

April 2018 Newsletter

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Middletown Township Historical Society's April Happenings

We hope you enjoy this updated look to our monthly communications! We'll be in touch regularly to keep you updated on the latest events and news of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Also be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) for even timelier news and for historical items of interest.



American Women and Royal Marriages

Presented by Melissa Ziobro

April 16, 2018 | 7:00 pm | Poricy Park Nature Center
Middletown Township Historical Society

Speaker Event: Monday, April 16, 2018

*"AMERICAN WOMEN AND ROYAL MARRIAGES" presented
by Melissa Ziobro*

The study of marriage partners remains of interest to sociologists, including whether the individuals come from similar backgrounds or possess disparate qualities. During the Gilded Age, American women not infrequently made a trade-off unique to their times - their contributions of well-heeled finances to a marital tie to European royalty or nobility. Their numbers made headlines as they became icons of popular culture. Melissa Ziobro will present a talk at the April 16 meeting that will detail the stories of a number from New Jersey. One, Florence Hazard (pictured above), was from nearby Shrewsbury.

Ms. Ziobro, the last historian of the Fort Monmouth Electronics Command base, and now a Specialist Professor of Public History at Monmouth University, is among the most active of Monmouth County historians through her numerous presentations and active advocacy and participation in oral history. She presented to the Society during her Fort Monmouth tenure and gave a thorough account of the storied history of the base. We welcome her return at a time when royal weddings are in the headlines.

We hope to see you Monday, April 16 at 7:00 pm at the Poricy Park Nature Center, 345 Oak Hill Road, Middletown, NJ. There is no fee for admittance!

Do you have suggestions for upcoming speakers? If so, please contact [Randy Gabrielan](#), our Program Chair.

Transition of Presidents

After serving a number of years as president, longtime society member Jim Hinckley decided to step down due to other commitments. The society thanks Jim for his years of commitment to the organization, and we'll hope to see him at future events!

At our March meeting, member Tom Valenti was elected to be the new president. Tom has been attending society events for a couple of years and grew up in Middletown. He wanted to impart the following:

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the society's president. We all wish Jim the best of luck, and I know that I will continue to seek his sage advice.

As one of the oldest towns in the state, we have a long and interesting history

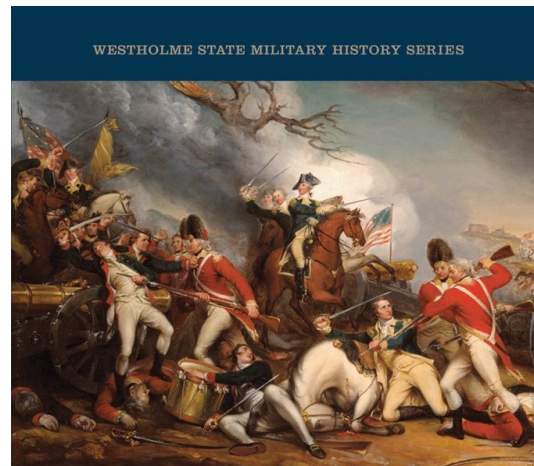
that deserves to be properly preserved, interpreted, and disseminated. There are many initiatives I'd love to have us undertake, and chief among them are improving our outreach and making sure we have a proper framework in place to prepare us for growth. I'll of course be working closely with Gail Nelsen, our Treasurer, and Randy Gabrielan, our Program Chair, as I transition and get up to speed. An organization like ours is only as good as its members, so we will also need additional help as we seek to move forward. If you are interested in becoming more involved, keep an eye out for future announcements.

Again, thanks for the support. The Middletown Township Historical Society officially turns 50 years old this year. Let's ensure that it is a vibrant, modern group, so that it can thrive for another half-century.

March Event Recap

Accomplished historian Joseph G. Bilby visited us last month in support of his newest book, *New Jersey: A Military History*. Mr. Bilby, himself a veteran, focused his presentation on New Jersey's involvement in World War I. Nearly 30 members and guests were in attendance, and we thank him for graciously providing us with his knowledge.

[Learn More about the Book](#)



New Jersey
A MILITARY HISTORY
Joseph G. Bilby

**M I D D L E T O W N
T O W N S H I P
H I S T O R I C A L
S O C I E T Y**

Support Your Society!

MTHS is supported by our members and voluntary donations. If you are interested in giving, please [contact us](#) and we will let you know how you can contribute.



Other Upcoming Events of Interest

In addition to our own event, you may be interested in the following historic-themed events occurring in the Middletown area in the coming weeks:

- [The Ship Halve Maen in North American and World History](#) - The Navesink Maritime Heritage Association is hosting this free event at Bahr's on **April 4**
- [Monmouth County Archives Preservation Day](#) - The annual event is held on **April 25** at the Monmouth County Library
- [Community Fossil Hunt](#) - Middletown Township Recreation will host this event on **April 29** for junior paleontologists at the Poricy Park Fossil Beds. Reservation and fee apply.
- [Daffodils and Daiquiris](#) - visit Middletown's Taylor-Butler House on **May 4** from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm as the Monmouth County Historical Association kicks off its spring season! Attendance is free, and reservations are not needed.
- [Weekend in Old Monmouth](#) - The Monmouth County Historical Commission will occupy our weekend on **May 5** and **May 6** with their annual self-guided tour of all things historic! Take this opportunity to freely visit sites that may not be open very often, including a number that are within Middletown.

Do you know of other events our readers would benefit from? [Let us know!](#)

Thanks for reading! The Middletown Township Historical Society will be in

touch again soon! If you know others who would be interested in receiving communications from us, please forward this email and ask them to [join this list!](#)



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