



Choate Park, Medway, MA

Historical Happenings

the newsletter of the

Medway Historical Society

Est. 1902

Experience the History of Medway, Massachusetts

Volume 2014, Issue 4

Medway Historical Society

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President's Note

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

Traditions! "Customs or elements transmitted from one generation to another influencing the present." This is what unites organizations, communities but mostly families. Everyone puts their own personal spin on a holiday, birthday, vacation or any event, simply like having hot dogs for dinner on Saturday nights.

These days our time and energy is stretched in so many directions. It is harder and harder to carry on old traditions and create new ones for future generations. I often wonder what stories and traditions accompany each item that the MHS has protected and preserved from the past. These artifacts, images, documents and memorabilia offer a glimpse into the lives of each passing generation. We will bring some of these items to share with you at our Holiday Reception on December 13th at Thayer House.

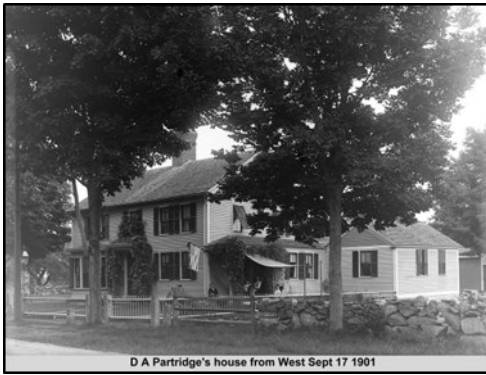
While the tradition of holding a holiday reception is nothing new at the MHS, it's been happening for decades, it is new that the event will be moved from the modest museum building to Thayer House. This gives us a great opportunity to invite the entire community in to share a piece of Medway's history.

We are very fortunate to have this facility which only happened with the dedicated work, passion and commitment of many people. But we want to thank one person in particular for his years of service to the Medway Historical Society and the community. That is former MHS President Mark Wilcox. Mark's efforts were vital in bringing Thayer from vision to reality. For those who have not been to Thayer, this is a chance to meet up with friends, check out some memorabilia, appreciate the beauty of the park and last but not least thank Mark for his work.

Traditions are not created overnight. But we hope that you will join us and perhaps this gathering will become a time honored tradition.

Sheila Dubrawski

Thank you
for your
continued
support.



DAVID A. PARTRIDGE 1833—1907

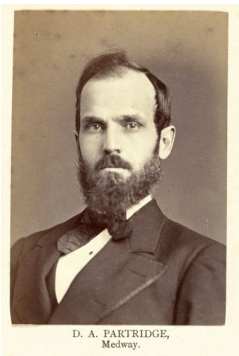


OPEN HOUSE—November 16, 2014 —The recently repaired Civil War Coat of David A. Partridge raised our interest in the man as well as the soldier. As a result of the slides that MHS Vice President Paul Russell converted to digital images we had among them the home of D. A. Partridge. It so happens that his home was at 203 Main St. The house is now owned by Anthony and Marguerite Mele who were gracious enough to share more details about the house.



They moved into the house in on November 29, 1962 and moved out on December 7, 1962 so extensive renovations could be completed that would make the house habitable. It had been vacant for 7 years. The original house was wood clapboard but was stucco'd around 1914 about the same time that electricity was installed.

The Mele's (shown at the left) purchased the house from Ralph Hunter. It was built by Samuel Cutler in 1791 and is on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the "Rabbit Hill Historic District." David Allen Partridge owned the house in 1901. The adjacent house at 207 Main St was owned by Herbert Hixon and was also built by Sam Cutler as his workshop. Cutler built and repaired "fancy go to meeting" carriages and also built coffins. He built the oversized bulkhead pictured at the right so that he could roll carriages in and out of the basement. Herbert Hixon and Ralph Hunter were cousins. In 1962, upon purchasing the house Anthony talked with Herbert Hixon about the house and he said there was a period of time that the house was vacant for 30 years. Before the years of Hunter and Partridge when folks had no children it was customary to pay the taxes on the house in advance so that whoever survived would not be put out of the house for tax delinquency. Because the taxes were paid, the house sat vacant and could not be taken by the Town. Mele said the house was known as the 'haunted house of Rabbit Hill.' The side addition now a den was originally a summer kitchen with a stove and chimney. Summer or 'outside' kitchens were often built to be able to cook without heating up the whole house. The house was sold to the Mele's by Realtor Stanley Cerel.



Further intrigue prompted MHS Director Steve Malloy to search for a picture of David A. Partridge and found one. It turns out that the MHS had a picture all along but never knew the unidentified soldier. It appears that Partridge is actually wearing the repaired coat in the photo. Coins labeled DAP, also owned by Partridge were researched by MHS Curator, Joe Diczek and these also complimented the exhibit.





Medway Historical Society

2014 Holiday Open House

"A Few of Our Favorite Things"

Saturday, December 13th

1PM to 4PM

Thayer House

Choate Park, Medway

Presentation 1:45PM

Mark Wilcox

MHS President 2006 – 2014

Enjoy light refreshments!

Admission Free



← CURATOR'S CORNER

MHS Honorary Director and Curator Audrey Ritter (left) has been busy designing the exhibit for the Open House featuring David A. Partridge. She is also working on a more effective policy to accept and acknowledge the donation of items to the Society.



Sam Petnov –We are sad for the recent loss of Rabbi Sam Petnov shown at left with Priscilla Howker. Sam sold many a TV or appliance to local residents over the years. He was an avid collector of radios and welcomed the opportunity to share his collection with MHS members on several occasions.

Medway Historical Society

501c3 Non-profit
Your donations are tax deductible.

Contact Us:

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2015 — HAPPY NEW YEAR — 2015

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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