



Dedham Historical Society & Museum

March-April 2019 Newsletter

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Hours

Museum

Tuesday – Friday
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Archives/Library

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Schedule an appointment
Library@DedhamHistorical.org

New Saturday Hours

Museum & Archives
2nd & 4th Saturday
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Contact

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

*We've made donating to
DHSM easier with Paypal.
Please visit our website to
contribute. Thank You!*
www.DedhamHistorical.org

DHSM Purchases Rare 17th-Century Carved Chest

Executive director Johanna McBrien traveled to New York in January with a goal of acquiring a locally-made chest, circa 1639-1670, at auction. Her bid was successful and the chest now resides at the Society.

The chest is attributed to John Thurston (1607-1685), a carpenter/joiner from Suffolk, England. It is now shown with a carved chest by Thurston's apprentice, John Houghton (1624-1684), that the Society shares with The Fairbanks House, as well as with two Great Chairs associated with both craftsmen. One of these, the Metcalf Chair, is the oldest dated piece of furniture in the country. McBrien said of the acquisition, "The Society now has the extraordinary opportunity to showcase related forms made by a master and apprentice working in both Dedham and Medfield; it's an educator's dream."



Visit the Society to see this important group of furniture and learn about Thurston's and Houghton's connections with Dedham's first school building, first teacher, and the Fairbanks family.

The DHSM purchase has drawn national coverage in arts publications. Please see the following page for a list of contributors who made the chest's purchase possible. We are most appreciative of their support.

This newsletter is a benefit of DHSM membership. If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, please contact info@dedhamhistorical.org. For membership information, call 781.326.1385 or visit www.DedhamHistorical.org.

Final List of 2018 Annual Appeal Gifts Thank You!

Our sincere appreciation to all who contributed to DHSM's 2018 Annual Appeal and helped us in our efforts to meet our 2018 financial obligations.

SUPPORTER (\$250-\$499)

Ann & Bob Hunnewell
Bruce & Laurie Rabe
Mark & Carlota Taylor

DONOR (\$100-\$249)

H. Dwight Damon
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur W. Gregory III
Darcy Lane
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Moorhead

Friend (\$10-\$99)

Mary Louise Bell
Isa Schaff
Rev. Elizabeth B. Stevens

During the past year, additional generous contributions were made by individuals and organizations, for which we are most grateful. We rely on you.

Thank you also to David G. Newsom for his generous annual contribution to support DHSM's lecture series in memory of his late wife, Carol L. Newsom.



We Are Most Appreciative to The Following Generous Supporters Who Made the Purchase of The John Thurston Chest Possible

Thank you to the Joan Pearson Watkins Revocable Trust for the seed funds for this acquisition.
Additionally, we thank the following donors for their generosity:

Anonymous
Bob & Becky Alexander
Daniel P. Brown
Lawrence C. Caldwell
Ann Chahbandour & Jay Robert Stiefel
Lucy and Mike Danziger
Raymond C. Egan
Robert & Bobbie Falk
Burt Fendelman
Judy and John Herdeg
Tom Jewett and Charles Berdan
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Dennis Radulski
David A. Schorsch
and Eileen M. Smiles
Gary R. Sullivan Antiques, Inc.
Seth A. Thayer Jr.
Robert F. Trent
Leslie & Peter Warwick
Jan Whitlock
Linda Wiseman

Thank you to Jonathan Leo Fairbanks for providing the impetus to acquire the chest.
We would also like to recognize Scott Cousins Art Handling for the chest's safe delivery.

Upcoming Events

March Lecture

The Fashion and History of Shoes

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Dedham Historical Society & Museum

Shoes are storytellers – through their materials, style, function, use, and owners. Join Dr. Kimberly Alexander as she explores history through footwear. DHSM will concurrently open a mini exhibit showcasing shoes from the Society's collection, ranging from red brocade wedding slippers from 1747 to high-heel pumps with silver bead trim from the 1920s, children's shoes and work shoes.



Illustration: cover detail from *Treasures Afoot: Shoe Stories from the Georgian Era* (2018) by Kimberly Alexander. Photo by Ellen McDermott.

April Annual Meeting

The Society invites you to attend our Annual Meeting, followed by:

The Ben Fisher Memorial Lecture

The First Settlers of Dedham: The Region's Indigenous Peoples

Thursday, April 18, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

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

Guests enjoyed the Winter Wine Event held at DHSM in January



Save the date for next year's Wine Event on Friday, February 7, 2020!

Save the Date for our *Annual Soirée!*

Saturday, May 18th, 2019

6:30-8:30 p.m.

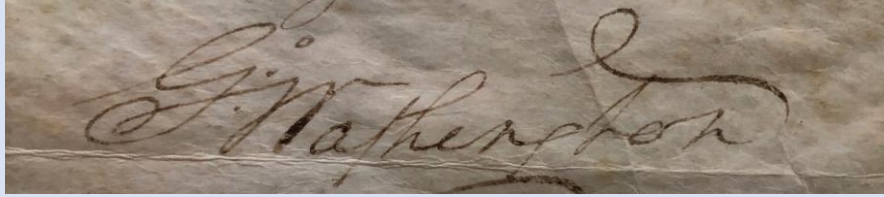
Private residence: 194 Village Avenue

Invitations for members to be mailed in April

Membership Update: We are in the process of updating our membership database. We will no longer renew all memberships in January. Your membership will be renewed based on the month you joined. Thank you for your patience.

Exhibit Celebrating American Presidents — Through March 2019

Norfolk County, known as the “County of Presidents,” is the birthplace of four U.S. Presidents: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, John F. Kennedy, and George H. W. Bush. Signatures or birth certificates of these presidents, as well as other presidential signatures, including George Washington’s, are currently on display at DHSM. This exhibit is in collaboration with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and is on view during regular museum hours. Call 781.326.1385 for details or visit www.DedhamHistorical.org.



Signature of George Washington on a document nominating Albion Cox to the U.S. Mint, April 4, 1794.
Collection of the Dedham Historical Society & Museum.

From Archivist Rebecca Carpenter: A New Finding Aid Initiative

The DHSM holds a large collection of family papers, ranging from personal diaries, wills, and land deeds, to letters, business ledgers, and school notebooks, with material extending back to the 1630s. Much of the archival holdings are unknown to genealogists, and researchers — which is why we’re creating finding aids. The aids will be prepared for each family collection in the archives and will be posted on the Society’s website.

What is a finding aid? A finding aid provides a detailed description of materials explaining the scope of a collection, where to find the collection within the archives, a general narrative of the family that is covered, a listing of people mentioned in the materials, as well as a list of the archival boxes and the types of materials that can be found within. The finding aids will also cross-reference with other collections and family names.

We will be posting the first finding aid this month, with more to follow. These finding aids will initially focus on the largest of our family holdings. As this project will be ongoing, anyone who wishes to volunteer and assist in this endeavor is encouraged to contact me at library@dedhamhistorical.org.

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sally Holmes, Jay Goldin, William Brigham,
Denise Demaina, Patricia Tobin,
and John Bradbury

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DEDHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM
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We hope you will consider joining our outstanding team of
volunteers. Please call 781.326.1385.

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