

# 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

### March 2014

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS ENJOY DHS WINTER WINE TASTING

DHS members and guests braved the winter temperatures and enjoyed an evening of wine, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and lively conversation at the January 24th Dedham Historical Society & Museum Wine Tasting. Wines were generously donated by Jorge and Kathy Ordonez/ Fine Estates from Spain; hors d'oeuvres were made by the members of the Worthington Committee and the conversation was provided by our enthusiastic guests (photos below). Our sincere thanks to everyone involved for their support of this event. The DHS Annual Soiree will take place on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Watch for details in the next newsletter.



## SPRING LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES WITH PRESENTATIONS ON ORIENTAL RUGS AND THE DHS CIVIL WAR COLLECTION

If you love oriental rugs be sure to join us on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> for Michael Grogan's presentation on "The World of Oriental Rugs: A Primer." Grogan is the President and Chief Auctioneer of Grogan & Company Fine Art Auctioneers & Appraisers of Dedham and will discuss woven and knotted rugs. Grogan began his career in the Oriental rug business in 1978 at Sotheby's in New York. After rising through the company to become the head of the Oriental Rug Department, Mr. Grogan left Sotheby's in 1987 to establish Grogan & Company.

On Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> executive director Vicky Kruckeberg will present the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture on Civil War objects in the DHS collection. According to Grand Army of the Republic records at least 186 men from Dedham served in the Union army. Many of the documents and letters from the war are too fragile to be part of the current exhibit. Kruckeberg will provide an inside view of some of these items including records from the G.A. R. Charles W. Carroll Post # 144 and a letter written by Henry Tisdale during his time at the infamous Confederate prison at Andersonville. The lecture will be preceded by a brief DHS annual meeting and board elections.

Admission to the lecture series is free for DHS members; non-members \$5.00. The lecture is at 7:30pm and doors open at 7:00pm.

## LOOKING BACK IN TIME

### DAVID GUILD DETHLEFS (1922-2001)

#### DEDHAM VETERAN, ARCHITECT, BUILDING COMMISSIONER, AND ARTIST

David Guild Dethlefs was born to Louis Claus Dethlefs and Elsie Philbrick Guild, daughter of Henry Gardner Guild. He married Susan Swaim with whom there were 2 children, Susan and David, Jr. He later married Elizabeth Lynn Emerick. Dethlefs lived on Franklin Square for over 70 years.

After spending two years at Harvard University and graduating from the Boston Architectural School, Dethlefs worked at the firm of Royal Barry Wills of Boston and later started his own business. He served in the Navy during WWII and after the war returned to Dedham to serve as Building Commissioner, a member of the Historic Districts Commission, as well as a board member of the Dedham Historical Society.

Dethlefs worked on local projects including the Dedham Community House playbarn and remodeling several buildings in Dedham's historic districts. Dethlefs was a skilled artist and the Society is fortunate to have a number of his drawings of historic houses in the collection. He drew many of the sketches for the Dedham Historical Society house tour program books in the early 1990s.

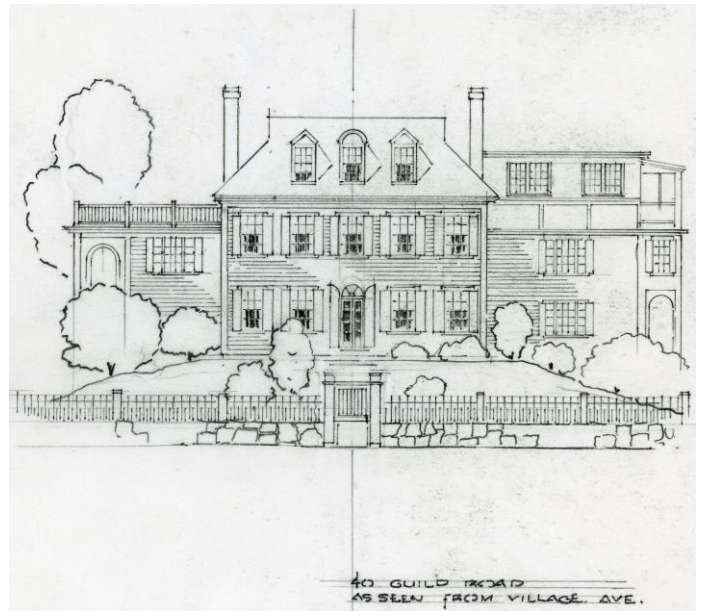
A Guild descendant, Dethlefs sought to preserve his family's history. The DHS collection contains the 1930s will of Emma Guild, the widow of a Civil War veteran Amasa Guild, as well as the papers of Henry Gardner Guild. There are also documents on the reuse of the Norfolk County Jail, photographs from his time as building commissioner, and of the Guild family. The Dethlefs' archival collection also includes the sermons and diaries of his father, the Reverend Louis C. Dethlefs, a Universalist Pastor in various

parishes in Massachusetts, including Walpole, Norwood, and Medford.

Related family files include:

- Reverend Louis C. Dethlefs (1912-1948)
- Elsie Guild Dethlefs (1885-1980)
- Arthur Wilder Thayer (1857-1934) and Annie Fisher Thayer (1858-1947)
- Emma Guild (1846-1933) and Amasa Guild (1840-1907)
- Henry Gardner Guild (1846-1912)

For more information on David Guild Dethlefs or other genealogical records please contact Sandra Waxman 781-326-1385 or [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org).



*Sketch by D.G. Dethlefs of 40 Guild Road as seen from Village Avenue*

### DHS RECEIVES TWO GRANTS TO SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Thanks to the support of the Dedham Cultural Council and the Dedham Junior Women's Club the Society will expand their education programs to area youth. The Cultural Council will again sponsor a free weekly one-hour program in August, where kids will be introduced to the basic concepts of recording their family history. As part of the program, the kids will design a plate depicting their family tree. The grant from the Dedham Junior Women's Club supports the elementary and middle-school field trips for a one-hour hands-on experience.

## 2013 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to all who helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2013. 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. Annual Appeal contributions made earlier in 2013 were acknowledged in previous newsletters. This listing completes all donations through December 31, 2013. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

### **PRESERVATION CIRCLE (\$5,000 & Above)**

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David & Chris Shaw  
Anna & Charles Tretter  
Natalie & Rod Wright

## 2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES

A big thank you to Society members who have paid their 2014 dues. Your prompt payment helps us with our cash flow and reducing our mailing costs for reminder notices. The Society depends on the membership dues to help with expenses during the first quarter of the year. Dues levels are: \$35 Individual; \$50 Family; \$100 Contributing. Please show your support of the DHS by sending in your dues today. If you have any questions regarding your 2014 dues payment please contact the office at 781-326-1385 or [society@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:society@dedhamhistorical.org). Thank you.



## COLLECTIONS INVENTORY PROJECT CONTINUES

Two years ago the DHS embarked on a project to inventory the collection and record the information using a museum data management program. As part of this work, each item is examined for maker's marks, repairs, and damage; it is photographed and the storage location is recorded. Sometimes the files don't have much information about the object and staff must struggle to match items with vague descriptions such as "hat", "silver spoon", or "dress." Fortunately, other items have better documentation, and as you can see from these images each newly opened box brings forth interesting pieces.

Left to right: a straight edge razor with a wooden box that serves as a strop. Formerly owned by the Shuttleworth family, it was donated by Thomas Rafferty, who owned a barbershop in Dedham Square in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Phoenix House key tags with room numbers were found among the ruins the morning after the hotel burned on Dec. 25, 1886. The tags were donated by Harry L. Wardle. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century 7" long elaborately carved women's tortoiseshell comb comes with its own bandbox covered with marbled paper and carefully shaped to fit the comb. It was donated by Daniel R. Bickford in 1890.



*OPEN SATURDAYS: The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on the following Saturdays: March 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, April 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*This newsletter is a benefit of DHS membership. For membership information call 781-326-1385 or visit [www.society@dedhamhistorical.org](http://www.society@dedhamhistorical.org)*

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Deborah Rice Carrigan  
Kevin Hampe  
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Pat & Carl Jay  
Jean Rummel  
Cherylann Sheehan  
Geoffrey G. Tegnell  
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### PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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