

# Sandy Bank Sentinel

2nd Series, Vol I, Issue 2

The Journal of the Malden Historical Society

Spring, 2017

## President's Message

Dear Friends:

Once again, a successful antique show is behind us and we are looking forward to a strong spring season of programming. This spring, the Historical Society has partnered with Freedom's Way Heritage Association to bring you three exciting programs. What is Freedom's Way? It is a national heritage area created by act of Congress and Malden is included in it, along with 45 other communities.

We have been one of 10 historical societies to participate in its Paths of the Patriots project where we studied Malden's response to the Stamp Act. The result is on our website under: news.

This spring, with Freedom's Way, we bring you a talk by noted historian Richard Brown on the 1813 trial of Maldonians Livermore and Angier. In May, a premiere of *Malden's Road to Revolution*, which uses words of six Malden residents to tell the story of the revolution. As part of its Hidden Treasures program we will offer art & architecture tours of the Converse Memorial Building. Details are in this newsletter.

John Parcellin, President

## MURDER AT SPOT POND? MALDEN NAILWORKERS STAND TRIAL FOR MURDERING AN INDIAN: EQUAL RIGHTS DURING THE WAR OF 1812

Mark your calendars now for April 4th for a special program you won't want to miss! On **Tuesday, April 4th at 7pm** in the Ryder Gallery of the Malden Public Library the Historical Society and Freedom's Way Heritage Association will present distinguished historian Richard D. Brown who will speak on *Malden Nailworkers Stand Trial for Murdering an Indian: Equal Rights During the War of 1812*. In 1813 two Maldo-



Richard D. Brown

nians, Samuel Angier and Alpheus Livermore set out from Odiorne's nail mill on Mountain Avenue for Spot Pond. Guns loaded with nails, they intended to "rout" some Indians camped on its shores. Nicholas John Crevay, an Indian, was murdered and his wife was seriously injured. Would the courts of the Commonwealth do justice to a murdered Indian?

Find out April 4th.

Richard D. Brown is the Board of Trustees distinguished professor of history, *emeritus*, at the University of Connecticut. He has written on the Malden nailworkers' trial for the *New England Quarterly*. He is a 1961 graduate of Oberlin College who attended Harvard on a Woodrow Wilson scholarship, earning his Ph.D. in 1966. Before coming to the University of Connecticut in 1971, he taught as a Fulbright lecturer in France

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# Malden's Early Naturalists

By Frank F. Russell

As spring approaches and we begin to think of the outdoors it may be appropriate to recall some of Malden's early naturalists.

The Middlesex Scientific Field Club ("MSFC") was organized in Malden in 1878. In 1881 it changed its name to the Middlesex Institute. The first president of the MSFC was Henry L. Moody who was also the first librarian of the Malden Public Library. One of the earliest members of the Middlesex Institute was George Putnam Huntington (1844-1904). An 1864 graduate of Harvard College, Huntington was the first rector of St. Paul's Church and an amateur botanist. He served as vice-president of the MSFC/Institute from 1878 to 1883. Some botanical specimens collected by Huntington are in the University of North Carolina herbarium. Others from Malden involved with the MSFC were Sylvester Baxter and Frank Shipley Collins.

Baxter (1850-1927) was a peripatetic writer, critic, poet, and environmentalist. It was Baxter who pushed for the creation of a Metropolitan Park System and the preservation of the Middlesex Fells. Indeed, "Middlesex Fells" as a name for the natural area north of Malden dates to an 1879 article by Sylvester Baxter in a Boston newspaper. The name was recommended by the MSFC to the Appalachian Mountain Club. *Appalachia*, v. 2 no. 2 (July, 1880, pp 198-9).

Collins (1848-1920) was a Malden native and high school graduate. He did not attend college. An amateur phycologist and botanist, he was employed as an accountant by the Boston Rubber Shoe Company. He is famous for his studies of North American algae. He published over 100 papers and several books, *The Green Algae of North America* being his penultimate work. Collins served as longtime secretary of the MSFC and Institute. Since 1996, the Northeast Algal Society has given an annual Frank Shipley Collins award. One family (Collinsiellaceae) and three genera perpetuate his name as well.

Through 1880, the MSFC published lists of plants growing in Malden and Medford in the *Malden Mirror*. In 1881, under its new name of the Middlesex Institute, it published *A List of Plants Growing Without Cultivation in Malden and Medford, Mass.*

The *American Naturalist* reported on the doings of the Middlesex Institute in its October, 1881, issue. On June 17, 1881, the Institute held its annual outing at Bear Hill in Stoneham with a, "large number of guests." On June 22, 1881, the Institute held an exhibition of native plants from Malden and Medford in something called "Institute Hall". Later that summer it sponsored an exhibition of native ferns.

When Elisha Converse planned the Converse Memorial Building, space was originally included for the Middlesex Institute, perhaps due to the influence of Moody. By 1888 the Middlesex Institute published a *Flora of Middlesex County*. The Institute appears to have disappeared by century's end.



Frank Shipley Collins



Sylvester Baxter



George Putnam Huntington

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and at Oberlin College. His research and teaching interests have been in the political, social, and cultural history of early America. A past president of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic and the New England Historical Association, Dr. Brown has held fellowships from, among others, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is most recently the author of *Self-Evident Truths: Contesting Equal Rights from the Revolution to the Civil War* (Yale University Press, 2017). He is also the author of *Knowledge is Power: The Diffusion of Information in Early America, 1700-1865* and *The Strength of a People: The Idea of an Informed Citizenry in America, 1650-1870*. With Irene Quenzler Brown he is the co-author of *The Hanging of Ephraim Wheeler: A Story of Rape, Incest, and Justice in Early America*.

After his talk, Dr. Brown will be available to sign copies of his new book, available for \$35 (a discount from the publisher's price); a portion of the proceeds of the book sales will benefit the Historical Society. We will also have an exhibit of broadsides and pamphlets related to the trial which you can view after the talk, as well as copies of the "declaration" of Livermore and the "confession" of Angier, both written while they were in Concord prison. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book, please be aware we can only accept cash or checks at this time. This promises to be an interesting and important talk; please try to attend. A collation will follow the program and book signing.

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Malden Historical Society

36 Salem Street

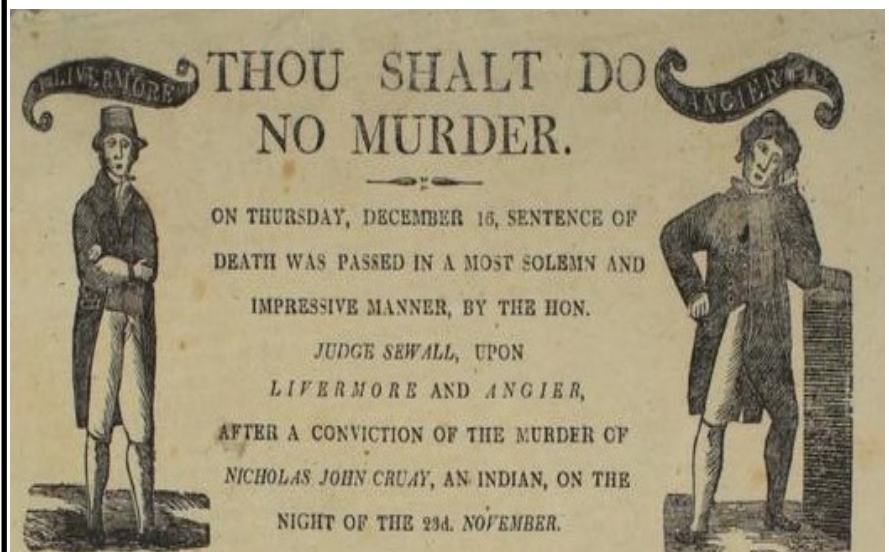
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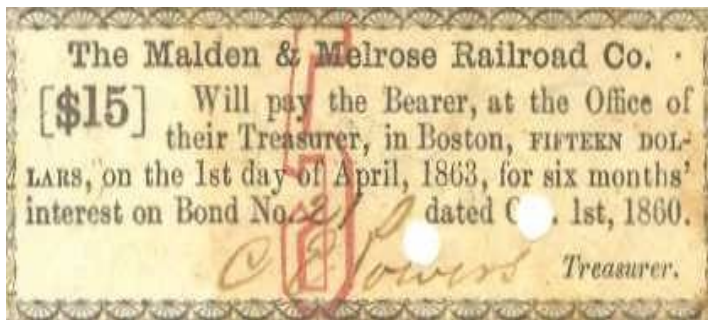
A portion of a broadside from the trial of Livermore and Angier (1813), courtesy American Antiquarian Society. You will be able to see copies of these broadsides after Dr. Brown's talk.



# The Malden and Melrose Railroad Company

*By Malden Historical Society*

The dawn of the horse railroad caused many small railroads to spring up in greater Boston. One of these was the Malden and Melrose Railroad Co. incorporated by men from Malden and Melrose in 1856. The incorporators were Daniel P. Wise, George W. Wilson, Daniel W. Gooch, Daniel Perkins, and John Shelton.. The railroad



Bond coupon of the Malden & Melrose Railroad Co. (1860) courtesy Celebrate Boston

at the time, Everett remained part of Malden known as South Malden. The Malden Bridge is the bridge over the Mystic River by the Edison plant. According to Beers's 1875 map of Malden there was a horse car barn on Pleasant Street in Malden Centre and tracks had been laid from the barn down Pleasant Street to Main Street southerly towards Charlestown.

That the venture was successful appears apparent as in 1861 the Somerville Horse Railroad gave the Malden & Melrose exclusive right to operate on its tracks for 50 years. Further in March, 1862 the Malden & Melrose assigned all its rights and interest in its railroad to the Middlesex Railroad Company. Thereafter the Malden & Melrose remained an entity, but only on paper; the Middlesex



Metal sign, Malden & Melrose Railroad Co. (c. 1860) Image retrieved from eBay 2/10/17.

was authorized to lay tracks over the streets in Malden and Melrose as permitted by the respective boards of selectmen. Further, the railroad was authorized to lay tracks from Malden over the Malden Bridge and into Charlestown where it would intersect with the Middlesex Railroad Co. Keep in mind Everett was not mentioned as,

Railroad operated it, until the Middlesex was absorbed into the West End Street Railway in 1887.

A schedule published in Greenough's 1882 Malden Directory shows the frequency of the horse cars between Malden and Boston. There it was reported that

horse cars leave Malden for Everett and Boston every twenty minutes from 5:50 am to 6:50 pm. Thereafter they ran every half-hour until 9:50 pm. Travelers wishing to return to Malden could find horse cars leaving Scollay Square, Boston, bound for Malden every twenty minutes from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm and thereafter every half-hour until 11:00 pm. The line had separate Sunday hours. The fare was eight cents! In 1886 the Middlesex consolidated with the Highland Street Railway and became known as the Consolidated. The last horse car in Malden ran in 1894.



Stock certificate of Malden & Melrose Railroad Co. (1858)

(private collection)

# ***MALDEN'S ROAD TO REVOLUTION***

## **PREMIERES AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING, MAY 2nd.**

The Malden Historical Society, in conjunction with Freedom's Way Heritage Association will premiere a special dramatic presentation entitled *Malden's Road to Revolution* at our **130th Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 2 at 7 pm in the Ryder Gallery of the Malden Public Library.** This multi-media program draws on historic newspaper, court, church, town meeting, and other primary sources to recapture the words and actions of Malden's citizens as they came to embrace and prepare for revolution. Malden's dramatic story is brought to life in a script featuring six actual historical characters from Malden's revolutionary past: 18-year old Rev. Peter Thacher, Charles Hill (the keeper of Hill's Tavern in Malden Centre), Peter Green (the slave of Darius and Bernard Green) Rebecca Dexter (the daughter of Capt. John Dexter), Capt. Ebenezer Harnden (a veteran and Malden's representative) and Elizabeth Waite. Together they reveal the varied views and voices of

everyday folks—farmers, widows, merchants, slaves, and youth—in the growing struggle to define and defend their rights and liberties.

Marilyn Glover and Frank Russell have worked with Freedom's Way historian Mary Fuhrer to research and recover this story. Fuhrer prepared the script based upon the research. Freedom's Way is engaged in an ongoing *Paths of the Patriots* outreach program to help towns develop their unique revolutionary story and to present those stories in ways that enrich public programs, exhibitions, school curricula and media resources. The Malden Historical Society was one of a few societies selected to participate in the project.

There will be a brief business meeting before the program and the annual election of officers and directors for the Historical Society. A collation will follow the program.

## **ART & ARCHITECTURE TOURS OF THE CONVERSE MEMORIAL BUILDING.**

The magnificent Converse Memorial Building of the Malden Public Library will be the focus of art and architecture tours of the building hosted by the Historical Society in conjunction with the Public Library on **Saturday, May 20th.** The tours are Malden's contribution to the Freedom's Way Heritage Association's annual Hidden Treasures program. The tours will begin at **11 am and at 2 pm** and will last approximately one hour.

The Converse Memorial Building was erected in 1885 by Elisha and Mary Diana Converse as a memorial to their son, Frank Eugene, who was slain in December, 1863, at his post at the First National Bank of Malden in what was the first bank robbery murder. The building was designed in the Romanesque manner by noted architect Henry Hobson Richardson on a site selected by Frederick Law Olmsted.

**Sandy Bank Sentinel**

MALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

36 Salem Street

Malden, MA 02148

**Special Meeting**

**RICHARD D. BROWN**

*Malden Nailworkers Stand  
Trial: Equal Rights During  
the War of 1812.*

**Tuesday, April 4th**

**7pm, Ryder Gallery**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

**Special Meeting**

Richard D. Brown, distinguished professor of history, UConn

*Malden Nailworkers Stand Trial for Murdering an Indian:  
Equal Rights During the War of 1812*

7:00 pm, Ryder Gallery, Malden Public Library

**Tuesday, May 2, 2017**

**130th Annual Meeting**

*Premiere—Malden's Road to Revolution*  
7:00 pm, Ryder Gallery, Malden Public Library

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

Art & Architecture Tours of Converse Memorial Building  
11:00 am and 2:00 pm