



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

January 2018



DINING IN DEDHAM EXHIBIT OPENS JAN. 30



The old saying that "we are what we eat" holds true for the past as well as the present. The Society's new "Dining in Dedham" exhibit looks back on Dedham's culinary history, exploring what our ancestors ate, how they prepared it, and where they dined. From the earliest settlers eating by the kitchen fireplace to the arrival of fast-food chains in the 1950s, "Dining in Dedham" tells this delectable story through photographs, menus, old cookware, and other artifacts from the Society's collection. The exhibit opens January 30 and runs through 2018. So drop in for a taste of Dedham's past!

WINTER/SPRING LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF JANUARY 28

Our 2018 lecture series has something for everyone. On Sunday January 28 at 2 PM, conservator Christine Thompson provides an update on the conservation treatment of the DHS 1763 Act of Parliament Clock. The clock was donated to First Church by Samuel Dexter in 1764. It was removed from the church walls during renovation in 1829 and placed in storage until it was donated to the Society in 1890. It is thought to be one of only three clocks of this type in the United States. Thanks to the generous support of several donors, the clock is being stabilized and cleaned, design elements are being replaced, and the inside works are being repaired.

Coinciding with our new exhibit, on Thursday, March 15 at 7 PM, author James C. O'Connell will explore the history of restaurants in Boston with his lecture, *Dining Out in Boston: A Culinary History*. Based on his book of the same title, the lecture takes a visual journey to some of Boston's great hotel dining rooms, oyster houses, and ice cream parlors.

On Thursday, April 19 at 7 PM, join us for the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture and Annual Meeting. We wrap up the spring lecture series by exploring the challenges of saving historic sites. In their talk *Medfield State Hospital: Past, Present, & Future*, Andrea Gilmore and Peter Smith will use this project as an example of preservation issues such as land use, tax credits, and zoning issues.

RESEARCH SATURDAYS ARE BACK!

Good news for local historians—our Saturday Family History program is returning! Throughout the winter and into the spring, archivist Sandra Waxman will offer research materials to anyone interested in learning about Dedham's early families. On January 20 from 1 pm – 4 pm, we'll spotlight the Bussey family. On February 24, we'll focus on the Guild family. On March 24, we'll feature the Ames family, and on April 28, we'll highlight the Fisher family. Please contact us at 781-326-1385 to reserve a spot at the research table or contact Sandra at library@dedhamhistorical.org. There is no fee for members; we ask for a \$5 donation for non-members.

DON'T FORGET THE DHS WINE EVENT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2018

DEDHAM ARTISTS: FINDING LOCAL INSPIRATION

Many talented artists have made their homes and found their inspiration in Dedham. While some painted local scenes, others traveled the world to seek out new vistas, view the Old Masters, and learn from established artists.

Landscape painter Alvan Fisher (1792-1863) was born in Needham, then moved to Dedham when he was 13. At 18, Fisher began an apprenticeship with John Ritto Penniman in Boston. Fisher learned to paint portraits while assisting Penniman in decorating carriages and painting commercial signs. Fisher traveled throughout New England, painting landscapes of the region's mountains and riverways. In his early 30s, he set sail for Europe to take in the scenery of England, France, Italy, and Switzerland. While there, he sketched in museums and took drawing classes. When he was in his forties, Fisher and his wife moved from their Beacon Hill townhouse to a house on School Street in Dedham. Fisher painted portraits to bring in income, but his real passion was for landscapes and marine scenes. The DHS owns two paintings by Alvan Fisher, *The Young Hunter* and *Bellows Falls*. Both are on display.

Lilian Westcott Hale (1881-1963) also made her home in Dedham. She was educated at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and went on to become a highly regarded member of the Boston School of American Impressionism. While Lilian Hale painted still lifes and landscapes, she is best known for her tender portraits of children. The DHS owns a wonderful example in *Motley Sawyer*, a portrait of a young boy who lived in Dedham (see image at right). This painting conveys Hale's gift for using soft light and bright colors to capture the sweetness of children. The work hangs in our main gallery. Lilian was married to Philip Leslie Hale, a painter, art critic, and author. The DHS owns several works by Philip Hale.



Other local artists represented in the DHS collection include Charles Mills (1856-1956), Henry S. Talbot (1836-1924), Amasa Hewins (1795-1855), Daniel Bingham (1803-1849), and Harry Spiers (1869-1947). Some of their artwork is on permanent display, and other pieces are shown on a revolving basis.

SHOWCASING CONTEMPORARY DEDHAM ARTISTS

Contemporary artists continue to find inspiration in the local landscape. During the month of March, the Society will showcase works by local artists from the Dedham Art Association whose work depicts familiar area scenes. The exhibit will open on Thursday, March 1 with an opening reception. On Saturday, March 10, the DHS will invite local artists to come in and sketch objects on exhibit from our collection. For more information on the exhibit or the March 10 program, please contact Lauren Kaufmann at 781-326-1385 or info@dedhamhistorical.org.

LIST OF 2017 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS-DECEMBER 12, 2017

This listing includes all donations after **October 20, 2017 through December 12, 2017**. Our sincere thanks to all who helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2017. 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. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors.

(IMO = In Memory Of; IHO = In Honor Of)

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LOOKING BACK IN TIME

TOWN REPORTS TAKE A LOOK BACK 100 YEARS AGO

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 of the highlights from Dedham's Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1917.

- *Report from the Fire Department included:* "The quickness with which it (a new Motor Fire Truck) arrives at a fire and other economy of its upkeep as compared with that of the horses strongly suggests to the citizens the advisability of further and eventually total motorization of the Fire Department. Hardly a year passes that a valuable horse is not killed as a result of injuries received while responding to an alarm. We desire to see and the citizens expect the highest efficiency from the Fire Department." The Fire Department responded to 160 alarms during the year.
- *Report from the Police Department included:* Total number of arrests: 370 with 361 males and 9 females. 208 residents were arrested and 162 non-residents. The most frequent offenses were for: drunkenness (173); violation of automobile law (34); delinquent children (23); and a tie between assault/battery and larceny (19 each). One murder was reported (the name was not given in the report).
- *Report from the Superintendent of Schools included:* The number of students enrolled in the public schools was 2,425. The average daily attendance was 2,157. Approximately 100 children of school age residing in Dedham attended private schools. Sixty-seven students graduated from Dedham High School in the class of 1917 and the highest scholastic honors went to M. Christine Geishecker.

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

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Christine Aharonian
Ethan Barr
CDR & Mrs. Paul J. Brawley
Marilyn & Louis Corsini
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