

February
2023

Feb, May, Aug, Nov

The Medway Historical Society

Est. 1902

Jacob Ide
Open House
Third Sunday of the
month, 1-3 PM and
by appointment.
Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear friend,

It is with great sadness that I share with you the passing of Grace Hoag and Priscilla Howker, Medway's most passionate Historical Society members and co-authors of the *"Images of America, Medway"* book.

I came to be involved with the society when I responded to a request to "help out" with the newsletter—the content was to be cheerfully provided. All I had to do was type it up! Well the rest is history as they say.

Both Grace and Priscilla provided the much needed support it took to take on the role of President back in 2014. The phone calls and emails were constant as I had no real knowledge of Medway history or where to find the answers to respond to inquiries, what to do with incoming artifacts, the do's and don'ts of managing the museum building and so much more.

It soon became clear to me that while many people have been involved in the historical society over the years, it was Grace and Priscilla who were the core of the organization and kept the society going through good times and bad. I often think, why didn't I get involved sooner. I would have had the chance to meet and learn from others who were instrumental in preserving Medway history. Most often I hear from people, "How could I possibly be any help?"

Looking back at history is so very exciting. It is unlocking bits and pieces of lives gone by. In these past few weeks alone I've spoken with Sharmin Fairbanks McKenny, descendent of Jonathan Fairbanks, an original settler to our county whose house in Dedham is the oldest timber frame structure still standing in the country.

I also spoke with Robert Partridge, descendent of the Partridges from Medway. Lillian Partridge Thayer was married to Addison Thayer. They were the owners of the Thayer Homeplace.

I could not thank Grace and Priscilla enough for their support, dedication and patience and for sparking that love of Medway history that has brought so much interest and enjoyment into my life but more importantly their gift to us for their decades of love and support of Medway history.

Sincerely,
Sheila Dubrawski

THE MEDWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECIEVES DONATION FROM THE HOAG ESTATE

The Medway Historical Society received the largest donation in its history from the Hoag estate. Grace and David Hoag made a substantial donation of \$65,000 to the Society. These funds will be used to secure the future of the Society for many years to come. We are so very grateful for their love and dedication to Medway and their generosity to the Medway Historical Society.

MEETING AT THE JACOB IDE HOUSE

We are happy to be holding our meetings at the historic Jacob Ide House. The Town of Medway procured this beautiful and historic home at 158 Main Street and is working diligently with the Medway Historical Society to open the house to visitors as a local historic museum. Many thanks to all who are working to make this possible.



Dr Jacob Ide House Parsonage Main St Sept 1904

Many thanks to the Medway Garden Club, especially Nancy Vinton, Naomi Price and Carol Collard for their work in applying for and receiving a grant from the Massachusetts Garden Federation for \$750 to purchase plantings for the front of the Ide House. It took great detail and planning to receive this grant. We would also like to acknowledge the Medway DPW for their help with this project. When the spring weather comes along the plants, bulbs and shrubs will be set into the ground dressing up the curb appeal of this town treasure.

FIRST CELEBRATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY IN MEDWAY

On October 15th, "An Exploration of Medway's Native American History" was held at the Choate Park pavilion. The guest speaker was Thomas Green, the Vice President of the Massachusetts Tribal Council at Ponkapoag. The event was well attended on a beautiful day. Our local walking trail going from Winthrop St to Summer St. is called Wennakeening Woods. This word which means "Smile of the Great Spirit" was used to describe Winthrop Pond which was originally part of part of West Medway. The area near Hill Street up to Winthrop Pond was known as Musquit. The area near Lake Populatic was known as "Lactic" "Quinobequin" means "Winding River" and was the native's name for the old Massachusetts River or as we now know it today the Charles River. It was also the name of the old stately inn that stood at the corner of Broad and Village Streets.

GOT ANY MEDWAY YEARBOOKS OR TOWN OF MEDWAY ANNUAL REPORTS?

Thanks to Barbara Wilson Maffeo there is now a secure place where MHS yearbooks are kept at the Medway Public Library. If you are purging and find old yearbooks please drop them off at the library or contact the Society for a pick up.

*Thank you Deb Black Hansen
for donating a 1974 yearbook and
275 Anniversary Button.*

If you have any Town of Medway Annual Reports please don't throw them out! These are a great historical reference.

We are especially looking for a Town of Medway **2001** Annual Report. Call or text 508-254-3995 to donate yearbooks or annual reports.

IDE HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE 2022

On Saturday, December 4th the Ide House was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Thanks to our decorators, Cher Hamilton, Annmarie Fontecchio, Sheila Dubrawski and Maryjane White and helpers Jim, Morgan, Marie, Janice and Joy for a great event. A special thanks to musician Dale Freeman and Andra, Daphne and Ilana for joining him to provide live jazz and holiday tunes! The open house was so well attended and enjoyed we will look forward to this being an annual event.

A LITTLE ABOUT HISTORIC PRESERVATION

As you would expect there are lots of old items inside the Medway Historical Society museum. In their day few people would consider them of any value at all. The same goes for today! Why keep anything?

Yet, even those who least value historical preservation are moved by the items and documents that tell Medway's history. An old 1767 stone slab engraved "30 mi to Boston" that sat at Bellingham line always gets a "WOW that's..... incredible." Same goes for the Medway Fire Department horse drawn hose reel complete with leather water buckets. This too could have gone to the scrap heap many times over in the last hundred years. Historic preservation is expensive! Whether an old newspaper or a historic home, like everything these days, the cost often takes our breath away. But it's worth it! And fortunately, as part of the Community Preservation Act our town values historic preservation and has funding dedicated exclusively to this effort. We don't need to just envy towns that have made local history central to their community. We can do the same.

In the year 2000 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts enacted the Community Preservation Act. Not all MA towns participate in the act. Medway accepted the act (44B) which has been tremendously beneficial for our community. In addition to monies received back from the state from real estate transactions, Medway assesses a 3% real estate tax surcharge of which 1% is dedicated to acquire open space, 1% is dedicated to acquire and restore historic resources and 1% is dedicated to creating affordable housing. The Medway Historical Commission recommends projects for historic preservation and Medway's Community Preservation Committee approves how these funds are spent consistent with the law.

"LOCAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS OUR TOWN'S SCRAPBOOK" JN

With that said, think of us before you toss that box of treasures.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Medway Historical Society monthly meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:45 PM at the Jacob Ide House, 158 Main St. Please check our FB page for any last minute updates. All are welcome to attend. Next meetings.....Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25

HISTORICAL POSTCARDS BRIGHTEN SPIRITS

In our last mailing to over 600 mostly local residents, two postcards were included that were made from slides of Medway's 250th anniversary celebration in 1963. The slides were donated to the Medway Historical Society by Clare Forbes.

Clare was a 1941 graduate of Medway High School and lived most of her life in Medway before moving to the Cape. Clare's family history in Medway runs deep. Her brother was Charles Edward Forbes. Charles Forbes' daughter, Joyce Forbes Kamsler came to the Medway Historical Society several years ago to research her family. And recently she donated the Navy uniform worn by her father along with other significant items such as his dog tag, pictures and other items that tell the story of that time.

Joyce, being new to Facebook, was surprised to see images of her and her brothers at the 1963, celebration posted on our FB page. Commentary was plentiful and sentimentally reminiscent of years past. Thank you Joyce and Kevin for your donations!

LIFETIME MEMBERS

<i>Gary and Eileen Berset</i>	<i>Dorothy Charland</i>
<i>Dennis and Mary Crowley</i>	<i>Martha DeWolf</i>
<i>Richard and Linda D'Innocenzo</i>	<i>Joe and Missy Dzikczek</i>
<i>Paul and Beatrice Harcovitz</i>	<i>Allan Hamm</i>
<i>Christine Henault</i>	<i>Tom and Ginny Jackson</i>
<i>Joyce Forbes Kamsler</i>	<i>Stephen Malloy</i>
<i>Robert and Diane Parrella</i>	<i>Norman Schneider</i>
<i>Caroline and John Solari</i>	<i>Deborah and Wayne Tanner</i>
<i>Charles and Kathy Waldron</i>	

And our recent donors.....

Susan Alessandri	Rebecca and Paul Atwood
Stephen Barrasso	Andrea Burke
Thomas and Virginia Carson	Dorothy Charland
Kathleen Choate	Christopher DiSenso
Sheila Donovan	Pam and Tom Ellis
Annmarie Fontecchio	Paul and Rosemary Galante
Priscilla Howker	Robert and Natalie Hudon
Shirley McDaniel	James and Lori Murphy
Jeff Nutting	Gibb Phenegar
Al Rao	Bruce and Ute Taylor
Joyce Forbes Kamsler	Marie Dubrawski Silva
John and Janice Raftery	Sally and Peter Nolan
Maj. Richard Keogh	Peter Walther
Leslie Canavan Richards	

*** Middlesex Savings Bank ***

TOWN OF MEDWAY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Medway Historical Commission has been working on a project to cover the utility boxes in the Rabbit Hill Historic District. Paul Russell and Cher Hamilton have been instrumental in gathering photos for this project.

The Commission is also working on a project thanks to Paul Yorkis with a grant from the Mass Realtor Assn. Mr. Yorkis will be installing an engraved granite bench at the end of Coffee Street to commemorate Ishmael Coffee, for whom the street was named in 1869. Coffee was of Native American and African American descent and he fought with distinction in the Revolutionary War.

UPCOMING PROGRAM SAVE THE DATE

**TO MY DEAREST:
THE CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF
GEORGE AND EMILY WARD,** Presented by
Thomas and Lynne McKenney Lydick

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 7PM

This is a two person program dramatizing the experiences of ordinary people in extraordinary times. Based on the original letters from the Worcester Historical Museum collection, the play provides a window into the Ward's personal daily lives as they communicate with each other during long periods of separation.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Medway Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



QUICKBOOKS

Going forward, the Medway Historical Society will be working with Liscombe and Parrella, LLC to keep our booking updated. We will be going online using Quickbooks. Moving to Quickbooks will allow us to provide periodic accounting reports in the newsletter and have these reports readily accessible so that we may take advantage of grant opportunities. Our transactions are minimal, approximately 5 per month. If you are familiar with Quickbooks and are willing to assist with this task please send and email to info@medwayhistoricalsociety.org.



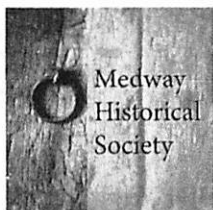
The Old Stone House

On October 25th, Paul LaCroix, Millis Historical Society President gave a detailed presentation about his quest to find the elusive remains of the Bogastowe Farms stone house. What began in 2005 snowballed into one of the most intriguing historical archaeological investigations in Massachusetts history.

According to Jameson, in his *History of Medway 1713—1885*, the Bogastowe Farms stone house a.k.a. George Fairbanks' palisade, which was built during the mid-seventeenth century, was the earliest structure to be erected in what would eventually become the Town of Medway in 1713. This same George Fairbanks was the second son of Jonathan Fairbanks, senior, 1636 immigrant to Dedham who is in turn credited with the building of the renowned Fairbanks house in Dedham ca. 1640's, the oldest timber-frame structure still standing in the United States.

The archaeological evidence when coupled with the conclusions drawn from long hours of research and consultations with some of the nation's foremost authorities in the fields of archaeology, Native American anthropology, seventeenth century New England architecture and artifacts, and archaeometallurgy, has allowed for a new and scholarly interpretation of the facts, many of which have remained shrouded in mystery for three and a half centuries.

This dig began in 2009 and ended in 2012 and was chronicled by Paul Charles LaCroix in the book, *Bogastowe Farms Stone House Archaeological Investigation*. It includes details about the process and what was learned along the way. The book is available for purchase on amazon.com or from Silver Street Media at 877-266-5118.



223 Main Street
Medway, MA 02053

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

Medway, MA

Permit No. 6

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED