

# NEWS-LETTER

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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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

## SEPTEMBER 2011

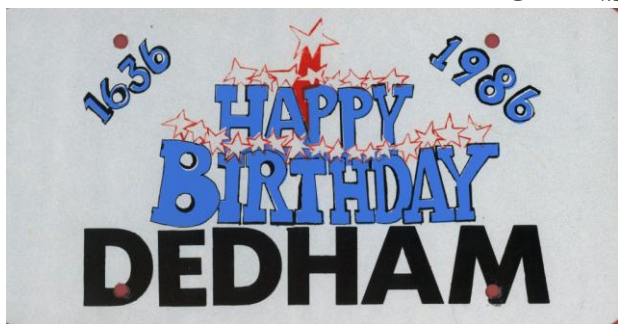
### DHS LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>

The DHS 2011-2012 lecture series kicks off on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> with *The History of Baker Chocolate: A Sweet History* by Anthony M. Sammarco. Copies of Sammarco's book on Baker Chocolate will be available for purchase the night of the lecture. On Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Travis Parno, archaeologist, will present *Archaeology and Recent Research at the Fairbanks House*. The November 17<sup>th</sup> program features the Society's Executive Director Vicky Kruckeberg discussing *Museums & Historic Preservation in Cuba*. Kruckeberg will share her insights and photographs taken during her trip earlier this year.

2012 lectures include: January 26<sup>th</sup>, *America's Kitchens* by Nancy Carlisle, Curator at Historic New England; on March 15<sup>th</sup> David Kruh will discuss *Great Boston Fires*; and by popular demand Bob Hanson will close out the series at the Annual Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> with *A High Road Through History* (a reference to High Street).

All lectures take place at 7:30 pm at the Dedham Historical Society auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members.

### NEW EXHIBIT 'DEDHAM CELEBRATES' OPENS SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>



As part of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of Dedham, the Society opens a new exhibit titled "Dedham Celebrates." Filled with images of past celebrations, costumes worn for various celebratory events, a 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary quilt, and historic newspapers listing special events the display takes a look at how Dedham residents

have honored the town's history. Photographs from 1986 include welcoming the mayor of Dedham, England, a town-wide square dance in Dedham Square, a mock funeral for "Mr. Ray Zor" (razor) as part of a movement for men to grow beards or moustaches and foster an old-time atmosphere in town, and the script and programs from the performance of an original play "The Seven Lights of Dedham" in 1936. The photograph to the left shows a special license plate made for the town's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The exhibit is scheduled to open to the public on September 24<sup>th</sup> and remain until August 2012.

### 2011 ANNUAL APPEAL UNDERWAY

President Steve Brayton has launched the Society's 2011 Annual Appeal. His letter with a contribution form will soon arrive in your mailbox. Please consider a generous contribution as the Society relies on the Annual Appeal to fund a significant portion of its operating budget. Thank you.

## NEW FACES IN THE MUSEUM GALLERY

This summer Grogan & Company Fine Art Auctioneers and Appraisers of Dedham assisted the Dedham Historical Society with the hanging of two new portraits in the museum gallery. Michael Grogan and Hercules Pappachristas of Grogan & Company Fine Art Auctioneers donated their time and skills to help hang the large portraits.

The subjects of the paintings, Mary Patterson Shaw (1802-1883) and Charles Brown Shaw (1797-1869), moved to Dedham in 1847. Charles was a successful Boston dry-goods dealer. He built a house on East Street at the corner of Auburn Street, which is now Whiting Avenue. The majestic white house was later used as a school, an American Legion Post, and the Administration Offices for the Dedham School Department until it was torn down for construction of the new Middle School. The portraits were donated to the DHS by the great-great-great-granddaughter of Charles Shaw.

## KIDS TOURS A SUCCESS

The DHS welcomed youngsters to a special hands-on tour during July. These summer visitors wore white gloves and were taught careful handling procedures as they touched various museum items on exhibit. The kids were surprised at how light 19<sup>th</sup> century children's shoes, how heavy an 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramic jug is BEFORE filling it with water or ale, and how leather fire buckets were used to carry water to fight fires in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Building on the success of this year's program the Society plans to offer the tours again next year.



*Harry (left) and Ben (right), sons of Susan and Ray Linehan of Westwood, show off their white gloves. Due to an arm injury Ben only required one glove!*

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

**Excerpts from a notebook kept by Patricia Keelan, aged 16**

**135 Court Street, Dedham MA**

September 20, 1936

*Dedham's Tercentenary is all over – the big event I've been looking forward to for five years. It was very successful and exciting and we all had a wonderful, busy time. Over the weekend, we had four houseguests who had come to see the "big parade." Every bed was full, what with the eight people in our family and Sammy Pattison, who came over from Newton and decided to stay.*

*A week ago last Saturday, Mrs. (Patrick) Carr called Mother to ask if I had an old-fashioned costume and could be one of the junior hostesses for the open house program in Dedham. Mother told her about Odie's grey silk with the black jet beading trim, which fits me perfectly. There were about 40 junior hostesses and we all reported to the Dedham Historical Society.*

*My dress made me feel like a queen or someone from a child's storybook. Odie wore it 50 years ago as a street dress and had bought it in Paris for \$150. Its heavy gray corded silk with the tiny jet beads hand sewn into big triangular patterns at the hem, on the lapels and the cuffs, and it's all lined with a pale yellow taffeta. I*

wore her old Irish lace bertha as a collar, pinned with her big cameo. The skirt is full and rustled loudly whenever I moved, and it was the most handsome of the dresses any of the girls had, I thought.

Monday, September 14, the first day of junior hostessing, friends of Mother's came from Boston and brought me a tiny old-fashioned bouquet of yellow rosebuds surrounded by paper lace, with long silver-gray and yellow ribbons hanging from a small knotted bow.

There were so many Tercentenary affairs that it was impossible to see everything or be at all the receptions and exhibitions all over town. One marvelous night many of the old houses in our neighborhood were lighted only by candles at all the windows, a custom usually reserved for Christmas time on Franklin Square. They were so beautiful and when I came home, I sat out on the front porch steps and listened to the bells at St. Paul's Church play "Auld Lang Syne" and a medley of Stephen Foster songs. It blended into a picture of Old Dedham as I envision it.

### **MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS**

Dedham Pottery egg cup. Gift of Enid and Vincent Peterson.

Dedham 375<sup>th</sup> maroon t-shirt. Anonymous gift.

Decorative plate; St. John's Methodist Church. Gift of Kristine Anderson.

Two (2) shirts from the 2011 All-America City Competition. Gift of Vicky L. Kruckeberg.

Two (2) Auditorium Seats from Dedham High/Middle Schools. Gift of Jim Dellot, Dedham School District.

Two (2) Dedham High School Megaphones. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Weir (former Jean Connolly).

Dedham Pottery bowl "chowder bowl" Gift of the estate of Roberta L. Beckvold.

Four (4) infant christening gowns and slips. Gift of Katherine Breen.

### **ARCHIVES ACQUISITIONS**

Dedham Choral Society Concert, April, 2011. Poster and program. Gift of Dedham Choral Society.

Ames School Photos from 1950s. Gift of Helen Nehiley.

The Basic Recruit School 1977 Regional book. Gift of Michael Weir.

Dedham Women's Club Yearbooks and Photographs. Gift of Eleanor Palma.

Peter Reynolds Collection of Judy Moody Materials. Gift of Janet Reynolds, Blue Bunny, on behalf of Peter Reynolds

Dedham 375 Coloring Book. Anonymous gift.

Dedham Institution for Savings History CD. Gift of Judy DeLisle on behalf of Dedham Savings.

Photographs, mostly of Flag Day. Gift of Joseph Pagliuca.

Photograph of Dedham Police, 2002, and Street Listing, 1950s. Gift of Police Chief Michael d'Entremont.

Riverdale Elementary School Class of 2011. Gift of Nancy Clement.

### **LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS**

The Dedham Historical Register volume 9 (1898) - through volume 14 (1903). Gift of Scott Andrew Bartley, Librarian/Archivist, Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants.

Dark Tide. Gift of Sandra Waxman.

Needlework in America. DHS Purchase.

Other Indian Events in New England. Gift of Michael Weir.

### **RESEARCH AIDS**

The Library and Archives are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am – 4pm and even dated Saturdays from 1 – 4pm. We recommend you contact Sandra Waxman prior to your visit at 781-326-1385 or [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org). This month we focus on our collection of archival materials associated with the Jonathan Cobb Family.

#### **Cobb Family Papers**

Jonathan Holmes Cobb, a lawyer, was appointed Register of Probate for Norfolk County and held the position for 46 years, until 1879. Mr. Cobb was also the town clerk of Dedham from 1845-1875. He set up a factory of sewing-silk and became its superintendent and central proprietor in 1837.

Jonathan married Sophia Doggett and had three children: Abigail, Isabelle and John Doggett Cobb. Abigail married George Austin Guild, a jeweler and Isabelle married Frederick Halverson French. John Doggett Cobb graduated from Harvard in 1861 and served in the Civil War. He became a lawyer, later a representative to the General Court in 1876 and 1877, and for many years Norfolk Register of Probate.

The Cobb Family papers include information on Jonathan Holmes Cobb and the New England Silk Company, circa 1835; Isabelle Cobb's Diary, 1851; Abby Cobb's Diaries, 1845-1879, not inclusive; John Doggett Cobb's Personal Papers and Civil War Papers, including information about Harvard Class of 1861, and history of the 35<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteers, 1862-1865.

  
**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**OCTOBER 28, 2011**  
**FALL WINE EVENT!**  
*Invitations to follow in early October!*

*The DHS museum, library and archives are open  
the following Saturdays from 1pm - 4pm.*

- *September 10 & 24*
- *October 8 & 22*

**WELCOME OUR  
NEW MEMBERS**

Patricia Crowley  
June Doe  
Patricia Fanning  
Cynthia Kelly  
M. Michael Monahan-Life Member!  
Emily Trocchio

**PLEASE THANK OUR  
CORPORATE SUPPORTERS!**

Bay State Federal Savings  
Charitable Foundation  
Building Conservation Associates  
Dedham Institution for Savings  
Eastern Bank  
F. M. Walley Insurance Agency  
Lou Sawan  
MIT Endicott House  
Needham Bank  
Norfolk & Dedham Group  
Roscia's Plumbing & Heating  
**Total Image Day Spa - NEW**

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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