



NEWS-LETTER

DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

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Tel: 781-326-1385 – E-Mail: Society@DedhamHistorical.org – Web Site: www.DedhamHistorical.org

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

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

NOVEMBER 2015



DHS LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES WITH PRESENTATION ON GENEALOGY

The Dedham Historical Society & Museum 2015-16 lecture series continues on November 12 with genealogist Michael Brophy presenting a lecture on “*Genealogy Myths & Legends.*” He will discuss the truth or exaggeration behind statements such as “Our name was changed at Ellis Island” or “I am descended from an Indian.”

2016 lectures include: January 14, Jennifer Pustz, Historian for Historic New England, prepares fans for the final season of Downton Abbey with her presentation of “*Voices from the Back Stairs.*” Pustz will explore domestic conflicts between mistress and servant. On March 31 researcher Andrew Saxe will examine “*Dedham and Dorchester: Architects In Common*” comparing architectural designs in the two communities. The series will close on April 21 with the Annual Meeting and the Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture with Arlyen A. Levee, landscape historian and preservation consultant. Levee will discuss “*Frederick Law Olmsted and the Dedham Connection.*”

All lectures begin at 7:30 pm at the Dedham Historical Society & Museum auditorium. Admission: DHS members free; \$5 per person for non-members. The 2015-16 lecture series is sponsored by David G. Newsom.

LOCAL YOUTHS ASSIST SOCIETY WITH SUMMER PROJECTS

The DHS was a busy place over the summer with two local college students assisting staff with projects in the archives.

Tim Cunningham assisted volunteer Susan Kuecker with the transcription of our Civil War letter collection. They read and re-read letters in tiny print to make sure all the words and punctuation were accurately transcribed. Nathan Kaufman dived into our many boxes of archival materials to create lists of individual documents in each box. He helped to organize boxes with materials from the 1936 Dedham 300 anniversary celebration, and business documents dating from the 18th century. Sandra Waxman, DHS archivist, supervised both projects.

Staff enjoyed working with both of these individuals and look forward to their return when their school schedules allow.



Nathan Kaufman (left) and Tim Cunningham (right)

LOOKING BACK IN TIME -

MARJORIE MORRILL – DEDHAM’S TENNIS STAR

by Steve Brayton

Dedham has known its share of big-league sports stars over the years, including Johnny Damon, a Dedham resident during his Red Sox years, and basketball coaching great Jim Calhoun, who started his career at Dedham High School.

Back in the late 1920s and early '30s, Dedham boasted top-ranked tennis star Marjorie Morrill. She reached #2 in the U.S. in 1930 and was ranked among the Top 10 women four other times from 1928-1934. In 1930 at the U.S. National Championships, forerunner of the U.S. Open, Morrill played in the mixed doubles final, where she and partner Frank Shields lost to Edith Cross and Wilmer Allison.

The daughter of Boston lawyer Joseph Morrill and Olive Morison Morrill, she grew up on Glenridge Road. An around competitor, Morrill played singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. At the 1932 national indoor championships at Longwood in Brookline, she swept all three events, as the Associated Press reported:

National tennis championships came in bunches today for Marjorie Morrill of Dedham, Mass., the nation's sixth ranking woman player, who registered a "grand slam" in the three finals of the women's indoor title play at the Longwood covered courts. The Dedham girl's "grand slam" is the second in the history of women's indoor tennis.

Morrill made one appearance at Wimbledon in 1929, advancing to the third round in singles while also playing doubles, and mixed doubles.

Former Dedham resident Russell MacAusland's parents bought the Morrill home in 1950. Growing up, MacAusland played at the Dedham Tennis Club on Glenridge Rd., the land for which had been given by Joseph Morrill. MacAusland, now living in New Jersey, remembers hearing stories about Marjorie Morrill "spending hours every day hitting the ball against the backboard there."

Marjorie Morrill Painter Whiting died in 2009 in Concord in her 100th year. Married 42 years to Whitfield Painter, they raised three children while moving more than a half dozen times about the U.S. for his sales job with Plymouth Cordage. Her obituary noted that the frequent moves "enabled the family to meet numerous friends, especially those who played tennis."

(Photograph courtesy Boston Public Library, Leslie Jones Collection.)



EXHIBIT OPENS WITH IMAGES OF DEDHAM ENGLAND



On November 1 a new exhibit showcasing images of Dedham England opens at the DHS. The exhibit includes paintings in the Society's collection by local artist Charles Mills and English artist John Constable. The exhibit continues through fall of 2016.

Left: *St. Mary's Church Dedham England* by Charles Mills.

2015 ANNUAL APPEAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere thanks to all who have thus far helped us meet our financial obligations for the year 2015.

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 through October 1, 2015.** Please be sure to contact us if there are any errors. Your Annual Appeal donation is important to help us meet our budget, please send us your contribution today. (IMO = In Memory Of, IHO = In Honor Of)

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LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF THE MONTH

In the last edition we started listing local organizations to help you trace your family history. Here are two more local historical societies to help with your research. Please be aware that many of these organizations do not have paid staff and rely on volunteers to help with research. We continue our list with the towns of Medfield and Medway:

Medfield Historical Society

6 Pleasant Street, Medfield MA 02052

508-359-4773

Medfieldhistoricalsociety.org

Saturdays: 10am – 12noon

Medway Historical Society

223 Main Street, Medway MA 02053

508-533-7222

Medwayhistoricalsociety.org

Open by appointment or open house hours (please see their website)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM



We know it is only the fall, but be sure to put these dates on your calendar so you don't miss them!

- **November 12, 2015:** Lecture Series, “Genealogy Myths and Legends” with Michael Brophy
- **December 4, 2015:** Dedham Holiday Stroll. Bring the kids (adults too!) to our toy train layout!
- **January 14, 2016:** Lecture Series, “Voices from the Back Stairs” with Jennifer Pustz
- **January 29, 2016:** Annual Wine Event. Great wine, great food, and great friendship!

OPEN SATURDAYS: The DHS Museum, Gift Shop, and Library/Archives are open on even dated Saturdays from 1pm – 4pm.

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

www.dedhamhistorical.org

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Berry
Gabrielle Costantino
Nancy England
Gavin & Whitney Fitts
Gary Gregory
John & Kim Koger
Darcy A. Lane

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