



President's Message

I want to express my sincere thanks to all members who responded to our December request and made donations to MCMA. Large or small, every donation helps and is appreciated. While we are particularly grateful to those who have made this an annual event, we were pleased as well to see several "new" donors this year. Also, I'd like to acknowledge a 2011 donation from long-time member David Dalzell, who passed away in late-2010 and thoughtfully remembered MCMA in his will. On another matter, remember that we are always looking for ideas, whether they be interesting speakers or potential "side trips", to make our quarterly meetings more rewarding, so please don't hesitate to pass along any thoughts you may have.

Bill Anderson

Recent Happenings

Our Annual Meeting was held at Spinielli's Restaurant in Lynnfield, where we enjoyed a great meal in pleasant surroundings on a beautiful day. Reports on their 2011 activities were read by representatives of each of our committees, and budget requests were approved by vote of the members present. The members also voted to accept the recommendations of our Nominating Committee and elected: Richard Purdy as Executive Director for one year; John Elander, Kurt Hanson, Michael Lioce, and Joseph Bellomo to the Board of Government for three years; and James Camella and Richard Ryan to the Committee on Relief for one year. President Anderson, noting that he is entering the final year of his presidency, took the occasion to



thank and to express his appreciation to all those members who serve and work on our committees, to Executive Director Richard Purdy for his constant support, and to Past President Martin Joyce for the work he puts into producing our *Charitably Speaking* newsletter.

Helping Others

One of our Planning Committee grants for 2011 was to an organization whose name is familiar to all of us, but whose work is probably misunderstood by most of us. With a history dating back to 1799, **The Home for Little Wanderers** is the oldest child welfare agency in the nation and one of the largest in New England. Though most people still think of it as "an orphanage in Jamaica Plain", The Home in reality provides services to thousands of children and families in



Massachusetts each year, ensuring the healthy development and physical well-being of children and families living in at-risk circumstances. It does so through twenty one programs such as family-focused home-based support, intensive residential treatment, adoption, foster care, independent living programs for former foster youth, and early childhood mental health programs. Among The Home's programs is Longview Farm in Walpole, a residential treatment program that includes a special education school for emotionally and behaviorally challenged children. It serves boys 10-17 years old with serious emotional, behavioral, mental and academic challenges who are unable to function in the community and in the public school system. These boys, many of whom have been abused, require 24-hour awake supervision and are not yet ready for the intimacy of a foster home or their own home.

The school at Longview Farm, which has a capacity for 21 residents plus an additional 31 day students, provides a learning environment that adheres to state and local standards and is appropriate for children with learning disabilities and/or emotional and behavioral challenges.



(Students who come to the school are typically 2-4 years behind their age-appropriate grade levels.) Class sizes are small, and special education offerings such as individualized training, speech and language therapy, and pre-vocational training are included, but to help these students achieve academically teachers must present material in engaging and creative ways. Longview Farm in 2010 received a grant (not from MCMA) to purchase interactive SMART Boards for some of their classrooms, and the results were overwhelmingly positive in

helping teachers better engage their students. Understandably, the school sought to expand the use of these teaching aids, and we were pleased to assist in that effort.

MCMA Past ...

As the man who designed and oversaw the construction of the Bunker Hill Monument, we have mentioned his name in several earlier newsletters, but this time **Solomon Willard** gets our complete attention. *[As always, the names of other MCMA members we mention will be similarly bolded.]* Born June 26, 1783 in Petersham, Massachusetts, the tenth of eleven children, Willard trained as a carpenter with his father, a farmer who worked as a carpenter in the winters. After moving to Boston in 1804, he worked days while studying architecture and drawing in the evenings. The young man became proficient at carving, and was employed to carve architectural details for many buildings in Boston, including in 1810 those on the steeple of Park Street Church. In coming years he would carve a model of the capitol at Washington for Charles Bulfinch, add ship figureheads to his repertoire, and turn to stone carving. (In 1820 he was engaged for the column capitals and other stonework for the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.) By 1821 he had become so successful that he was giving classes in architecture and drawing to others. In fact, he had early on shown a willingness to help others in his profession by combining



in 1809 with **Ithiel Town**, **Samuel Waldron** and two others to found the Boston Architectural Library for the purpose of making technical books available to local housewrights. (**Asher Benjamin's** *American Builder's Companion* was among the books included.) Willard collaborated with **Alexander Parris** on some of Boston's earliest Greek Revival buildings, and he would often work with others (such as his collaboration with Thomas Sumner on Harvard's



Divinity Hall), but examples of Willard's own work can still be seen in Dedham's Norfolk County Courthouse, Quincy's Town Hall, Framingham's First Baptist Church, and Boston's Church of St. John the Evangelist on Bowdoin Street. Willard is also credited with developing the first hot-air furnaces as a means of heating his buildings, locating the wood-burning furnaces in the basement with linkage to outside air and pipes leading to areas to be warmed. *[Willard's furnaces were manufactured for him by blacksmith*

Daniel Safford, who would use Willard's design to install furnaces also in Old South Church and in the U.S. Capitol in Washington.] The furnace technology differed from that of the Franklin stoves and Rumford ranges then in use, and was subsequently widely copied, but Willard never sought to patent it.

We won't repeat details relating to the Bunker Hill Monument covered in previous newsletters, except to note that Willard was appointed Architect and Superintendent for the Monument construction in 1825, and chose a location in Quincy as the source of stone for the monument. The use of the large-sized blocks Willard proposed for the Monument was unknown, and no stone dealers were prepared to quarry them, nor manipulate and transport them. As a result, Willard left his architectural practice in Boston (it was taken over by his former pupil, **Isaiah Rogers**) and moved to Quincy to take charge of the quarrying operation. There, his genius in inventing solutions to the obstacles encountered in quarrying and handling the large blocks would revolutionize the granite industry (just as **Gridley Bryant's** solution to transporting the blocks would spawn the nation's railroad industry). He would remain in the granite business until retiring to his West Quincy farm in his later years. Willard came to be recognized as "The Father of the Granite Industry", and he was very much a part of his community. He helped build a school for the children of quarrymen by donating the land, designing the building, and even doing much of the framing work himself. He never married, but this reserved and humble man was very much a father figure to the residents of the West Quincy village he helped create. Solomon Willard, who joined MCMA in 1825, died in 1861 at age 77.



... and MCMA Present

In an earlier issue we featured our Vice-President Rich Adams, and this time we shine the spotlight on



El Presidente himself, **William L. Anderson**. Born in Boston and raised in Everett, and a graduate of the Everett school system (supplemented in later years by multiple night courses at Wentworth Institute and Northeastern University), Bill initially began work with his father, a painting contractor. He soon, however, decided on a career change and began work with Bond Brothers, an Everett general contractor. There he learned the carpentry trade, serving a 4-year apprenticeship, then working as a journeyman, then foreman, before becoming a construction superintendent. In that capacity he

completed a wide variety of projects, ranging from complex concrete work such as test cells for jet engines at General Electric to four-story commercial buildings. One interesting example was a long, L-shaped seismic vault for MIT built about 20-feet underground, with instrumentation set into solid rock, and used in combination with similar facilities on other continents to detect and pinpoint the location of earthquakes (and underground nuclear blasts) worldwide. Bill later moved into a project manager role, where one of his more challenging projects was the renovation and two story addition to an occupied 8-story Boston building tightly abutted by Mass. Avenue, Newbury Street, the Mass. Turnpike and an electric substation, and housing an MBTA station in its basement. Bill spent his entire career with Bond, which in the construction business is rare, and gives some indication of the high regard in which he was held.



But that's only part of the story. Soon after retirement, Bill got involved in a volunteer role with the police department in Atkinson NH, to which he had relocated several years earlier. In particular, Bill saw a need to coordinate and expand the services provided for elderly residents of the town, and offered to spend some time toward that goal. What began as a two hours/week effort grew rapidly though, as services were added and more residents began to make use of them. Among other services, Bill coordinated (and often himself provided) rides to doctor and hospital appointments, located and obtained medical aids such as canes, walkers and refurbished wheelchairs and chair lifts, and generally assisted seniors in whatever ways he was able. Plus, he conducted seminars to inform residents of services available and to ask what more was needed. By the time Bill "re-retired" after eleven years, his program (the Community Affairs Office) had grown to a 40+ hour/week operation and had been cited (and the Town of Atkinson recognized) by the State of New Hampshire as a model for others to emulate. (The duty is currently shared by five volunteers.)

Bill, who is also active (and a Past-President) in Lions' Club, served on our Planning Committee and our Board of Government before becoming Vice President and now President. He and his wife (of over 50 years) Joan have four children _ **Steven**, Judy, Janet, and Chrissy. The careers of Solomon Willard and Bill Anderson were of course entirely different, but in the larger sense that both were respected builders who began as carpenters, were self-motivated to expand their education, and were appreciated in their communities for their deep commitment to helping others, perhaps there are more similarities between our past and present members than we sometimes think.