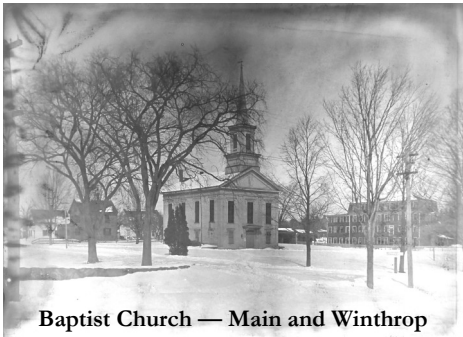




Baptist Church — Main and Winthrop

Historical Happenings

the newsletter of the

Medway Historical Society

Experience the History of Medway, Massachusetts

Volume 2016, Issue 1

Medway Historical Society

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THE CANING GUY

Roman Polny

with Sheila Dubrawski



President's Note

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

There is an ever abundance of Medway information and history to share with you in the books and items at the museum. I recently took a book off the shelf and as usual I got caught up in the moment and the task at hand got put on hold! The book was the "Sallie and Stacy Saunders Story" written by Susan Chapman Melanson. It is a wonderful history of the family and extended family with ties to Medway. The dedication was written by Ruthie Reid. In it she says, "How differently we remember our growing up years. The things that left an indelible impression on me may have gone unnoticed by anyone else. Sometimes I wonder what my legacy to my children will be, measured in memories. For me, so many were sensual—smells and colors and textures and tastes—with "good feelings" as part of the scene, taken for granted." As it is with memories, so to it is with the changing seasons with regard to the senses. As the season changes so do the sights and smells and sounds change too. The winter air is so clean and crisp after a storm and the smell of fires burning emanating from chimneys is so delightful and also signifies the warmth of home much the same as in decades gone by. Winter and pine aromas will give way to spring-flowers followed by summer's ocean breezes and back to the fall scents of apples and cinnamon. So remember to enjoy the scents of the season! HAPPY SPRING!

We have much to report in this issue with inquiries to our website, building improvements well underway and planning for upcoming events. We are very happy be hosting host Kevin Gardner author of the book "The Granite Kiss" about the history of stone walls in New England.

And, an inquiry came from Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann the historian for the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge. requesting a photograph of E. F. Farrington who was born in Medway. This prompted our avid researcher, Director Stephen Malloy to do some investigating. Although we did not have an image of the younger Farrington his life story is very interesting and included in this issue. We hope you enjoy reading it. And, as always thank you for your support!

Sheila Dubrawski

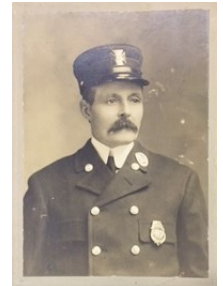
THE CANING GUY—Roman Polny

A caning demonstration held on February 7th and 8th at "Medway Mill Antiques and More" at 135 Main St. (old Rabbit Hill Furniture) turned into a lesson in caning for yours truly! What a great time I had! "The Caning Guy," Roman Polny has been in the business for more than 15 years and does expert chair work caning, splinting, rushing, shaker tape and Danish cord for those of us who like to make old things new again. Contact Roman through "Medway Mill Antiques and More" at 508-533-7757.

Visitors—Inquiries

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann's inquiry about E.F. Farrington prompted some digging for information about the Medway born bridge builder. As a result of Stephen Malloy's research the insert to this newsletter offers some details about Farrington's very interesting life and important work on New York's Brooklyn Bridge and the Covington-Cincinnati Suspension Bridge.

We met with Joyce Forbes Kamsler who was seeking information about family members living in Medway in the late 1800's. Joyce is the daughter of Charles Annis Forbes and granddaughter Charles Edward Forbes. Both of these men were named for Charles Annis who was married to the senior Forbes aunt, Delia (Kelley) Annis. According to his log book, Charles Annis (right) went on police duty as a Medway Police Officer on April 12, 1913 and he was paid .25 cents an hour. Also included in the family tree is Coleman Kelley who Kelly Street was named for. It so happened that Ellen and Daniel Malloy (Director Stephen Malloy's grandfather) were godparents to Joyce's great aunts Delia and Margaret O'Day!



We also had the pleasure of meeting with Lucy Conley and Doug Serrill from The Conway School of Landscape Design in Conway, MA. As part of their graduate degree program they are working on an Open Space Management Plan for the Medway Conservation Commission on the area off of Adams Street.

THANK YOU AUDREY!

Our curator Audrey Ritter has taken a passive role at the Medway Historical Society. Audrey lent her abundance of experience in many aspects of the museum to us and for that we are very much appreciative. As it is with many historical societies and volunteer organizations, each person contributes their own knowledge and interests. Audrey had been active in other museums and her contributions to improve our policies, practices and procedure have been a positive in helping those of us less experienced in this area. Thank you Audrey!

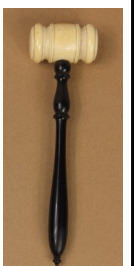
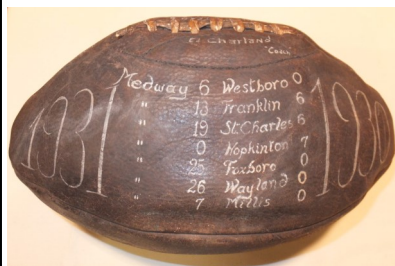
CURATOR'S CORNER

Pictured below are a few sample items that have been recently catalogued including Medway High School 1931 team football, bench seats from the old Sanford Hall, a child's dress. The dishes and gavel were donated by Reva Parella and are from the most recent Medway Women's Club that met from 1968-1983.

We have dozens of clothing items which required the stitching of an inventory label inside. Terry Armstrong has completed this overwhelming task over the past year.

Our next inventory project will be to inventory our books of which there are hundreds. Currently, we are packing and temporarily storing items upstairs so that we may proceed with electrical upgrades, carpeting, new windows and much more.

Please remember to consider donating Medway related items to the Historical Society when doing your spring cleaning!



Kevin Gardner

Author of *The Granite Kiss*, a book about New England Stone Walls will be coming to Medway

on Tuesday, June 21st.

More details in the next issue!

His talk will cover the history, technique, stylistic development and aesthetics of stone walls.

This program is sponsored by the Medway Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

MEDWAY PRIDE DAY

Look for us at Medway Pride Day

Saturday, May 21st.

THANK YOU !

to all our supporters at the polls on March 1st.

2016 HOUSE TOUR

If you or anyone you know would consider being on our fall house tour please call 508-254-3995 for more details. The 1963 house tour program booklet featured a pencil sketch drawing of each of the participating homes. Our plan is to do this again. This makes for a nice keepsake for homeowners and also remains as a historic archive of the homes.



Calendar, Remarkable Days and Observations as noted in the 1976 Historical Almanac for Medway and Environs by Fran Donovan.

February 7, 1660—New Grant Division, now Medway
February 21, 1676—Indians attack Medfield at daybreak
February 24, 1885—Millis Inc. (formerly E. Medway)
February 26, 1841— First printed Medway town report
March 2, 1829—Exchange of lands between Medway and Holliston
March 5, 1891—First tar sidewalks in Medway
March 17, 1899—St. Paddy's Day, Gladstone Hotel burned
March 27, 1819—Universalist Society organized.

Medway Historical Society 2015 Holiday Open House



Look for our "Blue Plate Fundraiser" coming this fall!!



Saturday,
December
19th

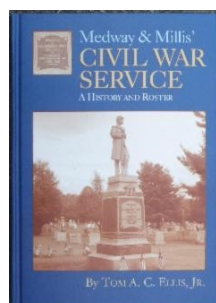


Thayer Homestead



Books for Sale

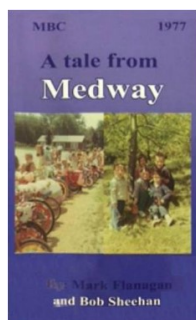
Visit www.medwayhistoricalsociety.org or call 508-533-7222 to order.



Medway & Millis' Civil War Service, Tom A. C. Ellis Jr., 2013. 428pp. illus. Hardcover. \$35.00 + tax



Postcard History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts, James B. Tedesco and Paul H. Tedesco, 2013. 416pp. illus. Hardcover. \$39.95 + tax.



1977 A Tale From Medway, Bob Sheehan and Mark Flanagan, 2015 Paperback. \$15. + tax.

NEED A GIFT IDEA?

Consider a gift membership or donation to the Medway Historical Society for that person who is hard to buy for and LOVES Medway! 508-533-7222 or email info@medwayhistoricalsociety.org.

Medway Historical Society

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Pardon our appearance while we undergo renovations!

3rd Sunday of the month
1pm - 3pm

March 20th
April 17th
May 15th

Medway Historical Society
501c3 Non-profit
THANK YOU
for your tax deductible
donation.

Contact Us at:
info@medwayhistoricalsociety.org
or
508-533-7222

*Medway Historical Society
223 Main Street
Medway, MA 02053*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Visit our website:
www.medwayhistoricalsociety.org*