

## MIDDLESEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING 9-24-13

The Middlesex Historical Society met 9-24-13 at the Town Hall. Present were David Newhall, Charles Martin, Richard deCosta and Gary, Ron and Anita Krauth, Patty Wiley and Sarah Seidman. The group sadly missed Bob Edson, the Garcias, and Treasurer Dick Alderman. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Wiley and Anita Krauth moved and Martin seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the 5-16-13 spring meeting. Motion carried.

Wiley read the treasurer's report compiled by Treasurer Dick Alderman, reporting a balance of \$2950.07 plus the \$7147 CD which matures November 11. An additional bank deposit of \$47 was made, due to two book sales plus some member dues. Newhall moved and Anita seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. Seidman said the Red Hen Bakery is out of copies of the history book to sell.

Members wondered what has become of the Middlesex Newspaper published by Neeley Washington and Jeannette Wulff. No one has seen an issue of the paper since spring. There was no news on the railroad station, and no report from Edson and Alderman about a planned meeting with Eric Gilbertson to discuss strategies for saving this landmark.

The group set a tentative date for a visit to Wrightsville Dam with Manny Garcia, Saturday Oct. 19 at one p.m. We will meet at the parking lot on the east side of the dam, and Nov. 2 will be the raindate.

Wiley proposed two ideas for our spring 2014 program. One would be Brian Lindner's talk on the Camel's Hump airplane crash. The other would be David Book of Worcester's Humanities performance, impersonating a Civil War soldier from Cabot. Wiley will investigate both options.

The Middlesex Country store has been sold to David Specht of Duxbury. Wiley wrote and asked him about the old green sign on the building and 3-4 days later, the sign had disappeared. The Society awaits news that this mystery has been solved.

The group enjoyed hearing about the 250th Middlesex birthday celebration spearheaded by Susan Clark and Liz Scarf. They made a replica of an old schoolhouse, complete with cupola, and used this float in the Worcester and Montpelier Independence Day parades. Long-time Rumney schoolteachers Maribeth Domanski and Scottie Brower dressed up as school marms to wave from the doorway. Seidman said Scharf had an adventure enroute to Montpelier, when the entire float fell off the back of her truck, necessitating emergency cupola repairs completed just in time for the parade.

The Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department is celebrating its 50th year with a cookbook. Wiley contributed a short history of Middlesex and Seidman added a "receipt" for the old-time haying drink, switchel. In addition, the cookbook featured a page from the old Middlesex tavern ledger of 1813 showing food and drink of the era.

Wiley and Seidman met with David Book, Doug Hull and Audrey Richardson of the Worcester Historical Society, who are now beginning a long awaited town history of their own. Permission has been granted to use excerpts from the Middlesex history book, with attribution, as needed.

Wiley had a wonderful purchase from eBay to share. She donated a colored felt banner of Camp Meade, featuring an Indian chief in full headdress, possibly from the 1940s. She also bought a Civil War letter from George W. Bruce, dated Nov. 1862, written to his parents and his brother and sister. She also acquired old postcards of Middlesex and Camel's Hump, and a portrait of Carrie Warren, age 19. The group enjoyed reading old newspaper accounts of a double murder in the Notch in 1968, with two teens from Wellesley MA shot by a local man, 21-year-old James Kanavaros.

Seidman contributed photos of the Vaughn family donated by Gordon Wood of Waterbury, whose uncle was Edgar Wood of Wood Rd. He found these items at a yard sale and these photos are all carefully labeled, so we know that Florence Vaughn and the adorably named Adeline Stufflebeam were close friends. Newhall shared a couple short excerpts from his unpublished autobiography: "Gone Hunting" and "Sugar on Snow."

The tentative date for the next meeting at the Middlesex Town Hall will be Thursday Jan. 16, 7 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sarah Seidman, VP/Secretary