

# News-Letter – October 2005

## CURIOSITIES IN THE DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS AND

### RARE DEDHAM POTTERY ARE SUBJECTS OF NEW EXHIBIT

The museum at the Dedham Historical Society currently has a highly unusual exhibit. Titled *Curiosities in the Dedham Historical Society Collections*, it includes such diverse items as a series of canes, one of which is the oldest known American cane with ivory and silver, that belonged to one of Dedham's founders, along with a number of other important canes; a mother-of-pearl Chinese export tea chest, considered the finest of its type known; bed-warmers and a sausage maker; a Dedham Boat Club trophy, a Civil War revolver and a WWI French gas mask. There is a padlock from the first wooden jail in Dedham, a slave neck-chain, Paul Revere silver, hummingbird head earrings, 600 B.C. Egyptian crocodile mummies and a canopic jar, the Indian Deed to the Town of Dedham, two very rare colonial tavern signs, a lantern used when Abraham Lincoln visited Dedham, and many other unusual items.

According to Ron Frazier, CEO of the Society, the one thing that all these interesting items have in common is ... virtually nothing. Many have never been on exhibit because they don't fit into the usual museum exhibit that displays a number of like things together.

In addition to the "curiosities" exhibit, there will be an exhibit of extremely rare Dedham Pottery – both one-of-a-kind pieces that appear in the only Dedham Pottery book ever written and pieces that aren't shown in the book at all. Most of the items for the Dedham Pottery exhibit will be on loan from private collectors.

Paul Revere silver, along with other Revere items in the collection, and Dedham Pottery are both subjects that will be covered in the Society's fall lecture series.

The Historical Society is located at 612 High Street, Dedham, and museum hours are 12 to 4 PM on Tuesday through Friday, and 1 to 4 PM on even dated Saturdays. Special group tour arrangements may be made for other hours. Admission is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children.

For further information, visit the Society's web site at [www.DedhamHistorical.org](http://www.DedhamHistorical.org).

### PAUL REVERE: SILVERSMITH, PATRIOT & AMERICAN ICON LECTURE ON OCTOBER 20

Paul Revere will be the subject of the lecture to be held at the Dedham Historical Society auditorium on Thursday, October 20, at 7:30 PM, when Anthony M. Sammarco, historian, author and lecturer, will present: *Paul Revere: Silversmith, Patriot & American Icon*.

Sammarco has authored more than 50 books. He is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, and is curator and a resident of the Suffolk Resolves House in Milton and author of a weekly column *A Piece of our History*. He is treasurer of Bonney's Express and teaches history at the Urban College of Boston where he was named Educator of the Year in 2003. Sammarco has received the Bulfinch Award from the Doric Dames of the Massachusetts State House and the Washington Medal from Freedom Foundation for his work in history. He is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a member of the Boston Author's Club, and a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum. He is treasurer of the Victorian Society, New England Chapter, a member of the Milton Historical Commission, curator of the Milton Historical Society, a trustee of the Forbes House Museum, and past president of the Bay State Historical League and the Dorchester Historical Society.

The Society is fortunate to have Paul Revere silver from the Hannah Shuttleworth estate, a Revere bell from the court house, and the face on a Simon Willard clock done by Revere.

### APPRAISAL DAY SATURDAY, OCT. 22, 9-1

The highly popular *Antiques and Heirlooms Appraisal Day* is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Once again, Michael Grogan of Grogan & Company, Fine Art Auctioneers and Appraisers, will conduct our version of the popular *Antiques Road Show*. Grogan and his staff will give oral appraisals on such items as jewelry, bronzes, furniture, carpets, dolls, silver, glass, paintings and prints – in fact, almost anything except books.

Appraisals will be done on a first come, first served basis. The cost will be \$5 for one item and \$10 for three items.

### **ANNUAL APPEAL UNDER WAY**

In September, President Jim Kaufman sent out a letter requesting donations for our annual appeal. The appeal provides approximately 20% of the income needed to operate the Society each year. In his letter, Kaufman noted:

America's greatness is, in no small measure, attributable to her citizenry's heroic spirit of volunteerism. As Frenchman Alexis de Tocqueville observed in the 19th century, Americans' proclivity to form and join associations is central to the functioning of her democracy. In his book *Democracy in America*, de Tocqueville wrote:

"If men living in democratic countries had no right and inclination to associate...if they never acquired the habit of forming associations in ordinary life, civilization itself would be endangered."

The Dedham Historical Society has, for many years, been blessed with members possessed of a commitment to volunteer service. The Society's number of regular volunteers now exceeds 50! They have collectively contributed thousands of hours of their time these last few years.

Frankly, without the efforts of these selfless individuals, much of the work of the Society could not be accomplished by our small professional team. This includes the vital time and expertise contributions of the Worthington Committee, the Board of Directors, and our library volunteers, among others. Admirably, many of these same folks also donate financially.

Your Society's directors have been dedicated to the careful use of limited resources. They have enlisted expert advice while prioritizing the expenditures necessary to preserve both the museum and library structure and the artifacts we are charged with properly preserving. Great strides have been taken in recent years to achieve those objectives, including re-pointing the building's exterior, climate controlling the interior (at a great additional operating expense), and the careful professional restoration of paintings and other objects.

Much has been done, but many more projects await our attention such as the restoration of many paintings, including the cleaning of the highly important Lilian Hale child portrait the Society acquired this year. I encourage you, as one of the Society's dedicated supporters, to respond to the ever-growing needs of our broad preservation and educational mission with expanded generosity.

The Dedham Historical Society stands prominently as a success story among its peers in small towns around New England. That success has been the result of a wonderful spirit of volunteerism and generosity that has sustained the Society.

A significant portion of our annual operating budget is dependent upon philanthropy. Your financial support will not only help sustain your Society's work, it will also serve to properly honor the tireless efforts of our volunteers.

### **BLOOM'N THANKS**

There is always something in bloom on the Society's grounds. On the stairs we thank Mary Anne and Bob Osborne for seasonal delights. On the grounds we thank Mabel Herweg for her landscape and hosta expertise.

Thanks to all for their efforts and accomplishments on behalf of the Society.

### **NEW LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS**

**Images of America: Boston's Back Bay** by Anthony Sammarco. Gift of Sandra Waxman.

**Ancestors of Gale Lanning Fuller**. Gift of Gale Lanning Fuller.

**The Department of Textiles**. Gift of Ronald Frazier.

**Reflections, Dedham High School Yearbook.** Gift of Dedham High School, Senior Advisor Jo Forman.  
**Dover Union Iron Company.** Gift of Josef and Bonnie Fryer.  
**Liberty and Freedom: A Visual History of America's Founding Ideas** by David Hackett Fisher. Gift.  
**Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts 1742-1998** by Franklin A. Dorman. Purchase.  
**The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. October 2004.** Subscription.  
**Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree** by Tony Burroughs. Purchase.  
**Divided We Stand: Watertown, Massachusetts, 1630-1680** by Roger Thompson. Purchase.  
**Light on Snow** by Anita Shreve. Purchase. Dedham author.  
**Map Librarianship** by Mary Lynette Larsgaard. Purchase.  
**Courthouse Research for Family Historians** by Christine Rose. Purchase.  
**American Naturalization Records 1790-1990.** Purchase.  
**Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the NEHGS** (New England Historical Genealogical Society). Purchase.  
**Pilgrim Migration. Great Migration 1620-1623 Plymouth County.** Purchase  
**King Philip's War: The History and Legacy of America's Forgotten Conflict** by Eric B. Schultz and Michael J. Tougias. Purchase.  
**Captors and Captives: The French and Indian Raid on Deerfield** by Evan Haefeli and Kevin Sweeney. Purchase.  
**Extraordinary Tenure: Massachusetts and the Making of the Nation from President Adams to Speaker O'Neill** by Neil J. Savage. Gift of author.  
**Policing Needham** by Lisa Brems. Gift. Dedham author.  
**Planning for Integrated Systems Technologies.** Purchase.  
**Archival Organization and Description.** Purchase.  
**Management Basics for Information Professionals** by Edward Evans, Patricia Layzell Ward, and Bendik Rugaas. Purchase.  
**Captors and Captives: The 1704 French and Indian Raid on Deerfield.** Purchase.  
**Masquerade, The Life and Times of Deborah Sampson, Continental Soldier** by Alfred F. Young. Purchase.  
**Wellesley College Alumnae Directory 1999.** Gift of Betsy Games.  
**Kingsbury Hall: The Genealogy of a Family, Volumes I and II** by Ben Kingsbury. Gift of author.  
**Mr. Richardson's Oration July 4, 1808.** Missing speech returned from Alabama Veteran's Museum and Archives.  
**Why Dedham?** by Jane (McCammon) Shafer. Gift of author.  
**Point Annual Genealogy.** Italian genealogy notebook. Gift of Carol Sestito.  
**Pointers.** Subscription to Italian genealogical magazine. Gift of Carol Sestito.  
**Pointers.** Subscription renewal of Italian genealogical magazine. Gift of William Sestito and Carol Sestito.  
**A Token of My Affection** by Barry Shank. A history of the greeting card industry. Purchase.  
**Archives in the Church or Synagogue Library** by Evelyn R. Ling. Purchase.