations under consideration, and re-met to agree upon how best to allocate the funds available. Approximately \$165,000 was approved, and the process of disbursing those funds is now underway. We always appreciate the seriousness and the fairness with which this committee addresses its responsibilities, and we thank them for it.



Helping Others

MAB Community Services (MAB), founded in 1903 as the Massachusetts Association for the Blind, today runs three core divisions that are dedicated to eliminating barriers and creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities, including elders with low vision, adults with developmental disabilities, and adolescents with brain injuries. To meet a growing need for residential and educational support for children with brain injuries, MAB established the **Ivy Street School** in Brookline in 1993, and it is this school that has drawn our attention and support.



Serving up to 35 students, Ivy Street works closely with local school districts and families to assess each prospective student's needs and determine whether the school is an appropriate fit. The school has developed proven, organized systems for treating a wide range of brain-based challenges, and it works closely with each individual to find markers of motivation, confidence, and self-worth that it can nourish. Ivy Street offers a comprehensive program that enables its students to gain the core competencies they need to succeed as teens and adults. It includes, in addition to academics, adaptive physical education, individual and group therapy, restorative therapies (such as physical, speech, and occupational), life skills development, and vocational training. Students benefit from a school climate created by a supportive peer group and staff, as well as from strong educational and clinical programs offering a range of therapeutic supports that address their specific challenges.

Last year MCMA was able, by providing a match to funds from another supporter, to help equip two of Ivy Street's classrooms with SMART Boards and related equipment. These interactive whiteboards, projecting from whatever program is active on the teacher's computer, enable teachers to conduct interactive, visual lessons, accessing information with the click of a mouse or a touch of the screen. Students can use their fingers or a pen to write, draw, and interact with content on the surface of the whiteboard. They can also collaborate to solve problems or work on a task at the same time. Learning to work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and interact with one another are significant goals for these students, many of whom, due of their injuries, have short attention spans and memory problems. The visual, active nature of the SMART Board helps these students stay connected.

This year our Planning Committee has approved the purchase of a convection oven to support the school's culinary arts program, a core feature of Ivy Street's vocational education program. In addition to coaching

basic "soft skills" such as organization, time management, following instructions, and working effectively with others, this program helps students gain the work-readiness skills and hands-on experience they will need in the workplace. Every day, Ivy students are responsible for

continued on next page



cooking a healthy lunch for their peers and staff. They also prepare baked goods to sell at the student-run coffee shop, another element of the vocational education program, and one which acquaints students with all the functions of a small business.

The kids at the Ivy Street School have been dealt a tough hand, and many will receive no further services when they transition out of school. But Ivy Street's team approach and expertise in working with brain injuries, combined with its individualized education plans and an approach that integrates academics with treatment and vocational services, will have helped them gain skills and strategies to successfully manage their disabilities, and put them on a track of increasing independence and self-confidence. At MCMA, we are pleased to be able to support the outstanding work of this deserving organization in whatever ways we can.

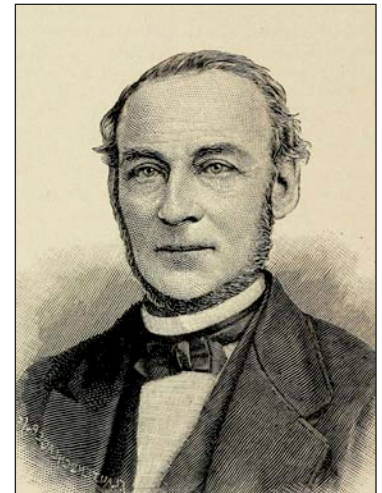
MCMA History

One of our better-known past members, at least to those with an interest in horology, was **Edward Howard**, who was born in Hingham in 1813. *[Full disclosure: We've drawn the following information from multiple, often contradictory sources, but we think we have it right.]* After working for two years in his uncle's iron foundry following the death of his father, Edward journeyed to Boston at age 14 to seek employment. He found it at the clockmaking establishment of **Aaron Willard, Jr.** on Boston Neck. Both he and another young man of the same age, **David P. Davis**, were taken in as apprentices, and they served in that capacity until they reached the age of 21, living in Mr. Willard's home which adjoined the factory. (Willard joined MCMA in 1814, while both Howard and Davis became members in 1850.) During their apprenticeships, the youths worked on all elements of the clocks, including cases and cabinetry as well as movements. And both were impressed that the work could be greatly simplified if machinery could be designed to produce some of the parts.



Both Howard and Davis next went to work for a Mr. Plympton at the Boston establishment of Benjamin Dearborn, making precision scales and balances, before finally combining to go into business themselves in 1842. The company manufactured clocks of all kinds, but they were noted as well for their manufacture of scales and balances, particularly after joining forces with a Mr. Luther Stephenson, whose firm made fine balances. When the U.S. Postmaster General solicited bids to supply 40,000 scales to equip the nation's Post Offices, Howard designed and built five models, traveled to Washington to demonstrate them, and won the contract. By then, the company had been able to mechanize many of their operations, largely through Howard's talent for designing machinery. Other products made by the company included fire engines, bicycles, and sewing machines, but they are today known mainly for their clocks. The Howard & Davis banjo clock mounted on a wall in our Quincy office is a nice example of their work.

continued on next page



By 1850 Howard was approached by Mr. Aaron Dennison, a man with considerable knowledge of watchmaking and repair, who was intrigued with the idea of making watches with interchangeable parts. A separate company was created, initially located in Roxbury, but later in Waltham. Though much experimentation was required, they were able to perfect both design and process, and were able to turn out watches using a unique combination of factory production methods and traditional craft labor. One of the earliest models, engraved "Howard, Davis and Dennison No. 1," became the personal property of Mr. Howard. Davis left the firm in 1857, and the Howard and Davis name was dissolved. There had been a number of names used for the watch company to that time (American Horologe Co., Warren Manufacturing Co., and Boston Watch Co.) and in the coming years there would be reorganizations, new partners, and name changes for both companies (Howard & Rice, E. Howard & Co., Howard Watch and Clock Co. among them), but it is Edward Howard whose name endures.

Howard sold out his interest in the company and retired in 1881, but a series of bad investments eventually left him in straightened circumstances. To assist him, 15 of our members came forward and purchased his watch at a price considerably higher than its actual value at the time, and they in turn gave it to the Association. *[The watch is currently on loan to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.]* Edward Howard died in Dorchester in 1904 at age 90, and sad and impossible as it may seem, our Relief Committee was called upon to assist him in his declining years.

... and MCMA Miscellany

We were able recently to acquire, through the efforts of member Paul Lohnes, a two-part artifact we feel is particularly meaningful to MCMA. It consists of (1) a silver medal awarded at the MCMA Exhibition of 1860 to L.W. Langdon for his invention of an oscillating steam engine, and (2) the actual entry for which the medal was awarded, namely, a model ship equipped with a working model of the steam engine. The Exhibition judges noted that the inventor's object "... has evidently been to produce a compact machine, with as little friction and as few parts as the nature of circumstances would admit. This he has effected in a surprising degree, the arrangement being simple, and the valves relieved from pressure." *[That this praise warranted a silver medal gives some indication as to the very demanding standards needed to merit a gold medal.]* Langdon was not a member of MCMA, but he was at the time associated with the Globe Locomotive Works, as the entry was submitted under Globe's name. (Globe Locomotive Works, you may recall, was the company owned by John Souther, who *was* a member, and it went on to become a leading manufacturer of steam shovels.)

Langdon was awarded a patent for his steam valve, but his real success, and renown, was in sewing machines. Born in 1833 in Jay, Vermont, he had by 1855 patented, and was manufacturing under his own



name, a sewing machine of his own design. Later he developed and patented improvements to his machine, and partnered with others to establish the Florence (Mass.) Sewing Machine Company, which by 1866 employed 350 people and produced 1500 machines per month. He also went on to obtain a patent for a screw-cutting machine, and two for miter boxes. Most miter boxes still follow the basic design developed by Langdon.

Suffering from tuberculosis, Langdon moved to Florida in the hope of improving his condition, but he died of the disease in 1875 at age 42.