



NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

Library Hours: by appointment; Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 12pm – 4 pm

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

JANUARY 2015

THE BUILDING OF ROUTE 128 TO BE TOPIC OF JANUARY LECTURE

The new year begins with a lecture on January 15 by David Kruh presenting *The Building of Route 128*, based on his book of the same title. Kruh traces the origins of Route 128 from the late 1920s, when the Massachusetts Department of Public Works cobbled together a makeshift network of existing roads through Boston's suburbs. Between 1947 and 1956, during a statewide push to build new highways, Route 128 was reconstructed as a major regional expressway. The new highway immediately fueled explosive growth in many of the region's suburbs. Be sure to join us to learn more about this fascinating transformation.

On March 19, Robert Hanson returns to the Society to discuss *Jason Haven, Joshua Bates & the Progress of Transformation in Dedham*. Hanson never fails to bring a new perspective to Dedham history. Concluding the series on April 23, Winterthur Museum scholar and author Brock Jobe will discuss *400 Years of Massachusetts Furniture*. Please note that the date of Jobe's lecture has changed from earlier newsletters. His lecture will be preceded by a short Annual Meeting.

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



DHS ANNUAL WINE EVENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2015!

Bring your friends and join us for an evening of delightful hors d'oeuvres and wines at our annual wine event. It is a fun event where you can reconnect with old friends and make new ones in a special setting. The evening is also an opportunity to see our new exhibit, "Tiny Treasures in the DHS Collection." To purchase tickets please see the enclosed flyer or call the office at 781-326-1385.



SOCIETY ADDS "TIME TRAVELERS" AS NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

The Society is always looking for ways to improve benefits to our membership program. This year we are adding a program known as "Time Travelers," a reciprocal network for historical sites and museums throughout the U.S. Members of participating institutions receive exclusive privileges at over 250 sites nationwide. These benefits may include free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts, free parking, and/or other perks. Participating institutions include sites in New England such as the Connecticut Trolley Museum or distant locations including the Arizona Historical Society or the California Historical Society. For a full list of participating sites visit their website at www.timetravelers.mohistory.org. Each organization determines the benefits they offer, check the website before planning your visit and be sure to have your DHS membership card with you when visiting. A new DHS membership card is enclosed in your 2015 membership renewal envelope.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICES ARE IN THE MAIL

The 2015 general membership dues notices were mailed the first week of January. The Society depends on membership support to help with our cash flow through the first few months of the year. Please support us by paying your dues promptly. Institutional/corporate members will receive their dues notice in February.

NEWSPAPERS ARE A VITAL SOURCE OF HISTORIC INFORMATION



Many researchers who visit the Society are amazed at our vast newspaper collection and disappointed that we haven't digitized the collection. We try to explain that scanning the collection for the internet is a complicated and multi-step process. It takes an enormous amount of staff time, requires a website that has the technical capacity to hold the data, includes technical assistance to stay ahead of website problems, requires resolution of copyright ownership issues, and of course it needs lots of funding.

The Society owns a significant collection of local newspapers from 1797 to the present. They come in two varieties, paper copies and microfilm. The list of newspapers includes: *The Minerva*; *Columbian Minerva*; *The Norfolk Repository*; *Dedham Gazette*; *The Village Register*; *Norfolk County Republican*; *Dedham Patriot*; *Dedham Standard*; *Dedham Citizen*; *Dedham Transcript*; and *Dedham Times* among others.

The earliest edition owned by the DHS is *The Minerva* from December 7, 1797. It was published by Nathaniel and Benjamin Heaton and was a weekly paper that originated in Dedham Village. The *Dedham Transcript* appeared in 1870. An index of the Transcript exists from 1870 to 1928. Some issues of the *Dedham Citizen* date from 1939 to 1946, including a 1942 Dedham Roll of Honor of servicemen. Other special editions detail the flood of 1936, the hurricane of 1938, and Dedham town anniversaries. The Society continues to collect paper versions of Dedham newspapers that are not digitized and available on the internet.

Some of the newspapers in the collection are stored in our off-site storage facility and are not available for walk-in visitors. To view any of the newspapers please contact Sandra Waxman for an appointment library@dedhamhistorical.org or 781-326-1385.

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I start my 6th year, as your executive director I want to thank everyone who is a part of the DHS family for your support and encouragement. You make everyday special when you call, visit, or join us for an event. 2014 was a good year for the Society, and I thought you might enjoy some highlights.

The DHS has a strong membership base of 500 people and over 500 FaceBook followers. Thirty percent of our members live outside of Dedham but still feel connected to our community. Individuals from over 20 states contacted us for research information. Our Worthington Committee organized two great social fundraising events; teachers loved our school programs; and we showed our commitment to the community by participating in the Flag Day Parade and welcoming 180 visitors in 2 1/5 hours at the recent Holiday Stroll. The DHS received several grants to care for the collection and provide public programming. We also continued to collect important items for our collection and archives and awarded our very first Joseph F. Pagliuca Scholarship.

It is critical that we look as much to the present and the future as we do to the past. President Andrea Gilmore mentioned in her Annual Appeal letter the board is working on a long-term plan to upgrade our exhibits and facilities to better serve our members and the community. We will keep you apprised of our plans and look forward to soliciting your ideas. On behalf of everyone at the DHS, thank you for your commitment to the Society. Be sure to stop in the next time you are in Dedham Square - we are always happy to see you.

2014 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to all who have thus far helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2014.

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 from **October 10, 2014** through **December 1, 2014**. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. Your Annual Appeal donation is important to help us meet our budget, please send us your contribution today. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

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LOOKING BACK IN TIME

TOWN REPORTS TAKE A LOOK BACK 100 YEARS TO 1915

It is enlightening and often entertaining to spend time with old town reports and see what has changed in our community. The DHS Library & Archives holds many reports through the years. As we move into a new year, here are some highlights from Dedham's 280th Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1915.

- The list of jurors, as prepared by the selectmen, included 162 names – all men.
- Bacteriologist Arthur M. Worthington reported to the Health Department the following test results from his laboratory in 1914: 227 diphtheria cases, 38 tuberculosis, 4 malaria, and 4 typhoid.
- Edward J. Keelan, Jr., Health Officer reported the following deaths from contagious diseases: 1 anterior poliomyelitis, 11 pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 septic sore throat, and 1 whooping cough.
- The Police Department reported a total of 259 arrests in 1914; 250 were males and 9 females. The largest numbers of arrests were for drunkenness (88) followed by disturbance on public conveyance (31) and assault and battery (24). Six “stubborn” children were also arrested.
- The Fire Department purchased 3 new horses and 1,250 feet of hose. They responded to 64 box alarms, 14 still alarms, 82 bell alarms, and 2 false alarms.
- The School Committee estimated a budget of \$87,840 for the upcoming year with an enrollment of 2,215 students. The Building Committee for the new High School (located at 70 Whiting Avenue; it later became the Middle School) reported on the construction progress. The building will accommodate 600 or more pupils and the plumbing “will be first-class in every respect.” The contract called for a complete system of electric lights, clocks, program bells, telephones and apparatus for the fire alarm system connecting with the town system. The cost of the building, including the architect's fee was \$126,000. An additional appropriation was needed to complete the furnishings and grounds.
- There were 276 births recorded; 134 marriage certificates filed; and 144 deaths recorded.

OPEN SATURDAYS: The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on the following Saturdays from 1pm – 4pm: January 10 & 24; February 14 & 28.

This newsletter is a benefit of DHS membership. For membership information call 781-326-1385 or visit

www.dedhamhistorical.org

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Berry
Gabrielle Costantino
Nancy England
Gavin & Whitney Fitts
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John & Kim Koger
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