



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

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE MUSEUM

On **Saturday, October 29th, 2016**, beginning at **3:30 PM**, the Association will be hosting its Second Annual “**Trick or Treat at the Museum**” event. This year there will be a children’s costume parade around the Museum property and seasonal games. Association members will be dressed in their Halloween “worst” while stationed at the various Museum buildings for the children to stop for some spooking and goodies. A birthday cake for Lavinia Bump Warren Stratton Magri aka “Mrs. Tom Thumb,” who was born on Halloween, will be served in the Blacksmith Shop.

This event is for children twelve years and under, along with their parents.

ANNUAL MEETING

The **Annual Meeting** of the Association will be held on **Saturday, November 19th, 2016** at the Elks Lodge, 24 High Street in Middleboro.

As 2016 is the 55th Anniversary of the Museum, the program for the evening will be “**Recounting Fifty-five Years of ‘Our’ History.**” There will also be a Middleboro Trivia Contest.

Please call President **Doug Vantran** at **508-944-4412** for additional details regarding time and menu.

ELECTIONS

Elections will be held during the Annual Business Meeting. The following positions will be elected:

President for a **two-year** term:

The President presides at all meetings. Duties include the appointment of a nominating committee two months prior to the annual meeting.

Vice-President for a **two-year** term:

The Vice-President performs the duties of the President in his absence or inability.

Secretary for a **one-year** term:

The Secretary keeps a record of all meetings and notifies the Board and membership of meetings. Also keeps accurate records of the membership.

Treasurer for a **one-year** term:

The Treasurer, under the direction and supervision of the Board of Directors, has care and custody of the Association’s funds. Keeps accurate records of accounts of monies received and disbursed, as well as a record of all sales. Reports the condition of finances at each meeting.

Two Directors for a **three-year** term each:

Directors, as members of the Board, have the general management and control of all property and have in general the charge of the affairs of the Association.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President Doug Vantran announced the members of this year's **Nominating Committee** at the Membership Meeting held on October 5, 2016.

If you are interested in any one of the open positions on the Board or know someone who is, please call any of the following Nominating Committee members. They are:

- Doug Massey – 508-947-1609
- Jerry Thayer -- 508-947-2596
- Margaret Washburn – 508-947-2279

LOCAL HISTORY/LOCAL AUTHOR BOOK SALE

On **Saturday, December 10th, 2016** from **9:30 AM to 2:30 PM**, there will be a **Book Sale** at the Middleborough Public Library featuring books on local history and books by local authors. This is sponsored by the Library. Association members will have an assortment of items for sale.

Museum Improvements

With the monies that were voted by the members present at the Membership Meeting in May, the following work on various Museum buildings was undertaken and is now complete.

- ✓ Replacement of three sills and threshold on Mill House #1.
- ✓ Replacement of one sill and threshold on Mill House #2.
- ✓ Repair of sills and repair of siding on the Law Office.
- ✓ Repair of sills and replacement of siding on two sides and repair of siding on a third side on the Whistle House.

The final cost of this work was \$7891.37. This was higher than the estimate because it was decided to replace the siding. The contractor, Mr. Wager, generously gave the Association a discount on his work of \$1550.

- ✓ Painting of clapboards on Mill House #1.
- ✓ Painting of clapboards on Mill House #2.

The final cost of the painting was \$4750.

--- *Doug Vantran, President*

Walk on South Main Street

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, the Association held a public "*Walk on South Main Street.*"

Dorothy Thayer did the research on the twenty-one buildings of historical significance on both sides of South Main Street beginning at the Town Hall to Courtland Street.

The weather threatened rain. Twenty-one adults and six students participated. Jerry Thayer was in charge of the sign-up table in the Town Hall parking lot and collected admissions totalling \$105.00.

Judy Donahue, Kate Lazarovich, Dorothy Thayer, Dan Thompson, Doug Vantran and Peter Wood served as tour guides. The final stop was the Montgomery Home where participants were treated to a tour of the first floor. Jane Thompson and Kay Vantran served light refreshments including iced tea and lemonade in the yard.

WINE & CHEESE EVENT...

Twenty-eight members of the Association enjoyed a special “*Wine and Cheese*” summer social event at the Museum on Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 4:00 to 6:00PM.

The refreshment sideboard was heavily laden with scrumptious and varied items to satisfy the palate. The following members contributed these delicious items: Judy Donahue, vegetable lasagna squares; Cheri Reimels, frosted brownies, spinach, tomato and brie on party bread, tomato kabobs, fresh fruit, fresh crunchy veggies with dip; Dorothy Thayer, Rainbow Roll-ups; Jane Thompson, Cinnamon Swirl Crumb Cake and Date Nut Bread; Kay Vantran, shrimp and ham hors d’oeuvres. Kate Lazarovich supplied iced tea, lemonade and water and dispensed them in our beautiful new liquid dispensers; Nancy Thomas brought various types of hard cheese and crackers and Doug Vantran supplied the wine.



The weather was hot and sunny. Members sat at six small tables and one large table under the shade of a large tree near the Carriage House. Dorothy Thayer covered the tables in white linen tablecloths and Cheri Reimels provided fresh flowers in milk glass vases as table centerpieces. The Museum buildings were open just for members during the two-hour event.

Thank you to Association members Mary Cook and Kate Lazarovich for the photos.

Downtown Middleborough circa 1966

Memorial High School was located at 219 North Main Street. Beginning the next year (1967) and continuing for four years, it was the site of double sessions: grades 10, 11 and 12 from 7:30 AM to 12 noon, and grades 6 and 9 from 12:30 to 5:00 PM.

The **Donut Delite**, across from the fire station, was in full swing, selling not only the most delicious donuts anywhere made by master donut baker George Samia, but at that time its counter waitresses also served up hamburgers, ice cream sodas and other diner-type fare, and best of all for the students that came in before and after school, it featured a juke box!

At the southwest corner of Peirce and North Main Streets was the **Gulf** gas station, owned and operated by Mr. Cecil Blake. That was a fun place for children as Gulf had frequent "giveaways" that appealed to the young crowd.

Today's "Grant Building" was in fact **W. T. Grant Company**. Layaway was a service that was offered. In later years, it featured a snack bar, but it was a poor cousin to that of its rival Woolworth's.

The **YMCA** was a cool and hip place at that time. The high school students came in after school to play ping-pong, pinball, pool and just hang out with their friends. Penny candy was sold at the counter and no smoking was allowed!! For the slightly older crowd, there was a bowling alley in the basement. Single men lived in rented rooms on the second and third floors. And in the gymnasium, various girls and boys athletic classes were conducted for members and teen dances were held there regularly during the school year!! In the summers, the "Y" teen dances took place at the town tennis courts behind the fire station. They were well-known at the time as simply the "tennis court dances."

Cleverly's Market was a great place to shop in the North Main Street neighborhood. Mr. Cleverly and his son Tom offered fresh cut meats and hamburg weighed to order, along with fresh produce. The elder Mr. Cleverly would often wrap a meat bone for my little dog, no charge. They offered open accounts for customers to pay for their groceries.

At the Four Corners was **Bob's Diner** and on the opposite corner of Wareham Street was **Buck's Pharmacy**. His milkshakes were to die for! You could sit either at the counter or in a booth.

Craig's Rexall Pharmacy had a soda fountain with high stools as well as a wooden sit-in phone booth.

The large building now laying fallow as it awaits a renter was the ever-bustling and thriving **Woolworth's 5 and 10** store. They had a great lunch counter with low seats. Their specialty was banana splits that could be had for the price inside a balloon. Yes, if you picked the right balloon, your split was just one penny!

Tripp's candy store also had a soda fountain counter and booths up in the back, with large sportfish sculptures on the walls.

Panesis was a "quick stop" place to pick up your daily newspaper, a "teen" magazine, a loaf of bread, carton of milk or pack of cigarettes: a forerunner of today's mega-convenience store chains.

Stiles Shoe Store was one of several shoe stores in the downtown district. Owned and operated by Mr. George Stiles, it was always fun to go in and be fitted for a new pair of shoes, including Hush Puppies!

Clothing stores were in no short supply. **Glidden's** sold clothing for men and women. For men there was **Middleboro Clothing Co.**; for women and girls, the **Boston Store** and **Faietti's Dress Shop**. The Boston Store was a good place to get pajamas and nightgowns. The building it occupied is now laying fallow.

The Workbasket was a great little store that catered to the home seamstress. From all the latest patterns to bolts of cloth to "notions" of buttons, rickrack, needles, sew-on or iron-on patches, the Workbasket had it all, along with very knowledgeable and friendly staff.

Shaw's Furniture was the place to buy all the latest 45rpm records, along with televisions, furniture and rolls of room-size linoleum. Mr. Shaw also allowed customers to have ongoing open accounts with him. And Shaw's offered in-home television repair, which was a service often needed with the tube technology of the day.

--- Nancy J. Thomas, Editor

