

News-Letter - November 2005

DEDHAM POTTERY LECTURE SET FOR NOV. 15

Dedham Pottery will be the subject of the November 15 lecture at the Dedham Historical Society auditorium. James D. Kaufman, antiquarian, collector, and independent researcher, will present "Dedham Pottery: Its History and Recent Rare Discoveries" at 7:30 PM. His presentation will also explore the extensive Asian influence manifested in the pottery. In conjunction with this lecture, a temporary exhibit of rare examples of Dedham Pottery from his collection will be on display at the Society's museum.

Kaufman, a noted authority on Dedham Pottery, has authored numerous articles and lectured widely regarding the ceramic genius of Hugh Robertson's work at the Chelsea Ceramic Art Works Pottery and the Dedham Pottery. He has served for years as volunteer curator for the pottery collections at the Society and is currently also president of the Dedham Historical Society.

Kaufman is a graduate of Amherst College with a degree in history and is the founder of Federal Hill Investment Services. He is currently Board Chair of the Boston China Students Club, and a member of the American Art Pottery Association, the American Ceramic Circle, and the Wedgwood Society of Boston. He is also a Director of the World Affairs Council of Boston and the Rashi School of Newton, and Director and Immediate Past President of the Boston Chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

There is no charge for lecture attendance for members of the Dedham Historical Society; the cost for nonmembers is \$5. The lecture series is being sponsored by David Newsom in memory of his wife Carol

SOCIETY ACQUIRES IMPORTANT DEDHAM FIRE BUCKETS

The Society has acquired two extremely important Dedham fire buckets with painted decoration that includes the name of the owner, M. Gragg, Dedham, and the year 1827. M. Gragg was Moses Gragg whose home at 19 Court Street was at one time the Norfolk Inn. As pieces of American folk art, the buckets are important artifacts. That fact plus the Dedham connection made them a "must have" for the Society.

Grogan & Company, Fine Art Auctioneers and Appraisers, said that the fire buckets were the highlight of their September 25, 2005 sale. The buckets had been estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000, but the hammer didn't go down until they reached \$14,375. The Society's ability to purchase the fire buckets was a result of contributions to the Collections Fund as well as generous donations from Michael Grogan and David Newsom. Nathan Kaufman, age 10, handling the bidding paddle for his father, President Jim Kaufman, brought in the final bid.

The Collections Fund was recently bolstered by a gift from Mary Simmons of more than 60 pieces of Dedham Pottery that she donated specifically to benefit the fund. Twenty of the pieces were kept for the Society's collection, and the others were made available at a "members only" sale on a recent Saturday.

Before the days of the local fire department, residents were required to have at least two fire buckets ready at the entrance to their home. Usually they were filled with sand to take care of a small fire in the house. But when the fire alarm sounded, everyone would come running with their buckets to form a bucket brigade. The line of a line of people stretching to the closest water source, with the buckets filled with water being handed back to the fire source to douse the fire and then being sent back to the water source to be refilled. The owner's name was on the bucket to assure he would get back his own buckets.

NEW MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

In addition to the fire buckets reported above, we have received a number of other artifacts in recent months.

Early Dedham ruler. Gift of Mrs. William Valdina.

Unusual Dedham Pottery bowl. Collections Fund.

Fairbanks House potholder.

Needlework of the Town of Dedham, designed by Hope S. Janson, researched by Chris Hobbs, and worked by Lansdale Chatfield. Donated by Hope Janson's children.

Silhouette of Jerusha White Dean, daughter of James White and Abigail Farrington White, c. 1876. Purchase, Collections Fund.

Fairbanks House coin. Gift of Virginia Corton.

Fairbanks House coin. Gift of Teresa Greenwood.

Costumes that belonged to Evelyn Ames Royce and Katie Eveline Ames; photos of wearers of same; photo of the Royce Family. Gift of Wendy Ames Hill Merriman.

Oil painting of Motley Sawyer, by Lilian Westcott Hale. Gift of his daughters, Lisa Sawyer, Jean Sawyer Railton, and Rev. Kathryn S. White.

Rare Dedham Pottery swan plate, to be used for the 2006 limited edition collector's plate. Purchase, Collections Fund.

Two dresses worn by Ella Robinson Bailey, c. 1900. Gift of Priscilla Tully.

Fox hunt map including much of Norfolk County, c. 1934. Gift of Evie Spalding.

Numerous costumes. Not previously accessioned.

Avery Oak block with photo of oak on side. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William McKibben.

Bed warmer, pierced brass with wooden handle, early 19th century. Not previously accessioned; donor unknown.

Bed warmer, pierced brass with wrought iron handle. Not previously accessioned; donor unknown.

Decorative painted wood and leather bellows, for parlor use. Not previously accessioned; donor unknown.

Large and simple wood, leather and metal bellows, for kitchen hearth use. Not previously accessioned; donor unknown.

Original etching of Dedham marshes, by Margaret Philbrick. Gift of the artist's son, Otis Philbrick.

Prominent Supreme Court Justice was a Dedham Resident

by Hana Janjigian Heald

[The following is a story that appeared in the Dedham Times newspaper. The author has done much research at the Dedham Historical Society. We thought this a most appropriate article to repeat in the Society's *News-Letter*. We take the liberty of making a few additions where appropriate.]

In January 1916, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Louis D. Brandeis to the Supreme Court. Because he was an advocate of social and economic reforms, it was widely believed that he was too liberal to receive the Senate's approval. In fact, his confirmation fight was a bitter one, maybe even the most grueling one in America's history. Wall Street called his nomination "a national disaster." He ascribed the opposition to the fact that he was Jewish, and a radical.

More than five months later, on June 1, the full Senate voted to confirm him, 47-22, a 25-vote margin. When he arrived home in Dedham that night, after a day of work in his Boston law office and a train ride, his glowing wife, Alice, greeted him as, "Mr. Justice."

Brandeis was born in 1856 in Louisville, Kentucky, before the Civil War. He entered Harvard Law School in 1875 at age 19, with no college preparation. He graduated first in his class, and was chosen by his peers to be the class orator, but according to the Harvard rules he could not. He was too young.

He distinguished himself as a successful Boston lawyer during the years from 1879 to 1916. Sponsored by his friend and law partner Sam Warren, Jr. Brandeis was admitted to the socially

prominent Dedham Polo Club in 1887. He held a membership in the Dedham Historical Society from at least 1912 to 1923.

He married his second cousin, Alice Goldmark, in 1891, and they had two daughters, Susan and Elizabeth, who were sent to Winsor, the private school in Boston. They bought a country house in Dedham in 1900, at 194 Village Avenue. Like many of their economic class, the family spent spring and autumn in Dedham, the summer on Cape Cod, and winter in Boston. [While in Washington, and during the Sacco and Vanzetti trial, Brandeis allowed Mrs. Sacco to live in his home on Village Avenue. The Society has on file a letter from Brandeis' daughter confirming this, which not a widely known fact.]

He wrote in a letter to his brother, "*Dedham is a spring of eternal youth for me. I feel newly made and ready to deny the existence of these grey hairs.*" There he could horseback ride, hike, play tennis, or canoe on the Charles River.

Brandeis was many times a millionaire from his law practice. He and his wife could have lived lavishly, but chose to live simply. When he became a member of the Court, they sold their Dedham property and made their home in Washington, DC in a small apartment in Stoneleigh Court on Connecticut Avenue.

Brandeis, the first Jewish justice, was one of the most significant jurists of his time, and had an enormous impact on legal institutions, the law and social policy. After 23 years on the Supreme Court, he retired in 1939, and died of a heart attack in 1941.

[Our thanks to Hana Heald for making this available to us for the *News-Letter*. The Society has available other materials relative to the Brandeis involvement in the town of Dedham.]

NEW ITEMS RECEIVED IN THE ARCHIVES

Dedham Newspapers on Microfilm 2 Reels from Early newspapers with titles such as "The Rivulet" dated 1848, "Village Nosegay" from 1834, "The Chronicle" appeared in 1848, and Dedham Gazette, published in Dedham in 1869. Few issues of each, not complete runs. Gift of Readex Corporation.

Dedham Veterans Monument Brochure, photograph, leaflet, and other memorabilia related to new monument and its dedication. Gift of Don W. Seager.

Dedham High School Class of 1927 Reunion items from Class of 1927, including 1927 Commencement Issue of "The Mirror," photographs of the 40th and 45th reunion class officers, souvenir program from 1927. Gift of Dorothy Clark.

Pioneering for Women Journalists: Sallie Joy White 1870-1909 by Elizabeth B. Burt, Ph.D. An article on the journalist. Gift of Brad Bauer.

Dedham High School Alumni Association Invitation and Remembrance. Gift of Joe Pagliuca.

Dedham High School Senior Class Play 2001 Playbill for "Little Shop of Horrors. Gift of Joanie Conklin.

Dorothea Aldous Claffey Papers. Photographs and graduation exercises from Dedham High School Class of 1944. Includes graduation picture of the class as well as photographs from the 35th and 40th reunions.

Dedham, England Photographs. 28 (4X6") photographs of Ron's trip to Dedham England in May, 2005. Gift of Ronald Frazier.

Dedham Postcards. Two postcards of Dedham, one of kitchen of Fairbanks House, another of High School Dedham, Mass., postmarked May, 1928. Gift of Jane Breede.

Dedham Women's Exchange Newsletter, Spring 2005.

Dedham Choral Society Program of Spring 2005 concert Gift of Ron Frazier.

A Tour of the Dedham Historical Society. VHS Cassette of Ron Frazier giving tour of historical society. Previously uncatalogued.

Photographs from 38 School Street. Photographs including a daguerreotype, a Tintype, an ambrotype, and portraits relating to the Jacques family. Gift of William McKibben.

Driscoll Memorabilia. Postcards, photograph among other items. Gift of Lois Massarelli Driscoll

Samoset Canoe Club Photos of Samoset Canoe Club Gift of Helen Skarinka .

Class of 1952 Yearbook and 50th reunion booklet, for Dedham High School Class of 1953. Gift of Carol A. Sestito.

Avery School Photographs from 1950's, some with identification. Gift of Mary Folsom.

Memorial Hall Black and white photograph from 1940. Anonymous gift.

Ethel Close Collection. Photos, mostly related to St. Mary's. Gift of Ethel Close via Margaret Nichols.

Sestito Postcard Collection. Gift of William F. Sestito.

“Schools at War.” Yearbook with drawing and photographs from the 1940’s on Ames Jr. High. Gift of Mary Ann Teti.

WWII Tug O’War. Privately published account of World War II by Edward LeVangie. By purchase.

Dedham Health and Athletic Complex. Booklet.

Rebecca Fairbanks Photograph. Copy of photograph of Rebecca Fairbanks, the last person of that lineage to reside in the Fairbanks House in front of her ancestral home in 1903. Donated by Darlene Gassmann and Kathleen Hammonds in memory of Edward Fairbanks Kelly, Mildred Edith Howell, and James Wayne Kelly.

Voting Record 1812. Document detailing the “list of Votes of the Town of Dedham for Governor & Lieutenant Governor...” from the April 6, 1812 legal meeting of the Inhabitants of the Town of Dedham. Gift of Roger V. Bartholomew.

The Class of 1955 – Dedham High School. Color photograph of the current middle school. Original taken by George Kimball, class of 1955. This one was “touched up” by removal of the “Dedham Middle School” sign so that it would look the way it was in 1955, and could be taken to the recent 50th reunion.

Finance Committee Report, 1964. Gift of Nancy Clement.

Dedham Women’s Exchange. Records and photographs of the organization. Gift of the Dedham Women’s Exchange, Ms. Holly Arnold, President.

Dedham Historical Society Graveyard Project. Revised and completely catalogued data from the Village Cemetery by committee of Sally Tully, Carol DuBlois, and Betsy Myer. Finished project turned over to archives by Sally Tully.

Dedham High School Class of 1949 Memorabilia. Booklets and other information about the Class of 1949. Gift of Jeanne Palmer.

IN THE WORDS OF DANIEL WEBSTER

A Massachusetts newspaper recently covered the problems being faced by a local historical society. In it they quoted Daniel Webster, who noted in a speech **The Dignity and Importance of History**, delivered on 23 Feb 1852. “...*historical societies are highly important. Historical societies are auxiliary to historical compositions. They collect the materials from which the great narrative of events is, in due time, to be framed. The transactions of public bodies, local histories, memories of all kinds, statistics, laws ordinances, public debates and discussions, works of periodical literature, and the public journals, whether of political events, or commerce, literature, or the arts, all find their places in the collections of historical societies.*”