

NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Tel: 781-326-1385 – E-Mail: Society@DedhamHistorical.org – Web Site: www.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 2012

DHS LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

The DHS 2012-2013 lecture series kicks off on Thursday, September 20th with *Historic Preservation as a Catalyst for Neighborhood Development* by Kathy Kottaridis, Executive Director of Historic Boston Inc. and former intern at the Dedham Historical Society. Historic Boston Inc. is a non-profit preservation and real estate organization that rehabilitates historic and culturally significant properties in Boston's neighborhoods so they are a useable part of the city's present and future. Kottaridis will discuss several projects in Boston that have made a difference in the community.

On Thursday, October 18th, Lee Yates and Lydia Willsky will present *Treasures in the Dedham Historical Society Collection*. Yates and Willsky have been working in the collections for the past several months and will share information about some of the treasures they have found. The November 15th program will be Natasha Haverty and Adam Bright discussing the *History of the Norfolk Prison Debate Team*. This debate team, made up entirely of inmates in the Norfolk Prison Colony, consistently defeated top-rated college teams such as Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, Princeton, Dartmouth, and MIT in the 1940s and 50s.

2013 lectures include: January 17th, *The Saturday Evening Girls and the Paul Revere Pottery* by Nonie Gadsden, Senior Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and on March 21st director Zadi Zokou will share his new documentary *Praying Town: John Eliot and the Praying Indians*. This documentary is 90 minutes long; therefore, the program will start at 7:00 pm. The series will close on April 18th with the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture and Annual Meeting. Historian, author, and Distinguished Professor of History at Northeastern University William Fowler will present *Under Two Flags: The Navy in the Civil War*.

All lectures take place at 7:30 pm at the Dedham Historical Society auditorium with the exception of March 21, 2013. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. Be sure to post the lecture series card inserted in this newsletter in a prominent place so you don't miss any of these outstanding lectures!

DHS KIDS SUMMER PROGRAM CREATES BUZZ ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY

Every Wednesday during July and August the Society welcomed youth to a free program focusing on local history and family genealogy. The young visitors and program leader Eleanor Palma put on white gloves as they handled museum artifacts and talked about their own family history and how their family is contributing to the story of the community. As part of the program the kids created their own plate using Dedham Pottery or their family tree as inspiration.

This project was supported in part by grants from the Hermann Dexter Lodge, #133 I.O.O.F and the

Dedham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



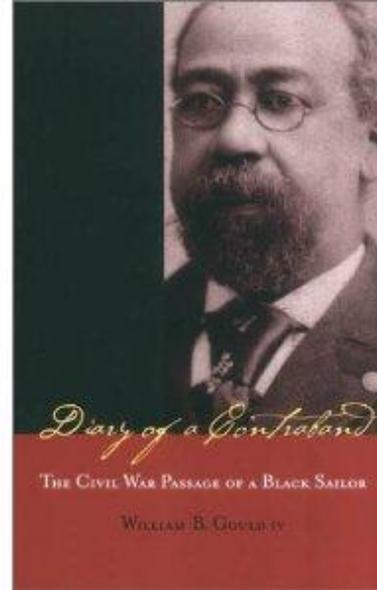
**SOCIETY CO-SPONSORING LECTURE
BY PROFESSOR WILLIAM BENJAMIN GOULD IV**

The DHS is collaborating with the Church of the Good Shepherd-Episcopal for a lecture by Professor William Benjamin Gould IV on Sunday, September 23, 2012 at 3:00 pm. The lecture will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Gould's ancestor's flight to freedom during the Civil War.

The first William Benjamin Gould escaped from slavery, joined the Union Navy, and kept a diary – one of three known diaries written during the Civil War by former slaves. After the Civil War he settled in Dedham where he was Commander of the Dedham Charles W. Carroll Post #144 of the Grand Army of the Republic. As a master plasterer, he helped to build St. Mary's Church in Dedham and was also one of the founders of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Professor Gould will be reading from his great-grandfather's diary, *Diary of a Contraband: The Civil War Passage of a Black Sailor* during the

lecture. The lecture will take place at the Church of the Good Shepherd and admission is free.



“GROWING UP IN DEDHAM” OPENS OCTOBER 2ND



The exhibit “Dedham Celebrates” closed on August 31st to make room for the new fall exhibit “Growing Up In Dedham” opening on October 2, 2012. The new exhibit includes numerous photographs, stories, school books, and toys celebrating childhood in Dedham. The photograph above, from the DHS collection, shows three unknown children c 1840 dressed up to play with their favorite toys.

DHS member Wes Hildreth shares the following story with us regarding his adventures of growing up in Dedham. “I moved from San Francisco to

East Street in 1946, entering the 3rd grade at Oakdale School. The house faces Endicott Estate, and every Christmas my father lured “Miss Endicott” over for a taste of his well-spiked eggnog. She was widely held in awe as Lady Katherine. Before Little League started, we kids organized our own informal ball park on a vacant lot on Sander-son Avenue, and the Endicott fence was our home-run barrier. Fetching balls beyond the fence was an opportunity to snatch apples and evade the jolly groundskeepers. We walked the six blocks to school no matter the weather, and in some winters the snow was shoulder-deep. So we moved back to California in 1954!”

This exhibit is an opportunity for the Society to collect contemporary photographs and toys to represent the 21st century. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has shared their stories with us about growing up in Dedham. Many of these stories will be used in the exhibit and newsletter over the next year. The exhibit is supported in part by a contribution from the Dedham Rotary.

TREK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT SOCIETY

One hundred and forty students enrolled in the Dedham Middle School TREK (Technology-Recreation-Enrichment-Knowledge) program visited the DHS in July as part of their creative writing class. After their visit, using paper, markers and their own creativity the students chose an aspect of Dedham that they believed should be remembered in years to come and created a paper version of a commemorative quilt. Some of their images included in the “quilt” were Dedham Square, the Rustcraft baseball field, and Oakdale School. Cathleen L. Oravetz, TREK Program Coordinator, DHS volunteer educator, Margaret Matthews and Executive Director, Vicky Kruckeberg organized the content of the program and are already making plans for a repeat visit next year.



FALL WINE EVENT MOVED TO JANUARY 25, 2013

The DHS wine event has been moved from the fall to the New Year. On January 25th you can expect good wines, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and lively conversation to help boost your spirits during the long New England winter. Watch for more information in future newsletters. Invitations will be mailed to DHS members in early January.

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY WORK INCLUDES PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

The Society has been busy this year with routine property maintenance. Taking care of our buildings and property is as important to our mission as preserving the 3-dimensional collections, library, and archives. Building work has included replacement of window sills, roof, gutter and downspout work, and pruning the tree in front of the building. All of this work is routine for a building constructed specifically for the Society in 1886. The Avery Oak on East Street, owned by the Society, was also treated and pruned.

HAVE YOU PURCHASED THE 2012 REPRODUCTION DEDHAM POTTERY PINEAPPLE PLATE YET?

The Society is accepting orders for the 2012 Pineapple plate. The Society's volunteer Dedham Pottery curator Jim Kaufman tells us that along with the famous Rabbit design, the Dedham Pottery's Pineapple design was one of the earliest images on Hugh Robertson's crackle-glazed dinnerware. In fact, the design was employed on plates at his Chelsea, Massachusetts pottery in the 1890s, before he relocated the pottery to Dedham in 1896. Amusingly, early price lists of the company listed the design as “Pine Apple”!

For pricing information contact the Society at 781-326-1385 or society@dedhamhistorical.org.



2012 ANNUAL APPEAL UNDERWAY

DHS President Steve Brayton has launched the Society's 2012 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.



DEDHAM AND THE BENONI APPLE

The Benoni apple is an early season dessert apple that originated in Dedham. According to William Kendrick, author of the 1st edition of the “New American Orchardist” published in 1833, the apple was introduced in Dedham by Edward Metcalf Richards shortly before 1832. The location of the original tree is unknown. Mr. Richards is described by Kendrick as “a zealous amateur, who has devoted much attention to apples, and introduced several varieties of merit.” The apple is described as small with yellowish-orange skin covered with a bright red stripe. It begins to ripen early in August and its season extends into September. The origin of the name “Benoni” is unknown.

Edward Metcalf Richards was born in Boston, the son of Samuel and Mary (White) Richards of Dedham. He married Rebecca Guild in Dedham in 1827 and they resided at the corner of Court and Highland Streets, in a house that had extensive gardens. One of the early members of the Boston Horticultural Society, Richards served as its vice-president for 13 years. Richards maintained a membership in the Norfolk Agricultural Society in Dedham where he participated in an exhibit displaying fruit trees in 1858. According to his obituary, Richards had an abiding love for agricultural pursuits. He died in Dedham in 1865.

EDUCATION PROGRAM SEEKING CANDLESTICK STYLE TELEPHONE

The education program is seeking a 1920s-30s “candlestick” style telephone for use in its school programs. Students compare contemporary versions of items, such as a cell phone, with antique versions. If you have a telephone you would like to donate, please contact the Society at 781-326-1385 or society@dedhamhistorical.org.

Are you a Facebook fan? Join our Facebook family by requesting to be one of our “friends.”

It’s a great way to keep up to date on the latest news from the DHS.

The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library are open the following Saturdays from 1pm – 4pm.

• *September 8 & 22*

• *October 6 & 20*

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Audrey & Donald Gregg
Mary McDonnell/Veterans Services/Town
of Westwood
Charles Slack
Alethea Yates

PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Bay State Federal Savings
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