



President's Overview

by John Anderson



Our many volunteers and Board members are proud to present the events and exhibits you can read about in this edition of the newsletter.

We welcomed Charlotte Scuderi and Anne Marie Gallagher to our Board at the Annual Meeting on May 19. Charlotte has been involved in local businesses for many years and we look forward to building support among the business community. Anne Marie has taken on the role of Corresponding Secretary after volunteering for over a year. She came to MHSM through the historical bike tours and her focus on research on Sundays has been a great help. We also said goodbye and thank you to Mike Oliver and Ruth Roper who ended their formal membership on the Board after many years. It was a busy year for programs, exhibits, and conservation of our collection. Kyna Hamill was named volunteer of the year and also delivered the keynote address, "A Year of Reference Sessions at the MHSM." She reviewed a sample of requests and the various modes of research carried out by volunteers.

In the last few months, a number of volunteers have systematically been working to sort, conserve, and document our collections. We find things we didn't know we had and sometimes can't find things we should have, according to the many old handwritten lists and file cards. When we know what we have,

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Society Officers

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Vice President David Fedo

Treasurer unfilled

Recording Secretary Susan Fedo

Corresponding Secretary Anne Marie Gallagher

Director of Collections unfilled

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Hallie Lee Jay Stott

Medford – Then and Now

by John Anderson

As President, I enjoy seeing the many pictures, books, and other artifacts that are part of our collection. But the day to day mechanics and responsibilities of the organization often distract me from being able to fully enjoy the collection.

Last summer and fall, long time member Rick Leary donated a huge quantity of items from his personal collection. Heather and I carefully recorded all donations, so this gave me the opportunity to examine a number of his donated pictures. In a previous newsletter, I shared some of the "tweets" I read from the back of the postcards written so many decades ago.

Rick's donations included many historic Medford postcards. I've been inspired to seek out some of the locations of these photos and record what the site looks like today. Many of the contrasts are startling.

Having looked at so many pictures of Medford Square, I now feel like I've lived here 100 years!

This picture of the town pump was new to me. An article in the *Historical Society Register* of 1920 puts the date of the town pump as 1812. It was placed at the site of a spring used by Native Americans for centuries. According to the article, the pump was removed in the 1870s. It was thought that water from Spot Pond was more sanitary. The view appears to be looking west on High Street with the intersection of Forest Street in the right foreground. With the possible exception of the tall building in the background, all these buildings are long gone.

The next postcard photo was taken from almost the same

Town pump



perspective. The most prominent buildings on the left are "old" City Hall (two stories, Greek revival) and the Odd Fellows/Medford Opera House building (four stories, Romanesque Revival), built in 1886. Judging by the absence of automobiles, the picture is probably circa 1900. Don't be confused by the trolley car. The first trolleys were horse-drawn. Electric trolleys came later.

We enter the age of automobiles in the next photo.

Circa 1900



Circa 1935



continued page 2

Medford - Then and Now *continued*

“Old” City Hall is gone. The owner of the postcard marked “Present P.O.” on the photo. This establishes the date as prior to 1937 when our current Post Office was built. The rounded style of some of the automobiles indicates that the photo is 1935 or later. The square design of autos went out of style about that time. What’s most striking is what happened to the Opera House. The top has been chopped off, including the top of the round tower! There was a fire in 1911, so perhaps this was a less expensive way to repair the building. But just as taste in automobile design changed, so did taste in architecture. The old style represented by the Opera House was probably no longer admired.

We flash forward to today! There’s not much to say.

Now



Then

look at this fragment of another historic postcard you can see that a few (very few) of the original features on the second story remain.

President’s Overview *continued*

we’ll be in a position to preserve objects properly and mount new exhibits.

On page 4, we acknowledge the passing of our Assistant Treasurer, Dan Menezes. He was a lifetime member of the Society, frequently using Facebook to engage fellow citizens in Medford’s history. We will miss him.

We have openings on our Board, and there are other volunteer opportunities as well including: working with our collection, greeting visitors on Sundays, hosting events, writing articles for the newsletter, and researching queries from our members and the general public. We also seek an educational coordinator to liaison with the public schools. Kyna Hamill is our volunteer coordinator and can be reached at kynahamill@gmail.com, or call me at 781-395-5138.

Active members make our work enjoyable and more creative. Please find time to join us whenever you can!

It’s not just the buildings that have changed. Medford has evolved from a country suburb to a much more urban landscape.

Then



Here’s an undated photo, “Forest Street Entrance to Middlesex Fells.” And here’s the view today:

We can be thankful that so much of the Middlesex Fells, only steps away from this intersection, remains for our enjoyment!



Now



Peter Tufts House for Sale

The Board of Trustees of the Medford Historical Society has voted to put the historic Peter Tufts House up for sale. The Tufts House dates back to the 17th century (around 1680), and is purportedly one of the oldest freestanding brick residences in the United States. It is a roomy residence, with 8 rooms and 7 fireplaces, located on Riverside Avenue, and has many distinguishing features. Interested potential buyers should contact the Medford Historical Society and Museum.

The Lydia Maria Child Society at MHSM

by Kyna Hamill

On Friday, May 26, members from the Lydia Maria Child Society joined us at the Medford Historical Society & Museum for a tour and visit. In town for the American Literature Association Conference in Boston, members gather only once a year for paper sessions focusing on the legacy of Child and her contributions to abolitionism and social justice. The LMC Society was founded in 2015 by a group of scholars interested in continuing research on Child's many literary accomplishments. Of special interest was the one-of-a-kind flower book including flower pressings, poetry, and reminiscences made by Child over many years (for more on this book see the Fall 2015 *MHSM Newsletter*). Researchers were not aware of this important artifact, and they look forward to spending more time with it at a later date. Members of the LMC Society gave papers on Saturday, May 27 on a Social Justice Pedagogy Roundtable as well other papers focusing on Child's letters on the slaves of Mammoth Cave and her many portraits. We can look forward to the Lydia



Pictured here (l to r) are Emma Newcombe, Sarah Oliver, Tracey-Lynn Daniels-Lerberg, and Sandra Burr who were led by MHSM's Kyna Hamill (not pictured) to learn about the artifacts and research materials housed in the MHSM collections.

Maria Child exhibit at MHSM in the summer of 2018 and the LMC Society will convene again in May 2019. For more information on the Lydia Maria Child Society go to: <https://lydiamariachildsociety.wordpress.com>.

The Curmudgeonly Paul Theroux

by David Fedo

Medford native Paul Theroux, the prolific novelist and writer of non-fiction (including numerous travel volumes), has published two recent books. The newest, which came out this year, is called *Mother Land*, and is billed as a novel, but is in fact, according to many, a barely fictionalized account of Theroux's mother and his siblings. The other book, published two years earlier in 2015, is called *Deep South: Four Seasons on Back Roads*; it's a travelogue of Mr. Theroux's journey through "the back roads of southern U.S. states," which include North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Arkansas. The conclusion is hardly surprising: "Segregation still thrives in the old Confederate states," opines Mr. Theroux, and his book seems to prove the point. It's an interesting read.

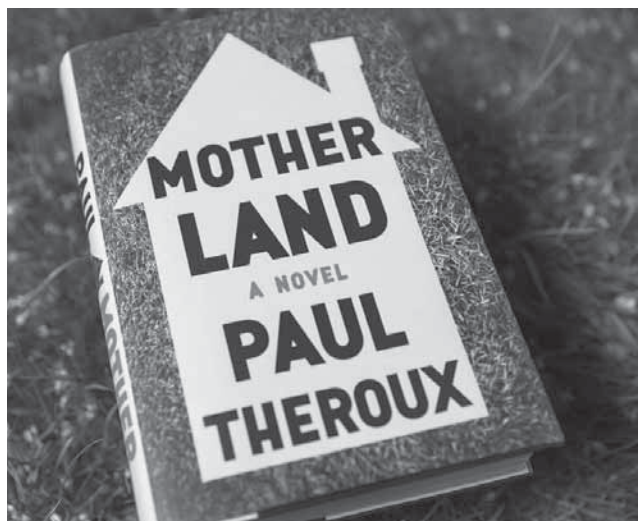
But it's *Mother Land* which shows Mr. Theroux at his most trenchant. Stephen King's headline for his *New York Times* review of May 9, 2017, makes the point clear, calling the book "Paul Theroux's Portrait of a Truly Horrible Mother." King continues:

...by the time I'd read the first 100 pages I began to suspect that what I was reading was not so much a novel as a kind of masked autobiography. Accordingly, I went to the internet to check for similarities.

Jay Justus is a writer primarily known for his travel books. So is Theroux. Jay has been twice married and divorced. Theroux is divorced and remarried. Both come from large and rancorous families, both were Boy Scouts, both had salesman fathers, both had mothers who lived past 100 years of age,

both were raised in Massachusetts, from which they often leave but invariably return. And, I discovered, this is hardly the first time Theroux has strip-mined his family, not to mention some of his own previously published material. Hardly a new thing in the world of letters, but one rarely comes across such parallels coupled with such a savage appraisal.

Stephen King may be overly harsh, but he does make a case about Mr. Theroux, who can be edgy. Personally, I have admired Theroux's travel books more than his fiction, which is sometimes overwrought. *The Old Patagonian Express*, for example, Theroux's junket mostly by train from Medford and Boston to Argentina, is a restrained and nicely crafted work. It's one of his earliest books, but is well worth seeking out.



R.I.P. Daniel J. Menezes



The community of Medford, as well as the Board members and “regulars” of the Medford Historical Society and Museum (MHSM), have mourned the June 27 passing of Daniel J. Menezes, whose presence on the Board will be greatly missed. Dan, with his love for Medford’s history, joined the Board in recent years, and immediately turned his energies to fundraising for the MHSM. His official Board title was assistant treasurer for recruiting. Dan had been gravely ill for some time, and was only 66 years old when he died.

Although he lived in Wilmington, Dan was a popular and respected figure in Medford. He was born in Medford (his parents were Arthur Menezes and Rita LaFreniere Menezes), and after graduating from both Medford High School and Bunker Hill Community College, he later served in the U.S. Army during the period of the Vietnam War. For many years he ran his business, Array Company, on Locust Street; according to Dello Russo Funeral Services, the company designed and provided video and electronic security surveillance systems.

Dan was the beloved husband of Mary E. Hickey Menezes and was the devoted father to Daniel J. Menezes II of Woburn and John J. Menezes of Lowell. His many siblings were Susan Staffier, Michael, Thomas, William, Patrick, Caitlyn, Christine Renna, Andrew, Julie Neil, Mary Stavro, and the late Jackie Menezes. He also leaves one grandchild, Caitlyn, and numerous nieces and nephews. The funeral was held at Dello Russo Funeral Services. Burial was at the Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford.

Those who knew Dan, including Board members of the MHSM, remember him as an optimistic “can do” person, whose energy was helpful in all outreach initiatives, including raising the awareness of the organization through fundraising. His wit, spirit, and good nature made him a great colleague and friend.



Award recipients: MHSM-Allison Andrews (far left), John Anderson (center), Grace Church-Jonathan Hunt (2nd from left), Wes Foote (far right), M-BELT-Doug Carr (3rd from left), RH&SQ-Tom Lincoln (3rd from right), VSA/NE-Ed Gordon (2nd from right)

MHSM Receives Victorian Society in America Award

by Allison Andrews

The Victorian Society of America, New England Chapter, highlighted Medford for its 2017 Preservation Award by recognizing four local history organizations: Grace Episcopal Church, The Medford Historical Society & Museum, Medford-Brooks Estate (M-BELT), and the Royall House and Slave Quarters. A reception and awards ceremony were held on June 20th at Grace Church.

The Victorian Society is a national organization committed to the historic preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage. The local chapter is headquartered at the Gibson House Museum on Beacon Street in Boston.

Most years, the award is given in recognition of one restoration project. Grace Church qualified in this respect with recent extensive repairs to the H.H. Richardson building, but the VSA expanded the scope this time to recognize the collective efforts of all four groups in preserving and promoting Medford’s unique history. Previous awards have recognized a wide variety of places, projects, and people across New England.

MHSM thanks the Board of the VSA, New England Chapter, for this honor, especially Peggy Clarke for the nomination and for arranging the this event, and author Anthony Sammarco who presented the award to John Anderson, with enthusiastic words of recognition for MHSM’s efforts.

Awards to Top Three Student Writers of Civil War Essays

After careful deliberations, the Medford Historical Society and Museum has selected the following students from the St. Joseph School as the three recipients of the John Lonergan Civil War Essays awards. They are **First Place:** Kieran Paar, **Second Place:** Briana Fountain, **Third Place:** Juliana Christian



Dr. Eugene F. Fama

by David Fedo

Medford's Nobel Prize Winner. Among the many luminaries in Medford's diverse and storied history—Lydia Maria Child, Samuel Crocker Lawrence, Fannie Farmer, Amelia Earhart, Bill Monbouquette, John Michael Bloomberg, and Paul Theroux, to name only a very few—the name of Dr. Eugene F. Fama, the recipient in 2017 of the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, must now be added to the list.

Dr. Fama, who was born in Somerville but grew up in a two-flat building in Medford, was one of three economists from the U.S. to be so honored last year. Long before winning the Nobel Prize, Dr. Fama was, according to Nicholas Iovino in the *Medford Transcript*, “a Medford kid who played sports at Malden Catholic High School.” He was a versatile athlete—although he only stood 5 feet, 8 inches, he excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track and field, and was eventually inducted into Malden Catholic's Athletic Hall of Fame. He recalled he went to Tufts University “with the intent of continuing my athletic career,” and hoped to become a language teacher and athletic coach. That never happened. But we're getting a bit ahead of the story.

The Beginnings. According to his online autobiographical sketch, Dr. Fama was the grandson of immigrants who arrived in the United States from Sicily. He attended a Medford grammar school called St. James, with 60 children in each class coming from working class families. Following his years at Malden Catholic, and bolstered by his excellent record as both a student and an athlete, he enrolled at Tufts University; he was the first in his family ever to attend a university. As he reports, at Tufts he was a dutiful student, but became bored with languages, and started taking economics courses in his junior year; this was, he writes, “the beginning of my intellectual life.” He continues: “I seemed to be good at economics, and in my last year at Tufts, my professors encouraged me to consider graduate school.” Dr. Fama was accepted everywhere, but ended up choosing the prestigious University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, now known as the Booth Business School at the University of Chicago. There he earned both his MBA and doctorate, and has spent his lengthy and productive career as a Professor of Finance, now honored as the Robert R. McCormack Distinguished Service Professor of Finance.

Dr. Fama's Achievements. The author of two books on Finance and more than 100 articles in academic journals, Dr. Fama is often acknowledged as “the father of modern Finance.” Medford's Rich Carle, who had been an acquisitions editor in the college textbook business and had tried unsuccessfully to persuade Dr. Fama to write a basic undergraduate textbook, says that “he was head and shoulders the most intelligent person I personally ever talked to.”

Dr. Fama's groundbreaking work, according to Mr. Iovino, was a kind of accident. “The Medford native first developed his theory that markets cannot be predicted in the short term after setting out to prove the exact opposite, a theory first proposed by his economics professor at Tufts, Harry Ernst”. Iovino quotes Tom O'Brien, the retired Dean of the UMass Amherst Isenberg School of Management and a classmate with Dr. Fama at Tufts, by stating that “Gene basically debunked his professor's theory and then came up with the idea that stock market movements are really a random walk.” As Dr. Fama himself explains it, “The original idea was that properly anticipates prices would follow random walks. . . . The simple notion is that if prices reflect all available information, changes must be random (unpredictable), due to the (by definition) unpredictable arrival of new information.” This theory of efficient markets, Dr. Fama elaborates, was first delineated in his 1970 scholarly paper on the subject, as follows: “Though the concept of an efficient market is straightforward (prices fully reflect all available information) the proposition must be jointly tested with some model of market equilibrium, that is, a story about how expected returns relate to risk. Put differently, one can't test whether prices reflect available information without assuming something about what the market is trying to do in setting prices.”

Dr. Fama's labors have won for him widespread honors and recognition well beyond the Nobel Prize. To cite only a few, he is the recipient of three major prizes in Finance: the Deutsche Bank Prize in Financial Economics (2005), the Morgan Stanley American Finance Association Award for Excellence in Finance (2007), and the Onassis Prize in Finance (2009). He has received honorary degrees from an assortment of institutions: the University of Rochester, DePaul University, and the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, as well as from his alma mater, Tufts University.

As complex as finance may be to laypersons, Dr. Fama says the secret of his work is to “keep it simple and accessible to the broadest possible audience.” He also appears to live a full life outside of academia: he is the father of four children, has ten grandchildren, and reports that he is “an avid windsurfer and golfer, an opera buff, and a faded tennis player.”

A Final Point. Interestingly, Medford history buffs will recall that Chicago and Medford are linked forever through the vision of the Brooks brothers, Peter Char-don III and Shepherd I, who financed the building of a number of late-19th century skyscrapers in Chicago. Several of these structures still survive.

Amelia Earhart



Many folks in Medford know that the famous aviatrix Amelia Earhart lived for several years with her mother and sister in West Medford, but some may not

know that Ms. Earhart and her mysterious disappearance during a 1937 flight continue to make news as recently as this past summer.

In 2009, the film *Amelia* was released; the film starred Hilary Swank as Ms. Earhart and Richard Gere as her husband, George Putnam, but it was poorly received. Eight years later, just this past July, a somewhat blurred photograph resurfaced on TV's History Channel; it purportedly shows Ms. Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, under apparent guard by the Japanese on a dock in the Marshall Islands. What is said to be her severely battered Lockheed air[plane] can be seen on a barge in the photo which was discovered in the U.S. National Archives.

As the world knows, the spectacular attempt by Ms. Earhart and Mr. Noonan to circumnavigate the globe in July of 1937 had failed. Despite numerous searches and much speculation, their true fate had remained unknown. But the History Channel now claims that "Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, were rescued by the Japanese after crash landing in the Marshall Islands and then taken to a Japanese prison where they died in captivity." One U.S. expert on the History Channel surmised that Ms. Earhart "may very well be the first casualty of World War II."

To be truthful, I found the grainy photograph displayed on the program and online to be unconvincing. And the *Daily Beast* and other media debunked the conclusion resulting from the photograph. One critical online posting screamed, "Amelia Earhart Captured and Killed? New Evidence Debunks History Channel's Crazy Theory."

Ms. Earhart, who in 1932 became a celebrity after becoming the first woman to fly a plane solo across the Atlantic Ocean, was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and numerous other honors.

A native of Kansas, Amelia moved in 1924 to a shingled house at 76 Brooks Street with her sister and mother, who had just gone through a divorce. Amelia worked at times as a social worker. They lived there for several years. Her younger sister, Grace Muriel Earhart, continued to live in Medford, and died in 1998 at the age of 99.

The Earhart house was owned for many years by Jim and Betty Owens, who served as "unofficial stewards of keeping Amelia's spirit alive."

Events

Sunday, September 10

***Through the Lens of World War I: Stories from Our Medford Community, a Walking Tour at Oak Grove Cemetery, with Medford Historian, Dee Morris**

2:00 PM - Meet at the main entrance near the Cemetery Office.

This WWI era walking tour will focus on the "Supreme Sacrifice" which is sculptor Emilius Ciampa's bronze Doughboy, homage to the fallen heroes of that conflict, his arms extended protectively over the resting place of many Medford veterans. Other stops include the gravesite of Ciampa, a WWI soldier himself, and the monuments of resourceful citizens coping with life on the home front.

Wednesday, September 20

Medicine, Mourning and Memory, and the Legacy of the Great War, with Dan LeClerc

7:00 PM at the Medford Public Library

The development of weapons of mass destruction caused a whole new kind of damage to the minds and bodies of combatants and had a very deep impact on the emotional life of families; it destroyed towns and patterns of mourning and remembrance for years to come. The concept of "Total War" came out of that period and still haunts us today. We will look at the medical challenges, the psychological damage faced by the survivors, and the patterns of remembrance which are still in place as we commemorate the 100th Anniversary of that tragic war.

Thursday, October 12

A Sculptor with Ties to History: Emilius Ciampa (1896 - 1996), lecture presented by Dee Morris

7:00 PM at the Medford Public Library

In 1906 young Emilius Ciampa plunged into his new life in America. His spontaneous drawings intrigued his North End teachers, leading him to years of formal study. As a young sculptor with a unique brand, the unstoppable Emilius served in the Army during WW I as a camouflage artist. He then applied for citizenship before settling in Medford where he loved creating civic art. Ciampa tirelessly connected our city with its heroes such as the famous aviators Godfrey Chevalier and Amelia Earhart. At the heart of his mission was his admiration for the American spirit.

Sunday, October 1, 2017

***Upcoming MHSM Exhibit: The Twentieth Century is History, from MHSM's Collection**

Sundays, 12:00 - 4:00 PM at MHSM

This new exhibit celebrating twentieth-century memorabilia from the MHSM's collection begins on October 1, with a focus on commerce when Medford



moved out of the era of bricks, rum, and shipbuilding. Do you remember Ginny Dolls, Volpe's Fruit, Midget Car Racing, and the Bal-A-Roue Roller Rink? These businesses represent a sampling of exhibit features, connecting our past to our present. The exhibit will be on-going in the Museum offerings.

Exhibit Opening Reception:

Sunday, October 15, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, at MHSM

Join us for refreshments and special presentations by members of our community. Each will share early memories of Medford with a focus on business and city services. We welcome your reminiscences as well. Presentations will begin at 2:30 PM. Special thanks to the Medford Chamber of Commerce for their assistance with this opening.

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Lining Up the Twentieth Century: A Poetry Reading

7:00 PM at MHSM

This reading will explore poems that capture the great and tragic moments of the twentieth century. Invited speakers will offer poems that connect or converse with our exhibit of twentieth-century objects, in the exhibit space. MHSM is proud to offer the poetry reading as part of the month-long *Arts Across Medford* program series, sponsored by Medford CACHE. www.cacheinmedford.org.

Sunday, October 22

***Lecture: Conquest, Conversion, and Resistance in Colonial Peru: The Archaeology of an Early Church and Town, 1578 - 1750 by Jeffrey Quilter, Director, Peabody Museum**

2:00 PM at Grace Episcopal Church

Dr. Jeffrey Quilter is the Director of Harvard's Peabody Museum and a member of the Grace Episcopal Church Vestry. He has focused his lifetime of archaeological research on the prehistoric and Early Colonial cultures of the New World, especially in Peru and Costa Rica. His recent work is the archaeological and historical investigation of a 16th-18th century town and church complex on the North Coast of Peru. His lecture will discuss the larger social and political world of Early Colonial Peru and the detailed view of the daily lives of the people of this community, Magdalena de Cao, Viejo, as revealed by the collaborative efforts of a multi-national investigative team. Please join us for this fascinating presentation and discussion.

Wednesday, November 8

Panel Presentation: High School Pigskin Rivalry: Medford and Malden Battle It Out in the Historic 130th Game

6:30 PM at the Medford Public Library

This is about a storied high school football rivalry in Massachusetts, which this year celebrates the 130th battle between the Medford Mustangs and the Malden Golden Tornados. On November 8, the coaches (Jason Nascimento from Medford and Bill Manchester from Malden), along with players and alumni from



both teams, will explain why this game is the most important one of the season—for the players, the coaches, the alumni and fans. Christopher Hurley, sports editor for the *Medford Transcript*, and David Fedo, Vice President of the Medford Historical Society & Museum, will co-lead the panel. Malden currently leads the series by 64-55-10, but both teams will be keyed up and rarin' to go. Come to hear the pre-game strategies, as both sides in the competition discuss the historical tradition which has made this athletic contest so special.

Friday, December 8

MHSM Annual Holiday Party

7:00 PM at MHSM

Speaker: Kyna Hamill, a long-time MHSM member and faculty member at Boston University, has recently published an article on her extensive research into the first performances of "One Horse Open Sleigh" in the mid nineteenth-century blackface minstrel halls of Boston. Learn more about James Pierpont, the man who wrote "Jingle Bells," and his connections to Medford, Savannah, and nineteenth-century music. Holiday refreshments and good conversation follow. MHSM members, guests and those interested in MHSM are all welcome.

A note on sponsorship. The WWI Program Series which started in June, 2017, has been co-sponsored by MHSM with the Library, and MAC. The Jeffrey Quilter lecture is co-sponsored with Grace Church.

January/February, 2018

Keep your eye out in the *Medford Transcript*, on Facebook, on our website www.medfordhistorical.org, and other Medford social media sites for announcements about winter MHSM programs. Yes, we are working on speakers for 2018 and another version of the very enjoyable Happy Hour History gathering!

Changes in this schedule will be posted on www.medfordhistorical.com.

*Thank You! The WWI programs and the 20th Century Exhibit are supported in part by grants from the Medford Arts Council (MAC), a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.



Autumn scene at the Brooks Estate Farm as seen probably from near the railroad bridge along Grove Street in an area that is now part of Oak Grove Cemetery.



Your Medford Historical Society Newsletter

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