

NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

PO BOX 215 612 HIGH STREET DEDHAM MA 02027-0215

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

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

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

MAY 2018



JOIN US FOR THE SPRING SOIRÉE ON JUNE 2

Join us for an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the annual Spring Soirée on Saturday, June 2 at the home of Astrid and Thomas Burns. Their stately, hip-roofed Colonial Revival residence was built for John C. Rice in 1905. The brick home is accented by cut stone sills, and lintels with elaborate keystones. The symmetrical façade is dominated by the oversized, central Palladian window and front entry surround. The gardens and grounds are just as impressive as the house!

Invitations to the Soirée will be mailed to DHS members in mid-May. Tickets are \$100 per person, \$125 for patrons, \$200 for benefactors, and include admission to the House Tour on Sunday, June 3. Catering for the Soirée is by Chiara of Westwood. For more information, please see the enclosed flyer or contact the Society office at 781-326-1385.



JUNE 3 HOUSE TOUR TICKETS NOW ON SALE



On Sunday, June 3, enjoy visiting seven great private homes along Village Avenue and Church Street, plus the historic Fairbanks House. The tour includes a late 18th century and several early 19th century homes. The architectural features and history of these houses will entice you to visit them. Tickets are \$25 for DHS members and \$30 for non-members. See the enclosed flyer or contact the Society at 781-326-1385 for details.

Refreshments will be served along the way and a raffle for an original Dedham Pottery bowl will be offered (the bowl is not part of the DHS collection). Raffle ticket prices are: 1 ticket \$5.00 or 3 for \$10. The drawing will be held at 4 PM at the Dedham Historical Society & Museum. The winner does not need to be present at the time of the drawing and will be notified within three business days of the event.

FAIRBANKS HOUSE HOSTING WALKING TOUR OF DEDHAM SQUARE

Join the curator of the Fairbanks House museum on a free one-hour walking tour of Dedham on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 PM. This family-friendly one-hour walking tour is free but reservations are required. Tour highlights include the town landing on the Charles River, First Church, Norfolk Tavern, the Samuel Dexter House, and old Village Cemetery. The final stop is the Dedham Historical Society & Museum. Tickets are limited. For tickets and more information, call the Fairbanks House at 781-326-1170.

HISTORY OF THE DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING

Many of our visitors are amazed with the DHS building, so we thought you might like to know more about it. The Dedham Historical Society was founded in 1859 by a group of citizens committed to preserving the history of the town. But until Hannah Shuttleworth stepped in, the society did not have a building to call its own.

Hannah Shuttleworth was born in 1800 in Dedham, the daughter of Jeremiah Shuttleworth and Sukey Richards Shuttleworth. Jeremiah Shuttleworth was Dedham's first postmaster. He ran the post office along with a small dry goods store out of his home, located on the site of the Dedham Historical Society building. Hannah inherited the family home, and upon her death in 1886 she left it and a \$10,000 bequest to the Society.

The home was moved to Bryant Street, and the Society set out to construct a building dedicated to the preservation of Dedham's history. Edwin J. Lewis, known for his distinctive houses in Dorchester, was hired as the architect. When the Society needed an additional \$2,000 for construction, 52 citizens stepped up to fill the gap in a town-wide campaign.

The building was completed in late 1887 and on January 25, 1888 the building was opened to the public. The building consisted of a lecture-display hall, basement area, and office. The building was constructed of brick with an open porch, arched entrance, and a fireproof vault. The brick came from the Kibbie Quarry in East Longmeadow, known for its dark red rock. The underpinnings and steps are of bluestone, and the roof was covered with black slate. The main hall has a cream white finish, heavy ceiling beams and pilasters.

In addition to her gift to the Historical Society, Hannah left \$10,000 to buy the land on Church Street for the Dedham Public Library, which was designed by the Boston firm of Van Brunt & Howe. She also left \$30,000 to the town of Dedham for the "worthy poor," to be named the Shuttleworth Fund.

When she died, the members of the Historical Society realized they didn't have a picture of Hannah. Don Gleason Hill, president of the Society, summoned Pietro Gariboldi, a Boston statuary manufacturer, to create a plaster cast of Hannah's face. Using this mask and aided by Hannah's friends, artist Annie R. Slafter drew a portrait. Both the portrait and the plaster cast are on exhibit in the Dedham Historical Society & Museum today.



Left to Right: Sketch of Hannah Shuttleworth by Annie R. Slafter and painting of Shuttleworth home by Charles Mills on High Street.

In the early 1960s, plans were drawn by architect John E. Carlson for a second exhibition room along with a modernized basement. After a delay due to finances, the building contract was awarded to Keller Construction Company. Most of the pictures, furniture, and breakables were packed up and sent off to storage. Books and other miscellaneous items remained in the building and had to be moved several times as the construction proceeded. Completion of the addition was celebrated on October 4, 1966. In the years since, the Historical Society building has undergone some "tweaking" but has remained essentially the same. The Dedham Historical Society & Museum building is a rare example of a purpose-built construction project that still houses its original occupant.

LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF THE DHS BUILDING

While researching the history of the construction of the DHS building, we discovered the following article published in the Dedham Transcript on February 5, 1887.

“The work on the Dedham Historical Society building is progressing, notwithstanding the unfavorable condition of the weather. The construction of the exterior walls had so far advanced that it became necessary, in order that the work should not be delayed, to lay the corner-stone, which was accomplished on Monday, afternoon, January 31. It was deemed impractical to call a meeting of the Society at this inclement season, and the work was informally done under the direction of the Curators, who constitute the Building Committee. At their request, the President of the Society deposited in the niche under the corner-stone a box containing various documents pertaining to the history of the town and the society, which was then carefully covered with solid masonry. The box, which was of copper, measured ten and a half inches in length, and was seven inches long and three inches deep. The following is a complete list of the documents deposited:

Ancient Grants of the original Proprietors of Dedham, with Plan.

Town Covenant, with names of Signers.

Worthington’s *History of Dedham*.

Haven’s Historical Address in 1836.

Manns’s *Annals of Dedham*.

Proceedings and Address at the dedication of Dedham Memorial Hall, 1868.

Voting List of Dedham, 1886.

Copy of the Acts of Incorporation of the Dedham Historical Society from Chap. 129, Acts of 1862, and Chap. 27, Acts of 1886.

Names of Officers and Members of the Dedham Historical Society.

Copy of vote of the Society directing its Curators to erect a building.

Copy of the DEDHAM TRANSCRIPT’s Anniversary Paper, September, 1886.

Name of Architect, Edwin J. Lewis, Jr., of Dorchester, Mass.

Name of Contractors, Woodbury & Leighton, Boston, Mass.”



CONGRATULATIONS AND FAREWELL TO VICKY KRUCKEBERG

Society members and friends are invited to a champagne and dessert reception on Thursday, June 28 from 7 – 9 PM to thank Executive Director Vicky Kruckeberg for her leadership at the DHS. Kruckeberg, who is retiring in mid-June, welcomes the opportunity to say goodbye to the many friends and colleagues she has made during her tenure at the DHS. Kruckeberg states, “Working here has been a labor of love, and I will always cherish the amazing people I have met. The Society is a historical treasure, and I hope everyone will continue to appreciate and support its rich collection of objects and archival materials.”



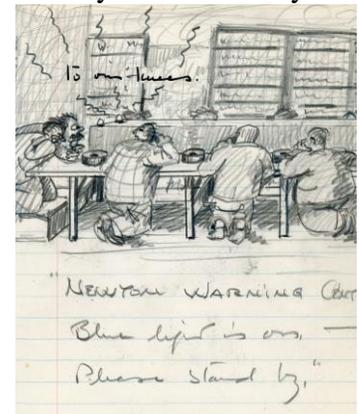
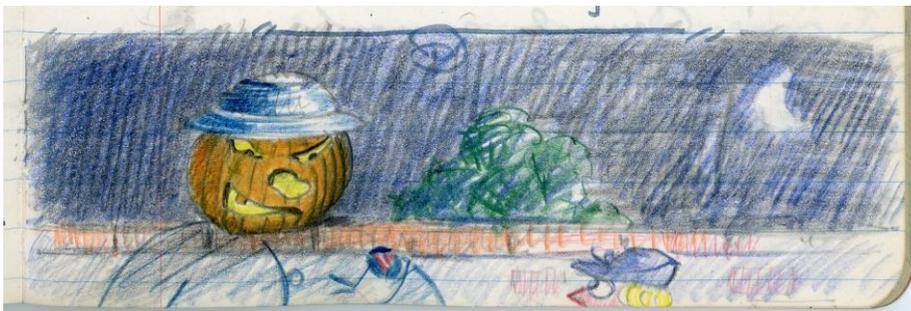
SPRINGTIME MEANS FIELD TRIPS!

The scent of daffodils, the sound of lawn mowers, and the sight of green grass-- all signs that spring is finally here! At the Historical Society, spring means field trips, and we’re ready to go. In late May and early June, Dedham third graders visit us to complement their unit on local history. The students learn about everyday Colonial life in Dedham while taking a tour of the museum and viewing archival materials in our library. Students love putting on white museum gloves and handling objects from our collection. Through dial telephones and wooden toys, they get a glimpse into another time in history. If your child hasn’t mentioned an upcoming field trip, call Lauren Kaufmann or send an email to info@dedhamhistorical.org.

CIVIL DEFENSE MATERIALS ARE PART OF DHS COLLECTION

The DHS continues to catalog materials into PastPerfect, the museum software that we use to record our objects and documents. Donna Russo, a Public History student at UMass Boston, is busy uncovering the military holdings from World War I and II. Of particular interest is the collection of J. Philip Hartt, who served as Dedham's Civil Defense Air Raid Warden during World War II. The term "Civil Defense" in the United States refers to an organized non-military effort to prepare Americans for military attack. Over the last twenty years, the term and practice of civilian Civil Defense have fallen into disuse and have been replaced by emergency management and homeland security.

As part of the Civil Defense effort, Hartt and other local officials met on a regular basis throughout the war. His collection includes booklets containing minutes from those meetings, along with information about plans for local emergency drills. Hartt must have found some of the meetings only somewhat interesting, because he made a few illustrations in the booklets, as you can see from the pumpkin head figure and *Newton Warming House* sketches below. Hartt also compiled a scrapbook with news clippings detailing upcoming air raid alerts and blackout tests in Dedham. For more information about our Civil Defense collection, contact Archivist Sandra Waxman at library@dedhamhistorical.org or 781-326-1385 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



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

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Susan Lewis Grant
Katherine Leahy
Katherine Massini
Sheila O'Marah
Nan & Chuck Richmond
Dr. Janene Todd

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Dedham MA 02027

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