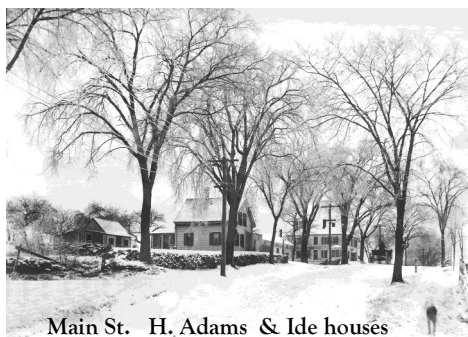




Historical Happenings

the newsletter of the

Medway Historical Society

Experience the History of Medway, Massachusetts

Volume 2015, Issue 1

Medway Historical Society

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President's Note

Dear Historical Society Members and Friends,

We've been busy! The upgrade to our electrical service necessary for the installation of our new HVAC system was completed just in the nick of time for the onset of the cold weather. And, what a winter it has been! As of February 16th forecasters are reporting that this is Boston's snowiest month on record since the National Weather Service began keeping track in 1872 with 58.5 inches. It's the seventh snowiest winter on record with a whopping 82.7 inches to date and more snow in the forecast. The description repeatedly being used is 'historic.'

We will be able to continue with building upgrades because we received some great news recently, that our application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for a capital improvement grant was approved. We plan to install insulated windows, new doors, upgraded interior electrical systems, improved lighting and new flooring on the ground floor. This will allow us to maximize the efficiency of the new HVAC system.

Fortunately, there was no snow the day of our holiday party. The occasion was very special since it was the first time the Society held an event at the historic Thayer Homestead. It was a great opportunity to meet up with friends and display some of our treasured artifacts and memorabilia. Look for some photos inside.

Please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor so that they may enjoy the rich history of Medway.

Sheila Dubrawski

IN MEMORIAM

Vincent Sia

And

David Hoag



Thank you!

To Ed Bouchard and John Charette and their crew from Victory Heating and Air Conditioning and Scot Guyette and his crew from G & F Electric for their work in getting our HVAC installed.



SAMBO FREEMAN'S PETITION FOR FREEDOM

An inquiry was made to the Medway Historical Society regarding a man named Sambo Freeman. Jameson's "The Military History of Medway, Mass 1745-1885" lists Sambo Freeman from Medway as having served in the French and Indian War in 1758 (see roster below). Sambo Freeman was also one of four slaves who petitioned the legislature for freedom in 1773. (right)

In the article "The History of Black History," Elissa Haney writes, Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as ["Black History Month."](#)

What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied or even documented when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books. [The History of Black History Month \(Famous People, Women, Facts, Leaders, Events\)](#)
<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/bhmintr01.htm#ixzz3RqIQOw1f>

Due to this lack of documentation the question remains unanswered—Were these men one in the same Sambo Freeman?

Medway Historical Society

501c3 Non-profit

THANK YOU

for your tax deductible donation.

Contact Us at:

info@medwayhistoricalsociety.org

OR

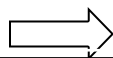
508-533-7222

From Jameson's Military History

of Medway
(1886)

The Inhabitant
Soldier's in the
French and

Indian War
1745-1760



BOSTON, APRIL 30th, 1773.

S I R,
THE efforts made by the legislative of this province in their last sessions to free themselves from slavery, gave us, who are in that deplorable state, a high degree of satisfaction. We expect great things from men who have made such a noble stand against the designs of their fellow-men to enslave them. We cannot but wish and hope Sir, that you will have the same grand object, we mean civil and religious liberty, in view in your next session. The divine spirit of freedom, seems to fire every humane breast on this continent, except such as are bribed to assist in executing the execrable plan.

We are very sensible that it would be highly detrimental to our present masters, if we were allowed to demand all that of right belongs to us for past services; this we disclaim. Even the Spaniards, who have not those sublime ideas of freedom that English men have, are conscious that they have no right to all the services of their fellow-men, we mean the Africans, whom they have purchased with their money; therefore they allow them one day in a week to work for themselves, to enable them to earn money to purchase the residue of their time, which they have a right to demand in such portions as they are able to pay for (a due appraisment of their services being first made, which always stands at the purchase money.) We do not pretend to dictate to you Sir, or to the honorable Assembly, of which you are a member: We acknowledge our obligations to you for what you have already done, but as the people of this province seem to be actuated by the principles of equity and justice, we cannot but expect your house will again take our deplorable case into serious consideration, and give us that ample relief which, as men, we have a natural right to.

But since the wise and righteous governor of the universe, has permitted our fellow men to make us slaves, we bow in submission to him, and determine to behave in such a manner, as that we may have reason to expect the divine approbation of, and assistance in, our peaceable and lawful attempts to gain our freedom.

We are willing to submit to such regulations and laws, as may be made relative to us, until we leave the province, which we determine to do as soon as we can from our joint labours procure money to transport ourselves to some part of the coast of Africa, where we propose a settlement. We are very desirous that you should have instructions relative to us, from your town, therefore we pray you to communicate this letter to them, and ask this favor for us.

In behalf of our fellow slaves in this province,
And by order of their Committee.

PETER BATES,
SAMBO FREEMAN,
FELIX HOLMBOCK;
CHESTER JOIN.

For the REPRESENTATIVE of the town of *Thompson*

" May 2, 1758.

Nathan Harding	John Hucker	Elisha Cutler	Jonathan Adams
Daniel Richardson	Stephen Adams	Joshua Wheten	Malachi Bullard
David Richardson	Jese Adams	James Boydon	Timothy Clark
Hozseiah Bullard	Samuel Richardson	Timothy Ellis	Henry Daniels
Samuel Haws	Abner Ellis	Jonathan Wheeler	Ichabod Harding
Lem'y Write	Theodor Harding	Henery Bullard	Joseph Rockwood
Silem partridge	Ebenezer Allen	John Clark	Asa Ellis
Jonas farbanks	William Rixford	Nathaniel partridge	Samuel Ellis."

" May the 23 1758.

John Harris	Jonathan Hill	Moses Rockwood	Sambow freeman.
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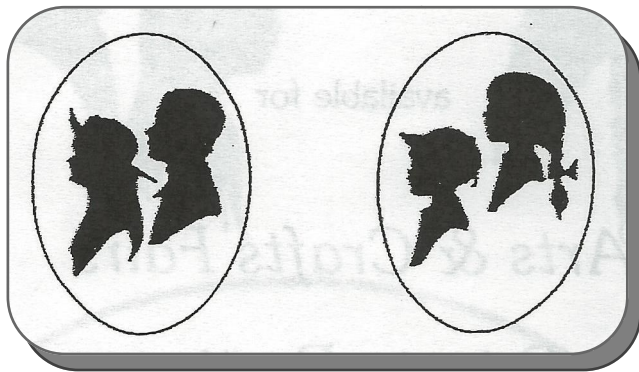
" Without Date.

Erastus Harris	David Clark	John Mills	Moses Rockwood
Joseph follet	Joseph Whitney	Joseph Harris	Moses Thompson
Benjamin Cochs	Jonathan Hill	Jethro Jones	Ebenezer Hill."
Ezekiel Mors	Sambo Freeman	Jese Carpenter	
William Clemens	John Harris	William Williams	

CAROL LEBEAUX

SILHOUETTE ARTIST
IS COMING TO MEDWAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH

A time must be reserved with a deposit of \$20 per silhouette. Please contact Sheila Dubrawski at 508-254-3995 or email sdubrawski@aol.com for more information or to reserve an appointment. This only takes about 15 minutes, is a treasured keepsake and makes for the perfect gift for mom, dad, grandmother or grandfather.



As with the silhouette artists of the past I endeavor to capture the “essence” of the person sitting for their profile portrait.

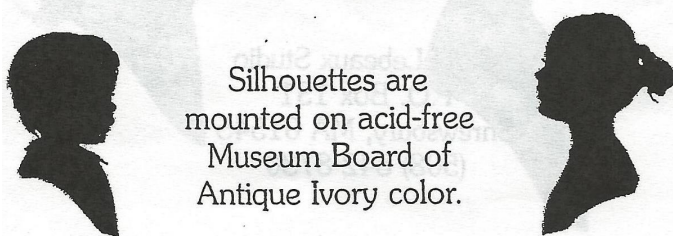
I come to you with the hope that these hand-cut silhouettes will become heirlooms cherished by you and your family for generations.

With a fine pair of scissors I cut folded black silhouette paper rendering both a left and right facing profile.

Carol Lebeaux

**Each original silhouette costs \$33.00.
A duplicate copy, cut simultaneously,
costs \$12.00 each.**

Separate charge for mat or frame.



Silhouettes are
mounted on acid-free
Museum Board of
Antique Ivory color.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE at THAYER HOMESTEAD



Medway Historical Society Presidents
Norm Schneider(1986-2008) Sheila Dubawski (Present),
Mark Wilcox (2008-2014)



Priscilla Howker, Col. Mike Matondi, Jack Seferian,
Sheila Dubrawski, Betty Ann Balboni



Guests viewing the Historical Society displays.



From the "UDAHLI CLUB" Book
 Women's Club Meeting Minutes
 by Priscilla Robertson

"January thirteenth, nineteen hundred and nineteen was our first meeting of the new year at Mrs. Ollendorff's new home on dry bridge hill. It was bad traveling and so thanks to two or three of our members with autos we had jitney service.

We were quite industrious for

a while and then Mrs. Ollendorff showed off her beautiful home to those who hadn't seen it while the rest heard Caruso sing "Over There". Instead of the usual game of 500 our hostess had provided several different games in the different rooms and we progressed by points, the real centre of attraction was the den and ring-toss, some of the members showed real skill and some, none at all. Our hostess had made a freezer full of her famous lemon sherbet and maraschino cherries but when we finished, "the cupboard was bare." Every member but one was present.

This is the home currently on the market at 121 Main St. The house originally stood across the street and was moved to its present location in 1973. At right is pictured: Luncheon on porch of Alice Ollendorff's home, Main Street, on June 14, 1920.



Upcoming Events:

March 15th - Sunday
 Museum Open House
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

April 19th—Sunday
 Museum Open House
 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

June 13th—Saturday
 Carol Lebeaux,
 Silhouette Artist

July
 Charles River Bank
 Featured Business
 of the Month!

Medway Historical Society
223 Main Street
Medway, MA 02053

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Visit our website:
www.medwayhistoricalsociety.org