



# NEWS-LETTER

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO BOX 215 612 HIGH STREET DEDHAM MA 02027-0215

Tel: 781-326-1385 – E-Mail: [Society@DedhamHistorical.org](mailto:Society@DedhamHistorical.org) – Web Site: [DedhamHistorical.org](http://DedhamHistorical.org)

Library Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 9 am – 4 pm; Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday; 12 – 4 pm

Both are open even-dated Saturdays, 1 – 4 pm

Saturday, March 12 & 26; April 2, 16, & 30

## MARCH 2011

### MARCH 24<sup>th</sup> LECTURE FEATURES “HOWARD JOHNSON: 28 FLAVORS”

Forget the snow and remember hot summer days savoring Howard Johnson’s 28 flavors of ice cream! Anthony Sammarco’s lecture on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm is sure to bring back wonderful memories of choosing your favorite flavor. The lecture is free for DHS members and \$5 for non-members.

### “DEDHAM AT THE CROSSROADS” WITH ROBERT HANSON WILL BE TOPIC OF APRIL 14<sup>th</sup> LECTURE AND ANNUAL MEETING

The DHS Annual Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on April 14<sup>th</sup>, followed by a lecture on Dedham history by Robert B. Hanson, the unofficial historian for the town of Dedham. Join us for a lively talk as Hanson reveals more secrets about Dedham and its 375 years of history. Hanson is both a past president and director of the Society. An avid researcher, Hanson always delights his audiences with interesting tales and combines his facts with plenty of humor. The lecture is free for DHS members and \$5 for non-members.

### “IMMIGRANT CHILDREN OF BREAD AND ROSES STRIKE” THEATRE PERFORMANCE ON APRIL 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2pm

Live theatre comes to the DHS on April 9<sup>th</sup>, with a production of “*American Tapestry: Immigrant Children of the Bread and Roses Strike*” by the Boston award winning theatre group *Theatre Espresso*. This interactive, original production is written for grades three and higher and encourages the audience to participate in a discussion with the actors during the performance. The story explores the Bread and Roses strike from the perspective of children from immigrant families who were working in the mills and were part of the historic strike.

What role did women and children play in the textile industry at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? What were the effects of low wages, long workdays, and hazardous living and working environment on immigrant families? How did workers from a variety of ethnic backgrounds unite to improve working conditions at the Lawrence mills and nationwide?

The performance is \$2 for all adults and free

for children. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dedham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, Eastern Bank, and the Dedham Rotary Club.



Actors left-right: Amanda Collins, Matt Kossack, Megan Cooper. Photo by David Andrews

## 2011 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2011 Membership dues notices were mailed out on December 31, 2010. Our thanks to everyone who renewed their 2011 membership in January and February. Please help the Society keep our mailing costs low by renewing as soon as possible. If your address sticker has a dot in the upper left corner, we have not received your 2011 dues. Please welcome new members to the DHS since the last newsletter:

Beth & John Macon

Susan & David Webster

Joan Cummins

Mrs. & Mrs. George Hoffman

Vicky Berg

## DHS APPRAISAL DAY APRIL 30th



Bring your quilts, china, glassware, jewelry, books and other antiques for our Appraisal Day on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – 1 pm. Experts from Grogan & Company Fine Art Auctioneers and Appraisers in Dedham will examine your antiques and provide you with an appraisal.

\$10 per item or 3 items for \$25 (limit 3 items). The experts are always interesting to talk to and willing to share their knowledge. Proceeds from the Appraisal Day help support the programs of the Dedham Historical Society. This event is sponsored by Grogan & Company Fine Art Auctioneers and Appraisers.

Become a new DHS member at the family level on April 30th and receive the appraisal of your first item for free!

## MOTHER'S DAY, GRADUATION, WEDDINGS AND MORE!

Are you in need of a unique gift for your spring or summer events? Don't forget to visit the DHS Gift Shop. What about a personalized Dedham Pottery reproduction plate? We can personalize any of the following designs: English Mushroom; Clover; Cat; Turkey; Swan; or the traditional rabbit (not numbered).

Since each personalized plate is unique, please call or email us to discuss the design and message to determine the total cost. DHS members receive a 10% discount on the price of the plate. A minimum of one month is required to personalize and fire the plate so be sure to plan ahead!



Personalized message in center



Personalized message on rim

## RESERVATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SPRING SCHOOL VISITS

If your child is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, be sure to ask if the teacher has scheduled a field trip to visit the Dedham Historical Society. The Society offers a free 1 hour hands-on program for students to learn about local history. The program includes a hands-on segment where students wear museum standard white gloves to handle historical artifacts, a tour of the museum, and activities in the library/archives using copies of historical documents. The program is offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Class size is limited to 35 students per hour.

## LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

**293<sup>rd</sup> Town of Dedham Annual Report.** Gift of Judy Withington.

**Dedham and Westwood Directory 1929.** Gift of Mark Whalen on behalf of Needham Bank.

**The Centennial History of the Dedham Country and Polo Club.** Gift of Mrs. Mary Norton. This book is given in loving memory of Lawrence P. Norton, MD.

**A Change in Altitude,** signed copy by Anita Shreve. Gift of Stephen and Lisa Brayton.

## ARCHIVES ACQUISITIONS

**Tercentenary-related items** including a film; program from a play, *The Seven Lights of Dedham*; photos of Tercentenary; related posters. Gift of Bob Hanson.

**Photographs** of old Dedham Middle School being demolished, Bridge at Harris –William Streets being constructed, work at former Bradlees site. Gift of Carl Vogel.

**Dedham Police memorabilia.** Gift of Hana Heald.

**Dedham Choral Society program** from December, 2010, Christmas in Wales. Internal transfer.

**Keany Family Collection,** mostly photographs. Gift of Brian Keaney.

## DHS ANNUAL APPEAL CONCLUDES

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our 2010 DHS Annual Appeal. Every dollar helps the Society continue its mission of outstanding exhibits, programs, and research. The following is the list of contributors who donated between the publication of our January newsletter and December 31, 2010. It is important to note that many other individuals and organizations have made significant contributions throughout the year to specific projects of the Society. They have been gratefully acknowledged at the time of the gift. (*IMO-In Memory Of; IHO-In Honor Of*)

### PATRON (\$1,000-\$2499)

Cecilia Emery & Michael Butler

### SUPPORTER (\$250-\$499)

Michael & Nancy Grogan

Carl R. Nold

### DONOR (\$100-\$249)

Two Anonymous Donations

Philip Breen, Jr.

Molly Rogers Cramer & Robert E. Cramer

Beverly White Ford (IMO Walter & Helen White)

Robyn & Dale Garth

Elizabeth Groth (IMO Michael Metcalf & The Metcalf Family)

### DONOR CONTINUED (\$100-\$249)

Karen Avery Miller (IMO ancestors William Avery & Margaret Allright)

William Shaw McDermott

### FRIEND (\$10-\$99)

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Ronald S. & Cynthia E. Bullard

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Charles T. Russell III

Peter W. Smith & Catherine Dickey

Anthony H. Vallentine

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## RESEARCH REQUEST FROM BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM

Have you ever wondered what kinds of research questions the Society receives? Christine B. Podmaniczky, Associate Curator, N.C. Wyeth Collections, Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pa, contacted the DHS in December 2010 in order to identify and locate information about a “Captain Onion” of Dedham. N. C. Wyeth, a noted painter and illustrator, painted a Captain Onion who had been in the Civil War and also the Onion House located in Dedham. Upon researching the topic Society Librarian Sandy Waxman, discovered that there were two Captain Onions (brothers) who had served in the Civil War, Edward and Henry. (*Continued on back page*)

### Brandywine River Museum (Cont.)

The Society has a photo of Captain Edward Onion, but not one of Captain Henry Onion. Since Henry lived in the Onion House in the late 1800's and early 1900's, it is most likely that he is the individual in the painting. But without a picture of Henry for comparison it is difficult to definitively state which brother it might be.

Henry attended West Point, and served in Company F, 18<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Regiment. Active in town affairs, he died in 1903 and is buried in Brookdale Cemetery.

N. C. Wyeth was born in Needham, Massachusetts and later lived in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania.



Photograph of Capt. Edward Onion from the DHS archives.

## MEMORIES TO CELEBRATE DEDHAM'S 375<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### "Some Glimpses of a Boy's Life in Dedham in the '70's and 80's"

by Albert Hale, January 1943

*At the time of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dedham, in the summer of 1886, a large tent was spread on the (High Street) field, a dinner was served and speeches and other exercises held there. Many houses and public buildings were decorated with red, white and blue bunting and illuminated in the evening. The celebration started with the ringing of bells and a cannon salute at sunrise. At 10 o'clock a special train arrived from Boston, bringing the Governor and staff. Afterward came the grand parade, led by General Stephen Weld on horseback, as chief marshal. In the first division were the guests of honor followed by soldiers of the G.A.R. Then came engines from the fire departments of Dedham and neighboring towns, school children, twelve elaborate floats depicting important events in the history of the nation and the town, and about thirty floats representing local businesses. One exhibit, meeting with much approval, was Mr. Smith, the provision dealer, riding on a large ox. After the parade came the dinner and speeches, followed by band concerts, fireworks and dancing in the evening.*

*General Weld invited many men and older boys with horses to act as his sides. As a boy, my overwhelming craving was to possess a pony or horse. Owing to my intimacy with the Weld family, I hoped that General Weld would suggest that if I found a horse I might join. This hope occupied my thoughts day and night. Knowing nothing of this burning desire and knowing I possessed no horse, General Weld doubtless gave no thought to my availability. I never gave up hope, however. When the day arrived, it was a very sad boy who stood on the sidewalk and watched his friends prancing along at the head of the procession. (DHS Archives)*

## SAVE THE DATE!

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
SPRING SOIRÉE  
ON SATURDAY, MAY 22!  
Invitations will be mailed to  
DHS members in early April.**



DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
PO Box 215 612 High Street  
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### DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Stephen K. Brayton, President; Alexander K. Leith, Vice President; William E. Flanagan, Treasurer; Mark R. Whalen, Recording Secretary. Directors: Andrea M. Gilmore, Dr. John J. Herrmann, Jr., James D. Kaufman, Stanton Lyman, Clara B. Potash, Mary Anne Osborne, Laurie Rabe, Executive Director, Vicky L. Kruckeberg