

MIDDLETOWN  
TOWNSHIP  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Monmouth County, New Jersey

*Monthly  
Messages*

## Middletown Township Historical Society: September, 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.

*WILLIAM LEEDS & CAPTAIN KIDD*  
PIOUS MEN OF GOD OR TREACHEROUS PIRATES?



PRESENTED BY  
**RICK BURTON**

**MONDAY SEPT 20 AT 7 PM**  
FREE VIRTUAL EVENT - REGISTRATION REQUIRED

[MIDDLETOWNNJHISTORY.ORG](http://MIDDLETOWNNJHISTORY.ORG)

SPONSORED 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

**Online Presentation - Monday, September 20 at 7:00 pm:**

# William Leeds and Captain Kidd: Pious Men of God or Treacherous Pirates?

*Presented by Rick Burton*

According to legend, prominent Middletown resident William Leeds may have become wealthy from his association with the notorious Captain Kidd. Is there evidence to support this claim, or is it unfounded speculation? Join us as our presenter Rick Burton separates fact from fiction as he tries to uncover what really may have happened over 300 years ago.

Mr. Burton is the David Falk Professor of Sport Management at Syracuse University and the author or co-author of numerous books including *Forever Orange: The Story of Syracuse University* and *20 Secrets to Success for NCAA Student-Athletes*. He writes regularly on sports business for *Sports Business Journal* and Sportico and has had historical pieces published by the *New York Times* and Monmouth Timeline, which is where his Leeds and Kidd research was first published. Burton is the former Commissioner of Australia's National Basketball League and chief marketing officer for the U.S. Olympic Committee during the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics. His ancestors from Newfoundland were sea-going people, but there is no proof any of them were pirates.

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!**



***From Our Archive:***

## A Video Tour Through Belford in the 1980s

In the early to mid-1980s Middletown Township Historical Society members Catherine and Jack Lentz recorded an [informal driving tour](#) from Kings Highway, through New Monmouth, and into Belford. Mrs. Lentz (1927-2006), was a guidance counselor and executive director of the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Lentz (1929-2013), a lifelong Middletown resident, was the founder and longstanding owner of Lentz Auto Body located in Campbell's Junction. Both were very active in community affairs.

We are pleased to present to you this look back into our history, and are thankful to the Lentzes for having the foresight to create and donate this recording so many years ago.

[Watch the Video](#)

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A blue banner with yellow and white text. The text reads: "Your Membership Matters . . ." in yellow, "Support Us in 2021!" in large yellow letters, and "Join or Renew Today!" in white. On the right side is the logo for the Middletown Township Historical Society, which includes the text "MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY" and "Middletown County, New Jersey" below it.

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

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### Become a Member in 2021!

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.

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](#)

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## Event Recap: Cedar View Cemetery - How Community Partnership Revealed an Historic Lincroft Burial Ground

Last month the Middletown Township Historical Society hosted professor Joelle Zabotka who informed us about the local efforts to uncover and preserve the history of this sacred place. We thank Ms. Zabotka and her guest Edwin Edwards for sharing their journey with us, and also to all those who attended.

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

[Watch the Presentation](#)

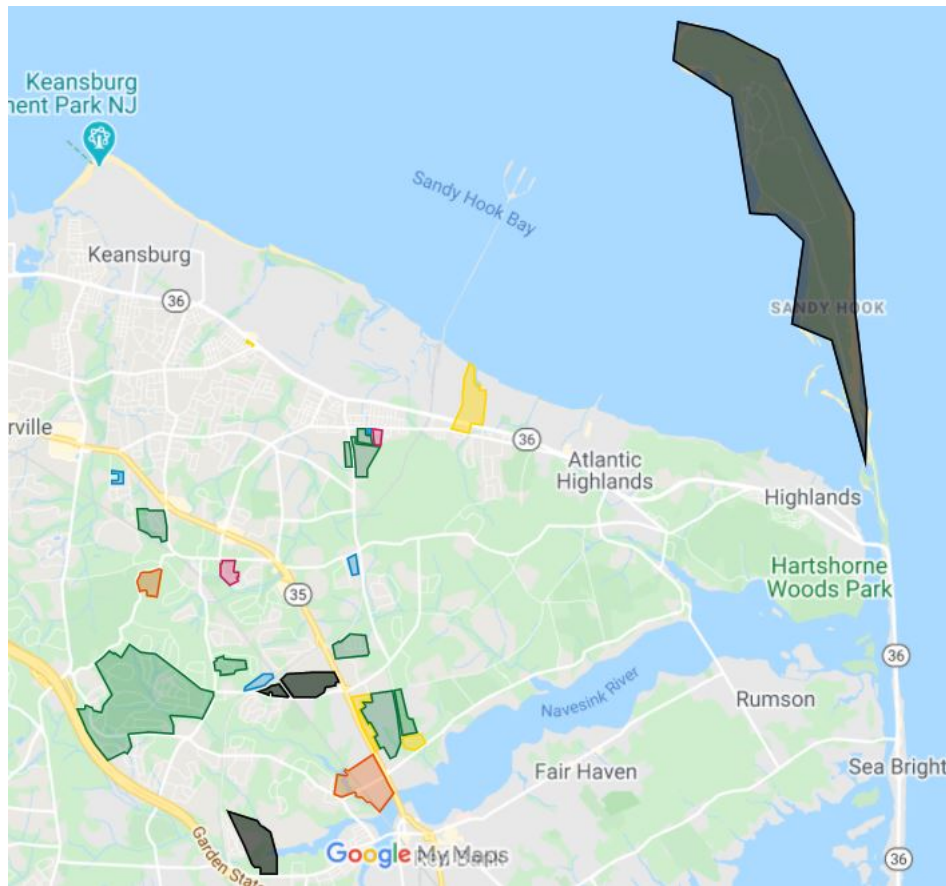
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## A Call for Graphic & Video Artists!

We could use some assistance with creating graphics and also with video creation or editing. If you have the interest and skills, [please let us know!](#)

MTHS is run by volunteers, and if you'd like to become more involved as a trustee, chairperson of a committee, or as a lending hand on anything else, please let us know. We are working on a few different projects and could always use help from those willing to dedicate some time and talent. [Contact us here](#).

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## Middletown Land Development Map

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](#)

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## 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.

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## 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!

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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:*



What business within the historical boundaries of Middletown Township made maximum promotional utility of the Captain Kidd legend?

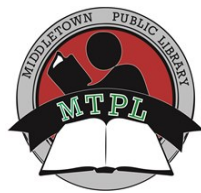
Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

*Answer to Last Month's Question:*

It was on May 17, 1964 at the Middletown Tercentenary Parade that Earl Moody, the Rev. Andrew VanDyke, James Stout, Pamela Morehouse, and the Jersey Cyclones came together. Moody was mayor, VanDyke was Chairman of the Tercentenary Committee, Stout was a direct descendant of Penelope, Morehouse was the Miss Middletown Tercentenary Queen, and the Jersey Cyclones from Matawan took the prize as the top Drum and Bugle Corp.

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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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**Our address is:**

PO Box 180, Middletown, NJ 07748  
[MiddletownHistory@gmail.com](mailto:MiddletownHistory@gmail.com)

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