

# NEWS-LETTER

## DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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

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

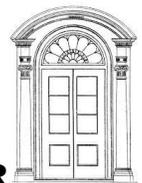
### MARCH 2015

## ROBERT HANSON RETURNS FOR LECTURE ON JASON HAVEN AND JOSHUA BATES

Robert Hanson returns to the Society on March 19 to discuss *Jason Haven, Joshua Bates & the Progress of Transformation in Dedham*. Haven and Bates were both men of the cloth and were very influential in the early years of Dedham's history. Hanson always entertains his audience and brings a new perspective to Dedham history.

Concluding this year's series on April 23, Winterthur Museum scholar and author Brock Jobe will discuss *400 Years of Massachusetts Furniture*. Jobe, Professor of American Decorative Arts at the Winterthur Museum, is a highly respected scholar specializing in early American furniture. He has been leading a research team creating a database of early furniture made in Massachusetts. The DHS is proud to have several pieces included in this research. **Please note that the date of Jobe's lecture has changed from the original schedule.** His lecture will be preceded by a short Annual Meeting and election of Board Members.

All lectures begin at 7:30pm at the Dedham Historical Society & Museum auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. The Society is currently working with Robert Cheney to re-schedule his Willard Clock lecture in the fall of 2015. The new date will be announced as soon as arrangements have been confirmed.



## SAVE THE DATES FOR THE SPRING SOIREE AND HOUSE TOUR

The DHS annual spring Soiree will take place on Saturday, May 30, followed by the House Tour on Sunday, May 31. These are two events you don't want to miss. The Soiree is always a special evening at a private home with good food, wine, great conversation, and beautiful surroundings. The next day, be sure to join us for an afternoon of strolling through historic Dedham and visiting great private homes. Invitations to the Soiree and details for the House Tour will be mailed to members in early May.

## “TINY TREASURES” EXHIBIT WORTH A VISIT

*“I love it! The blown-up pictures let me see the tiny details.”*

*“The button with the Fairbanks House painted on it is so tiny!”*

*“These objects are wonderful treasures – what a treat to see them.”*

These are just a few of the comments from visitors as they view our “Tiny Treasures” exhibit. Both kids and adults are fascinated by the 19<sup>th</sup> century miniature shoe with dolls inside illustrating the children's rhyme, “There was an old woman who lived in a shoe;” the twelve page hand-illustrated valentine from the 1820s; and the silver snuff box engraved with a heart & arrows. As a DHS member, be sure to take advantage of your free museum admission – we look forward to seeing you! The Museum is open Tuesday – Friday, 12 noon – 4pm and even-dated Saturdays, from 1pm – 4pm.

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES - "Klemm's Restorant"

The following are excerpts from notes written by Arthur W. Thayer in 1931. The "restorant" Thayer refers to was located inside the Reunion Hotel on Eastern Avenue (at that time also known as Railroad Street) near High Street between the present day CVS Pharmacy and Mocha Java.



*Standing on Eastern Avenue next to the building now occupied by Maher's Plumbing Establishment, one room of which is now (year 1931) occupied by Thos. Rafferty, the barber, was and is a large square building; then painted yellow, and bearing a sign over its front door, "Klemm's Restorant" which was inhabited by Frederick Klemm, his wife, and "Freddy" their son. Mr. Klemm, Senior, was a strange sort of man, a very highly educated German with evidently a thorough University education. His wife was a most hospitable Irish-woman with a most passionate aversion for dust or dirt of any description and a penchant for treating any boy who came to play with her "Freddy" to a dish of ice-cream, which made her very popular with me, for one. Occasionally I would run across Mr. Klemm, who always used to inquire very particularly about my schooling and sometimes he would end his inquiries by telling me how differently the German boys were taught, and by quoting from the Aeneid of Virgil in the original Latin, or the Iliad of Homer in the original Greek, both pronounced according to the Continental pronunciation. He had a preternaturally deep and rather gruff voice and was a fearsome object to a boy used to the higher-pitched rather nasal Yankee voices, and it was a long time before I got used to him. Whenever he had one of these quotation attacks Mrs. Klemm would appear and stand listening to him with the greatest interest and devotion and evidently delighted that he was bringing forth his stores of erudition. . . .*

*Klemm's "Restorant" provided quite a number of questions as to the proper spelling of the word "Restorant" and the local paper had a short article explaining that "Restorant" was the proper English spelling, and that "Restaurant" was the French form of the word and commending Mr. Klemm for adhering to the English form, which gave the old gentleman great satisfaction. The old house still stands, having had many tenants since Mr. and Mrs. Klemm and Fred used to live there.*

DHS NOTES: Frederick D. Klemm came to America from Germany in 1847 after being involved in student riots at Heidelberg University and settled in Dedham. When he built the hotel he named it "Reunion Hotel" hoping that the U.S. Civil War would be settled by a "reunion" of the states. During the war the hotel was patronized by soldiers from Readville to whom Mr. Klemm gave fencing lessons. It was also a popular place for jurors when court was in session. Klemm and his wife, Ann Hartnett, raised their two children, Frederick D. Jr., and Charles Henry in Dedham. Klemm Sr. died at the age of sixty in December 1884, just two weeks after his wife, and is buried in Brookdale Cemetery. For more information on Frederick Klemm, his "Restorant", or the Reunion Hotel please contact Sandra Waxman at 781-326-1385 or [li-brary@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:library@dedhamhistorical.org).

## FINAL LIST OF 2014 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to all who helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2014. 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. This listing completes all donations since our last newsletter through **December 31, 2014**. Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

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## **2015 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP DUES MAILED IN EARLY JANUARY**

Approximately 55% of our 525 general members responded to our January mailing and have paid their 2015 Membership Dues. Thank you so much! If you have not received your dues notice or have any questions regarding your membership, please contact the office: 781-326-1385 or [society@dedhamhistorical.org](mailto:society@dedhamhistorical.org). Business/Corporate membership notices were mailed in February.

## **CIVIL WAR EXHIBIT FINDS NEW HOME AT DEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL**

Exhibit panels from last year's Civil War exhibit have found a new home with the History Department of Dedham High School. Andrew Morton, head of the History Department, was pleased when the DHS called and offered him the exhibit panels including pictures of local soldiers. Morton feels the stories about local soldiers will help his students understand the impact of the Civil War on their community. DHS staff and volunteers spend many hours researching photographs, archival files, and newspapers when creating our exhibits and we are pleased to recycle the panels in a location where a new young audience will learn about local history.

## WINTER WINE TASTING A SUCCESS DESPITE MOTHER NATURE

Mother Nature sent us a challenge the week of the Winter Wine Tasting but over 80 friends turned out to support the Society and sample wonderful wine and food while meeting their friends. Our sincere thanks to Building Conservation Associates for designing and printing the invitations, Fine Estates from Spain for providing a great selection of wines, and to the Worthington Committee for supplying tasty food. Our hats are also off to the Rabes and Frank Ippolito for their extra efforts to clear the ice and snow from our steps and sidewalks.



**OPEN SATURDAYS: The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on the following Saturdays from 1pm – 4pm: March 14 & 28 and April 4 & 18.**

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

[www.dedhamhistorical.org](http://www.dedhamhistorical.org)

### WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Berry  
Gabrielle Costantino  
Nancy England  
Gavin & Whitney Fitts  
Gary Gregory  
John & Kim Koger  
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