

Sandy Bank Sentinel

2nd Series, Vol I, Issue 3

The Journal of the Malden Historical Society

Summer, 2017

President's Message

Dear Friends:

I hope you are enjoying air conditioning, either natural or artificial. Its been difficult to string a few thoughts together during this heatwave but I will try.

In October we will start our new season with a number of activities confirmed and being set up. The October meeting will present maps of Malden from earliest to the present. In November the Society will meet jointly with the Medford Historical Society to "discuss" the Malden-Medford Thanksgiving rivalry (Go, Malden!). We will participate in the holiday party in December with the Friends of the Library and the Victorian Society. Show and tell and the Annual Meeting will round out our events.

The Society on its own or with the Library will be presenting a number of exhibits during the year. The Society's Asian artifacts will be exhibited and an exhibit on Russian Icons is planned.

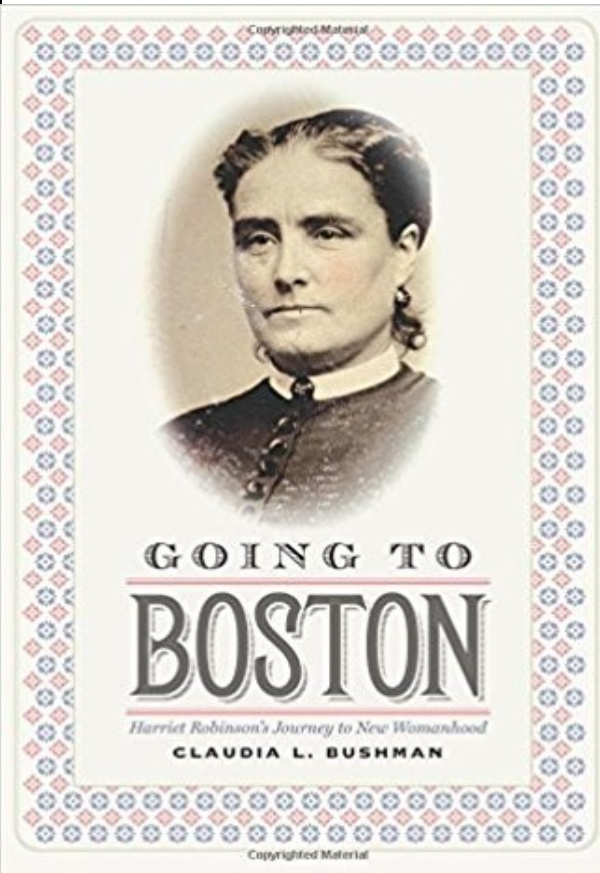
Besides what the public sees, there is a lot going on behind the scenes. Our main functions are to preserve Malden's history and to educate people on the ongoing history of Malden. *go to page 2*

MALDEN'S REFORMER: HARRIET HANSON ROBINSON SUBJECT AT OCTOBER MEETING

On Tuesday, October 10th at 7 pm the Historical Society will begin its season by welcoming Professor Claudia L. Bushman who will speak about Malden suffragist and reformer Harriet Hanson Robinson. Dr. Bushman is the author of a just published book on Robinson's transformative year of 1870:

Going to Boston: Harriet Robinson's Journey to New Womanhood (University Press of New England, 2017). An expert on Robinson, Dr. Bushman previously authored a highly readable biography of her: *A Good Poor Man's Wife: Being a Chronicle of Harriet Hanson Robinson and Her Family in Nineteenth-Century New England* (University Press of New England, 1981).

Robison's story is fascinating. As a girl she worked in the Lowell mills and later wrote about the mill girls and their world in her book, *Loom and Spindle*. She and her husband



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William moved to Malden, settling on Lincoln Street. There, Robinson became active in woman suffrage circles. She organized a woman suffrage convention in Malden in 1875. Find out more about this remarkable woman on October 10th.

Claudia L. Bushman taught American Studies at Columbia University. After her talk, Dr. Bushman will be available to sign copies of her new book, available for \$35; a portion of the proceeds of the book sales will benefit the Historical Society. We will also have an exhibit related to women suffrage and Harriet Robinson. If you wish to purchase a copy of the book, we can accept cash, checks, or credit cards. This promises to be an interesting and important talk; please try to attend.

At this meeting the Historical Society will also present an oil painting by the California artist, Elmer Ekeroth, who was a Malden native, to the Trustees of the Malden Public Library. A collation will follow the program and book signing.

The Malden Maps program has been rescheduled to the Annual Meeting in May, 2018.

Continued from page 1

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The journal of the
Malden Historical Society

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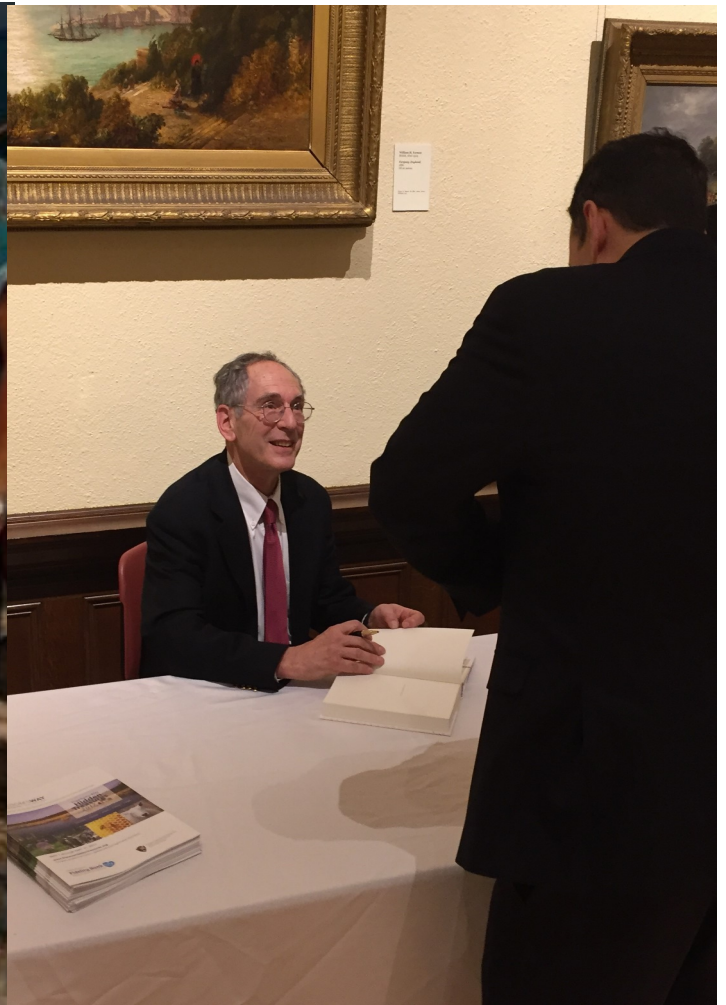
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We have been extremely fortunate with artifact donations—textiles, photos, business papers, and more. The faithful accession committee has been cataloguing and carefully archiving them. We are grateful for grants we received for storage, updating, and documentation purposes. We also try to answer information requests. And remember, all this is being done by volunteers.

Please support our Society in any way you can—pay your dues and attend meetings. Spread the word! There are a number of short-term and long-term projects being considered that you can work on. You will hear more about these. Its hot, its summer; see you in October!

John Tramondozzi, President

WRITE SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER!!!!**EMAIL ME AT frussell2823@verizon.net**



At the Massachusetts Historical Society. MHS members attended the Boston Historical Reception at the Massachusetts Historical Society on July 19 in Boston. L to R: Marilyn Glover, John Tramondozzi, Linda Thorsen, Frank Russell, and Joseph Cesario.

Professor Richard D. Brown, our speaker in April on the 1813 Malden nailworkers' trial, signs a copy of his new book, *Self-Evident Truths*, for the Mayor. Thanks to new member Neil Novello for the photo.



The Annual Meeting in May was a great success! Guests enjoyed the premiere of *Malden's Road to Revolution*, presented in conjunction with the Freedom's Way Heritage Association and a grant from the Malden Cultural Council. Pictured with Mayor Christenson are our six costumed re-enactors: L to R: Marcel Schwab, Liam Schwab, Ndandam Ndwane, Marilyn Glover, Barbara Tolstrup, and Harold Cutter.

WASHINGTON'S 1789 JOURNEY THROUGH MALDEN

By Frank F. Russell

In October, 1789, George Washington was making a tour through the northeast. On October 29, 1789, he journeyed from Boston to Marblehead with several stops in between. Because Corey's *History of Malden* ends in 1785, it does not discuss his 1789 visit. Washington apparently had visited Malden before, according to Corey's history, stopping sometimes to visit Captain Dexter at his house on the Medford Road.

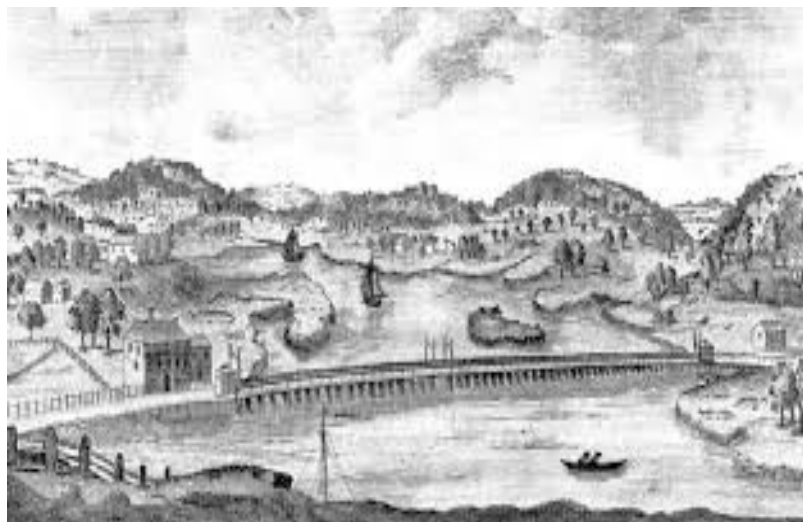
One of the purposes of Washington's visit on October 29, 1789, was to view the Malden Bridge between Charlestown and Malden. The bridge was relatively new having opened in 1787. From there, he traveled to Cambridge then back through Medford, Malden, and Lynn, on his way to Marblehead. His party was accompanied by a throng of citizens and the Boston Corps of Horse. It must have presented a magnificent scene as it traveled through Malden on the Medford Road (Pleasant Street) to Malden Centre and thence to the Salem Road (Salem Street) into Lynn. Here are the relevant excerpts from Washington's diary for October 29, 1789:

Left Boston about 8 o'clock.
Passed over the Bridge at Charles
- Town, and went to see that at
Malden...The Bridges of Charles

town and Malden are useful and noble—doing great credit to the enterprising State. From Boston, besides the number of citizens which accompanied me to Cambridge, and many of them from thence to Lynn, the Boston Corps of Horse escorted me to the line between Middlesex and Essex CountyAfter leaving Cambridge, at the distance of 4 miles, we passed through Mystick—then Malden—next Lynn...

The line between Middlesex County and Essex County was that between Malden and Lynn; Saugus was still a part of Lynn until 1815.

One wonders if Washington again stopped along the way at Captain Dexter's. Perhaps the town's selectmen came out to greet him as he passed through Malden? Did he pause at Waite's Tavern on the Salem Road for refreshment? All are possibilities but the diary is silent. Perhaps he simply rode straight through Malden.



Birds'-eye view of the Malden Bridge over the Mystic River from Bunker's Hill, 1790, engraved by S. Hill.

UPHAM'S PLEDGE: 125th Anniversary of The Pledge of Allegiance.

By Frank F. Russell

One of the most popular children's magazines at the end of the nineteenth century was *The Youth's Companion*. Its publisher was Daniel Ford. Ford brought on his nephew, James Bailey Upham as a business partner. Upham resided on Lincoln Street, a few doors down from Harriet Hanson Robinson. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and Converse Lodge of Masons. Upham devised a promotion to distribute an American flag to every public school in the country and to have students recite an oath to the flag in connection with the 400th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America. Its recitation was to be accompanied with a raised arm salute and upturned hand. Upham came up with a rough draft of the pledge and circulated it among staff for comments and changes. Among those was Francis Bellamy, cousin of Edward Bellamy and a socialist. When this Pledge of Allegiance was first printed in the *Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892, 125 years ago, in connection with the official program of the 1892 Columbus Day celebration it was called the "*Youth's Companion Pledge of Allegiance*" with no attribution to its authorship. The magazine apparently had a non-attribution policy. The original text of the Pledge as published is as follows:



Portrait of James Bailey Upham (artist unknown) in the collection of the Upham Family Society, Melrose, Mass.

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible, with liberty and Justice for all.

Upham was present in Malden on that Columbus Day in 1892 and heard the pledge recited by over fifteen hundred adults at a mass meeting. The magazine maintained until the 1920s that Upham was the author of the Pledge. Indeed, it published a story about Upham's authorship in 1917 in response to an inquiry from Herbert Fison, the librarian in Malden. Bellamy was apparently furious and over a period of several years asserted he was the author. The controversy between Upham and Bellamy simmered for several years before boiling over. The US Flag Association declared Upham the author. Author Margarette Miller, in *Twenty-Three Words*, maintained it was Bellamy. The late David Brickman, editor at the *Malden Evening News* and reporter Archie Birtwell gathered

evidence and affidavits to establish Upham's claim. The Library of Congress weighed in and declared Bellamy the author. Today, most references credit Upham as giving genesis to the idea and Bellamy with the writing. We in Malden know better, and stand with Mr. Brickman and Mr. Birtwell: James Bailey Upham authored the Pledge of Allegiance.

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MALDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

36 Salem Street

Malden, MA 02148

CLAUDIA BUSHMAN

Harriet Hanson Robinson

Tuesday, October 10th

7pm, Ryder Gallery

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Professor Claudia L. Bushman

Harriet Hanson Robinson Writes Herself Into New Womanhood

7:00 pm, Ryder Gallery, Malden Public Library

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Special Meeting with Medford Historical Society

The Malden-Medford Football Rivalry

6:30 pm, Medford Public Library

111 High Street, Medford

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Annual Christmas Party and Concert

2:00 p.m., Maccario Room, Malden Public Library