

MIDDLETOWN  
TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Monmouth County, New Jersey

*Monthly  
Messages*

## Middletown Township Historical Society: December Happenings


This newsletter keeps 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.

**“MIDDLETOWN'S  
IMPACT ON HISTORY”  
Essay Contest for Middle Schoolers**

**\$50 Prize for winners in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.  
See [MiddletownNJHistory.org](http://MiddletownNJHistory.org) for complete  
information and rules**

**Entries Due by December 20, 2019!**

Presented by:



Historic Preservation  
Commission

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## Essay Contest for Middletown Students Now Underway!

The Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission and the Middletown Township Historical Society have teamed up to offer an essay contest for Middletown's middle schoolers.

The theme of the essay is "Middletown's Impact on History" and is open to all Middletown residents currently enrolled in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. One winner from each grade will be awarded \$50, courtesy of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Winners will be selected by the members of the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

"Middletown has such a rich history, and we hope this contest can spark an interest

in some students," said Linda Maresca, Chairwoman of the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

"We're happy to have the support of the Middletown public schools in this endeavor, and we hope this can be a learning process for both the student and their parents," said Thomas Valenti, president of the Middletown Township Historical Society.

Recently, in another effort to educate residents about Middletown's history, township social studies teachers were given a bus tour of local historic sites. The tour was organized and guided by the Middletown Township Historic Preservation Commission.

The essay contest will accept entries until December 20. Official rules can be found at [MiddletownNJHistory.org](http://MiddletownNJHistory.org). We're grateful for the recent publicity this contest has received from [Middletown Patch](#), [Atlantic Highlands Herald](#), [Middletown Township Board of Education](#), and the Middletown Minutes newsletter.

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## **Another Addition to Our Archive**

Recently we were gifted a collection of early 1970s housing brochures. One of them is for the "Hills of Brigadoon" development, now better known as McCutcheon Court off of Middletown-Lincroft Road. It was presumably named for the then recently-deceased Middletown Committeeman Robert McCutcheon. Previously, it was a farm owned by Edward Ellison.

Thank you to new MTHS member Alfred Phillips for the donation! If you have any items of interest that you'd like to donate, [please let us know](#).

Situated in the heart of lovely rolling countryside, this bit of old Scotland features all the luxuries that make each home the ultimate in comfort and convenience. Intensive planning has made Hills of Brigadoon a delightful prestige community.

**SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING FEATURES:** ½ acre (min.) estate size lots • hot water 2 zone heating system • Dolly Madison VIP kitchens with G.E. built-in oven, range top and dishwasher • wood paneled recreation rooms — sliding glass patio doors • wood double hung windows and exterior doors • 2 car garages • underground electric and telephone lines • city water, sewers, sidewalks, curbs and paved streets have been installed by the builder.

*Surrounded By Everything You Need... Convenient To Reach*

Schools, houses of worship and a number of large shopping centers are closeby. Recreational facilities abound... golf and country clubs, tennis and swim clubs, marina with the best in boating and, of course, the New Jersey shore just a few miles away. It's minutes to the Garden State Arts Center, delightful parks and ever so much more that surrounds the entire area.

Commuting is made easy via the Garden State Parkway and other express routes leading north and south. The Penn Central, Central Railroad of New Jersey and express buses offer excellent service to Newark and New York.

**DIRECTIONS:** Garden State Parkway to Exit 114. Make left turn at stop sign and continue to Dwight Road. Turn right and go straight ahead to Middletown-Lincroft Road. Turn left at school and continue to models on right.

**HILLS OF Brigadoon**  
by VANTAGE ASSOCIATES  
MIDDLETOWN / NEW JERSEY

MODELS OPEN EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK  
TEL: (201) 671-6313

Sales Agent:  
(201) 666-9000  
Evenings: (201) 376-7425

## A Call to Help Preserve The Courier Newspaper

The Courier newspaper ran weekly from 1955 through 2009, and is the most notable Middletown-based periodical. While the Middletown Township Public Library has a bound collection of the newspapers, they are deteriorating and are in dire need of being scanned and digitally preserved so that researchers and future generations can access this trove of knowledge. If you'd like to help with the project, the library would love you to volunteer your time to scan the newspapers! No technical knowledge is necessary. Please contact (MTHS member) Pam Curchin at [pcurchin@mtpl.org](mailto:pcurchin@mtpl.org).



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## Support Us When You Shop at Amazon!

Now, when you purchase most items from Amazon, they will donate a portion of the sale to us! It costs you nothing! Here's what you need to do:

First, you must [connect our organization to your Amazon account using this link](#). Then, if you shop using a computer, you must go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) for us to receive credit. If you use the Amazon mobile app, be sure it is updated to the latest version and then go into settings to see that Amazon Smile is turned on and that our name is listed.



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## Last Month's Speakers: All Saints National Landmark Trust

Becky Cosgrove (an MTHS member) and Kim Warman presented on the history of the Stone Church and spoke about their campaign to raise funds for its maintenance. More info on their cause can be found [here](#). As a thank you for listening to their talk, MTHS members have the opportunity for a private tour of the Stone Church and its grounds! If you are interested, please contact Andrew Navarette, their Development Counsel, at [AndrewNAllSaints@gmail.com](mailto:AndrewNAllSaints@gmail.com) or 917-742-3592,





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## Last Month's Speaker: Muriel J. Smith

Our final speaker last month was Muriel J. Smith, coauthor of the new book [Hidden History of Monmouth County](#). Ms. Smith, an MTHS member, recounted her career in journalism and discussed how she compiled the book. If you purchase the book for the upcoming holidays, remember to start your visit at [Smile.Amazon.com](#) and connect your account to us so we can get credit!



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## Have You Visited Our Website?

It's live at [MiddletownNJHistory.org!](#)

The site features our events, provides an easy way to become a member, and affords free access to our library of official newsletters dating back to 1985. Please [check it out](#) and spread the word!

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Preserving & Promoting the History of  
Middletown, NJ Since 1968

A banner image for the website featuring a row of historic, multi-story houses with gabled roofs and chimneys, set against a blue sky with light clouds. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background in the center of the image.

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## Would You Like to Become a Trustee or Volunteer?

Your local historical society could use your ideas and talents! If you have an interest in fundraising, communications, or in growing our membership, [please let us know](#) your ideas or your willingness to become involved. Our volunteer trustees would like to work with you to strengthen and expand our organization!

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## Upcoming MTHS Events

**February 17:** Show & Tell

**March 16:** Annual Meeting of Members and TBD Speaker

Unless otherwise noted, all events will begin at 7:00 pm at the Middletown Township Public Library.

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## Upcoming Area Events

Consider attending an event by one of our neighboring historical groups:

**December 12:** ["History On Tap"](#) at Seabrook-Wilson House courtesy of Monmouth County Parks. Join historian and archaeologist Kristen Hohn as she presents on "From Piracy to Prohibition: Rum Running on the Jersey Shore." 6:00.

**December 18:** Join the A Capella Choir of Henry Hudson Regional School for their annual holiday concert at the Strauss Mansion Museum. 7:30 PM. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

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## Trivia Time

*This Month's Question:*

What famous automobile racing figure owned a Middletown mansion? What was the name of the house, and who was original owner and architect?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

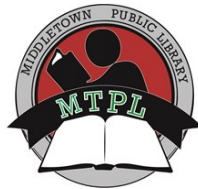
*Answer to Last Month's Question:*

In 1897 Captain Benjamin Griggs, the township Collector, was accused of financial irregularities. It was said that the books involved in the investigation had been stolen, as had all the earlier books.

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In Addition to Our Members, Thank You to the Following for their Assistance and Support:

 investorsFoundation



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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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