



Middleborough Historical Association, Inc.  
P. O. Box 304, Middleboro, MA 02346  
[www.middleboroughhistoricalassociation.org](http://www.middleboroughhistoricalassociation.org)  
Nancy J. Thomas, Editor



## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social FUNDRAISER**

Celebrate National Ice Cream month and help raise funds to support the upkeep of our museum by attending our **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ice Cream Social** on **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM!!** As always, it will be held rain or shine under large tents behind the mill house buildings located at 18 Jackson Street.

Tickets will be available the day of the event. This year the prices for a three-scoop sundae are \$5 for adults (including children 12 and older), \$3 for children 4 to 11 and free for children 3 and younger.

Join us for summer fun with creamy sundaes made of vanilla, chocolate and strawberry ice cream topped with strawberries, chocolate syrup, whipped cream, sprinkles and a cherry.

Music will be provided by Paramusia, a singing duo with Ann Cavanaugh on flute and Steve Gabovitch on guitar and harmonica. They perform eclectic musical selections of pop, folk, light rock and oldies. They may even play your special request. Activities for children will include Mike McKeon who will once again entertain children with free twisty balloons.

The raffle table and the bake sale will add to the afternoon's fun!

This is our major annual fundraising event. Your help and support is needed to make the ice cream social a success. Please volunteer to help with the various stations, bake for the bake sale (please label if nuts in recipe) or bring a raffle item (before July 20) to the museum. Call Cynthia McNair at 508-947-3394 to schedule a raffle item to be dropped off when the museum is not open or to volunteer. Please come and bring your friends!!



### ***Museum OPEN for Season***

The Middleborough Historical Museum opened for the season on Saturday, June 21st. The museum complex consists of seven buildings containing artifacts that tell of the town's history. The museum is open on **Wednesdays 12 PM to 3 PM** and on **Saturdays from 10 AM to 1PM**. Members are admitted FREE!



### ***Deborah Samson Day***

The Association will celebrate Deborah Samson at the museum on **Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM**. This event is still in the planning stage, but more news will be forthcoming. Ed Beaulieu has written a children's biography on our state heroine and will be there for a book signing. There will be an unveiling of a picture of Deborah. Last January the Association's Board of Directors sent a

letter to the U.S. Postmaster supporting a Forever Stamp honoring her.

### ***September Members' Meeting***

The Association will hold its September members' meeting on **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM** in the museum's carriage house at 18 Jackson Street. Guest speaker will be Robert Lessard who will give a talk on the history of the local American Legion Simeon L. Nickerson Post 64.

### **Report: Herring Run Festival**

The Association participated in the First Annual Herring Run Festival during the weekend of **April 12 and 13, 2014** at Oliver Mill Park. Saturday saw gorgeous weather and the novelty of the first day of the first annual event brought out about 2000 attendees.

We had a successful time at the festival meeting a lot of people, talking up the museum and making a little money. Thanks to Jo Ann and David Clay, Dorothy Thayer, Nancy Thomas, Dan and Jane Thompson and Doug and Kay Vantran for manning the booth. A special thanks to the high school History Honor Society students for all their help.

### **Report: April Meeting**

Our April members' meeting celebrated the opening of the 2014 baseball season with Paul Lazarovich presenting us with a lively power point program on the history of Fenway Park and the Boston Red Sox on **April 26, 2014** at the public library.

A brief business meeting preceded the program, during which the membership

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approved the spending of approximately \$5,400 for museum insurance and \$30,000 for the museum's climate control project which should be reimbursed upon final approval by our town's Community Preservation Committee.

### **Report: Author Lecture**

On **May 10, 2014** at the public library, author Alex Myers talked about his new novel, "Revolutionary", about local Revolutionary War soldier and official state heroine Deborah Samson.

Mr. Myers gave a brief overview of his novel before reading a passage from it. He shared his conclusion, reached after much research into his ancestor, that Deborah Samson did not want to be a man; she wanted to be *free*.

### **Report: June Meeting**

Our June members' meeting was held on **June 21, 2014** on the grounds of the museum. The program and activities centered on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of legendary local business Maxim Motor Company in 1914.

Smiles, handshakes, pats on the back, and the words "so good to see you" were exchanged by employees of the Maxim Motor Company. Shiny chrome, loud sirens and photos of restoration projects were shared by proud owners of vintage to more modern Maxim fire trucks.

A standing room only audience greeted the guest speaker, Howard "Howie" Smith, who presented an illustrated program about the Maxim Company in the museum's carriage house. 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."

An exterior tour of the Maxim plants was led by Association member Dorothy Thayer, while a video about the history of firefighting and another one showing the final Maxim fire truck manufactured at 25 Wareham Street for the Middleborough Fire Department were shown in the museum's blacksmith shop. Finally, an anniversary cake decorated with the Maxim Motor Company logo and the Association's 1934 Maxim fire truck was cut and enjoyed by all.

Eight Maxim fire trucks were on beautiful and exciting display. These were: 1928 from the Stoughton Historical Society (Joe Mokrisky), 1932 from Howard Smith, 1961 from Howard "Howie" Smith, 1975 from Berkley Fire Department, 1981 from David Copeland and 1934 from our own museum.

Association volunteers for the event were: Gladys Beals, JoAnn and David Clay, Mary and Dick Cook, Diane and Ed Dentch, Wally Glendye, Kate Lazarovich, Cynthia McNair, Dorothy and Jerry Thayer, Nancy Thomas, Doug Vantran and Margaret Washburn.

Charles Rowley had a table with detailed models of Maxim fire trucks that he had made as part of his hobby. A couple of items that were on display at the event were donated to the Association from Nancy LaFave (booklet) and Sylvia Camandona (Ernest Maxim's formal wear).

*Dorothy Thayer, Association Director*

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## Report: Third Graders Visit the Museum

For almost 20 years, the museum has offered a variety of free activities to the teachers and children of local third grade classes. The classes with their chaperones walk to the museum grounds from the Burkland/Goode schools on Mayflower Avenue to be welcomed by former Middleborough High School teacher, Dorothy Thayer and her staff of volunteers, including Gladys Beals, Jeanette Bricknell, Mary and Dick Cook, Cherie Reimels and Jerry Thayer.

The students learn about the museum's seven buildings - the outhouse being the one they find the most interesting! Then they are divided into groups and listen to the true story of Mercy Lavinia Bump (Mrs. Tom Thumb), while another group tries to match objects of today with those from the past. Well-known Middleborough residents such as the Peirce family and the replica of the Peirce General Store is another activity, if three classes visit the museum at the same time. Other activities have included an art lesson and a scavenger hunt.

It is enjoyable to share the history of the town with such eager learners.

*Dorothy Thayer, Association Director*

### ***From the President's Desk...***

Recently, I was reorganizing Association file folders at the museum's office. It was an interesting task to learn about activities and concerns of the Association over the years.

A major concern has been the funding and upkeep of the museum and its various projects. Some of our monies

have been invested with Wells Fargo which has been nicely generating returns to provide funds for future needs.

At the museum, the ceiling insulation was finally completed on June 22nd. It was frustrating to me, wondering if the project would ever be completed especially since it was a grant funded by Middleboro taxpayers via the Community Preservation Act. One upper room in mill house #1 was open to the rafters so before insulation could be blown in, walls had to be constructed higher and a wall and doorway built to close off the room so as not to affect the heating/air conditioning in the rest of the building. This work was paid with Association funds. In mill house #2, it was discovered that there was still some knob and tube wiring - a potential fire hazard. Randall Electric took care of this situation at a very reasonable fee and was paid from Association funds.

Another concern the old files revealed was the need to find volunteers and to attract active younger people. Members are always needed to assist with events, give museum tours, help with building and grounds upkeep, share ideas and so on.

Have you **renewed** your membership? The rate has remained the same since 1980! On the renewal form, please check off **ONE** area in which you would like to help the Association.

November will see our annual elections. Think about joining in the "action" on the Board of Directors as a President or Vice-President (two-year terms), a Secretary or Treasurer (one-year terms) or a Director.

*Cynthia McNair, President*

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