

Our Town in the Civil War

This summer, as the nation observes the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, HSM will host its own remembrance of the Civil War with an exhibition of photos, memorabilia, first person accounts and artifacts highlighting the role Middletown played in the monumental conflict.

The exhibit, which opens July 4, will shine new light on the impact of the war on the more than 300 area men who fought in it, and on their families and neighbors back home. A series of five related programs have also been scheduled through the summer (see the enclosed Calendar of Events).



Displays will examine how men signed up and what cavalry and infantry units they joined or were drafted into. Tribute will be paid to the 47 Middletown area men who died of wounds or illness, and to the 36 families who sent more than one son to war: Two of them (Morses and Closes) saw four brothers leave home. At least two fathers, Jacob Haner and Abram Hinkley, enlisted with their sons, John and George.

The story of immigrant soldiers will be told as well. Letters, diaries and newspaper accounts will describe the horror, boredom, fatigue and discontent experienced by the farmers-turned-fighters during the months and years they spent away from loved ones. The exhibit will also show how veterans rejoined the community and remembered the war until the last of them passed into history in the 1930s.

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Maransa Sanford, shown above with his son, was born in New Kingston. He was among more than 300 Middletown soldiers who served in the Union Army during the Civil War. When he returned, he used his muster-out pay to buy a farm in Millbrook, now owned by Leonard and Betty Utter who provided this photo. His story and many others will be profiled in a summer-long exhibit, "Middletown in the Civil War," opening July 4 at the HSM Hall.

A Year of Milestones

NUMBER CRUNCHERS, TAKE NOTE:

2013 is the 250th anniversary of the first settlement of the Town of Middletown by European emigrants in 1763.

It is also the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Fleischmanns in 1913.

A variety of events and activities to celebrate both milestones is planned. A Street Fair will be held in Fleischmanns May 25 (HSM will be there!), the Arkville Fair will be resurrected on July 13, with a parade featuring history-themed floats; and a Middletown Community Picnic is scheduled for August 29 at the restored Fleischmanns Village Park.

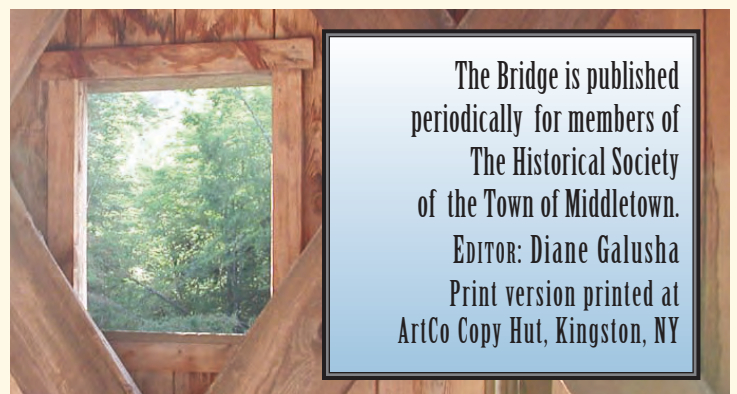
HSM will assist in erecting a pair of historical markers to commemorate these anniversaries.

Articles detailing the stories behind the milestones will appear in the summer issue of the Bridge.

Start Growing Those Beards, Men!

A HAIRY FACE CONTEST starts Memorial Day Weekend.

Judging is November 30 at the Holiday Parade in Margaretville.



The Bridge is published periodically for members of The Historical Society of the Town of Middletown.

EDITOR: Diane Galusha

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RE-DISCOVERY OF A CEMETARY: BY ROGER D. DAVIS

Back in the late 1990s I was involved in reading old cemeteries and posting them on the internet by way of the Delaware County Gen Web site. One of the cemeteries I read was of a small burying ground in Clovesville, only a few hundred feet from the main Clovesville cemetery. I had no idea what the name of the cemetery was, so it never got posted on line.

At that time there was some controversy over the neighboring property owner who had incorporated one of the headstones from this cemetery in a chimney on their building. I didn't follow up on the events after that and had sort of let this slip my mind.

Recently I have been actively involved in taking photos for Find-A-Grave website as well as listing cemeteries on their site and it brought back my memory of the unknown Clovesville cemetery, so I returned to the site to find that several of the stones I remembered being there seemed to have disappeared. I photographed what I could find and returned to my computer to start researching those which were still there.

In the process I came across two listings with the same people but two different locations. One was done by the late Steven Delibert back in January 2000. The other was a listing by James Faasen done in August 2011, who gave the name of the cemetery as The Old Beadle Farm Burying Ground located west of Shandaken in Ulster County. This information was gathered from a book entitled "Gravestone Inscriptions of Ulster County," 1924, by Lila James Roney.

I compared that list to mine and that of Steven Delibert and discovered that we had the same cemetery. James and I came to the same conclusion, that the book's author had been mistaken in the county location.

Since James is located in Michigan and I am in Arkville, he

has graciously turned over the listing on Find-A-Grave to me for maintenance. James has added a great deal of biographical information he has researched for each person listed and I have added photos. You can find all this by going to www.findagrave.com and searching for Old Beadle Farm Cemetery.



John Beadle was born Oct. 9, 1821
and died Apr, 27, 1865

Through the listing from the 1924 "Gravestone Inscriptions of Ulster County," when many more of the stones were in better shape, we now know the names of 19 people buried in this cemetery. I counted 20-30 fieldstone markers that may indicate more unknown burials. Some of the stones are broken and some are partially buried. If the area were carefully cleared and raked, I feel we could recover more missing headstones and possibly add to the list of known burials.

Interestingly, in the neighboring Clovesville Cemetery we find Talman Beadle, a subject of The Historical Society of the Town of Middletown's upcoming cemetery tour. Could he and the other 17 Beadles listed there be relatives to those in the Beadle Farm

Burying Ground?

Other names in the Beadle Ground are Carpenter, Osterhoudt, Crandall, Ballard, Person and Bortle. Birth dates go back to the late 1790s with death dates being from 1852 to 1893.

The Old Beadle Farm Burying Ground should be recovered and stabilized as best it can. This is an important part of our local history and probably another of the oldest cemeteries in our communities.

Let us not lose this cemetery to obscurity forever.

Cemetery help needed!

A meeting of Friends of Middletown Cemeteries (this means YOU!) has been set for Monday, April 22 at 6 p.m. at the HSM Hall. There are several projects — including the Beadle burial ground cleanup — that need our attention this year. If you have an affinity for old burial grounds and a passion for preserving their history, please try to attend. Your help and ideas are most welcome!

HSM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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www.mtownhistory.org ❖ history@catskill.net

CEMETARY TOUR IS JUNE 29



Planning for the 2013 Living History Cemetery Tour is well underway. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 29 (rain date June 30) for the Second Annual tour, to be held in Clovesville (old Route 28 just west of the Village of Fleischmanns).

Ten people interred in the Clovesville and neighboring Irish Cemetery will be played by local folks whose portrayals will be based on historical research.

Subjects include community founder Mathew Griffin (played by John Bernhardt); merchant and widowed mother of ten Caroline Stone (Innes Kasanof); Revolutionary War veteran Samuel Todd and his grandson, Augustus Todd, Fleischmanns entrepreneur and mayor (John Hartner and Ward Todd); stage coach driver Talman Beadle (Ken Taylor); John and Delia Blish, real estate dealer and avid musician and his wife (Marion Blish and Anne Saxon-Hersh); hunter, woodsman and legendary raconteur Mike Todd (Joe Hewitt); Irish immigrant and tannery worker Thomas Dwyer (Brian Walsh) and Maggie McGuire, 10-year-old daughter of Irish immigrants who perished with two siblings in the dark autumn of 1877 (Niamh Walsh).

Tour slots will be by reservation only this year. Watch local media and our website for details.

Caroline Griffin Stone, whose monument is shown here, will be portrayed by Innes Kasanof in the Living History Tour June 29.

If Walls Could Talk...

What can old maps, deeds, photos and wills tell you about the history of your house?

Plenty!

Come hear the owners of two old homes – one a Margaretville Victorian, the other a Halcottsville Greek Revival – talk about the pleasures and perils of researching the histories of their homes and the people who lived there.

Andrew Greenberg will describe his search for the story behind his place, said to be the oldest farm house in Bragg Hollow. Built by G. W. Hubbell and occupied by Hewitts and Chapmans, the house harbors tales of sadness and suicide, though the Greenbergs have made it a place of joy and comfort.

Tom and Connie Jeffers own a house built by master craftsman Henry Coulter at the turn of the (last) century. Find out what they uncovered during renovations, and the strange tale of the disappearing – and reappearing — tower.

“House History Hunting” is the first program of the 2013 season, and will be held Saturday, April 20 at 10 a.m. at the HSM Hall, 778 Cemetery Road, Margaretville. Admission is \$2 for HSM members, \$4 for all others.



This house on Walnut Street in Margaretville was built in 1906. Its current owners will tell its story at “House History Hunting” on April 20 at the HSM Hall.

A Tribute to Immigrant Roots: By Mary Ellen Cantwell



Hungarian immigrants John and Rose Kallay Tirpak and their daughters c. 1929: Top, l. to r., Elizabeth (married Burdette Mason), Ethel (Lyndon Kelly), Ann (Frank Connolly); Bottom, Julia (Ralph Cantwell), Rose (Leyden Smith), Margaret (Olmstead Carroll)



Edward Cantwell's 10 children, shown here in 1905, carried their Irish father's heritage into the 20th century. They were, l. to r., Carrie, Martin, John, Maggie, Al, Susie, Tom, Addie, Mate and Dick.

When I was growing up in the 1950s, my parents were always praising the strength and accomplishments of their parents struggling to raise their families in hard times.

My father told stories of his father and grandfather and how hard they worked to raise a large family. His grandfather – my great-grandfather – was one of many Irish to come to the US looking for a better life than the one he was experiencing in the 1840s, the time of the 'potato famine' in Ireland. Great grandfather Edward Cantwell settled in Millbrook and built a house and barn to make a try at a prosperous life.

After working in a sawmill and keeping things going on a small farm, he volunteered to join the Union army to do his part to fight for a just cause. Because he had experience as a builder, he was kept busy setting up camps and building bridges. He was lucky enough to survive his time in the army, and came back to the Margaretville area, married Susan Simonson and together they raised a family of 12 children.

One of them was my grandfather, Martin Cantwell, who established his own farm in the Roxbury area and had a hard-working family of his own. He became a leader on the Roxbury Board of Education.

On the other side of my family were my mother's parents, John and Rose Kallay Tirpak. They came from Hungary as immigrants some time between 1902-10. Their passage was a trial, my grandmother told me, saying she was seasick and

would only eat crackers on the way. She and husband John came through Ellis Island and headed to Ohio because they knew someone there. They didn't like it there and headed back to New York, traveling through the Catskills. The mountains reminded them of the hillsides of home, so they bought property in Arena. They enjoyed growing vegetables and their own food.

Grandfather was a shoemaker and eventually opened a shop in Downsville. They had a family of six girls. My grandmother was a strong woman and the story was told that that one of the girls was drowning in the nearby river on a swimming outing, and Grandmother dove in and pulled her out. My grandmother would need this strength later on.

It happened during the Depression of the 1930s when Grandfather's business failed – manufactured shoes were selling cheaper than he could sell them for. He became a victim of person depression, and ended up taking his own life. Grandmother was left with the farm and a family to support.

She worked selling cauliflower and as a baker. She made great pastry, including apple strudel and Hungarian cookies. She sold her pastries to hotels and sometimes worked as a cook. Her older daughters had to leave school to work at the hotels also. The younger ones were able to stay in school, and worked later on.

Grandmother will always be remembered as having what is called 'true grit.'

The Smiths and the Silbermans

At opposite ends of Middletown are buildings that stand as mute reminders of businessmen who were powerhouses in their day: Olney Smith and Max Silberman.

On the New Kingston Road (County Route 6), at what is now the Blue Deer Center near Dunraven, the Smith family had a large and prosperous farm and sawmill. From 1890 through the 1960s they also ran a busy boarding house called Gledsmere Lodge, or Smith Farm.

Olney Smith was born and died on the farm settled by his father, Maurice J. Smith (1821-1890). The Smiths had come from Dutchess County years earlier and ran sawmills, grist mills and tanneries in what became known as Clark's Factory, now Dunraven. Maurice (M. J.) was as ambitious as his forebears, acquiring a thousand acres, and establishing a locally famous water-powered sawmill on the Plattekill stream that ran through the

farm. M. J. married next door neighbor Phoebe Sanford whose parents, Ziba and Huldah Roberts Sanford, were other early settlers of the valley.

Olney was born in 1856. In 1882 he was named postmaster at Clark's Factory, which was renamed Dunraven

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Gledsmere Lodge was also the home and farm of the Smith family, some of the earliest settlers of Dunraven.

Over in Fleischmanns, Max Silberman found his calling in real estate. He bought and sold businesses, land and buildings throughout the area, and made, lost, and remade a fortune. At his death in 1954, his family estimated he had owned at least 87 buildings at one time or another in the greater Fleischmanns area.

Born in 1886 in Russia of Jewish parentage, Max was one of six children. A brother died in the Boer War in Africa. Thirteen-year-old Max immigrated to New York City with his parents in 1899. He got a job in a paint shop, married Sarah Friedberg in 1904, and engaged in the paint business in Connecticut before moving to Fleischmanns 100 years ago in 1913, the year it incorporated as a village.

Max and Sarah first had a bakery and then a grocery store. In 1916, he put his marketing prowess to work acquir-

ing and selling real estate: the Hotel Switzerland, the Kelly mill, the Crosby store, the Wellington Hotel in Pine Hill. He owned the Mountain

Casino and a bowling alley, the Citizens Bank building and the 60-room Palace Hotel.

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Max Silberman (standing at center, with V-necked sweater, posed with workers building his MaxBilt Theater in Fleischmanns in 1929. The theater is now owned by the Village and is slated for restoration. Photo courtesy Hilda Finkel.

Help Us Raise the Roof!

The HSM hall needs a new roof and we hope you'll come to the rescue and help us pay for it!

The hall, which is new to us, is no spring chicken. It was built in the 1930s and was moved to its present location in the 1960s. It was occupied by the Izaak Walton League and the New Kingston Valley Grange for many years before we acquired it in 2012.

The roof needs some serious attention, and you know how expensive that is. Please

consider a donation over and above your membership to match grant funding we hope to be awarded this spring to fix the roof.

Contributions of \$50 and more will receive a CD of the wonderful slide show, "The Barns of Middletown (and Just Beyond)," that debuted to much acclaim at the 2012 Cauliflower Festival. The slide show, featuring photographs of more than 100 barns in and around Middletown, is accompanied by the music of Catskills folk icons Jay Ungar and Molly Mason.

Send your tax deductible donation to:
HSM
PO Box 734
Margaretville, NY 12455
with ROOF
on the note line.
We thank you!

HONORING GEORGE

*HSM and the
Margaretville Fire Department
are teaming up to provide
two annual \$250 scholarships
to MCS graduating seniors
who can best articulate
the meaning of local history
in their lives.*

*The scholarships are in honor of
George Hendricks, Jr.,
a loyal member
of both organizations
and an avid local historian,
who passed away
in October 2012.*

GOT A GREEN THUMB?

Or just some thinned out perennials you'd like to find a new home for?

Bring both to the HSM Hall, 778 Cemetery Rd., Margaretville, on Friday, May 24 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. A volunteer is helping us spruce the place up with some new gardens, and will gladly accept your offerings. She might even put you to work, so bring your garden gloves!

If May 24 is not convenient, just drop off your well-watered plant(s) near the front door of the hall a day or two before.

HEARTFELT THANKS . . .

... are extended to Margaretville Masonic Lodge #389 for a most generous gift of \$1,000. The donation will help us continue to bring history to the community. We are grateful!

GOOSE BEGONE!

Do you know of a proven technique (shy of buckshot) for discouraging Canada geese from lingering on our grounds?

They find our pond and its tiny island a delightful spot to rear their young each spring, but they make a terrible mess on the surrounding lawns and parking areas. Any and all non-lethal suggestions are welcome. Contact any Board member.

CIVIL WAR: continued from page one

Adding to the local photos and memorabilia will be items generously loaned by the Delaware County Historical Association. And there will be some surprises, including a section on slavery in Middletown (yes, it existed).

Over the past two years, HSM has been assembling military and personal information about each Civil War veteran in order to recognize their service and bring to life this tumultuous era. Using a variety of period sources, volunteers Jim Gohlke and Diane Galusha have so far compiled data on about half the 326 men known to have served from Middletown. It will take a few more months to complete the ambitious undertaking. Exhibit visitors will have an opportunity to browse through binders to see what has been uncovered about their Civil War ancestors.

"Middletown in the Civil War" can be seen Thursday, July 4, and every Saturday thereafter through August 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the HSM Hall, 778 Cemetery Road., Margaretville. Admission is free except on dates when programs are scheduled.

If you have photos or information about Middletown's Civil War soldiers, please consider allowing them to be scanned for this exhibit and the veteran database.

Call or email Diane Galusha:
845-586-4973
cybercat@catskill.net

OLNEY SMITH: continued from page five

in 1890. He took over the farm when father M.J. died in 1890, and immediately turned it into a summer haven for guests. A fire destroyed Gledsmere Lodge in the mid-1890s, but it was immediately rebuilt, and flourished for decades more.

In 1891, Olney married Marguerite Burgher of West Shokan. The couple had 12 children, among them Dorothy Smith (Giehm), a future benefactor of Fairview Public Library where a plaque hangs in her honor. Dorothy's brother Samuel, who was wounded in France in World War I, succeeded their father as proprietor of Gledsmere Lodge, renaming it simply Smith Farm.

Marguerite died in 1922, and Olney remarried Ella McGibbon.

The owner of one of the area's first "talking machines" (was that a radio?) and one of the first cars (a Ford Model-T), Olney was also a builder who constructed a small colony of houses in Arkville known as Smithville. He died in 1952 at age 97.

MAX SILBERMAN: continued from page five



Max bought buildings to tear down, claiming the contents to sell, as in 1941, when he acquired and demolished massive Churchill Hall in Stamford, and offered its 400 chairs in a classified ad in the Catskill Mountain News. He also owned Weyside Farm, and sold cattle and cauliflower.

Recovering from serious business losses in the 1920s, he built a movie theater in the village in 1929, and named it for himself: the Maxbilt Theater. A 1937 fire that destroyed the family's home and possessions was another setback.

At various times Max served as Fleischmanns trustee and its chief of police. He was a founder of Bnai Israel synagogue, and gave the land for the congregation's cemetery in Clovesville. A plaque honoring his contributions graces Bnai Israel today.

SPRING DATES TO REMEMBER

SAT
APR
20

10 a.m.
"House History
Hunting"
HSM Hall

SAT
MAY
11

10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Visit the HSM table at the
Spring Garden and Home Fest,
Main Street Margaretville

SAT
JUN
8

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Second Annual
Postcard and
Ephemera Show
and Sale, HSM Hall

MON
APR
22

6 p.m.
Friends of
Middletown Cemetery
meeting
HSM Hall

FRI
MAY
24

10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Share your perennials with us!
Drop off garden thinnings at
the Hall. Stay to help establish
our new gardens if you can!

HSM Hall is at
778 Cemetery Road
Margaretville



HISTORICAL
SOCIETY of
MIDDLETOWN,
Delaware County

* P. O. BOX 734 * MARGARETVILLE, NY 12455 *