



Dedham Historical Society & Museum

September 2018 Newsletter

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Contact

Dedham Historical Society
& Museum
P.O. Box 215
612 High Street
Dedham, MA 02027-0215
781.326.1385
Society@DedhamHistorical.org

Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Visit the Museum
Tuesday – Friday
11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Book an appointment with
the Archives. Email:
Society@DedhamHistorical.org
or call the office.

Visit DHSM's website
www.DedhamHistorical.org

From the Executive Director:

I would like to thank everyone who has welcomed me as the new director of the Dedham Historical Society & Museum (DHSM). I am fortunate to join a community that recognizes the value of cultural institutions, collaboration, and outreach. As we host programs and events, I look forward to meeting each DHSM member and learning how the organization can best serve your interests and curiosities.

Our collections are extraordinary. I am reminded of this daily by the flow of visitors to our museum, library, and archives. In the brief time I have been with DHSM, we have acquired quite a few objects and archival materials, mostly through gifts but also through purchase. These include slides of the hurricane of 1938, photographs of local industries, and two paintings by Dedham artist Alvan Fisher (1792–1863):



Left: *Moving the Herd, Winter, ca. 1820-25*, with frame by John Doggett (1780–1857).

Gift from Robert C. Vose III in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Vose, Jr.

Right: *Children with their Pets, 1839*.
Purchased at auction.



Please be on the lookout for our Annual Appeal letter. As a private institution, we rely on our members and local businesses to support operations and programming. Thank you for your generosity.

We hope you will also consider volunteer opportunities at DHSM. We have many wonderful projects on the horizon.

Thank you — *Johanna McBrien*

Lecture Series Schedule

We are delighted to present DHSM's lecture series lineup for 2018–2019. As you mark your calendars, please note that the starting time for lectures has changed to 7:00 pm (unless otherwise noted). Also, note that some lectures will be at locations other than the DHSM.

Thursday, September 20, DHSM; 7:00 pm

Nonie Gadsden: *Boston Area Arts and Crafts Jewelers & Metalsmiths*

Get a sneak peak of the MFA, Boston exhibition *Boston Made: Arts and Crafts Jewelry and Metalwork*, as curator Nonie Gadsden discusses area metalsmiths, including Dedham's Katharine Pratt, whose Gothic style silver and enameled box owned by DHSM is on loan to the MFA for the exhibition.

Tuesday, October 16, Dedham Public Library, 43 Church Street; 7:00 pm

Barbara Berenson: *Votes for Women: Massachusetts Leaders in the Woman Suffrage Movement*

Massachusetts was at the center of the national struggle for woman suffrage. Author and historian Barbara Berenson discusses this topic, including local suffrage activism. She is the author of *Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers* (2018).

Sunday, November 18, DHSM; 2:00 pm

Honoring the Centennial of the End of World War I

DHSM pays tribute to the centennial of the signing of the armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918, with a reading of letters from the war by Dedham's Chief of Police, Michael d'Entremont. DHSM's collection of WWI material will be on view for the event, which will include discussion about Dedham's efforts on the home front.

Thursday, February 21, 2019, DHSM; 7:00 pm

River Stories: Past, Present, Future

This collaborative session with Dedham's Sustainability Action Committee will feature experts on the history and future of water in Dedham. Topics will range from the arrival of settlers to recreational use, consumption, and climate change. Learn how Dedham is a microcosm within a global stage.

Thursday, March 21, 2019, DHSM; 7:00 pm

Kimberly Alexander, *The Fashion and History of Shoes*

Shoes are storytellers — through their materials, style, function, and owners. Join Professor Kimberly Alexander as she explores our history through footwear, including examples from the DHSM's collection. She is the author of *Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era* (2018).

Thursday, April 18, 2019, DHSM; 7:00 pm

Annual Meeting and Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture

Gail Coughlin, *The First Settlers of Dedham: The Region's Indigenous Peoples*

Before English settlers arrived, the land that became Dedham was home to several Native American tribes. Learn who stewarded and lived on the land in the 17th century and earlier from scholar Gail Coughlin, who is writing a book on the Indigenous histories of Dedham and surrounding communities.

We hope you will join us for these engaging programs. Admission for DHSM members is free; \$10 per person for non-members.

DHSM is fortunate that David G. Newsom is generously sponsoring the 2018-2019 lecture series in memory of his wife, Carol L. Newsom. Please join us in thanking Mr. Newsom for his commitment to DHSM and its educational programming.

Save the Date

Walking Tour: Medfield State Hospital

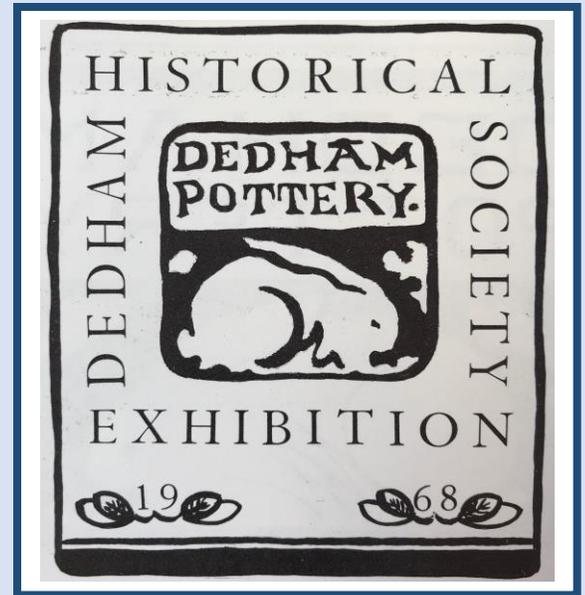
September 29, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Following last year's lecture about the Medfield State Hospital, DHSM board president Andrea Gilmore and Peter Smith of Oxbow Partners will lead a tour of the historic campus. The tour will discuss the history of the institution and the challenges of its redevelopment. Details to follow. Space will be limited.

Dedham Pottery Dinner

October 26, 2018

Dine on antique Dedham Pottery and enjoy a festive evening celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the first-ever exhibition of Dedham Pottery, presented by the Dedham Historical Society in 1968. Details to follow on how to reserve a seat for this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Dedham ~ Now & Then



In the heart of Dedham Square stands the Knights of Columbus building at the corner of Washington and High Streets. We know it for the variety of shops on the ground level, while the second floor houses professional offices along with the K of C meeting hall.

For much of the 19th century, a very different building occupied this site, the three-story Phoenix House hotel. One of Dedham's many inns, it catered to travelers on The Norfolk-Bristol Turnpike (now Washington St.) as well as the courthouse trade — judges, lawyers, plaintiffs and others staying in Dedham during the annual Superior Court session.

The Phoenix House rose from the ashes (hence its name) of its predecessor, Bride's Tavern, which burned down in 1832. For a period in the 1840s, the Phoenix House operated as a strict temperance hotel. Business soon dried up, however, and the liquor began to flow again. At a time when inns and taverns were Democrat or Republican according to their clientele, the Phoenix House was a blue establishment while the competing Norfolk House at 19 Court St. was solidly red. Through the years, the Phoenix House survived a number of fires, often starting in the large stables in the rear. On Christmas Eve 1880, its luck ran out and the wooden building burned to the ground.

A two-story brick business block was constructed on the site, housing retail stores and *The Dedham Transcript*. The Knights of Columbus purchased this building in 1920 and renovated it into today's structure. In 1956, the K of C celebrated paying off the mortgage with a "mortgage-burning" banquet. A program from the event is in our archives.

Sandra Waxman Retires as DHSM's Librarian and Archivist

On August 30, Sandra Waxman, DHSM's Librarian and Archivist, retired after fifteen years. Anyone who has ever used the DHSM collections under Sandra's care knows the value of her deep knowledge of the original archival, genealogical, and historic materials. In addition to managing the DHSM's archival and library collection, she has written grants, prepared exhibits, and worked with a loyal group of volunteers. A teacher for more than two decades prior to receiving her Master of Science in Library and Informational Science at Simmons, Sandra's interest in education has been at the forefront of her work at DHSM, aiding visitors in locating materials across many areas within the extensive collections. In addition, her interest in sharing the history of Dedham has been evident with school groups; helping make history relevant through connections with the past. Though her weekly presence will certainly be missed, we are pleased Sandra has offered to return for special projects. Please join Sandra's colleagues and the Board in wishing her well in her retirement.



Caption: Sandra Waxman sharing yearbook photos with visiting students from a Dedham school group in June 2018.

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

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ellen Boyter
Nancy Clemens
John Faye
Jay Fialkow
Loretta & Richard Larraga
Carolyn Mijares
Ann Stephens

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DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
PO Box 215 612 High Street
Dedham MA 02027

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