



# NEWS-LETTER

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

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

## September 2017



## FALL LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF ON SEPTEMBER 28 WITH LECTURE ON PAUL REVERE

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum's 2017-18 lecture series kicks off on Thursday, September 28 with the story of *Paul Revere, Artisan and Businessman* by Patrick M. Leehey, Research Director at the Paul Revere House. As school children we are taught the story of Paul Revere's famous ride, but Leehey will tell us more about Paul Revere as a successful businessman. The portrait above is of Revere, c 1800, when he was 65 years old and is from the collection of the Paul Revere Memorial Association. The DHS owns a bell made in Revere's foundry in 1796. It hung in the Norfolk County Courthouse and is the smallest bell known with the Revere name on it.

Back by popular demand, we are dedicating a special program, *Letters from the Civil War*, on Thursday, October 26, to those who have served our country in the military. The Society owns a collection of several hundred letters written by local residents to friends and family during the Civil War. The DHS will give a special nod to our veterans by having them read some of this correspondence. The readers will give a short biography of the author of the letter to help personalize their words. Join State Senator Mike Rush and other local veterans for this special program.

On Thursday, November 16, we welcome Laura Johnson, Associate Curator at Historic New England, for a presentation on *Mementos: Jewelry of Life and Love from Historic New England*. Based on her book of the same title (and an exhibit at the Eustis Estate Museum), this program highlights jewelry's unique role as public display of personal history.

On Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm, conservator Christine Thompson tells the story *The Restoration of the DHS 1763 Act of Parliament Clock*. The clock was donated to the DHS in 1890 by First Church. Over the past six months, this clock has received restoration treatment to stabilize and clean its wooden case, replace design elements, and address issues with the interior mechanism.

Author James C. O'Connell is sure to draw historians and foodies with his lecture on Thursday, March 15, *Dining Out in Boston: A Culinary History*. His presentation provides an historical overview of Boston as a pioneer in elaborate hotel dining, oyster houses, French cuisine, and more.

The series closes on Thursday, April 19 with the Annual Meeting and Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture on the *Medfield State Hospital: Past, Present, and Future*. This property is the historic former Medfield Insane Asylum and is currently faced with preservation issues. Society president Andrea Gilmore and local resident Peter Smith will discuss some of the preservation issues surrounding alternative uses while maintaining the historic significance of the property.

Unless otherwise noted, all lectures begin at 7:30 pm at the Dedham Historical Society & Museum auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. The 2017-2018 lecture series is sponsored by David G. Newsom in memory of his wife, Carol L. Newsom.



## PAUL REVERE BELL AT THE DHS

Although best known for his legendary Midnight Ride, Paul Revere (1735-1818) was a talented and successful metalsmith. In 1787, Revere built an iron and brass foundry in the North End, where he made chimney backs and window weights. At the outset of the religious revival known as the Second Great Awakening (1790--late 1850s), Revere saw the need for church bells and embarked on a venture casting bells for area churches as well as government buildings.

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum is proud to have one of twenty-five bells that Revere cast while he was overseeing the work at the foundry. The bell in the DHS collection is dated 1796. It cost \$888 and hung in the cupola of Dedham's original Norfolk County Courthouse. When the bell was in the Courthouse, it was rung by tugging on a rope just before the start of Court sessions.

In 1894, the County Commissioners gave the bell to the Dedham Historical Society. Our Revere bell is the only object from the original wooden Courthouse, and you can find it in the furniture exhibit room of the historical society. Be sure to join us on Thursday, September 28 at 7:30 pm to learn more about Paul Revere as an artisan and businessman.

## TWO NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE FALL



On Sunday afternoon, September 24, join DHS Board member, Joan Pagliuca, for a *Walking Tour of Village Cemetery*. Pagliuca, an experienced history tour guide, will discuss the cemetery and some of the people who are buried there.

Village Cemetery on Village Avenue is one of the oldest burial grounds in Massachusetts. The first recorded death in Dedham was that of John Fisher in 1637. While burial records don't exist, it is likely he was buried at Village Cemetery. Unfortunately, many of the records pertaining to the cemetery contain conflicting information, so the Society faces a challenge when trying to piece together an accurate history of the town's oldest burial ground. Tours are scheduled for 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm and a limited number of tickets are available. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are not available the day of the event. This program is sponsored by IOOF Hermann Dexter Lodge # 133.



Join us for a family fun program on Sunday afternoon, October 1, *Dedham History: True or False?* Participants will start by purchasing a "score card" at the DHS and walk to six historic sites in the area. At each site, participants will hear a story from Society staff and volunteers about that particular local site. The story may be true, based on historical information, or it may be false. Participants will mark their score card true or false for each story. After visiting all six sites, participants return to the Society and check their card to see how well they know the history of Dedham. Participants who accurately guess all six stories will receive a small gift. The score cards can be purchased for \$5.00 at the DHS the day of the event. This program is sponsored by Needham Bank.

Information and registration for both of these events will be mailed to DHS members within the next several weeks. Watch your mail and sign up for these great programs.

## **DHS ANNUAL APPEAL UNDERWAY**

DHS President Andrea Gilmore has launched the Society's 2017 Annual Appeal. Her letter and a contribution form will arrive soon in your mailbox. The Society contacts members twice each year for funding. In January the Membership Renewal notices are mailed to members and are followed in September by the Annual Appeal. The Society relies on these campaigns for a significant portion of its operating budget.

## **DHS BUILDING UNDERGOES A FACELIFT**

The DHS building has undergone a transformation over the summer. Designed by architect Edwin J. Lewis and built in 1888 for the historical society, the brick structure, with its large round arches and Palladian window, is itself an important artifact in the DHS's collection. Just like any other historic structure, it requires care to maintain its historical integrity. Society President Andrea Gilmore used paint scrapings to determine the original color of the exterior windows, and working with staff and architectural historians, it was decided to repaint the windows in their original Victorian colors: dark red and brown. In addition to the exterior work, plywood was removed that had covered the interior windows for more than ten years. New ultraviolet filtering shades will be installed later this year to protect the objects on exhibit.

This work is an important beginning of restoration work to take place over the next few years. Additional work will include removing abandoned radiators, modifying existing exhibit cases, and installing new lighting. Stay tuned for more changes!



## **VISITOR FROM IRELAND BRINGS STORIES OF DEDHAM ANCESTORS**

The DHS regularly welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world. In July, Noreen Moloney from Tipperary, Ireland visited the archives and met with archivist Sandra Waxman. She was seeking information about an ancestor, Michael Moloney, who had immigrated to Dedham in the 1800's, and other relatives from the area. Moloney brought with her stories about her ancestors as well as a newspaper article detailing some of their exploits. She knew that Michael Moloney had run a newsstand and by researching town directories, Waxman discovered its location in East Dedham Square. Waxman also found an image in *Picturesque Boston's Southern Suburbs* from 1895 showing the front of the building. Another photograph was also found of her relative, Rev. Michael Moloney, who was born in Dedham and served at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Roxbury.

It is always interesting when visitors bring knowledge of their family history and can add to our files. The archives are open by appointment Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm; and even dated Saturdays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. For an appointment, contact [library@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org) or 781-326-1385.

## SOCIETY EXHIBITS PAINTINGS OF LOCAL ARTIST CHARLES MILLS

Charles Mills (1856-1956) led a full life as an artist and citizen of Dedham. Although he was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mills moved to Dedham in 1888 and spent many years living and working here. Mills attended Allegheny College for a year and then went to Europe when he was 22. While there, he studied art in Germany and Italy. He was known as one of the 'Duveneck boys' in Venice, a group of eight young artists who studied under Frank Duveneck, an American painter, etcher, and art teacher who is credited for creating a new art movement known for a freer application of paint.

In addition to landscapes and portraits, he painted the mural series at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in the South End. Mills also designed stained glass, creating the Suter Window at Trinity Church and the stained glass windows in Memorial Hall at Harvard University.

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum exhibit features four of Mill's landscapes, representing the seasons of the year. The exhibit continues through December 1, 2017.

Other paintings by Charles Mills in the DHS collection include: *The Birches*; *The Old Whiting Mills on Motherbrook*; and *The Jeremiah Shuttleworth House & First Post Office in Dedham*.

The Museum hours are Tuesday – Friday 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm, and even dated Saturdays 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Admission is free for DHS members; non-members \$2.



*Charles River* by Charles Mills; c 1937

**NOTE: The DHS will be closed on Friday, November 10 to honor Veteran's Day.**

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

*or visit [www.dedhamhistorical.org](http://www.dedhamhistorical.org).*

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Laurie & Mitchell Bloom  
Patricia & John Gavin  
Adele Rothman

### PLEASE THANK OUR CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

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