

Re: Seeking Information on the Melrose Town Hall or Lyceum 1884

Date: Wed, 18 Feb 2015 16:15:16 -0500 (02/18/2015 01:15:16 PM)
From: Melrose Public Library <mel@noblenet.org>
To: Scott Holmes <scottholmes@sbcglobal.net>

Attachments: 6

Hello Scott,

Thank you for your email. I hope the following helps with your research.

Attached is the advertisement (November 8, 1884) and review from The Melrose Journal (Saturday, November 15, 1884) about this event. Also attached, is some information about the Melrose Lyceum Society from Melrose, Massachusetts: 1900-1950 by Edwin C. Kemp and a "Before and Now" photo of City Hall from Melrose, Past, Present & Future 1850-2000.

Information on both Melrose Lyceum and Melrose Town Hall can be found in The History of Melrose, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, by Elbridge Henry Goss available online in digital format at <https://archive.org/details/historyofmelrose02goss>. Information on Lyceum Hall, located on Main Street between Foster and Essex Street, can be found on pages 264 & 388. The event that took place on November 10, 1884 could not have been held at this venue, because the building burned down on August 20, 1870, and was not rebuilt.

However, in 1873, the town voted to build a new Town Hall on the corner of Main and Essex Street. There is a photograph of Melrose City Hall, built in 1874, on page 394. On page 397, Goss writes "The City Hall is a brick structure with brown-stone trimmings, of handsome architectural design, with a large hall and convenient internal arrangements for city purposes." (An interesting side note, when the building opened, the Melrose Public Library occupied two of the rooms on the lower floor).

Melrose City Hall (minus the clock tower and third-story dormers - City Hall suffered a disastrous fire in 1937 and was remodeled to its present appearance) is still located at this site, and its function hall room is still currently being used for city meetings and events.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

Shelley O'Brien
Reference/Local History Librarian
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