



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

## ***A Note from the President***

Well it is our busiest time of year again!! We have survived a harsh winter and have planned an interesting spring and summer for your enjoyment. We look forward to seeing you at any or all events!!

The first event of note is the **MUSEUM OPENING FOR THE 2015 SEASON**. This will take place on **Saturday, May 30, 2015** with a "farming" theme. We have been cleaning the displays and buildings in preparation for the opening as well as sprucing up the grounds.

We are always in need of **volunteer guides** on **Wednesdays and Saturdays** from **12:00 noon to 3:00 PM**. It is an interesting and fun way to spend a couple of hours. You don't have to commit to every week. Don't think you don't know enough to act as a guide, you can do it! Believe me, if *I* can, you can also!! If you would like to join in, please contact me at 508-944-4412 or Dotty Thayer at 508-947-2596. We would like to set up a training session. "Come on down!"

----*Doug Vantran, Association President*

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS...***

### ***June Members' Meeting***

The June Members' Meeting will be held on **Saturday, June 20, 2015** at **6:30 PM** at the **Carriage House** at the Museum on Jackson Street. The program will be a talk by Christopher Daley on **The**

**Lincoln Assassination** in 1865. This April marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that tragic event in our nation's history.

According to the website of Christopher Daley Historical Presentations, "This lecture is the result of many years of research and travel. ... (It) begins with a short synopsis of the backdrop of the Civil War leading into an examination of the plot to kidnap Lincoln and how that plot developed into a scheme to assassinate him. Both Lincoln and Booth's movements during the day of the assassination are meticulously chronicled .... And then,... the assassination is recounted in stunning detail. The escape and capture of John Wilkes Booth is fully described .... The lecture concludes with a vivid description of the trial of all of the conspirators and execution of the four of them."

### ***American Girl Doll Tea***

An American Girl Doll Tea is scheduled for **Saturday, July 11, 2015** from **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM** at the **Museum grounds** on Jackson Street. This special fundraising event for young ladies will celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, history, girls and your American Girl and will feature fun activities such as making dream catchers and a fancy hat and scrapbooking, exhibits, programs and of course, tea! The Museum will be open for touring the same day!

Bring your doll (not required)! This will be a great day for moms, grandmoms and girls. Dads will also be welcomed! Visit the Museum, learn about Middleborough's history, enjoy lemonade and treats and have lots of girl-power fun with your friends and family!!

Tickets are **\$20.00 per person** (\$18.00 for Association members) and must be purchased by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Seating is limited. Please **call 508-441-9400** or email [arielhallgren@gmail.com](mailto:arielhallgren@gmail.com) to reserve your ticket! This event is for girls ages 6 to 12 and adults, any age!!!

From now until the day of the event, we are selling **raffle tickets** for the American Girl doll "Samantha." **Tickets are one for \$3.00 or four for \$10.00.** The drawing will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Tea. Order your raffle tickets and Tea admission tickets now!!

## ***Krazy Days***

After a brief hiatus last year, the Association will once again have a booth at the annual Krazy Days downtown street fair on **Friday, August 7, 2015** and **Saturday, August 8, 2015**.

We will have information on our upcoming events and will be selling tickets to the American Girl Doll Tea, raffle tickets to win "Samantha" and tickets to the Garden Party/Open House.

Please stop by and say "hello" and see how YOU can become involved by participating in YOUR events and YOUR ongoing goals and activities at YOUR Museum.

## ***Garden Party & Open House***

If you missed our first Garden Party in 2013, you now have another chance. A summer **Garden Party & Open House** is planned for **Sunday, August 16, 2015** at 1:30 PM at 273 Thompson Street, Rt. 105, East Middleboro – the "Horse Latitudes Farm."

This special fundraising event will include: tour of the historic E.L. Shaw house, tour of an historic English barn, stroll through the large property, historical displays, a talk about the house's several hauntings by local author Edward Lodi, who will also sign his books, a display of original artwork by Jesse, the Painting Horse and a possible surprise guest. Local musician Speedy Lapanna will provide entertaining acoustic music.

Light refreshments, including delicious bakery offerings by Battistini's Bakery, will be served under a large tent.

This is a rain or shine event and is shaping up to be a very enjoyable and relaxing afternoon out in Middleborough's Historic Agricultural District!! Proceeds support the Association and Museum. **Tickets are now on sale for \$20.00** and only a limited number are available. Please **call President Doug Vantran at 508-946-1017** NOW to reserve your ticket.

## ***Keeping Up-to-Date...***

Our Association Secretary, Wally Glendye, maintains a current membership list, including the e-mail addresses of those who have e-mail. Unfortunately, some important messages, as well as the quarterly newsletters, get "returned to sender" when Wally receives "Delivery Failure Notifications." This occurs when someone switches their internet service from Comcast to Verizon or vice versa, or changes to any other e-mail account such as Yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail.

If you change your e-mail address or make any other changes to your contact information, PLEASE contact Wally at [middleboroughhistory@yahoo.com](mailto:middleboroughhistory@yahoo.com) to let him know. We want to make sure YOU stay informed and connected!! Thanks!!

## ***Reports on Recent Events...***

### ***Herring Run Festival***

The Association again set up a booth at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Herring Run Festival at Oliver Mill Park to help spread the word to all those who stopped by about who we are and what we do. The crowds were bigger than last year; in fact, Sunday afternoon a THIRD full-size coach from Plymouth and Brockton Street Railway Company was brought in to help accommodate the continuous long line of people waiting to be shuttled across Rt. 44 after parking in the KOA campground property. Both days were warm and sunny, though more than a bit breezy on Saturday.

We started to advertise the two upcoming fundraising events (see above) and to sell raffle tickets for the American Girl doll. We also had items for sale and displays about the Museum and Judge Oliver. A popular draw was the collection of wooden toys of yesteryear which a lot of children tested out – “no batteries required!”

Manning our booth were Bob and Cheri Reimels, Dorothy Thayer, Nancy Thomas, Stet Thomas, Dan and Jane Thompson and Doug and Kay Vantran.

## **April Members’ Meeting**

On April 8, 2015, our first quarterly members’ meeting of this year was held at the Middleborough Public Library in the lower-level meeting room. A brief business meeting was held. A quorum of members being present, the following votes were taken: **Insurance:** A motion was passed to authorize the Treasurer to pay \$6,000.00 for the annual insurance bill. **Door Repairs:** A motion was passed to authorize the President to go ahead and repair doors at the Museum for a total of \$1,983.00.

The meeting room was filled to capacity for the program, which consisted of a special visit from former “First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt” in the person of actress Judy Bernstein. This program was supported in part by a grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Light refreshments were served after the program.

It was wonderful to see so many members out for the April Members’ Meeting!!! It would be just as exciting to see at least that many members attend each of the quarterly members’ meetings, even when “Eleanor Roosevelt” is not able to visit!!

## **Two Former A&P Locations**

With the closing on Sunday, May 10, 2015 of long-running business *Maria’s Card & Gift Shop* on the ground floor of the massive three-story Peirce Block at the corner of North Main and Center Streets, there is now a second former A&P (The Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, Inc.) grocery

store location laying fallow in Middleboro’s business district.

The Peirce Block was the second location of the A&P store; it first occupied the corner of Center Street and Thatcher’s Row, where Coffee Milano is now. It operated in the Peirce Block from the 1950s until 1962, when a brand-new, modern A&P supermarket was built in Everett Square. Its former Peirce Block location became for many years the site of *The Bottle Shop* until that business moved to its current site in a plaza of businesses on West Grove Street. It was after The Bottle Shop vacated the space that Maria’s moved from its previous site on South Main Street where Millbrook Realty is now.

This changing of locations is a recurring theme in the history of downtown Middleboro. There is a long and interesting history of how various and numerous businesses played the “game” of “musical stores” as they moved from location to location.

The A&P in its new building in Everett Square served as what we now call an “anchor store” in a small plaza of businesses which also housed a pharmacy, a liquor store and a bank branch with a drive-thru window. This was the third and last location of the A&P in Middleboro, where it remained until it was closed around 1976. The small grocery chain *Babaian’s* followed there but was in business for just a few years. In 1985, *Middleborough Trust Company* took over the building and, after remodeling the former supermarket space, moved its original main office from its longtime location across Center Street from what would be the last location of Maria’s.

A number of years later, Middleborough Trust was purchased by *Rockland Trust Company*, which made the Everett Square location one of its many branches in the region until 2013, when it purchased Mayflower Co-operative Bank and moved its branch operations to the former Mayflower main branch located across South Main Street from the earliest site of Maria’s Card & Gift Shop. “Musical stores” INDEED!!

----Nancy J. Thomas, “Mill House Notes” Editor

# Time to Renew Your Membership...

This is a friendly reminder that it is time to renew your membership in the Association. The new membership year begins on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**. Your membership is vital to our continued mission of preserving Middleborough's history. We so appreciate each and every member who shares our interest in the history of this town. We have included a **renewal form** below for your

convenience to fill out and return with your dues for your preference of Membership Category. Feel free to copy the form and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us!!



## Middleborough Historical Association, Inc.

### Membership Categories

Student	\$5.00	Annual
Single	\$10.00	Annual
Family	\$15.00	Annual
Participating	\$20.00	Annual
Sustaining	\$50.00	Annual
Benefactor	\$100.00	Annual
Life	\$200.00	Each Person (Age 40 +)

## Welcome

To the Middleborough Historical Association, Inc.

Museum is open every Wednesday 12-3 and Saturday 12-3

Your Membership entitles you to:

Free admission to the museum

Four interesting programs each year

Subscription to *Mill House Notes*, our quarterly newsletter and other special exhibits and events

Please help us preserve the history of Middleborough.

Fill out This form, check the category of membership you would like and mail it with your check made out to:

the *Middleborough Historical Association*

*P.O. Box #304 Middleborough, MA 02346-2822*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### I AM INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING (please check your interests)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping us with Special Events   | <input type="checkbox"/> Become a Board member                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with the collections     | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining the Building & Grounds    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baking for events/sales          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (?)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with Programs & Lectures | <input type="checkbox"/> Become a museum guide or receptionist |

