

NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

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

SEPTEMBER 2014

DHS LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum 2014-15 lecture series kicks off on Thursday, September 11 with award-winning musician Jeff Davis providing a musical tour of Massachusetts and New England through folk music. His engaging stories of songs, knowledge of musical history, and collection of unique instruments will make this an evening to remember.

On Thursday, October 16, Peggy Konitzky, Wiscasset Site Manager, Historic New England, will present a program on *Victory Began at Home, The World War II Home Front*. Society archivist, Sandra Waxman, is helping Konitzky incorporate stories of local interest. Historian and author George Quintal, Jr. presents a lecture on *Patriots of Color: African-Americans and Native Americans in the Revolution* on November 20. His presentation offers stories about men of color who gave their lives in the early years of our country, including several Dedham residents. A special lecture on December 11 brings Robert Cheney, Director of Clocks, Watches & Scientific Instruments, Skinner, Inc. who will discuss Willard clocks. His research expands the story of clock-making to include international commerce from 1785-1825.

2015 lectures include: January 15, David Kruh will return for an encore presentation of *The Building of Route 128* and Robert Hanson will entertain us with *Jason Haven, Joshua Bates & the Progress of Transformation in Dedham* on March 19. The series will close on April 16 with Winterthur Museum scholar and author Brock Jobe discussing *400 Years of Massachusetts Furniture*.

All lectures begin at 7:30 pm at the Dedham Historical Society & Museum auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. Be sure to post the lecture series card inserted in this newsletter in a prominent place so you don't miss any of these outstanding presentations.

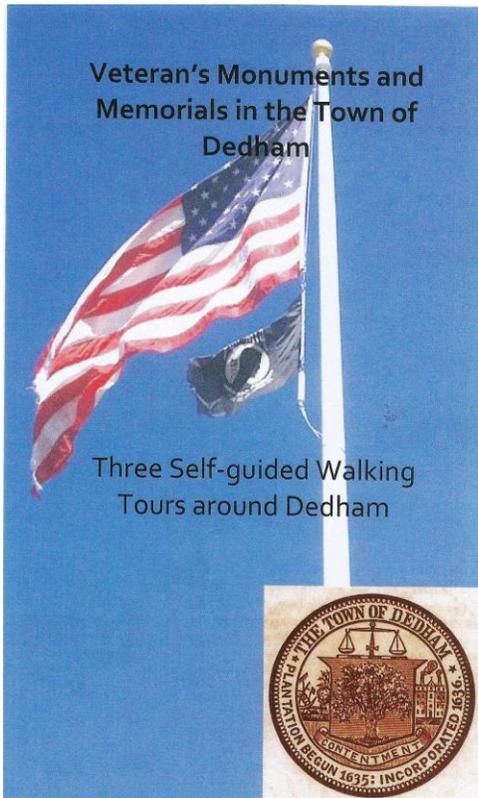


Folk Musician Jeff Davis

DHS OPENS EXHIBIT ON POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Society joined the Dedham Police Department and other community organizations to celebrate National Night Out. The DHS installed a small exhibition of historic photographs and newspaper headlines of the police department. The focus of the event is to allow local law enforcement and citizens to unite and participate in public safety awareness. Most of the events took place between August 2 and August 8; however, the Society's exhibit will remain until September 30. Of special note in the exhibit is a 1949 photograph of Officer Stephen Muirhead, a photograph of a 1930 Police Department ambulance, and a "Permit to work on the Lord's Day" from the 1930s.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PROVIDES WALKING TOUR OF DEDHAM VETERAN'S MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS



Earlier this year Timothy Cunningham approached the Society regarding his proposed Eagle Scout project, to create a brochure listing veteran's monuments and memorials in Dedham. He completed his research this spring and produced a brochure of three self-guided walking tours around Dedham, including the Civil War Tablets at Town Hall, monuments in Brookdale Cemetery, and the veteran's memorial monument located near Oakdale Square.

Cunningham states "Hana Heald of the *Dedham Times* approached my Scoutmaster with an idea for an Eagle project having to do with the many historical monuments and landmarks in Dedham. I have always had a love of history, and so I immediately was interested in the idea. After doing some research, I decided that a walking tour would be the best way to help Dedham residents and visitors learn more about the history of the Town."

Copies of the walking tour are available free of charge at the Society. Cunningham is a member of Troup 1 Dedham and received his Eagle Scout award in July.

NEW ACQUISITIONS EXPAND 20TH CENTURY COLLECTION

Some Society members think all we collect is "old" stuff. But what is the description of "old?" This summer the DHS acquired two new items that are from the 20th century but are extremely different. They each tell a story about life. But one is an object of beauty while the second reminds us that in the mid-20th century we faced enemies of a new dimension.

The first gift is a drawing by local artist Philip Hale given to the Society by Rob and Mary Joan Leith. It is a sketch for a mural in a New England church and shows a head and extended arm with a long trumpet. Unfortunately, we do not know if the mural was ever completed or what church it was meant for. This wonderful addition increases our collection of works of art by local artists. Other Hale works owned by the Society include a lithograph titled "Heart of a Woman", a pastel "Liberty Bonds Guarantee Immunity from Spies", a crayon drawing of Lilian Wescott Hale, and a pastel of a "Football Player."

The second item, a first aid kit given by Michael Buckley, is a green, waterproof canvas shoulder bag marked "Civil Defense." It is filled with 31 individual packages of supplies never opened, including boxes of sterilized dressings, safety pins for holding the dressings in place, and emergency medical tags. A package of scissors is dated 1955. For those who remember the Cold War, a medical kit like this was an essential part of being prepared. In the United States, the power of nuclear weapons and the perceived likelihood of such an attack by the Soviet Union, precipitated a response that included emergency broadcast alerts, fallout shelters, "duck & cover" training in schools, local emergency response teams, and first aid kits.

2013 ANNUAL APPEAL UNDERWAY

DHS President Andrea Gilmore has launched the Society's 2014 Annual Appeal. Her letter with a contribution form will soon arrive in your mailbox. The Society relies on the Annual Appeal to fund a significant portion of its operating budget and a donation of any size will help us reach our goal. Thank you.

A SUMMER OF KIDS AT THE DHS

The Society was filled with kids this summer who participated in our school tours and family history program. Avery and Oakdale School 3rd grade students spent time with us at the end of their academic year, and the TREK (technology, recreation, enrichment, knowledge) middle school program brought 6th graders to visit in June and July. A few of the older students remembered coming here in their elementary school years and found a new appreciation for our Paul Revere bell, 1685 land deed, and 18th century fire buckets. All the students were given free passes to return with family or friends.

Kids in the family history program enjoyed learning about their family tree. They returned

home ready to ask parents and grandparents questions about the "old" days. The kids created a drawing of their family tree which was turned into a commemorative plate to remind them of their time with us. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Dedham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



SOCIETY VOLUNTEER CONTINUES TRANSCRIBING CIVIL WAR LETTERS

Every week volunteer Susan Kuecher strains her eyes to read faded words from the 1860s. She is transcribing a collection of letters from soldiers who were in the battlefields of the Civil War. In one letter written in light pencil, Henry A. Fuller, 20th Regt. Mass. Vols., writes to his brother Warren from Camp Winfield Scott on May 2, 1862, just before the battle of Yorktown, VA. Part of the letter describes helping his Captain who has been wounded.

He (Capt. Bartlett) was kneeling on one knee behind a tree looking through his glass when he received a mini Ball in his leg just above the knee it passed down his leg & came out at the Calf into his boot – He was taken to Camp in a litter where he had his leg amputated above the knee Myself with 7 others of our Company were detailed to go with him to Chessman (?) Point about 7 miles from here to assist in carrying him there – we got him into an Ambulance wagon & went about 1 mile when we found the Log roads so rough we had to Carry him on a litter – We had to Carry him about ½ of the way over the worst roads I ever saw – it was awful – we arrived at the Point about 8 oclock pm got him aboard of the Hospital Boat for Baltimore where he is now After we got him on the Boat we came back to the Landing opened a bundle of Hay & turned into it & slept what we could till 5 oclock in the morning when we Started back to our Camp We arrived at Camp at 8 oclock tired & hungry enough not having had anything to eat but 2 Hard Crackers since the morning before when we ate our Breakfast before going on Picket – We missed Capt Bartlett very much he is a nice man & one of the best officers in the Reg & the men thought a great deal of him

Capt. Bartlett returned to Boston to recuperate and during the summer of 1862 finished his degree at Harvard University. Bartlett was placed in charge of forming a new regiment, the 49th Massachusetts Infantry, and survived the war. According to *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors & Marines in the Civil War, Vol. II*. Fuller was taken prisoner August 25, 1864 at Reams' Station, VA. He died of disease at the age of 35 in Salisbury, NC while still a prisoner. Fuller was married to Caroline A. Jenkins and buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Wellesley.

Kuecher's experience (and persistence) in translating these letters is extremely important as we finalize plans to make these letters available to the public.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES - WHO WAS David Irving Hill?

A Spruce Street resident recently inquired about David Irving Hill, whose name appears on a commemorative sign on that street.

Our research found that Hill was born in Dedham on December 2, 1920 to Donald Gleason Hill and Ruth Bruns Hill. His father, Donald, was the town clerk and president of the Dedham Historical Society. David Hill graduated from Dedham High School in 1939 with an interest in mechanics.

He enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1941 and participated in the invasion of North Africa and Normandy. Hill was part of a crew that took over a German submarine captured in the Atlantic. According to the September 28, 1945, *Dedham Transcript*, he made the "supreme sacrifice" and "died a hero's death in Curtis Bay, Maryland while endeavoring to save the life of a shipmate." He was survived by a wife, Althea, his parents, a brother, and

sister. Hill was laid to rest in Brookdale Cemetery. For more information on David Irving Hill please contact Sandra Waxman at 781-326-1385 or library@dedhamhistorical.org.



Photo courtesy DHS Yearbook 1939.

OPEN SATURDAYS: The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on the following Saturdays: Sept. 6, 20, Oct. 4 & 18.

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

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary E. Donohoe
Michael & Diane Patriarca

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