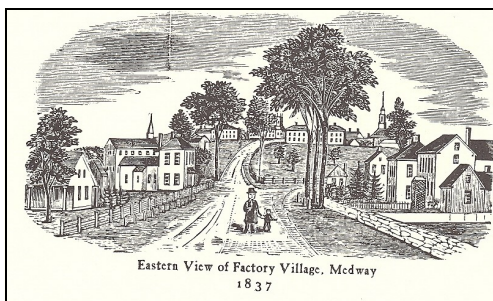




Historical Happenings

the newsletter of the

Medway Historical Society

Est. 1902

Experience the History of Medway, Massachusetts

Volume 2014, Issue 1

Medway Historical Society

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THANK YOU!

to the Nancy Judson estate
for the generous donation
that will help to preserve
Medway's history for future
generations.

To become a member
to sign-up for our mailing list or
to make a donation
Visit us at:
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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Members,

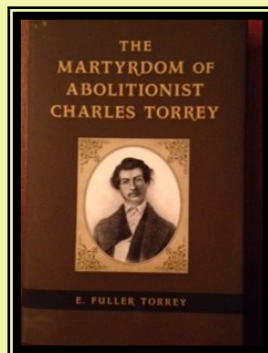
2014

Happy New Year! With the end of our 300th anniversary, I would like to thank all who contributed and supported the society during the celebration.

The New Year brings many new and interesting projects that you will read about. We have a large selection of glass plate negatives that we are working on to identify and preserve. We are also focusing on efforts to conserve a Civil War jacket and a letter written during the French and Indian war. These efforts and pursuance of preserving these artifacts is not possible without your support. Please renew your membership and join us in protecting and providing to you our town history.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mark Wilcox, President



Medway Connection to the Abolitionist Movement

On Nov. 19, 2013, an interested crowd gathered at the Medway Senior Center to hear Dr. E. Fuller Torrey speak about the Rev. Charles Torrey, noted abolitionist martyr and ancestor. Charles Torrey's connection to Medway is through his wife

Mary Ide, daughter of longtime Medway minister, Rev. Jacob Ide. In his just-published biography, Dr. Torrey explains how Charles Torrey's abolitionist work is almost lost to history due in the most part to his feud with abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Torrey split the Movement, founded the

Liberty Party and actively freed 400 slaves while Garrison preached changing minds by means of rhetoric. (con't on next page)

Torrey Con't

He was referred to by some at that time as the “father” of the Underground Railroad. He established a highly organized route, running from Washington to Albany where many slaves were led to Canada. He specifically aided slaves owned by members of Congress and other high government officials. Torrey died in a southern prison, while Garrison lived to chronicle the Abolitionist Movement, omitting Torrey's work entirely.

A copy of the book can be obtained by calling the publisher, Louisiana State University Press at 800-848-6224 or emailing customerservice@longleafservices.org. It is also available at Google, Amazon and Barnes & Noble in print or ebook.

The author, E. Fuller Torrey, MD, is a 9th generation descendent of William Torrey who came to Massachusetts from England in 1620 and settled in Weymouth. He is the Executive Director of Stanley Medical Research Institute in Chevy Chase, MD, founder of the Treatment Advocacy Center, and Professor of Psychiatry at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.



Curator's Corner

Investigation is being done by Paul Russell and Joe Dziczek into developing and identifying the locations of glass negatives circa late 1800's - early 1900's. The picture at the left is of the Salem Custom House. As the process continues they hope to discover some old photos of Medway never before seen. Almont Greene, a photographer located at the Medway Mill has had great success in the past in developing old prints and there seems to be a good possibility of getting some quality prints from these glass negatives. Mr. Greene is willing to make a presentation to the Medway Historical Society regarding the process and cost to develop prints.

Joe is also obtaining the dimensions of the museum building to optimize the current space but also have a reference should more space be needed requiring a move to a new location.

The board has identified some priorities in preservation. One item is a Civil War jacket belonging to David Partridge. A display case is needed for this item. Another artifact is a letter written by a Medway soldier to his wife during the French and Indian War.

Work continues on the process of cataloging museum items so that they may be inventoried, retrieved and displayed for members and visitors to enjoy.

Medway 300th Anniversary Time Capsule

Historical Society President Mark Wilcox is collecting articles from the yearlong tri-centennial celebration for the time capsule that is expected to be buried in early spring. A possible location to bury the capsule is the Thayer Homestead at Choate Park. The house is currently undergoing a handsome renovation with an addition suitable to host small functions. Look for photos of the building in our next issue!

News from the Town of Medway Historical Commission

THAYER HOMESTEAD

Progress is being made on the Thayer Homestead property at Choate Park.

The new addition has taken form and is looking beautiful.

The project is expected to be completed this spring and the building is anticipated to provide the community with a place to capitalize on the beauty and open space at the park.

Look for pictures of the building in our next newsletter issue in May.

EVERGREEN CEMETERY

Established in 1750, Evergreen Cemetery on Cottage Street is the final resting place for many of Medway's earliest settlers.

The third phase of repairing many of the gravestones has been completed by Kai Nalenz of Gravestone Services of New England, who has extensive experience in repairing and preserving such headstones.

Local Historical Society News



Medfield Junction Sign, Medfield

Medfield Historical Society President David Temple expressed his thanks to Audrey Ritter and the Medway Historical Society for the donation of this railroad sign. The sign once hung at the RR station at the end of Adams Street, at the corner of West Mill Street, where two railroad lines

crossed. Although there is no depot there today the railroad still travels this path which is located off RT 27 behind CVS.



Ellice Schoolhouse, Millis

A familiar sight to many who pass through the Rockville section of Millis (formerly East Medway) is the Ellice Schoolhouse on Pleasant Street. The Millis Historical Society is undertaking a renovation of the building. During the Depression, local women sewed clothing there and during WWII women made bandages for the war effort. The two room schoolhouse was constructed in 1849 on the land purchased from Seneca and Nancy Barber for \$35 by the inhabitants of School District No.2 in Medway.

(from Images of America, Millis by Charles Vecchi and Elizabeth Krimmel.)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM OPEN HOUSES

*Please join us for Open House on the
3rd Sunday of the month
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Upcoming Dates for Open House
February 16th
March 16th



HOLIDAY PARTY
2013

*Members enjoyed sweets and treats at the museum on
December 8th!*

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Did you know the Medway Historical Society
is a 501C (3) Non-profit Organization?

Your donations are tax deductible.

Please consider making a gift to the Society.

Annual Membership runs from May –June and covers
the cost of printing and sending newsletters.

Please remember to renew your subscription.

**Check out our many publications available
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