

September 2018 Newsletter

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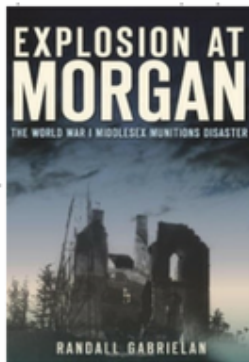
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Middletown Township Historical Society's September Happenings

This newsletter is meant 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.



Explosion at Morgan

Presented by author Randall Gabrielan

September 17, 2018 | 7:00 pm

Poricy Park Nature Center

Middletown Township Historical Society

Event: Monday, Sepember 17, 2018

"Explosion at Morgan" Presentation with author Randall Gabrielan

Our own Randall Gabrielan, the officially appointed Monmouth County

historian, will present on his book "Explosion at Morgan," the story of a World War I munitions disaster in nearby Middlesex County that killed 100 people and was forgotten by history. Gabrielan considers this book the most intellectually challenging of his many titles. He will explain how the disaster unfolded, place it in the context of the war, tell about post-war recovery efforts, and suggest why the event was forgotten. Gabrielan is MTHS' Program Chair and President Emeritus, and also is the vice-chair of the Monmouth County Historical Commission. Books will be available for purchase and autographing.

We hope to see you Monday, September 17 at 7:00 pm at Poricy Park Nature Center.

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



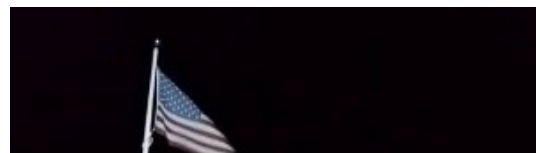
Middletown Day - Come Say Hello!

Saturday, September 22 at 11:00 am to 5:00 pm will be the annual Middletown Day held at Croydon Hall! MTHS will be there to publicize our organization and events, collect email addresses, and to give away free MTHS bookmarks! Be sure to stop by.

We are also looking for volunteers to help staff our table. If you can help out for a couple of hours, [please let us know your available times](#) for September 22 and its rain date of September 23. Thank you!

August Event Recap

We had a great time on our annual
visit to Twin Lights where we met to

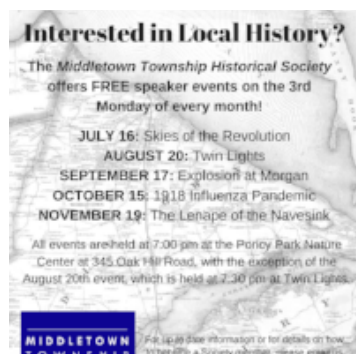


visit to Twin Lights where we got to hear Twin Lights Historical Society trustee (and MTHS member) Mark Stewart talk about how its museum came to be and what the future holds. We thank Mr. Stewart and everyone who was able to attend.



MacLeod-Rice House Update

For those interested in the current status of MTHS' former home, the MacLeod-Rice House (on the grounds of Croydon Hall in the Leonardo neighborhood) has been submitted by the township for inclusion on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. This page will link you to the complete application, which includes a thorough history of the property: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/nrsr.htm>



Help Us Spread the Word!

We'd love to have more people attend our monthly events and to have more members. To that end, we have created this [printable flyer](#) of upcoming events that is designed to be displayed in public places, such as bulletin boards in stores and community gathering areas. We'd be



and community gathering areas. We'd be grateful if you could print a few copies of the flyer and post in places around town that allow for such items (if you have doubts, please ask someone in charge before posting). This file can also be sent via email or posted to social networks. Thank you!

[Download and Share or Print](#)



Support the Society

If you value the aims of the Society, we ask that you please support us both when we put out a call for volunteers and also via membership dues. If you are interested in continuing your membership or joining for the first time, please [contact us](#). Also, if you have any items of historical value that you would like to donate, [please get in touch](#). Thank you!



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:

- [September 11th Memorial](#) - Annual gathering held at Middletown's WTC Memorial Garden on **Tuesday, September 11** at 7:30 pm
- [Remembering WWII](#) - Invasion at Tarawa Atoll on **Thursday, September 13** at 7:00 pm at the Monmouth County Library
- [Marlpit Hall and Taylor Butler House](#) - These historic homes owned by the Monmouth County Historical Association will be open **September 21-23** from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.
- [Fossil Hunt](#) - What can you and your youngsters find in Poricy Park's Fossil Beds? 11:00 am on **Sunday, September 30**. Reservation and fee apply.
- [Fort Hancock/Sandy Hook](#) - This park offers a number of tours throughout the month

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



Trivia Time

This Month's Question:

Charles Steuerwald, the real estate developer behind the Morgan facility who promoted his nearby residential development for its proximity to the shell loading plant and lost his house in the massive explosion, moved to historic Middletown Village during the next decade. Where did he live, what noted international lawyer was a previous owner, and what was the mid-century farm name of the tract?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Question:

Why was Robert Blume, a former assistant lighthouse keeper at Twin Lights, awarded the Medal of Honor? Most of Blume's ship, the USS Nashville, was awarded the Medal of Honor for the extremely dangerous, crucial and heroic act of cutting the cable at Cienfuegos, Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The medal later

showed up in 2003 when it was illegally offered for sale.

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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