



# 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

### May 2013

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM SPRING SOIREE ON SATURDAY, MAY 18TH



Join us for an evening of cocktails at the Annual Spring Soirée on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of Ann and Robert Hunnewell at 978 High Street. Members and their guests will enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres by *Chiara* of Westwood. Isaac Whiting built the first house here, c 1780, on the corner of High Street and Lowder. The property was expanded over the years, and remained in the ownership of the Whiting family until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1916, the original one-room deep 'Federal' farmhouse was moved back on the property from High Street, enlarged and incorporated into the grand 'Colonial Revival' home, designed by the Boston architect M.E. Baker, which we see today.

Invitations were mailed to DHS members in mid-April. Soirée tickets are \$100 per person, \$125 for patrons, and \$200 for benefactors. For more information or to purchase tickets please see the enclosed flyer or contact the Society offices.

## DHS AND FAIRBANKS HOUSE JOIN FORCES FOR FREE SUMMER KIDS MUSICAL PROGRAM ON JULY 10TH

The Dedham Historical Society and the Fairbanks House have joined forces to present children's folksinger Jeff Davis in a summer performance at the DHS. The free performance, supported by a grant from the Dedham Cultural Council, is set for 11 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10.

Davis has entertained kids throughout Massachusetts for many years. He invites our young guests to relive our nation's heritage through songs of Revolutionary War heroes, Appalachian clogging songs, sailors' work songs, African-American banjo tunes, Irish fiddle tunes, cowboy ditties, and more. Davis accompanies himself on a myriad of instruments, ranging from the nose flute to a one-of-a-kind fretless banjo. Reservations required for groups of five or more.



## NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS ELECTED AT APRIL ANNUAL MEETING

The following Officers and Board members were elected at the April Annual Meeting. William Flanagan re-elected as Treasurer; Mark Whalen, re-elected as Recording Secretary; and Mary Anne Osborne, Laurie Rabe, and Stanton Lyman re-elected to the Board of Directors.

## MULTIPLE DONATIONS STEM FROM A SINGLE PHONE CALL

Last year the Society received a phone call from Kim Jackson in Vermont asking if we would be interested in a collection of hand carved birds and ship models created by her grandfather, the late Robert T. Armstrong Sr., a Dedham resident. The carvings were accepted for the collection and exhibited last summer. Our continuing discussions with Ms. Jackson led to an additional gift of over a dozen Dedham-related construction photographs and notebooks dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century from the collection of her father Robert T. Armstrong, Jr. He worked for Pilling Engineering Company in Dedham as an engineer and surveyor for 35 years, from the 1950's until the business closed circa 1990.

Pilling Engineering Company was founded and owned by Earl W. Pilling, who also served as vice-president of the Dedham Co-Operative Bank, president of the Dedham Historical Society, and a member of the Society in Dedham for Apprehending Horse Thieves. He took over an engineering company owned by Erastus Worthington, who specialized in water supply and sewer systems.

The photographs detail the construction of the brick sewer in various locations around the town as well as other engineering projects. However, it is unknown if these photographs show projects undertaken by Worthington's company or Pilling Engineering. Below are two examples of these rare and fascinating photographs, a wonderful addition to the Society's archives as representations of Dedham civic improvement projects.



**East Dedham Square. Signs for T.P. Murphy Market on High Street and the waiting room for the Norfolk Railway are in the background.**



**Willow Street construction**

## SOCIETY SEEKING SPONSORSHIP FOR PARTICIPATION IN FLAG DAY PARADE



This year the Dedham Historical Society and Museum is collaborating with the Fairbanks House to participate in the Dedham Flag Day parade. Youth from the Dedham community and staff will dress in historic costumes (not from the collection!) and carry signs promoting local history. Costumes will include a 1960s hippie, the roaring 20s, and early Dedham residents. The DHS is seeking a sponsorship of \$300 to assist with the purchase of inexpensive (and reusable) costumes and construction of the signs. The sponsor will receive recognition in the newsletter, on Facebook, well as in the parade. If you would like to sponsor this activity please contact Vicky Kruckeberg at 781-326-1385 or [society@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:society@dedhamhistorical.org)

## **VILLAGE CEMETERY RECORDS IN THE DHS DATABASE: AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR GENEALOGY RESEARCH**

A number of years ago, three intrepid women (Carol DuBlois, Betsy Myer and Sally Tully) set out to identify all the names on the head stones in the Village Cemetery. First, they mapped out the cemetery, dividing it into six sections, A-F. Each section was divided into parts identified by Roman numerals, and each part was divided into rows of head stones, noted by an Arabic numeral. Thus, if you were searching for your ancestor and the database said "B II 12", you would know that you would find him/her in Section B, Row II, and head stone #12. After the mapping came the hard part. Armed with yellow legal pads and many pens and pencils, the women started reading head stones and noting the names. This involved lots of slogging around, trying to read the name and dates, and dealing with overturned and broken stones. At last, the information was put on a CD for the Historical Society's use.

Technology has changed so quickly over the past decade that the DHS was worried about losing this valuable information due to software compatibility issues. Volunteer Betsy Games spent hours reviewing the information on the CD, verifying it with the raw data from the yellow legal pads and converting it to an accessible database on the Society's computer system. Recently completed, the work consists of over 100 pages of names, locations, and birth and death dates. Games says that the more she worked on this project, the more she admired all the work accomplished by DuBlois, Myer and Tully.

Every week the DHS receives genealogy questions from local residents or folks across the country (just this month we assisted visitors from Fairbanks, Alaska!). Materials, such as these cemetery records, help us provide valuable information to individuals researching their family history.

## **CIVIL WAR LECTURE CONCLUDES 2012-2013 LECTURE SERIES**

Dr. William Fowler closed out the lecture season on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a highly successful lecture on the U.S. Navy in the Civil War. All of the lectures in the series were well received with over 200 guests attending the programs.

The Society thanks all of our speakers for bringing great programs to our community, Carol Sestito for providing home-made delicious refreshments, and David G. Newsom for sponsoring the series. If you missed the documentary film on John Eliot and the Praying Indians shown in March, the DHS has a limited number of copies available at the museum shop for \$20.00. Over the summer Board President Steve Brayton and Executive

Director Vicky Kruckeberg will plan the 2013-2014 series which will start in September.



"Praying Indians" Film Director Zadi Zakou & DHS Director Vicky Kruckeberg

## **2013 DUES RENEWAL NOTICES**

Annual DHS general membership dues notices were mailed in early January. The majority of our members have paid their dues promptly and helped the Society keep our reminder mailing costs down. If there is a bright sticker on the front of your newsletter it means we haven't heard from you and this is your final newsletter.

Membership dues are now payable by phone with a credit card. 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!

## DHS HOUSE DATE MARKERS AVAILABLE

Many Dedham residents have supported the Society through the purchase of their historic house date marker. These distinctive oval green plaques reflect the date of the original construction of the house and if appropriate, the date of major renovations or additions.

In order to be eligible, the house or a visible section of it must be substantially as built in order to accurately reflect the date of the construction. Houses must be fifty years old or more for this program. The Society archives will be utilized to verify the appropriate date for the marker.

New markers are \$75 (\$65 for members) and replacement plaques are \$50. Please contact the Society for an application or additional details.



*The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library are open  
Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>; and June 8 & 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm – 4pm.*

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kevin Bean  
Carmen & Marguerite Capozzi  
Katherine Foster  
Kathleen Helen Lisson  
Mary F. & Michael P. Moriarty  
Elizabeth & Brian O'Connor  
Gayle Rosenfield  
Lynne Wadman-Howe

### PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Bay State Federal Savings  
Charitable Foundation  
Building Conservation Associates  
Courtside Café  
Dedham Institution for Savings  
F. M. Walley Insurance Agency  
Grants Printing Service, Inc.  
MIT Endicott House  
Needham Bank  
Norfolk & Dedham Group  
Roscia's Plumbing & Heating  
Total Image Day Spa  
Vogt Realty Group

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### DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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