



NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

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

JANUARY 2013



DHS WINE EVENT ON JANUARY 25TH

The Dedham Historical Society Wine event will take place on January 25th from 7pm – 9pm at the Society. Invitations were mailed to Society members in early January. Join us for good wines, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and lively conversation to help boost your spirits during the long New England winter. Members are encouraged to invite guests as a way to introduce them to the DHS and view the new exhibition “Growing Up In Dedham.” Tickets are \$40 per person and are available at the Society office. For more information, see the special insert in this newsletter.

JANUARY 17TH LECTURE HIGHLIGHTS

SATURDAY EVENING GIRLS AND PAUL REVERE POTTERY

The 2013 lecture series starts off with Nonie Gadsden, Senior Curator, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston discussing *The Saturday Evening Girls and the Paul Revere Pottery*. Among the Arts & Crafts potteries of the early 20th century, the Saturday Evening Girls (SEG) Paul Revere Pottery holds a special place. Founded in Boston around 1907, the pottery gave young women the chance to learn a trade and the skills needed to run a business. SEG and Paul Revere pottery pieces are highly sought after by collectors today. Gadsden earned her B.A. from Yale University and her M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture at the University of Delaware. She joined the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in 2004. Her career at the Milwaukee Art Museum and MFA Boston has included numerous gallery reinstallations and curation of several exhibitions. Most recently Gadsden focused her efforts on the installation of the MFA's new Art of the Americas Wing, which opened in November 2010.

On March 21st director Zadi Zokou will share his new documentary film *Praying Town: John Eliot and the Praying Indians*. John Eliot, a Puritan from England, immigrated to America in 1631 and settled in present day Roxbury where he preached to the Native People of southern New England and formed several praying towns for his native converts. 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 Professor William Fowler will present *Under Two Flags: The Navy in the Civil War*. Professor Fowler has taught courses dealing with: the History of Boston, Maritime History, and the History of New England. He is the former Gay Hart Gaines Distinguished Fellow in American History at Mount Vernon, has taught at Mystic Seaport Museum and has lectured at the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Naval War College, and the Sea Education Association. The lecture will be preceded by a short DHS annual meeting.

All lectures start at 7:30pm, with the exception of March 21st, and are free for members; \$5 for non-members. Funding for the annual lecture series is provided by David G. Newsom.



HOLIDAY STROLL ENJOYED BY ALL

Over 175 visitors enjoyed the toy train layout at the Society during the annual Dedham Square Holiday Stroll. George Dunn, conductor and owner of the trains, shared his love of trains with children and adults throughout the evening. This program was sponsored by a grant from the Dedham Women's Exchange.

DHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO ADVISORY BOARD

Vicky Kruckeberg, DHS Executive Director, has been appointed to the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB). This Board provides leadership, advocacy and guidance to help ensure the identification, preservation, and use of the state's historical resources (public and private). The MHRAB encourages and supports communication and coordination among the historical records communities and the public. It is the state-level review body for grants submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

GRANT SUPPORTS CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF NATHANIEL SMITH MAPS

Researchers can now safely view copies of a collection of fragile 19th-century maps, thanks to a grant from The Society in Dedham for Apprehending Horse Thieves. The Society and its clerk-treasurer Bob Hanson provided funding to reproduce 20 of the original Dedham maps made by local civil engineer Nathaniel Smith.

Smith was born in Dedham on February 27, 1827. He grew up on the Smith family farm near Dedham Village. Educated in local schools, Smith pursued his interest in civil engineering by working as an assistant with other civil engineers. In 1849, Smith established his own business, spending over fifty years in the profession. He surveyed neighboring towns in Norfolk County as well as farms and land to lay out highways in the region. He joined Henry F. Walling to perform state and county surveys and together they created the first published map of Dedham from surveys conducted in 1850. Additionally Smith served as a Selectman and Superintendent of the Streets in the town.

The DHS owns numerous maps surveyed by Mr. Smith. One of the great treasures is an 1851 map of Dedham "Surveyed by Authority of the Town, N. Smith, Jr, and H. F. Walling Civil Engineers." It covers, Dedham Village, West Dedham (now Westwood), South Dedham (now Norwood), and Mill Village, (now East Dedham). Noteworthy is the identification of house owners in an inset of Dedham Village. Smith brought the 1851 map up to date by adding more houses with their proprietors, and streets.

Hanson, a former DHS director, had long been concerned about the fragility of the maps. Using the grant, the DHS engaged the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover to create the full-scale copies. With the copies now available to researchers, the fragile originals are now safely in storage.

EARTHQUAKE SHAKES UP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Twelve minutes into the Dedham Historical Society Board of Directors meeting on October 19, a loud rumble accompanied by a faint vibration interrupted the proceedings.

"It lasted too long to be a big truck passing by," one member observed. "It sounded like a big wind gust," said another.

"That was an earthquake," said Society Director Vicky Kruckeberg. She was right. As we later learned, we had experienced the earthquake that shook New England from Maine to Connecticut.

Fortunately, the building and collections came through unscathed. As for the board, we may have experienced a first in the Society's 153-year history: a board meeting interrupted by an earthquake.

Steve Brayton, President

2012 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to all who have thus far helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2012. 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. This listing completes all donations through December 4, 2012. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

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2013 DUES RENEWAL NOTICES

Annual DHS general membership dues notices were mailed in early January 2013. Please help the Society keep our mailing costs down by renewing as soon as possible. If you would like to pay your membership dues via credit card, be sure to have your card in hand and call the office Tuesday – Friday between the hours of 9am – 4pm. Membership dues are: Individual \$35; Family \$50; Contributing \$100; Life \$750; Student \$10. Thank you for being a member of the Dedham Historical Society!

35 YEARS AGO - THE BLIZZARD OF 1978

The forecast for February 6, 1978 called for snow with a “probable accumulation of at least 6 inches.” But no one expected the nor’easter to dump 27 inches of snow on the Boston area in just 33 hours.

In Dedham, J.C. Hillary’s Restaurant (today it’s Joe’s American Bar and Grill) become home to stranded motorists who abandoned their cars on Route 128. Across the street, the Showcase Cinema became a Red Cross shelter for approximately 2,000 people for several days. Dedham schools were closed for seven days and Governor Dukakis declared that these days would not have to be made up, so Dedham students only went to school 176 days that year. The Governor also placed a six-day ban on driving to give emergency crews time to clean up. A portion of the roof of the Dedham Mall collapsed, and residents throughout the community

helped neighbors and strangers cope with the blizzard.

Dedham became a community of snow banks, “commuters” on skis instead of in cars, impromptu cookouts, and days of shoveling snow.



Photograph of Dedham Square courtesy of the Dedham Transcript

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carol Dixon & Jeffrey Hutton
Maureen Kerwin Kelly
Karen and John McWhorter
Christine Nicholas
Keith Shaver
Carol Vasconcellos

PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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*The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library are open
Saturday, January 12 & 26 and February 2 & 16 from
1pm – 4pm.*

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
& MUSEUM
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