



President's Message

For those who were able to attend our July meeting at Forest Hills Cemetery, I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did, and I want to thank Member George Milley and his staff for the effort they put into making the day a success. (The visit also gave me the opportunity to visit the grave of my grandparents.) On a different matter, our Finance Committee and Board of Government met with our financial advisers SSGA in June, and we were disappointed, though probably not surprised, to hear that SSGA's outlook for the next several years is far from rosy. With reduced earnings from our investments a probability, we will need to look at ways to cut expenses and at other potential sources for income. Our BOG is currently working on both, but ideas are always welcome, so please don't hesitate to pass along any you may have.

Bill Anderson

Recent Happenings

We had for some time been attempting to combine a quarterly meeting with a visit to Forest Hills Cemetery, and we were finally able to make it happen for our July Quarterly. The business portion of the meeting was held in the Forsyth Chapel, possibly the most serene setting ever for such a meeting. Member George Milley and Past-President Erling Hanson (respectively the current and previous presidents of the cemetery) welcomed us to Forest Hills, the application of Mr. James Libby for Associate Membership was approved, and President Anderson expressed his appreciation for our June issue of *Charitably Speaking*. We were then treated to a narrated trolley tour of the more historical areas of the cemetery, during which the monuments of a number of past MCMA men were pointed out. We concluded this interesting and very enjoyable meeting with an excellent outdoor lunch-by-the-lake. Also during this quarter, our Planning Committee completed their field visits to investigate this year's grant requests, and met to consider and decide upon those requests. And our Triennial Committee met to continue the planning for our 2013 event. [The event will be held March 2 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in Cambridge.]



Helping Others

An organization that has received past support from MCMA, and has even been highlighted in a previous newsletter, is New England Village, a campus-based residential community serving

adults with intellectual and related disabilities. NEV's residential campus is located in Pembroke, with its vocational facility in Hanson, and MCMA's support has understandably focused on NEV's vocational programs (in particular, their landscaping and jewelry programs). Last year NEV was presented with an opportunity to get into the farming business, which could open up new employment opportunities for their clients, and they asked MCMA to help. Our Planning Committee approved a grant of \$5,300, but NEV subsequently ran into complications with the land and/or lease agreement, and had to shelve its original plan. Fortunately though, NEV was able work out an arrangement with another farm and bring its idea to reality.

NEV signed a 10-year lease to manage the Colchester Neighborhood Farm in Plympton. On this 8-acre, organic-certified farm, produce grown throughout the season is distributed to "shareholders" who sign-up for full or half-sized shares of the produce. As yet, this is a small operation, with only a fraction of the acreage planted, but it appears to be well underway. A farm-stand building is currently being renovated, and NEV plans to get an under-used greenhouse functioning this winter. At present, a "crew" of five to seven clients are transported each day from NEV's Hanson facility to work under the direction of Connie Maribett, who works full-time at and oversees the farm program. *[And it was pretty obvious during our visit to the farm that the clients are happy to take direction from Connie.]*



So far, close to 30 participants with a wide range of abilities and interests have worked on the farm, and many prefer the farm work and outdoor atmosphere to the indoor jobs available at the work center. The workers plant, mulch, weed, harvest and prepare crops for pickup by the shareholders. The farm provides an exciting and fulfilling work experience, and the self esteem gained from completing jobs and earning a paycheck is immeasurable. As the farm-

stand and greenhouse begin functioning, and additional acreage is planted, it is expected that more and varied employment opportunities will come available.

MCMA's grant (per the original request) had been intended for a well, but since that need did not apply at the new location, NEV instead, with our ok, purchased two pieces of towed equipment to help with their planting operations. One is a Manure Spreader, which probably does not require much explanation. The other is a Mulching Bed Layer, which is used after roto-tilling. This machine simultaneously forms a raised planting bed, lays a plastic drip-irrigation pipe, lays down a sheet of black plastic mulch, and secures the mulch along both edges. Both machines have proved to be real time and labor savers, and will facilitate expansion of the planting beds. NEV is off to a good start with this farming venture, and they are very appreciative of the support MCMA has shown for it.



MCMA Past ...

In our previous issue we highlighted the career of (our third president) printer **Benjamin Russell**. As an Original Member of MCMA, Russell was the first printer to sign our membership



book, but many others were to follow, and among them are several that are also deserving of our attention. *[As always, the names of MCMA members are bolded.]* One such man was **Uriel Crocker**, who joined MCMA in 1824. Crocker was born, raised and educated in Marblehead, the son of a hatter. Shortly after his graduation from Marblehead Academy, and just one day following his 15th birthday in 1811, he was brought by his father to Boston and apprenticed to printer **Samuel T. Armstrong**. Although he began as a "printer's devil", basically running errands, he soon learned to set type, and within three months was setting type faster than anyone else in the

shop. (He was in fact able to earn bonus money by setting far in excess of the "norm" of 4000/day, and thereby more than double his *allowance* of \$30/year.) In the sixth year of his seven year apprenticeship, the shop foreman resigned in order to open his own business. Mr. Armstrong, having long-since recognized Uriel's talent and industriousness, took the extraordinary action of asking him to take over as foreman. As this would put him in charge of twenty compositors and pressmen, as well as four more-senior apprentices, Uriel accepted with some reluctance. But he was both respected and liked by his fellow workers, and was able to settle into the position "without any unpleasantness". Within two more years, Armstrong made Uriel and his fellow former-apprentice **Osmyn Brewster** partners in the firm. In 1825, Armstrong reduced his role *[he would later serve as president of MCMA, mayor of Boston and acting governor of the Commonwealth]* and the firm from then on would be known as Crocker & Brewster. Located at what is now 173-175 Washington Street, it was to become one of the most successful publishing houses in Boston, specializing in religious and educational books, until its dissolution in 1876 when it sold all its copyrights, stereotype plates and book stock to H.O.Houghton & Co. *[Houghton would several years later form the Houghton, Mifflin Company.]*

Uriel Crocker married Sarah Kidder Haskell in 1829, and the couple had three children (Uriel Haskell, Sarah Haskell and George Glover). They lived for 32 years on Somerset Street in Boston, until the property was taken by the city for a new courthouse in 1885. Later in his career Crocker became active in the developing railroad industry. He was one of the organizers and a director of the Old Colony Railroad, a long-time director of the Northern (N.H.) Railroad, and at various times a director of the Concord, the Atlantic and Pacific, the South Pacific, and the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroads. *Among* his other interests, he was president of the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, a trustee of Mt. Auburn Cemetery, president of the U.S. Hotel Corporation and president of the Tremont Nail Company. Crocker served as vice president of the Bunker Hill Monument Association, and was treasurer of MCMA from 1833 until 1841 during our fund raising effort to complete construction of the monument. (He was also an acquaintance of the Marquis de Lafayette, and had been present in 1825 when Lafayette laid the cornerstone for the monument.)

Uriel Crocker died at the age of 90 while staying at the home of his son on Jerusalem Road in Cohasset. He was then the oldest member of MCMA. He was buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. At a quarterly meeting of MCMA following the death of this accomplished and respected member, it was *Resolved* that "... his memory will be tenderly cherished as long as our venerable association has a name and position among the institutions of Boston." He is also

remembered in Marblehead, where people continue to enjoy the property formerly called Bartoll's Head that he donated to the town in 1885. It was subsequently re-named Crocker Park, and it offers some of the best views of Marblehead harbor.

The primary source for this article is the *Memorial of Uriel Crocker* published by his family in 1891. The suggestion (and indeed, the outline) for it came from member (and chairman of our History Committee) Peter Lemonias.



... and MCMA Present

The technology has changed some since the days of Crocker & Brewster, but the printing profession is still with us, and printers are thankfully still a part of MCMA. One example is



Russell Johnson, though Russell took a very different path to this profession than did the aforementioned Mr. Crocker. Born in Brockton, Russell was raised in and attended the school system of West Bridgewater. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, retiring twenty years later with a top secret clearance and the rank of Chief Yeoman. During his service, Russell saw duty both aboard ship and ashore, serving in Woods Hole, Boston, Manhattan and Philadelphia among others. It was while serving aboard *USCGC Active*, home-ported in New Castle NH, that Russell and his wife Sheila in

1973 bought a home in Newburyport and (at the same location) started a business offering addressing, mailing, typing and mimeographing services that they named Zip Type Service. Today, following multiple expansions of the original location, plus the addition of a 4500 s.f. facility in nearby Seabrook, they focus primarily on printing (wide-format, offset and digital) and related services, and their customers are mainly contractors and small businesses. (Plus, of course, they print MCMA's annual report.)

Russell and Sheila celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary just last month, and both are still active in the business, as are two of their four children [**Kenneth** (who also is a member of MCMA), Susan, Christine and Katherine]. They have eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Both Russell and Sheila are avid motorcyclists, and have toured widely in the U.S., Canada and Australia. Russell owns two touring Harley-Davidson FLHTCU anniversary editions (a 1993 and a 2008) that he is obviously quite proud of. In addition to MCMA, Russell has been very active in a number of Newburyport charitable organizations, including Rotary (member since 1979 and past-treasurer, past-secretary and past-president), the Swasey Fund (member and past-president), Newburyport Shrine Club (member and past-president) and St. John's Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Russell also designed for Newburyport (fittingly, considering his attachments to both) a commemorative pin (it is sold widely around town) to publicize Newburyport's status as the birthplace of the U.S. Coast Guard. *[The revenue cutter USRC Massachusetts was commissioned there by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton in 1790.]*

