

MIDDLETOWN
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
Monmouth County, New Jersey

*Monthly
Messages*

Middletown Township Historical Society: November, 2021 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.

MURDER, DISASTER, AND SCANDAL IN MONMOUTH

Presented by Brian Armstrong

Monday, Nov 15 at 7pm

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT - REGISTER AT
MIDDLETOWNNJHISTORY.ORG

Due to the subject matter, discretion is advised

Hosted by
Middletown Township Historical Society

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



NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Online Presentation - Monday, November 15 at 7:00 pm:

Murder, Disaster, and Scandal in Monmouth

Presented by Brian Armstrong

Brian Armstrong will discuss some of the most tragic, calamitous, and horrifying events that have taken place in Monmouth County. Due to the subject matter, discretion is advised. *This is the FINAL event in our 2021 Speaker Series!*

Brian Armstrong is an independent historian, researcher, and author. He has written or co-written the books *South River*, *The Franklin Park Tragedy: A Forgotten Story of Racial Injustice in New Jersey*, and *A History Lover's Guide to Bar Harbor, Maine*. He also frequently writes articles for the Bar Harbor Historical Society, where his mother's family lived for several hundred years.

Mr. Armstrong was President of the South River Historical & Preservation Society for 10 years and is now the Vice President, Central Region, for the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. Mr. Armstrong lectures on a variety of topics and is a collector of US Presidential election memorabilia.

This will be an online-only event. Please [register for the event](#) and you will be emailed with the link to join via Zoom.

Register for the FREE Event!



Do You Have Any Middletown Yearbooks?

The Society has been scanning the early student publications and yearbooks of

Middletown Township (Leonardo) High School, dating from as early as 1918. Eventually, we plan to make these available on our website for all to enjoy. However, our collection does have some gaps. If you have volumes you would like to donate, [please let us know](#). Right now, we are specifically looking for high school yearbooks or other school publications that are pre-1970, but we would gratefully accept books from any year for any Middletown school. Let us know what you have, and we will let you know if we are missing it!

[Yearbook Donation](#)



Your Membership Matters . . .
Support Us in 2021!
Join or Renew Today!

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Become a New Member in 2021!

Plus, your membership will count towards 2022!

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, and are also essential for paying our administrative costs. Those who become new members in October through December will also receive membership for 2022, with no additional contribution required.

Individuals may [join or renew online](#) or via our [print form](#). Do you represent a business? Consider becoming one of our [Community Sponsors](#).

If you have already joined or renewed for 2021, thank you!

[Join or Renew Online](#)

Event Recap: Penelope Stout: The Life & Times of the Mother of Middletown

Last month the Middletown Township Historical Society hosted professor Jeanne Vloyanetes, who tracked Penelope Stout through history. We thank Ms. Vloyanetes for her time, and also those who attended. It was our best-attended event of the year!

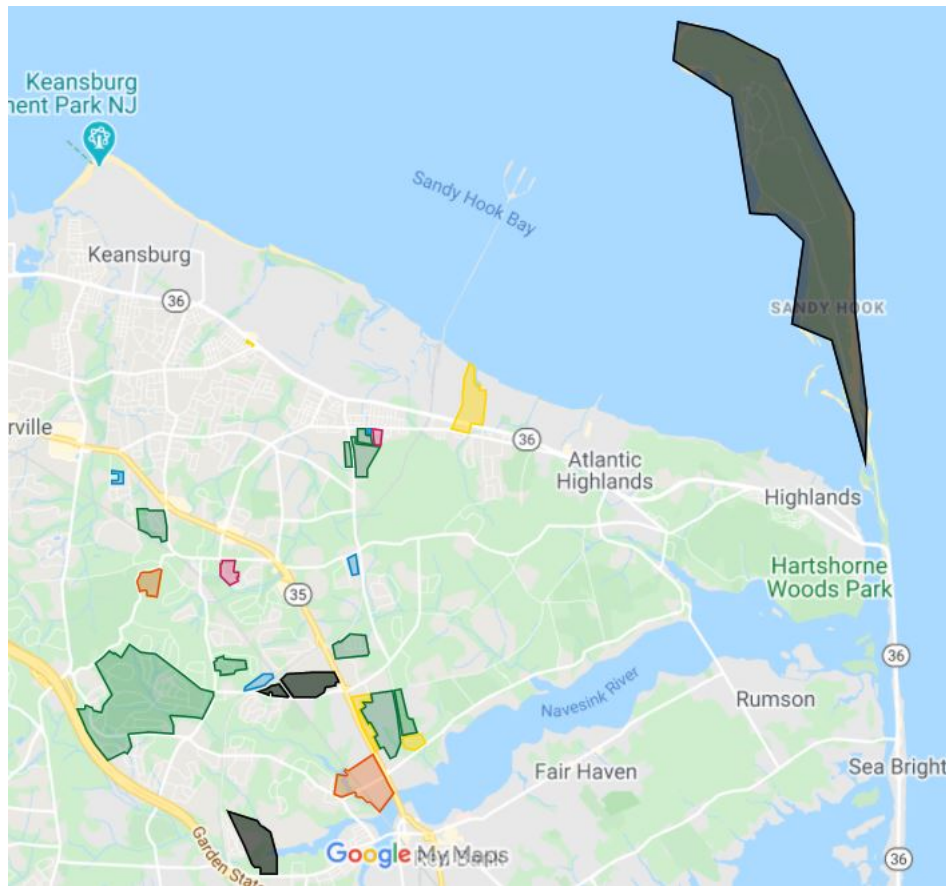
If you would like to watch a recording of the presentation, please visit our [YouTube channel](#).

[Watch the Presentation](#)

New Exhibit at Marlpit Hall

The Monmouth County Historical Association recently opened a new exhibit at Marlpit Hall on Kings Highway. "[Beneath the Floorboards](#)" examines the lives of the enslaved who lived in the house and elsewhere in Monmouth County. We encourage you to visit to learn more about this unfortunate part of our history.





Middletown Land Development Map

Newly Added: Willis Clayton tract!

If you are curious about when/why/how your housing development or local park was constructed, take a look at our [interactive map](#)! Just click on a shaded area to read the history and see the images. The entries are color-coded so you can see when the various pieces of land were developed. Please note that the map is best viewed on computer or tablet.

Given Middletown's size, this map is a work in progress, so check back in the future if you don't yet see an entry for the land you are interested in. Our goal is to fill the entire map. If you'd like to contribute any entries, [please let us know](#).

[Land Development Map](#)

Contribute to Our Archive!

Our Society has a collection of items and documents related the history of Middletown and the surrounding area. Do you have anything that you'd

like to add? Please don't let a treasure be forgotten or thrown away!
[Contact us](#) and let us know what you would like to donate.

Local Businesses: Become a Community Sponsor!

If you'd like to support our cause AND gain exposure for your business, consider becoming one of our [Community Sponsors](#). Join the other logos you see at the bottom of this email!

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 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.



Trivia Time

This Month's Question:



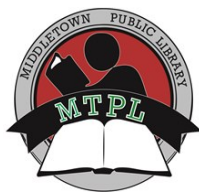
The recent obituary of James “Jimmy” Kerwin claimed he became “one of the greatest athletes of the Jersey Shore,” his basketball skills having attained New Jersey all-state honors and All-American honorable mention at Tulane. Where did Kerwin play his high school ball?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Question:

At least two historic houses in Middletown have been known as the "White House." The more recent was the main house at the former Croydon Hall Academy, the former home of the Middletown Township Historical Society. Our research gave the building its current name, the MacLeod-Rice House. The earlier "white house" in town was the White House Tavern, prior to its having been given an infamous name coined from whole cloth, the so-called “Spy House.” It is currently known as the Seabrook-Wilson House. Read more about the structure in Randall Gabrielan’s soon-to-be-released book “Lost Monmouth County.”

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



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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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