

Middletown Township Historical Society: April 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.

The Middletown Farms of Percy & Herbert Straus

Presented by Joan Adler

Monday, April 19 at 7:00 pm

Free Virtual Event - Registration Required



Hosted by

**Middletown Township
Historical Society**

www.MiddletownNJHistory.org

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**

Online Presentation - Monday, April 19 at 7:00 pm:

The Middletown Farms of Percy and Herbert Straus

Presented by Joan Adler

In the early Twentieth Century, the Straus brothers purchased large farms in Middletown which were to serve as country retreats for their families. The Strauses, part of the family that owned the Macy's department store, developed the land with interesting architecture, much of which stands today. Learn about the history and importance of their farms, including the complex that is now known as Cobble Close.

Joan Adler is the Executive Director of the Straus Historical Society. Since 1990 she has focused on documenting the lives and accomplishments of this interesting family. Ms. Adler oversees or creates the society's archive, newsletter, books, oral histories, and more.

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!



Annual Meeting, Election, and Officers

Our Annual Meeting was held online on March 15, prior to the first presentation in our 2021 Speaker Series. We shared a presentation about our Society and announced the elected Trustees, Peter VanNortwick and Raymond J. Veth. Our Officers and Trustees for 2021 are as follows:

Thomas Valenti, President/Trustee
Gail Nelsen, Treasurer/Trustee
James Hinckley, Secretary/Trustee
Peter VanNortwick Trustee
Raymond J. Veth, Trustee

Also, Randall Gabrielan will serve as Programming Committee Chair.

If anyone would like a copy of the Annual Meeting presentation, please [contact us](#). We thank our above volunteers for their dedication, and to all members who took part in voting.



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.

You may [join or renew online](#) or via our [print form](#).

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

[Join or Renew Online](#)

Event Recap: Middletown's Militia Officers During the

American Revolution

The Middletown Township Historical Society hosted author and historian Michael Adelberg last month in the first event of our 2021 Speaker Series. Attendance was high and questions from the audience were plentiful. Thank you to Mr. Adelberg, and to all who attended.

If you would like to watch a recording of the presentation, please visit our [YouTube channel](#). For more info on Mr. Adelberg and his books, [visit his website](#).



Historic Happenings at Sandy Hook

Lots of news concerning history at Sandy Hook:

- Last November, the National Park Service hosted a presentation concerning a developer's proposal for the historic structures at Fort Hancock. That presentation, along with answers to questions submitted by the public, are [now available online](#). We encourage you to learn more about this proposal that could impact this historic and popular section of Middletown.
- A [petition is underway](#) to add the Sandlass House, situated near the entrance to Sandy Hook, to the federal leasing program. The Sandlass House was built in 1893 and is the last remaining structure from the days of the Highland Beach Resort.

- The Sandy Hook Foundation is holding a [Scavenger Hunt](#) later this month, at least some of which will focus on its historical structures.
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MTHS 2021 Speaker Series

Our Speaker Series will run through November on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm. For now, all events will be held through Zoom, and registration is always free. The following speakers have been confirmed:

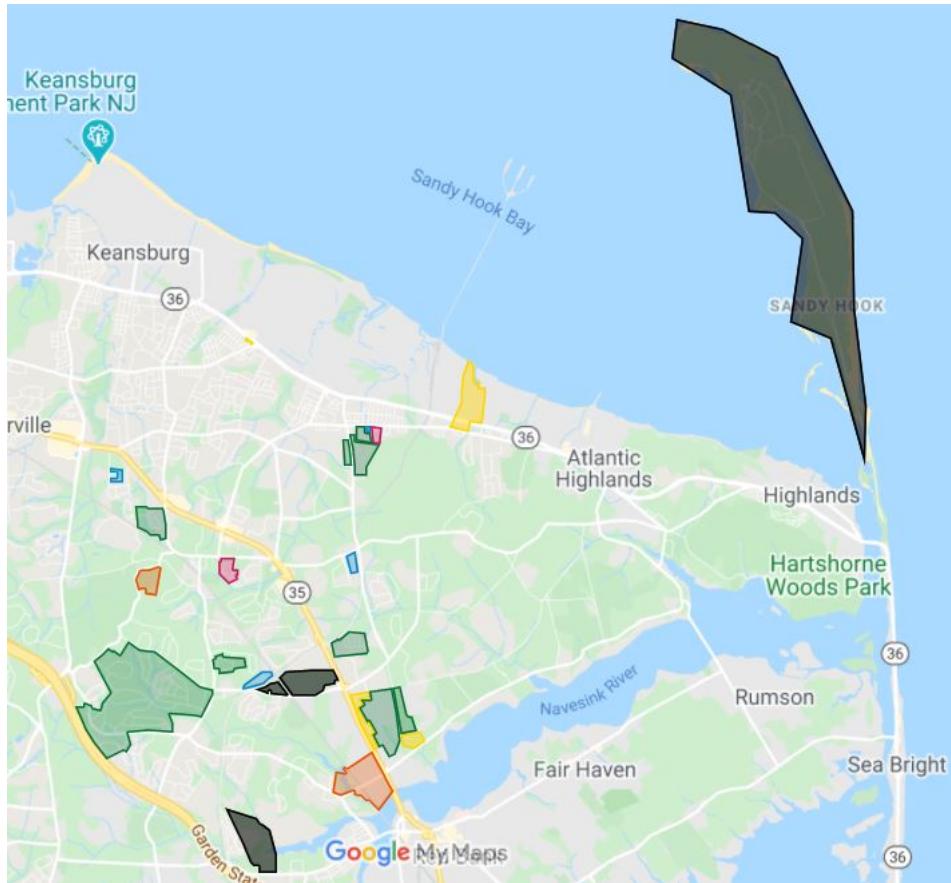
- **April 19:** [*The Middletown Farms of Percy and Herbert Straus*](#) by Joan Adler
 - **May 17:** *Monmouth County's Most Famous Commune: The North American Phalanx (1843-1855)* by Jayme A. Sokolow
-

Thank You to Our Newest Community Sponsors!

Last month, two local businesses signed on to become Community Sponsors of ours. We are grateful that [McCormack Farms](#) and [This Day in Monmouth County History](#) have decided to help further our mission.

If you run a local business or organization and would like to support our work, let us know. We will show our appreciation by adding your logo to the bottom of these newsletters and also on our website. And you'll be able to let your customers know that you proudly support a local organization! If you are interested, [please see our website](#) for more info or to get started.

[**Community Sponsorships**](#)



Middletown Land Development Map Updates!

New Entry: Hiddenwell Estates

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](#)

Call for Volunteers!

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.](#)

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.

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:

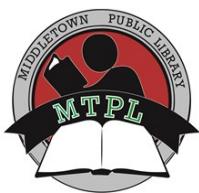
What Middletown organization is commemorating its centennial in 2021? For extra credit, what was its antecedent or predecessor organization?

Answer will be supplied in next month's newsletter!

Answer to Last Month's Question:

Grover Lufburrow, born either in 1840 or 1841 at his family's Lufburrow Mill in Middletown, entered the commission business as a young man to sell the family's produce, married Elizabeth Shepard whose family owned a Sycamore Avenue farm in Shrewsbury, and was elected to the New Jersey State Assembly in 1879. He died in New York on February 12, 1911.

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



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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