



Middleborough Historical Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 304, Middleboro, MA 02346
www.middleboroughhistoricalassociation.org
Nancy J. Thomas, Editor

Herring Run Festival, Oliver Mill Park

On Saturday, April 12th from 10 AM to 4 PM and again on Sunday, April 13th from 11 AM to 4 PM, members of the Association will have a booth at the First Annual Herring Run Festival at Oliver Mill Park. We will have items for sale and membership information. This will be good exposure for the Association as we seek an active membership. We have many opportunities for our members to get involved!!

CALENDAR



Herring Run Festival, Oliver Mill Park
Saturday, April 12th 10 AM to 4 PM
Sunday, April 13th 11 AM to 4 PM

Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 26th at 1:00 PM
Middleboro Public Library



Author Lecture and Book Signing
Saturday, May 10th at 1:00 PM
Middleboro Public Library



Summer Meeting/Maxim Celebration
Saturday, June 21st 1:00 PM
Museum Grounds, Jackson Street



Annual Ice Cream Social Fundraiser
Saturday, July 20th 1:00 PM
Museum Grounds, Jackson Street
Tickets will be on sale

Spring 2014 Meeting

Our April members' meeting will celebrate the opening of the 2014 baseball season with Middleboro resident Paul Lazarovich putting on his Red Sox shirt and cap and presenting us with "**Fenway Park and The Boston Red Sox**" on **Saturday, April 26th, 2014 at 1:00 PM** in the lower level meeting room of the Middleboro Public Library.

The lively presentation begins with the early years of professional ball played by the Boston boys of summer at the Huntington Avenue Field (now Northeastern University), to the first game played at their new Fenway Park site, up to the 2004 World Series.

A Boston native, Lazarovich brings his love of the team and the park to stories and facts from his research, along with personal remembrances.

A brief business meeting for members will precede the program and refreshments will follow. Any questions, please call President Cynthia McNair at 508-947-3394.

Author Lecture and Book Signing

On **Saturday, May 10th, 2014 at 1:00 PM**, the Middleborough Historical Association, Inc. will have the distinctive pleasure of presenting author **Alex Myers** to talk about his new novel, "**Revolutionary**", about local and official state heroine **Deborah Samson**.

David M. Shribman reviewed the book for the *New York Times* in January. He writes, "*That this story – the tale of a woman who dresses like a man to live the life of a man and to do what's*

considered the work of a man – is woven by a female-to-male transgender author is, even the writer has acknowledged, more than a coincidence.

"Mr. Myers is a rookie novelist who makes some of the rookie's mistakes, occasionally banging the nail of his argument about sexual identity too hard. But the story's the thing, and it speaks, if not shouts, for itself."

Alex Myers was born in Maine and earned degrees in religious studies from Harvard and Brown. He worked as a high school English teacher in Florida and Rhode Island and completed a MFA degree in fiction writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. He is currently an Associate at the Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practices at Georgetown University and also teaches Business Communications at American University.

He will have copies of "**Revolutionary**" to sign. The book is 311 pages long, is published by Simon & Schuster and sells for \$26.

Summer 2014 Meeting: Celebrating Maxim Motor Company's 100th Anniversary of its Founding

Our June members' meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 21st, 2014** on the grounds of the Museum on Jackson Street at **1:00 PM**. The program and activities will center on the 100th anniversary of the founding of legendary local business Maxim Motor Company in 1914.

There will be a program about the history of Maxim Motor Company by **Howard "Howie" Smith**. He comes from a family of firefighters and is one himself.

He has written two books about the company: "Maxim Fire Apparatus 1914-1989 Photo Archive" and "Maxim Fire Apparatus, Photo History."

Tentative plans include videos, histories, displays of Maxim artifacts, including photos, a display of Maxim fire vehicles, time to share memories, children's activities, local dignitaries, Association items for sale and a cake.

Carlton W. Maxim, businessman and Middleborough Fire Department Chief (1912-1929) began the Maxim Motor Company when he built the first piece of firefighting equipment for the Town of Middleborough in 1914. It was a four-cylinder chain-driven hose-car with pneumatic tires at a price of \$2,500. Pumpers and ladder trucks were later added to the line.

Mertie E. Romaine, in her "History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts Volume II", wrote: "In 1946, emphasis was placed upon the construction of the Maxim aerial ladder, considered the finest of its kind... The export market developed into an important part of the business, the first export being made to Japan, soon followed by orders from South America and other foreign countries... In 1956, the company passed from the control of the Maxim family to the Seagrave Corporation, a leading builder of fire apparatus... The reputation of the firm for products of the highest quality and performance ... made Maxim Motor Company one of the country's leading manufacturers of fire apparatus."

On December 15, 1989, the doors of the Maxim Motor Company were closed forever. An auction was held in January 1990 to sell all tools, equipment, supplies, land and buildings of the company.

Over the years, Maxim Motor Company built 17 fire vehicles for the Town of Middleborough. The last truck sold for \$125,000.

If anyone has Maxim items or information, please call Dorothy Thayer 508-947-2596.

From the President's Desk

June 1st is time to renew your membership. With all the repairs that we are making at the museum plus the additional expense of heating and air conditioning the two mill houses, your financial support is more critical than ever. Please renew generously and perhaps gift a membership to a family member or friend.

Installation of the heating and air conditioning units by Dan Maybruck Plumbing and Heating was completed in January. This is part of our project funded in part by Community Preservation Act monies.

The ceiling insulation work is to be done by Maybruck Home Improvement. It was discovered that the wiring in the ceiling of mill house #2 is the old knob and tube installation. As this presents a fire hazard, the Association is obtaining estimates to update the wiring before insulation can be done in that building. It is hoped that insulation in mill house #1 will commence soon.

Our museum complex of seven buildings will be open on Wednesdays from 12 PM to 3 PM and Saturdays from 10 AM to 1 PM this summer. I hope you will consider volunteering at the museum. There are signs throughout the exhibits plus additional information in folders. It really is fun meeting the visitors!! And you can schedule a particular day that works for you, for example Wednesday

for two weeks only. So think about volunteering.

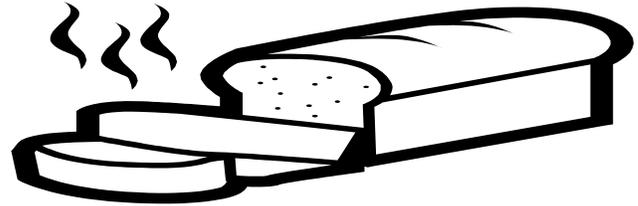
Historical museums in local towns share many common problems. Needless to say, a major concern is how to generate funding for museum upkeep and programs. Angela Dunham, president of Wareham's Society, has scheduled meetings for the leaders from local museums to share ideas. I attended the last meeting in February and will attend May's meeting. Steve Connelly from Sharon (where Deborah Samson Gannett resided in her married years) has given us a DVD on Samson, led us to our May speaker and at his request, the MHA Board has sent a letter of support to the Postmaster General to have a Forever Stamp issued in her honor. Of course, if you have ideas for us, please give me a call 508-947-3394.

Winter 2014 Meeting

The winter membership meeting held on February 22nd at the Middleboro Public Library was well attended. Jo Ann Clay, our vice president, was dressed in an orchid print dress as one would see a southern belle dressed in the 1860's. She presented a delightful and informative talk on the roles of women in both the North and the South during the Civil War. In addition, Jo Ann set up several story boards and materials with additional information about the Civil War and its participants.

Following the program, a business meeting was held. A by-law change was approved that amended Article 11 by eliminating the required February members' meeting and substituting a members' meeting each September in order to introduce the nominating committee for November elections.

The raffle started last July was drawn. Margaret Washburn won the print of Middleboro's buildings made by Trish Holloway and Paul Provencher won the package of Antiquarians.



"Hannah's Table Talk"

On Sunday afternoon, November 3, 2013 family members of former residents along with past and present employees and current residents gathered at the Hannah B.G. Shaw Home for the Aged, located at 299 Wareham Street, to share memories and stories about life at the Home and also about how the Home itself has changed over the years.

MHA members Jerry and Dotty Thayer and Doug and Kay Vantran attended to represent the Association and also to share their personal family stories.

A video about the life of Hannah B.G. Shaw, created by Mrs. Thayer, was shown to the guests. Hannah's father, Major Thomas B. Griffith, was a successful investor and promoter of the Boston Fruit Company which brought bananas to the United States in the 1880s. It later merged with another company, thus creating the United Fruit Company which was later known as Chiquita Brands International.

Each attendee of the event was given a small banana bread to take home. A videotape of the participants telling their stories was recorded for the archives of the Shaw Home.

