

The Medway Historical Society

Est. 1902

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

March 2024

Dear friends,

The Charter of Incorporation for the Medway Historical Society was granted on April 29, 1902 one hundred and 122 years ago! We are grateful for the foresight and support of so many people over the decades that have seen to it that Medway history is preserved for future generations.

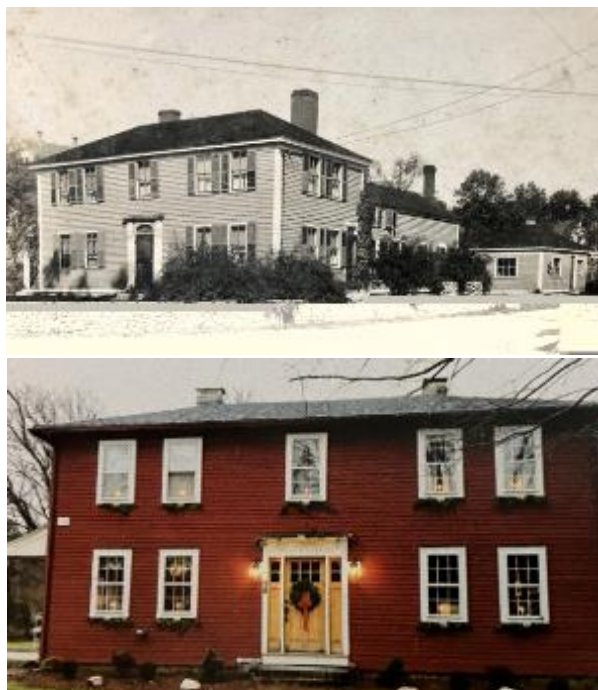
Our holiday house tour in December was a big success and with the proceeds we have invested in a much needed new computer and archival supplies. Over two hundred people attended the tour even in the drizzling rain. We can't thank our homeowners enough as well as the kindness of the people at the Village Church and the Christ Episcopal Church.

This issue is about old homes and features a few of the treasured houses that were on the tour. Enclosed is also the full talk that Herbert Hixon gave to Society members back in the mid 1950's about "Old Medway Houses."

Our Town museum, the Jacob Ide House is undergoing some work that has put our popular Open Houses on hold. Look for upcoming programs and frequent tidbits and pictures about Medway history on Facebook. It's one good use of social media!
Regards,
Sheila Dubrawski

98 Village St, con't

.....purchased it from a local pharmacist and restored it. Perhaps most beloved were the Dziczek family who purchased it in 1984. Missy and Joe Dziczek were very active in serving the Medway community. The home features five fireplaces, small bar room with original door and hardware, wide pine board floors, small side porch, original wood beams, original china cabinet in the dining room, kitchen has a vaulted wood ceiling.



**98 Village Street
Willard Clark House
Circa 1820**

In 1819, Willard Clard, cordwainer (shoemaker) son of John Clark and Keziah Hobbs purchased this land from Comfort Walker, George Barber Jr. and Sewell Sanford. It is likely the house was built the same year. At the time the house was at the corner of Old County Road and Candlewood Island Road but when next sold the streets would be renamed Village and Oakland Streets. Clark, his wife Melinda and their two Children Francis and Lucinda Lived her for fifty years. By 1873, the house passed out of the Clark family and belonged to Asa and Sarah Jane Williams. They lived here with their two daughters until a year before Asa's death in 1876. Asa was a teamster (one who hauls with a team of oxens.) From 1904 to 1925 the house was owned by Irish immigrants Frank and Sarah Phillips who has at least twelve children. The small show shop to the rear of the house was eventually operated as a local store where candy, cigarettes and small items were sold. By the 1970's the status of the house was "condemned" when the DiSenso familyCon't left



214 Village Street
Built by Simon Fisher, Circa 1790

The historic house at 214 Village Street was built c.1790 possibly by Simon Fisher and had been in the Wilson family for over one hundred years since at least 1866. E.C. (Elihu Cutler) Wilson was a prominent mill owner in town. In 1869, Wilson joined with Edward Eaton to form a mill located near the Charles River at what is now Walker Street, that produced batting and wadding. The business, known as Eaton & Wilson, also helped establish Sanford Mill and was given 50 shares of the original business. E C. and his wife Azora Billings Wilson had one child, George Wilson, who continued in the mill business. George married Nellie Mullen and they raised their five daughters in the house, Dorothy, Margaret, Caroline, Helen, Irene and Christine. One daughter, Margaret Caroline Wilson married John Reardon in 1920 and had four sons, Edward, Robert, William and Joseph. The Reardon family were prevalent in this area of Village Street, owning the Sanford Mill, Reardon Insurance and developed many homes in the Charles River Park. Christine, (Miss Tina) Wilson, the youngest of the Wilson children taught piano for many years in the front room. She remained in the house until her death in 2001. The heirs sold the property out of the family. The home features a remodeled kitchen with skylight, four fireplaces, front and back staircases.



207 Village Street
Circa 1890

This beautiful Queen Anne Victorian sits on a lot that reaches down to the Charles River. There were several families that lived in the home for many years. In 1911, Thomas O'Donnell and his wife Catherine (of the Medway Kenneys) purchased the property.

The couple were both first generation children of Irish immigrants. The family was active in the early Catholic community in Medway. Thomas was superintendent of the Herman Shoe Company in Millis. The family lived in the house for 28 years and was home to seven children. It was sold after their deaths. In 1941, Jacob and Marcella Sheinkopf purchased the property. Jacob, a local physician, was born in Poland and Marcella was daughter to a Russian immigrant. They were of the Jewish faith. They lived in the house for 28 years, raising three daughters. In the 80's and 90's the Cassie and Stabile families resided in the house for almost ten years each. In 2001, the Spillane family purchased the property and lived there for 20 years. This home features an inviting enclosed front porch. The staircase in the large front entryway is original. Beautiful wood coffered ceilings are in the den and living room. The office features french doors, the kitchen is remodeled, bright welcoming dining room. The third floor has additional living space as small bedroom and a remodeled bathroom.



JETHRO JONES 1732-1828

On our FB page In February, for Black History Month, a historical spotlight featured Jethro Jones an early plane maker. No doubt Jethro Jones planes were used in building the early homes, businesses, and furniture in Medway. Jethro Jones was an early black plane maker from 1764-1767. He apprenticed under Cesar Chelor in Wrentham where he once lived. Chelor is another early black plane maker of notoriety. Jones appeared 1758-1759 in Medway on a list of inhabitant soldiers in the French and Indian Wars. He passed away at age 95 or 96 on January 12, 1828 in Blanford, MA where he was living on land given to him by his son. He rests in the Jethro Jones Cemetery named for him. A plow plane made by Jethro Jones is in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture in Washington, DC. It reads J Jones living in Medway. Shown above is the plane at the Smithsonian made by Jethro Jones.

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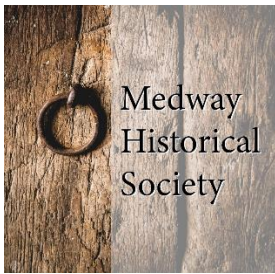
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www.medwayhistoricalsociety.org

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