

MIDDLETOWN  
TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Monmouth County, New Jersey

*Monthly  
Messages*

## Middletown Township Historical Society: June 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 social media for even timelier news and for historical items of interest.

### **Origins of the US Coast Guard & the Sandy Hook Life Saving Station**

**Presented by Mary Rasa**

**Monday, June 15 at 7:00 pm**

**Virtual Event - Registration Required**

**Hosted by Middletown Township Historical Society**

This program is made possible in part by the Monmouth County Historical Commission through funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission



NEW JERSEY  
*Historical*  
COMMISSION

**VIRTUAL EVENT: June 15, 7:00 pm**

# Origins of the US Coast Guard & the Sandy Hook Life Saving Station, presented by Mary Rasa

Due to the continued pandemic, we have decided to try our first virtual event! This way, you can attend from the comfort of your own home. Please note that [registration is required](#), and may be limited.

This presentation highlights the history of the US Coast Guard through its predecessor organizations, from George Washington's presidency to 1915. Also covered will be the first structure built for lifesaving by the federal government, which was built at Sandy Hook in 1849.

Mary Rasa worked for the National Park Service at Sandy Hook from 1992 to 2009. She received her Master of Library Science in 2018. Mary resides in Maryland and works as a historical consultant conducting research and exhibit work, in addition to conducting history lectures to local organizations.

As always, the event is free to attend, but it does require [registration](#). After you complete the brief [registration form](#), you will receive an email that includes a link to the virtual event. Just click that link on June 15 a few minutes before 7:00 pm, and you'll be welcomed into our event! You may be asked to download a Zoom application, if you don't already have it installed. You will watch the presentation on your screen, and can listen either through your device or your phone (instructions will be provided).

[Register for the Free Event](#)

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## What's New with the Society?

While much of life has slowed down during this pandemic, MTHS has remained active behind the scenes.

- For the past couple of months we have asked you to be part of our planned [Middletown Memories](#) video series, but unfortunately due to distancing concerns, it might be a little while before we can actually begin conducting the interviews. Still, we'd like to hear from you if you'd like to [participate](#). See the section below for more info.

- We have applied for a grant to digitize old Middletown school yearbooks, so that they can be searched and viewed on our website. If you are in possession of any yearbooks that you would let us borrow to fill in our gaps, especially ones that are pre-1970, [please let us know](#) the years and schools that you have.
  - We are also working on creating an interactive map of the town that shows the history of the housing developments and streets. We'll be sharing that with you in the near future, and asking for the help of volunteers.
  - As always, we remain on the lookout for a permanent place for our archive so that we can properly catalog it and make it available online or for in-person inspection. If anyone knows of potential locations, [we'd love to hear about them](#).
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## **Participate in Our Video History Project!**

*Thank you to all who already expressed interest in this project!*

We are all familiar with Oral Histories- interviews with people captured on

audio. MTHS is starting a new project similar to that, but we're going to use video instead of audio. This will allow us to reach a larger base and include interesting visuals such as old photographs and contemporary locations. This project will help broaden our reach and will be an excellent collection of first-person memories for generations to come.

For this to be a success, we need your help! If you'd like to impart your experiences of Middletown, [please complete this brief questionnaire](#). Whether you've been here for many decades, lived through a unique experience in more recent times, or have a collection of local memorabilia you'd like to show us, we'd like to hear from you. Do you know someone who has lots to share, such as a parent, friend, or neighbor? Please feel free to let them know about this opportunity!

The process will probably consist of a brief pre-interview over the phone or via email, followed by the on-camera interview at a location we mutually select. [Complete the questionnaire](#) and we'll get back to you if we need more information.

[Take the Questionnaire!](#)

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## Interesting Works from Our Friends

As a non-profit organization, we depend on the community to help us in our mission. We are grateful for our members and other organizations that lend a helping hand any way they can. We, in turn, would like to highlight the recent good works of a couple of those organizations.

### Middletown Township Public Schools

- The Media Specialists of Middletown schools are running a [Time Capsule Challenge](#) that encourages students to contribute various types of entries about life during the pandemic. This is a great way to get kids involved in history as it unfolds. If you know any students in Pre-K to 12th grade, let them know they only have until June 10th to enter!
- Last fall the schools were a great partner in an essay contest for middle school students that we sponsored, and we hope we can offer it again this



year.

### Middletown Township Public Library

- The library is looking for photos of their buildings throughout their history. If you have any you would like to share, [please let us know](#) and we'll get them over to them.
- The Courier newspaper needs to be digitized before it submits to the ravages of time. If you'd like to help with scanning, please contact Librarian (and MTHS member) [Pam Curchin](#).
- The library maintains a very nice [digital archive](#) of historic Middletown materials. Check it out 24/7!

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***Your Membership Matters . . .***  
**Support Us in 2020!**  
**Join or Renew Today!**



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### **Join or Renew for 2020**

The Middletown Township Historical Society gets the bulk of its revenue from member contributions, so your support is vitally important. Your contributions make our initiatives possible, including our speaker series and essay contest for students, and are also essential for paying our administrative costs.

You may [join or renew online](#) or, you may also [print out the form here](#).

**Join or Renew Online**

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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](https://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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## Trivia Time

### *This Month's Question:*

In commemoration of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Stephen Sondheim, what work did he produce for Middletown?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

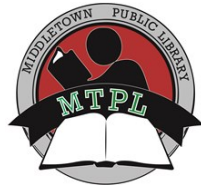
### *Answer to Last Month's Question:*

After the territory that became Ocean County was separated from Monmouth in 1850, the pre-separated Monmouth and Ocean Counties became known as "Old Monmouth."

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In Addition to Our Members, Thank You to the Following for their

## Assistance and Support:



# NEW JERSEY *Historical* COMMISSION

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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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